

...singing respecting him in the office, as in the song of his father Zacariah, you could discern his affection by his voice, and one night while singing that song his countenance was so lighted up, that, after matins, William, one of the monks, went to the prior Syger, and told him what he had remarked, and the prior was so moved that he interrogated the youth respecting what thoughts had occupied him during that interval. In fine, we may remark, while observing the force of names, that those not alone of persons but of a multitude of things surrounding children, can serve in the same manner to recall the glories of Catholicism in times past, or to awaken a wholesome anxiety to inquire: for whole towns, and the streets of towns, bridges and hospitals, inns and shops, mountains and forests, are named after saints, or holy mysteries associated with faith, and with the Christian history of every people. But it is not a name alone which points the way to the church, when children have been led astray in the intricate labyrinth of life, and lost to what is called chance for guidance. 'When I go to St Mary Woolnoth,' says an English author, 'it seems the same whether I turn down Lothbury or go through the Old Jewry; but the going through one street and not another may produce an effect of lasting consequence.' Many have proof of this in the events which have first directed them to the Catholic faith; those who would keep children far from it, having reason to tremble always and to suspect every turn; as a glance, a word, may undo what has been the labour of years.

Illustr Mir et Hist Mem lib viii c 49.

The Cross;

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, FEB'Y. 24.

THE VEXED QUESTION.

We have received, this week, several communications respecting the Colleges, and the question of Education generally; but, for many reasons, we are unwilling to insert them. Some would advocate a coercion of Members in favor of a renewed Grant, which would be fatal to the independence of our Representatives. Others would wish to drag down the Province to a degree of barbarism by sweeping away all Colleges and Schools for superior education. The path of prudence lies between those extremes. We have no desire to interfere with the free action of our Representatives on this important subject. We have no intolerant or exclusive claims to set up. We ask no better treatment for the Catholic College than shall be shown to other existing Institutions. If all the Colleges be abolished, no matter what may be our opinion as to the sound policy of the measure, we will make no particular complaint. If St. Mary's be injured or destroyed, and any one other College be suffered to exist or to receive a higher Grant, then, and then only, we will complain.

We believe many of the Members are anxious to sweep away the Colleges *in toto*, and to return exclusively to the Common School system. This would be a fatal error. It would shut up all avenues to promotion for the young men of talent throughout the Province, whose families are unable to send them to a foreign College. None but a rich man's son might then aspire to any of the learned professions. A Province so degraded would be at the mercy of strangers. Men of superior information should be imported from abroad, or a few wealthy families would monopolize all the literature, and of necessity, many of the first situations in the country. Even should this be not generally the case, our public men would soon fall down to zero in the scale of literary excellence, and before many years we should become the laughing-stock of America.

Suppose that a paltry thousand of pounds is taken from the Colleges, or Academies, or High Schools of Education—the name is a matter of indifference—what then? Who will be the gainer? Perhaps each County may get a few more pounds of road money—and what a disgraceful barter of the intellectual for the physical! What a triumph of matter over mind!

But, granting that the sum be distributed amongst the Common Schools. Will it improve Common School Education? Will it provide a more efficient class of Schoolmasters?—for this is the vital question. Assuredly not. Distributed, it will be no more than a drop of water to each. An incompetent Teacher will still be incompetent, even if he should receive fifty shillings or five pounds more per annum than he

now gets. No one acquainted with the country believes, that if all the money given to Colleges were to be given to Common Schools, it would improve the latter to the value of one hundred pounds. We don't believe it would; and thus, you sacrifice Institutions which, though imperfect, are of considerable utility to the Province; you sacrifice them without any corresponding advantage. This is beginning at the wrong end both in wisdom and economy.

We will not venture to speak of the other existing Colleges, of their merits or defects. To the friends of those Institutions we leave the advocacy of their claims, and to their enemies all the force of their objections. But we think a few candid words on St. Mary's College may not be amiss at the present juncture.

