

requested to authorise the Archdeacon, to employ on that service one of the Missionaries at present in the employment of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in this Province, who may be willing to be detached for a time from his present mission.

Resolved manimosly, that this Society views with the most sincere regret the severe indisposition of one of its most valuable members, the Rev. Dr. Somerville, and suggests to its clerical and lay members the propriety of offering up public and private prayer to God, that he may be pleased to restore our respected and reverend brother to his usual health.

Resolved, that the several clergymen of the established Church be requested to preach a Sermon on the second Saturday in June, in each year, in aid of the funds of this Society.

Resolved, that the Venerable the Archdeacon be authorised, if he deem it expedient, to convene an extra meeting of the Church Society during the current year, in the Parish of St. John or Portland, as they may think proper.

Resolved, that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Rev. George Seymour Jarvis for his sermon preached this day, and that he be requested to furnish the Archdeacon with a copy, that the same may be printed.

For the Colonial Churchman.

#### EARLY INSTRUCTION.

How important is the season of youth for giving to the mind the bent which it is to retain in manhood. There is a cold-hearted philosophy to which some people are attached which would leave the formation of that character to the sobriety of maturer years, that revelation declares must be acquired in youth. But its calculations are all disproved by experience. Does not every day afford us fresh examples of the lamentable consequences of attention to the religious education of the young? Yes: and on the other hand, we cannot shut our eyes against the beneficial effects to themselves and to society which result from inculcating the blessed truths of the Gospel.

Education enlightens the mind, and when blended with true religion produces a moral rectitude of conduct, which makes the child obedient and affectionate, and instils into the mind those principles, which in after life will render him a virtuous and useful member of society: or else fit to prepare him for a happy eternity whenever it may please God to transplant him from this wilderness to a more kindly soil.

True it is, that instances are not wanting of persons well advanced in life, being brought to deplore the want of education; and from a conviction of its value, exhibiting singular earnestness to acquire it. My own parish can produce several instances of young men in humble life who are taken great pains to learn to read the Bible—the word of God—the source of real knowledge; some having placed themselves at such Sunday or daily schools as were established in their vicinity, while others have actually become the pupils of those to whom they had recently been united by the sacred bond of marriage.

Interesting, however, as these facts are, particularly to the Pastor of a flock, they hold out no encouragement to delay that work till old age which may better be accomplished in early youth. They ought rather to stimulate the young immediately to embrace those means of instruction which are so highly prized by those of adult age; means too, which in the present day are so generally neglected throughout our country.

Besides, no one can say how long he may live: and even were the number of his appointed days revealed, is it not worse than folly to put off the acquirement of that knowledge to the end of life, which is most calculated to render life happy, and wise, and useful.

I wish, Messrs. Editors, I could impress upon the minds of parents, the importance of early training up their chil-

dren in Wisdom's ways, and of supporting by their example at home, the instruction that may be given to children at Sunday school. Surely they can wish for no better period particularly for religious counsel, than that of childhood. It is then received with free and unprejudiced minds. Their tempers are as yet unruined by the experience of vicissitudes and disappointments. Their dispositions are unsullied by the blackening clouds of adversity and affliction; and the minds, thus unfettered, are like the tender plant which is prepared to assume any form which the hand of the judicious cultivator may attempt to give it.

I trust that these observations will not be deemed unreasonable as connected with an humble piece of youthful Biography which I feel constrained to trouble you with. I have been led to make them in consequence of contemplating the happy effects of communicating pious instruction to children at school and at home, and with the hope that the narration of some few particulars respecting a dear deceased lamb of my flock, will impress more deeply upon the minds of your readers the importance and advantage of early attention to the religious education of the young.

MARIA B. the child whose death was announced by you in your last paper, though but seven years of age, was an interesting and intelligent child, and was early in training for a better inheritance than this world can afford. In early infancy she was consecrated to God, and made the subject of the prayers of many dear friends who witnessed her initiation into the church of God, and joined in the charitable work of bringing her to Him who said "suffer little children to come to me and forbid them not." Of course their charitable efforts did not cease with the performance of this interesting duty. As soon as her infant mind began to expand, she was taught what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, had been made for her; she was brought also to attend God's house, that she might "hear of heaven and learn the way;" and in order to her more particular edification, she was enrolled in the Sunday school, there to receive such instruction suited to her age. And truly did God bless the means thus used, or else the heart of the Pastor and of the Sunday school teacher of this child would not have been so gladdened from time to time, by her very evident improvement in religious knowledge. She learned more and more to love her church and Sunday school, and never would willingly be absent from either; she prepared her allotted lessons with care; read, with a particular attention to their religious instruction, such books as were lent her for perusal at home, and in short satisfied her teacher that she was no ordinary child.

