

# THE HARBINGER,

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF GENTLEMEN.

In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.—*St. Paul.*

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY 15, 1842.

No. 2.

CONTENTS.—Local Intelligence—Religious Anniversaries—Congregational Union—To Correspondents—Editorial Remarks—Sunday School Union—Juvenile Liberty—Maurice Street Congregational Missionary Society—Temperance Soirées—Local Auxiliaries—Public Lecture—Baptist Missions—Great Britain—New Chapels—Corn Laws—Puseyism—Reformed Jews—Congregationalism—Slavery—Continent of Europe—Spain—Belgium—Christian Missions—Progress of the Gospel—*Missionary Intelligence*—China—Caffreland—Feegee Islands—Nestorians—Karens—Greatness of Mind—Poetry.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE,

### MONTREAL.—RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.

**RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.**—The Sixth Annual Meeting of this Auxiliary was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, on Monday evening, January 24th. Capt. J. H. Maitland, in the chair. The report of the proceedings of the committee, and of the transactions of the year, was read by the Rev. John Girdwood, Corresponding Secretary. This was an interesting document, showing an increase in each department of the Society's operations—an increased demand for its excellent publications—and increased patronage on the part of the religious public. The Rev. H. Wilkes, A. M., moved the first resolution in a neat and appropriate speech, and happily suggested that as this was the first of a series of meetings to be held during the week, "Faith, Hope, and Charity" might be the motto of all who should take part in their interesting engagements. The next resolution was moved by Rev. J. Borland and seconded by Rev. Dr. Davies, with suitable remarks. The Rev. J. J. Carruthers moved the third resolution, and addressed the audience in a chaste and eloquent manner, giving an interesting history of the introduction of religious tracts into the Russian Empire, and of the imperial patronage bestowed upon them. The Rev. Robert Cooney, of Stanstead, moved the fourth resolution, in a speech replete with wit, point and eloquence; and made a very effective appeal on behalf of the Society's Funds, which produced a collection double that of the preceding year. The spirit which pervaded the whole proceedings of the evening was truly delightful, and much in accordance with the spirit of the valuable publications circulated by this Society. The gratuitous distribution of Tracts during the year was to the value of £65 7s. 2d. May the blessing of God attend their perusal.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.**—The anniversary of

this Institution was held in the same place, on the evening of the 25th. This was a very interesting meeting. J. Court, Esq. was in the chair. A report full of important facts and earnest appeals, was read by the Secretary, Mr. J. C. Becket. The Rev. H. Esson made an admirable speech on education generally, and on Bible education in particular. It appeared to him that every Congregation ought to be substantially a Bible Class. The Rev. J. J. Carruthers alluding to an absurd sentiment not yet exploded, that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing;" meaning thereby that more knowledge is attended with yet more danger, very happily adopted the sentiment with an opposite reference, and showed both from facts and reasoning, that any measure of knowledge is dangerous to error, superstition, and ignorance, and especially to those systems of priest-craft that could not live a moment, were the pure light of heaven thrown upon them. The meeting was also very ably addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Taylor, Wilkes, Croft, and Fox.

In a brief address towards the close of the meeting a somewhat inappropriate allusion was made to a question that has been mooted regarding the origin of Sunday Schools in Montreal. We have noticed it in another column.

**AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.**—The twenty-first anniversary of this Auxiliary was held on Wednesday evening, January 26, in the same place. The Hon. Peter McGill, the President of the Society, in the chair. This was perhaps the largest and best annual meeting that has yet been held by this very important Society. The commodious and handsome place of worship was filled in every part; and the business of the evening was listened to with unwearied attention until a late hour.

The Hon. Chairman opened the proceedings with some observations appropriate to the occasion, and called on the Secretary to read the report.

The Rev. H. Wilkes then read the annual report,