

trious examples of many Roman Pontiffs, our predecessors, who, distinguished by learning and by holiness, have not hesitated to inflict on degenerate and rebellious children of the Church, who violated and usurped her rights, the penalties decreed by the holy canons against those guilty of such crimes.

Wherefore we once more raise our apostolic voice in your august assembly, and we reprove again, and condemn, and declare null and void as well the law above-mentioned as all and each of the acts and decrees which have passed in Piedmont to the detriment of religion, of the church, of our authority, and of the right of the Holy See—acts and decrees of which we have spoken with sorrow in our allocution of Jan. 22nd, of the present year, and in the present one. Moreover, it is with the most profound regret that we are obliged to declare that all those in Piedmont who have dared to propose, or approve, or sanction the aforesaid measures and the law against the Church and the rights of the Holy See; also, that all those who are employed by them, who give them their support, counsel, or adhesion, and those who become executors of their orders, have incurred major excommunication and the other censures and ecclesiastical penalties imposed by the sacred canons, by the apostolic constitutions, and by the decrees of the General Councils, particularly by those of the Council of Trent.

Although the inevitable necessity of fulfilling our duty obliges us to employ apostolic rigor, we nevertheless know and bear in mind that, notwithstanding our unworthiness, we are the vicar upon earth of Him who when He has been angry, has been still mindful of His mercy. Therefore, raising our eyes towards the Lord our God, we humbly supplicate Him that He would be graciously pleased to illuminate with the heavenly light of His grace, and to bring back to better sentiments the degenerate children of His holy Church in all ranks and conditions, whether lay or clerical, invested even with the sacerdotal character, and whose errors can never be sufficiently deplored, for nothing could be more grateful to our heart, nothing more desirable or more consoling, than that those in error should enter into themselves and return. Nor do we neglect in the prayers and supplications which we offer with thanks given to implore of God, rich in mercy, that He would pour out the most abundant gifts of His Divine grace on all our venerable brothers, the archbishops and bishops of the Kingdom of Sardinia, that He would aid and console them in the midst of so much tribulation and anguish, so that after all they have already done for the glory of His name they may continue to defend courageously the cause of religion and of the Church by their episcopal zeal, their fortitude, and their prudence, and may watch with the utmost care over the salvation and preservation of their flocks. Finally, we do not cease to offer the most humble and fervent prayers to the God of all mercy, that in His infinite clemency, He would vouchsafe to fortify by His Divine assistance, not only the faithful clergy of that kingdom, who, following for the greater part, the example of their bishops, accomplish their duty with distinction, but also so many eminent laymen of that country, who, animated with the purest Catholic sentiments, and heartily devoted to us, and to this See of Peter, make it their glory to consecrate their efforts to the defence of the Church's rights.

The Presbyterian Witness Halifax, N. S., Sept. 3, 1855.

WE NOTICE with much pleasure that a SEAMEN'S BERTH is about being erected at the COAL LOADING GROUND, PICTOU. A Society, including gentlemen connected with all the Protestant denominations in the County of Pictou, has recently been organized for this purpose. The frame of the building has been already erected on a lot presented to the Society by Mr. W. Dunbar. The funds now in the hands of the Society have been contributed by the inhabitants of Pictou, and are far from sufficient to complete the building. An APPEAL is now made to all who feel an interest in the spiritual well-being of the Sailors visiting the port of Pictou, for additional funds to enable the building to be covered in and, if possible, finished this autumn. We hope our friends in this city will respond liberally to this appeal. A subscription list may be seen at our office, where contributions will be gratefully received. Contributions may also be forwarded to Mr. Howard Primrose, Pictou, the Secretary of the Society.

THE REV. THOMAS PEARSON, the well known author of the Prize Essay on Infidelity, is dead. He had been suffering from neuralgic affections of the stomach and various other disorders resulting from an overwrought brain. Mr. Pearson was in the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church for about twelve years, and he has passed away from a scene of usefulness and promise while yet under forty years of age. His very valuable Essay on MODERN INFIDELITY shows that he was, if not a profound thinker, a thoughtful and extensive reader and a correct reasoner, as well as a powerful writer.

