AN AUTUMN DANGER.

The season for coun'ry fairs is approaching. Prize lists are being scanned, and busy men and women are making timely preparation for the exhibition of the results of their industry. We wish all these well in their various efforts to compete with the skill and taste of other near and distant producers. So numerous have fairs and exhibitions become, that there can now be few farmers' families so isolated as to be unable to display specimens of their culture or handiwork without any very great dif-

We are not prepared to assert that all the arrangements with reference to these gatherings are of the wisest character. The farmer's daughter who called attention to an advertisement of a fair in which fifty dollars was offered for the fastest trotting horse, and twenty-five for the second, while only fifty cents could be spared the maker of the best loaf of bread, certainly had some ground for argument. And this leads us towards the point we aim to make -that while it is possible to make such occasions conducive to profitable instruction and pleasant recreation, it is possible also to bring them into sad disrepute, and even to make them ruinous to the morals and usefulness of the youth who attend them. It is probable that under our present laws the sale of liquor in their vicinity may not be under the control of their managers, but every farmer, and for that matter every citizen, shouldexert himself to the utmost to guard his own and his neighbors' sons from danger of a first or even second step in drunkenness. On the morning following a late fair in a Massachusetts district, a judge who had thirtyfour men and boys before him in the dock, uttered some most scathing words. But there are other evils. Horse-racing and betting on horses eclipse everything else in the attention of some. A leading American paper goes so far as to assert that "more young farmers have got the horse-trading, horse-racing and gambling spirit at these fairs than have ever learned anything of profit to them in legitimate farming." We have at times asked ourselves if certain men have not rather been in the main attracted to some agricultural society by their intention to useit as a cover for racing, than from any other motive. In speaking of this evil, a man of years declared the race course to be the theatre where the worst kind of gambling is practiced. He remarks :

Bets are often made on trials of speed a year or more in advance; the mind, the heart, and body are preoccupied and engrossed. I have known sportsmen, while with heavy bets pending and horses in training for the coming contest, to become religiously impressed : but few of them have yielded. The very fact that they had committed themselves to a race for a large, sum utterly discouraged all serious efforts. Grant that something may be true which is claimed for it, as to improving certain qualities of the horse, the employment it gives to labor, the people it brings to the hotel and public carrier interests, and the recreation it affords to the masses who attend, backed and countenanced by legislators, judges, fashion, and wealth, still, candor compels the verdict that the evil infinitely transcends the benefit. The benefit is largely imaginary, the evil influence they naturally exercise over their own families, especially their sons and sons in-law, over their associates, retainers, trainers, stableboxs, and the long retinue of flatterers, loafers, and worn-out specimens of humanity; the diversion it tosters a lverse to pisty, purity, and intellectual culture, leaving out of view the pecuniary investment in it, and which cannot be readily turned into other and useful enterprises without heavy loss-all, and more, unite to condemn the race track as exceptionally objectionable-a gigantic gamble. Under the most favorable surroundings it works evil. The fictitious importance it confers upon the least valuable quality of the horse is overwhelmingly counterbalanced by its degrading effects upon the noblest attributes of manhood. And this applies alike to aristocratic Epsom, Derby and the quarter-mile extemporized race at the dilapidated village for a quart of c intraband whiskey-with the exception that the former is worse in proportion to its assumed greater respectability.

A Provincial Presbyterya yearor two since passed a strong resolution in condemnation of horse racing, declaring ly. any countenancing of it on the part of

steadfastly believe. Let all Christian farmers be specially careful in this Crofts, who had been spending a week view, too, it is to some extent true

ON FURLOUGH

A few days ago, through the kind offer of a former editor of the WESLEYAN, I turned my back upon the office for a hurried trip to Cape Breton. A single short day on the Intercolonial sufficed to take us-not precisely the editorial we- to the limits of Nova Scotia proper. glance at the Strait of Canso reminds one of the improvement in travelling aids. With Port Hawkesbury as a back ground, the picture was a pretty one as at the railway wharf lay several small steamers, soon to be joined by the Marion, a pretty and most comfortable steamer, plying between Syd-