St. Mary's College originally received £300 per annum, afterwards £444 at the time when it being found impossible to reduce the Grant to Windsor College, all the Denominational Colleges were made equal. For the last four years it received but £250 per annum. Now we ask, what mighty results could be reasonably expected from this support? For many years one of the Professors had his Board, Lodging, &c., in the College, and £200 per annum. Thus one efficient Professor absorbed nearly three-fourths of the entire Grant, in the palmiest days of the College. But since the Grant has been reduced, there have been invariably three Professors at least, one of whom was always a Clergyman, and sometimes two. In order to diffuse more widely the benefits of the College, the fees were lowered, and to all who could not afford it, Education was given gratuitously.

But the College was imperfect. No doubt it was, and is. But what could be done with £250? One respectable Professor would absorb more than all that sum. We know and admit that the College is and has been imperfect. We lament it, and we would do any thing in our power to remedy it. But with the means at their disposal, we think the managers of St. Mary's College have done much. Our wonder is, not that so little has been done, but that so much has been achieved. Who would venture to introduce expensive Professors on so limited and so uncertain a Grant as that £250? We maintain that with all its defects, St. Mary's College has given full value to the Province for all that it has received. A great number of Professional men have received their Education there. Of these, more than a dozen were Clergymen, who are to be found in every part of the Province. Even in Halifax this moment, there are two worthy Clergymen, natives of Cape Breton, who received their education at St. Mary's. There are natives of the Province in European Colleges, who, but for their Education at St. Mary's, would never have been qualified for their present positions. The number in St. Mary's at present is certainly not very large. There are but 43 Students; 18 of whom are reading Latin, and 4 of those Divinity. The latter are natives of the Province, and they will be hereafter succeeded by others according to their talent and merits. Now we look upon all this as a great benefit, and we think that not only the young men themselves who have received an Education to qualify them for the Clerical and other Professions, but their parents and friends also share in those advantages.

This naturally brings us to the consideration of a very weak and unfounded objection against all Denominational Colleges as well as St. Mary's—an objection which is based upon a falsehood.

It is first truly asserted that call them what you will, those Colleges are nothing else but Theological Seminaries, and that consequently such Seminaries ought not to be supported. We deny the fact, and the inference. St. Mary's is not, and never has been a mere Theological Seminary. At one time there were nearly 30 Protestants in the College. The present ratio of Divinity Students is about one to eleven. It was sometimes lower; and surely there is nothing very alarming in this. But what force is there in the objection against Theological Students? Why should not the science of Divinity be taught as well as any other in a Public College, to those Students who wish to embrace a Clerical profession? At present, each Denomination, aided by the public fund to a small extent, educates their candidates for the Ministry. Abolish all this to please the objectors, and what will ensue? Foreign Clergymen must be imported, or foreign Students be procured, whilst many a native sower will blush unseen and pine away in dull oblivion. Or, our various Clergy be educated in the Province, their education will necessarily be imperfect, and society at large will suffer. Certainly this is not a state of things which any friend of Nova Scotia should desire. Penny Wise and Pound

Foolish would be the appropriate motto of so short-sighted a policy.

There is only one view of the question which we would wish to present in a particular manner to the friends of St. Mary's College in the House. It is this:

Those who voted for the destruction of King's College, may follow up the blow by sweeping away all the others. But this would be unwise, unjust and partial. The vote against King's College does not destroy that Institution. That vote is still inoperative. Mr Henry's Bill may be defeated in the Legislative Council, or if passed there, which is very unlikely, may not receive the Royal Assent. Thus the Grant to Windsor would be still continued. Destroy the other Colleges before the ultimate fate of Mr. Henry's Bill be known, and you run the risk of establishing one huge monopoly at Windsor, and of making the present inequality ten times greater. Well indeed might Churchmen laugh in their sleeves if such should be the result of Catholic votes. Don't touch any existing Institution, say we, until you are quite certain in the case of Windsor College.

We do not think it necessary to say one word upon the fantastic and impracticable conceit of ONE COLLEGE in Halifax for the Students of every denomination in the entire Province.

NEWS BY THE LAST STEAMER.

