

DIED.

NEWCOMBS.—On Feb. 5th at Shoal Bay, Halifax Cy, N.S., Georgina Sophia, wife of Owen Newcomb, aged 44 years. As Sunday School Teacher and zealous church worker in general, Mrs. Newcomb is much missed in the parish, and her husband and son will not regain their loss till they two shall be numbered with the blessed.

STORY.—In Inkerman Co., Dundas, Ont., on Saturday, the 7th of March, 1885, of consumption, William George, aged 19 years 10 months and 15 days, youngest son of Charles Avery Story, Esq. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be name of the Lord."

ABOUND MORE AND MORE.

Growth is the law of life, in the spiritual as well as in the natural world. The very instant the Christian thinks he has made sufficient progress in the divine life, that instant he begins to decline, "Giving all diligence," says St. Peter, "add to your faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

And our beloved Church teaches the same great truth. Recall the time, when in the solemn rite of Confirmation you renewed your baptismal vows; when the Bishop, as you knelt before him, laid his hand in blessing on your head and prayed—"Defend O Lord, this Thy servant with Thy Heavenly grace that he may continue Thine for ever, and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more until he come unto Thy everlasting Kingdom."

Such too was the constant teaching of Christ himself, "I am the true Vine, and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit": The vine is not a stately tree, supporting itself, and spreading not its broad branches to shelter and protect others; neither is it beautiful to look upon, or of much value in the arts. "What is the vine more than any other tree or thorn or branch which is among the trees of the forest? Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work?" Its one great purpose is to bear fruit. How appropriate, then, is this comparison by which Jesus likens the Christian to a vine, to bear "much fruit"—this is the special purpose of every Christian life.

Let us endeavour, then, not only at this season, when we are especially called to prove our love to Jesus; but at all times—to show our faith by our works. We have no warrant otherwise to call ourselves God's children. Let it be our constant endeavour "that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

—From Lenten Thoughts for 1884.

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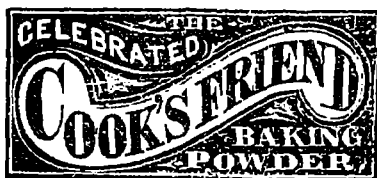
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