

difficulties; still some extraordinary measures must be resorted to, otherwise the Church will not fulfil the great design of its institution. She must act on a plan of energetic aggression; if the dark places of Scotland are ever to be visited with the light of divine truth. This is becoming every day more and more obvious; and we sincerely trust that the General Assembly will not allow the Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry, full as they are of the most appalling statements, to pass without adopting some steps to supply the means of grace to destitute districts and overgrown parishes, and thus to prevent any part of our country from being visited with that most awful of all calamities—a famine of the Word of life.—*Scottish Christian Herald.*

### THE GUARDIAN.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1839.

#### ON VAIN AND INDECENT CONVERSATION.

There is nothing of which many are more ambitious than the character of a wit—to possess, or be reputed to possess the faculty of saying smart things. This is a distinction which few attain; and of those who do, the great majority only prove the truth of the poets remark, that

“There are whom heaven has blessed with stores of wit,  
“Yet want as much again to govern it.”

Wisdom and wit are very different things; the one shedding its benign, and sturdy, and enduring light, to cheer and guide our onward path; the other a meteor which, for a moment dazzles or startles us, by its brilliance, or an *ignis fatuus* which bewilders, and leads us into danger and perplexity. Few of these aspirants, indeed, attain a higher rank than that of mere wittings, a character neither to be admired nor envied; and were the consequences confined to themselves, or did the gratification of their propensity affect merely their own temporal condition, we might leave them to the punishment of mortified vanity and merited contempt, in the hope that the evil might thus work its own cure. But among the various modes of straining after wit, there is one which, even among decent respectable people—people who would indignantly repel the imputation of being irreligious, is considered nearly, if not altogether, blameless, is met oftener by the smile of approbation than by the frown of reproof; but which merits, and ought ever to meet with, the most decided and unqualified reprobation; we mean the use of those ambiguous expressions, denominated double entendres, or equivocations; which, without expressing any thing positively impure or indecent, suggest impure and indecent ideas, and substitute the effervescence of an obscene and unhallowed imagination for wit. Surely such persons forget, or have yet to learn, the extent and spirituality of the Divine law—that it extends, not to outward actions only, but, to the darkest recesses, the most secret thoughts of the heart. If then it be true, and who dares gainsay the Saviour? that “out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications”—if as a man “thinketh in his heart, so is he”—if “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh,” and the habitual language of the lips is thus an index to the state of the heart; and if none but the pure in heart shall see God; to what degradation are those reduced, to whom, in this article, we have had more especial reference?

This is a subject on which it were easy to say much, to show the tendency of the practice to contaminate the susceptible mind of the youthful hearer, and its hardening, deadening effects, on every tender, generous and virtuous feeling, in the hearts of those who addict themselves to it; but we are convinced that it is one, also, which requires only to be set in its true light, to be justly condemned, not only by every friend to the Saviour, but, by every friend to decency and morality; and we shall therefore dismiss it with this single remark, that no clouds will more effectually hide from us the light of the Divine countenance, than those which are generated, by the fumes of a wanton imagination; and by recommending to all our readers, but especially to the younger portion, the petition of the Psalmist; “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth: keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing.”

#### ON THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE LORD'S DAY.

We beg leave to direct the attention of our Readers to a serious and devout perusal of a very excellent and appropriate address on this most important subject, which appears in another page of this day's paper. We have seldom seen the obligations to remember the Sabbath day, more clearly and distinctly stated, and the observance of this duty more earnestly and forcibly recommended, than they are in this admirable address. Of late years, Christians of all Religious denominations in Britain, have felt themselves called upon to protest in the most solemn and public manner against the daring, wide spreading, and increasing profanation of the Sabbath of the Lord, leading as it necessarily does to the neglect of all the public ordinances, and private duties of Christianity, and opening a wide door to licentiousness and profligacy, and all manner of iniquity.

And it is deeply to be lamented that this national evil prevails, to a most alarming extent in many parts of the Colonies, as well as in Britain, and that the Town of Halifax, the place of our habitation is deeply involved in the guilt of Sabbath Profanation.—There are numbers of thoughtless boys, and profligate young journeymen, and apprentices, who think it no crime to turn their backs on the Sanctuary of God, and flock in crowds to the fields and woods for worldly pleasure and amusement on this Sacred day, many of them returning to their homes in the evening, in a state of brutal intoxication. We have already seen many of the victims of Drunkenness and Sabbath Profanation, carried forth to an untimely grave, leaving nothing behind them but the remembrance of their aggravated vices. And if Parents, and Masters, and Teachers, if the Magistrates and Ministers of Religion do not speedily unite their authority and influence to check, and destroy this dreadful evil which appears to be daily on the increase, we have great reason to fear that many young men in this place, after all the expense which has been lavished on their early education, and all the hopes of virtue and piety which they may have excited in the breasts of their parents and friends, and all the Instructions they have received in the Sabbath School, and in the Church, will still fall a prey to the destroyer of souls, who is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

