

be sensibly and actually overlooked and seen from a real point of observation. Thus, if we wish to comprehend how any past earthly deed or occurrence, even after thousands of years, is as distinctly and immediately in God's presence as if it were actually taking place before His eyes, it is sufficient for our purpose to imagine Him present at a certain point, at which the light and reflection of the circumstance is just arriving.*

Professor Hitchcock, who quotes part of the above, follows it up by analogous arguments drawn from other departments of science.† He shows that every muscular effort of a man, every chemical change within him, and especially every thought of his mind so alters the electric condition of all things that "there may be no spot in the whole universe where the knowledge of our most secret thoughts and purposes as well as our most trivial outward acts may not be transmitted on the lightning's wing; and it may be that out of this darkened world there may not be found any spot where beings do not exist with sensibilities keen enough to learn through electric changes what we are doing and thinking." He has the same thing to say of odyl reactions, of chemical, organic, and mental reactions, and it follows that if created beings may find such knowledge so possible, it must be with the Creator a matter of infinite ease.

Human knowledge, again, may have its origin in reasoning rather than observation; as when Euclid builds up the structure of his books from a few simple postulates and axioms. One thing being as it is, certain other things must necessarily be as they are: one angle of a triangle being 90 degrees, and another 45, the third must be 45, and nothing else. In the physical world we get the same sort of mutual dependence; if it were not so we should not be able to apply mathematics to astronomy, mechanics and the science of optics. The motions of the earth and moon being what they are with reference to the sun, eclipses must necessarily happen, and can be predicted for certain dates. The masses of the sun and moon being what they are, and their relative positions at a given time being unknown, the tides must necessarily rise to a given height, and can be calculated. The universality of this mutual dependence and interaction cannot be doubted, and Mr. Grove is only speaking the truth when he says that the fall of a bullet changes the dynamical condition of the universe. The mutual dependence being as certain in physics as in pure mathematics, one truth must be deducible from another, and, indeed, all truths from two or three, to a being knowing how to proceed. The state of things in any one locality is only what it is because all other states in all other places are what they are, and the position of any single particle could be made to yield information concerning all the universe. Further still, the present contains in it the record of the past, out of which it has grown, and the prophecy of the future, toward which it is tending, so that to determine any past or future physical occurrence is a problem of the same nature intrinsically as the calculation of eclipses. We have only then to suppose a knowledge of mathematics in the Deity and we see that all other knowledge lies close to hand. Professor Babbage, to whom we are indebted for the first moral application of this principle,† has ingeniously illustrated it with regard to man's action on the atmosphere, the waters, and the solid earth; and the present paper may be fitly finished with a short quotation from his work—"The soul of the negro whose fettered body, surviving the living charnel-house of his infected prison, was thrown into the sea to lighten the ship, that his Christian master might escape the limited justice at length assigned by civilized man to crimes whose profits had long gilded their atrocity, will need, at the last day of human account, no living witness of his earthly agony. When man and all his race shall have disappeared from the face of our planet, ask every particle of air still floating over the unpeopled earth, and it will record the cruel mandate of the tyrant. Interrogate every wave which breaks unimpeded on ten thousand desolate shores, and it will give evidence of the last gurgle of the waters which closed over the head of his dying victim, confront the murderer with every corporeal atom of his immolated slave, and in its still quivering movements he will read the Prophet's denunciation of the Prophet-king—"Thou art the man!"—Baptist Magazine.

* "The Stars and the Earth." Seventh edition.
† "Religion of Geology." Lecture XII.
‡ "Ninth Bridgewater Treatise."

P. E. I.—The Rev. Dr. Ritchie, Methodist, and the Rev. George Sutherland, Presbyterian, are about leaving Charlottetown. Both preached their farewell sermons on the same Sunday evening.

It is said that the long and severe winter has caused considerable distress among the farmers of Kings Co., P. E. I., so that they will be unable to procure seed for planting.

N. B.—His Excellency General Doyle opened the Legislature on Saturday the 11th. The speech referred to the Union of the Provinces, the Intercolonial Railway, the militia, the delegation to the West Indies and South America. The address in reply was passed without division both in the Council and Assembly. Ten thousand copies of the debates were ordered to be printed.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 22, 1867.

Christian Privileges and Obligations.

The Christian's position in this world is one not only of privilege, but also of solemn responsibility. He has not only to partake of the blessings of the gospel, but to engage in the important duties it enjoins; not merely to be saved himself, but to keep himself unspotted from the world and to co-operate in the salvation of others. Not only is it needful that a believer come to Christ, he must be prepared to follow Him and perform life-long service with his people—faithful unto death. This will sometimes call him to confront sin in forms he little anticipates. Our Lord has taught us that when this is the case his law will admit of no compromise. He has compared it to cutting off the right hand and plucking out the right eye. The most precious and valuable possessions must not be allowed to stand between the sinner and his Saviour, or to interfere with the homage He demands. There may be duties required of us which appear contrary to our natural instincts, but they must be, and will be, performed by the faithful follower of the Lord of life and glory. Whosoever would save his own life even by any compromise of submission to the precepts of Jesus, would inevitably lose it, and prove himself but a traitor to Him who for our sakes endured the contradiction of sinners against himself, and died to procure for us eternal life.

