

MONTREAL WITNESS

WEEKLY REVIEW AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

VOL. IV.

MONTREAL, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1849.

No. 6.

THE NEWS.

CANADA.

FIRE.—About half-past four o'clock yesterday morning, flames were seen issuing from a small house in Craig Street, the property of and occupied by Mr. John Kelly. The house being wood, was enveloped in the destructive element before water could be procured. The fire speedily communicated to the back premises, and to Mr. Kane's out-houses, the property of Mr. John Ryan. Six houses now caught, and were in short time reduced to ashes. One building was sublet to twelve families, many of whom lost the greater portion of such articles of furniture, clothing, &c., as they possessed. The following are the names of some of the parties burnt out:—Messrs Boyd, Collins, Carrick, Wilson, Rodden, Foot, Carey, Dredge, Hyland, Ryan, (proprietor,) and Mr. Morton. Mr. Ryan was insured at the Aetna and Quebec Offices for about £500. The other parties had no insurance. —*Montreal Herald, Thursday.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We, the undersigned, sufferers by the late fire in Bleury Street, deem it a duty incumbent upon us to return our sincere thanks to Edward and David Moss, Esqrs., for the humane and hospitable manner in which they have received the children and aged people who were suffering under the inclemency of a cold and bitter morning; as also the opening of their comfortable houses as a receptacle for provisions, furniture, &c., and administering refreshments to those who stood most in need. Signed by twelve individuals, mostly heads of families.

FIRE.—About nine o'clock last night, a fire broke out in a brick house in St. Henry Street, occupied by a milliner. The new "Union" fire engine was on the spot, and, with the assistance of the others and the Hose Company, speedily extinguished the flames. We are happy to say that the fire was confined to the house where it originated. —*Montreal Herald.*

FIRE.—We regret extremely to learn that the house of Colonel Davidson, of Dewittville, Beauharnois, was burned to the ground. A portion of the furniture was saved, but a large quantity of provisions and other valuable property were lost. Colonel Davidson's entire loss is about £500, but we understand that half of this sum is covered by insurance. The accident arose from the stove pipes catching fire, during the absence of the family. —*Gazette.*

HALIFAX RAIL ROAD.—A large meeting has been held at Quebec in favor of the contemplated Rail Road from that city to Halifax. It was attended by gentlemen of all parties, his honor the Mayor being in the chair, and the Town Clerk, Secretary. The meeting was addressed by leading gentlemen of the city, in English and French, and resolutions adopted favorable to the work. —*Id.*

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—We must decline to insert the letter on Capital Punishment. We believe that the Law of God and the safety of society demand that a murderer, proved to be a murderer on direct evidence, shall be put to death, and this we have often stated. It is rather too much to ask us to fill our columns with arguments contrary to our own opinions. We would hang no man for any crimes but treason and murder, and that not on circumstantial evidence alone, and we are opposed to public executions. That is the full extent to which we are prepared to go in relaxation of the death penalty. —*Courier.*

PROPOSED SEPARATE DISTRICT.—A County Meeting has been held in Sheffield, numerous attended, at which Resolutions have been passed, urging the necessity of bringing to the doors of the inhabitants a means of obtaining justice, both in civil and criminal matters, a little more speedily, and less expensively, than at present. The object of those who took part in the meeting is, to form into a Judicial District all that tract of country lying between Lake Memphramagog and Missisquoi Bay, the Province Line and the Seigneurial Settlements, for the trial of all cases, civil and criminal. The inhabitants will not be satisfied with the provision contemplated; that is, a flying Circuit Court, with a jurisdiction of £20 or £50 in civil matters, and no criminal jurisdiction whatever. The Sheffield people appear to be in earnest, and have appointed a Committee to confer on the subject with their neighbours in Missisquoi. We have not yet seen the Judicature Bill, and are consequently ignorant of its provisions, but we are convinced of one thing, that public justice, civil and criminal, will never be properly administered in Lower Canada, until regular Circuits are established, by the combination of two or three Counties into a Judicial District, to be visited twice in each year by two judges, one of whom shall take the civil and the other the criminal business. That every man should be compelled to resort to Montreal, whether as plaintiff, defendant, witness, or juror, from the extremities of the present immense District, is an utter obstruction of justice which cannot be tolerated. Justice should be at the door of every citizen in a country enjoying free institutions. We observe that gentlemen of opposite political opinions have joined in this expression of opinion. The Committee named to carry out the Resolutions are, Dr. R. Parmelee, Jas. Thomson, Esq., Messrs. Marcus Dougherty, Chas. Allen, James O'Halloran, and Gilbert Armstrong. The Committee to confer with Missisquoi are, Messrs. Dougherty and Herbert, Dr. Foster and Capt. Wood. —*Id.*

PROPOSED NEW COUNTY.—A large meeting of part of the inhabitants of the County of Loinster was held a few days ago, at which Resolutions were passed for attempting to obtain the erection of the Townships of Rawdon, Kildare and its augmentation, Wexford, Chertsey and Cathcart, all exclusively peopled by settlers of British and Irish origin, into a separate county for all legal purposes, and to retain its present name, Loinster. Another Resolution suggests that free grants of land, or, at least, a reduction in price, should be granted to actual settlers on the wild lands in the rear of Kilkenny, Rawdon and Kildare. This boon has already been granted to French Canadian settlers on the south bank of the St. Lawrence, to settlers on the Ottawa and in Upper Canada; so we see no good reason why the same grant should not be extended to those who now seek to obtain it in the County of Loinster. —*Id.*

WILD ANIMAL KILLED.—On Thursday last, Mr. G. Miller, third line of Bathurst, killed a Wolverine, or Wild Cat, measuring about two feet high and three feet long, of a darkish grey colour. His head and claws were similar to those of a common house cat, only several times as large. Altogether he was rather a dangerous customer to meet in the woods. We understand that an animal of this description had destroyed a great number of sheep, and some calves, in the back concessions of Bathurst and Drummond, during last Fall. The farmers in that vicinity will not be sorry to learn that the enemy of their flocks has been caught at last. —*Pertb Courier.*

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A MAN.—On Monday week last, Thomas Kelly, of Cavan, left the house of Mr. Young on the gravel road for Port Hope, with a promise to return in a short time, but has never been seen since. Great exertions have been made for his discovery without effect. This is the second mysterious disappearance within six weeks, Mr. W. Adams, who was found drowned being the first. Should Kelly be found dead, we hope that the proper authorities will pay the greatest attention to the case. —*Port Hope Advertiser.*

INQUEST.—On Thursday last, an inquest was held before J. Dunbar, Esq., upon the body of John McNea, who was found dead near the house lately occupied by Mrs. Brown, near the Wharf. It appears from the evidence, that the deceased was one of those unfortunate inebriates, whose lives, too generally, have a tragical ending. He had taken off his pantaloons under the impression that he was in his bed-room. The verdict returned by the Jurors was "Found dead by exposure to cold in consequence of drunkenness." How many more verdicts of this melancholy character do grog vendors require to bring them to the decision of furnishing no whiskey or other spirits to already drunken men? We think that the Government ought to pass a law giving power to Magistrates of sending this unfortunate class to the penitentiary for reformation. —*Id.*

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.—The gentlemen of the Telegraphic office in this City, took an opportunity last week to test the brilliancy of this light, and their efforts proved eminently successful. The smallest print could be read at many yards distance from the office. —*Hamilton Spectator.*

UNITED STATES.

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE.—A young gentleman of this city, some two years ago, while at the Gymnasium, Boylston Hall, had stolen from the dressing room a valuable gold watch; since which time no trace has been ob-

tained of the same till Tuesday evening last, when a watch was sent to the loser, with a note requesting him to accept it as a recompense for the one taken in 1847. —*Boston Atlas.*

CURIOSITIES FROM THE HOLY LAND.—The *Norfolk Beacon* mentions as among the curiosities brought to this country by Lieut. Lynch, commander of the Dead Sea Expedition (who arrived from the Mediterranean last week, in the U. S. Ship Supply), the following:—A number of specimens of the water of the Dead Sea, the River Jordan, the Pool of Shiloah, and fragments of the Pillar of Salt into which Lot's wife was transformed, as a punishment for her disobedience to the command of the Almighty. In regard to this last, we are informed that the pillar from which it was taken rises nearly 40 feet high, stands exactly in the spot designated by the Bible, and that Lieut. Lynch expresses the confident opinion that it is the representative of what was Lot's wife. We believe it has not been seen before for many centuries. Josephus records its existence. There are many other curiosities on board the Supply—an Egyptian mummy, a pair of the cattle of Arabia, rosaries made of wood from the Holy Mount, shells from the shores of the Dead Sea, gazelles, &c.

HEADING THE HURRICANE.—The *Cincinnati Chronicle* mentions a very valuable practical result of the establishment of lines of the magnetic telegraph along the seaboard and lakes. The telegraph now gives notice of the storms that commence on any portion of the northern lakes. If a north-west storm begins at Chicago or Toledo, notice of the fact is immediately forwarded to shipmasters at Buffalo and Cleveland, or, if a storm begins at either of the last named places, notice of it is sent to shipmasters at the western ports. Vessels are thereby informed of the approach of storms, and may delay their departure until it is safe to leave. It has been ascertained that winds travel at certain rates—a hurricane at the rate of sixty miles an hour, and less furious winds at slower rates. A north-west storm of great violence, commencing at Chicago, may be looked for at Buffalo at a certain hour. A vessel about to depart westward, apprised of this fact, will remain in port until the storm arrives and expends its fury. Life and property will thus frequently be saved, which would otherwise be exposed to peril and shipwreck. So also, when a violent south-west wind is sweeping along the southern coast of the United States, information of it may be immediately forwarded to the northern seaports, that vessels, on the eve of starting, may be detained in port until the storm is over.

FREEDOM AND SLAVERY.—The area of Maryland in acres is 6,040,000—that of Massachusetts is but 4,640,000. The population of Maryland in 1820 was 407,350—that of Massachusetts was 523,287. The population of Maryland in 1840 was 369,232—that of Massachusetts was 737,699. The increase of the population of Maryland in 20 years was 61,882—that of Massachusetts, in the same period, increased 214,412. And in Maryland, 40,000 of that increase was in the City of Baltimore—while the population of most of the counties has diminished. In Maryland, the number of our population engaged in agriculture at the last census (1840) was 62,946. In other pursuits the number was 29,041—about one-third consumers to two-thirds producers of agricultural productions. In Massachusetts, the number engaged in agriculture was 87,839, and in other pursuits 125,067—more consumers than producers—affording a market for the farmer, and consuming not only the products of the farmer of Massachusetts, but those of the Maryland farmer also. —*Maryland Free Press.*

SLEIGHING WITH A TIGER.—A novel exhibition was presented in Washington Street and on the Neck lately. Herr Driesbach made his appearance in an elegant sleigh, with his pet tiger by his side; not the tiger of English comedies, but a bona-fide four legged tiger. He seemed to enjoy the sleighing, and leaped upon his master, licking his face and showing other signs of excitement. Driesbach had to slap him several times to keep him off. After astonishing the city, Driesbach alighted with his tiger at the Tremont House, and taking it into one of the apartments invited gentlemen to walk in and be introduced; but there were few who seemed anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity. —*Boston Transcript.*

RIOT AT A FUNERAL.—The *Lonesdale Democrat* gives a long account of a riot at that place about a week ago. A Protestant young man married a wife whose parents were Catholics. The wife dying, a dispute arose as to whether she should be buried in Protestant or Catholic ground. The husband insisted that she should be buried where he could rest by her side at his death. The parents expressed their fixed determination to have her interred in Catholic ground. Each party sought legal advice, which resulted in the decision that the husband had the right to direct where his wife should be buried. Matters were then compromised, so that the Catholic service was allowed to be performed over the body at the house, and she was to be buried in Protestant ground. But on the day of the funeral, just as the body was placed in the hearse, the father came forward and loudly claimed that the body should go to Catholic ground. Thereupon, a fearful riot ensued, in which a large number of people participated, and the coffin was tossed about carelessly. The Sheriff finally quelled the outbreak, and the interment took place in Protestant ground.

WESTERN ENTERPRISE.—Ninety steamboats have been built on the Ohio since December 1847. Their aggregate carrying capacity is 21,406 tons, and cost \$1,512,700. Of these 28 were built in Cincinnati city, at a valuation of \$687,000; at Elizabethtown, Pa., 16, at a valuation of \$224,000; at Brownsville, Pa., 12, at \$178,000; at Wheeling 8, at \$130,000; and the remainder at small towns along the river.

OREGON.—There are later accounts at New York from Oregon. The Indian troubles were still rife, and a proclamation, by Mr. H. A. G. Lee, the Indian Superintendent, had declared the Cayuse territory forfeited, and liable to be occupied by American settlers. Mr. Lee has also notified Bishop Blanchet that his missionary labours must be suspended till the presence of troops, under American officers, shall render their resumption safe. Mr. McBean of the Hon. Hudson Bay Company, writes that Leaptan Jaune, Chief of the Walla-Walla, had hung one of the murderers of the American Missionaries, and was in pursuit of the others. Fifty blankets had been offered for the capture of the principal murderers, and twenty-five for less prominent culprits;—half the amount for their scalps. Several Missionaries have taken shelter in Oregon city.

MEXICO.—3000 robbers, among them some white men, infest the neighborhood of Sierra Gordo, rendering that place, as well as other frequented routes through Mexico, very dangerous to travellers. The Government are wholly unable to disperse the banditti. On the 7th a party of 70 savages attacked the inhabitants of —, killing 20, and wounding many more: they carried off 9 young persons, with many valuables, also a number of young horses. A few hours previous the same party plundered a neighboring rancho; and on the 8th, at Ojosceles, they killed several individuals, wounded some others and made prisoners of four young men.—Robberies and murders are the constant topics of the press. The people call on the Government for succor, but the Government can offer them nothing but useless pity. The Minister of Finance is unable to negotiate the loan of \$800,000, in consequence of the proposals not conforming to the terms of the law.

THE BURNING WELL.—There is a very singular circumstance in Shelby county, Texas, of a well that has been burning about twelve months, at the former residence of Judge Lusk. When he moved from the place, he laid some logs over the well, from which he had used water for several years. Sometime after the woods caught fire, and the timber burning fell in, and ignited some substance, supposed to be stone coal. The rainy seasons have not extinguished it, but it has burnt incessantly. It does not give a very agreeable feeling to the visitor; for it is neither sublime or beautiful; but from the deep grumbling noise that is heard, the sulphurous smell, and the dark cloud of smoke that is continually rising, a beholder is forcibly convinced that there is actually fire and brimstone in the subterranean regions. Various results are conjectured; perhaps some geologist can give comfort to the anxious minds of the surrounding inhabitants, by showing what will be the final termination of the Burning Well. —*Presbyterian.*

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.—That the American people are not wholly engrossed by the passion for money making, is evident from the rapid growth and increased usefulness of some of our public religious and benevolent institutions. Take the American Tract Society for example. In 1840 its income was less than \$118,000; last year it exceeded \$237,000. Then it had no colporteurs in its employ: now it has over 250 laboring in

25 States, and in Canada and Mexico, exclusive of nearly 100 theological students who are occupied in its service during the summer vacations. In 1840 the society circulated less than 300,000 volumes; last year it issued about 700,000 volumes, exclusive of tract publications. Of these various works, more than 18,000,000 pages have been circulated gratuitously during the last 18 months. In 1840, the *Tract Magazine* (now *American Messenger*) published 8000 copies; there are now 130,000 copies of it circulated. Then there were only 60,000 copies of the Christian Family Almanac printed: now the edition for 1849 already exceeds 200,000, and the demand is unsupplied. —*Observer.*

MISSIONS.—The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has now forty-nine missionaries employed in Oregon, Africa, and South America, and three hundred and fifty-eight labouring among the Germans, Indians, Swedes and Norwegians, in the United States. The total number of church members under missionaries' charge, is 31,699. There are seventy-two missionaries among the Germans, of whom 6000 have become church members. —*N. Y. Evangelist.*

GOOD EXAMPLE.—One of the most extensive sugar refining establishments in the country, is that of the Messrs. Stuart in Chambers street. They employ about two hundred persons. On New Year's day, these gentlemen presented each individual in their establishment with a handsome copy of the Bible. —*New York paper.*

ENLIGHTENED MUNIFICENCE.—Some time ago, John Henderson, Esq., of Park, presented a copy of "James' Earnest Ministry" to every minister, preacher, and student of the United Presbyterian Church. Since then, John Hope, Esq., W. S. Edinburgh, has engaged to supply every minister of the Church of Scotland with a copy of the same excellent work.

MONKS OF LA TRAPPE.—The steamer *Martha Washington* landed here yesterday forty-three monks of the order of La Trappe, direct from France. They arrived in New Orleans after a voyage of only thirty days from Havre, in the ship *Brunswick*, and immediately re-shipped on the *Martha Washington* for Kentucky. They proceed from here to the neighbourhood of Bardstown, where they possess 1400 acres of ground. They design permanently locating themselves at that point. There are six priests among them, evidently men of superior minds. They are strict in their habits, and very industrious. They bring with them a large quantity of utensils, and an infinite variety of fruits, flowers, garden seeds, trees, &c.; in fact, everything necessary to establish a "colony in the wilds of Kentucky." —*Louisville Courier, December 19.*

BISHOP OF CHICAGO.—The Rev. Mr. Vauderville, of St. Louis, has been appointed by the Pope, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago, in place of the late lamented Bishop Quarter. The Bishop elect is a Belgian by birth, and of the order of the Society of Jesus.

RELIGION AMONG THE SLAVES.—We have noticed lately in several of the Southern States, evidences of a desire on the part of the whites to promote the elevation of the coloured people by means of more extensive religious influences than have heretofore existed. —*Louisville Journal.*

TWENTY-SECOND OF DECEMBER.—The two hundred and twenty-seventh anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, was celebrated at Plymouth by a public service, at which Rev. Dr. Worcester, of Salem, preached. He chose for his text the words of holy writ—"Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their fathers." The sermon was rich in historical matter, and the spirit of the Pilgrims pervaded the whole discourse. He spoke of their pilgrimage as a missionary one—one object they kept steadily in view, and that was, the erection of the altar of faith, and the establishment of religion on this Western continent. For this they planted their schools that all might read the Bible, and within ten years of their landing laid the foundation of a University, that the young might be trained for the work of the ministry. The whole structure they sought to rear, was founded on the Bible; and they thought no institution worth the raising, political or secular, that was not based upon the "Rock of Ages." During the whole day, one of the most violent snow-storms was raging, that we have had for a long time. The howling winds, the raging waters of "Massachusetts Bay," and the intense cold, spoke most eloquently of the sufferings of these noble men.

LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE.—The following official announcement refers to the abolition of a practice which, on account of the monstrous desecration of the Lord's day which it involved, had caused much grief, and called forth remonstrances, from the friends of religion in the mother country:—"General Post Office, London, December.—On and after the 1st of January next, the transaction of money-order business on the Sunday will be entirely discontinued throughout England and Wales. But to meet the convenience of the working classes, the various offices will be kept open for money-order business till eight o'clock on the Saturday night (or as late between six and eight as the receipt or despatch of mails will allow), excepting where the surveyor shall deem such arrangement unnecessary. The peculiar arrangement at each office will be announced to the public by special notification. 2. As the personal attendance of the parties interested is not required either at the issue or payment of a money order, the Post-Master General is of opinion that this restriction, by which a large number of clerks and others will be allowed needful rest, may be made without any serious inconvenience to the public. 3. This arrangement being general, the postmasters and others will of course understand that all transmission to the chief office of money-order accounts for the Sunday will terminate."

BURNING THE SCRIPTURES IN BIRMINGHAM.—At a meeting of the Birmingham Protestant Association, held a few days since, Mr. T. Ragge, the corresponding secretary, related an extraordinary occurrence which had taken place during the past week, in London-Prentice street, in that town. A poor sick woman, a Roman Catholic, residing there, had a daughter who attended one of the Birmingham schools. From this school she had received a New Testament, out of which she had been reading to her mother, when the priest came in, and seeing it, tore the contents out of the covers, put them into the fire, and held them down with his stick till sufficiently consumed, remarking that he would so serve all such books that he met with in the houses where he visited.

