

Messrs. Jackson, Peto, Brassy & Co., which might be continued for years before it could be finally settled. In the meantime, all our railroad operations must stop. He didn't go to England to affect a share with an English company, but to deal with them as became a representative of this great country; because in his official position he was expected to reflect the views of the whole people, and he aimed at doing something creditable to himself, while originating a scheme adapted to the wants and requirements of our Provincial population; and as a part and parcel of the great Anglo-Saxon race, he (Mr. F.) had much confidence in submitting this measure to the representatives of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. GRAY said that it was in no way necessary for the Hon. Surveyor General, or any hon. member, to make lengthened remarks, or show by a train of argument, the great necessity which exists for railways. The principle is already recognized by every individual member of this Legislature. The Attorney General has very truly said, that this Bill is the key-stone of the whole fabric, and its rejection will imply the consequent overthrow of the whole proposed scheme. But the total prevention of railways, does not necessarily follow the loss of the bill now before the committee. It is evident to the committee that the representatives of the city and county of St. John are last prepared to view this matter without being affected by local feelings, or their minds warped by interested motives; for since it is decided that railroads are indispensable, it is plain that whatever the arrangement, St. John must be largely benefited. In reality, however, this is a local measure; for the general and provincial interests are made subservient to the wishes of particular localities. In order to show why we should pause to consider the propriety of the present project, he (Mr. G.) would discuss the question under three different heads. Firstly, is this arrangement with the Messrs. Baring Brothers, the best we could get? Secondly, is the bargain with Jackson and Co. a wise one? and, thirdly, is it proper to reduce only a part of such an important agreement to writing? What then is the world ask, had originated this measure, and how can it possibly be advantageous to this country? Full information about the failure of Jackson and Co. to fulfill their contract was before the Government in June last, but we do not find any action being taken until December: here then, was a great dereliction of duty. The Attorney General says, it has been necessary to summon the Legislature if this early action had been taken. But this is no reason why the exact state of the case could have been ascertained. Besides, it was clearly the duty of Government to take the initiative in this matter. The company was but the instrument of the Government in this matter. According to Mr. Morton's report we find the work already going to decay and ruin, and daily depreciating in value, then why delay negotiation, when it would evidently fall into our hands? Is it worth while for us to pay £47,000 for a three months' extension of time? Because the very fact of this extension being played for, obviously shows that the contract was considered legal and solid. A failure like this could never have been submitted to, and permitted to come prominently before the world, by an English company of such extensive commercial relations, such high standing, and such unlimited notoriety. It is useless to say that the operations of a company were not adapted to this country, for it was quite open by the proposition of July to make it completely a Government work. The contractors themselves afforded this opportunity. If this had been effected, what would have been our position? We would have used the services of the company as our agents for the transfer or sale of Bonds for all future time; in a word, we would have secured to ourselves their interest and their aid. At the same time, the company could not have controlled the Government, either in the gross amount or current value of our debentures; we would not, after having expended a certain sum, have been compelled to place ourselves in a humiliating position in order to obtain additional requisites. He (Mr. G.) would repeat, that merely local feelings might not prompt him to oppose this scheme, but he wished, in legislating upon an affair of such magnitude, to represent the general interests of this country. He was well assured, that though the hon. Attorney General advocated this scheme, he was not very warmly attached to it; it is not the child of his affection, but the illegitimate offspring of his political necessities. (Hear, hear.) The hon. Member represents the debt of the Province at £135,000. The responsibility assumed by Baring Brothers was incurred under the belief that the above is the true debt, but by the report of the Committee of Accounts now before the House, the actual debt is found to be £216,000. It may fairly be presumed, that upon discovery of this deception, they may consider themselves disengaged. The only legitimate way to raise means is by a funded debt. The capital which may be advanced, and made, with any certainty, available, must arise from productive works, and its safety must not be judged by the criterion of past legislation, or made dependent on the uncertainties of future parliamentary action. The Attorney General, in his letter, (page 7 of Railway Papers) proposes to construct a road from Shediac to St. John, and from Fredericton to St. John, which would cost £800,000. Baring Brothers' negotiation was evidently based on this proposition. It is easy to suppose, that the fact of there being a growing seaport town and a deep-water harbor the year round, as the termini of both roads, the English capitalists would readily embark in the enterprise. They never supposed that, in addition to these, other extensions were proposed, obviously more unproductive. [The hon. member read an extract from Railway Papers, page 7, paragraph 4.] Baring Brothers say, "you ask us to advance £800,000, and of this £500,000 must be paid this year, but the whole negotiation is stipulated upon the passage of the required Act by this Legislature. It is not to be supposed that Jackson and Co. will accept of their £47,000 through Baring Brothers. Our limit is £300,000, and we must be confined to this sum the annual stipend of £300,000—no matter for what Public Work it may be required—for the improvement of the River St. John or any other internal work. And why should we be tied to this company as our agent abroad? With the present commercial embarrassment, the war, and the consequent stringency of the money market, they agree to take our paper at par, if peace follows, and trade revives, as they confidently expect, it is no doubt calculated to make the debentures worth more to them, and they will effect sales at a premium; but, on the other hand, if prospects be blighted, and present pressure of money market increases, our paper will sell only at a loss, and consequently, it is thrown on our hands. If, however, we look around, there is a noticed every indication that our debentures will command a premium. R-cent funds on the part of parties in the United States, make capitalists distrustful of them, while by the late English papers, we notice the examples of Sadler and Schuchler, and the reluctance to advance on 24 per cent. with such risks. But the funds of a flourishing colony, noted for enterprise, and governed with intelligence, will always command a higher rate. If Baring Brothers had agreed to take our Bonds under any circumstances, at a fixed rate, the case would be very different. According to present arrangements, in prosperity, our paper will be taken, but a reverse of circumstances will throw the onus entirely upon ourselves. The whole liability from Shediac to St. John was £321,000, of which £192,000 would have been paid by the Province, for the remainder, £129,000, we would have a mortgage on the whole of the road, which would be a property valued at £245,500. These sums are all sterling money. There was no risk of loss here, and the control could have been retained. By the first contract of 1852, the Province as-

