

the faithful, that devotion to the worship of God and His service, that feeling of association with all that is good and godly, that finds expression in the words of Watt :—

"Lord, 'tis a pleasant thing to stand  
In gardens planted by Thy hand;  
Let me within Thy courts be seen,  
Like a young cedar, fresh and green."

What is its effect on *non-professors*? Just this :—The practical infidel will say their profession is a lie, because it appears to be made only on the principle of self-accommodation. Scorners will denounce them as hypocrites, for they love their own comfort and ease more than the laws of Jehovah. The scoffer will point the finger and say, There go the "fair weather christians;" they delude themselves by thinking God is well pleased with their semblance of worship, when they condescend to come into His courts and bow before Him *only when the weather is fine*, arrayed in fine feathers and fashionable attire, as if the great Creator took cognizance of, and gave rank to, His people according to the cut of a coat or the trimming of a dress.

What is its effect on the *absentees themselves*? The formation of a habit that becomes chronic. Having once unnecessarily broken away from the law of regularity, it is afterwards violated without any scruples of conscience. There follows an indifference to all the ordinances, or an occasional performance of *duty*,—not a delightful communion with God,—an "accommodation" service, so to speak, just as it suits the whim of the moment. Forgetfulness of God and of His claims upon them—ignorance of their sinfulness in His sight—blindness of spiritual perception and hardness of heart,—will surely take their place in the train of evils following the first downward step in forsaking the regular assembling of themselves together, unless the reformation is begun in time. If the earthly Sabbath has no joy, and the courts of the Lord's house no sweet memorial now, what hope is there of an eternal Sabbath, and of the "rest that remaineth for the people of God," which is worship unending?

## LETTER CONCERNING MISS JOHNS.

The following letter—though it is a private one, addressed to Rev. Mr. Grant—we are permitted to give, as it comes from authority, concerning the impression made by Miss Johns in Scotland. The liberality of St. Matthew's, Halifax, to which Miss Sanders refers, ought to be known by the Church. They said by their pastor, at the Synod meeting in July, that they would probably raise half of Miss Johns' salary. They have done more. They have paid her outfit, passage, etc., to India, amounting to more than \$500, and they have also raised—in answer to an appeal from the pulpit—the whole \$700 required for the first year's expenses of the mission. And we understand that they do not intend to omit the usual annual collection for the Foreign Mission Scheme of the Synod :

119 GEORGE ST., EDINBURGH, }  
22nd October, 1874. }

MY DEAR SIR :—

I have now the pleasure of intimating to you that Miss Johns has paid her visit to Edinburgh. It was but a short stay she was able to make, but, short as it was, it was long enough to convince us of her sterling worth. All who have had any intercourse with her felt that she is well fitted for the important work she has undertaken. Miss Johns, while in Edinburgh, met with several Indian friends, both ladies and gentlemen; she also was fortunate in seeing both Mr. and Mrs. Clark, who had returned from Madras about six months ago. They could tell Miss Johns a good deal about the work, Mrs. C. being Superintendent, and Mr. C., Honorary Secretary. I saw Mr. Clark after he had seen Miss Johns off by train to Glasgow, and he said, "there can be but one opinion as to Miss Johns." He said he admired her decision and good common sense, combined with deep earnest piety, and bade her a hearty God-speed. I think you will be pleased to learn that on Monday the 19th, at 2 o'clock, we had a very interesting Prayer meeting, when Miss Johns was most affectionately commended to the divine protection and blessing. The Revd. Dr. Herdman, Convener of the General Assembly's Foreign Missions, and who was upwards of twenty years in Calcutta, presided, and spoke a few earnest kindly words to our friend, and engaged in prayer. The Revd. Mr. Ferguson, late of Chumba, offered prayer for the success and extension of