most liberally to their assistance. This was the case in the more favored parts of the kingdom. But the generality of the Clergy were too poor to extend the joint charity of the Society and themselves without the aid of their wealthier brethren among the Laity; who, without offence be it remarked, were not always as attentive as at present to the necessity of preserving their indigent neighbours from the callous infidelity of earthly philosophy on the one hand; and on the other from the wild enthusiasm of misjudging and misdirected piety. Nor, indeed, did the same necessity heretofore exist for their friendly interposition: Till within a few years, the poor resorted regularly to their Parish Church for spiritual instruction, and were content to rely upon their appointed teachers. The deep seclusion of the country had not then been invaded by the disorganizing spirit of Unbelief and Insubordination. Fanaticism itself had but lately begun, with inauspicious Schism, to obtrude its wild dogmas, its unhinging misquotations and its perplexing misapplications of Scripture, on the simple-minded cottagers of the peaceful hamlet.

But when Scepticism, which fostered by flattery had been long brooding in secret over its fancied wisdom, when Licentiousness, inflamed by the passions, arraying itself with the name and symbols of Liberty, left the schools of modern philosophy to play their mad pranks on the vast amphitheatre of the world; when with wild uproar and heedless fury they had overturned, in other countries, at once the Altar and the Throne---the unprecedented character of the times called on all our countrymen, who valued the constitutional freedom of the State and the sound piety of its Church, for new and increased exertions. Many flocked with their contributions to the Society which had so long and so faithfully served to the utmost of its means the holy cause of the National Religion. But other Institutions were immediately formed to pursue separately, and in detail, the different objects of charity which the Society had comprehended in its vast plan.---And, unhappily, many members of the National Church, too hastily assuming, or too implicitly crediting the incompetency of the Parent Society to carry its multifarious, though concurrent designs, into full execution; and borne along, it may be surmised, by the specious praise of liberality, diverted into other channels the bounty which was alone wanting to insure the complete efficiency of all the munificent purposes of this Society. During the impetuosity of the storm, the impending danger admitted not of cool reflection; but now that it has abated, it is to be hoped that the error will be discovered by the more considerate friends of the pure and Apostolical branch of the Christian Church happily established in these kingdoms. It is to be lamented that on many occasions zeal has outrun discretion: that in several of the other Institutions, to say nothing of those which profess to disapprove the National Establishment, the same wise precautions at least have not been taken to promote the attachment of the great mass of the people to the sober doctrines and rational discipline of the National Church.

And if it be the duty of the members of our Church to endeavour to prevent the mischief which may be expected to flow from the hostility of some Associations, and to supply the deficiencies of others, their most strenuous efforts are at the same time as imperatively demanded to obviate a still greater evil, the dispersion of Pamphlets (unsanctioned by any men of learning) by irresponsible bodies of traders, whose agents traverse the country, and by every art of persuasion, by the cheapness of their publications, by unlimited accommodation in regard to payment, by addressing the credulity of the simple, and in some cases the base passions of the licentious, procure a ready sale for their motley assemblage of Tracts. There are few persons, at least among those whose function it is to watch over the morals of the young and ignorant, unacquainted with the character of the little pamphlets thus circulated throughout the Kingdom, and bought up with avidity by the undiscriminating vulgar. A Catalogue of one of these travelling booksellers has been well characterized in the Society's Report for 1813, by the Bath District Committee, as containing "1st, Methodistical and enthusiastic "Tracts---2d, A low species of Tales and "Novels, which from their titles and contents, seem calculated to minister to the "sensual passions. 3d, Inflamatory Pamphlets on political subjects. 4th, Miscellaneous books of unexceptionable tendency, which seem to have been purposely intermingled with the others." Nor can we hesitate to adopt the persuasion of this Committee, that much evil must result from the uninterrupted circulation of such Works among the lower orders: or to arrive at the same conclusion, viz. that it behoves the Members and especially the Ministers of the National Church to counteract the evil, by giving as wide an extent as possible to the distribution of the excellent Tracts of their own Society.