THE first collection made by the congregation of St. Matthew's Church in this city on behalf of the recently-organized Synod Fund amounted to the handsome sum of £18 10s.

IN THE Polynesian Islands there are of Protestant missionaries 119, of communicants 45,929, of scholars 54,708.—Fifty years ago there was not one missionary in all these islands.

Educational Meeting.

Last Monday evening at the Mechanics' Institute we listened with much delight to a very able and interesting lecture delivered by the Superintendent of Education, Normal Schools and the best methods of conducting education. The lecture was replete with information the most interesting and important; indeed a better lecture on the subject we have never heard nor read. It is to be regretted that more did not avail themselves of the opportunity afforded of receiving instruction from one so well qualified to impart it. There was a very good attendance of those professionally interested in education; but there is an apathy among those who are still more deeply interested that is surprising and lamentable. We trust this state of things is passing away—that the country at large will take an interest in the education of the rising generation commensurate with the vast importance of the subject—that the old hum-drum inefficient methods will be entirely exploded—that the status of teachers will be elevated and their efficiency increased—and that more commodious and comfortable school-houses will be erected throughout the length and breadth of our province. We know of districts in Nova Scotia where the school-houses are inferior to the barns that shelter the cattle, and where the teachers' salaries are inferior to the wages of the hired men who drive those cattle! We hope the doom of this state of affairs is sealed—and some lame old dominie that was wont to teach *ki, ka, kod* in his shirt-sleeves may sing a funeral song over it. The exertions that have been, and will be, put forth by our Legislature, and the zeal and ability of our Superintendent, warrant the expectation that great advances are to be made forthwith—that the remotest settlements buried far in the depths of the forests will share in all the advantages of an enlightened, liberal, and thorough system of education.

On Wednesday evening a very successful Educational meeting was held at Dartmouth. The Mechanics' Institute was well filled, and the Superintendent's address was listened to with great attention.

Yesterday morning the Rev. Mr. Forrester proceeded to Lunenburg county in discharge of his official duties as Superintendent of Education. He intended holding a meeting in Chester on Friday evening.

In NO CASE does the superiority of the Mosaic law over the laws of ancient Greece and Rome shine forth more conspicuously than where they respectively regulate the relation of the Debtor to the Creditor.

The creditor of ancient Rome was permitted to exact exorbitant rates of interest; and when the debt was fully due, should the debtor be unable to pay, he was seized, confined in chains in a dungeon, and fed on one pound of corn per day. The creditor could then sell him as a slave in any foreign market, or even put him to death! And when his creditors were two or more in number, they could divide his body into so many portions. There was another law by which the debtor could become a *nexus*, i. e., joined for life to the creditor as a slave. In this case the debtor's family also became slaves forever. The wisdom of Solon, indeed, at a comparatively early period, dictated a vast improvement in the laws of Greece in relation to this point, but still left them far behind the Jewish code. The rich Jewish money-lender could not exact any rate of interest (usury) of his poor fellow-countryman. And if a man became poor and was compelled to part with his house or his inheritance; or if he himself were to become a bond-servant, he, his family, and all his property were released at the year of Jubilee. The Mosaic law throughout breathes a spirit of tenderness and active commiseration towards the poor, the distressed stranger, the widow and the fatherless, that shows plainly that a greater than Moses indited the law—even He who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."

THE Rev. A. McKay, recently engaged in various stations in the County of Pictou, was on the 23d ult. inducted into the charge of the Belfast congregation in connection with the Established Church of Scotland. On the Sabbath immediately after, the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the church there.

"If the liberties of America are ever destroyed, they will be by the Romish priests."—Lafayette.

Great Britain and her Colonies.

