

which, as usual, is *Soli invicto*—'To the Invincible Sun.' It is remarkable that, on ancient medals and gems, the horses are not always represented as abreast, but sometimes as turned towards the four quarters of the globe. The ideas which led to the representation of the sun as a charioteer, and assigned to him a chariot and horses, are too obvious to require explanation.—*Pictorial Bible.*

CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1850.

EDUCATION—COMMON SCHOOLS.

We have to acknowledge the kindness of Rev. Dr. Sears, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, in sending us a copy of his Thirteenth Annual Report, together with the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Board of Education, a large octavo of upwards of 190 pages, and also a copy of "The Massachusetts System of Schools," published by order of the Legislature, and at the expense of the State. These volumes indicate at once the commanding position that popular education holds in Massachusetts. The following extract from the latter will show how early this regard began to be exhibited.

"In the year 1647, therefore, a law was passed making the support of Schools compulsory, and education both universal and free. By this law, every town, containing fifty householders, was required to appoint a teacher, 'to teach all such children as shall resort to him to write and read,' and every town containing one hundred families or householders, was required to 'set up a grammar school,' whose master should be 'able to instruct youth so far as they may be fitted for the university.'"

"The penalty for non-compliance with the above requirements was five pounds per annum. In 1671, the penalty was increased to ten pounds per annum; in 1682, to twenty pounds; and, in 1718, to thirty pounds, for every town containing one hundred and fifty families; to forty pounds for every town containing two hundred families; and so on, *pro rata*, for towns containing two hundred and fifty or three hundred families. The penalty was increased from time to time to correspond with the increasing wealth of the towns. All forfeitures were appropriated to the maintenance of Public Schools."

This will not be regarded as a Yankee boast or a Yankee speculation entered upon the Statute book for display or for gain. This was before the days of yankeedom. This with the founding of Harvard College ten years previous, and only ten years after the founding of the Colony, was the laying of the first eggs from which that species emerged upon the world. These were the acts of sturdy, out and out English Puritans, the veritable men that banished Baptists, bored the tongues and slit the ears of Quakers, and from the feet and councils of England's great Chief Justice Matthew Hale felt encouraged and impelled to hang witches.

But of all the fortunes which they have ingeniously whittled since that early day, none is certainly more creditable than their present admirable School system, and that unanimous, sincere, and hearty accord with which it is sustained.

The Local Funds in Massachusetts for the support of Academics is now £90,806, yielding an annual income of £5,411.

There are three Normal Schools supported by the State, at an annual expense of £1,625. The value of public school-houses in the State is £687,530; of which £550,000 has been expended since 1828.

Besides all her excellent public schools, primary and grammar and high schools, there are in that State alone 67 Incorporated Academies, with 1096 unincorporated ones, containing together 21,978 pupils, at an annual expense of £76,789 5s., and yet the whole number of children between 4 and 16 years of age in the State, is but 215,226, out of which number the mean average attendance upon school was 62 out of every 100.

The whole population of Massachusetts thus represented is 737,700. The whole valuation of its property by which its expenses are met, is £74,969,582 6s. 2d. In connection with the common schools, there are 2426 male and 5737 female teachers. The wages of whom, together, average £8 10s. 1d. per month, including board which averages through the State £2 5s. per month.

What impediment will a hard soil, or bleak winds, or backward springs be to a generation trained up under such circumstances, and with such advantages? The result can be nothing

else than a mental energy, and mental resources that will bid defiance to hard times; and that neither high tariff nor low tariff, Free Trade nor Protection can for any length of time impede or embarrass; and we are persuaded that the real friends of New-Brunswick who would wed the people to the Colony, and make the Colony worthy of their attachment, can do nothing more effectually to accomplish it than to open the way for, and establish a general system of Common Schools. It cannot be done in a day, nor can any system which any political party may propose or adopt effect speedily what New-Brunswick requires. It must be the work of time. But the loyalty of an intelligent, educated people to Great Britain would be of essential credit and value so long as a colonial relation should last; and if, in the progress of human affairs, at any coming period, such a connection should be dissolved, it would be more likely to be the result of discreet and sober council than of caprice; and her citizens, qualified to appreciate their condition, their resources, and their wants, could be depended upon to adopt an enlightened course for their future governance; if independent, to maintain their position with credit and success, if confederated with other colonies or annexed to other states, to reciprocate honorably and profitably what advantages might arise from such a federal connection.

