

ished were flourishing on every side. And so it always has been.

"God's children are like stars, that look most bright When foes pursue them through the darkest night; Like torches beat, they more resplendent shine; Like grapes when pressed, they yield luxuriant wine; Like spices pounded are to smell most sweet; Like trees when shook, that wave but not retreat; Like vines, that for the bleeding better grow; Like gold, that burning makes the brighter show; Like glow worms, that shine best in dark attire; Like cedar leaves, whose odors gain by fire; Like palm tree, whose humors force rem ve; Like camomile, which treading on improves; Like every thing that can withstand the test, Are those God loves, and who love God the best."

[To be concluded next week.]

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 6, 1861.

Religious Profession.

Truth is always valuable. Although we may not find it convenient at all times to give expression to every opinion entertained, yet a free unfettered, intelligent relation of religious conviction is a great desideratum in almost every community. Much of injury is done, and hypocrisy encouraged, by incurring an equivocal position, whether it be in business relations, in political life or in religious profession; instead of taking a fearless, independent, manly course. The true interests of men are made subservient to what is supposed to be better policy; and as the patient is often cruelly kept in ignorance of his state rather than warned by a faithful exhibition of his malady so men are allowed to remain in a state of indifference, unconscious of their danger; whereas if those who profess to be witnesses for God were faithful to their calling, and made known distinctly by their lives and conversation the great realities of God's truth, they would undeceive many who are slumbering on the verge of eternal destruction. The want of honesty in dealing with ourselves and one another is seen more or less in all the affairs of human life. The merchant avoids for a time the exposure of his affairs and flatters himself that keeping up appearances will assist him to steer clear of threatening shoals, till he becomes more and more deeply involved, and is eventually obliged to submit to exposure and perhaps degradations and then instead of retaining the confidence of his friends they suffer loss, and their good opinion is turned into mistrust. The physician also too often depends on the uncertainties of the action of his remedies on the human constitution, and hides the real condition of his patient, hoping for some favourable change; he thereby lulls him into a state of indifference to danger, until, in many cases, it is for ever too late. The politician too prefers that which he supposes will subserve his party interests rather than what will promote the general good. He endeavours to carry such measures of law, finance and representation as may confer the greatest good on his friends rather than on the people as a whole. Instead of taking a stand in favor of the principles of right and justice, and relying upon their ultimate triumph, he considers how he may please himself or what he conceives to be the majority of his constituents, at the expense of the minority and without considering their claims. Government is thus made a game in which the boldest and least scrupulous often take the prizes.

In religious matters, and this is the point we have at present in view, this defective utterance of conviction is the cause of far more serious consequences. From the preacher down to the youngest believer and enquirer there is perhaps too little reliance on the force of truth, too much dependance on what is the world's opinion of prudence, and so restraint is placed on the profession of religion, and Truth is not seen in all its fair proportions and glorious results.

In human government every man makes a compromise of a portion of his own liberty, and perhaps of the expression of his opinions, for the general good, but in the affairs of the soul, and of the kingdom of God, no such modifications are required, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." A religious life demands from its professors a free manifestation of truth, as regards their own experience of its power to produce righteousness, peace and joy, and as respects the duties required of them towards the church and the world. Were such expression to be given generally and constantly, we should have a permanent and continued state of religious revival. Primitive Christianity would again return and men would respect the Church as being the depository of "the salt of the earth." Instead of this we have a large proportion of believers, who are merely professors, whose influence in promoting the progress of religion is scarcely felt. They stand in the precincts of the kingdom

of Christ upon earth, but rarely have any testimony to bear for their King; and are disposed to have as little as possible to do with the work for which He came from heaven, suffered, died and ever liveth to make intercession.

We cannot stay now to analyze the causes which may have led to this dereliction of duty and nominal profession which so generally prevail. Perhaps at some former time those who stand in this position may have failed to act out their convictions; they have been dissatisfied with the conduct of one or more of their fellow-members, and instead of going at once and conferring with them on the matter, and so coming to a better understanding, have avoided them, and by that means allowed their own affections for the church to be damaged, and even their love to the Head of the Church to be abated. Darkness has, perhaps, by these means, been brought upon their soul, and the enjoyment of religion has been taken away.

If professors could be brought to a consciousness of their position and to a full appreciation of their privileges, they would, as when first brought to a sense of their dependance on Christ, come to their brethren and make known their convictions. By this means the church would at once be revived, darkness would flee away, and, as in the the apostles' days, when "one that believeth not" should come in, "the secrets of his heart would be made manifest, and so falling down on his face, he would worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth." "Brethren, confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed."

Our Obituary Notices.

One of our good brethren, a short time since, sent us the following gentle hint, marked "private," as a postscript to some brief obituary notices.

"I wish some able hand would furnish an able article against so many Obituary Notices. They are seldom read beyond the circle of acquaintances, to whom already all things are generally known of them. Could they be merely stated room would be spared for more useful matter and pastors' time more profitably spent."

