

Forgetful of gifts from his bountiful hand;
Oh! let me with patience receive his correction,
And think of the Bible that lay on the stand,
That richest of books, which excell'd every other—
The family Bible that lay on the stand.

[From the Church Register.]

FORMS OF THE CHURCH.

The following just remarks on the superior excellence of our form, were met with in a periodical publication. May I ask the favor of you to give them a place in your paper?

Q.

Experience has fully shown, that the affectionate reception of a very few elementary truths united with a prevalent liking for that which tends to purify the heart rather than for that which stimulates curiosity or gratifies vanity, will give to the plainest mind, a solidity, a consistency and an aversion to novelty, which the highest intellectual acquirements could not of themselves confer.

For such salutary training, what more suitable instrumentality exists on earth than the daily services of the Church? In what other human instance, (if indeed, that of which we speak can be called human,) at so small expense to the understanding, have the same depth of thought, the same elevation of feelings, the same compass of moral wisdom, been exhibited to the mind and heart? To cherish the matter of our service is to profess purity—to digest it is to acquire wisdom—to breathe its spirit is to be as perfect as can consort with mortality. It is indeed a school of the highest and holiest wisdom, but a school in which progress is made, not by depth of research, but by depth of humility, sobriety, and devotion. Without these, the profoundest learning avails nothing. To the attainment of these, want of learning is no hindrance. If there be an upright mind, the grace which is made perfect in weakness, will not fail to inspire all necessary dispositions.

He therefore who has been rightly taught in this school, is in no danger of "wresting the scripture to his destruction." His religion involves nothing which creates self-confidence, or fosters vanity; nothing sceptical, disputations or unwisely curious. The habit of his mind, without being slavish is submissive. While he reveres what is deep, he delights in that which is devotional, and he rejoices to find that this latter character, in some form or other, belongs to the much larger part of the sacred volume. He accordingly feels, with unutterable pleasure, that as his piety becomes deeper his perceptions brighten, and grateful to an all disposing Providence for "the calling wherein he has been called," he has no higher ambition than to apprehend more vividly, and love more devotedly, the invisible realities, and imperishable excellencies, which the page of inspiration places before the eye of his inner man.

The Annual Meeting of the Quebec Auxiliary Bible Society, under the patronage of His Excellency the Right Hon. Lord Aylmer, was held in the Court House on Wednesday, the 20th instant. The Chair was taken, in the first instance, by the Honourable the Chief Justice, and subsequently by the Honourable Mr. Justice Kerr, and a numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen surrounded the society with their attendance. A statement was read before the Meeting of the events which had marked the operations of the Society since the period of the last report, and the necessary measures were adopted for ensuring their continuance during the progress of the ensuing year. Among other topics which were noticed in the report, it was stated that in the country parishes of the Province, upwards of 700 schools had been established in the course of the last eighteen months—that 15,000 children were receiving the benefits of elementary instruction, and that an ample field was thus presented to the friends of Biblical education for the circulation of the word of God. It was also stated that the Scriptures had been translated into 146 different languages and dialects—that the income, for the last year, of the Bible Society in London, had amounted to the enormous sum of £25,000 sterling, and the distribution of books, for the same period, to the number of 430,000 volumes. Contemplating the vast resources, and gigantic labours, of such

an institution, and viewing them, in their origin and growth, in connection with the rise and progress of sceptical opinions, more especially as these have been repeatedly developed in a monarchy of Europe, the exercise of whose influence over the destinies of the civilized world, has been scarcely less powerful than the contagion of her example has been injurious to religion—it was well observed by the Honourable President that the Bible Society stood forth to view, invested with a character of high and heavenly authority;—that the finger of God was manifest in its beginning and continuance;—that he appeared to have raised it to frustrate the assaults on Christianity which modern days had witnessed, and as a barrier to the rapid tide of infidelity. Stamped thus with the impress of a solemn sanction from above, a Society, whose only aim was the promulgation of the Bible, laid an urgent claim to the support of every one who was called by the name of Christ; and the Honourable President resigned the Chair, expressing an earnest hope that the interest then evinced in behalf of an undertaking, so honourable to man, and so accordant with the will of God, might increasingly continue to receive the countenance of all who have at heart the happiness of even distant generations.—*Quebec Mercury, Dec. 24.*

FROM THE GOSPEL MESSENGER.

SCRAPS FROM MY COMMON PLACE BOOK—NO. 34.

4. OF THE CHARACTER OF ENTHUSIASM.

Enthusiasm has no principle but imagination to which it has committed itself;—and where there is no rule but fancy and impulse, every thing a man does is right, and he can think himself in the exaltation of charity when he is in the gall of bitterness. He rises to a sphere above others from whence he looks down upon them with disdain, which he calls pity! From a loose, idle and disorderly life, (for so it hath often happened,) he is converted without repentance, and commences teacher without knowledge.

He finds Latitudinarianism very convenient and can take the color (camelion like!) of every company he is in. He thinks well of every thing but a churchman, yet he can keep himself within the Church while he pays his court to her enemies! He boasts that he has conquered the fear of man, when he is past shame or feeling. A certain person, who after a profligate life, took to the reading of Mr. Law, ("Laws serious call to a devout and holy life," a most excellent work, especially to awaken the careless sinner and the backsliding Christian;) without preparatory knowledge, fell into a state of great mortification; preferred fasting to the Sacrament and told his friends he received more benefit from it. He soon began to talk freely of the other sacrament; decried infant baptism and all water baptism; and the Church having set apart Wednesdays and Fridays as days of mortification—he fixed on Monday as his fasting day! He waited on new revelations to his mind, while he neglected that already given which is sufficient for every purpose! He spoke slightly of an acquaintance having once been in a fair way to be a Christian: The fact was this;—That acquaintance had been instructed from his childhood in the holy scriptures, which enabled him to see through the deception and avoid it.

Yours,
PIONEER.

VALUABLE HABIT.

One of the most valuable habits of life is that of completing every undertaking. The mental dissipation in which persons of talent often indulge, and to which they are perhaps, more prone than others, is destructive beyond what can readily be imagined. A man who has lost the power of prosecuting a task the moment its novelty is gone, or it has become encumbered with difficulty, has reduced his mind into a state of the most lamentable and wretched imbecility. His life will inevitably be one of shreds and patches. The consciousness of not having persevered to the end of any single undertaking will hang over him like a spell, and will paralyze all his energies; and he will at last believe that, however fair may be his prospects, and however feasible his plans, he is fated never to succeed. The habit of finishing ought to be formed in early youth.