

There are no children in Cuba: men and women they descend from their nurses' arms. Little girls of three years old are dressed in long dresses, made in the extreme of the fashion; artificial flowers and jewels are quite common, and the little debutantes sit gracefully opening and shutting their tiny fans with perfect incipient coquetry. Very funny little men too are manufactured at five or six years, after the complete toilette of a Parisian exquisite, not omitting diamond pins, and a wonderful variety of cravats and canes.

There are many customs in the island nearly obsolete, which have had their origin in a most simple and true spirit of religion. One particularly struck me in a fine old Cuban family in Havana, the mother of whom would grace her position in any country. I paid her a visit at the hour of the "oracion," announced at sunset by the convent bells throughout the city. For past years, as in Spain, at that moment every voice and occupation was suspended, and every knee bent in silent prayer. But now the only observance of it I have seen, was (in the family I have mentioned) the quiet dropping in, one after another, of the children of the donna, to ask her blessing, and affectionately kiss her hand.

The action in itself, though not intended to produce the least effect, was most touching as she, placing her hand gracefully and feeling upon each young head, replied, "*Dios te haga bueno hijo*"—God make you good, my child.

Among the slaves in another family I have known the same custom observed, and I have found it peculiarly touching to see a large, coarse African, slightly bending his knee to his master and mistress, to ask of them the evening blessing. This, too, would be asked for and received with a sincere mark of affection on both sides. The above, however, are instances which, I am sorry to say, now stand nearly alone. By degrees, religious observances, and true piety, have given way to a careless indifference or an open disbelief; and unless a change is speedily effected in the general administration of the island, it will sink still lower in the scale of humanity. Heaven forbid that this should be.

## CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1850.

### FORMATION OF SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The American Sunday School Union have accomplished a vast amount of good through their agents in the new States, and in the more destitute parts of the older States by the organization of Sabbath Schools. These schools have frequently been the nuclei about which religious societies and churches have been collected, so that in two or three years after the School was formed a respectable and attentive society would be found supporting a preached gospel where previously the Sabbath was entirely disregarded. The Schools formed by these agents have invariably been furnished with a Library. If the people were able to pay for it, it has been sold, or perhaps the third or half of it has been presented as a donation to the school. We have thought that this kind of labour might be accomplished without much exertion in this Province by our brethren who have Missions given them by the several Boards and the advantage to the denomination and to the cause be very great.

A sermon in a destitute neighbourhood like the arrow shot at a venture may be directed to effect a great good, but humanly speaking little expectation can be justified by such desultory efforts. Like seed dropped by the way side, the fowls of the air are very likely to pick it up. We have better hopes where we can by some means, however humble, give line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.

Besides the direct influence of the books of the school, and of the reading of the Scriptures and committing them to memory by the children, there is the indirect but strong influence upon the hearts of parents which will always result from a considerate attention to the welfare of their children. We can think of no subject more likely to open the way for faithful religious conversation as our brethren go from house to house when upon a mission than the formation of Sabbath Schools. For ourselves we should not hesitate a moment for the want of professors of religion as Teachers or Superintendents if they were not to be had, and others were found willing to take hold of the work. We do not by any means mean to imply that it is of no consequence or but little

whether a person is a religious person or not who engages in this work, we think it of very great consequence, and religious Teachers and Superintendents should always be procured when possible, but when such are not to be had, their rather than not have a Sabbath School, rather than have the hours of the Sabbath desecrated by the indolence of parents, or by the sports of children, we would encourage these same parents and children to meet in an orderly way to attend to the teaching of the Scriptures, and to read the excellent publications of a Sunday School Library.—Other difficulties may be imagined in connection with this work of faith, but the experience of the Agents we have alluded to, and the remarkable success of many of them show that these difficulties are none of them insuperable, but that the chief requisite is a will on the part of the Missionary; his enthusiasm will soon kindle that of others, and the hope of laying at so little expense of labor and means the foundation of so much good for a community ought surely to excite his.

If some brother will act upon these hints, and give us in a communication the result of his efforts we should be exceedingly happy to lay it before our readers. Who will be the first one?

The brethren of the Domestic Missionary Boards may perhaps after giving this subject consideration deem it of sufficient importance to justify occasional appointments with reference to this particular department of effort; in other words to appoint some suitable brother to visit such places as have no Sabbath Schools, for the purpose of organizing a school and collecting the means of furnishing it with a Library. A good library will keep the school together and sustain the interest of parents and children in it after the missionary has gone. Shall we not have some experiments directly, before the season is any farther advanced, that its benefits may be so well tested before the winter as to insure its revival early another season?

