

Just then I heard a voice behind me, "Well, my boy, what have you got in there?" I turned, and saw one of my neighbors, a good old man with long white locks, that had seen sixty winters. "Why," said I, "I have a ground-squirrel in here, and I am going to drown him out."

Said he, "Jonathan, when I was a little boy, more than fifty years ago, I was engaged one day just as you are, drowning a ground-squirrel; and an old man like me came along, and said to me, 'You are a little boy; now if you was down in a narrow hole like that, and I should come along and pour water down on you to drown you, would not you think I was cruel?—God made that little squirrel, and life is as sweet to it as to you; and why till you torture to death a little innocent creature that God has made?' " Said he, "I have never forgotten that, and never shall. I have never killed any harmless creature for fun since. Now, my dear boy, I want you to remember this while you live, and when tempted to kill any poor innocent animal or bird, think of this; and mind, God don't allow us to kill his pretty little creatures for fun."

More than forty years have since passed, and I never forgot what the good man said, nor have I ever killed the least animal for fun since. Now you see it is ninety years since this advice was first given, and it has not lost its influence yet. How many little creatures it has saved from being tortured to death I cannot tell, but I have no doubt a great number, and I believe my whole life has been influenced by it.

Now, I want all the dear little boys, when they read this, to keep it in mind; and when they see pretty birds or harmless animals playing or hunting their food, not to hurt them. Your heavenly Father made them, and he never intended them to be killed for fun. I don't think, when the blessed Jesus was a little boy, he would have killed such innocent creatures for fun, and every little boy should try to be as much like Jesus as he can. The Bible says, 'blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'—*Child's Paper.*

A STORY FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.—There was once a little boy who heard a clergyman preach one Sunday. The text which the clergyman read was, "Verily, verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

After reading the text he stopped a minute and asked his hearers to consider what it was they should like most, and then to ask for it in Jesus' name, trusting to his promise that it would be given to them. At the end of the service the little boy asked his aunt if she had asked for anything; then she asked him what he had asked God to give him, and he said, "I thought first of one thing I should like and then another, but I did not know which would be best to ask, and so I said, 'Father, thy will be done.'"

VICTORIA AND HER MOTHER—THE CONTRAST.—One of the pleasantest churchyards I know of is in the Isle of Wight; and many years ago I was sauntering among its graves, when I saw a lady in deep mourning with a little girl sitting on a tomb stone. The former was reading a book to the latter, who was looking with tearful eyes into her mother's face. When they turned away from the spot, I saw they had been looking on the tomb of the "Dairyman's Daughter," whose simple epitaph was engraved on the headstone. The lady was the Duchess of Kent, and the little child was the princess Victoria, now a Queen, on whose dominions the sun never sets. Perhaps the book the lady was reading was the delightful and affecting narrative of Legh Richmond. Striking was the contrast in the condition of the sleeper and her who watched by the grave—the one a peasant's daughter, in her dreamless slumber, the other a child who, ere many years had passed over her head, was to take her place among the rulers of the nations! The humbler of the two had won her palm, and was wearing her crown, whilst the "daughter of royal line," was fated to endure the perilous splendour of dominion, and become the mother of more kings, ere she should lie down in the vaults of Windsor.—*Local Loiterings.*

THE DIFFERENCE.—As a gentleman was walking in the street, he saw at some distance ahead half a dozen men proceeding with slow and measured step to their day's work. In a minute or two he overtook them, and soon looked back upon them far in the distance. "What makes the difference?" said he to himself; "I was the son of a poor laboring man. Why am I not like these men, now plodding on in the same condition of poverty and toil? Evidently for the same reason that I have left them all behind me. From my earliest childhood, whenever I had anything to do, I have done it with my might, whether working 'by the day' or 'by the job.' These men are working for others.—I suppose by the day.—They take a 'slow and easy' motion. They will plod on so through life, and never rise any higher. If we would win the prize we must run for it."

Correspondence.

ST. MARGARET'S BAY, 18th Sept. 1852.

At a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of St. Margaret's Bay, held at the Victoria School, James Croucher, Esq. in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved, that an Address be presented to the Rev. JOHN STANNAGE, previous to his departure to his native land; whither he is about to proceed on leave of absence for the benefit of his health, when the following Address was unanimously adopted and presented, by a large body of the Parishioners, who proceeded to the Rectory, presented the Address, and received the annexed reply:—

ADDRESS.

