

spirit: the submission to God's will: the prayerfulness and devout love of God's word; which they earnestly and powerfully inculcate, and of all which themselves are an admirable directory.

On the 2d June, 1768, Stouber writes, "Do not, my dear friend, suppose that I could have done any thing better than you have done it. God alone can enable either of us to do just as much as he pleases, and no more. If it was God's purpose that any scheme of mine should succeed, He caused the principal persons in the parish to listen to me, when I least expected, and had made the least preparation for it; and He as frequently permitted the plans upon which I had grounded my hopes of success, and taken the most pains to carry into effect, to become of no avail. In so deplorable a state are the people of the unfortunate Steinthal, that one in your situation can do nothing but commend them to God, and look for success and succour from Him alone. God will undoubtedly in his own good time, effect such changes among some of the members of your flock, as neither the folly nor the taunts of the remainder, nor the craft and malice of the enemy, shall be able to subvert. God will bless your endeavours if you continue to maintain that devotedness of spirit which your letter so sincerely and fervently breathes. There are yet two things to which I particularly wish to direct your attention—Prayer and the Holy Scriptures."

The correspondence between these admirable men, affords a beautiful picture of the elder christian encouraging and guiding the younger, at once pointing to his difficulties and support—and the younger readily receiving lessons of wisdom and piety.

Yours, &c.

O.

For the Colonial Churchman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

If the cultivation of the understanding, and the improvement of the intellectual powers of the mind, lead men to despise the vain and futile pleasures of the world, and to devote themselves to more rational pursuits,—to how much higher results will the acquisition of moral, and religious truths lead, as regards our immortal interests. It leads, to the attainment of an everlasting state of existence; "When the faculties of the soul will be enlarged, and a flood of light will be poured in upon the mind, which will go on and increase, with an increase of happiness, to continue through out the never-ending ages of Eternity."

The perfection of our nature, we are taught by the word of God, cannot be obtained in this imperfect state; but whilst the mind is raised to more noble hopes of a future existence, which so far transcends our infantine state on Earth, 'That eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive it: Glory,' still our blessed Lord has said, 'Be ye perfect even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.' And for this purpose abundant means are afforded us by a good and gracious God, whereby we may advance in our religious attainments.

The Sunday School which has been in operation for several years in this town, is one of the means enjoyed here by which the rising generation, we may hope, will be greatly benefitted, and respecting which I beg to offer a few remarks.

The authority to control children is assigned to parents by the voice of nature as well as Revelation. Their house is their sanctuary where they are to reign amenable only to God; for the use of this power they are responsible to Him. It lays them under an obligation of knowing his will, and of giving just impressions of it to their children, and of enforcing obedience; they themselves must be answerable for those sins committed by their children, which it was in their power to prevent; and be answerable also for their failure, in all those religious attainments which they had in their power to secure for them;—ought they not then to avail themselves of every means within their reach of advancing the everlasting good of their children; they ought to send them regularly to the Sunday School, and endeavour to impress deeply upon their minds, that they are sent there not merely to repeat a task and consider then that all is done, but to be instructed in religion, which will make them happy here and hereafter; to have the Saviour pointed out to them, 'to be the way, the truth, and the life.' O! impress upon their minds the value of their never dying souls, and the awful reflection, that if

they neglect to improve this blessed privilege, the greater will be their condemnation. But always take care to second at home, by precept and example, the blessed truths taught them at Sunday School; or else the good impressions that may be made upon them there, will be in danger of being entirely effaced before they meet their teacher again on the ensuing Sabbath.

The Sunday School teacher has no interested motives in view; his aim is higher; he seeks the approbation of his God. All that is required of the parents, is their cordial co-operation in this important work, which he has aright to expect from them.

Delightful emotions must be excited in the bosom of a conscientious Sunday School teacher, when he finds an evident improvement in the mind and conduct of the members of his class. We may hear one perhaps giving intelligible and ready answers, to questions respecting God and Heaven, who previous to his introduction into the School, may have been wholly ignorant of the author of his being. Exposed to the danger of being the victim of ignorance all his days, now he is taught all that is necessary to make him wise unto Salvation. Again another one may be singled out who was selfwilled and petulant, but is become docile, obedient, and gentle,—proving by his improved conduct even at home what a beneficial influence has been exercised upon him in the Sunday School.

But greater happiness than is experienced from witnessing such results, is enjoyed by those who are engaged in this blessed system of instruction, when they find one or more of their class kneel side by side with them, to receive at the altar of the church, the memorials of a Saviour's dying love, in the holy Supper which himself has instituted as a means by which we may by faith hold communion with Him, to the end of our life. The writer of this has it in his power to record an instance of this kind. But how much greater would be his delight, if he could oftener witness such blessed results. On the other hand, if the teacher finds, after all his efforts, there are some that will not hearken to the words of instruction, still remain obdurate, evince no disposition to improve, and pay no regard to the many admonitions and warnings that have been made to them,—then indeed the situation of the zealous Sunday School teacher is one of trial. But notwithstanding these discouragements, he must go on, and use his utmost efforts, and leave the rest to God, who hath said, that 'His word should not return unto Him void, but should accomplish that which he pleaseth.'

