

RETURNING TO THE KIRK.

(BY PROFESSOR CHARTERIS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.)

father's house. He seemed to have
 ire to sink into the grave, he was so
 med of his sons. One night he came
 y room in tears about them and told
 how bad they were and he didn't know
 So I said, just let's look for the
 e, find out where the fault lies. And
 ou know what it was? That father had
 his children grow away from him. I
 asked him where he spent his even-
 Well, he was a councillor and every
 nday night he went to council. Tues-
 there was a young people's meeting
 is church, and as he was senoir dea-
 he felt he ought to be present. When
 came to Wednesday evening he squirm-
 and tried to get out answering, but fin-
 I learned that he was away high up in
 ret society, and spent his Wednesday
 nings at the lodge. Thursday nights I
 ys spend at home, he said. Just think
 in, said I. How often do you go out to
 ner parties a week. Well I got out of
 that he went to about one dinner par-
 week. That disposed of Thursday.
 day was prayer meeting night and
 always went to church. Saturday night
 was always to home. But I knew
 that was and so I asked him if he
 n't lock himself up in his room every
 urday night to

PREPARE HIS SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

all he had to own up to that. On Sun-
 y he was taken up with church pretty
 or all day. Other days he had breakfast
 nine o'clock and his children had to
 off to school. He didn't come home to
 ch. So he had only time to see his
 ldrren for a few minutes at dinner time.
 he fact is, I told him, your children don't
 ow you. You've lost your hold on them.
 ere was no one to blame for his chil-
 en's fall but that father! Home should
 be before church, I say. There was a
 me long before there was a church.
 ke your homes attractive. The reason
 many minister's children go away is just
 cause they themselves are engaged so
 uch they can't properly look after them.
 you want to convert young people, make
 me pleasant for them. You just want
 unbend the bow once in a while. Get
 ht down on the floor and have a romp
 th the boys and girls.

For the first time within living memory
 there is a widespread desire in Scotland
 to see a reunion of the scattered forces of
 our National Presbyterianism; what was
 not long ago scouted or compassionated
 as a dream, "a pious opinion," has been
 demanded by the enthusiastic voice of
 crowded meetings in every part of Scot-
 land. Next to the primary resolution to
 resist Disestablishment, no proposal was
 more popular or more universal at the
 recent "Church Defence" meetings than
 that which pledged those present to seek
 reunion of Scottish Presbyterians, and if
 need be, by the reconstruction of the
 National Church. The heart of Scotland
 has warmed to the Kirk, and the first
 result is that we are all wondering why
 all Scotland is not within her fold. The
 "Church of our fathers!" she shall not
 be demolished if we can prevent it. Not
 only from within her own gates was this
 cry raised during the recent crisis, but at
 almost every meeting, members and office-
 bearers of the Free Church and of the
 United Presbyterian Church, with splen-
 did courage, defied the political ecclesi-
 astics who are leading the forces of Dis-
 establishment, and proclaimed their deter-
 mination to maintain for all coming time
 the Church that Knox and Melville and
 Henderson and Carstairs toiled to estab-
 lish in Scotland. The men of the North,
 who though they do not belong to us,
 have maintained the principle of the
 national homage to religion in an Estab-
 lished Church with a faithfulness that is
 noble, and not a little pathetic, have
 rejoiced in answering the call to renew
 their testimony. In fair Dumfries and
 busy Kilmarnock, in the great populations
 of Edinburgh and Glasgow and Aberdeen
 and Dundee, and, as I can testify, in
 Dalkeith, the heart of the people was as
 one man in the resolve to strike down
 the man who raised a hand against the
 sacred fame of Scotland.

What man could not do with all his effort,
 Christ did for us, and we have to take it
 without effort, as a free gift.