

not give their children new hearts. True: but ought they therefore to countenance them in that which is manifestly adapted to harden their hearts, and to hinder them from obtaining new ones? Should they not sedulously endeavour, by all prudent means, to draw them from worldly vanities to the Saviour?

Those who themselves practised it in their youth, may think they cannot consistently forbid it in their children. But must parents countenance their offspring in all the imprudent actions of their own days of folly?

The excuse, that some other professors of religion do so, is too flimsy to require notice: but it furnishes a cogent reason why all members of Baptist churches should avoid setting so bad an example.

One of the pleas most commonly urged in defence of dancing, is, that there are other things practised which are worse. If this were valid it might be adduced with equal propriety in many other cases. I will give an instance in point. On a certain occasion when I was on board a steamer, card-playing was introduced. I intimated to the Steward, that it appeared to me objectionable. "O," said he, "young people must have diversion; and this is one of the most innocent that they can have. A man would bring down more guilt upon his soul by cursing half an hour, than he would by playing cards all day." I did not controvert the last part of his statement. I had, however, in my youthful days witnessed the commencement of one game of cards; and had perceived connected with it deception, falsehood, quarrelling, and cursing. Is it not to be feared that, as in this case, so in reference to dancing, the practising of things which are deemed worse, instead of being prevented will be promoted?

As it was this carnal amusement which caused the murder of John the Baptist, so the fact is well known that, together with the drinking of intoxicating liquors—things frequently combined—was manifestly the occasion of the shooting of McKeown by Izat in Halifax, last autumn.

I trust the evil to which "Inquirer" invites attention is of very limited extent. If, however, there be in any locality, instances in which members of Baptist Churches encourage the attendance of their children at dancing parties, it is my earnest desire, for the honour of God and the good of all concerned, that they may cease at once and forever.

Yours in gospel bonds,
C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, April 25, 1857.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 6, 1857.

THE Canadian Press, for some months past, has been much occupied with a quarrel of some magnitude, which has taken place between the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Dr. O'Regan, and the Abbe Chiniquy, one of the Priests of his Diocese. Pere Chiniquy is generally designated the Apostle of Temperance, among the French Canadian population, and not long since emigrated from that Province with about 2000 Canadians, to St. Anne's, in the State of Illinois. Being an active and zealous man, he seems to have signally succeeded after much personal exertions and expence, in establishing a thriving and prosperous Colony, among whom he has introduced schools and other means of progress and improvement. Things went on well until his unfortunate dispute with his Bishop, who began to suspect, it would seem, that Father Chiniquy was pursuing a course somewhat inimical to the maintenance of that strict, unconditional submission to Episcopal authority, which the Romish Church so stringently enjoins. The immediate cause of difference appears to have arisen from a demand made by Bishop O'Regan, that Mr. Chiniquy should make over to him a small piece of land and the house he had built on it at his own expence, but which he promptly refused to do. We believe, also, for we have not seen much that has been published on the matter, that a warm difference is also subsisting between the Bishop and the people of St. Anne, as to making over the whole of their Church property vested in Trustees, but which they have also refused to do. The Bishop of Chicago has excommunicated Mr. Chiniquy and we think also his flock, for contumacy. They, however, insist that the sentence of excommunication is null and void, having been irregularly and illegally passed, and in direct contradiction to the

laws and canons of the Church. We gain our knowledge chiefly from what has been published by Mr. Chiniquy, or in his defence, but he cites facts and authorities, which it would seem could scarcely be controverted. Be this as it may, the affair is exciting great interest in the Roman Catholic Church in Canada and the United States, and seems likely to lead to a permanent secession of greater or less numbers from her communion. Mr. Chiniquy seems much beloved, and is warmly supported by his people. He has dealt out some heavy blows to the Bishops of his Church, whom he openly and generally charges with unrestrained ambition and the grossest tyranny over their Priests. He seems to adhere with undiminished faith to the Roman Church as the only true one, but reverts to the Scriptures as the only sure source from which her rulers are entitled to derive their authority or power. A late number of the "Semeur Canadien" contains a long and able letter from Mr. Chiniquy to the R. C. Bishop of London, U. C.

