

power and fulness of our language. In short, this version combines so many and various excellencies, that whatever alterations and improvements may be suggested by modern criticism, and sanctioned by the verdict of the learned, the old book will retain a strong hold on public favour. Perhaps it will never be entirely superseded.

And yet there is great necessity for revision. How could it be otherwise? Not to dwell on the sectarian character of the version, and to restraints laid upon its authors by the royal pedant who employed them, who does not know that the science of biblical criticism, which was quite in its infancy at the beginning of the seventeenth century, has made gigantic strides since that period, and especially during the last fifty years? We possess now helps for interpretation immeasurably superior to those which were enjoyed two hundred years ago. Travellers in the East have given us the results of their observations on men, manners, and scenery, and removed the obscurity which for ages had hung over many passages of the old Testament. The learned languages have been far more critically studied. An immense amount of labour has been expended in investigating ancient lore, penetrating the inmost recesses of philology, and establishing on a sure basis the principles of interpretation. Hundreds of manuscripts have been collated, the old versions (we mean, those of the first six centuries of the Christian era) have been examined, and the writings of the Greek and Latin Fathers ransacked, in order to collect materials for the purification of the text, by the removal of the errors which had crept in through the carelessness or the presumption of copyists. Ought we not to avail ourselves of these advantages? Should we not act in theology as we do in all other sciences? Why should not our text-book be conformed to the advanced state of knowledge, and to the style of the age? Why should we retain words which have become obsolete, or acquired other meanings, so that they convey no clear idea to the majority of modern readers? Translations of other works, executed two hundred years ago, are justly discarded, or so thoroughly revised as to be made to harmonize with the existing state of the language. Should the Bible be an exception?

There is only one way of answering these questions. They have been answered over and over again. Every new version answers them. Fresh attempts of that kind are continually brought under our notice. Lowth, Blayney, Newcome, Geddes, Doddridge, Macknight, Campbell, Boothroyd, Stuart, Conybeare and Howson, Henderson, Alexander and other names, are familiar to many of our readers. In the opinion of those learned men, the authorised version, good as it is, is susceptible of great improvement, and ought to be improved. The favour with which their writings have been generally received shews that public opinion is on their side. And indeed that was to be expected. Must not every Christian desire to have the clearest and fullest expression possible, in his own language, of the words of God?

We are glad to see that the desirableness of a new or revised version is now very seriously considered in England. O. Heywood, Esq., M. P., has announced his intention to bring it before Parliament. It is discussed in lectures and written on in the public journals. The Patriot newspaper, the organ of the Congregationalists, we are sorry to observe, takes anti-revision ground. Dr. Cummings, too, the popular preacher, has delivered and published a wrothy discourse, in which he inveighs against the project of a new translation, and commits himself to blundering statements which the merest tyro in biblical science would be ashamed of. Two noblemen have also taken the field. Lord Shaftesbury deprecates any change:—Lord Panmure thinks it would be fatal to Protestantism. Both those noble lords are behind the age. On the other hand, literary men of all denominations are in favour of the attempt. Several clergymen of the Church of England have declared themselves convinced of the necessity of revision. One suggests that the Queen should be memorialized to appoint a commission of ten learned men, members of some of the Universities, to undertake the work. Another proposes that the Christian Knowledge Society should publish an edition of the bible, containing in the margin those emendations of the version which will be generally endorsed by the critics. More than a year ago a powerful article appeared in the Edinburgh Review, advocating the preparation of "a corrected translation of the Sacred Scriptures," and arguing that it

would tend to produce, "the most wholesome kind of religious revival."

Meanwhile, as our readers are aware, the enterprise steadily advances on this Continent. Several portions of the New Testament, revised under the auspices of the American Bible Union, have been published, and are now undergoing the scrutiny of the learned in various parts of the world, previous to a final examination. The book of Job, translated by Dr. Conant, of Rochester University, is also issued, and is now before us. It appears in three forms. The first contains the authorised version, the Hebrew text, and the revised version, in parallel columns, with copious critical notes. The second has the revised version only, printed in paragraphs, with explanatory notes for the English reader. In the third, the revised version is given by itself, without notes. The mechanical execution of the volume is exceedingly good; as far as paper and print are concerned, there is nothing to be desired.—[To be continued.]

Religious Intelligence.

Prayer for Colleges.

DEAR BRETHREN,

I beg to remind our friends throughout the Province that Thursday the 26th inst. will be the day of prayer for Colleges. It will be observed, I trust, by the Churches generally. They are all deeply interested in the welfare of the Institutions in this place. The influence of a blessing here will be felt in every part of the land.

Six converts are to be baptized to-morrow.—One is a College Student; the others are members of the Academy. Blessed be God for this mercy. Let the Churches pray for us—seriously—believingly—and the Lord will "pour down a blessing."

