

It is but a way towards an end. Only a few days ago a respectable member of our congregation was, after a very short illness, called to eternity.

Isaiah lv.: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found." Let not sin harden you, nor the world ensnare you, nor unbelief destroy you. "Believe and live."

If my life be spared, with the use of my faculties, this short address may be followed by another. May He who reigns bless thee above! Meanwhile, may your present pastor be eminently blessed to your spiritual welfare.

JAMES LISTER.

Falkner Street, July 1st, 1848.

CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1849.

THE DUTY OF THE CHURCH TOWARDS YOUNG CONVERTS.

Every one who has with any degree of attention considered the susceptibility of the young mind to receive instruction while tender, and the readiness with which it can be shaped either for good or evil, must admit the necessity of bringing the mind at early life under such training and discipline as will be suited to its nature. The efficiency with which we act our part on the theatre of life, will greatly depend on the character of our early tuition. While this is indisputably true respecting those who are young in years, it is equally true of such as are young in christian knowledge and experience. Much of the levity and inconsistency which too often characterise young converts, and of which the older members of our Church so often complain, is more attributable to the example and instruction of the latter, at the time of their initiation than they are willing to acknowledge. At the first stage of the convert's history, when he "passes from death unto life," and is "translated from the kingdom of darkness into that of God's dear Son," the mind becomes mellow and tender, ready to receive the full impress of the mould of doctrines into which it is cast—living in the enjoyment of pardoned guilt, the language of the soul is "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" This is certainly the season when the light of the word of the Lord should be poured into the mind, when correct views of the first principles of the doctrines of Christ should be imparted, and the young believer exercising himself in the laws and discipline of the Lord's house. But how is this to be done, and on whom does the development of the christian character of this class devolve?

Without controversy their instruction in the truth, and the exercising of their gifts will greatly depend on the wisdom of the ministry under which they are placed; but unless the older members of the Church with whom they constantly mingle are careful in their general deportment, and scriptural in their views of Christ's kingdom, and conscientious in their submission to the dictates of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the scriptures, the christian demeanour of the young convert must necessarily suffer loss. Private intercourse and daily example, though imperceptible in their influence, are nevertheless certain in affecting the character of those who are ready to hope and believe all things. Reckless and badly instructed professors are apt to do incalculable injury to those who are young in the faith.—If professors of religion will impart the idea that those who are weak in the faith should wait or refrain from obeying Christ where He has pointed out their duty, till they feel better, it is very likely that they will be always halting, and doing but little to the purpose to the end of life. If the person has the disposition to obey God, and to "run in the ways of his commandments," having been instructed in the way in which God can be just, in justifying the ungodly; is it not a certain sign that he is born of God? To place any stumbling block then in the way of such, which would influence them to delay their baptism, or connexion with the Church, will neutralize the influence of God's word, while the usefulness and growth of Christ's disciples must be fearfully damaged. It is to be feared that incalculable evils have accrued to many pious minds from this delaying system. The idea is nearly as absurd, as if the schoolmaster were to refuse the reception of the boy to the school-room, or the class, until he should give stronger indications of mental activity, or show more satisfactory tests of scholarship; or the mother who would refuse to nourish and cherish her child, till the growth and action of its body would promise longe-

vity. Where is the mother who would so neglect her offspring when nourishment and care were essential to its very existence? Should the Church, the nursery, and school of Christ, then refuse to give His children a place and a name in the christian household?

Many of the Lord's people in consequence of the caprice of one professor, or the wild fancies of another respecting christian experience, and tests of discipleship, have been discouraged, and prevented from obeying Christ and enjoying union with His people, and so have spent their days in a kind of religious melancholy, without the comforts and usefulness which would give support and life to their spirits.

One of the grand objects for which God has instituted the Church, was, that His children should be schooled in the knowledge of the scriptures, and in usefulness in the world.—Those who have been for years in the Church, are to be the pastor's monitors among the converts. Zeal for God and ardent desire for the conversion of souls should be tempered with a constant study and understanding of the word of truth; otherwise zeal and activity on the part of christians without correct knowledge of the scriptures, will be like power applied to a machine while its different parts are without adjustment, which would only cause the destruction of the whole. Zeal according to the knowledge of the word of God is indispensable to usefulness, and to be without it in the christian Church is criminal. However lively a young convert may be at the time of his espousal of the truth, he should be reminded that it would soon evaporate and decay unless the mind is fed with the knowledge of God and His son Jesus. It is as impossible for the human soul to advance in holiness and communion with God, in the absence of scriptural nourishment, and the exercise of its faculties, as it would be for the human body to thrive without the food and exercise adapted to its nature. Neither knowledge, nor zeal alone, can make up the christian, both are necessary, the whole being, the mind and the body must be presented as "living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God." Let hypocrites and false professors who have no inheritance in the kingdom of God and of Christ, calculate about how little they may conform to the will of Christ, and still be saved, but let the thought forever perish from the breast of him who has been begotten of God "unto obedience," and ultimately to an heirship in the inheritance which will be revealed in the last times.

