

Not in the blessed martyrs,
Whose fires the work began,
And lit the torch he carried,
That feared not face of man;
Nor in the Church he founded
On that sure Word of Thine;
But in Thy name we glory,
O Christ, the one true Vine!

For these are but the branches,
Though laden with good fruit;
Thy love was all their substance,
Thou blessed Stem and Root.
O grant that we, abiding,
In Thee, at length may rise,
Full fruited as these branches,
To bloom in Paradise.

J.

JOHN KNOX.

Three centuries ago, or the year 1572, is a time ever to be remembered in the history of the Presbyterian Church. It was an *annus mirabilis*. On the first day of April, the Protestant Admiral de la Marek landed his water beggars on the banks of the Meuse, captured the city of Brill, and laid the foundation of the Dutch Republic. Had it not happened that

“On April Fool’s Day

Duke Alva’s spectacles were stolen away,”

we should probably not be able to speak of a Dutch Reformed Church with two million adherents, a Separate or Free Church of 80,000, and an American Dutch Reformed Church with 50,000 members. On the twenty-fourth of August began the frightful massacre of St. Bartholomew, that spread from Paris through the whole of France, and swept into eternity more than fifty thousand Presbyterian Frenchmen, martyrs to the faith of the Reformation. The persecutions that followed have left little over six hundred congregations to represent half as many thousands. On the 24th of November, just three months later, another Presbyterian Church was shrouded in gloom. It was the Church of Scotland; for John Knox was dead. The Earl of Morton, that same day, became Regent of Scotland; but while the Protestant world honours the great reformer, few remember more of him than his simple and expressive eulogy over the grave of the founder of our covenanted reformation—“There lies he who never feared the face of man.”

The larger number of the great reformers, Luther and Melancthon, Bucer and Capito, Zwingle and Ecolampadius, Lefevre and Farel, Cranmer and Tyndale, were born towards the end of the fifteenth century. A later group comprises Calvin in 1509, Viret in 1511, and Beza in 1519. Between these two groups lie the births of the Scottish Reformers in three consecutive years, Patrick Hamilton in 1504, John Knox in 1505, and George Buchanan in 1506. It is with Knox alone that we are at present concerned in this month of November, 1872. Sixty-seven years ago was celebrated the tercentenary of his birth. A few days past the Presbyterian world united in commemorating his death.

John Knox was born in East Lothian, but whether at the town of Haddington, or the village of Gifford, is a point yet undetermined. His father, the respectable representative of an ancient family of Renfrewshire, sent him early to the grammar school of Haddington; and, in his seventeenth