

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

VOLUME II.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1839.

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POETRY.

OMNIPRESENCE OF THE DEITY.

"Stupendous God! how sinks our bounded sense
To track the triumphs of Omnipotence;
From sky-clad mountain, to the deepest den,
From the mean insects, to immortal men;
Bless'd with Thy brightest smile, dare we confine
Paternal Providence, supreme as thine?
Far as the fancy flies, or life-stream flows,
From Georgia's desert to the Greenland snows,
Where space exists, Thine eyes of mercy see,—
Creation lives, and moves, and breathes in thee!

"Yes! pause and think, within one fleeting hour,
How vast a universe obeys Thy power:
Unseen, yet felt, Thine interfused control
Works in each atom, and pervades the whole;
Expands the blossom and erects the tree,
Conducts each vapour, and commands each sea,
Beams in each ray, bids whirlwinds be unroll'd,
Unrolls the thunder, and upheaves a world!

"E'en now, while tragic Midnight walks the land,
And spreads the wings of darkness with her wand,
What scenes are witness'd by Thy watchful eye!
What millions wait to Thee, the prayer and sigh!
Some gaily vanish to an unfeared grave,
Fleet as the sun-flash o'er a summer's wave;
Some wear out life in smiles, and some in tears,
Some dare with hope, while others droop with fears;
The vagrant's roaming in his tatter'd vest,
The babe is sleeping on its mother's breast;
The captive mutt'ring o'er his rust-worn chain,
The widow weeping for her lord again,
While many a mourner shuts his languid eye,
To dream of heaven, and view it ere he die:
And yet, no sigh can swell, no tear-drop fall,
But thou wilt see, and guide, and solace all!"

EDUCATION.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

LAY UNION COMMITTEE ROOM,

28, Cockspur Street, London, June 12, 1839.

The Committee of the Lay Union for the Defence of the Established Church deeply regret to find them-

selves once more compelled to call

the public to the subject of National

Another Parliamentary paper has

under the title of a "Report of the

Privy Council?" in which the

Government, though less

fraught with no less dang-

erous suggestions which have so rece-

ntly been sanctioned by the

the "Scheme" which is

Against that "Scheme" which is

mentary paper, dated

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Schools, or any other Schools, unless the right of inspection be retained, in order to secure a conformity to the regulations and discipline established in the several Schools, with such improvements as may from time to time be suggested by the Committee."

To the principles hitherto acted upon, as laid down in the Treasury Minute, dated 30th August, 1833 [viz. "That the applicants, whose cases are favourably entertained, be required to bind themselves to submit to any audit of their accounts, which this [the Treasury] Board may direct, as well as to such periodical Reports respecting the state of their Schools, and the number of scholars educated, as may be called for"],—no objection has ever been urged; but this regulation goes much farther. It lays every School which may be aided, under a positive obligation to adopt "such improvements as may be suggested by the Committee of Privy Council." Now that Committee have already suggested improvements of such a character as to awaken the alarm and indignation of the country at large. They have suggested the division of religion into "general" and "special";—they have "suggested" the teaching all varieties of religion, at the same moment, in different compartments of the same school;—and they have "suggested" the introduction of false and corrupted versions of the sacred Scriptures, to be used simultaneously with the true one. Such are a few of the "improvements" which this Committee of Privy Council have already endeavoured to introduce, in the "Scheme" which has been recently abandoned. It now declares its continued adherence to the same views and seeks to find an opening for them under these specious and general terms. But such "improvements"—and, in fact, all things called by that name which the Privy Council Committee may choose to "suggest"—every school which receives the least amount of aid will be required to bind itself to adopt. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that while that Committee have felt compelled, by the expression of the public feeling, to "postpone" for a time the carrying into operation their late "Scheme" as a whole—it is their object and intention, in the report now before Parliament, to retain the power of introducing its most mischievous regulations by piecemeal; or to use their own words "from time to time," as it shall appear to them safe or prudent so to do.

There are other points of a highly objectionable character in the present

worthy. The preamble of the bill sets forth that Sir W. Seton of Pitmeddon, Bart. has been pleased to place at the disposal of the Presbytery of Toronto £500 sterling, for the establishment of a college. This sum has been invested in the purchase of a lot of land, which is now held in trust by John Ewart, Esq. of Toronto. The preamble farther narrates, that the honourable William Morris is desirous to aid in the endowment of the said institution, by conveying to competent trustees certain lands in the London district. These facts have been brought under the notice of the Legislature by petition, by Mr. Ewart and others, they desire legislative authority, to enable the trustees to take and hold these lands, as a corporate body in perpetuity, for the above-mentioned purpose. The bill then enacts, that it shall be lawful for the Rev. W. Rintoul, the Rev. Alex. Gale, the Rev. Robert McGill, the Rev. W. T. Leach, the Rev. H. Urquhart, and the Rev. John Cruikshank; also, the Hon. James Crooks, the Hon. Archibald McLean, the Hon. John Hamilton, the Hon. W. Morris; E. W. Thomson, Thomas M'Kay, James Morris, John Ewart, John Mowat, W. Chisholm, Donald McKenzie, and John Steele, Esquires, and their successors, to hold the said lands in trust for the above purpose. These trustees and their successors are created a body politic and corporate, under the name of the trustees of "Saint Andrew's College of Canada," with the usual privileges of holding and purchasing property within the province, not to exceed a certain yearly value. It is provided that the Board of Trustees shall always consist of eighteen members, in full communion with the Presbyterian Church, one-third of whom shall be ministers in holy orders of the Church—two of whom being the lowest on the list shall retire annually, whose places shall be filled up by the Synod. In like manner, four of the lay trustees shall retire annually, whose places shall be supplied by election by the other trustees, both clerical and lay. Trustees retiring may be re-elected.

The Trustees shall have the power to direct and prescribe the course of study, and the discipline to be observed in the College; and they shall appoint a Principal, who shall be a minister of the Church of Scotland; and they shall also appoint Professors and Tutors, to be appointed by the government, and