The distress in Ireland continues, and Ministers have proposed a renewal of the Coercion Bill as a panacea. By way of additional relief they propose to advance £50,000. The Synod of Tuam is over, and all the Bishops were unanimous in opposing the New Colleges, except the Bishop of Galway, who expects to throw some new light on the affair, as he has written to the Holy See. The Bishop of Derry's funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Ireland, exceeded only by that of O'Connell. A fifth indictment has been preferred against Mr. Duffy, to which he has put in a New Plea of abatement. He has already lost £10,000 by his imprisonment and the seizure of his property. The Writs of Error to the House of Lords have been granted in the case of Smith O'Brien and two others. Mr. Meagher still refuses to join. Dean Coll of Limerick has received an ample apology from an insolent Officer of one year's standing who lately disturbed the Congregation at Newcastle, by ordering the Catholic Soldiers to quit the Church in the middle of the Dean's discourse. Sir Edward Blakeny ordered an investigation, and the military popinjay in question declared, through Colonel Fox, who waited on the Priest, that he was sincerely sorry for his misconduct.

The English Army is to be reduced by 10,000 men, so that there will be no more forced recruiting at the Irish Poor Houses. Lord Stanley moved an amendment to the Address in the House of Lords, and the Clarendon—Russell Ministry came off with flying colours and a majority of Two!!! Lord Palmerston was openly and justly accused for having fomented all the troubles in Italy, and especially those at Rome, in consequence of which England was hated and despised by both parties. Child-poisoning has been going on in the Land of Bibles to a frightful extent—the object being to get a few pounds each for the children from Burial Societies in which they were enrolled for the purpose of being murdered. One wretch or rather monster poisoned three of her own offspring in cold blood. Thank God, Ireland with all her misery, has never come to that. The fanatical English, who is 'as mad as a march hare' on every thing Popish, has been delivering a Jeremia on the titles and precedence given to the Catholic Bishops. He insisted amongst other absurdities, that England should carry the Established Church into every one of her Colonies.

Louis Napoleon is becoming more popular in France, and if we may believe the English papers more sensible. It is their interest to praise him now, as they did Lamartine, to try to stave off a new War. The National Assembly has voted its own dissolution. This will take place in March. The collection of Peters Pence is going on in various parts of France, and considerable sums have been already transmitted thro' the Pope's Nuncio at Paris. Rome is still in the hands of the foreign cut throats and mercenaries. The Ministry are feathering their nests while the reign of terror lasts. Mamiani has deposited £25,000 at an English Banker's (we suppose Freeborn & Co.) though he was not worth fifty pounds in the world the other day. A fictitious Paper Currency has been issued in various parts of the Ecclesiastical States.—The details of the recent Elections we must reserve for the next week. They have already excited the indignation of Europe. It is supposed the intervention in favour of the Pope will soon take place. The health of his Holiness has suffered much. A fire broke out in the apartment next to his sleeping chamber on the night of the 15th January, but was soon extinguished. Deputations from different parts of his dominions are daily coming to Gaeta to present addresses of confidence and devotion to his throne and person. In one Roman City containing 27,500 inhabitants only 200 persons were found to vote at the recent Elections, or perhaps not half that number, as any one might vote as often as he pleased, according to the manoeuvre practised at Rome itself and elsewhere. Every thing seems to indicate that matters are hastening to a crisis. The Pope has summoned to Gaeta all the Cardinals who were at Naples.

The infamous Gioberti minister of Sardinia has exiled the Archbishop of Turin for the conscientious discharge of his duty.

THE UNITED STATES.

The new Bishop of Vincennes, Rt Rev Dr de St Palais, was consecrated in his Cathedral, on Sunday 14th of January. Dr Miles Bishop of Nashville was the consecrating Bishop, assisted by Dr Spalding Coadjutor Bishop of Louisville, and The Very Rev. H. Dupontavice, Vicar General. A large number of Clergyman were present, and the consecration Sermon was preached by Bishop Spalding from the three last verses of St Matthew. This learned Prelate also preached at Vespers on the Holy Name of Jesus, and the new Bishop addressed his flock from 2 Cor. vi. 41. "Our mouth is open to you, O ye Corinthians, our heart is enlarged. . . . be ye also enlarged."

