

The Presbyterian Witness
Halifax, N. S., Jan. 20, 1855.

Sabbath Observance.

It is pleasing to observe the attention which subjects of the highest moment at home are receiving from the inhabitants of Great Britain and France, notwithstanding the magnitude of the foreign war in which they are engaged. This is not only pleasing, it is in a degree encouraging. It is a token that the Lord will still be gracious for these lands. The attention to Sabbath Observance is giving fresh adherents every day, and strong hopes are entertained that the movement will gradually extend to all parts of the population. Merchants, retailers, and members of the liberal professions, are making vigorous efforts for securing the Sabbath—not only by abstaining from business, but by resting on that day, and devoting the day to the sacred services of the Christian Church. The Resolution made in regard to this subject by the Advocates of the Sabbath, is a most excellent one, and is deserving of the attention of all who are desirous of being a family in the land. It is the incapacity of enjoying that amount of good which falls to the share of our mortal lot. The community or country, in which there is least respect paid to the observance of the Lord's day, is that in which there is least happiness and comfort; least security for the property and lives of the inhabitants; and in which civil broils and religious persecutions are most frequent.

It is, therefore, with extreme pleasure that we observe the successful efforts that are put forth by all classes in Great Britain for securing a more perfect observance of this day. The whiskey shops of Scotland are now closed during the whole of the Sabbath, and the taverns of England are open only for five hours of that day. The attempts made in certain quarters for the opening of Sabbath Museums meet with deserved reprobation from the great body of the nation. The view that the Sabbath should be used as a day for mere intellectual culture—advocated by Joseph Hume and the present Lord Stanley—while it receives but little encouragement from the labouring classes, is most successfully refuted, even on secular grounds, by Sir Robert Peel.

Sabbath Funerals are also likely soon to be numbered among the things that were. The movement for the closing of Cemeteries on Sunday has begun among the Undertakers of London and its suburbs, and it bids fair to be a successful one. The Cab Drivers of Glasgow have commenced a very important movement for securing for themselves the rest of the Sabbath, which has been but partially successful—the matter having been compromised by an arrangement, conferring on Cab Drivers the privilege of every second Sabbath.

The Cabmen of Edinburgh have taken higher ground, and, as a matter of course, bid fair to be more successful. They have united together for mutual defence, and have unanimously and solemnly bound themselves by the following Resolutions:—
1. That as the cabmen of Edinburgh have themselves made many efforts, and many efforts have been made by others in their behalf, to secure the due and lawful rest, and use of the Sabbath, but have not been successful; and as the only apparent way of securing the blessing is now the following, they resolve God helping them, that from and after the 9th day of December 1854, they shall cease and refrain, decline and refuse, absolutely and perpetually, to drive cabs on the Lord's day for any party, or any object whatever, excepting only in cases where life or property is at stake. 2. That in order to carry up to effect the foregoing resolution, they now solemnly form themselves into a society; and they further, individually, singly, and solemnly, pledge and promise, to themselves, to their wives and families, and to each other, faithfully and conscientiously to observe, act up to, and abide by the said resolution, at all hazards, believing, as they firmly do, that they now resolve under the blessing of God,—trusting that he will confirm their said resolution, and add thereto, his effective power, and knowing that their cause is good, their means legitimate and right, and their end and aim holy, viz., the better observance of God's divine law. 3. That the thanks of this meeting are heartily due, and are hereby heartily accorded, to those of the cab proprietors who have expressed their sympathy with, and signified their consent unto this movement. 4. That an appeal shall be printed and published, intimating the said resolution to the public at large, and requesting their support, aid, and concurrence; they appoint Mr. John Macgregor to be their secretary and representative, with power to use all such measures as may influence public opinion, and in general further

the movement; and they do further adjourn this meeting until the 4th of December next, to adopt such definite and effective measure as shall bring the said resolution into full operation. Of all which, intimation is hereby made.—Edinburgh, Nov. 29, 1854.

Great interest has been excited by this movement, and much sympathy is felt on their behalf by Magistrates, Ministers, and influential Laymen. Public Meetings have been held, at which some of the Cabmen themselves have delivered eloquent and telling speeches, which were fitted to make many church-going pharisees and pleasure-seeking hypocrites hang their heads for shame.

