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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1852.

TEMPERANCE AND LEGISLATION.

We noticed some time since the speech of an Hon. member in the House of Assembly against the Liquor Bill, in which he took occasion to state that as much liquor was now drunk in Maine as before their present law; that the only difference between then and now is, that hypocrisy is now added to their drunkenness; that it might be procured now by travellers in that State as easily as in this Province.

The following is another gem from the same speech:—"It had been very lightly said, that we could give up £20,000 of revenue with great indifference; and that as we now paid £100,000 every year for liquors, we had better keep that money in the country. But that £100,000 was not sent out of the country in money; it was sent out in the manufactured products of the country, and the interests of trade were thereby promoted; the importation of those liquors was the mere introduction of commodities, brought about by the exercise of the industry of our own people and mechanics; the exported produce of their labour paid for those articles; and if we put an end to their industry in that respect, the next thing would be, that they would export themselves; they would leave the country, and carry their productive industry where it would be better rewarded."

We once heard of an old lady who was deranged, and whose only but serious perplexity was to tell what became of all the old Moons when we were so frequently having a new one; and it appears to us that the Hon. member's Political Economy is very much of a piece with the old lady's Astronomy; they seem very much akin as though both had had the same tuition. If the flood of liquor at the cost of £100,000 per annum should be stopped, and all who would have been drunk upon it should be kept sober, and all the idleness which would have arisen from the use of it be exchanged for labor and thrift—with all this amount more of money wherewith to purchase clothes, shoes, hats and bread, and for educational purposes, what would become of the productive industry of the Province! It would certainly share the fate of the old moons.

But what a flattering picture for the industrial classes, and especially the Mechanics. If the exported produce of their labor cannot bring this desirable return, "they would leave the country, and carry their productive industry where it would be better rewarded;" and we suppose, of course, they would go to Maine where they could get it so easily. None of course but a professional man, whose study and practice would qualify him for the task, could elaborate an argument of that kind, and we very much fear none but a thirsty man could comprehend and be persuaded by it.

The following statistics from good sources have been of late in circulation—

"New-York city receives \$50,000 a year in return for licenses to sell liquor by the glass, and spends \$1,000,000 in consequence of the traffic, independently of the tremendous moral evils resulting."

"The total number of liquor-dealers in New-York is 5,910, of which 775 are not licensed. Only 1,541 of the whole number suspend business on the Sabbath. The larger number generally pass under the name of Irish or German retail grocers."

These have probably fallen under the eye of our sagacious legislator, and his penetration has discovered in the revenue of \$50,000 for licenses, and the \$1,000,000 spent for liquors, the great secret of the commercial success of New-York city, and of the flood of immigration to that port. No wonder if the Liquor Law is to depopulate the Province, the Hon. gentleman and those of equal discernment and patriotism should oppose it. "Liquor, et cetera if consistent, but by all means, the Liquor."

THE MAINE LAW.—The elections in all the principal towns and cities of Maine show a decided partiality for their Liquor Law. In many places where this has been made the test a unanimity has been exhibited unparalleled on such occasions.

The various attempts which have been practiced to evade the vigilance of officers and smuggle the importation and sale of Liquors in coffins and cradles, and under forged wrappers of Patent Medicine bottles indicate unequivocally the character of the law, and the manner of its operation, and make it rather a needless work to contradict the falsehoods which are circulated by its foes.

Conviction is making its way in other States. The New York Recorder of last week gives the following notice of a meeting in that city:

"The mass meeting of the friends of temperance, and the supporters of an Anti-liquor Traffic Law, held last Wednesday evening at Metropolitan Hall, was the most imposing demonstration yet made in this city, or in this State, in behalf of the Temperance cause.—Every seat in the hall was crowded. There was handed in, altogether, as contributions, about \$750."

In Massachusetts our readers may already be aware that a Bill similar to the Maine Law has passed the Senate by a vote of yeas 30, nays 9; 6 of the nays by Senators of Boston.

The editor of the Lowell American, who is a friend to the bill, and a member of the House, says of it, "Efforts will no doubt be made in the House to amend it, but with what success remains to be seen. It is fortunate for this bill that it is backed up by 150,000 petitioners; otherwise, it would stand a mighty slim chance of success. To a great many men in both branches, it is like the elephant which a man drew in a raffle; they don't know what to do with it."

