

## UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of the Record.*

Sir,—Permit me through your columns to call the attention of the public to the present appointment of the Rev. James Nall as Agent of the Upper Canada Religious Tract Society. His duties are to preach, hold public meetings, and collect funds on behalf of the Society; to establish branches auxiliary to it, and to take the oversight of its Colporteurs.

I may add, that Mr. Nall is a Congregational Minister, of English birth and education, and an anti-slavery man. He has laboured in this Province for about twenty years. He never was an Agent of the American Tract Society, and is the only Agent now in the field under our direction.

Let me bespeak for Mr. Nall the confidence and liberal co-operation of all Christians. The cause which he is engaged to advocate is one that commends itself to every Christian and philanthropist. Its importance can scarcely be over-estimated. By means of Colportage the Gospel is carried to every door. The remote, the neglected, the sick have the glad tidings announced to them in instances where in all probability, instrumentally, but for this means, the sound would never reach.

The Society only waits for pecuniary means to occupy the whole of our territory. We are desirous of sending at least one labourer into each county. The men can easily be obtained; already more applications for employment have been received than can be entertained. We look therefore to the Christian public for support. We ask the Ministers of the different Churches to aid our Agent and co-operate with him in the advancement of this great and good cause.

ARTHUR WICKSON, *Secretary.*

**THE RECORD.**—All possible care is taken in addressing and mailing the *Record*. Should any irregularity occur in any quarter, in the receipt of the *Record*, intimation should be sent at once to this office, in order that the irregularity may be remedied.

*All communications connected with the Record and the Several Schemes of the Church, to be addressed to "REV. W. REID, OFFICE OF THE MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL RECORD," Toronto.*

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications intended for the *Record* should be in the Editor's hands by the 15th of the month.

## The Record.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1855.

### HOW IS POPERY TO BE OPPOSED?

It is impossible to shut our eyes to the aggressive position which has for sometime been assumed by Popery. There was a time when it was, at least on British ground, comparatively quiet and passive; but this is no longer its character. Its policy is now thoroughly aggressive. In proof of this we might point especially to the attempts which it has made, and which no doubt it will renew, to break down the system of Education which has been established in the Province, or at least to build up its own Schools at the expense of Protestants. This policy has been exhibited in various modifications in other lands, especially

in Ireland and the United States. But in this Province the attempt has been most undisguised, and we have no doubt no effort will be spared, and no stone left unturned, in order that the object may be attained, and our educational system laid prostrate before the power of the Romish Bishops. Many circumstances favour such attempts amongst us. The influence of the French Canadians is so strong, and our governments are in general so destitute of moral courage, and of sound principle, and so ready to buy the support of Roman Catholics at almost any price, that we need scarcely wonder at the bold position assumed by the Romanists and the demands which they set forth. An attempt was made at the close of the last session of Parliament to break down the educational system, an attempt which originated with the Roman Catholics, and which would no doubt have been successful, but for the vigilance and determination of a few of the friends of Protestantism and of Education from Upper Canada. The Bill was so far altered in its passage through the Legislature that it will be comparatively harmless. But we have no doubt another crusade will be urged against our Common Schools, and that the Priests will again bring their influence to bear upon the Government with the view of obtaining what they desire.

It becomes then a serious question, how are we to oppose Popery? Unquestionably it must be opposed with the Bible, and by the circulation of the truth, which alone can make free. Protestants are not sufficiently alive to the importance of seeking to destroy the power and influence of Popery as a system, by bringing the truth to bear upon the minds of those who are its votaries in a spirit of love, gentleness, and meekness. In no other way can we hope to see its power and dominion broken, and the victims of its delusion emancipated from their thralldom and brought to the enjoyment of mental and spiritual freedom. Did Protestants realize their duty in this respect there would be far more done for the French Canadian Missionary Society, and similar institutions, whose great object is to introduce the light of the pure Gospel amongst the adherents of Popery. Did they realize their duty, there would be more efforts of an aggressive kind amongst Roman Catholics, especially in our towns and cities where large numbers of them are congregated, and where favourable opportunities might be found of speaking the truth in love.

But while such efforts of a Missionary kind should be made, more we apprehend is necessary on the part of sound Protestants who take a becoming interest in the welfare of their country. It is evident that a great conflict must be maintained in our Legislative Halls. Romanists will allow Protestants to speak as much as they please out of doors. They will allow them to form Protestant Associations, and to get up Protestant Lectures, as long as they themselves can get every thing they want from a compliant Government. This is really the state of things now. A good deal is said and written on the subject of Popish aggression, but in the meantime the aggression advances, and in every session of Parliament fresh concessions are granted. What we look

upon then as highly desirable, is, that the people, that is the sound Protestant portion of the community, should bestir themselves and look out in time for men of principle and of sincerity—men who can be depended upon—men who will not be afraid to be in Parliament, what they profess to be out of it. Such men would appear to be somewhat rare, but surely there are men of principle to be found. Let Protestants look out for such men. This appears to us to be a paramount and a present duty. We trust it will not be neglected by our Protestant fellow countrymen, but will be done calmly and peacefully, but at the same time earnestly and with vigour.

### SHALL WE HAVE SABBATH DESECRATION ON OUR RAILROADS?

The system of Railroads is only commencing in Canada. We have, it is true, a few lines in active operation, and carrying on already a large amount of business. But the system is only in its commencement, and no doubt ere many years have elapsed we shall have not only the Grand Trunk Line connecting the remote west with the sea board, and it may be forming a link in a great chain across the entire continent; but in all probability a series of branches conducting streams of travel and traffic into the main artery, and extending to the remotest corners of the land the advantages of easy and rapid communication with the principal markets of the continent. We rejoice to think of the extension of this system and of the effects resulting from it in the stimulus afforded to commerce and agriculture, the development of the resources of this noble Province, and the increase of healthy prosperity throughout all the departments of industry. But after all it still remains to be determined whether the extension of the Railway system amongst us shall be really for good or evil. For unquestionably if, along with our railways, we are to have introduced a system of Sabbath desecration,—if trains are to be run on the Sabbath,—if the engine whistle is to be heard disturbing the quiet of our peaceful townships,—if crowds of Sabbath-breaking tourists, are to be poured into our cities and towns, the real tendency will be to demoralize the community, and hence to injure its real prosperity, and draw down the displeasure of the Most High, who ruleth among the nations of the earth, and who will not allow His law to be wantonly violated with impunity.

We regret to observe that there is reason to fear that now in the very commencement of the Railway system Sabbath desecration will be attempted. On one of the leading lines in Canada West, viz. the Northern Railway, Sabbath trains are stated to have been running for some time. And although various excuses have been offered, we cannot regard these as at all valid. For most certainly, if there were a settled purpose to abstain from Sabbath work, it would be exceedingly easy for the Directors so to arrange their various connecting lines as to require no infringement on the sacred rest of the Sabbath. If the Directors continue to run Sabbath trains they must be losers,—at least the Company must suffer as through them. Conscientious men who honour