

Appendix

Memorials of my Father

(
Notre Dame de l'Esprit
Vendredi, 11e Nov
11e 5e Statue
de Saint Paul
)

and sin not." So far from having any fear of death, on the contrary, when told by his physician, that his time on earth might be counted by hours, instead of days, he said "I am glad of it; I am glad of it; come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." When near his end he said: "How delightful would it be to go home on a New Year's eve, and spend my New Year in that world, while you are spending it here. I have always been a lover of pure water, and I will get it pure there." In this happy state of mind he continued till he gently fell asleep.

I make mention of another, who has been taken from us in the 'mid-time of her days.' She had long been agitated with much anxiety, and had suffered much distress, about the state of her soul, and seemed to belong to that class of persons whom Bunyan has described in the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' under the character of Mr. Fearing. The disease, of which she died, soon affected the state of her mind, and almost cut off all possibility of holding any communication with her. Among the last questions I put to her were these; I asked her if she was still able to look to Christ, and to find him an all-sufficient Saviour, and refuge for her soul? To which she answered, "I desire to do so." I asked her again, If she could look to him as the Lamb of God, and trust in his precious blood, as the only ground of her hope of pardon? She again replied, "I desire to do so, I have no other hope." Immediately after this, her mind wandered; and I could no longer get her to understand what was said; but from what I have known, in past years, of the spiritual exercises of her soul, and her earnestness in seeking the Saviour, I have no doubt that 'the root of the matter was found in her,' and that she has risen now above all those doubts and fears that so often depressed her here.

I make mention finally, of the death of an aged person, who has been lately removed from us. He was one of patriarchal age and character; like Obadiah he had "feared the Lord from his youth," and he followed him to the end. His experience was large and varied. In the course of his long life, many changes went over him; and, indeed, his history would furnish materi-

as. He has the following reflections on his joining the communion of the Church in his youth :—

“To some, it may appear rash and presumptuous, to associate thus early with the company of believers; but I am of a very different opinion; and am persuaded that no greater evil can befall a church, than to permit her young people to postpone, from year to year, their making a public profession of the Faith, till they become so immersed in the ways of the world, that they lose all relish for religion, or the society of religious persons. Such persons, when they get married, will probably apply to the church for *privileges*; not to themselves, (for they are quite ready to admit that they are unworthy of them,) but for baptism to their children! And sorry am I, that they but too readily obtain their wishes! I regret exceedingly that such a practice should ever have been tolerated in the church; I believe it to be unscriptural; and a most ensnaring thing for unreflecting men. In my own case, I can conscientiously say, that my early connexion with the Church has been blessed to me in a variety of ways. In the first place, I feel assured that it has been instrumental in keeping me from many temptations to sin; into which, but for the check of my being a Christian professor, I would certainly have been carried headlong. In the second place, I have found that when beset with commercial difficulties, exposed to sudden and extreme personal dangers, or visited with personal or family affliction, on humbling myself before God, praying to him for direction, and firmly relying on his promises, he has never forsaken me; but, on the contrary, has vouchsafed such protection and guidance, as enabled me to surmount all my

difficulties, escape all my dangers, and to say, "Whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." I would, therefore, recommend all young people to give themselves early, even earlier than I did, to the Lord."

In the following extract he expresses his feelings on being elected to the Office of Elder in the Congregation with which he was connected. This took place in 1815, when he was only 26 years of age. Three others were chosen along with him. He says: "I pleaded hard to be excused, at least at that time, on account of my youth and inexperience; but, after much debate, the Congregation adhered to their choice. It may well be conceived that this event proved a subject of deep and serious reflection to me, as well as of earnest prayer for divine guidance. I felt an entire want of confidence in my qualifications for so important and solemn an office. All the other nominees, as well as those already in office, were old enough to be my fathers. The responsibility which lay upon me, whether I accepted or rejected, perplexed me very much; in fact, the reasons on both sides, seemed to hang, for some time, in even balance. Not knowing well to what side duty impelled, I prayed earnestly to God for direction; when the Lord himself seemed to lead me, by a way I knew not, to stand for the honour of his name; saying to me, "Fear not, my strength is perfect in weakness." Having devoted myself anew to my Heavenly Father, in prayer, and supplicated Him to lead me in the way he would have me to go, (to cast in my lot more unreservedly with the people of God than I had even yet done,) and to keep me from improper desires of the riches and honours of this world, I consented to be ordained an Elder. This office I continued to hold 41 years, that is, till 1856, when I resigned it, preparatory to my removing to Montreal. Here let me pause, and bless God for this further token of his loving kindness, in permitting me to exercise the office of a steward in His vineyard, here below; and in making that office instrumental in keeping me aloof from many of the fashionable sins and follies of the time, and place. All the others, who were ordained with me, have long since paid the debt of nature."