

which should ensure to the Canadas, at all times, external markets for the consumption of their agricultural productions, in the markets of the United Kingdom, and in those of their sister colonies in the west.

I represented that no distress can be so severe as that which must result from a population extending itself over unbounded fields of virgin fertility, peopled by emigrants from the mother country as a measure of relief to ourselves from the occasional pressure of unemployed labour, if at any time we should fail in ensuring them markets for the productions of their industry. And it does now become a matter of the very greatest importance to consider, what is to become of the Canadas, if we now fail in this duty to them by withdrawing protection from the interests we have created and the industry we have cherished. The United States will not have free trade with British America; and if so, and we withdraw protection from the productions of the Canadas, as by the extinction of the protective principle, and the repeal of the differential duties, we are asked to do, it is quite obvious that the tendency must be... I have often imagined—and it was for this that I moved for, and obtained the order of this house, for the extensive returns which are now preparing, namely, the various colonial tariffs and commercial relations at present subsisting between all the colonies of the empire and the mother country, and between the colonies themselves—that it might really be possible to treat colonies like counties of the country, not only in direct trade with the United Kingdom but in commercial intercourse with each other, by free trade among ourselves, under a reasonable moderate degree of protection from without, and so resolve the United Kingdom, and all her colonies and possessions, into a commercial union such as might defy all rivalry, and defeat all combinations. Then might colonization proceed on a gigantic scale; the might British capital animate British labour, on British soil, for British objects, throughout the extended dominions of the British empire. Such an union is the United States of America—a confederation of sovereign states, leagued together for commercial and political purposes, with the most perfect free trade within, and stringent protection from without; and signally, surely, has that commercial league succeeded and flourished. Such an union, too, is the German Customs' League; and it has succeeded to an extent that really is, in so short a time, miraculous. But free trade—the extinction of the protective principle—the repeal of differential duties—would at once convert all our colonies, in a commercial sense, into as many independent states. The colonial consumer of British productions would then be released from his part of the compact, that of dealing, in preference, with the British producer; and the British consumer of such articles, as the colonies produce, absolved from his; each party would be free to buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest market. I defy any non-member opposite to say that this would not be a virtual dissolution of the colonial system. The British flag might still fly for a time, where sound British policy had raised it, in every part of the world. The colonists would regard it still with the veneration to which it is entitled. Our navies might still guard their coasts and waters, and our troops hold military possession of their lands; but then would come the question of the economists in debates on the navy, army, and ordnance estimates, what is the use of colonies? They consume not, as of old, the productions of the United Kingdom in any greater degree than if they were foreign states; we no longer consider and treat the Colonies as domestic sources for the supply of the manufacturing industry, and the elements of our maritime power; and it will be difficult to answer that economical argument, when, moreover, we shall have discarded our colonies, for considerations of a wretched pecuniary economy, and sacrificed national objects, and high destinies, to the minor, and the comparatively mean, calculations of speculative wealth. I have said what the effect of free trade must be on the Canada corn bill. What will be the effect of the extinction of protection, when fully carried out on the British North American timber trade? I am not speaking of the terms proposed in this new tariff; but of the total abolition of all differential duties, which must be the result of this measure. When this is carried out with respect to sugars, what is to become of the British West Indies? How will they be affected by free trade in sugar for the perfect extinction of protection must be carried out to the extent even of admitting slave-produced sugar, as already demanded, and as we have already done slave-produced cotton? What is to become of the coffee of Ceylon, and what of British India—that boundless space in which, in the valley of the Ganges, alone, sugar sufficient for the supply of the whole world might be produced? And now, sir, in conclusion—fervently do I hope, that, if this measure pass, the intentions and expectations of my right hon. friend, honestly and faithfully devoted to the best of his judgment, to promote the real interest of his country by this extensive measure, may be realized to the fullest extent; sincerely do I wish that my opinions may prove to have been erroneous, and my apprehensions groundless. But, under a strong conviction that such will not be the workings of this measure; believing that the value of British industry will be depressed; that the physical and social condition of the people will not be raised; that British agriculture will be checked and injured, and that consequently manufactures, commerce, and navigation, will suffer, and the great pillars of our maritime supremacy, and the elements of our naval power subverted.—I give a willing, con-

scientious and consistent vote, however painful and reluctant in some respects, against this perilous, and as it appears to me, unnecessary experiment—an experiment from which there is no retreat; a movement in which there is no receding; an experiment, the success of which can scarcely add to the general well-being, the prosperity, the greatness, and the glory of this country; but any failure in which must prove ruinous to imperial Britain. [The gallant member resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.]

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1846.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ARRIVAL AND CLOSING OF THE SEVERAL MAILS, AT THE POST OFFICE, CHATHAM.

TIME OF ARRIVAL.—Monday.—Nova Scotia, St. John, Fredericton, Dorchester, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Pettitcodiac, Richibucto, 6, A. M.

Tuesday.—Newcastle and Douglstown, 5, A. M. Thursday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, Pettitcodiac, Richibucto, 6, A. M.

Friday.—St. John, Fredericton, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Newcastle, South West, 6, A. M. Bathurst, Dalhousie-Campbellton, 8, A. M.

