

Sunday, 9th inst. came. I woke with feelings of sorrow. I felt afraid that before the day was over, I should be entirely silenced. Service commenced at 10. A noble congregation gathered in the small Methodist church. The Master of assemblies, fulfilled His promise, and was present with His people. In the afternoon the congregation was much larger, and seeing the people looking so eagerly, my feelings were so far raised, that for the time I forgot my illness, and continued preaching for some time, and with some success. All the words of this life. By these words, the Holy Ghost was evidently working in the hearts of both believers, and unbelievers, confirming and comforting these, awakening, and judging those. A shadow, as of something awful, appeared to rest upon the congregation. I gave the lecture of church membership to twelve persons, at the close of the service. As we separated, one of the sisters commenced singing—

"O come to me and you shall know
What a great Saviour can bestow,
His love to me I can express,
Although I'm called a "Methodist.""

This rustic song apparently accorded with the feelings of every heart; and I thought it not on account of its excellence as poetry, but of its excellence as a song for Methodist pioneers—worthy of a place in my note-book. Feeling their devotion, beholding the grace of God in these disciples, I was glad.

From the church, I went to the house of Bro. J. Read, a man who has been walking with God, for nearly half a century; whose domestic simplicity, whose heavenly-mindedness, and whose unobscured life have won for him the confidence and esteem of all his neighbors. Here, I took tea, and much enjoyed an hour's fellowship with the aged pilgrim, and his son Simon, who is a young man of excellent spirit.

In the evening we had a prayer-meeting in the house of my host, Mr. E. March. His large kitchen, was full to overflowing, and we might have said, as did a traveller in the days of yore, "How dreadful is this place!" A powerful Divine influence rested upon the people. While some prayed, others wept, yet, groaned for sinners of soul. In referring to the words of consolation, and to the words of rebuke, sinners trembled, angels rejoiced, and Jesus saw the travail of His soul. My heart, which that night was softened by the Spirit's gracious power, never more hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. They who do not believe in the efficacy of different feelings, to those with which I woke in the morning. I reviewed the day, thought of God's mercy in holding me up, of the union of the Holy One, so freely vouchsafed, of the signs of the new life which I had witnessed, and I felt glad.

In closing this third paper, I wish to testify to the "power of God," and to the "power of the Cross of Christ, it is still to all who believe," "the power of God, and the wisdom of God." The gospel, however distasteful the world may treat it, however scornfully a certain class of sceptics may handle it,—it is still the only remedy, the only power, the only agent, in every condition of life, and in his most ungodly variety of circumstances. It is for our souls, as sinners, and bruised by the powers of sin, the only all-sufficient panacea. Without the gospel, mankind are dark and polluted; but with it, they are as bright as the sun, and as pure as the people the gospel, give the nations the gospel, and they have then a power, by which they can elevate themselves to the very summit of all that is grand in intellect, of all that is sublime in morality, and of all that is pure, and exalting in religion. The gospel, the power of God, require it is what they earnestly seek; it is what they ought to have.

W.
Old Parish, Jan. 10, 1865.

Letter from Rev. James England.

DEAR BROTHER,—
I see by a late "Watchman" that the Rev. George Ellidge has "ceased at once to work and live." I knew him well. After labouring for 20 years in Newfoundland, in 1848, he was appointed to the Durham Circuit, and continued to labour in the English Wesleyan until the time of his death. I retain a very lively and grateful recollection of Brother Ellidge. The first Circuit I occupied in Newfoundland was Island Cove, adjoining the Blackhead Circuit on which he was stationed. I often visited his house, presided in different parts of his Circuit, and saw a great deal of him during the time of his ministry. He was a man of a most noble and generous mind, and a most devoted and industrious man. I received from him much valuable advice and instruction in reference to books and study, and the peculiarities of our work in that island. To this day I think myself happy in having met with such a judicious counsellor in the early part of my Ministry here, and shall ever consider myself well repaid, for so often walking over the 16 miles that separated us from each other. I do not know whether the good Brother with whom I once took a longer walk than we do at present, the circumstance to which I allude was the following—A few months after arriving at my first station a young Brother from Old Parish came to seek my advice in reference to some affairs in that Circuit. Being only a "Youngster" I earnestly said, "let us go and consult Father Ellidge about it." So early next morning we started off in Indian file, hopping over puddles, stumps, and stones in the narrow path. (This was in the days before good roads and bridges were built on the North Shore.) On reaching Blackhead we found that Mr. Ellidge had gone to Carboneau, and would not be back for some days. While Mr. E. was preparing dinner we rambled out past the Church and sat down on the bank, hasting our feet in the brook, and consulting together what we had best do. We concluded to follow him to Carboneau. So after dinner we set out to walk the 12 miles there. On arriving in Carboneau, in the afternoon, we found Brother Ellidge standing on the hill near the Mission House, who when he saw us, lifted up his hands and said, "What dost thou here Elijah?" We had no advantage of receiving the Chairman's (Rev. John Pickens) advice as we were set out to walk back to our Circuits—having passed through Fresh Water and Crown's Cove, we thought we saw a better path over Salmou Cove ridge than the one on the right by which we had come up. (All the high ridges were then thickly covered with woods.) We walked on all over the ridge, through the woods, down into the valley, when all at once our feet fell terminated at the side of a large pond. "Oh," said my companion who had been longer in the island than I had, "this is only a winter path, for hauling wood." Not liking to walk back all the way over the ridge, we kept along down the way over the ridge, but while we were walking our way through bogs and tangled woods, the heavens became black with thunder clouds, and before we found the right path the rain began to pour down upon us. We were now in sight of Perry's Cove, but neither of us knew anything about the place or the people. As the shades of night were approaching we

