

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, November 22, 1851.

WINTER MONTHS.

The warm and glowing Summer has been succeeded by the milder glow and softer tints of Autumn; and now frigid Winter has at length made its approach, and thrown its white and glittering robe over the face of nature. If other seasons have their peculiar advantages, Winter, though chill and drear, is not without its enjoyments or its benefits. The poor generally dread its cold and piercing blasts,—its wild, careering storms, associated, as these external discomforts are, with home penury and pinching want. Sad indeed, is the state of those, who, thus destitute of temporal good, suffer cold and hunger by day and the intenser cold of night, without one feeling heart to pity, and one friendly hand to relieve. Not such, however, is the condition of our poor—to such a depth of misery they are not allowed to sink, uncared for, or unassisted.—Their necessities call forth the timely benevolence of the better-conditioned portions of society, who either personally, or by proxy, supply the pressing wants of the needy. The winter months afford ample scope for those *Benevolent Societies*, which adorn our land, to pursue their unostentatious course of doing good; and as in other winters, so during this, they will, by their well-expended charities, bring light to many a dreary dwelling, enkindle fires on many a cold hearth-stone, cause many a widow's heart to sing for joy, and the fatherless to thank God for earthly friends; and thus they will alleviate many sorrows, and lift many weights from crushed and bruised hearts. God speed them in their career of love and usefulness, and may the rich never suffer their treasures to lack the means of warming, clothing, and feeding the poor and needy.

The winter affords peculiar facilities for mental improvement in town and country; and in this aspect, it stands high above all the other seasons of the revolving year. To the family-circle, how welcome, especially, the well-furnished pages of the *weekly* or other paper, devoted to religion, literature, general and domestic news, whose varied and interesting contents may profitably engage attention during the long evenings of winter. Arts, sciences, classics, history, political economy, and other kindred subjects, as treated in larger works, are not to be neglected, but studied as opportunity may permit; but the modest and unpretending sheet, as it makes its periodical appearance, has its own peculiar claims on every branch of the domestic circle, rich as it is with concentrated thoughts of the wisest and the best of men, and appealing as it does to the sympathies of each and all by the current history of the day. For ourselves we can say, it occupies our time by day, and our thoughts by night, to render *The Wesleyan* a profitable and interesting guest by the table, or by the fire-side, of every family within whose sacred precincts it finds admission. The reading matter spread over its pages during one year, would, if printed in book-form, make a number of no small-sized volumes, with the advantage of possessing unsurpassed variety. Let those who possess this or any other opportunity of self-improvement, eagerly embrace it, use it to its utmost limits, and store their minds with varied and useful knowledge. The winter months thus employed will prove not the least productive of the year.

Not less conducive to religious improvement is the season of winter. Time is afforded to frequent the week-evening services of the church. The pleas of want of time or leisure, or excessive fatigue after a long day's employment, urged, how justifiably we do not say, in vindication of the non-attendance on the *week-night preaching* and *week-night prayer meeting*, during summer months, cannot, with respect to many, be admitted here. The days are shortened, and the nights are lengthened,—we will not say for the express and sole purpose of giving you time; but, as the case stands, that providential arrangement is such as, in most cases, where personal or domestic affliction, and unavoidable engagements, intervene not, to cut off all reasonable ground of excuse for neglecting such means of

grace. In many localities, these means may be profitably multiplied. The winter evenings afford fitting opportunities for holding special and protracted religious services; by some ministers and members of churches, they are thus improved, and, as a consequence, it is not unfrequently the case, that gracious and extensive revivals of religion are witnessed, and the cold months of winter are rendered cheerful with songs of praise, and the dreary wastes are gladdened and made to "bud and blossom as the rose." In these holy exercises, let the present season be passed—and God will cause his glory to rest on our sanctuaries.

The winter months! they will soon have passed away, and Spring-suns again shine upon our land, summoning to the labours of the field, and to other duties in the busy walks of life. But the snows of this winter, ere it pass, may mantle upon the last resting-place of some whose eyes now scan these pages. Let us improve the moments as they fly—yield our hearts to God—be diligent in our lawful business, and *zealous in spirit, serving the Lord*; and then, whenever we are summoned from the activities or sufferings of life, we shall reach that "land of pure delight," where

—"Everlasting Spring abides,
And never withering flowers."

Annual Meeting of Sabbath Alliance.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Sabbath Alliance took place at the Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening last. There were several clergymen present belonging to the various Protestant denominations in the city, as also a pretty large assemblage of the citizens of both sexes. The meeting was presided over by the venerable Chief Justice, who opened the proceedings with a brief statement of the objects contemplated in forming this Society, namely: the adoption of means for preventing Sabbath desecration, and for securing the better observance of the Fourth Command of the Decalogue. A very ably written Report was read by the Rev. Alex. Forrester, Secretary to the Alliance, containing a full statement of the proceedings of this Society since its formation a twelvemonth ago. Judging from the tenor of this document, a vast amount of good has already been effected through the instrumentality of the Sabbath Alliance, in the removal of different species or forms of Sabbath profanation, and consequently in securing a better religious observance of the Lord's Day. The principal redress, perhaps, obtained in reference to this day, is the almost total cessation of Post Office labour in connection with the transmitting of Mails to which we have already alluded in our journal.

