Bellafield

NEWSPAPER: DEVOTED TO RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

EV. I. E. BILL,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

EO. W. DAY, Printer.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1857.

Correspondence.

The Controversy Continued.

We assure the editor of the Colonial Pres erian that we had no design in engaging controversy with him or any of our o-baptist friends, when we wrote our disive recollections of times past, nor by the ndices which followed. Nor, after what think his ungenerous and unprovoked ck upon us, did we wish to prolong the oute beyond what we deemed necessary in defence, and to show the unreasonableof his position, evinced by the opprous epithets he used in reference to us and Baptist denomination in general. When efore, after replying to him in two arti-, he dropped the subject, so far as we concerned, though we had prepared following article as a second review of first production, we very willingly sup-sed it, for the sake of peace. But, lo behold! in his paper of December 27th, oticing several other writers in the Visitor, aims several back-handed blows at his old im, and signifies to his readers that he knocked us down, and so completely nced us on the subject. But, we tell the leman that he is mistaken, and has greatdeceived his hearers; for if he fancies his sword has hurt us, or as he intimates, off a head, it only proves the dimness of

a wooden sword. s, then, we are called back by this chamof pædo-baptism to the field of battle, though reluctantly, take up the gauntlet as thrown down. But, in again entering field of controversy, we shall pass by, resent, the later articles in the Presbytea, and review the old battle-ground; deding to have a better settlement of the his attention, and that of our lers to the ground on which he built his ack on us, and the position he took in the t place; it was as follows:

sight, in imagining that he had a true

nascus blade, when, at best, he wielded

We published in the Christian Visitor a uisition on the subject of a " purely coned church," in which we reminded our ders that the Baptist denomination had orised a body on this principle, professing believe that it contained more of this elent than any other sect of christians. That doctrines of our platform did not it of the reception of any persons, er any circumstances, within the pale the church unless they were coned to God, and that these principles drew parating line between us and all other minations, as to any partnership in rch-building. And, in conclusion, lamentthat while we had retained, in our creed. e fundamental elements of the Gospel, had been exceedingly remiss in sustainand carrying them out, in managing the irs of our churches, both in the reception ew members, and in neglecting to discipdisorderly persons amongst us; and we arked that in this " way a church might enerate in spirit, and become a piece and cel of popery, even while it is orthodox creed." On this representation of our ciples and present standing, we presentmotive to faithfulness and activity in ading the cause we espoused. In the inuction to our discussion of these docs, we made the remark, "We cannot avoid the enquiry, by what power, or iples, or means, have we obtained our ent standing and wide-spread influence? answer generally would be,by the bless-

of God." We supposed that this blessing God on the pure principles propagated by the chers of our denomination had given us ow, we appeal to every reader of that ele, if it contained anything worthy of condemnation of any candid christian ? If it did, we are so dull as not to perceive re it may be found, or in what it consists. we give any just cause for the hard and un-things said by Mr. Bennett, in his attack h us and the Baptist denomination in ge-Was there anything introduced in nort essay on a "converted church," to h he might take exceptions? If there we, and the Baptists generally, profess open to conviction, and the editor of the terian would have done a service for the would have been entitled to our cs, had he enlightened us as to the nature ndency of our errors. But how does eal with us and the Baptist church in his ures on these statements which we had Why, after some introductory reon our former communications, he the subject in this style, "We are sormust take some objections to-Appendix n which there is something like the t of the big boy who is growing bigger all others become dwarfs." Was there thing said by us to provoke this slur? we say anything about other sects or nes decreasing? or that we had grown of them? Did we use any depreciating uage towards the Presbyterian church, others, or did we make any invidious

readers right, by a retraction of the untrue Bennett has taken upon himself to castigate and odious representations he had made us and the whole Baptist people. against his neighbours, the Baptists. But has But, Mr. Bennett says, after this strange he done this? or has he not rather added in- criticism, "If Mr. Nutter means that the sult to the injustice he had done us?

