

PICKING FLAWS.

Some one has quaintly remarked that it does not require much religion to find fault; persons have been known to do it successfully without any religion. In looking over a ruined temple it is easy to see broken columns, prostrate walls, and defaced sculptures, but it is not so easy to trace the beauty of the original plan, and to recognize the primitive symmetry of the defaced and disordered ruin. It is very easy to find fault with men, for men are very faulty; but it is not so easy for some people to see the excellencies of character which those same men may possess. David's sin has been for ages the theme of scoffers and mockers, who have apparently failed to see anything of his penitence, nobility, heroism, generosity and devotion. It is well to be able to see defects, *especially in ourselves*, but it is well also to be able to discern excellencies, even though they be in our enemies.

One way in which an idea may be formed of the work of the General Assembly is to remember that it has to do with the oversight of the work of our Church in five Synods, or forty-one Presbyteries, or near twelve hundred congregations, or more than eight hundred pastoral charges. It has the work of six colleges to review and plan for. It has all the schemes of the church to arrange for during the coming year. It has in short all the work of the church in all its departments to pass in review, to look into the working of the past, and improve it for the future, thus to make the work of every year a stepping stone to something higher and better in the year that is to come.

What might be called the last meeting of the General Assembly took place in Victoria, British Columbia, on the evening of the 24th of June. About eighty members of Assembly embraced the kind offer of the C. P. R. to give reduced rates to Vancouver. They reached Victoria on the 23rd. A public meeting was held on the evening of the 24th, at which addresses were given by different delegates, quite a number of whom were present. Thus closing up, so far as meetings are concerned, the interesting series begun in Winnipeg on the 9th of June.

Daily remembrance of God is the source of daily obedience to God.—*J. Mason.*

IS THE MATTER SETTLED?

"Is the matter settled between you and God? I asked solemnly of one whose declining health warned us to expect her early removal from this world.

"O yes, sir!" was her calm reply.

"How did you get it settled?"

"The Lord Jesus Christ settled it for me."

"And when did he do it for you?" I asked.

"When he died on the cross for my sins."

"How long is it since you knew this blessed and consoling fact?"

The answer was readily given. "About twelve months ago."

Anxious, however, to ascertain the grounds of this confidence, I asked, "How did you know that the work which Christ accomplished on the cross for sinners was done for you?"

She at once replied, "I read in the Bible, and believed what I read."

And now dear reader, have you read in the Bible, and believed what you have read? It is written "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Does this bring comfort to your soul? Do you believe this faithful saying?

A well-founded faith is better than an ill-founded joy. A heart broken with the penitence of the fifty-first Psalm, is better than superficial hallelujahs on the lips. It is better to have the feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel, and to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, than to be self-deceived with artificial wings that seem to carry one triumphantly over it. A sense of sin coupled with trust in Christ, is the only safe way of life, out of life, into life.

An enlightened conscience is the true vicar of God in the soul: a prophet in its information; a monarch in its peremptoriness; and a priest in its blessings or anathemas, according as we obey or disobey it.—*J. Newman.*

We must always speak of the things of God reverently and seriously, and as becomes the oracles of God.

The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.