

editors and publishers of good newspapers and periodicals, are doing a great work, which, if not appreciated as highly as it might be by men, is not unmarked or unblest by heaven. To write such a tract as the "Sinner's Friend" of John Vine Hall, is far nobler work than to amass a fortune of millions. To lead a few hundreds or a few thousands to clear views of truth, of human destiny, and human duty, is far more Christ-like labour, far more lasting and important, than the swaying of Cabinets and Senates.

At death the soul passes to its reward or to its punishment, to heaven or hell. Its destiny is then decided. Yet there is to be a future judgment—a day when we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the deeds done in the body. Why is *this* judgment to take place, after the fate of each soul has in effect been already decided. *One* reason may be indicated to illustrate the subject of this article. The unrepentant sinner dies—passes away—but he leaves much evil in the world behind him. He has, for example, corrupted the morals of two or three other men, and these men continue to extend the evil to others, and to others still in an ever widening circle, and this goes on from generation to generation, till the last dreadful day of the earth's existence. Or he has, say, written a bad book; he dies and leaves the book with its evil influences behind him, still perpetuating the mischief. In these instances the sins which shall confront the sinner at the final account, shall be much more terrible and of more appalling proportions than when he died; they having been as it were accumulating at compound interest ever since! The Omniscient will know the just proportion of guilt to be laid on each culprit at that day.

On the other hand, the good deed done in the present day goes on expanding and extending ever more till the judgment day. The seed sown grows and ripens even after the sower has slept the sleep of everlasting peace. Thus a book written by a good man continues centuries after his death to do good to thousands of souls. Thomas Boston has preached the gospel since his

death to as many millions as there were hundreds that ever heard his living voice. John Wesley is still, through the printed page, stirring up thousands to lay hold on the hope set before them. John Bunyan is still guiding myriads of "Pilgrims" on the way to heaven. And so it is with innumerable other good authors. The kind word, the faithful warning, the earnest exhortation, may live in their effects long after your tongue is silent and you have closed your eyes in death. And when all these good deeds of our Bunyans, and Whitefields, and Erskines, and Chalmerses shall meet them at the "last assize," how much greater, how gloriously magnified and multiplied must they be! If the evil which men do gathers "interest" for the great day of account, so, much more, shall the good! Little deeds of kindness, cups of cold water to thirsty disciples, visits of love to the sick bedside, these and such as these are not in vain in the Lord, but shall all be kept in his treasure house, and we shall receive back the whole with "interest."

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The submitting of an annual Report on the subject of ministerial education is a well established part of our Synodical business. It has been the practice of each of the three Synods which now happily blended form the Synod of the Lower Provinces. The leading ministers and people of the Free Church almost from the commencement of their work in the Colonies adopted the principle of training a native ministry, and made not only commendable exertions but noble efforts to accomplish the object.—Going back still farther for a quarter of a century to 1817 we find that on the very year when the Presbyterian Synod of Nova Scotia was formed, feeble as its resources then were, it committed itself to the principle, and there are in this Synod now, some of the first fruits of that effort and many evidences of its success.

For a few years subsequent to the Union of 1860, the Report of this Board presented a view of two distinct departments of min-