

through this agency. (Cheers.) But I need not stop to mention other instances of this kind. Their is no object on earth which the circulation of God's Word is not calculated to promote. Their is no virtue which it does not cherish, their is no sin which it does not condemn; there is no beneficence in conduct for which we cannot find an authority there. (Hear, hear.) It is the daily manna of our souls; we feed on it and love it, as the Psalmist did when he said, "Oh, how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day." And that which is good for us is good for the human family. Let us spread it by all the winds of heaven; let every sea carry it on its bosom. God gave it to mankind—let mankind be our agency have it, and have it speedily."

## FRANCE.

CASES OF SUPERSTITION AND PERSECUTION.  
From the Correspondence of the London Christian Times.

PARIS, May 25, 1853.

A little girl came home from the nuns' school in the Rue de Monceaux, some time ago, and said to a friend of mine: "Madame, is it true that there are windows and doors in heaven, as there are in houses here?" "Why my child?"—"Because the Sister told us to day, that a poor man died, and St. Peter would not open the door of heaven for him; the Holy Virgin opened her window, and, looking out, cried, 'Come, poor man, if St. Peter will not let you in the door, I will take you in at my window; you have served me; you are mine!' The noise he made in climbing attracted the attention of the Almighty, who, in His wrath said, 'Who is clambering up the wrong way?' The Virgin said, 'Holy God! this man is one of my servants.' The Almighty replied, 'My Mother, all that you do is well done!' These same nuns took away a little child's book, and burnt it, because the Bible was spoken of in it (without a word of controversy), telling the child to burn all such that might be given her.

The above, and such like fables about the Virgin Mary, are being propagated by thousands during this month, "the month of Mary." The walls are placarded with advertisements, the booksellers' shops full of books, on the subject; and the churches are fresh decorated, with a splendour unknown for many a year.

We are greatly interested in your discussions on the subject of nunneries in England; a public officer empowered to investigate, and privately to question the individuals of a suspected convent would do much in the cause of liberty; but not all. The system of duplicity is so deep, and the power of working on the fears of inmates so mighty, that all that legislation can do is but a slight mitigation of the evil. I once had to expose a misdemeanor of the chaplain of one of the large charitable institutions here; the governor, after expressing his frank indignation, said: "I know it is true, but the man will deny it." On seeing surprise on my countenance, he added: "Oh! lies cost them nothing! they must appear pure, you know!" This is the awful result of swerving from the clear, direct Word of God. And the closer Romanism is looked at, the deeper the depths of Satan are known! Your readers will be interested in the following facts which I have received from an eye witness, whose name and residence, and those of the parties, I give you in confidence: In a dark and superstitious part of France, lives M—, a woman of sixty, into whose hands a Bible fell a few years ago; she read it, and, little by little, the Divine light beamed into her soul, enlightened her mind, and sanctified her heart. When she believed, she spoke to those around her. Her words were attended to by two women, Sisters; and together they studied the Scriptures, and advanced in the knowledge of the Saviour. But they were far—three leagues—from any place of Evangelical worship; they were still timid, and could not see their way clear enough to break off from Rome, although they longed for courage to do so. As they conformed to the outward observance of Popery, they met with no opposition. About two years ago, a respectable young lady, the sister of a public functionary, was struck with the conviction of her sinfulness. The pleasures of the world lost their charm for her, and were forsaken; from vain, her dress became simple, and her aims grew abundant. But peace with God she could not find. Confessions, penances, mortifications, left her just as they found her, with an anguished soul; and she was brought to the brink of despair. When in this state, a friend told her that M— had things to tell from the Holy Scriptures which might comfort her. She acted on the suggestion, became acquainted with M—, read the Bible, and found consolation through faith in Christ. She attended the simple Protestant worship, notwithstanding its distance, and there found the worship her soul thirsted for. The priest attacked her in violent language at the confessional, and demanded her Testament—she refused, for it was her meat and drink. He declared if she would not give it up, he would force it from her. She preferred the Word of God to the vain words of man, and left the confessional without absolution. Convinced of the errors of Rome, she left it and joined the Protestant Church. Then began persecution, first from her nearest relatives, but it was of no avail. At length, in November last, it was seriously attempted to make out a case of insanity against her, in order to shut her up. The priest unexpectedly brought a doctor of the hospital of—, and proceeded to an examination—false witnesses had been prepared. The doctor, after in vain persuading her to be bled (!), drew up his certificate. A week afterwards, she went to—, and told her Protestant friends of the circumstances. My informant immediately called on the doctor, who declared that he had found nothing insane in her, but, from the testimony of the witnesses, he had drawn up a certificate, which would enable the family to institute an inquiry if they wished. The dreadful attempt was afterwards abandoned. They then united their efforts to induce her to enter a convent—but this, of course failed. She joyfully bears all for Christ's sake; she is a noble Christian and a faithful witness; her courage has broken up the timid calm of the other women, and they are all now actively engaged in shedding around them that light which they have received. M— is

