

God's will, I hope he will let me go soon. I desire to be gone."

Of such a man it might well be said in the language of Dr. Johnson, true in all but its restrictions, that  
 "His virtues walked their narrow round,  
 Nor made a pause, nor left a void,  
 And sure the Eternal Master found,  
 The single talent well employed ;

*To the Editors of the Colonial Churchman.*

Gentlemen,  
 As you have sometimes expressed a wish for occasional communications, of any matter which may seem to be in any degree interesting, I will endeavour to state a few particulars of a visit to a remote settlement on the eastern shore of the Province, situated on one of the numerous harbours with which our Atlantic coast is indented. I had been requested by some of the inhabitants, and a Brother in the ministry to pay them a visit.

On arriving I found a people very much in want both of the ministrations of religion and the means of education, and many of them poor in circumstances. They seemed however exceedingly glad to see a Clergyman and assembled with alacrity to listen to the glad tidings of the Gospel.—Indeed I have sometimes observed that religious privileges seem to be much more valued by those who are deprived of them than by those who are in the midst of them, and that the eagerness with which the inhabitants of a remote settlement traverse miles to listen to God's Word and join in Public Worship, often puts to shame the culpable indifference with which some in more favoured places permit any excuse of indolence or convenience to keep them from the house of God. I suppose it must be referred to that corrupt principle of our fallen nature, which has the least sense of gratitude for those blessings which are most common and abundant, so that the loss of them alone gives a perception of their value.

Among the inhabitants I found, as is commonly found, some whose lives and conversation indicated the fear of God, and that they were seeking "the one thing needful, the salvation of their souls through faith in their Redeemer; and others who were careful about many things, and were occupied mostly in taking thought for their bodies, what they should eat, what they should drink and wherewithal they should be clothed," forgetful that all their efforts would be vain without His blessing whom alas! they thought not of acknowledging, and that "Except the Lord build the house, their labor is but lost that build it."

Among the former class, however, who served God, and relied upon their Heavenly Father "who knoweth what his children need" for a blessing upon their industrious efforts, there was one family claiming particular attention.—They formed one of the many illustrations of the truth of the sacred precept, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." They were the children of pious parents, and the faith and piety which dwelt first in their parents, seemed also to have taken up its abode in their bosoms. Their father, whose name was Mason, was in many respects a remarkable and interesting person. Although without much advantage of education, and in an humble station, he had contrived, by industry and application, to possess himself of much and various information. Having occasionally mixed with people of different languages, he almost invariably acquired sufficient knowledge of them to be enabled to converse with each in their own tongue. The following incident may serve as an illustration of this faculty: Upon one occasion, when he was accompanied by one of his sons, they had some difficulty in finding the right road, and while they were in doubt, they came to a house, the occupants of which understood only the Gaelic language. The son was passing on, not supposing that he could make the people understand, when to his surprise he heard his father conversing with them in Gaelic, and obtaining the desired information. He had not previously supposed that his father had any knowledge of the language, as he knew that his intercourse with the people had been exceedingly small. He was also acquainted with the French language, and conversed with great ease in the Indian tongue. He had origi-

nally been a Romanist, and thus had in his memory a good deal of the Latin used in the services of that church. Being however, sincerely desirous of knowing the truth and having in his bosom the fear of God, he had been brought by the careful study of God's Word, and the influence, it is fully trusted, of Divine Grace, to see the errors of the Romish faith; and renouncing those errors, to cleave with that singleness of mind and holy courage, for which he was remarkable, to the Catholic and Reformed Church of England. This determination was the result of an intelligent and deliberate conviction, and to it he firmly adhered to the end of his life.

A Roman Priest, however, having heard of his embracing Protestant principles, sent him word that he wished to see him. To this request Mr. Mason acceded, and on waiting upon him, was asked to give his reasons for not remaining in the faith in which he had been brought up; and pressed to return to it. He was, however, neither unable nor unwilling "to give an answer of the faith that was in him;" he immediately proceeded to point out the contrariety of the Romish faith in many particulars to the Word of God; and in the discussion which followed he so completely refuted the arguments adduced for the errors, and superstitions with which Romanism has encumbered the Gospel; by bringing them to the test of God's Word, and shewing them to have no foundation there, that his opponent was at length quite willing to close the debate, particularly when Mr. Mason, after having discussed his arguments, began with gentleness to turn the tables, and to press upon him the duty of coming away himself from those errors, and embracing a more Scriptural and more Catholic faith. He afterwards acknowledged privately that he had never met with any one, in the same station, of such extensive information as Mr. Mason.

