

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., DEC. 14, 1855.

THE VISITOR'S TEMPERANCE CREED.

The Visitor believes, that Temperance is proper use of that which is useful, and abstinence from that which is injurious.

That the use of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, is in all cases more or less harmful, and Temperance in regard to it is TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

That drunkenness is a crime against God, humanity, and according to God's word excludes from the Kingdom of Heaven.

That so long as the drinking usages of society continue, so long drunkenness will perpetuate itself.

That no person who uses habitually alcoholic drinks can reasonably hope to avoid an ailing appetite for them.

That the only perfect safeguard against a fatal sin of drunkenness is constant and actual abstinence from the use of everything which intoxicates.

That the indulgence in the use of intoxicating liquors is wholly inconsistent with the obligations of religious life.

That the sale of ardent spirits for general purposes is a national evil, and therefore dishonours the nation, increases taxation, weakens the public health, and weakens the intellectual power of the people.

That the sale of ardent spirits for general purposes promotes pauperism, insanity and crime, and retards the progress of civilization.

That the sale of ardent spirits for general purposes is a barrier in the way of the triumphs of Christianity—destroys, to an alarming extent, manly life—throws poison into the cup of social sympathy—covers as with a cloud the respectability of manhood—exposes children and youth to become drunkards—makes wives widows, and orphan children—prepares men to murder their wives and to murder their children.

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Post Office. In this Province none know it better than ourselves—with a large circulation in all parts of the country, we are almost daily the recipients of such complaints. The "Visitor" has now been in existence for 12 years. It was established for the express purpose of advancing the interests and intelligence of our own denomination, and to assist in the development and progress of the country. Gain was not and never has been any part of its object, and its editors and managers have never yet received any other reward for their labours than the consciousness of having accomplished some part of the original design. They have worked in faith against many trying obstacles, but always hoping for better things—among which was better Post Office arrangements; and although a General Post Office has been established and in existence for some years, at great expense to the country, we are conscious of but little improvement.

We complain of this, (and who has a better right to complain?) but instead of getting any assurance that better things are in store for us, we are met with abuse and detraction! Is this Liberal? We have no personal object to gain either for the Visitor, or otherwise. But if we had, our being a New Brunswicker and a Baptist should not be deemed an obstacle to our aspirations. Be that as it may, we believe that the respectable portion of the press and of our denomination will sustain us in the independent expression of our honest opinions upon all questions which affect the interests of our country, without reference to their political bearing.

It would be a sad day for New Brunswick that saw its Religious Press bartered and trampled to partisan influences; and the man who would lend himself to such a purpose would make himself but the handle in an axe which would soon level his denomination to the dust.

Our esteemed brother, Rev. J. V. Tabor, in returning from his labors at Eastport, Robinsontown, Calais, and Princeton, Maine, together with the islands composing the Parish of the West Isles, in this Province, spent an interesting Sabbath in this City—preaching in Germain Street Chapel in the morning and evening, and in the afternoon at the Marine Hall. This was a happy relief to the pastor, especially as the baptism of two candidates in the evening devolved on him. He afforded us considerable pleasing information concerning his visit. In Eastport, where he preached twice, and attended a number of interesting meetings, another church has been formed, and our devoted Brother Wm. Ridout, has assumed the Pastorship of it. Our esteemed brother Willard continues to labour there. Appearances of revival are happily manifest in that city.

In Robinsontown, no Baptist Church exists; but a number of our people there, who worship God, enjoy the visit of a Baptist Minister. Elder Tabor preached with them also. In Princeton, where he spent two Sabbaths, he enjoyed a lively interest in the people. On Grand Manan, many of the people remember our beloved Willington Jackson's visit with deep feelings. Brother Tabor preached four sermons there. Several of our brethren and sisters remain in that island; but for the want of a missionary our denomination is not represented by a church. This is not as it should be. Grand Manan people have claims on our sympathy. Several of our people have labored there, and enjoyed the blessing of the God of Heaven.