INDEPENDENT CHURCH IN FRANCE.—Messrs. Monod, Gasparin, and others, who have withdrawn from the National Protestant Church in France, have taken the steps for organizing an independent church. The plan is simply this:—The reformed churches of France must constitute themselves; whoever declares that he adopts the Confession of Faith which they have published, will be a member of these churches. There will be at Paris a Consulting Committee, composed of the Rev. Armand Deille and Rev. Frederic Monod, and MM. Agenor de Gasparin and de Mimont. The representatives of the churches will meet together in Paris, if God permit, in the month of May next, for the purpose of drawing up the constitution of the faithful church. The projectors of this movement express the hope that all faithful independent churches will unite with the new church in forming in France a church having the same Confession of Faith and the same organization.

BIRTHS.

Montreal—29th ult., Mrs. S. Benjamin, of a daughter. 28th ult., Mrs. J. H. Joseph, of a daughter. 1st inst., Mrs. R. S. Tylee, of a son. 1st inst., Mrs. G. Balsham, of a daughter. 22nd ult., Mrs. William McDonald, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Montreal—25th ultimo, by the Rev. John McLeod, Mr. M. Babcock, to Mary, second daughter of Mr. F. Duclos, College Street, 29th ult., by the Rev. Mr. Algoe, Mr. J. McMillen, of Chateauguay, to Sarah, daughter of John Cunningham, Esq., of Beauharnois. 1st inst., by the Rev. Mr. Elligood, Mr. S. Houdlow, to Miss Marion Sommerville, both of this city. Flamboro—18th ult., by the Rev. D. Connell, Mr. Luke Hale, of Granby, C. E., to Anna, eldest daughter of George Hale, Esq., of Flamboro', C. E. Charleston, L. C.—Charles I. I. Grant, Seigneur of the Barony de Longueuil, to Anna, second daughter of — Trapmann, Esq.

DEATHS.

Montreal—28th ult., Ann Nix, wife of Mr. William Stafford, aged 76 years. 29th ultimo, Abigail Maria, youngest daughter of the late Phineas Hutchins, Esquire, of Lochiel, C. E., aged 29 years. 27th ultimo, D. J. McKenzie, second son of David McKay, Esq., aged 21 years. 27th ult., Elizabeth Dunn, widow of the late E. Armstrong, Esq., Harbour Master, of Montreal, aged 73 years and 4 months. 17th ultimo, Charles McGaurin, late of County Wicklow, Ireland, aged 80 years. 26th ult., Mary Matilda, daughter of John Kadager, Esq., aged 19 months. 21st ult., C. F. Kirk, son of Mr. William Kirk, late of Longueuil, aged 27 years. Hamilton C. W.—22nd ult., Miss Hatt, sister of the Hon. S. Hatt, of Chambly, aged 82 years. St. Augustin—21st ult., Mr. Isaac Dorval, farmer, aged 89 years and 23 days.

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

Monday, Jan. 29, 1849.

After prayer the chairman, Capt. Maitland, announced that, notwithstanding the depression of the times, this Society was in a flourishing state as compared with former years. He then called upon the Secretary of the Society, the Rev. J. Girdwood, to read the Report.

From this document it appeared, that the total number of Tracts and Publications received during the year was 90,012, and the total number issued, 77,394. That the sales at the Depository had been for Cash, £196, and on Credit, £166—making a total of £362. An effort to sell books, &c., by a colporteur, had not met with encouraging success, hitherto, in the city; but it was intended to send him into the rural Districts where, it was hoped, his success would be greater.

The gratuitous distribution of tracts had been greater than any former year, amounting to £76 in value, and in number to 55,562.

The Jubilee Fund of the Parent Society, is to be expended chiefly in providing tracts and publications for Ireland and continental Europe.

The American Tract Society has been doing far more during the past year, than any previous one, especially in circulating wholesome literature by means of colporteurs.

The Montreal city distributors have been more active than in former years, and have distributed 38,495 tracts in English and French.

Rev. C. DeWolfe moved the adoption of the Report. He said this was a great occasion, being the Jubilee year of the Parent Tract Society. This Society was cradled amid storms,—when Bonaparte's power was at its height,—and it has gone on increasing in strength. It was resuscitating the great works of the great non-conformist divines, Howe, Flavel, &c., and making them speak in a variety of languages which the authors never knew. Especially were the efforts of the American Tract Society to circulate these books in the wilderness worthy of note. He had found the tract entitled "The Sinner's Friend" extremely advantageous in one period of his own ministry. Bishop McIlvain had at one time been appointed chaplain of an American Military Academy, he was informed that most of the officers and cadets were infidels—but, a tract of the American Tract Society presented to a cadet awakened a deep interest, and was the commencement of a revival which extended until nearly every student was brought under the power of the Gospel. The world had tried for centuries to regenerate itself by science and useful knowledge but had failed—these leaves of the Gospel which this Society was scattering were for the healing of the nations, and were succeeding in their mission. A tract would find its way through a scarcely open door, where no minister nor missionary could find entrance. Let, then, this great, noble, catholic Society be endeared to all and supported by all. The Tract Society had sent liberal donations of books to every Wesleyan Station; and, wherever he had been, he had been told at the Depositories of the Society, to take as many of its publications as he pleased.

The second resolution read as follows:—

2. That although Commercial distress has decreased our income, yet it is a subject for thankfulness to have it in our power to say, it has not had the same effect upon our usefulness; and believing as we do, that the best as well as the most pleasing mode of counteracting Error is to disseminate Truth, the undertakings therefore of this Society call upon all to pray earnestly for its future welfare and success.

The Rev. H. Wilkes, on moving the second resolution, mentioned the following anecdote which had come to his knowledge last summer. A young man of fine address, a preacher of universalism, very eloquently urged his peculiar sentiments, which, stripped of their colouring, were neither more nor less than that God was too kind to be holy, true, or just. Two good old Deacons deeply regretting the course of this fine young man, made him the subject of persevering and earnest prayer. He removed to another place where tracts were sent to his house. He was indignant, and told his servant never to admit them. One entitled "Forty Reasons for not being a Universalist" was, however, put under his door, and though he frequently was on the point of destroying it, it as often escaped. At last he thought, why am I so disturbed at this tract? If I am right I need not fear it, I will read it and answer the objections. He read it, and found, at least, twenty of them that he could not answer. The two Deacons were praying for him, a hundred miles off, and that tract did its office. This minister, for he is now a laborious and successful evangelical preacher of the word of God, had told him (Mr. Wilkes) that for ten years he had served the devil with all his powers, and he was now bound to serve his Saviour with, at least, equal energy.

Mr. W. stated that he was, on the present occasion, a substitute for the Hon. Mr. Price, who had intended to move the resolution he held, had his parliamentary duty permitted; and concluded by commending the Society to public favour and support.

3. That the principles of this Society being Catholic, and its doings unostentatious, all should feel bound to further its efforts to improve the spiritual condition of the people of Canada, by devising liberal things for it on this its Anniversary.

The Rev. A. D. Campbell moved the third resolution. After regretting that there was no meeting of the Evangelical Alliance among these Anniversaries, he gave an interesting sketch of the rise and progress of that association in Britain. In looking back on the reports of the Montreal Tract Society, he found that in four years they had reduced their debt to the Parent society one half; but should this Society continue to be indebted to the Parent Society at all—when that Society had to provide for lands that were sitting in the shadow of death, such as China and India? He thought not. Nay, without free contributions, this Society could not say it was taking an interest in the evangelization of the world.

The Rev. John Jenkins seconded the resolution. He had been a tract distributor himself in India—all missionaries are so; and all missions are dependant, to a considerable extent, on the Tract Society for the means of extending the Gospel. He believed the germ of the Evangelical Alliance had been found in the Tract and Bible Societies. The more catholicity there was found among churches—the more these churches would prosper. There was more real Catholicity on this platform than throughout the whole Church which arrogated exclusively to itself the name of Catholic. The catholicity of this Society was, therefore, one of the strongest reasons why it should be generally supported. He earnestly urged the duty of prayer upon tract distributors.

The Rev. J. McLoud said, look at this institution, running throughout the whole earth, circulating words of truth, and love, and mercy. Is not this the angel having the everlasting gospel to preach? It is the forerunner of the Bible Society. Tracts lead men to the Bible. We need something to counteract the polluting literature which is scattering all over the country. The Tract Society is just the instrument for this. The colporteurs were doing a great work in carrying Bunyan, Baxter, Boston, &c., to every quarter of the United States, to counteract the literature in question. We need colporteurs in this country; they are a branch of the great army of the Lamb. He trusted to see the day soon, when there would be colporteurs scattering good books and tracts through every part of Canada. But the Spirit's influence was necessary to the success of the tract effort. Let us pray for that Spirit. To illustrate the power of the Spirit, he stated the following anecdote:—A gentleman gave a tract, entitled "The Swearer's Prayer," to a seaman, who happened once, during a calm, to read it to his shipmates, when the whole crew, previously exceedingly profane, were affected, and not only gave up swearing, to which they were much addicted, but some of them turned to the Lord.

4. That we hail the present time as a favourable opportunity of acknowledging our gratitude to the Parent Society, and the American Tract Society for their past services to us, and to give utterance to the prayer, that the "Giver of all Good" will continue to bless and prosper those institutions

which have been the means of doing so much for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

The Rev. Mr. Marling, in moving the last resolution, remarked, that as our parent society was getting up in years, being now fifty, it became this auxiliary, which is a thriving youth, to contribute to its support. He therefore fully concurred in the suggestion made by Mr. Campbell, of sending a free gift to the Tract Society of London as soon as possible. There was one branch of the Society's efforts which he wished had been more alluded to, namely, its publications for the young, not merely of tracts, but books upon almost every subject that it was necessary or important to know. The public had long been deeply injured by the taint of infidelity which ran through many of the most popular standard works on history and science; as examples of which he might instance Gibbon's History of the Roman Empire, and Combe's Constitution of Man. The beautifully-written history, or clearly-explained science, were in all such cases the wings of the arrow to carry it to its mark, and the infidel principles mixed up with them were the poison which often remained in the vitals. With a far-seeing wisdom, the Tract Society had determined to counteract this evil, and were now publishing equally good histories and works of science and information, but recognising God as Governor of the world, and deeply leavened with the Gospel instead of infidelity. These books were chiefly designed for the young, and he thought Christian parents should bear this in mind, and always visit the depository of the Tract Society first when selecting literature for their children.

Mr. Girdwood then called the attention of house-keepers to a fact mentioned by the colporteurs, viz., that in seeking access to Protestant families he was often catechised by Roman Catholic servants respecting the character of his books, and when they found they were not Romish prayer-books, &c., they shut the door in his face.

The meeting closed with the doxology and benediction. The collection was £10 16s. 8d.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADA SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Tuesday, January 30th, 1849.

Hon. James Ferrier in the Chair. After praise and prayer, the Chairman rose and said—he could not refrain from giving his testimony to the value of the Sabbath school. Many who are now useful in society, were once teachers and scholars in the Sabbath school. Even parents who are able to teach their children find advantage in sending them to school, it is of great assistance. And to those who have no means of religious instruction, otherwise, it is admirably adapted. Often the young, thus instructed, return to teach their parents. This Union has been the means of establishing many schools and is well entitled to support.

An excellent report was read by T. A. Gibson, Esq., one of the Secretaries,—extracts from which will be given hereafter.

The Rev. R. McGill moved the adoption of the report. He said: Very much of the interest taken in, and the advantages derived from, these meetings, depended on the spirit in which we came to them. We ought to feel that the subject came home to us very closely. When the Athenian orator would rouse the people of Greece against Philip, he appealed to their love of home and family, and thus speaking he aroused the whole nation against the enemy. What object can engage the attention, more important than the training of youth? Life takes its impression from the way in which our youth is spent. The object of this union is to take up mind at its earliest stage and cast it into the mould of divine truth, at a time when it is most susceptible of impression. When we consider the present time, we find there is a tendency to divorce religion from secular education,—to banish the Bible from common schools; and there was great difficulty in obtaining proper teachers, men of piety. He considered it the duty of the church to see that religious instruction is communicated to the young. He did not consider it as by any means sufficient that the school should be opened and closed with prayer. If the teacher is not himself a man of prayer, it rather tended to prejudice the mind against the truth. This difficulty must be met by bringing the children where the truth may be correctly taught. The object of this society was to unite all who seek to advance religion by teaching the young, to encourage one another by correspondence, circulation of books, &c. He said in the Sabbath school the teacher was working for his own benefit, as well as that of the children, the effect was beneficial on his own mind. He referred to the *Missionary Record*, and paid a just tribute to the publisher for his zeal in maintaining this useful juvenile publication. He said that there was reason to believe, that God was bringing good out of the revolutions now happening in the world. He often thought of the influence the *Record* must have in extending the missionary spirit. After a quarter of a century, its 3000 readers will have become teachers, and perhaps some of them missionaries. Canada, he said, is destined to become a great nation. When we see the extent of the country, its fertility, its capabilities of every kind, we are justified in saying so; what then is to be its religious state? It must be formed now. The religious character of New England was impressed on it by its Puritan founders. What then is our duty to Canada, in these circumstances?

Mr. George Hagar seconded this resolution.

2. That the peculiar adaptation of Sunday Schools as a means of imparting to the rising generation a knowledge of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, furnishes an irresistible incentive to every Christian, to aid in their universal diffusion.

The Rev. W. Taylor moved the second resolution. His brother, he said, had spoken of Canada becoming a great empire; he believed he was a true prophet. The present time is the mere germ of its greatness. He said Parliament was then assembled about matters of great importance. There was some difference between it and the assembly now before him. They did not place the mace on the table, but they placed God's word, and acted on his authority. In our house, he said, there were various denominations, but we enjoy the advantage of there being no opposition. They were all on one side, the side of the crown. The affairs which would come before them would have quite as great an influence on the destinies of Canada, as those which engage the other house. We begin with the instruction of the young. They had heard the report read, and he trusted it had produced a proper effect on their mind. The Union must be supported. This society cannot be dispensed with. The special charge was committed to Peter by the Saviour, "Feed my lambs," as if there was a danger of its being neglected. Just before ascending to heaven, he gave this charge, which should be pondered by every one. The rev. gentleman here reminded the children present of the advantages they enjoyed, and addressed himself, for a few minutes, directly to them.—He then continued. The resolution, he said, spoke of the necessity of education—all admitted that—but the Sabbath school was required in order that education should be really suited to the requirements of man. If Canada rise, it would be more by the schoolmaster than the politician. The schoolmaster must be sent abroad. There is no need for arguing on the value of education; but he was quite prepared to argue for the superiority of the truth which we offer in the Sabbath School. We do not teach, he said, philosophical theories, nor sectarian dogmas, but only the truth unadulterated, presented in a way which the comparatively unsophisticated minds of children are able to understand. What we teach is calculated to promote the prosperity of Canada. Look at the character of our teachers, the pious youth of the Province. He concurred in what was said by the previous speaker, respecting the impropriety of religion being taught by irreligious men. He referred to the cheapness of this plan. There was no remuneration. It was done from a principle of gratitude and love, not for hire. Not all the gold of California could purchase the labour of him or her, who from Sabbath to Sabbath taught in the School. But what neither gold nor authority could command, the grace of God induces.

The Rev. Mr. Leishman seconded this resolution. He spoke of the adaptation of the Sabbath School to its object. It was the duty of the disciples of Christ to continue to do the work allotted to them,

and, in addition to the duty of not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, there was the duty of feeding the lambs. Teachers should endeavour to communicate instruction in the most simple manner. Thus broken down it will tell on the heart. Others are ever at work for the devil, and they must not cease endeavouring to lead the minds of the young to Christ. Parents should remember their duties. The Sabbath School cannot supersede home instruction—they ought to work together. The object of the Union was in obedience to the command, "go ye into all the world." The Union says, if one society can organize a second, the second a third, and the third a fourth, the work will go on. This is the object of the Union. It is now about twelve years since it commenced its labours. From reports submitted from time to time, it has shown its efficiency in strengthening existing Schools, and sending forth libraries. Many can teach well in the Sabbath School, who may not, in a more public and open manner, be able to speak for Christ. "In the morning," he concluded, "sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand." The Almighty will keep and bless those who engage in his service, and thus endeavour to extend his cause; and they shall find that the promise is true that their "labour is not vain in the Lord."

3. That we rejoice to learn, that no less than four District Unions, auxiliary to the Canada Sunday School Union, have been formed during the past year, through the labours of the Agent; that we hail this as happy evidence of the increasing prosperity of this great cause, and of increasing interest felt in it by the churches; and call upon Christians to sustain this Society with the means of cultivating this extended field of labor.

The Rev. Mr. Wilkes moved the third resolution. He said the object of the agency was to improve existing Schools, and augment their number. Few things are more important than this. In every section of the country there was need of improvement. In London, lately, the teachers had been endeavouring to fit themselves better for their duties, by means of lectures and other modes of instruction. At one of their meetings, a gentleman said that he lately heard of a teacher in one of the country districts of England, whose class put questions to him which he was unable to answer. They were a little band of infidels, he said, and he must put them out of the School. Teachers of this kind we do not wish. We require those who are willing to keep in advance of the class, and be really able to teach the young. The object of this Union is to form Sabbath Schools. This is of the deepest importance to Canada. Its object is also to endeavour to elevate the style of teaching. For carrying out these objects, however, money is required. The Agent must be paid; he cannot go on his own charges. The speaker concluded with an earnest appeal for the support of the Union.

The Rev. Mr. Marling, in seconding the third resolution, would add his testimony to the usefulness of the Agent. This is not the time to expect the formation of many societies. In all parts of the world we find destruction rather than construction. The human race is like a boy just escaped from School; they wish for freedom; they enquire about everything. The idea of this Union is great and noble. It is our duty to endeavour to bring as many to assist in it as possible. All the visible fruit of the past year, as shown by the report, is the formation of five District Unions. But he was well aware that good otherwise has been done. No Union was formed in Kingston, still good had been done there. In Toronto he believed some fault had been found with the name. They doubted the propriety of this Union taking the name "Canada Sunday School Union;" they wished to have an independent Union. There was real good, however, done in Toronto. Their minds had been called to the importance of Sabbath School teaching. A series of lectures on the subject was advertised; this was partly the result of your agent's labours. He also would remind them that money was required to send Agents, and to send books to our back settlements, in some of which the only teaching is reading the Bible from Matthew to Revelation. This, of itself, by the blessing of God, can make wise unto salvation; but still he knew that they would all admit the desirableness of sending libraries to such places.

4. That we now tender our thanks to the Religious Tract Society and Sunday School Union of London, also, to the American Sunday School Union of New York, for the efficient aid afforded this Society; and that we now respectfully solicit a continuance of their countenance and support.

The Rev. Mr. McLoud moved the fourth resolution. He alluded to California as rich in gold, and many were going to labour for it, but he reminded his audience that there lay around them a material more valuable, and which would better repay their work. There were immortal minds, and he would urge on them the duty of carrying out the objects of this Union, and increasing the number and efficiency of Sabbath Schools.

The appointment of office-bearers for the ensuing year was moved by John Redpath, Esq., seconded by H. Vennor, Esq.; and after the doxology and blessing, the meeting closed.

The amount of the collection was £12.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTREAL BIBLE SOCIETY.

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1849.

Dr. Holmes in the chair. After praise and prayer, the chairman, with a few prefatory remarks, called on the Rev. Mr. Wilkes, Corresponding Secretary, to read the Report; from which we learned that, notwithstanding the peculiar depression under which every enterprise suffered during the past year, yet, this Society had exceeded in its receipts and issues any previous year, except 1847, in which they were unusually large.

Having read the Report, the Rev. gentleman tendered his resignation of the office of Corresponding Secretary, which he had held for twelve years, adding that he felt no diminution of interest in a work which was the best and greatest which the mind and heart of man could be engaged in. He then introduced the Rev. Mr. Taylor, who had been chosen as his successor.

Before giving a sketch of the addresses delivered on this occasion, we may mention our gratification to notice four of our legislators on the platform,—two from the Upper and two from the Lower House, the two latter being members of the Ministry. The gentlemen in question were the Hon. Peter McGill, Hon. James Ferrier, Hon. Malcolm Cameron, and Hon. J. H. Price. It is a good omen for our country when those who make the laws are induced, from interest in the circulation of the word of God, to leave secular business, however important, to attend a meeting to do honour to the word of God. Our laws may thus be expected to be based on the unalterable rule of right.

