

subsided it was found that a large quantity of sand brought down by the rushing stream had been deposited within and around the walls—amply sufficient, it was said, to complete the building. In this there was no miracle, but what Christian can doubt or refuse, adoringly and gratefully, to acknowledge that the Lord in this case commissioned His ever obedient servants the elements to do a timely service to His struggling people?

I have to beg of the reader to pardon my *havering* digressions. On commencing this article I intended to proceed forthwith to record some memories of the sabbath services in the Meeting House at O——— when I was a lad, but have, somehow, wandered wide of my purpose. Let me now speak of these services and of him who conducted them, the Rev. Mr. W——— a man remembered by many, and worthy of remembrance, for he was “a workman that needed not to be ashamed.” He invariably commenced the sabbath services, by reading and *prefacing* a portion of a psalm. This part of the service occupied from twenty minutes to half an hour; and an interesting and profitable exercise it was. Pity the practice has fallen into general desuetude. But few ministers could preface as Mr. W——— did. He had a strong practical mind and an earnest and fervid mode of address. His remarks on the psalm secured the attention and solemnized the minds of the audience, and were a fine preparative for singing it with the understanding and the heart. And the singing was usually of a very cordial character, though perhaps not distinguished for the sweetness of its melody. The sinful, God-contemning fashion, did not, then and there, prevail of sitting mute in God’s house while His praises were being sung. It is very sad to witness persons in a worshipping assembly not only sitting mute, while the service of praise is proceeding, but carefully closing and constricting their lips as if afraid they might be even suspected of praising a redeeming God. God was not praised by proxy in the Meeting House at C——. There was no choir “*to do the singing*” exclusively, as in some Churches on this Continent and elsewhere. It seemed as if the heavenly service of praise was felt to be an individual duty and privilege, as it undoubtedly is. I have something further to tell about the singing, and how, and with what difficulty, it was revolutionized, but these and my narrative of the remaining sabbath services must wait a future opportunity.

R. Y.

ON TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY.

Every reflecting man will admit that there are few things on which, under God’s blessing, the welfare of the church more largely depends than the qualifications of the ministers of the gospel. And, unless there be some fond delusion in the general talk about the enlightenment of the age, it seems evident that, in our own day, preachers possessing aptitude for teaching must be very specially demanded. It is not long since there was, in some denominations, a great outcry against man-made ministers; but it is now very generally agreed that, however necessary natural abili-