### ATTENDANCE UPON CONVENTION.

Brother Burton, of Yarmouth, in a kind note calls our attention to a Resolution passed at the last Convention, and recorded on page 10 of Minutes, as follows:—

Resolved: That this Convention respectfully recommend to all Churches, Union Societies, and other bodies, which, by the Constitution of the Convention are entitled to a representation in this body, to send Delegates to the next session of the Convention, and that all Pastors of Churches, as well as the agents who may travel amongst them; urge the importance of such a measure; and that such Delegates shall bring a written document from the bodies they represent declaring them to be Delegates.

The time for the next Session is drawing near. The Convention will convene with the Baptist Church in Portland, on the third Saturday in September. It is hardly necessary to remark that matters of great importance will demand attention. Portland was fixed upon by the Convention because of its position, as likely to meet the convenience of the greatest number in each of the Provinces who might be disposed to attend. We hope therefore to witness a large gathering. Those who have not attended to their collections for the Union Society may also be reminded of the importance of doing so immediately, as the Secretary and also the Treasurer will wish to draw up their Reports before the meeting of the Convention. We are glad to learn that many Churches and especially those in Charlotte County are doing nobly for these objects of the Society.

### RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.

As has been cheerfully conceded by the real friends of liberty in the United States, a most fearful and aggravated wrong was perpetrated when Texas was wrested from Mexico and annexed to the States. From that day many have apprehended a woe upon the country, which in that act sanctioned whatever of wrong there may be in slavery, and not only so, but at the greatest risk and cost did all they could to propagate and extend it. Multitudes are fearing that even now this woe is about descending. Mr. Clay in the Senate has been making his famous compromise the alternative of a civil war, representing that its passage is all that can save the Union. The two new Territories, New Mexico and Desert, which sought a hearing on the floor of Congress by their Delegates, have both been repulsed; solely as all must concede because

of their opposition to slavery. Texas now insists upon a large part of New Mexico as within its bound, and upon which they may perpetuate slavery; and as there is every reason for them to apprehend a denial on the part of the United States as well as New Mexico, their Governor in hot haste and in perfect accordance with the usual tone and temper of those accustomed to put their feet upon the necks of their fellows has summoned a special Session of the Legislature to "deliberate and take action upon, as their wisdom may direct, such matters as shall then and there be presented involving the honor and rights of the State."

Were it not for the outrageous wrong upon humanity involved in American Slavery, and the enormities by which such a system must be upheld so long as it shall be tolerated, we might hope that in some providential way the gathering clouds of disaffection might be dissipated; but as it is, a believer in the providential administration of God seems constrained to expect that his avenging sword will be drawn, and that neither the individual nor the nation that builds itself up in unrighteousness will be allowed to stand.

We do not think except for what use the enemies of popular liberty might make of the dissolution that the nominal Union of the States as they stand in the Confederacy is of much worth. We believe that the free States would be the gainers in every respect by the secession of those who have exalted slavery above all things else, and to be sustained at any cost. And of all conditions for a State we can conceive of none more deplorable than would be that of the Southern Slave States severed from their confederates of the North.

**THE COLPORTEUR.**—We informed our readers a week or two since that the Eastern Association made arrangements to put a Colporteur in the field. Brother Isaiah Wallace was selected by the Committee of that Association to engage in the work, and he has this week entered upon his labors. He left this City on Wednesday, for Hampton (Little River,) intending to visit St. Martins, Springfield, and the parts adjacent to the Grand Lake. We need hardly to add that we consider the selection of the committee a very suitable one.—Brother Wallace has been engaged in teaching the year past in Sussex, and has commanded the sincere respect of that community for his diligence and capacity as a Teacher, and also for his consistent christian character. We wish him great success in his present sphere; and hope our brethren in every place will extend a cordial greeting, and assist him in his work.

Our friends are aware that by extending their hospitality to brother Wallace they are lightening the expenses of the Committee, and leaving them the means for making grants to the poor, who have little or no money with which to purchase books. We hope this will be borne in mind in every place.

Brother Wallace is authorised to receive subscriptions for the Christian Visitor, also for the American Messenger, and the Youth's Penny Gazette, the latter papers only where there are ten or more subscribers to make it an object to put up a parcel.

Subscribers and Agents who have money in hand for us will greatly oblige us by paying it to Brother Wallace, or forwarding it by some safe conveyance as soon as possible. There is much due over the route which the Committee have appointed for this commencement of their work.

