

The Presbyterian Witness

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 22, 1855.

New Series of the Witness, FOR THE YEAR 1856.

From the beginning of the year the *Witness* will be published on a sheet equal in size to the *Nova Scotian*. While a larger proportion, than hitherto, of its space will be devoted to secular subjects, it shall be our earnest endeavor, that in all its departments, it shall be thoroughly pervaded with the spirit of christianity and true liberality.

1st. We shall always testify against infidelity, popery, puseyism, Sabbath-desecration, drunkenness, and vice of all kinds.

2nd. We shall give our warmest support to such measures as shall secure the better observance of the Sabbath, and the suppression of the crying evil of intemperance,—and, in general, to such measures as tend to the moral elevation and material advancement of our country.

3rd. To promote the purity, the heart-union, and the kindly co-operation of all the true followers of Christ, and especially of all Presbyterians, shall be our highest ambition.

4th. Ample space shall be given to the Ecclesiastical and Missionary intelligence of all Churches, but more especially of Presbyterian, both at home and abroad.

5th. The pith of the news of the week—European, American, and Local—will always be found in our columns.

6th. The claims of pure literature will not be overlooked, and our endeavor will be, to direct, and minister to, the good taste of our readers.

7th. All information that may be valuable to Farmers and men of business—such as market prices, business prospects, &c., &c., shall be diligently attended to.

The religious and secular departments will be so arranged, that by dividing the sheet into two, each part may be filed separately,—thus giving each subscriber the advantage of two newspapers.

Now this arrangement involves a large increase of expenditure, which is justified only by the anticipation of a very considerable enlargement of the subscription list, and more general punctuality in payment.

It was not at first the intention of the proprietor, in any case, to increase the price of the Paper. A friend, however, who has had much experience in newspaper management, having suggested that many advantages were connected with the adoption of the "Club-system," it was determined to offer such inducements as might lead to their formation throughout the country.

But it is evident that if we were to charge single subscribers only 10s., we would leave ourselves no room for further reduction to clubs; and it appeared to us that but few of our subscribers throughout the country were so situated as not to be able to join a club.—We have decided, therefore, to raise the price a little to single subscribers, though we do so with reluctance, because we had already given some publicity to our intention to adhere to the old price. In making the new scales of prices, our object is not so much to get more money, as to have the same amount more punctually paid. This we think we shall effect by the formation of clubs, and we shall be delighted to find that all our subscribers, by joining these, get their papers for 10s.

Our terms for the New Series of the *Witness* may be thus stated:—
Single copies, in advance, £0 12 6
5 copies sent to one address, 2 10 0
10 copies sent to one address, 5 0 0
An extra copy will be sent to the person who forms this club.
20 copies sent to one address, 10 0 0
With two extra copies to the farmer of the club.
Single copies to Clergymen, 7 6

All subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, will be considered as wishing to continue their subscription, and their papers will be sent accordingly. No paper discontinued till all arrears are paid, except at the discretion of the proprietor.

The proprietor of the *Witness* regrets that owing to the arduous duties which are connected with the recent appointment of Rev William Murray as Agent of the Free Church of Nova Scotia, his services cannot be obtained as one of the Editors of the *Witness*. He is happy, however, to announce that the services of another gentleman belonging to the Free Church, equally well-qualified, have already been secured.

POPIST ORNAMENTS.—In the Puseyite Churches St Barnabas and St Paul's, the following ornaments were used; candles in daylight, three feet high and eight inches circumference; brazen gates for the chancel; a grotesquely shaped altar and altar cloth, large crosses on the altar, and a CRESCENT TABLE. After long and tedious lawsuits, Dr. LUSHINGTON in the Court of Arches, pronounced judgement against the crosses, the ornamented altar covers, the lighted candles, and (especially) against the *Crescent Table*. Puseyism has thus received a salutary check in England—but how is it with Nova Scotia? We have it on good authority that Bishop Binney introduced a *Crescent Table* into the "Bishop's Chapel," (Salem) in this city last Sunday! Crafty as he is has he not shown the cloven foot? If we are mistaken as to the fact to which we thus give publicity we shall have pleasure in making the amplest possible apology.