sumed liabilities for £321,000. By the proposal of the 8th June, £321,000, having entire control and management. By present terms, liabilities are £305,000 without any further additional charges, responsibility or control. It is all very well to say, that total amounts are no consequence—we have 30 years to pay up, and if there be corresponding benefits, we will have no great difficulty in the result. But the yearly interest is the great trouble. Compare the annual interest to arise on the expenditures of the Shediac and St. John Road, and payable after ten years, according to the different proposals. By the first arrangement, assuming a complete Road in working order—the interest would be £19,200. By the 8th June proposal £31,297. Present proposal, taking the road at the same price, £55,040, with only a nominal control. The Attorney General says, that in Nova Scotia, including the mile has been the average cost of the rolling stock. We used to think and contend that this would be the outside limit of the cost here, but experience shows a very different result indeed. It is found by reference to Rolling stock required for Shediac and Bend Road, that it requires £500 per mile for this service alone. (What, here read at length from returns, &c., of Nova Scotia Road.) We find that the cost is £573 per mile without depots or rolling stock, while the Road is comparatively easily built. It is true, their future operations are not expected to be so expensive, but our road will cost more than theirs. In Maine the average cost has been £750 per mile, in Massachusetts £9,160. It is true their Bonds sold at a great discount, but in some instances, the real cost of some of their roads in Maine have cost £10,000 per mile. Now why release Jackson & Co., or why pay them £47,000 for no purpose? or for what has been another occasion by the Hon. Attorney General styled, "a crumbling mound with a goos track at one end and a broken wheel at the other." (Laughter.) We are provided with £800,000 in all for the next four years; but in the meantime £500,000 will be expended on each extension. But what does the Bill provide? (What does your own Bill provide? by Hon. Mr. Johnston.) Oh! there is! "still harping on your daughter." The acts of the old government have been all examined, they are tried and condemned, then why make these allusions? To proceed—while the building of the one route is insured, there is an evident negation, that the other extensions shall be built, because the £800,000 will be all expended. (The Honorable member here read from Peto's letter.) A large portion of the stock, &c., now on the Road, will not under the new mode of building be required at all. Different sections being let by contract as in Nova Scotia, this cannot be sold to advantage, so that we have bought what we do not want. The whole cost of Surveys, &c., were included in the £6,500 sterling, per mile, and their fragment was of course contingent on their contract being carried out to its fullest extent. The old contract was perfectly valid and good, and he (Mr. G.) agreed with the Attorney General, as regards the integrity and honour of Jackson & Co.,—but war and other unfavourable circumstances, entirely crippled their exertions, and prevented their acting in good faith. If we only wait fifteen months, we shall secure the whole work free of expense—while, in the meantime, we are expending £47,000, in the mean time, we are sufficiently indoctrinated with the propriety of making a Railway a great desideratum for this Country—without any elaborate arguments of hon. members, or reference to Addison & Steele, showing the state of Society 100 years ago;—and he was just as anxious as any other one to retain our young men, in the land of their birth, but this object would not certainly be derived from the outlay of £47,000 for nothing. In conclusion he would ask the Committee to view this great matter with unbiased minds, and treat it in a way which can be satisfactorily explained to the people of this Country—(hear, hear!)

