

About 4 o'clock, he passed away, from the church edifice, the church being full.

The Rev. Mr. Stewart, from Saint John, preached a powerful and deeply impressive sermon, to a large and attentive congregation, and recommended his sorrowing widow to look to God for comfort and consolation; and poured forth an earnest prayer to God, that He would be a Father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow. May that sermon be blessed to all that heard it, and that the bereaved ones, shall meet again on the banks of the river, and sing of salvation for ever and ever.

I. S.

Provincial Gleaner.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30, 1867.

Halifax Young Men's Wesleyan Institute.

Last week we published a short notice of an interesting Devotional meeting, designed to be introductory to the regular Session of the Institute. We now refer to it in order to express our heartfelt satisfaction, with the prospect of having supplied through this society not only long since organized, what we have long felt to be a very great desideratum for the young men connected with our congregations in this city; and in view of explaining, as briefly as possible, the object and method of its accomplishment, both of which we regard with peculiar favour and hope, and wish respectfully to commend to the kind consideration of Superintendents of Churches and friends of young men generally, throughout the bounds of our Conference to encourage the formation of similar Institutes, if not already in existence. We do this influenced by a deep conviction that whatever tends to promote the true and highest welfare of so important a class as our young men, merits the attention of the Church, and imperatively demands the "encouragement of the Religious Journalist."

It may perhaps be assumed that there is no part or section of a Minister's charge, so far removed from direct Pastoral influence, as that which is made up of the young men of his congregation or congregations, especially of those that are not in Church membership. Their respective vocations, mechanical, commercial, agricultural, necessarily preclude them to a very great extent from the healthy influence exerted upon other members of his flock by regular Pastoral visitation, &c. For want of direct and frequent intercourse, there is often felt a painful lack of sympathy and affection, if not, of becoming respect, for their spiritual instructors, on the part of young men. This must be confessed is a matter, all things considered, to be deplored, rather than wondered at; and one will more than willingly consider how it may be remedied, how the missing link may be found in the golden chain of influence whereby godly Ministers would bind to themselves, that they might the better bind to the cause of God and Humanity, those over whom the Holy Ghost has made them not only "overseers," but shepherds to watch over, guide and feed in the ways of righteousness and true holiness.

Two considerations now will serve to place this subject in its proper light. None will deny that young men have peculiar temptations, that in very many communities, at least there are more snares laid to compass their destruction than that of any other class, which in many cases are the more dangerous because of their adaptation to meet in some form the social or intellectual aspirations of generous, unsuspecting youth, and often not so much to be condemned in themselves, as in the associations to which they lead, and the impure moral atmosphere, which their enjoyment necessarily requires to be inhaled.

Again, while it is clear as an axiom, that young men are peculiarly plastic and receive from the influences brought to bear upon them a mould for usefulness or otherwise, as the nature and tendency of these may be, it should be remembered with all due solemnity, that these very same young men are so often the chief actors in life's arena, having a potentiality for good or evil that can be scarcely over-estimated. For these reasons alone, which if necessary might be greatly multiplied, we welcome to all possible efficiency our Halifax Y. M. W. Institute. If hitherto by means of the parental training in the home-circle, which God will not permit to be delegated to any one excepting under very special circumstances, and the efficient influence of a godly ministry never to be depreciated as it is God's ordinance, supplemented as these have been effectively by the Sabbath School, and our children and youth have been and are duly cared for. Hereafter we are led to hope that our young men, at the time they usually leave the Sabbath School, will be bound more closely than ever to the ministry and admirable Institutions of our Church.

The object of this Institute, as defined by the Constitution, is to promote the "mental and spiritual improvement of its members," and "direct their general usefulness." The means to be employed, which will sometimes be public and sometimes confined to the brethren, are, expected to comprise: Biblical Studies, Discussions, Essays, Lectures, Music, &c., under the immediate superintendence of the President, who is expected to be a minister on one of these immediate Circuits and by arrangement of the Executive Committee.

