

French emissaries labored for years, sowing diligently the seeds of dissension, undermining the authority of the Sultan, sharpening their prejudices against the Druses, and giving birth to indefinite hopes of effectual succour from Christendom. With the result of all this active intriguing, the world is too well acquainted. The ambition of the Maronite was extinguished in blood. Having got up the storm, the French agents effected their escape, and suffered it to burst pitilessly on the heads of their victims. The Druses rose in insurrection—the Turks poured an army into the mountains—all resistance was overpowered—and the wretched Maronites learned, too late, that they had been induced to lean on a broken reed.

At this moment European diplomacy is again at work among the scattered tribes of the Lebanon; not, however, with a view to civilise them, and improve their condition, but in order to enlarge the field of political intrigue, and multiply the points by which it hopes to obtain a footing in the East. To unmask the iniquity of such a design would be highly praiseworthy, because, however cheaply we may hold the intellect of the Syrians, it is impossible we should regard them without sympathy and compassion. They reckon among them a considerable number of that persecuted race, the Jews, who have there, perhaps, been subjected to more ignominy, insult, and contempt, than anywhere else in the world. Mr D'Israeli, in his recent work, represents the thing differently. But no traveller who has ever set foot in the East, and witnessed there the practical degradation of the Israelites, will corroborate his views. Among the terms of reproach which an angry Mussulman can apply to another, the most opprobrious and offensive is that of "Yahoodi," or "Jew." The scale of insult runs, as nearly as possible, as follows: When the annoyance is slight, the offended individual satisfies his bile with calling his neighbour an "Infidel;" but the term is often applied jocularly, as we denominate a child a "little rogue." When more anger is intended to be expressed, the reviler selects the word "dog;" from which, as his rage increases, he will descend to "pig;" and, lastly, to "Jew," beyond which there is but one lower depth into which a sinner against social usages can be thrust, but this is so peculiarly Oriental, that we abstain from translating the term.

Condemn, as earnestly and sincerely as we may, the prejudices of all Eastern nations against the Jews, it is impossible for us to deny the fact, nor are we, indeed, able to perceive any advantage that would accrue from creating in Europe a false impression upon the subject. The Osmanlis seldom read our speculations, and when they do, can only respect us when they find our reasoning based on truth. Now they are conscious that, throughout the Turkish empire, the Hebrew race is under a ban, condemned to carry on the most disreputable callings—overwhelmed with perpetual scorn—excluded from all social intercourse—thrust aside, in all the common highways of life, by the meanest and most despised among the believers in the Koran—and condemned to console themselves, for all this weight of scorn and obloquy, by the possession of money. It is quite true that capital is power, and that pashas and grandees in the East, as well as in the West, are occasionally constrained to mask their dislike, and ask favors of the persecuted race. But this, only, is not a thing to be proud of. That the money-power sometimes triumphs over birth and rank, over prejudice and bigotry, is quite true; but this does not prove the non-existence of fanaticism, or shew that the objects of perpetual contempt are not despised. We are not excusing the ignorance and folly of the Orientals, but simply stating an undeniable fact. By way of illustration, let any man inquire for the Jewish quarter in any eastern city, and he will invariably be directed to the worst built, the most dingy, filthy, and infected with malaria, where the devoted children of mammon hoard their gold, in squalor and obscurity. Scarcely will a Mohammedan deign to look into its unsavory streets where his nose is assailed by anything but the perfumes of Arabia, the entrance to which he proverbially compares with the descent to Gehennam, and whose inhabitants he believes to be destined to the warmest conceivable quarter in the next world.

[To be concluded.]

Communications.

YOUTH.—[CONCLUDED.]

To the mind of the talented and ambitious youth, Fame holds out many attractions. He beholds the influence her votaries command—the honors that are paid them, and he begets a thirst for honorable distinction, and determines to pursue earthly renown with all his soul. For this he will seat himself night after night, with unabating ardor, at the midnight lamp—expose himself to danger on the battle field—travel through the depths of polar snows—and traverse the scorching sands of the desert. To attain worldly honor, the darling of his soul, he will even sacrifice the greatest blessing—Health. How many a noble and ambitious youth, possessing talents of a superior order, and bidding fair to be a credit to his friends, and an honor to his country, with a step light and buoyant as the silvery summer cloud—an eye beaming with the fire of ambition—a cheek suffused with the glow

