

that age stoutly denied the right of infants to baptism, refusing to acknowledge the power of the church to add to the ordinances of Christ, the council of Milevi, held, A. D. 416, passed a decree in the following terms:—"Whosoever denies that newly-born infants are to be baptized, or affirms that they are indeed baptized for the remission of sins, but that they derive no original sin from Adam . . . let him be accursed." Such are the supports of infant baptism—the frail buttresses of the building;—Justinian's mandate, referred to in my last, and this anathematizing decree of Milevi. But what has the Saviour said? "Every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up."

Yours truly,  
MENNO.

From my Study,  
Aug. 30th, 1856.

## Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 10, 1856.

### Deaf and Dumb School.

THE education of those afflicted with the loss of any of the ordinary faculties is a proper object of public benevolence. No institution being in existence in this country for the purpose of instructing the Deaf and Dumb or Blind, it has been necessary, hitherto, to send them, at great expense, to the United States, or to the mother country. No appropriation of public money has been more readily or properly made than that for the instruction of this unfortunate class.

The progress which has been made of late years in this department of education, is matter of thankfulness. Although a person may be destitute of the power of perceiving "the melody of sweet sounds" or the accents of affection and social intercourse, and unable to utter more than the harsh cry of fear and alarm, and may even be deprived of sight, so that his life is one long dreary night, yet other avenues to the mind have been discovered, and the prophecy in Isaiah xxix. 18, is literally fulfilled and the blessings of education and social life are given to those thus afflicted with almost equal facility with others in the full enjoyment of these faculties.

It has been announced in several of the papers, and attention called to it in the first instance by the Rev. Mr. Cochran, that an institution has been commenced in the city for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. Feeling an interest in all matters connected with education, during the past week, we made a visit to the School. Mr. Gray and his wife are both deaf and dumb, but their daughter about 12 years of age, is quite intelligent and perfectly able to hear and speak. In the course of conversation with the Teacher (of course by means of writing) we learned that he was educated at Edinburgh and has been getting his living by working at his trade since he came to this country about 12 months since. We found several who had commenced learning to write and could understand, imperfectly, the language of signs. Applications are being made from different parts of the country for those similarly afflicted, and doubtless many who would hesitate about sending their children out of the Province, will readily avail themselves of an institution in Halifax. Another intelligent, respectable, deaf and dumb young man, who was educated at the same institution, is now residing in the city. He has travelled very extensively, but takes so deep an interest in promoting the welfare of those similarly afflicted, that he has been assisting Mr. Gray in the arrangements of his school and if twenty or thirty pupils were obtained and sufficient inducement offered, he informed us, he would devote himself to the work of teaching.

We hope some steps will be taken during the coming Session of the Legislature to make this the commencement of an efficient establishment, so that we may no longer be obliged to expend the funds of the province, or of the parents of such persons, in sending them to a distant land. In the mean time we commend the effort to the attention of the benevolent.

THE REV. CHARLES MACKAY for six years pastor of the Congregational Church in St. John's, and a frequent contributor to the pages of the *Christian Visitor*, died on Thursday, the

21st ult., at Dundas, Canada West, where he had gone with the hope of benefit, from a change of climate. The editor of the *C. V.*, in referring to the high estimation in which he was held, remarks that, "as a preacher Mr. Mackay stood No. 1, at St. John. His sermons were carefully prepared and very generally written out in full, and such was the strength of his memory that he had only to read his sermon once or twice after writing it, and it was so thoroughly committed that he could repeat verbatim." He has left a wife and four children to deplore their loss.

### City Government.

WE are not aware of any subject of a local nature which so much concerns us in the Capital, as the due and strict administration of our municipal laws. In truth one can hardly overstate how much the morals, the prosperity and even the lives of our citizens are dependant on the daily administration of our civic concerns. In this view we have of late had our attention frequently called to the laxity with which our public matters are too often conducted, and been led to the conviction of the necessity of some more effective mode of administering justice in our City Court. No doubt the greatest stigma that attaches to our civic character is the encouragement afforded to the numerous grogshops that meet the eye in almost every street and alley of the town. To say nothing at present of the question of Total Abstinence, what possible palliation can be offered for thus, as it were, holding out a premium to ruin and brutalize the morals and manners of the community. Is there a man of common sense or respectability among us, who would not feel ashamed to attempt a justification of the scandalous extent to which the licensing of the sale of intoxicating liquors has always been carried in Halifax. No doubt the General Legislature of the Country have a fearful share in the support and encouragement of this disgraceful evil.

