

too fluidity, sometimes it is warm in the fluid, in cooling it sets and becomes more or less hard. After the injection the artery is closed the opening through the skin is neatly sewn up, and the operation is complete. Great numbers of the officers of the army who have fallen in the engagements in Virginia have been embalmed in this manner by Dr. Holmes, of Brooklyn, and sent home to their relatives.

For the Christian Messenger.

Normal School.

MR. EDITOR,—

I know something about the working of this establishment, and would claim a little space to give my opinion; from the first I have been one of its Commissioners, have acted till the present in harmony with the other Commissioners, Superintendents and teachers, and in a word would say I fully endorse all the proceedings connected with this useful institution. The commissioners met, discussed the subject of land purchase, erecting buildings, furnishing the interior and other financial matters, and weighed well the value of every dollar before it was expended. This was prior to the appointment of the Superintendent. It was in Professor Dawson's day, who early saw in his travelling through our Province the necessity for a training school for teachers, urged the matter and got the Commissioners appointed, and worked with them with zeal that but few if any other in the Province possessed, till the buildings were put up and furnished; and his strict economy led him to urge upon the Commissioners to narrow down every item of expenditure to its lowest possible point, and to this day I think I may safely say the same spirit of economy has been pursued, I stop not to enquire whether it has taken twenty thousand dollars, or twenty thousand pounds to carry on its movements. All I want to ascertain is whether the funds entrusted to the Commissioners have been judiciously expended, and this I unhesitatingly state to be the case, being fully aware of the application of the money placed at their disposal. The salaries are not exorbitant; the expenditure for internal fixtures is less than it ought to be, to make every thing as perfect as desirable, and the Commissioners are unpaid and give their labours gratuitously: the writer has faced the winter storms and rode by stage 120 miles before there was a rail road to be present at examinations, and his presence was always urgently solicited that he might not only judge for himself but that his advice might be given in maturing plans for the efficient working of the Institution. And he would state here that on each new visit he has been more and more pleased with the progress and developments witnessed in the Institution; so as regards the expenditure I would say again I think it has been judiciously managed; and only regret that the Legislature did not deal more liberally in affording us greater means in perfecting the work put into our hands.

That it is denominational, in a sense that we usually apply to bodies or societies, I unhesitatingly deny; no denominational influence has ever been exerted; it is a *libel* on the Commissioners—four of whom out of five are not Presbyterians—to suggest such a thing. There is of course a Presbyterian gentleman at the head of it, and why not? is the body with which he belongs so small, as to deserve no consideration? But do your various anonymous writers know the difficulties there existed a few years ago—and which now do not exist—of getting a properly qualified person to fill the situation held by Dr. Forrester? If they do not I could inform them, and I will do the Government of that day credit by believing that they looked at the qualifications and not the religious predilections of the superintendent. And what objection is there in the case? the principal must be of some denominational bearing, and I think the public generally are too catholic in the spirit, to stop to enquire to what section of the church he belonged. He is not appointed to teach *theology* but *science*. A few years may make a change, and then a Baptist, Wesleyan, or Episcopalian may be found better qualified than a Presbyterian to be head over this school. Then how would it appear to have the Presbyterians rise up and condemn the Institution on this ground. But more Presbyterian scholars attend than any other! Is this an objection? then let it be met by urging the Baptists and Wesleyans to attend more numerously and outnumber them, I have often regretted to see so few Baptist young men in attendance there, and felt it was because they did not understand the true value to them of a few months preparation at the Normal School before commencing their useful occupation of teaching. I hope the day is not far distant when no neighborhood will employ a teacher who has not fully quali-

fied himself for the situation. We have in our denomination many young men with high literary attainments who are going forth to teach grammar schools and academies; and who may bungle on for a few years with far less pleasure to themselves and usefulness to others than if they had learned the art—the *science of teaching*. I have known of graduates of our college fail in their school for want of a knowledge of how to arrange and conduct it, and how to impart to others information they themselves had obtained by many years hard study; I would therefore, as one deeply interested in Education, and deeply interested in the welfare of the young men leaving our Baptist institutions as teachers, urge upon them not to take a school, however tempting the prospects, till they have attended a few months at the Normal School to learn the *science of teaching*,—a science as much requiring to be studied by the best literary scholar as Law, Medicine or Engineering.

Buying books of a Presbyterian publisher is a subject that will trouble few I think beyond the discoverer of the crime, and I do not know as the Commissioners have ever made it incumbent on the Superintendent that he should not employ a Presbyterian to make his garments or his shoes. Perhaps "Quis" or "Church and State" would like to enquire into the matter.

I did not intend troubling your readers with any communications of mine on this subject, but still for fear that some injury might be done by writers anonymously attacking this institution, I have felt and still feel so deep an interest in, I am induced to send you this communication. I have for several years laboured diligently to promote education in the Baptist denomination, and whilst doing this feel that I can take no steps to aid this object more effectually than by every means in my power sustaining the Normal School.

JOHN W. BARSS, A Commissioner of the Normal School. Wolfville Oct. 31, 1863.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 5, 1862.