On Campo Bello, where our Agent spent one Sabbath, preaching three times and attending a Conference Meeting, much union and interest was manifested in and towards him. In St. Andrews, where he preached once, he saw and felt the grace of God. Lively interest is here arising. May God bless the few there who seek to advance the spiritual interests of that town, and crown their prayers with an abundant harvest. Brother Tabor now goes to the Counties of King's and Queen's, where the churches will doubtless hear the proclamation of Salvation by him.

The friends of the Visitor may observe that we are keeping a Missionary in the field; and we earnestly hope, for their sakes, that the Divine blessing may give the visits of our Agent great pleasure to all who may listen to him. As we do not compensate him for his labors on the Sabbath, Congregations that enjoy his ministrations will do well to remember that our brother has a family; and while we afford him what our finances will allow, that it is his privilege to fulfil the Scriptures—which argue, that if you are made partakers of his spiritual things, it is your duty to administer to him of your carnal things—For so hath God ordained, that those who preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel.

"HISTORICAL VINDICATIONS: A Discourse on the Province and Uses of Baptist History, with Appendixes, containing Historical Notes and Confessions of Faith." By SEWELL S. CURTIS, Professor of Rhetoric and History in the University of Rochester, Boston: Gould & Lincoln.

This work is just what it purports to be, "Historical Vindications." The Author says "I shrink from no scrutiny in regard to the principles of the facts which gave rise to the Baptist Denomination. I am not unfamiliar with the facts and stereotyped reproaches which are cast upon our pedigree." He brings out the "principles" and "facts," in a manner which shows a thorough comprehension of his subject, and in a spirit which becomes one who knows that he has truth on his side. He answers the reproaches cast upon our pedigree by bringing forward such testimonies from history as must be satisfactory to every candid reader.

To the "Discourses" three are added appendixes, containing very important facts in our denominational history collected from great variety of sources. One of these appendixes is enriched by the insertion of the Confession of Faith adopted by seven Baptist Churches in London in 1643 which was the first authorized creed-statement of the Particular Baptists of England. This was older than the Westminster Confession, for the Westminster Assembly cleared its labors, and gave to the world the Presbyterian Confession in 1647.

We then have the Confession of Faith issued in 1677, by the Elders and Brethren of many congregations of Christians, baptized upon pro-

fession of their faith, in London, and the country," which was sanctioned by the "General Assembly" of 1689, composed of ministers and messengers of more than one hundred churches.

Following this, is the New Hampshire Declaration of Faith, adopted by the Baptist Convention of that State twenty-five years ago.

The Confession of Faith, put forth at different times during a period of more than two hundred years, afford an instructive insight into our doctrinal history, and furnish evidence of our essential doctrinal unity. A good service has been done by republishing the two older Confessions as they had become to most readers inaccessible.

The work of Professor Curtis is a valuable addition to our denominational literature, and should be read as widely as possible by the members of our churches. Avoiding irritating charges against other bodies of believers, it brings to light undeniable historical facts, which if more generally known, would have a tendency to remove unjust prejudices, and advance the cause of truth.

BAPTISM.—This delightful ordinance was administered in the Germain St. Baptist Chapel by the pastor on Sabbath ev'g last, to two candidates in the presence of a crowded congregation. It was a season of deep solemnity, and tokens for good were apparent.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

On Monday evening the Rev. Dr. Clay delivered a very popular and interesting lecture on "Matrimony and its Benefits." The Mechanics' Institute was filled to overflowing—so much so that many were obliged to stand in the aisles. He commenced by apologizing to the audience of his fear, that he should not do justice to his subject, as 'he did not feel well.' [The thought occurred to us, "Physician heal thyself."] He gave an able synopsis of the insecurity the marriage state was held in during the time of Henry the Eighth, and down to the present day, drawing amusing contrasts from the mode our forefathers had of wooing their brides, and that in vogue at the present day. He suggested many excellent hints as to the rights of the Patriarch of the family (the father), and the mutual agreement which should exist in every well regulated family. He amusingly referred to the caution with which he should have to speak. But even if the papers got hold of him, they would find him nothing but a lump of clay. "If they barked him he would be a brick, and to pound him would harden him." And again, that they might not accuse him of plagiarism he would be particular and name the authors from whose works he may have quoted some valuable hints bearing on the subject. This is only just to a refined and literary audience such as generally meets on Monday evenings—the regular lecture nights.

