

The Presbyterian Witness

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 22, 1855.

New Series of the Witness, FOR THE YEAR 1856.

From the beginning of the year the WITNESS will be published on a sheet equal in size to the Nova Scotian.

1st. We shall always testify against infidelity, popery, puseyism, Sabbath-desecration, drunkenness, and vice of all kinds.

2nd. We shall give our warmest support to such measures as shall secure the better observance of the Sabbath, and the suppression of the crying evil of intemperance.

3rd. To promote the purity, the heart-union, and the kindly co-operation of all the true followers of Christ, and especially of all Presbyterians, shall be our highest ambition.

4th. Ample space shall be given to the Ecclesiastical and Missionary intelligence of all Churches, but more especially of Presbyterians, both at home and abroad.

5th. The pith of the news of the week—European, American, and Local—will always be found in our columns.

6th. The claims of pure literature will not be overlooked, and our endeavor will be, to direct, and minister to, the good taste of our readers.

7th. All information that may be valuable to Farmers and men of business—such as market prices, business prospects, &c., &c., shall be diligently attended to.

The religious and secular departments will be so arranged, that by dividing the sheet into two, each part may be filed separately.

Now this arrangement involves a large increase of expenditure, which is justified only by the anticipation of a very considerable enlargement of the subscription list, and more general punctuality in payment.

It was not at first the intention of the proprietor, in any case, to increase the price of the Paper. A friend, however, who has had much experience in newspaper management, having suggested that many advantages were connected with the adoption of the "Club-system," it was determined to offer such inducements as might lead to their formation throughout the country.

Our terms for the New Series of the WITNESS may be thus stated:—Single copies, in advance, £0 12 6

All subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, will be considered as wishing to continue their subscription, and their papers will be sent accordingly.

The proprietor of the WITNESS regrets that owing to the arduous duties which are connected with the recent appointment of Rev William Murray as Agent of the Free Church of Nova Scotia, his services cannot be obtained as one of the Editors of the WITNESS.

POPISH ORNAMENTS.—In the Puseyite Churches St Barnabas and St Paul's, the following ornaments were used; candles in daylight, three feet high and eight inches circumference; brazen gates for the chancel; a grotesquely shaped altar and altar cloth, large crosses on the altar, and a CRESCENT TABLE.

Morton and Cogswell have sent us the latest numbers of the Illustrated London News, and News of the World.

Thanksgiving.

What more becoming on the part of a dependent creature than to give thanks to him who is the source of his life and all its enjoyments? In the case of every human being, and at all times, in this world, the exercise of thanksgiving is right and becoming.

But while all the rational creatures of God should thank and praise Him as their Creator and bountiful Benefactor, the Christian, in addition to all this, finds deeper and holier grounds of everlasting gratitude and thanksgiving.

At particular seasons, and when more highly favoured than their neighbours, individuals and communities, are called upon to recognise the hand of the Lord in their blessings, and to praise Him for his goodness.

We as a people have to offer the Sacrifices of Thanksgiving to the Lord for many great and undesired favours.

Famine and Pestilence and War have not as yet touched our borders. Prosperity has to a great extent been vouchsafed us in every thing to which we have put our hand.

Our fields have yielded a rich return for the labours of the husbandmen; our flocks and herds have multiplied and are strong; our fishermen return home in safety, loaded with the spoils of the mighty deep; the provincial public works have succeeded beyond the hopes of the most sanguine; and the efforts of the great nation of which we form a part, to drive the great Northern Bear back into his native den, have been, of late, crowned with eminent success.

Stewiacke.

The new Presbyterian Church in Upper Stewiacke village was opened on Sabbath the 7th inst. by the Rev James Smith, pastor of the congregation, who preached an able discourse, extending over both the forenoon and afternoon services, from the fifty-sixth chapter of Isaiah, last clause of the 7th verse, "Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

The Rev Hugh Graham, translated from Cornwallis, was the first settled minister, and was succeeded about twenty-five years ago by the Rev James Smith, who still continues his labours faithfully among them.

Morton and Cogswell have sent us the latest numbers of the Illustrated London News, and News of the World.

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on the 14th inst. at the residence of Mr. [Name], in the city of Halifax.

