

car-ring of gold." That was an excellent donation visit. The hand of the Lord was in it. We have been copying this ancient model this evening.

Then we open the New Testament. On the first page is the record of a Donation Visit. People came from afar to show their regard for the sure word of prophecy, their honour for the Messiah, the King of Israel, whom they fell down and worshipped; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We feel satisfied that those worshippers of the wilderness, those friends of Job, and those "wise men" from the east, were amply rewarded for their free-will offerings; and found that it was indeed "blessed to give" in such a cause, and in such a manner. And so do we. We trust, dear Brother, that attachment to the same cause, and the same Redeemer, and to his minister for his sake, and a deep interest in the comfort and welfare of yourself and family, have brought us together this evening, with our free-will offerings, our "gold, frankincense and myrrh," the produce of our farms, our shops and larders, the fruits of our "spinning," weaving, knitting and sewing, &c., &c. May our mutual attachment be continued and increased, and may we have a still deeper sense of our mutual privileges and responsibilities as pastor and people; yours to watch for our souls as one that must give account; and ours to see to it that you be able to render that account with joy and not with grief. May the relation, hitherto so harmonious, be long continued to our mutual joy and edification, and to the glory of our God and Saviour.

Few places in this province combine so many natural and spiritual advantages, to a young and enterprising community, as Hantsport. The broad Avon with its safe and commodious harbours, open and free nine months in the year, rolls its ample waters by our doors, opening up a highway for enterprise to every port and every nation under heaven. An area of forest and cultivated lands, of many ten thousands of acres in extent, with the Basin of Minas and the streams which flow into it, visible from those hills which sweep around us, "as the mountains are round about Jerusalem," present a field whose untold generations may live and labor and "enjoy the good of their labor all the days of their life." Situated exactly in the track of the Iron horse, whose snorting is already heard in the distance as he "paweth in the valley," and cometh on to meet the "armed men," collecting his strength for a rush to the "far west," we shall soon be brought into close proximity with the fertile fields of Horton, Cornwallis, and the Annapolis valley, New Brunswick, Canada, the United States, and on to the distant Pacific.

The means of Education, too, for our sons and our daughters, are at hand. In addition to our common schools, we have, within an hours drive to our right hand and to our left, the Academies and Colleges of Windsor and Wolfville; and the demand for a female Academy in the neighbourhood cannot long be neglected.

Then we must bless God for a healthy locality. Just opening into the Basin of Minas, with "cloud-capped Blomidon" full in view, we have the advantages of a sea-breeze from the north, while the south wind, sweeping over almost interminable forests, brings to us the perfumes of the woodlands and the music of the groves. Elevated more than seventy feet above the channel of the river, there is no opportunity for noxious vapors and poisonous gases to settle and spread their pestilential influences among us. We may truly say "the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places; yea we have a goodly heritage." Would that our piety, industry, and zeal in every good work, might be commensurate with our opportunities!

Our religious privileges are great. The utmost harmony has long existed here among those who love the Lord Jesus Christ of different denominations. We are happy to know that this harmony has been promoted by the christian prudence of your ministrations, and the natural amiableness of your character. May peace be still "within our walls and prosperity within our palaces." Nothing can be of more importance to us than an evangelical earnest ministry; and an evangelical earnest church. God grant that we may possess these blessings and abound yet more and more! Maddening drinks are scarcely known among us. May the time speedily come when every village in the world may be as free!

Father Holmes comes not to greet you this evening. But the fruits of his labors

and prayers are here: his remembrance is here: his enraptured spirit may be here. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Our God and Saviour is here. May we be sensible of his presence! and may a holy unction from on high be upon us.

(A purse containing over nine pounds accompanied the address.)

REPLY.

Beloved Friends and Brethren.—It affords me unmingled pleasure to meet you here this evening; and more especially as I learn from your interesting address that your object is to express in this public manner your regard for myself and family, to strengthen my hands and to encourage my heart in the work of the Lord among you. The sincerity of which on your part is demonstrated beyond what words can express by the substantial benefits you have been pleased to confer. I feel happy in the fact, that my lot has been cast in this delightful locality, so well described, and without exaggeration, in your address. It has been my study and inclination for the last thirty years, to promote religion and education among the people where I have labored, being persuaded that these tend to secure and promote the greatest amount of real happiness to man in this life, and that they are Heaven's high device to adopt and prepare him for the highest stage of his being, where moral and intellectual delight will be the very perfection of his condition forever.

