

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

AMERICAN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.

We have condensed the following from the *Christian Guardian* :—

"From the *Presbyterian* we learn that the First Anniversary of this very important and necessary Association was held in Philadelphia, on the 14th of November, and that it was largely and respectably attended. The Rev. Dr. Cuyler presided, and several ministers addressed the assembly in a very able manner.

The first Annual Report was read, from which we shall glean a few particulars. The Address of the Association, published a year ago, had an extensive circulation: two editions of 15,000 and 5,000 having been sold at a low price; and having been published in some of the best papers, it is believed, 100,000 copies of the address were circulated. In one city, an influential gentleman who had erred in strengthening Papist interests, requested a number of copies that he might do what he could towards remedying an evil he had supported. The Report very justly blames the spurious liberality of some Protestants, who think it no sin to support Popery by subscriptions; a liberality which deserves to be denounced, and should not exist.

The objects of the Board are—1. "To encourage Protestant Ministers to instruct their congregations on the subject of Romanism." 2. "To call attention to the necessity of a more extensive distribution and thorough study of the Holy Scriptures." It is said, "The Board have, indeed, had no occasion to provide means for the application of this test. The American Bible Society is doing all that can be done to accomplish this object, and we have only to act as auxiliaries to that noble institution—by calling attention to the importance of that Word which they distribute, and resisting every attempt to impede the circulation, or prevent the study of the Bible." 3. "To circulate books and tracts adapted to give information on the various errors of Popery." Praise is given to the publishers of cheap editions of the works of D'Aubigne, Whately, &c., and to the Press.—4. "To awaken attention to the dangers which threaten the institutions of our country, from the assaults of Romanism." 5. "To encourage the formation of similar Associations in different parts of the United States." It seems this has been done in Baltimore, Phillipsburgh, and Cincinnati. The Report makes honorable mention of the Philo-Italian Society of New York established by many of the Protestant Pastors of that city. The Board have received communications from Associations previously existing in Philadelphia and New York. Great harmony has marked its proceedings, and the prospects of its success are very encouraging. Our good wishes attend this Association in its loudly-called-for operations.

THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1843.

THE increased interest lately manifested by the various Evangelical churches in our city, in the success of those heaven-born and admirable nurseries of the church, Sabbath Schools, is a source of delight to every mind that rightly apprehends the incalculable importance of training the young in the way they should go. We have ever regarded those institutions as second to none but the preaching of the Gospel, in the great work of spreading evangelical knowledge and saving the perishing souls of men. Indeed there is no one agency employed by the Church of Christ which has been favoured with more signal marks of Divine approbation than the Sabbath School. Many of our "burning and shining lights," through whose ministry hundreds and thousands of souls have been snatched from endless woe, have received their first religious impressions in the Sabbath School, and many more are being prepared for a wide sphere of usefulness through the instructions and holy influences there communicated.

We were much pleased on learning that a monthly prayer-meeting has been established in the Wesleyan Church in this city, for the purpose of specially invoking the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the children of its Sunday Schools. This is as it should be; and, in view of the absolute necessity of that Great Agent to render the best directed and most zealous services effectual, we strongly recommend the example thus furnished by the Wesleyan Church to the different other churches of the city. When we contrast the present flourishing condition of our Sunday Schools with what it was within our own recollection in Montreal, we are led to exclaim, "What hath God wrought?" Children are now flocking in hundreds to that Saviour, who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." To God be all the praise.

"DISSENTER FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND."

[EXTRACTED FOR THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.]

"WEDNESDAY, February 6, 1740.—I went to the poor young man who lay under sentence of death. Of a truth God hath begun a good work in his soul! O may it be brought to perfection.

"I think it was the next time I was there that the ordinary of Newgate (the chaplain) came to me, and with much vehemence told me he was sorry I should turn Dissenter from the Church of England. I told him if it was so I did not know it. At which he seemed a little surprised, and offered at something by way of proof, but which needed no reply.