And how does he deal with us and the subject to use those ugly words. here in dispute? Why, he goes over the On the subject of infant baptism, this wrisame ground again, giving his reasons for ter cannot introduce his views without giving disputing what he supposed was our argu- the Baptists a tap on the ear, for he reprement and after attempting to destroy it a sents them as excluding infants who go to second time, winds up by saying that as we heaven from the outer porch, &c., while

But, after finding himself foiled here, does holy things, even in the Baptist church. he exhibit the christian magnanimity to own O! most clear and potent argument in these mistakes on which his hard criticisms favour of infant churchmembership. Hypoand distorted representations had been found- crites and worldlings deceive them, and get ed, and thus set himself right with his read- into the church, ergo, infants who have the ers? No. This he does not do; "but it seed of worldliness and hypocrisy, must be (the Baptist Church) has grown great only in brought into the church, or the porch to mulconnection with superior purity is Mr. N.'s tiply and augment the number. Again, he position." And this is made the text for ex- argues out our inconsistency in excluding

others to craft, &c. And we do still take or the porch? "Not by any command, but exceptions to the manner in which he inferentially." And pray whose inference is up by quoting St. Paul. We do not think Baptists find in the code of laws of the king with him that this is so very obvious. For of Zion, no command on the subject, and instance, the passage quoted from 2 Cor. 12: they infer that they have nothing to do in the 16, we do not think sanctions any such thing as intrigue or any sort of guile in promoting religion. Nor do we believe that Paul adopted any sort of guile to catch converts, true or false. uations of his defamers, and reminded the stupidity of the Baptists with wonder, at not Corinthians that he had never been a burden being able to see clear through a millto them, nor would he be burdensome on this third visit which he was about to make. "True," you say, "I was burdensome," I from you by means of others what I pretended to be unwilling to receive immediately This is Dr. A. Clark's from yourselves." opinion who says, "Many persons suppose tists should most seriously consider. It is with guile,' are the words of the Apostle, and not of the slanderers, and therefore have thought it lawful to use guile, deceit, &c., in order to serve a good and religious purpose. This doctrine is abominable; and the words are much more evidently those of the Apos-

tle's detractors, against which he defends his conduct in the two following verses." But Mr. Bennett does not "believe in any pure church; and thinks there are as "are too superstitious." Indeed the Editor great a number of self-defenders, hypocrites, of the Presbyterian, we believe is a perfect and humbugs in the Baptist church, as in the monomaniac. Baptism is nothing more than a Methodist, Episcopal, or even the Presbyte-shadow, yet, he is following this shadow every rian church. Be it so. But we are exceed- where. It haunts his imagination by night ingly more unfortunate than the church to and by day, awake and asleep! He would which our respected brother belongs; we catch this shadow and surround every one have neither porch nor noviciate into which with it. Child or adult, christian or sinner. we can put them. But, this representation of He would sprinkle—or he would dip—he the subject, is so extraordinary that we think would re-baptise-he would do anything, but the editor of the Presbyterian has taken a let it alone! The very thing we would adbold position. If any person, Methodist, vise him to do, until his mind is a little more Baptist, or otherwise, in any report of their settled and he can trace this gnomon round growth and standing, shall venture to ascribe the dial and answer the question: "Watchtheir prosperity to the blessing of God on man, watchman, what of the night?" But their labors, he is ready to undeceive them, we will transfer one sentence, his "concluand enlighten them on this subject. "No, sion" on infant and adult baptism, and sprinkthe papists have been more successful than ling, dipping and re-baptism; it is this, "The you. Your success may more properly be attributed to tact and cunning, craft, &c., fession indeed should precede water baptism, than to the truth, especially the pure truth. but that vicarious profession, in a system Your church cannot be a pure church, for whose very foundations are vicarious, is in-you have hyprocrites and humbugs, and so admissible where personal profession is imhave all churches." Christ set up a church possible, and yet where the individual may when on earth, but by the same rule, it enjoy the advantages of the vicarious work of could not be a pure church, for it had one of Christ seems too sweeping a conclusion." these humbugs in it! The Apostles had by the intended to end our quotation here, but churches which they set up and watched really the following, which is a continuation over, but what of that? What were they to the end of the paragraph, is too good to worth? They had hypecrites amongst them; leave out. "The little one may have the Annanias and Saphira had got into one. substance, but the substance must cast no Were all the churches impure, which were shadow. The purity of the church forbids established under the ministry of these in-it, say the Baptists. Yet are your children spired teachers, because there were such (Ecclesiastically?) holy, when even one men as Simon Magus, Alexander, Hymeneus parent is a believer.".

and Philetus, found among their members?

