

THE MISSIONARY
AND
SABBATH SCHOOL RECORD.

Vol. VIII.

JANUARY 1, 1851.

No. 1



Death of Abel.

Adam and Eve, being driven out of Paradise on account of their disobedience, soon experienced the dire effects of that curse which was pronounced against them, by being obliged to till the ground in order to provide for their subsistence. Meanwhile Eve conceived, and Cain was born; shortly after which his brother Abel came into existence. The Jewish tradition is, that they were twins; but be that as it may, when they grew up they followed after different occupations, Cain being a tiller of the ground, while Abel was a keeper of sheep.

They each brought an offering unto the Lord; and, it is worthy of observation, that both kinds were afterwards commanded to be offered up under the law, which is a strong proof, that the elements of that dispensation, which was entirely typical, were promulgated to the church immediately after the fall. Cain, in process of time, as it is rendered in our translation, but as the words literally signify, at the end of days, "brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord." It is evidently could be nothing else than

what was afterwards called the feast of harvest, and the feast of ingathering (Exod. xxiii. 16), or the oblation of first fruits. (Lev. ii. 12, & xxiii. 10.) And "Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof." These were also commanded to be offered. (Exod. xxii. 29. Numb. xviii. 15, &c.)

Some have anxiously tried to assign as a reason for the respect shown to Abel's in preference to Cain's offering, that the one was of no value in comparison of the other; but, if we examine the Scriptures attentively, we shall find that they lay no stress whatever upon their comparative intrinsic worth, and ascribe the difference solely to the principles by which the offerers were actuated. It does not, however, admit of a doubt, that God gave some public token of his approbation, or rather of his accepting of Abel's sacrifice, and this display of peculiar favor to Abel stirred up Cain's animosity. Instead of expressing joy that his brother's sacrifice was accepted, or being in sorrow that his own had deserved rejection, he is filled with the most malicious envy towards his brother, and is de-