

ture prospects; neither was he left without assistance in these holy exercises. His spiritual father visited him often, exhorted him, shewed him "the beauty of holiness" under some of its most attractive colours, and praying with him for that blessing and that Spirit without whose aid all our efforts are fruitless; but, though some favourable symptoms were observed, health returned, and, it is feared, all was forgotten. Oh! how often this case has been in my mind since as a proof of the degeneracy of human nature! And how many such are there in the world, who, if they fall not through the ice, shew quite as much timidity and imprudence in carelessly hearing, or criminally rejecting, the gracious call of the Saviour of sinners? What a multitude walking gaily and merrily too, upon the unsate bridge of life without any hope,—any well grounded hope of a better state of existence! O God! stop them, open their eyes, touch their hearts, and let "the word that bringeth salvation" fill them with Thy love, and vivify their souls before they fall through; and then, instead of going downwards, their faith in Christ will support them in all difficulties, and raise them higher and higher till they are safely placed at thy right hand, where there are pleasures for evermore. Amen!

CLERICUS.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

For the Colonial Churchman.

ADDRESS TO TEACHERS.

Looking over my budget of Miscellanies, with a special desire to select for your columns, I was pleased to find an earnest address to Sunday School Teachers. Desirous not to trespass on your columns, I have abbreviated that forcible appeal, and forward it to you as it here follows. The original was published in the year 1832, in the London Sunday-School Visiter, whence it was transferred to the American Family Visiter. I may add that your readers generally, and not merely Sunday School Teachers, may be benefited by its perusal.

April, 1840.

SERMO.

A SERIOUS ADDRESS TO A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, When entering upon the important Work.

My Dear Friend,—You are now entering upon the important work of Sunday School teaching; allow me to ask you a few plain but serious questions, which I trust you will consider and weigh in your mind, and I do most seriously hope and pray that they may lead you to that deep reflection which is necessary ere you engage yourself in such an undertaking. "Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" these things, and may God in his mercy bless them to your present sanctification and future usefulness, that you may not be found wanting in those qualifications which constitute the very essence of fitness for such a holy employment.

You have some of the same duties to perform as a minister of the Gospel; he instructs the multitude; you will be engaged in instructing the rising generation: he has to feed his flock with such spiritual food as their various wants require; and your duty is to feed the lambs with the sincere milk of the word. Keeping this fully in view, I would ask, Are you a Christian? Not a mere professor who is satisfied with being the offspring of religious parents and educated in religious principles, or one who feels it necessary for his comfort and respectability to belong to the Church of God. Is this all your Christianity? Are you thus deceiving yourself with a false hope, and building upon such unstable foundation? And do you really expect, with such pretensions as these, to be an efficient teacher of spiritual things? If so, I tell you plainly, you will be deceived.

A teacher should not only be a Christian by profession, but also in experience and practice. One who has felt that compunction of soul which always accompanies true repentance, who has felt the plague of his own heart, the evil of sin, the dangers of the world, the importance of seeking pardon and peace

through a crucified Redeemer, and who knows something of an interest in Him.

What are the motives by which you are actuated? This is a most important question; for by what means do you hope for success? Is it from the number of lessons you may teach the children, or the amount of actual exertion you are enabled to make? "Paul may plant and Apollus may water," but all is in vain without the HOLY SPIRIT'S sanctifying influences, you may toil Sunday after Sunday, and wonder why you make so little progress in promoting their best interests; unless God is pleased to render you that assistance which you so much need, your efforts will prove in vain.

Pause, and say unto your soul, Soul, why art thou in this work, and what is the end thou hast in view? Let the work of self-examination be immediately and faithfully performed; retire and pray, and open your heart before God in secret, and see what is the main spring of every action, it is impossible you may find something lurking there you would not like to acknowledge. The best of men have cause to weep before God for the sin which attaches to their best services.

But if you know something of the Spirit's teaching, and you are a devoted follower of the Saviour, it is well; you are alive to that dreadful situation in which every unregenerate and unrenewed soul is placed, and you are anxious to snatch them as brands from the fire—you see a suitableness in the great work of salvation—you have experienced its benefit—and you are anxious that the rising generation should partake of its blessings.

You desire to devote yourself to Him who has done so much for you; you are anxious, in fleeing from the wrath to come, to draw others in your train.—In seeking the path that leads to eternal blessedness, you are unwilling to enter heaven alone. The immortal soul is very precious in your sight. Eternity, that every day ingulfs its multitudes, is a consideration that will not allow you to be idle "while you have hands to war and fingers to fight. Go on then, and God speed your hallowed labors. The time will come when the fruit will be gathered, the harvest will be reaped, and the day of judgment will tell that your labor will not be in vain in the Lord.

