

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 21, 1883.

TULCHAN BISHOPS.

We have been watching with much interest the progress of the discussion among our Methodist friends relative to the question of an organic union of their various sects throughout the Dominion of Canada.

One grand obstacle in the way of consummating this union is, we observe, the question as to whether there shall be bishops or no bishops in the new organization.

But a compromise has been proposed by the offending party. They suggest that the name of superintendents be substituted in the place of bishops, the office and duties of the superintendents, however, remaining pretty much the same as those of the regular Episcopal bishops.

We are reminded of the stirring episodes belonging to the days of the Scottish Covenanters. The Presbyterians of the John Knox school determined that they would never submit to the unholy domination of Episcopal bishops; but clever plans were devised for the purpose of quietly throwing the prelatial noose over the heads of the sturdy sons of old Scotland.

But it must not be overlooked that something more than mere intellectual attainment is necessary to form and elevate the character. To sharpen the intellect without also stimulating the moral nature at the same time is only to offer additional facilities for wickedness, and increase the opportunities and temptations for the commission of crime.

Our Methodist friends would do well to refresh their memories by a re-perusal of the history of the "Solemn League and Covenant." We commend to their special attention the story of the "tulchan bishops." It may be greatly helpful to them in reaching a wise decision in their present discussions.

The Azov Norwegian barque arrived on Thursday last from Pernambuco, with 5060 bags of sugar for the Montreal Refinery, to go from here by I. C. Railway.

EDUCATION AND CRIME.

The fact, gleaned from the education report, notes upon which we publish in another column, that nearly one fifth of the young people in the Province are growing up in practical ignorance, is a matter worthy of serious consideration.

Almost every week the sensibilities of all good citizens are shocked at the number of youthful offenders who are brought before our City Police Court, sometimes for very serious crimes.

The Police Magistrate is often at his wit's end to know what to do with them. A few of them he is able to send to the Industrial School as far as we have been able to learn, the very best results have followed this course.

The question is one for the political economist. It is surely cheaper to educate these youthful offenders and compel them to learn some useful trade, than to allow them to prey upon the public, and support courts, prisons, and policemen to punish and restrain them.

But the subject is one that appeals to Christian philanthropists. How to reform the criminal classes is one of the most difficult problems. In this matter the true reform is to prevent the need of reform. The method by which the person is reached and guarded before he becomes a criminal promises the most success; and hence the most important work lies with the young—educate the children.

In discussing the work of this important factor in our school system, Dr. Allison raises the question "whether the time has not come in which a satisfactory guarantee of professional qualification shall be exacted of all who propose to enter the public schools in the capacity of teachers." He restates the familiar arguments pro and con, its probable effect upon our schools and upon the supply and status of teachers, and advocates its adoption. He also gives in outline some of the changes in the working of the Normal School as well as in the examinations for licenses, which will be necessary in bringing about this revolution in our educational work.

- 1. That 26,000 persons of the class wholly illiterate furnish five criminals.
2. That 25,000 of the class, able to read and write furnish six criminals.
3. That 25,000 of the class of superior instruction furnish more than fifteen criminals.
4. That the degree of perversity in crime is in direct ratio with the amount of instruction received.
5. That in the departments in which instruction is most disseminated crime is greatly more prevalent.—in other words, that morality is in inverse ratio with instruction.
6. That relapse into crime is much greater among the instructed than the non-instructed portion of the community.

One of the most pleasing recollections of our own school days, as we now recall them with the short devotional exercises with which the school was opened daily, comprising the reading and responding of a few verses of God's Word or the consideration of a Scripture emblem, and the simulta-

neous repetition of the Lord's prayer, a short prayer also closed the day's work. A course similar to this was, we understand, uniformly pursued in the model schools at Truro when J. B. Calkin—the present principal of the Normal school was teacher, and we are glad to know that such exercises are still observed in many schools throughout the Province.

