

Oh, Christian parent! be consistent, be judicious, be cheerful. If as historians inform us, 'no smile ever played' on the lips of Jesus of Nazareth, surely no frown marred the beauty of that holy brow.

Dear reader, true religion is not gloomy. 'Her ways are ways of pleasantness, her paths are peace.' No man, no woman, has charts or compass, or guiding star without it.

Religion is not a fable. Else why, when our household gods are shivered, do our tearful eyes seek only Heaven?

Why, when disease lays its iron grasp on bounding life, does the startled soul so earnestly, so importunately, call on its forgotten Saviour?

Ah! the house 'built upon the sand' may do for sunny weather, but when billows roll, and tempests blow, and lightnings flash, and thunders roar, we need the 'Rock of Ages.' FANNY FERN.

A gentleman of some fifty years of age, who was born and had lived on the Island of Nantucket during all his life, felt a desire a few days since, to visit the main land. Taking, therefore, the steamer for Boston, he arrived there in safety on the 18th inst., and for the first time in his life set his foot on the continent.

The Lowell Journal says that Mr. John J. Nuree, of Andover, weighed last fall 388 pounds, and is but forty-four years old. At the age of twenty-one he weighed but 140 pounds. The late Stephen Holt, of New York, weighed 306 pounds; Hon. Myron Lawrence, 345 pounds, and there is a Dr. Brown now living at Springfield, who weighs 360.

The Literary Gazette says that the musical performers who receive brooches and rings from the Czar are able, without any impropriety, to turn them into money—his Majesty having instituted in his household an officer whose special duty it is to buy back, at the full price, all the presents he offers. Thus "in Russia there are certain rings, brooches, bracelets, and snuff-boxes, which have been given away times without number."

FOR THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—Mrs. Begg, the sister of Burns, now living at Ayr, in Scotland, at the advanced age of 82, has sent a "plain pair of white lambs-wool socks, man's size, and ribbed to the heels," wrought by herself for the purpose, to the exhibition in New York, through the editor of the New York Herald.

Of the one thousand men who formed the New York regiment in the Mexican war, only sixty are now alive, and but forty are able to earn their living. This is a sad commentary on war.

Public Improvement.

THE SHUBENACADIE CANAL.

PUBLIC improvement is an indication of public prosperity. When the intellect and labour of communities are engaged in its active prosecution, there can be no fear of their onward progress. We have examples all around us of the rapid strides to wealth and greatness which are its result; and if Nova Scotia would not prove a laggard in the march, it is full time that her people should do something more than talk over its necessity.

There is one Provincial undertaking conducive to that end, which commenced in our midst under favorable auspices, painfully illustrates the vanity of human expectations. The Shubenacadie Canal is here alluded to. Who does not recollect the anticipations of wealth and prosperity which were to accrue to Halifax and the country generally from its completion. Nova Scotia throughout its length and breadth, was favorably impressed with the undertaking. By a short cut, the navigation of the Bay of Fundy was to be secured to us against competition—the marketable productions of its shores and rivers—its agriculture, its fisheries, its minerals,—would find not only a constant consumption at Halifax, but an outlet to other markets as profitable. The benefit was nowise doubtful, and was all but grasped when the work was undertaken. Well, what was true of the Shubenacadie Canal at its inception, is more so now; and its necessity is becoming also more apparent. Yet it is a fact not creditable either to the public spirit of Nova Scotia, or its patriotism; that after a large expenditure of capital, and when a comparatively small sum in addition, would have finished the work, at least upon a limited scale and tested its capability, it was suspended. The means became exhausted, the enthusiasm in its favour died with them—and its abandonment, because the public were tired of their hobby, has ever since made its construction to be regarded as an act of folly.

