

## The Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., OCT. 30, 1857.

## EDUCATION.

No. I.

The most dismal view of the whole matter is that so many whose bread depends upon their daily earnings have at this time of the year been thrown unexpectedly out of employment. Not less than forty thousand it is said, in this city and Boston, have thus been brought to look starvation in the face. That is, if they take fears for facts. As a matter of fact they will not be able to procure employment in the cities, though they have not the means to take them to the country.

Still I do not expect more will starve to death this year than do in what we call good times. My first reason for this opinion is, that provisions are more abundant than usual, and the second is, that those who are likely to be in want are too numerous to lie down and die of starvation, money or no money.— In such circumstances I rather stand pledged to take care of life than of property. Men will not starve by the thousand when there is bread enough, and to spare, no matter to whom the bread belongs. Common wants make common interests, and want of bread will soon band men together, if need be.

There is an excellent opportunity for people who are particularly averse to economy to take a lesson or two in that important branch of study, and it is possible some people of means will be constrained, for the first time to exercise charity, which, half taxed, without poverty going to any, would leave none to suffer from famine or cold.

In death-bed repentances, and in constrained religion, I have little or no faith. Yet it seems to me that so many cannot be suddenly deprived of their earthly props, without some of them at least being led to seek for riches that fade not. No doubt it may afford some the exercise of infliction who are not wont to enjoy that luxury. Many who have not time to attend prayer meeting, and to observe the Sabbath, may now have a long Sabbath. The land of promise was once permitted to have a Sabbath of seventy years, instead of one seventh. It is remarked by many who have distinct recollections of the commercial revision in 1856, that it proved not unfavourable to the cause of piety, that very great revivals followed, whether any other way related to hard times or not. If times of suffering are at hand, it is certain that by proper economy and self-sacrifice, many Christians can now preach, more by actions than they are wont thus to give out the saving light. This is a view which it is well for preachers and papers to insist upon.

The above thing, true or not, "the times" are almost sure to present stimulus to outward crime among those who are festering with inward corruption. Men must be tried. Honesty will fail in many places where we have been led to expect it was abundant. So be it. It may be that there may be revelations of an opposite kind where it was not expected. It is sometimes good to get a nearer view of things as they will appear before the judgment, so as to be able the better to give each a due position, as did the Quaker when he advised a profane man, "let it out friend, as soon as possible, for these can never enter heaven with such stuff in thy heart."

Our banks are so well secured by public stocks and real estate, and the laws so stringent in behalf of the bill holders, that the bills pass now at par, and in very little, if any less, confidence than when they redeemed their bills at sight.

Yours,

G.

## Authorized Agents.

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All the Ministers belonging to the Free Baptist Convention in New Brunswick are Agents; and we trust they will use their utmost exertions to obtain arrangements, and also to increase our subscription list.	do do

## AGENTS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Rev. Charles Knowles.	" David Oram.
" Charles Orman.	Stephen Whitney, Hills Harbour.
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S. P. Purdy, Hillsburgh.	" S. E. Brewster.
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## A NEW AUTHOR.

ONE THAT NEVER APPEARED IN THE WORLD BEFORE. A book of one hundred and forty-two pages, on good paper, and in clear type, entitled: "Truth Defended. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, against the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. And the Succession contrasted with the opposite. By John C., from the wilderness of New Brunswick." For sale at the "Religious Intelligencer" Book Store, price one shilling and ten pence each.

While on the contrary, if the majority of the people maintain an elevated standard of morals the effect thereof will awe evil doers, and deter them from the commission of crime, more than the existence of all the laws on the statute book.

The increase of crime in any community, is in our opinion, a sad comment on its general morals, and we confess that we are becoming prepared for still further developments of depravity in this community. The neglect of God's sanctuary, the open violation of the Lord's day, the frequenting of saloons and other places of nightly resort, where drunkenness and gambling are carried on, with many other practices which are followed by many in respectable society, and who are shocked at the crimes alluded to in this article, are nevertheless doing much toward reducing us to a state of society similar to that of New York, London, Paris, and Rome. The character of much of the amusement which has been augmented among us latterly, such as the theatre, and others which have been abandoned and commended by a portion of the press, have done much to deteriorate the general morals of the people. Religious truth has a much less hold on the minds of many now, than formerly, and hence high toned morality is much less esteemed.