that I had not seen the beauty of Salt Hill to look down upon its beau-Cape Breton before having visited ties. some noted lake and mountain scenes in Scotland and Switzerland. My experience in this respect may profit some reader. There is probably in equal Cape Breton, yet one finds himself constantly comparing her high which elsewhere stretch up into Baddeck Island Reporter, and cloud regions. The numerous islands with a very courteous reception. in the Great Bras d'Or lake, just beby a halt at occasional landings, island by his "Baddeck and That where passengers or freight are to be Sort of Thing," but an immense deal discharged, or where some signal may remains to be done in a somewhat would-be-passengers. Happily no Walter Scott has done for Scotland. one had on that day the courage of The various places which his writings the man who some years ago, on one have made classic ground, and to fine morning on the St. John river, which he has drawn public curiosity, caused an obliging captain to beach are yearly visited by crowds of tourists. the bow of his steamer, in order that In consequence of this, villages have he might hand him a letter! That been enlarged, hotels have been built, captains are not without their troubles roads have been opened and improved. we saw Captain Burchill in a strait tablished and a number of operatives betwixt two as to whether he should employed. Stratford-on-Avon will impatient train at Port Mulgrave. strel," and "The Lady of the Lake." Some folk need a frequent repetition of the lesson of the old Quaker who out more extensive hotel accommodastruck the name of a certain man off tion. The Bras d'Or Steamship Comhis list of future pall-bearers, since pany, and that which has brought his well-known delay of a quarter of the Clyde from the Quebec and an hour would involve a waste of an Saguenay route, are providing accomhour and a half to the whole group. | modation for a number quite too

not linger. Favored by wind and tide A pressing need is the erection of a we moved on through the Grand Nar- first-class summer hotel at each of two rows. past Baddeck, around Point or three special points. The company Aconi, where the ocean that day lay undertaking to do this would conas calm as the lake, and then into the fer public benefit, at no probable risk wide Sydney harbor, where the Marion of loss. Without this accommodation was to keep a Sabbath rest. Long the most obliging officers will scarcely the country. Mr. Harnett was for may it be. as we remarked to a some- make the several boats pay their way. what doubting American friend, before the demands of the tourist shall lead religious paper see nothing worthy of to a disturbance of Sabbath quiet on note in the religious aspect of the those lakes !

headquarters, occupies a pretty posi- intelligible after previous statements tion, but the growth of trade in other he reserves some thoughts for another quarters has interfered somewhat paper. with its prosperity. Just in front of the town lay the French flagship LaFlore, whose band frequently added we met an old friend, Mr. Thomas real and far-reaching. Whether we Hutchings, whose temperance effort nouncement for a meeting of the leadregard the kings of the turf, the in the Island has better qualified him incliquor dealers of this city to be held in the Island has better qualified him giving," in behalf of B. A. Book and Tract Society. Sunday religious services were enjoyed in the church which not long since, during the stay of Mr. Coffin, was moved to that part continual meddling with the laws of the town which is growing most rapidly. Both preacher and choir were at home in their work. As Mr. Evans announced "The God of Abraham praise," Thomas Olivers' grand old hymn, it occurred to me how rarely I had dared announce it, but without hesitation it was sung, and sung it seemed, in the true spirit of praise by the small but most competent choir. An attentive congregation aided not a little the preacher of the evening. Succeeding days, thanks to the atten-

Other points of interest must be professing Christians to be at variance briefly noted. North Sydney is a statement that "the effect of such a with their solemn obligations to live growing place, as the shipping at its measure as the Scott Act would be

tion of Mr. and Mrs. Evans and other

being supplied meanwhile by Mr. in fact. From their own point of at Baddeck. Brief calls were made that "the utmost confusion at present upon Joseph Salter, Esqr., long a pillar prevails; trials and prosecutions of in Methodism, and at the office of Mr. Bertram, the effective editor of the North Sudney Herald, and several points of interest were visited. steam ferry boat plying between Sydnev and North Sydney, a distance of also a growing place and a special resort of tourists. Through the kindness of friends we were favored with a view of it from several points. For beauty of situation it can scarcely be surpassed. It is a question, so far as nature is concerned, whether Scotland can furnish a spot to surpass in beauty the little bay of Whycocomagh. The ney and Mulgrave, via the beautiful stay of the Clyde an d the heat of th day would not permit me to climb It was almost a matter of regret the seven hundred feet and more of

Cape Breton is not yet known as it should be, but each year the public is learning more of the wealth and beauty of the Island. The press is the Maritime Provinces nothing to ably doing its part. I had the pleasure of calling upon the editors of the three Island papers, the North Sudney hills with the vast mountain peaks | Herald, the Sydney Advocate, the another way the press may be vond St. Peter's canal, will yet form effectively used, and, as we learn, a summer resort, not unlike that of the it soon will be used. The Rev. Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence. David Hickey has already in the press A little further on the lake stretches an historical story, founded on the out into an inland sea, but the sail is seige of Louisburg. Charles Dudley prevented from becoming monotonous | Warner has done something for the suggest the presence of one or more similar line. Who can tell what fer several others to the already wrote "The Lay of the Last Min-But all efforts will be useless with-On the beauty of the lakes we may large for the already existing hotels.