Who can see the weekly Sabbath desecration, or the crowds of idle vagrant boys who so often on the Sunday afternoon swarm at every corner of the street, without feeling that there is a great and serious defect in the rigid administration of our police affairs. We do not here mean to cast any reflection upon the persons who compose our City Government. We believe the present head of the municipality to be a man of zeal and integrity in his office, as much so as any that have gone before him, nor do we mean to impugn the character of any of his co-adjutors, but we do say that the system must be a vicious and defective one which produces such evil fruits. One prominent cause, we think, of those evils lies in the mode of electing our city officers. The whole establishment wants a character, a dignity and a permanency which it has never yet attained, and without which we may look in vain for a strict and independent administration of our civic laws. It is too evident that in City matters every thing is made to bend to a re-election to office; and we well know that men of the most unsullied private character, when once warmed with the desire of an office which elevates them in position and influence above their fellow citizens, even for ever so brief a period, are easily led to slacken the reins of authority and exercise an injurious lenity in enforcing the needful rigours of the law, when in a few months or perhaps weeks, they intend again to be on the hustings, seeking the suffrages of hundreds with whom they come into official and perhaps not agreeable contact. We feel satisfied that some radical change is required in the election of our city authorities, who should be guarded by all possible means against the temptation of acting under the pressure of the mere popular feeling of the day. Nothing should ever interfere with the unbiassed right of the citizen to choose those who are to administer the municipal powers, but to make such right worth possessing it should be surrounded by every possible safeguard against perversion or being converted into a means of corrupting the very sources of justice. As regards the trial and punishment of the numberless petty offences that are constantly brought up before the city police, we have no doubt whatever that a permanent stipendiary magistrate appointed for that special purpose, in connection with the municipal authorities, adequately paid, and wholly independent of electioneering influences, would be the best, indeed the only means of effecting what is required. The growing population and wants of the community, we think, strongly demand some such measure, and we cannot doubt but that the result would amply justify

its adoption and its additional expense. There is ample employment for the exercise of all the legitimate powers of the City Council independent of this peculiar branch of their present functions, and for their own sakes and ours they ought to be removed from every opportunity of misusing judicial power. We again repeat that we write without any personal or invidious motive whatever, but we feel deeply concerned for the credit and welfare of the community in which we dwell.

### Syria and the Holy Land.

MR. WORTABET, a native of Syria, son of the first bishop of a protestant church in that country, delivered a lecture of deep and thrilling interest on Monday evening, in Temperance Hall.

We were prepared to hear with pleasure of that land which, of all lands, has ever been perhaps the most interesting spot on the face of the globe, but our anticipations were far more than realized. The lecture from beginning to end was one continued stream of eloquence, affording a rich intellectual treat in itself, independent of the subject, interspersed with expressions of earnest piety and attachment to the cause of genuine Christianity. His eloquence, however, had a subject which gave force and point to every sentence—the land of the Bible—where every acre is full of the most intense interest from the reminiscences of the past, for thousands of years, even from the earliest ages. Along the paths of which the feet of angels have trod and where prophets and apostles have passed their lives, and wrought the most astonishing miracles, which have called forth the exclamation from many hearts—"Surely God is here." The vividness with which the lecturer depicted the former magnificence of Solomon as shown by the wonders of Baalbec, the ruins of which city now strike the traveller with wonder and awe, and baffle the skill of modern improvement and invention by the immensity of its proportions—the vastness of its designs. Petra too with its solitary streets and lonely habitations on the top of the rock—a vast city with halls of the greatest magnificence, but without an inhabitant. Tyre, whose merchants were princes, now a barren rock where fishermen alone dry their nets, and Bethel and Bethany and Jericho, and Joppa, and Jerusalem, with its hills surrounding it, now a city of heaps—its surface being covered with rubbish fifty feet in depth. Its miserable inhabitants only as it were the corpse of what it once was. These were all described with a clearness which made the immense audience, for the Hall was crowded, feel almost as if accompanying the Speaker in his visits to the various places, as he showed how literally the prophecies respecting them, had been fulfilled.

So full is the land, of evidence of the truth of Holy Writ, that no man with that book in his hand, can see the desolations and know the events that have transpired there, and remain an unbeliever in Divine Revelation. His reference to the cause of the degradation visible on every hand, being their rejection of the Word of God; and the source of greatness, in any nation,—especially Britain,—being that she honors the Bible, was peculiarly grateful to the Christian heart. His high estimation of her power and the prospect of her continuing to extend herself so long as that holds its sway and is appealed to as the Supreme rule of right and wrong, showed that he had long given his attention to this interesting subject.