THE Report of the Grand Ligne Mission, which we have just received, presents some very satisfactory facts connected with the progress of that excellent Institution, than which, we do not know another better entitled to the sympathies, and prayers, and bounty of the Baptists of Nova Scotia. The general results of the mission have been successful, although there has been an apparent decrease as to numbers in some instances. The great cause of evangelization is, however, evidently gaining ground in Lower Canada, and the prejudices of the people lessening by degrees. Much exertion and very considerable means are, of course, required to carry on with efficiency their three-fold enterprise included in the preaching of the gospel, the education of the young, and the operations of the press. As many as twelve Roman Catholic families have left that Church during the past year, to join a purer and more scriptural worship, besides single individuals. The number, however, of French Protestants in Canada is not greater now than it was ten years ago. This is easily enough explained by stating that as many as two hundred thousand French Canadians are now residing in the United States, a large proportion of whom are Protestants, and very many of them the fruits of the Grand Ligne Mission. To all appearance the *Habitans* of Lower Canada are becoming so surrounded and hemmed in by an intelligent Protestant population on every side, that it cannot be long before very serious inroads must be made upon their long cherished ideas and customs, which have hitherto opposed so many barriers to the reception of more enlightened views in religion.

It affords us much pleasure to insert the following extract of a letter from London to the *Christian Visitor*. The writer gives a very pleasing account of a visit to the Regents Park College. After mentioning the names of several prominent and useful men who received their course of collegiate education at the Stepney College, from which this originated, he says:—

"We have one among us intimately connected with our denomination in these Provinces, whose labours have been signally blessed; young men are trained by him for the work of the Ministry who are proving themselves workmen that needeth not to be ashamed. The institution he superintends has been peculiarly owned of God. Many that left the home of their childhood in the power of the wicked one, led captive at his will, have returned to the bosom of their families, having been made free with the liberty wherewith Christ maketh his people free, and the hearts of many parents are now rejoicing in the delightful intelligence they receive from their sons, that they have those things they once loved, and that a new era has dawned upon their spiritual existence; I need scarcely say that I have reference to Dr. Cramp, of Acadia College, whose labours, I trust, will be still more abundantly blessed."

Again he says, in comparing the present Institution with Stepney College:—

"Now we have the most eligible site, and one of the handsomest buildings of the kind to be found in the neighborhood of London, situated in the upper part of Regent's Park, surrounded by walks, avenues, &c., beautified by trees, ornamented by beds of flowers; in a few words, it appears like a little Paradise here below. These grounds belong to the Institution. The scenery all around is quite animating; for about one quarter of a mile we see the ornamented waters, groves of trees, &c., &c."

"The internal character of the building baffles my descriptive powers. The entrance hall to begin with, is magnificent, of a circular form, surrounded by a gallery with carved representations of some ancient battles; the student that accompanied me around the building, (a Mr. Lehman, who is a son of a Baptist Minister in Germany and a native) pointing to the figures, said: "they were not quite in accordance with the character of the Institution." But still it has a classical appearance if not Theological."

Who are Dissenters?

WE copy the following from an editorial of the *Church Times*, and are somewhat at a loss to know the parties referred to:—

"The Session of the Legislature just terminated, has been characterized by several attempts on the part of dissenters and others to deprive the Church of her temporalities, and to alter her usage in the mode of conducting Parochial meetings. The former attempts show the desire to wound on the part of those outside her pale—the latter has been instigated by some from whom it could scarcely have been expected to proceed, viz., by members of her own communion. It may be as well to notice, that in the Legislature these attacks upon the possessions of the Church and upon the rights of her authorities, were advocated by dissenters solely, and that not one of her members gave them any countenance, but on the contrary opposed them strenuously, showing in every instance, that the spoliators need not rely on any fancied disaffection in her communion to forward their views."

Who are the dissenters here spoken of? Why not give the name of "the particular body from whose members these "attempts" have proceeded. Dissenters, in the proper acceptance of the term, there are none in this province, as there is no church by law established. Episcopalians are dissenters in Old Scotland, whilst all who are opposed to the union of Church and State, and sustain their own ministers by voluntary contribution, are so designated in England. The same may, in a great measure, be said of Episcopalians as well as of other protestant denominations—in Lower Canada, where the Roman Catholic is the religion most recognized by the law.

It is somewhat difficult, we know, for those who have been accustomed to write and speak of dissenters in the mother country, to get rid of the notions and phraseology so common there. On their adopting this country as their home, however, they should learn to adopt such language as all understand here, and as is suited to the true state of the country, so that no other impression than the one intended is conveyed by it. "A word to the wise," &c.

Education.

WE are glad to find that an addition of £4000, being an increase of about 4, has been made during the late session, to the sum granted for Common Schools.

It has appeared to us somewhat strange that whilst the income of the province has been steadily increasing, and the sums expended for roads and bridges, and various public works and institutions, have been from time to time enlarged, that no addition has been made to the amount granted for education for the past seven years or more. Although the number of Schools, and of children attending them, has been gradually increasing, yet the sum appropriated for their support being distributed amongst a greater number of teachers, the actual proportion for each, has consequently been diminished, so that instead of the scanty pittance paid to Teachers being enlarged, to meet the greater demands arising from the advance in the cost of provisions, the sum paid from the Treasury to each has been actually diminished every succeeding year.

