

In reporting these proceedings, however, and particularly the Chancellor's last Address, we feel ourselves entitled to some indulgence. It must have been evident to every one present who saw His Excellency at that time, that he was no otherwise prepared (if we except only a few notes occasionally referred to), than by his well known affectionate anxiety for the lasting prosperity and happiness of New-Brunswick. The language came spontaneously from the heart's purest impulse; and as such, in the same unvarnished shape, it is now before the public. Any difference, therefore, in style, for want of closet preparation and arrangement, that may appear, between this and His Excellency's former Speeches, would be thus easily accounted for; while we cannot help concurring in the opinion expressed to us by a gentleman present on the above occasion, that this last Address must be considered, under all circumstances, the best ever delivered by His Excellency in this Province: And it is, therefore, on this account, as well as with reference to the short time allowed us (through our desire to publish these proceedings as early as possible), to prepare this article, that we do conceive ourselves entitled to some consideration, if it should appear to any person that we have not done justice to our object; while we would be allowed to observe, that we have omitted no pains, nor spared any time, which the circumstances confined us to, to do the best we possibly could, towards accomplishing the gratifying task we have now completed.

We are extremely gratified to learn, that it is the intention of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to call a meeting in the course of next week, for the purpose of deliberating on the formation of a LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, in this Town; and of which, we believe His Excellency has expressed his desire to be the Patron.

We understand that this desirable object, has long been cherished by His Excellency, but deferred until the present time, under an impression, that a more fit and appropriate period could hardly be approved for the establishment of such a Society, than that which has been occupied by the interesting proceedings detailed above.—*Royal Gazette.*

EDITORIAL.

Is the Prospectus, published for some time past in the City Gazette, and inserted on the first page of the present number; the object and design of the *New-Brunswick Religious and Literary Journal*, is generally announced. But as the Editor is not conscious to himself, of having any object to accomplish, or any motive to indulge, in this publication, which he is unwilling to avow; and as in order to prevent any future misunderstanding, or any disappointment to his readers; he rather wishes to stand naked and confident before them; he deems it proper to enter more fully into the subject, and to give such further explanation, as may be consistent with the length of an opening address.

In the Prospectus he has said, that "true Religion, sound Principle, and good Morals, are the foundation of every thing that is truly great and excellent in man;" and that the object and design of this Publication, is, "to contribute towards promoting these," among all classes of the people, and in the most extensive manner.

In the prosecution of this design, the Editor does not intend, to advocate the peculiarities of any one Church or denomination of people exclusively; but, to support and to advocate, the cause and interests of Religion generally, and among all denominations. And in the selections and communications he may publish, to exhibit the spirit and influence of Religion in their own native purity, simplicity, and loveliness; and to shew, that they produce in the heart and in the life of those who are the subjects of religion, "the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the Glory and praise of God." In professing to advocate the cause of Religion upon this broad ground, the Editor does not intend to be understood to have compromised his own principles and views for the sake of accomplishing any object whatever. Neither does he wish to be considered a Latitudinarian, and as though all doctrinal views, and Church discipline, were exactly alike, or indifferent in his estimation. Without renouncing, or intending to renounce *one iota* of his former sentiments, which are not exactly under his control, he ventures to appear as an advocate, though alas a feeble one, for religion generally, and separate from all peculiarities, upon the following grounds:

He is firmly persuaded, that the essence and spirit of true Religion, does not consist in those peculiarities, in which the

reformed Churches differ from each other; but in a lively faith in those doctrines, in which they all agree, working by love and purifying the heart. And although he cannot bring himself to think on some controverted points which do not appear to him to be essential to salvation, exactly as some other persons think, yet he has no hesitation in admitting and affirming, that many persons who thus differ from him, and also from each other, in what he conceives to be points of minor importance; do notwithstanding give all proper evidence that they possess a large measure of the spirit of piety; and that they do adore the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, by a holy and upright conversation.

Under this impression, therefore, as opportunity offers, he will enrich his columns with selections, from the works of Divines and Ministers of different denominations, and with Biographical accounts of the lives of Ministers or private Christians from each of these. Also with Reports and other authentic accounts, of the labours, and of the success of such Societies as are formed, by a union of different denominations, and also of Societies, which are supported and advocated by particular Bodies.

Thus, to the full extent of his means, he will endeavour to give a condensed, but faithful view of the state of Religion, and of the operation of Religious Societies in this Province, and within the range of his correspondence.

Various causes are now in operation, and are daily producing corresponding effects, and perhaps it is not hazarding too much to say, that for want of proper means of information, many of the people in this Province, are not only ignorant of what is going on in the Religious World, (so called) generally; but that they are *in* a measure, with the general state of Religion in New-Brunswick itself,—except so much as has come under their own immediate observation, or at most, with what is doing among the particular body with which they are connected. If persons are uninformed of the labours and efforts of others, and of the progress of events, they can neither prevent nor correct what may be amiss; neither can they understandingly concur with, or enjoy as they might do, the good that is done or that is doing by those labours and efforts. Ignorance therefore, of passing events, whether they be good or bad, can neither promote nor hinder those events, and consequently can afford neither safety nor satisfaction.

It is therefore desirable, that the means of knowledge should be increased, and as sincere efforts to do good, can have nothing to fear from being known and investigated, it is also desirable that the operations of the different Religious bodies should be exhibited to view; so shall the zeal and diligence of some, stir up and excite the zeal and diligence of others, whether belonging to the same or to another body of Christians.

