

## POETRY.

## THE CHILD AT PRAYER.

'Twas summer evening—and the light  
Had faded from the sky,  
And stars came twinkling pure and bright,  
Through the blue arch on high;  
And western breezes softly stole,  
To kiss the weeping flower,  
And nature wore her sweetest smile,  
To bless the twilight hour.

There sat within a curtained room,  
A mother young and fair—  
What voice comes softly through the gloom?  
'Tis childhood's voice in prayer!  
A cherub boy is kneeling now  
Beside that mother's knee—  
And she is teaching him to bow  
Before the Deity.

For father on the distant deep,  
For sister slumbering near,  
For babe upon the mother's breast,  
For that kind mother dear;  
For every living thing he loves,  
His prayer ascends to heaven,  
And for himself he humbly asks  
Each sin may be forgiven.

In after years, whenever grief  
Shall bow his spirit down,  
And when the cold and bitter world  
Shall meet him with a frown;  
And when allured from virtue's path,  
He treads a dangerous way—  
Oh! he will turn to that blest hour  
When he knelt first to pray.

And the kind hand which then was laid  
Upon his silken hair—  
And the soft voice which taught him first  
His simple words of prayer—  
Will come again with thrilling power,  
To still his pulses wild,  
And lure him back in that dark hour,  
As when he was a child.

The prayer is o'er—the last fond kiss  
By that kind mother given;  
But rises not from scenes like this  
That childish prayer to heaven?  
It does, it does—an angel's wing  
Has borne its tone with joy,  
The earnest blessings which it sought  
Come on the sleeping boy.

## Ecclesiastical Correspondence.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, May, 24.  
Whitehall, May 22.

The following Address of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, having been transmitted by Robert Montgomery, Lord Belhaven, Her Majesty's Commissioner, to the right Hon. Lord John Russell, one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, has been by him presented to the Queen, which Address Her Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously:—

May it please your Majesty,

The gracious letter which your Majesty has been pleased to transmit to this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has been received by us with deep and grateful respect.

We trust that your Majesty's favourable estimate of our loyalty and attachment to your Royal Person and Government, and of the benefits accruing to the Church of Scotland, from our deliberations and counsels, will be fully justified by our proceedings, and, that while it is our first desire to obtain the guidance and aid of our Master who is in Heaven, the sanction of our Sovereign will never be withholden from our meetings.

The assurance of your Majesty's undiminished regard for the Church of Scotland, as established by law in this kingdom, and the expression of your Majesty's warm satisfaction in the interests which this Church takes in the diffusion of Christian knowledge throughout all parts of your Majesty's dominions, cannot fail to stimulate us to abound more and more in the most strenuous efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel.

We earnestly hope that through the grace of God we shall be enabled to verify your Majesty's confident anticipation, of the calm and temperate spirit in which we will address ourselves to the questions of deepest importance, which it will be incumbent on us to discuss, with a view to the adoption of such measures on our part, as shall tend to the good of the Church, the maintenance of the authority of the law,

and the advancement of the true interest of Christianity among the people of this land, for whose souls we are bound to watch, as they who must give an account to God the Judge of all.

The appointment of Lord Belhaven to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly is very gratifying to us, who well know how faithfully and zealously he has discharged the highly important duty, which has been frequently confided to him, and how firmly he is attached to the constitution of this National Church.

We have gratefully received your Majesty's grant of two thousand pounds, for propagating Christian knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and it will be our anxious endeavour in the administration of this fund, to promote the pious end for which it has been placed at our disposal.

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ the Supreme King and Head of the Church, may abundantly bless your Majesty, that in these most difficult times. His most everlasting strength may sustain your spirit, amidst the cares of government, that the Divine Wisdom may ever guide the counselment; so that peace and truth, godliness and honesty, may universally flourish in this favoured land; and that, through the merit of our Lord and Saviour, you may receive a crown of glory which fade not away, is the earnest prayer of, may it please your Majesty, your Majesty's most dutiful and most loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name, in our presence, and by our appointment,

HENRY DUNCAN,  
Moderator of the General Assembly  
of the Church of Scotland.  
Edinburgh, 18th May, 1839.

“TREASURY CHAMBERS,  
May 15th, 1839.

REVEREND SIR,

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that after the most full consideration of the whole question, and with the most anxious desire to consult the convenience and wishes of that venerable body, my Lords have come to the decision that a hall shall be erected for their meetings on the site prepared on the Castle-hill, according to the plan proposed by Mr. Gillespie Graham, which contains the accommodation required by the General Assembly; the same to be erected at the joint expense of the Government and of the city of Edinburgh, and to be used as a place of public worship when not occupied by the meetings of the Assembly. My Lords will direct the Building Committee of the General Assembly, and their Lordships trust that, upon reconsideration, the arrangements will be found to be of such a nature as to be suitable to the important purposes for which they were designed.