The Committee must be pardoned if its detail of the proceedings of the Society should appear to partake too much of the character of panegyric. The delicacy which became its founders belongs not to those, who pretended to no higher merit than that of appreciating their virtuous intentions, after the trial of a century, and of treading in their footsteps. Of late years, too, it has become the duty of all who wish prosperity to the sacred cause in which the Society in concurrence with the Church is engaged, to meet insinuations against its zeal and its liberality with a decided disavowal.---Its zeal has been shewn to have been limited only, or scarcely limited, by the extent of its funds. It wants indeed the liberality of surrendering the surest guarantees for its right performance of its stipulated duties to the Church and to the State. It admits to Membership those only who are recommended as being well-affected to the Civil and Ecclesiastical Establishment. And, is this its offence? Is it not rather its highest praise, that instead of interfering with the Constituted Authorities of the Realm, its rule has ever been to inculcate a strict adherance to all the forms of the State, and to encourage a ready obedience to all the Ordinances of the Church: not to interpose officiously, without warrant or responsibility, between the spiritual Pastor and his appointed flock, but to assist the happy intercourse. If it be bigotry *to hold fast the form of sound words which we have heard, knowing of whom we have heard them*, it is the bigotry recommended by the Apostle to his most eminent and useful disciple.—If it be Prejudice to submit ourselves to human ordinances, it is the Prejudice enforced in Scripture, and exemplified in the conduct of the Author of our Religion. Of the Faith which we profess, of the Establishment which protects that Faith, we are stewards for those who are yet unborn. The sacred inheritance which we have received from the toil, the persecutions, and the death of our forefathers, we have received not for ourselves only, but in trust for the future generations of men. In the emphatic language of a living Prelate, who was called from the highly important office of Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford to take charge of the spiritual interest of the most populous Diocese, "Indifference to forms of Faith is indifference to truth or falshood"—and again, "From our ancestors we have inherited the "profession of primitive and genuine Christianity: in neglecting to secure its transmission, in unabated purity, to after ages, "we should be guilty of the most unprincipled injustice to our children, the most "criminal disregard to the interests of posterity*."

The Committee repels therefore the charge of a want either of zeal or of liberality in the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. The only reproach which it could ever have admitted (if reproach it can be called) was its poverty—the inadequacy of its funds to the charitable and pious labours it had undertaken. This was a reproach, however, which attached rather to the persons who made it, than to the Society against which it has been directed. And it has since been abundantly evident, that it was a reproach which would speedily disappear, as the beneficial designs of the Society became more generally known, and as the necessity for its exertion increased.

* The Bishop of London's Sermon, in Annual Report for 1814.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons who have claims for School Money, or Bounties on raising Bread Corn, are hereby notified, that whenever the money is payable at the Province Treasury, notice will be immediately given in the Royal Gazette, that all persons may call at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace and receive their several proportions.

Fredericton, 13th Sept. 1819.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENT.

From the Montreal Western Star, of the 7th September.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The following highly important document will be read with the most lively interest by every well wisher of the British Provinces in America. It embraces a system, which, if adopted, will accelerate their rising glory, and forever place them beyond the ambitious views of the United States. A long time, however, will necessarily intervene before a project, involving so many important consequences, will receive the sanction of the British Ministry. It enjoys the distinguished influence of the Earl of Dalhousie, and should our several Legislatures, to whose attention it is recommended, unite in urging its importance, there will be much to encourage a hope that it will naturally succeed. Whatever may be its fate, it will remain a lasting monument of the zeal and enterprize of its illustrious promoter.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia, (says the Quebec Gazette) at its last session, appointed a joint Committee to enquire into the present state of the trade of that Colony, and on the measures which are necessary to be adopted in regard to the British North American Colonies generally, to encrease their prosperity, provide for their future security, and counteract the ambitious projects of the United States.

