

respect. * * * And if ever you are disturbed or ag-
grieved in the exercise of your religious and just rights, let
me know of it. You need not write to my ministers, but
address yourself to me directly.

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 1, 1853.

The publication of this sheet may be regarded by many
as a matter of small importance; and its size being so
much "less than the least," may in this age of "great
things" provoke scorn rather than elicit compassion. But
whatever the opinion or judgment of others may be, our
duty is to pursue such a course as we think will produce
the greatest amount of good. To live for ourselves only,
without reference to the well-being and happiness of others,
is folly and madness. The aim of every man should be to
leave the world better than he found it; that is, to shed
some hallowed influence around him that would speak to
others even when he ceases to live. And if we cannot do
as much good as some others, let us at least do what we
can. It is, perhaps, impossible for any to tell what they
can do, until they try; and with perseverance great
things may be accomplished. There is scarcely a moral
achievement now existing, but once had its "day of small
things;" and it has not been uncommon for the greatest re-
sults to have their original conception in obscure minds.

We were born and reared in one of the rural districts of
this Province. We have been engaged during the last few
years in the work of the ministry; a large portion of which
time we have laboured more in the capacity of a Home
Missionary than of a stated Pastor. This, with our previous
knowledge, has rendered us, we think, familiar with the
moral and spiritual wants of the country. We have often
regretted the lack of intelligence that exists in many places,
in relation to what has been, and what is being accomplish-
ed, in the great work of saving souls—in the means that
God is employing in this work, and in the responsibility
that rests upon every man to do what he can. True, we
have religious journals circulated very freely in some dis-
tricts. But by a return of the census last year, there is
in New Brunswick a population of 193,800 souls, which
would make 27,685 families, at an average of seven each.
What proportion of these is French and Catholics we cannot
say; but suppose one quarter, and we have left about 20,-
760 Protestant families. From the best information we
can get, religious papers do not enter over 4,000 of these,
which leaves a balance of over 16,000 families without a
religious paper; and probably nearly as many without any
periodical whatever. The question at once presents itself,
why is this so? The reason is, some of our people are not
a reading people. 1st. Because they are not taught to read.
Judge Wilmut, in his oration, delivered at the late Exhibi-
tion in Fredericton, stated that there in this Province about
30,000 inhabitants, between the ages of six and sixteen,
who attend no school; while the number who do attend, of
the like age, is between five and six thousand. (This of
course includes both Catholic and Protestant.) 2nd. Many
who can read have never acquired a taste for it. The kind
of reading which has fallen in their way, has not been of
an interesting character to them. It cannot be expected
that minds uneducated, and unaccustomed to thinking closely,
will be interested in lengthy and learned disquisi-
tions on any subject. We think the attention should first
be enlisted on subjects suitable for the mental training ne-
cessary, and those of daily occurrence seem to be the best.

