

the scattered disciples, preached to them the gospel, and conducted their worship. But his labors were not confined to the converts. He proclaimed to his idolatrous countrymen, that truth whose influence he had experienced, and through his instrumentality several followers of Guadama sought salvation through faith in Christ.

In 1829 he visited Maulmain, to present the claims of Rangoon for the consideration of the missionaries. His church was desirous of commemorating the dying love of the Redeemer, but there was no pastor to administer the ordinance. There were converts who desired to symbolize their death unto sin, their resurrection to righteousness, to enter the church in the way which Christ had appointed, but there was no one to baptize them. Ko Thah A had exhibited a desire to promote the cause of the Redeemer by proclaiming his religion; he had also exhibited proof of an aptness to teach. The missionaries taking these things into consideration, concluded that he had a call from the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel. He was consequently ordained over the church at Rangoon.

Under his ministry the church at least maintained its ground. It was often obliged to endure persecution. It was a blossom in a desert. And when in after years we find it with its stem upright, its leaves still fresh and bright, having endured unharmed the hot summer, the drifting sands, the withering drought, the burning sun. He feels that the little flower, blooming in those wastes, was preserved by the watchful care of God.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 13, 1856.

THERE is probably no subject of so great importance, within the range of Legislative action in this Province, as that of Education. On the wise provisions made for its encouragement, and the healthy working of whatever system may be finally adopted, will evidently depend both the moral and physical progress of society in all that shall hereafter tend to constitute us a happy and prosperous people or the reverse. It is an axiom too plain to need reasoning on, that on the moral, religious, and intellectual training of the youth of any country, will mainly depend its future character and progress. A better instance of its truth could not well be adduced than the early history of New England, and the results which have followed from the early manners and institutions of the first settlers of that favoured Country. Among those institutions the most influential and efficient were undoubtedly their seminaries of learning. Their zeal and care in the early instruction of their children, and the numerous means provided for their welfare in this respect, have been the well-grounded boast of the people themselves and have well merited the encomiums bestowed on them by others. Out of those early habits and institutions has proceeded a system which now, we believe, pervades the whole Union, and which will be among the most efficient means of saving the country from consequences, which the immense tide of foreign emigration, the corrupting influences of wealth and prosperity, combined with other causes, would otherwise soon entail upon it—anarchy and premature decay. We refer to the general School system of the United States, so well and so favourably known, in every other Country. The laws which tax a whole population for the instruction of its youth, and provide the means of its accomplishment at every man's door, upon a plan which coerces no man's conscience and imposes no scheme of theological training, is surely one which deserves all consideration. Such a system, we must confess, we earnestly desire to see adopted in our own Province, and in our view any plan that falls much short of this; in the legal establishment of common School Education, will be greatly defective. It is well known that our population is not a homogeneous one, but is largely made up of those of various sects of religious belief and of various national character. In such case it would seem almost self-evident that the same system which has worked so well in the neighbouring Union, can scarcely do otherwise in Nova Scotia. We are aware that this subject has been discussed to some extent both in and out of the Legislature

for a few years past, and that very many are beginning to arrive at the conviction that nothing short of such a general provision will meet the requirements of the Country. There was some years since, we believe, an attempt made to introduce a measure having something of the character we advocate, but it proved abortive, and it was evident that the public mind was not then prepared for its reception. We should hope, however, that the evils that are daily becoming so manifest from our total want of any system of general common School Education, and the increased intelligence and desire of the community at large to apply some remedy for a case so pregnant with the most hurtful consequences, would lead to what we cannot but consider as the only safe and effective one.

THE writer of the paper in another column, "What is truth?" asks various questions, which we might be excused from answering, on the plea of want of space, for it would require several pages to reply satisfactorily to all its queries. But as his mind seems to be particularly disturbed by the speculations of geology, which he imagines to be opposed to the plain teachings of the word of God, we will offer a remark or two for his consideration.

We may remind our correspondent, and those who sympathize with him, that the facts of science cannot be contradictory to the bible, since the works, and the word of God must of necessity be harmonious. Now, it is affirmed by geologists, and generally admitted, not only by other philosophers, but by divines of all persuasions, that the earth has been in existence many myriads of ages, and that in the course of successive revolutions, at long intervals of time, numerous races of beings have lived and died upon it. Their remains are imbedded in rocks which are tens of thousands of years old. If it be inquired, how is this to be reconciled with the Mosaic account of the creation, which creation took place, it is said, somewhere about six thousand years ago, the answer is, that those great changes occurred during the period designated in the first verse of the bible. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The world was under creative operation for untold ages, and the minerals and metals, the acquisition of which occupies now so much of man's time, and thought, and toil, (that most useful of all, coal, included), were deposited in their dark recesses long, very long, before the present order of things came into being. Thus one difficulty is removed.