#### THE FAMILY CASKET

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#### THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH 26, 1855.

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No Communication will be inserted without the author's name and address in confidence. Unless the opinions expressed by correspondents be editorially endorsed we shall not consider ourselves responsible for them.

Correspondents are respectfully reminded that short communications, as a general thing, are more acceptable to readers of Newspapers than long ones; and that a legitimate style of writing will save the printer time, which is always valuable, and secure a correct impression.

All Ministers of the gospel, who will send us the advance, for six new subscribers, will get the "Visitor" for one year free of charge.

#### Baptists in Australia.

Repeatedly have we called attention to Australia as presenting a most inviting field for Missionary culture, and earnestly have we sought to arouse our own denomination in these Provinces to a consciousness of the obligations resting upon them to send forth true and faithful labourers into that great harvest field. The following communication extracted from the correspondence of the Freeman of England, goes far to confirm the truthfulness of all we have said on this subject. We ask our ministers and churches to carefully read and prayerfully ponder its contents.

Melbourne, 9th November, 1855.

It having occurred to me that a brief account of the religious condition of this colony, more especially with regard to the Baptist denomination, would not be unacceptable to your readers, I avail myself of a present opportunity for inditing a few remarks relating thereto; and in pointing out, as I purpose doing, the great want which exists of some qualified ministers to collect the scattered members of our body, and raise the principles of our faith to the position they are entitled to occupy in Victoria. I trust that the attention of some efficient and energetic servants of Christ may be drawn to the subject, with a view to their being left behind to pursue their holy calling among the multitudes who have left their fatherland to found a commonwealth at its antipodes.

The monetary crisis through which we have passed, or may be said to be still passing, has had a considerable effect upon the morals of the people generally, and the depression in trade which followed upon our unlooked for elevation attend-

ant upon the gold discovery, affecting as it has done all classes, would appear to have produced a marked improvement in the social habits of the community; for the wisdom of steady industry, frugality, and temperance, is to a large measure felt and acknowledged now, in preference to the wild speculation, prodigality, and excess, prevalent in the glittering era from which we have recently escaped. Nor, it is to be hoped, has the lesson been lost on professing Christians, the majority of whom you will not be surprised to learn were, to a greater or less extent, drawn into that overweening attachment declared to be "the root of all evil," and have since experienced the truthfulness of the Scriptural adage in disappointed and sorrow. It will therefore be perceived that what at the first, brush men deemed a sad misfortune, is likely to produce a permanent good, and establish a more sound and healthful prosperity for the future.