intelligent schoolmistress, and has eighty persons in different houses who are learning to read from the Testament.

Now these events are constantly taking place, yet our blinded rulers increase the number of nuns' schools and priests' seminaries, and cover our land with convents.

## THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JUNE 15, 1853.

## OUR TWELFTH NUMBER.

When we commenced the publication of the *Intelligencer* we stated our purpose of issuing twelve numbers, whether we obtained sufficient to defray the expense of their publication or not. With the issue of this number we accomplish our purpose; and we think it a proper time to review the past, and speak of the future. Our object in starting a paper has been stated by us previously; we need not refer to it again. And we can truly say, we have never engaged in any work (the Ministry not excepted) in which we have felt ourselves more justified. But we have had our conflicts notwithstanding. We entered upon the work without any certain knowledge of its being even partially sustained. We were quite unprepared to publish a large and imposing sheet, and its size, compared with other periodicals, we supposed would (as it doubtless did in some cases,) elicit contempt, rather than command influence. We were altogether inexperienced in such a work, and we can assure our readers we had (and still have) very little confidence in our own abilities. But we trusted in God. And we can truly say, if we never have any other reward for our labour than the sweet communion we have had with Him while asking his blessing on our work, and praying that he would make room for it in the hearts of the people, we are amply rewarded. Our little sheet went out with many prayers, and to this solely, we attribute the success it has met with. We thought when we commenced its publication that 800 or 1000 subscribers were as many as could possibly be obtained. We had however 1350 copies of the first number struck off; and to our astonishment these were soon exhausted, and our subscription list steadily increased until it amounted to about 2000. In view of the past, and the success which God has given us, we think we have reason, like Paul, to thank God and take courage.

On the first of July we shall commence the publication of the *Intelligencer*, enlarged to double its present size. Its mechanical appearance, we expect, will also be considerably improved; and its enlargement will enable us to present a greater variety of reading matter. The improvements are made without any additional expense to our subscribers. Were we to raise our subscription to double the present sum, at the loss of one half of our subscribers, we should make a pecuniary saving; but in doing so we should defeat one principal object, which is to obtain a wide circulation. We do not know that we made any pledges when we commenced that we have not fulfilled. The course we have pursued we shall continue to pursue; and the past is our only guarantee for the future. Our paper shall be as it professes, a RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER; and Bible Society, Missionary, and Sabbath School Advocate; containing also such useful reading—religious and secular—as will render it generally interesting. Our columns, while we control them, shall never be open to denominational or personal controversy. Truth, to the utmost of our ability, we will maintain; the oppressed and the wronged we will defend, but acrimony and slander shall in all cases be rejected.

To our many friends who have so freely aided us in obtaining a circulation, we tender our sincere thanks; and it is a matter of no small gratification to us to know that our paper has been acceptable to them. We ask the continuance of their interest, and we trust we shall not be disappointed in our expectation of having our subscription list increased to at least 3000 during the next six months. Acknowledging God in this as well as in every other department of christian labour, we have strong confidence in His promise, that he will direct our way. (Prov. 3c. 6v.)

## GENERAL CONFERENCE OF FREE BAPTIST.

This Association will meet in its Annual Session, in Woodstock on Saturday July 2nd, at 10 o'clock, A. M. According to the rules of this Body, all ministers in connection therewith are required to attend, and also two lay messengers from each District Meeting. We hope that all our brethren who feel interested for the prosperity of this Association who can attend, will not fail to do so, and that all the deliberations and decisions of the Conference may be under the enlightening influence of God's truth, that He may be glorified, and his cause advanced among us.

