THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR, Published every THURSDAY, by

BARNES & Co., AT THEIR OFFICE, Corner of Prince William and Church Streets, SAINT JOHN, N. B.

TERMS :- Cash in Advance. Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR,

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CIRCULAR LETTER, To the Churches composing the Western New Bruns.

DEAR BRETHREN—We propose to address you this year on the subject of Church discipline. In a volume would require to be written.
"Scriptural church discipline," says an approved

writer, "is the regular, vigorous, application of the principles, doctrines and rules of divine revelation, in promoting the purity, knowledge, order, peace, and useful efficiency of each of the members, and of the entire body; and is also designed and adapted to increase, concentrate, and direct the agency of Christians in the conversion of the

Discipline, according to one of the highest authorities in the English language, is a process of education, training, cultivation or improvement, "comprehending instruction in arts, sciences, correct sentiments, manners, and morals, and due subordination to authority." Military discipline comprehends the communication of knowledge, and the regulation of practice, or includes the instruction of the soldiers m all the exercises and evolutions pertaining to the art of war, as also, in order, regularity and subordination. In its ecclesiastical sense, it includes the constant and faithful instruction of all the members of the church in the doctrines and duties of the Christian religion, a prompt and regular execution of the laws by which the church is governed, the regulation of the principles and practice of its mem-bers, the preservation of their rights and privileges, and the infliction of penalties enjoined against irregularities and disorders.

We often employ the term, discipline in the church, as confined entirely to the treatment of disorders and offences, but this, as you will perceive by reference to its legitimate definition, is a very restricted view of the subject. The church of Christ may be considered as a family bound together by laws involving the strongest obliga-tions, on the part of all its members, to labor for each other's good to edification. Such a family cannot exist without discipline, which here evidently includes the entire government, instruc-tion, improvement, order, regularity, subordina-tion, comfort, and happiness of every member, and of the whole body. But how could all this be accomplished if discipline extended only to the treatment of disorders, the administration of "reproof" to delinquents, or "correction" to of-fenders! The church may be regarded as the school of Christ; but what would be thought of a school the entire discipline of which consisted or three witnesses every word may be establishin the application of the ferule, or cat-o'-nine-tails ed." You have now reached the second step, to the backs of truents and idlers? The church which is to be taken only when the first has is also described as the army of Christ; but the strength and efficiency of an army would not long manner, and in every way worthy of a christian. the holding of courts-martial for the punishment of delinquents, and the banishment of rogues and traitors from the camp. A well disciplined company you be men of sound judgment, candor, church, then, is one in which every member and piety. Make out a written statement of the "does his duty," each in his proper place, watching and labouring for the good of the whole that by warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, and by exhorting, reproving, rebuking and admonishing one another in love as occasion may require, they may pre-serve themselves "blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a sud affectionate remonstrance to convince him of crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Where such discipline as this is faithfully maintained a church will live in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, and "walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost," will be built up a spiritual house, and "purified unto God, a peculiar people, zealous of good works," and under doing. If the expostulations of the witness prove unavailing, and the offender refuse to retract culiar people, zealous of good works," and under such circumstances, censures, trials for offences, and excommunications will be exceedingly rare. While on the other hand, a church which neglects such discipline will resemble a "garden without walls, or a city without magistrates and without walls, or a city without walls, or a cit without walls, or a city without magistrates and

must vigorously maintain both preventive and corrective discipline.