Thanksgiving.

What more becoming on the part of a dependent creature than to give thanks to him who is the source of his life and all its enjoyments? In the case of every human being, and at all times, in this world, the exercise of thanksgiving is right and becoming. Who has not something to be grateful for at all times?—something for which he should thank and praise the Lord of all the earth every day—every hour—yea every moment of his earthly existence? Trials are lighter than they might have been; impending calamities are averted; harassing difficulties are removed; frowns are changed into smiles; even the cup of sorrow is not so bitter as it might have been,—hope mingles with our fears, and joy with our griefs.—Verily the Lord is good unto all; and his tender mercies are over all his works.

But while all the rational creatures of God should thank and praise Him as their Creator and bountiful Benefactor, the Christian, in addition to all this, finds deeper and holier grounds of everlasting gratitude and thanksgiving. He can draw near to God and adore and bless Him as his reconciled Father in Christ Jesus.—"Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation."

At particular seasons, and when more highly favoured than their neighbours, individuals and communities, are called upon to recognise the hand of the Lord in their blessings, and to praise Him for his goodness. When God lifts up the rod of His anger for the chastisement of a stiff-necked and an ungodly people, it is their wisdom to recognise the rod and Him that ordaineth it. On the other hand, when it is the Royal Sceptre of mercy and favour that He extendeth to an undeserving people, who would not reverently touch it, and sing His praises with joyful lips?

We as a people have to offer the Sacrifices of Thanksgiving to the Lord for many great and undeserved favours.

Famine and Pestilence and War have not as yet touched our borders. Prosperity has to a great extent been vouchsafed us in every thing to which we have put our hand. Our fields have yielded a rich return for the labours of the husbandmen; our flocks and herds have multiplied and are strong; our fishermen return home in safety, loaded with the spoils of the mighty deep; the provincial public works on which the hearts of our people have been so much set, in which the hands of so many of them are so diligently engaged have succeeded beyond the hopes of the most sanguine; and the efforts of the great nation of which we form a part, to drive the great Northern Bear back into his native den, have been, of late, crowned with eminent success.—And for all this shall we not praise the name of our God with a song and magnify him with thanksgiving.

Stewiacke.

The new Presbyterian Church in Upper Stewiacke village was opened on Sabbath the 7th inst. by the Rev James Smith, pastor of the congregation, who preached an able discourse, extending over both the forenoon and afternoon services, from the fifty-sixth chapter of Isaiah, last clause of the 7th verse, "Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." This spacious and magnificent edifice now brought to a completion is one of the of the finest churches in the Province. It contains, very comfortably, one thousand sitters; and reflects great credit on the taste and public spirit of this thriving settlement. It is but three years last July since the new church in the Middle Stewiacke or lower section of this congregation was opened; and now active preparations are making for the erection of another in Eastville district, at the opposite or upper end of the congregation. The people of Stewiacke are almost exclusively Presbyterians—and have enjoyed for a long term of years, reaching back nearly to the infancy of the settlement, the preaching of the gospel and administration of ordinances. The Rev Hugh Graham, translated from Cornwallis, was the first settled minister, and was succeeded about twenty-five years ago by the Rev James Smith, who still continues his labours faithfully among them. The congregation, now the largest in the body, is about being divided—Middle Stewiacke being detached to be united with Brookfield and form a new congregation; the upper settlement will form a congregation of itself, and retain the services of Mr. Smith. Sound, orthodox Presbyterianism is not losing ground in our Provinces but on the contrary is advancing steadily with the growth of the population.

MORTON AND COGSWELL have sent us the latest numbers of the *Illustrated London News*, and *News of the World*. The former is particularly interesting. The terms are very favourable. See advertisement in another column.

A meeting of the New London, held on the 19th inst. on the subject of Temperance, with the view of its being discussed at the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery. He also intimated his intention of submitting a resolution to the next meeting of Presbytery on the subject of Marriages. The Presbytery meets again on the last Wednesday of January, 1856.

The King of Sardinia and his Visit to England.

