

METHODIST LIBERALITY.

The Rev. Andrew Stevens, will preach on Sabbath next, at 3 P.M., in the Wesleyan Chapel in this village—the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Saint Stephen, having kindly complied with the requisition of a Committee appointed for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Chapel could be obtained for that purpose, until a Temporary Building could be prepared for the Rev. Mr. Stevens's congregation. In answer to the requisition the Trustees state, that "being desirous or cultivating the most friendly christian feeling towards our Presbyterian friends generally, are willing to accommodate them with the use of our Chapel as far as possible; consistently with the claims of our own services &c." It is truly gratifying to find such a feeling existing among Christian Denominations, and we trust to see the same spirit more generally manifested throughout the community.—St. Stephen's Courier, July 11.

THE JEWS IN FRANCE.

The Moniteur publishes a report to the King from the Minister of Justice and Public Worship, on the necessity of regulating the mode of establishing Jewish consistories in France, the election of their rabbies, &c. It is followed by a royal ordinance of great length, fixing the various points connected with this subject. By this ordinance a consistory is to be established in each department where the Jewish population amounts to two thousand; and where this is not the case, the number is to be made up from the adjoining department or departments. The central consistory is to be in Paris.—Presbyterian.

PROTESTANT DECLARATION.

The Marquis of Downshire on Saturday last attended by appointment at the Home Office, and delivered to the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart. her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, the address, which originated in Belfast from the nobility, gentry, clergy and Protestant inhabitants of Ireland and others, declaratory of their determination to defend, in their several spheres and stations, the maintenance of the Holy Scriptures, as the standard of Christian faith and morals, preserve unshaken loyalty to the Queen, and defend the protestant succession to the crown of these realms; and further to declare to uphold with their lives and properties the integrity and security of the three kingdoms as established by the Act of Union.—London Standard

THE CASKET.

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

Ignorance must be a curse, not a blessing, to the Church; while un sanctified knowledge may prove the same, however specious the guise it wears. We desire to see the most gifted men employed in the work of God; provided their gifts be used, not for the purpose of display, or for gaining popular applause—not for the feeding of their own vanity or the gratification of others—but for the purpose of bringing souls to Christ, and fearing them to a beautiful immortality and a never-fading glory—for the purpose of diminishing human misery, and increasing human happiness—for the purpose of peopling the heavenly Canaan from the millions of this earth's inhabitants; and saving poor deluded sinners from plunging into the fiery gulf. Give us a holy, devoted, and useful, rather than a cold, formal, orthodox, or even a learned ministry. But, if we can have learning and piety combined, orthodoxy and energy, zeal and prudence, holy enthusiasm and heavenly wisdom, deep humility and undaunted courage, ardent love and inflexible integrity—then shall we have what the Church most needs, what God invariably requires, and what, under his blessing, will prove eminently conducive to the regeneration and salvation of the world. Where such a ministry is enjoyed, great must be the responsibility of the people.—But to expect that all who fill the sacred office will be possessed of the qualifications we have mentioned, is perhaps chimerical. Yet surely it is a consummation devoutly to be wished, and earnestly to be prayed for.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

As to Sunday-school libraries, with whomsoever the idea originated, it is noble, it is blessed, it is from

above. Every good gift, every perfect gift, all holy counsels, all good works proceed thence. How many an idle hour has been improved; many an evening cheered, many a grovelling passion superseded, and youth trained up for God! More truth, perhaps in a single volume of this, than in all the far-famed library of Ptolemy Philadelphus, with the exception of the Septuagint. Then to the Bible-classes, these are springs of hope for our country. Let our youth grow up sound Bible-class scholars, habituated to read, think, reason for themselves out of the Scriptures, and I do not imagine Oxford or Rome can do them much harm. The weapons of a Pusey, Newman, or Sowell, will not pierce the armour of righteousness. They will go forth with the pebble from the brook, and defy all that come to them in the name of all the fathers and the councils of antiquity. Maintain Bible classes, and, under God's blessing, the Protestantism of our country is safe.

TRUE FEMALE NOBILITY.

The woman, poor and ill clad as she may be, who balances her income and expenditure—who toils and sweats in unrepining mood among her well-trained children, and presents them morning and evening, as offerings of love, to her husband, in good health and cheerful cleanliness; is the most exalted of her sex. Before her shall the proudest dame bow her jewelled head, and the bliss of a happy heart dwell with her for ever. If there is one prospect dearer than another to the soul of man—if there is one yet more likely to head the proud, and inspire the broken-hearted—it is for a smiling wife to meet her husband at the door with his host of happy children. How it stizes up the tired blood of an exhausted man, when he hears a rush of many feet upon the staircase—when the crow and eaglet of their young voices mix in glad confusion, and the smallest mounts or sinks into his arms amidst a mighty shout. Oh! it was a hallow from every countenance that beamed around the group! There was joy and a blessing there.—Chambers' London Journal.

NATURAL HISTORY.

AFFECTIONS OF ANIMALS.

