

THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, & ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XVIII.

MARCH, 1872.

No. 3.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 8.

THANKSGIVING SERMON FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

PREACHED IN ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH,
HALIFAX, FEB. 27TH, 1872.

(PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.)

Psalm XX. 6.

In the first part of the sermon, the Rev. Mr. Grant explained the structure of the Psalm, the singing of the Strophes alternately by the assembled congregation, and the priest as representative of Jehovah; the original application; the meaning of the term "his anointed;" and the last cry of the Psalm, "God save the King; O God, hear us when we call." He then proceeded with the first clause of verse 6, and said: "This word of faith and cheer from the lips of the priest may be taken up by us this day, met as we are to thank God for having saved the life of the Prince whom we hope to see anointed king over us when God calls his mother to Himself. We can echo, "Now know we that the Lord hath saved him." If we cannot, we are faithless indeed. We must be without faith either in God as "the hearer and the answerer of prayer," and what we may be less willing to admit—without faith in the sincerity of our own

prayers. Out of our own mouths let us be judged. Did we not pray God to spare his life? And now that his life has been spared, shall we turn round and say "our prayers had nothing to do with it,—we never expected our prayers to be heard."

And yet if we are thus faithless we shall after all only be like the early Christians when Peter was "kept in prison." Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. Many were gathered together in the house of Mary the mother of Mark, praying; but when God answered their prayers and sent Peter to the very house, they would not believe the damsel who told them; and when she constantly affirmed that he was at the door, then they said, "it is his angel." Our prayers are often the cry of nature and not the cry of faith; but that does not make God's answer any the less real. It only makes it all the more wonderful that He should answer.

But who shall say that the prayer of faith was not made for our Prince while he fought with death? Certainly supplication was never made before to any man by so many millions of his kind. The whole earth was girdled for successive days with one common prayer.