

speak the praise of the generous contributors, but will give an impulse to the cause of enlightened and well directed charity, and to the sacred cause of religion and education throughout the Christian world.—*Montreal Gazette.*

## THE GUARDIAN.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1840.

### CHRISTIAN VIGILANCE.

The life of the christian is frequently compared, in the word of God, to a warfare. It is indeed not only a warfare, but one which must be carried on as in an enemy's country, where the soldier of Christ is every moment surrounded by foes, bold, wary, crafty and enterprising, ready to take advantage of every false step, to avail themselves of the slightest negligence, to profit by even a moment's indecision. And this is not all. There is treason in the camp. For while the christian has fightings without, he has not only fears within, but he finds also "a law in his members warring against the law of his mind." He is like a warrior who, having overcome his enemy in some former combat, is conscious that his prisoners—the sinful lusts and passions of his own heart, subdued but not destroyed, are ready, on the first opportunity, to rise in renewed hostility against him—to join their allies without, and accomplish his destruction. He is thus constrained, not only to work the work of God while it is called to-day, but even to sleep, as it were, with his head upon his sword.

In this warfare too, the christian is called to contend with enemies of more than mortal might. "We wrestle not," says the apostle, "against flesh and blood; but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." "Be sober, be vigilant," says another apostle, "because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." And not only does this arch-adversary, like the lion, endeavour, by his roaring, to drive the timid and self-convicted sinner to despair, that he may thus seize upon him as a helpless, unresisting captive, but as the lion also conceals himself near the fountains to which those animals come to drink, who are too fleet, or too wary to be seized by him in the open field, that he may spring upon them while quenching their thirst, and devour them; so it often happens, that while the christian is lingering, incautiously, near the fountains of earthly enjoyment, the enemy of souls seizes the opportunity to inflict upon him, unawares, a painful, if not a deadly wound.

Placed in circumstances so critical, what must the christian do? "Take unto you," says the apostle, "the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand." And not only must the christian combatant be provided with spiritual weapons from the armoury of God, but he must be accustomed to the use of them. lest when called to the field, he be compelled to say as David did of Saul's armour, "I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them." The sword of the Spirit, must be familiar to his grasp, the helmet of salvation, accustomed to his brow, the breastplate of his Redeemer's righteousness must ever guard his heart, his loins must continually be girt about with truth, and the shield of faith be always ready on his arm.

It is not enough however, for the soldier of Jesus Christ to be armed at all points, and to know the use of his weapons. Conscious of the subtlety of his spiritual enemies, he must not only watch, but, conscious at the same time, of their might, and of his own feebleness and insufficiency, he must also pray. "Praying always," says the apostle, in the context, "with all prayer and supplication, in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance." The warrior of the cross, must not only look to Jesus, the captain of his salvation, as his exemplar in the fight, but as the source of all his spiritual sufficiency for the conflict. It is indeed only when he is thoroughly

sensible of his own weakness, that he has spiritual strength, for then, leaning on his Saviour, as the beloved of his soul—strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, he is enabled to say, with Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me;" and, with David, "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect."—"Though an host encamp against me," he can add, "my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident;" "for I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord."

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT YARMOUTH.

We are happy to learn by letters lately received from Yarmouth, that the Presbyterian Congregation at Chebogue, in that Township, still continues in a united and prosperous state, under the able and profitable ministrations of the Rev. JOHN ROSS, its present Pastor. For a long series of years this congregation had to contend, with great and almost insurmountable difficulties, being sometimes entirely destitute of a fixed Pastor, and at other times supplied by occasional services from Ministers of different creeds, some of its members favouring one Religious denomination, and others being attached to a rival society, whilst the whole Church was not unfrequently distracted by internal dissensions, and violently agitated by every wind of doctrine, and by every strange preacher who made his appearance in Yarmouth. Indeed it is only since the congregation, of their own free and voluntary accord, formed a connection with the Church of Scotland, and since they obtained, after very earnest and repeated applications, (some of which we have still in our possession,) the Rev. Mr. Ross, as their stated pastor, that they have been enabled, of late years, to enjoy the regular dispensation of the ordinances of grace on a uniform system, and to meet together as a united and harmonious religious society.