Few of the readers What has this to do with the form of organi-

idea of the church of God is that it consists of Leaving this first indictment, which was converted or unregenerated persons, we fully wholly gratuitous, we refer to the next sentence, which reads thus, "Now we can, by no means, admit that standing and influence are any indication that they have been attained by God's blessing, by the Baptist or any other church." And then goes on to contend at great length, that increase and contend at great length that it is perfectly agreed with us in this idea is peculiar to the Baptists." If Mr. Beneatt is perfectly agreed with us in this accession of the Presbyterians to our sect; for the Editor of the Presbyterian is more for the Editor contend at great length, that increase and cule the idea, and when he has said all these standing are no evidences of the purity of hard things against those who profess to have the doctrine, or that God's blessing has attended their propagation. We have denied by assuring them that he fully agrees with the first of these proportions, viz., the pros- them, is more than we can comprehend! If perity of our cause a proof of the truth and this does not more than justify us for compurity of our principles, and complained that plaining that the Editor of the Presbyterian we were misrepresented by Mr. Bennett. has set up —, but we have promised not

had denied this, he would say nothing more on hypocrites and worldlings find their way there, and rest secure in possession of the

hibition of the powers of Mr. Bennett at them, "not by any command, but inferensarcasm and wrong. All which we shall pass by. Mr. Bennett makes much of our remarks trary, or to enlighten us in regard to the fact, on his ascribing our prosperity and that of that infants are to be admitted into the church most legitimate, his, or the Baptists'? The case; but our Presbuterian critic finding no command there, and it is as clear as light at noon day, to his sagacious mind, that they must be brought in; and this is his conclusive We do not believe that these are the words inference! His mental vision is so penetraof Paul, but the words of his detractors. He ting that he can see the affirmative of a prohad defended himself against the false insin- position, in a mere negation, and looks at the

But as to water baptism, Mr. Bennett desires not to lay too much stress on it." It is took nothing from you myself, but being a shadow of substance," he says, "nothing crafty, I caught you with guile; i. e. getting more, and like the shadow of the gnomon upon the dial, it may vary, yet indicate the truth." But, what else? O much more, and a wonderful discovery, which all dull Bapthat the words, 'being crafty I caught you this; "We think our Baptist friends altogether too much given to formality!" There, you Baptists, take that, and never open your lips again; learn how to wake up and become more spiritual, by the clear shining of the spiritual light which Presbyterians, and especially the Editor of their paper, is shedding on your dark souls. But, we think the Presbyterians may receive a little admonition in return, and it is just this: We think they

Few of the readers of the Vistor will understand this question on Mr. Bennett's vicarzations, or the principles and doctrines which constitute their faith? Is it any proof that a sure that we do, we will try, by the use of church is corrupt in theory, because such our homely Anglo Saxon, to give them their men have imposed upon the body, and "crept due. Vicarious signifies delegated, or subin unawares," and have been discarded as stituting one thing or person for another. soon as detected? On the other hand, is it Now as our blessed Saviour was a substitute ny others, or did we make any invidious parisons, between our growth and standard that of others? Can the editor of Presbyterian mark one sentence in that numication which carried on the face of which boast as he speaks of? Was not, this opprobious language unjust and uncous? Did it convey to the readers of language? If the latter, was not Mr. ett under a solemn obligation to set his oppositions as the speaks of the latter, was not Mr. ett under a solemn obligation to set his oppositions. The language is such ideas as those for which Mr. It is in the child to exercise the founded on the Romish principle of substitution, consequently it would be only carrying cut this idea to substitute the faith of the parent for that of the child to exercise faith. To deny the child the privilege of water baptism therefore, when it is impossible for the child the privilege of water baptism therefore, when it would be but carrying out this beautiful scheme of substitution, consequently it would be only carrying cut this idea to substitute the faith of the parent for that of the child to exercise faith. To deny the child the privilege of water baptism therefore, when it would be but carrying out this beautiful scheme of substitution, consequently it would be only carrying cut this idea to substitute the faith of the parent for that of the child to exercise faith. To deny the child, when it is impossible for the child to exercise the Baptists, if any one should dark to say his church has prospered by the blessing of God on her Ministry, and the pure gospet the latter, was not Mr. It is impossible for the child, when it is impossib any evidence that all the Presbyterian Minis- for us, the christian system is founded on the