Are you living in the exercise of those graces which form the Christian character, and which are indispensably necessary for the efficient discharge of your duty.

How important is it to make ourselves acquainted with whatever business we may engage in, and how foolish should we appear if we began to build an edifice and had not calculated the cost! There will be much important work devolve upon you; it is not a mere secular employment, which, when the ordinary routine is over, is at an end; no, there is much heart-work connected with it, that cannot be dispensed with; let us then turn to the very root of the matter, for it is God's work, and there are duties that rest between him and our own souls. Let me then ask, are you living in the exercise of prayer?—This must be cultivated in especial reference to the work; pray for a rich and abundant increase of every spiritual blessing, that in recommending the Saviour you may tell what you have felt of the power and value of the word of life. Strive with the Spirit of God continually, that he may water the seed that is sown, and make you see that your labors are in accordance with his will, and aided by his love. Are you manifesting your love to Christ by a holy walk and conversation? Oh, be careful lest you bring a reproach upon your profession! The more you are engaged in God's work, the more will be expected from you; Satan and the world are watching for your halting; be circumspect, and manifest the sincerity of your profession by the holiness of your life.

There is a temper and spirit becoming a humble Christian, and without which many of those trials with which you will be exercised in this work, will be much increased. You will have to contend with the various and unruly tempers and dispositions of the children, and your fellow-teachers, themselves; are men and women of like passions with yourself; some among them may have very forbidding natural tempers, though essentially desirous of becoming ex-

emplary Christians. We must walk humbly, and that will enable us to bear much, and tend to foster that harmony which is so desirable among the followers of Christ; we must cherish humble thoughts of ourselves, and then the Lord will make your path, in this respect, much smoother than it otherwise would be.

Let perseverance and attention mark every engagement. If these qualities be necessary in worldly things, surely they must be doubly important in this work, connected as it is with such vital interests; and this must be done in dependence upon the promises of God, which are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. These are the grounds of your encouragement; persevere, sow the seed, and trust in Him who has said, "Ye shall reap if ye faint not."

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

Extracted from the Bristol Report of that District Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

North America.—The church in British North America received assistance from the Society, in the year 1838, to the amount of more than £13,000.—This sum was contributed towards the support of ninety-nine Missionaries, besides Catechists and School-masters, allotted to the Dioceses of Nova Scotia and Quebec. In addition to these there are thirty-eight Missionaries in Upper Canada, and twenty-eight in Nova Scotia, originally appointed by the Society, who receive assistance either from local resources, or parliamentary grants, which will cease entirely with their lives.

The West Indies.—During the last year the Society expended a sum exceeding £21,000 in the British West Indies, the greater part of which, amounting to nearly £14,000 was contributed towards the erection and enlargement of Churches, Chapels, and School-houses; and the remainder, about £7,000, towards the support of forty-two Clergymen, and a large body of Teachers engaged in the education and religious instruction of the Negroes in the Dioceses of Jamaica and Barbadoes.

The Cape of Good Hope.—The Society supports two ordained Missionaries at the Cape of Good Hope. One of these, who was sent out in the early part of last year, has written home an interesting account of the prospects of his Mission.

The East Indies.—The outlay of the Society in the East Indies in 1838, including the expenses of Bishop's College, Calcutta, amounts to more than £15,000. The number of its Missionaries is twenty-two, a very small number considering the vast extent and population of British India.—Yet the prospects of the Society in this quarter of the globe are very cheering.

Australia.—Thirty Missionaries have been sent out during the last two years; and the expenditure of the Society under this head, which last year exceeded £6,000, will this year be greatly increased. The account which the Bishop gives of the religious prospects of the Colony is encouraging. He observes that "wherever Churches are provided, there is a strong and very gratifying disposition shown on the part of the inhabitants to attend them, and to partake of the Holy Ordinances which are there administered; nor can I doubt, that under such a dispensation of the means of grace, a gradual but certain improvement of the moral and religious condition of the inhabitants is taking place."

The Society's Expenditure for 1838, was.....	£55,949	4	6
Gross Income.....	43,365	6	9
Deficiency.....	12,583	17	9

It has been computed that at least three hundred additional Clergymen might be advantageously employed at the present time in the British Colonies, and that three times the present amount of Annual Subscriptions are required in order to place the operations of the Society on an adequate footing.