

THE GLEANER.

And Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester, and Restigouche Schediasma.

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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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THE GLEANER.

From the Halifax Guardian.

THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF CHRISTIANITY ON THE TEMPORAL INTERESTS OF MANKIND—A PROOF OF ITS HEAVENLY ORIGIN.

BY THE REV. ROBERT ARCHIBALD, Minister of the Scottish Church, Chatham, Miramichi.

Nor did the horrors of war cease with the vengeance of battle. The prisoners who escaped death, instead of finding that kindness and compassion which are due to the mistletoes of the vanquished, were sold like cattle to the highest bidders; they were abused, insulted and triumphed over, at their inglorious shows, or sacrificed in thousands to appease the manes of departed leaders. Not to mention the cruelty of the Athenians and Lacedaemonians to their captives, we find it recorded by Livy, that a Roman general in one day gave up seventy cities of Epirus to be pillaged, and reduced one hundred and fifty thousand persons to a state of absolute slavery. Polybius also relates that when Scipio took Carthage, he ordered his soldiers to put the whole of the inhabitants to the sword, and to spare none according to the custom of the Romans. It is said of Julius Cæsar, who is generally supposed to have been a very mild conqueror, that he subdued three hundred cities, stormed one thousand, made a million of persons slaves, and put a million to the sword!!! In perusing the details of such horrid barbarities, the heart sickens with disgust, and we wonder how the fiends concerned in them, could ever have possessed the human form divine.

Compare the conduct of these inhuman wretches with the practices prevalent in Christian countries, and mark how beneficially Christianity has affected their temporal interests! The horrors of war have been greatly diminished; the barbarities which characterised the battles of the heathen world are never heard of among Christian nations. Among them bravery and virtuous conduct are admired, even in an enemy, and some degree of sympathy is felt for his fate. Prisoners of war, with their wives and their children, are not now, as formerly, reduced to a state of slavery, nor massacred in cold blood; but they are usually treated by their conquerors with humanity and kindness; a public provision is made for them, and they are always after a cessation of hostilities sent back in safety to their respective countries. Vanquished nations are often placed upon a footing of equality with the victor; and the gratification of revenge is stigmatised by the public voice as mean and unmanly in the extreme.

Though war, with its train of attendant evils, has not yet been wholly banished from the earth, yet this arises not from the prevalence of Christianity, but from the want of it. The gospel has never been cordially embraced by all the individuals of any nation, and therefore it is not to be expected that all the effects at which it aims are already produced. But yet we may observe that wars are now engaged in much more seldom than formerly, and from very different motives. They are generally considered in the light of evils, which ought, if possible, to be avoided. And who are those nations professing Christianity, whose wars are distinguished by aggression and cruelty? Are they not those who have abandoned Christian principles, and profess nothing but the name? What gave rise to the atrocities of the French Revolution? Was it Christianity? No! for the actors in that bloody tragedy renounced all religion before they plunged into the horrors of that dreadful period. Thus then though imperfection still prevails, arising from the fact, that Christianity has not yet met with a cordial reception, much has been effected in the way of improvement: and the Gospel directs our hopes to a time when all nations shall beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks, when nations shall not lift up sword against nation, and when they shall not learn war any more.

The customs which prevail among the heathens in ordinary life, when they profess none of the stimulants to hostile passions, are no less odious in their nature. The murdering of infants was sanctioned by the most celebrated lawgivers and philosophers of antiquity, and it prevails to this day in China and other Pagan nations, to an almost incredible extent. This horrid practice was common in Hindostan till very lately, when it was checked by the interference of a Christian governor. Among all ancient nations except the Jews, the cruel practice of offering human sacrifices seems to have prevailed. This abominable custom arose from the superstitious and debasing notions which they entertained of their mock

deities. Nor can we omit mentioning the savage custom of sacrificing at the tombs of deceased warriors and friends, multitudes of poor captives, whose only crime was the defence of their native country against lawless aggression. Among the Romans this became a species of amusement; vast numbers of their prisoners were compelled to fight and murder one another at the public shows, and when a sufficient number of captives could not be procured to minister to their brutal appetite, slaves were bought for the purpose, or given as a largess to the people by their depraved magistrates. If they refused to fight, they were delivered over to be devoured by wild beasts. To such a height of barbarity was this savage amusement carried, that, as has been recorded by an ancient writer, 'no wars ever committed such havoc among mankind as these gladiatorial shows.'—These inhuman spectacles were eagerly witnessed, not only by the vulgar, but by persons of all classes, ages, and sexes. They were not like mere exhibitions of skill where accidents might sometimes happen: the wounds and death of the actors formed an essential part of the scene. And is it necessary to ask whether among the most illiterate Christian nations, the temporal interests of man are affected by such abominable practices? What would be the general feeling if any approach to such barbarities was manifested? Christianity has abolished and will for ever abolish them.

