

Timothy 1st 7th—[Comm. to the Hamilton Spectator.]

CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA.—The congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Niagara, have presented their Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Howat, with a very handsome carriage, which, by the way, is not the first or only substantial token of regard which the members of the Church have bestowed upon their estimable Pastor. It is pleasing to see such marks of esteem and confidence existing between Pastor and people as exist in St. Andrew's Church. The Rev. Mr. Mowat, as Clergyman, gentleman, and scholar, deserves every respect which his congregation can show him; and it is much to their credit that they appreciate his merits so well.—*Niagara Mail*.

TESTIMONIAL TO REV. DR. COOK, QUEBEC.—On Friday morning a deputation from the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Reserve Battalion 71st Highland Regiment, attending the Established Church of Scotland in Quebec, waited upon their Clergyman, the Rev. J. Cook, D. D., and presented him with a handsome Family Bible, bearing the following inscription:—

Presented

TO
THE REV. DR. COOK

By the Non Commissioned Officers and men of the 71st Highland Light Infantry attending the Established Church of Scotland at Quebec, as a token of their esteem and regard for him as a Minister and servant of Christ Jesus, also for the uniform kindness they have experienced from him during their short stay in Quebec.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

ADONATION of £18 8s. forwarded by the Rev. Wm. Bain, from the Missionary Association in connexion with St. Andrew's Church, Perth, Canada West, and an Anonymous Friend—£8 14s. of which to be applied to the India Mission, and £9 14s. to the Scheme for Conversion of the Jews.

Family Catechising.

"In the morning sow your seed, in the evening withhold not your hand;" but remember that "neither he that soweth nor he that watereth is anything; it is God that giveth the increase." *Izcc. xl. 6; Col. iii. 7.*

EVERY right thinking man, who looks with the eye of a Christian upon the vast amount of human misery—the groaning wretchedness—which everywhere surrounds him, must confess that the present times peculiarly and emphatically demand the application of some powerful corrective to the numerous and crying evils with which society is infested. For notwithstanding that, through the benevolence and charity of some, and the zeal and energy of others, scheme after scheme has been set on foot for the moral and intellectual elevation of the masses, yet how much still remains to be done for their moral and religious elevation! This being neglected, or only partially attended to, we have the experience of all history for affirming, that vain will be all merely human efforts, to accomplish

real and lasting improvement. And that this principle has, to a great extent, been overlooked, the deplorably vicious and immoral state of the country at this moment bears ample testimony. Witness the unprecedented amount of crime, intemperance, sabbath-breaking, and vice in every form, which at present prevails throughout these colonies,—especially among the younger members of the community—a result which is the invariable concomitant of irreligion.

The question therefore comes to be,—Is there any remedy for this state of things? and what is that remedy? We answer that, blessed be God, there is a remedy. The Bible and the Bible alone, is the true and only remedy. All other methods of regenerating mankind have again and again been tried, but all other methods save the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have failed, are failing, and ever will fail. Within the pages of that sacred volume alone is the balm of Gilead to be found—the only medicine for diseases the most desperate—a prescription which has never yet been found to fail even in cases the most hopeless, and which, with God's blessing, never will fail. To that holy Book then we would joyfully point, and say, here is the remedy provided by the wisdom of God himself. But although God, in his infinite wisdom and goodness, has provided this never failing remedy, it rests with man to apply it. The virtue of a medicine cannot be seen until it is used. Man must use the means which God has put into his power. If the means are neglected, then will the disease ever continue to spread wider and deeper. But some one may here say,—Have we not abundant opportunities and means of grace? Is not the country, from one end of it to the other, already covered with Churches and Sunday Schools? What more then do we want? With all confidence do we reply, that there yet remains, among a large portion of our colonial population, a great desideratum to be supplied,—a want which in a great measure they themselves alone can supply.—and until it be supplied, we very much fear that the united labours of pastors, missionaries, visitors and Sabbath school teachers, vastly influential as these are, will fail to counteract the corrupt tendencies of sinful humanity, and stem the current of vice and immorality now so prevalent. The desideratum we allude to is Home Religious Education, founded upon a judicious system of Family Catechising.

The amount of good which an enlightened and well organised system of Family Catechising, commencing with the parent and ending with the pastor, would confer both upon individual families and upon the country at large, is incalculable. No one will deny that this is a most powerful means of reformation. Nay, under proper management, it is the most efficient of all means. Without this as a foundation we may safely assert all others are in a great degree unavailing. The period of child-

hood and early youth is most critical—most pregnant with danger. Once Satan has established his empire over the human soul it is difficult to dislodge him from his seat; and children are an easy prey to the snares of the Wicked One. How careful, therefore, should parents be to endeavour, in due season, to sow good seed in the minds and hearts of their children! If they would see the rising generation virtuous and happy, instead of dissolute and consequently miserable—the followers of Christ, instead of the slaves of Satan, they must strive, in the early morning of their children's existence, to inspire them with a true love of God, and a strong hatred of sin. The longer this is delayed the more difficult will the task become.

For the sake of clearness, we will divide the subject of this paper into two heads, viz.:

- I. The Parent as Catechist, and
- II. Aids to Parental Catechising.

I.—THE PARENT AS CATECHIST.

Nature, no less than Revelation, points to parents as the best catechists in their own families. Unspeakable is their influence over those of their household! The command of the Lord is—"Thou shalt teach these words to thy children, and shalt talk to them when thou sittest in thy house," and "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." If parents believe the Bible to be the word of God, they must confess that it is their duty to read and to study it, and to instruct their families in the knowledge of it. They are to remember, that Families are the institution of God himself, and that he who does everything wisely, had a purpose in instituting the relationship of parents and children. Their position therefore is one of great responsibility. From the station which they occupy, they are armed with a power of instruction which, if rightly employed, will bring down the blessing of God upon their abode,—make their homes happy and comfortable—and when time with them is no more, will redound to their immortal glory and honour. But if they neglect this most important duty, fearful is the responsibility which they incur. The religious education of the children whom God has given them for a blessing, being neglected, their offspring may become a curse not only to themselves but to society, and entail an amount of misery and suffering upon others which it is impossible to estimate. Their own opportunities of acquiring knowledge may have been very limited; and after the labours of the day are over, they may feel so worn out by fatigue as to be able but for little mental activity; but surely a little time spent in the religious instruction of their children, would not be a task requiring much exertion. Let parents be persuaded that such an exercise as catechising, once begun, will very soon become the sweetest of all pleasures; and they will have the unspeakable