In France, too, Sabbath Observance is gaining fresh adherents every day, and strong hopes are entertained that the movement will gradually extend to all parts of the population. Merchants, retailers, and members of the liberal professions, are making vigorous efforts for securing the Sabbath—not only by abstaining from business, but by resting on that day, and devoting the day to the sacred services of the Christian Church. The Resolution made in regard to this subject by the Advocates of the Sabbath, is a most excellent one, and is deserving of the attention of all who are desirous of being a family in the land.

Considering that the observance of the Sabbath is prescribed in the first law given to man, and that it is a Divine institution; Considering that the violation of that law is the forsaking and neglect of all worship, all morality; Considering that the order of advocates, whose special duty it is to defend the rights and interests of the citizens, should be the first to observe those sacred laws, which, like fundamental rights, and fundamental duties, save and protect the people; By these motives, it is decided that the offices of the advocates at the Court of Montclair will be closed on Sundays and fast-days, and they will cease to receive their clients on those days.

If the sanctification of the Sabbath is propagated in France on such a basis, that is to say, on the grand principle of Divine institution, things will go well, and the movement will be a lasting one. It is not sufficient to make use of sanitary reasons, or reasons of simple convenience. The authority of a direct command of God; this is what alone can guarantee the full and constant celebration of the Christian Sabbath.

These are indications full of promise—promise of better and more glorious days for these lands. But, have we nothing to say in respect to our own Province and community on this subject? We have,—and we regret to say that it is not a very favorable account that can be given of the manner in which the Sabbath is observed in our city and in its vicinity. In the rural districts—especially where the population is chiefly Presbyterian,—and we say it deliberately and from personal knowledge—the Sabbath is sacredly observed, not only by abstaining from common business and unbecoming amusements, but by abstaining also from frivolous conversation, and paying visits among relatives and friends, which often leads to such a sad waste of that precious day.

But how different the case with the great majority of the inhabitants of this city.—How much vain conversation!—What frivolous amusements are indulged in!—Nay, how much actual labor in defiance of the law of the land is performed on that day?—buying and selling! Not to speak of the number of dens of iniquity—rumshops to which the victims of intemperance are permitted to have access at any hour of the day. These are evils which, if not speedily checked, will be the ruin of our community. If left much longer unheeded, they will soon be too strong to be conquered. This is the time for the friends of the Sabbath and of pure morality to bestir themselves. It is not laws that we so much want, but men to carry out the laws that are already on the statute book.

We must, however, reserve our remarks on this part of the subject for a future occasion.

Rise, Progress, and Mission of the Free Church of Scotland.
In each of the three last numbers of the Home and Foreign Record of the Free Church of Scotland, there has been a very able article under the above caption. They are worthy of the most careful perusal. In connection with the last article, there is a table showing her progress from the time of the Disruption.—In May 1843 she had only 432 ministers. In October of the same year she had 551 ministers, and 122 probationers, and 600 charges. In 1849 she had 712 ministers, 150 probationers, 752 charges, 92 stations, 606 Churches, 390 Mansees, 8 Professors, 2 Divinity Halls, 659 Teachers, 626 Schools, and 150 Teachers' houses. And now she has 747 ministers, 200 pro-

batoners, 760 charges, 92 stations, 800 Churches, 500 Mansees, 9 Professors, 2 Divinity Halls, 661 Teachers, 651 Schools, and 235 Ministers and Missionaries. Including Professors, Ministers, Probationers, and Teachers, the Free Church has 1617 laborers in the Home field. If to these be added the missionaries in India and Africa, and among the Jews, we have a total in connection with the Free Church of 1852 laborers,—exclusive of a subordinate and miscellaneous class of agents—such as Catechists, Sabbath-School Teachers, and Tract and Bible distributors.

Ecclesiastical and Missionary Items of Intelligence.
OPENING OF BLUE MOUNTAIN FREE CHURCH.—We learn from the Record, that this neat and commodious building was opened early in November. It is called "WELSH'S CHURCH," in commemoration of three very celebrated men of this name in the Church of Scotland: John Welsh of Air, the son-in-law of Knox—John Welsh of Iron Gray, grandson of the former, and one of the four hundred ministers ejected from their charges in 1662,—and the venerable Dr. David Welsh, who was Moderator of the Church of Scotland, at the memorable disruption of 1843.

