

to be noted that in those districts of this country where these precautions were neglected the Church has suffered much by the falling away of nominal adherents,—persons of slim training ready to be carried off their feet by every wind of doctrine.

Let children be trained early to some of Christ's work; to give money, time or anything else that may be required. They should attend not only the Sabbath School but diets of public worship, and the Prayer Meeting from their youth. A very dangerous habit prevails in many of our congregations—that of leaving Prayer Meetings to adults and principally to the aged. *Children* should be there, and the meetings should be of such a character that children would be interested and edified.

Recurring to the Missionary vessel, we trust that the reflex influence on the children themselves will not be of less value to the Church than the actual work performed. It is delightful to see the young consecrate so much to the cause of Christ, and doing it so cheerfully. May we not hope that the habit will grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength, and that when they are old they shall be vastly more ready to part with their substance for the Church's service than the generation on which the responsibility at present devolves? Let us pray that it may be so! Let us pray that the training already brought to bear on our children may be blessed of God—for without his spirit all our efforts will prove utterly fruitless. But he has never failed to bless means when used in faith and humility; and if we train up our children for him and trust them to him he will never cast them off.

By the natural affection that glows in every parental bosom, by the duty you owe to the civil community, by the solemn vows which you have taken upon you in the presence of God and His Church, by the joy of meeting your children at God's right hand in Heaven—the inexpressible woe of parting with them forever—we beseech you to give earnest heed to this solemn duty of feeding the lambs of Christ!

THE HALIFAX CITY MISSION.

This city with the districts in its immediate neighbourhood is a most inviting field for home missionary enterprise. Our country readers can form but a very inadequate idea of the moral condition of a large section of our population here. Many are Roman Catholics, in the most abject spiritual bondage, totally ignorant of true religion, and entertaining the strongest prejudices against everything Protestant. Should this class be left to perish? Have they not very strong claims upon our benevolence? Prejudices as strong as theirs have been overcome. Labour with prayer will surmount all difficulties. At present we can hardly say that anything is being done for the benefit of this large and interesting class. A convert is picked up now and again; but no systematic effort has been put forth, and no regular harvest has been reaped.

Another large and sadly neglected class are the African population. The ignorance, degradation and absolute heathenism of a portion of the colored people is not more deplorable than it is notorious to any one who observes closely. Most of the colored people are nominally Methodists or Baptists. A considerable number are highly respectable, industrious, and intelligently religious; but very many are the reverse. It is heartrending to see families huddled together in small, cold, smoky huts, making a wretched living partly by beggary and theft, and partly by means still more deplorable. Inconceivable misery is involved in a life such as this. What is being done to stop the evil and alleviate the wretchedness? Very little, we fear. Ministers and elders do not ordinarily deem it their duty to seek out the poor Blacks or extend to them the charity and loving care which reach the poor whites. There are now three congregations in connection with our own church in this city: and two belonging to another Presbyterian church. Still, we believe, there are "lapsed" Presbyterians in and around this city. The "Halifax City Mission" is an organization specially intended to benefit those who are not within the reach of ordinary ecclesiastical operations, and as such