It may be claimed that the Sunday school, now so prevalent, supply all deficiencies in this regard. It is true that this is an important factor, a great and good work is being done for the youth of our land by this valuable organization, but it must be observed that the Sunday School only occupies about one hour in the week, and alas how many of the young people growing up around us do not participate even in this weekly study of God's Holy Word. At best this must be considered as but an auxiliary, and can never supply the requisite daily moral instruction and training which should be, must be given to complete the formation of the true character, in order that the young may develop into good as well as useful citizens.

EDUCATION REPORT.

Second Article.

The Provincial Normal School situated at Truro, has been in operation for twenty five years and continues to command public confidence and to grow in usefulness. The number of students in attendance last year was 116—being 20 less than the previous year. This falling off is attributed to the enforcement of new regulations making attendance throughout the full session a condition for obtaining a diploma, and also rejecting all students who apply for admission after the formal opening day.

In discussing the work of this important factor in our school system, Dr. Allison raises the question "whether the time has not come in which a satisfactory guarantee of professional qualification shall be exacted of all who propose to enter the public schools in the capacity of teachers." He restates the familiar arguments pro and con, its probable effect upon our schools and upon the supply and status of teachers, and advocates its adoption. He also gives in outline some of the changes in the working of the Normal School as well as in the examinations for licenses, which will be necessary in bringing about this revolution in our educational work.

When the grants were withdrawn from the Colleges by the late Parliament, the grants to Special Academies at Windsor, Wolfville and some others which were assumed to have a denominational character were also discontinued. Pictou and Yarmouth were excepted however and continued to enjoy \$1,400 per year each, of public money. Last year we observe that Pictou alone received its \$1,400. Yarmouth from some unexplained reasons only received \$1,000. Halifax High School received an annual grant of \$600 as a sort of legacy from the late Grammar School. Richmond County failed to comply with the requisite conditions, and received nothing for academies. The remaining fourteen counties had the sum of \$8,250 divided among them for county academies.

Dr. Allison criticises the principles upon which this intermediate education is sustained, and some of the anomalies which appear in operation, with considerable force, quite sufficient to warrant his conclusion that all these academies should be abolished—always of course, reserving judgment until the other side of the case shall have had an opportunity to be heard. As a substitute for these special and county academies, he suggests the establishment of "Provincial Academies and High Schools" on Educational rather than County lines. That a small fixed grant, say \$400 be given to any com-

munity which shall furnish the required equipment for a first class academy, with a full staff of instructors and an authorized course of study, and that a further participation in public funds be dependent upon a required percentage of pupils, out of a fixed minimum of duly qualified students, passing a prescribed examination. Or in other words the public grants shall be conditioned upon actual results. Such a scheme of reconstruction will, he thinks, be productive of an active and generous emulation between the several towns in all the counties, and while the expenditure need not be larger than at present, the results would be more equitable in proportion to the grants made.

It is apparent that some such plan with due regard to proper details, presents a fair basis on which to apportion public funds. It will remove some of the anomalies which at present exist, and it will give Halifax, Kings and some other counties in this Province which do as much, if not more actual work in intermediate education than Pictou, an opportunity to obtain their fair share of the public grants.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.

The irregularity of attendance, and also the non-attendance at our Public Free Schools of many of the young in this Province has been the subject of much discussion. Last year "an Act to secure the better attendance at Public Schools" was introduced into our Provincial Legislature by W. D. Harrington, M. P. for Halifax. Full consideration and action was however deferred in order that full information, and the opinion of our educationists might be obtained in respect to the measure. The same bill has been introduced into the Legislature at present in session.

The Report before us contains a copy of the proposed Act, and also extracts from the reports of seven District Inspectors who sent copies of the Act to every school section in their Districts previous to the last annual school meetings. They state that the measure has received general approval. Returns made up upon the basis of the last census, and striking an average between the winter and summer terms, shew that, exclusive of the City of Halifax, there were 74,156 pupils upon the registers as attending school, some part of the time, and 14,406 children between the ages of 5 and 15 who did not attend any school in 1882. Making due allowance for the sick and the older children who may be necessarily employed at various forms of labor, it is a very evident fact that there are very "many, within the reach of educational facilities provided at large cost at the public expense who are growing up in ignorance." Dr. Allison recognizes the importance of this matter, but considers that greater efforts should be made to increase the efficiency, and attractiveness of our schools before resorting to force to improve the attendance. He very justly says, however "that large cities furnish the fairest field for the successful operation of the compulsory system."