Considers the strenuous exertions put forth by the Church of Rome to propagate its doctrines, and the wide field of labour open to God's people, much cannot be said of the zeal displayed by any of the Protestant bodies located in this province, either by way of providing for the spiritual necessities of their own followers, or publishing the gospel among the vast numbers utterly destitute of religious sentiment. The Wesleyans are the only evangelical sect to whom the smallest meed of praise can be given for their efforts in prosecuting the great work of salvation, and these, notwithstanding their eager reception of government money, are by no means so progressive as their organization and the appliances at their command would lead you to suppose. The Church of England and the several sections of Scotch religionists are languidly pursuing, "the even tenor of their way," content with the ordinary services of worship, and doing absolutely nothing for those without the precincts of their respective communions. Since the arrival of Messrs. Fletcher, Poore, and Day, the Independents have evinced some symptoms of animation, two additional churches having been formed, one at St. Kilda, a short distance from Melbourne, of which Mr. Fletcher is the pastor, and the other at Castlemaine, on the Gold Fields, watched over by Mr. Day, and by some laudable exertions made by Mr. Poore on behalf of the Chinese immigrants; but beyond this their advance is almost imperceptibly gradual.

Un satisfactory, however, as these statements are with reference to the other denominations, far less can be told of that in whose proceedings we are most deeply concerned; for, to their discredit be it said, the Baptists have scarcely a name in Victoria. While the population of Melbourne and its immediate suburbs amounts to nearly 100,000 souls, it contains but two recognized Baptist churches, and the number of attending members falls far short of 100 in each case, not by reason of a paucity of Baptists, but because of their inability to settle down at either of the places indicated; and because so many connect themselves with Congregational or Wesleyan Associations, not a few, it is to be feared, receiving no glad welcome from their Christian brethren, and reaping step by step into the world, perchance irretrievably. As the interior of the colony is becoming settled, townships are fast springing up, some already quickly populated, but, except at Geelong (where another 25,000 inhabitants one chapel is erected), to the best of my knowledge, no Baptist church exists among them all, although in almost every one a Roman Catholic place of worship is to be found.

The cause of this state of things I will endeavor in a few words to explain. The first of the two Melbourne churches to which I have referred is presided over by a layman, who, good Christian as he undoubtedly is, possesses very few of the qualities essential to a proper discharge of the important functions appertaining to his office, and I have reason to believe that, conscious of this, he would cheerfully retire in favor of any well qualified pastor who may present himself to the suffrages of the congregation. The second church is in almost as unfortunate a predicament as the first. It has, it is true, a minister whose genuine piety and well-intentioned zeal cannot be too highly extolled, but one whose bodily and mental incapacity is so painfully obvious as to render his public ministrations perfectly unendurable, except to persons of such rigid principle that they will be Balaists, and nothing else even in appearance. It may be further stated, that a good proportion of the professing Baptists of this colony are of that hyper-Calvinistic order who reject those over Calvinists in their isolation, while the remainder, with only a few worthy exceptions, are soulless and apathetic to an unpardonable degree; ever ready to interpose objections to any proposition, and discourage any movement calculated to promote an arousal from lethargic slumbers.

Under such circumstances it is no surprising thing that our denomination is destitute of influence, and unkind of among the creeds. The fact is all too loudly for some energetic spirits to come over, that we may construct from the ample material already here an association of churches, to promulgate the Scriptural views we hold, and that shall worthily imitate, if not ultimately excel, the example of our native land in this respect. If no thoroughly efficient and persevering ministers (and none others need entertain the thought) can independently commit themselves to this undertaking, surely there are friends in England who will aid us in this matter, and at least provide the means of deputed one or two able and discriminating brethren to visit us to ascertain our requirements, and thereon to form such arrangements as may seem fit for an adequate supply of competent preachers.

But any who may contemplate the transfer of their services to this sphere of action should have a just conception of the difficulties to be encountered. They must be prepared to work, and to endure, and persevere withal. Souls have to be converted, backsliders reclaimed, slumberers awakened, churches raised, chapels built; and while, under God's blessing, success is certain to attend their labours, it is up-hill work, and will need all the dauntlessness of spirit and self-denying fervour which love to Christ and pity for perishing mortals can alone inspire.

The Religious Intelligencer of last week speaks of a deeply interesting revival in progress at Wickham, in which many have professed conversion to God, and have obeyed the Saviour in baptism.

