

fious views, undue prepossessions, early prejudices, and vain love of preeminence, which has infested the Church ever since the time of the blessed Apostles, calmly, meekly, and dispassionately to seek the Truth in the love of it, and to follow its Sacred Dictates wherever it may lead, regardless of Worldly Consequences.

And that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of Truth, and hold the Faith in unity of Spirit, in the Bond of Peace, and in Righteousness of Life, is our united, sincere, and fervent Prayer.

Signed in the name and by the appointment of the Fredericton District Committee for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

GEORGE BEST,
JAMES SOMERVILLE.

[We take leave to append the following Communication, with which we were sometime since favored, but had not so apposite an opportunity of publishing before. The subjects, tho' not very materially connected with each other, have nevertheless the same great and pious object in view.]—Ed.

A short account of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and the British and Foreign Bible Society.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge was formed in 1699, when a number of persons of rank and piety in England associated themselves to carry on such religious designs as should advance the spiritual interests of mankind and the glory of God, regulating themselves by the canons of the Church and the laws of the Land. Shortly after this period a Society was instituted by King William for the maintenance of an orthodox Clergy and propagating the Gospel in the Plantations and Colonies beyond the seas, called "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts"—into which the Members of the Association were incorporated, for the better carrying on that part of the design which related to the British Colonies beyond the Seas.

For the better understanding of that part of the Society's object it may be necessary to observe, that the English Colonies in North America were formed and first peopled by religious men, who being persecuted at home fled to America to enjoy the free worship of God according to the dictates of their own conscience, and as England had a short time before been torn by civil war and faction, the different sects at times lorded it over each other. At one time Puritans were forced across the Atlantic by Churchmen, these in their turn were driven away by the Presbyterians, while often the members of the Church of Rome were persecuted by both. Their zeal kept religion alive among themselves in the new world, but their poverty disabled them from making suitable provision for a gospel ministry. To supply this defect the Society

assigned a decent maintenance to the Ministers of the Church of England who might be induced to preach the Gospel to their brethren in America: they were also to attempt the conversion of the native Indians and Negro Slaves.

But the Charter of that Corporation being limited to foreign parts, the members of the original Association still continued their exertions at home under the name of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The leading objects of this Society may be classed under three general heads.

- 1st. The Education of Youth in the principles of the Christian Religion, and in habits of useful industry by insinuating and supporting Sunday and Charity Schools, &c.
- 2d. To disseminate the Holy Scriptures, the Liturgy, and other religious Books in the English language and to translate them into various tongues and dialects.
- 3d. The establishment and support of English Missions, &c.

To take but a summary view of its operations under these heads would fill volumes; suffice it to state that its exertions have been great and progressive. Even in these Colonies its salutary effects have been felt, and Branches have been formed which are in active operation.

The British and Foreign Bible Society was established in London in 1804, for the sole purpose of disseminating the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, and although its beginning was small, it soon extended itself through England, Scotland, and Wales. From thence it extended to Europe and America, and is at present making rapid progress in Asia and Africa. Bible Societies have lately been formed in France and other Catholic countries, and scarce a village in North America but has its Bible Association. The Parent Society in London expend upwards of one hundred thousand pounds annually. It has translated the Scriptures into more than one hundred and forty different languages, and is making every exertion to send it to the most benighted and distant parts of the globe.

As nothing has ever been attempted in Britain for the diffusion of religious knowledge that can be compared to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, so in regard to its comprehensiveness the British and Foreign Bible Society is unequalled in the annals of the religious world. It may indeed be said to form an epoch in it. By its unlimited and Catholic range it unites all classes in spreading the Scriptures to every country under Heaven. It would be a pleasing task to detail some of the operations of these Societies, but this cannot be expected in such a brief sketch. Persons who wish to know the nature and progress of them can consult the reports of the Parent Institutions and the Provincial Auxiliaries. No person should stand aloof from them. If circumstances will not admit of their becoming members of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Bible Society affords an opportunity to the most indigent, by contributing the small sum of one penny per week, they can become members of that noble Institution, and become instrumental in sending the word of life to their benighted brethren. Bible Societies are at present in active operation in St. John, Miramichi, Fredericton, and St. Andrews, with Branches at the Grand Lake, Prince William, Kingsclear, Woodstock, &c. Persons who appreciate the benefits of such institutions should remember that the wish to do good is not sufficient, but that they should be active in forwarding them by becoming members and encouraging the formation of Branch Societies in their neighbourhoods, for by the instrumentality of these Institutions, thousands, nay millions of their fellow creatures who were enveloped in darkness and the shadow of death, have been enlightened with the inestimable treasure of the word of God.

COLONIAL.

MONTREAL, Sept. 15.

We are informed that it is the intention of the Government to proceed forthwith in the execution of the measures contemplated, and which received a partial commencement last fall, respecting the fortification of the Mountain in the rear of this city, and the erection of such military works as may be judged expedient for its security and protection.

