

THE Children's Presbyterian.

LETTER FROM A PASTOR.

Dear Children:—

A Congregational Church in Massachusetts has lately been publishing some statistics concerning its history. I know that figures are often dry reading, and yet how frequently they teach good lessons.

The church that we refer to has during eleven years received 555 persons into its membership. What a large number you say! I want you to look at the ages of some of those thus received. There were 221 between ten and twelve years of age, 228 between thirty and forty, and only 30 over forty years of age. What a lesson should we draw from these facts? Are we not taught that people are more likely to become Christians early in life?

Now let me give you a few reasons why we should seek Christ when young.

It is said that half of the human race die under fifteen years of age. About 70,000 pass away by death every day, and not less than 35,000 children every twenty-four hours. If so many of the young are being called away, and life is so uncertain, then youth should be on the safe side the side of Christ.

Children's hearts are easily impressed. As you grow older they are less tender, and your feelings are not so keen and sensitive. At one moment you are laughing happy and joyful, the next bathed in tears. How important then that impressions be made which shall be lasting. There is no subject so well fitted to impress you as religion.

In old age it is harder to seek Christ than in youth. Every year adds strength to our sinful hearts, and thus it is not so easy to turn to the Saviour. Love of the world grows with our growth, and to tear from it causes much pain. Seek a change of heart ere it gain too firm a hold for when old your feelings will not be easily roused.

When you grow old it is not likely you will be more serious. Perhaps not many young people who read this will ever

grow old. If you do you may not be more thoughtful. It is possible to come to Christ at the eleventh hour, but we are apt to wax worse and worse. To turn over a new leaf is not easy and why should you come and offer God the fag end of life. It is far easier and better for you to be serious than when old.

Our Saviour when on earth showed much interest in children. He blessed them and was always ready to receive them. Listen to his promise; "I love them that love me and those that seek me early shall find me. How many of the youthful readers of the Maritime Presbyterian, love Christ? How many have sought Him? Have you all given your hearts to the Saviour.

"I HAVE NO MOTHER."

"Mayn't I stay, ma'am? I'll do anything you tell me—cut wood, go for water, and do all your errands."

The troubled eyes of the speaker were filled with tears. It was a lad that stood at the outer door pleading with a kindly-looking woman who still seemed to doubt the reality of his good intentions.

The cottage stood by itself on a bleak moor or what in Scotland would have been called such. The time was near the latter end of September, and a fierce wind rattled the boughs of the only two naked trees near the house, and fled with a shivering sound into the narrow doorway, as if seeking for warmth at the blazing fire within. Now and then a snowflake touched with its soft chill the cheeks of the listener or whitened the angry redness of the poor boy's benumbed hands.

The woman was evidently loath to grant the boy's request; and the peculiar look stamped upon his features would have suggested to any mind an idea of depravity far beyond his years.

But her woman's heart could not resist the sorrow in those large, but by no means handsome gray eyes.

"Come in' at any rate, till the good man comes home. There! sit down by