

Scientific.

The Stomach and the Mind.

Much of our conduct depends, no doubt, upon the character of the food we eat. Perhaps, indeed, the nature of our meals governs the nature of our impulses more than we are inclined to admit, because none of us relish well the abandonment of our idea of free agency. Bonaparte used to attribute the loss of one of his battles to a poor dinner, which, at the time, disturbed his digestion; how many of our deliberate errors—how many of our unkindnesses, our cruelties, our acts of thoughtlessness and recklessness, may be actually owing to a cause of the same character? We eat something that deranges the condition of the system. Through the stomach nerve that derangement immediately affects the brain. Moroseness succeeds amiability; and under its influence we do that which would shock our sensibility at any other moment. Or perhaps a gastric irregularity is the common result of an over-indulgence in wholesome food, or a moderate indulgence in unsuitable food. The liver is afflicted. In this affliction the brain profoundly sympathizes. The temper is soured; the understanding is narrowed; prejudices are strengthened; generous impulses are subdued; selfishness, originated by physical disturbances, which perpetually distract the mind's attention, becomes a chronic mental disorder; the feeling of charity dies out; we live for ourselves alone; we have no care for others. And all this change of nature is the consequence of an injudicious diet.

Human Flying.

Icarus, the son of Dædalus, who fled on wings to escape the resentment of Minos, has served for many generations as a symbol of ambition, and fatal ambition at that; for his wax-jointed wings melted in the heat of the upper air, and he was whirled downwards into the sea. Inventors have puzzled their minds for ages to compass the problem of air navigation by machines or by flying men; and but little advance has been made. The Aeronautical Society of Great Britain claim that one of their number has succeeded in making a pair of wings by which he is able, with a short run by way of getting momentum, to mount into the air, fly horizontally, descend swooping toward the earth and rise again. But alas! with the sceptical Peter Probasco, "we have our doubts." It would of course be absurd to affirm that anything could not be done, in this age of the world; but while this feat may be accomplished to an extent "enough to say so," we are incredulous of any practical benefit of the thing to man. The muscular power of cats, squirrels, and kangaroos, relatively to their weight, is tremendous when compared with that of man; and with all their airy leaping they are still of the earth, earthy. But the force of birds as related to the insignificant weight of their slender tubular bones and expanse of feathers, is something almost inconceivably beyond this. The force which a man is able to expend in rapid ascension of heights, even with the firm earth under his feet, is very small; and we have never seen any principle elucidated which was able by apparatus to increase his power or lessen his gravity in proportion to it. The balloon remains; but that, if used, presents such a surface to the atmosphere that it cannot be accurately guided without, by means of steam-boilers or other weighty machinery, storing up power for propulsion, in a manner of itself too cumbersome and heavy for successful navigation. So that, whether it is for his own personal flight through the air or the management of a great atmospheric ship, man seems to be hemmed in on every side by almost insuperable natural difficulties. And beside, even were all this obviated, who would run the risk of accidents at a great height above the earth, beyond the reach of help—but not of gravitation? It is an interesting problem, and may result in pretty scientific toys; but for real helpfulness to humanity we see but little in our nautics.—*The American Journal of Mining, New York.*

ANIMALS ENCLOSED IN SOLID STONES.—

There have been many well authenticated instances where, on splitting open stones, living animals have been found enclosed in cavities, with apparently no sufficient outlet. The cases on record refer principally to toads, but in one, recently brought before the consideration of the Zoological Society of Vienna, a salamander or water-lizard was the prisoner. Of the actual facts, in this instance, there was no question; but Prof. Frauentfeld, a well-known naturalist of that city, showed that there was a small fissure leading to the outside of the stone, though much too small to admit of the egress of the animal. He suggested, therefore, that the lizard had entered, when very young, and in its growth had soon become too large to escape, and was kept perhaps a not unwilling captive, since in the minute insects continually traversing every cranny accessible to them, it found ample means of support, the sandstone in which it occurred maintaining the proper degree of moisture.—The same explanation attaches to the case of toads, which when first attaining their perfect shape are in many cases smaller than a common fly, and can easily enter a minute cavity.

It is composed of several of the most penetrating and healing specifics known to the materia medica. The inventor of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment was in the constant and successful practice of medicine for more than twenty years.

ONE DROP AT A TIME—Have you ever noticed an icicle, as it formed? You noticed how one drop at a time, until it was a foot long or more. If the water was clean, the icicle remained clear, and sparkled brightly in the sun; but if the water was slightly muddy, the icicle looked foul, and its beauty was spoiled. Just so, our characters are forming. One little thought or feeling at a time adds its influence. If each thought be pure and right the soul will be lovely and will sparkle with happiness; but if impure and wrong, there will be a final deformity and wretchedness.

"The life of all flesh is the blood thereof," and no life or flesh can be healthy while its blood is diseased. Parsons' Purgative Pills will not only cleanse and purify the blood, but stimulat the functions of the system to healthy action.

