

The Presbyterian Witness Halifax, N. S., August 25, 1855.

ANEITEM, though so far away from us, is now a name familiar and dear to almost every Presbyterian household in Nova Scotia, so that even our little children hsp it with delight. The August number of the Missionary Register contains part of a very interesting communication from Mr. GEDDIE. We learn from it that he and his coadjutors labour with much encouragement, and that the cause of God waxes stronger. "The desire to know christian truth is becoming very general, and we have reason to believe that some have felt its saving power in their hearts."

We observe an advertisement in the Register for two more missionaries to labor in the South Seas; and also, for "two pious mechanics to join Mr. Geddie in the Foreign Mission field."

THE FREWILL OFFERINGS of Protestant Churches on both sides of the Atlantic for Missionary, Bible, Education, and Tract Societies, during the last year, far surpasses the amount raised by Papists in all parts of the world for the "propagation of their faith," notwithstanding the terror of priestly influence.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States has determined that the church has a right to call on any of its ministers to labor among the heathen in any place where the Church may send them—just as the "Presbytery of Antioch" sent Paul and Barnabas upon a missionary tour.

It is delightful to wander in the Horticultural Gardens on the afternoons of Tuesdays and Fridays, when the Band of the 7th plays there. Flowers and fruits, and verdurous glooms pierced through with melody, are enough to make one

Fade far away, dissolve and quite forget the weariness, the fever, and the fret, the ordinary life,—and what is a greater bliss than still, there is no dust there to dim the eyes out.

Free Church Agency.

The Free Synod's appointment of an Agent was a most timely and important step. It met our own entire approval; for we were fully alive to all the necessities of the case. We saw how the Professorial Fund, instead of being raised in four years, as was at first anticipated, made but a comparatively low figure at the end of six years; and we thought it very probable that with the ordinary instrumentality, that Fund would hardly be collected in twelve years.

The Agent, the Rev. William Murray, has now fully entered on his arduous duties. Having laboured for a short time in Halifax and its vicinity, he proceeded last week to Cape Breton, where he will probably remain two months.—Mr. Murray's most prominent duty is to collect the Professorial Fund.—Subscribers to that Fund should hold themselves in readiness promptly to pay up their subscriptions; for by so doing the Rev. Agent will have more time to devote to the other very important objects that come under his cognizance.

The Free Churchmen of Nova Scotia will not allow the sincerity of their faith to be doubted on the score that it does not bring forth fruit. It has been truly remarked that the Free Church in this Province owes much to the Free Church of Scotland. How is this obligation to be met, this debt paid? By returning to the Colonial Committee so many pounds, shillings, and pence? We throw not. Let the church here first render herself independent and self-sustaining, which she ought to do at least before the end of another year, and then let her seek and occupy other channels of usefulness which will be opened abundantly before her.

Foreign Missions was referred by the Synod, will not fail to discharge their duty in connexion with that subject. They have had the honor of originating that Overture; they will also have the honor of carrying out the decision of the Synod; and we hope that at the next meeting of Synod they will be able to recommend a field of labour as well as a labourer for foreign work. The Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, cheered by the results of Mr. Geddie's toil, has a short time ago ordained another of her sons to the foreign field. Mr. Geddie's sister is likely also to be sent out to assist her brother.

Laudism and Puseyism.

LAUD, of miserable memory, was the undoubted inventor of the figment of the divine right of the English Episcopacy. He found it fearfully impracticable to make sturdy English and Scotch Protestants obedient believers in the divine right of King Charles to misgovern, and break "the word of a King." Failing in this, he essayed a task which, with all its incongruity, was both more reasonable and less repulsive to common sense, namely, to prove that the bishops are true successors of the apostles—that, in fact, they are the representatives of the apostles, having the same relation to the christian church now, that the founders of christianity had to the church in their day.

Very different from this were the opinions and the animus of the venerable founders of the Church of England.—They looked upon their Presbyterian neighbors as brethren in Christ, as equals, yea, and frequently as superiors, whose aid they invoked, whose counsels they willingly acted upon. It is beautiful to see the early English Reformers in the simplicity of christian affection consulting the Genevan worthies on matters of church government, the order of worship, and discipline.

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NOTHING but childish perversity could induce the Editor of the Church Times to attempt again last week a rejoinder to our strictures of the week previous. He has little to give us but a re-hush of the oft-told tale about Dr. Begg's pamphlet. There is no need for us to recur to this subject; for we have already on two occasions explained it so thoroughly that even the Editor of the Church Times did not altogether fail to understand us.

From the following paragraph, which we extract from a Liverpool paper, it will be seen that the postal arrangements which recently gave rise to so much well-founded dissatisfaction in the colonies, are discontinued. Our own Executive acted nobly in declining to accept any part of the tariff to be levied on Newspapers.

at the said dissenters, and makes such glaring mistakes as those contained in the paragraph which gave rise to this discussion, we always feel it to be our duty to put it to rights and rebuke besides. In so doing we by no means neglect our own household. Complaints and grievances among the Presbyterians of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have always met with a thorough discussion in our columns.

It is to be hoped we have said enough to prevent the Editor of the Church Times, at least for a week or two, from making foolish and blundering assertions which any man of ordinary information would know to be untrue.