And here, by the way, we will add that boys or sleek-headed young men should consider it not in keeping with "good manners" to catch at a sentence, and get up a noise that the audience might put a wrong construction on words that none but a debased mind could harbor. Surely no Bachelor can maintain his fixed opinions of celibacy after listening to Dr. Clay's caricature of the gloomy, lonely and ungalant life of a Bachelor in contrast to the cozy, cheerful fireside, with a baby in the cradle, to the good wife's Johnny cake (from Indian meal) far exceeding Becket's best pound cake; and the moments of satisfaction enjoyed by aged parents in seeing their children becoming noble members of society, &c. &c. &c. The lecture would bear repeating in every Hall, Meeting and School-house where marriage is held as honourable and where young folks go a courting.

In consequence of sickness among our printers, considerable matter intended for this week's issue has been left out.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Union Daily Prayer Meeting in Halifax is well attended and is increasing in interest.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BIBLE READER.—Father Chiniquy was in the Fulton street prayer meeting last week, spending noon, as he is, a few days in the city. The Lord, he says, is delivering him and his people out of great and sore distresses, whereof he is glad. Their wants have been so far supplied, and the machinations of their enemies so far have come to naught.—He mentioned many cases of conversion. One was that of a young man, a mere youth, still under the power of parental authority. This youth had, by some means, procured a Bible, and set himself very earnestly to read it. At length his mother found out that he was reading the Bible, and she inquired of him: "My son, what are you reading this forbidden book for?"

"To know how I may be saved," he replied. "Do you not know that the priest forbids you to read the Scriptures?" "Yes; but our Saviour says, Search the Scriptures."

"Do you not know that the Bible commands you to obey your parents?"

"Well, then, I command you to burn that Bible, and unless you do it immediately, you shall leave my house forever."

"Mother," said the youth, "I cannot, must not, will not, burn my Bible. It is the word, I must leave you." So he packed up all to leave; and as he passed from the house, she called to him to come back—she could not have him go, she said. She gave him leave to keep his Bible, and to read it as much as he pleased. That youth is now a devoted, humble, earnest Christian; and he labors continually to lead others to know the truth as it is in Jesus.—Exchange.

The first mission of Protestants was that of the Huguenots to Rio Janeiro in 1556, which was broken up in 1558. The enterprise was concerted by John Calvin and Gaspard of Coligny, the noble leader of the Huguenots, and the most distinguished victim of the St. Bartholomew massacre.

THE MEN OF THE DEEP.—A letter from Dr. H. Humphrey, of Pitt-field, Mass., published in the Sailors' Magazine, calls attention to the special importance of the efforts being made for the conversion of seamen, and urges upon Christians the duty of providing for the establishment and support of sailors' homes and Bethel chapels.—Admitting that the souls of seamen are of no more value than those of any other class of men—all being alike priceless—the importance of labor in their behalf arises from the fact that their "home is on the deep," and their influence, either for or against religion and morality, more widespread than that of any other class.

In the United States there is one clergyman to 863 people. New Hampshire takes the lead in supporting the ministry, as she has one clergyman to every 490 people. Connecticut stands next. All New England has one clergyman to less than 600 people; New York one to every 722; Virginia one to 1,317; South Carolina one to 1,410; Louisiana one to 3,000.

CONGREGATIONAL AND BAPTIST MISSION.

The Baptists have 19 missions; the Congregationalists, 26; number of labourers—Baptists, 440; Congregationalists, 894; number of churches—Baptists, 318; Congregationalists, 153; added to the Baptists last year, (reports incomplete) 1,296; to the Congregationalists, 1,229; whole number of Baptist church members, 24,000; Congregational, 23,515. Total, 47,515 members; so that the present number of church members, would give a thousand a year, for the forty-seven years since the missionary work has commenced. One thought more—the expenses of the Baptist mission are about one hundred thousand dollars a year; that of the Congregational, about three hundred and seventy thousand; they have more labourers, and still the Lord has given us as many converts.—Exchange.