He whose heart is under the influence of Divine grace, will not be deterred by any obstacle that he may meet with, in the path of duty, that he has marked out for himself. There is no disposition more elevating, no practice which is a surer proof of our possessing the spirit of Christ, than this,—of endeavouring to benefit others without the hope of reward or recompense, and with discouraging prospects of success.

Our blessed Lord himself was a teacher of religion; He came to instruct us in the knowledge of God, and the helplessness of our fallen condition. He has shewn us how we may recover from this ruined state, and has pointed us to his cross for pardon. He also has explained to us, the agency of the Holy Spirit, in renewing our souls in the Divine Image; and so far as we instruct others in these Heavenly truths, so far we imitate the example of Christ, though at an humble distance.

When the love of God is shed abroad in the heart, by the Holy Spirit, that love will evince itself by an active benevolence. 'If you neglect your love to your neighbours, in vain you profess your love to God; for by your love to God, your love to your neighbour is acquired; and by your love to your neighbour, your love to God is nourished.' But benevolence is reciprocal—no man can do good to others without being benefited by it himself. The blessed truths which the teacher endeavours to inculcate on the minds of the members of his class, become more deeply impressed on his own mind. Subjects that he is called on to explain, and on which he may be questioned, he is induced to examine with great care and diligence, and thereby is made, in consequence, better acquainted with those truths.

There can be no doubt, that many Sunday School teachers, who previous to their being employed in these holy exercises, were quite indifferent about their eternal interests, and had but a slender acquaintance

with the holy Scriptures, have become, in consequence of their being often engaged in the study of the word of God, consistent christians, who have cast about in their thoughts what good they could do, and have gone about it with resolution; and, as 'the Lord giveth wisdom, and out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding,' they have gone to the footstool of his throne, and there sought that guidance, and that grace, that may produce the fruits of holiness and usefulness—to his more abundant glory, and to the honour of their christian profession.

A TEACHER.

December. 23d.

For the Colonial Churchman.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

As I feel anxious that the religious periodical just commenced under your superintendance should succeed; and prove eminently useful by the blessing of the Great Head of the Church, in instructing and edifying the piously disposed in this portion of His vineyard, I beg leave to present you (subject to your discretion) with a few gleanings intended as corner pieces for the work when nothing deemed more worthy of insertion offers—although old they may perhaps be new to some of your readers.

Yours, &c

A WELLWISHER.

Liverpool, Dec. 22.

GLEANINGS.

As suns and showers so gradually mature the fruits of the earth, that the growth is rather perpetual than perceptible; so God commonly carries on the work of renovation in the heart silently and slowly by means suitable and simple, though to us imperceptible, and sometimes unintelligible.

We cannot build too confidently on the merits of Jesus Christ as our only hope, nor can we think too much of 'the mind that was in Christ' as our great example.

A spiritual mind has something in it of the nature of the sensitive plant; there is a holy shrinking away from evil.

The clock of Providence always goes with the utmost exactness, though it be sometimes so dark that we cannot see the hour. 'Be still, and know that I am God.'

If a man teach uprightly, and walk crookedly more will fall down in the night of his life, than be built up in the day of his doctrine.

Christ has taken our nature into Heaven to represent us, and has left us on earth with His to represent Him.

The meanness of the earthen vessel which conveys the gospel treasure to others, takes nothing from the value of the treasure. A dying man may sign a deed of gift of incalculable value. A shepherd's boy may point out the way to a Philosopher. A beggar may be the bearer of an invaluable present.

To be continued.

"A MEN."

This significant and solemn epithet is used by our Saviour and the Apostles to express the full consent of the whole heart, and soul, and mind, to the petitions and praises offered to God as the Governor of the Universe, and the merciful Redeemer of men. Short as it is, it is an expression of a state of soul, which comprehends in it all the blessings of time and eternity—a state of accordance with the whole will of God. It is wisely and beautifully incorporated into our service, and should be uttered, with an intelligent and holy consideration of all it was designed to imply, viz: That we recognize God as our Creator and Redeemer, and obediently desire to submit to his righteous will and to obey his holy laws. With one heart, and with one mind, and one mouth, let us glorify God in the great congregation, and utter with solemn distinctness, from subdued and believing hearts, the hallowed Amen.

"And dear to me the loud Amen

Which echoed through the blest abode,

Which swells and sinks, and swells again,

Dies on the wall but lives to God."

[Christian Witness]