The result of this state of things is, the development of crime in a class occupying the lower strata of society, the moral tone of those most elevated not being sufficiently strong to restrain their unbridled propensities. Now we believe the first part of the remedy to be applied to these evils, which are on the increase, is a higher degree of morality and uprightness, on the face and in the heart of society. The gospel is the only panacea for human depravity, and whenever it is not recognised there must be the worst developments of fallen humanity.— Let Christian men and every good citizen arise, and by their example and precept, sweep down the fashionable iniquity which exists in the community, and which is doing more to deteriorate the morals, and increase crime, than all the evasions of justice by the guilty, that they can possibly conceive of. Until this is done both property and life must become more and more unsafe.

## FAST DAYS.

Wednesday the 7th inst. was held throughout Great Britain as a day of fast, humiliation, and prayer, on account of the melancholy troubles in India. The day was generally observed, sermons were preached in a great many places of worship, and collections taken up for the Indian Relief Fund. The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon preached in the Crystal Palace to a congregation of nearly 24,000, the collection taken was £275 16s. We believe the Roman Catholics did not comply with the royal proclamation.

This day (Friday) is appointed by the Governor of Nova Scotia for the same purpose. The "Presbyterian Witness" makes the following judicious remarks on the duty of the day appointed—

"We have much to pray for on Friday next. We have to confess our own sins as a Province, and the sins of our nation—our misuse of privilege—our pride—our overweening confidence in an arm of flesh, our forgetfulness of Him who is the Governor among the nations, and who has honoured us above all other people. Let us pray that when God's judgments are in the earth the inhabitants of the world may learn righteousness, and especially that our own Empire may learn to wipe her hands clean of all compact with idolatry and degrading superstition: that our governors may learn to act like Christian men—the representatives of a Christian country.— Let us pray that wide and effective doors may be opened by this communion, for the entrance of the gospel heralds, that bloody Mohammedanism and degrading Hinduism may be blotted from off the face of the earth—that this war may come to a speedy and triumphant end, and that it may be succeeded by a lasting and happy peace. Let us pray for those who are still in imminent peril, those who are to fall in battle, those who are bereaved.

We conceive then that education must begin with the people—we mean, with those whose duty it will be to carry out the plan matured and adopted by the Government and legislature.— Good laws are an important matter, but good laws unsupported by a correct public opinion, will not accomplish the end designed. The majority of the people needs to be brought fully to realize the advantages of good common schools, and of education generally, of providing the former for the children of the poorest, and of making the latter attainable to all. The education of the child of each, should be regarded as a part of the wealth of all; the mode of sustaining the system of public instruction should include direct taxation; and the education imparted should not be intellectual but moral, founded on the BIBLE—the Book of Protestants, and the GREAT MAGNA CHARTER OF HUMAN FREEDOM.

## The Increase of Crime.

Crime seems to be on the increase in this community. Not only as it regards the number of cases, but also in the flagrancy of the acts perpetrated. The usual cases of drunkenness, lewdness, and other offences of lesser note, have recently had added to them those of a more startling character, such as burglaries, ruses, rapes, and incendiarisms, while the recent cold-blooded murder of a whole family, for no other object, probably, than the gold they possessed, has startled the community beyond anything before enacted. With all the tendency that was before apparent toward a deterioration of morals, no one, we presume, was prepared for such a development of human depravity, as this. We allude to the Misery tragedy, the particulars of which, as far as they have been discovered, may be seen in another column.