This subject is so laudable in itself as to need no word of recommendation. It is worthy of the young men of any community to aspire after improvement. It is a high and holy ambition which covets more and intellectual culture. Nothing can be so praiseworthy—Progress is the watchword of our age, yet none will question that much of what is trumpeted and set forth as improvement is but of questionable good. The progress sought by this Institute is of no doubtful order. We like the idea of combining the moral and mental elements of culture. Many have divorced this seemingly union—Some have especially in time past and we are not sure the race is perfectly devoid of have clamoured against literary and intellectual pursuits as dangerous and pernicious. These instead of regarding science as the appropriate handmaid and becoming satellite of religion, have viewed it as some ghastly foe, whose discoveries tended to the overthrow of all the stable foundations of the good old past.

To such persons ignorance is practically the "mother of devotion." From this we have seen have pushed out to a more dangerous Charybdis, than any other. Many of them were scientists, truly, is lately raised against the idea of cherishing a love for them, as the intellectual and spiritual improvement, as the term in an evangelical sense, were perfectly incompatible. The unseemly production of this class is the German Lecturer and Continental Rationalism of the present day, which like a mighty torrent bears on its furious waters many to the "madness" of nothing supernatural—no Bible and ultimately—no God. To accomplish their mission aright, they must first of all institute rightly their morals must square with

the authoritative and explicit teaching of the law of God; and that with this they must seek a mental discipline, including the nobility of their manhood, and competent to grapple with the demands of this enlightened and progressive age—meditation we bid them God speed, hoping shortly to recur to this subject.

Is Annexation our Destiny?

During a recent visit to the United States we were surprised to find, especially among business men—a very wide-spread feeling of interest in the political changes through which the Provinces are now passing, and especially in regard to the result of the late elections in Nova Scotia. Very freely was the sentiment held forth as to the probability of the New Dominion becoming allied to the Republic at no distant day. This opinion we found expressed also in leading journals, both secular and religious, and in the strong assurance that in the several Provinces very many are looking forward to Annexation as a manifest destiny.

We doubt not there are those in the Provinces, allied by business relations or otherwise with the United States, who profess to see such a future before them. We do not refer to it in order to express our heartfelt satisfaction, with the prospect of having supplied through this society not only long since organized, what we have long felt to be a very great desideratum for the young men connected with our congregations in this city; and in view of explaining, as briefly as possible, the object and method of its accomplishment, both of which we regard with peculiar favour and hope, and wish respectfully to commend to the kind consideration of Superintendents of Churches and friends of young men generally, throughout the bounds of our Conference to encourage the formation of similar Institutes, if not already in existence. We do this influenced by a deep conviction that whatever tends to promote the true and highest welfare of so important a class as our young men, merits the attention of the Church, and imperatively demands the "encouragement of the Religious Journalist."

We copy from the *Montreal Witness*, an article bearing upon the present state of public opinion in Nova Scotia, rather moderate in tone, yet evidently written by one who looks with admiration upon the leader of the present majority in this Province, the Hon. Joseph Howe. We give this article, unaltered by party leaning, and without endorsement of any sentiment it enunciates, simply for the purpose of indicating the course likely to be taken by the public men as recently returned by the popular vote; and as a vindication of the loyalty of Nova Scotians against the opinion entertained of us by our American cousins, that we desire Annexation. Upon the policy herein laid down, we express no opinion, further than our conviction that whatever course matters may assume, Nova Scotians will be true to the flag of Great Britain—

(From the *Montreal Witness*.)

The Nova Scotians are a loyal people to the crown and institutions of Great Britain. They have not yet rebelled against the mother country; nor have they even built the railways at the expense of her capitalists; nor tried to starve her poor by imposing high duties on her manufactures. Both at home and abroad, by pen and sword, their ablest men have ever been in their power to uphold the honor of the British name. There never has been an annexation party in Nova Scotia. Even the strong feeling excited by the rude and hasty manner in which their cherished constitution, the result of long and severe struggles, has lately been swept away by Imperial Legislation, has not produced an Annexation party, and all utterances of a dissenting character have been frowned down by both parties equally. It is true that comparisons between the new constitution and those of the United States and Great Britain have been freely made, and that an immense majority, not only of numbers, but also of the wealth and intelligence of the Province, appears to have deliberately arrived at the conclusion that the new constitution of the Dominion is not suitable to their country; and that the means by which it has been obtained have been unjust and unconstitutional. But while evidently feeling all this intensely, they have kept their feelings within the bounds of law and order, and have waited patiently until they could make their decision known to the people. The almost entire unanimity of that decision throughout the Province is something startling; but it is necessary to consider that Nova Scotians are on many accounts, less apathetic in political matters than Canadians; that the population is more homogeneous; that there is a universal diffusion of intelligence; and that the ablest and most influential men in the Province have entered with energy into the contest, believing it to be one vital to the true interests of the country.