The British Empire comprehends some 130 millions of a population. Thirty millions of these are in England, Scotland, and Ireland: the one hundred are scattered far and wide in every continent, and climate, and zone. It is a mighty empire, but it is an unwieldy one. It is as if a man had a large and active head with a very huge but rather slovenly body and limbs, connected together by a ridiculously long and slender neck. Were the British Empire welded together and thoroughly organized how greatly would its effective strength be increased! With how immensely augmented a force could she hurl the thunderbolt of war! Her wrath would be more dreaded, her advice would be more highly respected. As it is, the colonies are rather a source of weakness than of strength to her in time of war. At present her soldiers are in Australia and Nova Scotia, in Hindoostan and Jamaica, in the Cape of Good Hope and Canada, as well as in the Crimea. Now were it so arranged that the mother country, instead of scattering her men and her treasure over so vast a colonial field, could gather strength from them, especially in time of war, it would look much more reasonable, and would tend to the ultimate well-being and security of all the parties concerned. Britain could then have an army comparable to her fleet; she could pour forth legions to the battle-field two-fold more numerous than any other empire in the world. But how is this to be done—how are the home Empire and the Colonial to be so knit together as to give both the compactness and the wieldiness that are so desirable? This is justly regarded as one of the most important questions of the day. It is a question that can only be solved by minds of the highest order, by men of great judgment and great experience. A discussion in our own House of Assembly a year and a half ago was a step in the right direction. Some of the speeches delivered on that occasion were remarkable for their eloquence and reach of thought; and though productive of no immediate effects of any importance, they have not by any means been lost on the public mind. A great question was then started which cannot be settled by the ephemeral pamphlets of brainless, inexperienced, and uneducated politicians. It is a question which is doomed to raise many a discussion in Imperial and Colonial Legislatures.

Our attention has been called to this subject just now by the perusal of a pamphlet published in London by Hon. Francis Hincks of Canada, entitled "Reply to the Speech of the Hon. Joseph Howe of Nova Scotia, on the Union of the North American Provinces, and on the right of Colonists to representations in the Imperial Parliament;"—and also, "Letter to the Hon. Francis Hincks, being a Review of his Reply to Mr. Howe's Speech on the Organization of the British Empire." Both productions are well worth reading. Mr. Hincks infallibly reminds one of the special pleader, the hired defender of a bad case. Mr. Howe replies in a vein happier than usual, and with crushing effect on his doughty opponent, as well as on a certain Earl who took the liberty to break his pledge by quibbling on the construction of a sentence. Mr. Hincks, like a good knight-errant, came forward to defend Earl Grey's railway negotiations—for it is to the distant results of Earl Grey's tergiversation that Mr. Hincks owes his £50,000 stock in Canadian Railways. No wonder, then, that he was ready to defend the author of such good luck. But it had been far better for both Earl Grey and Mr. Hincks that the dishonorable affair had been left in the oblivion which it had well-nigh fallen, for by raking up the ashes of an old grievance a happy opportunity has been afforded to Mr. Howe of clearing himself from the imputation that he had misapprehended the meaning of the agreement entered into by Earl Grey, or that Earl Grey had misapprehended the construction put upon it by Mr. Howe. Mr. Howe was put under the necessity of clearing his own reputation; and by so doing he was under equal necessity to inculpate Earl Grey. Our own firm conviction is, that certain great contractors (once very famous in Nova Scotia for large promises and abundance of braggadocio, but whom we like the best the farther they are away) subjected the Colonial Secretary to a pressure which he would find more difficult to withstand than to break his word to far distant Colonists. Besides settling this annoying matter and several others, Mr. Howe launches into the general and most important subject of the organization of the

Empire. His views are those of an experienced and large-minded politician.—We hope they will command due attention on the other side of the Atlantic; on this side anything issuing from his pen will be sure enough of being canvassed. At present we cannot follow the discussion which Mr. Howe has originated any further. We have no fear that the subject will be permitted to rest in its present state; and we hope and pray that God will give wisdom to those at the helm of affairs to guide them in such a course as will conduce most to His glory and the stability of our Empire.

