

The following Gentlemen, returned to serve in the General Assembly, which, by Proclamation, convenes this day, we understand have arrived:—

- Mr. HUBBERT and Mr. PETERS, for the City of St. John;
- Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. WARD, Mr. WHEELER, and Mr. MILLIDGE, for the County of do.;
- Mr. FREEZE and Mr. WETMORE, for King's County;
- Mr. SCOVIL and Mr. YEAMANS, for Queen's County;
- Mr. TAYLOR, one of the Representatives for the County of Sunbury;
- Mr. SAUNDERS, one of the Representatives for the County of Northumberland;
- Mr. C. CAMPBELL, Mr. M. KAY, and Mr. J. CAMPBELL, for the County of Charlotte;
- Mr. BOTSFORD, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CRANDLE, and Mr. EASTERBROOKS, for the County of Westmorland.

The English November mail arrived at the Post-Office yesterday. The European dates are not so late as have already been received. The Princess Elizabeth packet which brought the mail to New-York, was 51 days from Falmouth—it was brought to Halifax by the schooner Hope, in 8 days from New-York.

ANTHONY ST. JOHN BAKER, Esq. His Majesty's Consul General, was a passenger in the Princess Elizabeth.

The General Assembly of Nova Scotia meets on the 10th instant.

BOLIVAR has gained a complete victory over the Royalists, and declared the Independence of New Grenada.

Tracts of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

It has been justly observed, that pure and sound Christianity has a formidable enemy in the enthusiastic and fanatic temper of these times. In saying this, it will not, it is trusted, be thought, that there is any intention to speak slightly of religious feelings; and still less to insinuate that a mind strongly excited cannot subsist with real piety; but, surely, when the manifest results of that enthusiasm, which now prevails, are collectively considered; when, for instance, the unconnected ravings of a disordered intellect are assumed as supernatural illapses of the Divine Spirit; when, instead of looking to faith and penitence and good works as the only sure test of true religion, men decide on that most important point by a mere reference to certain inward undefined sensations; when it is known, that, although the passions are fermented and inflamed, the heart is not cleansed, nor the temper improved; when, especially, from a mere fancied call, persons with no authority, and often utterly ignorant and incapable, arrogate to themselves the functions of the ministry, and, in all the wildness of misguided zeal, insist on doctrines, which, in their hands at least, must either elevate the bold into presumption, or sink the weak in melancholy and despair; and, lastly, when the fruit of all this is, and cannot but be—the growth of error—the increase of schismatical combination—and the spread of disaffection and insubordination; surely, with all these results before our eyes, it may with truth be said, that pure Christianity has a formidable enemy in the enthusiastic and fanatic temper of these times.

But, then, thanks be to God, if the danger be great, there are still means within our reach to ward it off; and certainly one of the chief of these is the wide circulation of the Holy Scriptures, under the auspices of that venerable Society, whose labours have been so long and so ably directed to the promotion of Christian Knowledge in the world. Indeed, it cannot be denied, that the Scripture—pure and holy and perfect as it is—may be misunderstood and misapplied. We know that this was the case even in the very days of the Apostles; and later experience has unhappily afforded abundant proof, that there is scarcely any opinion, however false and pernicious, which daring and designing men have not attempted to ground upon the sacred text. It is, therefore, most desirable that such misconceptions and errors should be counteracted; and, accordingly, with this view the Society has not confined its exertions to the distribution of Bibles, but has besides, always made it a prime object to circulate as widely as possible such religious tracts as are calculated to convey, especially

to persons in the humbler stations of life, clear ideas of the Christian Doctrines, and, as far as may be, to guard them against all taint, whether of enthusiasm or of infidelity. Nor can the object fail, if these tracts are suffered to have their due influence on the mind. They unfold accurately and faithfully the true scope and substance of the Gospel; they prove that all the objections which have ever been urged against it, are unsound and untenable. They also prove, that, however in the first periods of the Church the influences of the Holy Spirit might, in a miraculous way, be vouchsafed to the believer, yet that such extraordinary communications have for many ages ceased; that spiritual aid is imparted now gradually and imperceptibly, and in the use of appointed means; and that there is no other way, by which its presence can be ascertained, but righteousness of life. Then again, all that appertains to the Christian Ministry—its divine origin, its nature, and its duties—are in these tracts presented simply and distinctly to the reader's view. He is also instructed in the true, apostolical character of the Church to which he belongs, as unquestionably a branch of the Church Catholic. He is taught, in obedience to the commands of Christ and His Apostles, to revere its Ministers, its Rites, and its Ordinances. The beauty and excellence of our incomparable Liturgy, are impressed upon his mind; in short, all that can tend to fix in him right opinion—to encourage in him right practice—and to render him faithful and zealous in his Christian calling—is placed before him in one or other of the admirable tracts of this Society.

