

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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HALIFAX, N. S. JUNE 30, 1863.

CELEBRATION OF SETTLEMENT OF HALIFAX.

The origin of some cities is lost in the obscurity of history or of antiquity. Not so concerning Halifax. The reasons of its foundation, the men who founded it, the time when they landed to carry their plans into operation, are all distinctly recorded in comparatively modern documents. A little more than a century ago the settlement of Halifax took place;—the centenary of that event was celebrated with many pleasing formalities, on the 8th June, 1849. The anniversary has been honoured since by display of flags, military reviews, and other modes of expressing public gratulation. For a number of years the 8th day of June was considered the anniversary date, and was kept accordingly. About two years since, T. B. Akins, Esq. who has acquired some celebrity—but not as much as his perseverance deserves—for his taste and skill, in collecting historical records and literary antiquities, brought to the notice of the local government, that the proper anniversary was not the 8th of June, but the 21st;—subsequent to some inquiry, a change was made in accordance with the records, and hence, Monday was observed, as a holiday and for purposes of display and rejoicing; this being the second anniversary of the later date.

A morning salute of 100 guns, was fired by the Volunteer Artillery, on the Parade, commencing at six o'clock. Between 9 and 10 o'clock, companies of the volunteer infantry mustered for some preparatory exercise. At twelve the military of the garrison and the Naval brigade, had assembled on the common,—they were reviewed by the Lieut. Governor and General, attended by a numerous staff. The men under arms numbered, probably, between 3 and 4000. The naval brigade

attracted much attention,—it consisted of marines and sailors, from the ships of war in the harbour, to the number as estimated of about 1500 men,—armed with rifles artillery, &c. Pupils of the National School, in gay uniform, took part in the proceedings.

When the review had been held,—a sham fight commenced, and was conducted with much animation, concluding at about 2 o'clock,—the naval brigade occupying Camphill as their chosen ground, and the regiments of the line and companies of volunteers, manœuvring along the plain of the common and up the base of the hill. The bugles, the bands of music, the roar of musketry and artillery,—and the cheers of the pretended combatants, added much to the excitement of the exercises, although a heavy mist partially obscured the scene, and rather chilled and damped the numerous spectators.

We heard of no damage to life or limb resulting from the volleys or the cannonade,—but one poor fellow, at least, who left his ship in all the pride of the occasion, marching gaily under his world-renowned banners, was rudely handled by his enemy, Rum,—and was borne ingloriously from the field, helplessly dangling his arms and trailing his legs, and far indeed from appearing a champion of the flag which we are told has braved “a thousand years, the battle and the breeze.” Alas, brother, if you allow yourself to be the thrall of strong drink, to be kicked and cuff'd by the tyrant Alcohol, how can you sing with a will, your favorite repudiation of any possibility of Britons ever becoming slaves? A regatta, of sailing and row boats, took place in the afternoon.

The 21st might readily suggest, the very different circumstances which marked the peninsula of Halifax, 114 years ago, when Lord Cornwallis and his band of emigrants landed to commence effective settlement. We may imagine the noble scene of broad bright waters, and forest-clothed shores and islands, which then spread before the gaze of the adventurers;—

the rich foliage-embellished promontories and coves and hills,—giving shelter to wild-fox and moose and bear, and to Indian parties;—while the British group boldly spread their banners to the western breeze, appearing as the centre of an infant civilization, which has grown to the strength of the present day, and promises so much more for the future. May the men who then and since maintained the British name in the land,—be true to their privileges, and to their opportunities, for high moral and religious improvement.

PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

We have received the prospectus of this provident institution, which was opened on Saturday last, and will be continued every succeeding Saturday, at the Inglis School Room, Albemarle Street, from 6 to 7 o'clock. The object of this Bank is “To help the poor to help themselves.” Its affairs are conducted by a Committee of Management consisting of the undermentioned gentlemen:

His Worship the Mayor, P. Carteret Hill, Esq. Chairman.

Capt. Littleton, Dr. McN. Parker.
Major DeHavilland, R. A., Honorary Treasurer.

Deposits of two cents and upwards will be received at each payment. The Rules specified in the prospectus are similar to those of the Provincial Savings Bank, and well adapted to ensure advantages to those who may avail themselves of the accommodation thus provided.

An institution of this kind, in any part of the Province, would afford opportunities for conferring benefits on individuals of limited means, as well as on young persons generally.

On the suggestion of friends in the city, and the request of subscribers in other parts of the Province, we have decided to devote a portion of each number of the *Weekly Miscellany* to a summary of general intelligence. We see no reason why young persons should not feel interested in the events occurring at home and abroad; and therefore introduce this additional department principally for their accommodation.