

THE MONTHLY RECORD,

OF THE

Church of Scotland

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOLUME XXV.

JULY, 1879.

NUMBER VII.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.

Pardon the Portal to Peace.

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"And behold they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed; and Jesus, seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee."—*MAT. IX. 2.*

Jesus is in Capernaum, busied, as usual, about the interests of His Father's kingdom. If not at Nazareth, His own country, or at Jerusalem, the Holy City, at least here, and on this occasion, was this Divine prophet honoured.

In order to hear his words, and be the subjects of His healing power, multitudes came together, in such numbers that "there was no room to receive them; no, not so much as about the door." Pharisees and doctors of the law were present, who had come out of every town of Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem—these not with a friendly purpose, but rather in a hostile spirit. Representatives of all sects and classes had flocked together to listen to the teaching of One who "taught with authority, and not as scribes," and who claimed for every word that fell from His lips a divine and eternal significance. Many of his audience heard with cavilling and captious mind; many with wonder at the doctrine of Him who "spoke as never man

spoke;" and many drank in with greedy ears the words of life and blessing—the glad tidings of great joy"—which He was commissioned to proclaim.

While He was thus engaged, revealing the mind of God to the souls of men, there was brought in a bed to the door one stricken with palsy; but so great was the throng that beset every avenue of approach to the house, that they could not come nigh were He was. The bearers, however, would not be hindered in their purpose; they, and the sick man, felt that his cure depended on their getting into the presence of Jesus. "Where there is a will there is a way." A brave proverb and a true one. Turning away from the crowded door, they mounted to the roof, which in Eastern houses, is easy of access, being reached from the court by a flight of steps on the outside. Then, removing the tiling, they let the sick man down, with his couch, into the midst before Jesus. Pleased by this display of a faith not to be overcome by difficulties, the Saviour at once, without waiting to be asked, fixed His loving eyes on the sick of the palsy, and said, "Son be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

Let us endeavour to gather some lessons from this touching scene, where sin, working in the body and soul, is met and