of health—and a mind elated with bright anticipations of the future, has left the threshold of his happy home, to enter upon the pursuit of earthly honor: but alas, ere he attained the object of his desire, has been obliged to relinquish the pursuit, and return to his home with a constitution shattered by disease. His eye that beamed so bright has lost its lustre, and grown languid in its socket,—his cheek, once tinged with young life's blood, has lost its healthful hue, and become ghastly pale—his step, once so light and elastic, has become slow and infirm,—his once bright and cheering prospects are blasted for ever,—premature decay is stamped upon his frame, and he stands the wretched victim of self-immolation. He drags out his remaining days in a course of miserable existence; premature dissolution cuts asunder the thread of life, and hurries him, alas, too early into the tomb. The records of the past present to our view many such instances of self-immolation. Witness a Henry Kirke White, offering himself up a victim upon the altar of literary ambition, exclaiming in his expiring moments, with regard to the neglect of his health, "How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof." He indeed prepared a rich banquet for the intellectual mind, but alas, his very existence was served up in the repast! Many such instances might be adduced to prove the truth of the foregoing remarks—let this suffice.

We have observed that the votaries of wealth are liable to fall into the sin of making the world the chief object of their affections. The votaries of fame are prone to fall into the same error. Wholly absorbed by the pursuit of fame, they overlook "that honor which cometh from God." With the indulgence of the passion for fame, the desire becomes stronger. Its march is onward—it knows no limit—it acknowledges no superior—and limits its views only by the regions of impossibility. This principle is, however, in many instances, hypocritical, calling itself patriotism, professing to be exercised for the good of country; its chief motive is personal ambition—its chief object office and self-aggrandizement.

But let us conclude this subject by looking for a moment at the pleasures and dangers of youth. One striking feature in the character of youth is his susceptibility. During this period the feelings are strong, and the judgment weak. Enthusiastic, generous, and unsuspecting, he enters the world, and opens his arms with unsuspecting confidence to the proffered friendship of those who are in reality his deadliest enemies—those who, under the guise of friendship, are gaining his confidence only to drive him into the fatal snare. They begin his ruin by introducing him to innocent pleasures; and from pleasures comparatively innocent they lead him down to pleasures more and more criminal, till those crimes at which he would once have started with horror, have obtained dominion over him, and he commits them with little or no compunction. There are the pleasures of the theatre, that hot-bed of iniquity, with their exciting attractions. Many a moral and religious youth, allured by the persuasions of companions, the announcement of some splendid tragedy, or some popular performer, in entering the threshold of the theatre, has bidden adieu for ever to hope, reputation, and happiness. 'Tis vain to talk of inculcating the principles of virtue from the stage, where even modesty is made to blush, where some of its most virtuous pieces are larded with immorality, and where

"Scenes have been enacted there,
That would make angels blush."

But there is also the gaming room. Cast your eye within those mighty haunts, and what do you behold? What do you hear? You behold, seated around a table, a number of young men engaged in card-playing. On that form, and beside that sickly burning light, stands the "rosy god," and each player has by him his glass filled to the brim, ready to be swallowed at each unsuccessful play, in order to quell the rising rage of disappointment. What sounds greet your ear? Naught but jarring strife—intimidating threats—the eager and malicious note of triumph—and the bedlam roar of merriment. How many an unsuspecting youth, drawn into such places of resort (by those gnawing vultures which are to be found in all populous cities, prowling about such haunts, ready to pounce upon their unsuspecting victims) has been ruined in character, blasted in his anticipations, and become a drunken, fallen outcast from society.

Thus have we briefly considered the period of youth in some of its leading features—its

pursuits—its pleasures and temptations. We have seen that there are many temptations connected with the pursuit of wealth and fame. From these temptations, these dangers, which are strewn along the path of youth, there is only one sure safe-guard, Religion. Many are the prejudices that have been raised against Religion, but these are all unwarrantable and unfounded. Her path has been described as gloomy, her requirements irksome, and her enjoyments as spiritless. Youth are accustomed to look upon her as interdicting their pleasures and enjoyments; they shrink from her as if she were a monster whose very appearance is terror. But this is a very mistaken idea. Religion is a heaven-born principle, and the very essence of pleasure and enjoyment. She hails from heaven as her birth-place. Her origin is from God, the most glorious of beings. There is nothing repulsive in her appearance—nothing unreasonable in her claims. 'Tis true, she does interdict pleasures, impose restrictions, and enjoin commands; but it is only unlawful pleasures she interdicts; it is reasonable restrictions she imposes; and reasonable commands that she enjoins. Well hath the poet exclaimed "Religion, thou art happiness: the man that seeketh it apart from thee, shall be miserably disappointed." Man may possess the wealth of the Indies, or wield the power of an Alexander; he may attain the pinnacle of renown, and have wreathed around his brow the chaplets of Fame may have won for him; he may even attain a crown, and, surrounded by all the pageantry of royalty, sway the sceptre of government of millions of his fellows; but with any or all of these, and without religion, he must still be unhappy. Youth is never so truly happy, never appear so lovely, as when clothed in the panoply of Religion.

