

petitions are founded on the fact that the Sabbath was made *for man* as a race—and that its due observance is closely bound up with the temporal and spiritual prosperity of a nation. Perhaps, the United Presbyterian Synod of Canada might have petitioned for the due observance of the Sabbath, viewed solely as a civil institu-

tion, but from the unanimity of sentiment that pervaded the Synod, it would soon have been felt that the only true ground on which its observance can be urged is the express command of God, *Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.*

BETA.

## Youth's Department,

### KHOABANE, AN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN.

The French missionaries in South Africa have been very useful to the heathen.—Lately, not less than four Massouta chiefs were baptized, in the presence of fifteen hundred people. The conversion of one of them, named Khoabane, awakened the most extraordinary interest throughout the whole land. Many natives came more than sixty miles, to be present at his baptism. The following is Khoabane's speech on the occasion:—

'Yes!' said he, 'Yes! I *must* speak, so that all the world may hear and know what kind of a man I have been! You missionaries bear me witness! I am a great sinner—a warrior striving against God. To say nothing of my former life, ever since I have attended this house of prayer, I have persecuted my own family who wished to serve him. Moses,' continued he, addressing another of the chiefs, 'it is well thou art present as a witness. Chosane and Ramaisa (the first a great chief and the other his eldest son, who were both absent at a distant station), you should also have been here. My own son has greatly troubled me, that he is not present. Thou, Moses, first brought the missionaries to my house. Thou saidst, Khoabane, I place thee at the head of this station, that thou mayest listen to the missionary when he preaches; we will then learn from thee what kind of knowledge he brings.' This knowledge, Moses, have I embraced as the truth.—Think not, however, that I desired to receive the Christian religion, and to separate myself from my wives. No, I ridiculed both the missionary and his sermons. I said, how can people like me hear the same tale over and over again? Wherefore do they not leave us, after they have told us all they have to say?' But my conscience began to awaken, as I heard

the missionaries say, 'Take it into your serious consideration. Is it a man that speaks these things to your conscience, or is it the word of God that searches you?'

'It was then that, filled with sorrow and fear, I tried to follow the advice of the missionaries, and to draw near to God in prayer; but at first I found no comfort. My heart brought before me all my evil deeds, and I was forced to confess my sins. If you would see a great sinner, then look upon me; for such a mighty, such a terrible sinner stands before you. I am Khoabane, the ox, who would not allow himself to be put into the yoke. What crime have I not committed? *Here, yes, even here in this Assembly are many I have made orphans, whose fathers, whose uncles, whose natural protectors I have slain. I have robbed them of their goods; and while their poor children have been dying of hunger, I have been glorying in my deeds.* I boasted of my courage above all the other chiefs. When I was but a youth, I heard one day that there was a conjurer who could foretell things to come, and I took a young ox to purchase this knowledge, that I might obtain the mastery over all my companions.'

Here Khoabane appeared to be suffering from the most painful feeling. Tears flowed from his eyes, and, for a moment, he was unable to speak; but again lifting his hand to heaven, he continued, with an effort that brought tears from the whole congregation:—

'Oh, how I deserve the hottest punishment! I am utterly polluted! O Jesus, help me! O my Father, have mercy upon me? Receive graciously a rebel who has boasted of his wickedness! Oh! how much have I dishonored my God; him who gave me life, and who has kept me alive to this day! I have mocked both his truth, and the righteous of the earth. I have said, 'these people deceive them-