this policy achieved so much of popularity for the Government as has Sir R. Peel by his uncompromising out and thrust reply to the Papal Legate.

The head and front of Sir Robert's offending has been his appeal to the wealthier natives of Ireland in favor of taking the burden of educating the country as much as possible on their own shoulders, by endowing such institutions as the Queen's Colleges; and the grave aspect of this appeal, in the eyes of Dr Cullen, no doubt is that it has been successful—two or three public spirited Irishmen having spontaneously and at once given about £3000 for the object in view. Sir R. Peel has dealt the clamouring priests a severe counterblow. He has visited the districts which they declared to be in a state of absolute famine, and found that though scarcity in some cases there is, famine there is not. His allusion to the cheap philanthropy that seeks "to gain public applause by a feigned zeal for the public, in spreading about these exaggerated rumors," is, in the circumstances, not uncalled for.—*Scottish Guardian.*

## Temperance.

The Maddening Cup.—A minister of the Gospel told me of a member of his congregation, as noble a fellow as ever lived—generous—there was not a member of his church that gave so much as he, though only a member of the congregation, for the support of the Gospel; rich—sleeping partner in a firm in New York; with a wife and one child; living in good style. The only fault the minister had to find with him was, he would occasionally take a glass of wine, and would give it to the young men; and he said he had often talked with him about it. One day he saw him playing with his boy, and asked him—'Do you love your son?' 'Love him! noble little fellow! I love him better (than my own life.' 'You would not harm him?') 'Harm him! hurt my boy, never!' 'Now you never thought that a glass of wine. 'Stop, you are a fanatic; I respect you as a minister, but not your fanaticism on this point. The idea of a glass of wine hurting this boy—that I am going to ruin my child! Let this be a tabooed question between us. I have no patience to hear you talk so foolishly about it.' It was about six weeks after that one of the partners in the house came to see him on some business, and they rode to a manufacturing town about twelve miles distant.

He was one of those men 'mighty to drink wine, and a man of strength to mingle strong drink;' and there is no blessing pronounced on such men that we can find in the Bible. But he drank this man drunk for the first time in his life: and when they got to the hotel the city gentleman laughed at his maudlin companion, and said, I wonder what his wife will say to that. Returning, they drove up to the gate, and the child, with his mother, was on the marble steps, waiting for papa. In stepping from the carriage, the drunken man's foot caught in the reins, and he stumbled. If he had been sober he would have kept hold of the reins and the accident could not have happened.—But it made him angry, his self-control was disturbed, and he took the boy by the shoulder twisted him around and threw him down. As he was unable to walk, they carried him into the hall, and laid him on a settee; he fell off that on the floor, and went to sleep.

This clergyman told me—'They sent for me, and I never spent such a night in my life. There lay that child dead, the wife in convulsions, and the man asleep—asleep, with a dead child, whose yellow locks were dabbled in blood, lying in another room—asleep, with two physicians trying to save the life of his wife—asleep, under the damning influence of wine.—When he awoke it was a fearful waking. Pushing back his hair—'What is the matter! Where am I! Where is my boy! Where is my child! I must see him.' 'You cannot.' 'I must, I will! Where is my boy?' 'You cannot see him.' 'I must see him—I must see my boy!' They took him into the room, and turned down the sheet; and when he saw him he cried out, 'Oh, my God!' and fell back senseless. That clergyman told me—and I have his name in my note book—One year from that day I buried his body, brought from a lunatic asylum, to lay side by side with his wife and child.'

Young man, thank God for your safety, if you have never dared to tamper with that which disturbs the action of the brain, and brings a man to a point where he knows not what he is about. It is a risky business to touch the brain and it is the business of alcohol to do it.—*J. B. Gough.*

Asylum for Inebriates.—"It is said that four thousand seven hundred and thirty-five applications to the New York Inebriate Asylum are on file, coming from all the States of the Union, and from all classes of men, and some of them from foreign countries." This is the substance of an item that is just now receiving extensive circulation in the newspapers. We remember (says a New York journal) to have seen, more than a year ago, a report from the managers of the Asylum, classifying the applicants for admission, and it appeared from their exhibit that their list contained the names of some fifty clergymen, upwards of one hundred ladies of wealth and social standing, a large number of professional men and merchants, and that it contained the names of many men who were eminent in literature, in politics, at the bar, and in social life.

