

think it is not too much to say, that a confirmed novel reader, will never become a truly great and influential man. It is astonishing how forcibly this kind of reading, draws the mind to the bar-rooms, theatres, and other bad places, for excitement, with which to feed a viciated taste, and I firmly believe, the morals of any inveterate novel reader are in imminent danger!

'This practice also impairs the health, and induces the worst forms of disease, among which is insanity. If any doubt this let them visit any insane hospital, in the country, and their doubts must vanish. In a word the practice is both dangerous and sinful, and should, of course be shunned by every one.'

The experience of one individual in this matter confirms the fact of evils resulting from these pernicious works. How little are these evils seen and felt! How few parents even christian parents—who are faithful to preserve the minds of their children from these corrupting influences! How often are novels found upon the centre tables, of those from whom we should expect better things! How often too do children, from their eagerness to read such works and from the want of care in their parents, drink of these polluting streams, until their minds are polluted, and their character permanently injured.

But I have some more thrilling facts to communicate, which, because of the length of this article I prefer to reserve to another time.

Christian Watchman.

D. S.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, MARCH 8, 1848.

We regret to hear, again that Mail carriers fail to do what the Deputy Post Master General assured us should be done, when boxes were put up conveniently to the Post Road.—We feel fully assured that it is the desire of the D. P. M. G. to have these instructions carried out. We pay the postage invariably in advance and conform to his conditions, and we recommend our Agents, where the carriers neglect their duty, to report all the particulars of the same, and the name of the carrier in a letter properly attested to the D. P. M. General. The package for Butternut Ridge, to be left in the box at Price's Store, we are informed, is sometimes taken 14 miles beyond, and sometimes thrown into the road and lost. We know such things would not be countenanced. In reply to Br. Blakeny, we observe again that when the number of 8 copies is secured for any place, all above that number, whether it is 1 or 100, going into the same bundle, when the subscription is for one year is 8s 9d per copy, for half year, 5s.

PUBLISHERS.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Through a large part of the Province the Sabbath School is suspended during the winter months, to be re-opened in the spring.

It is now time that our brethren, where this is the case, should be upon the alert, securing the services of teachers, and calling the early attention of parents, that every impediment may be removed, so that when the school commences it may have a favorable beginning; for with this as with other good works, much, very much, often depends upon a favourable commencement. We desire in kindness to offer a few suggestions.

There is no direction in which the church can now look with so much hope as towards the Sabbath School. Here the good seed of the kingdom, which is the word of God, is sown; from hence we may reasonably expect a harvest for God. Those who have ever felt the power and known the privileges of the religion of Jesus Christ, will be solicitous to promote it, and will rejoice in this wonderful agency so efficient and so simple, giving exercise to whatever amount of talent or acquirement they may possess, and the fullest assurance to their reason or their faith, that if they abound in the work of the Lord their labor shall not be in vain.

The Sabbath school, being under God one of the chief dependencies of the church, capable of being made its most efficient instrumentality, not only for teaching children, but, through them, of securing the regard and confidence of parents, should be, we consider, under the direction and oversight of the church as much as is the pulpit. Its superintendent should be the man of their choice; its teachers should possess their confidence; it should be conducted so much in accordance with their wishes that it would have their strongest sympathies, and prayers.

A person possessing the necessary qualifications for a superintendent will never object to this. The superintendent, above all, should have a most careful regard to the interests of religion and the good of souls, which every one knows can never be secured by means which introduce strife and debate amongst Christians; and rather than retain a place

or secure one contrary to the known wishes of a Church, will gladly make way for one commanding advantages for the service which he does not possess. Where Churches therefore are without a superintendent of their choice, we would recommend action as soon as possible; appoint the man, and pledge to him your countenance and assistance, that he may have confidence to enter upon the work.

Appoint, if need be, a Committee to assist him in securing a suitable number of teachers, and to visit from house to house in looking up scholars. Many of those who most need the advantages of the Sabbath School, and would make its best scholars, can be had only by being sought out. The teacher who looks up his own class, instead of taking one made up to his hand, will be most likely to be interested in his class, and secure their attachment to himself; especially will this be the case, if he occasionally calls upon them at their homes, to entertain and encourage them.

On account of the indolence of many professors, and their indifference to the welfare of souls, it is not always convenient or possible to secure the services of a sufficient number who are professedly Christians; in such circumstances, we think the services of those who are of good moral principle, and who would be pleased with the service, ought not to be dispensed with; they often make the most efficient teachers, and the services of such have very frequently been sanctified of God to themselves, and made the means of their conversion. We have often heard objections to this, but it has most generally been from those who, professing to be disciples and servants of Christ, could not be induced to attend either as scholars or teachers.

True, if we had a sufficient number, who with other qualifications, possessed that of personal piety, and in teaching could communicate what they had heard and seen and handled of the word of life, (of which they had felt the power,) we should have the most valid reason for restricting the service to such; but in forwarding so noble a work, we would never give place for a moment to those who having the keys of the kingdom, will neither enter in themselves, nor allow those entering to go in.