We cannot too frequently or too earnestly beseech and entreat all who seek to honour and glorify God, and desire to live happy in this world and be happy through eternity, to guard against this prevailing and besetting sin, to refrain from the paths in which destroyers go, to resist with firmness and fortitude the solicitations of wicked associates and companions, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

#### COUNTY OF LUNENBURG.

We are happy to find from the Royal Gazette, that the Rev. Donald A. Fraser, Minister of the Presbyterian Church, has been appointed a Commissioner of Schools for the County of Lunenburg. We know of few persons in that County better qualified for the discharge of the important and arduous duties of this office, than the Revd. Mr. FRASER, a Clergyman who is most accurately and intimately acquainted not only with all the branches of Education which are usually taught in our common schools, but also perfectly familiar with the most profound studies which are prosecuted in the highest Seminaries of Education in this Province. And we have no doubt that his appointment to this honourable and responsible office, will be hailed with delight and satisfaction both by the members of his own extensive and numerous congregation, who are now very anxious to obtain English Schools for the Education of their offspring, and also by the members and adherents of other Religious denominations in that large and populous county, where Mr. Fraser's distinguished talents and ardent zeal for the advancement of Education, are already so well known, and so highly and generally appreciated.

#### BERMUDA AUXILIARY TO THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The 20th Anniversary of this Institution was held in the Court House at Hamilton on the 27th of May, the Hon. the Chief Justice, President of the Society, in the chair. The attendance on the occasion was large and respectable. From the Report of the Society, and the Report of the Ladies Bible Association, both of which were read by the Treasurer, to the Meeting, it appeared that the receipts for the last year have amounted to £47 4s. 8d. and the amount collected by the Association is £28 4s. 7. 106 Bibles and 172 Testaments have been received during the past year, from the parent Society, and this Auxiliary has distributed since its formation, 1477 Bibles, and 1200 Testaments, chiefly in the Bermuda Islands. The Meeting was addressed by the President at the commencement of the proceedings, and afterwards by the Revd. Robert Hoare, the Hon. Stowe Wood, and R. M. Higgs, Esqr.

In the conclusion of their Report, the Committee allude in a very feeling manner to the death of the late Hon. James Christie Esten, the first President of the Society, and record the following honorable testimony to his distinguished worth and his exertions for the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures in these distant islands of the sea:

“We conceive we should do injustice to his claims on the gratitude of this Society, and might be justly chargeable with the failure of our duty, did we not desire to record our sense of the important services, and our grief at the demise of one, who, with many fellow-labourers yet spared to witness its progress, contributed so essentially to its establishment and success. As must be in the recollection of many now present, his untiring personal exertions, his zealous and eloquent advocacy, his best energies, in fact of both mind and body, backed by the weight of his private and public character, and the liberal contributions of his purse were all enlisted in its cause and did their part, in conjunction with similar exertions of its many reverend and other friends, in producing the grand result—grand as respects so small a community—that the Society, in its first year placed in the hands of your Treasurer the sum of £542 10s. currency, and enabled your Committee to remit the whole, or the larger proportion of it, for general and local purposes, by the middle of the year.”

It is, we believe, well known that, at its commencement, this Journal was intended more especially for the information and instruction of the members of the Established Church of Scotland, with whom it originated, and by whom it has been hitherto chiefly supported. Circumstances, since that period, have however considerably changed. The two bodies of Presbyterians in this province, too long unhappily divided, have lately evinced a disposition to coalesce; and believing it to be our duty to cherish a feeling so creditable to each of these denominations, and so important to the interests of true religion in Nova-Scotia, it shall be our study, by every practicable means, to cultivate a catholic spirit, so far as the interests of Presbyterianism are concerned, and the extension of that pure and undefiled religion, of which we consider it a part, will permit; eschewing, as far as possible, those points on which Presbyterians differ; and treating them, if forced upon our attention, in the spirit of forbearance and charity. We have already, on more than one occasion, inserted valuable articles from the Secession periodicals, and shall continue, from time to time, as opportunities are afforded to enrich our pages with selections from the same sources.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, meets this year at Kingston, in Upper Canada, on Thursday first.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

The Annual District Meeting of the Wesleyan Missionaries, commenced its sittings on the 23d ult. and 12 in number, were present, and the business of the mission was gone through according to the usual form. Sermons were preached almost every evening by one or other of the Wesleyan ministers, and were listened to by large and attentive congregations. The circuits generally were reported to be in a prosperous state, and some of them very encouragingly.