

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JAN. 13, 1856.

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

ANOTHER white page has been turned of the book of Time, as yet unwritten, but to be impressed by the finger of God with the uneffaceable characters of His power and majesty. His long suffering and forbearance of the sins of mankind. On the record of the past year we look with a pitying eye, for the woes it describes, and feeling with all christian people, a sense of the wickedness of the world, and of its having provoked the Divine displeasure, it becomes us with deep humility, and thankfulness of heart, to acknowledge the justice which punishes, and the mercy, in the exercise of which we have been spared from the evil. Pestilence has surrounded us on every side, but has not been permitted to enter our borders,—war has decimated the armies of nations, and carried mourning and lamentation into many a happy English home; and we are far removed from its cares and its horrors, dwelling in safety, none making us afraid;—our fields have yielded their increase, food for the sower, and bread for the eater,—our outward prosperity has appeared to enlarge, and improvement has put her hand to the plough, and is preparing through our forests an iron way for commerce. Our cup is full of blessings. But shall we boast ourselves for these things? Is there ought in us better than our brethren of mankind, to have exempted us from the calamities which have visited them, to have merited so many mercies? Let the Book of Holy Writ be our monitor, and the Saviour's warning rebuke—"Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered these things? I tell ye Nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish!" subdue every vain imagination, and bring into abasement every Pharisaical emotion of the heart. May it lead us more earnestly to consider our ways, to turn unto God with an earnest purpose, that His righteous judgments which are abroad may be averted from this land; and that we may still live to praise Him for His great goodness and loving kindness to the children of men.

The promises of God are sure and steadfast. While the earth continues, day and night, summer and winter, shall not cease. But this System which we inhabit is not of eternal duration. The world groweth old and its fashion changes; and there will come a time when at the fiat of the Infinite, the consummation of all things being prepared, the earth shall "melt with fervent heat,"—and although no man knows the hour thereof, and not even the angels of heaven—this promise has as surely the signature of the Almighty for its fulfilment, as that which for ages has crowned the year with its increase, and given the world to the dominion of man. In the contemplation of this dread event, the approach to which the signs in the visible world seem to portend, it concerns us all to ask what preparation of heart has been made. In the hilarity of youth, the lustiness of manhood, and in the senility of ripen age, there is too little thought of this reality; or it would temper their extravagance. The cares of the world engross more attention with the generosity of people than their immortal interest. The wise purpose of God, which impresses alike upon every mortal, a belief that he is not soon to die, is used wrongfully. Childhood looks forward to youth, and youth to ripen age, to begin that work, the end of which involves our eternal happiness, and for which a life well spent, from the cradle to the grave, is an insufficient probation, without the grace that is promised for the seeking. Amidst such delays, destruction often comes unawares, or ago with stealthy step, benumbing the faculties, makes the aspirations for heaven less holy.

The Church of God; however, in all ages, has been filled with the importance of using aright the things of time, and with a consciousness of the end of the world; and it will not be that her warning voice has not been raised; or that her teaching has not been earnest and true, that any are unfitted for the changes that may finally await them. With the voice of wisdom, instruction, and rebuke, she calls upon all to make the necessary preparation for the last great day of account. If, with a just appreciation of the Omnipotent, with whom "a thousand years is as one day, and one day as a thousand years," she does not pretend to affix a term to the fulfilment of the Eternal counsels, (as the manner of some is,) she yet most fully impresses the belief that all will come to pass which the Prophets, and the Saviour himself, have foretold. Pointing with a faithful finger to a period when, as a reward for "the deeds done in the body," the sentence of the Judge shall consign one portion of the human race to "an eternal weight of glory," and another to "eternal misery," she

leads her children to "the only Mediator between God and man," Christ Jesus, and urges upon every son of Adam the means by which he can attain to the good, and the penalty of choosing the evil; and with the voice of authority, she insures to all who believe on Him, and have faith in His name, the completion of those gracious promises, which is to be the reward of the righteous.

Seeing then that these things must, come to pass, and that every succeeding year brings them nigher to our doors—what manner of men ought we to be? Let us endeavour, through the changing seasons as they pass, to estimate aright our high Christian privileges; to walk more circumspectly, redeeming the time; to steadfastly abide in the Church's fellowship and communion, turning aside neither to the right hand nor to the left—not "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine," but endeavouring to keep the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" and "speaking the truth in love." And to the rest let the Churchmen of Nova Scotia suffer a further word of exhortation from the great Apostle of the Gentiles,—"Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The Bazaar in aid of the Patriotic Fund, took place on Tuesday and Wednesday last, at the Masonic Hall. We were glad to witness the sincere interest that was evinced upon this occasion. The large Hall, capable of containing more than 600 persons, was full of people, from the opening to the close; and the articles contributed for sale, which were in great profusion, and many of them highly useful and valuable, displaying alike a tasteful ingenuity and the reality of the sympathy which animated the donors, generally found ready purchasers. There were not wanting of the chief ladies of Halifax to superintend this Fancy Fair, and youth and beauty acquired an added grace when engaged in so righteous a cause. The Honble. Mrs. Gore, and Miss Gore, tended at stalls—even the General, himself, seemed tempted now and then, with that good humour for which he is characterised, to do a little trading. The wives and daughters of the officers in garrison, put their hand to the work in earnest. The Doctors were especially active in prescribing *gratis*, and seemed always happy when they realized a handsome *fee*. Every grade of the service, vied with each other in a zeal to promote the success of the undertaking.