There can be no doubt but that the most determined and desperate opposition to its execution would be given by the lords of the Still and the Tap in Boston, and as far as their money and influence could effect anything in other places, but the voice of Massachusetts as a whole is decidedly for the law.

We hope Massachusetts on the one side and New Brunswick on the other will, in doing justice to themselves, by the adoption of a similar law, relieve Maine of the chief annoyance to which it is now subject in its endeavors to unburthen itself of the evils arising from intemperance.

Circumstances over which we had no controul prevented our leaving the City in season to reach Wolfville for the Public Meeting to be held yesterday. We had made every arrangement to leave and were quite disappointed by the failure of our attempt. We hope soon, and perhaps next week, to lay before our readers the result of the deliberations of the friends of Acadia College who were permitted to meet.

We learn that Rev. John Chase had resigned his agency to the Financial Committee. The College has been deeply indebted so far for his indefatigable exertions in its behalf.

REVIVALS.—The papers contain the most gratifying intelligence of the condition and progress of religion in the evangelical Churches of most of the large cities in the Atlantic States. In New-York more than 200 were baptized last month. Large accessions were also made to most of the Baptist Churches in Boston, the revival extending. In Philadelphia several of the Baptist Churches make a similar report. There is a revival also in the Lewisburg University among the students. In addition to the liberal endowment of \$100,000 secured for this College to commence with, an additional endowment of \$30,000 has been projected, and the successful agent before employed is once more in the field.

We endeavour when complaints are made to us of irregularity in the receipt or delivery of Newspapers by drivers, &c., to have the evils corrected. We have on several occasions advised our readers in such a case to write immediately and particularly to the Post Master General upon the subject, giving him a full statement of all the affair and it would be immediately corrected. We beg now to call attention to an extract of a note from Mr. Howe, the Post Master General, on the subject.

"It would be more satisfactory if you would in the columns of your newspaper invite any subscriber who may have any irregularity to

complain of, at once to refer the matter to me; the immediate investigation of the complaint will give some probability of the blame being brought home to the proper parties, which is impossible to do with complaints made in general terms which have happened some time previous."

This note of Mr. Howe's enclosed a letter to him from J. R. Tupper, Esq., of Woodstock, with reference to complaints from Dumfries and Simonds. The following is the closing sentence of Mr. Tupper's letter:

"I beg to add that I am anxious to relieve you from the annoyance of hearing complaints from parties living on my mail routes, and that I will do my utmost to do so."

We have every reason to believe the above, and if subscribers will be but patient, and be willing to employ kindness and proper courtesy in making their complaints, they will be speedily relieved. If on the other hand, hasty criminations and annoyances are practised upon drivers and Way-office keepers, who may not have been sufficiently attentive, any one might infer that redress would not be obtained.

We are in receipt of "The Howard Ledger," a monthly publication of the Health Association. By the monthly Report for March of the Howard Association, whose advertisement will be found in another column, we learn that during the month of February the whole number of applications for Membership was 742. Cash received during the month \$1785, 99. Paid out for sickness on claims of members, \$984, 50, leaving for the month after paying office and incidental expenses \$358, 18, which with previous accumulations invested safely for the Association makes the sum of \$4224, 80.

The Recorder of the City of New York, on the 9th inst. decided that the AMERICAN ART UNION is not a constitutional Association, that its aims and practises are not such as the Constitution countenances, and that it is therefore an illegal association.

It is expected that an injunction will be immediately issued against it, and that in its present form it must be discontinued. New developments, since our last, appear, revealing the evils and prevalence of Lottery gambling.

We decline publishing the remarks of "Veritas," as we have become satisfied no dependence can be put upon the statements of the paper to which he alludes, neither with reference to its own denominational affairs, nor to those of others. We know it to be false to its profession, and believe it to be mischievous in its purposes. We shall have no further correspondence with it or about it.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Rev. James Newcombe, with remittance; Rev. D. Craudal, do.; Mr. John Curry, do.; R. E. Steves, Esq. do.

Mr. John Ford, Mr. Rufus Pipes, Mr. Isaiah Wallace, Mr. Henry Hoyt, Mr. N. P. Kemp, Mr. Rufus C. Wry; Rev. G. F. Miles.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

ON BAPTISM.

