

of this afternoon's remarks I shall try to make of the subject.

When the following sentences were uttered, they were founded on the words, "There was silence in heaven for the space of half an hour," and in transferring our silent court from earth to heaven, I must ask you to try and keep these words in mind.

It is almost impossible for us, with our small capacity and earthly notions, to derive any definite conceptions of heaven. We know nothing, so to speak, of its internal economy; whatever we know of it, or whatever conception we have of it, is vague and undefined. When the fancy rests upon it in the abstract, it discerns nothing but a brilliant haze of happiness, but cannot describe the specific sources of its joys, or the springs and centres of its bliss. When it is contemplated through the descriptions which the Scriptures furnish, or through the palpable vision of the Evangelist John, there is presented to the mind's eye a sublime, but physically impossible picture; a magnificent chaos of splendour and wonder; a scene passing like a panorama before the view, in which rivers, trees, streets of gold, choirs of angels, thrones, crowns, and altars glide in gorgeous majesty before us, and leave us to string these brilliant emblems into a spiritual reality in our own minds, and wait for any definite idea of the true fact, until we ourselves have passed through the "everlasting doors," and the King of Glory has come in.

But if there is one notion which, more prominently than another, pervades all our inadequate conceptions of the glories of heaven, it is the notion of rest and of repose. Still, even this demands definition at our hands. We all know what we, in an earthly sense, understand by rest; but the repose enjoyed in a celestial acceptance of the term is far different from this. It does not imply an eternal sleep, or a voluptuous doze upon the sloping bank of the river of life, with the zephyrs gently fanning our forehead, and the crystal rippling at our feet. It does not imply that languor, or that dreamy torpor we understand here by rest or repose. It does not imply cessation from active employment, or a slothful and effeminate paralysis of energy and of zeal. Such may, indeed, be our ideas of earthly rest. Such may convey the notion of repose to him who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. But the repose of heaven is to be found in an unwearying activity, a perpetual circling and clustering of ransomed hosts, resplendent with the brightness of the perfect day, around the starry throne of God, an eternal anthem of lofty and augmenting praise, swelling through the archives of the skies, gathering fresh zest and ecstasy with revolving ages; and deepening in melody and developing in power through the cycles of eternity. Such is the "rest that remaineth for the people of God," such the repose which is in reversion for the saints, such is the peace that passeth understanding.—(From Mursell's "Lectures," No. 12.)

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 28, 1858.

Bible-in-Schools Resolution.

As we intimated in our last we expected, after the long notice which had been given preparatory to the subject being introduced to the consideration of the House of Assembly, and the continued reference to it in the press, that an animated and earnest discussion of the matter would arise on the resolution of the Hon. Mr. Howe.

On entering the House on Tuesday last we were rather surprised to find only a handful of listeners, although it had been repeatedly referred to in the papers that this resolution was to be "the order of the day."

The Hon. Mr. Howe in moving the resolution, made a speech of about ten minutes in length, and referred to the issue of the Roman Catholic Synodical Letter and the expressions there used with regard to the Scriptures, as a direct insult to this Protestant Country. He thought this demanded a declaration from the Legislature of the Province affirming their respect for the Bible, and their determination to have it taught in all the public schools. This book required no eulogy from him. He felt that it was almost irreverent in him to become its advocate. The difference which may be seen in those countries, cities, streets, and families where the Bible is not used, and others where it is, was so great, that he considered a resolution such as the one he had read would not require any

lengthened remarks or further reasons from him for adopting it as the foundation of the education of the young.

Some time was then given for others to speak. None appearing disposed to do so, however, the Hon. Attorney General arose, and, in a speech of not more than about twenty minutes, moved the Amendment, which will be found in our report of parliamentary proceedings. He did not think the infliction of pains and penalties calculated to promote the object at which the Resolution of the Hon. mover professed to aim. Whatever might be said to the contrary this would be the effect of such a measure. The Word of God had a character far too sacred, he thought, to be made the subject of debate and party warfare in that House. Its solemn truths and divine sanctions should cause one to approach it with the deepest reverence and humility. As, however, it had been intimately connected with the subject of education, and as the House would be compelled to deal with the Resolution before them, he would not be fulfilling his duty without frankly stating his views with regard to the propriety of its adoption. He quoted from a speech of Sir John Packington, shewing that he considered religion should not be made the subject of legislation, but left entirely to the managers of the schools. He alluded to Scotland, where religious instruction is made a more prominent feature of education than in any other country, and shewed, from public documents respecting the Free Church, that they had complained of the law relating to religious education, and sought such an alteration in that respect as would make their arrangements similar to what has long existed in this country in relation to the choice of Trustees and the arrangements entered into between them and the Teachers. While Free Church-men sought for Separate Schools, lest their children might have the sentiments of the Kirk infused into their minds, it was not surprising if Catholics should ask for Schools where their children might be taught separate from those of Protestants. That, however, he considered in this country as entirely impracticable.