We are quite aware of the objections made, in certain quarters against the operations of this Society, but we feel satisfied that the good which has resulted from what has been already done is a conclusive answer to every objection, and ought to convince the most sceptical of the necessity there existed for such an institution. The Sabbatharians are now in right earnest in the prosecution of the objects for which the Alliance was formed, and we do hope and trust that the sentiments expressed at the meeting of Tuesday will have a weighty influence, and stir up the mind of every right-hearted Christian to advocate and enforce the hallowing precepts of the Fourth Commandment of the Moral Law. Much good, too, we trust, will result from the labours of the Committee appointed for the ensuing year; and now that several of the external abuses in connection with the Sabbath have been removed, we conceive that the Committee cannot do better than adopt means for enlightening the minds of the community and elevating the standard of public opinion upon the Divine Institution of the Sabbath—its moral and perpetual obligation—the blessings, temporal and spiritual, which result from a due observance of the Lord's Day—and the sure punishment which may be expected to follow its desecration. This will be best brought about by the circulation of cheap tracts and other small publications, which may be made acceptable to the poorest individual.

We cannot give even an outline of the excellent speeches delivered on this occasion, save just to express our decided conviction that we have seldom attended a public meet-

ing at which the speaking was so admirably sustained throughout. We content ourselves with merely subjoining a list of the Resolutions passed at the meeting, with the names of the gentlemen by whom they were respectively moved and seconded:—

Moved by the Rev. R. F. Uniacke, and seconded by Chas. Robson, Esq.,

"That the Report read be adopted and published."

Moved by the Rev. E. Evans, and seconded by J. W. Ritchie, Esq.,

"That this Meeting believes in the moral obligation of the Sabbath, and that it is the duty of all to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy, as well as to use every means for the promotion of its due observance."

Moved by the Rev. P. G. McGregor, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Geikie,

"That this meeting is deeply impressed with a sense of the many temporal and spiritual blessings that flow from the sanctification of the Lord's Day, and that in lending our aid in support of this and similar Associations, we are furthering the best interests of our fellow-men."

Moved by the Rev. G. W. Hill, and seconded by S. Fulton, Esq., M. P. P.,

"That the following compose the General Committee for the ensuing year." (For names see published report.)

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Twining, seconded by Dr. Avery,

"That the thanks of this Meeting be tendered to the Hon. the Chief Justice, for the admirable manner in which he has discharged the duties of Chairman."

The Benediction was then pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Scott.—*Presbyterian Witness*, 15th.

Going it Strong.

Some of our less discreet Baptist brethren finding themselves unable to bring forth hard arguments to put down infant baptism, seem determined to attempt it by hard language. The *Western Recorder*, a paper published at Louisville, Kentucky, utters itself in this style:—

"Of all the 'damnable heresies' in that black catalogue which has befouled the fame of Christianity, we consider infant baptism the most damnable. If other heresies have damned the thousands, this has damned its tens of thousands."

Scarcely less violent is the tone of another redoubtable champion, the Rev. Dr. Maclay. Dr. Aydelotte, an Episcopal clergyman in Cincinnati, had withdrawn from that Church, and published his reasons for so doing, one of which was, that he could not swallow the unscriptural dogma of baptismal regeneration. On this Dr. Maclay addressed an epistle to Dr. A., giving him to understand, that unless he renounced infant baptism he was little better off than before. From this epistle we cull the following choice sentences:—

"I consider infant baptism the greatest curse that has ever afflicted Christendom.—It is done more to corrupt the Church of God, and make it a den of robbers, than all the other inventions of the wicked one. . . . This accursed thing has rendered the Churches of the Reformation nearly as corrupt as the Romish Church itself."

To Dr. Maclay's letter Dr. Aydelotte published a reply so conclusive and so Christian in spirit, that the former gentleman has probably regretted ere this that he did not "leave off contention before he meddled with it."—*Christian Advocate & Journal*.

What Rome would do.

M. Venillot of the *Univers*, whom I have sometimes quoted, seems determined to let the world know what Rome will do as soon as she has the power to do it. "Our fathers," says he, "thought an heresiarch more dangerous than an highwayman, and not without reason. An heretical doctrine was a revolutionary one. It produced troubles, seditions, assassinations, all sorts of crimes against private persons and against the State. Heresy, then, which is always a great religious crime, was also a great political one.—That is self-evident for men of good sense and honesty. For others nothing can be evident."

