

by much interest and solemnity, and it is earnestly hoped that Mr. Ami's labours in this important and extensive field will be blessed to many souls.

My personal interest in this young brother was much enhanced by the fact that, after he almost miraculously escaped from ship wreck off the north coast of Scotland in 1853 on his way out as a catechist. He was put under my care at Liverpool, and I saw him safely on the cars at Boston after a rather boisterous November passage, per Cunard Steamer "America." At that time he was a very young but promising lad, entirely unacquainted with the English language, now by the grace of God he is maturing in religious and experimental knowledge, as well as in general intelligence, and I am persuaded that by the divine blessing his recent settlement will prove most serviceable to the interests of the "French Canadian Missionary Society."

I am

yours truly,

R. IRVINE.

Knox Church, Montreal,
13th July, 1866.

GOOD EXAMPLE.

(Illustrated by that of the late Jno. Wilson, Elder.)

We all have, more or less, a natural tendency to imitation. The child insensibly imitates its parents, the scholar his teacher; and the college student is apt to acquire not only the opinions but even the intonations, the vocal key, the gait, and the gesticulation of the Professor whom he admires. Our character and habits are influenced by the neighbours among whom we live. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but the companion of fools shall be destroyed." "Evil communications corrupt good manners." It is therefore of prime importance to have a good example before us, and to follow it.

The only perfect example for our imitation is that of our Lord Jesus Christ. All good or great men are good or great in proportion as they resemble Christ. But all merely human examples are imperfect; they are not without spot or blemish. It is Christ alone, the Son of Righteousness, who is without spot. We are indeed commanded to be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises, but we are to do so just in so far as they follow or resemble Christ. So that strictly speaking our duty is not to be imitators even of good men, but of the Divine Master from whom they copy. Christians are followers of Christ; and that not only because it is their duty and privilege to be so, but also because it is the great tendency of their renewed nature to make them such. Divine grace conforms them to the image of the Son of God—they are changed into his image from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit. This was the view taken by a dying minister who, when some of his christian friends were reminding him, for his comfort, that he resembled certain of the apostles, replied. "I do not wish to resemble John or Peter, I wish to resemble Christ."

Yet, a human example, when it is that of a good christian, is of great use. It is, so far, a visible representation of Christ himself, and helps us to know and appreciate His glorious character. It is the Spirit of Christ acting through one of his members on earth; so that when we look on that human example we learn a three fold lesson, namely that, Christ lives in his members on earth; that, Christ has a noble character worthy of imitation; and, that, it possible, after all, to be Christ-like in this wicked world. Hence the advantage of reading Christian biography.

This conformity to Christ, although it implies *uniformity* among all Chris-