

FOURTH SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—*Samuel's parting words*, 1 Sam. 12: 20-23.

Having been publicly declared king, Saul went quietly to Gibeah and resumed his former occupation. See Ch. 11: 5. He would wait the leadings of Providence. He had not, however, to wait long. The Ammonites came up against Jabesh-Gilead with the full expectation of making the city an easy prey. The inhabitants having obtained a respite of seven days, sent messengers throughout the coasts to see whether help could be got. The tidings having reached the ears of Saul, the Spirit of God came upon him and stirred him up to speedily assemble an army and go up to the relief of Jabesh. The result was a grand victory over the Ammonites. And now the people were delighted with their king, "they received him with sacrifices and great joy."

Samuel embraced the opportunity to affirm publicly the integrity and disinterestedness he had ever manifested in the discharge of his official duties. He also briefly recapitulated the great kindness of the Lord towards the people in raising them up deliverers from time to time. And now, even although in asking a king they had virtually rejected Jehovah, the prophet assured them that if only they and their king would serve the Lord faithfully their privileges as the Lord's people would still be continued to them; but he also warned them that if they would forsake Him, He would forsake them.

To deeply impress the minds of the people, Samuel called upon the Lord to send thunder and rain at an unexpected time, as an evidence that the Lord was displeased with the request for a king. The people were moved with fear, and asked the prophet to intercede on their behalf.

Samuel's reply was assuring. He told the people to dismiss their fear; for if they served the Lord, He would still take delight in them as His chosen people. As regarded himself, he told them that he could not cease praying for them, and wishing their good. His fidelity, at the same time, constrained him to warn them of the sad result of disobedience.

LESSONS.

1. See the great mercy of God. He is willing to forgive the past if we look for forgiveness, and he will bless us if we walk in his statutes. Let the goodness of God lead us to repentance.

2. A good man desires the welfare of others. Samuel warned, and encouraged, and prayed for the Israelites. He labored for their good, even although by desiring a king, they had ungratefully rejected him. What a lovely thing is true piety!

3. Obedience brings happiness; disobedience, misery. Let us pray to be brought into the right way and to be kept in it.

4 We should be prompted to keep God's commandments by the remembrance of the great things He hath done for us. See v. 24.

Presbytery Minutes.

Minutes Halifax Presbytery.

The Presbytery met on 5th May in St. Matthew's Church, Halifax.

The Rev. D. Neish resigned the Moderatorship, and the Rev. G. M. Grant was appointed to that office for the ensuing year.

The Clerk read a letter from Rev. Mr. Patterson, of St. John's, N. F., which, together with the papers asked for by the Presbytery at a former meeting, were laid on the table. On motion, the Presbytery resolved to recognize Mr. Patterson as minister of St. Andrew's Church, St. John's, and ordered the Clerk to communicate the same to the Clerk of Session.

The Rev. J. F. Campbell demitted his charge of the congregation of Richmond, &c. It was agreed, in the meantime, that the Clerk summon the congregation to appear by deputation in their own interest, at a meeting of Presbytery, to be held on Tuesday, 25th inst., at 3 o'clock, p. m., in St. Matthew's Session Room, Halifax.

The Rev. David Neish also demitted his charge of Musquodoboit congregation, and the same steps were taken.

Ordered that at next meeting, Session Records and Elders' commissions, be handed in, and that congregations report concerning the Synodic collections.

Adjourned to meet as above stated.

J. McMILLAN, Clerk.

News of the Church.

Nova Scotia.

REV. G. M. GRANT of St. Matthew's, Halifax, will probably be chosen Moderator of our next Synod; and Rev. E. Ross, of Londonderry, that of the Sister Synod.

ST. MATTHEWS' new Manse has been completed, and taken possession of by the pastor. This commodious and convenient residence was noticed in a previous number, and is in every way suitable for the purposes of its erection.