at the risk of loosing them by thousands, and kindly man, with very fair natural abilifrom our own to the Presbyterian ranks. But ties, fairly improved by culture. Long hawe admonish them not to be too precipitate. The fact is, after all, we are likely to have bits, however, of theological and ecclesiastical the advantage from this discussion, by the controversy had cultivated a certain species

reference only to Mr. Bennett's article on our say. Bennet also) after them with one fiddle-string, gained points which they had not gained; by tions of the Theological gamut. Pagannini ecclesiastical tactics. scraped cat-gut, the Theologist energizes the Dr. Packthread was also master of every in," (by old Anabaptist preachers) " and which does not fail to gain a large following!" (which Mr. Bennett knows by experience, the Anabaptists of N. S. and N. B.) We thank the worthy Editor for this bright

a tune on it these twenty years, and we hope and lifts of the eyes, at proper intervals in for their own use; for Mr. Bennett assures silence became the strongest as well as safest them (and he knows) "that it will give forth form of assertion.
all the notes and variations of the Theological In person, he w gamut."

critical notice of us, we have been greatly In his boyhood and youth, the man had had a edified, and we hope profited, notwithstand- trick of smiling and laughing without consiing a little of the musty and misty logic of the dering why; the grace of prudence, how-Schoolmen is intermingled with the clear, conclusive and never-to-be-controverted axioms of Presbyterian theology. And we assure him-to use his own apology-" We mean a part of his stock in trade, and he underno disrespect while we illustrate."

D. NUTTER.

Sinless Craft.

The Editor of the Colonial Presbyterian n his issue of the 27th December connects Paul's name with craft, which he pays the Apostle the compliment of calling his craft on unfolding himself to the brother, who sat

If the editor of that paper had an esteemed absent friend, and any one were to justify the pulsive, and of course contradictory meshes use of pious frauds from a misapprehension of statement, which were, in some future of the writings of that friend, would he not hour, in the most gentle and Christian spirit, hasten to relieve the memory of his friend from the unworthy imputation cast upon him? And would he think that the union of the word pious with fraud was at all calculated to lesson the odium of the charge? What sense the editor attaches to the phrase "sinless craft," I know not, I have used craft as synonymous with guile; for the original question was, the meaning of Paul's language when he says, "Being crafty I caught you with guile;" when used in this sense, craft of every kind and degree is sinful; the exof every kind and degree is sinful; the ex-pression sinless craft is therefore equivalent described he considered as the fruits of it. to a sinless sinful act, which is as intelligible His prudence, in fact, served him all the puras an honest theft, or a veracious lie.

If the editor of the Colonial Presbuterian pleases to use such forms of expression, it is no business of mine to find fault, all I ask is that he will abstain from applying them to Paul or any other of the sacred writers.

If room can be found for it, I should like to insert an extract from Mrs. Stowe's Tale No doubt, Dr. Packthread expected to en-

tist people of the feasibility of infant baptism, ties. Constitutionally, he was an amiable

effect, on our " one fiddle string," since this ful tact, became in him a constant and lifesturdy Presbyterian polemic has already long habit of stratagem. While other people avowed his willingness " to dip instead of to look upon words as vehicles for conveying TISED he might even comply with his wishes!" ideas, Dr. Packthread regarded them only as We have been asked to do this several times, mediums for concealment. His constant and have always positively refused. So we study on every controverted topic, was so to shall be obliged to console ourself with the adjust language, that, with the appearance of plain cognomen of Baptist, without the hon- the utmost precision, it should always be capaorable prefix Ana, which our friend has fairly be of a double interpretation. He was a cunwon, and to which he has altogether the best ning master of all forms of indirection; of all phrases by which people appear to say what In conclusion, (and these remarks have they do not say, and not to say what they do

