

his hands when they incline to hang down, in this way you will follow after the things which make for peace in your midst, in this way you will cause to depend upon yourselves as a congregation, and upon our young brother as your pastor, the rich blessing of Almighty God.

The Monthly Record.

FEBRUARY, 1879.

ON TEACHING THE SHORTER CATECHISM.

The late Dr. McGillivray used to tell the following story: He was paying his usual visit at the home of a farmer in the Firth of Forth, and on examining the children in the Catechism found, as sometimes happens in the case of boys, the young boy who knew them no better than he did the year before. The Dr. asked him how was this, when the boy replied mournfully, "how can I have my questions when my father won't give them to me?"

And no doubt there are many other parents who have to answer for the ignorance of their children. It is an excellent custom to cause the children to repeat the questions on Sunday evening winter time. Unless they are often repeated they cannot remember them. It is true there are some wonderfully good people who never read the Catechism in their lives, who don't approve of teaching it to young people. But as they never read the RECORD we need say no more about them. It has been noticed that at times of revivals of religion, those only who were well grounded in Scripture knowledge received much benefit from them. In the case of the very ignorant and ill-trained the good impression having only a vacant,

idle, foolish and ignorant mind to work on soon passed away. We do not say that no very ignorant person can be permanently benefitted by seasons of revival, far be it from us to say so. But if he receives benefit it is in spite of his ignorance. When parents allow their children to grow up in ignorance of their duties to God and man, with their sense of right and wrong undeveloped, what can they expect but that their children will grow up ignorant, presumptuous and rebellious. What respect can such children have for their parents when they grow up to manhood or womanhood. The leaders of the reformation understood human nature better. They instructed the people with the Bible and with the Catechism as well. The impulse they thus gave to the mind and heart of Scotland in the direction of Evangelical truth has continued for centuries. Says a late writer "I cannot too strongly recommend this doctrinal standard of the church as a book to be learned by heart in early life. I should have unbounded hope in regard to the future of our Church if we could secure the general revival in the families who compose our congregations of the old-time Sabbath evening family service, with its Bible reading, its singing of Psalms and Hymns, its prayers and its catechetical exercises.

THE GREAT NORTH WEST.

The Rev. Donald Ross of Lancaster, P. Q., who is about to proceed to the Saskatchewan Valley, in the Great North West, to superintend the Missions of the P. C. in Canada, is on a farewell visit to his friends in N. S., and is combining profit with pleasure, by meeting with audiences in every town, village, hamlet, and country district, to talk with