STUDENT'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—At the fourth annual meeting of the Student's Missionary Society, at West River, Pictou, it was reported that several Missionary meetings were held by the Students in different sections of the Church, at which liberal collections were taken, and much interest manifested by the people. The receipts, from several localities, amounted to the sum of \$14 15s. 8d.—one half of which was devoted to the Foreign Mission, and the other half to the Domestic Mission Funds of the Church. The office bearers for the ensuing year are, Mr. Alex. Cameron, President; Mr. Daniel McDonald, Secretary; and Mr. John W. Matheson, Treasurer.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.—At the last meeting of the Presbytery of Prince Edward's Island, Mr. Allan Fraser was licensed to preach the gospel, and received appointments in Casampec. He will remain in the Island till the end of February, and after that date is expected to come over to Nova Scotia.

The discussion concerning Colleges is still exciting the various Presbyteries of the Free Church at home. We are happy to observe that the Sustentation Fund promises an increase of at least one-fourth the usual amount this year. This is as it should be, and worthy of the Church of the Disruption.

DR. DUFF.—The Home Record for January, received by the Steamer on Wednesday, says—"We understand that recent letters from Dr. Duff intimate the pleasing fact, that his health continues hopefully to improve. For some time after his arrival at his temporary residence, his recovery was not altogether such as had been anticipated; but more recently, there is reason to believe that the restoration of his health may be expected at no very distant day."

The Widow of Dr. Kitto has received a pension of £50 from the Queen.

FREE CHURCH IN CANADA.—The January number of the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record for the Presbyterian Church of Canada, contains notices of the opening of no less than five new churches, and the ordination of two ministers.

We observe that M's. McKenzie, daughter of the late Dr. Chalmers, has been appointed by the Admiralty to take charge of the Nurses who are sent out to the Naval Hospital at Therapia. Her husband, Rev. John McKenzie, has been appointed chaplain to the same place.

Dr. McCosh's "Method of the Divine Government" is very severely criticised in the January (1855) number of the Journal of Sacred Literature. It is on the second part of the work, and especially in reference to the Will, the Conscience, &c., that the reviewer makes his onslaught. This is the first rough handling Dr. McCosh has received.

The compulsory attendance in Reformatory Schools of Juvenile delinquents promises to rescue from ruin many who were only hardened in hulks and prisons.

The Rev. Professor Eadie, D.D., LL.D., is preparing an Analytical Concordance of the Holy Bible, with the Text in full.

Mr. McKnight, Hebrew Teacher for the Free Church College in this city, has arrived by the English Steamer this week. We understand that he is to enter upon his duties forthwith.

A third volume of Mr. Henry Rogers' Essays—selected from the Edinburgh Review—is in the press.

Young Men's Christian Association.

The Fourth Lecture before this Association was delivered last Tuesday evening, by the Rev. ALLAN POLLOCK, of New Glasgow. The audience was large and attentive as usual. The subject of lecture was, "Religion; how far it is a Study, and how it is to be Studied," and Mr. Pollock's treatment of it indicated considerable research, and acquaintance with the literature of the day.

Immediately before the Lecture, S. L. SHANNON, Esq., read the following Report of the Association's operations during the past year:—

First Annual Report of the Halifax Young Men's Christian Association.
The Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association beg leave to lay before the Association, at this their first Annual Meeting, the following Report: "They would begin by devoutly acknowledging the mercies of the Almighty, which have been so abundantly vouchsafed to them, during the first and necessarily the most important year of their Institution.

Your Committee, in commencing the organization of the Association, could not but feel deep solicitude in thus entering upon a sphere which had been hitherto untried in this community. But looking at the success of similar institutions in other places, and feeling that they were actuated by a desire to benefit their fellow citizens, and particularly the YOUNG MEN, in whose welfare the deepest interest should ever be taken; and, above all, depending on Him whose blessing is never withheld from those who humbly seek Him—they have begun and have been encouraged to persevere in their labors. In laying the basis of their institution, they were desirous of making it wide enough to include the members of all Evangelical Churches; and by this means not only make it more generally useful, but also increase the spirit of union among Christ's followers, who, though belonging to different branches of the Church, have yet their hearts filled with the same desires of extending His Kingdom in the world. They were desirous also of providing religious instruction in such an attractive form, and upon such terms as might render it interesting and available to all classes in the community. Following therefore the course adopted in the Mother Country, and the United States, by such Associations, they opened a Library and Reading Room, furnished it comfortably for the convenience of those entitled to its benefits, and supplied it with the leading religious periodicals of Great Britain, the United States, and the Colonies, as well as with several secular periodicals of the highest order of talent, including complete files of the "London Times."