Nor is it difficult to meet the question of the introduction of death. According to the geological theory, death had been doing its work all the time referred to above. Such was the divine arrangement. Sin did not kill the creatures whose fossil remains we find in the rocks. There was no sin here during the period of their existence. But they lived and died because God so willed it. He was then preparing the world for the nobler race by which it was at length to be inhabited. When, by the act of the first beings of that race, "sin entered into the world," death came with it, to man. Sin is the cause of man's mortality. Other creatures had died all along, without sin. It was for man to die by sin. Death was, to them the divine allotment; death, to us, is the divine sentence. They died in the course of nature: we die, because "sin has entered into the world, and death by sin."

Our readers need not be afraid of science and philosophy, rightly so called. The more extensive our knowledge, and the more enlarged our views, the better qualified shall we be to appreciate the sublime truths of revelation, and our pleasure in contemplating them will be proportionally exquisite.

Brief Notices of Books.

[Received from E. G. Fuller]

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for February is, as usual, full of interesting literary matter with an abundance of well-executed illustrations. The sketch of Washington, by J. S. C. Abbott, may be taken as more authentic than his late history of Napoleon Bonaparte—but it is of course American. Four more chapters of "Little Dorrit" are given.

THE SACRED PLAINS, by J. H. Headley, is an attempt to familiarize the reader with some of the Plains mentioned in Sacred Scripture. A brief reference is made to some of the events connected with each, and one of the most striking is dwelt upon more largely so as to associate it with that particular place.

We perceive by the *Monthly Record* that an effort is being made by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland to obtain Gaelic ministers from the Highlands to labour in the Gaelic districts in this Province. The Secretary has received instructions "to advertise in the Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Ross, Sterling, Perth and Argyle newspapers for ministers or probationers who might be disposed to come out" for that purpose.

The American House of Representatives has at length after nearly two months waste of time, chosen Mr. Banks their Speaker. He has always had a large majority over each of his competitors, but until now not the majority of the whole House. He is, we believe, the representative of the Anti Slavery party in Congress, and it is also said, of the Know Nothings.

Our columns contain in the way of report every thing of interest that has yet occurred in the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council has adjourned for a few days waiting for the action of the Lower House, who are just now occupied with Election Committees, of which two have been struck, viz. for Richmond, between Mr. Fuller, the sitting Member and Mr. C. Harrington—and for Antigonish between Mr. Martell and Mr. Marmad.

Mr. Greenman still holds office as Financial Secretary. Mr. Samuel Chipman is spoken of as his successor.

The new Cunard Steamer *Persia* arrived at New York on Saturday on her first trip across the Atlantic. She is now the largest steamer on the Atlantic lines. The telegraphic despatch of the news she brings is important, confirming the accounts received by our last English mail of the prospects of a speedy Peace. The Czar is reported to have ordered the cessation of hostilities on the part of Russia. Of course such a step implies a mutual cessation of active warfare on all sides. The British funds are also reported to have largely advanced, which is a pretty sure sign of a confident expectation of approaching peace. This most welcome news was little hoped for a short time since, and will be hailed with unfeigned satisfaction by the nation at large, especially as it is believed that the terms of pacification will be such as are honourable and efficient in providing against a speedy repetition on the part of Russia of renewed aggression. The severe lesson taught the Czar in the destruction of Sebastopol, the enormous drain on the resources of the Empire, exhausted by keeping up her prodigious hosts, and the destruction of all her foreign trade, as also the probable adhesion of Sweden to the Allies, are the unmistakable causes of the willingness of the great Despot of the North to put an end to the conflict upon the best terms he can obtain. Doubtless also the vast preparations still being made in France and England to carry on the war with vigour on the first opening of Spring, especially in the Baltic, has greatly influenced the councils of Russia. The English steamer, which is hourly looked for will afford ample details of all that has thus far transpired.

Telegraph Despatch.

Merchants' Reading Room, Feb. 9, 1856.

The Steamship *Persia* arrived at New York this afternoon, bringing Liverpool dates to the 26th January.