Early attention should be given to the Sabbath School library. This is one of the greatest attractions to many families, and also to most of the scholars, and by very little exertion every school might now be put in possession of a good library. The Colporteur Committee can now furnish all that is necessary, both for teachers and scholars, at a surprising low rate. Maps of different sizes and prices from 5s. to 13s. 9d.; hymn books of 500 to 600 hymns, (answering every purpose to country parishes for sab-worship or social worship) well bound, for 6d.; Question books, upon the Old and New Testament, and for different ages and classes from infant classes to advanced Bible classes, from 3d. to 6d. each.

A library for smaller scholars, of 50 volumes, strongly bound, 30 pages each, for 12s. 6d.; Two different libraries of 100 volumes each, the least of 72 pages, and thus on to 250 pages, strongly bound, named and numbered on the back, for £2 10s.—There are few if any places in the Province, where, if some good zealous brother or sister should take the matter in hand, one or both of these libraries could not be secured, and one of each of these libraries make a very complete outfit for as large a school as can generally be collected in the country. Suffer, then, friends of religion and friends of children, the word of exhortation; "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest; behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest." The sooner this work is taken in hand, and the more vigorously it is prosecuted, the better. Why may we not have in every village, and in connection with every church, a flourishing Sabbath School, calling into exercise talents which have long been hidden as in a napkin, but for which an account must soon be rendered. What christian can look forward without feeling the force of constraining obligation, either as he contemplates the necessities of the church of Christ, or the perils which beset the path of the rising generation, to be doing what he can to train up those who shall sustain the cause of religion, when the present members of our churches shall have ceased from their labours, and to direct those minds and hearts whilst they are susceptible of the deepest impression, which shall soon be subject to all the temptations of a deceitful world, and a subtle adversary. What an amount of comfort to multitudes; and what profit to families and to churches, if our older christians would resolve to make the most of what little time remains to them, in improving and extending the privileges of the Sabbath School; and if young christians who have been called to special efforts, as the Apostle says, because they are strong, and because the word of God abideth in them, would enter this field, as one

in which they may do much to honour Christ, and save souls from death—one in which they will feel daily incentives to watchfulness, prayer, and a careful study of the word of God, and become in this way rooted and grounded in the faith. Christians, arise and be doing.

It is exceedingly interesting to see the authorities of Heathen China to whose teeming millions a door for missionary labor has been thrown open, so ready to defend and protect Christian Missionaries. Rev. Mr. Lowrie was a Presbyterian Missionary; Rev. Mr. Roberts is a Baptist Missionary.

(From the China Mail of Nov. 28.)

MURDERERS OF THE REV. MR. LOWRIE.—We are glad to learn that the Che-keang authorities have at length succeeded in tracing out the murderers of the late Mr. Lowrie, the American missionary, who it will be remembered, about three months ago met his fate at the hands of pirates on the bay of Hang-chau, near the city of Chapeo, as narrated in No. 130 of the China Mail.—Beyond the assurance of the fact, we have not ascertained any particulars of their apprehension; but it has not been without continued exertions on the part of Mandarins, who are said from the first to have manifested much anxiety about the matter, and looked upon it as "of great importance that the murderers should be identified and punished."

MR. ROBERTS, THE MISSIONARY.—Le, acting district magistrate of Pwan-yu, publishes this district proclamation:

"Whereas an American named Roberts, having erected and established a Christian or Sabbath-day meeting-house in Tung-shih-keo street (near the execution ground) for the purpose of explaining the Scriptures and reforming the wicked, it appears that some time ago a number of the rabble endeavored by force to obtain money from him; but their demand not being complied with, they immediately made a great disturbance, smashing all the doors, windows, chairs and tables, and carrying off all his clothes and effects. I the magistrate having already inquired into the matter, having apprehended Le-shang and eleven others, who will be severally prosecuted, as is on record. Now I have examined this Roberts, and find he is still, as formerly, residing in the said hall or Christian meeting-house; and as I really apprehend that lawless vagabonds will assemble under pretence of hearing the Scriptures read, and excite a disturbance, it is proper to issue this prohibitory declaration. I publish this that the men of all nations may know that this Roberts (Lo-shanoutsewen), who resides in the Christian meeting house, explains the Scriptures and exhorts to good actions. You who desire to hear the Scriptures explained may go there quietly for that purpose, but those who do not wish to hear, must not, in parties of three or five, under false pretences, go and create disturbance. If any, therefore, dare to oppose, so soon as the matter is investigated, such persons will certainly be apprehended, and severe punishment will follow. Not the slightest mercy will be shown; let each, therefore, implicitly obey. Do not oppose a special edict. Taukwang, 27th day, 9th moon, 30th day, 7th November, 1847.

[Mr. Roberts has been twice exposed to the indignation of the mob, as mentioned in this journal, Nos. 121 and 133.]

