

APPENDIX.

ADDRESS

OF THE

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada

IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

TO THE MEMBERS OF THAT CHURCH,

ON

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Prepared by the REV. JOHN McMORINE, Ramsay, at the request of the Synod, and published by their order, after having been examined and approved by the Commission of Synod.

BELoved BRETHREN:—

The Synod of our Church, while, under God, it trusts mainly to the labours of its Ministers, in their respective localities, for awakening and strengthening in you a sense of religious obligation, binding to all Christian duties, and to your duties as Parents among others, yet resolved, at its last meeting, to address you directly on your responsibility as Parents. Though parental duty be of the utmost importance, experience proves that there is a strong temptation to neglect it. It is, in fact, neglected to a woeful extent in this Province. We do not see a common fixedness of purpose and aim manifesting itself everywhere, in parental care and diligence, and issuing in one glorious result, the enlightenment and practical guidance of the rising generation. There is an amount of injury done, and of guilt contracted, in this respect, which no language can express. In one family children are carefully instructed; in the next formally and superficially; in the next they are totally neglected; in the next they are educated to guilt and crime. What a lamentable mixture! what a miserable derangement and confusion! Who would not pity the poor, the helpless victims of so imperfect a system? They are the sufferers; they have no voice in the matter. They cannot change their circumstances; they cannot change their parents. They grow up more ignorant of religion than their fathers; they grow up without any solid convictions, or settled