This Committee consisted, on the part of the Council, of the Honbles. Michael Wallace, Richard J. Uniacke, and James Fraser; on the part of the Assembly, Messrs. Thomas Ritchie, Edward Mortimer, Charles R. Prescott, Joseph Freeman, Henry H. Cogswell, Thomas Roach, and John Bingay. They forwarded Queries on the subjects committed to them, to the best informed Merchants, and others, acquainted with the trade and situation of the North American Colonies, and agreed upon a report, which was adopted by both Bodies, and an Address voted thereupon, to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, which was forwarded by the Earl of Dalhousie.

The Report and Address was also ordered to be printed, and copies thereof were requested to be transmitted to the Governors of each of the North American Colonies, and to the Presidents and Speakers of the Legislative Bodies therein, inviting the latter to bring the subject matter of the said Report under the consideration of their respective Houses, with a view "by every moderate and respectful course of proceeding, "to obtain objects of such vast importance "to the best interests of British North America."

We cannot undertake, in this paper, to give the voluminous documents which the report contain; but we think it our duty to inform our readers, briefly, of the objects which the Nova Scotia Legislature has in view.

1st.—A Line of Fortifications on the frontiers, opening Roads and inland Navigations, to counteract the like measures on the part of the U. States. The inland Navigations particularly mentioned, are Canals by the Shubenacadie Lakes from Halifax, to the Bay of Fuady, and from the Bay of Fundy to the Baye Verte, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence; from Montreal, by the Ottawa and Rideau, to Kingston, and by the Ottawa, by the Riviere Des Francois, to Lake Huron. The only Military Road mentioned, is from the Fredericton Road, by the sources of the Nashwack, Meramichi, and Ristigouche, to the Saint Lawrence, at Bic.

2d.—The same freedom of trade with all the world, that the United States have acquired.

3d.—Laying out lands in all parts, on which settlers may be immediately and advantageously located, without wandering as they do now, in search of situations.

4th.—By prohibiting passengers from embarking in foreign vessels, and taking off unnecessary restrictions on British ships carrying passengers.

5th.—A duty to be imposed on British salt shipped in foreign vessels.

6th.—Excluding foreign vessels from taking salt from Turks Island.

7th.—Prohibiting the export of the produce of the British West Indies, to or from either the domestic or foreign free ports in the West Indies, and American vessels from entering the domestic Free Ports, and also their entry there from foreign ports.

8th.—Allowing and encouraging American Merchants and Fishermen employed in the whale and cod fisheries, to settle in Nova Scotia, naturalizing the vessels they bring with them, while employed in the Fisheries.

9th.—Establishing two British Governments on the Labrador shore, and Straits of Belisle, to secure British interest there from encroachment.

10th.—Regulations to prevent the abuse by the Americans of the right of fishing on the British American coast, by the late convention, limiting their entering the Bays and Harbours except in cases of real necessity.

11th.—The re-union of Prince Edward and Cape Breton Islands to Nova Scotia.

The Committee concludes by stating, "that if the remedies pointed but are liable "to objections, they feel confident, from the "concurrent testimony and proof brought "before them, that there can be but one opinion as to the necessity for the most speedy "and efficient measures being adopted, for "the relief and security of British America, "which if any longer neglected will produce the most serious and fatal injury to "the commercial, maritime, and financial "interests of Great Britain."

We give from the Report, the 53d question put by the Committee, and the answer thereto, as in some measure explanatory of the whole subject.

"Quest. 53.—Turn your attention generally to the subject matter of this enquiry, and state any matter relative thereto, which may not have been set forth, and particularly explained in your answers to the foregoing questions; and state your opinion as to the consequences to be apprehended, if some measures are not speedily adopted to place the North American Colonies upon such a footing, as will enable them to prepare, during peace, to resist the attack which the hostile preparations of the United States so manifestly shew, is meditated against them!

