

Here I close, dear brother, by bidding you an affectionate farewell.

Your unworthy brother,

THOS. B. VARDON.

American and Foreign Bible Rooms,
New York, June 10, 1848.

DEAR BROTHER,—Your favor of May 31st, was received on the 5th inst. The books which you order, (including the quotas for life-members) are packed, and we only detain the box for the new Report, which is expected on Monday.

We feel truly grateful, my dear brother, for the interest which you and other friends in New Brunswick manifest in the prosperity of the Society, and especially for the spirit of christian courtesy and kindness in which you have received our agent, Bro. Farquharson. We hope that you will find it compatible with your other arrangements, to permit him to labor in the Province on our behalf. While at all times we feel the necessity of making every possible exertion for scriptural distribution, the present period of our history presses peculiar claims upon our liberality, and inculcates, with striking force, a far-sighted and generous policy. The aid, however scanty, (two appropriations amounting to \$25.00) which we have been able to furnish to the English missionaries in India, since our last Report was issued, has probably prevented them from adopting the sad and perilous policy of curtailing their scripture operations; and the more liberal assistance which we hope, by your energetic co-operation, to afford them, will enable them to continue labors already attended with such wide spread and beneficent results.

Bro. Oncken is in real straits for want of remittances. Last week we were obliged to honor two of his drafts drawn without authority, because he needed the money. This is not a time to stay his hands. Every aspect of the political and social system in Germany beams with indications of awakened mind—every circumstance existing and every event transpiring, thunders forth a fresh appeal for the wisdom that cometh from above, the word of God that is to make wise unto salvation. Bro. Oncken importunes—but our treasury is empty! We are in debt to our treasurer. We had just paid him and were preparing to gather means for remittances when the drafts of Oncken arrived.

We have other cases which require attention but these are the most pressing at the present time.

In respect to quotas for life-members, permit me to remark that our rule requires the written order of those who are to receive them. We waived the rule in your case, because we would not detain the books, but for next year, if you will please to have an order written at the head of a page, empowering you to draw and request each brother, when you see him, to sign it, and transmit the same to us, you will enable us to comply with a rule which some other cases have obliged us to observe.

Yours, affectionately,

WM. H. WYCKOFF,

Corresponding Sec'y.

Rev. E. D. Vary, St. John, N. B.

For the Christian Visitor.

EXAMINATION OF THE BETHEL SABBATH SCHOOL.

The examination of the above Sabbath School took place on Wednesday the 9th inst., at 4 o'clock, P. M.

The children having assembled, the Vice-Superintendent examined the New Testament classes in the four first chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel; and the Bible classes on the life of David and Solomon. The manner in which the pupils answered the questions proposed reflected much credit upon themselves as also upon their teachers.

After the examination the children were entertained in a sumptuous manner by their teachers. During this stage of the meeting every eye both of the children and spectators seemed to sparkle with delight. After the children had declared their entire satisfaction with the entertainment, the Vice-Superintendent gave a brief report of the rise and progress of the Sabbath School in that place. Having stated some of the discouragements as well as encouragements connected with the rise of this school, he proceeded to remark, "that the average attendance of scholars was from eighty to ninety; the number of teachers twelve; number of books in the Library two hundred and forty volumes, twenty

four Bibles and Testaments; and also, during the last six months, three thousand religious and temperance tracts had been distributed among the children and others." He closed by remarking that "although the school had been in operation but six months, it now presented a very encouraging appearance, and, doubtless, through the blessing of God, and the united efforts of the teachers, much good would be accomplished."

Elder S. Robinson delivered an appropriate address on the beneficial effects of Sabbath School instruction.

Mr. G. A. Garrison, superintendent of the Baptist Sabbath School in Germain Street, gave an interesting account of the origin and progress of the Sabbath School enterprise. After prayer and singing the meeting was dismissed.

It is truly pleasing to see the Bethel flag floating in the breeze in that part of the city which has been pre-eminent as the seat of Satan, and pleasing to relate that many of those who formerly spent their time in sin and debauchery are now attentive hearers of the word of God.—The congregation, at first rather small, has greatly increased, so that the House is now generally pretty well filled. In connection with the Bethel, there is also a Total Abstinence Society, which numbers 150 members, several of whom appear truly thankful to God that they were led by the instrumentality of this society, to forsake their long formed habits of inebriation. There is no doubt if these three institutions, viz: preaching the Gospel, Sabbath School teaching and the Total Abstinence reform, are properly sustained, the results will be most happy.

God will doubtless behold this work and labor of love with complacency, and make it the means of bringing many sons and daughters unto glory.

THOMAS TODD.

For the Christian Visitor.

COLPORTEUR CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 3.

