

and the promise, "in these shall all the... of the earth be blessed"—he is fulfill...

CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Witness.

Ma. Editor.— Although Mr. Sutherland has not yet returned "to prosecute his review," I am chargeable...

I am much pleased with the greatly improved tone of Mr. Sutherland's last letter. Your readers will suspect, it is true, that he has been...

My pleasure in Mr. Sutherland's improvement however is a good deal marred, by observing that he is still seriously dissatisfied with my style...

Mr. Sutherland, I perceive still affects the "threefold aspect" of things. His letter in your paper of the 2nd inst. contains, after the criticisms on my unlucky style...

There are yet Mr. Barnes, some points in the "Harvey Case," to which I should like to direct the attention of the public. But as you see, space fails, I believe to that the most important facts must be now pretty well understood by your readers.

congregation in the connection they have chosen. The Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, may not be all she ought, but she is at least sound in things essential to salvation...

Coming now to Mr. Sutherland's "assertions," we find him repeating the absurdity that the secession were apprized of Mr. Cowe's intention to deed the property to the Free Church, "being unwilling" to deal in mere assertion I put this point to the common sense of the reader in a former letter thus:

Here the subject of religious instruction, in so far as a University education is concerned, is taken up, and, in the present mixed state of Protestant communities, placed on the only true and stable basis. The principle is explicitly and broadly laid down, that no young man can be properly educated who is not instructed in religion, as well as in science and literature...

We have next from Mr. Sutherland the "great fact" that the Free Church expressed their willingness to recede, &c. I confess Mr. Editor that I was "pitifully weak" enough to hope that Mr. Sutherland would not bring me back to this point upon which he gives me what I suppose I am to take as another most "humiliating refutation." But all joking apart, has Mr. Sutherland no regard for his own character. Has he no respect for the intelligence of his readers? Has he forgotten his letter to Mr. Hay? Does he not know that this letter is before the public, as well as the one he wrote at the same time for Mr. Wilson? Can he hope that "even the more ordinary reader" does not see the connection between these two letters? Does Mr. Sutherland need to be reminded then, that when he prates about "both the parties remaining separate" and "worshipping regularly in the building as in many" "union meeting houses in both provinces"—does Mr. Sutherland need to be reminded I say, how perfectly every body understands now, that the real meaning of all this unblest pambly is "that both the parties should unite, and united call Mr. Milton a Free Church minister, whom they all like, to be their united pastor?" Must my opponent be told again?—But oh! jam satis! It may be hoped that we have heard the last of the Free Church "offer to recede." A "great fact" that Mr. Editor, was that "offer" in its day.

I remain, therefore, very truly yours, EBENEZER ROSS.

The Presbyterian Witness

Halifax, N. S., March 3, 1855.

New Era in National Education.

Many of our readers will remember that during the course of last summer we called attention to the fact of the appointment of a Commission to visit King's College, Fredericton, N. B. From the attainments and educational experience of the gentlemen composing that Commission, as well as from the terms of the Commission itself, so general and so comprehensive, we anticipated the most auspicious results from their enquiries and consultations, and our anticipations, great as they were, have, we rejoice to say, been far more than realized. We have just perused the report of this Commission, and such is our estimate of the excellence and practicability of the plan therein propounded, that we have no hesitation in saying, if it receive any thing like justice at the hand of Statesmen, Legislators, and enlightened educationists, it will not only obviate many of the difficulties connected with a popular national education, supposed, by not a few, insurmountable in the present position of society, but impart a mighty stimulus to the advancement of that all-important and all-absorbing subject. We intend to take up and discuss, piecemeal, the various departments embraced in this able and judicious report, and that mainly for the purpose of showing that the scheme there set forth is substantially the very scheme that would place the whole subject of popular education on a sure and permanent basis. We content ourselves to day by presenting our readers with a vidimus of the whole of the contents of this report. The two questions that mainly engaged the attention of the Commissioners were these: 1. What system of Collegiate Education is best adapted to supply the wants of

New Brunswick? and 2, Whether King's College, as now established, is adapted to give effect to such a system?

In reference to the first of these questions the Commissioners came to the unanimous conclusion, that the system of Collegiate Education should not only embrace the usual branches of Literature, Philosophy, and Science, taught in Colleges, but special courses of instruction adapted to the Agricultural, Mechanical, Manufacturing and Commercial pursuits of the Province. Accordingly, three special courses of study are proposed, that of Civil Engineering and Land Surveying, that of Agriculture, and that of Commerce and Navigation. The students are admitted to these special courses, as well as to those that are regular by matriculation, and must attend two years, and then undergo a sifting examination before they are entitled to a regular diploma.