Great are the praises lavished by the British press on the youthful king, Victor Emmanuel, and it is pleasant to think that his visits are well deserved. He is the only constitutional Monarch on the Continent of Europe, and had he been so minded he might have been just as patriotic (but perhaps not quite so contemptible) as that miserable thing, the King of Naples. He manfully resisted the claims and spurned the advances of the Church of Rome, reduced her monastic establishments within less formidable bounds, and shrunk not from his duty though the Vatican levelled its fiercest thunderbolts at his head.

Piedmont, his country, has felt his power. Her people have the religious liberty for which they for many ages bravely struggled, and the material prosperity which rewards enlightened enterprise. The enormous railway works of Piedmont are alike honourable to her enterprise and the skill of her engineers, and the improvements of her capital—the results of free trade, good government, and national spirit—may almost vie with those of Paris itself. While Austria lies grovelling in the dust before the superannuated pageant of a worn-out and degraded Papacy, Piedmont, under the guidance of her King, has known how to vindicate the honour of her Government, and the independence of the National Church. The insolent Archbishop of Turin, who dared to set the authority of the Pope over that of the Monarch, has been driven into exile, the land has been cleared of thousands of lazy monks and friars, and the King of Sardinia comes to the shores of heretic Britain bearing upon his brow not only the laurels of the soldier and the crown of the Sovereign, but the distinguished honour—for such the careful student of history must regard it—of the solemn censure, and even, we believe, the excommunication, of the Church of Rome.

King Victor Emmanuel is yet comparatively young, and it may well be hoped that with the example of his enlightened government before them, the petty States of Italy will throw off their tyrannies and rally round his patriot throne.

The King of Sardinia was at least as welcome a guest in Great Britain as Louis Napoleon was a few months ago. He landed on British soil on Friday the 20th November—after spending a week in Paris. He remained nearly a week in Britain—leaving it on the 6th December.

Numerous complimentary addresses were presented to him—to all of which he made fitting replies. Among the earliest was one from the London Young Men's Christian Association. Protestant dissenters, Roman Catholics, Scotch Presbyterians, all the large Religious Societies, were forward in giving welcome to the illustrious stranger. The topic on which almost all the addresses complimented him was the firmness of his stand in behalf of civil and religious liberty. This is a token for good, and will no doubt have due effect on his Majesty's mind—confirming and encouraging him in the good course he has chosen.

On Saturday (the second day of the royal visit) the Queen and Prince Albert accompanied their guest to the Royal Arsenal and Garrison at Woolwich. Their Majesties saw how the various instruments of death and terror were manufactured—minié rifles,—cannons, mortars, shot and shell of all sorts and shapes and sizes.

On Sunday the King attended mass in the Italian Chapel, London. On Monday he visited the Fleet at Spithead. On Tuesday he paid his formal visit to the City of London and was received in the most magnificent style. On Wednesday he was invested with the Order of Knight of the Garter. On Thursday morning the Queen bade farewell to her illustrious guest. Prince Albert and other great personages accompanied him to the Railway Station, and at 7½ o'clock in the evening he arrived safely on the coast of France.

AN WITNESS.

Education and Taxation.

In the course of a few weeks our city will be enriched with the assembled wisdom of the Province. Merchants from their counting houses, Lawyers from their offices, and Farmers from their quiet and retired residences—chosen to represent the interests of Nova Scotia—will meet with a cordial reception in the spacious and comfortable halls of the Old Province Building. The ensuing session ought to be an epoch in our history. And it is but right to expect that all questions coming under the consideration of our venerable Senate will be dealt with according to their respective merits, and not according to the bear favorably or unfavorably upon the pre-conceived ideas or plans of one or two members of the House. The intelligence of the Province demands that every individual entrusted with the interests of a constituency should think and act for himself, independent of the fears and frowns of any member, either of the Government or the Opposition. Verily there have been sufficient examples of members running blindly into every measure, merely because advocated by a particular individual or party. And there has hitherto been too little deference paid to the sound judgment and solid understanding of a constituency, as if they were in the habit of electing representatives merely to be the tools, or to re-echo the sentiments, of others. Subjects of vital importance will or ought to be brought up for discussion, and some of these eminently affect the present interests, and the highest prosperity of Nova Scotia for many years to come. A question of greater difficulty than our Railroad policy must be grappled with, and that is the educational question. This question has for some time past engaged the attention of the British Parliament, and ought to be seriously, manfully, and independently handled among us. A complete system of education is as yet unknown to Nova Scotia; and a debt of gratitude would be due to that man whose capacity could devise such a scheme. Accordingly, nothing could be more erroneous than to suppose that our government has nothing more to do than to provide for its mere pecuniary support. They have a double difficulty to contend with. First, the system to devise, and then the means of its support. Upon the perfection of the former will depend the success of the latter.

