

The fruit of which shall ever bloom,  
When we are passed beyond the  
tomb.

Then let our thoughts and actions be  
Pure, gentle, full of charity;  
For gentle thoughts and words of love  
Are emblems of the life above.

#### OUR RECORD, MARCH, 1888.

In another column will be found a short article entitled "A Word to Parents," contributed by one of our leading Sabbath School teachers. We wish to give emphasis to the suggestions therein contained.

Who should be more interested in the religious education of children than the parents themselves? and yet, alas! to what an alarming extent this home training and teaching is neglected. Parents, when they offer their children to the Lord in Baptism, take upon themselves the most solemn vows to see to their spiritual education both by example and precept. These vows are not, or should not be, simply matters of form. God, before whom they are uttered, does not view them in that light; He expects them to be kept, and holds those who make the vows responsible for their performance.

Children, especially of Christian parents, are His peculiar regard, and His spiritual promises are "Unto you and to your children." Under the old dispensation He was very strict with the heads of the Jewish families and required that they should teach His Laws and explain the historical circumstances associated with the various feasts and ceremonies of their religious system. "Thou," says he, "shall teach them diligently unto thy children," read Deuteronomy 6th chapter commencing at the 6th verse, and you will see how strict He was in this matter of parental instruction to their own children.

There must have been some necessity why God should require His Laws to be thus rigidly instilled into the minds of Jewish children. Can the necessity be any the less under the new, or Christian dispensation? We trow not.

A German philosopher is credited with saying, "Give me a child until it is *two years old* and after that I will give it to the world." In other words he meant that the child's character and habits were formed in its tenderest years. This philosopher may, or may not, be right, but one thing is certain that before the Sabbath School teacher gets the children under his care at the age of five or six years, their characters, or the foundations of their characters, for all time has been laid.

Parents who neglect this important duty and trust entirely to Sabbath School instruction for the religious education of their children, should think of the inequality of opportunity the teacher has in contrast to that of them-

selves. The parents have the children under their care 365 days every year, the Sabbath School teacher only about 52 hours, and only half this time as it regards direct religious and scriptural instruction. The parents owe it as a religious duty, not only to God, but to the Sabbath School teacher and to the Church that they, at least, study the lesson and help their children to do the same.

Sabbath Schools are our country's glory and we wish them every success, but of the two modes of educating the rising generation we prefer the Old Jewish system of parents studying the Scriptures for themselves and teaching their own children, instead of throwing the responsibility, as much as they do, upon the Sabbath School teacher. When parents do this, our young people will not break from religious institutions as they do, but will rather be more attached to them. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Parents, the most solemn weight of responsibility rests upon you in this matter.

#### SANTO, NEW HEBRIDES.

The congregation will doubtless remember that something over a year ago we were favored with a visit from the Rev. I. Annand and his wife. These devoted missionaries are now settled on their new mission station at Santo.

The Rev. J. A. Murray has received a letter from Mr. Annand, in which he narrates the perils of their voyage and describes their shipwreck and their subsequent arrival in safety. Mr. Annand, with the aid of the natives, has erected a habitation in which to dwell. Since their arrival Mr. Annand has been afflicted with sciatica, and both he and his wife have had neuralgia.

They have settled in the south part of the island and are diligently engaged learning the language. At the time he wrote he had written down eight or nine hundred words, and was so far advanced as to make himself understood by the natives. One great difficulty is the numerous dialects. In eleven villages there are no less than three dialects. The people are said to be cannibals, but so far Mr. Annand has not seen anything of it. We hope and pray he never may.

At the prayer meeting on Wednesday evening, the 1st ult., an address was delivered by Mr. G. W. Armstrong, subject:—"Obedience to Divine Law the Secret of True Success."

The Rev. Mr. Mahon, of Prince Edward Island, occupied St. Andrew's pulpit on the evening of Sabbath, February 5th, and also conducted the prayer meeting on Wednesday evening the 8th ult.

The Presbyterial Society, of the

Guelph Presbytery, met at Fergus on Tuesday the 21st ult. Our pastor, the Rev. J. A. Murray, delivered an address on the occasion. The subject of his address was, "The highest type of heroism is development of Missions."

Mrs. Chisholm was presented with a certificate of life membership at the meeting of the Women's Foreign Mission Society of the Presbytery of London, held at St. Thomas, on the 7th ult., in recognition of her valuable services as Secretary of that organization.

LADIES AID SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting was held in the business room. Large number of members present. The number of persons assisted during the month, seven; amount of money distributed for aid, \$23.00.

We are glad to know that Mrs. Robert Allen is making steady progress towards recovery.

Mrs. Armstrong still remains very weak and low. She has been confined to her room for the past three weeks. The prospects of a speedy return to health and strength are not very cheering.

#### A WORD TO PARENTS.

There are few things more important than the training of the young in religious knowledge and Christian character. The Sabbath School is an excellent agency for this work, but the teachers, who voluntarily, and at much sacrifice of time, comfort, energy and means, engage to help parents in the discharge of this sacred duty, should receive better recognition. Parents should at least, take interest enough to have the catechisms and other lessons learned by their children, and more especially appoint a time for reading over the Scripture Lessons and preparing their children for its study in the class.

We publish below the Scripture Lessons for this month, hoping thereby to gain a hearty and more general co-operation of parents in this work at home.

#### LESSONS FOR MARCH.

- March 4th.—Matt. xvii, 17-34. Golden Text, Matt. xx, 28.  
" 11th.—Matt. xxi, 1-16. Golden Text, Psalm cxviii, 26.  
" 18th.—Matt. xxi, 33-46. Golden Text, John i, 11.  
" 25th.—Review. Golden Text, Matt. xvi, 16.  
April 1st.—Matt. xxii, 1-14. Golden Text, Rev. xix, 9.

#### CHOIR CONCERT.

The Choir will give a grand sacred concert in the Church towards the end of the month. The programme will be very choice and a great musical treat to the people of St. Andrews.

Miss Anna Howden, one of the best