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Feb. 7, 1857.

The Rev. W. Burton informs us he has received communications from Margaret, C. B., subsequently to the letter of Mr. Malcolm Ross, in a late No. of the C. M., which show that a pleasing state of revival continues in that locality. Fifteen persons have made a public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and have been baptized by Rev. R. Philp.

[The following was received two or three weeks since. It was put away very carefully but has just come to light with two or three other letters.—ED.]

HANTSFORD, Dec. 29, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER,

Our religious prospects here are beginning to look somewhat brighter. I baptized one person a few sabbaths ago, and some others are feeling deeply. I have been informed of one this morning who has obtained hope in Christ, the fruit of our late series of Religious services, held in this church. I hope soon to be able to say something more on this subject.

Yours truly, WM. BURTON.

The Church at Pubnico.

YARMOUTH, Jan. 22, 1857.

Dear Brother,—I have felt very deep regret at your sad misfortune. God's ways are mysterious, but they teach at least the instability of all that is human.

We have some pleasing circumstances in this County with which to begin the New Year. God is still reviving his cause in Pubnico. I have just returned from a visit there. The place is moved from its centre to its suburbs. Many are praying and many are rejoicing. Some twenty converts have witnessed a good confession since the commencement of the revival, seven of whom I immersed in this visit. Last Lord's-day was one of decision and dedication, notwithstanding the intense cold. O how fervent is devotion when God's spirit is realized. It is a faith that overcomes the world indeed.

Brother Bigelow has evidence of his call to labour for God in this revival in many instances. May the Lord continue to bless.

Brother Delong has just opportunely arrived to fulfil his mission in this section. May heaven crown him with much success.

The cause of truth is evidently on the advance in several sections of this county, and I earnestly hope to report revivals in other settlements in the county. My heart is encouraged to hope for glorious things in this land.

Anything I can do to advance the interests of our excellent paper will be done freely by your obedient servant and brother, in Christ,

JAMES V. TABOR.

\* Four more have received the hand of fellowship from other communions with the 11 baptized by me, and one by letter has united with the church, raising its numbers to 26 members.

THE N. Y. Examiner of the 29th ult. gives us the following Revival Intelligence, in connection with the Baptist Churches, amounting to 1,107 specified:—

From Virginia, 64. From Missouri, 272. From Kentucky, 96. From Indiana, 89. From Iowa, 50. From Illinois, 107. From Ohio, 49. From Pennsylvania, 272. From New York, 20. From Maine, 30. From Vermont, 13. From Massachusetts, 22. From California, 20. British Provinces, 12.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 11, 1857.

Opening of Parliament.

The excitement which has prevailed in the City, on the position and prospects of political parties, manifested itself in bringing together a large number of persons on Thursday last, to witness the ceremony of opening the Legislative Assemblies. His Excellency was attended as usual by various officers, both civil and military. The Council Chamber was filled by a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen. The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was directed to command the attendance of the Commons. After a few minutes they came headed by the Honourable Speaker almost covered by his large wig and robes.

His Excellency proceeded to deliver the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I meet you again in Parliament with feelings of undiminished pleasure, and I trust that your deliberations will result in measures promotive of the best interests of this thriving and loyal Province.

Animated by true British feeling, and warmly interested in the conduct and progress of the late War, though happily exempted from its disasters and burthens, the people of this Country, in common with their fellow-subjects in every part of the Empire, have reason to be deeply grateful for its successful termination, and I am sure will unite with us in a fervent prayer that the benign and sustaining influences of peace may long continue to advance and extend the prosperity of the Nation at large.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the current year, will be forthwith submitted to you.

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Our exemption from pestilence of every kind during the past year, through the protection of a merciful Providence, demands our deepest gratitude.

The labours of the husbandman within our borders in the past season have been richly rewarded; and the ready sales and remunerating prices of all kinds of farm stock and produce, I am happy to find, have contributed largely to his well-being and comfort.

I confidently feel that the recent importations of improved Stock will result in general advantage to the farming classes, and hope that you will be disposed to encourage by liberal grants, an object of such vital importance to the agriculture of the Province.

I regret to learn that the Fisheries, more especially in the autumn, have disappointed the hopes of the hardy and enterprising body who derive their subsistence from that great branch of Provincial industry.

I am happy to acquaint you that the Revenue has somewhat exceeded that of last year, and gives continued proof of the increasing prosperity and active industry of the people.

The extension of the Provincial Railway has been vigorously prosecuted. The stream of eastern traffic has been tapped at the Grand Lake, and it is confidently hoped that ere the close of this year the line will be opened to Windsor and Stewiacke.

The Accounts of the expenditure and liabilities incurred in these large operations will be laid before you at an early day, and will satisfy you I trust of the integrity and prudence with which the Works have been conducted.

