

EARLY CONVERSIONS.

It has been the writer's privilege to admit some into the church at an early age, whose subsequent lives have given proof of the genuineness of their conversion.

He has found it profitable to talk, in a familiar way, with those of tender years to draw out their views of heaven and of the way to heaven. This course has enabled him to see their errors and to correct them. Children who are properly trained think more about these things than many are apt to suppose.

The writer knew two little boys, ten or twelve years old, who lodged together for a single night, but did not sleep. They spent the whole of it talking about spiritual and eternal things. But while thoughtful children look upon heaven as a "holy, happy place," their views of the way to heaven are naturally erroneous. Till taught better they think, like too many of more advanced years, they must be good and rely upon their goodness as all that is required to fit them for heaven. Personal interviews with them enable us to correct this error and ultimately to guide them in the right way. But we are sorry to learn that many, good people, at this day, think that the matter of personal piety should not be urged upon the young at an early day. If you seek an interview with an intelligent child, a dozen years old, in order to be sure that he has correct views of the way to be saved, you are told, even by a Christian parent, that he is too young to attend such matters!

But that is virtually saying we must let the evil one have our children till they are well grown before we attempt to guide them to Christ. The gnarled oak is not so easily bent as the twig.

But we have facts, in the word of God and out of it, which show that even little children have become the humble followers of our blessed Redeemer. A little child is the divine model that all must resemble in spirit who would enter the kingdom of heaven. President Edwards gives an account of one who was greatly affected by the talk of her Christian brother, when she was but a little over four years old. The impressions then made were never lost. She grew more and more engaged in religion. Nothing could divert her from her closet duties, for which she retired several times a day. She was anxious for the salvation of others and gave evidence of her saving interest in Christ that ought to remove every doubt.

At a later day we have the case of John Mooney Mead, who died, as we remember, before he was five years old, but not before he had given very pleasing evidence that he was born again.

But not to confine these remarks to those who are so very young. Of more than forty who united with one of our churches at the same time, it was admitted that a child of about twelve years of age gave better evidence of a genuine change of heart than any other. She had been carefully trained at home. And who can question whether the heart of little Samuel, of old Eli's time, was early renewed?

Of John the Baptist it was predicted before he was born that, from his birth, he should be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Divine predictions never fail.

Many of the brightest ornaments of the Church were brought to Christ at an early age, and it is believed many more would be if parents, pastors and teachers would be faithful.—*Sel.*

CHRISTIANITY AND CIVILIZATION.

Seldom has a better or a braver answer been made to the scoffings of skeptics than by James Russell Lowell on a certain public occasion in England. Several speakers had given utterance to slighting remarks upon Christianity when Mr. Lowell, in the course of his remarks, said: "When the microscopic search of skepticism has turned its attention to human society, and found a spot on this planet ten miles square where a decent man can live in decency, comfort and security, supporting and educating his children unspoiled and unspilled, manhood respected, womanhood honored, and human life held in due regard—when skeptics can find such a place ten miles square on this globe where the gospel of Christ has not gone and cleared the way, and laid the foundations, and made decency and security possible, it will then be in order for the skeptical *literati* to move thither and there ventilate their views."

MAN LIKE AND GOD-LIKE.

A gentleman, who had filled many high stations in public life with the greatest honor to himself and advantage to the nation, once went to Sir Eardley Wilmot in great anger at a real injury that he had received from a person high in the political world, which he was considering how to resent in the most effectual manner. After relating the particulars to Sir Eardley, he asked if he did not think it would be manly to resent it? "Yes," said Sir Eardley; "it would doubtless be manly to resent it, but it would be GODLIKE to forget it." This the gentleman declared had such an instantaneous effect upon him, that he came away quite another man, and in temper entirely altered from that in which he went.