Saturday.—Newcastle, Douglstown, 5, A. M. Shippigan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabisitac, 3, P. M., every fortnight.

TIME OF CLOSING.—Monday, Canada, United States, (via Woodstock,) Fredericton, Newcastle, South West, Douglstown, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Campbellton, 8, A. M. Shippigan, Pokemouche, Tracadie, Tabisitac, every fortnight, 5, A. M. Nova Scotia, Saint John, Dorchester, Richibucto, Pettitcodiac, 9, P. M.

Thursday.—Newcastle, Douglstown, and 5, A. M.

Friday.—Nova Scotia, Dorchester, St. John, United States, (via St. Andrews,) Richibucto, Pettitcodiac, 9, P. M.

N.B.—Letters will be forwarded upon the payment of a fee of "six pence," and Newspapers "one penny" each, if posted within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the closing of the respective mails at this Office.

LADIES' TEA PARTY.

We were kindly invited last week to a Tea Party, given by the Ladies, mothers of the children, who attend the Sabbath School of Saint Andrew's Church, Chatham. Ostinately this entertainment was to be given—as the tickets of admission expressed it—to Mr. and Mrs. James Millar, and their Sabbath School Scholars, but in reality, upwards of 250 persons, great and small, partook of its cheer.

The large room of Johnston's Hotel, was tastefully decorated and lighted for the occasion. The tables, skillfully arranged, surrounded the sides, and extended up the centre of the room; at the head of which sat the chief Guests, while about 120 children—interspersed with their seniors—occupied nearly all the other tables.

Besides the room thus described, there were two additional apartments of the Hotel prepared for the occasion. The door of each of these smaller rooms, is exactly opposite a door at each end of the large one, so that, without the least confusion or inconvenience, a constant communication was kept up between them. In these two rooms tables were also set and abundantly furnished with good things, and at them were seated a number of the Parents of the children, and other persons belonging to St. Andrew's Church, whose enjoyment depended—as one of them expressed it—not so much on how they (meaning the congregation of St. Andrew's) got on, as upon the extent of gratification which the entertainment might afford the kind and condescending ladies and gentlemen of other communions, who had honored the party with their presence.

The Rev. J. C. MACREAN, A. M. Minister of St. Andrew's church, ably Presided. When it was announced that all things were ready, the Choir of the church entered the chief room, and sang a few verses of the 11th Paraphrase. This being concluded, and the Rev. Gentleman had invoked the Divine Blessing, young and old, great and small, commenced the

work of lightening the tables, and truly this performance seemed to us a work of necessity, preadventure they had sunk ere long under their load.

At this interesting moment, we cast our eyes over the gay and busy throng. The sweet smile of joy played on the countenances of the children, while their little hands were longingly extended to receive the expected cup or cake. The happy looks of each presiding Lady, as she witnessed every thing going off well. The neatness of the decorated walls, and the bedazzling light—the sprightliness with which the waiting ladies and gentlemen tripped it to and from their respective tables: the sparkling wit and repartee, and the merry laugh of the youngsters; these, together with the clatter of many tongues, cups and saucers, rendered the whole scene highly interesting and animating. Knives and forks were dispensed with, as they might have proved dangerous weapons in the hands of such valiant young heroes, under such circumstances; the slaughter, notwithstanding, was prodigious. The want of them compelled many youngsters to hold their tongues, &c. between their thumb and fingers.

When the din of this busy affair had ended, and the attendant steam had evaporated, a few verses of the 16th Paraphrase were sung, and thanks returned. Notes were read from the Rev. S. Bacon, and Dr. Key, assigning the causes of their being reluctantly absent.

The Chairman now rose, and briefly described the object which induced the Ladies to prepare the present entertainment, and introduced Mr. MILLAR, who would, he said, relate to them the history of the Sabbath School long under his charge, and descant on topics connected therewith. Mr. Millar then delivered a highly interesting address, which we give below. The chairman, at the request of the Ladies, replied. The Rev. Chairman then called successively on James Caie, Esq. the Rev. W. Henderson, Rev. R. Shepherd, Rev. J. McCurdy, and the Hon. Joseph Cunard, and having been cheerfully responded to by all of them, he addressed the meeting himself. The choir then sang a few verses of the 13th paraphrase—the Apostolic Benediction was pronounced by the President—and the large company separated, much gratified with the success that had crowned the benevolent design of the Ladies, and grateful for the opportunity thus afforded them of spending an evening together so rationally and agreeably.

We give below several of the Speeches delivered on the occasion.

In concluding a brief notice of this novel and highly interesting entertainment, we think we cannot do better than to insert the following eloquent remarks on the labours of Sabbath School Teachers, from the preface of a work recently published by Dr. Drew, entitled, "The Young instructed in Gospel Narrative."

