

in religion; but who prefers such a place to learn of Jesus? He may have gone to a happy land to meet in glory a father who died in Christ; but what a comfort would one substantial evidence of divine acceptance afford to those left to mourn.

From Psalms xvi. 10.—"Be still, and know that I am God." I endeavoured to recommend a silent and adoring attention, and secondly a silent and adoring submission, as our best remedy under those inexplicable providences which say to the young, "Because I will do this, prepare to meet thy God."

Sincerely, JAMES V. TABOR.

MRS. MARY MORE,

Wife of Mr. Jacob More, of Long Island, had been brought to the knowledge of the truth in early life under the labours of the Rev. Thomas Ansley, when at home with her parents, John and Sarah Pool, of Wilmot, County of Annapolis. She made a public profession of religion about the 25th year of her age. She had lived for many years on Long Island, and had won many friends since her union with the Church. She had been much afflicted with asthma. Amidst all her sufferings her trust was in the righteousness of Christ, and God, who never leaves his children, enabled her to rejoice in God, the rock of her salvation; and for many days before her death she longed to depart and be with Christ, and could say,

"Joyful, with all the strength I have, My quivering lips should sing: Where is thy boasted victory, Grave? And where, O Death, thy sting?"

Sister M. fell asleep in Jesus on the 29th of August, 1857, and left a husband and six children to mourn the loss of a kind companion and mother. May God bless and sustain them in their affliction.

MRS. MIRIAM M'COY,

Wife of William McCoy, Esq., died at Long Island, on the 23rd of January, in the 56th year of her age. For many years she performed the duties of a kind wife and faithful mother. Though she never professed religion yet she thought that in early life she obtained a hope in Christ. Before her death she felt the assurance that all was well, and manifested much interest in seasons of prayer. On two occasions she broke out in a rapture of praise, and told us that she longed to leave this world and be at rest. Before she died she pointed her husband and children to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.

MRS. ELIZABETH THURBER,

Wife of Mr. John Thurber, fell asleep in Jesus on the 24th of January, 1858, in the 36th year of her age. When young she sought the pleasures and vanities of this world until about the age of 22, when she was brought to see her lost and ruined state as a sinner, and to fly to Christ for refuge. At that time she obtained hope in the Redeemer and united with the Church, and lived a consistent life until her removal by death. She bore her sickness with christian fortitude. Her evidence brightened in view of the rest that remained for the people of God. Towards the close of her life, when able to converse, she would say she longed to join the Church above.

—Communicated by Rev. Henry Achilles.

For the Christian Messenger.

State Religion in N. S. and N. B.

DEAR SIR,

I was not a little surprised to see a leading article in the Christian Visitor, of the 4th inst., advocating, in no equivocal terms, the propriety of a national religion, ignoring, at the same time, a national church. Without, at the present time, attempting to shew the oneness in principle of these two asserted extremes, I would respectfully ask the Editor of that paper to solve a few difficulties which arise in my mind on the position he has taken.

Religion has ever appeared to me to be based on the authority of God—and of God alone. His alone, is the right to say what it shall be—and His, the inalienable right to demand obedience to its principles, and His alone, is the absolute prerogative to say when its precepts are honored. Is this disputed? If so, when gave He authority, and to what nation, to establish, by law, the Christian religion? I am not aware of any command to this effect. If human governments have the right to enforce religion, or religious instruction in even the vague sense expressed in the article referred to, then surely they have the right to punish with pains and penalties those who neglect it. This might sound well enough coming from a Roman Catholic or an Episcopalian, but coming from the Editor of the Christian Visitor, himself an avowed Baptist, is not, I confess, a little surprising.

On the principle laid down by the Editor of the Christian Visitor, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Mormons, Mahomedans, Jews, and Infidels may be compelled to submit to either the "Protestant or Catholic Bible." Why should not the Mormon be allowed the book which he is pleased to call his Bible? Why not allow the Mussulman his Koran, the Jews their Talmud, or the Infidel his Philosophy? Have human governments the right to lord it

over men's consciences? Tell me, Mr. Editor of the Visitor, if your doctrine is correct, what was there wrong in principle in the fires of Smithfield or in the tragic scenes of St. Bartholomew's day?