The seventh lecture before this institution was delivered in Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening last, by S. L. Shannon, Esq. We never saw a greater throng in the Hall—many being unable to find seats, and many more compelled to return without obtaining admittance. The subject was one of great interest—the "Catacombs of Rome"—and from what we had already known of Mr. Shannon's talents and accomplishments, we had formed a high ideal of the treat which was awaiting us, but the reality surpassed our most sanguine expectations. The fact that the lecturer was eye-witness of the scenes he described—that he trod the darksome labyrinths of the catacombs, and read in their gloomy depths the foot-prints of the primitive christians and martyrs—enabled him to do much better justice to his subject than if he had his material at second hand. It is particularly worthy of remark how he incidentally struck the root of many of the stupid superstitions and bare-faced assumptions of the Papacy—for among all the inscriptions, and memorials, and ancient relics abounding in the catacombs, there is no mention made of the "Holy Virgin Mother of God," or "Our Lord God the Pope!" To the primitive christians and martyrs the only object of adoration and prayer—the only object through whom they hoped to gain everlasting life, was the ever blessed Redeemer.—In Him they put their trust, and they needed not mercenary prayers, nor masses, nor genuflexions, nor "holy water," to ensure a safe entrance into heaven. To us it seems a marvellous arrangement of Providence that subterranean Rome has been called to the light of day, to put to silence the proud pretensions of the Man of Sin; and we hope that, by the blessing of God, these disclosures, when calmly considered, will be instrumental in causing many to abjure the superstitions and forsake the communion of Rome. We regret that a greater number of the Roman Catholics of our city were not present at Mr. Shannon's lecture, as we have reason to hope that several of those who were present were benefited by what they heard. It would be very gratifying to us, and we are sure to almost all who listened to the lecture, if Mr. Shannon would give it to the public considerably enlarged, so as to make a neat little volume. Such a production would be at once a credit to the author and to his native province.

Young Men's Christian Association.

The matter of the agency by which effect is to be given to the whole of this system is next discussed. This is a point of vital importance. It is mainly owing to the want of a public responsible officer of high qualifications, with an adequate remuneration, that we are to trace the many comparative failures of the best concerted schemes, whether of a benevolent, or educational, or religious character, with the best selected committee or body of management. With the clear discernment of this, the Commissioners recommend the appointment of a gentleman of rare qualifications to preside over the whole, and on whom is to devolve the entire executive responsibility, to be designated "Rector of the University," and who shall also be chief superintendent of schools. Whilst the other Professors of the University are to have £300 per annum with fees, it is proposed that the Rector and Superintendent shall have not less than £500.

Free Presbytery of Halifax.

This Court met on last Wednesday in the Free Church College Rooms. After the usual preliminary business was over, the Rev. Professor King introduced the Rev. A. McKnight to the Presbytery.—Whereupon Mr. McKnight laid before the Presbytery his commission from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland to become Hebrew Teacher in the Free Church College in this city, together with an extract from the minutes of his licences as preacher of the gospel by the Free Presbytery of Ayr, Scotland. Professor King read also the testimonials upon which the Colonial Committee were led to appoint Mr. McKnight to this important situation. These were found exceedingly satisfactory. Mr. McKnight was admitted as Probationer within the bounds of the Free Presbytery of Halifax. The Moderator—Rev. Alex. Forrester—having left the chair, and Professor Lyall having taken it—and Rev. Mr. Forrester having announced to the Presbytery that he was appointed by the government of Nova Scotia to be Superintendent of Education and Principal of Normal and Model Schools, and that, after mature and prayerful consideration, he had accepted of the same, and having laid the commission conferring upon him the said appointment upon the Presbytery's table, he begged leave to tender to the hands of the Presbytery his resignation of the charge of Chalmers' congregation in this city. The Presbytery agreed to proceed in the case according to the rules of the church, and accordingly appointed Wednesday the 21st day of March as the next meeting of Presbytery, at which the matter will be further prosecuted. Rev. Mr. McKnight was appointed to preach in Chalmers' Church on Sabbath the 4th (to-morrow) to serve the edict—requiring that congregation, and all who may be interested in the case, to appear at that meeting of Presbytery. After some further routine business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet again on Wednesday 21st March.

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It is affirmed that on the arrival of the news, of the formation of the Palmerston Cabinet, at St. Petersburg, the Emperor immediately published an Ukase, ordering that the entire male population of Russia should be put under arms. Lord Palmerston, however, is not the man to be frightened from his propriety by such a threat. He can easily see that it is much easier to give orders for the arming of the entire population of a country than to accomplish so desperate an undertaking.

The appointment of Lord John Russell as a Special Representative to the Congress at Vienna is very significant of what the determination of the present Ministry is in respect to the conditions of peace. This appointment is viewed with great favor by the country generally.

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