Consols are quoted at 90½, Cotton advanced 1-16

Flour market unchanged, limited business at previous prices.

Corn declined one or two shillings per quarter. Bacon declined; Lard lower; Coffee, prices a shade higher. In sugar a small advance. Tea market firm with an upward tendency.

Increasing confidence in Peace. Czar has ordered suspension of hostilities in the Crimea. Steamer "Pacific" sailed regular day but not yet arrived at New York.

Second Despatch.

The subjoined despatch has been received from New York by Messrs. S. Cunard and Co., dated Feb. 9:—*Persia* arrived, got into the ice, damaged her wheels badly. Ship fast, and a good sea boat. Peace immediately.—E. Cunard.

General Intelligence.

The Firemen's Sleighride.

The annual sleighride of the Halifax Firemen took place on Thursday last—headed by two outriders. The large sleigh drawn by eight horses with about fifty persons preceded. Several others with a large number of firemen followed, some in fancy dresses and with music. After passing through the principal streets they proceeded about 12 miles up the Windsor road and returned by way of Dartmouth, about ten o'clock in the evening.

Mr. H. Reid began his course of lectures on the Phenomena of the Earth, in the lecture-room Dalhousie College, on Saturday last, by describing the form and motions of the earth. If Mr. R. had been informed of the very successful illustration of the rotatory motion of the earth, given some time since by Mr. Forman in the House Assembly, the apparatus of which, is in the lecture-room, he might have been saved much of the labour expended on that part of his subject. Those who have not studied these subjects, and others who wish to have their memories refreshed by a popular exhibition, may find much interest by giving their attendance.

Prohibitory Liquor Law for Novascotia.

We are informed that at a meeting on Saturday last of the Committee appointed by the Grand Division, to take charge of the Prohibitory Law—it was ascertained that twenty-seven at least, out of fifty-two of the Representatives in the present House of Assembly, are intending to vote for that measure.

The Rev. Mr. Rand delivered a lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association, on Tuesday 5th inst. The large audience appeared deeply interested in the subject, "God in Language"—and the animated, familiar style of the lecturer, prevented hearers from experiencing any difficulty in giving their whole attention. At the close Mr. R. gave an outline of Phonography, as the most complete method known of expressing language by writing.

A Soiree of the Howard Division, Sons of Temperance, was held on Tuesday evening last, which proved a pleasant entertainment to those who attended. Mr. S. Tupper occupied the chair. Addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Freeman, and the Rev. Mr. McGregor. About 200 persons were present.

The Miernac Division propose to hold one on the 18th.

The Liverpool packet "Villager" on attempting to get into Sambro on Tuesday last, the 5th inst., struck on "Stapleton Rock." The vessel was seen by the keeper of the Light who immediately came to their assistance. The passengers and crew were landed and taken to his house, where they were treated with the greatest kindness. The passengers' baggage was principally saved. Part of the cargo has floated out and every exertion made to save it. The vessel has sunk in about 15 feet of water. We learn that the schr. is partially insured, nothing on the cargo.

The passengers state that in their opinion the loss of the vessel, was not owing to any fault or mismanagement on the part of the master and part owner of her, but that the conduct of Mr. Green and his crew after the vessel struck on the "Stapleton Rock" was most exemplary and praiseworthy, and that the coolness and presence of mind displayed by them on the trying occasion prevented any fears on the part of the passengers, two of whom were females—they have also great pleasure in expressing thanks to Mr. Gilkie, keeper of the Light-house and his family, for the hospitality and kindness shown by them to all the passengers and crew, 12 in number.

We are informed, by a gentleman who came from England in the *Arabia*, in company with the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Attorney General of New Brunswick, that the latter gentleman had succeeded beyond his expectations in his Railway negotiations, having effected an arrangement with parties in England to advance all the money required on favourable terms; and has likewise effected a satisfactory arrangement with Messrs. Peto, Jackson and Co.—Colonist.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY.—The office of S. S. Lewis, Esq., agent of the Cunard line of steamers, at the head of Commercial wharf, was entered on Tuesday night by burglars, who had probably secreted themselves in the building before it was closed. The office was thoroughly ransacked, desks broken open, but no articles of value were obtained by the thieves, except a piece of cloak cloth. The safe being a bank vault of the strongest description, they were unable to make any impression upon it.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—St. John's dates to 5th inst. furnish nothing of any importance. The Legislature was in session, and a stormy sitting was anticipated.