If professors of Christianity will produce a different impression by their example or teaching, on the minds of young converts, and thereby cripple their usefulness, and mar their peace by unwholesome influence, let such be reminded that the day of the Lord is at hand, and an account to be rendered of their stewardship. A. McD.

The approach of the Annual Meeting of our Eastern Churches in an associated capacity which will be in about two weeks from this is, we doubt not, awakening feelings of much anxiety and deep responsibility in the minds of the brethren on whom the management and labour of the occasion depend. The social, instructive, and co-operative character of such a meeting, where all the messengers of the Churches have equal privileges and interests to advocate and promote, will not fail to enlist the sympathies and support of all the brotherhood throughout that section of the Province. The object of such a gathering of holy brethren, is certainly worthy of the attention and study of every Church which delegates them, to unite with other spirits of kindred desires and aims, to perpetuate christian love, concord and harmony among the Churches, as well as the adjustment of plans for the extension of the Lord's kingdom. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary for the Churches to exercise judgment in the choice of their representatives for the transaction of the Lord's business, and for the brethren when assembled, to see that every bona fide member of the Association has his hands in the work. To send brethren however amiable and pious, but unaccustomed to public business, or persons who are unwilling to remain till the business of the Churches has been transacted, is often attended at the close of the meeting with a degree of bustle and hurry, which in our opinion greatly diminishes the interest of the occasion, when it should be most upheld by the disinterested co-operation of all.

The large accession of members to many of the Churches composing the Association

will no doubt enhance the interest, and revive the spirits of the Messengers of the Churches, who will visit Hopewell, the place of convocation, and where the word of the Lord has been so abundantly blessed in the conversion of sinners and confirmation of the Church. No County within our acquaintance in this Province presents a more promising field of usefulness than Albert, whether it be considered with respect to the increase of the Churches, or the support of the Christian institutions of the denominations. We hope the Churches will be largely represented at the coming meeting, and that the glory of Christ may be manifested on the occasion. A. McD.

We have given in another column of this day's impression, from the Watchman & Reflector, a deserving notice of two valuable works, recently issued from the American Press. These books can be now obtained from the Depository of the Colporteur committee in St. John. We have with no ordinary pleasure perused Dr. Ripley's work on Sacred Rhetoric, or Composition and Delivery of Sermons; and we most sincerely recommend its careful perusal to every Christian Minister, young or old, who wishes to present his subject in the most likely manner to inform the judgment and quicken the conscience of his hearers.

Our time during the week, did not allow us to examine with the same care Professor Gammell's work on the History of American Baptist Missions; but from the notice taken of it by the Boston Editors and the high recommendations of such distinguished brethren as Drs. Cone, Sharp, and Chase, and from what we have seen of it ourselves, we should regard the book to be one of great value. The friends of missions will find in it a consecutive account of the rise and progress of our missions on this and the other continent. The subject is presented in an impressive and interesting form, shewing evidences of deep research and faithfulness.

We hope the friends of Missions in New Brunswick will avail themselves of the pleasure of its perusal. The price of each work is 4s. 2d. A. McD.

The Articles which have appeared lately in our columns respecting the financial affairs of our denomination are, we hope, exciting the attention of the Churches in support of the "Union Societies." The system is without controversy an admirable one; but if not attended to, according to the constitution, it will become less than valueless, a serious obstruction to the former mode of contribution practiced by the Churches, which though destitute of universal application, and system yet, has accomplished much for the furtherance of the cause of Christ within this Province.

The pledges given to brother Burpe before leaving the country cannot be lost sight of; our brethren must remember that they have sent a missionary family to "Heathen lands" to preach for them the Gospel of Christ to those who are "sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death," and that they are depending on us for a share of their support.

The excellent article on page 180, headed "The Province of Associations," was written nearly a year since, and the near approach of the Sessions of our Associations will give us trust the disposition to read it with care.—Editor.

TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Number 26, which makes up the first half of volume 2nd, is near at hand, and we would call the attention of subscribers to the Terms as published in the Paper—10s. Subscribers will see that unless they pay within the first Six Months, their charge will be 12s. 6d.—Those who have not paid their subscription to the several Agents, where packages of 8 are sent under one cover, will see their charge is now 10s. Those who have paid for half the year are exempt according to notice previously given, but we expect the other half with the commencement of the second half of the volume.—Editor.

Three thousand persons have been baptized, and received into the Baptist churches in Tennessee, during the past year. The whole number of communicants in the Baptist churches of that State is about 36,000.

AMERICA AND ENGLAND.—The American Government have just appointed a Governor of California at a salary of £600 a-year. The English Government have appointed a Governor at Labuan, at a salary of £2,000.

Gammell's History of Baptist Missions.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS, IN Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. By WILLIAM GAMMELL, A. M., Professor in Brown University. With Maps and an Appendix. Boston: Gould, Kendall & Lincoln. New York: For sale by L. Colby & Co. 12 mo. pp. 372.

This volume was prepared at the request of the Executive Committee of the American Baptist Missionary Union, and has a certificate expressing approbation of its faithfulness and value, signed by Rev. Drs. Cone, Sharp and Chase. It is handsomely printed, and is sold at the exceedingly low price of 4s. 2d.

When we were informed of the purpose of the Committee, we took occasion to express our confidence in the ability of the author to produce a work worthy of its theme, and the reading of the volume has more than justified our expectations. Professor Gammell is a writer of rare taste, and in the foreign missions of our denomination he has for a long time felt and exhibited a deep and cordial interest. The preparation of such a work as the one before us could not have fallen into better hands.

In preparing this work Professor G. was placed in possession of all necessary materials. Besides those which are furnished in public sources, he had free access to those which were contained in the Missionary Rooms. He has used them to the best advantage. The reader is borne along from chapter to chapter with a narrative which, while it fully satisfies his desire to know, commends itself as entirely truthful and trustworthy. He has before him the bright and the dark shades of missionary life and labors, a record of struggles, discouragements, hopes and successes; he sees the grace of God always magnified in the sequel, and the triumphs of the kingdom of Christ exhibited under such forms as to show the guiding hand of God in the work of missions. We have heard it said that Professor Gammell might have impressed a more glowing and attractive coloring on his pages, but, excepting in particular instances, we do not concur in the criticism. To have done so would have been fatal to the confidence which the reader now cherishes. The facts recorded in the book are as carefully stated as the style of the work is chastened and pure. Its rigid truthfulness will commend it to those who are without, and who from misinformation, or from none at all, look coldly and doubtfully upon the great missionary work in which the church of Christ is engaged. The purity of its style will give it a place in the permanent literature of our country.

That it will greatly promote the missionary spirit, and serve to increase the missionary zeal of our churches, we have no question.—In reading it we have been struck with the difference between a knowledge of our missions gathered from magazines, newspapers, &c., scattered along through successive years, and that which is obtained from a compact and authoritative narrative, bringing the whole before the observer at a single view. We desire for the book, a universal circulation. Let pastors, friends of missions, agents, colporteurs scatter it by thousands. Like bread cast upon the waters, it will come back in prayers and offerings. No Baptist family should be without it. We say no Baptist family; it is a book likewise for all friends of missions, in which those who rejoice in the triumphs of Christ may find reasons for exultation, and in which those who are laboring in his service may find reasons for encouragement and hope.

We have spoken of the great purity of the style in which this book is written. There are a few blemishes nevertheless, which we should be glad to see corrected. "That" is used for "which," in some instances where so good a writer should have avoided the error, and "Heaven" is used in many cases where as it strikes us, the name of the Supreme Being would have been far better.—Watchman and Reflector.

SACRED RHETORIC, or Composition and Delivery of Sermons. By HENRY J. RIPLEY, Professor of Sacred Rhetoric and Pastoral Duties in Newton Theological Institution. To which are added Hints on Extemporaneous Preaching, by Henry Ware, Jr., D. D. Boston: Gould, Kendall & Lincoln.—New York: For sale by L. Colby & Co.

This work belongs among the substantial of our literature. It is manifestly the fruit of mature thought and large observation; it is pervaded by a manly tone and abounds in judicious counsels; it is compactly written and admirably arranged, both for study and refer-