The people of New-Brunswick are of the genuine stock whose destiny is becoming more evident year by year, a high destiny.—Demagogues may agitate, and may persuade the timid to fear lest Chartism should overturn royalty in England, or lest *Calhounism* should dissolve the Union of the neighbouring Republic, but neither conclusion, gratifying as either might be to souls who adore a jeweled bauble or a cotton-bale, are at all consistent with an enlightened religious faith, or with reason. New-Brunswick will have her part, and though intervening embarrassments may delay her special action and impress upon others, these will only hasten her maturity, and qualify her the better to sustain with England the other side of the Atlantic, and the United States on this, the credit of the Anglo-Saxon.

LECTURE ON THE EVIDENCES OF CHRISTIANITY.

A very respectful attention was given last evening in the Centenary Chapel, to the Fourth Lecture of this Course, delivered by the Editor of this paper. Subject

"THE MIRACLES OF REVELATION."

At the request of Dr. Patterson, the convenor and Secretary of the Committee, we give the following synopsis of the order and course of thought pursued:

1. That skepticism in regard to the Christian religion must originate in dislike or fear of it, and that hypocrisy or gross self-deception is a primary element of it.

2. That to deny Revelation or Miracles on the ground of an antecedent improbability is an absurdity, and implies prodigious conceit.

3. That to deny the possibility of proving Miracles, if they have been wrought, is to deny the office of our senses and of reason, and to impeach the wisdom and veracity of the Deity in connection with the only channels of communication between himself and his subjects.

4. It was then argued: That Miracles meet the instinctive demand for a sign in order to believe any religion divine.

5. That the Miracles of Revelation are in agreement with undoubted prophecy.

6. That a belief in them can in no proper sense be considered a partisan belief.

7. That the circumstances under which they were wrought prove their genuineness.

8. That this is further shown by the disinterestedness and consistency of those who wrought them.

9. That they have fully answered their purpose in the Divine Economy.

We are sorry to see that the Legislature have decided to continue the Postage on papers, though by a small majority. The postage of one half-penny on a paper though it may seem small on a single paper, amounts on our papers to the country, to a tax of at least 20 per cent.; making it come to 10s. 11d., 2s. 2d. of which is postage. This prevents very many families from enjoying the advantages of a weekly paper. We were glad to see the enlightened and liberal views taken of this subject by Mr. End, also by Messrs. Wark and Barbarie. As to the remarks of Mr. Boyd, and of Mr. Street, they are behind the age, and by no means creditable. Because some men are unfit for the Legislature better have no Legislature, because some pe-

dagogues are unfit for their calling, better down with schools or tax them. We don't hold to such reasoning or to such principles in legislation. We hope liberal measures will be adopted with reference to the carriers of way-mails.

By Favor's Express we have received Boston papers. The Bee Extra notices the commencement on Tuesday last, of the trial of Professor Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman. The prisoner was brought into Court at 15 minutes before 9 o'clock, A.M. The Court came in at 9 o'clock. A jury of twelve was then empanelled and the Indictment read. The steamer leaving at noon allows no further information as yet.

We have received, though too late for this paper, a communication from Elgin, which shall appear in our next. It gives an account of an interesting revival which has for some time been in progress under Elder Keith's labours. 34 have been baptized.

The favors from Sackville, also have been received, and of which we shall be glad to avail ourselves.

MONIES RECEIVED.—N. S. Demill, 20s.; T. McHenry, 10s.; Manual Francis, do.; Z. Ring, do.; Geo. N. Robinson, do.; W. Short, do.; S. Gerow, do.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—Having performed my tour in Charlotte County, I presume some may feel an interest in learning the state of the cause there, and my success as Colporteur. In a former letter I gave an account of my tour to St. George, this I now omit. After the Quarterly Meeting, I visited Masquarie, Letite, and L'Etang. L'Etang being new ground, I was much pleased with its scenery. Surrounded by the river Masquarie and Back Bay, with the exception of a few rods where it joins the main land, the place is almost an island. This people are open in their manner, and are lovers of books, for on a short afternoon I sold in five families, books to amount of 40s. Having engaged to attend a meeting at Elder Hall's that evening, I returned, having called on the families living on the river as I went down. On my return I found some fifty inhabitants of St. George at Elder Hall's enjoying "a Donation Party." The people on the afternoon previous had manifested their generosity in a handsome manner, and now they united, not to sing songs and romance on the circumstances of the place and the people, but to enjoy a Tea provided by the Ladies of the town, as a tribute of regard for the Elder and his lady; to sing the praises of God, and to address each other and edify. Elder Hall, in speaking from the chair with tender emotion, was answered by the speeches of Dr. Walker, Mark Young, Esquire, Deacon Mann, Mr. A. H. Gilmor, Mr. H. E. Seeley and the writer, and by the warm expressions of the whole audience. Elder Hall concluded the exercises with a most touching and impressive prayer. Many declared it the most happy hours of their lives, and hoped the time would soon return when a similar enjoyment would be afforded. As the company departed, the kind greetings indicated hearts filled with gratitude and love to God, who had enabled them thus to "dwell together in unity." Methought angels hovered over the scene with holy delight, and, while witnessing the lively countenances of all present, I said to myself, why do we allow coldness of heart and want of christian regard to deprive us of such peace-giving pleasure? why should not the hearts of every Minister and family be made alike happy? Would it not materially advance the cause of God? But the enemy of souls will do his utmost to prevent such kindly greetings.