The first resolution was moved by the Rev. Dr. Cramp, who said that an esteemed minister had expressed regret that no place had been left for a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance. Concurring in his brother's love for that alliance, he rejoiced that though there was no meeting in name, yet there was in reality. This was a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance; and he had much satisfaction in feeling that the Alliance existed in substance and spirit since the formation of the Bible Society. He deemed it a high duty on all these anniversary occasions to express gratitude to God for the Bible. Is it not a holy and blessed book, guiding the mind of man to God, directing the enquirer in difficulty, a solace to the mourner and the dying. We do well to make known its truths to all. Let us be thankful also for the Bible Society. It approves itself to every Christian heart, so entirely Protestant and yet Catholic. We must approve of it from its adaptation, and harmony with, God's plan of bringing man to himself. It disseminates the truth of God to man, without mixture of error, and God uses it to produce "that holiness without which no man shall see him." He observed that the report called him back to early years—to the days of the first President and Secretary, who have since retired to their heavenly rest, when the entire issues of the Society for many years, were not more than is now issued in one year. We have here proof how God calls forth the zeal of his people—as one withdraws another is ready to enter on the labour. He has ceased to work miracles, yet suitable men are prepared to translate, being directed by him in the work, thus showing his presence with the Society. The report, he said, alluded to openings for the circulation of the Bible. It had stood the denunciations of the Vatican; and the people of

Italy were now calling for the Bible. In Germany, atheism was denying its claims, but still the demand continued for the Word of God. We are not afraid. These apostles of infidelity may oppose, yet God is with us—His word shall never pass away. The rev. gentleman here gave an interesting sketch of the demand on the continent of Europe for the Bible. He said, in these circumstances, it is matter for thankfulness that the Bible Society exists. We have not now our plans to make. We are now in full organization, quite ready for action. Let us ask ourselves in what we design or do, how we shall feel on a retrospect of it. Many things we may question, but in regard to the circulation of the Bible, if we do it in the proper spirit, we shall look back on it with pleasure even in eternity.

Rev. Mr. Leishman seconded the resolution. He said: The place in which this meeting was held called for reflection. Time was when no such enterprise could have been permitted here. That time is past. Yet, memorials of it remain. Our fellow countrymen refuse to read the Bible. He noticed the fact that an effort is being made for France alone; and said:—If this succeed, the influence will extend, and there may be reaction on the French Canadians. It is well that the report be published, that others hearing what has been done may go and do likewise; that others also may exert themselves to make known the things pertaining to salvation.

The chairman here noticed the fact of the former President of the Society, the Hon. Peter McGill, being on the platform, and in name of the Committee, expressed his pleasure that there was no diminution of his interest in the Society, to which Mr. McGill briefly responded.

He said he felt no diminution of interest in the Society. He was a humble believer in the truths of the Bible, and he rejoiced to see a Society so important advancing. There was a wide field for effort. It was certainly mysterious that so much of the world was still in darkness. But one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and we may rest assured that his word shall be fulfilled, and that the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the channel of the sea. The work is pre-eminently good, and all should be ready to contribute to it. He would be always ready, according to his ability.

2. That this Meeting, recognizing the Word of the Living God as the chief means of preserving the true knowledge of the Divine character and will amongst men—the only rule of faith and practice—greatly rejoices in its annually extending circulation in every part of the world.

The Rev. Mr. Taylor moved a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Wilkes for his services as Secretary, which was responded to by the rising of the congregation, and Mr. Wilkes having acknowledged the same, the Hon. Malcolm Cameron moved the second resolution. He had much pleasure in bearing testimony to the Bible Society. He deemed it a high privilege to withdraw for an hour or two from the turmoil of political matters to join the friends around him, on a platform, where there was nothing to disturb the mind. He concurred with a previous speaker in thanks for the book of truth from which came all the social and political blessings we enjoy. He said the resolution spoke of the Bible as the rule of faith and practice. He had been early taught that the Scriptures were the only rule; there is no other way in which we can know God. In looking over the history of Christendom, we are led to the conclusion that whenever additions are made to the knowledge here communicated; whenever tradition has been brought in, civil and religious blessings have been injured, and sometimes lost. To the Bible we owe these blessings; it is the very foundation of civil and religious liberty. He would allude for a moment to its effect on legislation. It was the habit of some to condemn the old Testament dispensation. Yet, four thousand years have passed over our world, and in the Pentateuch we find all that is wise and merciful in legislation. We find in it only seventeen crimes for which the punishment of death is awarded, while in England, until very lately, there were one hundred and forty. When we look at the moral law where our duty to God and man is so clearly and briefly laid down, we find there the nucleus of all wise legislation. In the old Testament we have not merely the weightier matters of the law, but much that is beautiful in sentiment. It forbids the vexing the widow, the stranger, or the fatherless. The Israelites were not to return to glean their fields, or their vineyards, but leave what remained for the poor. The benevolence of the Bible is seen, in its command, not to take of the poor the upper and nether mill-stone as a pledge—to pay the labourer daily, and this might be well imitated now—a day, "to pay the labourer his hire before the sun go down." Its principles carried out would make the earth as the garden of the Lord, there would be the chosen abode of true freedom. Verily, "where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." When we look over the world's history and see the dreary catalogue of its murders and crimes, we find that human life is never estimated at its true value, except where the Bible is free. The genius of liberty may hover for a while, like the dove from the ark, over other lands, but finding no rest for her foot, she at once flies away to find a land from which the Bible is not excluded. Urge, then, as you value life, liberty, and property; urge the circulation of the Bible, and see that you take a personal interest in its truths.

"He is the freeman whom the truth makes free,
And all are slaves beside."

In this better and higher sense it is the only support and stay which the soul of man can have, when called to pass from this state of being into another.

Rev. Mr. DeWolfe, in seconding the resolution, said it did him good to mingle with the leading minds of the day, and hear that theology in which they were at one, spoken in "thoughts that breathe and words that burn." On this platform he was rejoiced to see Doctors of Divinity, Professors, Ministers of all denominations, and Honorable Councillors not a few, all met to honor the Bible. The Rev. Gentleman, in an eloquent address, showed the necessity of churches and ministers abiding by the only rule of faith, and that in proportion as they left it, darkness came upon them. So it was manifested in the Eastern and Western Churches of Europe, no matter what beautiful ceremonies and music they had, they were compelled to turn to the Protestant churches and say, "give us of your oil for our lamps are gone out." Darkness must ever rest where the Bible is excluded. The speaker made some interesting and eloquent allusions to the place which the Bible seems about to take in France and other nations of Europe, and the effect which it is admitted to have in the formation of national character, particularly, he said, that of Scotchmen, whose custom of "cramming" their houses, schools, and places of worship with the Bible, he highly lauded.

3. That as the recent astonishing events on the Continent of Europe exhibit the adorable and inscrutable wisdom of God, in removing those obstructions which for ages have impeded the circulation of His Word,—and as the Holy Scriptures bear an important relation to the temporal and eternal prosperity of mankind,—the friends of truth and righteousness are under the weightiest obligations to exert themselves to the utmost of their ability in promoting the objects of this Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Rev. A. D. Campbell, in moving the third resolution, said he rejoiced to stand once more on the platform of a Bible Society. He esteemed it a high privilege to advocate its claims. As the successor of one (Rev. M. Willoughby) who was ever interested in the Tract and Bible Societies, he could not withhold his testimony. The Rev. Gentleman alluded to the events now occurring on the continent of Europe, as all preparing the way for that kingdom which shall never be shaken. It often pained him to think that not long ago there were only 60 Romish Churches in England, and now more than 1000, and these arising mostly from defalcations from his own Church. Yet he trusted they would be brought back. Great is the truth, and it will prevail. To the eye of faith how glorious the prospect, and the fulfilment of the prophecy, Babylon the great is fallen. When we look at this, we may hope yet one day to hear Christ preached in our Montreal Cathedral—to see a minister of God stand there, and proclaim, as Paul did on Mars Hill, "I perceive in all things ye are too superstitious." How glorious to see the objects of present idolatry cast to

the moles and bats. We believe that the prospects of man rest on the Bible. Christ on the Mount said, referring to temporal matters, "after all these things do the Gentiles seek; but seek ye first the kingdom of God." There was a reference to nations as well as individuals here. As long as they acted in accordance with the law of God they prospered, and in proportion as they departed from his ways, he withdrew from them. In the history of Great Britain, when Popery had sway, there was poverty, misery, and distress; she was not in the proud position she now occupies until Rome was thrown off and the Bible circulated. Then darkness passed away, and Britain rose amongst the nations. Providence is now watching over England. There was much talk of civil and religious liberty, and there is nothing like it, but unless aided by the circulation of the Scriptures it is naught. If these things are so, then we must see the duty of circulating the Bible; and all who are here should henceforward do all in their power for the Bible Society.

The Hon. J. H. Price seconded the resolution. He agreed with his hon. friend and colleague, Mr. Cameron, that it was indeed sweet to lend a hand in this cause. The report said that not more than a million and a half copies of the Word of God were circulated by the Parent Society, during the past year. At this rate it would take 600 years to supply the world, and all this time how many immortal spirits were passing away. He noticed a singular coincidence. At the time that Buonaparte crossed the Alps, and carried war over the most of Europe, but was stopped by Russia on the one hand, and by Turkey on the other, it was prophesied that the next war would be a war of opinion. That has now come, and has taken the same course, and been stopped the same way. Providence has prepared the way for the entrance of light. Europe but lately was surrounded by ramparts, which are now broken down. The opposing power has been paralyzed by the people. Yet the hand of God was in it. The Bible is entering and will have a force which no army can withstand. Selfish men sometimes say, why not teach the people of England instead of sending the Scriptures abroad. But he had always noticed that persons who spoke thus were willing to do least for people at home themselves. The waters which fall on the face of the earth pass to the sea, and thence return to refresh the thirsty soil. So widely extended benevolence has her returns too in the civilization of other lands, which receive of her merchandise and load her ships. England possesses wealth, for she possesses the Bible. The hon. gentleman here remarked that he wished to keep within the 15 minutes allotted to speakers.

Chairman: that applies only to ministers. Well I am a minister, though not a minister of the gospel. Providence did not so order it; but though not set for the defence and confirmation of the truths of the gospel, yet I have contended for truth. I have contended for civil and religious liberty, grounded on the scriptures; for wherever they are read, there truth prevails, there God's government is admitted, there is every blessing which man can here enjoy.

The hon. gentleman having addressed the Chairman by mistake as Mr. Speaker, took occasion in apologizing to allude most happily to the force of habit, and thus closed his address:

Christian mothers, let me entreat you to take advantage of this element in the human constitution, to instil into your children the habit of venerating the Bible, studying its import and bowing in submission to its precepts. If you intend your sons for merchants, the Bible will teach them probity and diligence, if you wish them to rise as public men, the Bible will teach them forbearance, moderation, and justice. In a word, if you desire them to be useful and happy on earth, and to attain a crown of glory in heaven, you must imbue their minds with the principles and spirit of the Bible in their early years.

The Rev. Mr. McLoud said:—We had heard of the value and necessity of the Bible. We are here in peculiar circumstances, in the midst of a population of 600,000, who are told that the Bible is a bad book for them to read, and that it is only good for the priests, and not much for them either. He wished to ask why it was dangerous? why it was prohibited by the Primate? Is it opposed to civil rights? Nay, it is the very charter of freedom. Jefferson was not the first who said that all men are created free and equal. The Bible said so before him. It teaches to love thy neighbour as thyself. It declares that "God made of one blood, all men, to dwell on the face of the earth." Is it likely to deprive us of any political rights? Folly to think so. What blotted slavery from the escutcheon of England, and earned the fairest laurel in her history? The Bible. And this same Bible will remove it from this side of the Atlantic too. It circulates through every slave state. "Do that which is just and equal to your servants," is its language. Apply, then, the principle of justice and equality, and slavery comes to an end. The heaven is now working. He looked for the day when America will be delivered from the plague-spot which now rests on her. Many long for this. Jefferson did when he introduced a resolution into the legislature, designing its removal. There is nothing, then, in the Bible injurious to civil rights. Interfere, we ask the Primate if the circulation of the Bible would interfere with education? Compare Lower Canada with Scotland, England, or the New England States, and then judge. Are they afraid, then, it might injure commerce, manufactures, or agriculture? It will be found that the greatest energy in all of these pursuits is found with those who use the Bible. One only reason can we find for the prohibition in question. There is no Popedom, temporal or spiritual, sanctioned in the Bible. On the contrary, it secures civil and spiritual freedom. But the things seen are temporal. The resolution notices, also, the eternal prospects which the Scriptures hold out. If the world is to be regenerated, the Bible must be circulated. "Sanctify them through thy truth—thy word is truth." We are under a deep obligation to support this Society; and we would say to each—"How much do you love it?" Trade and commerce are certainly very much depressed, and every one must retrench; but shall retrenchment begin at the house of God? He trusted not.

Rev. Mr. Jenkins briefly seconded this resolution.

4. That the thanks of this Meeting are due to the British and Foreign Bible Society for its efficient aid to this Auxiliary, through which an extensive portion of Canada is supplied with the word of life; and that the manifest tokens of Divine approbation resting on the Parent Institution, and other kindred Societies, demand devout acknowledgment to the Author of every good and every perfect gift.

The Rev. Mr. McGill, in moving the fourth resolution, said:—His sympathy was exerted because he loved the Bible. He trusted the collection on the altar of their faith would be large. The report said that we are indebted to the Parent Society £1200. It is cause of gratitude that she gave so largely, grasping as she does in her hand the whole earth. He thought we ought to send a vote of thanks across the water. She had sent also to Upper Canada a large amount. Let us remember that it is the Word of God, and carries the truth to places that never hear the sound of the Sabbath bell. A former speaker had mentioned the excellence of the Scriptures—that they breathed a spirit of evangelical unity. He learned that even in Turkey there was a desire expressed for an Evangelical Alliance. There was there a daily expectation of something that was to bring Judaism, Mahometanism, and Christianity into one grand union. They may not know how. It was certainly not by the incorporation of Judaism with Christianity, but by the one superseding the other. This is the power that is to descend on the mosques of Damascus. The sun of righteousness will continue to shed his beams, until the whole world is enlightened. The Bible is the basis of unity. There is a unity the distinctions of sect cannot destroy. United in a common centre, the rays may diverge a little, yet they meet in Christ. We use means for destroying error and uniting Christian hearts to each other. For these reasons we may justly send a vote of thanks to the Parent Society for their zeal in supplying us with the Scriptures.

Rev. Mr. Taylor briefly seconded the resolution, adding, "See that each one of you possesses a Bible, and that you read it from Genesis to Revelation."

The meeting closed in the usual manner, and, notwithstanding the hardness of the times, the collection was larger than on any former occasion, being £30, besides a pair of earrings.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Thursday, Feb. 1, 1849.

John Redpath, Esq., occupied the chair. After devotional exercises, the Report of the Society's operations for the past year was read, and the following resolutions unanimously adopted:—

The Rev. J. Jenkins moved the adoption of the Report. He remarked that the operations of this Society are identified with the cause of truth and of God. The meetings of the different societies during the week had been very delightful and hallowed; but missionary efforts had a peculiar charm for him, not only because the early part of his ministerial life had been devoted to preaching the Gospel to the heathen, but because they were so suggestive of the great mission of Christ. The Missionary Society tended to assist all others; and more than these, it recognized and adopted God's chief method of saving sinners—the preaching of the glorious Gospel. How shall the nations believe on him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach unless they are sent? Christ established the first Missionary Society. The object of this Society is to overthrow the entire papal scheme, not by oppression and tyranny, but you seek to correct error with truth, to dispel darkness by light—the Gospel is the only antidote to the poison of Popery, the pure Gospel in all its untarnished lustre. Many have seen that light and been saved. We can make no compromise with Popery; the time has come when all the truth must be fearlessly told. We have no hesitation in saying that the whole system is blasphemous and antichristian! Mr. J. here read an extract from an "Indulgence," which he had procured in Sicily, which professed to give pardon from sin, and preservation from harm; and all for the trifling sum of fourpence. Was it surprising that crime increased in places where such indulgences were sold? If a man could obtain forgiveness of the gravest sins for fourpence, or believed that he obtained forgiveness, what restrained him from crime? The British Consul, in a town of Sicily, had told him (Mr. J.) that during his residence, which had been some years there, the murders had averaged two a week. Much had been said about the increase in Catholic places of worship; but Mr. J. regarded them as the last struggles of a dying man. Popery is to be destroyed by the coming of Christ, and already that coming is echoed in the revolutions of Europe. Especially did we see a mighty omen in the flight of the Pope from Rome. What was a system without a centre? It must soon fall to pieces. What was the Pope away from Rome? He was no longer the Roman Pontiff. It was no longer the Roman Catholic Church that he presided over, it was the Gaetan Church; and who ever heard of the universal Gaetan Church? The Rev. gentleman concluded by earnestly urging Christians to courage and perseverance, in the great work of overthrowing Romanism, till there was not one stone left upon another; but he took special pains to explain that it was the system against which our efforts should be directed, not the professors of the system. Whilst we must abhor the former with our whole heart, we should equally, earnestly, love the latter.

D Davidson, Esq., had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, and concurred in the sentiments of the previous speaker. The more we see of the French Canadian Missionary Society, the more must we be convinced of its utility. Mr. D. urged on all present the importance of prayer, for the success of the enterprise, for without the aid of the holy spirit, no real good can be effected. Success might be expected in proportion to our prayers and efforts.

Resolved—2. That devout thanks are due to Almighty God for the measure of success which has attended the efforts of this Society, and especially for the increased circulation of the Word of God during the past year among the French Canadians, as also for some indication of an abatement of their prejudice and hostility towards the colporteurs and missionaries of the Society.

The Rev. W. Taylor, in moving the second resolution, remarked on the importance of distinguishing between the system of Popery and its votaries. We hate the system, but love the men—we are friends of the Canadians; others may rail, if they chose, we will love our fellow-countrymen though they are Papists. There were some very excellent men among them, he believed, sincere Christians. Rome does not circulate her own translations of the Bible, but, on the contrary, dissuades from perusing it at all, as a dangerous book. Abhorred be the thought, that the writings of St. Paul, or the teaching of our Lord, tend to endanger the soul of man or sink him in perdition! This plan of the Romish Church was opposed to the practice of all the examples recorded in Scripture. Protestantism was said to be making but little progress. The temple at Jerusalem was 46 years in building, but he (Mr. T.) ventured to prophecy that, in less than twenty years, truth would triumph over Papal error.

The Rev. Mr. Tanner seconded the resolution. He observed that the word of God has been placed in many Catholic families in Lower Canada. We all know the effect which a single Bible found in the cell of Luther was the means of producing—and similar results might be looked for in Canada. Mr. T. related two or three circumstances with which he was personally acquainted, tending to show that opposition was dying away, and some good being done. One little girl, who had been for a time a pupil in one of the mission schools, utterly refused to partake of her first communion in the Church of Rome, and had been reading the Scriptures in families to which the colporteurs could not gain access. He concluded by asking for the prayers and sympathies of Christians. He then said a few words in French. He and his brethren had left their native country expressly to preach the word of God to the Canadians. Rome does not follow the Bible. If we would have the religion of Jesus Christ, we must leave the traditions of men and follow the word of God. He wished the French Canadians to read the Bible and judge for themselves. If they will not take our Bibles, let them get Bibles from the priests.

The Rev. Mr. Wilkes supported the resolution, by remarking that it takes time to accomplish an important object. The causes which produced the late revolutions in Europe are not visible. It was not mere accidents, such as the firing of a pistol, or the exclamation "It is too late," which overthrew the government of Louis Philippe. The finger of God was concerned in all these movements. So the laborers have been engaged in this country, in circulating and reading the Scriptures, and something may occur soon, to develop the effects which are now being silently produced. "He is, indeed, the freeman whom the truth makes free." Much boast is made of the Anglo-Saxon race. Mr. W. was an Anglo-Saxon, and, perhaps, a little proud of being so. But it is the Bible which has made the Anglo-Saxon superior to other races; and he saw no reason why the same means should not elevate the French to the same position. He was willing they should rise above us, if their elevation was upon Christian principle.