VIRGINIA.—In Virginia there are 725 Baptist churches, 396 ordained ministers, 70 licentiates; 6,611 persons having been baptized during the year, making the total membership 103,929; \$18,047.02 have been received for benevolent purposes.

We learn by the Christian Era that Elder Jacob Knapp has commenced a series of revival meetings in Baldwin Place, Boston, which are well attended.

The same paper informs us that our esteemed brother Earle is labouring with Bowdoin Square Church, Boston, and the meeting, though less numerously attended than could be desired, are characterized by much religious feeling.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

[From the Courier of Saturday.]

The following letter, from the Agents of the Canadian Ocean Steamship Line, was this morning received by T. W. Daniel, Esq., who has been, for some time past, in communication with them, in reference to their Steamships touching here, and which it is deemed advisable to publish for general information:—

CENTRAL, No. 22, 1855.

T. W. DANIEL, Esq., St. John, N. B.

DEAR SIR:—We have delayed answering your letter of the 29th ult., till we decided in what manner our Steamships would visit St. John this winter.

Our present ideas are, that every second vessel is likely to go there, and if such should be the case, it will make twelve in all, which will amply supply all your wants—but even if this view should not be fully carried out, we will, if it suits the convenience of your merchants, arrange that the

We cannot, however, afford to make the passage money to Liverpool from St. John less than Eighty-Five Dollars, or the freight of goods but less than Seventy Shillings, Stg. (£3 10s) per Ton.

Please advise us if the above arrangement will be suitable. We are, yours truly, EDMONSTON, ALLAN & Co.

THE SESSIONS.—There was a meeting of the Board on Saturday, a large number of Magistrates being present. There were several bills passed and ordered to be paid. The Committee to whom was referred the matter of reporting upon the expediency of providing a House of Reformation for the reclamation of juvenile offenders, submitted their report, which was read by Mr. Justice Foster. The Report suggests that a suitable building shall be put up, or one already built obtained, the expense to be borne by the City and County of St. John, where boys may be sent, instead of the Penitentiary, to be taught a trade, as well as to read and write, and whereby they may become good members, instead of outcasts of society. After a lengthened conversation, as to the best course to pursue in the premises, the Report was accepted; and on motion of Mr. Justice Smith, seconded by Mr. Justice Wiggins, both gentlemen having made most excellent and feeling remarks upon the subject, it was resolved that a Committee be appointed to have a Bill prepared to carry out the object of the Report, which is to be submitted at a special meeting of the Session to be held in January. We shall endeavour to publish the Report and Mr. Smith's resolution in our next. There was a discussion upon the subject of the new wing to the Alms House, nearly completed. Mr. Justice Burns as one of the Committee made a detailed statement as to the progress of the work—he considered that the new addition would not be fit for occupation until the Spring, while others of the Committee were satisfied it would be ready much earlier, although there is considerable work to be done. The Committee, however, appear to be anxious to perform their duties in a faithful manner. After the transaction of business of minor consequence the Board adjourned. His Worship the Mayor presided with good judgment and decision. It was the first time we had the pleasure of seeing his Worship in the Chair.—News.

FRAGILE TO DEATH.—A woman by the name of Mr. McCarthy, was found frozen to death this (Friday) morning, in the vicinity of the Catholic Chapel, in Carleton. She is supposed to have been in liquor.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS. FREDERICTON, Dec. 6, 1855.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and Commander in Chief has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments, &c.:

New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery. Major S. K. Foster to have the Rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Captain Charles J. Melick to be Major, vice the Honorable G. F. Street, deceased. Lieut. John H. Marshall to be Captain, vice Wright retired. Geo. J. Thompson, Gent., to be Lieutenant. Robert J. Leonard, Gent., to be Lieutenant. Francis Smith, Gent., to be 2nd Lieutenant. Josiah Adams, Gent., to be Captain of a new Company. Joseph Ceram, Gent., to be Lieutenant do. Edwin S. Wetmore, Gent., Lieutenant do. Geo. J. Staehouck, to be 2nd Lieutenant do. Fourth Battalion Charlotte County Militia. Major A. Upton to be Lieutenant Colonel, vice Marks, deceased. Major the Honorable James Brown to be Lieutenant Colonel, vice Upton permitted to retire with his rank.