He shewed that the resolution of Mr. Howe did not go far enough to answer the end he proposed to accomplish by it. Whilst the objection of the Catholic was to the authorised Protestant version, the resolution did not define whether one version or another should be used, and therefore was no remedy against that which the Hon. mover had given as his reason for introducing the resolution. He read a passage from Dr. Forrester's Report which stated that our Bible was extensively read and was becoming more and more so under the present system.

Hon. Mr. Young was not prepared to go into the discussion, as the amendment had changed the entire aspect of the question, and he therefore thought it should be laid on the table for further consideration.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said that abundance of time had been given for preparation and he was unwilling that there should be any further delay at this late period of the Session, but if other members were willing to speak in favour of the Resolution, he would be prepared to lay before the House his views in favour of the Amendment.

Mr. Howe said as there had been a call for the question he would be willing to forego his privilege of reply to the speech of the Hon. Attorney General; that the vote might be taken at once.

A call of the House was then made and the Amendment was carried 28 to 18.

After the Speaker had declared the vote, and the names had been taken, the Hon. Mr. Howe took up the Amendment, read it over slowly, and expressed his warm admiration of it. He wished to congratulate the House on the step they had taken, and moved that 100 copies of the Resolution and Amendment be printed. The Hon. Attorney General suggested that it would be better to make it 500 copies, and that the division be also added.

We can but rejoice at the result of this question, and especially that no party have been compromised by the Amendment, the rights of conscience have not been interfered with and the glorious principles of religious freedom are still retained unsullied by any obnoxious enactment. Above all we rejoice at the declaration of the Superintendent of Education—that without any such law to compel the use of the Bible it is becoming more and more extensively used in the Common Schools of the Province.

This we take as substantial progress in the work of education, and although it

was declared by one of our contemporaries that the *Messenger* was "the solitary exception" of "the whole religious press of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island," which did not advocate "the use of the Bible in Schools by Legislative enactment," yet we doubt not we shall have many others who will join with us now, and would infinitely prefer the Amendment with the facts which it declares, to the Resolution and the consequences which must have followed its adoption. The true friends of genuine Christianity and freedom will have but little difficulty in deciding which is the more consistent with the spirit of the gospel of Christ. Our contemporaries who have striven so hard to present, in the most unfavourable light, the course we have pursued with reference to this matter, we are fully satisfied will see that we could not consistently have treated it otherwise. We trust we shall never be found second to any in advocating Bible circulation and Bible reading in the Church, the School, the Family, and the Closet, by every class, age, sect and people.

INFORMATION WANTED.—The unknown editor of the *Presbyterian Witness* asks "Who is A. W. Barss?" and after animadverting on his letter which appeared in our columns last week, takes us to task for allowing it to appear. He seems to think that one who is not disposed to leave his work for the purpose of aiding the so-called Protestant Alliance should be consigned to oblivion. The most curious part of this editorial effusion is where he concludes with the interrogation "Are we not brethren?" It will not be difficult for the editor, whoever he may be, to get satisfactory replies to these two enquiries. If he will himself call at our office we shall be happy to give him enough information about "A. W. Barss" to write a good editorial on the value of Infant baptism. Our unknown brother editor may also be able to get an answer to his question, "Are we not brethren?" by looking over the weekly issues of the *Presbyterian Witness* for the past twelve months. If he finds anything which indicates a brotherly feeling towards Baptists generally or the *Christian Messenger* in particular, he may then decide whether he can claim the relationship.

The Steamer *Canada* arrived on Friday, in 14 days, with the English mails. The London news she brings is to the 10th inst.; the Indian comes down to the 16th March.

The British forces under Sir Colin Campbell had completely invested Lucknow, and some severe skirmishing had taken place, in which the Sepoys were always put to flight with heavy loss. The British had also about 100 killed and wounded, but had gained possession of most of the City, and the rebels were escaping in large bodies, and two or three detachments of Cavalry and flying artillery were pursuing them. There is no reasonable doubt entertained but that long ere now their forces will have been completely dispersed, and the kingdom of Oude in the occupation of the English troops and their Nepalese Allies, who had marched into the country from the north to meet Sir Colin. Several bodies of the Sepoys were holding positions in smaller numbers in some other parts, but would soon have to confront detachments of the British forces, which would doubtless give a good account of them.

The London papers speak dubiously of Lord Derby's chance of holding the reins of power for any length of time. M. D'Israeli, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has introduced a Bill for the abolition of the Old East India Company, and the transfer of their powers directly to the Imperial Government. It, however, from all we can judge, does not seem to enjoy much of the public favor, any more than its predecessor introduced by Lord Palmerston just before his defeat and secession from office. There has also been a considerable falling off in the Revenue of the past year, which will have to be provided for, probably by some unpopular tax.

