

Religious Intelligence.

BIBLE SOCIETY, MISSIONARY, AND SABBATH SCHOOL ADVOCATE.

E. McLEOD, Editor.

That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.—PETER.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, IN ADVANCE

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WHOLE NO. 115

Provincial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Debate on Want of Confidence.—Continued.
The following Speech by Mr. Connell of Carleton Co., we copy from the Woodstock Sentinel.

Mr. Connell rose and said that he had a few remarks to make on Mr. Gray's resolution, as the seconder thereof. The question was an important one, inasmuch as it was designed to effect a change in the government, and, if removed was to be believed, perhaps a dissolution of the House. These intentions had no effect on him. He would endeavour to give a few reasons for the information of the House and those he represented, that the course he intended to pursue might be fairly understood. He would say that it was with deep regret he felt himself compelled to pursue the course which the conduct of the government, in his view of the subject, had forced upon him. He had been elected by an independent constituency. He valued their approval of his course far above the highest position in the gift of the government. His private feelings—and he had them as well as other men—would induce him to vote for the government; but he had a public duty to perform, and that he should endeavour to discharge, regardless of the consequences. If he were influenced by any other consideration in the line of conduct that he intended to pursue, he would frankly say that he would no longer desire a seat in this House; but he was satisfied that the position he had taken would meet the approval of his constituents, and the country generally. The Attorney General had said that he (Mr. Connell) and Mr. Gray would not be satisfied with any government unless they had a part in it themselves. Such insinuations, as far as regards himself, he (Mr. C.) would not tacitly submit to, even coming from the leader of the administration. Matters talked of in private ought not to be referred to publicly—they should not be made the subject of discussion in this House. Those referring to Railroads he did not consider confidential, but other conversations with members of the government, he considered to be strictly private, and should be treated as such. He knew what was right, and would pursue that course, and would defend himself from improper imputations. He would say, however, that so far as he was concerned, it was not the fault of the government that he (Mr. C.) had not a seat in the Executive. He had not seen a day since the government was sworn into office that he would have accepted a seat in the Board, although the government and their friends had endeavoured to get an idea afloat that he (Mr. C.) was a suppliant for place. He wanted neither place nor office. He did say that under certain circumstances he would refuse his aid in carrying on the business of the country. He had endeavoured to pursue an independent course, and such was his determination while he had the honour of a seat in the Legislature. The Government take much credit to themselves in reference to what they intend doing in connection with Railroads. Now he (Mr. C.) believed that whatever may be the result of this debate, with reference to the Government, it would settle one point, and that was that, whatever arrangements were made for the establishment of Railroads a connection with Canada was indispensable; and no Government could stand that did not make that connection an essential feature of the scheme. The Attorney General said that the Resolution before the House was drawn to catch votes. That is a fact. "The River St. John," says the leader of the Government, "is now for the first time thought of—it was a new-born zeal." Perhaps so, then this Resolution will have a good effect on Rail Roads in that direction. If such be the case he (Mr. C.) will be well satisfied. He would ask the Attorney General—Would he as a Representative for the County of York commence operations on a line of Railway from Fredericton to the Canada Line, and from St. John to Shediac; or would he as a Politician commence lines at St. John running East and West? Perhaps the Freeholders of the County of York might be satisfied with such a procedure, but he was confident that the people of Carleton would not. Now he (Mr. C.) wanted no office. He did not come to this House for that purpose. He would just say that his politics was Rail Roads, as he believed that what properly introduced they would lead to the advancement of the Agricultural, Commercial and Manufacturing interests of the country. He wished to see the resources of the Province opened up. Let a plan be laid down such as will show the parties in England from whom we expect to get funds that we are proceeding with prudence; and that the two most prominent points had been selected on which to commence operations—one to commence a connecting line with Canada, and the other with Nova Scotia. The Attorney General's plan is to commence at St. John, and run east and west from that point. But this will not do, and will not be sanctioned by this House. He (Mr. C.) was perfectly willing to give his aid to carry into effect a Rail Road comprising that portion already commenced between St. John and Shediac, connecting with Nova Scotia, and then to commence at Fredericton with a line for Canada, carrying on both simultaneously. This latter route would open up as a separate district for settlement;