Rev. Budd DeMill, Pastor of the Baptist church in Anherst, preached on Sabbath last in Brussel street in the morning, and in Germain street in the evening, with much acceptance.

BAPTISM.—The ordinance of christian baptism was administered on the last Lord's day by the Rev. S. Robinson of Brussel street, and by Rev. E. Clay of Carlston.

CORRECTION IN WESTERN MINUTES.—In the last line of the 14th page, instead of "run parallel with John," read "run parallel with Jehu."

The AMERICAN BAPTIST MEMORIAL has come to us with somewhat of an improved appearance under its new Editor. It is ever welcome as a monthly epitome of the progress of the denomination. Its articles are written in a vigorous, Manly spirit.

Several communications have been received for publication, but on account of want of space they must stand over for a future issue.

Please read the following appeal from the "Bible Union," and ask what is your duty in regard to its claims:—

Shall the Work Cease?  
American Bible Union Rooms,  
New York, Feb. 10th, 1855.

FRIENDS OF PURE VERSIONS:—  
You know, that we do not make frequent appeals for pecuniary aid. Were there not a pressing necessity, we would not apply to you at this time.

At our last anniversary, there was so general a desire manifested for the early completion of the New Testament, that the Board ventured largely to increase its force of revisers at these Rooms, in order to press through the work as rapidly as possible, consistently with its thorough and faithful execution. Our expenses have thereby been greatly increased.

Last year, our venerable Brother Mackay raised for us between seven and eight thousand dollars. He has now resigned his agency, and confines himself to his presidential duties. Brother G. W. Huntley, who collected for us last year a very large amount of money, has been prevented thus far, this year, by domestic affliction, from prosecuting the agency for the Union. Under these circumstances, our balance on hand has gradually run down, until, this day, we have to announce AN EMPTY TREASURY.

At the same time, we are under a weight of engagements, never before equalled. No reserve fund exists, and we have no resource, under God, but the zeal and liberality of the friends of pure versions.

We feel assured that the knowledge of these facts will impel you to do all in your power. The Bible Union has never been in debt; and we believe that you would regret with us such a lamentable affliction. For the sake of the sacred Scriptures of Divine truth, of which we are endeavouring to procure a complete revision in our own language, and for the sake of the Author of truth, who is best pleased with His children when they are most anxious to know and do His will, we entreat you to aid us to the extent of your ability, and to do it cheerfully, promptly, and effectually.

If practicable, let the mail, which bears to you this intelligence, bring back to us the first fruits of your sympathetic response.

On behalf of the Board,  
WM. H. WICKOFF, Cor. Sec.

#### Fredericton Correspondence.

We are under many obligations to our esteemed correspondent in Fredericton, for his full reports of the Legislative proceedings, and cannot but regret that our space will not admit these reports in full; but will endeavor to give all the strong points in debate. This week, the kindness of our correspondent enables us to give a very full report of the Hon. Attorney General's speech on the Railway question, which in consequence of the prominent part he has taken in the new arrangements will be read with more than ordinary interest. We furnish as much of Mr. Gray's speech, in opposition to the plan proposed by the Attorney General as we have room for. These two speeches may be regarded as embracing the principle arguments for and against the Government proposition. We have only to say that we go for Railroads upon the widest and most extensive scale that the funds of the Province will justify, and it must be pretty obvious to all concerned by this time, that unless built by the Government, and that substantially in accordance with the present plan we shall not have them for a very long time to come.

REV. CHARLES MACKEY.—We regret to say that this esteemed minister of our City has suffered extreme prostration of bodily strength recently, occasioned by a violent attack of inflammation of the lungs. For some days his life was considered in imminent danger; but we rejoice to learn, that the disease has taken a favorable turn, and that there is good reason to hope that he will soon be restored to his wonted health. Many prayers have ascended to the mercy seat from the altars of Christian hearts, that his useful life might be spared. These prayers have not been offered in vain.

WE regret to learn that Rev. E. C. Mitchell, pastor of the 2nd Baptist Church, Calais, Maine, has been compelled by ill health to resign his charge. We cannot but express the hope that a life so full of promise will be graciously spared to Zion for many years yet to come.

