

THE RECORD

OF THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

In Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

VOL. VII.

MARCH 2, 1861.

No. 5.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, v. 3.

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Sermon,

THOUGHTS ON THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN.

By the late Rev. Walter Carrick of St. Clement's, Aberdeen.—Text, Luke xviii. 9—14.

The great object of this parable is to guard against spiritual pride, and to recommend humility,—humility both towards God and towards man. Humility is one of the first lessons which we must of necessity learn, preparatory to entering into the kingdom of Christ. "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in nowise enter therein." We fell by pride, and if ever we rise, we must do so by humility,—“by abhorring ourselves, and repenting in dust and ashes.” Christ often preached on humility, and He himself led a life corresponding to His doctrine. “Though He was in the form of God, and thought it not robbery to be equal with God, He made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” He even washed the feet of His disciples, “giving them an example, that they should do as He had done to them.” Yea, His whole life was one continued proclamation,—“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in

heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

Verse 9.—“And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.”—Here the Evangelist gives an outline of the contents of the whole parable. It was spoken for the instruction of those who trusted not in the mercy of God, but in their own good deeds; who exalted themselves, and set their brethren at naught. Their besetting sin was that of self-righteousness. Vainly imagining that their own right arm had gotten them the victory, they were ignorant of their true relation both towards God and towards their fellows. While they regarded the Almighty with irreverence, they despised those around them. They did not love the Lord their God with all their heart; for they knew not that it is He who brings His people “out of the house of bondage.” They loved not their neighbors as themselves, being ignorant that Christ is our elder brother, and “all we are brethren.” The love of God and the love of man go sweetly hand in hand; and where the one is not present, the other must be absent. “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he