

THE Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES

NOVEMBER, 1868.

THE CHILDREN'S WORK.

For several years the *Dayspring* has been largely supported by the contributions made by the children of the church. Boys and girls of from six to sixteen—younger and older—have interested themselves in the work of collecting and contributing, as hundreds of well-filled boxes and cards can testify. The same work has to be repeated every year; and as the church increases and the children become earnest, active and skilful in discharging the duty devolved upon them, greater results may fairly be expected. The children of the Old School Presbyterian Church collected last year in a few months no less than Seventy-four Thousand Dollars; and this year they expect to raise One Hundred Thousand Dollars or more. Achievements proportionately great are recorded in the missionary reports of other churches and societies. No church, which is up to the spirit and requirements of the age, neglects the aid of the children.

The immediate result is important. Money is collected cheaply and pleasantly which might otherwise be wasted in injurious luxuries, or at least never reach the Lord's treasury. It is carefully expended, and the cause of Christ is by this means strengthened and extended. But we regard the collateral results as of still greater importance.

1. We recognize the principle that all classes and ages are under law to Christ, bound to labour for Him,—to do what lies in their power to advance His kingdom. The claims of His service extend from the

cradle to the grave. Our children are His heritage from earliest infancy. Our boys and girls are His, and so are our young men and maidens, and our aged fathers and mothers. As Christ has redeemed men irrespective of age, class, rank, or any other human distinction, so He claims the service of all His redeemed ones.

2. It is well to train our children to do something for Christ from the first dawnings of intelligence and voluntary activity. The habit formed in childhood and strengthened in youth, may be ripened and confirmed throughout a long and useful life. It is of great importance to teach children no; merely to collect, but to contribute—to undergo some privation—make some sacrifice, in order to give to their Master and advance His kingdom on earth. This lesson has not hitherto been effectively taught in our churches or Sabbath schools. The present adult generation will scarcely give of their superfluities, not to speak of making serious sacrifices of their comfort. It is hoped that the rising race will be far in advance of us in this respect—that our children will cheerfully deny themselves not luxuries merely but comforts, in order to promote a cause that deserves to be dearer than life. This lesson can be taught only by beginning with the children; and one step is this collecting for the *Dayspring*.

3. Parents should be careful to explain to their children the nature, claims and necessities of the missionary work which they are called upon to support. In order to be able to do this, parents themselves must read and think, and teach their children to