Preventive discipline is that to which we have chiefly alluded in the foregoing remarks. Its object is the steady increase of knowledge in the church, that they may be rooted and grounded, or established in the truth as it is in Jesus, "that they henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." It aims also, at the promotion of sound piety, that being "filled with the Spirit," they may be preserved not only from "presumptuous sins," but from all "foolish talking and jesting, which are not convenient," and that "henceforth they walk not as other Gentiles, in the vanity of their are not convenient," and that "henceforth they walk not as other Gentiles, in the vanity of their mind; but that they put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the decetful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of their minds; putting on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness." It seeks likewise to strengthen the bond of union, and the growth of brotherly love, that they may be kept from strifes, and contentions; that "all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from them, with all malice, and that they be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forkind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven them." And lastly, to increase the effinembers, having gifts differing according

discipline next claims our attention. Corrective discipline next claims our attention. By this is meant the proper scriptural treatment of irregularities and disorders, or the vigorous application of the law of Christ to offending members. However sound in doctrine, or correct in practice a church, or body of disciples may be, "it is impossible but that offences will come;" nathing, therefore, can be of greater importance than to be thoroughly prepared at all times to deal with them according to the rules in the word of God, which being "given by inspiration," are

The Day of the contract of the

"Hold fast the form of sound words." 2d Timothy, i. 13.

profitable" as well for "reproof, rebuke, and correction," as for "doctrine" and "instruction in righteousness." Offences may be private or personal, and public.

Private offences are wrong acts committed by doing so, we do not pretend to discuss it in its widest sense; for to do this, instead of a few pages, language, the originating or circulating of false and slanderous reports, injustice, or extortion in business transactions, or any real injury done, or attempted by one member of the church against the character or estate of another.

How then, is the aggrieved brother to proceed?

What course is he to pursue! In nothing has he

been furnished with clearer or more specific rules

than those contained in the 18th chapter of Mat-

thew, relative to the point in question: "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell

him his fault, between him and thee alone," This

is your first step, a most important and indispen-

sable one, and must be performed in exact accordance with the rule here given by the Great Head of the church. You are to commence, not by complaining of your offending brother to your pastor, to your brethren, or to the world, but by going to him privately, and telling him his fault, between thee and him alone. No third person should be informed of the matter; this should be carefully remembered, for if in any case you depart from this rule, you violate the law of Christ, and make yourself an offender against God. Before going on such errand, pray for much of the Spirit of wisdom, of meekness, and of love, that the mind may be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, while we were his enemies, laid down his life for us. Go not with a desire to dispute, to irritate, and stir up angry contention. Though you have certain knowledge that he has injured you, he is still your brother, and you are bound to approach him as such, and in a kind and christian spirit, tell him the injury you believe he has dene you, and strive by every proper means to convince him of his fault. "If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." And what a prize, is this? What a triumph of christian love? "For he that converteth the sinner from the error for the removal, as far as possible, of whatever of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." If such be the fortunate result of this first step, the affair is Lord's table, and should never deprive those not henceforth to be dropped, and no further mention implicated therein of any of the privileges of is to be made of it to any one; for it is written, is to be made of it to any one; for it is written, church membership. Much more might be writ"If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him," and there it length to which this letter has already grown, must end, and be remembered no more forever. "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two Do not proceed as though you regarded the case as a hopeless one, but rather as if you were certain of success. Let the brethren selected to acinjury done you, and be careful to do it with scrupulous accuracy, avoiding everything like exaggeration or excess in language. The brethren "taken with you" are to act, first as mediators. If they have ascertained that the brother against whom the charge is preferred has actually committed an offence, they must endeavour by calm his fault, and point out the danger and sinfulness of persisting in it. And secondly, they are to act as "witnesses." They may, or they may not have been witnesses of the original offence; but A christian church, in order to preserve the purity, integrity, and growth of its members, must vigorously maintain both preventions. laws," open, and exposed to every evil, and must when all efforts, first in private, and then in the rapidly sink into confusion and decay.