"Our Twentieth Article defines a true Church—A CONGREGATION OF FAITHFUL PEOPLE, WHEREIN THE TRUE WORD OF GOD IS PREACHED AND THE SACRAMENTS DULY ADMINISTERED.—According to this account the Church of England is that body of faithful people (or holy believers) in England, among whom the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered.

"Who, then, are the worst Dissenters from this Church?"

"I. *Unholy men* of all kinds; swearers, Sabbath breakers, drunkards, fighters, whoremongers, liars, revilers, evil speakers, the passionate, the gay, the lovers of money, the lovers of dress or of praise, the *lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*"

"All these are Dissenters of the highest sort; continually striking at the root of the Church, and themselves belonging in truth to no Church, but to *the synagogue of Satan.*"

"II. *Men unsound in the faith*: those who deny the Lord that bought them; those who deny justification by faith alone, or the present salvation which is by faith.

"These also are Dissenters of a very high kind: for they likewise strike at the foundation; and were their principles universally to obtain, there could be no true Church upon earth.

"III. Lastly: those who *unduly administer the Sacraments*; who (to instance but in one point) administer the Lord's Supper to such as have neither *'the power'* nor *'the form of godliness.'*"

"These, too, are gross Dissenters from the Church of England, and should not *'cast the first stone'* at others."—WESLEY'S JOURNAL, February, 1740.

The Annual Report of the Montreal Strangers' Friend Society, is now in press, and will shortly

appear: We again earnestly recommend this Society to the hearty support of a liberal and enlightened public.

A few weeks ago, in giving to our readers an account of a juvenile tea-meeting held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Griffintown, we remarked that we very much approved of such meetings; and, with much pleasure, we make room in our present number for a brief outline of a similar entertainment given by the Superintendents and Teachers of Branches No. 1 and 2 Wesleyan Sabbath Schools. These branch schools are situated respectively in Montcalm and Gain Streets, Quebec Suburbs, both of which were united last Tuesday evening in the Wesleyan Chapel in the former street, for the purpose of entertaining the scholars and testing their knowledge of God's Holy Word. The happy company assembled at half-past four o'clock, numbering nearly two hundred, and the teachers and friends were sufficiently numerous comfortably to fill the chapel. A few minutes after five, tea was served, first to the scholars, and then to the teachers and friends—the quality of which, and the variety and abundance of the good things which were provided, done credit to the ladies who kindly volunteered their services on the occasion. The chair was taken by the Rev. M. Lang, who, after giving directions to have the first hymn chosen for the evening sung, implored the blessing of Almighty God upon the dear youth present, for the continued assistance of His Holy Spirit to the teachers in their labour of love, and that He would be pleased in his mercy so to succeed the instructions given, that early piety would be manifested. The good behaviour and solemnity of the children during this exercise reminded us of the beautiful language of Dr. Watts:

"Lord, how delightful 'tis to see
A whole assembly worship thee:
At once they sing, at once they pray;
They hear of Heaven, and learn the way."

The Rev. R. Cooney then read from a Sunday School publication, a circumstance of cruelty practised by a father to his daughter, in India, showing the destitution of the inhabitants of that part of the world of the saving influence of the Gospel of Christ; which had, we trust, in some measure, the effect of producing in the minds of the young a sympathy for the heathen and a feeling of gratitude to God for the glad tidings of the Gospel with which they are favoured. The Chairman opened the Word of Life, and catechised the children, for about three quarters of an hour, in the first ten chapters of the Acts of the Apostles; and their ready answers proved that they were hiding God's Word in their hearts. They were then questioned from different portions of Scripture, when they gave equal satisfaction. The Rev. Mr. Cooney, in his usual happy manner, addressed the children, and related several interesting anecdotes, which elicited from them an expression of the happiness they felt. In the course of the evening, two little girls recited the parable of the talents, and a boy an appropriate poetic address,—which had a very pleasing effect. The hymns sung, especially Bishop Heber's Missionary Hymn, by the children, was by no means the least interesting part of the exercises. At the close of the meeting fruit was distributed, and, at about half-past nine o'clock, the benediction being pronounced, the company broke up,—the teachers feeling encouraged to continue faithfully to discharge their duty, and the friends highly gratified at what they had witnessed.