Yes: God blessed the means used to train this child for heaven, or those who surrounded her when stretched on the bed of death would not have been cheered as they were in the midst of their sorrows. For some days she had been complaining;—on the Sunday previous to her death she was obliged to stay at home, and then her particular wish was to read in "God's holy Bible." The passages she wished to read were the history of young Samuel, and of the Shunamite's son. On Wednesday she was quite sick with croup. On Thursday the complaint appeared to be subdued, and it was not until the morning watch of Friday that her friends thought her dying;—we then surrounded her, and truly a more lovely picture of death could not be looked upon.

She exhorted her little brother and sister most affectionately—expressed her conviction of her approaching end, and in one of her paroxysms of pain, exclaimed, "oh how hard it is to die!" She knew, she said, "that she had been very naughty, but God would forgive her, for she was sorry for her sins, and Jesus Christ died for her." Upon being asked if we should pray with her, she said, "oh yes—but I cannot pray now," and then adding, "but I can think." We then prayed with her, using the beautiful prayer for a sick child, (in the Visitation office) and others suggested by the occasion; to all which she paid the

greatest attention, and appeared to comprehend them perfectly, adding an Amen at their conclusion.

Much more might be added, were it necessary to our purpose (which is not that of eulogizing this dear departed child, but to encourage parents to begin betimes to lead their youthful charges to God.) She then became rather restless, and upon being placed in her mother's arms, she called for her infant brother, whom she kissed repeatedly; and throwing her arms about her mother's neck, she exclaimed, "Oh! Mamma, I wish I could take you with me."

In this state she continued perfectly collected, until her spirit was summoned from its earthly tenement; leaving us who witnessed its peaceful flight, not so much sorrowing for its early escape from the defilements of this world, as astonished at what we beheld, and more than ever convinced of the truth of the declaration—"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast ordained praise," and madest even infants to glorify Thee by their death.

Parents! may ye learn from the account of this dear child, your duty towards your children, how to prepare them for God's presence, as also how you may be prepared, upon christian principles, to surrender them into the hands of God, whenever he may call them from you.

Children! learn that though young, you are not too young to die, not too young to believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—to worship Him, to give him thanks—to call upon his holy name, and to serve him truly.—You are not too young to glorify Him whether living or dying.

Spiritual Pastors and Teachers! learn not to despise one of these little ones, or to think them incapable of serious religious counsel. Yea, may we all, whatever be our age, or station, character, or acquirements, learn—that unless we become as little children, we cannot enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

PASTOR.

For the Colonial Churchman.

#### THE PARENT'S DUTY OF PRAYING FOR HIS CHILDREN.

Messrs. Editors,

This is a species of prayer which I do not remember to have seen recommended to the readers of your paper. It may not be needed, because being of a private nature it might ascend as a continual sacrifice from every roof, and yet each might be ignorant of what his neighbours did, except by the fruits such a practice would produce. It was by the application of this test that I concluded a hint may be serviceable; for how many parents do we see regardless of the spiritual welfare, as well as mental improvement, of their offspring; and such, we must conclude, do live in continual neglect of this important and salutary duty. For the use of such as may be disposed to adopt the practice, I will subjoin Bishop Wilson's prayer for the occasion.

"O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless our children for his sake with healthy bodies, teachable minds and sanctified hearts, that they may remember their Creator all their days. Let thy Grace preserve them from the temptations of an evil world; and may we never be wanting in any part of our duty to them. May we instruct them in the faith and duties of a christian life, and set them an example of these. May we convince them of their faults, and correct them with reason and in love. Be thou, O God, their Father and portion in this world, and in the world to come."

Reader! I have been in the habit of using this prayer the last thing at night and the first thing in the morning ever since God blessed me with a child. And I hope the repeating it has reminded me of the parent's duties expressed in it. And I believe God has inclined his ear, and blessed the prayer both to myself and to my little ones.

C.

Looking back is more than we can sustain without going back!—Cecil