Now is this not an extraordinary state of affairs. But the truth is—and it might as well be told—that nearly every Asylum on this side the Atlantic is an "Asylum for Inebriates," as the cause of Lunacy in the great majority of cases can be traced back to the use of intoxicating drinks. We hope the day may soon arrive when our Legislators will pay heed to *facts*, and recognize in the Liquor Traffic the grand cause of the pauperism, crime, and lunacy which are to be seen on all sides.

THE

# Protestant & Evangelical Witness.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

## Antichrist—An Exposition.

To ascertain who this mischievous character is, it will not be necessary to detain the reader with explanations of the word, longer than to say, that it may mean, either one directly and openly hostile to Christ, or a supplanter of him. In the Scriptures the term is found alone in the writings of St. John. There it occurs four times.

Early in the history of the Christian Church, we find the appearance of antichristian doctrine. During the labors of apostles the unity of the Church was preserved, and the growth of evil seeds successfully checked, yet it cannot be denied that there are good grounds for the remark of Conybeare that "It is painful to be compelled to acknowledge among the Christians of the apostolic age the existence of so many forms of error and sin. It was a pleasing dream which represented the primitive church as a society of angels." From the warnings, the tears, the confessions and the discipline recorded in the apostolic Epistles, we might indeed learn that the heart then as now, of many who profess the name of Jesus, was wholly set in them to do evil—that Simon Magus was not the only baptised individual, who attempted to pervert the right way of the Lord. Then we find men of corrupt minds who brought in damnable doctrine, grievous wolves, who by teaching error and introducing immoral practices under guise of a higher christian liberty, turned the grace of God into lasciviousness and sadly devoured the flock. We find Christ predicting the appearance of false christs, his disciples combating with false teachers and with antichrist. Then were scattered in the field of the church those seeds of evil, which, gathered from Jewish Cabala or traditions, and heathenish speculations especially of a Platonic cast, mixed up with the appearance of truth as it is in Christ, have brought forth such a plentiful harvest of sorrow and death for eighteen hundred years. False christs! false prophets! false teachers! antichrist! Error enough in these words to constitute the germ of all the evil which from the destruction of Jerusalem up to the present moment has disfigured the fair face of Christianity!

Let us now try, and get at John's idea of antichrist, as he alone, as was said, uses the word. This inspired penman quite evidently identifies antichrist with the false prophet. In the fourth chapter of his first epistle he maintains that the spirit of *lying* was the brand on the face of the false prophet, by which he might be known of all men; and he also maintains that such also is the distinctive feature of antichrist. See 1 John iv. 1—3. Let it be also noted that in this passage we find that the false prophet is not a foreteller, but a teacher; he is a false teacher, and the error he teaches is the pernicious doctrine that Christ has not come in the flesh, and that this was the spirit of antichrist. Thus John links on to the horns of antichrist both the false prophet and false teacher of the scriptures. Moreover, his idea of antichrist is so extensive, as well it might, as to embrace in it besides these, even the false christs of the scriptures. The false christs are by no means to be confined to that infatuated class of deceivers who claimed to be the Messiah; others that never laid claim to this distinction in the sight of Him who looks upon the heart, *must be so estimated.* The Lord spoke of men and things not according to appearance, but according to reality. Individuals might be found honoring the name of Jesus and professing regard for his religion, yet setting up claims and teaching doctrine, which, if carried out, would exclude him from the throne of the universe, and deprive him of the glory of Redemption. Such men would be antichrists in fact, and viewed as such by the true Messiah. Such men there were in the days of John, and such yet there are. Now this virtual, though covered opposition to Christ is a very striking feature in the antichrist of the beloved apostle. Hence, see the descriptive terms used by John, when speaking of antichrist. He is an *apostate*, 1 John ii. 19., and a *liar* v. 22. He professeth Christ, but falsely, chap iv. 3. He is a *Deceiver*, 2d Epistle v. 7. In all this, it is quite clear that John admits that antichrist professes Christ; but at the same time originates and pushes forward a system of things which *virtually* excludes Christ from his cross and crown; builds up a system that is *the* liar and *the* deceiver, and is a false christ. Antichrist, according to John, is a many-sided monster, having a ready adaptation to any sort of error which may profess Christ, but in works deny him.