it would give us the trade of the eastern part of the State of Maine; and facilitate a large commercial intercourse with Canada. No part of the Province would be more benefited than St. John, once this scheme were fairly in operation. A line of road from the Bend passing Chatham ought to be one of the first objects of the Government to give effect to. He (Mr. C.) had been sent by his constituents to subvert the public interests, and that was the object he had in view. He did not come here to promote his own pecuniary interests; if such had been his desire he would have remained at home. He had no confidence in the Government carrying out such a scheme as that which they would make arrangements with Canada as they ought, and commence operations in that direction from Fredericton simultaneously with operations on the Shediac Road. He had said to the Attorney General that Legislation ought to have preceded negotiation; he thought so still, although he was fully prepared to give them credit for what has been done with respect to arrangements said to have been made by the Honorable Gentleman while in England.

He was satisfied that in reference to the scheme which was expected to be developed by the government, honorable members might say that he (Mr. C.) was local in his feelings. If to connect Nova Scotia, and the great country of Canada he local then he must confess he did not understand the meaning of the term. The leader of the government says that nothing will satisfy him (Mr. C.) but a Railroad to the Carleton Copper and Iron Mines. To this he would reply, that the value and importance of these Mines were sufficient to justify the building of a Railway, even if it went no further.

The Attorney General had asserted that no member can be returned for York and river Counties opposed to the Government. Now the people of York may do as they please. They have three Representatives in this House who can act as they think proper; but he (Mr. C.) will say that if he supported the present Administration in some of their acts, (the appointment of Mr. Waters for one) he thought that he might have as good a chance as some others; but under such circumstances he would not feel disposed to meet them. He knew what course he would pursue if he were seeking to secure an election in the County of York.

The scheme of the Attorney General would precipitate the Province into a heavy debt. He (Mr. C.) was a decided advocate for Rail Roads, yet he was not desirous of commencing more than could be completed.—We want a connection with Canada. This would enable the people of St. Andrews to connect their road with the Line from Fredericton up, and give an immediate connection to the people of Canada with the Sea board at all seasons of the year. He believed that the value of that portion of the Province would soon justify a commencement in that direction. He had no doubt that so soon as the road was completed to Canada, the increased revenue would fully warrant the expenditure. All would agree that too much should not be undertaken at once. Railroads were matters of great interest to the country. The people expected something would be done; and unless something were soon undertaken, honorable members might rest assured that our Province would soon be drained of our youth. He was glad that the Attorney General had attributed to him extravagance in connection with the Bye Road Grants. He was perfectly willing that it should go to the country that it was his fault that the Road Grants last year, for the purpose of opening up new roads to back settlements had been so large. Those Grants had been of the greatest importance to poor people last year, as well as other seasons. They gave them the means of procuring bread for their families. No expenditures could have been more judicious, or had a better tendency, as they made roads and fed the people. He did not agree with the Attorney General that the amount should be reduced. He (Mr. C.) will pursue the same course this year. Its effects would be to open up new settlements; and far better would it be for members of the government to take a small slice off their own salaries than to endeavour to effect a reduction in this expenditure. In 1850, the then government, (of which the Attorney General was a member,) stopped the Bye Road Grants, which was detrimental to the interest of back settlements.

A good deal had been said about the old government. He had helped to turn them out, and under the like circumstances he would do so again. He had ever advocated progressive views. He had used his influence to get established in the County he represented, local self-government through the medium of Municipal Institutions. The people of that County have learned to value and to prize the value of such institutions. It was the acts of the old government, and not the men, that he opposed; and that was the course he intended to pursue on the present occasion. The advent of the present Government to power was hailed as a liberal party government. He told them at the time of their formation that he should judge them by their acts; he has found that they have acted contrary to their professions; they have been weighed in the balance and found wanting; and he could not give his vote to sustain them any longer.