We wish to see a religious journal—the organ of some
religious body—in every family. And we wish to see it
well filled with religious intelligence, Scripture expositions,
Christian experience, and biography; with such other gen-
eral intelligence as may be necessary. Toward this object
we wish to contribute. While some are casting in their
abundance, we wish to throw our mites; and we are not too
proud to say, this is one of our intentions in the publication
of this sheet. We intend to publish twelve numbers on
trial, at the low price of one shilling and three pence.—
These will be published only monthly, unless we see signs
of future success. We hope it will make way throughout
the Province for a larger, more frequent, and more useful
journal. We do not expect it to be very interesting to
those who have extensive means of information. We de-
sign it for such as have not these means, and such as we
were ourselves when we ventured out into the world, with
very little knowledge of men or things. And the lack of
information, which we might have acquired previous to
that time, (and that we would have acquired, had it been
put in our way, or had we known that it existed,) has
been to us the cause of deep regret ever since. We feel
for those in like circumstances, and we will aid them if we
can. Our sheet is not designed as a news paper, but it is
intended to convey facts in connection with the rise and
progress of the various branches of Christian labour, em-
ployed in the advancement of Christianity. Bible Societies,
Missions, and Sabbath Schools, we shall advocate. These,
as well as many other institutions, having similar objects in
view, have failed to enlist the sympathies of many benevo-
lent minds, because they have not been properly repre-
sented, or have been misrepresented. Second only to the
great object of personal holiness, we shall endeavour to
enlist the benevolence of the people in favour of these insti-
tutions. And in order to do this, the condition of the
"dark places of the earth"—"the habitations of cruelty,"
must be referred to, as well as the unholy influences at
home; the power of which is felt in our midst, and must be
known in order to be resisted. This is a part of the work
in which we shall engage; and to which, imploring God's
blessing, we now address ourselves.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The purest institutions that have ever been put in op-
eration, for giving the knowledge of God to the world, have
been the BIBLE SOCIETIES. They have enlisted the
sympathies of all good, intelligent men; they have com-
bined the energies of the truly benevolent of all denomi-
nations, and they are giving the Word of God to millions
of the human family, who, without these institutions,
would probably have perished in darkness. We need
not go to the dark places of the earth, which have been
lit up by the Word of Eternal Life, for evidence of their
utility. We have that evidence among us. The over-
whelming number of Bibles, and their extraordinary cheap-
ness, tell us what Bible Societies have done for us. In
addition to this, the hallowed influence which the Bible
has shed around us, and the fact that many of us from
childhood have known the Holy Scriptures. These things,
contrasted with what existed previous to the organization
of Bible Societies, show us what they have done for us.
"The word of the Lord was precious in those days." The
price of Bibles not only placed them beyond the reach of
many, but their scarcity rendered it impossible for all to
possess them. This fact, in Wales, attracted the attention
of several benevolent clergymen in the year 1787, and let-
ters were written on the subject, with a view to obtain a
supply. "When I was in Wales last," says one of these
writers, "I heard great complaining amongst the poor, for
want of Bibles, and that there were none to be had for
money." The first attempts to supply the demand was
unsuccessful. In 1799, the society for promoting Christian
knowledge, issued an edition of ten thousand copies of the
Welsh Bible, with ten thousand extra Testaments. This
edition was almost immediately bought up, and large dis-
tricts were still unprovided for. If the joy of those who
were successful in obtaining copies was excessive, the
grief of many who failed of it fell little short of anguish.
"Their expressions of regret," stated a clergyman who had
witnessed this disappointment, "were truly affecting." Pre-
vious to this there were some religious Associations in
England, that contemplated, as a part of their work, the
distribution of the scriptures. There was also a Bible So-
ciety formed in 1780, for the supply of the Army and Navy
of Great Britain; another in 1792, for the circulation of
Bibles in France. The efforts of these, however, were
limited to particular districts.

It was the occurrence of the following touching incident
which seems to have been the immediate occasion, under
God, of the plan which resulted in the formation of the
BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

In the year 1802; the Rev. Thomas Charles, of Bala, in
Wales, was walking in one of the streets of that town, when
he met a child who attended his ministry. He inquired if
she could repeat the text from which he had preached on
the preceding Sunday. Instead of giving a prompt reply,
as she had been accustomed to do, she remained silent.
"Can you not tell me the text, my little girl?" repeated
Mr. Charles. The child wept, but was still silent. At
length she said "The weather, sir, has been so bad that I
could not get to read the Bible." This remark surprised
the good man, and he exclaimed, "Could you not get to
read the Bible! how was that?" The reason was soon as-
certained. There was no copy to which she could gain ac-
cess, either at her own home or among her friends, and she
was accustomed to travel every week seven miles over the
hills to a place, where she could obtain a Welsh Bible, to
read the chapter from which the minister took his text.
But during that week the cold and stormy weather had pre-
vented her usual journey. Surely "the Word of the Lord
was precious in those days" to this lamb of the Saviour's
fold.

This circumstance suggested to Mr. Charles the idea of
sending the Bible into every family, and of giving it to every
child. Accordingly, in December of the same year, he
and Mr. Tarn, at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society,
made a proposition to form a separate society, "to promote
the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in foreign countries,
and in those parts of the British dominions for which ade-
quate provision is not yet made." Various measures suc-
ceeded this resolution, until, in January, 1804, a meeting
was appointed for the 7th of March following. "At this
meeting, held at the 'London Tavern,' the BRITISH AND
FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY was established, and a Com-
mittee of thirty-six members elected.

A correspondence was immediately opened with leading
men in various countries of the continent, to ascertain in
those countries, the want of such operation as the Society
contemplated. Many friendly replies were received; and
in a few years Bible Societies were founded in several
foreign countries. Such was the origin of an institution,
the age of which, still falling short of half a century, has
blessed mankind with the Bible in about 150 languages and
dialects, and sent forth into a sin benighted world, about 25
million copies of the **THE LAMP OF LIFE—THE WORD
OF THE LIVING GOD.**

But the British and Foreign Bible Society has not arisen
to its present strength without encountering, at different

periods, great opposition, and especially during the first
years of its existence. The source of this opposition lay
among certain of the clergy and members of the Church of
England, who were considered not the most Evangelical.
And the ground of it lay in the fact, that the Society was
not a Church Institution, and that dissenters were associ-
ated in it with the members of the established Communion.
A more recent source of opposition has been in relation to
the Apocrypha. Previous to 1826 the Society had aided
in circulating Bibles containing the Apocrypha. This was
more particularly in Roman Catholic countries, and with a
view to encourage the circulation of the Scriptures among
Roman Catholics. This, however, did not please the
friends of the pure Word of God at home, and the agitation
of the subject resulted finally in the rejection of the Apo-
crypha by the Society.