There is evidently a tendency in a portion of the community toward a state in which both property and life are unsafe, and it should be a matter of serious enquiry with every good citizen, what restraint can be used to prevent a still further development of crime, as well as what remedy can be applied to the evil that already exists. We have neither time nor space to express our views fully on this subject at present, but we will briefly state that we do not believe that the very best laws can be a sufficient restraint, or their most judicious enforcement a sufficient remedy for the evils existing. Good laws well executed, are a choice blessing in every country, without which also anarchy and confusion will prevail, and the best regulated community deteriorate in morals and order. But these alone can never prevent evil. We believe the suppression of vice and the prevention of crime in a community depends more on the high moral tone of the people generally than on mere law. No matter how good the laws, if the majority of the people is low, crime will increase, and there will be developments of the worst forms of human depravity.—

While on the contrary, if the majority of the people maintain an elevated standard of morals the effect thereof will awe evil doers, and deter them from the commission of crime, more than the existence of all the laws on the statute book.

The increase of crime in any community, is in our opinion, a sad comment on its general morals, and we confess that we are becoming prepared for still further developments of depravity in this community. The neglect of God's sanctuary, the open violation of the Lord's day, the frequenting of saloons and other places of nightly resort, where drunkenness and gambling are carried on, with many other practices which are followed by many in respectable society, and who are shocked at the crimes alluded to in this article, are nevertheless doing much toward reducing us to a state of society similar to that of New York, London, Paris, and Rome. The character of much of the amusement which has been augmented among us latterly, such as the theatre, and others which have been abandoned and commended by a portion of the press, have done much to deteriorate the general morals of the people. Religious truth has a much less hold on the minds of many now, than formerly, and hence high toned morality is much less esteemed.

come unto Christ, and forbid them not." At this stage of the meeting the name of a young female bordering on womanhood was called, who presented herself on the platform, and recited a piece of poetry, then followed another, then two quite small girls in quick succession with poetry also, then a small girl with a chapter, then two larger girls with poetry; then came a fair haired, rosy cheeked boy with a chapter, reminding the spectators of the words of Holy Writ, "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou perfected praise." At this stage of the meeting, the Superintendent changed the position of his army, and brought the fire of larger guns upon the defenceless heads of Christians and church members, that could not feel an interest in the Sabbath school. A hymn was sung by the teachers and scholars, each singing their verse, when brethren Underhill, Beacon, and Smith addressed the meeting, and if those who have no interest in the Sunday school did not feel the force of the remarks made, it need not be supposed they can feel. They must be past feeling. These addresses over, there came up a girl with a hymn, then a larger girl with a hymn, then another with poetry, then a small girl with a psalm, and another with poetry, when the clock struck eight, and the Superintendent unable longer to restrain himself, poured forth from an overflowing soul his gratitude to God, and his thanks to the scholars who had so boldly, and yet so modestly, come forward and so well acquitted themselves. He declared his interest in the Sabbath school, and that he would not be depraved labouring in it for any consideration.— A collection was taken up in aid of the school, then singing and prayer, and the assembly dismissed—I think both pleased and profited.

For the "Intelligencer."

Brampton, C. W., Oct. 15, 1857.

Mr. Editor.—Having leisure to-day, I attended a synagogue of the Jews, and since returning it has occurred to me that a brief account of their ceremonies may not be uninteresting to your readers. The Jews are quite numerous in the city and have many synagogues, and a description of one may serve for all. The synagogue on Wooster-street, near Prince, is a small, but handsome stone building, and in the interior much resembles the houses of worship used by Christians. The seats, however, are at the sides of the room, and face toward the centre. In the middle of the open space between the seats is an elevated platform surrounded by a balustrade, which serves as a pulpit for the speaker, and for reading their ritual. The males occupy the galleries, and the males the lower portion of the house. The men retain their hats during the services, and also wear across their shoulders, with the ends hanging down at their sides, a scarf of white, bordered with several stripes of blue, and the edge ornamented with a fringe. This is worn to fulfil the injunction in Numbers, xv, 38. Their appearance suggests a meeting of some secret society with regalia.— When I have attended their worship before, the services have been entirely in the Hebrew language; on this occasion, however, there was, about midway of the exercises, a discourse in English, which occupied about twenty minutes, all the remainder being in Hebrew. I regret to say that my knowledge of that language is so limited that was not much edified.

