

place of inward devotion. It happened here I believe, as in many other places, that I was the first preacher of the Church of Scotland whom the people had ever heard, and it was the more fortunate that a way was opened up to me to preach on this occasion. There are many presbyterians in the village and neighbourhood and some individuals have it in view to get a Presbyterian Church established there.

Sitting afterwards in my bed-room, which was heated by a stove in the partition between it and the public room of the inn, I overheard a young man in the latter apartment impugning the credibility of the scriptures. He made one or two threadbare remarks, which he intended for objections, at the same time assuring the company, that he was a person who took the liberty of thinking for himself. It seemed too that he had read that there was some peculiarity in the shape of the negro, and shewing his knowledge of anatomy, by using one of its technical terms, he pronounced that the negro was not a descendant of Adam. He let the party know also, that he was a geologist, and in this character condescended to believe that there had once been a deluge, because, as he said in some places the fallen trees were lying all one way; but at the same time he declared it impossible that it could have been produced in the way the scriptures relate. The young man appeared to be an Englishman lately arrived in the country, which might account for his thus unguardedly exposing himself: for had he been a little acquainted with the people, he would have been aware that they have in general shrewdness enough to see through pretensions like his.

On Friday evening I preached in the Township of West Oxford to 150 people.— I was much gratified by the appearance of such an audience; as I have seldom obtained one so large upon a week day; and surely where so great desire exists for the preaching of the gospel, some effort should be made to put it within reach of the people. On the day of my arrival in the neighbouring township of Zorah, mostly settled by highlanders, a meeting of the settlers was held and nearly £60 subscribed on the spot, towards the annual stipend of a minister, for whom they were about sending to the Church of Scotland. A few days afterwards, I learned that they had sent off their application in due form. It would be well if presbyterians generally, throughout the country, would bear in mind that the same law holds in regard to obtaining ministers, which regulates most other things, that the success corresponds with the exertions put forth.

During the few days I remained in the village I saw occasionally a young man, who was believed to be fast sinking under some incurable disease. I was entirely ignorant of the state of his mind in regard to the solemn circumstances in which he knew himself placed, and indeed, all that I had learned respecting him was, that he was born of Scottish parents in a part of this country, where he had had little opportunity of obtaining religious instruction. Standing by his bed, I began to address him in a style suited to his present situation, comparing the body under the successive attacks of disease to a besieged citadel, which may hold out against many a battering of the enemy, but is gradually weakened by such renewed assault and obliged at last to surrender at discretion. I was proceeding to remind him that this was what he, and all of us had to expect, when I received a signal from his brother to speak with him outside of the door. On my meeting him there, he told me he did not want to have him spoken to upon such subjects—that he was troubled enough about them already, and that the alarm he was in at the prospect of death, had made him a great deal worse. I endeavoured to shew him the cruelty of risking the eternal loss of his brother's soul for the sake of the chance of rendering some small benefit to his body, and warned him of the deep responsibility he was incurring in forbidding communication with his brother upon the subject; declaring at the same time that I would not oppose him in the matter, but would consider his prohibition to speak as an intimation sent me in the course of providence to desist. He then began to plead the orders of the surgeon, that no one should be permitted to speak to his brother on the subject which alarmed him so much. I then put it to himself, to decide, whether it would be justifiable in him, to comply with the orders of the surgeon in this respect. But our conversation was interrupted by a person from within, who said that the sick man wanted to hear me speak. It seemed that the few words I addressed to him before, though spoken without any idea of

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