When all efforts, first in private, and then in the presence of the "witnesses" have failed, the agduty; he has acted towards his offending brother

Public offences must now be referred to very briefly. These are distinguished from private of sions, as the growth of brotherly love; or stidleness and inefficiency, as the cultivation and active, energetic spirit, in the service of an active, energetic spirit, in the service of the cultivation o

fully labor with the erring one, as, in a more private manner, the witnesses had done before. He may even yet be convinced of his fault, and induced to acknowledge it; but if in spite of the kiud and earnest admonitions and advice of the church, he persist in adhering to his evil course,

then there is but one more step to be taken in the matter: "If he neglect to hear the church, let him be to thee as a heathen man and a publi-

can," that is, withdraw from him the fellowship and communion of saints. If the accused bro-

ther will not attend the meeting, the church may proceed to consider the charge as if he were pre-sent, and his contempt of its authority should be dealt with as an additional offence.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1863.

against the whole church, and not against any in-

dividual in particular, no one can make them per-

sonal matters. Still, they are not to be over-

looked. They must be taken up and dealt with

which you can adopt. A vote for exclusion

should be unanimous if possible, but it is not ne-

cessary to its validity; a majority vote is always

decisive. For a member to turn his back on the

Lord's table, forsake the communion of saints, or

relinquish any other duty pertaining to the church

on account of the existence of difficulties, irregu-

larities, or offences, whether of a public or pri-

vate nature, is not only improper, but a direct

violation of the most sacred obligation. It is the

duty of each member to labor with all the rest

and pray that it may be blessed to the good of

CO-OPERATIVE AND BUILDING SOCIETIES.

ant, the business has almost invariably extended

o other branches of commerce; tailors have been

and one and six pence, or one shilling and eight pence in the pound on members' purchases. In

all the districts where these associations have

been established, adulteration, and the introduc-

demand for a better class of goods has been en-

ouraged I find by a Governmental return that

here are ninety-eight societies in Lancashire. An

intelligent correspondent writing from Manches-

ter, says, "the Co-operative stores there have

hardly suffered at all from the present crisis. The

cash principle has saved them." The Co-operative associations of Rochdale have extensive rami-

fications. Large cotton manufacturing establish-

ments are conducted on the co-operative princi-

ple; it may justly be said that the rank and file

of the labouring classes have become employers

hood. These circumstances and ameliorations of

and amongst the great bee-hives of industry in

tectural Institute of Scotland, in Edinburgh, on

the evening of 29th January, 1862: he says— Throughout England and Wales there are said to be two thousand societies, comprehending more

than two hundred thousand members. The

money now paid into the societies amounts to

millious of dollars), of which upwards of eight millions pounds sterling, or thirty-eight millions four hundred thousand dollars, have been invested

n property; part of the surplus having been re-

paid with interest. In concluding his remarks, he said his object was—"to make them acquainted with the remarkable fact that throughout a large part of England there has lately

sprung up a practice among the operative body of providing houses for themselves." In all this, it will be observed, that it is not one of mere

tion of spurious articles, has been checked, and a

For the Christian Visitor.

the churches to whom it is sent.

Kingsclear, Sept. 18th, 1863.

brought before the church in the same manner as private offences; because having been committed VICE.