marshaled up to the best looking house in the place, and asked if they would give us shelter till the morning. "O come in," said the good woman, "you be quite wet through." She got some dry clothes belonging to the Shipper and the Boys, and hung our wet coats on the fire. She put on the kettle and down with a nice fish before the fire. After a comfortable tea we asked whether any of the neighbours would come in if we had service. "O yes," she said, "I will read round and let them know, but will be here later before they come as they be very busy just now, being engaged with the school." After waiting some time they began to come in till about 40 persons had assembled. Then the good woman brought out the Bible and Wesley's Hymns and laid them on the table. To my surprise most of those assembled had a Bible, and I felt quite at home, calling their attention to the "faithful saying." At a o'clock next morning, refreshed and happy, we went on our way rejoicing, to our appointed sphere of labour.

I also spent many days and nights with Bro. Ellidge when he was passing through Great Falls, and he was now in a transition state; this time he alludes in a letter I received from him after he returned home. He says, "I take the opportunity of indulging a wish of writing you, a wish that has frequently risen in my mind. When I call to mind your frequent visits to Blackhead, and the friendly part you took in connection with the instrument of great a portion of our family, I must have a grateful remembrance of you, and should like to be favoured with a few lines from you."

At the British Conference held in Camborne, 1864, I had the pleasure of again meeting with Bro. Ellidge, and taking over together some of our toils and travels in Newfoundland. But now I shall see his face no more till we meet in "a better country," than even good Old England, and review all the way in which we were led during our days on this Island.

He was a man of extensive and general information. Sometimes his running comments in reading Scripture lessons were very instructive, and he possessed a more impressive delivery his sermons would have appeared to considerable advantage. I am inclined to think so from reading a sermon that he preached 30 years ago, on the death of Mr. George Vay, which was published at that time.

I feel solemnly admonished, by the passing away of our fathers in the Ministry, to "work while it is day for the night when no man can work." "God buries his workmen, but carries on his work." May that brotherly kindness, sincere affection, and true friendship which characterized them, continue among those who are in the Ministry of our yet beloved Jesus Christ.

JAS. ENGLAND.

Obituary.

MRS. TAYLOR OF GUYSBORO'.
Died on the 11th ult. Mrs. Esther, relict of the late William Taylor, Esq. aged 76 years. This estimable Christian lady, arrived here gathered to her people in a good old age. Her body now reposes with many of the sainted dead—the companions of her youth, and the friends of her riper years; and we doubt not her spirit rests in the bosom of her Saviour. Mrs. Taylor was a person of much intelligence and discretion. Reading had improved her mind, and she had matured her judgment, and piety had refined her heart, so that, "Days had spoken, and length of years had taught wisdom." Brought up a Presbyterian, and instructed with respect to the knowledge and use of the Holy Scriptures, and to the observance of all the religious duties, the transition to another branch of the Presbyterian faith, was natural and easy. She and her husband were Wesleyans. Having adorned the doctrine of God her Saviour, in that branch of the church on earth, they have at length entered into rest.

And sought his nest in the sky;
Advanced to her happy estate;
And possessing that never to die;
Where glorified spirits bright,
Converse in their happy abode;
As stars in the firmament bright.
As an evidence of the esteem in which the late Mr. Taylor was held by this community, I may add, that a plain monument, composed of free stone surmounted by a marble slab, has been erected to his memory by his brother magistrates and other inhabitants of the county of Guysboro', bearing a suitable testimonial to his moral worth and public services. By
"How loved, how honored, now await them rest,
By whom related or by whom forgot."
They have left to their posterity, that which is imperishable, and of more value than thousands of gold and silver, for wisdom is above rubies.