They also commenced a course of public Lectures, to be delivered fortnightly during the winter, at the Temperance Hall. These lectures were commenced in the early part of January, 1854; and the first of the course was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Richey, to whom your committee are deeply indebted for his able and eloquent exposition on that occasion of the objects and views of the Association. His lecture was followed by others given by leading Clergymen of several denominations—all of which were received by crowded audiences with great satisfaction. These Clergymen also are entitled to the cordial thanks of the Association.

Funds were appropriated for the purchase of books for the Library, and thus the Institution was fairly placed before the public.

Your Committee have had no reason to feel dissatisfied with the reception they have experienced; but they would have been better pleased were they able to report a larger number of Members and Subscribers. They trust, however, that as the Institution becomes better known and appreciated, they will find a larger accession to their ranks in both departments. To the several donors who have contributed so liberally to their funds, they are under great obligations, as they have by these means been enabled to commence their Library—the purchases for which are made entirely from this source,—leaving the ordinary expenses of the Institution to be defrayed by the annual subscriptions of members and subscribers.

The following returns will show the present state of the Institution:—

Number of Subscribers who are entitled to the use of the Library and Reading Room, on payment of the Annual Subscription of 10s.	101
Number of Members paying the Annual Subscription of £1	50
Number of Donors	51

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Amount received during the Year from Members and Subscribers	£90 1 11
Donations	586 10 0
For Sale of Papers	1 3 10
Collections at Public Lectures, including Sale of Dr. Richey's Lecture	53 14 0
	£731 11 3

EXPENSES.

1 year's Rent of Reading Room	£20 0 0
Fitting and Furnishing do	76 5 0
Papers and Pamphlets, Postage and incidental Expenses	34 0 0
Salaries of Librarian and Boy during the year	62 8 4
	£192 13 4
Use of Temperance Hall for Lectures, Printing and other incidental Expenses of do	52 1 6
Purchases of Books for Library	129 12 5
	£374 7 3

Leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £357 3s.—a portion of which however, may be considered as already appropriated for the payment of a large order of books for the Library from England, which came out by the last steamer, but by mistake have been taken to Boston; and another portion for purposes connected with the City Mission. The number of volumes in the Library is 600—comprising a collection of most interesting books, not only of a purely religious character, but also some of the best historical and scientific works of the day, as well as the works of the leading poets and travellers. Your committee feel that they can safely draw the public attention to this branch of their institution, as affording choice and attractive reading for all classes, and of a character to elevate and refine the taste.

Your Committee would also draw the attention of the public to the Bible classes, which meet at their Rooms every Saturday evening, and are open to the public.

Your Committee have only to add that the present season has commenced under the most favourable auspices. Although the novelty of public lectures might have been supposed to attract in the first instance, yet there does not appear to be any diminution in the public interest and favour; and the audiences during the present course, so far, seem to be even more numerous and attentive than during last season; and your committee see no reason for apprehension for the future in this particular.

Before closing this Report, your committee would advert to the great loss the Association has sustained by the decease of their venerable President, Hon. H. H. Cogswell, who took the warmest interest in it, and who was among the largest of its donors. They deemed it right, on the melancholy occasion of his demise, to make a public record of their esteem and regard for him, and of the benefits they had received at his hands.

Your Committee beg finally to express their entire satisfaction with their Secretary and Librarian, Mr. Murray, and with the care and attention bestowed by him upon the Reading Room and Library under his charge.

The next lecture is to be delivered on Tuesday, the 30th inst., by Peter Lynch, Esq. Subject—"Sacred Poetry." We anticipate a good lecture, and a crowded audience.

LITERARY NOTICES.

LITTLE FOLKS' OWNS;—Stories, Sketches, Poems, and Paragraphs, designed to amuse and benefit the Young. By Mrs. L. S. Goodwin. Boston: Fetridge & Co. Halifax: E. G. Fuller.