**LECTURES ON THE EVIDENCES OF CHRISTIANITY.**—We have had laid upon our table this week, from Messrs. McMillan, the publishers, the following Lectures:—

The Bible a System of Ethics, by Rev. John Irvine.

The Character of Christ and his Apostles, by Rev. H. Daniel.

The Genuineness and Authenticity of Revelation, by Rev. R. Knight.

The Evidences of Christianity derived from Providence, by Rev. S. Robinson.

The Evidences of Christianity from its Effects on the Heart and Mind, by Rev. William Smith.

These lectures have all been prepared with care, and were well received at the time of their delivery; they are neatly printed, and are sold by the Committee at a mere nominal price, two pence or two pence halfpenny, according to length, the greater part of the expense being defrayed by collections when delivered.

These with the Lectures previously noticed are for sale at the Depository, Garrison & Masters, Custom House Building.

**PANORAMA OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN.**—This beautiful picture now on exhibition at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute is well worthy of a visit, indeed of repeated visits.—The Masters of Natural Science and the skilful artist have alike spoken of it in terms of high commendation for its exactness to the objects in the vegetable and animal kingdom represented, and for the skillfulness and painstaking in the execution and finish of the design. Where real information and pleasure can be thus combined, and where a correct and elevated taste can be cultivated without detriment to manners or to morals we feel in duty bound to encourage and extoll. We doubt if young or old will soon again have so admirable an opportunity for spending an hour pleasantly and profitably as is now afforded by this exhibition.

We take pleasure in stating that during the two evenings of its exhibition the Hall has been filled with spectators whose fixed and breathless attention has been alike creditable to them, and complimentary to the skill of the Artist. Opportunity we learn will be given after this week for the children to witness it as an afternoon recreation.

Not holding to the doctrine of supererogation we have but little merit to dispense with, we must however resign all claim to the devout consideration bestowed upon the favored cow in our last number. We have no doubt she was as worthy of a ride and would pay as much heed to a discourse as many who enjoy such privileges, so while our readers have laughed, and the cow does not complain, our compositor need not be sad in reviewing his benevolent act.

Brother Smith writes of a wish on the part of some of our subscribers above Fredericton to have their papers sent to his store. We have had no intimation of it before; only give us the names, and it will be no trouble to us to send them thither.

The bundle for Alex. McDonald, Wickham, will after this week be sent by steamer on Saturday to care of Robert Golding, Long Island. We wish our friends in country localities would look out for the most convenient means for getting their papers, as it does much to give satisfaction to our subscribers, and to induce others to take it, if it can be procured with regularity. The several steamers on the river are uniformly accommodating in this matter.

We have been waiting for an account of the Meetings which have been held this week in behalf of the Micmacs till it is too late to seek it for this paper. We understand that good attention was given to brother Rand's interesting statements. Brother Rand spends the next Sabbath in Fredericton.

**THE MORNING NEWS.**—We congratulate the proprietor of this paper on the success which has warranted its enlargement. Though we could not subscribe to all we read there, yet we heartily commend the paper. Its intelligence is fresh, and besides the enterprise and tact of the Editor, the reader may usually depend upon good sound common-sense views of whatever subjects are presented to their notice.

**LETTERS RECEIVED.**—Rev. William Burton; Rev. I. E. Bill; Rev. C. Spurden; Mr. Benjamin Rice; Mr. Jacob Tuck; Rev. D. Crandal, with remittance; Rev. W. Jackson, do. do.; Rev. D. McFail, do. do.; Mr. J. T. Smith.

**SHIPWRECKS IN THE BAY.**—Two fine vessels were lost in the Bay during the thick fog on Monday last. The ship *Alice Bentley*, Capt. Steel, from Liverpool for this port, with a large cargo of merchandize, valued at £19,000 Sterling, struck on the Murr Ledges, near Grand Manan, about 9 o'clock on Monday evening, and sustained so much damage that she sunk almost immediately. The officers and crew only escaped in the boats with what clothing they had on—every thing on board going down with the ship; as she sunk in deep water, nothing will be recovered from the wreck. The *Alice Bentley* was owned by N. S. Demill, Esq., of this City, and was only partially insured.

The barque *Selma*, of and from Dundee, in ballast, for this port, consigned to Messrs. R. Rankin & Co., also went ashore the same night, on the southern head of Grand Manan, and became a total wreck. The crews of both vessels were saved, and arrived here on Tuesday evening in the steamer *Maid of Erin*.—*New-Brunswickian*.