Resolved—3. That the emancipation of the minds of the French Canadians from spiritual thralldom, is—(even taking the lowest ground)—an essential condition to their own prosperity, and consequently the prosperity of the Province, and that the present time appears, on several accounts, to be propitious for efforts to effect this emancipation.

The third resolution was moved by the Rev. Mr. Girdwood. It was, indeed, a noble text, and he regretted that the lateness of the hour would prevent him from saying much he would like to say. His resolution related to temporal blessings, as the result of missionary operations. It is pleasing to view the secondary benefits of Christianity. Religion secures to its possessor both worlds. Christianity ennobles man, Popery degrades him. He was the friend of the Roman Catholic, and he would ask him, in all affection, if he ever felt himself dignified by confessing to a priest? It was quite proper to confess to a fellow creature, when an injury had been done him—there was real dignity in coming to God, confessing sin to him, and accepting salvation from him; but, to confess in the ear of a priest, had something in it that must be felt degrading by every man.

Rev. Mr. McLoud, in seconding the resolution, remarked that he was identified with the French Canadian Missionary Society, and he would answer the question, by what right Protestants sent colporteurs through the country. They were actuated by love. They claimed no privilege they would not allow to Roman Catholics. He called upon them, if they believed Protestants were in error, were in danger

of being lost, to come and convince them of their error and save them, as they believed, from perdition. He would give them free liberty to send their porters into his congregation to shew them that they should not read the Bible, and persuade them to prey souls out of purgatory; and he was sure he spoke the sentiments of his brother ministers on the platform, ("Yes, yes, yes!" from the ministers.) But Roman Catholicism has failed to elevate the people—failed in education, failed in agriculture and in manufactures. Quebec was settled without the Bible, long before Massachusetts was settled with it, and how great is the difference in the degree of prosperity attained by the two countries? It is because we have seen the happy effects of Protestantism in Scotland, England, and the United States, that we would endeavour to raise Canada to the same happy condition. He had recently journeyed on the Railway to St. Hyacinthe, and when he looked at the French Canadian country, through which he was passing, that Railway appeared to him like a streak of the nineteenth century passing through the sixteenth. Let us endeavour to bring the Canadians forward in other respects to the nineteenth century.

Resolved—4. That, notwithstanding many and great difficulties in the way of circulating the pure Word of God among the French Canadians, this meeting is of opinion that persevering efforts should be directed towards the attainment of that incalculably important object.

The fourth resolution was moved by the Rev. A. D. Campbell. He said, we are often told that Protestants are divided into many different sects, and did not work harmoniously together. But any one who was present could not entertain that opinion, when he saw upon that platform Christians of so many denominations, all helping in the same good work. They were in reality one in all the essentials of Christianity. He gave some interesting information respecting efforts which were being successfully made in Ireland, and hoped they, as well as those engaged in that Society, would, ere long, see the good effects of their labors.

Rev. Mr. Black seconded the resolution. He observed, those who were not in immediate contact with Catholics did not fully understand the nature of the difficulties the missionaries had to contend with. Amongst these were ignorance and prejudice. Each one has a work to perform, and this work cannot be commuted, each must do his own share. All should pray for, and sympathise with the missionary and colporteur.

The meeting was closed in the usual manner. The Collection amounted to £23.

THE WITNESS.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 5, 1849.

THE MONTREAL RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.

We believe we only express the feeling of every one who has attended the Anniversary meetings, during the past week, in Montreal, of the four first of which, in this number, we present an account, that they become, year after year, more interesting. This is well. We trust these meetings are an index of the feeling of the community. It would be sad, indeed, were we, with so much moral territory yet to be occupied, to have our interest in them flagging, or our zeal decaying. Tracts and Bibles must continue to be circulated; Sabbath Schools must be established; our beloved Province must be cultivated until her moral wastes become, in the quoted words of one of the speakers, "as the garden of the Lord." This is, certainly, not too much to expect; there is no fanaticism in such a belief. We have, at present, the brightest hopes from the nature of the locality which is directly our missionary field. The desolations of many generations are hard to be broken in upon and remedied; but in the west, particularly, we have, in reality, only to keep pace with the settlements, and to see that wherever a town or village rises, it be supplied with the Bible, its preachers and teachers. In Eastern Canada the "desolation" does extend further back, but even here there is an appearance of the dawn. The events now occurring in Europe—its being open for the Scriptures and preachers in a way that it never was before, and the overturning of the Papal throne, are most auspicious, and must have the effect anticipated by some of the speakers at the meetings, of shaking the faith of many. The former French revolution, doubtless, received its first impetus from this side of the Atlantic. We may hope that of last year may have its effect in Canada—certainly not in imitation of barricades, sieges and executions, but as a war of opinion, overturning the kingdom of Satan in all its forms, that He "whose right it is may come and take unto himself his great power and reign." We may not now see all that is going on beneath the avalanche.

"For e'er it fall, that thundering ball
Must pause for His command."

But when once the hour is come, it will require nothing more than the whisper to bring the whole system toppling to the ground. The prophetic words which the poet puts into the lips of the Druid, are applicable—

"Rome shall perish. Write that word
In the blood that she has spilt—
Perish, hopeless and abhorred,
Deep in ruin as in guilt."

We may look on it as a good omen, though, of course, quite unintentional on the part of those who had the management of these meetings, that the Bible Society filled the centre evening of the five thus occupied. We verily believe that all of them rest on, and are entirely in, accordance with its rules. May it ever stand as the key-stone of our Societies, and they shall prosper.

These Anniversary meetings have been peculiarly important and delightful this year, and we are sorry that our report of them will convey but a very feeble and inadequate idea of the eloquence and fervor by which they were characterised.

The Tract Society, perhaps, on account of coming first on the list—certainly not on account of the inferior interest of the cause, was not so numerously attended as the others, nor were the addresses so animated. The Sunday School Union manifested considerable improvement, but it was not until the meeting of the Bible Society, on Wednesday evening, that the fire of Christian zeal and love attained what our neighbours might call "full blast." On that great occasion, the presence of several of the "honourable" of the earth, together with ministers and influential gentlemen of all denominations, to do honor to the Word of God—that Magna Charta of all human liberty and happiness, sealed, not with the signet of an earthly king, but with the blood of the King of kings—all combined to raise emotions of joy and thankfulness in the Christian mind, and in no feeble manner shadowed forth the time when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

The meeting of the French Canadian Missionary Society was still more crowded than the previous one, and we have understood, in the estimation of those who were not actively engaged in either, more interesting. On this occasion there was a manly and dignified course pursued towards our Roman Catholic neighbours, some of whom were present. The speakers told them faithfully that their system was idolatrous, blasphemous, and degrading, besides being injurious to all their best interests as individuals or a nation; but they took care to prove their allegations by unquestionable authorities and irrefragable arguments, and also to convey most distinctly the conviction that all that they said was dictated by love and sympathy for those who were suffering under the system. That, in a word, while they purposed, by the blessing of God, to overthrow the system, they in like manner purposed to elevate those who at present professed allegiance to it. As instruments they sought to destroy the one and save the other.

The fertility, also, of the argument, that we had nothing to do with the

Roman Catholics was clearly shown, and it was proved that we had to do with them—whether we would or not—politically, socially, and morally; and that besides our duty as Christians to seek the salvation of souls; it was our duty as citizens to seek their enlightenment. But it was distinctly added, that no unfair advantage was desired of them; that they were equally free to send their missionaries and publications among Protestants, and, in fact, they were, in consistency, bound to do so if they really believed that there was no salvation out of the Church of Rome.

The Anniversary of the Montreal Temperance Society, on Friday night, closed the series of meetings, and was even a larger meeting than the previous. The speakers were as eloquent, and the enthusiasm of the audience not less apparent. At this meeting, the Society was congratulated by the speakers on the recovery of its place in the Anniversary week, which was shown to be a legitimate one from the intimate connection between Temperance and every good cause on the one hand, and between intemperance and all that is evil on the other. We have not room for even a brief report of this meeting, until our next, but may add that the collection amounted to £8.

The meetings were all held in Zion Church.

REVIEW OF NEWS.

For news by steamer, see last page.

The accounts from California now come thick and fast, each more inflated with golden provinces than the former, but the condition of the poor gold diggers, whether at the mines or on the road, is described as most wretched. The whole west Coast of South America is described as being emptied of its enterprising population, who are pouring down upon California, as fast as they can find means of transportation.

The probability that the United States Senate will pass the Canada Reciprocity Bill, appears to be increasing. Senator Dix made what is described as a triumphant speech in its favour on the 24th ult. It is to include the right to navigate the St. Lawrence. On Friday last, the principle of the reciprocity measure was affirmed in the House of Assembly here.

For Commercial Summary see last page.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, SOIREES, &c., FOR THIS WEEK.

Tuesday Evening.—In Rasco's Hotel, St. Paul Street. Fourth Annual Festival of the Independent Order of Rechabites. Addresses by Clergymen and others. Vocal and instrumental music. Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock. Admission by tickets.

Same Evening.—Odd Fellows' Hall. Mechanics' Institute. Lecture by Rev. J. Cordner, "Past Forms of Slavery." Eight o'clock.

Thursday.—At noon, and at seven in the evening. At the Repository of the School of Industry, 19, St. Antoine Street. Sale of ladies' work, consisting of children's embroidered dresses, &c. Proceeds to be given to charitable purposes.

Thursday Evening.—In St. Helen Chapel. Annual meeting of the Canada Baptist Missionary Society. Report read, and addresses by various ministers. Half-past Six o'clock.

Same Evening.—Odd Fellows' Hall. Mercantile Library Association. Lecture by C. Dunkin, Esq., on the *morale* of Penal Legislation. Eight o'clock.

Saturday Evening.—First Public Meeting called by the Committee of the Montreal Magdalen Asylum, at Odd Fellows' Hall. Addresses by Ministers and others on Moral Reform. Chair to be taken at 7 o'clock by the Rev. Mr. Irwin of St. Thomas Church.

This Meeting is called for Saturday Evening, in order that members of Parliament so disposed may have an opportunity of attending.

Extra Copies of this day's *Witness* for transmission to England or to the country, containing the accounts of the Anniversary Meetings of last week, may be had on application at the Office not later than to-morrow.

We have been obliged to exclude some of our usual departments to make room for Reports of the Anniversary Meetings. The Contemporary Press department will be found in the sixth, instead of the second page, as usual. We hope the importance of the occasion, will prove a sufficient apology for this derangement of our usual order.

The Treasurer of the Magdalen Asylum acknowledges the receipt of Ten Dollars from "A Friend," anonymously through the post-office. Also Ten Dollars from "A Friend," per Rev. H. Wilkes.

(For the *Witness*.)

A considerable time ago, it was announced, in at least one religious newspaper, that Dr. Edgar's work entitled, "Variations of Popery," was about to be published in numbers, without delay, by the Rev. Mr. Sperry of New York, with great improvements communicated by the author. The publication has been so long delayed, and so little has for some time been said on the subject, that an apprehension might naturally arise that the project had been given up. It appears, however, by a late number of the *N. Y. Evangelist*, that the work has been at last completed. It is a volume of more than 600 pages, and is furnished in paper for one dollar. The editor engaged to send it to subscribers in numbers for this price, including postage; so that probably it may now be brought into Canada on such terms as would enable the importer to sell it at little or no advance of price. It was written as a counterpart to the celebrated Bossuet's "Variations of Protestantism," and is regarded as a very able and satisfactory performance. The writer of this notice can say nothing of the worth of the book from any knowledge of his own, having never had the pleasure, though he has often felt the desire, of meeting with it; but it is spoken of in the highest terms of approbation by those who are most competent to judge. It is certainly desirable that such a work should be extensively circulated among ministers and people in this Province. Will none of your booksellers who wish to aid the cause of truth and righteousness, enable us to help ourselves to copies at a reasonable rate?

St. Andrew's C. E., Jan. 22.

A. H.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT REGARDING THE STATE OF RELIGION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SYNOD OF CANADA.

The document, from which the following extracts are made, was only recently sent to us. We have extracted what we think of interest to the religious public generally.

In June 1845, the Synod, when met at Cobourg, did, after much deliberation and prayer, unanimously come to the following resolution: That a special visitation of the Province shall be made, in order to ascertain the state of religion within the bounds, and to promote its revival.

A plan of visitation with this view having been organised by the Synod, and visitors appointed, the duty of drawing up the details, and of condensing the results into a general report, was intrusted to a special committee of the members.

1. *Public Worship and the Means of Grace*.—In many instances where a settled ministry is enjoyed, the minister is obliged to take charge of two or more congregations, at lesser or greater distances. In some cases there may be four such charges under one past—two of these being supplied every alternate Sabbath. Moreover, there are multitudes of settlements introduced to the notice of the visitors, in a state of entire destitution even of this partial supply. A sermon now and then, and that on a week day, is all that they receive; and such new settlements as those of Owens' Sound, for instance, have hitherto received ministerial visits, which have resembled those of angels in this, at least, that they were "few and far between." Your visitors strongly recommend a scheme of regular missionary visitation; but this, if not succeeded by the setting up here and there of a fixed ministry, around which evangelistic labourers might successfully rally, and which would prove in each case the nucleus or centre of permanent organization—would be comparatively inefficient.

Your Committee observe several things, in regard to public worship, which the Synod may think it proper to correct. The disuse of Bibles and Psalm books in the place of worship is one of these, and this applies, in many cases to family worship, where it is kept up more or less regularly—in many instances there being no large family Bible produced at worship; or if the

remnants of better times and of holier habits are still to be seen, they are remnants only. The value of the Upper Canada Bible and Tract and Book Society cannot be too highly estimated as channels for circulating the Scriptures, and of approved means of religious instruction, at very moderate prices. The neglect of the culture of church music is another thing that is noticed in these reports, and, in some instances, the seeming reluctance of the congregation to join in this delightful part of the worship of God. In some places—Perth, Dalhousie, Carleton-place, for instance—the improvement in singing is specially noticed; and this is traced partly to skilful training, but chiefly to the appearance of an awakened spirit of late years on the subject of religion.

The custom, in some places, of the people going out and in, during the season of public worship, is a practice very unseemly, and yet it is one which, by a very little attention on the part of officebearers, might be easily corrected. Your Committee are anxious that every part of public worship should be conducted with great solemnity and calmness; and hence, they notice with great disapprobation all unseemly hurry in hastening from the House of God—the want of reverent attention during the pronouncing of the blessing—and all movements of any kind during public prayer, or the dispensation of ordinances.

Next to the preaching of the word, your Committee are of opinion that Bible classes—for young men and young women—Sabbath Schools, and Prayer meetings, in districts, or other ways, are among the likeliest means, by the blessed influence of the Spirit, of awakening a concern about sacred things—cherishing and fostering more spiritual views of truth, and advancing the work of God in the land. Adult classes, for persons of both sexes, have in several instances, been eminently blessed, and the Committee would earnestly recommend them to the serious attention of all ministers and officebearers. Connected with Sabbath Schools and Bible classes, there are, in several congregations, libraries of religious books, and in some cases, a congregational library also. These will become the proper object of attention to the pastor; but, in all cases where general or miscellaneous libraries are formed, or are forming, the Synod would do well to recommend to all pastors and missionaries the important duty of watching over these, to prevent the introduction of all books of a pernicious tendency. The poison of a light and irreligious literature is pervading the land, and popery and impurity are forming their alliances. We desiderate a well-informed and vigorous ministry, and depositories of good books and tracts, will form to pious pastors valuable helps.

The Committee close this part of the report with one or two additional recommendations. The one is, that in all congregations, particularly in cities and large towns, a week-day service—either in the way of a prayer-meeting, meeting for missionary intelligence, or for expounding the shorter catechism, or for ordinary lecture—should be held. Such regular salutary interruptions to the constant pressure of the world, upon the hearts of men, have good effect, and the Committee are of opinion that such free-will offerings of a portion of our time to God, have been, on many occasions, honoured by him, and blest to the conversion of men. In some places, particularly in the Gaelic congregations, it has been the practice to hold district prayer meetings of the members, specially for prayer on behalf of the minister, and for the success of the gospel in their own congregations. Of this, too much approval cannot be expressed. It cherishes the spirit of prayer, and it provides the means of making up, in some measure, for those spiritual deficiencies which the want of a settled ministry must necessarily occasion. Another remark is, that the good old scriptural practice of collecting for religious purposes, at all meetings for public worship, might with advantage be revived.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, 29th Jan. 1849.

The house met at 3 o'clock P. M. A Message was received from the Legislative Assembly. Petitions were presented by various hon. members.

The Hon. A. B. Taché then moved to the effect that a "Bill to amend and extend the provisions of an Act for facilitating and partitioning in certain cases of certain lands, tenements, &c., in Lower Canada," be passed this day; for which purpose the 46th Rule of the House, providing that "no Bill be read twice the same day," be withdrawn in this especial case.

Hon. J. B. Taché moved that the 46th rule be suspended, and that the bill should be considered in a committee of the whole House.—Carried.

The bill was then read a third time and the House went into committee to consider the several clauses thereof, and reported that there was no amendment proposed, it was therefore passed.

Hon. Jos. Bourrett then moved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to beg that he be pleased to lay before the House a copy of a report on the State of the Registry Office for the city of Montreal.

The Hon. Speaker moved the first order of the day, viz:—An Act to incorporate Joint Stock Companies for manufacturing, mining, mechanical and chemical purposes, which, after some discussion, was referred to a committee of five members.

The Report of the Select Committee on Privileges was then read, mentioning the death of one of the hon. members, and the absence of George Pemberton for two Sessions without leave.—Report adopted.

The House then adjourned till 3 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, 30th January, 1849.

The House met at three o'clock, P. M.

Various petitions were presented by hon. members.

The arrival of His Excellency the Governor General was then announced, who entered, accompanied by his suite, and took his seat on the throne.

The Hon. Speaker, having vacated his chair, requested the Messenger to proceed to the House of Assembly, and acquaint the Members of that House with the presence of His Excellency. After the lapse of a few minutes, several Members of the Assembly appeared, when the Bill "relative to the partitioning of certain lands in Lower Canada," &c., passed, when His Excellency was graciously pleased to give his assent to the same.

His Excellency then descended from the throne, and retired with his suite.

The Hon. Speaker having resumed the chair,

The Hon. Mr. Leslie proposed that a Bill, for the pardoning of all political offences arising out of the proceedings of 1837-8, be read a first time.

At this stage of the proceedings, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod announced a message from the Legislative Assembly. The members bearing the message then appeared at the bar.

The Hon. Speaker then moved that the message be received, which was to the effect that this house having adopted an humble Address to her Majesty the Queen, praying that she would be pleased to repeal the laws relative to the Navigation of the St. Lawrence, requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council therein.

The bearers of the message were then informed by the Speaker that an answer would be sent by the Messenger of the House. The members then retired.

The Bill concerning the political offenders of 1837-8 was then read, for a first time.

Hon. J. Morris said that the Select Committee appointed to examine the Rules and Standing Orders of this House were prepared with their Report, and the only amendment they proposed was, that the 77th Standing Order, in regard to the use of the French language, be rescinded as superfluous Report adopted.

It was then moved—That the Address to her Majesty, in reference to the Navigation Laws, be taken into consideration; and it was then resolved that the blank be filled in with the name of the Legislative Council; that the Hon. Speaker sign the Address in behalf of this House, and a message be sent to the House of Assembly to acquaint them with the acquiescence of the Legislative Council in the Address.

The House then adjourned during pleasure.

The House resumed, when a deputation, consisting of the Hon. Messrs. LaFontaine, Hincks, &c., from the Legislative Assembly, appeared at the Bar, stating the concurrence of that House in the Amnesty Bill and the Address on the Navigation Laws.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, the joint Address of both Houses was adopted; and the Hon. Mr. Leslie stated that His Excellency would receive the Address to-morrow (this day) at one o'clock. It was agreed that such members of the House as were members of the Executive Council should wait upon his Excellency with the Address, and that the Legislative Assembly be notified of the same. A messenger was despatched to the Legislative Assembly to acquaint them, on whose return the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 31, 1849.

