

# MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

## Church of Scotland

### IN NOVA SCOTIA AND THE ADJOINING PROVINCES.

#### APRIL, 1859.

IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—*Psalms 137, v. 5.*

#### Sermon,

By the Rev. James Mair, Barney's River.

"Love is the fulfilling of the law."—Romans 3: 10. "Love your enemies."—Matthew 5: 44.

That holy bond which joins in one, the family of God, is love. Those songs that ever rise around the throne of heaven are the harmonious outpourings of souls that love their God. The voice of love spoke those comforting words to Eve, which first gave promise of a glorious deliverer from sin. Love dictated the hopes on which the family of God in ancient times buoyed up their spirits amid the persecutions of heathen tyrants. The holy Jesus so loved sinful man that he took on himself our nature, tabernacled among men, and bore our sins on his body on the tree in Calvary. The words that have since been spoken by the true followers of our Lord, giving joy to the persecuted saint, and leading many from their evil ways to holiness, have been words proceeding from hearts actuated by love to God and love to their fellow-men. As this is one of the most active principles within the heart of man, and is among the purest and most exalted motives for action, the Bible in all its parts strives to lead man to love his God, his Saviour, and his fellow-men; thus adapting itself to the nature of man, which is ever found endeavoring to please, and working for, the object of its love. So our text says, "Love is the fulfilling of the law."

The law is divided into two parts, one having special reference to our duties toward God, the other referring more particularly to our duty towards our fellow-men. Concerning the first table of the law, that principle in our na-

ture of which I have already spoken as leading man continually to please the being whom he loves, will lead the heart that loves its God continually, to endeavor to please its God. As selfishness and pure love for another are diametrically opposed, and cannot exist together in the heart, so those selfish desires after worldly good that are the most enticing snares for the sinner, cannot exist in that heart that truly loves its heavenly Father. Is this spirit of love towards your heavenly Benefactor within you, the desire of your soul is to live according to the law of heaven. Is this spirit not within you, those attractions that sin possesses and those enticements of the world will prove themselves stronger than the power of reason, and drag you on from sin to sin.

That this spirit is absent in many professing Christians, is abundantly manifested by their active life. The external and public duties of religion which have become customary in the religious world and the church are attended to with a devotion that might give hopes of better things. But those easier matters—lesser as the world judges—but greater far, the Bible being judge,—are overlooked to such an extent as might lead one to exclaim, in the words of Elijah, "I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword: and I, even I only am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." That it is so, no one who surveys the Christian world at the present time can doubt. Why it should be so amid so much knowledge and such manifold means of grace, is to be accounted for by the fact already stated—that love to God is a com-