

THE

# MONTHLY RECORD



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Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, 10.

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### INTERESTING INTELLIGENCE.

The late Rev. Dr. Macintosh, of Aberdeen.

Our readers cannot fail to remember that the above-named reverend gentleman, who died a few years ago in the prime of life, and justly regretted by a large circle of friends in Aberdeen and elsewhere, (he was then minister of the East parish), visited this colony in the summer of 1847, as a member of the Deputation sent by the Colonial Committee to these provinces. More especially will he be remembered by the Gaelic speaking portion of our readers, with whom he was a very great favorite, owing no less to the urbanity of his manners and agreeable deportment, than to his great gifts as a preacher in that language. By the members of his own congregation in Aberdeen he was universally loved and esteemed, for his excellent qualities both of head and heart. He was the ready advocate and supporter of every philanthropic and benevolent institution; and though not personally rich, to the poor he was always a benefactor. The estimation in which he was held by ministers and members of all denominations, is best proved by the extraordinary attendance at his funeral. Tears were shed on that day throughout the city, not by his own people only, but by many others who knew him but not personally; and all confessed by their conduct on that occasion that a prince and a great man had fallen in Israel. His congregation was a very large one, and the church always full if not crowded; and among his hearers were to be found many of the best educated and most intelligent in Aberdeen. His style of preaching was plain, instructive and edifying; and he had the peculiar faculty of rendering clear to the meanest capacity, the most abstruse and difficult doctrines in religion. During his life, he published various treatises—one of them, entitled "scripture difficulties,"

being a master-piece of correct logical reasoning on that most difficult of all doctrines, Predestination, and which affords a fair specimen of his great powers of mind. A year or two ago, a volume of his sermons was edited by one of the ministers of Aberdeen; but they were mostly of a fragmentary nature, the author never intending to send them for the press, and being accustomed, for the most part, only to write portions of them fully out previous to delivery. They are characterised by equal vigor of thought and simplicity of style, and have been much admired for their chastened fervour and evangelical unction. We have no doubt that all our readers will find pleasure in perusing the following extracts from a lecture to the young, written by Dr. Macintosh, and which was one of a series published in his lifetime. Though addressed more especially to youth, it may be read with profit by all; and most will be glad to cherish it as a memorial of so excellent and gifted a character, who remember him as a member of the deputation. It is founded on Prov. ii. 1-6; and under three separate heads it establishes very clearly and satisfactorily: 1. What is the good which Wisdom has done for us? 2. Who is it that can impart it to us and how does he impart it? and 3. How ought we to seek it?

"Now then," says the eloquent lecturer, "there is no child so young or thoughtless, as not to be aware that the good which wisdom gives, and the good which it does for us, cannot be reckoned. To speak in general terms, it teaches us what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. From our early years, it alone can guide us and lead us to what is useful and pleasant. Almost all that we have and value, and wish to keep, comes from wisdom. Without wisdom ourselves, or wisdom on the part of others to help us, we could have few or none of our present enjoyments, or of our present prospects; and without enjoyment or prospect, life would be a burthen and a curse, instead of being a source of joy and blessing.

If you reflect for a moment on what wisdom has done for the human race, even as to temporal good, you will see in a measure the greatness of its value. Take your own country, for instance. There was a time, about two thousand years ago, when the greater part of Scotland was covered with wood—when there were no cities or towns, or cultivated fields—when our forefathers roamed about almost naked, and worshipped stocks and stones, and killed each other like savage beasts, and when little children, such as you, were murdered by their fathers and mothers, to put away the anger of some cruel deity by their sufferings and their blood. And now God has so blessed the efforts of wisdom, that everywhere you have large and rising towns and fruitful fields; that you have Schools and Colleges, and Ministers and Churches, and the comforts of home, and the love of parents, and the ties of society, and above all, and more valuable than all, the word of God, the right of understanding it, and the liberty of obeying it. What a change then is here! And yet all this change has been brought about by the right use of wisdom; slow, it may be, in its workings, but by God's blessing surely leading to great and good results.

But it is wisdom that can guide us safely, not only in great, but also in small things. Whilst it gives us true motives of conduct and right prospect, it at the same time, and it alone, can rule our tempers, our manners, and our habits. Though in such cases it comes down to little things, it is not therefore to be despised; for little things, remember, may, and do, enter largely into the happiness of life. For instance, then, wisdom tells you, that if clever, you need not be pert; that if rich, you need not be boastful; that if courageous you need not be insolent; that you may rise to eminence without being caressed by the great or flattered by the ignorant; and that you can have manliness enough without following the thoughtless conduct, or imitating the petty vices of your elders. It tells you in