AFFECTION—that wonderful instinct by which an animated being increases its own happiness by caring for that of another—is partaken of by the lower animals, only less conspicuously than by the human family. Amongst them, as with us, existence could not, apparently, be conducted without this generous feeling; and there accordingly we find it, the need being with the Divine Author, ever a sufficient cause for the endowment. Not is there a limited show of the affections in the humblest species; on the contrary, there is hardly an affection of our nature which is not to be plainly traced in some of these our lower fellow creatures. In one sense, indeed, there is a limitation: some of the affections are not required by the lower animals, in consequence of peculiarities in their economy, and there accordingly these affections are wanting. In some of the very humblest tribes, there is perhaps no kind of affection whatever. It is surprising, however, how far down in the scale we find this beautiful principle operating, and how many of our finest affections are to be observed in a considerable number of species.

Attachments between individuals of the same species, but indifferent sex—that is to say, attachments in which it can be said that any sentiment exists—are not widely spread throughout the animal world. The pairing arrangement, which forms the natural basis for the matrimonial alliance amongst ourselves, is only practised where the aid of both parties is necessary for the sustentation of the young—the final cause, obviously, of the arrangement. It is particularly conspicuous among the birds, the pairs of which usually present in spring a delightful reflection of the fondness, tenderness, and unselfishness which fill the bosom of a newly wed pair of our own species. She male exhibits himself to obtain food for the female while she is engaged in the duty of sitting upon her eggs, with a gallantry recalling that of the troubadour, he sits upon a neighbouring bush for hours, pouring forth his lively song to cheer her under the sedum of her situa-

tion. In the exclusiveness of his regard, he might form a pattern for the most virtuous of husbands. The mixture, indeed, of kindness and faithfulness shown by the humblest field-sparrow to his mate, is no ways externally distinguishable from those traits of human character which we are accustomed to applaud as moral. In some particular species, this attachment lasts throughout life, and the death of one of the pair is almost sure to prove fatal to the other. There is a species of parrot called the love-bird, in which the passion is of this kind. A pair being confined in a cage, the male is seen to sit fondly beside his mate, feeding her with his bill, and exhibiting the greatest gentleness and tenderness in all his conduct towards her. Bonnet gives a description of a pair the female of which falling sick, the other attended her with unremitting care till her death; when he went round and, found her in the greatest agitation, trying occasionally to open her bill and give her nourishment. He then gradually languished, and survived her death only a few months.

Mr S. Bowditch gives two interesting anecdotes of this affection faithful till and beyond death. When he lived in Paris, he says, there were two remarkably fine ostiches, male and female, kept in the Rotunda of the Jardin du Roi. The skylight over their heads having been broken the glaziers proceeded to repair it, and in the course of their work let fall a triangular piece of glass. Not long after this, the female ostich was taken ill, and died after an hour or two of great agony. The body was opened, and the throat and stomach were found to have been dreadfully lacerated by the sharp corners of the glass which she had swallowed. From the moment his companion was taken from him, the male bird had no rest; he appeared to be incessantly searching for something, and daily wasted away. He was moved from this spot in the hope that he would forget his grief; he was even allowed more liberty; but naught, a voided, and he literally pined to death.

A gentleman had for some years been possessed of two brown cranes; one of them at length died, and the survivor became inconsolable. He was apparently following his companion, when his master introduced a large mirror into the aviary. The bird no sooner beheld his reflected image than he fancied she for whom he mourned had returned to him; he placed himself close to the mirror, plumed his feathers, and showed every sign of happiness. The scheme answered completely; the crane recovered his health and spirits, passed almost all his time before the looking glass, and lived many years after; at length dying from an accidental injury.

The conjugal feeling, however, sinks far below the parental in intensity among the lower animals. Once a mother, the female has for the time no other feeling than that of devoted affection to her offspring; for whose sake she seems cheerfully to sacrifice her own convenience, and to give up all her wonted habits. Wonderful and beautiful it is to contemplate this parental self-devotion in some poor bird, or other humble creature; reflective as it is of what we never fail to acknowledge as amongst the most pure and holy of all the emotions that animate our own species. The wildest and fiercest tribes are equally remarkable as the gentlest for their affection for their young; provided only that this affection is needed for their protection and nurture. It would even appear as if the felix were amongst the most remarkable for the philoprogenative sentiment; the lioness is proverbially devoted to her cubs, and we rarely witness more intense examples of the feelings than in the common cat. This latter animal, during the early days of her progeny, gives herself entirely up to them, and then only leaves them for the sake of food. If apprehensive of danger to them; she brings them forth or keeps them in some obscure place, where she will remain unknown to the family till she thinks the lives of her young ones may be safe. Not long ago, a young cat became the mother of a set of kittens, all of which had been destroyed but one, which was missed from home. When she had been absent two days it was concluded that she was lost, or had met some fatal accident, and her sole surviving kitten was taken from the nest and drowned. Soon after the poor mother made her appearance, with one of her feet cut nearly to pieces by a rat-trap, which had closed upon and