Much might be written by an "able hand" "against so many Obituary Notices," but after all, even if "the able article" should fill columns, it would perhaps be as objectionable as the Notices themselves. A religious journal should not be a common receptacle of the dead, but may be made a repository of memorials of departed worth, but they must be very brief. If parties desire an extended Memoir of their friends for preservation, a few pages suitably got up might be obtained for that purpose at but small expense.

We feel it our duty to take greater liberties with this species of writing than with any other, by eliminating repetitions and redundancies, and by removing from them some of the details of the diseases by means of which our departed friends are removed to another world, and all this at the risk of giving offence to the writers, and yet it seems they are generally too long.

We hope our Correspondents will take the hint or perhaps we shall have to inflict upon them the "able article" our worthy brother advises.

In connection with the above we may add that Poetry especially on the death of friends and acquaintances is even more trying to us than prose. Verses that may read pretty well in manuscript might be liable to severe criticism and mortifying animadversion if put in print. The inaccurate rhythm, the imperfect rhyme, and the grammatical blunders although not chargeable upon us would of course be laid at our door. We have some pieces before us which have doubtless cost the writers some considerable effort, and express the feelings of the heart with some ability yet are not sufficiently free from blemishes to stand the test of public critical examination. We are consequently under the necessity of disappointing those who have favoured us with them. We would however say to these writers that their labor has not been lost, for every effort at composition benefits the writer and renders him the more able for a subsequent effort, although his production may be seen by no other eyes than his own.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION LECTURES.—We understand the Committee of this Association have requested the Rev. C. Churchill to give a continuation of his Lecture on the opening of the seven seals of the Apocalypse; which he has consented to do in Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening next. Subject.—The Seven Trumpets of the Apocalypse.

From the interest which his former Lecture excited on the subject we may expect a full attendance.

ANNUAL OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY: a year book of Facts in Science and Art, for 1861. Edited by David A. Wells, A. M. pp. 427. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. Halifax: S. Selden. Price 6s. 8d.

This new volume of facts is a valuable addition to its predecessors. A vast amount of highly interesting information is given on mechanics and useful arts; natural philosophy; chemical science; geology; botany; zoology; astronomy and meteorology.

The results of extensive experiments in all kinds of machinery and the working out of theories in every department of useful knowledge, are here comprised in the compass of a very readable book.

News Summary.

Yesterday was the day of Mr. Lincoln's inauguration as President of the Great Union, now so unhappily falsefying its name. His Inaugural Address, which is of course anxiously looked for, will no doubt, to some extent at least, forshadow the commencement of his Administration. The strong and continued reluctance shown by several of the Northern Slaveholding States to separate themselves from the old confederation, still renders doubtful the success of the principal Cotton growing States, notwithstanding the decisive measures they have taken to pre-empt the Secession. Their want of concert may prove a fatal error and even yet drive them back into the Old Union, should prudence and moderation direct the councils of their opponents, although as we have already said, we cannot imagine any compromise that will thoroughly meet the case, or remove the grounds which separate the interests and feelings of North and South.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

THE CENSUS.—In our last we referred briefly to the Census which is to be taken on the 30th Inst. It is highly important that the statistics be given as fully and perfectly as possible. The enumerators we presume will be such persons as will possess the confidence of the community where they may be employed. They should use all possible despatch in making their returns so that the Board may speedily close their labors. The results will be looked for with much interest. Every intelligent person will use his endeavours to induce his less favored neighbours to give all the information he can in this matter.

Lieutenant Machell of H. M. 62nd Regt. was fined \$20 and costs on Monday last for striking a young man named Halls in the street.

A SOIREE was held at Temperance Hall on Thursday last for the purpose of aiding in the removal of the debt on Chalmers Church. Upwards of 300 sat down to tea. Mr. Forman gave a financial statement shewing that the debt had been reduced from \$20,000 to \$5,000 in about 10 years.

Dr. Cogswell has presented a water lot above the Dockyard to the Halifax Yacht Club.

BAZAAR.—The Bazaar to be held to-morrow in Temperance Hall in aid of the Sons Reading Room, will no doubt be highly attractive. The ladies have been working for some time past, early and late, producing articles of great beauty and value, to besold to their admirers on that occasion.

TEMPERANCE.—On Thursday evening 21st Feby., the G. W. P., accompanied by Deputy Barratt, the G. S., Bros. J. P. Muir, E. Morrison, and W. J. Wallace, paid an official visit to Sackville Division. After the visitation to the Division, a public temperance meeting was held, which was addressed at some length by the G. W. P. Bros. Barratt, and Davidson.—Abstainer.

