

born, and for this end came He into the world, to bear witness to the truth : for this among other high ends He died ; and for this He lives and reigns, walking in the midst of the golden candlesticks, and holding the stars in His right hand. He can never want witnesses for his cause ; and should one class or race prove unfaithful, He will raise up and qualify others. Be it our single and supreme desire to follow the Lord fully ; and confiding in His gracious care, to receive and hold fast all things whatsoever He hath commanded."

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## ADDRESS ON FAMILY WORSHIP, BY COMMITTEE OF U. P. SYNOD, SCOTLAND.\*

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DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—Amid the varied business which occupied the attention of the Synod at its last meeting—a meeting felt by many "to be a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord"—the importance of practical religion, as affecting the general interests of the body, was not overlooked. As on former occasions, "prayers, supplications, and intercessions" were offered up on behalf of our ministers and missionaries, our elders and people, that they all might be imbued more than ever with the Spirit of Christ, and that the work of God might prosper among us. The Church, no one can doubt, occupies her true position when she feels that, for all success, she is dependent on God. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." What thus holds good of the ministers and rulers of the church, holds equally true of those who are her members. Religion cannot prosper among the private members or families of a church, where God is not acknowledged. Wherever the spiritual life in any degree exists, it manifests itself in prayer to God ; and where prayer abounds, it brings down, in copious measure, the blessings of divine grace. Such is the order of means which God has seen meet to appoint. When God, accordingly, has any gracious design towards a church, either as it respects the increase of her attainments or the accomplishment of important objects by her instrumentality, he pours out upon her extensively "the spirit of grace and of supplications." Religion, when animated by this spirit, becomes at once the source of the church's strength, and the spring of her activities. It is when men's hearts are filled with love to God, a love burning with an ever-increasing fervour in the contemplation of what he has done for their souls in the redemption by Christ, that they are "ready for every good work" to which they are called, and count it their privilege, as a "willing people," to carry out God's merciful designs in regard to a perishing world.

As a means of promoting that practical godliness which it is so desirable should pervade every part of our church, the Synod agreed that you, dear brethren, who are parents and heads of families, should have your attention specially called, in the present address, to the importance of family religion.

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\* "The missionary business being concluded, Mr. Samuel Stitt, in the name, and by the request, of a large number of elders, who had held a friendly meeting that morning, suggested that the Synod should issue an address on the Duty and Benefits of Family Worship. The suggestion was cordially adopted, and a committee appointed to prepare and issue a fitting address on the subject. The Synod, at the same time, recommended ministers to take an opportunity of calling the special attention of their congregations to this important subject."—*Minute of Synod, May, 1857.*