RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE.

cal Alliance to do. The principles of religious toleration are not yet universally accepted and practised. The rulers of the earth are slow to understand that while they can enforce obedience to constituted laws and authorities, the consciences of their subjects are responsible only to the Supreme Ruler. The announcement of the great principle that men should be free to worship their God according to the dictates of their own con- will not see the minutes of the late sciences, was like the discovery of Sabbath School Convention held in those great laws of science that revolu- | Gaspereaux, to make a few statements tionized the thoughts and beliefs of further with reference thereto. all preceding ages. Hence those who The key-note was struck by Rev. J. F. of any dissent from his own convictions.

men everywhere to their private religious beliefs. This led them recently, by their influential deputation from all Protestant countries, to present to the Imperial government of Russia their remonstrance against the ecclesiastical oppression of a portion of ite subjects." This has led them in time past strongly and effectively to remonfere even with the fanatical Mussulman Christians, and to secure from the Porte the enactment of the Hatti Humayoum, which guaranteed throughout the dominions of the Sultan the rights of conscience and religion.

There seems, however, to be a revival of the intolerant spirit, which, it was hoped, was becoming a relic of the past. Repeated instances have recently occurred where Bible colporteurs and Protestant missionaries in Canada have suffered severe personal injuries, while prosecuting their Christian work, at the hands of those who also claim to be Christians. The Emperor of Russia has issued an edict forbidding the Baptists to worship-according to their belief in his empire. the school, than scolding, though some-The same earnest body of Christians times the few unruly scholars must be have long suffered penalties and re- checked and firmly dealt with. straints in Sweden. And of late come touching instances of the persecution, | urged to form themselves into mutual even to imprisonment, banishment, instruction classes. and death, of Mohammedan converts

have been deeply stirred by the recent | the truth. cases of three converts to Christianity. behalf. As it was, he was arrested, explanation. thus preventing him from obeying the were once young themselves. assassins.

It is hard for American Christians, trained under institutions that have guaranteed them liberty of thought and every school to attempt some great action, to realize the situation of their fellow-believers, who, to follow Christ, expose themselves to suffering, viowe can do is, while remembering those. to use every means for enlightening which will be diffused. and liberalizing the minds of men, enforced by fire, or fagot, or fetters, row-minded, mean, stingy, rich chris-

and impressing upon all the truth that tians, will be few and far between in every man has a right to his own the next generation." There is still work for the Evangeli- belief, as every one must give an account of himself unto God .- Christian

For the Christian Messenger

### SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

Dear Editor,-

It might be profitable to those readers of the Christian Messenger, who

had held arbitrary power over mind | Kempton, in his sermon, with reference and heart, as well as person, were to "the conversion of children." It slow to acknowledge this radical in- was well stated by another speaker, novation. Popery is not confined to that the grand design of the Sabbath the Papal church. It has been well School is to train children for heaven, said that every man has a pope within by another that the grand instrumenhis own bosom when he is intolerant tality in effecting this is the Word of God, and again, that the grand agent for accomplishing this end is the Holy One mission of the Evangelical Spirit of God, and further, that in la Alliance is to maintain the right of boring for this the teacher should be anointed for the work.

Some of the speakers also urged that while these points are admitted, certain circumstances conspired greatly to this end. Such as the Adult Bible school embracing the whole church, the continuance of the Schools throughout the whole year, and the training of the children in the missionary spirit. strate against the cruel persecutions of All these points were also touched the Romish church of those who be- upon in the letters from the Schools lieved and taught the doctrines of the which were sent to the Convention. Word of God. This led them to inter- The following letter may be adduced as representing a school alive to these power for its insane hatred against important points, especially that of early training in the missionary spirit. I give it entire,-

> "Our Sabbath School has been very interesting during the past year. We attribute it in a great measure to the covered with lichens and seeds must own world. missionary effort put forth.

"Our experience is that where at all practicable, the school should be globe. Read what he says :kept up all the year round.