ST. MARGARET'S BAY, NOVA SCOTIA,
18th Sept. 1852.

To the Rev. JOHN STANNAGE, Rector of St. Margaret's Parish:

Rev. and Dear Sir,

We, the Church Wardens, Vestry, and Parishioners, of St. Margaret's Parish, beg leave to approach you on the present occasion with mingled sentiments of sorrow and affection.

Of sorrow at the thought that we are so soon to lose you (perhaps for ever.)

Of affection for the numerous acts of kindness which for many years we have received at your hands.

Permit us to assure you, Reverend and Dear Sir, that the faithful and affectionate manner in which you have so long and so zealously fulfilled the duties of your sacred office, while stationed among us, calls for our most earnest expressions of gratitude, the recollection of which can never be erased from our memories while life endures.

We know, Reverend and Dear Sir, that it is not pleasant to the benevolent man to be reminded of his good deeds; but as we are unhappily about to be deprived of you, we trust that we shall not at this time be accused of flattery in gratefully acknowledging them.

The Poor have ever found in you a kind and liberal benefactor anxious to administer to their wants; whilst the sick, or afflicted have never wanted a friend, who could sympathize with them in their sufferings, and as far as you were able alleviate their distresses.

Permit us also in this our parting Address to advert to the destitute condition of this Bay at the time of your first settlement among us, and the happy contrast which by your generous exertions it now exhibits. It is now furnished with four commodious Churches, at easy distances from each other. It is also provided with School-houses built on property secured to the Church, in convenient situations.

Were we to omit the present opportunity of thankfully acknowledging so many acts of kindness received at the hands of our beloved Pastor, the buildings would remain lasting memorials of our ingratitude.

To those kind and generous Societies, and Friends, in Jersey, and elsewhere, by whose liberality you have been enabled to effect so much good, we feel that language is too poor to express the full amount of our gratitude, that our thanks are but too inadequate a return for the substantial benefits which by your hands they have kindly conferred on us and on our children.

Allow us then, Reverend and Dear Sir, respectfully to request that you will be pleased to convey to them our warmest and most grateful thanks for the valuable contributions which they from time to time have so liberally furnished you, whereby you have been enabled to accomplish so many works of Christian charity, and to perform so many labours of love. We pray that our Heavenly Father will pour down upon them His choicest blessings while on earth, and receive them into eternal glory hereafter, for Christ's sake.

In conclusion, we respectfully assure you, Reverend and Dear Sir, that the report of your leaving us even tho' made known to us long since, filled us with grief and sorrow; but how shall we express our feelings now that the time of your departure has so nearly arrived.

The only consolation that we can receive at present, is in the conviction that God who ordereth all things well, will not suffer us to remain destitute, and that He has permitted this separation for wise purposes.

To that great and infinitely good Being then, we humbly pray for grace to sanctify this bereavement to us, and that He will be graciously pleased to bless and defend you from every danger both spiritual and temporal, now and forever.

We would also beg to offer our best wishes for your excellent and respected Lady. We respect and esteem her for her many virtues, especially for her devotion to the important duties of the Sunday School, for eleven years, where the children under her care have received Religious instruction in God's holy word, the good seed being sown, we have the hope it will bring forth good fruit to everlasting life. We appreciate her kind attention of labour and love to the sick or the afflicted, may she hereafter receive the reward laid up for all those who love the Lord Jesus, and pray that she with your daughter may be permitted to arrive at the place of your destination in safety and in the enjoyment of health, that she may have the happiness of witnessing the re-establishment of your health, and that you may long be blessed in each other's society.

Lastly, should we never be permitted to enjoy the pleasure of meeting you again on earth, may it be our earnest endeavour to meet again where there will be no more separation.

We are Reverend and Dear Sir,
Your affectionate friends, and humble servants.
(Signed by the Church Wardens, Vestry, and 379 others.)

REPLY.