There was a good deal said about certain matters that took place at the formation of the present Government. All that he (Mr. C.)

asked of the Government was that his representations with reference to the County which he represented, should have effect.—They had taken their own course, and he had taken his. Later they seemed to be actuated by a different disposition, so far as words went, but acts were wanting. He would instigate the School Inspector for the County. He did not know, however, what the question of the old Government had to do with the matter now before the House. They had been tried and found wanting as he hoped their successors would be. It was a matter of indifference to him who ruled; all he desired to see was the prosperity of the country.—There is a great difference between acts and words. He would name some of their acts which he knew the country generally did not think in accordance with the liberal professions of the present Government. First, he would ask, had they a right to select a man to fill the high and important office of Auditor General, when they condemned him on a previous occasion? (Mr. Ryan, you do not condemn them for that.) Yes, he did.—They had no right to select a man to fill such an important office with whose principles they had declared themselves to be at variance.—It was contrary to the principle on which they assumed office at the time of their formation. Many of the friends of Messrs. Parnell and Wilmut desired their continuance in office. To this he (Mr. C.) did not object, but when he was told by one of the leaders of the party, (he does not now hold a seat in the Government,) that none of the old leaven must remain, if so he would rather that all should return to office in order to give the principle a fair trial, and he (Mr. C.) did not oppose that position. The result was that the present Government were placed in power on liberal principles. Have they sustained that position in the appointment referred to? No! He was glad that Mr. P. was provided for. He had long been a member of this House; he had like other men, his faults, but his place was missed, although that might be convenient for the present Government.—Honorable members felt his loss, as he was always considered a standing book of reference as regards the past transactions of the House. The elevation of Mr. Rice to the Legislative Council was a violation of the same principle, as he voted against the present administration assuming power. Mr. Kinnear belonged to the old Government and by whom his claims had long been overlooked. It certainly could not expect favour from the hands of his successors. He was a man who stood high in the country; he had got into bad company, however, and he only had himself to blame for it; but he was provided for; and he (Mr. C.) would say that he was not sorry that such was the case, although it was a direct violation of principle.

There were other matters that did not exhibit straightforwardness and independence in the Administration. He would now come to a point, and he desired that he might not be misrepresented nor misunderstood. He referred to the addition made to the Executive Council in the person of the hon. Member from Victoria. Now Mr. Waters was a gentleman with whom his acquaintance was limited. He (Mr. C.) had heard a good report of him, but that was not the point. He hoped the day would never come in this Province when a man would be proscribed for his religious opinions; but he (Mr. C.) considered and it was so understood in the country he represented, that the appointment was forced upon them. If the Government thought that a Roman Catholic should aid in the Councils of the country, why did they not act like men and take one in at the formation. He told the leader of the Administration and two other prominent members, in October, 1854, as he told them now, that the Government had too much catholic influence in it; and what he then said he has since proved to be true. He was for justice and would show to the country at once what was denied; and he had no hesitation in saying that the Government was coerced into the appointment of Mr. Waters. The evidence of it was the course pursued by the Roman Catholic commission of the City of St. John, just previous to the election of Messrs. Goddard and Armstrong. They held a meeting, passed resolutions that no catholic ought to take any part in the election at that time, and acted accordingly; and avowed an intention to take measures for extending the principle. He did not blame the catholics, but he thought the Government showed a degree of weakness that he did not think them capable of allowing themselves to be dictated to. This course had given dissatisfaction throughout the country. He could not support the Administration and defend that appointment, made under such circumstances as it was.—If he should countenance such a procedure he would be told by his constituents that he thought more of retaining his brother-in-law in place and in power, than he did to stamp with disapprobation an act, which was almost universally condemned by the freeholders of the County of Carleton. Many old and tried friends had told him that he was in a straight place, and they now wished to see if his principles would triumph over interest. His duty to his constituents was his first consideration. It was said that the appointment was made in order to preserve the liberal platform intact, as that course was considered necessary, or that an amalgamation with other parties should take place. The Attorney General's speech would seem to indicate a wish for the latter. If the appointments already made by the Government were to be