We feel confident that every intelligent man in the Province will consider it his duty to give his support to any system which seems calculated to advance the cause of Education. There need be no fear of murmuring or complaints where there is a bill which commands itself to the intelligence of any liberal mind. But complaints there will be, and murmurings we may look for, if the perfection of our educational institutions do not warrant the step which may be taken for their support.

Taxation is talked of throughout the Province. It has proved successful among our neighbors. Ought it, therefore, to be adopted among us? Have we come to such a state of progress as other States had attained when the system of taxation was introduced. Different circumstances develop different results. But if our circumstances are similar, then may we expect similar results.

Now what is the actual state of education among us, and how far are we warranted to adopt the mode of taxation? We cannot deny that our educational institutions are incomplete; that to enforce taxation in present circumstances would unseat the majority of the present House at our next general election. It would meet with sullen opposition throughout the Province, and ought to meet with decided opposition in the House of Assembly. It is true, we have a Normal School, and, by and by, we shall have a High School. But, with due deference to established authority, we must say this is not sufficient. If not carried further, our system is abortive. It is well enough to have a Normal School, and it is necessary we should have one. But what is the intention of a Normal School? Is it not to make teachers of those who are scholars already? This seems to have been the persuasion of the framers of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a Normal School," in which it is expressly stated, that "the Principal shall have the power of sending as free students, to any College or Academy receiving provincial aid, graduates of the Normal School, who may desire instruction in Mathematics and Classics, with the view of becoming teachers of High Schools."

It is well enough to send those to Academies or Colleges who are merely intended for teachers of High Schools.—Where, we ask in all seriousness, are those to be sent who desire to become teachers of Academies? Are our Academies themselves sufficient to impart such instruction? We have no hesitation in saying that they are not; that they shall be under the necessity of receiving their instruction somewhere else.

The Apex of the whole system is wanting. A College or University is indispensable to give any stability or permanency to our present system of education. This alone can give us teachers for our Academies, and prepare the minds of our youths for honorable occupations. This alone can render us independent of foreign importation. This alone will enable our young men to fill our responsible situations, if we do not desire to drive them out of Nova Scotia for the completion of their studies. This alone can make Nova Scotia what it ought to be, and raise up among us "Minds equal or superior to those of the old country." The Denominational Colleges, it has been con-

tended over and over again, do not pretend to supply this deficiency. It is inconsistent with their constitution. They only, as it were, keep learning alive among us, until those who ought to supply it shall devote themselves courageously to it. And a suitable UNIVERSITY, we beg to say, is not impossible for us to procure. Dalhousie College is at present occupied. If the governors of that institution, regardless of the intention of its noble founder, in despite of public opinion, and in violation of the trust reposed in them, persist in refusing to grant that building for the purpose for which it was intended, there is no help for it. Let the government provide a suitable building, and have it at their own disposal, and, consequently, under their own control, where the public voice can be heard.

Such an institution would confer lasting benefits upon Nova Scotia. Its influence would be felt in all classes of society and for years to come, and our youths would have ample opportunities for distinguishing themselves among those of other countries.—Communicated.

To the Editor of the Presbyterian Witness.
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF HALIFAX.

GENTLEMEN,—We, the Teachers of Schools in the City of Halifax, beg permission to represent to the Managers of Public Schools in this City, that for some time past we have been subject to much inconvenience from the high prices of provisions and all other necessities of life.