"The heresiarch, examined and convicted by the Church, was given up to the secular arm, and punished with death. Nothing

ever appeared to me more natural or more necessary. More than a hundred thousand men perished through Wicliff's heresy; that of John Huss caused many more to perish; the blood that Luther's heresy has caused to flow is incalculable, and it is not over. After three centuries, we are again on the eve of a fresh beginning. The prompt repression of Luther's disciples, and a crusade against Protestantism, would have spared Europe three centuries of discord and catastrophe, in which France and civilization may perish."

"Imbued with these ideas, I wrote the phrase which has excited the virtuous disapprobation of the red journals; here it is, as they have printed it: 'As for me, WHAT I REGRET, I say it frankly, is, that JOHN HUSS WAS NOT BURNT SOONER, and that Luther was not burnt as well as him; that no prince was found *pious enough*, and politic enough to set on foot a crusade against the Protestants. . . . What I wrote in 1838, I still think."

"Let the red philanthropists print this declaration in whatever type they like, and as often as they please. Let them comment on it as they like, and put the whole to my account. When the day comes in which I should wish to destroy this declaration, I will allow them to think of me as I think of them."—LOUIS VENOLOT.

—*Paris Cor. of N. Y. Christian Advocate and Journal*.

Railroads in Europe.

The London Times has recently been publishing statistics of the progress of the different countries, which exhibit these results:—Belgium has 532 miles of railways, 352 of which have been constructed and worked by the State, the remainder by different private companies. The expense of constructing the whole has been £9,576,000 or £18,000 per mile. The annual expenses are 63 per cent. of the receipts, and the profits three and a half per cent. on the capital. In France, there are 1,818 miles of railway under traffic, 1,178 miles in progress, and 577 miles projected. The cost of construction per mile has been £26,832, and the whole expenditure requisite for the completion of the 3,573 miles is estimated at £95,870,735. The average annual net profit on the capital employed does not exceed two and seven-tenths per cent.

In Germany there are 5,342 miles of railway in actual operation, 700 in progress, and 2,444 miles projected. Of the railways in operation, 1,812 miles were within the Prussian territories, and 771 miles in the Dutch Netherlands, the Danish Duchies, and ex-German Austrian provinces, and therefore only 4,571 miles can be considered as strictly within the Germanic confederation. Two-fifths of these 4,571 miles were constructed and worked by the State, the remainder by private Companies.—Those in Prussia, however, are all the result of private enterprise. The expense of construction of the 5,342 miles is estimated at £12,500 per mile, being single track only. The working expenses are about fifty per cent. of the receipts, and the net profits are nearly three per cent. In Russia a railway from Warsaw to Cracow, 168 miles in length, is in operation; one connecting Warsaw with St. Petersburg, 683 miles in length; and one of about 400 miles, from St. Petersburg to Moscow, is in progress. A railway for goods from the Wolga to the Don, 105 miles in length, is also contemplated. In Southern Russia a line of railway between Kief and Odessa has been surveyed. In Italy no extensive system of railway has yet been executed. A few lines, diverging from the principal cities, such as Naples, Milan, Venice, Leghorn, and Florence, Sardinia, Spain, and Portugal, railways are only in prospective.

By multiplying £1 by \$4.85 we can arrive at the cost per mile of some of these roads. It will be observed that the French lines—the highest—cost \$130,135.20 per mile, or nearly three times as much as those of Massachusetts, the cost of which averages \$43,781.00, or about £9,000. If the European lines pay at such an enormous cost, need we be afraid?—*Scientific American*.

One of the re- ing held at T ult., in further neral Hospital below. From Marshall, it w taken in the hope success Committee.

Resolved, T pointed to soli the inhabitants sons, according Committee, for ed, and that application in t vincial Legisla to pass such e may be requi of such Public its effectual an

The followi committee will bor:—

Ward 1.—I Laidlaw, and 2.—Archd. man, James T 3.—A. F. Uniacke, P. M 4.—John D Angus, Charle 5.—W. M. O'Neill, Wm. 6.—Judge J Jennings, and At a meetin held in Tempe inst., the follow ed office-bear man: James T ers, Secretary W. M. Brown And the Com mittee derson, John 4.—Edgar D Howe.

The Comm munity that t of a few day cordance with take the liber their applica liberality whi portance of t anticipate.

Mr. EDITO the late Wm. with the disc mother, to rei radical, our the sympathy in his last illi had become a the Odd Fell was a membe kindness of N inmates of the ly it will be g of her only cl her, to know not wanting ing dissolutio ister every co supply.

—Boston Oa

SUNDAY SC NORTH.—The 3,921; officer 429,589; vol classes, 5,486; of schools, \$54 from all source total grants to bursements, \$ commencing

The Bible i has formally c with the New Bible Union,

The numbe 381, embraci 24,000.