If, then, this Society circulates information in the most unquestionable form, with an undeviating attention to soundness of belief, purity of morals, and unity of worship, discipline, and opinion, it is unnecessary to recommend it to attention and support by any address to the feelings, or any appeal to the judgement. It is, indeed, its peculiar glory, that it has hitherto obtained support through its own intrinsic excellence, that it has shrunk from every approach to parade or exaggerated pretensions, and has uniformly maintained the dignity and simplicity of a religious society. Its history and construction, its plans and proceedings, are detailed in its reports in plain and modest language; and, while they show what it has already effected, they show also that its exertions have at all times kept pace with the support and encouragement which it has received.

ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

From the Christian Remembrancer for April 1819.

"To the Editor of the Remembrancer."

"SIR,
The following has been just forwarded to me by a friend, who informs me that it is re-printed in the monthly publication of the Patent Institution.

Resolution of the Cambridge Bible Society.

"In something less than two years your Association has distributed by sale, at about two-thirds of the cost price, 1000 Bibles and Testaments; and after defraying all its own expenses, together with the voluntary loss it had entailed upon itself, it has paid to the Auxiliary Society the sum of £100 as the first fruits of its increase. Your Committee are authorized to add, that it is in contemplation to extend the benefits of the Association to every part of this county, by establishing in every town and village the same system of enquiry from house to house, which has been so happily pursued in this town and its immediate neighbourhood.

It is with the deepest regret I have observed, in this and some other recent instances, a departure from that system of discretion and sound judgement, which I fondly hoped and expected would have invariably marked the progress of the Bible Society. From its first establishment I have been upon the list of its members, and supported it by every effort in my power to bestow. I have spoken in its behalf, and subscribed to its funds; in short, had it continued to be what it promised to be, it should not have boasted of a more zealous associate than myself. It is true, that too frequently I have had occasion to lament the overflowings of indiscreet zeal and uncharitable insinuations, little adapted to meetings whose professed

objects were the dissemination of pure and undefiled religion, vital Christianity, and godly love. But these I passed over as mere ebullitions of the moment, emanations from minds glowing more with the blaze than warmth of piety, specks upon a sun soon to be absorbed in a glorious display of harmony and peace.—Time, however, has, I grieve to confess, been gradually removing a veil, revealing circumstances and dispositions which induce me to pause ere I proceed, and reflect how far I can in conscience continue to support a system pregnant with some portion of unequivocal evil. Unattached to PARTIES, either in church or state, it has been my wish to pass through life performing my duty to the best of my abilities, "rendering custom to whom custom, honour to whom honour is due." When I thought the Bible Society right, I defended it, when I think it wrong, far be it from me to disguise or advocate its errors. It has done much good—but it may be a question, whether it has not kindled animosities in the Christian world, which shall endure even unto the end. A more fruitful source of jealousy could not have been devised than this, adopted by the Cambridge Association, and sanctioned by the Parent Society. The adoption of such a resolution is at once a confession, that every rule of decorum and order shall be done away with. Knowing the piety, the disinterested zeal of many connected with the Society, I doubly regret an event which can in any degree tend to separate me from their esteem and good opinion; but I feel it impossible any longer to act in concert with those who can look on without a comment upon proceedings so hostile to the welfare and peace of my country. For many years have I resided in a retired parish, where no jarring interest, and but very trivial intrusions of schism have interposed to disturb the harmony between the pastor and his flock; but what may not result, when persons, with whom I am unacquainted and unconnected, differing possibly in creeds and doctrines, come with authority to make enquiries from house to house concerning the spiritual wants of my parishioners. Every family within my jurisdiction is, I have reason to believe, possessed of a Bible and Prayer-book; but were they deficient, unless there is a wish of superseding my means of usefulness, it is through me that their wants ought to be made known or enquired into.

I may be friendly to the Bible Society, and my people may know it, but where the incumbent happens to hold different sentiments (and every candid observer must be aware that thousands of eminent piety are adverse from the purest and most conscientious motives to this powerful engine) is it delicate, is it right, is it to do as we would be done by, to send emissaries within his own immediate precincts, declaring in so indirect language, that their pastor is unqualified for his situation, that he is regardless of his duties. We will, for the sake of argument, suppose that for a time discreet and holy men are selected for these important and delicate missions. But having once established the precedent, who shall say, "Hitherto thou shalt come, but no farther." However respectable the Committees of the present day may be, we know not the disposition of those which shall be hereafter. May we not reasonably suppose (in fact unless we rate human nature at a much higher standard than it merits, it is most probable) that these inquisitorial visits will be accompanied with occasional effusions of sentiments. Will not the Socinian in his private communications with the flock of a Calvinist be tempted to ridicule the doctrines of election, or shake the confidence of more humble-minded Christians? The Calvinist would, there is no doubt, consider it an imperative duty in his course through a district contaminated by Socinianism, to scatter a few seeds by the way side; is it so sure that in the parish of one whose only failing was that of not assuming the title of Evangelical, he would not act in a similar manner? I know from sad experience, that to breathe a thought against the immaculate infallibility of the Bible Society, is considered in the eyes of a vast proportion of its members to be a sin that shall not be forgiven; I know that it is to expose myself to the accusation of being an enemy to the Church of Christ, but none of these things move me. In declaring my sentiments, some few impartial observers may give me credit for better motives, and be induced to examine all the internal principles and complicated machinery of the