God made man in his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; and made with him a covenant of life, the condition of which was perfect obedience. Gen. i. 26, 27; ii. 16, 17.

Man being left to himself, soon fell from that happy and glorious estate, in which he was made, by eating the forbidden fruit, by which he brought himself and all his posterity into a state of death. Gen. iii. 6. Rom. v. 12-13.

Man being thus dead, his help and recovery are wholly in and from God. Hos. xiii. 9. Eph. ii. 8. John vi. 44.

We take the above from our "Articles of Faith and Practice;" and presume that but few of our readers will question the correctness of the propositions, although they present a sad picture of human nature as it is. This is the source, and the very fruitful one, of all error and apostasy from God. Not only are the actual commission of sin, profanity and crime, some of its fruits, but the vain boastings of human reason and the indifference of the great mass of men to the claims of Christ upon them,—all are the results of man's fall and hereditary death. The errors of superstition are not so much in the various forms of anti-christian churches as in the corruption of the human heart. Everything is more acceptable to the natural heart of man than submission to Christ and a willing acquiescence in his arrangements for the salvation of the soul. Outward reformation is chosen in preference to inward regeneration. Men are willing to change the stream of their actions from one course to another, but averse to have the fountain renewed. This aversion is displayed in innumerable ways. Men adopt various expedients by way of palliating their condition and casting from them this unwelcome truth. They fancy that their ruin will be less certain if they substitute something else for what Christ has commanded, instead of rejecting it altogether. Like a clock that is imperfect within, the hands may be put right but they soon show that their appearances are but a sham and a falsehood. The mainspring is disordered and must be renewed before the hands will speak the truth and continue to do so. In like manner it must be discovered that the heart is all wrong, or the sinner will not offer the prayer of the penitent psalmist,—"Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." When this point is accomplished, a good foundation is laid for the renewed man to grow, and the Christian life to be developed in all its fair proportions.

TEMPERANCE.—The N. S. Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance held its Annual Ses-

sion in this city last week, commencing on Tuesday evening. Interesting matters occupied the G. D. till Thursday evening.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected and installed on Wednesday afternoon, as follows:—

- Avard Longley, Esq., Paradise, G. W. P. John Heenan, Halifax, G. W. A. P. Monaghan, Halifax, G. Scribe. Robert Boak, Senr., Halifax, G. Treasurer. Rev. J. J. Skinner, Chester, G. Chaplain. W. C. McRoberts, Londonderry, G. Con. W. Murray, Halifax, G. Sentinel. The Quarterly Sessions for 1863 were appointed to be held as follows:— January—at Wolfville. April—at Liverpool. July—at Weymouth. October (Annual)—Halifax.

The National Division will hold its Annual Session in Halifax in June next. A special Session of the Grand Division will be called at that time to meet the National Division—the highest branch of the Order.

A pleasant soiree was held on Wednesday evening to which the Representatives from the country were invited. A large number were present. The provisions, material, mental, and musical were abundant and of first order.

On Thursday evening the Bands of Hope paid a visit to the Grand Division and afforded much pleasure to all concerned by their neat orderly appearance.

The Grand Division of New Brunswick held its session last week in the city of St. John. The following gentlemen were elected the officebearers for the ensuing year:—

- Rev. J. C. Hurd M. D. Fredericton, G. W. P. C. N. Skinner, St. John, G. W. Associate. W. H. A. Keans, St. John, G. Scribe. E. D. Everitt St. John, G. Treasurer. Rev. N. McKay, St. John, G. Chaplain. R. J. Babbit, Gagetown, G. Conductor. Jas. A. Inches, St. Stephen, G. Sentinel.

Usury Laws.

We beg to correct a statement in the Journal of Friday last respecting our advocating the repeal of the Usury Laws. We merely noticed a communication of one of our correspondents, and expressed our willingness to a consideration of the subject.

The term Usury was formerly employed as synonymous with interest, and in ascertaining the law of the Old Testament it must be so understood. Even this was not allowed to be taken from an Israelite, or a proselyte to the Jewish religion; who had become poor and under the necessity of borrowing. (See Exodus xxii. 25, 26. Leviticus xxv. 35-37. Deuteronomy xxiii. 20.) The law seems not to have been confined to money but food and raiment were to be lent without interest. Usury however might be taken from strangers. The tenure by which real estate is now held is so different from that of the ancient Israelites, that those requiring such loans have not the same certainty of being able to repay the lender as they had under the Jewish economy.

The very fact of the Jews being allowed to exact usury from strangers may have had no small share in producing our Usury Laws, for the purpose of protecting the borrower from the rapacity of lenders who commonly in former times in England were Jews.

Our correspondent asked for the christian law on the subject. We presume he refers to a rule specially applying to the loan of money. We are not aware that there is anything in money which differs materially from other articles, except it be that money, having in itself a certain fixed value, should have been demanded for its use than for property which is liable to decay and destruction.

