

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

DECEMBER, 1862.

WANTED!

1. **ZEAL.**—It cannot be denied that the zeal of the Church needs rekindling—needs to be fanned by the breath of heaven till it burns bright and clear, and consume all the rust that impedes our progress. Our people must be zealous. Whatever you forget do not overlook the claims of the Lord Jesus and his Church. This is the most important and enduring interest that can possibly concern you. We are apt to be spasmodic in our religious efforts, to seize eagerly on anything that is new or strange, forgetful of the old as if a few years, more or less, necessarily affected the importance of anything in connection with religion.

2. **LOVE.**—Zeal alone is but a devouring fire, ruinous and most dangerous; it must be tempered and controlled by love. Love is emphatically the **GREATEST** of the Christian graces. To be sour, “crabbed,” unloving, fault-finding, is a calamity to yourself, a severe trial to those with whom you come into contact. Love is the precious oil that makes all the machinery of life run smoothly, and when it is lacking we have harsh collisions, grating discords, poor progress, a state of general anarchy and impending peril. **LOVE** will prevent your putting the worst construction on every act or word spoken by your brother. You act out the golden rule of *saying* to others and *doing* to others as you would have them say and do to you. Love to God in Christ is the root of true love to our fellow man: but the manner in which we act towards our brother, is an almost unfailing test of the state of our hearts towards God. If I do not love my brother whom I have seen, how can the love of the unseen Saviour dwell in me?

KNOWLEDGE.—An ignorant and narrow-minded Christian is a sad spectacle, and he can do a vast amount of evil in the Church and the community. Let ministers therefore take all pains to instruct the people. Let parents neglect no means of imparting knowledge to their children. Ignorance brings innumerable disadvantages and ills in its train. Prejudice, bigotry, error are hatched under its dark wing. What spectacle more delightful than to see a Christian who is intelligent, loving, zealous! Presbyterianism has always been distinguished by the great value it sets on knowledge, and the efforts put forth for the Christian education of the people.

SELF-DENIAL.—There are many ways in which selfishness manifests itself so cunningly, that we can scarcely recognize our old foe with the new face. Hence the necessity of always practising the virtue of self-denial.—Men are sometimes seen tormenting themselves and others; disregarding the highest interests of the Church; tilting, like moral Don Quixotes, against every windmill within range of their lances,—all to magnify or gratify self, under the plausible pretext of following the dictates of conscience; listening