



OF THE

## Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, v. 5

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### SELECTED POETRY.

#### The Old Sexton.

'Twas nigh the hour of evening pray'r,  
The Sexton climb'd the turret stair,  
Wearily, being very old.  
The wind of Spring blew fresh and cold,  
Wakening there æolian thrills,  
And carrying fragrance from the hills.

From a carven cleft he lean'd,  
Eying the landscape newly green'd;  
The large sun, slowly moving down,  
Flush'd the chimneys of the town,—  
The same where he was first alive  
Eighty years ago and five.

Babe he sees himself, and boy;  
Youth, aspir with hope and joy;  
Wife and wedded love he sees;  
Children's children round his knees;  
Friends departing one by one;  
The graveyard in the setting sun.

He seats him in a stony niche;  
The bell-rope sways within his reach;  
High in the rafters of the roof  
The metal warden hangs aloof;  
All the townsfolk wait to hear  
That voice they knew this many a year.

It is past the ringing hour,  
There is silence in the tower,  
Save that on a pinnacle  
A robin sits, and sings full well.  
Hush! at length for prayer they toll;  
God received the parted soul!

### RELIGIOUS INFORMATION.

#### Address to Parents of the Working Classes on the Importance of their Children.

CHRISTIAN PARENTS OF THE WORKING CLASSES!—I wish you to see clearly, and feel deeply, the importance of your children, so that you may be led to consider with earnest thought how you may best train them up in the way which such beings should go. A working man, especially in a great city, is apt to think that neither he, nor his family are of any importance whatever. What is he, or his poor family, to

this great thronging, busy, and bustling world? Who cares whether he is ill or well, in joy or sorrow, alive or dead? Of what importance are those children to any human being beyond the walls of his home? The great tide of human life rushes past his doors as ignorant and heedless of all that is passing within, as is the tide of ocean of the dwellers on the shore which it laves with its billows! Nevertheless, you and your children, my brother, are of more importance than the tongue can express, or the mind fully comprehend. Let us consider the matter a little with reference to your children.

1. Your children are of great importance to society. It is you who supply our factories with hands, our ships with seamen, our army with soldiers, and our houses with servants. Upon the character of those whom you send forth every year to the world depends the good and the happiness of millions. In your houses the real prosperity of the nation is determined more than in the Houses of Parliament. In the name of thousands, I say, Have mercy upon us!—and give us sober, industrious, honest men and women.

Why should I say more on this head, to prove that your boys and girls, who are growing up around you to be men and women, are of immense and incalculable importance to the well being of society?—Have a care, then, how you bring them up!

Are your sons to be employed as workmen? If so, they are of importance to their fellow-workmen and employers. They can form a strength or weakness, a blessing or curse, to both. Let us have sober, steady men, whose words and example will be health and comfort to all around them. Give us men to whom we can entrust our money and our property in our shops and counting-houses; and to whom we can entrust our lives when travelling under their guidance by land or sea. But save us, we beseech you, from the blaspheming infidel, the filthy sensualist, the insane drunkard, the coarse and rude savage, the leader of riots, the contriver of plots, the spouter of nonsense, the preacher of rebellion, the instigator of strikes, and the tyrant of all! Are your daughters to be servants in our houses? Give us such as are sometimes to be found, whom we can trust, respect, and cherish, as valued friends of the family; obedient, rude, selfish, or unfaithful servant, who, though leaving her place as soon as possible, may only make way for another of the same description! In the name, too, of many a young tradesman, see that the wife he receives from your fireside may be such an one as can be a companion for an intelligent Christian man.—an economical house-keeper for a working man; and be herself the Christian mother of his children; and not a thoughtless, handless, tawdry slattern, who keeps her house like a pig-stye, and her children like pigs—who idles her time in gossiping with her neighbours, or in drinking with them—for such horrors are by no means rare!—thus driving her husband to ruin and misery, and tempting him to drunkenness or desertion.

2. I must come nearer home, and remind you that those little ones are of great importance to yourselves. I am sure you feel this, at all events, to be true. Oh! how important are these! They strengthen your arms for labor, and refresh you when at rest. They rouse you up, and send you out in the early morning, and make you glad to return home at night. That child who climbs your knee, twines its arms around your neck, and kisses your rough cheek, has more power over you than all the police in the city or than all the armies of the world, were they arrayed against you! Its smile holds you fast as no iron chain could do; and its fond caressings will often calm your wild heart, and make yourself a child. It would be nothing, indeed, to the world if that little light was extinguished;