

In rising to answer the learned argument you have just listened to. My object is more humble, and, I hope, more practical. I once knew a father in moderate circumstances, who was at much inconvenience to educate a beloved son at college. Here this son became dissipated; but after he had graduated, and returned to his father, the influence of home, acting upon a generous nature, actually reformed him. The father was overjoyed at the prospect that his cherished hopes of other days were still to be realized. Several years passed, when the young man having completed his professional study, and being about to leave his father to establish himself in business, he was invited to dine with a neighbouring clergyman distinguished for his hospitality and social qualities. At this dinner, wine was introduced, and offered to this young man, who refused; pressed upon him, and again refused. This was repeated, and the young man ridiculed for his peculiar abstinence. The young man was strong enough to overcome appetite; but he could not resist ridicule. He drank, and fell, and from that moment became a confirmed drunkard, and long since has found a drunkard's grave. Mr. Moderator, continued the old man, with streaming eyes, "I am that father; and it was at the table of the clergyman who has just taken his seat, that his hospitality ruined the son I shall never cease to mourn."

THIRD SABBATH.

Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. Eccles. 3. 9.

Anger often only punishes the angry man; like stones pulled down in mischief from an old ruin, that fall upon the man that pulled them down. "Ashes fly back in the face of him who throws them." Some time ago in India, two little children were asleep in a bungalow, when a tiger came out of the jungles after something to eat: He scented the children, and broke into the bungalow after them. But the first thing the tiger saw was a looking-glass, and in the looking-glass he saw a tiger. The tiger did not know it was himself, so he growled and grew angry; and the tiger in the looking-glass growled and grew angry. That made him furious, and he sprang at the tiger in the glass, which, of course, smashed the glass into a thousand pieces; and it frightened the tiger so that he was glad to run off.

FOURTH SABBATH.

Golden Text:—For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 1 Peter 1. 21.

A few years ago a young African addressed

Mr. Johnson, a missionary, in language like this: "Massa, them words you talk last night strike very much. When you preach you read the fifteenth and sixteenth verses of the forty-fourth chapter of Isaiah, and explain them, you show me how our country people stand. Me say, 'Ah, who tell massa all this? he never been in my country' you say, 'Do not your country people live in that fashion?' I say, yes, that true; God knows all things; he put them things in the Bible. Massa, I so sure that the Bible is God's work, for man cannot put the things in there, because he no see it. That time I live with a man that make grugru. He take me into the bush, and teach me to make grugru too. He show me a tree: he say that grugru. He take country axe, and cut some of that tree. He made a God; and he take the leaves, and that which was left; and give to carry home. When he came home he made a fire, and all the people came and sit round the fire. Then they cook and eat. When they done eat, the man take the leaves of the grugru tree and burn them in the fire, and then all the people stand round the fire, and clap their hands, and cry, 'Aha! aha!' Massa, when you read this verse, I can't tell you what I feel. You then begin to talk about the text; 'He feedeth upon ashes,' and I was struck again; for when they done cry 'Aha! aha!' they take the ashes and make medicine: 'they give to the people when they be sick.' You been see some grugru which look like dirt, that is the same ashes; they carry that round them neck, and they eat it sometimes. You, see, Massa, our country-men feed upon ashes. For true, the Bible God's word."

Church of Scotland in the Maritime Provinces.

A recent number of the Presbyterian *Advocate* gives the following digest of Minutes of the Synod held at Charlestown:—

The Roll, we are informed, contained the names of 32 ministers, 27 elders, and 3 missionaries. How many of these were present we do not know. The names and attendance are not marked, points which we never saw left out in Minutes before. If we were at liberty to advise, we would say that the defect should be supplied yet in some way, for the printing of the roll is of great importance.

Passing over some matters of routine, we proceed to notice the Report on Home Missions, which was given in by Rev. G. M. Grant the Convener, and which is a