

the Lord Jesus, and esteemed their consideration as an additional honour to our common Master. The form, however, in which these dispositions have been now expressed towards me, has rendered it a difficult task to make a suitable acknowledgement. It has reminded me of my felt unworthiness and great deficiency. I trust this mark of regard from my people in the Lord will serve to stir me up to renewed diligence in my holy calling, will urge me to contend more earnestly than ever for God and His cause, and will constrain me to be zealous for the spiritual good of those committed to my care.

Acquaint the Congregation, not so much with my best thanks as with my deep-seated love for them in Christ, and assure them that this generous proof of their esteem will only act as a further encouragement for me to spend and to be spent in their service.

With every mark of respect,

I am,

My dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,

ROBERT BURNET.

J. D. Pringle, Esq.

SABBATH-SCHOOL EXAMINATION AND SOIREE AT THREE RIVERS, C.E.

The annual examination of the Sabbath-school at Three Rivers, in connection with the Church of Scotland, took place on the evening of the 25th December. The lessons of the respective classes were recited with great proficiency, and very much to the satisfaction of a goodly number of parents and friends, who esteemed it their privilege and duty to attend. The families of the Scottish settlement at Black River were visited on the previous week. At the conclusion the Rev. James Thom, the Pastor, addressed a few words as follow:—

My dear friends, you will naturally inquire what are the origin and object of Sabbath-schools, &c., why so many young people are hardly pressed into these exercises. My answer is, for the same reason that we are urged to obey the laws which are made for the punishment of transgressors. Nay, we have still higher motives for urging you to seek early unto God, since all sin is a transgression of His Law. Let us look at the reasons for the establishment of a Sabbath-school at St. John's Chapel, London, towards the close of the last century. A number of boys of very rude manners and bad habits were observed to run idly about the streets on the Lord's Day, to play at foot-ball against the Chapel-walls, to steal and plunder orchards, to set at nought all parental authority, and to trample under foot the laws both of God and man, till at length their excess in crime brought them before the Magistrates for judgement. They were fined or imprisoned, and the evils they had done not only destroyed their characters and usefulness in future life, but

their want of religious example returned as coals of fire into the bosoms of friends, who had despised or neglected to teach them the first principles of the Oracles of God. The want of a common centre of religious instruction was supplied by the hallowed lessons of the Sabbath-School. A few godly persons from humane and disinterested motives were induced to strive to stem the torrents of impiety, that desolated the land, by their prayerful labours for the rising generation.

A very few remarks on a single case will show what Christians, who have a right heart and frame of spirit, can do by the help of God. The brighter picture of moral excellence appears in the effects of Scriptural teaching. William Watt was a scholar of the aforesaid Sabbath-school. "I became," said his father, "a teacher of St. John's Chapel, Bedford Row, about 8 years ago, and took my son with me, not then 5 years of age, and was surprised at the quickness of his apprehension; how he would stand on a seat by my side, and join in the praises of God." We may learn from this that a parent's care in taking his family to the House of God prepares them for God's blessing and a happy eternity. Them, that honour God, He will honour; and they, that despise Him, shall be lightly esteemed; and, if some are inattentive to Divine Worship and profit not by the exercises, it is not that they cannot, but will not seek the Lord, like the Apostle, in all prayerful humility of mind. May not this youth rise up in judgement against many who have lived longer and under higher privileges, which they have not esteemed! And what can be worse than to provoke the Lord on His own Sacred Day in the very place where He hath promised to be with His people to the end of time, and in the very worship which prepares them by His Spirit for His glory in the sanctuary above?

In short William fell sick, and died on 2d. Nov., 1800, aged 12 years and 9 months. The physician, on entering his chamber, found him reading his Bible, and making observations on some remarkable passages of comfort and promise. "Is it not," said he, "a great mercy that you were taught to read the Scriptures so early?" "Oh! yes," he replied, "I feel great consolation from them now since all other books are laid aside. I thank Mr. Matthews for teaching me; tell my class-fellows to prepare to meet their God, that I said so to them on a bed of death. To his brother he said, "Jem, you would be happy to be in my state, and do you also prepare to meet your God." To his mother, who stood at his bed-side in tears, he spoke words of affection and comfort, "Dear mother, you know how Abraham offered up his only son Isaac at God's command. I have learned from my infancy in my Bible that great law of Christ, *Honour thy father and thy mother*;

affectionately have I served you and done your will by night or by day; but now my Heavenly Father bids me go to His everlasting mansions, "grieve not for me;" let my companions know that I die in peace and love for them; as I learned of Paul to speak evil of no man, so I murmur no complaint against them or my attendants." Thus ended the bright career of a youth of strong memory, good manners, and fine affections. But his name shall be in lasting remembrance; for *blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.*

From this example, dear children, you may see how good it is to live in unity, and to seek God early. It never can be too soon. Alas! it is often too late with many, who have refused to give their hearts to God in the dew of youth. Learn not to quarrel or dispute about trifles. Strive not who shall be the greatest among you, but who shall excel in love, in knowledge, and in doing good to one another. It was only the pride of the Pharisee that made him despise others. It was the Publican's deep sense of sin that made him pray, *God be merciful to me a sinner.* This will teach you to seek that knowledge from your Bible which is practical, not speculative; what is there meant by being born again, not of water, but by the Spirit of the Lord; and, when you read of those happy persons, as Samuel, the Prophets and Apostles, who were taught in the School of Christ, being created anew in Christ Jesus by a lively faith unto good works, let your daily prayer be, *Lord, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.*—COMMUNICATED.

REPORTS FROM PRESBYTERIES.

The Publication Committee, under whose supervision the *Presbyterian* is conducted, desirous of procuring and circulating the fullest information possible respecting the condition and progress of our Church in all parts of Canada and the other British North American Provinces, have on several occasions instructed the Editors, and their Secretary, to request from the Clerks of the different Presbyteries such abstracts of their proceedings as might be deemed interesting and useful to the Church generally. The applications to this quarter have not hitherto been so fully responded to as we could wish. But we still continue to cherish the hope that we shall be able to obtain, and publish regularly, such narratives of Presbyterial proceedings as will make our readers acquainted with the doings and progress of the several sections of our Church. As one body in Christ Jesus, our unity will become more visible and encouraging, when each member shall be made better acquainted with the zeal and diligence of the other members in their own sphere.

The statement, published below, of the proceedings of the late meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton, is gratifying in a