

(Laughter.) I know, however, that these 400,000,000 souls wear blue cotton blouses, and that they dress in other garments of the same material; and, though in China the ladies are habited exactly like their lords, I have never heard that the practice is attended with the domestic inconveniences supposed in England to flow from such a circumstance. (Laughter.) But, to speak seriously China and Japan are now open to British enterprise. The barrier which separated 400,000,000 of human beings from their fellow men has—as far as international engagements can effect such a result—now been broken down. I have never exaggerated the part which diplomacy has to play in these matters. I said a year ago at Shanghai, when the treaty was concluded, that after force and negotiation had finished their work, the labor of establishing our commercial intercourse with China on a proper footing had only begun. I hold that our manufacturers must task their ingenuity to the utmost if they would supplant the native fabrics produced in the leisure hours of an agricultural and industrious people. But though the great work commenced by the feeble hand of diplomacy has to be completed by the vigorous brain and stalwart arm of the British manufacturer, we have no reason for despondency. Indeed, I am confident that the enterprise now begun will lead to a vast development of the commerce of England, and introduce a new era of prosperity and civilization for a large portion of the human race. (The noble Earl concluded amid loud cheers.)

2. FOUNDING OF ST. JOHN'S, NEW BRUNSWICK, BY THE U. E. LOYALISTS.

Wednesday last the 18th May, was the seventy-sixth anniversary of the founding of our city. On the 18th May, 1783, three small vessels crowded with expatriated Loyalists from the States of New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, made their way through the prevailing fog of the morning into the then spacious area of our harbor, and dropped anchor close to the shore, somewhere about mid-way up what is now the Market Slip. All was silence and repose, save where the scream of the sea-mew was heard, or the sound of the surf dashing on the shingle, a contrast to the busy life and discordant noises of the present day. The tongue of land on the east side of the harbour, on which the city is principally built, and which was selected for the landing place of the strangers, presented at that time an impervious wilderness of stunted spruce, cedar, and hemlock trees. A small creek, through which a feeble brook trickled, wound its way circuitously across Prince William street, above Hasting's building, and up the south side of King street. The shore tending to the southward, presented precipitous cliffs, and it was only at low water by a pathway along the beach that Sidney Ward could be reached. The water of the harbor spread over to the base of the high ground on Carleton side, giving to Fort Frederick, perched on the little point of land jutting out towards Navy Island, the appearance of a sister island, at high water. This fortification of three or four guns—now completely dismantled, the site covered with dwelling houses—was built to overawe the Indian tribes on the river, and was then garrisoned by sergeant's guard. The first night of the wanderers was spent under the rude shelter of the improvised brush camp, and thus nature in her pristine loneliness extended her welcome to our stern, resolute, uncompromising fathers, who sought a resting-place, and a breathing spot for themselves and their little ones, under the protection of the meteor flag, which had "braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years."

Noble men! No faint-hearted anticipations appalled them. Stern in their resolves, honest in their prejudices, of strict integrity in their dealings, untainted by priestly absurdities or worn out superstitions; possessed of their Bibles and their prayer books, they sought the favor and countenance of an all-wise Providence, and increased and prospered beyond their expectations. And now, as the result of their pioneer toils and privations, a fair city, with its spires and pinnacles and busy streets, claims notice and regard, whose fleet of merchant ships may be found wooing every wind—in the ports of the Australian antipodes—of the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans or of the Mediterranean and Indian Seas. We, their descendants, may look back with pride upon their labors. Few of the noble race linger among us, but one or two remain, trembling from physical decay on the brink of the dread abyss. What changes have these men not witnessed!—What changes during their pilgrimage have effected, physically and morally, every section of the great globe? May we never prove recreant to their memories, but endeavour, by precept and example, to transmit their virtues, their industry, their deep rooted national and Protestant feelings unimpaired to our descendants!—*St. John's Courier.*

VIII. LEGISLATION IN MASSACHUSETTS IN FAVOR OF POPULAR EDUCATION.

Our legislature, which closed its session early last month, has left a good record of its action in behalf of the educational interests of the

state. Several judicious and much needed modifications of existing laws have been made, and other measures have been initiated which, if prudently managed and carried out in the spirit with which they have been commenced, will be greatly promotive of progress in the cause of education, and will also redound to the honor and credit of the Commonwealth, and of those legislators and friends of sound learning by whose wisdom they were conceived and put in operation.