FREEHAND DRAWING.

The lectures delivered by Prof. Walter Smith of Boston, before the Teacher's Association and also in this City last summer have been productive of some good results. Some of the District Inspectors have taken a lively interest in the matter and are able to report some progress made in introducing this important branch into the course of study in the schools under their charge. The Board of Commissioners for our city schools have provided a weekly course of instruction for the teachers in our city and Dartmouth. The effort has not however elicited the enthusiastic support which it was hoped it would receive from those whom it was designed to benefit. The subject like the authorized course of study promulgated last year, has not yet been generally adopted in the schools throughout the Province.

While we have not been able to discover in the pamphlet before us as good evidence as we could have wished of real and substantial progress made by our Public Schools in the year of which it treats, we have at least some compensation in this suggestive, discursive and really able report from the hand of the Superintendent.

The operations of the Plymouth Brethren in Russia have been spared the interference from the authorities which has characterized the treatment of other evangelical bodies. But it appears as if this is not to continue. We find the following in one of our London exchanges:

According to the Novoe Vremya, some opposition is again being offered by the police authorities of St. Petersburg to the fashionable Bible-classes and prayer-meetings of M. Paschkoff, a friend of Lord Radstock. A year or two ago M. Paschkoff was obliged to leave town in order to pacify the Orthodox authorities. A certain Pastor Miller, from Manchester, has lately been assisting at these gatherings. The Orthodox Church is supposed to forbid open proselytism, and there seems some fear that the Russian disciples of Lord Radstock may again experience a good deal of unpleasantness on account of their religious opinions. During the coming Easter a series of conferences are to be held at St. Petersburg between the heads of the Russian Dissenting communities, who are shortly to acquire a certain freedom of worship, and several distinguished members of the State church.

The irritation respecting the burial grounds in England, and their being used by others than members of the Established Church, is kept up. A week or two since a case appeared in a London religious journal as follows:

"A Nonconformist recently died in the county of Gloucestershire, and was buried in her own parish churchyard, situated in the county of Somerset, the funeral service being conducted by a Dissenting Minister. A bill has just been rendered by the parish clerk, who did not officiate in any way, for the interment fees amounting to £2, viz., vicar's fee, £1 0s. 6d.; clerk's ditto, 19s. 6d. The grave was an old brick one, where members of the family have been buried for many years past. Such things as these do but hasten the time for disestablishment."

JOSEPH Cook in speaking of India and its religion says Keshub Chunder-Sen has created a great impression on the people of that country. He writes: "My first lecture in Calcutta was on 'The Insufficiencies of mere Theism.' I did not spare the system of thought of Mr. Sen; but I confess I admire the man. If Theism is put forward as complete in itself, and as a rival to Christianity, it must of course be criticised; but I think that Mr. Sen himself, as distinct from his scheme of theology, is to be treated with tenderness, and deserves the prayers of the Christian Church. He calls himself a Unitarian, but I find myself compelled to classify him at present as a Quaker-Unitarian in a Hindoo dress. He has a doctrine of the Inner Light that reminds one of the best of the Quaker mystics; but his views of the person of our Lord are certainly not more nearly orthodox than Channing's. I was surprised to hear that he had never read Liddon's Bampton Lectures on the Divinity of our Lord, and I gave him a copy of the volume. He depends for his knowledge of religious truth on religious exercises continued through three, four, and sometimes five hours a day. I thoroughly believe him to be an honest and devout man. My feeling is, not that he should pray less, but that he should study more."