"PRESERVE AND REGULATE."—This old political motto applies to the physical system as aptly as to the body politic. Preserve the equilibrium of the circulation, regulate the stomach, bowels and liver with that peerless purgative, alterative and restorative medicine, Radway's Regulating Pills, and there will be little to fear from epidemics in any climate. Price 25 cents per box, coated with sweet, free from taste. Sold by Druggists.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger

Dear Brother,— I have just read Mr. Rand's Micmac Mission Report, and sympathize with him in his trials; but would like to say to him and others that there are probably many thousands with incomes varying from less than \$150, to \$1000 or more per year, who are deeply exercised with wants, fears, anxieties, relicts and deliverances, who say but little about them and have but few to say that little to, and whose wants it would be well for us to present at the throne of grace with our own.

There is doubtless another class of believers whose utterances are more those of praise than of complaint, whose minds seem more employed in thankfulness for blessings received, than in crying for things they would like to have, but have not; I have met now and then one such, but so far as my memory and judgment serve, they were persons with incomes not exceeding \$150 a year.

There is, or was, yet another class who esteem it more blessed to know how to want and how to abound, than always to abound and never to want, who think it better to conquer trials by grace, than to have no trials. Did such add knowledge to their faith, or were their peculiar views due to their want of knowledge?

It is a poor faith compared with what we ought to have that confines its hopes entirely, or even mainly, to things perishable, or that does not so realize the superior value of things unseen, as to make things temporal look too insignificant to cause anxious thought or much ado.

It would doubtless be presumption in any man to say, or to think, he had more faith than Abraham or those whose names are associated with his as examples, but I think it not presumption for any to desire more, than all these had, put together, knowing that even then, he would have nothing but what was given him and nothing to boast of.

If any thing in the foregoing be erroneous, will some of your readers please correct it, as truth is, or ought to be, the writer's aim.

Yours respectfully and truly,
A. B. C.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ottawa Correspondence.

THE SESSION.

And now that the first Session of the Confederate Parliament of the Dominion of Canada is as good as closed, it may not be amiss to offer a few comments upon the whole case, past, present and future.

Whatever predictions may have been adventured by friends or opponents of Confederation, the time has at length arrived when its first fruits have been already gathered in the shape of quite a number of Resolves and Acts of Parliament. Whether these, when they come into operation and bear fruit, will justify the anticipation of friends, or whether they will realize the prognostication of foes, no man as yet can safely assert. That the machine, to use a modern phrase, runs tolerably smooth, cannot well be denied. It is susceptible of improvement no doubt, but to do justice to the delegates who framed the Act of Constitution, its mechanical contrivances seem admirably adapted to the object in view. The two Houses have acted harmoniously and the elements of opposi-

tion in each, have proved themselves wholesome, and quite of the British type. In each House ministers more than once have been compelled to yield to the overpowering influence of private judgment, soundly exercised by individual members and to govern themselves accordingly.

It had been supposed by many that Sir John, and Sir George, one with a strong French contingent at his back, and the other the leader of the Government with a large English following, could and would rule without control. It has proved otherwise. Their united influence could not command a majority for the Minister of Militia, on his own pet measure, and upon three several divisions, on the same night, the ministry were defeated. On the question of the Governor's Salary, they were badly beaten in both Houses,—most if possible, in the Senate.

All this, I hold, will tend materially to stiffen public opinion throughout the Dominion. The composition of the ministry, is of what is called the Coalition stamp, but it is perhaps not a whit the more imperious to constitutional assault on that account. On the contrary a ministry thus composed has weaknesses and defects of an organic character, which are not inherent in a strictly party Government.

On several occasions the Senate asserted its independence, and refused to accept the dictation of ministers. In the matter of the Criminal Law Codification—if that be the proper term—all the influence of the Administrator was exerted to pass a huge portfolio of Bills, which had been read in neither House of Parliament. The Commons took them upon trust, and a promise, that they would be read and examined in the Senate. In the Senate it was attempted to get them passed upon the faith of the Minister of Justice's reputation, and the fact that they had drifted through the Commons. But the Senate declared that these Bills had come up too late to be properly examined, and they were not disposed to abnegate their functions by delegating their duties, even to the Minister of Justice, much less to Commissioners of his appointing, unacquainted with the Laws of the Maritime Provinces, or the Institutions that obtain there. And so they gave the whole code the hoist that landed them into the year of grace, 1869.

It had been predicted by many, that the Senate being a body irresponsible to the people, and holding their seats for life, would lag, and loiter in the race of improvement, and fall into foggy habits of ease and extravagance. The reverse has proved to be the fact. It was the Senate, that first took up the subject of Economy and Retrenchment in the new Parliament and put the ball in motion. They commenced during the first part of the Session to put their own House in order. They ignored by a formal vote the existence of any employees, as a legacy of Old Canada, and undertook a work of reconstruction which they subsequently completed, after a fashion, that has struck terror into the hearts of all idlers and useless hangers on.