Brief and appropriate addresses at the opening and close useful. Live Superintendants and Teachers are required to give life to the school. Pleasant words to the children in the school and little ones to love their teachers and

" Parents and friends should be

in Syria, who had renounced their viz.: against the use of profane lanfaith and accepted Christ as their guage, intoxicating liquors, tobacco, Sabbath breaking, and in favour of The Protestant as well as the exerting our influence in favour of the Mohammedan community of Syria Sabbath School, and to always speak

There is little doubt that two have a verse, containing a given word, as, been put to death by the authorities, Faith, Hope, Love, Heaven, Hell, and that the third would also have Father, Jesus, Kingdom, Prayer, Praise, fallen a victim to their religious in- &c. Then brief explanations of the tolerance, had not the representatives meaning of such word by the Superin-

and, after suffering severe personal . "An occasional Sabbath School indiguities because he would not re- Concert. The Sabbath School and nounce his faith, was carried before the Superintendant at opening, reading the Governor-general at Damascus. in concert verse and verse about. bribes, dismissed him, ordering him to All exercises brief. Annual pic-nic. under penalty of further imprisonment. with presents of books, &c., by the The authorities, under various pretexts, parents help to keep up a winter intefailed to furnish him with his passport, rest. The old must remember that they

decrees of the government. At last "Our Juvenile Missionary Society not cross and recross the Atlantic for thouaccounts he remained under the pro- has become an institution permanent tection of the American mission at we trust. Fifty cents constitutes mem-Beirut. They feel inclined to compel bership. Twenty dollars at one time the Turkish government to secure to a life member. Five dollars annually him the rights guaranteed to all their a life member. Have note poper subjects under the charter of religious printed with suitable heading, enclosed liberty. The fanatical hatred of the with an envelope headed "Open" Moslems, however, fanned and fostered "Read" "Subscribe." Lay off the by the conduct of the authorities, districts to collectors. Then give makes his position in that community eards to be presented only to visitors a dangerous one, and it would not be at the collector's residence. Thus all strange if he should fall a victim to the ground is occupied, without one wiolence or by the hand of private person being called upon by a half blindly call natural causes, lead to its beannoyed.

"We most earnestly recommend thing, either Home or Foreign Mission work for the Master, and 'expect great things.' We cannot over estilence, and even death. The least that mate the vast amount of good which the children themselves will do in this way, that are in bonds as bound with them, and better than all the mission spirit

"Letour Sabbath Schools be properly convincing rulers that faith cannot be trained in such a course, and our nar-

Yours truly, &c.,

When we temember that this school, with an average attendance of only 38, raised for missions the sum of \$100 last year, we must admit that it not only has a live Superintendant and live teachers, but that it is a live

Yours truly, D. FREEMAN. Canning, Sept. 18, 1871.

# The Christian Messenger

Halifax, N. S., Oct. 4th, 1871.

#### THE ORIGIN OF LIFE.

THE BACONIAN PHILOSOPHY IGNORED

CERTAIN brilliant scientists of the day and their pale-hued satellites, seem to have been badly bitten of infidelity, and to have gone "theory" mad. The origin of both vegetable and animal life on the earth, is a subject over | sions concerning the evidences of dewhich they display a surprising amount of folly. Forgetting that the creations of the Creator in his works which conto find them, like his, vanished on the after, unless it is to persuade them-

recent annual session of the "British meteor falling through our atmosphere Association for the advancement of to the earth, would become so intense-Science" at Edinburg, was elected Pre- ly heated that any form of life upon it sident of that organization, to succeed | would be effectually destroyed. But Professor Huxley, told the Association | nobody yet knows whether meteors in his (Sir William Thompson's) Inau- ever fell from other worlds, or are gural Address that meteoric stones mere atmospheric accretions of our have fallen to the earth, and in this

" An ancient speculation, still clung to "Good order is indispensable - by many, supposes that, under meteorological conditions different from the present, our readers :dead matter may have run together or crystal ized or fermented into " germs of life," or "organic cells," or "protoplasia." But science brings a vast mass of inductive evidence against this hypothesis in the street, will do more to cause the of spontaneous generation, as you have heard from my predecessor in the presidential chair. Careful enough scrutiny has, in every case up to the present day, discovered life as antecedent to life. I am prepared to hear that "our code of biological law is an expression of our ignorance as well as of our knowledge." And I say, let any one who is not satisfied wi h "We have a pledge in our school, the purely negative testimony of which we have now so much, throw himself into the inquiry. Such investigations as those of Pasteur, Pouchet, and Bastian are among the most interesting and momentous in the whole range of natural history; and their results, whether positive or negative, must richly reward the most careful and labori-"All the teachers and scholars repeat ous experimenting. I conless to being deeply impressed by the evidence put before us by Professor Huxley, and I am ready to adopt, as an article of scientific faith, true through all space and through all time, that life proceeds from life, and from nothing but life. How, then, did of the European and American powers tendant. Sometimes to vary, a gene- life originate upon the earth? Did grass at Be rut vigorously interposed in his ral question is given requiring a full and trees and flowers spring into existence, in all the fulness of ripe beauty, by a fiat of Creative Power? or did vegetation, growing up from seed sown, spread and multiply over the whole surface? Every year thousands, probably millions, of fragments of solid matter fall upon the earth who, after ineffectual threats and Short prayer at opening and closing. and it is often assumed that all, and it is tween great masses moving through space as it is that ships, steered without intelligence directed to prevent collisions, could time when this earth comes into collision with another body, comparable in dimensions to itself, be when it is still clothed as at present with vegetation, many great and small fragments carrying seed and living plants and animals would undoubtedly be scattered through space. Hence, we must regard it as probable in the highest degree that there are countless seedbearing meteoric stones moving about through space. If at the present moment no life existed upon this earth, one such stone falling upon it might, by what we dozen for the same object, and thus coming covered with vegetation. The hypothesis that life originated on this earth through moss-grown fragments from the ruins of another world may seem wild and visionary; all I maintain is that it is not unscientific. From the earth stocked with such vegetation as it could receive meteorically to the earth teeming with the plants and animals which now inhabit it the step is prodicious, and I have always felt that the hypothesis of "the origin of species by natural selection?" does not contain the

