

society into a deplorable state of ferment and dissolution, if domestic life, with its calm activity, its permanent interests, and its fixed property, did not oppose solid barriers, throughout the country, to the restless waves of this stormy sea.

There too, and, in our days there almost exclusively, the affections of our nature, friendship, gratitude, and self-devotion—all the ties which unite hearts in the sense of a common destiny, grow and flourish.

The private affections are ties too delicate to exercise any powerful influence over the conflicts of that pitiless field. But it is never without serious injury that one of the vital elements of human nature is uprooted out of any of the fields of human action.

ENGLAND'S HOPE.

The progress of religion in England has been great; but the work remaining to be done is vast. Never perhaps were the English aristocracy so much under Christian influence as now.

Among the masses I doubt whether the progress has of late years been great. Political intelligence has marched rapidly; Socialism and Chartism have extensively stirred the populace; teetotalism has occupied some of their attention, and enlisted some of their sympathy.

The Berean.

QUEBEC, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1849.

The present number completes the fifth volume of the BEREAN; and, in accordance with former practice, we have to announce that we shall take in hand, immediately, the publication of a Title-page and Index which will be completed, we fully expect, in two weeks from this day.

Many of our readers, we doubt not, are looking for this number with some solicitude on account of the uncertainty which has for some time been hanging over the future management of this publication.

ance of the BEREAN is earnestly deprecated by all those whose opinion weighs most, and who have been chiefly active in promoting, so far, the success of our enterprise.

We now find ourselves in a very embarrassing position. To continue bearing the labour and responsibility of editing the BEREAN as hitherto, is out of our power. To let it expire, in view of the urgencies which have been used to induce us to keep it alive, would be no less painful to us than it seems likely to be to any of our supporters.

This arrangement is intended by us mainly as a means of obviating the discontinuance of this paper, with the hope, which we are not willing to relinquish, that the publication once a week will be resumed by some Editor with more command of time and far better qualifications for the duty.

On the day of our last publication, the building known to our readers in this city as the Methodist Chapel, in St. Anne Street, was sold by public auction, for the sum of £1,300, and it has since become known that the purchasers, Messrs. Nood, Haie, and Wurtel, propose to secure this property to the Church of England for ever, as a place of worship, endowing it with a moderate stipend for the Incumbent out of the pew-rents, and using their endeavours for obtaining a further endowment, to provide for the support of the ministry over the congregation who shall hereafter worship within these walls.

Little did we think, when we penned the remarks contained in our number of February 22, how soon it would be our gratifying duty to announce another of those "striking instances of munificence" to which we then, with some faint-heartedness rather than with a lively hope of soon seeing the like again, made allusion.

So far as we understand the proposed measure, it seems to come precisely under the description which, in our paper before referred to, we gave as peculiarly needed for placing the Clergy on a right footing.

that the divine complacency would carry the undertaking, thus liberally commenced, to its completion in the bringing of many lively stones to God's spiritual temple.

In our last number, we inserted a portion of the Minutes of the February Meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, referring to a proposed celebration of that Society's 150th Anniversary, and signifying that the 5th of this month would accordingly be marked by a Sermon which His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury had kindly consented to preach in St. Paul's Church, at the instance of the Standing Committee.

The recurrence to the Society's first beginnings, thus bespoken by its present Managers, has a peculiar interest, from the probability which exists that a large proportion of the Society's members at this day are wholly unconscious of the circumstances, the feeling of want, and longing for supplies, which gave rise to the institution.

We apprehend that, at this distance of time, the practice of meeting together for such edifying engagements as are here specified has become somewhat obsolete among the members of the Society; and if the 150th anniversary of its formation should to some extent revive among them a taste for those improving exercises; if religious conferences with prayer, psalm-singing, and united study of the Holy Scriptures, should become once more the distinguishing practice of the Society's members, this third Jubilee of its origin would indeed be an occasion of rejoicing, giving of thanks, and hopeful anticipation.

THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD AND THE ORDINANCE OF MEN.—Next Sunday, there will be a concurrence of the Lord's Day with the Festival of the Annunciation. There being first lessons, and Collect, Epistle, and Gospel appointed both for the fifth Sunday in Lent and also the Annunciation, the question arises, which of the two are to be used; and it has been the usage, so far as our experience goes, to give precedence to the appointment made for the Lord's Day.

