

EDUCATION.

An eventful period in the history of this Province is approaching, a crisis which ought to call forth the energies of every philanthropist. Not only is the Municipal Council to come into operation, but the old system (if system it may be called) of common school education is to be overturned, and a new one substituted, which will doubtless be a great benefit to the country, provided it be properly conducted.

Education signifies a leading or drawing out, and is properly used to denote a course of training or drawing out of the bodily and mental powers of the young, in order to qualify them for the proper discharge of the duties of after life.

The true end of Education is the promotion of happiness. In the intercourse of society, and the various transactions between man and man, we readily perceive whether the means used have been adequate to produce the end. In society the interests of individuals are so closely connected, that the happiness of individuals make up that of the species. But happiness cannot exist without self-approbation. An individual cannot therefore be happy unless he is virtuous, and the rule of virtue being the will of God, he cannot be virtuous unless he is wise, in the Scripture sense of the term. Wisdom then, is not only the direct means to virtue but to happiness. The man of enlightened intellect and dignified moral feeling, has many sources of enjoyment which the ignorant and selfish cannot possibly possess. *The education of youth then must be of the greatest importance.* It is a process in which every individual in the community is deeply interested—for on it, in a great measure, depends every perfection, at which a well disciplined mind would gladly arrive. It is that which distinguishes the civilized from the savage portion of our race. Its advantages are eloquently described in the following quotation—“Of all the blessings which it has pleased Providence to allow us to cultivate, there is not one which breathes a finer fragrance, or bears a heavenlier aspect, than education. It is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no climate destroy, no enemy alienate, no despotism enslave—at home a friend, abroad an introduction, in solitude a solace, in society an ornament—it chastens vice, it guides virtue, it gives at once a grace and government to genius. Without it, what is man? a splendid slave! a reasoning savage—vacillating between the dignity of an intelligence derived from God, and the degradation of passions participated with brutes—and in accident of their ascendancy, shuddering at the terrors of an hereafter, or embracing the horrid hope of annihilation. What is this wondrous world of his residence? “A mighty maze, and all without a plan”—without ornament or order. But light up the torch of knowledge, and how wonderful the transition! The seasons change, the atmosphere breathes, the earth unfolds its fruits, the ocean rolls in its magnificence, the heavens display their constellated canopy, and the grand united spectacle of nature rises revealed before him—its varieties regulated, and its mysteries resolved. The phenomena which bewilder, the prejudices which debase, the superstitions which enslave vanish before education.” Are the results of the present system of education such as are to be desired? Certainly not. Let us then seek a better.

Hamilton, October 23, 1841.

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Trade was in a worse state than ever, and many meetings had been held to alleviate the prevailing distress. Failures in Glasgow and Paisley to a very large amount had taken place. The wheat and flour market was dull, and prices somewhat lower.

A Treaty has been signed by the five great powers of Europe, England, France, Austria, Russia and Prussia, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, by which they allow the mutual right of search, and declare the slave trade to be piracy, and the employment of capital therein felony. America is now the only power of any consequence that refuses to concur in this measure.

Lord Ashburton (one of the Barings) has been appointed special Ambassador to the United States, with, it is understood, full powers to settle the many difficult points of dispute which have arisen

between the two countries. Some of these points are, 1st, The case of the *Caroline*, in which the American Government claims reparation. 2d, The case of M-Leod, in which the British Government claims an apology. 3d, The North Eastern Boundary question, in which both Governments claim a large tract of territory, and mutually complain of trespasses and infraction of treaties. 4th, the North Western or Oregon Boundary question, in which the United States complain of the encroachments of British traders, and claim a large tract at present occupied by these traders. 5th, The right on the part of Great Britain to detain vessels showing the American flag on the high seas, where a probability exists that they are engaged in the slave trade, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are actually American vessels or not. If they prove to be American vessels, even though engaged in that trade, the British Government claim no right of further detaining them. 6th, The *Creola* case, about which the people of the Southern States insist upon going to war unless their slaves, or at all events, the nineteen who were engaged in seizing the ship and killing one of their overseers, are delivered up to them; a demand with which it is not likely that Great Britain will comply.

