

who are in a far better position than we are to describe Mr Mitchell's sayings and doings after he was settled in River John; to them, therefore, we cheerfully resign the task, should it ever be deemed necessary.

Mr Mitchell left a widow, who still survives, and several children, who are all comfortably settled; and by their worthy conduct reflect honour on their worthy father. His wife's name was Shearer, and belonged to New Carlisle. The family with whom she was connected belonged to the Kirk of Scotland. Several families, Presbyterians from the North of Ireland, were also settled there. Mr Dripps had been with them nine months. He left eighteen months before Mr M. came there. J. W.

A SERMON

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[Preached in Poplar Grove Church on Friday evening, September 6th, 1856, preceding the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

JOHN XVII. 1.—“*Father, the hour is come.*”

ON the approach of some great occasion, some signal event, the mind naturally rises to a proportionate degree of interest or excitement. When the hour for deciding any great cause approaches, what anxiety is exhibited even by parties not immediately interested, and how much greater the excitement of those who are personally implicated! Some political event is about to transpire: some important crisis in a nation's destiny has arrived: all preceding events have been conspiring to it: parties have been mustering, deliberating, acting: Providence has been working for it: the arena is prepared on which the momentous matter is to be decided; and now, “the hour is come!” Or the religious world is charged with events of important interest: these excite attention, draw all regards: they have assumed an engrossing character: a thousand circumstances have given them interest and importance: the largest principles are involved—the most momentous issues: these are hastening to their accomplishment, their consummation: every conspiring event has taken place; and now, “the hour is come!” There have been such hours in the world's history from the beginning of time: hours for which all previous hours were but preparatory: event after event has transpired, and then the event itself, the climacteric of all!—Such an hour pre-eminently was that of which Christ here said: “Father, the hour is come.”

Let us endeavour, so far as we may, to bring out what was in our Lord's mind, when, lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said: “Father, the hour is come:” or, generally, what hour is here intended.

Our Lord had just concluded his farewell address to his disciples; and now, knowing that the great event for which he had come into the world was about to be accomplished, turning to his Father, lifting his eyes to heaven where his Father was, he says: “Father, the hour is come.” We know for what purpose Christ came into the world. It was to accomplish its redemption. This world, of all the worlds which God had created, had fallen from its integrity. Among the many departments of God's universe, this alone,