Rev. David Freeman, pastor of the Granville street church, Halifax, informs the Christian Messenger that his brother, Zenas S. Freeman, died recently at Worcester, Mass., in the 21st year of his age. He was considered a young man of much promise, and his early death has occasioned many regrets amongst his youthful associates in study, as well as by his relations and friends generally. But it is pleasing to know that he gave the most satisfactory evidence that he was prepared to go.

DONATION VISIT.—We are pleased to learn from the Christian Messenger of the 19th ult, that donation visits have been made recently to the Rev. G. Armstrong of Bridgetown, Rev. A. Hunt of Cornwallis, and Rev. J. Bancroft of Rawdon, by their respective churches, and that the amount contributed on those occasions ranged from forty to fifty pounds to each pastor. They were found to be seasons of peculiar interest to ministers and people.

PROHIBITION IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The Telegraph informs us that the Prohibitory Law has passed the Nova Scotia Legislature by a majority of 27 to 20, with the provision that it is to go into immediate operation; and that the Legislative Council will probably pass it with a large majority. This is cheering intelligence. Onward, onward, should be inscribed upon every Temperance banner, and upon every Temperance heart.

PRAYER FOR TEMPERANCE.—A meeting for Prayer on behalf of the Temperance cause at the present important crisis was held at Granville street Church on Monday evening.

Rev. Mr. Bentley, Rev. Mr. McGrigor, Rev. Mr. McLearn, Rev. Mr. Miller, Judge Marshall and Mr. W. A. S. Blewett took part in the services. A deep and solemn feeling prevailed. The ravages will be made by this parent vice call for earnestness and prayerful effort as much now as at any previous period of its dreadful history.—Christian Messenger.

Do the opponents of the Temperance movement pray to a Holy God, that success may attend the liquor traffic?

#### REVIVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The following letter from Rev. W. Hobbs, is fraught with glorious intelligence in reference to the triumphs of truth in Liverpool, N. S. Rideon then Conquering Prince of Peace until not only Liverpool, but the world shall be subdued to thyself!

LIVERPOOL, March 17th.

My Dear Brother,—I wrote you a few weeks since, that we were engaged in a series of meetings, with encouraging prospects. Now we have the pleasure to inform you that our most sanguine hopes are more than realized, our faith turned to sight and we are ready to exclaim, "what hath God wrought for this people!"

For several weeks we laboured alone with the church, who have been quickened in the work of the Lord, and backsliders have been reclaimed, who for many years, have scattered their ways to strangers, and many hardened sinners have been converted to God. The good work has prevailed, especially among the young. Last evening I had the delightful privilege of immersing eighteen willing converts, in the Baptist of the chapel; the chapel being crowded to excess, and hundreds went away unable to gain admittance. At seven o'clock the organ struck up its melodious tones, and the choir sang that appropriate hymn, "In all my Lord's appointed ways," after which a short address on baptism followed, and then the candidates led in lowly was given, the Lord's Supper was dispensed to nearly three hundred communicants. Brother Morton from Wilmot, and Angel from Yarmouth taking part in the services of the evening. A week ago, last evening, we had a similar service, when six were welcomed to the fellowship of the church, four of whom were added by baptism that evening. The spirit of inquiry is increasing, and we expect to baptise a large number next Lord's day. Twenty-four came before the church at the Conference, and were received for baptism, eighteen only baptised as yet, and numbers profess conversion at every meeting—they arise in every part of the chapel to let what God has done, and some who come to mock return to pray. Twenty, last evening, arose in different parts of the house, requesting the prayers of the church. The most of the converts are young men, and one pleasing feature is, that the good work commenced in the right quarter, Gilbert's Hotel. Some of the most profane and reckless have yielded to the power of truth. For the last four weeks, I have preached one sermon each Sabbath to the Sabbath School scholars and teachers, many of whom are among the converted and baptised. The secret of success is that the church are at their post, and not like too many of our churches slumbering, and saying, the set time is not yet come, desiring so to have it, not willing to make the sacrifice which a revival must necessarily demand. The faithful and indefatigable labors of brother Bentley, the esteemed pastor of the Church, have been abundantly blessed, the seed broad cast by him is now springing up in a glorious harvest of immortal souls, we are all looking for his speedy return to Liverpool, the field of his former labors.