Again, religion must have something perceptively definite in its principles. They must be understood and appreciated. What are we to understand then by this demand? merely the book? As well then may we require the Koran or Shakespear's plays. O no, you say, the contents—the sentiments of the book. And what are these? Will you tell us, Mr. Editor?—Very well. I now ask your Episcopal brother.—His answer is slightly different from yours. I ask your Roman Catholic brother.—A greater difference. Let the various sects of religionists shew also their opinion, and they all differ.

Now if, as you say, "religious instruction is to be prominently regarded as an essential element" in the provisions "of a school act," I do not know but you will be obliged to allow every teacher the liberty of teaching what he considers the Bible to be, or else allow the State to define the meaning of the Bible and enforce it, in other words, allow perfect freedom of conscience, or else revive the old Act of Uniformity.

With no other motive than the presentation of truth, and the maintenance of liberties hard won by our forefathers,

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c., A. B. C.

For the Christian Messenger.

Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society.

DEAR BRETHREN,

For the information of members of the Home Missionary Society and the Churches generally, I beg, through the columns of the Christian Messenger to acknowledge the following sums, received since Jany. 1st, 1858.

Table with columns for donor names and amounts. Includes Rev. I. J. Skinner, others at Bridgewater, A friend, North Baptist Church, Miss Abigail Soley, John McLearn, Esq., Hon. J. McCully, Miss Alice Wiswell, James Lambert, W. Evans, and Rev. Mr. Bently.

All by the hands of Rev. Mr. Bently £16 10 1 Joseph D. Marters, per Mr. Selden, 0 5 0 Rev. J. Chase, per letter, (former bal) 20 2 11 Do do yearly subs'n. 5 0 0 Mr. George Flowers, 0 10 0

£42 8-0 Paid during same period to sundry laborers in the Mission field, and others, by order of Chairman £74 18 8

The Treasurer deems this to be a very important field of Christian operations, and one in which more good can be done with limited means, than by almost any other method. He trusts that the numerous patrons will feel the necessity of prompt and liberal pecuniary patronage, to enable the Board to prosecute with vigor the work already commenced, and to enlarge and extend their operations by additional labourers and extended localities. The whitening fields on every side, proclaim the ripening harvest, and call loudly for additional labourers. The North Baptist Church has done nobly in this cause by way of contributions, and we may reasonably suppose by their prayers also. May they receive a rich reward from the Lord of the harvest, and may many others follow their example.

Yours, in the bonds of christian love, JOHN WHITMAN, Treasurer. Halifax, March 20th, 1858. For the Christian Messenger.

A Surprise Visit.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

An esteemed sister, a member of my Church, called on me, on the 12th inst., and placed in my hand, on behalf of my Church and congregation, a purse containing £12 12s. 6d. Will you kindly allow me, through the Messenger, to thank my friends for this unexpected, and I fear, unmerited gift. I would add, its value has been more than equalled by others with which I have been presented since the commencement of my labors among them. I hope, by divine help, to become more worthy the kindnesses which are being so largely and continuously shown me.

D. M. WELTON. Windsor, March 18th; '58.

The Maine Legislature has fallen into the habit of singing a hymn just before opening for the day.

A clergyman in Southfield, Mass., had a model Donation Visit last week. His people put on his table an evergreen tree and hung its branches with gold eagles.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 15, 1858.

Hon. Financial Secretary, by command, laid on the table an account of expenses of certain great roads in Guysboro'.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, by command, laid on the table certain accounts relating to Indian affairs; the accounts for Public Printing; the report of the Warden of the River Fisheries for Pictou; and the report of the Commissioners of the Normal School.

The house in committee on bills. The following bills were considered: An act to amend the new practice act in relation to arrest for debt, was amended and passed.

