

Him who is the God of the Sabbath. When I reached the church, the congregation were assembled, and an attentive assemblage I think I never saw. I was at once seriously impressed with the thought that surely the Lord of Hosts is among us." All was order, and to me from appearances, every heart seemed deeply impressed with the solemnity of the duty in which they were engaged. The morning prayers of the church being ended, the minister gave out his text and preached a most excellent sermon. While he was giving out the text, every eye seemed turned towards him, and every ear seemed open to listen to the sound of the Gospel. But I was not taken. An individual sat near me, whose eyes and ears were closed in sleep to the warning voice of the minister of God. I observed that his eyes were fixed on the individual who thus dared to sleep in the house of God, and I thought that he must have been much pained at the sight; might just as well have preached to one of the pillars of the church, as his kind and warning voice reached not the sleeper's heart. Youthful reader! Do you ever pretend to sleep while in the house of God. If you have dared to do so, do so no more; for recollect, that the eyes of God are upon you wherever you are, or wherever you may be; but more particularly so while you are in his house. Be reminded that your God is Almighty, and able to do all things; and if you again dare to sleep while in his house, while you are thus in the very act of offending him, he may close your eyes in the sleep of Death; and then, youthful reader, where will you awake! And where will you appear in the sight of your God. And what will your doom be? For an answer, reader, stop one moment, and ask 'the still small voice' of your own conscience. D.

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THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

UNENBURG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1838.

UNENBURG ACADEMY.—A public examination of the school took place on Friday last the 21st inst. in the presence of the Commissioners of Schools, the prominent members of the Legislature, and several of the parents of the children. The pupils were examined in Latin, and in the various branches of the English education, including Geometry and the use of the Globes; and much satisfaction was afforded to those present by the proficiency of the several scholars,—reflecting, as it does, much credit on the diligence and attention of Mr. LAWSON the teacher, and adding fresh evidence of the usefulness of the institution, which has already for many years conferred important benefits upon this community.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.—Last year we noticed a practice which has for several years been observed of decorating St. John's Church in this town with evergreens, in honour of the anniversary of the Redeemer's birth. We have again the satisfaction of seeing the house of God very tastefully adorned in a similar way, for which the congregation are indebted to the perseverance, taste, and zeal, of a few individuals who have cheerfully devoted much of their time and labour in order thus to grace the joyous festival. On the pannels of the galleries, the memorable words "Unto you is born this day a Saviour, the first born of the Lord"—appear in large characters very neatly formed of the same living material; and between the posts (which are entwined with wreaths) are gracefully suspended rich festoons of brightest green, while the front of the pulpit is dressed in a circle of the same inclosing a star. The whole has

in our eyes a very cheerful appearance, and is quite in keeping with the season, reminding us of the prophecy of Isaiah 60 ch. 13 v.—"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary." We trust it will not be forgotten, however, by us all, that the decoration most acceptable in the eyes of our Lord, is that of the heart and life with the graces of the Gospel—the adorning of the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. While we should be grateful to Him for permitting us to celebrate one more anniversary of His visit to the world, let it be our care to close with his offers of reconciliation and peace, and to seek a preparation for his next and more awful appearing.

ENCOURAGING.—The funds of St. John's Sunday School in this town being low, and inadequate to the due supply of Books, &c. a few of the female teachers, with praiseworthy zeal, undertook the not very agreeable task of soliciting aid from house to house. Although children of all denominations have always been received into the School, it was thought right to call only on the members of the Church; and we feel happy to state that their task was rendered easy by the cheerfulness with which they were received, and the success which they met with. None gave very 'plenteously,' for indeed it was not required, but even those that had little seemed 'gladly to give of that little;' and the whole, with a small collection in the church, amounts to about *Ten Pounds*. We heartily disapprove of the sickening fulsomeness with which such matters are sometimes noticed, but think it right to mark with approbation, and for the encouragement of others, this instance of zeal and kindness on the part of the female teachers and friends of an institution in which we take the deepest interest.

THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.—We heartily rejoice at the abundant evidence which our exchange papers afford of the continued prosperity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. Sprung from the same pure source with ourselves, and for a long series of years nursed by the motherly care of the Church of England, through the instrumentality of the same Venerable Society that still is a blessing to these colonies and to the world, we regard that Church as peculiarly dear to us, and must feel for their joys and sorrows, their prosperity or adversity, as being members of the same Body.—While we see so much to be thankful for in the rapid extension of Episcopacy in that country, and in the piety, talent and zeal of their Bishops and Clergy, we have still sometimes feared lest a dangerous love of change in the formularies of the Church be creeping in, and also a spirit of over legislation, from which serious evils may arise. The restless love of change is abroad in the world now, and it is not surprising if it should occasionally shew itself in a body constituted as the Church is in the neighbouring States.—We observe the addition of two Bishops to the sixteen already on the Bench—one for the new Diocese of Western New York, and one of a Missionary character for the Western States.—An excellent Pastoral letter was addressed as usual, at the close of the Convention, by the Bishops to the church at large. It is replete with christian wisdom, simplicity and love, and shews that the promise of the Lord is yet fulfilled to their church, "I am with you alway."—We extract the following remarks on the necessity of unity.

"How many and great are the evils resulting from the dissensions of those who profess and call themselves Christian is too obvious. These more perhaps than any other fault of Christians, retard the spread of the Gospel. Did they all, as their duty is, unite in faith, and love, and evangelical zeal, the

Redeemer's kingdom would be rapidly extended throughout the earth, and at no distant period would all the ends of the world see the salvation of our God. These divisions cause thousands to doubt, and many to deny the truth of Christianity. They are what chiefly disgrace the otherwise glorious Reformation; they tend very much to countenance and to perpetuate the idolatrous corruptions against which we justly protest, and to diminish that love, among pious believers even, which is 'the end of the commandment' and the 'bond of perfectness.' It is mournful to see how much, and with what asperity the disciples of a meek and humble Saviour sometimes contend for light shades of difference, and for things of little or no importance. Such were the things which first and chiefly caused the divisions in the Church of England,—things which scarce any now pretend to view as essential parts of religious truth. Those divisions, so long continued and so obstinately maintained, are a mournful proof, that schisms in the Church, after having been commenced, are with great difficulty healed. Solemn warnings should they be to us, to let no diversity of opinion, in things not essential, disturb the unity of the Church, or cause unfriendly feelings among its members."

"The wonderful preservation of the Church of England, and the success of her great and increasing efforts to extend the word of God and the light of truth to various people and nations of the earth, may well excite our thankful admiration. Her present arduous struggle amidst foes and perils, calls for our sympathy and also for our prayer, that He, who has thus far, sustained her, and made her the instrument of incalculable good, will continue to be her safeguard and defence."

"Though in these United States our number is small compared with the other denominations around us, let it not be forgotten, that in all the points which we deem essential to Christianity, we agree with what has been, and still is held by far the greater part of Christians throughout the world. It is our duty, certainly, to labor in that way which we believe to be according to the word and will of God.—In reforming the Church from the corruptions which had accumulated through its darker ages, many Protestants, for various reasons, and with differing views, have rejected some things which in our view are essential, and we dare not reject them. In those things of course we differ, and with regret are constrained to differ from many, who, we doubt not, are pious believers in Jesus Christ. It is not for us to judge them; but we must take heed to ourselves, and adhere steadfastly to what we believe to be the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. This truth we are cordially to receive and faithfully to teach. If others walk not with us, God will be their Judge: 'to their own Master let them stand or fall.' Let us endeavor 'both by our life and doctrine, to set forth his true and lively word,' and to 'stand fast in one spirit and with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.' Let us respect and love all Christian people, but not turn aside to the right hand or to the left, from the straight and narrow way which leads to life."

The necessity of members of the church showing the soundness of their principles by the correctness of their conduct is thus enforced.

"There is danger of an undue reliance upon the soundness of our creeds and the excellency of our order, and worship, and discipline. They who have the word of God, and the practice of the earliest Christians in their favor, naturally incline to rely too much upon their orthodoxy. Supposing that truth will support itself, or that it can easily be defended, they are more remiss in the Lord's work; while they who broach novelties, or make innovations, or teach unsound principles, depend more upon their zeal and activity. We would not recommend to you zeal without knowledge, nor the proselyting arts of sectarianism; but that holy energy, and manly zeal in the cause of truth; that rational and persuasive earnestness which evidently becomes those who believe in Christ; who would live and act in the fear of God, and do works suitable for those who are labouring for eternity. Our orthodoxy would be seen in the doctrines we teach, the faith