Appendix B.) our brother has given our He was an adept also in all the mechanism modern Baptist preachers a lesson on the of ecclesiastical debate, of the intricate labycharacter of a successful mode of preaching, rinths of heresy hunting, of every scheme by as adopted by us old stagers, and which was which more simple and less advised brethren, successful in giving the Baptist church its speaking with ignorant sincerity, could be present "standing and wide-spread influence." entrapped and deceived. He was au fait For the admonition of these younger, but de- also in all compromise measures, in which linquent Baptist divines, as well as for their two parties unite in one form of words, meaninstruction in their future work of proselyting, ing by them exactly opposite ideas, and call we give a large extract from criticism num- the agreement a union. He was also expert ber one, in the Presbyterian of Saturday, in all those parliamentary modes, in synod or Nov. 29th, 1856." There are persons," (the general assembly, by which troublesome disold Baptist preacher we presume) "who like cussions could be avoided or disposed of, and Pagannini can draw all the world (and Mr. credulous brethren made to believe they had -one idea men are sometimes very success- which discussions could be at will blinded ful, preach it, harp upon it-it may be a form, with dusty clouds of misrepresentation, or a ceremony, under the touch of Ecclesiasti-cism, it shall give forth all the notes and varia-weariness, to accomplish some manæuvre of

form of a symbol." But, this is not the end, means by which the influence of opposing for lest you should be dull of apprehension our parties might be broken. He could spread a worthy brother explains, as follows: "We convenient report on necessary occasions, mean that to fix the mind on one religious ele- by any of those from which do not assert, but ment, or on the shadow of a religious element, which disseminate a slander quite as certainly and make it the all in all—expound from it all asif they did. If it was necessary to create beauty, is a great feat very usually indulged a suspicion of the orthodoxy, or of the piety, or even of the morality, of an opposing brother, Dr. Packthread understood how to do it in the neatest and most tasteful manner. He was for it has allured him, like the syren music of an infallible judge whether it should be acthe fascinating goddess, into Jordan's stream, complished by innocent interrogation, as to dip and dip again, and thus to out-dip all to whether you had heard "so and so of Mr. ;" or, by charitably expressed hopes that you had not heard so and so;" or, by idea, and are determined to look up this old gentle suggestions, whether it would not be fiddle with one string, for we have not played as well to inquire; or, by shakes of the head, all our ministers will try to whittle out one conversation; or, lastly by silence when

In person, he was rather tall, thin, and the lines of his face appeared, every one In thus looking over again Mr. Bennet's first them, to be engraved by caution and care. ever, had corrected all this. He never did either, in these days, without understanding precisely what he was about. His face was stood the management of it remarkably well. He knew precisely all the gradations of smile which were useful for accomplishing different purposes. The solemn smile, the smile of inquiry, the smile affirmative, the smile suggestive, the smile of incredulity and the smile of innocent credulity, which encouraged the simple-hearted narrator to go quietly behind his face, as a spider does behind his web, waiting till his unsuspecting friend had tangled himself in incautious, imto be tightened around the incautious captive, while as much blood was sucked as the good of the cause demanded.

It is not to be supposed that the Rev. Dr. Packthread, so skilful and adroit as we have represented him, failed in the necessary climax of such skill-that of deceiving himself. Far from it. Truly and honestly Dr. Packthread thought himself one of the hundred and forty-four thousand, who follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth, in whose mouth is found no guile. Prudence he considered the chief of Christian graces- He worshipped Christian prudence, and the whole poses that the stock of the tree did to the ancient idolater. "With part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied; yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: and the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image; he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith. Deliver me; for thou art my god."

Dr. Shubael Packthread was a minister of a leading church, in one of the northern ci-

VOL. X .-- NO. 2 For the Christian Visitor. WOODSTOCK, Jan. 2d, 1857.