A bill to amend chapter 79 of the Revised Statutes of Partnerships was then taken up, and passed.

Also, a bill to amend chapter 82 Revised Statutes "of Interest." The Attorney General stated that the effect of this bill would be that a usurious contract will only be vacated to the extent of that portion which exceeds the present legal rate of interest. It, in effect, repeals the present usury laws. He was rather opposed to the principle of the bill, and would move that it be deferred for three months.

A long debate ensued, after which the house divided on the Atty. General's motion to defer the bill.

For the motion—27. Against it—15. The bill to amend the act to establish a more equal and just system of Assessments was considered.

Hon. Speaker remarked that some counties had not acted entirely in conformity with the law, and he moved an additional clause to the bill.

Mr. McFarlane suggested an additional alteration, to change the districts now established for purposes of assessment, from the polling districts (as now) to the old assessment districts.

Hon. Mr. Archibald said, where exertions in its favor had been used, the bill was found to work well. Additional expense was necessary to carry out any complete system of assessment.

Mr. McLellan would prefer going back to the old system.

Mr. Henry explained at length the operation of the former system, and stated in detail the advantages of the new bill. He was willing, however, to give the bill a fair trial.

Dr. Brown thought the bill had worked well. Mr. Churchill entertained a contrary opinion. Mr. Henry suggested that the Bill remain in Committee for a day or two; which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, March 16.

Mr. McLellan asked special leave to present the petition of the inhabitants of Milton, praying that aid be afforded them to procure an engineer to survey a line of railway from Milton to Liverpool.

Mr. Howe thought that no action of the house was needed on this matter. He would suggest that the government should send down one of the government engineers at some leisure time to survey the line for petitioners.

Hon. Attorney General said the government had every disposition to further the views of petitioners.

Mr. Wade, as chairman of committee on private bills, reported four bills without amendment; also reported against the bill relating to a new district in the township of Chester. The committee also reported against a bill to relieve the county of Inverness from the operation of the assessment law of 1846.

Mr. Killam asked leave to introduce an act to provide for the more summary punishment of petty offences and juvenile offenders, except in the city of Halifax. Read a first time.

Mr. Wade asked leave to introduce a bill to provide for a public road and slip at Digby. Read a first time.

The house resolved itself into committee of ways and means. Several resolutions were moved by the hon. Fin. Sec'y. that the same system in relation to the imposition and collection of the Revenue pursued during the last year, be continued until 1859. Passed.

Hon. Fin. Sec'y. also moved that an additional duty be levied of 20 per cent. ad valorem on the duties now imposed on wines, spirituous liquors, and cordials.

After a long debate in which the hon. Fin. Sec'y, hon. Mr. Howe, hon. Mr. Young, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Killam, hon. Prov. Secretary, Mr. McLellan, hon. Mr. Archibald, hon. Atty. General, took part, the committee adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 17.

Several local and private bills were read a third time. Hon. Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table the agreements between the Railway Contractors and the Railway Commissioners.

Also, the report of Messrs. Laurie and Hill on the brick work of the Lunatic Asylum. The house resolved itself into Committee on ways and means.

The resolution of the previous day on the subject of the proposed additional duty on Spirituous Liquors, was considered.

The following gentlemen addressed the house: Mr. Wier, Mr. Tobin, Hon. Attorney General, McLellan, Morrison, Killam, Archibald, Howe, Hon. Mr. Young, and Hon. Financial Secretary.

The resolution passed without division. Hon. Financial Secretary moved that a duty of 30 per cent. in addition to the usual duty, be imposed on Licenses for Distilleries.

THURSDAY, March 18.

House met at 10 o'clock, and after arranging the meeting of various Committees adjourned until three o'clock.

At that hour a call of the house was made. The house resolved itself into committee of ways and means.

Hon. Provincial Secretary moved that the amount of tavern and shop licenses be doubled. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion.