It were idle now to speculate upon the causes which led to a revulsion of feeling so complete. "Hope deferred," it is said upon the best authority, "maketh the heart sick"; and it may also be safely predicated of all works whose expenditure largely exceeds their estimate, that the constant demand for means to carry them on, cannot long be cheerfully acquiesced in. The Shubenacadie Canal, is, however, a work quite feasible, even to the unpractised eye. There can be

no real difficulty in establishing a useful water communication through a series of Lakes of considerable depth, with no portages, the channels of communication between which, are rarely if ever dry. Nor indeed would the work have encountered any obstacle, had not the ideas of its projectors been entirely too large for the nature of the traffic which must have ensued for a long time to come. Supposing indeed that this important work had been completed upon the scale originally intended, it is doubtful whether the expenses of its management during summer, and in winter, when the useless, a staff must needs be retained who understood their duty in the business season, would not have nearly absorbed all the profits. Our country has always been famous for this species of inflation. The conceptions of public utility have generally been correct, but have as generally been marred by an execution, which our means were not able to sustain. Of the dimensions of the frog, we have too often endeavoured to assume the capacity of the ox. What wonder then, if the attempt should frequently end in a gaseous explosion, that has made us the subjects of ridicule and the victims of folly.

The history of the country, however, proves, that few or no enterprises calculated upon the strict application of its resources, have failed of success. But the Shubenacadie Canal has thus dealt with, it would no doubt have now been in successful operation. It can never subserve more than a mere home and inter-Provincial traffic, developing itself more largely as the country enlarges its capability of maintaining a more crowded population. A proper consideration of this would have kept the enthusiastic inflation within bounds, and a very different lesson would have been learnt in the present day from the experience of the past. But the Shubenacadie Canal is not to be despised as an auxiliary to Provincial prosperity. There is an elasticity about its advantages that will not suffer it to die out of public recollection, and it is so far on to completion, that those who embark their means in it now, will have the benefit of the expenditure which has already been made. If it was folly which attempted at a large outlay, to realize something over and above what the resources of the country warranted, how much greater would the folly be to relinquish the undertaking, until time shall tumble all the available improvements (valued at £40,000) into ruinous heaps.

The effort making to call attention to the completion of the Shubenacadie Canal, upon a scale commensurate with the wants of the country, is highly praiseworthy. An Act to Incorporate an Inland Navigation Company has passed the Legislature, and many persons have engaged in the enterprise, upon the Report of Charles Fairbanks, Esq. of the probable cost, and the profit that may reasonably be expected. According to this Gentleman, the sum of twelve thousand pounds would make the Canal an efficient public work. The Act provides that as soon as the sum of £10,000 is subscribed, and £1000 paid, the Company may commence operations.

This is a small sum to venture upon a work which promises to be of such public utility, and in which the interests of the Capital, and the best interests of a large tract of Agricultural country of the first order, are concerned. Nor need any rivalry be feared with the Railroad, to which the Canal would rather be auxiliary. Railroads as such cannot compete with Canals in the business of Freights, as is well ascertained; and if, as Mr. Fairbanks' Report intimates, the passage by the Canal to St. John can be made in two days, and the country of the Bay of Fundy, from Annapolis, Amherst and Parrsboro', with its coal and other natural productions, finds an outlet in the harbour of Halifax, it may easily be conceived that no strong apprehensions of a St. John rivalry with the capital of Nova Scotia, can be seriously entertained. Halifax would at least divide with St. John the trade in lumber, deals, &c. of the Bay of Fundy, which forms a considerable item in the business of the latter, and of which she is now almost exclusively the market.

With an estimated expenditure of less than twelve thousand pounds, and purchases from Government to the additional amount of £5000, it is assumed in Mr. Fairbanks' Report, upon what appears sufficient data, that in five years the Canal would produce a revenue of £15,000 per annum; and if as is further assumed, the expenses of management amounted to £5000 more, the investment would yet bear a large reduction in revenue, and still be one of the most profitable that Nova Scotians have ever made of their surplus capital, leaving out of view every consideration of a patriotic nature. Let us hope that the year 1853 will not pass away without our men of capital, and the mer-

cantile interest of Nova Scotia, and all who seek the prosperity of the country, entering upon this undertaking with a determination to make it a valuable auxiliary to the development of Provincial industry and wealth. W. G.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1853.