MEDICAL SCIENCE is a most progressive department of human knowledge. The practice of medicine at the present day is very different from what it was fifty or a hundred years ago. Remedies change as the result of experience and the discovery of new properties of medicine and new combinations of articles used as medicine. The periodical blood-letting so common then is almost passed away. The quantity of medicine given by allopaths is now almost homeopathic in comparison with what it was in former times. The antipathy between the different schools of practitioners is being greatly diminished. The following from the New York Examiner indicates a state of things that a few years ago would have been thought impossible: "A notable event has occurred in the New York Medical Society. Until a year ago it was deemed a breach of propriety for any of the members of this Society to recognize, even in consultations, physicians practising in the homeopathic school. But last year the State Medical Society adopted a new code, reversing this order of things and opening the way for consultations to be held embracing members of both schools of medicine. Last week this code was discussed at great length, and

its principles reaffirmed by the County Society by a large majority. We have never had much inclination towards the homeopathic practice, but have had some experience of the utter absurdity of either school discarding the other in the matter of medical consultations. An intelligent and respected physician, practising near this city, had so serious a case of illness in his hands that the family of the sick man expressed a wish to have an eminent allopathic physician of this city called in consultation. To this he readily assented, and the old-school doctor came, but he utterly refused to recognize the homeopathic physician as a man fit to be asked any questions, or have any suggestions made to him. In fact, he would not observe the ordinary rules of courtesy towards him as a man. We happened to see all this, and it struck us as a course that had neither common sense nor common decency in it. We are glad that the time has come when the two schools are to treat each other in accordance with the rules of civilized society."

The Church Guardian seems to think the Presbyterian Witness has failed in its duty, and charges the editor with speaking in a half-hearted way in an issue or two ago in answer to some remarks of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. By way of championing his brother, the editor of the Guardian comes out with the following:

"We repeat, and challenge contradiction, there never was a time when Infant Baptism was not the doctrine of the Church, and it remained for a body of Christians whose existence dates fifteen hundred years after Christianity had been founded, to deny the universal practice of Christendom." We venture to contradict our neighbour's statement, and demand the proof, which, if he will give by an express declaration of God's Word, and clear authentic history, we will republish in large type for the benefit of our readers, provided he will insert in the Guardian our proof that none but believers were baptized in the primitive days of Christianity, and that consequently the early churches were all Baptist churches. We venture to affirm that he has neither scripture nor history to sustain such an assertion as that in which he indulges.

At the recent Educational Congress at Aberdeen Dr. Farquharson, M. P., read a paper on "The present school system and the health of children." Among a great many good things he said was the following:

One of the most fundamental of all physiological principles teaches us that no organ can remain in full structural efficiency unless its functions are regularly performed, and that without active use neither a sufficient supply of nerve-energy nor of nutrient blood can be obtained. Hence it is that the hard intellectual worker actually lives longer than the mere idler, because, if carried on under proper sanitary and life-giving surroundings, his daily toil brings about that balance between repair and decay, and that rapid destruction and reconstruction of tissue which we now know to be as necessary for the proper condition of the brain as of all the other organs of the body, and when we come to analyse carefully the causes of breakdown from what is popularly known as overwork, we will find them to be made up of a variety of conditions differing widely from one another, and having in some instances absolutely nothing to do with what has been looked upon by the outside world as the chief and even the only factor. Thus, for instance, it will probably turn out that the victim has been compelled to pursue his daily round of duties among depressing or uncongenial surroundings, amid failure, and discomfort, and disappointment, or harassed by pecuniary anxiety, and the various worries of social and domestic life. The earliest rudiment of education, no doubt, is received whenever the first ray of light strikes the eye of the newly-born child. From that time onwards the training of the senses makes rapid progress, and the perceptive, and even to some slight degree the reasoning, faculties become gradually developed. Up to a certain point, therefore, the children of the rich and the poor are placed under precisely the same circumstances as regards what nature communicates to them, with this exception, that the street arab is probably much sharper and cuter than his contemporary who has been lucky enough, according to the old saying, to be born with a silver spoon in his mouth. But after this their ways diverge rapidly. The time comes, probably somewhat irksome to all, but extremely distasteful to many, when the freshness and freedom of early life are to be exchanged for more formal discipline, and when the vivacity and exuberance of youthful spirits are to be subdued by lessons. The change bears less heavily upon the child of wealthy parents, because his mind is in some measure prepared for further training by what he has heard and seen at home, and even, probably, by some preliminary work.