To the Church Wardens, Vestrymen and Parishioners of the Parish of St. Margaret's, Nova Scotia:

My Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Gratitude is so rare, or so imperfect a virtue in this fallen state, that when it comes, as it appears to do by your very kind and affectionate Address, from the bottom of the heart, it cannot but meet with its equal in my own. It would indeed be sad if after more than eighteen years residence among you, the Word of God, which I trust I have faithfully preached, and the success which has crowned our united efforts, did not produce, on parting, reciprocal sentiments, "of mingled sorrow and affection."

I thank you most heartily, for the kind expressions your Address contains. I only wish I had deserved them better; for after doing all that is commanded us, if that could be done, what are we yet but unprofitable servants?

Something indeed has been done in this Mission, since my first coming to it, which, if properly cultivated, with your continued and increasing exertions in helping your future ministers, as you have of late years helped me, together with the kind assistance of good Societies and friends abroad, which you still greatly need, and with God's blessing over all, will make this "wilderness," some day or other "blossom as the rose." Some of you know how much I suffered here during the eight years, and how, at last, it pleased God to put it first into your hearts, and the hearts of others, to come to my relief, as well as to yours. True, little strength is left me. There is nothing more trying to the nerves of a sensitive person than the work of missions along a rough and desolate shore. But believe me, I would not have thought of leaving you if I had not hoped, by so doing, to make room for a stronger and more active man than I have been during the few last years.

One Service a week, without travelling, is even tho' much for my present state of health; and what is that among four Churches, and 2000 souls, and six schools, scattered over a shore of forty miles, some parts of which are almost inaccessible. In leaving you, then, for two years, but with little hope of ever returning, being convinced that milder winters are absolutely required for my health, I can assure you that my greatest anxiety is about the welfare of your immortal souls, that of your children, and the future proper working of this parish. Every building in this parish is indebted under God, chiefly, to the kind Societies and Friends whom I rejoice to see you have not forgotten in your Address, and to whom I shall not fail to convey your thanks when I have the opportunity; but it has also cost me so much anxious thought, that it will be impossible for me ever to forget it. Each Church institution, is also so intimately connected with the welfare of your souls, that I beg of you, my dear Friends, to go on working in the spirit of true Christians, and true Churchmen, and above all, allowing the "love of Christ" so to "constrain" you, that you may never lose sight of your own soul's interest nor of the souls of your children, nor that of your neighbours. Remember my parting text on Sunday last. "Strive together, not apart, but 'together' for the faith of the Gospel, so that hearing of your affairs, both myself and the friends who have so long assisted you, may be encouraged to do all in our power to carry on the many useful works begun among you.

Much, very much remains yet to be done, as you must see. But you have only to make a proper use of your Bible and of your Reformed and Apostolic Church, and you will then, not fail in making Christ your only treasure, and for His sake, giving both yourselves and your money to the most scriptural church on earth.

Mrs. Stannage will never forget your kind mention of her, and your remembrance of her attentions to the Sunday School, the children of which will often occupy our thoughts and good wishes. She always thought the pleasure of doing good a sufficient reward.

I thank you, heartily, for your good wishes for myself and family. May we indeed so keep close to our forgiving and forbearing Saviour, "watching and praying" to the end, that we may all, after working together on earth for His Glory, meet together also in His blissful presence.

I remain my dear Friends, and Parishioners,
Your anxious and affectionate Pastor.

J. STANNAGE.

St. Margaret's Rectory, Sept. 18th, 1852.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

THE Annual Examination and Festival of the Sunday School of Trinity Church, Liverpool, was held on Friday the 17th inst. This is the fifth anniversary celebrated in this way, and the eager anticipation with which the event is always looked forward to by the scholars, is abundant inducement to continue to them this means of enjoyment. Nor is the gratification of the children the only good resulting from a celebration of the kind—the public examination not only excites the scholars to renewed diligence in their studies, but also affords their parents and friends a better opportunity than they could otherwise have, to judge of the progress they have made.

Thursday was the day appointed for our picnic; but the weather proving unfavourable it was postponed to the day succeeding, and by one o'clock on Friday the party had nearly all assembled. The scene of the day's festivities was as usual on the grounds of Mr. Sterns, Esq. about a mile from the town. The weather (as one would always have the weather in such cases) was delightful, and all after the showers of the preceding day was fresh and pleasing to the eye; but what was