We do not think that the great golden rule of Christ would demand from a wealthy man a renunciation of his property, when required by one poorer than himself, except it were for a consideration such as it would be worth to himself. Any laws made for the purpose of restricting trade, whether in money or goods, are sure to be evaded, when the demand exceeds the supply, or the hazard incurred in making use of it is greater than that contemplated by the law in such cases. When the supply is greater than the demand because the security is undoubted, then the interest (usury) as a consequence will be lower than the rate allowed by law—six per cent.

We doubt the necessity of Usury Laws in a country like ours, but are not so fully convinced of their being unchristian or unnecessary as to ask for their repeal.

Aid to distressed British operatives.

With much pleasure we comply with the request of the Secretary of the Committee for the Fund for distressed British operatives, to insert the list of contributions below. Although Halifax was not first in this move-

ment, yet we believe it will not be last in the list of cities on this side the Atlantic in this work of benevolence, or the smallest contribution in proportion to its population. Respectable Committees of gentlemen are canvassing the city, and we understand there have been applications sent to the Custos of the several Counties. The cry of distress from the starving thousands will not be unheeded. We doubt not many of our readers in town and country will gladly embrace this opportunity of securing the blessing of those who are ready to perish. A small portion of their surplus revenues, and even at the cost of some self-denial, would be but complying with the great law of our Lord and Master: As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

- Annie Lead, \$250 00 W. Cunard, Esq., (upon conditions that 9 others give a like sum), 400 00 Hon. E. Collins, 400 00 C. Cogswell, Esq., M. D., (upon same condition as Mr. Cunard), 400 00 James C. Cogswell, Esq., (also conditional), 400 00 Miss Cogswell, (also conditional), 400 00 Messrs. Esson, Boak & Co., (unconditional), 400 00 Hon. M. B. Almon, 200 00 Messrs. Duffus & Co., 200 00 Messrs. T. & E. Kenny, 200 00 Messrs. B. Wier & Co., 200 00 Messrs. Esson & Co., 200 00 Douli & Miller, 150 00 Hon. W. A. Black, 150 00 James A. Moren, Esq., 100 00 James Scott, Esq., 100 00 His Grace Archbishop Connolly, 100 00 Hon. A. Keith, 100 00 Hon. J. H. Anderson, 100 00 Messrs. Burns, Neal & Murray, 100 00 His Worship the Mayor, 100 00 T. C. Kinnear, Esq., 100 00 Hon. Chief Justice, 200 00 Weeks Wynter, Esq., (proceeds of Lecture), 142 75 Professor McEvoy, (proceeds of one night's Exhibition of Hibernian), 90 00 Union Protection Company, 300 00

SOCIAL MUSIC CLASS.—Mr. J. S. Cunnabell has opened a class for instruction in Sacred Vocal Music, at No. 7 Prince William Street, in the premises formerly occupied by the Deaf and Dumb Institution. The class meets at 8 o'clock on Tuesday and Friday evenings,—and the Course comprises Explanations of Elementary Principles—illustrated by appropriate Exercises and Psalm Tunes, suited for Congregational Singing. Terms for the Course of 24 Lessons, one dollar, in advance.

We can cordially recommend this effort of Mr. Cunnabell to promote the study of Vocal Music, and would recommend all who can do so to join his Class.

News Summary.

The R. M. Steamer *Arabia*, with the English Mails, arrived on Friday evening, after a boisterous passage. Her European news is not important. Victor Emmanuel has granted a pardon to Garibaldi and his followers in his late injudicious attempt to get possession of Rome. It is matter of deep regret, however, that Garibaldi's wound still threatens danger.

The hostile armies on the Potomac are nearly in the same posture as during the last fortnight, although the Confederate Generals appear to be withdrawing into Virginia. The Federal Government seem resolved to prosecute a winter campaign. Should such be the case, it will be fearful to contemplate the loss of life and the misery that must result from the maintenance of the immense bodies of troops in the open field, during a season which even in the Southern States is often extremely severe.

Rumours are constantly afloat of the intervention of France and England, but we are convinced, without any very probable ground for it. The advantage to either country could not be so great in adopting such a measure as to counterbalance the risk of being involved in difficulties of the gravest nature. Conflicts have occurred in Missouri and other places, but not of any decisive nature, with the exception of a sharp action in the neighborhood of Savannah, in which 1,000 out of 4,000 of the Federal troops are said to have been killed and wounded.

Notices, &c.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have communications from W. Churchill, Esq., concerning French Mission Treasurer's account; from Rev. David Freeman; and from "Discipulus," crowded out of our present issue. They will appear in our next.

ERRATUM.—In the paragraph "Correction," last week, page 347, col. 3, for "Minutes of Cornwallis," read, Minutes of Convention.

Letters Received.

- W. J. Gates, 21st, 1 sub., 5s. former 10s., all right. J. Whitman, 22nd. O. Eaton, 22nd, 51 sub. W. H. Lyons, 27th. A. N. Whitman, 24th, \$9. James B. McNutt, 28th. 5s. W. J. Bigelow, 20th, \$2. Rev. W. H. Porter. L. Johnston, Esq. A. Marshall, 18th. J. W. Barss. L. J. Walker, 29th. A. Walker.—Will send. G. V. Rand, 3rd. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 30th, 20s.—Yes it should be "Isaac."