The House met at three o'clock.

The hon. Speaker announced that a new member was in attendance at the bar of the House waiting to be introduced, when the hon. Messrs. Turgeon, and Morris introduced Mr. R. Jones. The hon. Speaker having read the summons calling Mr. Jones to the council, that gentleman took the oath and his seat.

A number of petitions were then presented, amongst which was one presented by hon. Mr. McGill from the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, Rev. Mr. McGill, and other persons in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, who are in connection with the Church of Scotland, praying for an act of incorporation.

Returns from the agricultural Societies of Montreal and Two Mountains, were also presented.

The hon. Mr. Leslie stated that His Excellency had had the joint address of both Houses of the Legislature submitted to him, and that he had stated that he would have much pleasure in getting the same laid before Her Majesty. The hon. member also said that His Excellency would attend to-morrow at half past three o'clock, for the purpose of giving his sanction to the Amnesty Bill.

Hon. James Ferrier laid before the House a statement relating to the affairs of the Lachine Railway. He said that from the statements submitted, it would be seen that the position of that railway was not in that critical state which was generally supposed. During the last season, although one of great depression, it had paid 24 per cent. This having been done in its first year augured well for its future success and would tend to remove the impression that the undertaking had proved a failure.

The hon. Mr. Morris, on behalf of the committee to whom was referred the bill to incorporate manufacturing, mechanical, and mining joint stock companies, reported the Bill without any amendment, and moved that the House go into a Committee of the whole on the report and the bill to-morrow. Agreed to.

The hon. Mr. Bourret laid before the House a report respecting the Registry Office of Montreal, and moved that two hundred and forty copies in French and English be printed for the use of members.

Some discussion took place on the subject of the expense incurred every year by printing, the hon. Mr. McGill urging the necessity of economy, the result of which was, that the present report in regard to the Registry office was one of great importance and ought to be printed, but in future it was suggested that the hon. Speaker should communicate with the Speaker of the Lower House, and that all such matters as required printing, and which were likely to be printed by both Houses, should be arranged so as to save the expense of the composition, by the House in which the subject emanated, getting as many copies printed as would serve the members of both Houses of the Legislature.

The House then adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, January 29, 1849.

The House met at three o'clock. Mr. Notman presented a number of petitions in favour of the erection of the new District of Bruce, in the Gore District; one of these petitions was signed by 3,700 persons. Mr. Wetenhall presented a number of petitions against the proposed District of Bruce.

NAVIGATION LAWS.—Mr. Holmes presented the petition of the people of Montreal in favor of a repeal of the Navigation Laws.

Mr. Holmes also presented a petition from the Eye and Ear Institution of Montreal, praying for aid from Parliament.

TAVERN LICENCES.—Mr. Price presented a petition from the Magistrates of the Home District, praying for an alteration in the law for licensing taverns.

Mr. Drummond presented the petition of the Directors and Lady Managers of the University Lying-In Hospital of Montreal, praying for aid.

Hon. Mr. Price brought down a message from the Governor General, containing the report of the Provincial Geologist on the North Shore of Lake Huron. Ordered to be printed for the use of members.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.—Mr. Scott (Bytown) gave notice that he would to-morrow move for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the present state of the Lumber Trade of this Province.

Several messages from the Governor General, in reply to addresses from the House were brought up, amongst these were papers relative to the Usury Laws; the presentment of the Grand Jury of the Home District, on the subject of the refusal of George Brown to give evidence; a tabular return relative to the population and representation of the Province; the amount of harbour dues collected at the port of Toronto in 1848, &c., &c.

Mr. McFarland moved to refer the entries on the Journals respecting the removal of the District Town of Niagara, to a Select Committee. After some debate the motion was carried on a division of 31 to 27.

Mr. Christie moved for all correspondence relative to the translation of Mr. Justice Bedard.

Mr. Attorney General Lafontaine had great pleasure in informing the House, that all the correspondence should be laid before it—(hear, hear.)

Mr. Morrison brought in a Bill authorizing limited partnerships. Read a first time.

Mr. Hincks brought in a Bill to amend the Assessment Laws of Upper Canada. Read a first time; to be read a second time on the 13th February.

INQUIRY OF MINISTERS.—Dr. Davignon inquired of Ministers whether it was intended to propose any measure, with respect to Seigniorial Rights, and if so, what is its nature.

Mr. Lafontaine replied that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill, but that they would call the attention of the House to the subject in a Committee of the whole.

Mr. Laurin moved for leave to bring in a Bill to repeal the Judge's Independence Act. The object of the measure was to make the Judges answerable to some tribunal for their conduct.

Mr. Lafontaine opposed the introduction of the bill.

Dr. Latierre was in favour of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Baldwin thought the bill equally important to Upper Canada, as to Lower Canada. He trusted hon. Member would oppose its introduction.

Hon. Mr. Sherwood concurred in the views taken by the hon. member the Attorney Gen. West. The principal of the bill sought to be introduced was one which ought to be opposed at once. Were such a bill passed, much evil would arise, as an instance of which, he might refer to the late attempt to place an inferior judge over superior judges. He would oppose the motion.

Mr. Christie would also oppose the motion.

Col. Prince, in opposition to the bill said that it was one of the first acts of Geo. III. (as we understood) to grant his consent to the passing of a bill for the independence of judges. He opposed the present measure.

Mr. Chauveau spoke in favour of the bill.

Col. Guly was opposed to it.

After some other remarks from Hon. Members, the bill was withdrawn.

SCHOOL RETURNS.—On motion of Mr. McDonald, (Glengarry) leave was granted to present to His Excellency an address for returns respecting grants to schools.

The customary routine business having been disposed of, in the usual manner, Mr. Inspector Gen. Hincks, seconded by Mr. Attorney General Baldwin, moved for the order of the day that the house resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the Resolutions of the Inspector General wherefrom to draw up an address to Her Majesty for the Repeal of the Navigation Laws so far as the St. Lawrence was concerned.

The Hon. gentleman spoke for some time in answer to objections brought the previous week. He said that the sentiments expressed by a son of Sir Robert Peel, alluded to at that time, were directly opposed to what had been given as his on that occasion. He said he thought there was no intention in England to return to a Protection Policy. He thought nothing in the address should appear which might prevent the repeal of the Navigation Laws.

Mr. Cayley moved an amendment to the effect that Canada deserved protection in preference to Free Navigation, which Mr. Sherwood seconded.

Mr. Egan made a long and able speech showing, that the timber trade, the staple of the Province, as he called it, was injured by the Navigation Laws.

Col. Guly was in favour of repeal, but wished Protection.

Mr. Holmes spoke at considerable length, he concluded with saying that all he asked was a fair field and no favor, and he was perfectly sure Canada would be enabled to compete with any people in the world—give us the Free Trade of the St. Lawrence, and our inland waters would shame the Baltic.

Mr. Scott of Bytown spoke to much the same effect as Mr. Egan.

Mr. Solicitor General Blake followed on the same side. He brought forward some very interesting statistics on the amount of produce sent by Buffalo and the Erie Canal, and concluded his address as follows:—

Let no man tremble for the connection between this Province and England; when this produce comes down our canals and river and goes to England; and if we live on the banks of the St. Lawrence, and have the same opportunity of building shipping that other people have, what have we to fear from competition?—we have all the advantage with us. We should have an immense flood of trade coming down the St. Lawrence and going direct to England; thus in a most complete and direct manner connecting this colony with England. He trusted, therefore, that without any vain dreams of what England might do by and by, without—he had almost said, only he did not know whether it was Parliamentary—any beggarly idea of asking some 2s or 3s protection per quarter, the people of Canada should,

like men, be up and doing, and prepared for that trade which must inevitably come to us before many years. (Loud cries of Hear! hear!)

Some other members spoke subsequently on both sides, when the motion was put and carried with a large majority—48 to 14. The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, January 30.

Twenty-four petitions were brought up, and laid on the table.

PETITIONS REFERRED.—Of the Rev. Messrs St. Germain, Curé of the Parish of St. Laurent.—Of the sisters of the holy cross of St. Laurent.—Of Thomas G. Lee, and others, of Quebec.—Of Louis Comte, of Montreal.—Of V. P. W. Dorion and others—and of John Clark and others of Montreal and vicinity.

Mr. De Witt, from the standing committee on Contingencies, reported as the opinion of the Committee, that all letters, correspondence and papers, forwarded by members and chargeable against the contingencies of the House, ought to pass through the office thereof:—Agreed to by the House, upon division.

A message was received from the Legislative Council, agreeing to the Address to her Majesty on the subject of the navigation laws, and accompanied with an address to His Excellency requesting the transmission of the same, and asking the concurrence of the Assembly thereto.

A bill intitled "An act for the Queen's most gracious, general and free Pardon," was received from the Council, read, and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hincks, the address to His Excellency from the Council was agreed to, and a message ordered to the Council to acquaint them therewith.

Mr. Jobin introduced a Bill to amend the Notarial act. To be read a second time on Monday next. Also a bill to authorize to a certain extent the attachment of the salaries of public officers for debt. To be read a second time on Monday.

On the motion of Dr. Bouthillier, a return was ordered from the several Clerks of circuit courts respecting the numbers of actions, fees, &c., in their Courts.

In answer to Mr. Chauveau, the Hon. Inspector General stated, that till the Government had closed the correspondence now being carried on with the Imperial Government, it would be impossible for Government to propose any thing relative to the Quebec and Halifax Railroad; that it was not possible, in the present state of the Provincial Finances, to grant money for docks at Quebec; nor for a road between the County of Quebec and Lake St. John.

In answer to the same gentleman, Mr. Lafontaine stated (as we understood) that Government proposed to introduce no new bill for taking the census in Canada East; nor to repeal the Act 9 Vic., cap. 58, by which the cost of administering justice in Canada West was charged on the consolidated revenue; nor for devoting the funds proceeding from the Jesuits' Estates to purposes other than those to which they are now applied.

On motion of Mr. Baldwin, two bills were read a first time—the first, to repeal the Municipal Act in Canada West; the second, to provide a general law for the erection of municipalities in Canada West. The first to be read a second time on that night (Tuesday) fortnight; the second on that day week.

Mr. Scott (Bytown) obtained a select Committee on the lumber trade, to consist of Messrs. Bell, Lyon, Latierre, Johnson, Hall, Holmes, and the mover.

On motion of Mr. Richards, a bill to simplify the transfer of real property was read a first time. Second reading 12th February.

On motion of Mr. Christie, certain documents were read relative to the grant of the Magdalen Islands to Sir John Coffin; and that subject, together with the petition of H. Nadeau, was referred to a select Committee.

A considerable degree of amusement was caused to-day by the attempt of the very respectable gentleman, who has long brought down the messages from the upper house, in the English language, to render a message into the French, in accordance with the new law. The message announced that His Excellency would receive the address relative to the Navigation Laws to-day.

In answer to Mr. Scott, Mr. Hincks stated that Government would not introduce any bill to change the Currency Laws; nor to establish a Bank of Issue. There was a Bill in preparation relative to the issue of Debentures.

Mr. Baldwin brought down the papers ordered the other day relative to the dismissal of Dr. Parke. Also, a number of papers containing correspondence with the Imperial Government relative to the Tariff, Railways, &c. Ordered to be printed.

The examination of witnesses in the Vansittart case was continued. Col. Deedes and Mr. D. G. Miller, were examined as witnesses by Col. Prince and other gentlemen in this case; after which Mr. Vansittart addressed the House at considerable length. At the conclusion he said, in what he had done, he had acted in no hostility to the Hon. member, Mr. Hincks.

WEDNESDAY, January 31.

Mr. Notman presented a petition from the eleven sons and daughters of the late Joseph Griffin of the Township of Flambo, Gore District, complaining that the lands which their fathers had bought and cultivated, had been seized and appropriated to the endowment of the Wellington Square Rectory.

The hon. gentleman expressed his opinion that discontent would be felt in Canada, so long as endowments of any church were continued.

Mr. Holmes gave notice that he would, on Friday next, inquire of Ministers if they have taken any steps to prevent the bridging of Lake Champlain by the Ogdensburg Railway Company, thereby violating the existing treaties which guarantee to British subjects, and to the citizens of the United States the uninterrupted Navigation of the Lake. This inquiry is to be made with a view to the introduction of a bill to connect the waters of the St. Lawrence with Lake Champlain.

Mr. Sherwood (Toronto) in the absence of Sir Allan McNab, who is still absent, from indisposition, took up a motion which the hon. and gallant knight had given notice, to the effect that the House should sit for the future from ten in the forenoon, until six o'clock in the evening, at which hour the Speaker is to declare the House adjourned until the next day of meeting, and that the House shall not sit on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Mr. Christie seconded the motion.

Mr. Lafontaine supported, and Mr. Papineau opposed the motion.

Mr. Baldwin was willing to try the experiment; but he doubted if it would prove successful.

Dr. Latierre, and Mr. Boulton took part in the discussion—there was, however, little difference of opinion amongst hon. members on both sides of the house.

Mr. J. H. Boulton moved an amendment, that the House should meet at eleven in the morning, and as soon as the Routine Proceedings were disposed of, adjourn till three, and then sit till ten in the evening.

Mr. Lafontaine thought that by this method they would have all the disadvantages of either. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Price also ridiculed the proposal.

The amendment was lost, two members only supporting it, namely, Mr. Boulton, and Mr. Smith, (Wentworth).

Mr. Papineau moved another amendment which was also defeated, on a division of 17 to 49, and the original motion was carried by a large majority.

The House then went into Committee on the payment of Jurors in C. W., when Mr. Wilson moved that it is expedient that all Jurors of Courts of Nisi Prius, Jail Delivery, District Courts, Quarter Sessions, &c., should be paid 5s. per day for their attendance, and 6d. per mile, to be paid partly out of the fees on records, partly by the defendants in cases where they now pay the costs, and the remainder out of the District funds. At present, 15s. were paid on records at assizes, and 7s. 6d. at sessions. This would be continued with this difference, that whether the case were tried or not, the fees must be disbursed, instead of the payment taking place only when there was a trial. The second fund he had mentioned was from the costs paid by defendants in cases of assault, &c.; and the third from the funds of the District. He believed there was no one who would object to the principle. As to the details, he would willingly be guided by the opinion of the House; but he believed there would be no better way found to raise the money. If the routine of the Jurors were perfect, there would be little necessity, perhaps, for this law; but it too often happened that the burden now fell on a few individuals, and he had known some to come to the court with sugar on their backs to pay their expenses.

Mr. Scott, of Bytown, Mr. Richards, Mr. McDonald, Glengarry, Mr. Boulton, Hon. Mr. Baldwin, and others, spoke for and against this resolution, which was finally carried.

Mr. Hincks informed the House that the deputation appointed yesterday, waited upon the Governor General this day with the joint address from both branches of the Legislature on the subject of the Navigation Laws, and that His Excellency was pleased to say that he would transmit the same to the Secretary of State in England.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Boulton, a bill respecting limitation of actions in Upper Canada, was read a second time.

On a motion being made for passing the bill through Committee on Friday next.

Mr. Smith, (Durham,) moved in amendment, that the bill be passed through Committee that day six months—the original motion was, however, carried without much debate.

A bill regulating the construction of mill dams in Upper Canada, was, after some discussion, read a second time, on motion of Mr. J. H. Boulton.

Dr. Latierre moved the second reading of the bill relating to the Navigation of the North Channel of the St. Lawrence below the Island of Orleans. He stated that much property, and many lives would be saved if the North Channel were more frequently used, and often the voyage outwards would be made fifteen days later than at present, the wind in the fall of the year being generally from the North, and the ice being thus driven to the South. Till the conquest, this channel had been constantly used; but now by caprice had become disused. The object of the bill was to oblige apprentice pilots to acquire a knowledge of the channel, and the Trinity House to buoy it. The bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday.

The other orders of the day, including the reciprocity bill, were then postponed to Thursday, and the House adjourned at half-past ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, February 1, 1849.

The House met as usual at three o'clock, and shortly afterwards proceeded to the Legislative Council to hear the Royal Assent given by His Excellency the Governor General to the Amnesty Bill. On the return of the members to their own House.

Mr. Sherwood moved, seconded by Mr. Inspector General Hincks, for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Usury Laws. The Bill was read a first time, to be read a second time on the 20th instant.

Mr. Thompson brought in a Bill to divide the Township of Cayuga.

Mr. Scott (Two Mountains) brought in a Bill to provide for the improvement of the navigation of the River du Chene. Second reading Thursday next.

Mr. Christie brought in a Bill for Impeachments by the Legislative Assembly. Second reading this day fortnight.

Mr. Smith (Durham) in Committee of the whole House, brought in a Bill to amend the Act for the regulation of Weights and Measures, and passed resolutions, which are to be reported to-morrow.

Mr. Davignon inquired whether it was the intention of Ministers to introduce any measures for the payment of the debts of the late District Councils of Lower Canada.

Hon. Mr. LaFontaine replied that it was not.

Mr. Thompson brought in a bill to amend the Act of Incorporation of the Gore Bank.

Mr. Taché moved an address to His Excellency for the return of the amount of duties levied on the articles imported from the United States to be affected by the proposed Reciprocity Bill.

Mr. Richards brought in a bill to dispose of interests of Mortgagees, in Upper Canada. The object of the bill was to enable the interests of mortgagees and mortgagees in property to be sold under execution, instead of the creditor being obliged to go into the Chancery Court to get at it.

Mr. Laurin moved for an address respecting the quantity of lumber shipped from Quebec in 1848.

Mr. Chauveau moved for the appointment of a Select Committee on the subject of Emigration from Lower Canada to the United States. The Committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Papineau, Fortier, Lemieux, Watts, Taché, Christie, Davignon, and the mover.

Mr. Wilson brought in a bill to remedy writs of execution. He briefly explained the object of the bill.

Mr. Hincks moved that the House will on to-morrow, take into consideration His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Sherwood (Toronto) enquired whether it was the intention of Ministers to introduce any measure to extend the jurisdiction of the Division Courts of Upper Canada?

Mr. Attorney General Baldwin replied that it was not.

On motion of Mr. Wilson the House received the Report of the Committee of the Whole on paying Jurors in Upper Canada.

On the question of concurrence being put,

Mr. Sherwood expressed his opinion that if Jurors in critical cases were to be paid, the money, as part of the expenses of the Administration of Justice, should be paid out of the revenue of the country.

Mr. LaFontaine, Mr. Scott, Mr. DeWitt, Mr. Hincks and other spoke in favor of the Report which was finally carried by a majority of 44.

FRIDAY, February 2, 1849.

The Speaker took the Chair at the usual hour.

In answer to Dr. Latierre, Mr. LaFontaine stated, that the ministry had no objection to renew the instruction given by the House to one of its committees in 1846, to inquire respecting the expediency of erecting a gratuitous school of navigation at Quebec; but it was not intended to introduce any bill for that purpose.

Mr. Holmes, at the request of Mr. LaFontaine, postponed the question of which he had given notice, relative to the bridging of Lake Champlain.

In answer to Mr. Smith, Mr. Hincks said, it was not the intention of Government to revert to the plan of leasing lines of toll roads by tender; if Government retained possession of the roads, which they did not desire to do, they would dispose of the tolls by auction.

Mr. Scott moved to refer the petition of Dr. Bowie to a select committee. Mr. LaFontaine opposed the reference. The petition was for a sum of money which could not be granted without the consent of His Excellency. Dr. Bowie had been employed permanently since 1843, whereas the others had been only employed for a temporary period, and from day to day. After some conversation, the motion was put, when a large majority appeared against it. The minority were Messrs. Scott, Papineau, and McLean.

In answer to Col. Prince, Mr. Baldwin said, that Government had no intention, during the present Session, to introduce any measure for separating the practice of the profession of advocate and attorney in C. W.

Mr. Lafontaine moved the second reading of the Act to confirm the erection of certain Townships, and stated that the bill was rendered necessary by the circumstance that no Township had been legally erected in Canada since the Union. They had the name of Townships, and that was all. The present bill would give these Townships a legal standing. It also provided for the annexation of the "Gores," now existing in various parts of both sections of the Province, to the neighbouring Townships.