That whilst the remuneration for all other branches of labor has increased, in many cases more than fifty per cent. the amount received by teachers has remained the same as during seasons of plenty and cheapness.

When it is taken into consideration that an opportunity is afforded for admitting a certain number of free scholars, in cases of extreme poverty and want, into the schools under your control, we are of opinion that those who enter as paying for what they receive, should be made to feel that as they obtain more remuneration for their labor, and have to pay more for other articles, so they ought to make a corresponding addition to the sum paid for the education of their children, and not compel those to suffer, who are giving their best efforts to impart to them what will be of more value than all other earthly possessions.

We do not suppose it necessary for such a change to be made as will effect a uniformity of fees in all the Schools, whatever their character; but would beg to suggest, that an additional sum be charged by all, corresponding with the advance in other employments.

It may be supposed by some that the making of such an increase would have the effect of diminishing the number of pupils in attendance at the several Schools, but we would suggest that it would in all probability have the contrary effect, as it is well known that those things which are not tangible are estimated by many according to the value set upon them by others, and doubtless the smallness of the number at present attending the Schools in the City, in proportion to the population, is attributable in a great measure to the smallness of charge for admission. We are of opinion that no pupils should be admitted as pay scholars in any of the Schools under 7s. 6d. or 10s. per quarter, and that all free scholars should be received but for a limited period, say three or six months, and that application to the authorities of the School should be required for re-admission at the end of that period, or the usual fee for pay scholars should be demanded, so that in cases of a change in the circumstances of the parents, or where industry has placed means of payment in their hands, they may not continue dependent on the charities of their more wealthy fellow-citizens, but may fulfil their duties to their children in this respect, as well as in providing them with food and clothing.

We trust, gentlemen, you will not suppose, by this representation of our case, that we wish to interfere with the exercise of your benevolence, in conferring the benefits of education as extensively as possible, but would be glad to see the profession more respectfully sustained than at present, in agreement with the wish so earnestly expressed by the Superintendent of Education in his late visit, so that men of talent and ability, may look on the profession as offering a fair opportunity of obtaining a livelihood for themselves and families. We trust, gentlemen, you will take the subject into your serious consideration, and will, with as little delay as possible, accede to these our requests, and give us all an opportunity of getting a fair remuneration for our labor.

(Here follow Subscribers' names.)

*** We willingly give the above a place in our columns. Education can never prosper till the teachers are well paid, and we would therefore do all in our power to foster a general movement in the proposed direction. Let "Province of Nova Scotia" be substituted for "City of Halifax" throughout the above, and every sentence will be equally applicable, every suggestion equally wise. The circular is subscribed by fourteen gentlemen and eight ladies—all of the highest respectability—who are connected with the various Schools and Academies of this city; and we have little doubt that every teacher in this Province would gladly put his name to it. We commend it to the careful consideration of trustees and parents and managers of Schools from CAPE NORTH to CAPE SABLE.

LITERATURE.
THE SKEPTICAL ERA IN MODERN HISTORY, or the Infidelity of the Eighteenth Century, the Product of Spiritual Despotism. By T. M. Post. New York: Charles Scribner. Halifax: E. G. Fuller.

This is an ably written book which can be read with zest and benefit. The author is perhaps too turgid in his language—too copious in epithets. He seems to be morbidly fond of naming the name of the Prince of darkness. The great merit of the book is that it shows that the infidelity of the 18th Century arose from popish immorality and crime.

DOMESTIC NEWS.
The Messrs. Boggs, Hardware Merchants, have purchased the property immediately to the north of British North American Bank, at present occupied as a coffee saloon, for the sum of £1250. Before the deeds were made out the agent, Scott Tremaine, Esq., had an offer for the same considerable over Two Thousand Pounds, but it came just in time to be late.

At the meeting on Monday, composed of influential Merchants and others, respecting the establishing a new Bank in the City, the report of a committee previously appointed was read, amended, and adopted. It was decided that the capital stock of the company shall be £250,000, in shares of £25, and that the whole amount may be at once subscribed for. That when the amount of £50,000 subscribed stock shall have been paid in, then the institution may go into operation; and the investment of £1250 will qualify a shareholder to be a director.

