

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE. Eph. 2 c. 20 v.

VOLUME I.

LUNENBURG, N. S. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1836.

NUMBER 7.

From the Christian's Manual.

FAMILY PRAYER.

As the Church has set forth some admirable 'Forms of Prayer to be used in Families,' this seems to be the proper place to say something on the advantages and pleasures of family devotion.

This branch of the Christian's duty is perhaps more generally neglected, even in pious families, than almost any other; although it would seem to be a part of worship due to our Creator and bountiful Benefactor, in which every parent would delight to engage. No doubt the neglect arises, in most cases, from a want of confidence and resolution to begin the pious work of calling our children and servants together, and making them kneel around us, while we present our supplications and praises to 'the God who heareth prayer.' But we are persuaded that when a beginning has once been made, no master of a family will wish to lay it aside; on the contrary, the moments spent in the morning and evening devotions of his household, will be the happiest of the day. Let every parent make the attempt for a single week, or month, at least; using the forms set forth in the Prayer-book, or some one of the numerous manuals of devotion intended for family worship. He will soon feel the good effects on his own religious character, and discern its blessed influences on the conduct of those intrusted to his care.

There are few parents, whatever may be their own feelings on religious subjects, who do not wish to see their children virtuous here, and happy hereafter; but how can they expect this, if they do not set them the example of a holy life? And what, I would ask, is calculated to make a deeper and more favourable impression on the tender minds of his offspring, than the habitual reverence with which they see their earthly parent approach the throne of their heavenly Father, to offer unto him the incense of their prayers, thanksgivings, and praise? The influence of these consecrated seasons is felt even when the domestic circle has been broken up, and its members have been separated long amid the world's wide way; and it was from the cherished recollection of these hours of family prayer that a learned and pious prelate is said to have 'very often and publicly blessed God that he was born and bred in a family in which God was worshipped daily.'

No ties are so strong, or so lasting, as those of religion. The bonds of kindred and affection may unite us on earth; but those of religion alone will continue to unite us closely and indissolubly in heaven. In the family circle the happiness of one is the happiness of all. They have the same views, the same feelings, the same interests;—'if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or if one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.' Assembled around the family altar, having the same favours to ask, the same mercies to acknowledge,—husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters, here unite, with a oneness of interest and feeling, in praying for blessings on each other. How grateful does the incense of their prayers and praises ascend before the mercy seat of Him, 'who sitteth between the cherubim!' How acceptable is this 'sacrifice of a sweet savor,' rising pure and fresh from the altar of holy and united hearts! Surely 'God, even their own God, will give them his blessing.' They have here commenced on earth those delightful exercises of devotion which they hope to continue more perfectly in that temple above, in the same happy union. Here all is the spirit of order, harmony, and love.

Religion, as it is with them the most important concern, so it begins and closes the duties of the day. In the morning they unite in rendering thanks to Him, who has so mercifully preserved them through the dangers of the night, and in requesting his blessing on their respective labors; and in the evening they again assemble to acknowledge the favors which they prayed for and have received, and to commit themselves to the protections of Him, who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

O happy family! O blessed society! where religion is thus made the handmaid of pleasure! Where she is invoked to lend her aid to lighten the toils and cares of the world,—to give a pure and holy zest to the rational and refined enjoyments of life,—and to cherish and strengthen the kindest feelings and the holiest charities of our nature! Here you may behold the original of that beautiful and bright, and glowing sketch, drawn by a master's hand;—In a holy Christian family, we see the old and young linked together, comforting themselves, strengthening and edifying one another in the holy bands of brotherly love, natural affection, and Christian charity. They pray together, and for one another. Together they read

the Scriptures; and they are glad to repair together, to the house of the Lord, in search of needful help, and to declare his goodness and mercy to the children of men. They bear one another's burdens. They weep together, and rejoice together; and live together in unity; and their prayer is, that after they are once torn asunder here, and divided, they may all be found worthy in the end to meet again together in heaven, a happy family, no more to part, even unto everlasting; receiving the end of their faith, the salvation of their souls. So, indeed, it shall be through His might who has gone before. And this is the perfect consummation in bliss of a holy family.'

So natural, easy, and delightful are all the duties connected with family religion,—so necessary is it to our happiness and the temporal and eternal well-being of those around us, that we see not how any parent can neglect it. And yet how many, who are otherwise pious and exemplary in their lives, never think of calling their household together to 'serve the Lord,' unless a minister happens to be present, to lead their devotions. This ought not so to be. If a parent would discharge his duty faithfully to his God, his family, and himself,—if he would see his children growing up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, that they may be useful here, and happy hereafter,—he must not only pray for them, but with them. Then shall 'his children be like olive-plants round about his table; and the Lord shall bless him out of Zion.'

COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

Gentlemen,

The Right Reverend Father, who is the subject of the enclosed brief sketch, extracted from a Canadian paper, is the object of very general respect throughout these Provinces, and of much personal regard to many of your readers. While its insertion therefore will gratify them, it will I trust subserve the great end you aim at, the glory of God in the edification of His Church.