Leaving this pleasant town, its numerous water falls, its neat houses of worship, and hospitable people, I journeyed to Upper Falls. Many have left since I first visited this village, but kindness, hospitality, and happiness still find their dwelling place here. Like some of the Sabbaths just spent with Elder Hall and his people, I spent another happy one with my aged and esteemed brother Magee. Neither age nor week-day toils have damped his energy since first we met, but warmly does he beseech God's people to live near His feet, and loudly does he call on sinners to come to Christ the only hiding place. I sold here some good books, and returning to St. George, I drove to Bocabec.

Situated between the residence of Elders Thompson and Hall, this people enjoy but few baptist sermons; but the pillars in God's house still stand firm on the foundation divinely laid in Zion for "men to build their hopes upon." Delayed by storms, I spent the next Sabbath here. The Lord blessed his people, particularly at the Marsh school-room, where I enjoyed two meetings with a crowded house.—Here I left a few of the "Old Puritans to preach" until I again return. Proceeding through Chamcook, I enjoyed the kindness of brother Smart and lady, which I shall long remember, as also the attention of brother Stephenson, I passed through the quiet town of St. Andrews to the Bay side. Here Elder Thompson and brother Bradford (who had just returned from a tour to Harvey, whither he had gone as Colporteur) made me welcome, from whom with many others I received marked attention. Here I spent a Sabbath, addressed God's people twice. There are indications of good here—an increasing congregation, and a marked attention from the youth. May the Lord revive his cause, and bless his servant abundantly. Here also, a "Donation Party" has come off fraught with happy results. My own heart is a witness to the increase of love thereby promoted. Returning homeward, I found Elder Hall sustaining a prayer and inquiry meeting, also a bible-class and preaching on the Lord's day, with a healthy tone of mind among his people. Brethren and sisters should fervently pray for an outpouring of the Divine Spirit throughout this county. And while in Carleton and St. John God's love is impressively manifested and sinners are forsaking their sins, let us pray that the increasing interest in the meetings in Portland may be followed by the conversion of precious souls, and the coming forth of those who in silence have been "treasuring up the Word in good and honest hearts."

I find, during my six weeks tour, I have attended 24 Meetings, distributed 26 volumes of bibles, testaments, and religious books; sold 420 volumes, and spread a large number of religious tracts and pamphlets gratuitously; received cash for the Visitor, £1 10s. 7½d., and a donation for the Colportage, from St. George, of £1, together with £23 3s. 4½d. for books, beside what was required to pay for oats, sleigh covering, and freight of books to the amount of £1 7s. 8d., amounting in all to £27 1s. 8d.

J. V. TABOR, Colporteur.
Portland, March 20, 1850.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

MR. EDITOR.—I returned a few days ago from a very agreeable visit to your city. On my way thither I called at Mr. Haye's, Inn, a distance of 22 miles from this place, where I would observe there is provided excellent entertainment on strictly temperance principles and at very moderate charges. I was not a little surprised to learn from Mrs. H. that her house is very slimly patronized, and that for weeks she scarcely receives a call from any of the friends of Temperance. I was still more astonished when I learned from others that Mr. H's Inn, sustains a most respectable character, and that it is very commodiously situated.

Upon expressing my surprise to the gentleman with whom I was travelling, who, by the way, is one of those individuals that possess such absolute control over this appetite that they can indulge in taking a glass occasionally without danger, and consequently stand aloof from the temperance movement. He observed that "your temperance travellers generally would as soon patronize Taverns and Grogeries as regular Temperance Inns." I at first could not give credence to his assertion, but upon further inquiry I found, to my sorrow, that it was too true.

The inconsistency of many of my temperance friends in this matter is an enigma which I would be much gratified to see solved. I would only observe further, that I sincerely hope that those who have avowed themselves the friends of Total Abstinence will not only show their colours at home, but that when duty calls them to travel they will prefer the tranquility and comfort of a Temperance Inn, to the alcoholic fumes, revelry and confusion of many of the Taverns with which our Province too generally abounds.

Your's respectfully,
Sussex, March 13, 1850.

We regret indeed to learn that this excellent place of entertainment is so little patronised. All that is said by our correspondent of the