The Bishop Elect of Chicago, Dr Vandeveldt was to be consecrated at St Louis on Sunday the 11th inst.

The Boston Observer, on the authority of the U S Consul at Honolulu, and an article in the Boston Post, quoting the Sandwich Islands News of November 2d, asserts that the pretended conversions by Protestant Missionaries in those Islands is all a hoax, and that the "said missionaries are not only arrogant and ambitious, but swindlers, note-shavers, and robbers!!!"

MEETING OF CATHOLICS AT ST. MARY'S.

At a Meeting of the Roman Catholics of Halifax, held in St. Mary's Church, on Sunday the 18th February, 1840, the Bishop in the Chair, His Lordship stated the object of the meeting was to petition the Legislature for a further Grant in aid of the Poor Schools attached to St. Mary's and St. Patrick's in this City;—whereupon, the Very Rev. the Vicar General read the draft of a petition, which he proposed for the adoption of the meeting,—which being seconded by Mr. P. Morrissey, was carried unanimously.

On Motion,—Resolved, that the presentation of the Petition to the Council be entrusted to the Honble Edward Kenny, and that to the House of Assembly to the Hon. the Attorney General.

Mr. J. W. Quinn suggested to the Meeting the propriety of entering into a Subscription among the parishioners, to diffuse more extensively the benefits of Education among the poorer classes of the community, in addition to whatever Grant might be obtained from the Legislature,—in which His Lordship, and the Meeting generally, acquiesced.

The Honble L. O'C. Doyle moved—seconded by Mr. Creamer,—"That the following Gentlemen be a Committee to wait on the Hon. the Attorney General, to request him to present the petition and advocate its prayer." Namely,—The Very Rev. the Vicar General, Messrs Creamer, Wallace, Morrissey, and R. Cunningham. Carried unanimously.

His Lordship then observed that as there was so large a number of the Parishioners in attendance, he would avail himself of that opportunity to address them a few words on the nature of the tenure of Church Property in the Diocese.—Formerly the system of Trusteeship had been resorted to in some parts of the Country, but it was found to produce uncertainty and confusion. Some Trustees died before they conveyed their trust. Others emigrated from the Province. Finally, in other cases, no regular election of Trustees was made. Thus, the tenure of Church Property was most unsatisfactory. He, the Bishop, was in possession of several Deeds of Church Property, vested in him, since he came to the Diocese. He had always felt much anxiety about them, from the difficulty of conveying them securely to his successors. The only measure of precaution which he could take, he had adopted, viz—to draw up in each case a Regular Declaration of Trust, to prevent his heirs or executors from ever interfering with the property, although such an event was most unlikely. In those Documents, which were duly attested, he had declared that those properties, small as some of them were, did not belong to him or to his private estate; that they were either purchased, bequeathed or bestowed for the benefit of the Catholic Church in such and such localities, and that they should never be diverted in any other purposes. This method was satisfactory only to a certain extent. It was a cumbersome and troublesome system, to be obliged to prepare a new Declaration every time that eyes half an acre of Land was obtained upon which to build a Church; and moreover, this method did not directly and certainly transmit the dominion of the property to those who would be its natural and sworn Guardians, his Episcopal successors in the See. To obviate this inconvenience, and secure the Church Property beyond all doubt for the sacred purposes for which it was intended, he had drawn up a Bill similar to those which were passed for various other Catholic Dioceses in British North America.—The object of the Bill was to make a Corporation Sole of the Bishop with all the necessary restrictions, so that the property would go down as if by inheritance, from one Bishop to another, and it would be impossible in all time to come for any one to disturb, alienate, or to apply the Church Property. He had sent a copy of this Bill to the venerable Bishop of Archa, who, from his many years connection with this See, must be deeply interested in the welfare of the Diocese of Halifax, and requested the benefit of his opinion. His Lordship expressed his approval of the measure, and his desire to see a similar Bill passed for his own Diocese.

Dr. Walsh said, in continuation, that before any further steps should be taken in this matter