

# THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

## Church of Scotland

IN NOVA SCOTIA AND THE ADJOINING PROVINCES.

FEBRUARY, 1860.

"I FORGOT THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, v. 5.

### Sermon,

By the Rev. William Henderson, A. M., of  
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N. B.

MAT. VII. 24—27. "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them; I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell. and great was the fall of it."

In the last verse of the fourth chapter of this Gospel, we are told, that when the people had seen "Jesus curing the sick, casting out devils, and healing those that were taken with divers diseases and torments, great multitudes followed him from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan." Accordingly our Saviour, ever anxious to benefit the souls of men, seized the opportunity of proclaiming the great leading principles of the religion which he came to establish. The substance of this celebrated discourse the Evangelist has left on record in the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of this Gospel. In the conclusion of this seventh chapter we are told that the multitude were astonished at his doctrine, and perhaps willing to regard him as a prophet, for they perceived that he taught them, not as the scribes, their usual instructors, but as one having authority, that is, as one commissioned from heaven.

Still the acknowledgment of his divine character, and a willingness to hear his words

were not the only dispositions which Jesus required of his followers. All his doctrines were intended to reach the heart, and influence the life. If they produced not this effect, they failed of accomplishing the end for which they were intended. A mere external profession of attachment to the Saviour, without a sincere and hearty obedience to his commands, cannot profit. Accordingly, before our Saviour ended his discourse, he stated this important truth (verse 21 to verse 24). And the more deeply to impress the thought on their minds, he embodies the great lesson in the form of a parable.

In the parable, which forms our text, he represents two men of very different characters as going forth to search for a site on which they might erect for themselves permanent habitations. One of them, foolish and inconsiderate, thinks only of the present moment. He sees the sun walking in brightness through a cloudless sky above him. The rivulet, softly meandering through the verdant vale beneath, spreads around a rich profusion of herbs, flowers, and fruits. The cooling zephyr plays around him, scattering perfumes from its balmy wings. Nature, decked in summer's richest ornaments, here appears in all her loveliness. He is delighted with the prospect, he forgets that it will change, and he proceeds at once to lay the foundation of his dwelling upon the sandy brink of the purling stream.

The house is built; but summer departs. The sun hides his head in clouds; the sky gathers blackness; the dews of morning, which gently descended on the herbage, refreshing and fructifying the plains, give place to the deluging rains of a tropical climate,