It may be asked, didithe editor of a places visited. He did, and verv Sydney, for two or three days our much too, but as this will be more T. W. S.

## SYMPTOMS.

No more emphatic testimony to the to the pleasure of the citizens. There growing power of temperance sentiment could be given than in the aningliquor dealers of this city, to be held to write a guide-book than any man at the Halifax Hotel on Monday last. we know: and there too a younger for the purpose of discussing recent friend, Mr. J. Sutcliffe, was offering temperance legislation. According to the citizens what a father in the minis- the circular issued the following were try used to call "the privilege of the points deemed worthy of special consideration :

1st Whether an association of merchants interested in the business, taking united political action, might not have the effect of preventing the which has been going on during the past few years.

2nd. Whether, as there is every likelihood of the Scott Act being put before the people of Halifax at an early day, action should be now taken to have this project stopped, or if the measure be brought to a vote, to exercise all lawful means to have it defeated at the polls.

3rd. If the leading merchants are sufficiently interested in the matter. to take the necessary steps to have the laws amended and put on a fair basis to the merchants and community alike -viz., to agree to take and exercise united political action until the result kind friends, passed quite too quick- aimed at be attained.

The circular in question is a clever attempt to befool the public. The for the glory of God. That this con- wharves indicates. Mr. Wright and practically ruinous to many admits of

clusion cannot be set aside we most his family were at Ingonish, his place no argument," has some foundation peaceable and fair-dealing men (the italics are ours), have been frequent occurrence; every likelihood that the Scott Act, with all its attendant abuses and losses. will be put before the people of Halifive miles, is a very great convenience. fax at an early day, exists; and al-Baddeck, on the Little Bras d'Or, is together it cannot but be admitted that action in some way is desirable and necessary-"

> our hopes, but they lead us to look more ardently for the dawn of that brighter day from which they so instinctively shrink. Their visions of " lessened trade" will have little weight with men who watch the tremendous expense and suffering is to be celebrated. arising from a business which drags down and enfeebles and demoralizes a country in order that a few men comparatively may grow wealthy. Take this incubus from our city and country and the results in the way of the general benefit would be beyond the expectation of the most enthusiastic temperance advocates. A story is told of an eccentric man somewhere in this Province whose boy got him on the floor to aid in training a favorite pup. The pup caught the old gentleman by the nose, when the boy, instead of removing the animal, roared out," Bear it, father, bear it, it's the making of the pup!" The country at large has been suffering on the floor, in order to enrich a few, and this few, seeing their craft in danger, are putting forth effort to continue such a state of things. It is evident from this and similar movements that sneers at temperance workers will henceforth be out of order, and that the once laughed at "disciples of the pump" are making their influence everywhere felt. "The day of redemption draweth near."

We have observed with sad interest in the Bermudian papers the death of on this route, however, we learned as lines of steamboats and coaches es- Jeremiah Harnett, Esq., of Hamilton. His loss must be deeply felt by his afflicted family and by the church. incur the enmity of several dilatory for ever be indebted to the grave of The writer is not forgetful of the passengers at Port Hawkesbury, or Shakspeare, Dryburgh to the grave of kind deeds received from him while bear severer blame for failing to trans- Scott, and Melrose to the pen which in Bermuda, and of kind words writhas kindly handed us a copy of the Bermuda Royal Gazette of the 19th ult., in which it is said:

> Mr. Harnett was well known as one of the founders of the Mechanics' Association, of which he was President at the time he left Bermuda for Australia, and proprietor and editor of the Argus, a Melbourne paper. After his return to Bermuda he became proprietor of the Hamilton hotel, and for ten years did much by his enterprise to encourage visitors to our Islands as a winter resort. As a member of the Corporation of Hamilton he took a deep interest in every measure for the improvement of the town; as well as for the general welfare of many years a respected and active member of the Methodist denomination. As a member of the building committee of the new church he was indefatigable in his efforts for its completion. He bore his last illness with Christian resignation to the Divine housie, a place in the First Division. will, and up to the last moment exhibited the same cheerful trustfulness that had characterized his whole life.