taken as an index of the future, it appeared to him that there was but one course for this House to pursue, and that was to get the right men for the right place. York and the River Counties had been alluded to in connection with Railroads. The interests of the up river counties had not been any better attended to by the present Government than by the former; the local interests were worse. He desired to give his aid in carrying into effect such a design as will open up the resources of the country. He deemed that justice should be done to all; and that progressive improvement should be the order of the day. He had already remarked that he had no confidence in the present Government's preparing a scheme that would do justice to the material interests of the Province, particularly in the direction of Canada. He hoped they would; if so, they should have his most cordial support to carry it into effect.

Religious Selections.

A Warning to Young Men.

I was leaving my place of worship one Lord's day morning at the close of the public service, when a respectfully dressed man approached, and requested me to pay an immediate visit to one who was believed to be dying, and who wished for some minister to speak with him about his soul, and to pray for him. Such an invitation demanded instant acceptance, and I at once offered to accompany the stranger. On the way I entered into conversation with him, and learned the following particulars of the character and circumstances of the man I was about to visit.

In his younger days he had resided in the north of England, where he had honorably served his apprenticeship, and so far secured the confidence of his employers as to be retained in their service. For some time his conduct was all that could be desired. He was honest, sober and industrious. He continued to advance from one trustful position to another, until he became united in marriage with the daughter of one of the partners of the firm. At that period, the stranger who was now my guide held an inferior situation in the same establishment, and was brought to look upon the individual I was about to visit as one of his masters. Soon after his marriage, the now dying man became the superintendent of an important branch of the business with which he had so long been associated, and all things promised fair for his future comfort and prosperity. Although not under the influence of gospel principles, as to their saving power, he was outwardly moral in his deportment, he continued trustworthy and diligent in his calling. He was happy in his partner and little ones, and respected by all who formed the circle of his acquaintance.

An evil day at length arrived. He formed the companionship of a young man of sceptical principles and dissolute habits. He neglected attendance upon public worship, and became a Sabbath-breaker. He scoffed at the Bible and all professions of Christianity. His religious habits were ruined by infidelity. His diligence and propriety of conduct were ruined by dissipation. He became fond of smoking and drinking, descending from the private circle of gaiety to the tavern, and from the tavern to the pot house, until he became a confirmed drunkard. He lost his situation, and became an outcast from respectable society. He was at length compelled to leave his native town, and with his wretched wife and beggared children, found his way to the metropolis.

The parents and family of his ill-used partner, who, with an affection of which he was undeserving, refused to leave him to his fate, afforded to her and to her children all the relief in their power, and thus saved them from the workhouse or starvation. In addition to money wherewith to procure food, they would gladly have supplied them with other comforts; but furniture and clothing, when they were sent, soon found their way to the pawnbrokers; that the cruel husband and father might indulge his debasing and selfish vices. He became alike indifferent to the remembrance of those who yet sought his welfare, and to the misery he was causing to those who had the strongest claims upon his care and affection. Occasional partial and temporary reformations there were, when his health gave way and sickness confined him to his dwelling. But reclamation appeared at length utterly hopeless. His constitution, once healthy and strong, at last yielded to his guilty indulgences, and in the maturity of his manhood he was brought to the very borders of death and the grave. "He is now," said the stranger, "evidently past recovery, and my employers, one of whom is his former master and father-in-law, have sent me to London to see him die, and then to conduct his poor wife and family back to their native town. It is a very wretched and painful scene," he added, "which you will have to witness, and I fear your visit will be useless to him; but it will be a comfort to my master's daughter if you will pray for him, and entreat for him that God would show him mercy, though at the eleventh hour."

