

spread and corrupt the Church at large, the pastor who possesses the wisdom of winning souls, will, with a tender yet faithful hand, direct the most vigilant attention to the danger, and strive, with prayer to God, to root it out. To aid pastors and people in this most needful exercise, the Larger Catechism will be found a most profitable and useful guide.

The preparation of the Shorter Catechism next occupied the time and attention of the Assembly. It was intended for the instruction, on the above mentioned plan of question and answer, of those who may not have made great progress in Divine knowledge. Many christian parents and heads of families, as well as the members of families and households, have found this mode of instruction to be of eminent service in removing the ignorance which naturally overspread the human soul: and the remembrance is still sweet, of the often witnessed domestic scene in our native land, in which there mingled venerated parents, and beloved and loving children and domestics, pondering together the word of God, comparing Scripture with Scripture, with the aid of the admirable guide which is provided in the Shorter Catechism. And there can be no doubt that if the practice were revived, of parents, especially in the evening of the Lord's day, after devout attendance on public worship, calling together their families for the purpose of ascertaining what progress, if any, is made in the knowledge and practice of true godliness, there would speedily be witnessed, not only in our families, but throughout the country, a revival of that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and an avoidance of sin, which is the reproach of any people.

It is constantly to be remembered that the passages of Scripture submitted to the various statements contained in the Form of church government—in the Directory for public worship—in the Confession of Faith—and in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, were intended by the Westminster Assembly to be essential parts of these public documents. It was necessary that it should be so, since the resolution on which the Assembly acted was that such a government should be settled in the Church, as is most agreeable to God's holy word: and in the use of the documents which form the fruit of the Assembly's labours, by churches, families, and individuals, the benefit which may accrue will be found to be in proportion as the appeal is made "to the Law and to the Testimony of God."

The metrical version of the book of Psalms, which the Church of Scotland for nearly two hundred years has used, in a most important part of public worship, was made by Francis Rouse, an eminent Hebrew scholar, and a member of the Parliament which summoned the West-