

could be held accountable for the scriptural knowledge he had received in a missionary school. I told him I knew well he did not believe a word of all he had been reasoning in favour of, and that I hoped he will no longer stifle conviction, but yield himself up to the Saviour. I invited him to visit me at my own house, and I should lend him useful books, and help him all I could in his inquiries after truth. He said he hoped I would "honour him by partaking of an entertainment at his house." To this I willingly assented; sweetmeats as usual were then presented, and I concluded the meeting with prayer, the whole assembly standing up. I was engaged over three hours and felt fatigued, as the evening was very warm; but as I rode home I could not but feel glad to have such an opportunity of hearing a testimony, though feeble, for the truth. I have not now time for more on this subject. I hope, however, this is not the last you will have of it. If God spares my life and permits me to labour here, I intend spending many evenings in the city in the houses of its idolatrous inhabitants. As ever, yours in gospel Bonds,
JOHN S. WOODSIDE.
—Banner of the Covenant.

(From the *Missionary Herald of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.*)

HOME MISSION.

ACCOUNT OF THE PRIEST'S VISIT AT
THE BEALDERIG SCHOOL ON THE
20TH DEC. 1852.

It is seldom that a minister of Christ has an opportunity, away from the heat and passion of public discussion, of presenting to the mind of a Romish priest any portion of Gospel truth. Mr. Ferguson happily enjoyed such a season, and appears to have admirably improved it. The quiet hour of Father Williams' visit to Bealderig school will, we think, be remembered by him. May he be profited by what he heard on the occasion!

The Rev. Father Williams was just coming from celebrating a mass for the benefit of Mr. K.'s cows. The door of the school-house was open, and when he turned in from the road, two or three of the little girls ran into the other apartment. I told the children to sit down quietly. He entered, and said, "Some of them are running away. They are getting blushed."

I said, "It is strange how much afraid children are of the priest."

"They have sometimes reason to be afraid," he replied.

"No doubt of it," said I, "for it is only a few days ago since a priest, in Eng-

land, beat a poor woman with his umbrella because she got her child baptised by a Protestant minister instead of a priest."

"He was a great fool," was his reply.

"The result showed him to be that," I said, "because he had to pay £5 for his trouble."

As there was no reply, I proceeded by saying, "The priests appear to me to act a very unreasonable part. Man consists of two parts—a soul and a body.—The one is only dust, and will soon return to corruption, but the other is the more noble part, and will live for ever. You should, therefore, appeal to the soul, and convince the judgment.

"The sufferings of the body are often beneficial for the soul," was his concise answer.

"Neither Christ nor his apostles," said I, "give us either command or example to show that we should convince men in that way; and God's direction is—he that saith he abideth in Christ ought himself also so to walk even as He walked. Christ's way was going about continually teaching and preaching the glad news of the kingdom. His disciples likewise pursued the same course. They preached the Gospel to the people. And Christ's command is, 'Search the Scriptures'—a command given, not to the Scribes, or Pharisees, or priests of that day, but to the multitude that were assembled around Him. The command is not, hear the Scriptures from your teachers. They were commanded to search them for themselves—to search with diligence, like men looking for metal, as the original shows, to search the *Scriptures*—the written Word of God. This is the instrument, in the hand of the Spirit, by which men are regenerated—born again. 'The law of the Lord,' says David, 'is perfect, converting the soul.'—And this is the instrument by which God's people are sanctified and prepared for heaven; hence Christ's prayer is, 'Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth.'"

To all this he listened patiently, without offering a reply. He then said, "The Scriptures are hard to be understood. They should be read along with the comments of learned men. The reading of them by the unlearned leads to many errors and heresies in the Church."

"I have often thought it strange," said I, in a rather hortatory manner, "that when the Church of Rome considers the