BY HENRY WARD BEECHER. Is it not enough that men violate the laws of their own happiness? Is it not enough that men finally destroy the capacity for enjoyment and their power of usefulness? Is it not enough that promptly, that the purity of the church may be preserved, and that iniquity may be put away from amongst its members. If, therefore, any God's signal displeasure at vice and crime is marked at every step of their commission? And yet, there is a still more fearful penalty that is visited upon wickedness. It saps the very foundation of inward manhood. There is, caries, not brother know of a member being guilty of offences requiring church action, he is bound to enquire into the facts of the case, and bring the matter before the church as early as possible. If of the bones and cartilages alone, but of the after due investigation the charge be sustained on moral sense; men are dismembered and disfigured and deformed as much within as without. And the testimony of witnesses, every effort should be put forth to "convert" the accused "from the if there be any within the sound of my voice who think that they can sin and walk with the children of darkness, who call themselves chilerror of his way," but if this should fail, you should withdraw fellowship from him precisely in the same way, and on the same authority as aldren of pleasure, and draw back when it seems to them best, let me say to them, there is a way that seems right to men, the ends whereof are ready considered in the last step in the treatment of private offences. As soon as a charge is preferred against a brother for any disorderly or imdeath. The beginnings of it are flowery and fair and promising, but it leads to destruction. Oh, proper conduct, he must be considered suspended from all church privileges till the disciplinary pro-ceedings are stayed; but to suspend a member from such privileges for any offence, as is somethat I could take men who are entering upon courses of evil, and show them the logical connection between wrong-doing and the goal I Now times done, for six months or a year, is highly they stand and look upon the bright side of vice, improper, and destitute of the shadow of authoand it does not seem bad to them; but if they rity from the word of God. A church has full could have portrayed before them the penitenpower to investigate any charge preferred against any of its members, and if such charge be found tiary, the prison, the hospital, the poor-house, and the lazar-house, and realise that these are the not sustained, it must be dismissed, and the brosubsequent abodes of vicious men, they would ther restored to his original standing: between avoid as the initial steps of certain ruin the very exclusion and restoration there is no middle course

beginnings of wickedness. Oh, that I could take

you to the ends of transgression, and teach you

to judge of the beginnings, not by the fair pro-

mises, but by the results! And yet, line upon line, and precept upon precept, may do what nothing else can. Ye that are tempted; ye that have felt the poison throb; ye that have stepped within the fatal portal; I beseech of you, before your body is corrupted, before your conscience is seared, before your will is destroyed, before the terrible work is consummated in disaster, be warned and turn back. And ye that laugh at this exhortation, and flatter yourselves that you are safe, I beseech of you, be not vain confident. Even within the short period of my ministrations here, I have seen those with whom I expostulated, and who have scorned my expostulations overtaken by the very evils against which I sought to put them on their guard, and which they did not think it worth their while to strive to avoid. How well do I remember one, bright-faced and clear-eyed, who, throwing up his cap, said: "Mr. Beecher, do you suppose I am ever going to drink wine to excess?" Since that day he has reeled to and fro before me, with a drunkard's gait and a bloated face, and I never see him that I do not remember the exultant hopefulness with which Mr. Editor I desire to occupy the same po he said, "Do you suppose I am going to drink sition in your interesting paper, while I set before | wine to excess?" No such person ever means to your intelligent readers the importance of the be as bad as he becomes; but under the influence subjects which have been discussed and placed of pleasure indulged in, the will-power waxes before the public in the aix letters which have weaker and weaker, and he is swept out and on,

preceded this. Co-operative associations and and beyond himself. Building societies have become of national importance. They have tended greatly to raise the land the tide is with him, and he is swept away status of the mechanical classes, for whose espe- from the shore. He is after pleasure. And the cial benefit they were originated. Their influ-tide and the wind are with him, and they sweep ence have told very favorably on the social com- him on and out. When the sun gets down, how forts of members families during the cotton glorious are the heavens, and the reflecting, mirfamine. The promoters of the Co-operative as- roring ocean! Still out and on he is swept, sociations had in view, to supply themselves and thoughtless and full of poetic fancies. He is not all who would subscribe to the capital stock of seeking the night, but the night is seeking him. the association, (the amount required from each He is not courting terrific storms; but already member was generally about one pound per share.) the sky is full of clouds that bear the elements with good sound articles, purchased in the cheap-est market, and sold out at the fair current rates and tide, to sweep out upon the ocean, and it is of the day. Groceries and provisions formed the leading feature of the early associations. There has been diversity of management, but where good management and fidelity has been predomi-

In life tens of thousands, benighted and bestormed, have sunk beneath the waves of iniquity, employed, shoemakers, and bakers to bake their own bread. In the division of profits, one shilling and you knowing it say, "Yes, they sank, but I in the pound was set apart as interest on capital, shall not sink." But you will, unless, warned, you turn to God, and learn that the ways of integrity are the only safe ways, and that every way of wickedness is full of peril, and leads to certain disaster in the end.

outery.

