

Little Ellen's father was a stern man, an open opposer to the truth. His heart had never been softened by grace, and when little Ellen's attending the Sabbath-school was cautiously suggested by the mother, Mr. Morton flew into a passion, and declared that his children should be kept away from such influences. He did not believe in the "*huc and cry*" made by religious children to frighten children out of their wits.

Little Ellen heard her father's remarks with a sorrowful heart; but the moment she was fully convinced he would not allow her to go, that moment she resolved to seek God with her whole heart; and so she did. Every day she went alone by herself, and read a chapter in the Bible, and after a little while she committed to memory the lesson each week, and recited it to one of her playmates that attended the school. Weeks flew by, and Ellen read her Bible more earnestly, and grew more and more thoughtful.

By and by, the father enquired the cause of Ellen's soberness. Her mamma had been convinced for weeks that her child was seeking the Lord, and though not a pious woman, she resolved not to oppose her. Some slight reply was made to Mr. Morton, and no more said of the matter.

One morning in early autumn Mr. Morton was seen hurrying for a physician; his little daughter was very ill. It proved to be a bad form of scarlet fever. The father was in great distress, but would not consent to saying one word to her about dying. "If she *must* go, let her go in peace." But her mother, at a favourable moment when she had her reason, gently hinted the prospect of death. To the surprise of all, the dying girl seemed fully aware of her short stay on earth, and not only manifested a willingness to give up life at an early age, but appeared eager to depart and be with Christ. She informed her mother that, when she heard her father's decision that she could not attend the Sabbath-school, she commenced reading her Bible with more eagerness, and attending to secret prayer. She found her dear Saviour very precious, and hoped she should go and be with Him in heaven.

Her father saw there had been a great change in his little daughter, which he could not comprehend. That father had never been a lover of the Bible, but now he was occasionally seen perusing it. At the request of his wife he attended Church, and he appeared quite different from his former self. The pastor and members of the Church manifested an interest in his eternal well-being, and by and by his heart yielded. It was a struggle, and a great one; but the Spirit of Christ conquered, and Mr. Morton was a follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. The wife had already obtained hope through grace, and both became members of the Church the same day. A few months had wrought great changes in the family. Their beloved daughter had gone

to heaven, and *through her example* both the father and the mother had been brought to a knowledge of the truth. See what a child may do to advance the cause of Christ.—*Child's Paper.*

### Letter from the Rev. John Sprott

TO THE REV. THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND IN NOVA SCOTIA.

I am glad to hear that your people contemplate a mission to the heathen. The first missionary instructions were given by our Lord when he said to his apostles, "Go ye in to all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This command was new and sublime. No Legislator or Reformer had made provision for the whole world. The apostles soon left Jerusalem and entered upon their mission. The most remarkable success attended their labours. Idols fell, temples were demolished, and heathen oracles became dumb. In the course of three centuries, the idols of the nations fell before the doctrines of the Cross, and Jehovah Jesus reigned amidst fallen temples and prostrate idols. The philosophers and great men in the Roman Empire, as well as the lower orders of society, embraced the religion of One who had died the death of a slave.

The progress of religion has not been so rapid in subsequent ages. The age of miracles is past and gone. It must now be propagated by ordinary means. Its slow progress must be ascribed to the want of zeal among its teachers, and the corruptions of Romanism which has thrown its long shadows over the fairest regions of Europe. Had all Christians been equally zealous and active with the Moravian brethren, the greatest part of the world would have been visited with the Gospel. In the year 1792, I recollect that Carey and Ward, the first Baptist missionaries, sailed for Bengal; but they were refused admission by the East India Company, and found shelter under the Danish flag. In the palmy days of Moderatism, the General Assembly voted down the cause of missions to the heathen. But in the year 1796, the venerable Dr. Erskine and a band of kindred spirits, formed a Missionary Society in Edinburgh, for the heathen. Missionaries sprung up like rockets in Glasgow, London, Dublin, and many parts of Britain. The good cause is still maintained; and the Plant of Renown is extending its boughs and branches over many lands for shade, shelter and fruit to large congregations of Christians in the heathen world.

The Church of Scotland and branches which have sprung from her root are sowing the good seed in many parts of heathendom. Your people in Nova Scotia have little money; but they all have some property, and can give something to a good cause. Our