Rev. Dr. Brunton.

I am, &c.

F. BARING.”

## EDUCATION.

## THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Our readers, for we are sure they take deep interest in the question, have no doubt been anxiously looking forward for some report, of the proceedings of the Committee of the Privy Council, appointed to superintend the application of the money voted by Parliament for the purpose of promoting education; and we now have it in our power to make known the general scheme agreed on by the Committee for its future guidance, subject of course to such alterations as experience may hereafter suggest:—

First it is resolved to found a school, in which candidates for the office of teachers in schools for the poorer classes, may acquire the knowledge necessary to the exercise of their future profession, and may be practised in the most approved methods of religious and moral training and instruction. The school is to include a Model School, in which children of all ages, from three to fourteen may be taught and trained in sufficient numbers to form an Infant School, as well as schools for children above seven. Religious instruction is to be considered as general matter of instruction, and to regulate the whole system of discipline; but periods are to be set apart for the religious training of the children. A chaplain is to be appointed to conduct the religious instruction of children, whose parents or guardians belong to the Established Church, but the parent or natural guardian of any other child, is to be permitted to secure the attendance of the licensed ministers of his own persuasion, at the period appointed for special

religious instruction in order to give such instruction apart; and a licensed minister is to be appointed to give such special religious instruction, wherever the number of children in attendance on the Model School, belonging to any religious body dissenting from the Established Church, is such as to appear to the Committee to require such provision. A portion of every day is to be devoted to the reading of the Scriptures in the school, under the general direction of the Committee, and superintendance of the rector. Roman Catholics, if their parents or guardians require it, to read their own version of the Scriptures, either at the time fixed for reading the Scriptures, or at the hours of special instruction.—Instruction in industry is to be included, as a special department of the moral training of the children, and such a character given to the matter of instruction in the school as to keep it in close relation with the condition of workmen and servants. Besides the physical training of the children in various employments, such exercises are to be introduced during the hours of recreation as will develop their strength and activity, and the moral training of the children is at all times to be attended to as an object of special solicitude.

In the Normal School, apartments are to be provided for the residence of the candidate teachers, and the class-rooms so constructed as to afford the candidate teachers, an opportunity of attending each class in the model School, without distracting the attention of the children or of the teacher. It is also resolved to provide means for the instruction of the candidate teachers in the theory of their art, and for furnishing them with whatever knowledge is necessary for success in it. To appoint a rector to give lectures on the method and matter of instruction, and on the whole art of training children of the poor; to examine the candidate teachers, &c. subject to the rules of the Committee. The religious instruction of the candidate teachers is to form an essential and prominent element of their studies, and no certificate to be granted unless the authorised religious teacher have previously attested his confidence in the character, religious knowledge and zeal of the candidate, whose religious instruction he has superintended. The rector, with the Established Church to be committed to the care of the special religious instruction to be committed (in any case in which a wish to that effect is expressed,) to the licensed minister of the religious school at stated periods, to assist and examine the candidate teachers in their reading on religious subjects, and to afford them spiritual advice. The candidate teachers in all other respects, to conform to the such regulations of the entire internal economy of the household as may be issued by the rector, with the approval of this Committee.

It is further resolved that accommodation shall be provided in the Model School for at least four hundred and fifty children who are to be lodged in the house, viz. one hundred and twenty infants, two hundred boys and girls receiving ordinary instruction, and thirty children receiving superior instruction, and to establish a Day School for children of all ages and both sexes, in which the candidate teachers may realize the application of the best methods of instruction, under the limitations and obstructions which must arise in a small village or town day school. Respecting the grants heretofore made to different societies, it is decided, that a grant not exceeding two thousand five hundred pounds, shall be made to the National Society, and the British and Foreign School Society, for the establishment of their Normal Schools; but no farther grant to be made. That the Committee will not adhere invariably to the rule which confines grants to the National Society and the British and Foreign School Society, and will not give the preference in all cases whatever to the School to which the largest proportion is subscribed. That in no case shall more than one-half of the expense of building a school be advanced, nor will the Committee expend in grants for the building of schools, more in any one year than ten thousand pounds.—That inspectors be appointed, not exceeding at first two in number, to carry on an inspection of schools which have been or may be hereafter aided by grants of public money, and to convey to conductors and teachers of private schools in different parts of the country, a knowledge of all improvements in the art of teaching, and likewise to report to this Committee the progress made in education from year to year; and that gratuities be granted to such teachers as may appear to deserve encouragements.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.—Much pains must be taken in pondering on the Word of God; we must read it with as much attention as we do a mathematical proposition; and add to our attention, earnest prayer, that our understanding may be opened to understand the Scriptures.—Rev. H. Veitch.