

Finally. Prayer is essential to the success of all other means of Church extension.

This holy agency is the crowning exercise of saints on earth. It is their element. It is a scriptural recognition of the hand and power of God in all their undertakings. Prayer moves the hand that moves the world. It watches with all perseverance and supplication. It covets and procures the blessing that maketh rich. It acknowledges that except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it. And God loves to be wrestled with for the fulfilment of his own plans and promises. He will be enquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them. "Ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence, and give him no rest till he establish and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." He will do it for you. "Yea, saith the Lord, I will work and who shall let it."

## THE SPRING

WITH ITS MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LESSONS.

BY REV. P. G. M'GREGOR.

"For lo! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree putteth forth her green figs and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell."

THE seasons are interesting not only as natural phenomena, but as means of moral and spiritual improvement. Reflective minds have ever delighted, in taking note of the flight of time, to mark their progress, and to turn to profitable account the analogies which they present.

The genial season of Spring has at length arrived, welcomed after long delay with her vernal showers and opening buds, attired in her robes of green and decorated with the flowers and blossoms of May and June. As her stay will be short and quickly succeeded by the heat of Summer, let us try to improve it, and while working in field or garden, let us blend instruction with pleasure.

I. Let us look on Spring as a manifestation of God.

It is so just as truly as the Word. Do the heavens declare his glory the earth is full of his handywork, and every recurring season is a new chapter in this precious volume.

"The rolling year  
Is full of thee. Forth in the pleasing Spring  
Thy beauty walks, thy tenderness and love."

And the present chapter is not silent respecting the perfections of its great author, our Father in Heaven.

1st. The Spring displays Divine Power.

"Can any of the vanities of the Gentiles give rain? Can philosophy or science produce Spring? THOU renewest the face of the earth, and neither the gods of heathenism nor of science can accelerate that natural revival by an hour.

What would become of us in Nova Scotia if God had withheld from us this Spring season which we now enjoy? Speedily our capitalists would prepare to depart to some other land, the middle classes would be impoverished and many of the poor would perish. Great and rich as Britain is,