It affords me high gratification to perceive a generous emulation stirring the sympathies and conversation of the people of this delightful village, respecting the establishment of a Female Academy; affording as it does, so far as the locality is concerned, facilities equalled by few if any other places in the Province. To effect so desirable an object I shall be ready to aid you to the utmost of my ability, both by word and deed, knowing as I do, that such an institution established here would at once inspire the youth of this village with a new intellectual and moral element, so essential to valuable attainments. And for our encouragement in an undertaking of this kind it would really seem as if the goodness and grace of God were so prompt to bestow his blessing on such an undertaking that his omnipotent power is even employed to resist the breaking forth of his smiling face. Witness the continual outpouring of his Spirit at our Institutions at Horton from year to year. And look up to Berwick, where a few friends to the cause of Female Education, on Religious principles, had scarcely begun their work, when lo! the heavenly Saviour shines forth in their midst and that to bless with salvation and eternal life. Then go on and prosper; I am satisfied that the enterprise will be amply sustained by the people here and elsewhere.

I have now, dear friends, spent a little more than two years among you. In some part of that time I have mingled with you, as you have with me and my family, in the sorrows of death, and those who once greeted us with christian affection, are not here to enliven the pleasure of this moment. Theirs it is to enliven a holier assembly than this with their songs of praise. Since I came among you I have buried thirty-six persons, within the range of the field over which my labours have been extended; twenty couples I have united in marriage; and I have baptized and received into the churches nineteen.

And now, dear friends, please continue to pray that God may still further bless our union as pastor and people. I thank you most sincerely for the present tangible proof of your esteem and regard for myself and family; and may peace and prosperity crown the efforts of this thriving, temperate, and industrious village, and be assured I am your sincere friend and pastor, W. BURTON.

Bright hours and gloomy.

Ah, this beautiful world! I know not what to think of it. Sometimes it is all sunshine and gladness, and heaven itself lies not far off, and then it suddenly changes, and is dark and sorrowful, and the clouds shut out the day. In the lives of the saddest of us there are bright days like this, when we feel as if we could take the great world in our arms. Then come gloomy hours when the fire will not burn in our hearts, and ah, without and within is all dismal, cold and dark. Believe me, every heart has its secret sorrows, which the world knows not, and often times we call a man cold, when he is only sad.—Long fellow.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 1, 1857.

EVERY Christian Church, if constructed of the right materials—if built up of living stones, possesses in itself a principle of self-renewal, which, if the doctrines of the gospel are preached with any amount of clearness and faithfulness, affords the best warrant for its prolonged vitality and usefulness. In this fact lies the secret of the repeated revivals of religion which are so often occurring to a greater or less extent among Evangelical Churches in the present day. In this is verified the reality of the promise, "Lo! I am with you always."

We are gratified in stating that in several instances of late, the sensible manifestations of God's mercy and power have been bestowed on our churches. In a communication in our present number it will be seen, that in the upper part of the township of Horton, a third Baptist Church was lately organized, by setting off a number of the members of the First Church, since which a very considerable re-inforcement has been added to the body by baptism. On Saturday last, too, we are informed that twenty-two persons were received for baptism by this new Horton Church at New Minas. In the capital, also, we are rejoiced to say there are still indications of the further progress of the good work, especially in the North Church, where several have lately joined on profession of their faith in Christ. The Brethren in the Granville St. Church are not without tokens of encouragement, and in both places of worship meetings for preaching, exhortation, and prayer are being held almost every evening. These cases are not solitary ones, and we trust we shall continue to afford our readers fresh notices of these cheering occurrences.

WE cannot imagine a more gross and reprehensible inconsistency in our social policy than the case referred to by our Correspondent, J. A. M., of North Sydney. That any man holding the Commission of a Magistrate, bestowed for the express purpose of constituting him a guardian of the peace and morals of society, should be permitted to engage in a traffic which is directly subversive of all moral welfare in a community, is what must meet the severe reprobation of every well-thinking person. Can it be that there is not a sufficient sense of their own dignity and the general welfare, among the leading members of the community, Magistrates, as well as others, to put a stop to so disgraceful a state of things as to suffer any man, holding a Commission of the peace, to disgrace himself and the society in which he lives, by pandering to the low and sensual appetites of its most degraded and worthless members; or how is it that those who pursue such practices have not been publicly presented at the Sessions as a nuisance. What effectual steps it might be in the power of the late or the present Government to take, in order to meet the wide-spreading evils of Intemperance, it is not our present purpose to suggest. The evil is a great one, and deserves the prompt consideration of all who, either in a public or private capacity, have power in any degree to control it; but when it exists in the form complained of by our correspondent, it would seem that it ought to be dealt with in the first instance by the sound, moral sense of the community. Next to the evils of intemperance itself, is the indifference which looks carelessly on and allows it to sap the vitals of society.