WESLEYAN INTELLIGENCE.—ENGLISH CONFERENCE.—This body met on the 25th ult. Rev. ISAAC KEELING was elected President in room of Dr. Farrar. The new President is not a man of the ordinary Methodist kind that are sometimes so popular,—he is a sober, clear-headed man of thorough business ability.

ONE of the American Universities has conferred the degree of LL.D. on Dr. Hetherington, the well known Scotch divine. Rev. WILLIAM MARKOE, a clergyman of the Episcopal Church of the United States, has gone over to the Church of Rome.

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NEWSPAPER POSTAGE TO THE COLONIES.—Our Colonial readers will rejoice to learn, by this day's mail for America, that for the reasons set forth by Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury, in this day's debate, the newspapers Colonial postal rights and privileges contended for by Sir Casack Roney, in his recent correspondence with the Secretary to the General Post Office, and so unwisely resisted by that functionary, have been conceded, or rather restored: To-day and henceforth the Colonist will receive the journals of the mother country at the postage rates they have been accustomed to. Had it not been for the remonstrance with the post-office, and the publicity which that remonstrance obtained, the Colonists would have been most arbitrarily subjected to an impost amounting to a virtual prohibition of English newspapers amongst them.

LITERARY NOTICES.

A DAY OF THE SON OF MAN; being a Report of the Communion Services in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, May 27, 1855. By CHAS. EARLY. A Sermon for Children.

The above have been sent us per mail by the obliging publisher John D. Thrope, of Cincinnati.

"Seek Christ Early," a discourse from the text "I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me." We have never seen it equalled for charming simplicity, and graceful adaptedness to the intellect of childhood and youth. It is very suitable to be put into the hands of Sunday School scholars, or of any children that can read.—The author, who belongs to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, possesses a talent owned by few,—he is able to simplify, and render thoroughly interesting to the young, the great doctrines of our faith.

"A Day of the Son of Man," after some preliminary matter, gives a detailed account of a delightful Communion season enjoyed by the members of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church with the congregation of Rev. Mr. Black. All the members of the Synod partook together of the Lord's Supper. The scene was peculiarly impressive. Two young ministers, who were soon to leave as missionaries for India, were present, and hoary-headed patriarchs were there who expected never to meet their brethren again till they reach all alike the land of promise.

Six successive TABLES were served and many powerful addresses given to the communicants, of which we have abstracts in the publication before us. The account of the whole service put us in remembrance of the great Communion Sabbaths of Cambuslang and Kirk of Shotts. The Lord himself was present at the feast, and His presence made it "a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined."

"The setting sun illumined many a hopeful countenance as the lingering groups departed from the threshold of the sanctuary. It was indeed a day in God's house better than a thousand, for the presence of Jesus was felt by his people. It was truly one of the days of the Son of Man."

Blackwood's Magazine and the Westminster Review, both for July, have been laid on our table by E. G. Fuller.

"Maga" is rich and varied as usual. The beautiful story "Haidee" comes to a close.—The first article on "The Imperial Policy of Russia," will be read with the liveliest interest at the present conjuncture of affairs. The Russians are made of marvellously tough material if it is true, as we are told here, that on a review day the Grand Duke Constantine passed his sword through the foot of an officer, to show before a stranger the submission of the Russian soldier. It is said the officer never flinched nor showed indication of pain. It was during the reign of Ivan the Terrible that Russia began to be aggressive. This same Ivan took to himself a wife whom he loved; but she died shortly after her marriage; and Ivan took to himself seven wives and killed every one of them, and then he would accuse the nobles of having done the dreadful deeds, and thus make his own vile deeds a pretext for destroying multitudes.—But Ivan the Terrible reigned fifty-one years, to wit, from 1533 to 1584, and then he died in his bed. Thus early had the project been formed of gaining possession of Constantinople. On some future occasion we may call interesting facts out of the article we have named and lay them before our readers.

The article on the Theology of the Broad Church is very much to our liking. The "Broad Church" is a name assumed by a party in the English Church which is cleverer and more intelligent than the High Church, but whose theology is exceedingly bad.—"Vernier" is the finest gem of poetry we met for many a week.

The Westminster is better than usual. It contains less of the bigotry of so-called rationalism. Much of the article on Spinoza is exceptionable, both on the score of philosophy and theology. We will see what our Temperance friends will say of "The Physiological Errors of Testotalism." Hugh Miller gets fairly dealt with in an article on "Self Education." Under the heading of "Contemporary Literature" we have a cursory survey of the more noteworthy publications of the quarter, both in Britain and the Continent. A significant and rather amusing fact is that the theology of a B. D. of the University of Cambridge and clergyman of the Church of England, meets the cordial approval of these infidel critics! We refer to a work entitled "Rational Godliness," by Rev. Rowland Williams, which is highly eulogized and recommended; and, as we would expect, from the passages of his work given as specimens, we find that his views on some of the most important doctrines of the faith are notoriously heterodox. The assertion that Thomas-a-Kempis is more wholesome reading than the Song of Solomon is worthy of a divine of the "Broad Church" school. He not utterly the doctrine of the inspiration