We were almost afraid that a Clergyman's liberty was disputed by the Editor of the Church Almanac, published by the New York Protestant Episcopal Tract Society, when, on looking for the lessons set down for the 25th of this month, we found the day designated: "Feast. An. V. M. 5th Sunday in Lent," and the note appended:

"THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION is the superior day, and takes precedence of the Sunday. The lessons for the Sunday, however, are read; those for the Annunciation being apocryphal. The Collect for the Sunday should be read after that of the Annunciation. See Almanac of last year, p. 17."

Service, which at first sight seems to deal with the Lord's Day and the Festivals of the Church as if they were a pack of cards, to be shuffled at the ritualist's pleasure; but upon closer inspection the scheme manifests labour certainly, though a lamentable deficiency in reverence for the Lord's Day. It makes the Festival of the Annunciation the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays in Lent; but it makes the Annunciation the inferior day, yielding to the Sunday before Easter, all the days in Passion-week, Easter Day, and Easter Monday and Tuesday.

The practice which we have commonly known to be followed, in cases like that which will occur next Sunday, is simply to use the collect for the Annunciation after that for the 5th Sunday in Lent.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Church Society, at Halifax, the Lord Bishop of that Diocese, taking occasion from some allusion made to other Colonial Bishops, expressed himself, as we find reported in the Church Times, to the effect "that, if God permitted, the Colonial Bishops of North America might be expected to meet in Halifax, in the ensuing month of May, from which he hoped that something beneficial might arise to promote the Missionary exertions of the Church."

KING'S COLLEGE, WINDSOR, NOVA SCOTIA.—The Bill for discontinuing the annual grant of £111, to this institution, after passing the House of Assembly, was lost in the Legislative Council by a majority of three; 9 being for, and 12 against it.

The following has arrested our attention in looking over the columns of the paper from which we have taken it. Here is a subject for deep humiliation. The result of Mr. Finlayson's calculation brings to our recollection a piece of severe sarcasm which we inserted on page 76 of our third volume, under the heading "A vulture's judgment of man's warring; we thought it an exaggeration, suitably put in the mouth of an aged vulture described as instructing his young ones."

At a meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, held a few days since, Mr. Nelson referred to a prophecy, made in 1829, by their newly elected President, Mr. Finlayson. Many years ago, their President prophesied that, in 1818, the whole of Europe would be in a state of commotion. He need not tell them how fully his prophecy had been verified. Mr. Finlayson, in reference to this, said, "he had no wish to be considered a prophet, but the circumstance, actually took place. He merely arrived at the opinion he had given by calculation, in a committee which sat in 1829, on the subject of friendly societies, before whom he was examined as to the probable rate of interest on an average of many years henceforth. He (the President) answered, that the rate on a medium of peace and war would range at four per cent.; on which Lord Althorp asked if he allowed nothing for the increase of philanthropy, believing firmly that the state of peace was itself nothing else but a state of incapacity to make war. The committee seemed astonished at this doctrine, and one of them (Mr. Pears) asked, was the natural state of men. He answered that all history showed that the number of years of peace and war, from any given era, was precisely equal; and not only so, but that the duration of each succeeding peace was in exact proportion to the sacrifices of the antecedent war; and when the exhaustion succeeded in repairing, war will immediately follow. On this doctrine, he and his son completed, from many elements, an estimate of the exhaustion which Europe had sustained in the twenty-five years of the war which ended in 1816, and he confidently predicted that the peace of the world would not be disturbed by any great commotion until after the year 1847. Many of our literary friends have been aware of this prediction for at least fifteen years or more. It has often been discussed, but not in print. He regretted to find that the result he anticipated had occurred."—Plymouth Weekly Journal.