Yours in the best of bonds,

WILLIAM HOBBS.

Deacon T. Lockey, in a letter just received, says, "We have had a visit for a week from our bro. Bleakney, and many hearts have been refreshed by his coming, especially those baptised by him years ago."

Rev. B. Scott writing from Newcastle Miramichi, says, "Our meetings are well attended, and notwithstanding all our little troubles, I feel encouraged in view of the advancement of the cause."

The following is an extract from a letter received from the Rev. J. C. Hurd, dated Cape Canoe, 14th March, 1855.

"I have recently returned from a visit to Guysborough—have been engaged with Brother Hall, in a series of religious meetings there. The church was much revived, several backsliders were restored, and ten professed faith in Christ, and were added to the church by baptism. Bro. Hall has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church at Guysborough to become their pastor, and has entered upon his labors there with very encouraging prospects of success."

#### For the Christian Visitor.

#### Incidents of Prohibition at Saint George.

One is, that since New-Year's day, incidents of a certain kind—incidents of drunkenness and riot—have been rare among us. St. George was never so still since it was a village as it is now and has been for the last eleven weeks. The day before yesterday was St. Patrick's Day; yet it passed off with exemplary quietness. Of course, the liquor-dealers have sold; but they have sold discreetly, so as to avoid exposure. It has been observed too, that persons who heretofore never visited the village without making themselves drunk, have both come in and gone out sober. So far, there is a reform among us. Prohibition has said, "Thou shalt not put the bottle to thy neighbor's mouth!" and has not been wholly disobeyed.

We have been engaged of late with legal experiments. January, February, slid along; no one interfered with the clandestine traffic of the rum-sellers; the enemy grew secure, careless, insolent; it began to be assumed that the friends of the new law, or that the law itself lacked mettle; and truly, either the law is negligently drawn, or its framers took it for granted that the machinery for working it must be found outside the law. Here, then, was room for experiment; and it has been made.

On Tuesday, the 4th inst., Richard M'Gee, senr., Richard M'Gee, junr., William Hammond, and Henry Murphy, were brought up before Henry E. Seelye, Esq., for selling liquor contrary to law. The Summary Conviction Act supplied the machinery with which the proceedings against the accused parties were worked. Cases were established against R. M'Gee, junr., and H. Murphy. Evidence was not forthcoming against the other parties. Their cases were, therefore, postponed until the next day, as also was judgment in the cases sustained. Meanwhile warrants were issued to compel witnesses to appear. Counsel, too, were engaged—Mr. Chandler, of St. Andrews, for the prosecution, and Mr. R. Andrews, of the same place, for the defence. Wednesday, the 5th, the court sat again. R. M'Gee, junr., and H. Murphy were adjudged in penalties of £10 each, with costs. Further testimony was not then obtainable, and the Court was again adjourned to Thursday, and then again to Friday. On these two latter days, witnesses were brought up under warrant, but refused to testify. Two of them were therefore committed to prison. One of these was conveyed thither

and detained four days; the other hid himself, and escaped his sentence. Last Saturday, the 15th inst., the Court met again, both forenoon and afternoon. Still evidence was wanting; every method was employed to procure it; but the enemy was diligent, watchful, unscrupulous.—And so the cases were closed, and the ends of justice in that defeated. It is now to be added, that the parties convicted, as above stated, have appealed to the Supreme Court. Such is the present position of the cases here reported.

Yet other Incidents.—The enemies of prohibition, especially those who have been subjected to convictions, have been seized with a sudden zeal on behalf of our revenue laws. Correct information, we are sorry to say, of the breach of the revenue laws, has been laid against one gentleman, who has taken an active part in the recent prosecutions, and a large seizure made in his store. But more. Other informations have been laid. The evil motives of the informer were perfectly transparent. The gentleman who received the informations had every means of judging of their improbability, and ascertaining their falsehood. He was under no sort of compulsion to make use of those informations. Yet use them he did. His inquiries were unproductive, of course; but they were irritating. Were they meant to be anything else? and if not, how stands the account with the official fitness, the courtesy, or the good neighborhood of the gentleman in question?