ROBBERY. The shop of Mr. Lawlor, watch-maker under Thompson's Hotel, King st., was forceably entered on Sunday morning, the 5th inst., and nine watches, gold

chain, some brooches, rings &c., taken off. The entrance of the Buglar was effected through the sash over the doorway, in bar of which was broken, and the glass removed. The watches were in a box, locked up in a trunk under the counter. The trunk was opened with a pick or key, and the smaller box forced. We have not heard of the apprehension of the thief yet. Forty dollars reward has been offered by Mr. L., for information that will lead to his detection.

THANKS.—We tender our sincere thanks to Mr. Andrew M. Tong, of Johnson, Q. C., and Mr. Manosh Steves, of Lower Coverdale, A. C., for their lists of new subscribers and remittances. They will please become our agents in their respective localities.

COMPLAINTS. Some of our subscribers have complained to us that their papers are opened and read previous to their receiving them. This of course is after they leave the Post Office. The evil is, the papers get defaced and worn out. If our friends can suggest to us a remedy for this we shall be happy to adopt it if we can.

## LETTERS RECEIVED.

The following is from a letter addressed by Brother William Kinghorn to B. J. Underhill. Brother K. was a member of the Church in the city of Fredericton, where, as well as in other places, he is well known as a devoted christian. He left the Province in July last.—[Ed.]

WALDEN, Mass. May 1853.

Dear Brother, I was glad to hear from you, and was agreeably surprised in receiving the *Intelligencer*. I felt myself enlarged, to see the good and kind spirit of the free people. I am glad to see a beginning in this matter, and I hope the people will sustain it. I for one will be a subscriber, and enclose you for that purpose \$1.00. I wish to receive it regularly, so that I can hear from my brethren, and know how the work of God prospers among them. I have been reflecting on the great advantage this paper will be to our people. The churches are always desirous of knowing where the Lord is working the means he employs in the work, and how many are receiving the seed of Eternal Life. All this can be communicated through this channel, and the people be encouraged to pray for still greater things, until the Lord takes possession of every heart. \* \* \* I think how much good may be done by young christians. They are called to labour for the good of others, both in Sabbath Schools, and in the Church. But how many are saying, What can I do? When God has said, go work to-day in my vineyard; and many in their practice reply, I pray thee have me excused. How much might be done by our young men if they would lay themselves out for it. I could name a whole host of young men, who have let the world feel that they are in it. The Professors Chair of Edinburgh University, was filled by Dugald Stewart at twenty-one years of age. Sir Isaac Newton attained a similar honor at the age of twenty-seven. H. Kirk White died at twenty-one. Pollock gave his "Course of Time" to the world at twenty-six. Tyndal gave his first translation of the Bible, and suffered martyrdom at the age of thirty-five. Luther and Malancton commenced the Reformation when young. The celebrated Thomas Spencer died at twenty-one. But time would fail to tell of all the young men, by whom learning has been acquired—genius displayed—works of faith achieved, and labours of love performed. Blessed be God, who has given such gifts and graces to men, and I would that every mind might be consecrated to his glory, and the advancement of human happiness. I hope God will bless the beginning, and carrying forward of this little *Advocate*.

Brother JOSEPH SMITH writes us from Blissville, May 28th, 1853:

Dear Brother, Having been anxious for sometime to write you a few lines, I embrace a little leisure to renew the acquaintance we formed a few years since, on the road to Wakefield. I had almost despaired of seeing a christian paper in our denomination; but now I think the day is dawning when prejudice must give way, and moral and religious intelligence will be diffused abroad.

The Christian information contained in the *Intelligencer* has given me great satisfaction, and makes it welcome to all; and I thank God that you have taken in hand a work that was so much needed. May the God of all grace prosper your work.

I long to aid you in the good work of sending the gospel to the heathen, and hope to lend my assistance in causing them to throw their idols to the moles and the bats.

Here we are left without any ministerial labour since the death of brother Mesereau, except on funeral occasions, &c.

Elder Samuel Hart laboured here last fall, and the prison doors of many captives were opened, which I saw noticed in your paper. We have commenced a Sabbath School, and have purchased a Library; and our school teacher assist us in carrying it on. It has a prospect, through God's blessing, of doing good.

I hope to see you soon, and I pray God may prosper your work.

## BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

The Committee of the F. B. B. Association met, according to appointment, at the meeting house in Waterloo Street, on the 1st inst. The following Resolutions, which were adopted, you will please publish for the information of some of your readers:—

1. Resolved, That we notice with deep regret the little