Let us loook again over John's description of him. This evil was something peculiarly characteristic of the last times, 1 Epistle chap. ii. 18. That is, as we understand the statement referred to, (viz. "whereby we may know it is the last times") not only by which the mere fact of its being the last times was indicated, but something that could only spring up during the last dispensation of mercy—that antichrist was a form of evil that could only take root and grow up along side of christianity. Heathenism was suggested to Satan by the ancient dispensations, and the former was a vile caricature of the latter; it was an apostacy from God as he was known and worshipped by the ancients. Christianity is the last dispensation of grace to man. Satan perceived that mere heathenism would not constitute a sufficient check to christianity; that by it he was cast out of his wonted power (Rev. xii. 8, 9., compare Luke x. 18.) he then contrived the antichristian system by which "to make war" with the saints of God. The peculiarity of this evil lies especially in its being a vile imitation or caricature of the Gospel dispensation. Hence it is "divers" from all that had been, Dan. vii. 24.* Now as Satan will only imitate the true, for in this way will he more successfully destroy, John we suppose to say maintains that we may know by the existence of this extraordinary and unique system that it is the last times—the genuine may be recognized by the presence of its counterfeit. When the apostle says "*ye have heard* that antichrist shall come" and "hereby we know" &c., he may refer to what Daniel says chap. vii. 24—27., where it is shown that this peculiar organization shall be the last form of evil permitted before the saints shall have universal dominion. He also refers doubtless to what Paul had written on the subject. John goes on to say of this evil that it is an apostacy of such a character that whilst the true religion was really deserted, the appearance of it was not wholly given up v. 22. The true church *was left*, but then to detect the nature of the defection one requires spiritual vision—the "unction of the Holy One." Hence, too, the necessity of repeated and emphatic warnings to the church to try the spirits, 1 John iv. 1., so that antichrist might be detected v.3. Antichrist was a grievous wolf, but clad—and because of this all the more dangerous—in sheep's clothing; and demanded from the church cautious scrutiny. The evil had a dangerous connection with outward christianity. The plot to destroy christianity by the invention of a machinery like it, but yet essentially hostile and deadly do it, was so complete in its parts, bold in its idea, and so well carried out, that it by way of eminence is *the* (not a) Deceiver, 2 John v. 7, *the* (not a) liar, the antichrist. The evil of a false judaism, and the evil of heathenism, and also of infidelity was known and opposed by christians, but here was a suitable foe, an enemy in the camp, a traitor palming himself upon the household of faith as one that belonged to it. John's idea of antichrist is plain. He is one who corrupts the truth and thus turns it into a lie, extracts the substance of christianity and retains the shell, an unrelenting foe to it, under the guise of a friend; betrays Christ whilst he pretends to bow to his authority, and accept his mediation; he is a false teacher, a false prophet, a false Christ. This peculiar and special feature of antichrist as "the liar" was also noted by Daniel, chap. 7, v. 8. where it is said that the "little horn" had eyes "*like* the eyes of a man," and "a mouth speaking great things." In Daniel the true kingdom is represented by one like unto a Son of man, because in this kingdom humanity obtains its true development and ultimate end. The eyes then in the little horn are intended to delineate the disposition of this earthly power to assume the appearance of the true, and to take up into its system as much of what is true as it can appropriate to its unholy purposes; and the mouth speaking great things denotes his lofty *pretensions* in this direction,—that claimed to be the true kingdom. But whilst such are its claims, mark how darkly the prophet describes its beastly character, exhibited in its war with the saints—a "fellow" to the other godless powers, and wearing a countenance "more stout" even than they. Paul, also, in that terrific description of the "man of sin," given in 2 Thess. ii. where as by the stroke of a master hand the hideous features of the opposer of God starts up in distinct lines, does not overlook this same peculiarity, but distinctly assures us that, impious as his claims are, he is found "sitting in the temple of God!" *i. e.* takes his place in the church of God and remains there! In 1 Tim. iv. 1—3, it is not any kind of departure from the truth that is meant, but still this same specious dogma—"the setting up of false worship, ensnaring consciences with new laws, adulterating the true worship of God, and corrupting the pure doctrine of faith." (Calvin.) Paul predicts when addressing the Ephesian Presbyters the same character of evil, and says, "also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away *the* (as it should be translated) *the* disciples after them. We shall resume this subject next week.