Mr. Lafontaine then moved the second reading of the bill for the arrest of offenders from the United States. The object of the bill was as follows:—The treaty of extradition of 1842 was not perfected till the bill of last year was passed at Washington, at the time of his visit. But the English Act was defective in the first clause, inasmuch as it made it necessary that the fugitive from justice should be publicly claimed of the Government which gave occasion for the party to escape. This bill would give power to the judges of the superior Courts and to justices of the peace to carry out the law.

A pretty long debate ensued on this bill, after which it was read a second time, and is to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House on Tuesday.

RECIPROCITY ACT.—The House was then resolved into a committee of the whole, to consider the following resolution, introduced by Mr. Merritt:—"That it is expedient to provide for the free admission of Grain and Breadstuffs of all kinds, Vegetables, Fruit, Seeds, Animals, Hides, Wool, Butter, Cheese, Tallow, Horns, Salted and Fresh Meats, Ores of all kinds of Metals, Ashes, Timber, Staves, Wood and Lumber of all kinds, of the growth or production of the United States of America, into Canada, whenever similar Articles, the production of Canada, shall be admitted without duty into the said United States."

Mr. Merritt went very fully into the subject. He expressed his belief that the measure would be every way beneficial to Canada.

Mr. Brooks thought this measure should not be raised at present. It would injure the farmers of the Townships who press cattle.

Mr. Smith (Frontenac) moved in amendment that no action be taken till the American Congress passed their bill.

Mr. Papineau was of opinion that Reciprocity would be of immense advantage to the Canadian farmer.

Mr. Watts would like to see breadstuffs and agricultural implements freely admitted to this Province.

Dr. Latierre would vote against the proposition.

Mr. Stevenson, in a long speech, argued against free trade.

Mr. Egan spoke in favor of the measure. He thought that with Reciprocity the present depressed state of trade would not exist.

Hon. Mr. Boulton was in favor of the measure. He said that it was a truth that all free countries prospered best, and that those who opened their ports to the commerce of the world were most prosperous.

Hon. Mr. Cameron took up some of the arguments of gentlemen who had spoken against the measure, and replied.

Messrs. Holmes, Wilson, and Wetenhall followed on the same side. The latter said:—

Mr. Bill Flint supported the resolution because he believed the country was in favor of it. He particularly instanced the trade in lumber as certain to be increased by Reciprocity.

Dr. Nelson, Mr. Notman, Mr. Drummond, and the Hon. Mr. Robinson expressed themselves warmly in favor of the measure.

Mr. Inspector General Hincks spoke at length, going over the arguments urged against the bill. Finally, the main motion was carried, and the House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

CONTEMPORARY PRESS.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN FRANCE.

(From the Times.)

The election of Louis Napoleon Buonaparte to the Presidency of the French Republic may be described in a single phrase—the French people prefer even a spurious Monarchy to a *bona fide* Republic. The pretensions of the Imperialist candidate are strictly confined to the essential characteristics of monarchy, ratified by a popular choice. He is supported, not on account of his personal qualities, but, in spite of the absence of conspicuous personal distinction, because in reality his strength lies in his descent, not in his person. So much is this the case that it is the principle of primogeniture alone which has given to this son of the ex-King of Holland a preference over the other and more able members of his own family. It is as the head of that family, in conformity with the law of the succession to the French Empire, that he has been carried to the poll; and the French citizens who have given him their votes have paid, perhaps, an involuntary homage to the very principle of hereditary sovereignty which a democratic Republic is supposed most jealously to exclude.

In this light the contest must in truth be regarded. It is a very imperfect and one-sided appreciation of the causes which have conferred on the younger Buonaparte so large a portion of the suffrages of the French nation, to regard this extraordinary demonstration as a vast act of hero-worship, and to suppose that the consummation of French patriotism is to be a sacrifice of liberty and peace on the *tumulus* of the "Invalides." The traditions of Imperial greatness may fill the land, and, to use the prophetic turn of Beranger's song, the *chaurière* in forty years may know no other tale; but so it was, too, when the expeditions of Strasbourg and Boulogne provoked the laughter and scorn of the whole nation; accession of the Imperial Pretender to his present eminence seemed as improbable as the return of the Cromwells to the Protectorate of England. The efficient cause of this vote is less fanciful and more practically connected with the affairs of the day. The first, most ardent, and universal desire of the population who crowded to the ballot with the Buonapartist ticket was to record their condemnation of the Republic, and still more of the Republicans, who surprised a power they have, with the single exception of Cavaignac, shown themselves most incapable to use. The career of that party is already run. A protracted struggle against the dynasty of Orleans ended in a sudden victory. The *National* and the *Reform* became the masters of France. The true leaning of the nation was for a time overborne by fear, and a sort of conventional Republicanism served to return the present National Assembly. But even that amount of Republican feeling is long since extinct in the country. The caprice which invested *outriers* and fanatics with the highest legislative functions has exhausted itself, and is out of date. When next the people choose their representatives, which, in obedience to the Constitution, they must do, at no very distant period, the result will unquestionably be very different from the Assembly chosen under the influence of M. Ledru Rollin's circulars and all the terrors of the recent convulsion. At that time the Monarchical party, with the exception of the Legitimists, stood entirely aloof. Even men like M. Thiers, M. Bugeaud, and M. Mole, have been elected on subsequent and accidental vacancies. At the next trial the Conservative party will, of course, engage in it with all its force, strengthened by the experience of the last few months, and the result will be that, whether the French nation is to be governed by the forms of a Republic or a Monarchy, it will at least refuse to be governed by that class of men who claimed in February a sort of monopoly of Republican opinions, and who have since had ample opportunities of exhibiting their unfitness for the duties they had assumed.

The election of Louis Napoleon can only be regarded as the result of a coalition between a multitude of contending parties, which are united on one point only, namely, their hostility to the men who accomplished the revolution of February, and to the Republic they have established. Gen. Cavaignac is the representative of that Republic, and it is in that capacity that he has forfeited the support of the nation. But this species of triumph over the principles or professions of the purer democracy leaves everything else to be determined hereafter, as the case may be, by force or by chance. Amongst those who have swelled the Buonapartist party to millions of votes, the smallest section is that which cares one jot for the Perkin Warbeck of Napoleon's family, and at no distant period the individual whose name has been assumed as the symbol of a nation, will find the slippery eminence on which he stands glide from beneath his feet. The principle of the election is unquestionably monarchical, and the struggle which is just ended lay between the doctrines or the symbols of Monarchy and Republicanism; but if that abstract point be determined, at least by a majority of votes, the personal claims of the various pretenders are as diametrically opposed to each other as ever, and the partisans of the Buonapartes, of Henry V., and the Orleans dynasty, are destined to wage amongst themselves a protracted and uncertain contest. For a time the great question of Republic or no Republic may swallow up all others; but the decision which condemns the existing institutions and leaders of the State calls into existence a host of pretenders, and an array of fierce passions. Everything is possible, if the Republic be impossible; and in the depths of the great cities and centres of population it must not be forgotten that a party exists, formidable in its numbers, and more formidable by its energy, which attributes the failure of the Republic to its moderation, which broods over the sanguinary traditions of '94, and which threatens to solve these difficulties after its own terrible fashion, by proscription and death. In short, whilst the principal guarantees of social order are suspended, shaken or divided, the ancient and malignant phalanx of the French Revolution in all its terrors is compact, desperate, and resolved. Whatever the Government of France may be, there lies its greatest and most immediate danger; and in its resistance to those enemies of mankind it will command the complete support of the friends of order in all countries. The most fatal blow to General Cavaignac was the mere suspicion that he had been implicated in the imprudent proposal to confer national rewards on those assassins and plunderers who are the heroes and martyrs of the modern Jacobins. But under all these vicissitudes that party of anarchy subsists; and ere long we shall probably learn that another desperate attempt has been made to recover the influence which it lost in June, and which this election seems likely to place altogether beyond its reach, unless it can be recovered where it arose, on the barricades of Paris.

PAPACY AND THE POPE.

(From the N. Y. Evangelist.)

The Pope, who opened his reign so auspiciously, and the first acts of whose administration were hailed with such enthusiasm by his own people, and by the whole Christian world, is now a fugitive from his dominions. The Pope of progress, the Pope of the people, the Regenerator of Italy, sits no longer on the Quirinal, speaks no longer from the Vatican. What has brought about this change? We believe the explanation may be given in a few words:—The Pope felt the pressure of the universal progress of the age; he attempted to imbue the Papacy with the spirit of this progress; but he soon found that progress could not be associated with the Papacy; that its infallibility implied immobility, and that to reform was to destroy. We may, perhaps, be too hasty in charging Pius IX. with insincerity. Had he been one of the people, or one of the nobles merely, he might have been the foremost among Italian patriots. The real difficulty lay not so much in the man as in his position. What he actually did was only a stern reproach of the papacy. He established a Papal post-office, through which his people might address him directly, and once a week he gave public audiences; he became, in some sort, the prince and father of his people. And this implied that the Vicegerent of the merciful Son of God had before been an inaccessible sovereign. What ought a man, claiming to hold such an office, to be, if not the father of poor, erring and suffering men? He encouraged men of science. He permitted the formation of a railroad company. He made enquiries

respecting the best method of diffusing education among the lower classes. He appointed a commission to reform gross abuses in the judiciary code. And this implied that the Papacy had left undone what the nations on every side were familiar with, and what had been fully developed, even where the heavenly government of the Pope had never been recognised. Countries filled with heretics, had educated the people, while Romans were grovelling in ignorance; had perfected the mechanic arts, agriculture and commerce, while Rome was surrounded by uncultivated deserts, and was destitute of manufactures and almost every form of productive industry; had railroads running in every direction, while Rome had only miserable highways. The Pope released from prison, or recalled from exile six thousand men. And this implied the tyranny which had filled the prisons with the best citizens of Rome, or had expatriated them. The Pope emancipated the Jews. They were already free in Germany, England, France and America. He opened the library of the Vatican. It had hitherto been closed, while all the public libraries of the world gave free access to scholars from every nation. He for a time took part with his countrymen against the Austrians, and seemed to favour the restoration of Italian nationality. And yet Popes had been in Italy for more than a thousand years, without doing anything for Italian nationality. What he attempted to do, we say, showed what had not been done, where, with the pretensions of the Papacy, every improvement for the good of man ought to have been first of all accomplished.

What was the Papacy worth, when every glorious improvement was going on where its power was a mere form or utterly unfelt, while here at Rome everything remained stagnant as if antiquity were taking its everlasting repose upon the seven hills?

Pius IX., a man of intelligence, seemed to feel that something must be done in reality or in appearance; and he set his hand to work in the things we have named above. Perhaps it was a political farce that he intended to play; perhaps he was entranced by the dream of a papist Pope. But a farce must come to an end; and a dream must soon vanish before reality. Had the Pope been true to the spirit of progress, he must have educated the people, and permitted the free circulation of books, and among the rest the Bible. But no educated people can live at Rome with the Bible in their hands, and succumb to the miserable mummeries and deceptions of that religion. Had he been true to the spirit of progress he must have encouraged commerce and every form of industry. But the people of Rome, enriched by their own enterprise and industry, instead of depending upon the revenues and trade drawn into the Holy City, by pilgrimages and religious shows, would soon escape from the Papal charm, and feel the sense of personal power and independence. Railroads would bring the opinions and example of other nations into too close proximity. The restoration of Italian nationality—the most glorious and the dearest object of patriotic aspirations—can have no attraction for the Papacy. What nationality can embody the Papal States? What shall be the form of government? Who shall be King or President? Shall the Pope himself be the head of the government? Then the whole of Italy is resolved into Papal States, and the mighty evil is enlarged. Shall the Pope cease to be a civil ruler? Then the associations of the past ages are vanished, the splendor of the triple crown is faded, the fulminations of the Vatican are empty words. No longer a monarch among monarchs, no longer a King of kings, how will he hold a comparison with the Gregories of the past, or maintain even the form of supremacy? No, the Papacy is a growth of old and worn-out centuries, struggling to maintain a feeble life amid the light and freedom of the fresh and vigorous present, where all the ailments of national being ministers to other opinions and institutions. If it live at all, it must live by continuing to draw sustenance from the past: like an ivy, it must entwine itself around ancient ruins. Let it attempt to unite itself with the modern world and it perishes. Pius IX, if not convinced before, now probably sees this clearly enough. He returns, therefore, to the old precedents, authorities, usages, and spirit. He entrenches himself in the fortresses of his inflexible predecessors. He has played his farce, or he has completed his venturesome experiment; and now he must pause. Be it what it may, farce or experiment, it is a failure. To be a true Pope he must cease to be a true man. If he is faithless to Italy, he is again becoming faithful to his position.

His recent flight was probably intended as a stroke of policy. He is no longer a Papal patriot, but he now becomes a Papal martyr. He calls forth prayers and masses. The Virgin and Saints are appealed to. The sympathies of the whole Romish world are attempted to be moved in his behalf. The measure will be likely to have partial success, but it must prove fruitless in the end. Centuries ago the Papal dignity and power waned at Avignon. What can be its fate, to day, at Gaeta? It is probable he will soon find it for his interest to return to the Vatican. But he will return with shorn beams and diminished strength. The successor of St. Peter has fled in a humiliating disguise. It is a part of his history which will ever surround him. What an association in the eyes of his subjects! The charm of supernatural dignity, of infallible wisdom, of indomitable courage, of patient endurance, of inexorable determination, is fled for ever. The Pope can be an august martyr only before the high altar of St. Peter's. If there be any men at Rome, the fate of the Papacy is decided. Here, too, is the beginning of the end, and the end cannot be far distant.

THE MAYOR AND THE LICENSE SYSTEM.

(From the Boston Recorder.)

Last week we gave the remarks of his Honor the Mayor, in regard to the attempt to put down intemperance by withholding licenses for the sale of intoxicating drinks. The attempt he pronounced emphatically to be "an experiment failed." And now he proposes to regulate a business which has ever defied and eluded all regulations. He lays great stress upon the impossibility of completely enforcing the prohibitory laws; as though any law can be fully enforced, so long as unprincipled men are tempted to its violation.

Plato spoke the truth when he said, that there are many good laws; but that one more is needed, namely, a law that those good laws shall be better observed. Who believes that the existing wholesale laws upon the subject of the rum-trade cannot be as thoroughly enforced as any statute in the book, if the city magistrates and officers were disposed to risk their popularity, and forego their ease, by vigorous efforts to put them in full force.

It is another saying of Plato's, that good laws grow out of bad manners. And if the state of morals among us is so low as Mr. Bigelow asserts, then there is so much more need of stringent laws, strictly enforced, to correct the evil. If it is true, as he states, that the present laws cannot be carried into execution, on account of the perverseness and stubbornness of the liquor-sellers, then what law can be sustained against the determination of such as are determined to break them. On this principle, we shall soon be called on to give up all civil regulation but such as no one cares to infringe upon. We may as well give up all municipal enactments; and by the time we find that we can do without them, we shall be able also to dispense with a mayor, and other executive officers.

Mr. Bigelow would seem to be under a mistake, as to the prevalence of drunkenness in this city, beyond what might be expected in such a population. In New York, they have grog-shops licensed by the thousand, and as many more unlicensed. But the licence system there does not protect them from the ravages of intemperance so well as the opposite system protects us here. It is stated on documentary authority, that, in 1846, the numbers of persons arrested and tried in this city for drunkenness was 737. In 1847, it was 642. And last year, it was 631; being 106 less than it was two years before. This would indicate, contrary to what many suppose, a great improvement in respect to this part of the public morals. We were in a good way. Alas, that we should leave it, to return to the old demoralizing plan!

Boston has always a large number of transient persons in its streets, who furnish a large portion of the cases which arrest the attention of

the arresting officers. The whole discredit ought not to rest upon the settled population of the city, of whom by far the greater part will deplore the expected change in the policy of the city government. All the recent elections, in which the question of temperance has been in the least involved, have shown that large majorities of the citizens are warmly opposed to anything like a license-system.

NO NECESSITY OF A PANIC.

(From the National Era.)

We do not yet see any indications from the Southern press, that authorise the apprehension of a speedy end to the Union. That there is a mighty movement among the devotees of party, and the dissolution of the Union, to create a sensation, is quite apparent. Mr. Calhoun and his clique, are doubtless anxious to make Southern men believe their honor and rights in peril, and to separate them from all political association with the North, so as to promote his ulterior views respecting a Southern Confederacy, where Slavery may reign in undisturbed supremacy, and John C. Calhoun be exalted its grand embodiment. Democratic partisans in the same section, embittered by recent defeat, cut off from all expectation of office, and bent upon embarrassing their opponents, contribute their part to the getting up of a "crisis," which may break up the Whig national organization, and completely cheat that party out of its triumph, by compelling General Taylor to become the President of a section, instead of the Union. The Southern Whigs, too, fearful of meeting this combined onset directly, may talk solemnly about the necessity of dissolution, should the worst come to the worst, and appear to fall in with the paroxysmal movement for fear of losing caste. But, after all, our nerves are not much shaken. The Philadelphia *North American*, speaks in terrific tones of the consequences of Disunion, and appears willing to appal the South. We do not exactly perceive the necessity of this, for we cannot deem the danger of dissolution imminent; and if it were, it seems to us wise to take the matter coolly. We have gloried in the Union as much as anybody, and still feel a strong attachment to it. But there is only one safe rule where a confederation of sovereign States cannot agree and that is, separation, in all good feeling. When the herdsmen of Lot and Abraham quarrelled, and their interests interfered with each other, the two brethren separated; but, so far as we learn, maintained thereafter the most friendly relations with each other. When Paul and Barnabas found themselves at swords' point, they separated, each going his own way, and thus preserved harmony by division.

If perpetual discord is to poison all the intercourse of North and South, or if their joint partnership is to be prostituted irrevocably to the propagandism of Slavery, or if the South, whenever a measure displeases it, will unite in caucus, and be satisfied with nothing less than absolute submission from all other sections, it seems to us far better that a movement be made in a calm, fraternal manner, for a general Convention of the States, to determine upon the safest and most equitable mode of dissolving their connection, and reorganizing in new combinations. There is no necessity of being heated upon the subject. It is one of immense importance, equalled in its magnitude only by the original work of forming the present Union. Our fathers subjected their passions and prejudices to the government of reason, when they undertook to educe order out of the chaos of the American States. We, their children, having the benefit of their example, being admonished by their errors, and with increased experience, ought to be able to go manfully, calmly, sensibly, about the work of re-formation, if, indeed, it be impossible to live together any longer.

The American People, North and South, are excitable on ordinary occasions, and given to blustering a little; but when a great occasion presents itself, a great danger impends, a great duty is to be done, their common sense and steadiness triumph. If the South must have a division of the Union, if it is really in earnest upon the subject, then let reasonable men in all sections address themselves to the work. Let there be no helter-skelter operations—no direful prophecies—no maledictions—no crimination or recrimination—no reproaches—but let us come together in General Convention for the last time, divide our possessions and if the results be two organizations, slaveholding and non slaveholding, let God judge between us, and human vengeance sleep. The Free Union would then be exempt from all responsibility for slavery. Its support and countenance would no longer be given to the system. The Slave Union could no longer reproach their former brethren with bad faith and oppressive legislation. Each might work out its own destiny, undisturbed by clashing interests and prejudices, unembarrassed and unmanned by perpetual and degrading compromises.

We submit these views, not because we wish the Union dissolved, but to show that all parties would do well to look at the subject calmly and in good temper. If the slaveholders are resolved to reject the Union, unless they can rule it, we had better separate. It is folly to suppose that civilization in this country is absolutely dependent upon one form of political or social organization. We have tried the Union—it has worked admirably in many respects. We, non-slaveholders, would prefer its continuance; but we are far from believing that either ruin or anarchy will necessarily follow its dissolution. It is the blind, unreasoning devotion of the non-slaveholders to the Union which emboldens the slaveholders to the exaction of conditions not in the original bond. Let the former give to the winds their fears, show that they value the Union only as a means to certain great ends—liberty, peace, and progress—prove their readiness to dissolve it whenever it shall become inconsistent with these ends, and try without hesitation, other forms of social existence—and a period would be put to all this senseless declamation about a dissolution of the Union.