He ridiculed the notion that Anglo-Saxon blood was the cause of Britain's advancement, and, truly if we may take him as a sample of what an Asiatic may become, when christianized, we need not take to ourselves any credit for our superior cultivation, but prize more highly that which is the source of all greatness and goodness—the Word of the living God.

ACADIA COLLEGE.—The Professors resumed their duties on the 1st inst, when the Term commenced. Six young men, who had previously studied in the Academy, applied for matriculation, and were admitted. There are at present thirty students in the College, and several more are expected. A Professor of Modern Languages is much needed, and additional help is required in other departments. It is to be hoped that a vigorous effort will be made at the approaching Convention to place the College on a safe and comprehensive basis.—Communicated.

An interesting notice of the late Rev. Wm. Grosor, Editor of the Loudon Baptist Magazine, from the pen of Rev. Dr. Cramp, will appear in our next.

Our contemporary the *Witness*, of Saturday last, gives a column on "City Morality," (Q. Immorality.) After stating that there is more drunkenness in Halifax this year, than ever seen before, arrives at the following climax:—

"It is only a few days since eleven husbands were brought to the Police Court by their own wives, to be punished and bound over to the peace. On the same day, three wives were brought before the Court by their own husbands for the same object. All these cases were traceable to indulgence in intoxicating drinks."

If this be a true statement, and we presume it is correct, we have a fearful picture of what the respectable traffic is producing.

THE letter from Rev. Isa. Wallace on our sixth page will be read with deep interest. We trust he will frequently have such good news to send us, and hope that his efforts on behalf of the "rising ministry" may be crowned with an abundant blessing.

### Accommodation to the Convention.

WE are informed that not only will facilities be afforded to Delegates to the Convention from Nova Scotia, but that the fare will be reduced, so that persons may go from Windsor to St. John, on the 20th (not on the 19th) and return, for 25s. and from Annapolis, on Thursday evening, the 18th and return, for 15s. instead of the usual charge 12s. 6d. each way.

OUR English Mail Steamers have lately arrived in so short passages that we have no doubt we shall, before finally going to press, be able to furnish our readers with late European intelligence.

It is asserted in the American papers that Lord Howden is shortly to be sent out as Ambassador to the United States to replace Mr. Crampton. If such be really the case it would seem to signify that an amicable adjustment of all differences has taken place between the two Governments, which seems highly probable. Lord Howden is very favorably known, as having been for several years past the British Ambassador at the Court of Spain, where he has on several occasions had to vindicate the rights and interests of his country; which he has done with dignity and spirit. We do not think a better choice could be made, especially as he must be well acquainted with the policy and feelings of the Spanish and American Governments towards each other in relation to Cuba.

The American Congress which was re-assembled by President Pierce immediately after the end of the last Session, to consider the Army Bills necessary to be passed, on account of existing wars with Indian tribes at the South and West, have not yet made any progress, being unable to come to any agreement on the measures submitted to them. The intestine war in Kansas is becoming more complicated and virulent, and bands of emigrants from other States are entering the country to lend their aid to one or the other party. It is a strange state of things to be allowed to exist in a Country professing to be governed by Constitutional law. Should the Slavery party succeed in subduing the advocates of freedom, and fixing the character of Kansas as a Southern Slaveholding State, after all that has taken place and the opposition of the North in and out of Congress, we may well fear that the preponderance of southern policy will be so overpowering that the Northern States must submit to all the consequences that would inevitably follow such an event, in its future influence on their most cherished institutions, or that a dissolution of the Union, must ensue. The Southern States have asserted principles and taken a position from which they cannot recede without submitting to great humiliation. We doubt whether they will ever consent to do so. We confess we can see no middle ground, or what is to restore the different members of the great Federation to their former Union and reciprocal good feeling towards each other. As we have heretofore said we look on the solution of the question with deep anxiety, looking to its future influence on the whole western continent.

Since the above was in type we find the army appropriation Bills have been passed, and the Houses adjourned.

PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL.—The semi-annual examination will take place on the 17th inst., and two following days.

About thirty or forty of those who have been students have finished their course of instruction, and will then be ready to leave. The Principal, Rev. A. Forrester, wishes to receive applications from Trustees who are desirous of obtaining Teachers.