Our readers will find a curiosity in the shape of a papal "allocution" on the first page—we hope they will be duly grateful to us for furnishing them with it. It may require a goodly store of patience and perseverance to wade through so dolorous and dull a document; but seeing that it is the unerring *dicta* of the infallible Pope, the "living Peter," none will be so hard-hearted as to refuse him a short hearing! We ourselves would not for the life of us wade through a dull novel or book, or article in a Review; and we would never forgive the man or woman that would inflict a dull poem on us; but we can forgive mopish dullness and stupidity when it comes from the "living Peter," even though he is the successor of Hildebrand—for Bœotian Popes are never very mischievous, and we can pardon their dullness on account of their harmlessness. The thunders of Pio Nono's wrath excite about as much fear and attention in Europe as a "storm-in-a-tea-kettle" does. His are mock thunders; for, alas, the bolts are gone! Though his once faithful children rebel on every side, he cannot coerce them into obedience; for the sharp sword has fallen from his nerveless grasp—and Spain, the most "faithful" of kingdoms, and Sardinia and Switzerland laugh to scorn the threats and fulminations of the successor of the GREGORIES and the INNOCENTS! Babylon is fallen, is fallen!

One rather striking feature in the Allocution on our first page is that the name of the Virgin Mary is not once mentioned in it! Is it possible that the "Head of the Church" has already ceased to place his confidence in her—that she has already refused to help? We were led to suspect that when the decree of the immaculate conception was settled by look and by croak, peace was to wave her dawning pinions over all the "Catholic" world, and all "heretics" and "heresies" would forever hide their diminished heads. Surely our neighbor the "Arch-bishop" might, could, or should explain why it is not so. He might find this more profitable employment than publishing "pastorals" that are certain to bring down upon their author the contempt and reprobation of every honest man,—that contain statements which merit for their author the severest chastisement that a free press can inflict.

THE VIEWS of our correspondent "Inquirer" regarding Temperance are deserving of serious consideration. But he should remember that everybody owes solemn duties to his country altogether irrespective of his religious connexion. We do not anticipate that there is much danger of our churches becoming too political. Nothing better could happen to the followers of Christ. Nothing can be more anomalous in itself and injurious in its consequences than for christian people to entrust the "Halls of Cæsar" to the hands of wicked and irreligious men; and nothing will give us greater pleasure than to see the constituencies of these provinces paying stricter regard to the moral character and religious views of the men they send to represent them in our Legislatures.

WE HAIL with pleasure the recent additions to, and improvements in, the press of this Province. Our excellent contemporary the *Cape Breton News* has doubled its former size; we hope its subscription list will increase proportionately. We have just placed on the list of our Exchanges the *Yarmouth Tribune*, a bi-weekly, the first number of which was issued on the 1st inst. It promises exceedingly well; and we wish it a long life and abundant success. The Editor promises to be "liberal" in politics, and to yield "no obedience to any person or clique." We also take this opportunity of characterizing the *Liverpool Transcript* as one of the best conducted rural papers in Nova Scotia.

FREE PRESBYTERY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

A meeting of Presbytery was held on the 20th August at Murray Harbour. Mr. Munro, Brown's Creek, reported that, according to the appointment of Presbytery, he preached at Murray Harbour on the 2nd August and moderated in a call to Mr. Neil McKay. The call was then produced, numerously and respectfully signed; it was examined and sustained by the Presbytery, and then put into Mr. McKay's hands by the Moderator. A considerable number of the gentlemen of the congregation were present, anxiously and prayerfully waiting to see the call given to Mr. McKay disposed of. Mr. Dabziel, Mr. Clow, and others, stated that the unanimous and earnest expectation of the whole congregation was that Mr. McKay would accept the call. The people, from their own knowledge and experience, regard Mr. McKay as very much devoted to the work of the ministry, and would, as the few who spoke for all declared, feel much disappointed should Mr. McKay refuse the call. The urgent necessity of coming to an immediate decision, if possible, was pressed upon Mr. McKay by the Presbytery from an anxiety on their part to expedite a harmonious settlement, from which much good may be expected to the Murray Harbour congregation. After a brief statement, which was highly creditable to Mr. McKay as a man and a christian, he declared his acceptance of the call. It appeared, from statements made to the Presbytery, that, exclusive of manse and farm, the subscription list providing for Mr. McKay's support amounted to £120, P. E. I. currency.