These remarks may perhaps serve to shew that something more than refinement of taste and cultivation of understanding, is necessary to give mankind just notions of the rights of individuals, as well as to inspire them with a hatred of vice and prompt them to the practice of virtue. In many respects the ancient Greeks and Romans were superior to us. Their acquirements in literature were undoubtedly great; their success in the pursuit of science and the study of the fine arts were also great; and yet how lamentably deficient were they in the knowledge of the first principles of morality. While the understandings of many of them were raised almost to the highest pitch of improvement, their moral feelings were deadened by the practices of a debasing superstition: for indeed how could they be good (says Lactantius) who worshipped such bloody gods? how should they spare their children who worshipped Saturn, a deity who is represented as having devoured his children? how could they abstain from robberies who were acquainted with the thefts of Mercury, and called them cunning—not theft? and how could they be pure, virtuous, chaste, whose deities were related to have indulged the most profligate habits and beastly propensities. The philosophers to be sure in solitude and retirement, indulged in fine speculations, on the beauty of virtue, but these were confined to a few chosen disciples; and they never in any degree affected the mass of the people in raising the standard of their temporal enjoyments. Something of a more commanding force and of greater efficacy was necessary to awaken them to a sense of duty, and to produce a beneficial change upon their temporal interests. This accordingly Christianity has done. It has roused the human mind from the stupor and insensibility in which it had for ages been buried, and produced a change on the temporal interests of men radical in its nature and beneficial in its effects.

Even in those countries where christianity is most corrupted, this change is apparent in the character and condition of men. Some general regard is entertained for the rights of individuals—the most of the odious practices to which we have referred are abolished, and the character and temporal condition of men are wonderfully improved. If Christianity though corrupted by the vain traditions and philosophy of men, has accomplished so much good, how great and beneficial must its effects be where it is professed pure and undefiled! There a general respect for moral duty is entertained in every bosom, the practice of virtue generally attended to, the odious practices so hostile to our outward condition abolished, and our temporal interests consulted and improved.

[To be continued.]

We received the following communication, from our Correspondent at Restigouche:

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RISTIGOUCHE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

January 4th, 1842.

DONALD FERGUSON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR. In presenting their Second Annual Report, the committee of the Restigouche Agricultural Society beg leave to take a review of the proceedings of the past year, being the first of experiment. Agreeably to a Resolution of the Society, of the 14th April, 1840, Premiums

were to be awarded on the second Tuesday in April last for the best sample of Grain and Hay Seed, at which time a Show took place, that exceeded the most sanguine expectations of your committee, and would do credit to any country.—The Premiums were awarded as follows:

For the best sample of Spring Wheat to John Currie, £1.
For the second best do to Jacob Caldwell, 15s.
For the third best do to Wm. Doyle, 10s.
For the best two rowed Barley, to John Currie, £1,
For the best four rowed do to Daniel M'Nish, £1,
For the best Black Oats to John M'Nish, £1,
For the second best do to John Douglas, 15s.
For the best White do to William Fleming £1,
For the best sample of Hay Seed, No. 2, to John Currie, 10s.
For do do to Walter Blair, 10s.

The interest manifested by the Farmers generally in the exhibition held that day, encouraged the Society to renew and increase their exertions to further the advancement of Agriculture in this county: with this view it was then resolved that the like Premiums which were offered last year, should be given for the competition of Grain and Hay Seeds, the production of the present year, under the same rules and regulations: the Show to be held in the Court House on the 2nd Tuesday in April next: and also that a Cattle Show and Ploughing Match be held in Dalhousie, in October next. In conformity also with the recommendation of your committee of last year, a portion of the funds of your Society were appropriated to the importation of such Grain and Grass Seeds as were not to be had in the country—and a few Sheep of the Leicester breed.

On the 5th of October the Cattle Show took place, when your committee were gratified at the very respectable and numerous attendance, and also the appearance of the Cattle,—at which time the following premiums were awarded:

For the best 2 year old Heifer to Walter Blair, £1.
For the best 2 year old Bull, to Donald Fraser, £1 10s.
For the best 1 year old do to James Duncan, £1,
For the best year old Heifer to Donald Fraser 15s.
For the best Calf to Peter Rigby, 10s.
For the best 3 year old Ram, to David Alexander, £1
For the best year old do to Walter Blair, 10s.
For the best Lamb do to William Craig, 10s.
For the best 3 year old Ewe to Walter Blair, £1,
For the best 2 year old do to the same, 15s.
For the best year old do to John Ferguson, 10s.
For the best Lamb do to Walter Blair, 10s.
For the best Hogs, Boar and Sow, to Andrew Barrie, Esquire, £2.
For the second best do do to the same, 15s.