true theory of evolution, if evolution there

in expressing a favourable judgment on the

hypothesis of zoological evolution, with,

however, some reservation in respect to the minister's family equivalent to its the origin of man, objected to the doctrine of natural selection that it was too like the Laputan method of making books, and that it did not sufficiently take into account a continually guiding and controlling intelligence. This seems to me a most valuable and instructive criticism. I feel convinced that the argument of design has been greatly too much lost sight of in recent zoological speculations. Reaction against the frivolities of teleology, such as Bermuda Mission. are found, not rarely, in the notes of the learned commentators on Paley's Natural Theology, has, I believe, had a temporary effect in turning attention from the solidand irrefragable argument so well put for ward in that excellent old book. But overpoweringly strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design lie all round us, and if ever perplexities, whether metaphysical or scientific, turn us away from them for a time, they come back upon us with irresistible force, showing to us through nature the influence of a free will, and teaching us that all living beings depend on one ever-acting Creator and Ruler.

Whilst Sir William contents himself with pronouncing his theory "not unscientific," he makes admissign in creation, and of the presence of the imagination are wholly insuffici- trast pleasingly with the ignoring of ent as scientific data, they build super- | these facts by his learned predecessor, structures as easily as Aladdin, only Still we fail to see what these men are morrow. "Protoplasm" lives, but the selves and others that the Bible is not silly genesis of life which Huxley & God's revelation to man. They surely Co. patented in connection with it, is labor in vain, for the declarations of dead and buried. The laborious Dar- the Word of God are a thousand times win has lived long enough to learn that easier' reconciled with known facts his theory of "development," is a than are (falsely so called) scientific Sir William Thompson who at the demonstrated, for example, that a

The London Punch, taking Sir Wm. way started vegetable life on this Thompson on his own ground, however, disposes of his theory in a very scientific way, and in few words. They are too good to withold from

NO CONJURER'S CONJECTURE.

Pray, Sir William Thompson,

Fall, with lichen overgrown? Say, Sir William Thompson. From its orbit having shot, Would it, coming down red hot, Have all life burnt off it not?

Could a meteoric stone,

Not? Then showers of fish and frogs Too, Sir William Thompson Fall; it might rain cats and dogs, Pooh, Sir William Thompson!

Eh, Sir William Thompson?

That they do come down we're told; As for aerolite with mould, That's at least too hot to hold True, Sir William Thompson!

## WESLEYAN METHODIST.

We learn from the Provincial Wesleyan that the Sackville College "has matriculated Students in the full A. B. course, and several special ones of quite an advanced educational standing. Others of both classes are expected to enter within a few weeks." This is highly encouraging.

68 members to pay for each child, now there are but 49.

The remarks made upon these facts

"That the increase of claimants on the Fund is beyond all proportion to the increase of individuals supposed to be interested in the payments of the amounts required each year. The claimants have increased over 50 per cent in 16 years; while our membership has increased only about 18 per cent. This principle continued for ten years longer, with the same ratio of increase, must inevitably entail ruin on some Circuits.

It is seriously thought that the principle creates some of its own evils. By contemplating the consequences of an increase in return of membership, poor circuits may be restrained from going to the full limit of their actual members : that they prefer, in the event of a sudden increase of ultimately be for the benefit of both Society, to retain members on trial for a the pastor and the Church at Bridgelong r time than necessary, and thus avoid town. We fully endorse the above has been, in biology. Sir John Herschel, Fund."

necessities is a very proper and commendable one, and an essential part of the arrangements of the Methodist body, yet it appears not entirely free from difficulties.