Arrangements were then made for ordaining and inducting Mr. McKay on the 13th September, to which day the Presbytery adjourned.

FREE PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

A correspondent informs us that this Reverend Court met at New Glasgow on the 8th August.—Rev. M. Sutherland, moderator.—Several matters of much importance were brought under consideration. The Presbytery determined to ask the Colonial Committee for the services of Mr. John Sutherland of the Glasgow City Mission. Mr. Kenneth McKenzie, Student in Divinity, having stood trials to the entire satisfaction of the Presbytery, was licensed to preach the everlasting gospel. Mr. John Stewart underwent a preliminary examination—and the hope was expressed that he would soon be the ordained minister of Earlton. A case of Appeal from a decision of the Kirk Session of Rogers' Hill was dismissed—the appellant will lay his case before next Synod. The Presbytery adjourned, to meet again on the second Wednesday of November.

CHALMERS' CHURCH, PUGWASH.—We are happy to understand that on Thursday the 13th inst. the foundation stone is to be laid and the frame raised of the Free Church, Pugwash. The Rev. Professor King of Halifax is expected to take part in the ceremony.—This place of worship is designated "Chalmers' Free Presbyterian Church"—and is the fourth erected by the congregation of the Free Church in the districts of Wallace and Pugwash—under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Munro, who, by the blessing of God on his exertions, has succeeded in providing these Churches so much needed for the accommodation of his scattered flock.

It is with deep regret we chronicle the sudden demise of our venerable friend, GEORGE MITCHELL, Esq., of Chester. Mr. Mitchell was a man deservedly beloved and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Of him it may with truth be said that he was diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. His loss will be deeply felt, and his memory long cherished, by the community of which he was for so many years a most useful member. The poor, the widow, and the orphan, always found in him a kind helper and most benevolent friend; he was the liberal patron of all charitable objects that commended themselves to his conscience. We sincerely sympathize with his family and friends under their sore bereavement; but we trust that their loss is his gain.—While they drink the cup of sorrow and grieve under so afflicting a dispensation, he rejoices in the presence of the Saviour whom he loved, the God whom he served and adored, where there is fullness of joy and pleasures ever more.

THE New School Presbyterians and the Congregationalists of the U. States used to be very good friends, and co-operated with each other in many important objects; but they have now a very bitter quarrel which will end, we have no doubt, in an entire severance of the cords of friendship between the two bodies. The leading organs on both sides have been full of the controversy since June last.

TESTIMONIAL OF RESPECT.—We had the pleasure of examining a diploma from the American Board of Foreign Missions, constituting the Rev. Robert Irvine, of Knox's Church, in this city, an honorary member of the Board of Commissioners of that Society. The appointment is highly complimentary to the Rev. gentleman and we congratulate him on this distinguished honour, and the Board on the enjoyment of his valuable services.—*Hamilton Banner*.

SACRAMENT AT WHYCOCOMAGH.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at Whycomomagh, on the second Sabbath of August. A beautiful spot, shaded by fir trees was chosen for the occasion, and a new tent (the best of the kind in Cape Breton,) built thereon. The Services commenced as usual on Thursday, when Mr. Charles Ross, who has been officiating in the Parish since the close of the last session of the Free Church College at Halifax, preached from Colossians, I, 27—"Christ in you the hope of glory," and in the afternoon from Song of Solomon, II, 8—"The voice of my beloved." The services of Friday were peculiarly instructive and impressive. On Saturday, the Rev. Mr. Gunn, of Broad Cove, preached in Gaelic, and Mr. Stewart, of West Bay, in English. On Sabbath Rev. Mr. Farquharson, of Middle River, preached in Gaelic, and Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Ross, in English. The services on Monday were conducted by Messrs. Farquharson, and Stewart. The weather was all that could be wished for.—There were present about 4,500 persons—about 200 of whom were communicants.—The Revd. Alex. Sutherland, of Prince Edward Island, was anxiously expected by Ministers and people, to assist at this solemn service.—A gloom was cast over the vast assemblage, on learning that this servant of God met with a serious accident near Pictou, which prevented his coming. The services of Mr. Ross the young and talented Missionary officiating here, are peculiarly acceptable to the people, and his labours are likely to be crowned with success. There were present people from Bouladerie Island, St. Peters, Grant Antz, Gut of Canso, Margaree, St. Ann's &c., &c.—*Con. to C. B. News.*