DEAR BROTHER VARY,—You will no doubt be surprised to receive a communication from me from this place. I am on my way home, owing to the state of my health. When leaving Pennfield to go to Bocabec, the day was very rainy, and unable to hold my umbrella in the heavy wind, I got my clothes wet, and contracted a cold, which became heightened by my getting wet again on the Sabbath while attending the meetings there—since that, through my visits in St. George, Mascareen, Letete, and on again to Bocabec, I have not enjoyed my health as firmly as heretofore, and when getting pretty smart, was attacked by the mumps. On Sunday 4th June, my jaw became sore, and some fever attended me, but on Thursday following I got about again, and proceeded from Chamecock to Elder Thompson's, where, on Friday evening I became sensible of another attack in the other jaw, but thank God on the following Tuesday I was able again to proceed on my visits and find the following items to report that came not in my last number. Visited in Bocabec 17 families; conversed with a number on religion, some of whom were not professors; attended Sabbath School and two meetings for exhortation, in which I felt the liberty of the gospel; sold 24 volumes, and received cash £1 10 8. Their Sabbath School is becoming very interesting, and the meetings possess an energy that bespeaks the care of the people. Sold in Chamecock 19 vols., received cash £1 4 10. At the Bay side I visited 28 families, sold 27 volumes, received cash £4 3s.; endeavored to pray with 4 families, and proceeded onward through Greenwich to the rolling dam on Wednesday, 14th June; visited 15 families, and sold 15 vols., received cash 9s. 5d. in Greenwich, and on Thursday drove from the rolling dam to Mr. Cockburn's, in the Harvey Settlement, calling on a number of families by the way, but making no sales after leaving the rolling dam, where I sold books to amount of 9s. 9d., much fatigued by my drive, having travelled 32½ miles, and called at the houses as usual. Friday 16th, Drove from Mr. Cockburn's to Fredericton, and sold by the way 8 vols., received cash a distance of 26 miles, £0 19 4.

I shall now proceed homeward, and attend to the unsettled business thereabouts that is pertaining to this work, until my health, which is improving, is re-established. You will please make me up a package of publications, and should you wish me to take any distant route, I shall be prepared so to do.

While I remain, dear Brother,

Yours obediently,

JAMES V. TAYLOR.

P. S.—Enclosed I send £7.

Fredericton, 16th June, 1843.

For the Christian Visitor.

THE LORD'S DAY.

One would think it quite superfluous to vindicate the claims which God our Creator and Preserver, and Jesus our Lord and Redeemer have upon the public worship of those who profess to be the children of the Father through faith in his beloved Son, did we not know that statements have been made upon this subject, which some who would fain be thought Christians have, with apparent delight, made use of to justify their total or partial neglect of the public service of God. What is the conclusion drawn from the reasonings upon the Sabbath, which have occupied the minds of some and perhaps troubled the consciences of others? for if the conclusion fairly drawn from the argument be a false one, if it be such as no spiritually enlightened mind can for one moment admit, if it would strike at the very root of all religion, then either the process of reasoning is fallacious, or the premises are incorrect, or something essential to the argument has been entirely overlooked. It is not our intention to point out where the flaw exists, but to examine the conclusion which is certainly drawn by the unthinking many, however it may be repudiated by the thoughtful few.

What is this conclusion? That christians are at liberty to do their worldly business on any part of the Lord's day, and therefore all day long if they please; and as a necessary corollary, that they are at liberty to neglect the public worship of God all day if they please, for it is obvious that no man can be in two places at the same time, in the assembly for worship and the resort of business; if therefore he have liberty to frequent the one, he must have equal liberty to neglect the other. This is a fair statement of the conclusion which is deduced; a conclusion which the practice of some fully confirms. Let the christian mind dwell upon this topic for a few moments, that the full enormity of it may appear. The human being, whom the Creator hath made and fashioned, under no obligation to render public homage to his Maker! The dependent creature, who lives and moves in God, at perfect liberty to cast off all open reverence for his Almighty Preserver! The guilty rebel, free from all the bands of fear towards his dread Sovereign! The pardoned sinner under no moral law to offer public praise repeatedly to his merciful Lord! The ransomed soul, redeemed from hell by the most precious death of Christ, fully entitled, if he please, to neglect every public act of grateful adoration! The uninformed, spiritually ignorant christian, in no way obliged to avail himself of any of the means of religious instruction which the worship of God on the Lord's day supplies! The believer whose heart is easily enticed to folly, who is beset by snares and worldliness during six days of the week, by no means bound to escape from the din of worldly things and commune with God one day in seven! These incongruities might be indefinitely multiplied; but enough has been said to show that the conclusion is in every way repugnant to Scripture and reason. The hypocrite may rejoice in this cloak for impiety, the unwary professor may be beguiled into the assumption of it, but the sincere christian will fling it away with abhorrence.