Among these men, the most prominent is unquestionably Mr. Howe. As an editor in the first instance, and subsequently as a leading member of Parliament, Mr. Howe has more than any other man been the dunder in public affairs of the living generation of Nova Scotia; and it has been the work of his life to develop in that province free institutions and thoroughly responsible departmental management on the principles of the British Constitution. His opponents, as well as his supporters, have acquired their existing opinions and practices under his influence; and, until the late political changes, how might have taken credit to himself for being the principal instrument in establishing a sound and wholesome constitution for his native province, and in preparing the minds of the people of all parties for its acceptance and permanent working.

As a leader, Howe has some great qualities. In eloquence and power of reasoning the hearts of the people, he has no superior on this continent. He has quick sympathy with the popular mind, ready appreciation of the powers of others, and much mastery over those who work with him. He is thoroughly straightforward; and no man who knows him does his private aims and honesty of purpose. In Nova Scotia, he is loved and trusted alike by Protestant and Catholic, by English, Irish, and French, because no one for a moment believes that he will use the power he may acquire for any selfish or sectional object. He is sometimes tough in spirit, and always merciless in his denunciations of wrong, meanness, corruption, and treachery; but warm in his attachments, and above taking any unfair advantage. He is not content with a constitution, preferring to act upon the public mind rather than to manage men by the arts of the parliamentary leader; but hitherto all mere tactics and finesse have gone down before his more direct methods.

One accusation which has been repeated again and again in the Canadian press is that, Howe in his present opposition to the union of the provinces, contradicts his past utterances on this subject. No doubt he has said much in favour of the union of the colonies among themselves, and with the heart of the empire; but those who have watched his course know that he has never committed himself to any such constitution, as that now in force, still less to the methods of procedure by which it has been imposed on Nova Scotia. He has already shown, and will no doubt still more clearly show in Parliament, how widely his views differ and have differed from those of the framers of the Union Act. Many of the men who have been elected with Mr. Howe to the House of Commons are able and highly influential, and the rest are nearly all good business-men. In glancing over the list of names, I cannot point to any likely to be purchased or influenced by corrupt motives; nearly all have been trained in the ranks of Mr. Howe's party, and thoroughly sympathize with him. They and their fellow-representatives

from New Brunswick will, if the House of Commons shall at all resemble the defunct Parliament of Canada, be struck by the contrast of its noisy demonstrations and babbling tongues to the gravity and business-like spirit which have hitherto characterized the Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and will be prepared for the sharp and strategic practice of Canadian Parliamentary leaders.

Whatever difference there may be at present between the majorities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as to Confederation, they will inevitably draw together in the new House of Commons; and it will probably be found that Howe will have quite as much influence with the representatives from New Brunswick as Tilly and Mitchell; that is, if their influence should be asserted in a very different direction from that of the Nova Scotia party.

It may be regarded as certain that, when Howe and the Nova Scotians take their seats in the House of Commons, they will do so, not with the view of waging a mere faction fight, but with some intelligible ends in view, having a relation to Canada as well as to the Lower Provinces. Howe has always been a man of lucid and comprehensive views, and has never battled merely personal or party grounds. He will take the measure of the men and things he may find here; and if there are any elements of power in the present chaos of Canadian political parties that harmonize with the ends he and his friends have marked out for themselves, whether these be of the nature of repeal of the Union, more complete provincial independence of the general government, or legislative Union, he will know how to ally himself with them; and when they are merely personal or party grounds, he will take the measure of the men and things he may find here; and if there are any elements of power in the present chaos of Canadian political parties that harmonize with the ends he and his friends have marked out for themselves, whether these be of the nature of repeal of the Union, more complete provincial independence of the general government, or legislative Union, he will know how to ally himself with them; and when they are merely personal or party grounds, he will take the measure of the men and things he may find here; 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