THE past week has been one, of no ordinary, and perhaps of unprecedented, excitement. The four gentlemen who accepted office on the resignation of the late government, having appealed to their constituencies to confirm their appointments, were each opposed by candidates for their representation in Parliament.

During the day, or Wednesday, various and conflicting reports were being sent every hour or two, from those polling places near to Telegraph offices. Much excitement was kept up till the hour of closing the polls, when no doubt existed of the return of the Hon. Mr. Johnston for the County of Annapolis, and Hon. Mr. Wilkins for the Township of Pictou. As, however, there were important districts to be heard from, in connexion with Guysboro' and Cumberland, the opposition candidates were supposed by some to have some chances of a majority. With respect to the latter it was confidently asserted that the Hon. Provincial Secretary had

no chance of being returned, as a large majority was against him in some parts of the county. The morning papers gave it as a fact that Dr. Tupper was beaten! In the course of Thursday, however, when the returns had been received, all doubts were removed, and the return of the four members of government was no longer questioned.

The following, we believe, may be relied on as an accurate account of the returns made from each place, respectively:

For Annapolis,—Hon. J. W. Johnston, Majority, 400.

For Guysboro',—Hon. J. G. Marshall, 1,233, Heffernan, 905: Majority, 328.

For Pictou,—Hon. Solicitor General Wilkins, 1,421, Mr. Davis, 1,297: Majority, 124.

For Cumberland,—Hon. Dr. Tupper, Majority, 133.

OUR English Mails by the *Buropa*, arrived on Friday, and bring London dates to the 14th March.

Parliament was to be forthwith dissolved and writs issued for a new general Election. It has lasted nearly five years. The legal duration of the British Parliament is seven years, but it rarely, if ever, reaches its full term. The average duration of the six Parliaments which have been elected since the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, has been four years only. What has immediately led to the present dissolution was the defeat of Lord Palmerston's ministry in the Commons, upon a motion of Mr. Cobden concerning the Chinese war. As it is very generally believed that the sense of the nation at large is, that the ministry have been justified in their Chinese policy, they have determined on not resigning, but appealing to the country. London, Birmingham, and several others of the principal cities in the Kingdom have held large meetings and addressed Lord Palmerston in approval of his measures, and passing a censure on the vote of the Commons.

The last news from China is not very favourable. The Chinese Government is preparing for active resistance, and the British ships were withdrawing from the immediate vicinity of Canton. An Armament of four or five thousand men were about being immediately dispatched for Canton with a considerable Naval force. Troops are also being sent from India. The French Squadron in the Chinese Seas are co-operating with the English. There can be no doubt that for some years past the Chinese Authorities, particularly at Canton—the chief focus of trade—have been committing continued breaches of the terms of the Treaties of 1842, against the trade of European Powers, and in not a few cases the lives and properties of persons engaged in commerce, have been sacrificed. We are much inclined to the belief that the present crisis to which matters have been brought, has been inevitable on the part of England, consistent with the safety of the lives of her subjects and the integrity of her mercantile interests; or, as expressed by one of our London Papers, "There must, it would seem, have been a long course of insolent, restrictive, anti-commercial policy on the part of Yeh, the Governor, and the Cantonese Mandarins, which it was felt could no longer be endured."

The Peace with Persia is finally adjusted. England retaining two stations in the Persian Gulf, and having the right of maintaining consuls in the large Commercial Ports and Cities. Most probably the experiment the Shah of Persia has had of the power and promptness of England to vindicate her rights, will have an excellent effect in preserving future peace.

Report says that Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, whose period of service in this Colony is nearly expired, is to have a command in the Mediterranean. His successor in the Government we have not yet heard named.

The Annual Grant to Maynooth, the Roman Catholic Theological College in Ireland has again been before Parliament, and passed by a majority of only eight. It is highly probable that it will not long be continued. The principle on which the grant is based, is in direct opposition to the growing sentiment, that no public monies ought to be granted in aid of any religious persuasion as such. The sooner they are got rid of in the mother country, the better it will be for the extension and purity of true Christianity.

It appears that an immediate dissolution of the Lower House in New Brunswick is to take place. This after two Sessions of the House, is somewhat unexpected, and indicates a singular state of vacillation and uncertainty in the political affairs of our sister Province.