The effect of this, as regards the past, has fallen principally on the Teachers; but it is more than probable that many of the best teachers have been driven from the work, to employments offering better prospects of remuneration, or they have been induced to remove themselves to the other neighbouring Provinces or the United States, where the profession receives more adequate compensation. The ultimate results are, therefore, that the Teachers are of an inferior class than they were or might otherwise have been, and the schools are consequently less efficient throughout the country. The operations of the Normal School may eventually to some extent repair the injury which has thus been done to the cause of educational improvement.

We think the present government have acted wisely in pressing for this increase. The argument used against the grant, that there are now such large demands on the Treasury, might have some weight, were it not for the circumstances mentioned above; but the view taken by some, that to attempt to add anything to the grant, under the present law, would postpone or prevent the enactment of an improved Bill, based on assessment, is, we think, contrary to all experience. If you wish people to value education, educate them. But to punish the Teachers and drive the best ones away, is a strange method of preparing the people for the assessment principle.

We hope that the addition made by the Legislature to the School grant, will be an inducement to Trustees of Districts to en-

deavour, also, to raise a larger sum from the people, so that the great draw-back to educational improvement—low salaries—may be overcome.

Get a good salary and you may command the services of a respectable Teacher. With a good Teacher you may expect a good School. Wherever a good school is established, the neighbourhood will soon manifest signs of improvement, which nothing else can effect. The present benefits of education, based on Christian principles, are unquestionable, but the amount of good ultimately accomplished by an efficient teacher, is incalculable.

We do not intend, by these remarks, to lose sight of the necessity that still exists for an Educational Bill of a very much improved character to the one at present in operation.

A very important provision, we understand has been made in one of the school acts of the present session empowering the Boards of School Commissioners to give, out of the whole sum placed at their disposal, to the extent of 2 1/2 per cent for the assistance of any promising and talented young men or women, during their attendance at the Normal School. This is an inducement to enter that Institution which will doubtless be hailed by many with satisfaction.

The next session of the Normal School will we believe commence on the 13th inst. The Model Schools are to be opened on the 18th. With this addition to the Institution at Truro, much greater facilities will be afforded for the training of Teachers and carrying out the work, so as to combine the practice with the theory, and by that means testing the powers of the students in the art of communicating knowledge and illustrating the principles which should govern in the work of education.

WHAT OUR ENEMIES SAY, AND WHAT OUR FRIENDS DO.

The miserable slanders respecting the consistency of the *Christian Messenger* and its adherence to Protestantism indulged in a short time since, by some of the *quaker* protestant papers, has had quite a contrary effect from that intended by them. We have this week received the names of several new subscribers with the payment in advance, stating that they are sent "on account of the impartial and judicious course which we have adopted in regard to late events." This, of course, is highly gratifying. We shall still pursue our straight forward course, and continue to advocate the cause of truth and righteousness independent of all parties. The good sense of our numerous readers will, we doubt not, continue to sustain us as heretofore.

THE *Christian Visitor* of the 22nd ult. has some very appropriate remarks on the position in which Baptists in this Province have lately been placed, and the charges brought against them, with respect to party politics.

In reply to the *Freeman* (St. John's paper) our New Brunswick contemporary says:—

"We claim to know as much about political combinations, new and old, in our native Province as Mr. Freeman, or Mr. anybody else, and we beg to say once for all, that Baptists, in Nova Scotia like their brethren in New Brunswick, may be thrown, by circumstances over which they have no control, into associations, which, to those looking from a distant outpost, may appear strange and inconsistent; but like Baptists from the days of the Apostles, they will still be found the uncompromising advocates of EQUAL RIGHTS and PRIVILEGES for all, and the determined enemies of all forms of proscription and oppression, in matters political or religious. EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL is inscribed indelibly upon their banners, and when they act contrary to this, they falsify their principles, and show themselves unworthy of the name they bear.

"The idea that men, because they are christian preachers or religious Editors, are to be gagged on the subject of politics, another name for the science of human government, is repugnant to common sense.

"Political or religious tyranny, or tyranny of any sort, will meet with no favour from the Baptist press or the Baptist people. From the day when the head of John the Baptist was placed in a charger until now, they have been schooled in the furnace of persecution, for conscience sake, and they well know how to prize the sweets of civil and religious liberty."

THE Legislature closed its protracted Session on Friday last with the usual ceremonies, and the members have returned to their respective homes and to the precincts of private life. The interruption occasioned by the change of government, precluded the consideration of several matters of much general interest. The latter part of the session was busily occupied in making the needed provision for carrying on the Government with efficiency during the year.

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