The Ladies of the Committee deserve great praise for their effective disposition of the various commodities, and for the tasteful arrangements—the spacious Hall, decorated in military style, with warlike trophies, blazonry and flags, and festoons of evergreens, was an interesting scene, when the absence of the crowd permitted the eye to drink it in. It is just possible that so ardent a sympathy was not expected; and it must have been highly gratifying to every soldier among us, from the highest to the lowest rank, to perceive the warm interest felt in the welfare of the army, and the cause in which they are engaged, by the people of Nova Scotia. The sales, including what was taken at the door, realized near £450.

The Bazaar has done its work well—it remains now for other efforts; and we doubt not that in every means judiciously used, to swell the Patriotic Fund, Nova Scotia will show herself equal in patriotism to any other dependency of that noble Empire of which she forms no unimportant a part.

We publish the Appeal on our first page, in the supposition that some of our people, engaged in commerce with Newfoundland; or those of their whose philanthropy is not confined to their own locality, may be inclined to aid the undertaking. Bishop FLEMING is now here, and we may not doubt that he would be glad to report to his Diocese, a desire on the part of Nova Scotians to share in the relief of the suffering there. Such a good deed might be intercessory with Him who has yet spared our country, for a further exemption from the pestilence which has stricken the neighbouring Provinces and Colonies.

Parliament has unanimously decreed a vote of thanks to the Army and Navy in the East—mentioning the British Generals and Officers who had distinguished themselves, the Admiral and Officers of the Navy—and bestowing a proper meed of praise upon all grades of both services. What is rather a novelty in such cases—the names of Generals Canby and Bosquet, the French Generals, are mentioned with special approbation in this national tribute to valor and warlike achievement.

The weather for the past fortnight, puts us in mind of the beginning of Spring rather than the mid-

dle of what is coldly termed—a Nova Scotia Winter; it is so far delusive to the senses, as it leads us to expect the "singing of birds," instead of the "whistling" of rude Boreas. We have had no snow, so little frost, that the lakes and ponds are as yet unsafe for the skater. The season, however, has been distinguished for the quantity of rain that has fallen. It is one of those singular episodes of nature, that has never occurred within the experience of the "oldest inhabitant," who is almost induced to question the theory, of there being "nothing new under the sun." We have been highly favored in this respect, and are an exception, even to the weather in New Brunswick; where, we find by the papers, the cold has been many degrees below zero.

Our pleasing anticipations of a precocious Spring were rather dispelled on Wednesday last, by the weather setting in stormily cold. The thermometer on that night must have been below zero. On Thursday it became mild again, and so continues, with rain.

ST. PAUL'S COMMITTEE, D. O. S.—The Quarterly Missionary Lecture of this Committee, will be delivered on Sunday evening, in St. Paul's, by the Rev. R. H. Bullock, and a collection taken in aid of the Funds of the D. O. S.

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Committee D. O. S. will be held on Wednesday next, at the National School, at 8 p. m.

The Ministers of the various religious denominations in the city of St. John, N. B., have commenced a subscription list in behalf of an Orphan Asylum—and determined to lay the object before their several congregations. A public meeting was to be held on Friday evening the 12th inst. There is no such Institution in this city, except the parsonage!—one would be useful even now, and very soon want it, from the same cause that is urging the people of St. John. Ought we not to wait while it is called to-day.

The St. John, N. B. Church Witness continues from week to week its review of the Charge of an excellent Bishop. On the whole, with the exception of the Witness's prejudices against Cokes Synods, which however in this review do not pass beyond legitimate argument, and indeed seem somewhat modified from their former strength, we commend our contemporary's observations to the consideration of our readers, as in nowise unreasonable. With reference to this matter we regret to perceive that a Correspondent in the *Church Witness* recommends that the Diocese of New Brunswick should delay action until the Report is made by the Committee in Nova Scotia. The Churchmen of New Brunswick were not wont to take advice, or receive encouragement from this Diocese to proceed in any good work. We would rather see them with us hand in hand, in an endeavour to establish Synodical action upon a firm and substantial basis, which would be all the better secured by the joint operation of all the Colonial Bishops. In the remarks in the Bishop's Charge with reference to the Collegiate Establishment at Windsor, we are glad to quote our contemporary:—

"Yes, unquestionably there has been a strong *esprit* awakened. The vigorous appeal that has been made to the principles and feelings of Churchmen, was precisely what was wanted. The Institution is now known throughout the Diocese. The advantages it affords are explained to the population. It is not merely the pecuniary aid it has received that follows in the train of this effort, but the knowledge of its existence and its wants, and a large accession to the pupils who are to be educated within its walls. We trust, that under new auspices, our old Alma Mater is destined but merely to 'renew her youth,' but to exhibit a vigor and exert an influence which she has never done before; that as years roll on, she will rise to the increasing demand upon her energies, and enjoy a prosperity which

"Non timere edax, non Aquilo Impotens
Possit diruere, aut innumerabilla
Annorum series, aut fugax temporum."

At the recommendation of the Lord Bishop of Quebec, collections were made in all the chapels and congregations of the Church of England in Quebec, on Sunday the 29th, to be appropriated as thank offerings for the cessation of cholera, and for the victories obtained in the East. In the Cathedral the collection would be appropriated partially for the benefit of the *Canada Military Asylum* for the widows and orphans of soldiers. It is stated—The Military Asylum, of which the printed Reports show that extensive good has been done by the Institution, is destined to labour under severe difficulties in consequence of the withdrawal of troops from all the stations in the Province except Quebec and Kingston, from which remittances towards the support of the charity have heretofore been made, from time to time, by the Clergy acting as Chaplains at those stations.