At one swoop, the Contingent Committee of the Senate, reduced the annual expenses of the body as compared with the old Legislative Council of full \$18,000 000. Senator Seymour of Port Hope, McCully of Halifax, McLellan of Albert, Dickson of Niagara, Christie of Paris, and others headed this movement. The infection subsequently seized the House of Commons, and they as soon as they saw what the Senate had done, commenced to grapple with the same subject in their House. And they too have succeeded pretty effectually. But they did not stop there. Not to be outdone by the Peers, who had struck at the base, the Commons followed up the attack by a shaft levelled at the very head of the new Dominion. Lord Monck's salary was fixed by the Confederate Act at \$50,000 per annum, subject however to the approbation of Parliament. The Commons considered it too high, and they pronounced by a vote of two to one that \$32,000 was a sufficient salary for a Governor General, and the Senate so far from dissenting, by a still greater majority, ratified the views of the Commons. All this, many here think, augurs well for the future of the Dominion.

The amounts referred to, are none of them perhaps relatively great, but they indicate a tone and temper, that is healthy and encouraging. For the most part the representatives in both Houses from the Maritime Provinces threw their votes favorably for economy, and if the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Legislators could but see their way to work harmoniously, as I hope they will at no distant day, they will be a power in the Dominion, capable of making their influence felt on all proper occasions. The amount of money voted away, by the

supply Bill is very large—upwards of \$26,000,000 but then this with the prospective expenses of fortifications, Railways, &c., &c., is clearly, an exceptional state of things. Nova Scotia will have to pay her quota of taxation, but the opinion is gaining ground, I find, among leading men from all the Provinces—and indeed for myself I have no doubt of it—never had—that both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will shortly receive from the Treasury, much, very much larger amounts, than they will yearly pay in. It is unavoidable. The Government are already advertising, I find, for a Steamboat Service for the South shore of your Province, say from Halifax to call at Lunenburg, Liverpool, Shelburne, Yarmouth, and thence to Portland, weekly. Why, what a boon will this be to a portion of Nova Scotia heretofore eadly neglected! Then again the Inman Line, are now, it seems, engaged to call at Halifax by a permanent contract recently entered into, and are to furnish first class steamers for the service. Both the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy are provided with steamers, and in a very short time, there will be a connection from Truro to Moncton and thence to Bangor and Portland and all parts of the Continent by Rail. All this has been arranged for within the last few months. If your people therefore have to contribute some little additional taxes, surely they are to get a tolerably good equivalent in return.

Yours,
SPECTATOR.

Ottawa, 21st May, 1868.

For the Christian Messenger.

Missionary Enterprise.

Mr. Editor,—

I was much interested, as doubtless your readers generally were, with the Rev. Dr. Tupper's report of "Foreign Missionary Meetings" which appeared in the *Christian Messenger* of the 8th ult.—an example worthy of imitation. I have, for some time past, contemplated offering a few suggestions on the subject of "missions," for the consideration of your christian readers.

I do not wish it to be understood that I undervalue the self sacrifice which many of our ministers and christian friends have made to sustain missionary operations at home and abroad—nor the unabating interest which has been shewn in our educational institutions, but to urge upon the prayerful attention of every member of our denomination the importance of contributing regularly and systematically to the spread of the Gospel of Peace.

Many christians, in moderate circumstances, fail to contribute towards the support of missions, simply because no system is in operation to bring the subject before them.

Our brethren in other parts and some christian bodies nearer home, make the missionary cause an important part of their work—they hold their Annual Missionary meetings—neighboring ministers attend with them—interesting reports from their "mission fields" are read—resolutions are spoken to and passed. A deep interest is thus awakened, and the result is, large sums are raised for this noble work. Those meetings are looked forward to with pleasure by old and especially the young, all of whom usually "lay by in store," funds to hand in on such occasions. During the interim collectors are busily engaged, and thus a large amount is realized and the missionary spirit kept alive among the people. They themselves feeling it to be more blessed to give than to withhold.

I beg respectfully to submit the following:

1st. Let each church arrange to hold, say, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual Missionary meetings—have special prayer offered, by the brethren, for the success of missions. Have reports read from our "mission fields" and such other matter presented as may be deemed of interest.

2ndly. Have lady collectors appointed to solicit donations, and report through the Pastor the sums obtained, or if this is not practicable have a subscription list at the meeting for signature and a collection taken up in aid of the cause.

3rdly. Let a report be sent to the Association with the Church letter.

In this way a large amount would be realized which is now lost and a greater love for the perishing be felt by christians generally.

It might be well to have one of the weekly prayer meetings of the church each month, or a Sabbath evening service each month set apart for this special object.

Yours, &c.,
OLD STYLE.

Bridgewater, May 25th, 1868.