THE RACES IN IRELAND.—In Ireland there have been, and there still are, many other races (primitive races, perhaps, of whom we know little or nothing), not yet extinct; developed occasionally and unexpectedly amongst the subsequent waves of other races which have swept over or sojourned on the soil of Ireland; primitive races connected with these Lithuanian and Wendes races of the Black Forest, sources of the Danube and shores of the Baltic, not yet extinct in these countries, but influencing by their presence the blood of Central Germany, of Belgium, and the Rhine. The Phœnician exists in South Ireland, with his fine oval face, black hair, large expressive eyes, and oriental feelings. That distinguished student, Mr. Percival Lord, who rose so rapidly to reputation in India, was a native, I think, of Cork, but evidently of the Phœnician race. The Dane; that is the Saxon, seized on Eastern Ireland; the Basque probably had a share in the population of South Ireland; the Celt of the north-western parts of Ireland has, it is said, his peculiarities. It is in Ireland also, and in one tract only of Scotland, where we meet those mysterious remains, the round towers; "monuments coeval perhaps with the pyramids!" What an antiquity, no doubt, could we but trace it, belongs incontestably to Ireland; at all events, to its race! But may it not be that other races are just as ancient?—*Medical Times*.

THE GROWTH OF THE WEST.—No one, remarks the editor of the Cincinnati *Atlas*, who is not on the spot, can form an adequate idea of the rapidity and completeness with which towns and settlements have been made on the Mississippi. During the season past, four steamboats have run regularly to the Falls of St. Anthony, and had more business than they could do. A new boat has been procured, and five boats will run to the Falls next spring. When we consider that the Falls of St. Anthony are seven hundred miles above St. Louis, in the heart of what was recently the Indian country, we can understand that such a business now is a wonderful fact. Such facts, however, are constantly occurring. The flood of emigration is spreading over the North West with resistless energy. At the Falls of St. Croix, sixty miles north of the Falls of St. Anthony, there is a great dam erected, which is calculated for fifteen saw mills. The country is full of fine timber, and the lumber business is now the principal pursuit there. At the mouth of Crow Wing, fifty miles west of St. Anthony, there are also settlements. In that remote region, the process of population and civilization is going on with great rapidity. In less than twenty years Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, will contain two millions of people; and long before that time, new waves of emigration will flow far beyond that into new wilderness lands. Thus a large part of that population which comes from Europe will be absorbed in prairies and woods untrod by civilization.

THE MISCELLANY.

A PRAYER IN AFFLICTION.

"I will say unto God, do not condemn me; show me wherefore thou contendest with me—Job, x. 2.

Father in heaven! who art with me contending—
O, hear my prayer, thou just, yet angry God!
While low this spirit, in contrition bending,
Doth "kiss thy rod."

Condemn me not; but heed the voice of sighing—
The burning drops, that from these eyelids fall;
And while as suppliant I'm before thee lying,
Here thou my call.

And deign to show me, kind, forgiving Father?
Why 'tis so long since thou on me hast smiled;
Oh! spurn not this request—but pity rather
Thine erring child.

If I have sought to gain man's worthless favour,
More than the praise which comes alone from heaven;
I mourn my folly—for thy sake, dear Saviour,
Be it forgiven.

Or, if concealed an idol in this bosom,
Praying devotion to a creature love,
Let not the blight which hath destroyed hope's blossom
Vain counsel prove.

Is it that I have used, as but abusing,
The rich abundance, which thy hand did pour,
That now the humblest wants thou art refusing
Which I implore?

If these offences from my view are hidden
Deep in the secret chambers of my soul,
Or any cherished love, by thee forbidden,
There hath control—

Make me to know my sin or my omission,
And I will weep in penitence, alone;
Drink sorrow's cup, and say, with meek submission,
"THY WILL BE DONE."

For the Montreal Witness.

DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS.—No. IV.

A PROMPT AND SYSTEMATIC ATTENTION TO ASSOCIATE DUTIES.

The Church, as a whole, has duties, to which every member ought to feel himself committed. If it is to walk in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, it must not only worship, but act for the welfare of men, and the glory of God.

Our Lord adverts to one class of these duties in his solemn description of the judgment. The least of his brethren are to be fed when hungry, clothed when naked, visited when sick and in prison. Moreover, he declared, "the poor ye have always with you." Whatever the Church undertakes in this matter, it is a plain duty of every member to feel himself, and herself, committed to it. The duty is to Christ. This is sometimes forgotten, or such apologies for neglect as we sometimes hear could not be offered. Because one dislikes the method of doing it, and another dislikes some of those who engage in the work, and another feels strange and lonely among his fellows, it seems to be supposed that there is exemption from duty. Let it be inquired how such excuses would sound in reply to our Lord's thrilling charge at the last day. "I was an hungered," &c. "Lord, I did not like the people who engaged in this work, or they were not social enough in their manner of doing it, or I was so much engaged in adorning my own person, that I could not attend to the poor!" or, "Lord, I knew others would do it, and I was glad to shift the burden upon them." The question is plain and solemn, *is this allegiance to Christ?* What must be the rejoinder from the lips of truth and purity?

Again, the Churches have a work to accomplish for Christ, which demands such pecuniary contributions as he enables them to afford. It is ever "according to what a man hath, and not according to what he hath not." None is entitled to give what rightfully belongs to another, but the Christian may deny himself that he may cast into the treasury of the Lord. It is well said by Jay, "the mistake of many is, that they suppose every thing is their own, whereas nothing is their own." They are only stewards of the manifold grace of God. They think they may sleep as much as they like—dress as much as they like—consume as much as they like—but the Scripture is our rule, and not our own inclination. There is the cause of God, and of the poor, to be thought of, as well as our own gratification. The first lesson in the school of Christ is self-denial; where, in the lives of some, does this ever appear? The support of the institutions of religion among ourselves has the first claim; it has a demand on our justice as well as benevolence. We sustain them for our own benefit and that of our families, as well as for the good of the multitude.

To neglect this duty is "to rob God." It was precisely this neglect, which is so denominated in the question by the prophet Malachi, "will a man rob God?" The Sabbath School, and the work of Missions at home and abroad are laid upon the Churches for their contributions, their efforts, and their prayers. Included in this last is the training of young brethren selected and appointed by the Churches for the work of the holy ministry. They may need help to proceed, and if so, the Churches are plainly bound to render it. Nor ought institutions, for the suppression of vice, be forgotten in their charities.

If we rightly understand the matter, these are among the duties of Church members to Christ. They are not dependent on being asked to perform them. They may not be innocently shifted upon other shoulders. In some measure, and according to ability, every one is under obligation. The temper of mind which repels the application of a fellow Christian who undertakes the duty of collection, or which so manoeuvres as to creep away from and avoid it, is certainly not a Christ-like tone of spirit. He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And the Apostle appeals, "ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor." H. W.

COFFEE, CHOCOLATE, AND TEA.

In the year 1554, a violent tumult arose in Constantinople; the chiefs of the priests attacked the sultan, and threatened him with all the terrors which their office placed at their command, the reason being the brilliant success of the first coffee-houses, which were in that year opened. These were crowded all day, while the mosques were almost deserted. The sultan relieved himself of all difficulty by the means most profitable to himself; he laid a heavy tax upon the coffee-houses, and thus, quieting the mutis, obtained a considerable revenue; for in spite of this the use of

coffee spread with wonderful rapidity over Europe. In 1651 the Greek Pasqua opened the first London coffee-house in George-yard, Lombard-street (according to McCullagh in St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, in the place where the Virginia coffee-house lately stood); and in 1671 the first in Marseilles was established. The present production is probably about 250,000 tons, while 150 years ago it scarcely exceeded 3000 tons. In 1820 Von Humboldt estimated the consumption of Europe at 75,000 tons, valued at £4,500,000; while the value of the present consumption of 125,000 tons does not, perhaps, reach £3,700,000. The coffee was originally drawn from a large brown vessel into small cups, which were handed round more particularly during religious services, and this affords a ready explanation of why this beverage immediately became, to some of the orthodox Mahomedans, an object of enmity, and, above all, a subject for exceedingly learned theological researches. The opposers of coffee even went so far as to affirm that the countenances of those who drank coffee would, on the day of resurrection, appear blacker than the coffee grounds. Since, however, according to the Koran, women do not enter Paradise, they may indulge without fear in the enjoyment of their favourite beverage. When the Spaniards first landed in Mexico they became acquainted with a native beverage, which had been used from time immemorial, called by the natives *chocolatl*, and prepared from the seeds of a tree which they named *cacaohuacahuitl* (cacao tree). Wherever Spanish dominion has subsequently extended to, there also has the use of chocolate reached, and the rest of Europe has asserted an abundant claim to a share in this new beverage. In the commencement of the seventeenth century a quantity of carefully packed dried green leaves were presented to a Russian embassy in China, in return for their gifts of splendid sable furs, and even forced upon them in spite of their protestations against such useless wares. But when they brought the same to Moscow, and had them prepared according to the directions, the tea, for such it was, found equally great approval. Almost at the same time, the Dutch East India Company attempted to sell to the Chinese, sage, which at that time was used as tea is now, and they obtained in exchange Chinese tea. In 1644 the English East India Company considered that they made a brilliant present to the Queen of England in the shape of two pounds of tea. The use of tea as a beverage in China goes back to the earliest periods, and the traditions speak of it distinctly so early as the third century. At the period when the Europeans first became acquainted with it, it was already spread over the whole of south-eastern Asia, and Europe did not long remain behind its teachers. No less than 25,000 tons are annually exported by sea from China; over Kiachta, some 5000; to Thibet, India, &c., perhaps nearly 15,000. In China and Japan themselves, certainly 200,000 are consumed, so that the whole produce is not over-estimated at 250,000 tons.—*The Plant, a Biography, by Schielden.*

A RELIGIOUS BROTHERHOOD OF ROBBERS.

The Dakoits, although in their aggregation and in their following acknowledged leaders or sirdars, they bore an analogy to the brigands of the south of Europe, or the banditti of the middle ages, yet resembled more nearly some of the illegal confederations which have been organized in modern days and more civilized communities in Europe, in their assembling by night only, and dispersing and following peaceable occupations during the day, most of them being engaged in the cultivation of the soil, or following mechanical trades. Individuals among them were well known as sirdars, by whom their expeditions were projected, and by whose orders the gang was assembled at an appointed spot, generally a grove near the village to be attacked. The members of the gang, who were secretly known to the sirdars, and sometimes to each other, repaired to the place, variously armed, chiefly with swords, clubs, and pikes, and some with matchlocks. Their numbers varied from 10 or 15 to 50 or 60. When collected, their marauding excursion was usually preluded by a religious ceremony, the worship of the goddess Durga, the patroness of thieves, typified by a water-pot, or a few blades of grass. The ceremony was conducted by a Brahmin of degraded condition and dissolute life. Having propitiated the goddess by a promise of a portion of their spoil, they marched with lighted torches, and little attempt at concealment, beyond disguising their faces by pigment, or covering their faces with masks, to the object of their expedition, usually the dwelling of some shopkeeper or money-changer, in which it was expected to discover treasure. Occasionally, the motive of the attack was vengeance; and information given by the householder, or some of his family, against any of the members of the gang, brought upon him the resentment of the whole fraternity. Upon entering the village, it was customary to fire a gun, as a signal to the inhabitants to keep within their dwellings. The house against which the operation was designed, was then surrounded; and whilst some of the gang forced an entrance, others remained as a guard without. Unless exasperated by resistance, or instigated by revenge, the Dakoits did not commonly proceed to murder; but they perpetrated atrocious cruelties upon such persons as refused to give them or were unable to give them, information regarding property which they suspected of having been concealed, burning them with lighted torches, or blazing straw, or wrapping cloth or flax, steeped in oil, round their limbs, and setting it on fire, or inflicting various tortures which caused immediate or speedy death. The object being accomplished, and the booty secured, the gang retired before daylight, and the individuals resumed their daily occupations. Such was the terror inspired by their atrocities, such the dread of their revenge, that few of their neighbours ventured to inform or give evidence against them, although well aware of their real character and proceedings. The police, intimidated or corrupted, rarely interfered until the robbery was completed, and the perpetrators had disappeared; and their interposition was far from welcome to the people, as their unprofitable and vexatious inquiries had frequently no other purpose in view than the extortion of money, as the price of forbearing to drag the villagers, unwilling witnesses, before the European magistrate, or even falsely accusing them of being accessory to the crime.—*Wilson's History of India.*

A CARAVAN IN THE DESERT.

The hot fan, like the low of a kiln, now trembles over the glistening sands, and plays the most fantastic tricks with the suffering traveller, cheating his vision with an illusory supply of what his senses madly crave. Half-dozing, half-dreaming, as I advanced, lulled into vague reverie, the startling mirage shifting with magic play, expands in gleaming blue lakes, whose cool borders are adorned with waving groves, and on whose shining

banks the mimic waves, with wonderful illusion, break in long glittering lines of transparent water—bright, fresh water, so different from the leathery decoction of the zemzemia. On our approach the vision recedes, dissolves, combines again into new forms, all fancifully beautiful; then slowly fades and leaves but the burning horizon, upon which at wide intervals is seen, perhaps, a dim black speck, appearing over the rolling sandy swell like a ship far out at sea; the film of the Desert gives it gigantic dimensions as it approaches: it proves as it nears us to be a caravan of camels from Suez, coming along with noiseless tread, a few laconic words are exchanged between the Arabs without stopping; in another hour it is left far behind, until again it disappears from vision. Thus pass the sultry and silent hours of noon. There is a terrible and triumphant power of the sun upon this wide region of sterility and death, like that of a despot over a realm blighted by his destructive sway: no trace of verdure is there but the stunted shrub, which struggles at wide intervals about the sandy bed of some dried watercourse; no sign of living thing but the burrow of the rat, the slimy trail of the serpent, or the carcass of the camel, who makes his grave as well as his home in the wilderness, met with in every stage of decay, from the moment when the vultures have just fleshed their beaks in his fallen corpse, till, stripped of every integument, the wind whistles through the ghastly framework of his naked ribs, and his bones, falling asunder and bleached by heat and wind, serve to mark the appointed track upon which his strength was spent.—*From a Journey to Mecca.*

AUSTRALIAN DISCOVERIES.—At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, which was held on the 27th ultimo, the Secretary read a most interesting paper on the geography of Cochin China, by Dr. Gutzlaff, the celebrated missionary, at the conclusion of which the President informed the meeting that the following letter had been received from the intrepid Australian traveller, Dr. Leichhardt, conveying probably the last accounts that will be received from him until his arrival at Swan River:—"April 3, 1848. Cogoon.—I take the last opportunity of giving you an account of my progress. For eleven days we travelled from Mr. Birrell's station, on the Condamine, to Mr. Macpherson's, on Fitzroy-down. Although the country was occasionally very difficult, yet everything went on well. My mules are in excellent order—my companions in excellent spirits. Three of my cattle are foot-sore, but I shall kill one of them to-night to lay in a necessary stock of dried beef. The Fitzroy-down, over which I travelled for about twenty-two miles from east to west, is indeed a splendid region, and Sir Thomas Mitchell has not exaggerated their beauty in his account. The soil is pebbly and sound, richly grassed, and, to judge from the myale (*acacia pennula*), of most flattering quality. I came right on Mount Abundance, and passed over a gap of it with my whole train. My latitude agreed with Mitchell's. I fear that the absence of water on Fitzroy-down will render this fine country to a great degree unavailable. I observe the thermometer daily at six a.m., and six p.m., which are the only convenient hours. I have tried the wet thermometer, but I am afraid my observations will be very deficient. I shall, however, improve on them as I proceed. The only serious accident that has happened was the loss of a spade, but we were fortunate enough to repair it at this station, where the superintendent is going to spare us one of his. Although the days are still very hot, the beautiful clear nights are cool, and benumb the mosquitoes, which have ceased to trouble us. Myriads of flies are the only annoyances we have. Seeing how much I have been favoured in my progress, I am full of hopes that our Almighty Protector will allow me to bring my darling scheme to a successful termination. Ludwig Leichhardt."—In a former letter to Captain Philip King, dated March 20, the Doctor says:—"My intention is to go from the Victoria to the northward until I come to the decided waters of the Gulf. If I succeed in my task, I shall solve three very interesting questions—the northern, north-western, and western water-heads."

SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION.

"They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up."—Joshua, ix. 4.

Of course they profess to do what they would actually have done had they really come from a distant place. Hence we learn that at this time little accommodation, except that of lodging, if that, was expected upon a journey, and that every one carried provisions and drink with him, as at present. This rendered necessary their sacks, doubtless for containing their provisions and baggage. All travellers now carry sacks with them for such purposes. If they can afford it, these sacks are large, containing a strange assortment of articles—of dress, bedding, food, and even of pots and pans for cooking the necessary meals. These are usually carried on animals hired for the purpose, or on the animal which the servant, if any, rides. A poorer traveller reduces his baggage to narrower limits, so that he wants but small bags, which being thrown over the back of his ass or mule, he rides upon himself. Those who have but one ass to carry themselves and baggage, frequently dismount and walk a considerable part of the way to relieve their beasts. This may account for the manner in which the clothes and shoes of the Gibeonites were supposed to have been worn out by long travel, although they had asses on which to ride. The bags which travellers use are commonly of stout woollen cloth or carpeting, sometimes strengthened with leather to keep out the wet. Bags of hair cloth are also sometimes used for this purpose, and almost always for carrying the corn and chopped straw for the cattle.—*Pictorial Bible.*

DAILY BREAD.

FEBRUARY 5.

"Forsake not the works of thine own hands."—Psalm cxxxviii. 8. Divine Answer. "He which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."—Phil. i. 6.

The right way to grow in grace is to give up thyself wholly to thy heavenly Father, who knoweth all thy wants, and has engaged to supply them. Then labour diligently to walk with Christ, and carefully cherish the new life, which, be it ever so weak and little now, in comparison to the old man, will increase, and gradually outgrow him, as a new skin does the old. May the Lord only give us grace to watch against the opposite extreme, to be as never to be lulled into a false rest, or lukewarm spirit; but to be ever diligently and seriously employed in crucifying the flesh, and using all the means of grace? then we need not be anxiously troubled for the growing of the work of God in our souls.

My soul lies cleaving to the dust;
Lord, give me life divine;
From vain desires and every lust
Turn off these eyes of mine.

I need the influence of thy grace
To speed me in thy way,
Lest I should loiter in my race,
Or turn my feet astray.

Are not thy mercies sovereign still,
And thou a faithful God?
Wilt thou not grant me warmer zeal
To run the heavenly road?

—*Boagatzky's Treasury.*

NOTICES FROM THE LAST OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

DISSOLUTIONS OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

February 1.—Charles Maitland Tate, G.E., and George Horatio Smith, Montreal, under the firm of Tate and Smith.

January 20.—James W. Bennett and Anson Paul, London, under the firm of Paul and Bennett.

COMMISSIONS OF BANKRUPTCY ISSUED.

January 30.—David Brown, Trader, Durham: first meeting, 7th February, at Montreal.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Montreal, 3d February, 1849.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz:—

The Rev. Alexander N. Bethune, the Rev. Alexander McNab, Andrew Jeffrey, George M. Boswell, Thomas Scott and John Shuter Smith, Esquires, to be a Board of Trustees for Superintending the Grammar Schools in the Newcastle District.

John Stewart, Esq., to be an Associate Member of the Board of Trustees, for Superintending the Grammar Schools in the District of Huron.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to call to the Legislative Council James Wylie Esq., of Ramsay, Canada West, and Samuel Mills, Esq., of the city of Hamilton.

PROVINCIAL DEBENTURES.

2nd February, 1849, Issued during period ended this day.....£7027 10
In actual circulation.....92,24 0

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

Montreal, Monday, Noon, Feb. 5, 1849.

FLOUR.—Little or nothing doing during the past week. Price still 24s. 6d. for small lots. Large parcels of good brands are held at 25s.

GRAIN.—Wheat, L. C., 4s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. Barley, 2s. to 2s. 3d. Oats, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. Pease, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d., all per minim—rather larger than the bushel.

ASHES.—Both sorts, 30s. Receipts light.