The light of Divine grace which illuminated his heart and guided his life, also diffused itself, as is always the nature of vital Christianity, to the benefit and blessing of others. There were in the settlement where he lived, a number of aged men who had lived a life of sin and carelessness, and who having resided for many years in a place without a settled minister, and where the ministrations of the Gospel were not frequent, had almost lost the knowledge and the fear of God. To these persons Mr. Mason was accustomed frequently to go, reading the Bible to them and solemnly warning them of the destruction denounced against the wicked, while he neglected not, also to tell them of the "Lamb that was slain," of the "mercy of God in Christ;" "every sinner that repenteth." At first they derided his earnest exhortations, but afterwards several of them in the time of sickness sent to beg him to come to them, to instruct and pray with them. Thus the seed sown upon the waters by the servants of God is often found after many days. The result of his pious efforts is known only to the searcher of hearts.

There is in true religion a completeness which distinguishes it from every counterfeit resemblance of it. The heart that knows and cherishes the love of Jesus is renewed by His grace in all its feelings, so as to love and follow after holiness in all its ways, to watch against and to avoid sin in every shape. Thus the Christian will be guided by a religious principle in all his acts, the small as well as the great, and in every relation of life he will be governed by the fear of the Lord. It is too common a mistake of the heart to persuade itself that the forsaking of one or more wrong practices and the external profession of serving God, are sufficient marks of religion. But real repentance causes the soul to hate and renounce all sin and conformity to the world. True faith in Christ will conform us to him in all particulars, destroying not merely the branches but the root of sin. There is, it may be said, a christian way of doing every thing.

Remember we our Lord's words, "If thine eye be single thy whole body shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."—The light of Divine grace will spread itself through the whole man, in the heart, destroying and casting out evil thoughts, in the conversation eradicating vanity, slander, falsehood and foolish speaking, and in all the actions of the life towards man, displaying Christian love and honesty, and in the

servico of God, making that service to be, not only the duty but the happiness of the soul.

Thus in making further enquiries respecting Mr. Mason, I found that in all his ways, he appeared to take religion for his guide. Happening once to be where the conversation was respecting the settlement in which Mr. Mason lived and died, I enquired of the speakers whether they had any knowledge of him. Both answered in the affirmative, and the circumstances by which each particularly remembered him were characteristic of the man. The one gentleman who was a Barrister remembered him as manifesting the strictest integrity in giving evidence in a doubtful and much disputed case. The other remembered that whenever he had occasion to stay at his house he could not but observe that he devoted much of his time to the earnest study of the Scriptures, seeming to delight in them. Having in his old age a good deal of leisure, as through the mercy and providence of God his children were industrious, and dutiful, he appears to have found a spring of heavenly comfort in the perusal of God's word, seeking it with increasing appetite as his pilgrimage drew towards its close.

But since it is in the domestic conduct also, that we look for the marks of religion in the soul, the fruits of the Divine Spirit; in this respect also Mr. Mason manifested that he walked with God. He was a most kind husband and father and endeavored constantly and piously to train up his children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;" earnestly inculcating upon them "repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ." This care and instruction was bestowed upon them to the very end of his life; and when in his last sickness he perceived that the hour of his death drew nigh, he, like the Patriarch of old, called all his family around his bedside, and earnestly besought them to devote themselves to the service of their God and Saviour. And not thinking it a matter of indifference to a christian, or a thing to be neglected, whether he joined himself to that form and government of the church established by our Lord and His Apostles, or to one of the various ones devised by man, he solemnly enjoined upon them in his last paternal admonition, never to forsake the Church of England; for, as upon the strictest examination, her doctrines would be found to be scriptural and her ministry apostolic, so they would find in her pure and primitive services abundant nourishment for the soul, and would themselves avoid the sin of schism. Thus he sank to rest, it is believed "in the Lord," having been useful in his generation; in his domestic relations inculcating faithfully that which formed his own happiness, the religion of Jesus; as a neighbour, not neglecting the true friendly part, and as a member of Christ's church though he renounced the errors of Romanism on the one hand, he was not prevailed upon, on the other to countenance separation and dissent. May all sincere christians also consider their duty in this respect, and while they, as is right, seek with all earnestness, the essentials of the soul's salvation, not deem themselves justified in neglecting any of Christ's commands, but join themselves to that ministry with which He has promised to be till the end of the world. L.

A MELANCHOLY CASE.

A short time ago, a person died, who, along with his partner, was in very respectable business in Preston; his death being mainly attributed to a long course of indulgence in intoxicating liquors. He had, however, lately become a tee-totaller. He was interred on Sunday, and his partner, an old man, went to his funeral. The latter became excessively drunk from the liquor which he took, after the funeral, and, on going home late at night, he joked with his wife about the mourning she should wear when he was dead. A few moments after this circumstance, he went up stairs, with the intention of going to bed, when, being unable to preserve his balance, he fell backwards over to the bottom of the stairs. He never spoke afterwards, having died almost instantaneously.—*Preston Chronicle.*