Now for a legal episode. We have heard much of the tyranny of the prohibitory law. But look at our revenue laws. A man is supposed to have contraband goods in his dwelling; and then the written, but unsworn, information of any single individual justifies an unparading search for the discovery of those goods. Or a man need not be supposed to be so possessed of such goods; yet an information may be laid against him, simply false, palpably malicious, and an officer may proceed on this information, and inflict annoyance at discretion, and his victim has no legal redress. Well, no one complains of this, so long as we are under a system of indirect taxation, our revenue officers have need to be furnished with large facilities for the detection of smuggling. It is presumed, indeed, that our Treasurers are gentlemen, and will not stoop to employ their power for petty purposes. It is also presumed that government will carefully select the men who are to hold such power, and not wink, when it is abused, to the wanton invasion of the sanctities of home. Still the power exists; and no laws can be made more inequitable than our revenue laws. But now turn to the Prohibitory Act. A man is supposed, is notoriously known, to keep liquors in his dwelling-house for sale. Well, and how are we to get at this man? Not at all, except by written information—sworn to by at least three "reputable persons." Moreover, if any are convicted of giving false testimony in such a case, they become liable to an imprisonment which may be extended to two years. Here is contrast with a witness; is it not striking? The revenue laws lay every man's house open as day to the visitation of revenue officers; the Prohibitory Act carefully fences round with conditions and penalties the house of the man who is known to be violating its enactments. You may search his dwelling certainly; but you must look well to your informations beforehand, and to the penalties which may spring upon you afterwards. And yet men babble about the invasion of British rights in the latter case, while they do not seem to have dreamt of such a thing in the former. It is all mere cant—away with it!

H. E. Seelye, Esq., has made his magisterial debut in the cases above noticed. No man could have done better in his position, nor given better promise for the future. Exciting as were the causes which came before him, with all their circumstances, he maintained an undisturbed self-possession, preserved admirable order in court, and won the verdict of all parties withal as his impartiality.

Our Sons of Temperance during our late legal campaign, have for the most part been true to their order and their objects. Having asked for prohibition, they were bound to sustain it, and have nobly begun to redeem their pledge.—Speaking generally, and with an eye to the province, without the Order our law could not have been brought into being, and when they abandon its working it becomes a dead letter. Here, therefore, lies their mission, their glory, or their disgrace.

Finally, as to the enemies of Prohibition, that is, in St. George—who, and what, are they? Some in genteel life, and some in low; some in robes, and some in rags; some who hug themselves upon their respectability, and some who embrace infamy for the sake of their lusts; some who once talked ostentatiously of their loyalty, and some who are loyal only to their cups; the drunkard-maker, and those whom he makes drunk,—these are they who, in our village, maintain their warfare against the solemn convictions of our molding classes, and the virtue of all. "But they shall proceed no further, for their folly shall be manifest unto all." Even now their power has received a check. They may boast of their wealth, their influence, and their numbers. But wealth cannot always bribe conscience, nor purchase undiminished influence. Numbers even, if they be more or less nicely balanced, can effect little without organization; while organization, again, is worthless, without the bond of great moral principles. The friends of the law among us, of order, temperance, religion, and of the bodies and souls of men, have nothing to fear in the long run. Let them be staunch to their purpose, united among themselves, and kind to their opponents, while they show no mercy to their errors. Let them take courage from small successes, while no reverses dishearten them. Let them struggle till they die, and then leave their warfare to posterity. Let their prayers go up to God, while they toil for the good of men. They will surely leave the world better than they found it; and their "labor shall not be in vain in the Lord."

March 19, 1855.

#### Temperance Meetings.

Amherst Shore, March 19, 1855.

Mr. ENRON, I am pleased to convey the intelligence of one of the best Temperance Meetings ever held at Bay De Verte. Although the