After some remarks from the hon. Solicitor General, hon. Mr. Young, hon. Mr. Howe, Mr. Tobin, Mr. Morrison, hon. Atty. General, Mr. Chambers, hon. Mr. Archibald, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Geldert, the hon. Prov. Secretary amended his former resolution by moving that the sum paid for Tavern Licenses be increased to £16, except in the City of Halifax.

Passed. Hon. Provincial Secretary moved that Shop licenses be increased to £10.

Mr. Parker moved that Shop licenses be abolished altogether, except in the city of Halifax. Hon. Mr. Archibald supported the motion.

The Prov. Secretary would agree to withdraw his motion if the house was inclined to abolish shop licenses.

A discussion ensued. The house divided on Mr. Parker's motion. For, 21. Against, 23.

The house divided on the hon. Prov. Secretary's motion—which passed.

Mr. Killam moved that the sessions of each county have power to regulate the price of licenses, except in Halifax and Yarmouth, where there are Municipal Incorporations, who will be empowered to regulate such matters.

Hon. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. The resolution passed without division.

At the suggestion of the hon. Speaker, the resolution passed in committee yesterday relating to licenses was erased from the journals.

The house in Committee of supply. Hon. Financial Secretary moved that the sum of £25,000 be granted for the ordinary road and Bridge service for the present year.

After some discussion the resolution passed.

FRIDAY, March 19.

Mr. McDonald asked special leave to present the petition of the officers of six divisions of Sons of Temperance, and from the officers of other Temperance organizations in Pictou, praying for an alteration in the present license law.

Hon. Attorney General asked leave to introduce a bill for the management of the Hospital for the Insane—read a first time.

The debate on resolutions introduced by the hon. Mr. Young on a previous day, relating to certain Dismissals and Appointments to office by the present government, was proceeded with.

Hon. Mr. Young and hon. Attorney General addressed the house.

SATURDAY, March 20.

Hon. Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table the report of St. Francis Xavier's College, and of Dalhousie College, and of King's College, Windsor.

The following Bill was read a third time. An act relating to the liability of the City of Halifax to the extent of £100,000 for railway purposes. Ordered to be sent to the Council for concurrence.

Hon. Financial Secretary asked leave to introduce an act to continue the laws with regard to custom duties.

Also an act in relation to Distilleries. Also an act to continue the laws on the subject of Light House duties.

Also an act to authorize a Provincial Loan. Read a first time.

Hon. Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table a letter dated March, '58, from Commissioner of Crown Lands, relating to instruments for the survey of meridian lines.

Also a copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, on the subject of an inter-colonial railway.

Also a letter from the Chairman of the Railway Board to himself, touching a claim of one of the Railway Contractors.

The Statute Labour Law Bill was read a second time and committed.

Mr. Killam asked leave to introduce a bill to amend chapter 99 of Revised Statutes of fire and firewards. Read a first time.

The debate on hon. Mr. Young's resolutions being the order of the day was then proceeded with.

The following gentlemen addressed the house. Hon. Prov. Secretary, hon. Mr. Howe, hon. Mr. Young, hon. Fin. Secretary, Mr. Tobin.

MONDAY, March 22.

House met at 3 o'clock, and sat with closed doors until quarter to 4 o'clock.

The revenue bills were read a second time. The house in Committee on bills.

The hon. Atty. General stated that the Railway Committee intended to visit the railroad to Windsor on the next day when all members were invited to attend; he thought it but fair that an equal number of the opposition should go in case of accident.

Hon. Mr. Young thought the premiums of insurance would rise in consequence.

Mr. Wier suggested that the house should adjourn over.

Mr. Wade reported a bill to amend the law relating to public landings,—also in relation to an act to amend the charter and ordinances of the City of Halifax introduced by the member for Halifax. The committee reported two bills by way of amendment which they found referred to them from the City Council, viz.: A bill to extend the assessment for the city of Halifax. Also, to enable the city to raise a

loan to finish City Hospital the city.

A messenger announced the solution, gratifications, bridges.

Hon. Mr. reporting the Halifax, into to the comm now report had not been subscribed for.

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