Their services consist in reading and chanting portions of the Old Testament Scriptures and various prayers. Nearly all their exercises are musical, and even the reading is performed in the Oriental sing-song style, which may, perhaps, be considered a species of chant. The music is entirely vocal, and the instruments which performed so important a part in the service at the ancient temple, find no place in the modern synagogue. The style of the music is peculiar, differing so widely from anything with which I might attempt to compare it, that a description would be impossible without the use of musical signs. It is, nevertheless, pleasing and well adapted to give expression to the sentiment of the words. It is of very high antiquity. The Hebrew system of musical notation, as seen in our common Hebrew Bibles, is far less perfect than our own, still it forms a guide so far as to prevent any radical change in the music; and as it has been in use unchanged from time immemorial, and for ought we know may have been applied to the words at the time they were first written, it is probable that the hymns sung by our Lord and his apostles on the night in which he was betrayed, by Paul and Silas in the prison at Philippi, and by the Christians of that age in their meetings for social worship, are still sung to the same tunes in the Jewish synagogues: it may be that the same notes to which David tuned his harp to wile away the lonely hours in which he, a lad, was tending his father's sheep, or which, from their musical sweetness, he employed to relieve Saul from the lashings of his conscience and the presence of the evil spirit, or which gave vent to his varied emotions while he pursued "as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains," or which burst from his lips when he afterward royalty led the multitudes of Israel in praising Jehovah with those psalms which forever entitle him to the name of the "Sweet singer of Israel"—it may be that those same notes are still echoed across thirty centuries by the degenerate descendants of that distinguished king and people. The dox is occupied by a leader of the exercises, and several assistants, or "ministers," as they are called in Luke, iv, 20. The leader chants a few words or sentences, when the congregation respond. They frequently change their position from sitting to standing, and the reverse, but never kneel. The language used, though generally unintelligible to the Gentiles, is not so to themselves—a circumstance which would seem to make their ceremonies far more compatible with true spiritual worship than those of the Roman church, in which the language used is unintelligible to the mass of worshippers. The reason of the general knowledge of the Hebrew language among the Jews is said to be their belief that it is the language used in heaven. They say that this was the universal language among men until the confusion of tongues at Babel, and consequently all the righteous who had departed from earth before that time could have acquainted with no other language, and if any one ignorant of that language has since joined their blasphemous ranks, he must of necessity learn it before he could converse with them. It is therefore considered a most imperative duty of every Israelite to teach his children the sacred tongue, that they may be able, on reaching the bower of Abraham, to receive the welcome of that patriarch, and to converse with their celestial companions. As must always be the case where nations are separated from one another, so must the language of expression be used.

Now, my dear brother, I have written this for your readers with the single object of stirring up the numerous friends of Sabbath Schools in New Brunswick to the duty of "going and doing likewise." What hinders the calling of a similar convention at St. John, or Fredericton, or any other convenient place of meeting? Is it not true that "union is strength?" Does not inspiration teach us that, "where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety;" and that, "as iron sharpeth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend?" Is there not as much need of mutual counsel and of other aid in the matter of Sabbath School instruction, as there is in secular education or politics? is not Sabbath School instruction—or rather should it not be at the basis of all social improvement? As the navigation of the St. John river will now be soon closed; and as on account of the inconvenience of winter travelling, a general convention could not so easily be gathered in your Province at that season, I hope the interval will not erase this important subject from the memories of your readers, and that the warm season of 1858 will, D. V., witness a glorious Sabbath School New Brunswick Convention.

I would just add, that greater interest is given to those conventions by public addresses delivered on the evenings of the days on which the business meetings are held. These evening exercises are exceedingly interesting and instructive, and have been so far very largely attended. That God's "Kingdom may come," is the prayer of EREN.

A Visit to a Jewish Synagogue.

NEW YORK, Oct. 10th, 1857.

Mr. Editor.—Having leisure to-day, I attended a synagogue of the Jews, and since returning it has occurred to me that a brief account of their ceremonies may not be uninteresting to your readers. The Jews are quite numerous in the city and