The extent and importance of the operation of the British
and Foreign Bible Society would claim too large a place for
the present sketch. We shall refer to them again. The
following are some of the results from this great and blessed
Institution. It has given the Bible in 114 translations never
before printed. It has sent forth, as already noticed,
about 25 million copies of Bibles and Testaments. Other
Bible Societies, which owe their existence to the
British and Foreign, have issued about 20 millions. Its
expenditures to 1850 inclusive, was £3,648,000 sterling.
It has connected with it over 3670 auxiliaries, branches and
associations in Great Britain and the Colonies, beside those
various independent Societies that owe their existence to it,
and have arisen under its fostering care in Europe and in
India and America. It employs in various countries agents
and colporteurs. There are depots at Paris, Brussels, St.
Petersburg, Odessa, Smyrna, Athens and many other
foreign places. More than eighty colporteurs are employed
in France alone, about twenty in Germany, and several in
other places, including Italy.

Who can begin to estimate the fruit of this system of
Bible dissemination. And what christian heart does not
wish to aid in the glorious work of giving the Word of Life
to every nation on earth, to every family and to every soul.
Such, at least, is our obligation. While, by the benevolent
operations of this Society, we obtain the Bible for one-fifth,
probably, of what its cost would otherwise be; are not those
possessed of the ability morally bound to cast into its
treasury the saving it affords them, and not lessen the
means to benefit the "far off" and the "deserted?"

To the Rev. Robert Baird, of New York, we are in-
debted for the information contained in this article, and we
will conclude our sketch in his language:—"The interests
of this noble association is dear to every christian heart.
If there is an organization, whose prosperity we regard
as intimately connected with the increase of pure religion
in the present age, it is certainly the British and Foreign
Bible Society. Long may it continue, with its kindred
Societies, to carry forward the standard of our Reformed
Faith in the spirit of its ancient motto: "The Bible is
the religion of Protestants."

SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

A Meeting of Merchants and others interested in the
welfare of Seamen, was held at the Grammar School in this
City, on the Evening of Saturday, November 20th. Judge
Parker presided. An Association was formed, called
"The Saint John Seamen's Friend Society." "The ob-
ject of this Society shall be to improve the condition of
Seamen entering this port, in every way possible, especial-
ly in opening for them at an early day, a SAILOR'S HOME." The
Rev. E. N. Harris was appointed Agent, "to solicit
persons to become members of, and Subscribers to this As-
sociation." The annual payment of Five Shillings, con-
stitutes a member. When a sufficient number of Subscribers
is obtained, a Meeting will be called for the appointment of
officers; in the meantime the society is under the direction
of a Provisional Committee.

We congratulate Brother Harris on his prospect of success
in his labours for love, in the behalf of the weather beaten
sailor. Some few months since, we heard him state in a pub-
lic congregation, that he was here "on his own charges,"
interesting himself in the behalf of this class of men, whose
temporal and spiritual wants have hitherto been so much
neglected in this City. Soon after we believe, he visited
Boston, and more recently the City of New York, in order
to promote the benevolent object in which he is engaged.
We commend the object of the society, and sincerely hope
that a sufficient number of subscribers may be obtained to
carry it speedily into effect; not only in opening for them a
"HOME," but making that Home a blessing to them.

DOMESTIC.

We have no Religious Intelligence from any part of our
own Province that would be very interesting. As far as we
can learn revivals are scarce, and that deep toned piety of
former days—that intense glowing LIFE which so marred
the religion of earlier times, does but rarely exist. In our
next No. we shall present some causes of religious declen-
sion and some means to promote revivals. In the mean
time we shall secure all the interesting intelligence of a re-
ligious nature that we can, both foreign and domestic.

✍ We shall send copies of this No. of our paper to
persons in different parts of the Provinces. We wish them
to interest themselves in its behalf by handing them round
and obtaining what Subscribers they can. Should any want
an additional number they will please address B. J. Under-
hill, St. John. The Subscription is of course always paya-
ble in advance.