THE BIBLE AND TRACTS IN THE ARMY.—The Coleraine Chronicle of the 11th ult., contains the following announcement, which has occasioned not a little surprise and some indignation in Ireland:—"The Army.—A general order from the Horse Guards has been received, forbidding officers from distributing Bibles and tracts amongst the troops, under the penalty of the Sovereign's severe displeasure."

upon what grounds this arbitrary and, on the face of it, irreligious, and we might say, wicked order has been issued? The next step, we must suppose, will be, to forbid, under the penalty of Her Majesty's severe displeasure, any officer to be a member of the Naval and Military Bibles Society. Her Majesty's "severe displeasure" against the distribution of the Holy Scriptures among her troops, by officers, can only be ascribed to one of the other two supposable causes; either the implied interference with the prerogative of the clerical chaplains, and, in that case, it must be regarded as a concession to priestly claims and to a most contemptible spirit of ecclesiastical jealousy; or, the enmity of the Romish priests to the distribution of the Protestant Version, in which case, the order is still more unworthy concession to Popish bigotry.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The Missionary Record for February, issued by this Society, contains the 10th Annual Report of its proceedings, and particulars of its Anniversary, held at Montreal on the 1st of last month. With an income of not quite £1000, the Society supports ten male agents, besides females, and 68 scholars; and it cannot but be a matter of regret that it should be indebted to its Treasurer to the amount of £124. 19. 3.

We insert the weighty considerations contained in the closing part of the Report. The Province of Lower Canada is in very solemn circumstances. A great majority of its population are Roman Catholics, who are almost beyond belief submissive to their priests; and as they elect the great majority of the Lower Canada members of the Legislature, it follows, as a natural consequence, that these must, in their turn, be equally subservient to the interests of the Church of Rome. But the support of these members is all but absolutely necessary to the existence of any ministry, and therefore their voice in all matters concerning Lower Canada must be potent, whatever party be in power.

We have entered into this brief exposition of the state of things among us, in order to show all who are interested in Canada, socially and politically, as well as morally and religiously, that so long as the French Canadian people are blindly devoted to the Church of Rome, so long may we expect the best interests of the country to be neglected or ruined at the dictation of the priests. Thus every motive of regard for themselves and their posterity, as well as desire for the temporal welfare and eternal salvation of the French Canadians, should induce Protestants, without distinction, to support missionary efforts among that benighted people.

QUEBEC PROVIDENT AND SAVINGS BANK.

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Members of this Institution was held at the office of the Bank, on Monday the 12th inst., being the day appointed by the Rules.

ROBERT SHAW, Esq. was called to the Chair, and the undersigned requested to act as Secretary.

J. HALE, Esq., President of the Board of Trustees, read the following Report of the operations of the Bank for the last twelve months, together with the accompanying statements:—

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE QUEBEC PROVIDENT AND SAVINGS BANK, presented to the Members of the Corporation on Monday, the 12th March, 1849.

without sacrificing any of the Stocks of Bank; and now, that season of scarcity having in some measure passed away, they have satisfaction to report that a gradual and steady augmentation of the funds has been taking place for some months past, and that the increase in the last quarter is within a trifle of £5000. During the year, 415 new accounts have been opened, whilst 356 have been closed, leaving 734 as the present number of accounts, or 89 more than there were last year.

The Trustees beg to recommend to the consideration of the Members, the amendments proposed in the rules and regulations of the Bank, and of which due notice has been given;—the one merely intended to fix a more convenient day for the annual meeting, and the other to assimilate for the future the proceedings of this Institution relative to the election of Trustees, to the method adopted for the election of Directors by other Banking Establishments in the Province.

It now only remains to report that the retiring Trustees, who are however, re-eligible, are Messrs. J. Bonner, H. S. Scott, J. Mottin, M. D., and A. McDonald.

The whole is nevertheless humbly submitted.

By order, JEFFREY HALE, President Board of Trustees.

Quebec, 1st March, 1849.

Table with columns for 'Statement presented at the Annual Meeting, 12th March, 1849.' and 'By Cash in the Quebec Bank &c.' with various monetary values.

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At the time of the last Annual Meeting, as appears by the statement then submitted, there were 645 accounts open, with Deposits amounting to £37,144 0 0. During the past year, 415 new accounts having been opened, the deposits have amounted to £41,684 8 9. The withdrawals, 356 accounts being closed, to £66,456 4 7. Leaving now due in 734 depositors the sum of £31,772 4 2.