The King of Sardinia and his Visit to England. Great are the praises lavished by the British Press on the youthful king, Victor Emmanuel, and it is pleasant to think that his reign is well deserved.

Piedmont, his country, has felt his power. Her people have the religious liberty for which they for many ages bravely struggled, and the material prosperity which rewards enlightened enterprise.

King Victor Emmanuel is yet comparatively young, and it may well be supposed that with the example of his enlightened government before them, the petty States of Italy will throw off their tyrannies and rally round his patriot throne.

The King of Sardinia was at least as welcome a guest in Great Britain as Louis Napoleon was a few months ago.

Numerous complimentary addresses were presented to him—to all of which he made fitting replies.

On Saturday (the second day of the royal visit) the Queen and Prince Albert accompanied their guest to the Royal Arsenal and Garrison at Woolwich.

On Sunday the King attended mass in the Italian Chapel, London. On Monday he visited the Fleet at Spithead.

The course of a few weeks our city will be enriched with the assembled wisdom of the Province.

Education and Taxation.

Such an institution would confer lasting benefits upon Nova Scotia. Its influence would be felt in all classes of society and for years to come, and our youths would have ample opportunities for distinguishing themselves among those of other countries.

We feel confident that every intelligent man in the Province will consider it his duty to give his support to any system which seems calculated to advance the cause of Education.

Now what is the actual state of education among us, and how far are we warranted to adopt the mode of taxation? We cannot deny that our educational institutions are incomplete; that to enforce taxation in present circumstances would unseat the majority of the present House at our next general election.

It is well enough to send those to Academies or Colleges who are merely intended for teachers of High Schools. Where, we ask in all seriousness, are those to be sent who desire to become teachers of Academies?

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Belcher's Farmer's Almanack for 1856, has been received from Mr William Grant, Jr. It more than sustains the high character of its predecessors for typographical neatness, and correctness of information.

The Hamilton (C. W.), Daily Spectator of the 24th ult. contains a Lecture delivered before the Mercantile Library Association of Hamilton, by the Rev Robert Irvine.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

The Messrs. Boggs, Hardware Merchants, have purchased the property immediately to the north of British North American Bank, at present occupied as a coffee saloon, for the sum of £1250.

At the meeting on Monday, composed of influential Merchants and others, respecting the establishing a new Bank in the City, the report of a committee previously appointed was read, amended, and adopted.

ATTEMPTED INCENDIARISM.—A fire was discovered on one of the premises just below the Town Clock, on Tuesday morning last about 5 o'clock.

WELFORD AND PARKER MONUMENT.—At a meeting of the Subscribers to erect a Monument to the memory of the late Major WELFORD, of the 97th Regiment, and CAPTAIN PARKER, of the 77th Regiment, held the 14th day of December, at the Office of the Mayor, on motion it was Resolved that the Mayor occupy the chair.

It was moved and seconded that the Subscribers be published, and additional subscriptions be solicited in order, if possible, to increase the amount to £500.

It was Resolved.—That as Mr. Deane had kindly offered to collect the amount subscribed, that the contributors, be respectfully requested to pay the amount of their subscription to him.

It was resolved.—That Dr. [Name], A. M. Uniacke, and James C. Cogswell, be a Committee to obtain the permission of the Church Warden and Vestry to erect the Monument on the open space on the eastern square of St Paul's Church, fronting on Barrington street, as also to procure a design and ascertain the cost of erecting the same.

ARCHIBALD SCOTT, Mayor.

Samuel Caldwell has been elected Captain of the Union Engine Company, vice Captain Thomas Holloway retired.

The Island of Cape Breton has again been visited with a severe storm, on the 7th inst. more destructive than any previous one this season.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 12.—The Municipal Council met in the Court House yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, when Samuel Brown, having been duly elected as Warden, was sworn in by the Sheriff.

LITERATURE. THE SKEPTICAL ERA IN MODERN HISTORY, or the Infidelity of the Eighteenth Century, the Product of Spiritual Despotism. By T. M. Post. New York: Charles Scribner. Halifax: E. G. Fuller.

The harbor and rivers of Pictou still continue open, and the Pluto continues her regular trips to South Pictou. She will probably be laid up next week.

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