We had now arrived at the dwelling. It was an unfinished house in a neighbourhood then forming, the property having been left in its then present state in consequence of a suit in Chancery. I knew the spot well, but was not aware that any of the houses were at all tenanted. The walls of the passage were

unplastered, and any one passing by would not have known, except by a ragged though clean curtain in one of the lower windows, that the place was inhabited. On entering the apartment, a single glance served to reveal a scene of woe. A miserable bed, a broken table, a few wretched chairs, with the remains of some chimney ornaments, neatly arranged, that told of better days, composed the whole of the furniture. Thanks to the toil-worn and patient wife, all was clean and tidy. But it was the drunkard's home, if home it might be called. The history of years of misery and wretchedness, as the awful results of infidelity and intoxication, seemed written upon the very walls. I could not but weep as my eye rested upon the sad and spectacle that dwelling presented, and had some difficulty to command my feelings for the purpose that had brought me thither.

The manners of the wife were those of a lady, and the appearance and behaviour of the three little children, the eldest not more than about ten years of age, showed that they had been under the influence of the mother rather than that of the father. I was much affected and solemnised with the whole scene. The touching look of the affectionate wife was almost heart-rending, when she despondingly said, "I fear, sir, it is too late. I even question whether he can see you, or hear what you may say to him. I think," and the tears chased each other rapidly down her care-worn cheeks as she spoke,—"I think he is almost gone, but if you can make him understand anything, pray do, sir, for the sake of his poor soul."

I approached the bed-side, and was shocked at the fearful wreck of humanity on which I gazed. All of manhood was gone—it was a bloated carcass. I spoke to the wretched creature. He appeared to have some consciousness of what I was saying, but his own utterances, so far as we could understand them, were exceedingly incoherent. I addressed him faithfully as to his past life, but spoke to him of mercy to be obtained, even at the eleventh hour. He evidently heard me, and made some kind of replies, but his senses were so stupefied, and his articulation so indistinct, that we could not make out what he said with any satisfaction. I remained with him some time, speaking to him the word of the Lord, whilst I turned aside occasionally to say a word of comfort to the injured wife and beggared little ones.

It was a touching scene. The distress of that dejected woman, and the affectionate clings and caresses of those children, with the tears of the sympathising friend who had conducted me to the abode of sorrow, had left indelible impressions upon memory's tablets. We all wept, and amidst the sobs of all around me, we bowed together at the throne of grace. Our petitions were especially for the dying man; and an occasional responsive groan (I can give it no other name) from him, appeared to indicate that he knew what was going forward. I was rising from my knees when he broke forth with the only expression that was clearly understood, "Say the Lord's Prayer." I complied with the request, uttering very slowly the petition, "Forgive us our sins." An inarticulate sound, something like "Amen," followed, and he uttered nothing more. I spoke to him again, but he seemed beyond all human communication. A few more words to the sorrowing group around, and I took my departure.

The dying drunkard expired shortly after I left the dwelling. I had heard his last word. The stranger who had requested my visit called to thank me in his own name, and that of the family, for my kindness. He said, "I have removed the wife and children from the scene of wretchedness, and only wait the intention to conduct them to their native town." We wept together as we parted, whilst I exhorted him to speak frequently of the scenes we had mutually witnessed, as a caution to others to beware of the first seductions of intemperance and fidelity. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

"The Lord's Own Time."

An individual, a few years ago, attended an inquiry-meeting, and was asked whether he felt any anxiety for the salvation of his soul? He replied in the affirmative, and remarked that "he always thought he should be brought into the kingdom." His pastor asked him, "when?" He replied that he did not know, but he supposed that it would be, "in the Lord's own good time." Some ten years after, his former pastor met him and inquired, "Is the Lord's own good time for your conversion come yet?" He replied, "No." This person living without hope and without God in the world, is one of a numerous class, who are waiting for God to come in his sovereignty, and arrest them as he did Saul of Tarsus. They lived on contentedly in their sins, waiting for a miraculous display of divine power. Under the delusion of honoring the sovereign grace of God they live in the neglect of the commands of Christ. The inquirer above mentioned was asked by his pastor, "How long it would be before the Lord's own good time would come?" He replied he could not tell. His pastor told him there need be no mistake on that subject. God now commandeth all men to repent. The present moment is the Lord's own good time. Behold now is the accepted time; and now is the day of salvation. The sinner cannot be justified in delaying a single moment to come to Christ. The Lord's own good time is the present.—*Paritan Recorder*

Correspondence.