* In Dan. vii. 23, reference is made to heathen Rome, but in verse 24 to antichrist. After Rome ancient should be broken or dismembered, another power should arise and be "diverse" from heathen Rome. Heathen Rome was diverse from all other heathen Powers, and this last one should be diverse from it; so that it is true, as we have said, that it was diverse from all that had been.

## Presbytery of P. E. Island.

This Court met on Wednesday last in this city. There were present the Rev. Messrs Allan, Crawford, Sutherland Laird and Morrison; and Messrs Laird, Hunter, Auld, Clarke and M'Lean, elders. The inclemency of the weather and the state of the roads prevented others from attending. At the first sederunt the most important business was the propriety of moderating in a call at Dunlop. On deliberation it was agreed that the moderation should take place on the first Wednesday of February—Mr M'Neill of Woodville to conduct the services. At the afternoon sederunt it was agreed, after some discussion, to allow Mr Morrison of Strathalbyn to preach every third Sabbath in St. John's, New London, during the winter, should his own congregation give their consent—that consent to be asked by the Rev. Wm. Ross of West River, on the first Tuesday of January. The question of supplies to vacant congregations occupied the chief part of the last sederunt. The Presbytery resolved to call the special attention of vacant congregations to the urgent necessity for each congregation receiving supply to pay the full amount due the laborer sent, before he receives from the congregation. To meet these demands a fund should be in readiness.

SUPPLIES.

Mr Falconer, Probationer, was continued in Queen Square (there) during part of the six months. Mr M'Lean, appointed to the congregation at Dunlop. Mr M'Neill to be appointed to preach, South Side of Murray Harbor on the second Sabbath of January. Mr Munro is appointed to preach at Murray Harbor, North Side, on the fourth Sabbath of January. Mr W. R. Frame, Probationer, is appointed to preach at North New London on the last Sabbath of Dec. and first Sabbath of January; then for the four following Sabbaths at Richmond Bay, the next Sabbath at North New London, and for the four following Sabbaths at West St. Peter's.

Mr Crawford was appointed to preach at Tryon on the third Sabbath of January: and Mr Patterson at the same place on the third Sabbath of February.

The Presbytery resolved to apply for another Probationer during the winter, from the Home Mission Board. At present there are no less than six vacant congregations, besides stations, within the Presbytery.

The Presbytery adjourned, to meet in Charlottetown on the last Wednesday of February, 1862.—*Com.*

Mr Sabine Knight will lecture, at Temperance Hall, To-morrow (Sunday), at ½ to 4, on "The Unity of the Body;" and at ½ past 7, subject "Death in the Garden." On Monday, at ½ past 7, "Times of the Gentiles," continued.

Mr Sabine Knight, Evangelist, will (D.V.) preach at the Baptist Meeting House, to-morrow (Lord's Day) morning, at the usual hour.

The Spanish Clergy and the Pope.—It appears that one of the Queen of Spain's chaplains, D. Fernando de Castro, in a sermon lately preached in presence of the Court in the Royal Chapel of Madrid, greatly surprised his audience by proclaiming his adhesion to the doctrines propounded by Father Passaglia on the temporal power of the Pope, and by advocating with much earnestness the principle of a united Italy. D. Fernando de Castro, besides being one of the Royal chaplains, is Professor of General History at the University. "The sermon," observes one of the papers.

"Was an energetic manifesto, and an eloquent protest in favor of the cause of Italy, and the sensation which it has produced proves that the public completely sympathize with the good cause, which De Castro has defended with a courage which does him much honour."