The Reports and Accounts of the Lunatic Asylum, which will also be before you, will shew that the building of that Institution has favourably advanced during the past season.

It was thought advisable that a further Survey should be had of the St. Peter's Canal by an experienced Engineer. The Report of the gentleman who was employed will be presented at an early day, and I invite your attention to a subject of such prominent interest to the whole eastern section of the Province.

Two Acts have been recently passed by the Imperial Parliament for assimilating the Laws affecting Trade and Commerce in the United Kingdom, and Bills founded upon these, but adapted to our local Legislation, will be submitted for your approval.

Two measures have also been prepared, and will be immediately submitted to you, the one having for its object the more efficient protection of the Crown Lands, and the other a more easy and economical process of Escheat.

The subject of the Mines and Minerals I regret to say is still unsettled, the Home Government having been hitherto unable to come to a determination on this complicated and important question. The correspondence will shew that it has engaged the anxious solicitude of my Government, and I entertain the hope that the great interests involved will be considered and disposed of in a manner acceptable to the people.

Since the close of the last Session private enterprise has completed a Telegraphic union with the North American Provinces by a Submarine Cable, connecting Newfoundland with Cape Breton.

A still larger experiment is about to be made for carrying Telegraphic Communication across the Atlantic. The Company by whom it was projected have entered into arrangements for conveying their messages across our territory, and the inhabitants of this Province, as well as of the other parts of the American Continent, have a deep interest in their success. An intimation, however, has been conveyed to me that another Company, of adequate resources, proposes to lay down a Line from Ireland direct to Nova Scotia. Both parties will apply to you for legislative privileges, and I recommend their respective claims to your attentive consideration.

Be assured, gentlemen, that in this, as in every other matter affecting the welfare and progress of the people whom you represent, you may rely on my cordial co-operation.

His Excellency and attendants then retired.

If the Editor of the Witness were the exponent of Presbyterians generally, instead of only a section, his Ishmaelitic effusions would be entitled to some consideration. His desire to make us talk politics is not a sufficient reason for our doing so. We are happy that our people are accustomed to use their own judgment in these matters. Far be it from us to place a ban upon any man for acting independently in the discharge of his civil duties. We think it beneath the position a religious journal should occupy, to make use of its connection with a church, with one hand, for the purpose of securing with the other the influence of its adherents in favour of any party the editor may think proper to adopt.

We quite agree with our Episcopalian contemporary of Saturday last, when he says—"We seek no domination for our own church, and are as little inclined to brook it in others"—and we give our unhesitating reply in the affirmative to what he proposes when he says:—

"The questions which each member of the body politic has to ask himself seriously, are these—Are we to succumb to the political influence of one religious body? or—Are we to insist upon it, that religion and politics shall be disjoined, and that a man's religious profession shall neither be a stepping stone nor a bar to his political advancement?"

We have no inclination to enter into these matters until we see those principles violated.

We are waiting hourly for the arrival of our English Steamer, which will probably bring us late and important advices as regards warlike operations, both in Persia and China. We trust they may prove such as may warrant the hope of a speedy determination. However different it may have been in former days, to vast numbers of the best and wisest of the present day, war in any case, seems a deplorable and unnatural state of things, let its results be what they may.

The American Congress, now in Session, appear to have re-assembled, divested of the heat and asperity with which they separated. The question of Slavery, however, if resumed in any shape, will no doubt arouse the dormant passions of the leading men on either side. For some years past a stormy close seems to have been the settled state of things in this multitudinous concourse of discordant interests and feelings. It would appear that things are going on more quietly in Kansas, and if suffered to take their natural course, it is more than probable that in a short period, the free emigration from the North will place this rich and extensive country out of the reach of danger as regards the abominations of a Slave State. Mr. Brooks of South Carolina, who made the murderous assault in Congress on Mr. Sumner of Massachusetts, died suddenly and under very distressing circumstances at Washington, a few days since. The cold has been most intense throughout all the northern continent, and even as far South as Virginia, the Thermometer has fallen several degrees below zero. In some places it has been as low as 43° below, and in several instances the mercury has been congealed. Vast quantities of Snow have also fallen in several of the midland States, by which the Rail-rars have been entirely stopped, and travelling of all kinds suspended for several days.

Telegraph Despatch.

Merchants' Reading Room, February 6, 1857.

New York, Feb. 5.—U. S. M. Steamship Baltic, Capt. Comstock, has arrived, bringing Liverpool dates to January 21.

Chiton and Broad-stuffs dull. Wheat declining. Money market said to be easier.

Consols for money 93 1/2 to 93 3/4. Political news entirely unimportant.

THREE DAYS LATER.

The Africa arrived at New York on Friday evening, bringing dates to January 24.

The British forces have taken the Peninsula, and were shelling Cadix.

News of interest.