New York Correspondence.

WALWORTH, Feb. 13, 1856.

Mr. Editor.—This town is next but one to the lake, (Ontario,) and, of course, subject to feel the influence of the lake in storms. It is very snowy this winter in all this region. A protracted meeting is in progress here, yet, for more than a week, it has been impossible for the people to get together more than three times. The snows are so frequent, and the winds are so strong and constant, the roads are filled with drifts to such a degree, that it is impossible for trains to pass until the roads are opened with the shovel. Two sessions of the meetings were holden on Sabbath, and the next on Monday evening. Yesterday the storm was such, that the meeting adjourned itself till the roads are open. This morning the men are out to open the roads, with the hope that by evening the meeting may be resumed.

This is a good farming district. It is a well-settled district, mostly wealthy farmers. The Church, in the community from which I write, is under the pastoral charge of Rev. D. G. Holmes. The people have greatly prospered under his labours. He has been with them about eight years, beginning in discouraging circumstances, but his pastoral gift is excellent, and success has crowned his labors. The people are well instructed in the word of God; have regular habits; a good Sabbath-school and day-school. Though assiduous in his pastoral labors beyond most men, yet brother H. has for two years acted as the superintendent of, what we call, the common or district schools, in this town.

It may interest your readers for me to state in brief, the plan of our schools.—This town is six miles square. It is divided into districts, as best to accommodate the pupils. In this town, for instance, there are thirteen districts, and five parts of districts. The parts of districts are those portions from which the children go from this town into the neighbouring towns, the school-houses there being more convenient to them.—The school-houses are under the direct care of a District Board of Trustees, consisting of three men, one of whom is elected, annually, by the ballot of the citizens to fill the place of one retiring. Thus, each man elected serves three years on the Board. This Board levies all taxes for building and repairing school-houses, for fuel, apparatus, paying teachers, &c. This Board also employs the teacher, subject to the inspection and approval of the town superintendent. This Board reports annually its proceedings, in writing, to the district, as to the amount of money raised, and how it has been disposed of, and to the superintendent the same, and in addition they report the number of months school has been taught during the year, by a qualified teacher—the number of children residing in the district, the last day of December, between the ages of four and twenty-one—the number who attend, and the number of days each attend—the number of volumes in the library, and what number of volumes have been added during the year—and also any special improvement—such as the purchase in apparatus—improvements in the house, out-houses, play-grounds, &c.

The superintendent's duty is the general oversight of the school—inspecting the teachers—examining the school—consulting with the teachers and trustees, as to text-books, and other interests of the school—making necessary changes as to the boundaries of the districts—apportioning the public funds to the respective districts, according to the number of pupils between four and twenty-one in each—paying teachers—of all which he makes an annual report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In this State are two public school funds, one of which is distributed equally among the districts in town—and the other is distributed according to the number of pupils in each district, as above stated. A portion of this fund is for the benefit of the district libraries. These funds are not from taxation, and are from so many different sources, I need not particularize. These State funds are so considerable, as to sustain the school about six months a year. The average time of a school is about nine months a year. The deficit is made up, so far as the expense of tuition goes, by direct tax on the pupils sent, the Trustees, however, having the power of exonerating any poor from this tax, in making the levy.

A law will, probably, soon pass, constituting the District Board, together with the Town Superintendent, a Board, to decide upon text-books to be used in schools.

Teachers receive from \$18 to \$26, per month, with board. Female teachers from \$8 to \$12, and board. Teachers generally board, as we say, "around" among the patrons of the school.

In these schools are taught, in addition to what are called the common branches, Algebra, the Elements of Natural Philosophy, the principles of our Government, and sometimes Latin and Greek. The Superintendent of this town makes it his plan to call at each school a few days after its term begins, allowing the teacher just time enough to classify his pupils. He then takes a note of each class, where it is in the text-book, and then arranges for a public examination of the classes, near the close of the term. To this all the parents are invited, and especially the members of the District Board. At the examination each