THE SAVIOUR'S PREACHING.

"Our Lord found many a topic of discourse n the scenes around him. Even the humblest bjects show in his hands as I have seen a fragment of broken glass or earthenware, as it caught the sunbeam, light up, flashing like a diamond.
With the stone of Jacob's well for a pulpit, and its water for a text, he preached salvation to the Samaritan woman. A little child, which he takes from its mother's side, and holds up blushing in his arms before the astonished audience, s the text for a sermon on humility. A husbandman on a neighboring height, between him and the sky, who strides with long and measured steps over the field he sows, supplies a text from which he discourses on the Gospel and its effects on different classes of hearers. In a woman bak-ing; in two women who sit by some cottage door, grinding at the mill; in an old, strong for-talice, perched on a rock, whence it looks across the brawling torrent to the ruined and roofless gable of a house swept away by mountain floods Jesus found texts. From the birds that sung above his head, and the lilles that blossomed at his feet, he discoursed on the care of God-these his text, and providence his theme."-Dr. Guthrie.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

It is always desirable that this service in Chrisian families should be a delightful and attractive one, in which the children feel a personal interest, and of which they may have pleasant memories in future years. There are some important sug-

gestions in the following paragraphs: It is strange that fathers do not perceive that prayers, in which the language is above their comprehension. Now family prayer is a home prayer, and the wants of the home circle should constitute the principal part of the petitions.—

Not that selfishness should be encouraged any more in our worship than in our acts; but that ail present should feel that the prayer is for them—that they may be truly obedient to God, faithful at home, at school, or in business—kind, truth house accommodation only, something more was realized: habits of prudent forethought and frugality are cultivated, sentiments of independence and self-respect are cherished, &c. &c. full at home, at school, or in business—kind, truthful, generous; that they have personally a work to do for the poor and for the rich, and all done for God, out of love for Jesus. Is it not better

children, to ascertain if they have been attentive Then sing a short hymn, or a Sunday school song, and the father offers a short prayer, that is simple, earnest, and perfectly understood by the children and servants, and the latter are remembered in the petitions, and seem to feel that they are a part of the family. They often close the morning prayer by all joining with the father in repeating the Lord's Prayer aloud.

SICKNESS NOT CAUSELESS.

There never can be disease without a cause; and almost always the cause is in the person who is ill; he has either done something which he ought not to have done, or he has omitted something which he should have attended to.

Another important item is, that sickness does not, as a general thing, come on suddenly; as seldom does it thus come, as a house becomes enveloped in flames on the instant of the fire first breaking out. There is generally a spark, a tiny flame, a trifling blaze. It is so with disease, and promptitude is always an important element of safety and deliverance. A little child wakes up in the night with a disturbing cough, but which, after a while, passes off, and the parents feel relieved; the second night the cough is more decided; the third, it is croup, and in a few hours more, the darling is dead!

Had that child been kept warm in bed the whole of the day after the first coughing was noticed, had fed lightly, and got abundant, warm sleep, it would have had no cough the second night, and the day after would have been well. An incalculable amount of human suffering

and many lives would be saved every year, if two things were done uniformly. First, when any uncomfortable feeling is noticed, begin at once, trace the cause of it, and avoid that cause ever after. Second, use means at once to remove the symptom; and among these, the best, those which are most universally available and applicable, are rest, warmth, abstinence, a clean person, and a pure air. When animals are ill, they follow nature's instinct, and lie down to rest. Many a valuable life has been lost by the unwise efforts of the patient to "keep up," when the most fitting place was a warm bed and a quiet apartment.