DEAR BRO.,-Pursuant to the request of the Richmond Baptist church, a council met with them, on Tuesday the 30th ult., to consider the propriety of ordaining Bro. G. Springer as their pastor. The following Elders, Deacons, and Brethren assembled, viz., Elders Harris, Saunders, Tupper, Outhouse, Miles, Wallace, Seely, and Todd; Deacons Churchill and Blake, Brethren Harvey, Hovey and Everitt. These having conferred with the committee appointed by the church, and each preliminary being carefully examined, the unanimous conclusion was that he be set a part to the ministry. The arrange-ment for the service was then concluded upon, which is as follows:-

To meet at 10 o'clock A. M., next day and that Bro. Seely read the Scrptures and offer prayer, Bro. Harris preach the ordination sermon, questions by T. Todd, ordaining prayer, H. Tapper, Hand of fellowship, G. F. Miles, charge to candidate, T. W. Saunders, charge to the church, Isa. Wallace, closing prayer, by D. Outhouse, benediction by the candidate. Father Harris' discourse was founded on 1st Timothy 4th chap. and first part of the 6th verse "If thou put the Brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good Minister of Jesus Christ," would like to give you a synopsis of the sermon but I would only spoil it; suffice to say, it was orthodox, practical and original, and the long experience of our brother in the Ministry enabled him to fill his subject with valuable instruction. The other brethren performed their respective parts, most admirably. So that we believe the good Shepherd of the sheep sent them to the place, and helped them while there. The occasion will not be soon forgotten by this increasing church, nor by the deeply affected congregation. Our prayer on leaving the beloved young pastor and his flock, was that God would bless him and make him a blessing,

THOS. TODD Clerk of the Council. P. S. We were very sorry that Elder Rigby of Tobique, arrived too late to take part in the above proceedings, owing to a mistake in his letter received from the church.

Yours &c.,

NEWCASTLE, Grand Lake, Dec. 15, 1856. DEAR BRO.-Having a few leisure monents- I will forward you a few lines for the Visitor; briefly relating how we are getting along in this region.

You are perfectly well aware of the loss which a church sustains in not having the ministrations of a pastor to go in and out before the people of his charge. It has been so with us during the absence of our much esteemed minister, brother Wallace, while prosecuting his agency in Nova Scotia and elsewhere, although during his absence we have been favoured with the visits of ministering brethren, but those were only passing

On Saturday last we met in conference. being the first since brother Wallace returned to resume his labours of love with us. when there was a manifest coming up to duty, and the principles of the spiritual church was the theme that pervaded the minds of the brethren in consequence of the faithful remarks made by our pastor at the commencement of the meeting, when a solemn appeal was made by him to the members to stay up his hands in order that his labours might not be in vain in the Lord.

We remembered with pleasure and gratitude how we enjoyed refreshing seasons at the conference meetings, and the baptismal waters, previous to our minister's being called away from his widely extended field of usefulness. We may freely use the saving of an inspired Apostle, " we have no man like

We were made glad to have one more added to our number at the close of the conference; after this a business meeting, which resulted in a pleasing manner; also an additional prayer meeting was established at Upper Newcastle, being within the precincts of the church.

Yesterday forenoon, brother Wallace delivered an impressive sermon founded upon the words " and with his stripes we are healed." First, The disease—Sin. Second, The great physician—Jesus. Third, The complicated sufferings and the shed blood of the Son of God. Fourth, The glorious results to the Christian, and lastly, a faithful warning to sinners to flee to the great physician to be healed.

At the close of the service a goodly number of brethren and sisters partook of the Lord's Supper, after which brother Wallace had to leave Newcastle and fulfil an appointment at Little River, (Sunbury) at 3 o'clock. No doubt, Dr. Packthread expected to enter heaven by the same judicious arrangement by which he had lived on earth; and so he went on, from year to year, doing deeds which even a political candidate would blush at; violating the most ordinary principles of morality and honor; while he sung hymns, made prayers; and administered the secretary are doubt, at lest to the provider of souls.

No doubt, Dr. Packthread expected to enter heaven by the same judicious arrangement which the head lived on earth; and so he went on, from year to year, doing deeds which even a political candidate would blush at; violating the most ordinary principles of morality and honor; while he sung hymns, made prayers; and administered the secretary are doubt, at lest to the provider of souls. P. M., and in the evening at Maquapit Lake.