

light.' Eph. v. 15. Stir up your heart, and the hearts of your family and friends, and call upon God to sanctify this present adversity, that your soul may profit by this visitation, and that you may have reason to bless God for it, and that for ever. Have you lost a tender and affectionate partner? Have you followed to the grave a beloved parent, or a beloved child, or the friend that was dear unto you as your own soul? Or, are you in sickness, in delicate health, or brought to poverty and want; or in dying circumstances, and in a few days expecting to leave all below? Still God is able to comfort you, to raise you up, to provide for you. He is the Father of the fatherless; he pleadeth the cause of the widow. How many widows have been left friendless, and without a protector; but God has proved himself their protector and their friend! How many fatherless children have had none but God to look to, and the providence of God has raised up friends and benefactors. Let your distress lead you to Him? then it will prove a blessing. God is now speaking. To-day, if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart. How tenderly did Christ weep over Jerusalem! Luke xix. 41. John xi. 35. How tenderly did he weep at the tomb of Lazarus! Now in Heaven he pleads; Father, spare that sinner yet another year. Call to mind how he hung upon the cross, bleeding and dying. He died that sinners should live for ever. May such dying love produce a lasting impression on your heart and mind.

Lastly, Should it please God to support you under this adversity, and raise you from this sickness, let me entreat you to consider—have you profited by it? Can you say, it is good for me that I have been afflicted? Has your affliction humbled you on account of your sins? Do you acknowledge that God is just in all which he hath laid upon you? Has it weaned your heart more from the world, and are you more in earnest for eternity? Has it brought you more to admire, adore, and love your God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and his great salvation? Have you a deeper sense of your need of the grace of the Holy Spirit? Hath your affliction had a sanctifying effect on your temper, your words, and actions? Hath it made you more tender, kind, and friendly to others; and taught you to have a real anxiety for their salvation? Oh, be careful not to lose these impressions. Seek the acquaintance of those whose pious conversation will assist you in the ways of God; and flee from the company of those, who, by the love of the world, negligence towards God, and dislike of spiritual things, would ruin your soul. Remember that religion is not the work of a death-bed, but is the grand business of life. Remember, also, that if this merciful warning be not improved, it may be the last warning—your death may be sudden. God may say to you, 'My Spirit shall not always strive with that man.' 'I will come in an hour that he is not aware of, I will cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion where the worm never dieth, and the fire is not quenched.'

Oh! then, let every consideration of judgment and of mercy, of the love of God our Saviour, and of the excellence of his law, of the value of your soul, and the importance of eternity, awaken you to flee from the wrath to come. Then, indeed, shall these light afflictions, which are but for a moment, work out for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, will receive you as a child returning to

his arms, with holy delight. There shall be joy in the presence of the angels of God over you as over a repenting sinner.

Oh! what a blessed state is this! This is happiness indeed, and without it there is no happiness to be enjoyed in this world; for how can you be happy here, unless you have a well-grounded hope of being happy hereafter? May God then enable you to make such use of the present adversity, as may lead you to the knowledge and love of his holy ways. 'This is life eternal, to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent.' May your present affliction have this blessed effect. Then you will say, 'It was good for me that I was afflicted.' You will then esteem this affliction as one of your chief mercies. In a better world you will see and acknowledge that in all your sufferings, however painful, mortifying, and perplexing, your heavenly Father was too wise to be mistaken, and too good to be unkind:

*"Good when he gives, supremely good,  
Nor less when he denies;  
Afflictions, from his sov'reign hand,  
Are blessings in disguise."*

Then you will come out of great tribulation: God will wipe the tears from your eyes and praise will be your employment for ever.

### THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1839.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA—The following address to the Public, and official notice by the Secretary, were alluded to in our last. We regret that a time has been named for the meeting, when it may be expected that the roads will be in such a state as to make it difficult for Delegates to attend from the several district Committees of the Province. We are glad, however, that a meeting has been called, if it were only to certify to the public that the Society is not numbered among the dead. We hope that action is now to begin, and that it will prove to be what its friends anticipated, the means of cementing stronger than ever the bonds of brotherly love and unity amongst the members of the Church, and of supplying the destitute portions of the Province with the ordinances of Religion. These we hold to be the great objects of interest which should enlist the best exertions of the lover of his Church and of his Lord in behalf of the Society. But a difficulty stands in the way of the latter branch of its operations in the want of persons to bear the Missionary office, and preach the glad tidings of salvation, in the dark places of our land. The small number now awaiting the Bishop's return to receive holy orders, as well as of those who are preparing at the Collegiate institutions, is disheartening to all who see the wants of the Church, and long to extend her borders, and embrace within her blessed fold the multitudes that are desirous to receive at the hands of her duly authorised ministers, the Bread of life. Again would we inquire if no more of our young men can be tempted by the prospect of the noblest usefulness of which man is capable, to engage in this blessed and holy work of labouring in the Redeemer's service. We trust we make the inquiry under the fullest sense of the danger of laying unholy hands upon the Altar, and rushing unduly qualified into the ministry. But parents ought not surely to place every other profession but the Church before their sons' choice, and recommend every other but that,—which it is to be feared is too generally the case. We think that the ministry, with all its solemn responsibility and indispensable qualifications, its glorious rewards and excellent honours, (even those that "come from God only")—ought to be prominently set before our young men, and the result left to that God who turneth

the hearts of the children of men as He will. And should not be forgotten, that want of means to procure a suitable education, which has driven many into other regular ranks of the ministry, does not now stand in the way.—The poorest may now arrive, through the means of the Colonial Society, and the Society for promoting the Gospel in Foreign Parts, at equal advantages with the richest in the land.

#### TO THE PUBLIC.

Since the formation of the DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA, the attention of the public has been but little called towards it. It is now upwards of eighteen months since it was organized under the most favourable circumstances; and though its operations have attracted so little notice, and it might therefore be supposed to have sunk into a state of inaction, it has been preparing the way for active and extensive exertions, and, in the mean time, furthering by its help such objects as appeared to claim its immediate regard.

Before it could proceed to beneficial operation, consistently with the principles of the Church, and with a due sense of obligation to the two great Societies in England, to which the Church population of the Colonies has been so much indebted, it was necessary that the patronage and friendly offices of those Societies should be secured. The presence of the Rt. Revd. President of this Society in England, afforded him an opportunity of explaining the objects and designs of its institution in the most satisfactory manner: and the Societies for Propagation of the Gospel and for Promoting Christian Knowledge have, in consequence, not only allowed the sanction of their names as Patrons of this Society, but also made munificent donations in money and in books for the advancement of its purposes.

This fact has been but recently communicated to this Society, and the return of the President, who both from his ecclesiastical station, and from his official connection with this Society, must be considered the chief guide and director of its operations, now only waited for, in order that it may enter upon such a field of useful exertion in promoting the spread of true religion in connexion with the principles of the Established Church, as the measure of its funds may warrant. It has, in the meantime, procured a large supply of books and tracts, consisting principally of Bibles and Prayer Books, which are now on sale, and by whose circulation, at the cheapest possible rate, no little good may be looked for: has afforded aid in several instances to such schools as were in need of help; has assisted in the erection of Churches; and has lately extended its helping hand in furtherance of the wishes of a young man, whose desires are directed, and it is hoped from christian principles, to the exercise of the Ministry of the Church.

That this Society has so little called for the aid and counsel and cooperation of the lay members of the Church, whose feelings and affections it was one of the great objects of its institution to bring into more lively action in behalf of the Church to which they belong, has been, therefore, the result not of design but of circumstances,—of circumstances now happily overruled: and the Committee of the Society therefore desire to keep the Society in the view of their fellow-churchmen, and would affectionately call upon them not to cease their interest, nor withdraw their affections from an institution whose success must much depend not merely upon their contributions to its funds, but upon the spirit of harmony and brotherly love, and of warm and affectionate interest in the principles and institutions of the Church, which should characterize all its members. They would respectfully invite their fellow Churchmen, and indeed the public at large, to a union in its operations, in the hope of arousing and keeping alive an interest in its proceedings, propose a general Meeting of the