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—From the last accounts received at the Mission Rooms from these islands, it appears that the natives are engaging, with increased energy, in building school-houses and meeting-houses, and raising funds for the support of teachers—both religious and school teachers—and actually contributing money to aid in sending the blessings of christianity to more destitute parts of the world. On the island of Molokai the native Christians, during the past year, have raised between eight and nine hundred dollars for these benevolent purposes, besides erecting three new meeting houses on their island. At Waimea, island of Hawaii, Mr. Lyons reports, under his charge, sixteen churches, containing about 2000 members; twenty-one common schools, with about 100 pupils, and the greater part of the children in Sabbath schools.—*Cour & Eng.*

We have received a very interesting circular from the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance in this Province, also a second letter from Brother Walker at the Grand Falls. We hope our Churches bear this mission in mind, and remember our brother who consented to bear the burden of its labor. Brother Walker is still favored with health and strength to travel and preach about three times in the week, besides two or three sermons upon the Sabbath, and occasionally to lecture upon Temperance, he has recently lectured twice upon it, and formed a Society at Tobique. His meetings, as he writes are still upon the increase, and the people pay great attention at the Grand Falls, at Tobique, and the Portage Road. The condition of the rivers has been some embarrassment of late.—We hope Br. W. has received by this time a bundle of Hymn Books, French Tracts, &c., which we forwarded to him some time since.

Letters to the Rt. Rev. John Hughes Roman Catholic Bishop of New York, by Kirwan. Such is the title of a Pamphlet of 100 pages, for sale by J. & A. McMillan Prince Wm. Street, and which we most cordially recommend to our friends. They are written with great power in the best spirit and in a pure style, they were originally published in the N. Y. Observer one of the first religious papers in the States, they have been greatly sought after in New York by intelligent Catholics as well as by Protestants and have accomplished much good, they are written by one who was trained a Catholic and conformed to the rites of that body till he was 21 years of age and who in this way acquired the ability to write of facts which he knew to exist. This is a cheap pamphlet, we recommend all to read it for information, and we know of no kinder service that could be so cheaply done to a catholic friend who is willing to read than to put these valuable letters into his hand.

Rev. Mr. Mackay's Temperance Sermon "Death in the Pot," has also been published pamphlet form, by Messrs. McMillan, and is for sale price 4d. This timely and faithful sermon needs no commendation from us, as it has been read with satisfaction by hundreds in the Province. We heard much of it while upon our tour west, and invariably in terms of praise.

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.—We are obliged the greater part of the time to depend upon a borrowed copy. Will our brethren be kind enough to send ours in a separate wrapper, if it has been sent in the bundle.—Ed.

The English news and Fredericton reports prevent our giving several matters we had hoped to lay before our readers.

Brother Crabb has secured the confidence and affection of our friends in many places by his labors as a Colporteur, they will be glad to hear from him and will doubtless sympathize deeply with him in his affliction, presenting the following extracts of a letter just received from him we commend him to the prayers of the brethren.—Ed.

NORTON, March 2, 1848.

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—Since my return from St. John, I have been very poorly, and unable to go out at all, my health is declining and my strength failing very fast—my constitution is gone, and the frail body cannot support the number of complaints with which it has long been afflicted. It is a wonder to many and an astonishment to myself how long I have been supported. I do not think I shall ever again be able to engage in the Colporteur work, even if I ever go out more. I would like very much if a good faithful person would go in my place, one who would be more faithful than I have ever been for there is great need. . . . O that God would have mercy for Christ's sake and light the candle of love in my heart. Can you send me some tracts that I may present to my visitors? My love to all my friends, affectionately yours,

R. CRAIG.

CIRCULAR

TO THE FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.—We, the undersigned, Members of the Grand Division of the Order of the Sons of Temperance of this Province, deeply solicitous for the advancement of the great moral reformation, which our Order is intended to effect—feel constrained again to draw the attention of all friends of Temperance to a consideration of the true character of our organization: and from the very generally favourable reception of our Circular of 26th October, 1847, to which we respectfully refer all candid enquirers for a full and correct exposition of our designs—we feel encouraged to believe that this our second address, will meet with equal success.

To all persons, whose observation has extended beyond a very limited circle, it will not appear at all surprising, that a great moral enterprise like ours, should be occasionally subjected to the misrepresentations of men of opposite views and habits. Nor do we deem it at all essential to our prosperity that we should notice particularly every objection which may be set afloat respecting our proceedings; the greater part of them either float for a brief space of time, like a bubble upon the stream, and then bursting, untouched by our hand, leave nothing behind, or else being palpably and glaringly at variance with the known effects of our system, they utterly fail of their intended effect, and find no lodgement in the minds of the thoughtful portion of our communities.

From amongst the various charges to which we have briefly alluded, we select one, which alone appears from its nature and magnitude, worthy of remark:—that our movements are directed to the secret accomplishment of other ends than those for which we professedly labour:—That we are seeking to compass a political, as well as moral revolution:—That we intend to exercise our influence for the furtherance of certain forms and principles of government, adverse to one or another Political party, is a