"Ans. 53.—Whatever views the government of the United States may have in their present exertions to acquire the dominion of British North America, the Colonists can derive no possible advantage from encouraging a spirit of hostility between the two countries. If they are pleased with the system of government which they enjoy, so are we with ours; our habits, our inclinations, interest every feeling which it is laudable to cherish in the human mind, bind us to the Mother Country; and we have proved that interest could not influence us on this point. When the United States suddenly declared war against Great Britain, every temptation was held out to induce the Colonists to depart from their allegiance! we were offered liberty to form for ourselves whatever government we thought proper, and a free commercial intercourse with the whole world was the boon held out to us if we would incorporate ourselves in the Union of the American States. This event took place during the most dark and gloomy days that our Mother Country ever experienced; under such circumstances, every man in the Colonies flew to arms with a fixed determination to stand or fall with our government, and in this trying time we firmly waited the attack. Treasons and Treachery were unheard of among us; and such of our people as came in immediate contact with the enemy, made them know that the people of British North America are not cowards, and that they are attached to their government by principles of too high a nature to be changed by any regard for private interests. With these feelings, however, the duty we owe to ourselves and the nation to which it is our pride to belong, requires that we should, while now in peace, move the attention of the Mother Country to our situation; and it is a duty she owes to allow us to enjoy to the full extent, the advantages of our natural situation, by giving to us equal freedom of commerce with the people of the United States; by strengthening our extended frontier with fortifications, such as will correspond with those erecting in opposition to us, by opening military roads from one province to the other, thus enabling us with rapidity to unite our forces for mutual defence, by opening the Navigations which nature has so strongly marked out and almost effected, so as to make it practicable to transport the heavier articles (which may be done) from the harbour of Halifax to Lake Superior, with half the expence that it cost to carry warlike stores and provisions during the late war into the interior. By such steps as these, British power in North America will soon be placed beyond the reach of any combination of force, the sources of ample revenue would be opened upon a scale that would increase in arithmetical progression for centuries to come; and no jarring interests could disturb such a system, as British North America has but one common interest, which can never clash with the interests of the Mother Country. Nature has so arranged the two countries, that it must be forever the interest of the one to support the other. Thus with comparatively a small expence, during peace, the causes of future wars may be removed for ever. Indeed nothing but the apparent weakness of the North American Colonies could ever tempt the United States to hope to acquire them by conquest: and while the Mother Country permits that want of physical strength to exist, she holds out encouragement for future wars, that must be supported by millions of expence, every prospect of which would be extinguished, if on our part, we followed the system of the United States, who make every exertion in erecting fortifications, roads, and inland navigations, and by opening to their subjects every advantage which nature gives them, whether in commerce or otherwise, they draw to their own dominions a population from the United Kingdom, which, if turned to British America, would render the possessions of the Mother Country in North America safe and secure; besides which, the increasing wealth of such an immense territory would continually open new resources for the unbounded consumption of British commodities, rendering at the same time a revenue proportionably increasing with their prosperity. These are not exaggerated or theoretical opinions; for if the natural advantages of British North America had been well known in Great Britain, this country would never have remained as it does at present, a tempting object to the United States, who are silently pointing all their exertions to one great object, that is, our conquest; which our present neglected state renders almost certain. If Great Britain is determined not to counteract such measures by a corresponding exertion, it is but the justice which is due to faithful and loyal people, to give them timely notice of her intentions to abandon them, that they may prepare in such forlorn state for their last struggle, to avoid being incorporated into a government they detest. At present the United States are making every exertion by fortifications, military roads, and extensive inland navigation, and extending their population every where to our lines, to prepare the way for the easy conquest of British North America; at the same time she is also, by navigation laws and hostile custom house regulations, endeavoring to crush British commerce and industry, and by the same means to encrease her own. To such measures we can in peace offer no just objection, but we have the same right to resort to the same means; and, fortunately for us, the powers rest with us; and, if