

kind enough to state this in the next Harbinger? My health is considerably improved. I get through my work now with comparative comfort.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE.—“A New Year’s Gift for the children of God,” and “An Affectionate Offering,” by George Bond. We know nothing personally of the author of these pieces, but, judging from the spirit that pervades his verses, we conclude that he has seen the wisdom and felt the power of Gospel truth—and is, moreover, sincerely anxious that others may be partakers of the same grace. To this end, may his humble efforts be abundantly blessed of Him, in whose service no kind of degree of talent can be uselessly expended.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSION.—Our excellent and valued correspondent, “A Catholic (not Roman,)” informs us that absence from home prevents, for the present month, the redemption of the pledge given in his last communication.

FAMILY WORSHIP.—We have received an anonymous communication on this subject, soliciting the expression of our views as to certain habits, in which the writer is very far from being singular, and about which he has had some salutary misgivings. We have ever held it as a first principle in Christian Morals; that in the absence of an express and explicit statute, as to any particular branch of Christian obligation, practical reference should ever be made to the nature, spirit, and design of our holy religion, as the best means of avoiding that which is evil, and cleaving to that which is good. Such a reference will solve at once a thousand questions, and prevent a thousand perplexities as to the path of duty. Our correspondent’s path is plain. Let him at once resolve henceforward to collect his family and unite with them in social worship, before even the youngest of them is wearied with the business or innocent pleasures of the day; (pleasures *not innocent* are not sanctified by prayer.) The service which God requires, is “reasonable,”—that, namely, of beings capable of thought, reflection, emotion; and, in the absence of these, all utterances and postures, however apparently devout, resolve themselves into mere bodily service. We know one family, (we believe there are many more,)

whose evening devotions, have, for many years, *regularly preceded the third meal of the day*,—an arrangement, which, if adopted and strictly observed by the present enquirer, will afford much satisfaction to his own mind, and obviate those inconveniences and positive evils which arise from the postponement of domestic worship to a late hour, when half the family are in bed, and the other half are physically incapable of worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

THE RELATION AND DUTY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

A SERMON PREACHED AT THE RE-OPENING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MONTREAL, SEPT. 18, 1842

Joshua xiii-1. There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed:

Such was the declaration of the God of Israel to Joshua, the son of Nuni. This faithful and devoted servant of the Most High was now old and stricken in years. His life had been marked by incessant activity and zeal, in furtherance of the great object for which, in very early life, he had been, by divine appointment, set apart as the successor of Moses—and invested with judicial and martial authority over the tribes of Israel. He had now served his generation by the will of God, and was about to exchange the temporal Canaan for another and a better country. Thus it is that one generation cometh and another goeth. He who but a short time since, was in all the bloom and vigour and vivacity of youth, now bends beneath the pressure of bodily infirmity; the once athletic frame is now tottering and feeble—the keepers of the House tremble, and the strong men bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and the doors are shut in the streets when the sound of the grinding is low; and he rises up at the voice of the birds, and all the daughters of music are brought low—and they are afraid of that which is high, and fears are in the way, and the almond tree flourishes—and the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails—because man goeth to his long home: Then the silver cord is loosed,—the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain; the wheel is broken at the cistern—and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit unto God who gave it.”

But amidst this constant waste of human life—this incessant removal from the earthly scene of action, of the servants of the Most High, it is their comfort to know that their departure shall in no wise affect the purposes of God,—that his counsel shall stand—that other agents shall be raised up and qualified to enter on the labours from which they