PROVISIONS.—Beef per bbl. 200 lbs., \$6 to \$6½ for Prime; \$8 to \$8½ for Prime Mess, with small sales. Pork, \$9 to \$9½ for Prime, and \$11 to \$11½ for Prime Mess, held, in most cases, at the higher rates. Mess is held from \$16½ to \$17.

EXCHANGE.—11½ per cent, premium.

STOCKS.—Eighty-three forfeited consolidated shares of Montreal Mining Stock were sold at auction, being sufficient to meet all the calls which have not been paid upon 40,000 shares. They brought, including all instalments to date, 10s. 9d. to 11s. 3d. per share, being an advance, within the last month, of about 4s., taking into account the instalment paid in the interim. Commercial Bank Stock has been sold at 2½ per cent discount.

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES are bought from 3 to 5 per cent discount.

Parties having a little money to invest will find Government Debentures a much better mode of doing it than Savings Banks. The interest being 6 per cent, and the discount from 3 to 5, gives, together, 9 to 11 per cent interest, per annum, whilst the security—that of the whole Province—must be better than any private institution can offer.

Respecting the Lachine Railway, we would direct attention to the remarks of the Hon. James Ferrier, in our Parliamentary report.

Extracts from Circular of Mr. T. C. Orr.—Glasgow, 12th January.

There is no improvement to note in demand for "duty paid" Breadstuffs, but there has been a good inquiry within these last two days for Wheat and Flour "in bond," and an advance obtained, in some cases, of 6d per barrel Flour, and 6d per 240 lbs. Wheat. The price of the former is 27s to 28s, free.

ASHES.—Sales are limited to small retail lots, at 45s. to 48s. Pots; and 40s. to 44s. Pearls.

TIMBER.—A good business has been done during the past week in Quebec Yellow Pine, at ¼ per foot better prices.

NEWS.

CORRESPONDENCE, MONTREAL COURIER.

London, Jan. 12, 1849.

The financial reformers announce the progress of their measures in reference to what seems likely to be the battle-ground of the Session. Mr. Cobden proposes to take the national expenditure at the standard of the year 1835 and makes a reduction accordingly in the outlay of the Army and Navy, which he computes at £8,500,000. This saving, with some others, and the levy of Probate duty on real property, he estimates would amount to £11,500,000, and proposes to employ it in the reduction of the duties on Tea, Timber, Butter, Cheese, Malt, soap, Advertisements and Windows. Another amateur Budget has appeared, different in many respects from that of Mr. Cobden. Mr. McGregor, M.P. for Glasgow, is the author of the new programme, and his reputation as a Statistician invests his statements with some authority. He would levy customs duties on only eight articles—all articles of luxury, except Tea and Sugar, and, instead of the present Income Tax, he would impose a duty of five per cent upon the rents or profits of all real property, whether funded or otherwise. He would reduce the military expenses £4,250,000 per annum. There are, you will see, important differences between the two schemes, and these differences the opponents of the general principle of the plans will not fail to turn to advantage. The question for solution is whether the country is prepared, in the present political aspect of Europe, to hazard the safety of the Empire by reducing our armament of defence to the standard of 1835, or even to the level required by Mr. McGregor.

Improvement is discernible in almost every quarter of the commercial world. The usual business circles of the season report cheerfully of the last few weeks, and profess to foresee, in the new year, good prospects of an active spring trade. Taking Government Stocks and Railway Shares as criteria, the start is undoubtedly encouraging, and increasing operations in other branches, are tending to dispel the depressing influences that have so long been felt by commerce. The Revenue returns, for the year and quarter ending January 5, 1849, have been published. The Customs and Excise show a considerable increase, but, on the whole, the returns do not realize the expectations expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the end of last session.

I regret to have to announce the death of Lord Auckland, which took place, quite suddenly, on the 1st instant.

The death of this highly-respected nobleman causes a vacancy in the first Lordship of the Admiralty, and is likely to lead to several Ministerial changes.

The Times has changed its tactics with regard to the question of emigration. A few months since, the Times and other leading journals demanded Government assistance for intending emigrants; now they consider that the stream of emigration flows fast enough of itself. It is doubtful whether the mass of the people will fall into these views; they will probably continue to demand the abolition of those mischievous restrictions which at present impede the progress of emigration by their absurd operation.

The intelligence from France is less encouraging than it has been for some time past. The country demands the immediate dissolution of the Assembly, while that body seems determined to sit some six months longer. Further changes are spoken of in the Cabinet, and the star of Napoleon seems on the decline.

The Pope yet remains an absentee from Rome. The Chambers at that city have been dissolved, and orders have been issued by the Junta for the convocation of a Constituent Assembly by the whole of the Roman States.

The re-commencement of hostilities between Austria and Sardinia is far from improbable. Naples and Sicily have once more appealed to arms to settle their disputes. The Hungarians are everywhere vanquished by the Imperialists, although they continue to fight with a courage worthy of their race.

Nothing decisive has occurred in the Punjab. A disagreeable item in the news is the desertion of 600 Sikhs from General Cortlandt's brigade, when he was about to attack the enemy. On the other hand, we know that the gallant Major Edwards has, in several instances, successfully repulsed the Mooltan forces.

The Corn trade has been steady, but not extensive. Many persons are waiting until the 1st proximo, when they expect to commence selecting quite to their minds; but, so many having procrastinated their purchases until then, the demand will most probably be very general when the Corn duties expire.

In London the *furor* for California gold is scarcely inferior to that which has been manifested in America. The report of the golden harvest has had a favourable influence for holders of various sorts of commercial produce. The mania for emigrating to the golden regions is spreading far and wide; and in order to meet the views of the adventurers, companies of various kinds have been projected. We have "The California Joint Stock Mining Company;" "The California Steam Navigation Company;" "The California Trading Company;" "The California Emigrant Association;" &c. and many parties are disposing of their property to procure immediate means for entering upon the enterprise from which such profitable returns are promised.

GREAT FIRE IN EDINBURGH.—The Caledonian Railway Station, Lothian Road, was burned on the 2d inst., together with a large amount of valuable goods contained in it. The loss is estimated at £10,000.

FORMAL DEPOSITION OF THE POPE.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Yesterday evening, at sunset the card of St. Angelo, by the consecutive discharge of one hundred and one great guns, announced to this metropolis and the world in general that the dynasty which had reigned over Rome for 1,048 years has come to a close and a new government is to be called into being by the mandate of the whole population assembled in a constituent representative body by universal suffrage;—the great bell of the Capitol, which only tolls for the death of the Pope pealed solemnly. It was exactly on the 24th November (the fatal night of the flight of Pío Nono) that in the year of our Lord 800, Charlemagne arrived in Rome to be crowned on Christmas day of that year by Leo III., and to institute and formally corroborate the donation of Pepin by the erection of the papal sovereignty. From his retreat at Gaeta, the Pope has issued a protest against the creation of a Junta at Rome. This document, after reciting past events; says:—"Therefore, we declare to be null and of no force or effect in law all the acts which have followed the violence committed upon us, protesting above all that the Junta of State established at Rome is a usurpation of our Sovereign powers, and the said Junta has not and cannot have any authority. Be it known, then, to all our subjects, whatever may be their rank and condition, that at Rome and throughout the whole extent of the Pontifical State there is not and cannot be any legitimate power which does not emanate expressly from us; that we have, by that sovereign *malu proprio* of the 27th of November, instituted a temporary commission of Government, and that to it alone belongs exclusively the Government of the nation during our absence, and until we ourselves shall have otherwise ordained.

"PIUS PAPA IX."

The *Gazette* of Genoa, of the 30th, says:—"Scarcely was the protest of Pius IX. placarded at Rome, than the people immediately tore it down. The Chambers are almost in a state of dissolution, and it is probable that they will dissolve themselves. The Junta and Ministers have assembled to take such measures as are required by circumstances."

The Chambers, from their hostility to the Junta, would it was thought, be immediately dissolved.

DECLINE OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S POPULARITY.—The feeling of dissatisfaction at the conduct and the want of energy of the President of the Republic is, I repeat to perceive, on the increase. The complaints one hears on all sides are not founded on any question of his foreign policy, but rather arise out of the distressed state of the population and the embarrassments of the Treasury. I will not say that those complaints are not unreasonable or premature. The power of the President has been but of too brief a date as yet to enable any one, however well-intentioned and however active, to remedy evils which are the consequences of more than ten months of revolution and anarchy; but yet the popularity, which was of so sudden and so wonderful a growth, that bore Louis Napoleon to the highest office of the state, if it did not take the will for the deed, would at all events have hailed even a slight demonstration of zeal in the public service.

The best reputations and the greatest popularity are not proof against revolution. To those who beheld the triumphant passage of the new President through Paris not many days since, it must be strange to witness the change which has taken place since then. Will it be believed that bets were offered this day, and in a place of public resort, that, before two months the President would be at Vincennes, either in consequence of an unsuccessful *coup d'état*, or of something still more formidable? The fact of such speculations being entertained will show not only the fleeting nature of popularity in a Republic, but that a profound feeling of discontent exists.

—Cor. Times.

AUSTRIA.—Accounts from Vienna, mention some fears entertained of a secret conspiracy. The Austrians have been completely successful as yet in their advance in Hungary. The strong fortress of Raab has fallen, and the imperial troops are everywhere received with acclamations by the inhabitants.

THE FRANKFORT PARLIAMENT.—We hear from Frankfort that the constitution committee of the National Assembly has in *pleno* declared in favour of the election of an "Emperor of the Germans" from amongst the reigning princes of Germany. The question respecting hereditary descent is reserved for the present. According to the plan of the above committee, the future Emperor is to have a civil list, and is to possess all, but not more than,

the privileges of the sovereigns of strictly constitutional states. The committee also propose the formation of a council of the empire, to be composed of the plenipotentiaries of the various German states and free cities.

VIENNA.—The provisional government of Venice has issued a decree, establishing a permanent Assembly of the representatives of the state of Venice, with a power of deciding upon every thing relating to the interior or exterior condition of the state. The representatives are elected by direct universal suffrage, in proportion to the population of 1 to 1,500. All citizens 21 years of age and upwards are electors. The elections will commence on the 20th of January, and the representatives will meet immediately after; their mandate is to last six months.

PRUSSIA.—Martial law still reigns at Berlin, and the preparations for the election are made under the severe eye of General Wrangel. The Government seems to be fast recovering that authority which was shaken so terribly during the last year.

SPAIN.—A Bayonne paper, the *Journal du Peuple*, of the 31st of December, publishes the following intelligence:—"An express, which left Vich on the 26th, says:—Cabrera has just gained in our vicinity a bloody and decisive battle, which cannot be compared to any of his preceding affairs. This general at the head of his army of 10,000 men, has completely routed the army of the Queen, 14,000 strong, of all arms, commanded by general Concha in person. The certain positive results of this action, which was terrible, are, that four squadrons of cavalry and 1,200 of the companies of *élite* of the Queen's army have been made prisoners, and the rest have fled in all directions. Cabrera, though wounded in the head by a ball, has gone in pursuit of the conquered."

HUNGARY.—The *Suabian Mercury* contains letters from Pesth, of the 13th, which state that every man capable of bearing arms is compelled to do so; the young men join the ranks of those who have gone to withstand the Imperial troops, and the older men remain to defend the city. Here the greatest excitement prevails; old and young, high and low, the noble lady and the meanest beggar, are working in the fortifications. Private houses which are considered to be in a favourable locality are converted into a sort of citadels; every where, and in every case, private property and rights are sacrificed, voluntary or compulsorily, to carry out the one grand idea of a defence. The orders of Kossuth are stringent:—Leave the enemy nought, save the land; burn the cities and villages, and destroy the provisions. Our army, it is true, is numerous, for it consists of 300,000 men; but many of them are rude undisciplined boors.

IRELAND.—The northern counties continue to be excited by outrages of an agrarian character. The journals contain accounts of a very unusual character from the north—a considerable destruction of property in the county of Down by incendiaries. An attempt almost simultaneous, was made to destroy the rick-yards of six large farmers in different parts of Down, on Saturday night last. The property was not all destroyed, but the damage done was very considerable. The *Gazette* of last night contains a proclamation, placing a portion of Donegal under the Crime and Outrage Act; and, as there are still further accounts from Down of criminal attempts against property, it is most probable the same vehicle will be put in requisition to enable the executive to cope with and subdue the spirit abroad.

THE CHOLERA.—Last week the cholera suddenly broke out at Tooting, in Surrey, at an establishment kept by a Mr. Drouet, for the reception of children from the different poor-law unions of the metropolis. There were about 1,500 children in the establishment. The disease assumed a most malignant character, and every thing that humanity and science could devise, was immediately adopted for the purpose of staying the progress of the disease, and relieving the sufferers. By the latest accounts the number attacked had been 260, and the deaths 84. The Cholera is very fatal in Glasgow.

MOST PRAISEWORTHY.—The will of James Taylor, late of Newport, Kentucky, has, we understand, been set aside, agreeably to the wish of the heirs and legatees, and an equitable division of the immense property left by the General has been made in a way satisfactory to all parties. There is one act of the survivors of the family of General Taylor, in council, that deserves especial notice, as most noble and generous. The heirs determined, without a dissenting voice, to make free the slaves belonging to the estate, about forty in number, with provision for the support of the aged and the young children! All praise is due for this just and proper act of emancipation; and it will meet its reward here and hereafter. The example will exercise a salutary influence in the State of Kentucky. *Cincinnati Gazette.*

A MURDERER IN THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE.—James R. Vinyard, when a member of the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature, a few years since, killed a fellow member on the floor of the House, and was expelled by his colleagues. He has now been returned a member of the State Legislature, by the Locofocos of Grant County, and is to take his seat again in that hall and amid those scenes which were witnesses to his former crime and deep degradation. We know not which to be most surprised at—the hardness of the man who would accept of such a position, or the degradation of the constituency that would proffer it to him.—*Republican.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

A CARD.

THE Treasurer of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society begs to acknowledge, among the items of the very liberal collection made last Wednesday night, at the Anniversary Meeting, in Zion Church, the following items:—

1 pair of gold ear rings. Not the first time that ladies have contributed their costly ornaments to promote the cause of God, as will be readily suggested to every attentive reader of the Bible; and we trust, not the last time that personal and needless decorations will be surrendered to give circulation to the Word of God.

"Christmas box of two little boys, to send Bibles to two poor families." "Who hath despised the day of small things?"

Ten dollars, inclosed in a note from an unknown friend, who acknowledges the great personal benefit he has received from the perusal of the sacred volume, and expresses a deep sense of obligation to give increased dissemination to the Truth as it is in Jesus. His note breathes the most earnest spirit of Christian benevolence and zeal.

One pound five shillings, handed in before the meeting, to Mr. Milne, by a few little girls of the British & Canadian School. A delightful feature of the contributions to a cause so great and good, to find blooming youth uniting its exertions with those of persons of riper years, to swell the exchequer of the grand Illumination Society of the World.

The collection taken at the meeting amounted to £30 19s—exclusive of the golden ornaments which are yet to be sold—being about £12 more than the collection of last year. A most gratifying result, when we regard the depression of commerce at this time, and the evidence it affords of the warm interest the cause of the Bible still excites among the citizens of Montreal.

Montreal, 2d February, 1849.

I. O. OF R.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF RECHABITES, will take place at DALEY'S HOTEL, Late Rasco's, on Tuesday, February the 6th.

ADDRESSES will be delivered by Clergymen and Brethren of the Order.

An Instrumental Band will be in attendance.

In the course of the evening GLEES, SONGS, ODES, and DUETS will be sung.

The Refreshment Rooms will be thrown open at an early hour.

Chair to be taken at SEVEN o'Clock, precisely.

Gentlemen's Tickets 5s; Ladies' 2s 6d. To be had of Messrs. Smith & Morgan, A. Savage & Co., Bryson & Ferriers, Wm. Lyman & Co., R. & C. Chalmers, John McCoy, C. Alexander, Confectioner, Notre Dame Street, Nelson & Butters, McGill Street, Dr. Godfrey, St. Mary Street, and of the officers of Tents and District.

January 24.

MONTREAL POVIDENT AND SAVINGS' BANK.

CASH PAID for CLAIMS on this Institution.

JAMES BARNARD,
22d Jan., 1849. No. 3, St. Sacrament Street.

BRITISH AMERICA FIRE, LIFE AND INLAND MARINE ASSURANCE OFFICE, 20, St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.

The Directors of this Institution have ordered a Reduction of Fifty per Cent on the usual rates of Premium on Inland Marine Assurance, charged on Goods from Kingston, Brockville, or Prescott, to Montreal, via the Cornwall, Beauharnois and Lachine Canals.

WILLIAM STEWARD,

April 24, 1848. Manager.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—PRIZE ESSAY.

A SILVER MEDAL will be awarded by the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal, for "the best Essay on the Influence of Mercantile Library Associations in elevating the moral and social condition of the Mercantile Classes," in the event of at least two Essays being submitted. The competition is open to the Public. Each Essay must bear a Motto, and should be accompanied by a sealed note, having the same Motto on the outside, and containing the Author's name and Address. All Essays must be sent to the Chairman of the Class Committee, Mr. E. LUSHER, previous to the 1st of March next; and, if enclosed by post, postage must be paid.

W. R. M'DIARMID, Rec. Sec.

IMPORTANT TO THE PUBLIC.—CLOTHING.

A nimble Sixpence preferred to a Slow Shilling.

THE Subscriber has on hand a good assortment of CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, &c., which he will make up to order, at a few hours' notice, after the latest Fashions, for Cash, as cheap as any other establishment in the City.

Call and examine for yourselves.

J. McNEVIN, No. 33, McGill Street.

Montreal, Dec. 16, 1848.

JAMES R. ORR, COMMISSION MERCHANT, MONTREAL, offers his services for the sale of Produce, Purchasing of Goods, &c. &c.

ADVANCES ON PRODUCE.—The Subscriber will make advances on Produce, Consigned to his friends in Britain.

JAMES R. ORR,

Montreal, 4th June, 1847. St. Peter Street.

SHIP AGENT.—JAMES R. ORR, MONTREAL, Agent for the "Erromanga," "Cambria," "Mary," and other Clyde Traders. Passages can be engaged to or from Glasgow, by these First Class Fine Vessels, in the Cabin, Intermediate, or Steerage.

THOMAS C. ORR, 20, UNION STREET, GLASGOW, offers his services for the Sale of Produce, Purchasing and Shipping Goods, Engaging Passages, and other Agency and Commission Business.

R. D. WADSWORTH, TRAVELLING AGENT for the following Periodicals:—

Montreal Witness, weekly, 12s. 6d. cy. pr. an
"Temp. Advocate, semi-mo., 2s. 6d. " "
"Medical Journal, monthly, 15s. 0d. " "
"Sab. Sch. Record, do., 1s. 0d. " "
"Register, weekly, 10s. 0d. " "
"Colon. Protestant, monthly, 5s. 0d. " "
London British Banner, weekly, 22s. 6d. " "
"Christian Times, do., 32s. 6d. " "
"Ev. Christendom, monthly, 7s. 6d. " "

SHEAR STEEL.

FOR Sale by the Subscribers.—4 cases assorted German and Cast, of "Naylor & Co.'s" make, and adapted to the manufacture of Hoops, being 5½ inches wide, and 16½ wire gauge in thickness.

BRYSON & FERRIERS.

Montreal, Dec. 18, 1848.

TERMS OF THE MONTREAL WITNESS:

Twelve Shillings and Six-pence per Annum, Payable in Advance.

N.B.—Any person remitting four subscriptions, post free, strictly in advance, and direct to the office, will be entitled to a fifth copy gratis; or, in other words, Five copies will be sent for \$10, if remitted strictly in advance direct to the Office, and free of postage.

Advertisements not inconsistent with the character of the Paper will be inserted on the last page at the usual rates, viz:—

Six lines and under, first insertion, 2s 6d.
Over six lines, 4d per line.
Every subsequent insertion one-fourth of the above rates.
Advertisements should be sent in on Saturday.

All orders, remittances, and communications are to be addressed (post-paid) to the "Witness" Office, Montreal.

JOHN DOUGALL, Proprietor.

The "Montreal Witness" is printed and published every MONDAY AFTERNOON, at the Office of John C. Becker, No. 211½, St. Paul Street, Residence, corner of Leguachetiere and Alexander Streets, for the Proprietor.