

## THE GUARDIAN.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1839.

## REMARKS ON THE INTELLECTUAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

been instructed to go on with the buildings—and a person of very high qualifications and great promise has just been engaged to go out to take charge—two hundred and seventy pounds have already been subscribed for the expense of erecting the buildings, the estimated cost being 400 pounds—and a Gentleman of Greenock has engaged for a limited period to pay the salary of the tutor. The expenses of the Society have been great, but they have been also nobly met. One thousand five hundred and forty-five pounds three shillings and sixpence halfpenny have been raised chiefly in and about Glasgow, and the collectors are not more than half way in raising their present year's contributions and subscriptions. It is right, however, to observe, that upwards of two hundred and seventy pounds have been raised expressly for the missionary buildings, and that these will probably cost not much less than two hundred pounds more, which will yet have to be obtained. And when this is considered, the remaining debt of the Society even now will amount to four hundred and fifty pounds. This ought to put the friends of the Society on their guard against relaxing their efforts. The present seems to be with the Society a season of deep interest and great responsibility. A wide and well-sustained effort at present, and for a few years, may enable the directors of the mission to see a noble band of converted Caffres spreading over their own arid country, proclaiming, in all the ardour of native eloquence, the Gospel of Jesus; and the native churches, feeling the impulse of their own missionary character, growing in their likeness to the early apostolical Churches. But all this will, under the blessing of God, depend on what is now done.

From the *Miramichi Gleaner*, July 9.

## LADIES BIBLE SOCIETY.

*Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Miramichi Ladies Auxiliary Bible Society.*

On Thursday last the Eighteenth Annual meeting of this society, was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Newcastle, Mrs. ABRAMS, President, in the chair.—The attendance was more numerous than at any time previous, for a number of years, and a deep interest was manifested in the proceedings.

The receipts of the Society during the past year amount to £44 9s 8d. and the issue of copies of the Scriptures have been 29, of which 22 have been sold and 7 given gratuitously.

The Report being read, it was unanimously resolved that it be received and printed in a pamphlet form for the use of subscribers and benefactors.

The following Resolutions were then unanimously passed.

1. That this Society rejoices in the manifestations of increasing interest felt by the community in its behalf, and in the addition of several new subscribers during the past year.

2. That this Society, acknowledging with profound gratitude to the sovereign Disposer of events, the successful operations of the Parent Society and other kindred institutions in the Bible cause; but at the same time deeply impressed with the conviction that much more remains to be done than has yet been effected, would habitually remember the importance and solemn duty of "going onward" in the work of evangelizing the world.

3. That while the sum of about £30 or £40, the annual receipts of this society is small compared with about £100,000, the annual receipts of the Parent institution, the members would be incurring a fearful responsibility, either by withdrawing even so small an amount from the work of Bible circulation, or by contenting themselves with making no more strenuous efforts in the cause; that our zeal, if enlightened, cannot be too ardent, and our efforts if well directed, cannot be too numerous or too powerful.

4. That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Collectors for their diligence in their part of the work, and likewise to those persons who have continued their services in the sale and gratuitous disposal of the Scriptures; and that they be respectfully requested to continue still further their services.

Office Bearers for the ensuing year are as follow:  
Mrs. Abrams, President,  
Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Perley, and Mrs. D. Johnstone, Vice Presidents.

Mrs. Blackstock, Treasurer.  
Mrs. Thomson, Secretary.

Committee—Mrs. Bryant, Scott, Porter, Russell, J. Kerr, M'Curdy, Dr. Thomson, Richardson, G. Kerr, A. Fraser, Forbes, Little.

Collectors—for Newcastle, Miss Abrams; for Chatham, Misses Blackstock and Thomson; for Napan, Miss Campbell; for Northwest, Miss Geddes.

The Report will shortly be published, and distributed according to the rule of the Society.

C. THOMSON, Secretary.  
Chatham, July 9, 1839.

Education is a subject of such universal and essential importance, that any thing connected with it, which possesses weight or novelty at all, must be interesting to almost every class of readers. It would not, therefore, be impertinent at any time to call the attention of the public to what seemed an important improvement in the plan of juvenile education; but more especially at present it seems proper to urge, on the consideration of intelligent individuals, a system which promises to do more for the intellectual and moral advancement of society than any that has hitherto been tried; but which, if not countenanced by the influential in our land, may be long in a state of comparative inefficiency.

The mode of instruction to which we allude is that, commonly known by the name of the Intellectual System. Its grand peculiarity lies in applying the lessons read at school, not merely to the common purposes of reading, spelling, and grammar, but also to the higher objects of exercising the judgment, and furnishing the learner with a copious store of definitions and synonymous terms. Many advantages derivable from such a method of instruction must be at once obvious, provided these can be secured without the loss of others equally important, and without concomitant disadvantages sufficient to counterbalance its peculiar excellencies.