UNITED STATES.—The contributions to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions have greatly increased. It is therefore fast diminishing its load of debt.

The excitement regarding slavery appears to be steadily increasing, and every thing indicates that God in his providence is rapidly bringing about its abolition throughout the United States.

CHINA.—The British forces had proceeded northward to make a demonstration against Pekin, and taken the islands of Amoy and Chusan in their progress. The authorities at Canton offered ten millions of dollars to induce them to desist from the expedition.

CANADA.—The Governor General Sir Charles Bagot has arrived.

Five of the principal Religious and Benevolent Societies of Montreal held their Anniversary Meetings in one week (the last week of January), and the interest in them on the part of the public, appeared to go on increasing to the last. The meetings were better attended, and the collections larger, than in any former years.

Great celebrations in honor of the birth of an Heir Apparent have taken place all over the country; one of which was by the Loretta Indians near Quebec, who are all tee-totalers; and another is to be a Grand Soiree on Temperance Principles in Montreal.

MONIES RECEIVED ON ACCOUNT OF

Advocate.—J. McDonald, Agent, Sundries £3 6s; P. F. C. Deleclercq, Vandread, 5s; W. G. Blanchard, St. Andrews, 5s; W. D. Dickinson, Prescott, 26; R. J. Williams, Floss, 10s; W. Larkin, Barrie, 10s; W. Richardson, Floss, 3s. 4d; J. Foreman, Otterville, 3s. 4d; J. Christie & Son, Toronto, £1 6s. 10d; Sergeant Hodgson, London, £1 6s. 4d; W. Kirby, L. Levitt, and R. Allen, Chatham 10s; C. Campbell, Chatham, 1s. 8d; M. Campbell, 17th Concession Indian Lands, 15s; D. Cameron, B. G. Stewart, R. Huston, D. McLellan, J. Wood, T. Scott, and J. Wood, Lancaster, £1 1s; S. Stevenson, and J. Robertson, Williamstown, 6s; F. Sinclair, Mills-Roche, 3s; J. Bady, Cornwall, 3s; Rev. D. Dobie, Haminton, £1 5s; W. Johnson, A. Buchanan, H. Derick, J. Smith and Lt. Col. Odell, Odell-Town, 12s. 6d; Corporal Davis, Leamable, 15s; R. M. Leod, Newburgh, £12 10s. Col. Clisidum, Alexandria, 3s; Services, Montreal, £1 15s; Military Society, Isle aux Noix, 15s; H. Baetz, St. Thomas, £2 10s. J. McD. Hall, Gananoque, £1 15s; J. P. Merc, Hamilton, £12 10s.

Donations.—J. De Wildt, Montreal, £1 10s; W. Greig, do, 10s; J. M'Inte, do, 10s; Capt. Whipple, do, £1 5s; J. Perrault, do 5s.

Anti-Beccus.—Kingston Society, £3 10s; R. D. Wadsworth, Agent, Montreal, £1 15s.

Almanac.—R. D. Wadsworth, Agent, Montreal, £1 1s.

Medicals.—R. D. Wadsworth, Agent, Montreal, £1 15s. 8d.

Agency.—Kingston Society, £2 10s. Brockville Society, £1 16s.

31; Elizabeth Town Society, £1; Beverly Society, 10s. 4d;

Kitley Society, 6s. 4d; Smith's Falls Society, £2 10s; Bel-

lamy's Mills Society, 17s. 6d; Indian Lands Society, 8s; Marti-

town Society, 14s. 2d; Lancaster Society, 10s. 4d; Williamstown

Society, £1 5s; A Friend, Lancaster, 2s. 6d; Haminton Society,

13s. 1d; Russelltown and Hinchinbrook Societies, 17s. 6d; New-

burgh Society, £1 5s; Farmersville Society, £1 3s. 4d.