The belief is gaining ground that only be attained by the presence of | building : tried Christian men, who will scorn the deeds of the low class of political workers. On this subject the London Methodist remain

Years We were not convinced of the earth. applied, and we could scarcely avoid will write more fully at a later date. the conclusion that the use of it was traditional. We regret to see that the words of the prophet (Is. xlv. 9) have been used in a similar application in a sermon preached at the Burslem Conference. We hold that the work of the politician may be done as religiously and as acceptably to God as the work of a Methodist class-leader or minister; and the tradition which this application of the prophet's words perpetuates is out of date, and is, moreover, indicative of a state of mind which we labour to discourage. Christian politicians are greatly needed; and we can see no good reason why Christians should be taught that interest in political questions does not belong to them.

The writer of the report of the recent Sackville District meeting supplies an unintentional omission:

"The Rev. R. Weddall, B. A., was elected by ballot to represent the Dis. trict at the meeting of the Local Missionary Committee in conjunction with the District Superintendent, who is ex efficie a member of the Board."

The Brunswick Street Church in this city will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary on Sabbath next. Sermons appropriate to the occasion will be preached on that day by the Rev. J. A. Rogers, President of the Conference, in the morning, and Rev. J. Lathern, D. D., in the evening. A preparatory service of song and prayer will be held in the basement at 10 a. m. On Monday evening at 7.30 a meeting will be held in the church. at which Lieut. Governor Richey will preside. Addresses will be given by Hon. S. L. Shannon, Revs. T. W. We must admit that the fears of Smith, S. F. Huestis, J. Lathern, D. these liquor-dealers have exceeded D., and J. A. Rogers, An historic paper will be read by the pastor. The occasion should be one of great interest. It is a somewhat singular fact that the Sabbath of opening was September 14th, precisely the date of the Sabbath on which the semi-centennial

> The Western Christian Advocate says that a minister in West Virginia "proposes, in the Journal and Messenger, to be one of twenty Baptist ministers now living in West Virginia, who use tobacco, to pledge themselves not to use it in any way for one year, with a positive understanding that if any one breaks this pledge he shall pay twenty dollars into the treasury of the State Mission Board. We regret that it must be assumed that twenty Baptist ministers of West Virginia use tobacco: but if that is the case, it is time to do something about it. One of the greatest curses of the country is the general and excessive use of tobacco. The ministry should lead in a reform."

In view of those seasons of sorrow which must come sooner or later to all homes, it may not be unwise to call to mind the means which John Wesley used to prevent at his death the display which he hated. Determined that his own funeral should be entirely plain and modest, he inserted a clause in his will, which read as

I give six pounds to be divided among the six poor men, named by the assistant, who shall carry my body to the grave; for I particularly desire there may be no hearse, no coach, no escutcheon, no pomp, except the tears of them that loved me, and are following me to Abraham's bosom. solemnly adjure my executors, in the name of God, punctually to observe

We learn from the St. John Telegraph that Alexander Wilmer Duff, of Portland, N. B., a member of the graduating class of 1884 in the University of New Brunswick, has won the first place among all competitors throughout the empire for the Gilchrist Scholarship, and has in addition obtained the number of marks qualifying for an Exhibition also. This is a rare distinction indeed. According to the same paper, J. A. Bell of Dalhousie College, and Frank W. Nicolson, of Mount Allison College, took good positions in the Honors Division, and A. G. Reid, of Dal-

A note of the 8th inst., from Dr. Inch. Mount Allison, Sackville, gives some further information respecting reform in the realm of politics can the formal opening of the new college

It has been found expedient, after consultation with the Presidents of the Conferences, and with the Chairman and several of the members of the Board of Governors, to have the heard an eminent formal opening and dedication of the Years heard an eminent formal opening and dedication of the Wesleyan with ster speak of men who Centennial Hall on the 9th of October, take part in politics as 'the potsherds | and not on the 2nd as previously stated. Will you kindly make the above that the expression was correctly announcement in the WESLEYAN. I

We are glad to see that the French

scheme of occupying Formosa has

been abandoned. It is there that

Dr. Mackay and his colleagues of the Presbyterian Church of Canada have won such triumphs. French occupation would mean Jesuit Interference. -That bank affair in New Jersey is a terrible one. To call such robberies "shortage" is a shame. The heavier the robbery the softer is the duct the electricity of adverse criticism name applied to the rascality. 'Dollar Sunday" is an ingenious device of our Roman Catholic friends to raise money for the new St. Patrick's church. In this way they collected nearly \$3,000 last Sunday, Every one who can afford it. old and young, male and female is expected to contribute a dollar. If we are not mistaken, a priest stands by and watches the operation !