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—I have read with much care and attention, the articles on Baptism, by "Arthur," in the last two numbers of the "Visitor." There are some things in the last article which seem to me to be very obscure; and others which are not accompanied with all the evidence necessary for their establishment.

The first obscurity which I shall notice is as follows:—"The Apostles had followed Christ in the regeneration, and were baptized with water before his death." Did the writer represent baptism by water as regeneration, then I should understand what he means by Christ being regenerated; and the Apostles following him in the same. But this he evidently does not, but refers to their being baptized with water, as something distinct from the regeneration in which they had followed Christ. Will he inform me how Christ was regenerated, and how his Apostles followed therein?

The next obscurity I shall notice is this:—"As to what people say of an outward baptism, there is no such thing recorded in the Scriptures of divine truth." The writer has not informed us of what people do say of this outward baptism; but if he means the baptism of the Holy Ghost, has he not said, that on the

day of Pentecost it was "not only outward but visible." Will he please to explain?

Again, "Arthur" informs us that when the Holy Ghost was poured out upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts ii, 2, 3, 4, that it filled all the house where they were sitting. Is it not rather true, that "a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, filled all the house;" and are we not warranted in believing, that this, with the "cloven tongues like as of fire which appeared and sat upon them," were the "signs and wonders" which with the "divers miracles and gifts," or distributions "of the Holy Ghost," were the "witness" which God bore to those who confirmed the gospel which began to be spoken by the Lord. (Heb. ii. 3, 4.) Has not "Arthur" made the "sound," and the "cloven tongues like as of fire," the baptism itself, rather than the "signs and wonders" which accompanied the baptism? And hence, is not the evidence brought forward by him to prove the baptism of the Holy Ghost an "outward and visible" baptism, quite insufficient on so doubtful a case? Will he explain here also?

Last but not least, "Arthur" informs his readers, "There is not now a person on earth baptized with the Holy Ghost." This opinion doubtless arises from his assumption, that the "sound" which filled the house, and the "cloven tongues like as of fire" which sat upon each of them, constituted the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and rendered it "outward and visible," and that now in the absence of ocular evidence, such a baptism does not exist. But he admits that there are many "regenerated and renewed by the Spirit of God." I ask how "the renewing of the Holy Ghost" is effected without the baptism of the Holy Ghost? John "baptized with water," saying therefore should come one after him, that should "baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire." "Arthur" tells us in his first article, that "John baptizing persons in the river Jordan, conferred a character, as dyers, by dipping in a vat set a colour;" and that "John by baptism discriminated the disciples of Christ from all other men, as dyers by colouring distinguished stuff." Without stopping to enquire how John's baptism discriminated the disciples of Christ, especially before Christ's ministry commenced; I would ask: if his baptism did discriminate and give a certain character to those baptized by him, which they had not before; may we not understand the baptism of the Holy Ghost as necessary for the formation of real Christian character? Was not this doctrine taught by John, when he said, that Christ should "baptize with the Holy Ghost?" And may not something like this be drawn from Paul's observations to the church at Corinth? By one spirit we are all baptized into one body—ye are the body of Christ—if any man be in Christ he is a new creature. (1 Cor. xii. 13 & 27. 2 Cor. v. 17.)

Again, I ask is there not some distinctive feature in Christian baptism, from the baptism of John? If not, why were the disciples which Paul met at Ephesus re-baptized?—(Acts xix. 1 to 7.) If there is a distinctive feature, is it not the baptism or power of the Holy Ghost; and by any thing else, can we know the "power of Christ's resurrection?" In a word is not water baptism the form of Christian baptism, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost the substance or power? Is there not danger of having the form and denying the power? (2 Tim. iii. 5.) And does it not require both the form and power to constitute the "ONE BAPTISM" necessary to real Christianity.

Will "Arthur" or some one else skilled in God's word answer these queries? It is a grave subject, and while we seek the theory of truth, may God grant us the sanctifying power of it so abundantly in our hearts, that it may be felt in our correspondence, and our readers be interested and benefited.

E. M.

St. John, March 4, 1852.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—Having found it necessary to discontinue—for a time at least—my Agency on behalf of the Union, in the prosecution of which I have enjoyed many happy moments in meeting with those who love "the truth as it is in Jesus." I only regret that it was not in my power to visit every Church in the Province, but I hope those with whom I have not had the pleasure of a personal interview, will not be behind any in bringing