An addition of six candidates for ministerial work are expected to arrive in Halifax from England about the middle of October, and one for the

#### THE "CHURCH CHRONICLE" ON CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

It is refreshing to read in a Church of England paper such remarks on a State Church, as are contained in the editorial of the Church Chronicle of last week :-

"What has a Disestablished Church to do with acts of Parliament? It is hampered by them, it is hindered by them; we talk of the Synod of Jerusalem as our pattern. What acts of Parliament could have hindered them from receiving " Paul and Barnabas and certain others with them" who came as a delegation from the outside Gentiles. We have long been persuaded that the less the Church in these Colonies has to do with the legislature the better. Once the Church in Nova Scotia tried to get a Synod Act passed. It is well known what strenuous efforts were made to prevent its becoming law, by those who opposed the Synod movement. At that time we thought it n cessary to follow the Church in Canada. Synod acts were passed there, so we thought such an act necessary for us, and we very fairly presumed that we should get it. But the development of Synodical action here, and "magnificent inadequacy." - theories they offer in stead. It can be elsewhere, has taught us that Synod acts are a mistake. We infinitely prefer our present position with the simple act of Incorporation, to that of any Synod in Canada. We thought at the time, the failure of the act, would be ruinous to our Synod's influence and power; we have lived long enough to see in it the greatest blessing that could have been given to us. We know that there are yet some links in that chain which bind us to the State, (albeit those chains were not golden) existing .-We are told that a clergyman cannot be inducted into a Rectory without some secular authority; but as far as our Synod is concerned Acts of Parliament never can trouble us."

"We are told that here the Church has no pre-eminence, that Baptists, Presbyterians, Churchmen and Roman Catholies must all be treated alike. We gladly accept the position, and say to our Legislators, 'we want nothing more; we simply want that freedom to manage our own affairs which other bodies have.""

If such things were said by all Church of England clergymen in Great Britain, the Dissenters would think the Millennium was near at hand.

We are informed that the Rev. George Armstrong has notified the Baptist Church at Bridgetown, N. S., of which he has been pastor seventeen years, that he intends retiring from the pastoral charge of that church at the close of this year, and advises the brethren to make arrangements to provide a successor. Bro. Armstrong, we learn, preaches in four meetinghouses, and three times one Lord's received an addition of twelve duly day and twice on the following, and would prefer a field of less extent where his ministry would be more concentrated, and be, as he hopes, rendered more effective by the grace of God. Repeated revivals have crowned the ministerial work of our esteemed brother during his prolonged pastorate The matter of support for ministers' in Bridgetown, and he is among our children is causing some anxiety to our most able, judicious and successful certain that some, meteoric stones are frag- friends of that connexion. It appears | pastors in Nova Scotia. The fact that leave the country within twenty days, properly conducted. A Christmas tree ments which have been broken off from that in 1855 there were 195 children he has continued so long in one place larger masses and launched free into space. in the Conference whereas there are clearly indicates the esteem and affec-It is as sure that collisions must occur be- now 312. There were in 1855, 13,- tion of the people for him. There 136 in attendance on Circuits, whereas | are five districts now in New Brunsnow there are 15,374. Allowing \$40 wick calling loudly for Baptist minisfor each child in 1855, they required ters, and it is just possible that one sands of years without them. Should the 593 cents from each member, now 82 of these may be successful in securing cents are required. There were then the ministry of Bro. Armstrong. Bridgetown will require a strong man to fill his place. - Christian Visitor.

> This is a world of change. Changes are however usually attended by loss and in themselves are undesirable. Like removing a tree from one locality to another, there is a loss at least of time in its productiveness until it has taken hold of the soil, and a combination is effected whereby its powers of fruit-bearing are tested in its new habitat. So with the change of pastorate, there is necessarily a loss at least for time to both pastor and people which renders such changes in themselves undesirable. The above notice being so positive we presume the change is now inevitable. We will therefore venture to say that we hope it may the essential demands of the Children's estimate of Bro. Armstrong and his labors, and it will not be an easy thing The effort to make the support of for him and his people to separate.

Nova Scot ministers, churches r the Bridge to a succe two men t which the and succes that Bro. of the V he may s winning hitherto e

The lat ing the proceedir offering a with diffic the whole and jeop

country.

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entirely in their l published however earnestn the futur work be wisdom wrong s to what ing. W brethrer the miss is remo made in late N. general " Pasto do muc mission We mode o in many

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