We now come to consider the *advantages* of the intellectual system; one of which is, that it tends to give correctness and copiousness of expression. To mention the benefits that may result from the general possession of such a talent, would be to mention what is felt and acknowledged by all men of understanding.—A knowledge of words is valuable; not only as a means of expressing thought, but also as a powerful auxiliary to the exercise of thinking; since the mind cannot carry on any long train of ideas, without making them more palpable to itself by clothing them in language. How often would the soul, during its numberless opportunities of solitary reflection, advance from one step of reasoning to another—strengthening its own powers, and augmenting its stock of solid information; were it not that the want of words to give tangibility to its thoughts involves it in confusion.—How often would the insipidity of trifling conversation give place to the interchange of manly thought and useful knowledge, if it were not that the want of words spreads a mist over the ideas, and presents the necessary facility of mutual communication. The sum of happiness and improvement which might be imparted by correctness of language, giving clearness to the thought, and by copiousness of language giving facility to the expression, is altogether incalculable. And this advantage is evident, from the circumstance, that according to it, not a word of importance in the lessons is passed by, without a definition or a synonymous term being required.

A second advantage of this system is, that it strengthens the mind at a most important period of life. The faculties of the soul, like those of the body, are improved by exercise; and, like them too, their ultimate firmness and capacity depend very much on the manner in which they are exerted during our early years. As the child which has not been taught, at the proper period of life, to use its limbs for active exertion, may incur a stiff and unwieldy habit of body; so the child, whose reasoning powers are not evolved when nature fits them for use, may not only lose the benefit which the immediate application of these powers would give, but may engender an inaptitude for using them, that may prove a strong and even insurmountable barrier to his future progress. And there is greater danger in the latter case than in the former, for this reason, that it is more natural for children to exert the powers of their body, than the faculties of their intellect, and that, consequently, they

may be more safely left to themselves in the exercise of the former than in that of the latter. The intellectual system, by demanding an explanation of every idea which occurs, forces children to exert their mental powers, and by that very exertion develops and strengthens them. Those who have watched the operation of this mode of teaching, have been invariably astonished at the strength and clearness of understanding which children in general exhibit respecting subjects suitable to their years, and at the delight which they seem to feel in the exertion of their own powers. And this leads me to mention, thirdly, that

The intellectual system tends to give habits of reflection, and of having recourse to books, and the resources of the mind itself for amusement. There is in the human mind a principle which leads it to delight in the exertion of power. The child who exhausts his strength in chasing his companion, is urged to this effort, not merely by the desire of overtaking him, but by the bounding joy which he feels in the consciousness of his own energy. The philosopher, who searches, by minute attention and laborious calculation, the courses of the stars, is supported under his labour, not only by the love of knowledge and the impulse of ambition, but by the far stronger exultation which thrills through his heart, when he sees the difficulties of the subject vanishing before the force of his own victorious intellect. The delight of the philosopher, though arising from the exercise of a different faculty, is exactly similar to that of the child; and the child may be taught to feel as strong a pleasure as the philosopher from the exertion of his weaker intellect on more humble subjects. The pleasure, even to a child, from mental, is perhaps equal to that from corporeal exertion; and when he has once tasted the sweets of intellectual labour, and has learned the way in which these may be procured, it is natural to suppose that he will apply to this, as well as to other sources of gratification; that when wearied of play, he will betake himself to a book; and when deserted by his companions, resort to those fountains of delight which his own knowledge and his own mental powers supply. What an auxiliary to parental education would such a principle in the mind of children be—

(To be Concluded.)

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

According to promise, we this day publish the first part of a supplement, containing an abstract of the proceedings of this venerable court, during its regular Sessions. Our intelligent readers will at once perceive, that we have given only a very general outline of the important business which came before the Assembly. None of the speeches, some of which were exceedingly eloquent and impressive, have been inserted, and although two, and sometimes three motions were submitted to the attention and consideration of the court, as in the Auctherarder Presbyterian Churches of England and other cases, we have only published the motion which was adopted by the court. In furnishing an abstract of the proceedings, regarding the important missionary schemes of the church, we have also passed over the reports, which were given in to the Assembly, as any one of them would have occupied a whole sheet of our paper, and as we expect to find room for extracts from them, and for some of the most interesting speeches delivered in the Assembly, at an early day.

"Throughout the whole proceedings of the Assembly," says the Editor of the *Scottish Guardian*, "nothing is more conspicuous and delightful, than the religious spirit, by which they seem to be pervaded.—The debates, when there was any thing debatable, were conducted with a calm, dignified, and christian spirit. But a great part of the time of the Assembly, was happily occupied with matters on which all were agreed—matters belonging to the great schemes for propagating the Gospel at home and abroad. Surely all this may be considered as an encouraging and comfortable token, that the many prayers which have been poured forth for the Assembly, have not been offered in vain."