Presentation to the Rev. Robert Sedgewick, Musquodoboit.

On Saturday the 25th August, a Committee of Young Men belonging to the Bible Classes taught by the Rev. Robert Sedgewick waited on him in the Manse and presented him with an elegant carriage, when the following addresses were read:—

OUR DEAR PASTOR,

We have now had the pleasure of sitting under your instruction, as members of your Bible Classes, for four sessions; and we hope and believe that the lessons we have received from you there have not been lost upon us, but will be profitable to us while passing through this world, and be the means, in the hand of God, for fitting us for "the inheritance of the saints in light;" and we believe that our associations in after life will carry us back, with pleasure and profit, to seasons we have spent there. And while we are thankful for what is past, we hope still to receive benefit from what we may hear during future sessions of your classes. And as a slight evidence of the sincerity of these expressions, and as a small return for the obligations we owe you, we present you with this Carriage, hoping that it will render you comfortable in your numerous journeys through "these extensive settlements" and elsewhere.

We would present our best wishes for the health and happiness of Mrs. Sedgewick and all your family, and hope and pray that you may be long preserved to break the bread of life among us, and when time shall be no more, may you have many of us "as seals to your ministry."

- Signed in behalf of the Classes by JOHN DECHMAN, JUNR., Committee of Upper Class. SAMUEL HUTCHINSON, GEORGE STEWART, Upper Class. ROBERT REID, WILLIAM McCURDY, JAMES GULD, EDWARD BATES, Committee of Lower Class.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

This is now the third time in the course of these six years that you have presented me with a spontaneous proof and token of your affection—of your continued attachment to me—and of the estimation in which you hold me as a Minister of Christ.

When I look at the manner in which you work out the apostolic injunction, "Know them who are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and esteem them highly in love for their work's sake," and conjoin with all this such a testimonial as that you have now given me, I am humbled more and more under a sense of my unworthiness—so much so that I can scarcely hold up my head, and can only praise the Master whom I serve in the glorious Gospel for giving me so large a place in the hearts of my people, and chiefly in the hearts of the young of the flock.

I thank you for your kindness. I pray God it may be returned many fold into your own bosoms. I feel you have laid me under fresh obligations to serve you for Jesus' sake—to labor as for the benefit of the congregation at large, so particularly for the welfare of the lambs; and believing you will sustain and encourage me as you have heretofore done, it will be my business to give myself wholly to the work of the ministry and to watching for your souls as one that must give account.

And now the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord cause His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up upon you the light of His countenance and give you peace; is the prayer of your affectionate minister,

ROBERT SEDGEWICK.

For the Witness.

MR. EDITOR,

I am not aware of anything that is more difficult to enforce upon Presbyterian congregations than a strict adherence to the Word of God. Every person may be viewed as having three cardinal duties to discharge, and these should be discharged according to the Word of God. These may be sub-divided into many, but in stating the number I have, I mean, Personal, Congregational, and Political duties. Presbyterians profess to receive the Scriptures as their rule of faith and practice. But it can scarcely be said that they are really made such. I know—and so does every other man whom the subject interests—that our procedures as a people do not declare to those around that we profess what we profess. He who inquires scripturally to pursue such and such a course is set down as a fool, a bigot, or fanatic; and he who can produce custom for his authority will find a multitude ready to adopt his views and to cry out in their actions, "No Bible views here." It is the fewest number who are loved.