S.

Chatham, 12th August, 1847.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1847.

THE Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing, in future, must be accompanied with the CASH, otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

RAILWAYS IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

For some time past the Provincial papers have contained paragraphs recording the great success with which the projectors for connecting Saint Andrews and Quebec by Railway, has met with in Britain; a few weeks since we reported the proceedings of two meetings, one held in Shediac, and the other in the Bend of Peticodiac, on the subject of connecting the Gulf of Saint Lawrence with the Bay of Fundy, by Railroad across the Isthmus; and the last number of the New Brunswick, contains a paragraph, announcing that an application has been made to Government for the survey of the country lying between St. John and Shediac, by way of Hampton Ferry, Sussex Vale, and the Bend of Peticodiac, to be done this season by Military Officers, (if they can be spared) with the view of ascertaining what engineering difficulties, if any, exist on the route, and the facilities it offers for the construction of a line of Railway.

The last object is a good one, and if a Railroad could be made, to connect those places, it would be of infinite service to that section of the Province; but would it not be advisable, before any new schemes for constructing railways in the Province be entered into, to wait for the Report of the party now actively employed in surveying the Great line of communication to connect Quebec with Halifax, and the action of the British Government thereon.

Until that report is made, we think it would be premature to enter into any project for the construction of Railroads

in the Provinces. First, because capital cannot be obtained, should government decide on embarking in this great undertaking: secondly, our population is not sufficiently numerous to obtain the hands necessary, (without paying exorbitant wages) to perform the work on more than one line; and thirdly, that in building any other, care should be taken that it be so located, as to ensure a junction with the main or trunk line. We are also apprehensive, that by starting so many railway speculations, it may retard the progress of the principal one, an evil which should be strictly guarded against, for should such an event occur, it will be deeply regretted by all those who take a lively interest in the prosperity of the British North American Provinces.

We have long been fully sensible of the disadvantages under which the Colonies labour from the want of such a channel of communication, but it will be seen by the following paragraph, copied below from late Canadian journals, that it now becomes absolutely necessary that something should be done for the speedy conveyance of the Mails through the Provinces. We entertain a hope that the rupture alluded to, will cause the British government and people to give the subject such consideration and support as its importance demands.

The following are the paragraphs alluded to above:—

From the tone of the United States Journals it appears that a chance exists of the English mail being, for the future conveyed through British territory, that is from Halifax to Quebec.

Our only apprehension is that the references we make may prove delusive. It is time that the Imperial Government should see the necessity of supporting its colonies and colonists, and that England should give her British North American Provinces the benefit of that yearly expenditure now so ungratefully and ungraciously recognised by the United States.

We hope, and that most sincerely, that this report may receive confirmation. It will be favorable not only to the establishment of the railway, but to the telegraph.

It has long been a reproach to our government that a sum of money should be expended for the transport of the mail through a foreign country, which might with advantage have been expended among ourselves. Why was the Unicorn stopped? Why not have paid the difference connected with her trips, and have continued them? The amount of money already paid to the United States government for the conveyance of our mails from Boston to St. John's, would not only have covered the expenses, but the surplus, if devoted to road making, would have provided the means of easy intercourse between this and Halifax with all its attendant advantages.

Let us ask how far this sum would have gone towards representing a portion of the capital required for the Monster Railway.

We hope the time has arrived when Englishmen and the British government will prove true to themselves, and that at least England will grant to her colonies—and especially to Canada (peculiarly situated as she is) some advantage and the benefit of other privileges than those which have, up to the present moment, tended rather to separate the Mother and Daughter. All but uncurbed license—encouragement to rebellious opposition, and to ultimate and unconstitutional extortionate demands—form the main features of the privileges and gifts lately conferred upon the B. N. A. provinces.—*Quebec Mercury.*

Good news if true.—The New York Herald of the 6th inst., in its Washington correspondence of the 4th, states that in consequence of some misunderstanding about English postage by the American steamers to Southampton, the United States Government has notified the British Government that the arrangements respecting the transmission of the mails by the Cunard Steamers through the United States to Canada, would cease in three months from the time of notification, conformably to an article in the convention.

If this news is true, Great Britain will get rid of the disgrace of being dependent on a foreign power for her communications with the greatest part of her subjects on this continent, and perceive that it is best to depend on herself availing herself of the facilities of communication which are offered through her own territory by sea and by land, and which may easily be made more sure, and equally expeditious. *Quebec Gazette.*

SHEDIAC STEAMER.

We would call the especial attention of the Proprietors of this Boat, to the annexed communication. We have frequently heard complaints from parties, of the disappointments and delays expe-