

ed. Up to the commencement of the present commercial depression there were so many promising openings for young men, and so much energy and excitement in all departments of business, that no doubt many young men were drawn into the current, and were led to give their attention to business pursuits. Again, there is no doubt that the utterly inadequate stipends of ministers have deterred many ingenious and honorable young men, who might have thought of the ministry, but have been absolutely kept back by the thought, that they should never be able to rise above the starvation point, nor be able to support, in any decent degree of comfort, either themselves or those dependant upon them. In this respect a parsimonious church may have robbed God of many useful ministers.

But another cause is to be found in the indifference, the coldness, and the worldliness of parents, who have not, like holy fathers and mothers in other days, devoted their sons to the service of God, and used all right means for leading them to give themselves to the Lord, and to the Church which He has purchased with his own blood. Unquestionably, were there more, who like the mother of Samuel, devoted their children to the service of the Lord, we should not be so often at a loss for pious and well qualified missionaries to go forth to the destitute portions of the field. Their vows, their prayers, their parental training, their holy influences, would not be in vain. In looking back on the history of the Church in times past, how many instances can we point to, in as showing the importance and effect of parental dedication. The Rev. Dr. Jacobs, in a report on this subject to the Synod of Pittsburgh, published in the *Banner and Advocate*, refers to a number of such instances. After dwelling at some length on the general subject, he proceeds:—

"We would only urge, in conclusion, the striking facts which so attest the importance and value of such parental dedication. The celebrated John Newton testifies: 'I have been told, that from my birth my pious mother had, in her mind, devoted me to the ministry; and that, had she lived until I was of a proper age, I was to have been sent to St. Andrews, in Scotland, to be educated; but the Lord had appointed otherwise. She died before I was seven years of age.' Yet, mark the training of which he testifies: 'When I was four years old, I could repeat the answers to the questions in the Shorter Catechism, with the proofs, and all Dr. Watts' smaller catechisms, with his children's hymns.' This was the power of that parental dedication in such daily training, not only for the ministry, but for heaven. How the hand of a covenant God wrought with him through all his after impieties, and with all the persistency of a Divine ordination, checked, disciplined, and reclaimed him, till he became an able and faithful minister of the New Testament, according to that pious mother's prayer, is a notable chapter in the annals of the Church.

"The biographers of Rev. John Belfrage, remarked, that his Christian mother laboured to prepare him for the sacred office—to form pious sentiments in his mind, and to cherish devout feelings in his heart. She marked, with pleasure, her son's early inclination for the ministry, which had been awaked by means of her own

early religious influences upon him. Accordingly, when, at a suitable age, he was sent to the College of Edinburgh, it pleased God to work in him the graces of a Christian character, and he became a devoted and faithful minister of Christ, after his pious mother had been laid in the dust.

"Dr. Claudius Buchanan was, from his childhood, devoted by his parents to the ministry. He was, however, a reckless youth, and pursued a course of wandering through several years, until, at length, the God of Newton brought him to attend on the ministry of that reclaimed wanderer, and he was led to Christ. It was on hearing a sermon from the passage in Isaiah: 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,' that all his early parental dedication to the ministry forced itself upon his heart. He became, at length, a preacher of the Gospel in England, he afterwards filled an important post in India, as an herald of the Cross.

"It is recorded, also, of the celebrated Philip Henry, that his godly mother devoted him, in his tender years, to the service of God in the work of the ministry; and though she died before he was fourteen years of age, he always spoke of her as being to him, what Timothy's mother and grand mother were to him—acquainting him with the Scriptures from his childhood. She prayed with him daily; catechized him, and thus laid the foundation for his future usefulness in the great and holy work to which she had devoted him.

"Of the Rev. John Bailey, who was a faithful minister of the Gospel in Ireland, and in New England, it is recorded that his godly mother dedicated him to the service of God in the Gospel ministry from his earliest moments. He was accordingly trained in a way befitting such a sacred aim, and from being reared like Timothy, he became, like him, an eminent minister of the New Testament.

"We add the name of the celebrated President Davies. His mother, says his biographer, took example from the mother of the Prophet Samuel, and vowed a vow unto the Lord, that if he would indeed give her a manchild, she would devote him to his service all the days of his life. Hence he was called Samuel. At twelve years of age, it is remarked that he was more ardent in his supplications for being introduced into the Gospel ministry, than for any other thing. 'The event proved,' says President Finley, in his sermon on his death, 'that God accepted the consecrated boy—took him under his special care—furnished him for, and employed him in the service of his Church—prospered his labors with remarkable success, and not only blessed him, but made himself a blessing.'

We commend the subject to our christian fathers and mothers, urging them to give it a prayerful consideration. The spiritual interests of themselves and of their children, the prosperity and extension of the Church, and the glory of God, are deeply, vitally involved. Let them lay the matter then to heart, and, not grudgingly, but like Hannah,—of a ready mind, consecrate anew their sons to the service of their covenant God.

UNION WITH THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

We have hitherto abstained from making any remarks on the subject of union with the United Presbyterian Church, or with reference to the steps which are at present being taken with the view of bringing about this result.—We have taken this course, not from any feeling of opposition to the movement, nor

from any indifference to the benefits likely to result from such a consummation, but from a desire to avoid any thing, which might commit the Church in any way, and especially from a conviction that the matter was in good hands, and that entire confidence might be placed both in the views, and in the judicious action of the Committee appointed by the Synod. These reasons have led us to avoid any discussion of the subject, and to decline the publication of sundry communications addressed to us. Nor do we mean now to pursue a different course. We are still of opinion, that, in the meantime, the Committee may be best left to carry on the work with which it has been charged. But we cannot refrain from expressing our satisfaction at the manner in which the negotiations have been carried on, and, we would say also, at the result of the late meeting of the joint Committees. We need not refer specially to the topics then discussed and settled, as between the Committees. They were published in our last number. Looking at the resolutions agreed to by the Synod at its last meeting, and the resolutions of the joint Committees, we are of opinion that the most difficult part of the course has been traversed, and that if no unexpected difficulty is introduced, a favorable result may be before long anticipated. If both Synods agree on what has been done, the remaining points may be regarded as merely matters of detail and arrangement, which may require friendly and judicious conference, but can scarcely occasion serious difficulty.

Most certainly the result of a union on a proper basis could not but prove most beneficial to the interests of Presbyterianism and of religion itself. We should be in a better position for prosecuting the work, both at home and abroad. Our various Evangelistic and missionary schemes would be strengthened and consolidated, and a fresh impetus given to the cause of truth. Let our people then seriously look at the matter,—a matter which most intimately concerns them. Let them take that interest in it which becomes them, and not neglect to pray that a right direction may be given to the present movements, and that they may be brought to such a conclusion as may be most for the glory of God, and the advancement of the cause of righteousness and truth.

INDIA MISSION.

FORCED DISCONTINUANCE OF THE CANADA MISSION—RETURN OF REV. G. STEVENSON TO SCOTLAND—LETTER FROM DR. DUFF.

The India Mission in which our Church so recently and hopefully engaged, has been abruptly closed. Mortifying as is this result, it is a cause of submission, if not of comfort, that it has been occasioned by events against which no foresight or prudence could make provision, and which have unexpectedly rendered the interior of Bengal extremely unsafe for British Christians. Letters have been received from Mr. Stevenson dated Calcutta, 21st August and 7th September. He describes the state of