That this paper can be so conducted, as to avoid all temerary and disrespectful Theological and Literary discussion, is hardly to be expected, and perhaps should not be desired. But the Editor cannot allow it to become a theatre for ill-natured discussion, nor an arena for noisy and uncharitable polemics; and while it will treat with proper respect, the peculiarities of all, it will not become the tool of any. Should his selections at any time, appear to be derived exclusively or chiefly from any one particular source, the candid reader is requested to consider it, not as the effect of design, but rather as arising from the circumstance of his being at that time more abundantly supplied from that quarter than from others.

This defect, if at any time it should appear, will as soon as possible be remedied; and the Editor trusts, that as his correspondence enlarges, and his means of information become more extensive and varied, he shall be able to supply all descriptions of his readers, from such sources as will be satisfactory to them. Always however, keeping in mind, that not peculiarities, but experimental and practical godliness, will be the object of his solicitude and care.

In the mean time it is thought to be consistent with the liberal spirit, and the candour professed in this Address, to observe,—that such persons or bodies of men, as withhold their countenance and support from the Paper, can have no just cause of complaint, if their peculiar interests should in any measure be overlooked in the general arrangement. And in such cases, if any such should occur, the Editor reserves to himself the right of doing so, as may appear to him, best calculated to subserve the general design above stated.

In the Literary and Miscellaneous departments, the Editor will endeavour to adapt his selections to the existing state of things, and as much as possible, to render them substantially and practically useful, to the majority of his readers. He will aim to induce a taste for reading, and a habit of thinking—to excite and to invigorate the intellects,

especially of the rising generation; and to render efficient aid to the Institutions, of Education, which now are, or hereafter may be, established in the Country. Should his selections in these departments be acceptable to the public, and should they be instrumental, even in a small measure, of disseminating more widely the seeds of knowledge, and of implanting or fixing more deeply the principles of virtue in the minds of the young; such results will furnish matter of comfortable reflection, and will sustain him under the weight of accumulated labour.

In reviewing the design now announced,—the great importance of the object, and the high responsibility of the undertaking; the Editor does not affect to conceal the diffidence with which he appears before the Public. When he considers the manner in which the religious world is divided, the very high degree of importance which many religious persons attach to their own peculiar views of doctrine and Church government, the tenacity with which they adhere to these views, to the exclusion of all others, and the strong prejudices entertained and cherished, by those who in every other respect are excellent men;—and when he calls to mind,—that those who are the most conscientious, and who suppose themselves to have formed their views upon mature consideration and conviction, are generally the most tenacious;—he is ready to ask, how can these discordant elements be harmonized? And especially, when he takes an estimate of his own ability for the work, he is led to exclaim—"Who is sufficient for these things?" And to adopt the language of the Poet upon another occasion,

"Twixt hope and fear, I view the bold design;
And ask my anxious heart, if this be mine."

Yours.

When an inexperienced mariner takes charge of a Ship, he can readily manage, and move her from place to place in a still and smooth harbour; and when he commits himself with his stately vessel upon the mighty deep, the elements under the direction of Providence, may be propitious, and he may have a safe and pleasant passage to his desired haven. But should tempests arise around him, and should the angry elements conspire against him;—then, humbly speaking, every thing will depend upon his nautical skill, his firmness of nerve, and his perfect self possession. The Editor conceives it to be thus with him. He, also weak and unskilful, may be so favored, as to have a safe and pleasant course, but then he cannot previously assure himself that this will be the case. When once his little bark, has launched out into the ocean, the horizon, which before was placid and serene, may become dark and lowering; storms may arise around him, and threaten to overturn, or to swallow him up. Whether he have the skill, the nerve, and the self possession, necessary for his safety; or, to drop the figure, whether he have the talent, the prudence, the sound discretion, the firmness, and above all, the christian temper,—so to conduct this little work, as not to give just cause of offence to the Cause, and to the friends of Religion;—whether he can, under all circumstances, in any tolerable measure, promote and maintain the great object he has in view;—these are questions that try his heart, which he candidly acknowledges himself to be unable to answer, and which time and circumstances, only, can determine.

The Editor, however, presumes, that he will receive efficient assistance from Ministers of the Gospel of every name. With the most profound veneration he solicits their aid, and their fatherly and friendly counsel. Secretly set apart, as engaged as they are, exclusively, in the great work of promoting the edification and salvation of mankind; he begs them to look with a favorable eye, upon this feeble auxiliary to their labours, and from the treasures of their knowledge and wisdom to enrich its columns, and to imbue it deeply with their spirit of piety. Then shall it, though at a most respectful distance, follow them, in their labours of love; and in its feeble manner, second their powerful efforts, to bring all persons within the range of their labours, and of its influence, to the obedience of faith; and to the enjoyment of that peace, which the world can neither give, nor take away. The religious experience and observations, of pious men of every class, and every thing worthy of note, which may occur in the course of their reading, will be thankfully received and duly attended to.

To the *Literati* of the Country, he also looks up for assistance. And as his principal object is, to render his little work, extensively and permanently useful, he respectfully calls upon all lovers of his Country, and of the great human family, to afford such aid, as their convenience and opportunity will furnish.