THE ENCAENIA.

ACCORDING to announcement this celebration took place at King's College, Windsor, on the 22nd instant. There was a smaller meeting of Alumni than usual, and no meeting at all of the Governors of the College. On Tuesday the Trustees of the William Cogswell Scholarship met in the Library, and after a long and thorough examination, adjudged it to Mr. Randall of Antigonish, at the same time passing a high and well merited eulogium on his competitor, Mr. Crisp of P. E. Island.

On Wednesday at ten o'clock, the Incorporated Alumni met in the Library, A. M. Uniacke, Esq. V. P. in the Chair, and continued in the despatch of various business until the bell summoned them to the Hall to witness the Encaenia. The President as usual delivered a commemorative Address, not inferior in classic elegance of style, and richness of matter, to any that we had previously heard. It is to be hoped that he will respond to the vote of thanks and the request of the Alumni, by allowing at least some portions of it to appear in print. As we remarked on a former occasion, it now becomes a duty on the part of the prominent officers of the Institution, to come out of the "shades" and let the public hear the sounds of their voices. It was remarked by a talented and accomplished Alumnus, who, tho' not a Churchman, is warmly attached to the College, that if these excellent effusions from the polished pen of the Reverend President could be heard or read by the community at large, the effect would be, to awaken a far deeper interest in the Institution than is now felt, and to dispel many existing prejudices against it. At the conclusion of the Oration several exercises were delivered in the Hall. Mr. Savary recited a Latin Poem on the death of the Duke of Wellington, which took Mr. Justice Bliss's prize. The Bishop's prize was adjudged to Mr. Wiggins, son of Rev. Dr. Wiggins of N. B., who delivered a very good essay on the advantages of a liberal Education. The Hebrew Prize was taken by Mr. Hensley.

The Rev. Mr. Leaver read an English essay as an exercise for his degree of A. M. The Rev. Mr. Maturin, B. A. of Trinity Coll. Dublin, also read a Latin essay, on being admitted, first, *ad eundem*, and then M. A. of this University. Several other degrees were then conferred, the usual official announcement of which we presume will be sent us. We understand that three young gentlemen from the Halifax Grammar School, and three from the Collegiate Academy, at Windsor, have been matriculated, while six of the undergraduates have passed their examinations for the degree of B. A.

After the conclusion of the exercises in the Hall, where there was a goodly array of Ladies, but a very thin sprinkling of the other sort, the company were politely invited by the President and Mrs. McCawley to their apartments, where an elegant and substantial collation was provided, which seemed to be a subject quite as well understood as the classical repast just finished in the other end of the Building.

Thus refreshed, the Alumni met again (some missing) in the Library, and did not conclude their business until near 6 o'clock. A. M. Uniacke, Esq. was elected President of the Association for the ensuing year, and Dr. Almon, S. L. Shannon, and Henry Pryor, Esqrs. as members of the Exec. Committee, in place of those who go out according to the Rule.

The Report of proceedings for the past year was ordered to be printed, and we presume will soon be in the hands of members. The Alumni prize for the best general Scholar, £10, was taken by Mr. Savary, and that for general good conduct of £5, by Mr. Hensley, of P. E. I. That for Mathematics of £5, by Mr. Norman Uniacke, and that of the same sum for the best modern linguist, by Mr. Crisp.

Upon the whole, the occasion has been one of much interest to all who take an interest in their Church and College, and those who were absent have lost a rich and varied treat. The beauties of Windsor were never more beautiful, and we question if from any College in the old world or the new, a more engaging prospect can be found than that which is here spread before the beholder, especially if he scrambles up to