Another grave in the Wesleyan Cemetery, Guysboro', containing precious dust, is worthy of a similar testimonial; the name of the deceased, Guyborough, should not be in the form of a cenotaph, in their sanctuary, with a suitable inscription; she is worthy, for whom this should be done. The writer would cheerfully contribute. How often her prayers, her tears and her good words, were freely poured forth, for the good of the Wesleyan Mission, and the souls of the place over to be memory a lasting obligation. I refer to the late Miss Charlotte A. Newton, to whom, it is much to be regretted, that no suitable tribute has yet been paid, though she has left precious material, in diary, letters, &c., for an instructive biography. G. W. T.
Guysboro', March 1865.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1865.

Provincial Progress.

PART FIFTH.

As the patriot marks with pleasure the indications of progress which his country affords, so at the present time every Nova Scotian has reason for hopefulness in regard to the general interests of his native land. The improvement which has taken place in our political arena, within a brief period, in the abatement of political strife, cannot afford gratification to all right-minded persons. It is manifest that between the two parties who have divided the public sentiment of the Province, and in the conduct of their mutual relations, there has not been, in several years past, any essential difference, so that, in fact, their differences, how severely maintained, have existed but little more than in name, except as the majority in the Legislature, and the consequent ability to carry out the best of the laws, to prevent any such difference, for the time being, to preponderate on the one side or the other. However unreasonable such strife, it has been wide-spread, its fierceness often rising in proportion to the near approach of the two parties to each other in their relative strength. In this respect the large majority by which the present Government

is sustained has had a beneficial influence in lessening party strife, and presenting a marked change for the better. Not that the improvement is sufficient to warrant belief in the near approach of the millennium, when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. If such a thought were entertained, it would be quickly dispelled by observing the spirit of some of the Press both in city and country, and the animus of certain members of the Legislature, who never miss an opportunity of exhibiting their strong party spirit. But though unhappy instances of this nature are of frequent occurrence, yet we cannot doubt that, upon the whole, the party animosity has been greatly softened, and that now the best minds on both sides can more readily combine than they did, for the promotion of the general good of the Province.

We cherish the belief that as the country rises in intelligence, and as objects of higher importance engage the attention of our leading minds, much of the party squabbling of politicians will cease to surprise that they ever so greatly excite. We hope that those journalists and other public men who labour to keep alive old political feuds, will be taught by the force of public opinion that principles are more to be valued than party lines, and that real progress is all that can make our country prosperous in the far higher consequence than the strife of interested parties. Opposition may be necessary and wholesome; but let it be reasonable, and let it direct its force against matters worthy of consideration. We are now in a transition state; party lines will split up, and we hope the issue will be something worthy of our country. Our Province is small, rich in resources, the development of which is worthy of our best exertions. Our agricultural and manufacturing capabilities will not be questioned. Nor are Provincialists at all deficient in mental ability; there have risen among us some of the finest specimens of genius and talent—men who have well-served their country, and of whom any people might justly feel proud. We entertain the gratifying thought that at least some of our statesmen are devoting their best energies for the advancement of the highest interests of the Province. This is a matter for congratulation, quite as much to be valued as our financial progress, and our well-replenished public revenues.

CONFEDERATION.

Our remarks might legitimately have a bearing upon the question which has recently occupied so large a share of public attention, the Union of the Province. But on this topic we will not now enlarge; suffice it to say that the views of our leading minds are more to be valued than party lines, and that the issue will be something worthy of our country. Our Province is small, rich in resources, the development of which is worthy of our best exertions. Our agricultural and manufacturing capabilities will not be questioned. Nor are Provincialists at all deficient in mental ability; there have risen among us some of the finest specimens of genius and talent—men who have well-served their country, and of whom any people might justly feel proud. We entertain the gratifying thought that at least some of our statesmen are devoting their best energies for the advancement of the highest interests of the Province. This is a matter for congratulation, quite as much to be valued as our financial progress, and our well-replenished public revenues.

FRANCHISE ACT.

As an instance showing how unimportant the difference between the two parties in the Province, we point to the Franchise Act. This measure, a really Conservative measure, though the product of a Liberal Government. That stands on our statute book an evidence in itself of true advancement. Its benefits are in the future, and by the intelligence of the country will yet be more highly appreciated than they are now. For however desirable in the estimation of some persons universal suffrage may be, it is like the republican form of government, to which it properly belongs, free in theory, but safe and salutary in operation only in a state of society which is marked in no country by a state of animosity. The privilege of the franchise is of too great importance to be entrusted to the hands of those who have no stake in the country, and whose lack of intelligence only renders them the more ready dupes of demagogues and designing men.

OUR RAILWAYS.

Our railways present another hopeful feature of the present time. The report of the late superintendent of railways for the nine months ending 30th Sept. last, shows an increase of receipts as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, amounting to \$16,438,292, the net balance after the payment of expenses for that period, being \$23,511,551; and there is every reason to believe that the completion of the line to Pictou, now in course of construction, will render the whole of this department of public works more productive than at present. An unduly early reference to these, on the ground of the additional revenue necessary for their construction would be "penny wise and pound foolish." No country, to be prosperous, can afford in these days to do without railways. The burden they impose a Government works is vastly more than counterbalanced by the benefit to the community.

