

The Monthly Record.

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THE LORD'S SUPPER.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is the nearest and dearest approach to Christ on this side of eternity. The table is the meeting place between the mighty love which descended from heaven and that affection which arises from earth. At it Saviour and believer meet and feast as Christ did at the house of Zaccheus. The former brings his provision, and the latter entertains and enjoys. Some ministers have talked of the Altar, and represented that there was mystery under the bread and wine which the people could not understand and have pled for confession, but the Church of Scotland condemned the whole as Popish, and ordered the Sacrament at Dunse to be restored to its simple primitive order. And what is that? A table to partake at, and not an Altar for sacrifice, bread and wine emblems of the broken body and shed blood and the Spiritual presence of Christ with his people, but not any change in the elements—a minister to break the bread of life to the flock and not a priest to sacrifice Christ upon the Altar and metamorphose the wafer into a God. If as some contend there is a craving in the soul after the real presence, as it is called, how is that to be met? not by any transubstantiation of the elements but by a sense of the love and presence of the Saviour, in the heart of the worshipper as Paul prayed, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love etc.—this meets the want, and as the Lord's Supper is more than a commemoration, is a communion, is a feast, it follows that every holy desire will be gratified and want supplied, nourishment, happiness and growth in grace are here to be

experienced, therefore the hearts of communicants should be uplifted and these graces in lively exercise. Can they see without emotion that great sight a bleeding Saviour and not inwardly weep for their sins that crucified Him and have been seducing them from allegiance to Him? Can they hear of His matchless love without being melted and constrained to love him in return and to yield themselves up to his service? And can they sit with fellow-communicants and hand them the bread and wine without brotherly affection and devoutly wishing that the time were come when all christians would feast at the one table, see eye to eye, and, that table never be withdrawn. The most genuine confession and most cordial purposes after a better and more elevated life have been formed at the table and who shall say but God has blessed the occasion to many a believing soul.

High heaven that heard the solemn vow
Th'at vow renewed shall daily hear,
Till in life's latest hour I bow,
And bless in death a bond so dear.

So has sung many a communicant; then let us value this ordinance and prepare for its celebration.

In June and July it is commonly observed within the bounds of this Presbytery. Then should classes and meetings for new communicants be held, and the question what is the Lord's Supper, and what is required of the worthy communicant be discussed. If young people come ignorant of these two questions (96 and 97) they are without excuse, but as more than correct acquaintance is required, then let a man examine himself and be given to prayer and he will find his course clear. But there is another difficulty with our Highlanders, they surround the table with dread and judge it better to leave sacred things alone. So afraid are they of the Ark that they will not receive it, nor even handle it, so Obededom's blessing is not likely to be theirs. There is nothing