THE CHOLERA IN ITALY. The Rev. H. J. Piggott writes to the Methodist Recorder :

Your readers will all have seen in

the public journals the tidings of the sudden and terrible outbresk of the cholera at Spezia; but not all will be aware that our Methodist mission has its largest schools and a flourishing church and congregation in that smitten town. Yet so it is. No fewer than 387 children were entered into the registers of our day school there during the last year. The schools were to have been reopened after their brief summer holidays at the beginning of September; but the opening is now deferred indefinitely. Our evening services too are closed by or. der of the municipal authorities. Among the victims carried off by the first sweep of the pestilence was the daughter of one of our most respected ed and influential members of our Church, an officer in distinction in the Italian navy. Mr. Ernesto Filippini, the minister of our Church in Spezia, is a young man of great zeal, piety and ability. He and his wife had just returned from Rome, where they had been supplying for me during my absence. They have a young family, and neither Mrs. Filippini nor the children are in robust health. In what spirit the young pastor and his wife have met the terrible ordeal through which they have been sosuddenly called to pass, will be best seen from the following extracts from letter which has reached me from him this morning :-

" Here we are once more at Spezia. but in what circumstances! We arrived happily; but yesterday morning at ten o'clock the cholera broke out in the town with unexpected and light. ning-like vehemence. It seemed as if a great dark cloud had brought the infection in its bosom; in fact in twenty four hours we have had already forty-eight cases of which twenty-seven have been fatal. Our own beloved Church has already given its victim. Angela Caserta died in our arms yesterday evening after a few hours agony. Pray, oh! pray for us! I am a member of the Committee of Public Safety, and am hard at work. Pray for me! It may be we shall have to convert the church into an hospital. there not being accommodation enough for the sick. We have to suspend the evening services, and to put off indefinitely the opening of the schools. I shall stand upon the breach, and do my duty to the last as a Christian minister and a citizen. My wife is of the same mind with me, and is working hard also. Pray for us and write to

## THE DRIFT OF OPINION.

The Nashville Advocate, the official paper of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has an editorial on higher education, which shows that in that important section of Methodism the general opinion is precisely that given time after time in our Maritime Conferences. The Advocate remarks:

It is quite evident to us that the Churches may as well adjust themselves to the work of providing for the higher education in this country. The drift of public opinion sets that way. The logic of the situation points in that direction. Elementary education by the State-all beyond it by the Church and the family-is the proper and only possible solution of our educational problem. So much at least seems clear to us, and we think it will be clear to houghtful persons generally after they have considered the question in all its bearings.

The extraordinary efforts now being put forth to place our Church schools on a more solid footing are therefore opportune. The exigency forbids delay. The magnitude and vital character of the involved preclude the admisibility of failure. This work of establishing our schools must be done, and done quickly. It cannot be evaded without criminal neglect of duty, nor delayed without irreparable loss.

The Agents in the field are doing a work of two-fold value. They are oreating a demand for liberal education, while they are trying to make adequate provision to meet such demand. In some places, while looking for money, they find students; in others they find both. The average man will prefer to send his son or daughter to the school in which he invested his money. A good college agent is an educational evangelist, a propaganda of liberal learning. Let him be well treated, honored, borne with, and borne up by the sympathies and prayers and co-operation of all good men and women. Be kind and just to the college agent. He is the focus of all criticism and complaint with regard to the financial management of the school for which he labors. If the board of trustees adopt a defective plan of operations, the agent, as their executive officer, bears the blame. If subscriptions or endowment are unpaid, and a consequent deficit results, the agent is held responsible for the delinquency. He is n an exposed situation, and serves the purpose of a lightning-rod to conaway from others.

Silson, Yorkshire, England, has been the scene of some blessed meetings, conducted by Weslevan. Primitive and Methodist Free Church ministers and the vicar of the parish. A short distance from the village there is a remarkable natural formationan immense amphitheater, capable of seating many thousands of people and this was fixed upon as the place of meeting.

GEN'L. PRELIMI The General

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THEBy orde Board the to call the of the Meth intendents schools to New Discip lection be behalf of th Extension that this e the last Su

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