

The Presbyterian Witness

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 22, 1855.

SABBATH SCHOOL PICNIC.—It afforded us great pleasure to be present at the Sabbath School Picnic given on Wednesday last by the Teachers of the Chalmers' and St. John's Schools to the children under their charge. The afternoon was remarkably fine—one of those that Herbert would call "the bridal of the earth and sky."

Religious Conferences in Paris.

It was wise in the Christian brethren in Paris not to let the excitement of the Exposition and of the Royal Visit prevent them from displaying a banner for the truth of their religion and cordiality of their brotherly love.

CONFERENCE OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS OF ALL NATIONS.

Their first meeting was held on Wednesday, 22nd ult. The whole of this meeting was devoted to prayer and other devotional exercises.

ferences closed on Tuesday evening with the voice of praise and thanksgiving to Him who is God over all and blessed for ever. We may have occasion to refer to them again.

The Secret of Prosperity.

That religion should be the foundation of all public policy, and that it is the conservative element in the constitution of every community where it is professed and practised, the history of the world fully proves.

It may be true that even among modern nations who profess christianity, there are presented many of the same symptoms of decay. But the cause is easily found. Religion is often professed both by individuals and communities where it is never practised, and the consequence is, that they decline in power and influence.

others. But they for whom the laws are made are equally in need of such an education. It is necessary that they should be instructed in the same principles upon which their laws are made, that they may learn how they are to be obeyed.

Our Social Condition.

One must shut his eyes and stop his ears if he is to believe that drunkenness, Sabbath-breaking, rowdyism and vice in general, are not on the increase among us.

Complaints reach us week by week of Sabbath-breaking by the more respectable classes of our people—people that ought to know and to do far better—people who should be as burning and shining lights in their day and generation.

is a truly gratifying state of affairs. The statement is proved beyond the possibility of error by an analysis of Parliamentary returns. The writer from whom we draw our information (D. McLaren of Edinburgh), says: "I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the closing of the public houses on Sundays has been the main cause of the decrease of consumption of intoxicating drinks."

LIFE ASSURANCE.—The Colonial Company.—In connexion with the new advertisement of this Company, now appearing in our columns, we are requested to notice the enlarged powers which it has recently pleased Parliament to grant the "Colonial."

The autumn, so far, is unprecedentedly dry. The days and nights are now cool and very salubrious. Better weather for securing the crops could not be desired.

Latest from Europe.

The following despatch, which was received at the News Room on Thursday, contains a summary of the intelligence brought by the American Steamship Baltic, at New York.

Operations in the Crimea unimportant. Siege operations progressing very satisfactorily. Russians have been defeated at Kars.

Accident on the Railway.

One of those occurrences which so frequently happen in the neighbouring Republic, the details of which fill the mind with horror, was near being consummated in our own vicinity yesterday.

RAILWAY PROGRESS.—The last Railway Contract was taken by Mr. Fraser of Pictou.

The Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund in England, acknowledge to have received up to the 24th July last, from India and the British Colonies, the sum of £143,355 10s. 1d.

New Publications.

JAPAN AS IT WAS AND IS. By Richard Hildreth, Author of the "History of the United States," &c. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co. Halifax: E. G. Fuller, 1855.

Till late in the 13th century it was unknown in Europe that such a country as Japan existed; and even now less perhaps is known of its manners and customs, its religion and polity than of any other Asiatic country.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS: An Extensive Collection of New Church Music, consisting of Hymn-tunes, Anthems, Sentences, Chants, &c. By W. Williams, Organist, &c. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co.—Halifax: E. G. Fuller.

We do not see that this book possesses any singular feature that renders it better than the thousands of the kind already in the market. It is a good looking book; it has many new pieces of music in it, it has a charming name, "Gloria in excelsis."

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ALL THE YEAR AT SUMMER PRICES, and how to obtain them. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson. Halifax: E. G. Fuller.

In this little manual is to be found a clear statement of how ripe fruits and vegetables are preserved by hermetical sealing—without the use of sugar, spirit, or any of the usual preservatives. It is particularly designed to teach the use of "Arthur's Patent Self-Sealing Can."

EDINBURGH REVIEW, July 1855. LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW, July 1855. E. G. Fuller, Agent, Halifax.

THE SYNOD of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has determined "that the Theological Hall established by this Church is intended to furnish missionaries for the Church abroad as well as pastors of the Church at Home."

On Friday morning the subject before the Conference was GREAT BRITAIN.—Sir Culling E. Eardley in the Chair. An able paper on the State of Religion in Great Britain was presented by Rev. T. Birks.

THE REV. G. N. GORDON having received intelligence from England that the John Williams is not to sail till towards the end of the year, will not (as he intended) proceed to England next week, but a fortnight later.

The Brig Arab, Messrs Pison, Bunk & Co, owners, was launched at Bedford Basin on Wednesday last. The launch which was witnessed by a great host of ladies and gentlemen, was quite successful.

The brig, Glide, Ellis, master, with a cargo of Railroad iron was lost in the Bay of Fundy last week. All hands on board perished. The Glide was bound to Windsor, where she was owned.

SACKVILLE promises to be rapidly raised to the dignity of a town by the Railway. Lots of wilderness land, 49 in number, met with ready sale on Monday last. The price ranged from £9 to £26.

These delightful and memorable Conferences closed on Tuesday evening with the voice of praise and thanksgiving to Him who is God over all and blessed for ever. We may have occasion to refer to them again.

TEMPERANCE IN SCOTLAND.

The friends of temperance will greatly rejoice to learn that during the last year the consumption of Spirits in Scotland has decreased 957,880 gallons!

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