

ADDENDUM ON THE MEMORIZING OF SCRIPTURE BY THE YOUNG.*

ITS IMPORTANCE AND ADVANTAGES WITH SUGGESTIONS AS TO ITS
EXTENT AND THE DUTY OF PARENTS.

THE subject has been chosen under the persuasion that its importance is, at the present time, far from being duly realized. Indeed, we cannot but think that it is greatly underestimated. The subject is, "The Memorizing of Scripture," or the storing of the mind with Scripture truth in the very words of Scripture, or in words which, though not the actual words of Inspiration, are the nearest equivalent to them that is available to those who are not adepts in the original languages in which the Scriptures were written.

No one who believes that the Scriptures are the writings of men who "wrote for our learning, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," can consistently question the importance of our having saving truth lodged in our minds and treasured in our hearts, in the very terms in which God has communicated it. We should, of course, be careful in relation both to ourselves and to those whom we instruct, that the words are understood, for otherwise, our Lord tells us (Matt. xiii. 19), being in the memory only, they penetrate not beyond the surface of the mind, and, so far from being fruitful in any good, cannot even germinate in the soul. While we cannot expect that our scholars should be able to fathom the depth and appreciate the richness of teachings, whose depth and richness only time and experience can evolve or reveal, great care should be taken that the memorizing of Scripture should, in no case, be only a learning by rote. So far as he is capable, even the youngest child

* Paper printed some years ago by request of the Centre Wellington Ministerial Association.