A meeting was held in the Committee Room, Temperance Hall, on Thursday evening 21st Feby., for the purpose of resuscitating the Old Halifax Temperance Society (which was established 5th May 1831.) After transaction of other business, the following named were chosen as office bearers for current year:

President—Wm. C. Silver Esq. Vice Presidents—G. G. Gray and Rev Mr. Humphrey. Treasurer—Robert Noble Esq. Secretary—James Farquhar. Assistant do—Wallace Harrington. Committee.—J.S. Thompson, J. L. Whytal, M. Herbert, A. Morton, G. Matheison, E. Jost, A. K. Doull.—Ib.

Rev. Mr. MUNRO, addressed the members of Atheneum Division, on Friday evening 22nd Feby., on "Lessons from the Life of Howard." His remarks were pleasing and interesting. The Doors of the Division Room are thrown open to the public on every other Friday evening.—Ib.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—The Journals of the Grand Division shew that 384 persons were received into the divisions last quarter, making the whole number 3785; and Female Visitors 1574. Only 7 deaths have taken place in the Divisions during the quarter.

The North British Society have presented a beautiful Medal to the Scottish Volunteers to be subject of competition by Rifle shooting.

The Schooner John, belonging to Wm. Towns end, Esq., of this city, arrived on Saturday morning, from Sable Island Bank, absent twelve days, with the excellent fare of over 4,000 pounds of halibut.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK BUDGET.—On the 26th ult., the Provincial Secretary made his Financial statement for 1860 and 1861. The Revenue for 1860 was stated to be £168,894, being in excess of the estimate presented by him at the last Session of the Legislature, by the sum of \$11,547; and £15,745 more than in 1859. The revenue exceeded the expenditure for 1860, by more than £6,000, and so covered the expenses incurred by reason of the visit of the Prince of Wales, and all other extraordinary charges of the year. The Hon. the Provincial Secretary estimated that the ordinary Revenue for 1861, would be \$698,500; and his Estimate of Expenditure amounts to \$697,899. He stated that the expenditure on roads and bridges, for 1861, was put down by the Government at \$152,000; that for Education, the sum named was \$116,000; and for the encouragement of Emigration, the sum of \$8000.

Latest from the United States.

[By Telegraph from St. John, N. B. yesterday, March 5th, to the Merchant's Exchange.]

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

BOSTON, March 4th.—President Lincoln was inaugurated with the usual ceremonies. Immense crowds. The Inauguration Address declares non-intervention with slavery in States. Pronounces Secession unconstitutional. Asserts that the Union must be maintained, the public property protected, the revenue laws enforced and closes with a strong appeal to the good sense and patriotism of the people. It is a well written document. The Senate was in session during Sunday night and up to noon to day.

New York Breadstuffs little changed. Stocks firm. Money unchanged.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27th.—The Peace Conference failing to agree upon any proposition for compromise between the North and South, the impression is that they will abandon all further effort and adjourn to-day. It is hoped that Virginia will not secede, even if the Peace Conference and Congress both fail to agree upon measures of compromise.

A Resolution, offered in Peace Conference to protect free speech and the freedom of the Press in the Territories of the United States, was rejected.

The United States Government will institute immediate proceedings against Gen. Twiggs, for Treason, in surrendering the Forts in Texas to the authorities of that Republic.

WASHINGTON Feb. 28th.—The Confederate States have levied an export duty of one eighth of a penny per pound on Cotton, to take effect from 1st August next.

It is reported that General Twiggs was shot in an altercation with the Government Official sent by the United States to remonstrate against his treachery.

A great pressure is being brought to bear on Mr. Lincoln, to obtain his endorsement of the Peace Conference propositions, without which they cannot receive a two-thirds vote.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Corwin's proposition for amendment of the Constitution, was carried by a two-thirds vote. (It would appear by this that the Republicans are backing down. Ed. Empire.)

NEW ORLEANS.—Cotton active, at 10 1/2 a 11 1/2 cents per pound for middlings.—

Freights.—Cotton to Liverpool three farthings.

NEW YORK.—Business good; Markets firm. Flour.—Superfine State, \$5.10 a \$5.20. Extra, \$5.25 a \$5.30. Wheat lower.

THE GREAT ROBBERY.—A Loss of Over Six Millions of Dollars.—This report of the select committee of Congress, upon the Indian Trust Fund defalcation, establishes the following facts—

- 1. That Ex-Secretary Floyd was disgracefully implicated in the robbery.
2. That the President, was notified of the theft a year ago.
3. That the Clerk, Bailey, was made the tool of the conspirators.
4. That Russell is fearfully involved in the transaction. And
5. That the government loses over \$6,000,000.

Latest from Europe.

PORTLAND, Feb. 28.

The steamship Canadian, from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 14th inst., arrived at Portland this morning.

ITALY.—Gaeta has capitulated to the Sardinian forces.—The Royal Family took their departure in a French Ship of War. The City of Fiume is declared to be in a state of Siege.

AUSTRIA.—Statutes for the organization of the Provinces, are about being granted.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The furious gale which occurred on the American coast on the 7th and 8th inst., with intense cold reached the English coast on the 9th, doing immense damage to shipping and otherwise. Interest at the Bank of England increased to 8 per cent.