The state of France is far from quiet. Much discontent prevails, and numerous arrests are being constantly made. Louis Napoleon stands on a dangerous pinnacle from which no one knows how soon a popular commotion may cast him down.

Insurrections of the Christian (Greek Church) populations of European Turkey, in two or three places, have broken out, and the weak and corrupt state of the Government of the Sultan is little able to cope with its difficulties. The death, not long since, of Redschid Pacha, the energetic and enlightened Minister of the Porte, was a heavy loss, as no one seems adequate to fill his place.

We much regret to observe the death of Capt. Moorsom, of the 52nd Regt., a grandson of the late Judge Wilkins. He fell in the attack on Lucknow. He appears to have been a highly talented and fine young man, and had gone through the whole of General Havelock's Campaign, on his staff, and was highly esteemed by him.

Our LONDON CORRESPONDENT's letter on another page gives fuller details.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.—By the politeness of Dr. DeWolf, we had an opportunity a short time since of visiting this institution, and seeing the arrangements which are being made for the unfortunate individuals who are to be its occupants. The floors are laid and the plastering of the larger portion in a state of forwardness. The alterations made in the windows will give the building a far more attractive appearance than in the original plan. The apparatus for heating the rooms by steam, from boilers in a separate building, is quite a new feature in the mode of warming houses in this country. The steam is carried through tubes of about an inch in diameter, which traverse a portion of the basement, and thereby heat the air to any required temperature. Flues communicate from this to each room, and allow the heated air to pass upwards into them, so that no fire is required in any part of the building. Although there is yet much to be done, we trust under its energetic Superintendent, it will soon be prepared for its suffering occupants, who are now so painfully crowded in the Poor's Asylum, and causing so much inconvenience to the managers of that Institution. The internal arrangements of the building, with improvements suggested by Dr. DeWolf, will afford great facilities for the peculiar treatment necessary for this afflicted class of our fellow men.

The First of January Fire.

We have been unwilling to make use of our columns, to discuss the merits of the following subject, it being somewhat personal, but as it has occupied the attention of the Legislature for nearly a whole day, and has been referred to more or less by most of our contemporaries, and has called forth several communications in the different papers published in the city, we have deemed it not inappropriate to copy from the *Morning Chronicle* the two following letters. The first will shew the bitter hostility of some parties and the bad use they are making of a mistake made by two Aldermen. The second will speak for itself:—

THE COST OF THE ALLIANCE.

To the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle*:

MR. EDITOR,—

Sir,—It would be an easy matter to show the serious injury that has been inflicted on our Province, from the effects of the present unholy alliance between Baptists and Roman Catholics, in reference to the Provincial interests; but that is not the object of my present communication. The people, I think, will themselves feel the calamities that are fast approaching, and which will open their eyes when perhaps it's too late. In the present case, I wish to show that the City of Halifax must also pay its portion of the expense of keeping together the present majority in our Legislative Halls. A bill has been passed by a party vote to mulct our citizens of £350—and probably as much more in costs, to pay Mr. Selden, the Editor of the *Christian Messenger*, for a claim which he has been advised to set up, and every Catholic member in the House voted for this iniquitous job, not excepting the town member, Mr. John Tobin—who by the bye, last session, was loud in his condemnation of the claim. This ex post facto law, has been passed by the plant majority, at the cost of the citizens of Halifax—simply because Mr. Selden is a Baptist, and supports the Popish alliance. Had the claim been made by you, Mr. Editor, or any other honest politician, me thinks I can see with what withering scorn, Mr. Johnston would have met it on the floors of the Assembly, and been backed up by the same contemptible and truckling majority. Mr. Tobin also, the member for the City, endorses this claim by his vote, although every member of the City Council has declared that "Selden has no claim either in law or equity." Well, Mr. Tobin would do the same now, should Mr. Johnston propose to transport you to Rome—there to undergo your punishment for daring to uphold Protestant principles in this Protestant country. The following Resolution was moved and rejected 25 to 19, with reference to the Selden relief bill, and I would advise the city authorities to pay over the money at once, as they may rely upon it, that the same influence which can put so monstrous an act through the Legislature, can manage to do the same in the Courts, should the citizens' representatives be fool-hardy enough to go to law with such odds against them.

Whereas, The object of the bill entitled an act, &c., is to alter the law as it now stands, and thereby give to Mr. Selden a right of action against the city of Halifax, which he does not at present possess; And whereas the City Council, by a

* What are the assertions of a writer worth who makes such a grossly exaggerated statement as this?