"Honor rests upon our age. A wonderful machinery has sprung up into existence from humble and feeble sources. God gave the word, and since that blessed hour, a million of teaching men and women arose on Sabbath mornings to tell infancy of Jesus, and to lead with loving hand, the poor man's child onward on Zion's road. In human history, no institution of man holds such honoured place. The unpauid, untiring, unceasing efforts of Sabbath School love are of the kindest, strongest, and most effective doings of modern times! How do such teachers aid the responsibilities of parents! How do they relieve and gladden the pastor's heart! How do they bring Christ and all Christ's truth, to warm young hearts, and listening captivated ears! How do they penetrate earth's dark places, led by the faith of their Christ-sustained souls! How do they love one another—shivering the bands of bigotry! How do they in secret, commend each other to the love of God! How do they gather from Heaven, prosperity for pulpits and closets—for parlours and cottages! To God be the praise for the bright boon of Sabbath school teaching, and Sabbath school love!

He that approaches a house where a child dwells, with blessings on his lips, is a friend of that house indeed. He that watches bland moments to speak to that child somewhat of the

delicious narratives of Christ's love, is a friend indeed. He that condescends to be spiritually childlike and intellectually simple, for a child's sake, is one of God's great men. The world is more deeply indebted to such benefactors than it may suppose. It is to be hoped that thousands of such men are inhabitants of the land. We feel much gratitude when beholding some gentle act of kindness, some gift, some caress, bestowed upon a little son or daughter: greater gift and caressing lie in the secret, fervent petitions, who ask of God to rain the continual dews of his best blessings on the infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and manhood of our offspring. Open ever be our doors and hearts to such visitants! May our children be borne before the mercy-seat by praying, child-loving Christian people! And such will be blessed in turn."

Mr. MILLAR, in returning thanks to the Ladies for the honor conferred on him and Mrs. M. spoke as follows:

LADIES.—I do assure you that I find much difficulty to express in adequate terms the pleasing sensations that have sway in my breast, for the public demonstration you have given this evening of your approbation of my labours as a Sabbath school teacher, for which I beg to offer you my most sincere and grateful acknowledgements. It is a mark of respect and approbation altogether unexpected by me; but which, on your part, is a tangible evidence of the deep interest that you feel in the spiritual welfare of the rising generation.

You who are parents must be fully aware of the arduous task that devolves on the Instructors of youth, and of the many discouragements that must be encountered and overcome in the successful discharge of that duty; these discouragements I have met with, in common with other teachers; but I am happy to say that they have been more than compensated for, by the high gratification I have often enjoyed by observing the fruits of these labours developed in the character and conduct of the young persons who have been committed to my care. The duty is certainly very responsible, but it is also highly honorable—What duty can be more honourable than to train up children in that knowledge which, through the blessing of God, is able to make wise unto salvation?

It may be proper that I inform you that St. Andrew's Church Sabbath School was instituted twelve years ago, and that I have had the honour and privilege of superintending this useful and highly interesting seminary during the last eleven years; and I can venture to affirm, that during the whole of that period, I have been enabled to attend to this important duty with regularity and perseverance. I find, by reference to the school roll, that when the duties of the institution were undertaken by me, the number of scholars was 38, the number on the roll at this date is 70, and I feel quite confident that it would be much larger, were not many of the children prevented from attending, on account of the severity of the weather during the winter months.

I need not occupy your time by giving you a minute detail of all the exercises performed in this institution, suffice it to say, that the reading and expounding of the Holy Scriptures have always formed the most prominent part of its duties. The scholars repeat stated portions of Brown's Catechism with scripture proofs, also portions of the Shorter Catechism, in which they are carefully examined and the doctrines contained in each question are explained and proved from the Scriptures. They also repeat a psalm or paraphrase. A question is prescribed every Sabbath which they are required to prove from the Scriptures; and it is no uncommon occurrence to hear little boys and girls repeat from ten to twenty verses on one subject. It affords me much pleasure to state that these exercises are in general carefully attended to by the scholars, and that, with very few exceptions, I have no reason to complain of irregular attendance, and I feel assured, Ladies, that this public token of respect, which you have been pleased to confer, will stimulate both teachers and taught, and that through the grace of God we shall be enabled to go on and persevere in the good work.

Permit me, Ladies, to congratulate you on the dignified object that you are desirous to countenance and promote by your labours of love this evening. When we consider the nature and object of Sabbath school, your conduct will assuredly command our most cordial approbation. These seminaries are instituted to teach tender minds in the knowledge of the Saviour; to lead them to an early acquaintance with the word of inspiration; to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to induce them to walk in wisdom's ways, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths peace. They operate upon all, but they operate chiefly upon those in the humbler walks of life. Like the Saviour himself they preach the Gospel to the poor. They cast a light and a glory around their path, which the noblest scientific institutions cannot do; they point them to heaven; they speak of immortality; they uphold before them the cross of Calvary; they deliver from the pit. It is true that "righteousness exalteth a nation," the waterman, the poet, and the philosopher should rally around this standard of Salvation, and bid his supporters God speed, as well as the Christian and the philanthropist. It is impossible for us adequately to conceive and correctly estimate the value of these schools.

We know they have been a blessing to our country, to our fathers, to ourselves, and to our children; and we hope and pray that they may continue to be a blessing to our children's children to the third and fourth generation; we desire to every generation while our world lasts.