Bible Society. When it is considered that it is possessed of an annual income of £100,000 and has already descended to an organization so minute, that it is composed of persons of every shade of faith, the majority of whom are unfriendly to the National Church, there can be neither impropriety nor impiety in wishing that its powers were under more restraint, and that some of its proceedings were not of a less doubtful tendency.

AN EARLY SUBSCRIBER.

* Our correspondent's real name would have given more effect to his good intentions. We wish to hold up Sir Robert Stopford's example, to the many respectable persons who have withdrawn, and are withdrawing themselves, from the Bible Society. From the chair of a public meeting at Midhurst, in Sussex, he made this manly declaration:—"The Bible Society is not what it once was. It has departed from its original design, and I have departed from it in consequence of its deviations. See Lloyd's Reply, p. 32."

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 26.

- ARRIVED.
- Thursday, brig Rambler, Smith, 29 days from Demerara, and 24 from Grenada, T. Millidge, rum and molasses.
 - Am. sloop Polly, Flowers, Portland—Merritt & Van Horne, lumber.
 - Yesterday, brig Lucy-Ann, Scott, Jamaica, 29 days—H. Peters, rum, &c.
- CLEARED.
- Brigs Triumph, Hamm, Barbados—lumber, A. Johnston.
 - Peggy, Ellis, Barbados—lumber, C. Calverley.
 - United Kingdom, Hamilton, Demerara—ditto, Merritt & Van Horne.
 - William, Milby, Barbados—do. Merritt & Van Horne.
 - Harriet Newell, Thain, Kinsale—timber, A. Edmond.
 - Sch'r Belvidera, Smith, Barbados—lumber, &c. I. L. Bedell.
 - Am. sch'r's Jefferson, Howard, Boston—plaster.
 - Sloop Ranger, Smith, Portland—ballast.

MARRIED] On Thursday evening last, by the Rev. ROBERT WILLIS, Lieut. GEORGE WEST, R. N. to FRANCES ELIZABETH, second daughter of *Simcoo Jones*, Esq. of Sissiboo, N. S.

— Same evening, by the Rev. Dr. BURNS, Captain A. RICKARDS, to ANNE, second daughter of Mr. *Joshua Hughson*, of this City.

— Same evening, by the Rev. Dr. BURNS, Mr. JAMES BAIRD, to Miss ELIZA BERRY, both of this City.

January 29.

— On Tuesday morning, at Trinity Church, by the Rev. ROBERT WILLIS, ROBERT PARKER, Jun. Esquire, eldest son of ROBERT PARKER, Esquire, Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs for this Port, to SUSAN, third daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel M. ROBINSON, Assistant Barrack Master General at Gibraltar, and brother to the Honourable JOHN ROBINSON, Mayor of this City.

— On Thursday evening last, by the Rev. R. WILLIS, Mr. DAVID FISHER, to MARIA, second daughter of the late Mr. JOSEPH BARLOW, all of this City.

DIED] At Kingston, (Jam.) on the 27th December, Mr. GEORGE DEBLOIS, aged 22 years, son of the late LEWIS DEBLOIS, Esq. of this City.

— At Bowen's Estate, in Vera, (Jam.) on the 18th instant, WILLIAM DONALDSON, Esq. formerly a Merchant in this City.

— On Tuesday, after a short illness, Mrs. ABIGAIL WHITTY, aged 28 years, wife of Mr. JAMES WHITTY, of this City.

TO BE SOLD OR LET, THE HOUSE and Lot in Waterloo Row, well known by the name of the ROYAL OAK INN; with an excellent Barn and wood house,—also a half acre Lot in the lower vicinity of Fredericton; likewise for sale, a neat Sleigh and Harness.

For further particulars inquire of the Subscriber.

JOHN VAN HORNE.

Fredericton, 21st Dec. 1819.

TAKE NOTICE.

ANY person or persons found trespassing, in any way whatever, on Lot No. 54, in the Township of Manguerville, the property of the Heirs of PETER CUMMING, late of London, deceased, are hereby informed, that they will be prosecuted to the utmost rigor of the Law.

JAS. TAYLOR,

Agent for said Heirs.

Fredericton, 4th January, 1820.

GENTLEMEN disposed to aid the cause of Agriculture in these Provinces, may be furnished with AGRICOLA'S LETTERS at 2½ Dollars, by having their names at the Royal Gazette Office.

Fredericton, 28th Dec. 1819.