Some persons attempt to "harden their constitutions" by exposing themselves to the causes which induced their sufferings, as if they could, by so doing, get accustomed to the exposure, and ever thereafter endure it with impunity. A good constitution, like a good garment, lasts the longer by its being taken care of. If a finger has been burned by putting it in the fire, and is cured never so well, it will be burned again as often as it is put in the fire; such a result is inevitable. There is no such thing as hardening one's self against the causes of disease. What gives a man cold to-day will give him a cold to-morrow, and the next day, and the next. What lies in the stomach like a heavy weight to-day will do the same to-morrow; not in a less degree, but a greater: and as we get older, or get more under the influence of disease, lesser causes have greater ill effects; so that the older we get, the greater need is there for increased efforts to favor ourselves, to avoid hardships and exposures, and be more prompt in rectifying any "symptom," by rest, warmth, and abstinence.—Hall's Journal.

SELLING OLD THINGS.

Sell that old table ! No; I'll not sell it! It's only a pine table, that's true, and it cost but eighteen shillings, twenty-five years, ago; but your ten dollar bill is no temptation. And I'll not swap it either, for the prettiest mahogany or cherry table that you can bring me. If it has plain turned legs, instead of a pillar in the midile, with lion's claws, and if the marble top is only varnished paper, I will not sell or swap it. It has been to me a very profitable investment. From the day it came home it has been earning dividends and increasing its old capital My children made a play-house and drank tea in their toy-cups under it, for which I thank the four legs; and when they got tired of it that way they turned it upside down and made a fourpost bedstead with curtains, or pulled it round the carpet for a sleigh. Then they climbed on it for an observatory; and I never counted the glorious romps they had round it. And also all along for twenty-five years it has paid its dividends of happiness to my family circle. These dividends could never be separated from it, until its value is not told in money. It had its quiet use, also; for nobody could tell it from a round table of agate and cornelian, with its salmon-

bordered green cover.

Nothing lasts forever. The top of the table was loosened by the hard use it got, so I took a punch, drove in the eight-penny nails below the surface, added a few screws, puttied them over. and pasted marble paper checkers over the top. Then it was a really handsome table. - It has had hard usage since, but bears it all; and the checkers want renewing, which will make it worth

My watch is thirty years old. It is one of those thick silver levers which some poor wita call "turnips." It has been several times suggested to me that I might exchange it for a thin modern gold watch, which wears easier in the pocket. When I do, you may set me down for barbarian. No-the best gold and jeweled hunter in existence would not tempt me to wap. That watch marked the time when our children were born, and the record is set down in the family Bible; it has ticked on their ears when they could only speak by laughing at it, and kicking up their heels. It has marked the hours when the doctor's medicines were to be given, and counted their pulses when they beat low at midnight, and when the hearts ached. has made many records that are fast sealed up, to be opened when another time comes.

and I went out one evening and bought a teaket tle. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and caused a peculiar noise, nearly enough resembling the chiral of some lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and caused a peculiar noise, nearly enough resembling the chiral of some lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and the chiral of some lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and the chiral of the lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and the lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and the lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect, so that the escape of steam shook it, and the lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The fitting of the lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfect which is the lead was a little imperfect. The lead was a little imperfec Twenty-seven years have passed since my wife the chirping of some insect to suggest the name by which it has now been known in the family for a long time—our "cricket on the hearth." Like the table and the watch, the kettle has been adding dividends to its capital every day since its first purchase, and, though nothing but iron, it could not be bought for its weight in silver. It has sung so long, and regularly, and cheerfully, that not only the kitchen, but the whole house would be lonely without it. It has given us fragrant blessing morning and evening, and come almost to be regarded as a living and talking

have no history and no tongue. In all changes that have so far taken place, I have so far kept these silver bowls unbroken, and surely no change in the future shall break them.—Century.

Good laws will not reform us, if reformation begin not at home. - Richard Baxter.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

REV. I. E. BILL. Editor and Proprietor. Address all Communications and Business Letters to the Editor, Box 194, St. John, N. B.

Che Christian Visitar Is emphatically a Newspaper for the Family. It furnishes its readers with the latest intelligence,
RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR.

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