THE

HOME & FOREIGN RECORD

OF THE

CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

No. 11.

NOVEMBER, 1874.

Vol. XIN.

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD IN MAKING OUR WILLS.

Several years ago a respectable man came to us soliciting aid to make his will. Being a leading member in a Christian congregation, and possessed of a considerable amount of property, accumulated through years of patient toil, we fully expected that he would, with a grateful heart, remember liberally the cause of our blessed Saviour in the final distribution of that property. Great, therefore, was our astonishment to find that he concluded to leave the whole of his real and personal estate to various relatives, some of whom stood not in the least need of it and were more likely to be injured than benefited by it, while the cause of Jesus Christ, in which he professed to feel an interest, was altogether forgotten. After pointing out to him how unseemly and ungrateful it would be for him to act towards God as he purposed to do, we assured him that we could have no part in doing what appeared to be a most unworthy act for a Christian. namely, to draw up a solemn testamentary document which referred to his own decease, made a final disposition of all his property, and completely ignored God and his cause. He retired, saying that the matter had not appeared to him in that light before, but that he would give it serious consideration. On mentioning this incident to a very worthy and generous elder of the Canada Presbyterian Church, he declared that in his experience with Christian men, few things had more staggered his faith in the sincerity of their profession than the fact that so many of them die without the slightest recognition of God, or remembrance of his cause in their last will and testament.

Our own experience for years past has thoroughly convinced us that Christian men, especially those who are in affluent circumstances, need very much to have their consciences enlightened on this subject. There are many men of wealth within the pale of our Church, whose honest and persevering industry has been crowned with eminent success. We sincerely trust that these will not, in the final disposition of their property, act an unworthy part towards that merciful God who has so richly blessed the labour of their hand, and poured his gifts so abundantly into their lap. Should they view the matter aright, as truly enlightened Christians whose religious affections are properly educated will do, we feel fully persuaded that each