

God, he had led his flocks so often and which he had left how painfully! taking upon him the appointed power, to make of the fenced city a wilderness, and to fill the desert with songs of deliverance. It was not to embitter the last hour of his life that God restored to him, for a day, the beloved solitudes he had lost, and breathed the peace of the perpetual hills around him, and cast the world in which he had laboured and sinned far beneath his feet, in that mist of dying blue—all sin, all wandering, soon to be forgotten forever, the Dead Sea—a type of God's anger understood by him, of all men, most clearly, who had seen the earth open her mouth, and the sea his depth, to overwhelm the companies of those who contended with his Master—laid waveless beneath him, and beyond it, the fair hills of Judah, and the soft plains and banks of Jordan, purple in the evening light as with the blood of redemption, and fading in their distant fallowness into mysteries of promise and of love. There, with his unabated strength, his undimmed glance, lying down upon the utmost rocks, with angels waiting near to contend for the spoils of his spirit, he put off his earthly armour. We do deep reverence to his companion prophet, for whom the chariot of fire came down from heaven; but was his death less noble, whom his Lord himself buried in the vales of Moab, keeping, in the secrets of the Eternal counsels, the knowledge of a sepulchre, from which he was to be called, in the fulness of time, to talk with that Lord, upon Hermon, of the death that He should accomplish at Jerusalem.

The Unbaptized.

Ministers whose lot it is to labour in the more destitute localities of our larger towns, and in country parishes with public works, will bear me out in saying, that in such places a very necessary question before admitting young communicants is, "Have you been baptized?" There is a dense mass of heathenism in the midst of us, knowing not so much as whether there is a Holy Ghost, and still remaining, even outwardly, unsprinkled with the baptism of water. Only a page or two back in my missionary's journal, I find the following entry made:—"Visited in — Land. In the top flat there are two men living with two women unmarried. They have families unbaptized. There is also another family—once, I believe, members of the U. P. Church, with children unbaptized. In all, eight unbaptized children here." When I came, about two years ago, to the parish in which this state of things exists, I found that a machinery had been set in motion especially for these outcast families. There was a missionary laboriously and daily visiting among them,—an association of members of the congregation, for bringing out the adults to meetings and to church, and for getting the children to attend the Sabbath school. These meetings for the adults are held twice a-week; one is addressed by the minister, and the other by the missionary; and they present a very interesting spectacle. Nearly 100 persons regularly hear the Gospel preached to them there, many of whom would otherwise be shut out almost entirely from the means of grace. There are mothers with infants; there are fathers in tatters; there are men and women who had seldom, if ever, been in any church, and some who would not venture on the Sabbath to attend a Protestant place of worship, come out then. This had been in operation for some

time before I came, begun by my esteemed friend and gifted predecessor in his short but laborious ministry in the charge to which I succeeded. In visiting this parish, one could not fail to be struck with the numbers who were growing up unbaptized. It was resolved to adapt these meetings, as far as possible, to the circumstances of the heads of such families, and we were rewarded by a regular attendance on the part of several. This machinery, besides causing many advantages, was mainly instrumental in producing the following result. On a Sabbath evening in December last, the session met in the usual place of weekly meeting, and then and there I administered, and felt myself justified in administering, the rite of baptism to twenty who before were unbaptized. What a scene! The place was crowded, but with no spectators drawn to it from merely idle curiosity. I never witnessed so imposing, so impressive a spectacle in my life. There we had mothers presenting their children themselves, for their husbands were dead, or worse than dead. We had fathers with pallid cheeks, who had long been out of work, and who, pining for years in sad distress, had been obliged to give away their clothes and furniture for bread. The blind father was among them, groping his way to the baptismal font to dedicate his children to the God he vowed to serve. Some were there who had gone once or twice to the parish church when they had come first. But there was no place in it allotted for parishioners; no seat for those who could not or who would not buy the truth. Disgraceful state of things,—too common! What wonder if they thought that no man cared for their soul, and left the church determined never to return. We had, too, some reclaimed from a life of vice and misery, to honesty, sobriety, and virtue, and we fondly hoped and trusted to religion and to God. I satisfied myself of the knowledge and character of these different parents. They made a solemn and public profession of their faith in Christ, and obedience to Him. They undertook to discharge the duties incumbent upon them as Christian parents, and then their children—I cannot say their infants—were baptized. Not only weeks, but months and years, had rolled over these children's heads. Boys and girls of nine and ten years old were among them, partakers of a rite which I trust the God of grace will bless, placed, though late, by their mothers or fathers in the arms of the Saviour for His blessing, and taking part in such a scene, as neither they nor those around me, nor the elders who were present, nor I, can surely ever forget. Surely, if Jesus still lives,—is still the same,—that scene was not indifferent to Him,—that administration of baptism was not unblest by Him who said on the earth, "For the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

L. Y.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

JULY, 1856.

Presbyterian Church in the U. States.

We receive from time to time very valuable and encouraging ecclesiastical and missionary intelligence in the Home and Foreign Record of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. In the latest number for the month of

June we have the fifty-fourth annual Report of the Board of Domestic Missions.

"There has been," we are informed, "an increase in the number of missionaries employed during the year—an augmentation of receipts, both from the churches, and in individual donations and legacies—an increase in the aggregate appropriations—a larger average salary paid to our missionaries—and an increase in the balance on hand at the close of the fiscal year. In every department there has been an encouraging progress; and we doubt not that the Assembly will heartily unite with the Board in their expressions of gratitude to God for his unmerited goodness and mercy."

We have then some very interesting statements from the Board of Education.

"The increase of Candidates," we learn, "for the last six months has been less than during the first six months of the year. But the number received during the whole year is considerably in advance of the preceding year, and the number during the twelve months preceding May 1855, was over twenty in advance of the previous year. The advance in two years is nearly forty. Our pecuniary pressure for a portion of the year has been unusually great. But by the kind providence of God many of the churches responded nobly to our appeal for relief, and we are able to close the year with a small balance in the treasury. For this we thank God and take courage."

Whilst vigorous and persevering efforts are made both in England and Scotland, to withdraw the Schools from the superintendence of the Church, the American Board of Education are using their utmost exertions to extend the Parochial School system throughout the country. The organization of their school system is worthy of notice, and contains most significant and instructive information, to the friends of religious education among ourselves and in Britain.

1. Every school applying for aid to the Board of Education, must be under the care of the session of a Presbyterian church, and be subject to the general supervision of the Presbytery.

2. In addition to the usual branches of elementary education, the Bible must be used as a text-book for daily instruction in religion, and the shorter Catechism must be taught at least twice a week.

3. The teacher must be a member in good and regular standing of the Presbyterian Church.

4. The school must be opened with prayer and reading of the Bible; and singing, as far as practicable, must be taught in the school and united with the other devotional exercises.

"The report of the Board of Foreign Missions shows progress, not only in its receipts and expenditures, but progress in the direction towards which its efforts are all directed, winning souls to a knowledge of the truth God has owned and blessed his own cause. He has answered the prayer, that more labourers may be sent forth into the harvest, and has sent the dew and the rain from heaven upon our mission churches. To those who feel interested in the special work committed