The pay of School Committees for their services has been increased from one to a dollar and a half per day, with such additional compensation as towns may vote. This is right. Committees should receive a compensation sufficient to induce them to attend to their duties, without feeling that every day or hour spent in the school-room, subjects them to a pecuniary loss, by taking them from their usual avocations where the pay, in a great majority of cases, would be much greater. After the first of July next, the duty of employing teachers, devolves upon the Superintending Committees in towns where the District system has not already been abolished. This will prevent the favoritism which is often shown in small districts, and the local prejudices whose influence is so baneful. The management of the schools is a town affair, and ought to be exercised as such, and not delegated to small geographical sections. As an extension of the same policy, an act was passed near the close of the session, the effect of which is to abolish prospectively, the district system altogether.

Another important act renders it obligatory, not optional, upon small towns to support schools for a longer time each year, than they have hitherto been obliged to. This is a sure sign of progress.

The Reports of the School Committees in all the towns of the Commonwealth, are hereafter to be printed of a uniform size. This will enable the Secretary of the Board of Education, as well as the several committees, to have them bound for preservation. After a few generations shall have passed away, such a record, easy of access, will afford the historian means for tracing the progress of education which he would be able to find nowhere else. These reports are a kind of annual daguerreotype of popular sentiment upon this, one of their most vital interests.

The crowning measure of the session in behalf of education, is the act giving aid to several of the educational institutions of the state, to increase the School Fund, and to co-operate with and assist Prof. Agassiz in founding a Museum of Natural History.

The last named clause of the act initiates a project truly stupendous. If properly carried out, it will place America, as well as the old Bay State, in the first rank of nations, as patrons of the Natural Science. It is highly complimentary to the distinguished Naturalist who has adopted our country as his home, and who brought the subject before the legislature; and it is equally creditable to that legislature which so cordially endorsed the measure, and to our people who so generally approved their actions.—*Mass. Teacher.*

IX. EDUCATION IN SIAM.

The systems of education prevailing amongst the nations who are worshippers of Buddha are nearly alike. The Siamese sometimes begin to instruct their children at a very early age. But generally at that of seven years. It may be computed that one-half of the male population is instructed in reading and writing. The first lesson which is inculcated, is respect towards parents, the ruling authorities, and the aged. Amongst equals, the eldest receives precedence. Consequent on the states of society at large, and the patriarchal rules by which its members are privately regulated, their language contains every variety of expression suited to the intercourse of the gradations of rank. Misapplications of these forms of speech expose an individual to the contempt of his equals, the hatred of his inferiors, and to corporal punishments from his superiors.

When a boy has reached the age of eight or nine years, his parents take him, with all the accompanying pomp they can afford, to a monastery, or *Wat*, where he is delivered into the charge of the priests.

Incense and candles are burned, and presents are bestowed on the priests. The parents continue to send provisions while their son is under tuition. The priests first instruct their pupils to trace with steele on a black board, the following words and letters, in Bali:—
"Nomo P, hoot, há seet, ha t, homma é a aa í ú ù, rùk, rù lùk, lù é, é ai, ó, au, ám, a."

When perfected in this lesson, they are taught the Thai, or Siamese alphabet, and to read and write in that language; which is a far more reasonable mode of instruction than that in use amongst the Malays, where boys are taught to read Arabic without being instructed in the meaning of the words.

A short Bali course succeeds, which, should parents choose, is prolonged; and, as it is ordained in the Bali moral code, the priest is obliged to instruct his pupil in whatever knowledge he is himself possessed of, provided the parents allow their children to continue long enough under his care. However, it seldom happens that parents can or will spare their children for a sufficiently long period. The