In the consecration made by the humble Christian, when he first casts himself at the foot of the cross, there is no reserve. He has no idea of any thing else than implicit submission to Him who has procured for him the great salvation.

The Christian church has been instituted to aid the individual Christian in following his Divine Master. In this relationship therefore, he has various privileges and duties. Only by a faithful discharge of the latter can the former be enjoyed. Christian love sometimes demands the performance of duties towards brethren which are most painful; but these like those of a more pleasant and agreeable character must not be put aside; the subsequent rewards of joy and blessing are more than a compensation. The Word of God is full of instruction and is given that we may be thoroughly furnished to every good work. If we would partake of its precious promises we must surely follow its precepts.

It is a question with some professors, What constitutes a church entrusted with the execution of Christ's laws and the observance of His ordinances. The scriptural idea is pretty correctly expressed by the Church of England, although it does not appear in her practice: "The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in the which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same."

The natural tendency of believers in one common Lord is that they combine for mutual edification and defence. If any attempt be made at an invasion of such combination by an enemy, whether in the form of persecution, or of sin in any of its members, it must call forth the general condemnation of the body, or that body will soon cease to exist as a power for good in any community.

Efforts have been made by some ecclesiastical bodies to get rid of a large portion of church duties, especially those relating to the purity of the church, by transferring the more important duties to a select few or certain officials or courts unknown in "our Great Church Directory and Statute Book"—the Holy Scriptures, and by giving said courts or persons the power to determine on the right of membership. But in doing so, they perhaps, avoid some inconvenience, but we believe, suffer a greater loss in other respects.

These privileges we hold, as congregation-ists and Baptists, belong to the body generally, and, as it is the Bible mode, it is doubtless calculated to develop the Christian

character and to benefit the church and the world, more than any other system which may appear to have more of human wisdom in its construction.

Explanatory.

When the Union of the British Provinces was only a theoretical question, it was regarded as free from a party character, and one on which politicians on either side might hold opinions, and express them without reference to the position they occupied in other respects. Liberals and Conservatives could meet on this subject and feel that they were both on neutral territory. We, in common with others, were accustomed to speak with the utmost freedom and indulge to any extent we pleased in conjectures as to what would be the result of such union, without supposing we were stepping into the domains of partisanship. We have continued to pursue a similar course without regard to the accident of the question having assumed another aspect. So soon as the subject became a practical one, notwithstanding that leading men from both parties were united in the Union policy, it became another matter; for others, who were opposed to them, organized themselves into a new party with new issues and objects. Consequently that which had before been common ground was now changed. Former party lines were obliterated and new platforms raised—one for Union and the other for Anti-confederate, or, one in favor of Confederation being effected by the people's representatives and the other demanding that a vote should be given by the people at the polls for or against union, or, again, as expressed by others, one the Canada party, and the other the Nova Scotia party.

All remark in reference to Union it appears must now be examined by the light thrown upon it by the leaders of these parties. We have no desire to indulge in the discussion of party politics, any more than formerly—in the days of the Liberals and Conservatives, but shall feel perfectly free to treat on the facts of Union as they are developed, and the connection into which we have been brought by the Act of the Imperial Parliament. We of course have opinions on the position occupied by the two parties respectively, but have no inclination to impose them on our readers, there are good men and wise men on both sides—our work is of a far higher character. Our independent position was, formerly, occasionally attacked by those who felt warmly on either side for the party with which they acted, and, judging us from their stand point, supposed that we were not leaning quite enough towards themselves. We make no professions of mere neutrality, but as journalists we are independent of both parties, and intend to remain so.

A week or two since we referred to the fact of the contemplated change in the constitution under the New Dominion, and in doing so happened to say "We lose nothing, but we gain much." It might be plainly seen that the reference was to the electoral franchise, as we immediately after noticed that we shall now participate in the government of and legislation for four millions of people instead of three hundred thousand as hitherto. It was not intended in any respect as an allusion to what is in dispute between the two parties. With these matters we have no desire to interfere, under the circumstances. One of our Colchester friends, however, signing himself, "One of the people's candidates," appears to have misapprehended the above remark, and under his misapprehension sent us an anonymous communication, commenting, not on its evident meaning, as shewn by the context, but on his own interpretation of it, and going into the matters of the present Canadian tariff and taxation. As well might he refuse to vote for any candidate for the Dominion as to object to our remarks on such grounds.

We, of course, returned the manuscript giving our reasons for doing so, 1st, because it was anonymous, and 2ndly because it was constructed on a wrong foundation.

We desire and enjoy fair criticism, within the bounds we assign to ourselves; but we are not inclined to be drawn into either the advocacy or condemnation of the mere party elements of discussion on either side.

NEWS SUMMARY.