ATTEMPTED INCENDIARISM.—A fire was discovered on one of the premises just below the Town Clock, on Tuesday morning last about 5 o'clock. The watchman who discovered it, assisted by other persons, put it out without much damage. From the fact of a large quantity of combustibles, &c., being near the place it is supposed to have been an attempt at incendiarism.

WELSFORD AND PARKER MONUMENT.—At a meeting of the Subscribers to erect a Monument to the memory of the late Major WELSFORD, of the 97th Regiment, and Captain PARKER, of the 77th Regiment, held the 14th day of December, at the Office of the Mayor, on motion it was Resolved that the Mayor occupy the chair.

His Worship the Mayor informed the meeting that the subscriptions amounted to £250. It was desirable, if possible, to erect a handsome Monument in some public part of the City, which, while marked the esteem and respect entertained for the memory of the two gallant Soldiers who had so nobly fallen on the memorable 8th of September, would also be an ornament to the City.

It was moved and seconded that the Subscribers be published, and additional subscriptions be solicited in order, if possible, to increase the amount to £500.

It was Resolved.—That as Mr. Deane had kindly offered to collect the amount of the subscription, that the contributors be respectfully requested to pay the amount of their subscription to him.

It was resolved.—That Dr. Deane, A. M. Uniacke, and James C. Cogswell, Esq., a Committee to obtain the permission of the Church Warden and Vestry to erect the Monument on the open space on the eastern square of St. Paul's Church, fronting on Barrington street, as also to procure a design and ascertain the cost of erecting the same.

The meeting adjourned.
ARCHIBALD SCOTT, Mayor.
Samuel Caldwell has been elected Captain of the Union Engine Company, vice Captain Thomas Holloway retired. Wm. Caldwell was elected 1st Lieutenant No. 1 Division, and John Dugwell 2nd Lieutenant.

William Cunard, Esq., has been appointed Austrian Consul at this Port.
The Island of Cape Breton has again been visited with a severe storm, on the 7th inst. more destructive than any previous one this season. At Gabarus the schr. *Elizabeth* Gillis, fully loaded and bound for Halifax, was driven ashore, and became a total wreck—the cargo saved in a damaged state. At the landing ground, North Bar, the schr. *Swift*, was slightly damaged, and the steamer *Antishee*, sustained some trifling injury.

At North Sydney, lately erected by Messrs J. & W. Moore, was torn down, and so completely swept away that not a vestige left to mark where it stood, together with the property it contained. The greatest sufferer was Thomas T. Hart, who was carrying on the Tanning business at Sparling's Brook.—His Tannery and all the Leather house swept away, and his new dwelling house greatly injured. Himself and family were obliged to take shelter in a neighbour's house, and the roof of the night. There was a small vessel ashore at the South side of the Arm, supposed to be wrecked. Captain McLeod's vessel is ashore at his own place.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 12.—The Municipal Council met in the Court House yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, when Samuel Brown, having been duly elected as Warden, was sworn in by the Sheriff. After brief preliminary addresses from the Warden, and Messrs Robertson, Moody, Shaw, and Robbins, the Council proceeded to ballot for its Clerk, and John Tooker, Esq., was unanimously chosen. A motion was made and carried, that the Township be divided into two Judicial Districts,—the first to be known as No. 1, embracing the 1st and 4th electoral districts; and the second known as No. 2, comprising the 2d and 3d electoral districts. The different municipal offices in the gift of the Council having been filled, it was moved that the pay of each Councillor be 2s. 6d. per day; but an amendment fixing the daily compensation at 5s. was carried. The salary of the Warden next came under consideration; £5 per annum was the sum first proposed; £20 per annum was suggested in amendment; and the lesser sum was established as the Warden's salary.

The harbor and rivers of Pictou still continue open, and the Pluto continues her regular trips to South Pictou. She will probably be laid up next week. The steamer Lady LeMarchant has been off the route between this place and Charlottetown for three weeks, and the mail, which goes to the Island twice a week is carried hence to Charlotte-