Notwithstanding its unpretending title, this is a little book of no small merit. To write successfully for the improvement and amusement of the young is not an easy task, nor unworthy of the highest talents. It is but very seldom that a truly successful writer in this department appears,—we are therefore all the more delighted with this little volume. It is simple without being trifling—amusing without being frivolous—and the high lessons of morality and religion are impressed upon the reader's mind while pursuing the simplest story or reciting the humblest rhymes. The numerous pictorial illustrations with which it is interspersed, are well conceived, and add much to the interest of the book.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. The January No. of this very popular Monthly has

been received from Mr. Fuller, the Agent. It makes a very respectable appearance, and, as usual, contains a vast amount of readable matter; some of the articles are of more than usual interest.

BRITISH PERIODICALS.—We have so often dilated at length on the value of the British Periodicals re-published by Messrs. L. Scott & Co., of New York, that further reference to the subject seems altogether superfluous. We refer our readers to the advertisement in another column, and we merely say that the present forms a very favorable opportunity for commencing subscriptions. We have only time to acknowledge the receipt of the *North British* for November, and *Blackwood* for December.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From the Crimea.

We have news from the Seat of War up to the 23rd of December. All accounts concur in describing the great preparations in progress for the renewed attack of the fortress, and the attack itself was expected as soon as these preparations were completed. It is supposed that this would be done about the close of the year, when the Allied batteries, armed with, at least, 250 pieces of heavy ordnance, would open their fire, which would be sustained, it was thought, for two days and two nights without intermission, immediately after which the assault would be made from the English and French lines simultaneously. At the latest accounts nearly all the batteries were completed; but the bombardment had not yet recommenced.

The Russians had opened, or rather continued, their fire briskly, but without causing much loss to the Allies—the balls falling and the shells bursting before coming into dangerous proximity to the invading lines. The troops are represented as being in excellent spirits, and the utmost cordiality obtains between the English and the French. The French lend the English their mules, for the purpose of transporting their sick to the hospitals, and the English have transported nearly all the French cavalry to the Crimea.

Scarcely a night passes without an attack of some kind by the Russians upon the Allied trenches; but, generally, the aggressors in being repulsed, meet with severe losses. The troops have suffered greatly from the long continued rains, but, providentially, the weather had not as yet been so very cold as was anticipated. Up to the latest dates the thermometer had not been as low as the freezing point, and though the distant mountains were covered with snow, it had not yet descended on the plains.

The number of sick in the hospitals of Constantinople is 3,794, of whom 1,387 are wounded. Measures are being taken to supersede the necessity of sending all the sick to Constantinople.

A paved road has been completed from Balaklava to the Camp before Sebastopol—chiefly by the Turks, who showed themselves more successful in handling the spade than more warlike weapons.

EIGHTEEN BATTALIONS of Omar Pacha's brave troops had landed at Eupatoria, and were to be followed by as many more; when these shall have arrived great operations are to be immediately commenced. They will be able to make a powerful diversion in favour of the English and French, by coming upon the rear and engaging the Russian army now in the open country. The extension of the Allied lines has very much interrupted the communication and transport of provisions between Sebastopol and the Russian corps near Balaklava.

AUSTRIA AND THE ALLIES.

Austria still continues to pursue her course of indecision—if not of cowardly prevarication. The Treaty of 2nd of December has turned out just what Lord John Russell represented it to be—non-committal in valueless, as far as regards actual material help to the Allies.

On the 28th ult. a long Conference was held by the Representatives of the Four Powers at Vienna. The result is that Austria has fifteen days more to determine whether or not she will fight Russia—whether or not she can make the Czar accept reasonable conditions of peace. At the end of these fifteen days (i.e. January 15th) she will, if unsuccessful in her endeavours for peace, take into consideration whether or not she will declare war against Russia. Prince Gortschakoff is now the representative of Russia at Vienna. He is said to be desirous for peace; but he must obey his Imperial Master.

It is confidently asserted that a secret Treaty has been entered into by France and Austria in reference to the Italian Provinces.—Should the Austrian Government be endangered by internal commotions, or revolutions, or insurrections, France pledges herself to come to her aid. We are glad that Britain has, so far, taken no part in such a Treaty; and we hope she never may. Indeed, it behoves the friends of true liberty and constitutional government to repose but little confidence in either France or Austria.

SORTIES.

Constantinople news of the 16th, brought by the Jura to Malta, says that, in a sortie made by the Russians on the 12th, they had 700 put hors-de-combat.

A telegraphic despatch reports another sortie of the Russians on the 16th, when they were again driven back by the French after a severe struggle. General Adams died of his wounds on the 19th.