It must be a matter of rejoicing—we might well say—to the world at large, to learn that the peace of Europe, which has been so seriously threatened to be disturbed, by a war between France and Prussia, is no longer in danger of being interrupted. By latest accounts it appears that the Conference of the delegates of the Great Powers in London has fully succeeded in averting the danger which at one time seemed so imminent, and restoring pacific relations between the

two nations. The terms of adjustment appear to be that the Duchy of Luxembourg—the bone of contention—shall remain in possession of Holland, but that the Fortress of the same name and one of the strongest, we believe, on the left bank of the Rhine, garrisoned ever since the peace of Vienna in 1815, by the Prussians, shall be given up and dismantled, so that it may be no longer, as hitherto, an eyesore to France. The conditions have been ratified by France and Prussia, so that the grievous evils of a war that might have involved all Europe, are thus happily averted. Our own good Queen seems to have been the chief mediator through whom this most desirable object has been effected.

The war in Candia, between the Turks and Cretans, is still raging. It is said some decisive battles have been fought with favorable results to the insurgents. The European Powers are, it is said, endeavouring to effect an arrangement, by which the Island of Candia shall be annexed to the neighboring kingdom of Greece. The inhabitants are almost wholly Greeks.

We observe in the papers several addresses from candidates for representing different sections of our province in the House of Commons at Ottawa, and in our own Legislative Assembly. It is thought that in some of the Counties there will be pretty sharp contests. It is not yet known at what precise time the elections will take place—probably the end of summer, as the preliminary arrangements necessarily resulting from the passing of the Act of Confederation, will have to be adjusted.

Notices, &c.

Acadia College.

THURSDAY, May 30.—Examination of Candidates for Matriculation.

FRIDAY, May 31.—Examination continued.

MONDAY, June 3.—Terminal Examination of the Classes.

WEDNESDAY, June 5.—Annual Meeting of the Associated Alumni, at 3, P. M.

Oration before the Associated Alumni, by the Rev. W. S. Mackenzie, A. M., at 7½, P. M. Subject:—"The Graduate, or the intellectual development and growth of liberally educated men."

THURSDAY, June 6.—ANNIVERSARY, in the Baptist Meeting House, commencing at 11, A. M. Orations will be delivered by Under-Graduates, Degrees conferred, Prizes distributed, and other business transacted.

The Associated Alumni and the friends of the College will dine together at 3, P. M.

A Meeting of the Governors of Acadia College will be held in the Library on Wednesday, June 5, at 11 o'clock, A. M. A full attendance is requested.

S. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.

May 20th, 1867.
MATRICULATION.—The Examination of Candidates for Matriculation will occupy two days, viz. Thursday and Friday, May 30th and 31st. Candidates are requested to attend in the Library on Thursday morning, May 30th, at nine o'clock.

For the convenience of those who may not be able to attend on the above mentioned days, two other days will be appointed, in the latter end of August, of which due notice will be given.

J. M. CRAMP, President.

Acadia College, April 19th, 1867.
The next Cape Breton Quarterly Meeting will be held (D. V.) with the Sydney Church, commencing on Saturday, June 15th, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

By order,
W. B. BOGGS.

THE HORTON ACADEMY EXAMINATIONS will be held on Monday and Tuesday, the 3rd and 4th of June. Parents and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Baptist Anniversaries.

THE NOVA SCOTIA CENTRAL ASSOCIATION will meet at Canning, commencing on Saturday, the 8th day of June, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

THE N. S. WESTERN ASSOCIATION will meet at Hillsburg, on Saturday, the 15th day of June, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

THE N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION will meet at Upper Londonderry, on the 6th day of July, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Donation Visit.

Mr. Editor.—I wish to say, through the Messenger, that the kind friends of Kempt, Hants, and some from Newport, have greatly added to my comfort by making me a donation visit worth \$80. May the Lord bless the donors.

GEORGE WETHERS.

Letters Received.

W. G. Gates, Rev. S. B. Kempton, W. Churchill, Esq., \$5. Rev. R. D. Porter, T. H. Patton, W. Eaton, Esq., Rev. Dr. Tupper, N. R. Westcott, Isaiah Thurber, Esq., (2).—The \$4 and \$10 all right, thanks, 1 sub. J. F. Masters, J. C. Anderson, \$4.—Pays to Dec. 31, 1867. R. Chambers, Esq., H. E. Fitch, Esq., Rev. A. S. Hunt, James Desbrisay, Esq., \$5.—(A. L. owes 62¢ cents.) Rev. I. J. Skinner, \$4. Rev. J. C. Morse, J. H. Marshall, Dr. J. Woodbury, 1 sub. Rev. W. Hall.

Colonial and Foreign News.

Canada.

OTTAWA, May 17th.—The Medical Council has been holding its meetings for a week past. Business of much importance to the profession was transacted. The right of Homeopaths who profess to have the legal qualification to demand registration, is to be tested in the Courts.

Parliament is to be petitioned to pass an act to prevent the publication of immoral and indecent advertisements in the public newspapers in this province, and prohibit through any channel, pamphlets of a similar character.