A letter adds that the Court Chaplain "has gone far beyond Father Passaglia." The name of De Castro is not unknown to the Madrid public; he is said to be a man of great erudition, as well as of considerable talent; but one can well fancy the effect of his sermon on the Royal family, the cardinals, the prelates, and, above all, the Archbishop of Toledo, Father Claret, on hearing such doctrines defended in the hearing of the King and Queen, and so soon after the Royal Speech from the throne.—*Times.*

## British and For. American News.

### United States.

New York, Dec. 16.—The excitement on Change is intense beyond description.

Saltpetre advanced 11 to 15 cents a pound. Few holders would name any price. Brimstone kept out of Market. Coffee and Tea all withdrawn, or only offered at enormous prices.

Sterling Exchange advanced to 110. Stocks decline 4 to 8 per cent.

New York, 17th.—The Herald's Washington despatch says:—"Cabinet in session for several hours to-day; the difficulty with England was discussed with great calmness and firmness. Whatever the demand from England may be, our Government is resolved that Mason and Slidell shall never be given up."

The Times' despatch says:—

Rumors of Messengers arriving post haste with despatches for Lord Lyons are false. No ultimatum from English Government regarding Mason and Slidell is expected at beginning, or before diplomatic correspondence on the subject.

Richmond papers contain full particulars of the fire in Charleston on the night of the 11th. The loss is estimated at from five to seven million of dollars.

The Confederate Congress has voted two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the relief of the sufferers.

It is reported from Southern sources that a Maryland Regiment had deserted from the Federal army, and marched into Centreville with Confederate flag flying.

Cincinnatti, 17th.—It is reported that our troops are crossing Green River and that Buckner is advancing to offer battle on this side of Bowling Green.

The Kentucky rebels are most jubilant over the prospects of a war with Great Britain.

Union men will come square to the mark and demand war rather than yield to an apology.—*Hx. Reporter.*

New York, Dec. 19.—The *Times* Washington despatch says that the English Messenger and bearer of War Despatches reached Washington last night at 12 o'clock. It was rumoured yesterday that Government had decided to give up Messrs. Mason and Slidell.

The New York *Times* despatch says that at a Cabinet meeting held yesterday, the *Trent* matter had been formally discussed; the prevailing sentiment was understood to have been that no quarrel with England will be permitted to interfere with the putting down the Rebellion. The demand of England will be met in a spirit of conciliation.

The New York *Herald* says that it has the highest authority for saying that the possibility of Mason and Slidell being given up, under any circumstances, does not now exist. The President remains firm and immovable on this point.

The British ship *Cheshire*, which was captured off Savannah, has arrived.

A smart action took place at Mumfordville, Kentucky, between 350 Federals, under Colonel Wallace, and a large Rebel Force. The latter were defeated, with a loss of 62 killed. The Federal loss was 15 killed, and 30 wounded.

The movement of the Army on the Potomac is thought to indicate a general advance by General M'Clellan.

We learn that a vessel has been captured and burned, and her crew taken prisoners into Charleston, by a Southern Privateer. The privateer made signals of distress, and hoisted the English Flag, whereupon the vessel in question bore down to assist, and was captured. She was owned by an American, in Mill Village, Nova Scotia.

### Nova Scotia.

Intercolonial Railway.—The steamer "Europa," at this port on Sunday from Liverpool, brought letters from the Hon. Mr. Howe, in which we learn he speaks hopefully of the prospects of success attending the Intercolonial Railway Delegation. The Hon. John Ross, of Canada, came passenger in the steamer. Though not a member of the Delegation, he is well known as a prominent and influential Canadian politician; and he had, while in England, an opportunity of seeing and conversing with at least some of the men upon whose decision this matter will finally depend. In conversation with several gentlemen of this city, while the steamer remained in port, he gave such information as places our railway prospects in the most favorable light. Several members of the English administration are warmly in favor of the scheme. We are not aware that any definite arrangements have yet been made; but it may be gathered from the remarks of Mr Ross, that as far as negotiations have proceeded everything wears a favorable aspect, more favorable, indeed, than some of the delegates, on leaving these shores, ventured to hope.