EDUCATION.

As an encouraging evidence of progress, and also of the fact that our best men on both sides can unite in the promotion of the common good, we instance the School Act passed last session. This measure has created a great degree of excitement in the minds of the people, and has elicited its imperfections, for it was a work of great delicacy and difficulty to frame a school law adapted to the present state of the Province, and so to introduce the free school system and conform to the great amount of prejudice against direct taxation, as to produce as little irritation as possible. But whatever may be the defects of that law, it was an important step, and one of our previous legislation on that subject, and served a good purpose by preparing the way for the still further progress proposed by the School Bill now submitted to the Legislature. From facts given in the Report of the General Superintendent of Education, and also those presented by the Hon. P. S. Murray in his plan to the House upon the introduction of the new Bill, it cannot be doubted that, speaking in the general, our educational status is low, justifying the introduction of the assessment principle and the establishment of free school education, notwithstanding the opposition of some committees. Numerous petitions have been presented to the Legislature against the plan of assessment, and asking for a repeal of the law; but for the most part these petitions have not been numerously signed. Out of the 60,000 electors in the Province, the whole number of petitioners against

the law, as stated by Hon. Prov. Secy. is but 2163. One of the difficulties to be surmounted is the want of suitable school-houses, many of them being in a dilapidated condition, while over 2000 School sections no school-house whatsoever exist. From sixteen counties including over 1000 sections, reports have been received, and of these 654 sections have organized under the law, while in 29 sections graded schools have been established, and although the 654 schools are open are but about one-half of the schools of the Province, yet in these there are now more children in attendance than were included in all the schools under the old law, an exceedingly gratifying fact, showing that notwithstanding the unpopularity of the law, where it has been accepted it is working well. It is now proposed, instead of County inspectors, to have seven inspectors for the Province—instead of voluntary sectional assessment, to have county assessment, each County to be required to include in its assessment an amount equal to two thirds of the Provincial grant for education, and to pay any further that may be required for the support of a better class of schools to be determined by each section, and raised either by subscription or by assessment. These are among other important improvements provided for by the present Bill. It is to be observed that the Government proposes that the revenue derived from the amount of the grant under the old law was \$50,000. It is now intended to appropriate for this service \$100,000, a very handsome Provincial grant, leaving but about \$67,000 to be raised by county assessment for education in the whole Province. We are greatly gratified by the intention of the Government in this respect, and that the State of the revenue will admit of so large an increase in the grant for common schools. We earnestly hope that the denominational Colleges will be dealt with on a proportionate scale of liberality, so that while our common schools are well sustained, the higher Education of the Country may also be placed in the highest state of efficiency. Our country is doing a good work for the Province, and the aid afforded to them is well appreciated. We hope they will receive the most liberal consideration which the present state of our Provincial revenue will warrant.

It would seem to be a mere waste of words to enlarge upon the advantages of Education to our country. All that could be said on this subject would be readily admitted by all thoughtful and intelligent men. The necessity, however, of the change of system, and the benefits to result therefrom, cannot be rightly valued by those who themselves are uneducated. Some of the petitions against the School Bill presented at the present Session of the House, are in themselves so full of error, and so full of protest against it which they offer. We learn from some members of the Legislature very significant facts, that on many of the petitions against Confederation, and from men claiming the right to be heard on this great subject equal with those who by their intelligence are fitted to be heard on it, which is not the case. In instances by scores in which the names are in hand-writing, each name distinguished by the cross with "his mark" attached. Surely it is high time for the school-master to be abroad. If this fact does not afford a very marked evidence of progress, it at least shows that the action of the present Government is not to be despised, and is not coming any day to be abandoned. Objections have been urged against the Council of Public Instruction as now constituted. On this point we say nothing at present, but merely copy the remarks made by the Hon. Prov. Secretary in his speech a few days since, in relation to the subject of the Council. "We have had the law in operation for some six months, and I have yet to learn that a single substantial argument can be raised before the Council, or against it, which would be of any value to the Legislature. The objections to the Council, as now constituted, are of a nature which are not to be taken into consideration. As a member of the executive council I have the greatest reluctance to occupy such a position, and I am glad to see that the Council of Public Instruction is now constituted. It is impossible for any council that would be so constituted to be of any value to the Legislature. I have adapted myself to the work of the Council, and I have had, during the last six months, a very large number of references to me in relation to this matter. It is well known that the Council of Public Instruction is now constituted, and I am glad to see that the Council of Public Instruction is now constituted. It is impossible for any council that would be so constituted to be of any value to the Legislature. I have adapted myself to the work of the Council, and I have had, during the last six months, a very large number of references to me in relation to this matter. 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