Feeling, as we certainly do, a very deep and lively interest in the prosperity of this congregation,—acquainted with many of their past struggles and conflicts, and having been instrumental, in company with a much respected friend, in providing them with their present excellent pastor, we cannot fail to rejoice, when we hear favourable accounts from them, or of them, and we should be extremely sorry if any unforeseen or untoward event should ever again occur, to weaken or to destroy the connection with the parent Church, which has now been so happily formed, or to occasion any interruption of the observance of those Religious ordinances, which are now regularly dispensed in that place, as we are convinced that a renewed vacancy, arising either from internal dissensions, inattention to the comfort of their pastor, or any other cause, would sink the congregation into a more helpless and distracted condition, than at any former period of its existence, and render such attempts as might be made, to effect another settlement amongst a people who have been so long and so frequently divided, altogether hopeless.

### NOVA-SCOTIA PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.

At a Quarterly Meeting of this Society, held on the 6th January last, it was

"Resolved,—That owing to the great difficulty experienced in obtaining a place for the meetings of this Society, the Members thereof deem it advisable to procure a Building for these, and for other purposes, and to attach thereto a School, for the Orphans of Members, and others whom the Committee of management for the School may think proper to admit thereto; the whole to be under the control and direction of the Society."

A Committee of Twenty Members was accordingly appointed, to decide on the best mode of providing funds, and otherwise carrying the above Resolution into effect.

On the 24th ult. a Special Meeting of the Society

was held, when the above mentioned Committee presented a Report, recommending the purchase of a property near St. Paul's Church. The Report was accompanied with an estimate of the cost of erecting a Building, equal in size to the Masonic Hall, amounting, including the price of the ground, to £3,830. To provide for this expenditure, the Committee unanimously considered that it would be advisable to raise a sum of not less than £4,000.

In accordance with this Report, Committees were appointed, for the purchase of the site recommended, to solicit subscriptions in Town, in Dartmouth, &c. and to petition the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation.

We are of opinion that the character, the objects, and the operations of this Society, are too little known, even in this, its Native Town. We would therefore inform such of our Readers, as may not be acquainted with the facts, that it was established on the 7th of April, 1834, and already numbers above Three Hundred Members; that the admission fee is Ten Shillings, and the Quarterly Subscription Two Shillings and Sixpence, the proceeds of which, after deducting the necessary expenditure of the Society, are appropriated, one half to constitute a fund for the relief of sick or indigent Members; the other half to the assistance of persons born in the Province, but not Members of the Society; the distribution of these charities being under the control of a Committee of Five Members.

The income of the Society for the past year was £129 4s. 1d. After reserving the one half, appropriated to the relief of necessitous members, £40 17s 6d. was distributed, in cash, to Fifty-eight poor persons, not members; some of them, moreover, *not natives* of the Province themselves, but having children born in it, which gave them a title to relief. Upwards of Thirty cords of Wood, also, were distributed, in loads of two feet each, to One Hundred and Twenty-four persons, and delivered at their doors, during the cold weather in January.

This statement of what this Society have done, to say nothing of what they are still doing, and their having it in contemplation to attach to the proposed building, a School for the Education of Orphan Children, must recommend it to the support of all true Nova-Scotians, more forcibly than any considerations which we ourselves could urge. We therefore entertain no doubt, that they will come forward cheerfully and liberally; and that such a sum will be subscribed, as will ensure the erection of a Building, which will be an ornament to the Town, a credit to the Society, and an edifice to which all who shall contribute to it, may point with well grounded gratification.

### EDUCATION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The *Royal Gazette* of the 11th of February, contains an able and luminous report, of the state of the district schools throughout the Colony, drawn up, and read before the Board of Education, by John McNeil, Esq. visitor of schools for the Island. According to the Report, which embraces the result of three several visits, and an examination of all the schools, up to January, 1840, there are now, including three female schools in Charlotte Town, 69 public schools in the Colony, besides the Central Academy and St. Andrews College, and allowing an average of 40 scholars to each school, 2840 children enjoying the blessings of education. Of the schools which have been examined, 23 are in Queen's County, 10 in King's County, and 10 in Prince County. The branches of education taught in these schools, are of the most simple and elementary character; Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Book Keeping, English Grammar, Geography in a few instances, and Latin in the school of Pinnette, under the superintendance of the Rev. John McLennan. The schools in the Island appear to be encompassed, with the same difficulties and embarrassments, which attend education in our own Colony, the want of suitable school books—the inadequate dimensions of school houses—the deficiency of desks, benches,