Immediately after this Exhibition, a Sale at Public Auction took place, agreeably to previous advertisement, of the Sheep and Fowls imported, and such quantity of the Grain and Grass Seeds as remained of the last Spring's Importation; and although they did not realise their first cost, were very generally distributed throughout the county. In consequence of the unusual dryness of the Season, the Ploughing Match was postponed until the following Thursday, (the 12th), when although the number of competitors was not so great as might have been wished, yet from the numerous attendance and interest evinced by the young men, who were spectators, much future benefit may reasonably be expected to result. The Premiums were awarded as follows—1st prize to James Breckenridge, £2 10s. 2nd prize to John Douglas, £2. 3rd prize to Patrick Doyle, £1 10s.

After which a Public Dinner was given at the Dalhousie Hotel, to the Ploughmen, Judges, and such of the Office Bearers of the Society as honored the Exhibition with their presence.

Your committee are happy in having it in their power to congratulate the Members on the benefit resulting from the influence of the Society, inasmuch as they can state that Agriculturists have been induced to attempt an extended growth of Wheat, Barley and Black Oats; and although having had to struggle with the difficulty of an unusually dry season, still remanent crops have rewarded their endeavours, except in those places where the many fires have extended their destroying effects.

Your committee, in compliance with the 13th Rule of the Constitution of this Society, have taken a view of and examined the state of the Stock of Seeds, (no Implements being yet purchased), in the Society's depository, and find them correspond with the invoices and account sales; independent of which there are 14 bags, each 196 lbs. of Black Oats, ordered

from Ireland, but being required to be of the growth of the year, did not reach Port Glasgow in time to be shipped this season, but may be expected by the first vessel in the spring. The Secretary has also in hand a quantity of Black Oats and Barley, the growth of the County.

Your committee have audited the Accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, and approve of them, shewing a balance of £143 13s. 5d. which they recommend to be expended in a further importation of Seeds for the ensuing year, particularly a small quantity of Spring Wheat from the continent of Europe, in order that it may be tested in comparison with the growth of this continent and Great Britain; and a few more Sheep of the Leicester and South down breeds,—and also for the introduction of some West Highland Cattle—your committee being assured that the superiority of the purest Ayrshire dairy Stock can be traced to the crossing of the West Highland with the Dutch breed, at an early period.

Your committee are happy to find that the government had anticipated their suggestions of laying off the waste crown lands in a manner suited for Settlers and Emigrants, and that no sooner were 2000 acres surveyed in lots of 100 acres each, and advertised, when immediate applicants for the same were found; thus evincing the necessity of opening a communication to the interior, and demonstrating the correctness of your committee's views thereon. In fact, the demand for Land is far from being supplied; but until roads are opened to the interior, that vast portion of valuable Land must continue in a wilderness state, and the difficulty of access thereto, for the present, deter Emigrants from settling thereon. If Legislative means were furnished for laying off and making roads, in the manner formerly pointed out, nothing then would be wanting to constitute the county of Restigouche inferior to no part of the Province of New Brunswick as an agricultural district.

This being the first year of Agricultural trial, it cannot be expected that any material alteration in the imports could have been effected, your committee therefore deem it unnecessary to present, (as in last year's Report) a statement of the imports into the county for the past year.

Your committee would again call the attention of the Society to the samples of Marl and Gypsum found in the county: the former upon test, appears to be of superior quality, and abundant in quantity. Although no Premiums have been as yet offered, they are of opinion inducement should be held out for the purpose of bringing them and composts into use as fertilizers of the soil.

In conclusion, your committee feel a pleasure in acknowledging the very prompt and valuable services of your correspondent in Britain, Mr Alexander M'Gaw, Ardloch, Ayrshire, in whose communications much practical information is conveyed, with an interest that proves a sincere desire to be useful; with best wishes for your success—that you may go on and prosper: and that when the Ploughs of the British North American Colonies are fairly set in motion, they may be able to supply the Parent State with every thing required in the shape of agricultural produce, and supersede the necessity of applying to her continental neighbours, who do not wear her broad cloths in return.

Resolved—That this Report be accepted, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved—That Robert Ferguson, Esquire, be re-elected President; Andrew Barberie and Hugh Montgomery, Esquires, Vice Presidents, —and Arthur Ritchie, John Montgomery, Robert Ritchie, Joseph Hunter, Esquires, and Mr David M'Intosh, committee.

DUGALD STEWART, Secretary and Treasurer

From Maxwell's Life of Wellington.

CHARACTER OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

In Wellesley's earlier successes, two circumstances connected with them strikes us as being most remarkable—the enormous masses of organized men over whom his triumphs were achieved, and the scanty means with which these brilliant victories were effected. Small as the latter were, in examining the proportionate strength of his armies, his British soldiers did not exceed a fourth of the whole, —and with native troops—Mussulman opposed to Mussulman—Scindiah was routed at Assye, and Gawilghar, esteemed hitherto impregnable, carried by assault.—Nothing can afford a stronger proof of that moral effect, which superior intelligence exercises over uncultivated qualities in producing their development. Commanded entirely by British officers, the Indian army in efficiency, was scarcely second to any. In the field the Sepoy soldier emulated his European associates in gallantry and discipline.