The estimates for these works have been sanctioned by the British Government, and no obstacles existing to prevent an immediate beginning. Thomas-Porteus, Esq., of Montreal, Edmund Henry, Esq., of La Prairie, with several officers of the Engineers appointed for that purpose, were engaged on Tuesday last (in the neighbourhood and site of the intended operations) in valuing such private property as it will be necessary for the Government to take into its possession.

We have been given to understand, but know not what credit is to be attached to our information, that it has been discovered that four individuals have been working at a silver mine in Upper Canada for the last two years with considerable profit and advantage. The cause of this circumstance having come to light, is said to be a quarrel between the parties—three of whom were Americans, and one an Englishman—that the former wished to exclude the latter from any further participation in their operations, and that in consequence he divulged that affair. Our informant adds, that a notification of the circumstance has been transmitted to the Government at Quebec.

We were this morning shown, by Richard Smith, Esq. the Agent of Messrs. Rundell & Co., a piece of Lead Ore, part of an extensive and valuable Vein, recently found in the County of Sydney.

This circumstance, so gratifying in itself, will naturally tend to excite still further researches, and we anxiously hope that the enterprising Gentlemen who have embarked Capital to a large amount in Mining speculations in this Province, will realize returns fully equal to their expectations.—*Hal. Pap.*

Attempt of an Eagle to devour a Boy.

A very singular occurrence happened the week before last, in the Parish of St. Ambroise, about nine miles from this city. Two boys, the one seven and the other five years old, amused themselves in a adjoining field, trying to reap while their parents were at dinner. A large eagle soon came sailing over them, and with a swoop attempted to seize the eldest, but luckily missed him. The bird not at all dismayed, sat on the ground at a short distance, and in a few moments repeated the attempt. The bold little fellow defended himself against his fierce antagonist with the sickle he had very fortunately in his hand, and when the bird rushed upon him he struck at it. The sickle entered under the left wing, and the blow having been given strongly, went through the ribs, and passed through the liver, proved almost immediately fatal. This eagle was afterwards sold to Mr. Chasseur, who has stuffed it and placed it in his museum, where it may now be seen. It is the ring-tailed or Russian Eagle. The wings expand upwards of six feet. Its stomach was opened, and found entirely empty. The poor little boy did not

receive a scratch; he was probably not aware of the danger to which he was exposed. Had the eagle seized him, his talons which are of uncommon strength, and about an inch and a half long must have lacerated him dreadfully. There is little doubt, without the bird was much weakened by hunger, that a blow or two from its beak would have torn out his eyes, and with the instinct peculiar to birds of prey, broken in a moment the thin parts of the skull about the eye, and almost instantly destroyed his life.—*Que. Gaz. Sept. 24.*

PROVINCIAL.

We understand that the whole of the Timber which in the Spring of the year got caught upon the Interval Lands by the sudden fall of the Freshet has been got off, and within these few days past, brought safely to a place of deposit. It is believed that we have never had a season more favourable for stream driving than the last was, and that in consequence there was comparatively speaking, no Timber left over in the woods, so that we shall be enabled in a very short time to ascertain the quantity of that article which we have to depend upon for the supply of an early spring business; we fear it will be considerably larger than is to be wished for. We hope this circumstance will, however, be attended with two good effects, (for Commercial evils do in time cure themselves,) namely, the circumscribing the extent of Timber-manufacturing within proper limits, and the inducing of those who go into the woods to bring out from thence a more marketable article than has for several years back been brought.

We earnestly trust our Legislature will see the necessity of giving this important

subject their early attention. We know there are men now, at least in the Lower House, who have had much experience in this Trade, who have seen and felt the very heavy losses which have for a length of time arisen out of the irregular mode both of manufacturing, and also of shipping Timber at this Port.

It is useless for us to shut our eyes to facts, or to endeavour any longer to deceive ourselves in this matter. Let the average of Account Sales of Cargoes shipped at this Port be compared with that of Cargoes shipped at Quebec or Miramichi, and what will be the result?....Why, that the loss on the measurement of St. John Timber (at least by the Spring) is from five to ten per cent more than on Quebec or Miramichi....next the price is against us by about 1½, to 2d. per foot, on account of quality, or we should rather say on account of our bad name. For, that Timber of as good a quality in every respect cannot be shipped from this, as can be shipped from Miramichi is what we never can believe. We have heard it repeatedly denied by many persons whose judgment in the matter could not be doubted. The fault lies with ourselves, not in the quality of the Timber....But whatever be the cause of the existence of this state of things, can any man concerned in the North American Trade, either as a speculator himself, or as a Ship owner, be blamed, while they continue so to exist, for giving a preference to those Ports at which he can be best served?....by no means.

The truth is, the Interests of the Province require that the Timber Trade of this Port should undergo a thorough reform, and never did a fitter time occur for commencing such reform than the present. *Con. Oct. 13.*