R. HAYNE, Lieut. Col. Adjutant General of Militia.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The following persons have been appointed Justices of the Peace for the County of Carleton, viz:— Cornelius Connelly, John Bennett, Richard S. Clark, James Ebbitt, William Doll Esquire, Isaac Sleson Carvell, William Reed, Seth Squires, Isaac Burt Rideout, Alexander Hawthorne, George Milberry, George Wedde, George Squires, William Bedell Tompkins, George Thomas Hartley and John Thomas Allen Esquires.

Patrick Campbell, Esquire, to be Seizing Officer of Lumber in the County of York.—Royal Gazette.

NOVA SCOTIA.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.—Some philanthropic ladies have been making an effort to raise a fund for the purchase of what may serve for the recreation of the inmates of this institution. The Countess of Mulgrave, Miss Cogswell and Mrs. Williams have sent several donations. The venerable Chief Justice has contributed five pounds, and W. Murdoch Esq., twelve pounds. The object of the fund is to buy a melodeon for the chapel, a magic lantern, a bagatelle board, picture frames, &c. &c.—for the purpose of relieving the monotony of stormy days and long winter evenings.—C. Messenger.

Mr. James McNab, of the Eastern Passage, who proceeded hence to Melbourne, Australia, in the ship *Chelonia* in July 1852, was a second class passenger on board the ill-fated ship *Royal Charter*, lately lost on the coast of Wales. The deceased was on his way home to his native land.—Journal.

The remains of the Steamer *Indian* as she lies principally sunk, of Marie Joseph, were sold by auction on Thursday last, for £1050. Mr. B. Wier with some other persons were the purchasers.

The *Journal* notices a carcass of mutton at one of our butcher's stalls last week, which weighed 84 pounds. The fat on the back was more than two inches thick. Bred in Cornwall. What can obtain such mutton it is not likely Sable Island ponies will become a delicacy.

FIRE.—Letton's Tannery, near the Three-mile house was destroyed by fire early on Saturday morning.

TEMPERANCE.—The meeting held by the Macc Division on Thursday evening last was quite a novelty. About 600 children were in attendance. who were very pleasingly addressed by Messrs. W. Selden, C. Robson, A. Morton, and J. S. Thompson. A recitation was well given by Master Thompson. The Rev. P. G. McGregor, G. W. P., presided. The children were very orderly, and promised, *nam dis*, to recollect the good advice given them.—Sun.

We understand that a Juvenile Association consisting of a couple hundred boys, has been organized in connection with the Halifax Catholic Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society. The ladies pay a small fee monthly and when they arrive at the proper age, are admitted into the Parent Society—their admission fee being paid out of the funds to which they now contribute.—Abstarator.

CIVIC.—The Committee of Aldermen relative to the supply of water, presented their report on Tuesday the 2nd inst. This is a matter of deep interest to the City. The report is to be published in the city papers and also in pamphlet form. The Committee were also directed to make enquiry concerning the proposed purchase of the Water Works and terms of sale.

THE RAILROAD.—We understand the Railway to Truro was inspected yesterday by Messrs. Shannon and Scott, Railway Commissioners, the Chief Engineer, Mr. Laurie, and Mr. Mosse, the Superintendent of the working department, accompanied by the Honbles. Provincial Secretary and Receiver General, and Henry Fryor, Esq., M. P., who took an express train, stopping at all the chief points of interest on the line. The road was found to be exceedingly smooth and in excellent condition. Although it was snowing hard, the party returned from Tr