No process of reasoning can establish such a monstrous proposition as the one now under consideration; no ingenuity can nullify the Apostle's exhortation: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is." No difference of circumstances can rob God of his perpetual claim to the public worship of his servants. No dissimilarity between the Jewish and Christian dispensations can leave men at liberty to withhold or render public adoration to Jehovah at their own option. The servant of Christ, though called to liberty, can never rightly plead that liberty for opening wide the flood-gates of licentiousness. The believer is free from the law as a means of justification, but as a rule of life he is under the law to Christ, and as much under the law of stated public worship in this respect, as he is under the law which forbids idolatry, swearing, murder and the like.

The man who is filled with sincere love to Christ, would if possible, regard every day as a Sabbath, and hail every opportunity of shaking from him the dust of earth that he may soar above and wait upon his God, the bands which tie him to the throne of God are too honourable and precious in his sight, that he should seek to

cut them asunder only to be bound more closely by the rough cords of an unhallowed worldliness. The yoke of Jesus is too light and pleasant for him to exchange it for the heavy burden from which he has been delivered. He hastily joins in the exclamation of the Apostle: "How shall we who are dead to sin (the sin of neglecting the worship of God, among other sins,) live any longer therein?" S.

DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

HERALD OFFICE.

Norfolk, June 16—12 A. M.

Our city has been visited with a severe calamity by fire, the most destructive that has occurred within it since the memorable fire of 1804. The loss of property is immense—probably exceeding two hundred thousand dollars in amount. The fire broke out in the lumber yard of Messrs Ferguson & Milhoad, at 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, according to the report of the watchmen who gave the alarm. This lumber yard adjoins that of John Tunis, Esq. and the fire originated near the dividing line about midway, and was doubtless, the act of an incendiary. The flames spread over both nearly at the same time. Besides the usual combustible materials of a lumber yard, they contained also a quantity of naval stores contiguous to the spot where the fire originated, which being soon ignited, the flames spread with a rapidity which defied all attempts to arrest their progress, and the two spacious warehouses lately erected by these enterprising citizens on their respective wharves, were destroyed, together with nearly their entire contents of West India and country produce. The flames then spread to Water street, and swept the large brick warehouse of Mr. Gamage, at the corner of Fayette street and the entire row of buildings, eight in number, from thence Westward to Woodside's lane, and all on that lane (twelve in number,) to the river, including the warehouse occupied by Mr. M. Ferrall. Crossing Water street, the fire communicated to the range of wooden buildings opposite to the lumber yards, and as it extended Westward, at the same time ran up Tusker's row, on which were seven small wood tenements, and there being a space of only eight or ten feet between them and the Bethel Church, that sacred edifice also fell a prey to the unsparing element.

Sixty tenements in all were destroyed, besides kitchens and outhouses, and a very large amount of property. The value of the buildings according to the Assessor's roll, is upwards of \$90,000 that of the other property destroyed by the fire is probably much greater.

The insurance on the buildings will not fall short of their assessed value; and we are sorry to state that the good old Mutual participates in it to the amount of \$60,000; the remainder being shouldered by the Northern offices having agencies in this city. Of the other property the insurance will cover but a small proportion of the loss, which falls entirely on the Northern offices.

Correspondent of the Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, June 15.

A very hot day convinces us that Congress cannot, in any composure nor with much efficiency, continue the session during the summer, as is now proposed, and as is, in fact, inevitable. The amount of business to be done is very great and diversified. I suppose the Oregon Bill will be resumed in the Senate, on Monday. The debate is to be as able and interesting as the question to be decided is important. It may be practicable to adopt such a scheme of compromise, in regard to the admission of slavery, as will settle the question not only as Oregon, but as to the territories to be acquired from Mexico. It would be very advantageous to the country, if the question could be settled before the Presidential election. Settled now, it would be forgotten before the Presidential election. It would relieve both parties from much future embarrassment; and enable Congress, hereafter, to legislate without reference to political abolitionism.

But the difficulty to conciliate the ultra men of the North and South in favor of any reasonable and moderate mode of settling the question. "Leaving the whole question to the people of the Territories," says General Cass, and to say a majority of the Democrats: both of the South and the North; but, on the other hand, the total exclusion of slavery is demanded by some; while Mr. Calhoun and others demand for the South an equal right with citizens of the free State, to enter into the territories with their property.

The House have passed a Joint Resolution to meet the exigencies of the service growing out of the laws for disbanding all the temporary troops or the termination of the war. The House passed it yesterday without a word of debate. It simply continues the troops in the service and under pay, till they are brought home and disbanded.

When the measure came to the Senate to-day, Mr. Benton moved to amend it by giving the officers three months extra pay, upon their discharge.

A motion was then made to include the men as well as the officers. In support of that measure, Mr. Webster made a very feeling and eloquent appeal. The subject lies over, but the amendment will pass. The amendment will apply to the representatives of the dead as well as the living. Those who have survived the conflicts with the enemy, and with the more destructive climate, many of them are in impaired health, and nearly all of them, both officers and men, need the bounty which is thus proposed to be given them.