That His blessing may attend your present undertaking, and His glory be gathered from it, is the earnest prayer of

C. S. P.

From the Courier of Upper Canada.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.—A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

"A Saint unspotted of the world, full of alms-deeds, full of humanity, and all the examples of a virtuous life."—*Isaac Walton.*

The Church of England has been singularly fortunate in the Bishops selected for the British Colonies. In India they have proved a succession of martyrs. The high-minded and intrepid Middleton, who laid the foundation stone of Episcopacy in the East—the refined and amiable James, discharging his sacred duties on his knees, when unable from over-exertion in his holy calling, to stand upright—the classical, the eloquent, the self-devoted Heber, the second delight of mankind—the fervent and evargelic Turner—all are consigned to that early tomb which experience bid them anticipate, but which duty forbade them to shrink from. Daniel Wilson occupies their seat; and whether Providence consigns him to a premature grave, or will prolong his life beyond the short number of days doled out to his predecessors after their arrival in India, we may confidently anticipate that the bright career which he has hitherto run, will set in the full effulgence of Christian Faith and usefulness. Sad as it may be to mourn over the bereavement, the world has sustained by the loss of these Apostolic men, their heroic and calm devotedness has probably rendered as much service to religion, as they themselves could have done, had Providence suffered them to fulfil the ordinary term of human existence. Sad as our reflection may be, when we read of the benevolent labours of these Standard Bearers of the Establishment being abruptly cut short by sudden death, it is

some consolation, in regarding the future, to know that the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay have each a Bishop of their own, and that a Robinson, and a Corrie, will share the toil and burden of the day with a Daniel Wilson, at Calcutta; and that probably, the division of labour will in some degree diminish Episcopal mortality in the East.

Though the name of Bishop Stewart be not so widely known as that of any one of the deceased Prelates of Indian Hierarchy, though it be not conspicuous in the annals of theological controversy, or rendered memorable by literary labour, scholastic achievements, yet wherever it is known, it is held in veneration and respect, and adds to the lustre of the Colonial Bench. The Bishop of Quebec is emphatically a good man. He stands forth to the world, a primitive, apostolic Bishop, who derives no false fictitious reputation from qualities more dazzling than useful; and whose mitre, as unsullied as that of Hough, is ever surrounded by a bright and steady halo.

Many men have revelled during their youthful days in the gratifications of sensuality, till wearied and nauseated with a surfeit of pleasure, and having exhausted every refinement of vice, they have by a sudden transition become metamorphosed into harsh and ascetic bigots, denying to others a healthful draught of those pleasures of which they themselves have quaffed to a hurtful excess. But the piety of our Bishop was not put on after he had flung off the garments of unrighteousness. It was a clothing he had assumed from his earliest youth; and the whiteness of his Christian vest has not been sullied by the hot passions of youth, the ambitious schemes of manhood, or the grasping avarice of old age. Of noble birth, and connected with the first families among the aristocracy, he has ever been distinguished for unostentatious humility, priding himself more on his Christian Badge, than on his long line of ancestry.—Hannah More, writing of him to Daniel Wilson in 1831, says: 'I have had a visit from my valued friend Dr. S. (Stewart,) from Canada. It was pleasing to hear a man of his birth speak of it, as a great advancement, that he was now appointed a travelling Missionary instead of a local one! I find him much improved in spirituality. * * * * * He has been the honoured instrument since we last met of causing 24 Churches to be built.'

Though our Bishop forbears to embroil himself in the political heats that inflame this Province, he strenuously upholds the interests and the establishment by Law of the Church committed to his care. Every society tending to relieve the distressed, to reform the wicked, to propagate the Gospel, or to benefit mankind, receives his steady and benevolent aid—like Bernard Gilpin, he has raised from a lowly state, more than one young person, in whom he has perceived the germ of a spiritual nature, and the promise of a fitness for the ministerial office—defraying the expenses of their education—and sending them forth to labour in the sacred vineyard. His private charities flow in a wide and never-failing current. No vain pomp, no superfluous luxuries, no costly furniture, no extravagant banquets exhaust his income; but on the widow, on the orphan, and fatherless, his bounty silently and unceasingly descends. His luxuries are alms-deeds; his walks are to the houses of mourning; and his banquets, are those exquisite and incorruptible viands, which a pure and Nathaniel-like life administers to him who leads it.

In the pulpit Dr. Stewart delivers plain and practical discourses, strongly imbued with Evangelical doctrines. He is more remarkable for earnestness than eloquence, and cares more to render himself intelligible than admired. He seeks to win souls in preference to court human applause by well rounded periods, or flowery declamation.

Bishop Stewart, (like his warm hearted and venerable contemporary of the elder Church, Bishop McDonnell,) sustained many severe privations and fatigues