The serious threatenings of war, of which the *Europa* brings intelligence, must give a strong impulse on the other side of the water, to the cause of the delegates. We fancy that the Hon. Mr Howe may with feelings of pride, now point the attention of the statesmen of England to his speech delivered at Southampton in 1851, just ten years ago, and direct them to the arguments, drawn from the uncertain character of the friendship of the American nation, which he therein urged in favor of constructing an intercolonial railway.—*Chronicle.*

## LOCAL.

To our Patrons and others.—The half of our third Vol. is complete with the present issue. The character of this Journal is now pretty generally known, and, we believe, with the exception of a few who appear to be ashamed of their religion, it is considered by Protestants of all denominations a useful family newspaper. We keep our readers informed of the great religious events of the day, and so far as we can obtain intelligence, also respecting the proceedings of the different bodies of Protestants in our Island. Our secular news we think is as carefully selected, and as comprehensive, though perhaps not so full in detail, as that of any newspaper published in the Colony. We have not failed to chronicle the principal doings of Popery abroad, and to call attention to some of its expectations at home—expectations which we hope will never be realized. Into politics we have not entered so fully as some of our contemporaries; but we have occasionally expressed an independent opinion on matters that have engaged the attention of our Legislature. We shall not, however, boast much of the past, nor promise greater things for the future than that we purpose to make our journal still more acceptable and useful to our numerous patrons. We thank them for their countenance and support hitherto, and trust we shall receive a continuance of their favor. For those who do not pay in advance our terms have been considerably reduced, thus affording an additional inducement to subscribe on the part of those who find it difficult to meet their engagements until the autumn of each year. Should war break out between England and America, the news will be exciting and important; and surely no person who can read, will fail to supply himself with the means of obtaining the intelligence of the day; and though the war should not take place, yet the events of the coming year will no doubt be of a stirring character—particularly in the religious world. As a means of obtaining *all* kinds of intelligence, the *Protestant* is certainly the best of any paper published in the Colony. We hope then during 1862 to add many names to our subscription list. We have engaged an agent, Mr James Sinclair, to travel in the Western part of the Island to solicit new subscribers, and collect arrears for this paper. We trust that he shall receive the encouragement and aid of our friends, and that those who have been furnished with accounts will be prepared to settle them when he calls, which will be sometime in the month of January.

Island Literature.—We copy the following notices from a late No. of the *Scottish American Journal*:

The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island. By C. Black Bagster. Charlottetown, P. E. I.: John Ings. 1861.

In the compass of rather less than two hundred duodecimo pages, Mr Bagster has given us what he modestly calls a "sketch" of the history, progress, and probable future of this interesting colonial possession of the British crown. The book is, in itself, and speaking materially merely, a production very creditable to the Island handicraftsmen; the typography being exceedingly neat, clear, and correct, and the binding firm and durable of its kind. It is the work of the Queen's printer, Mr John Ings, of Charlottetown; and it is not too much to say that the book could not have been sent forth more neatly to the world from the office of any other of her Majesty's printers, not excepting that of Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode themselves. Thus much being said by way of asserting the excellence of a branch of Prince Edward Island business, we turn to Mr Bagster's share of the work before us.

It is one of the hardest of literary tasks to compile a book on a colonial subject. The ground is so new, that the writer must rely much on his personal experience, or he must sift diverse verbal accounts for his facts with a skilfulness of discrimination that the writer of works of more pretension is rarely called upon to exercise. Mr Bagster, we perceive, has been for twenty years connected with Island interests—a fact which may give to his unsupported statements the weight of authority, and increase the value of the information he derives from other sources. Mr Bagster is well warranted in writing about Prince Edward Island. His object is certainly an excellent one. He wishes to make the Island known, in order that emigrants may find their way thither, to the benefit of the present inhabitants, and to their own great advantage. Forty pages are devoted to a concise history of the colony. Then follow thirty pages on the topography of the Island: then an account of its population informs us that there are 80,666 people on the Island, being over 10,000 more than there were in 1855—a very considerable increase. The natural history of the Island is treated of in four short chapters. The chapter on the agricultural capabilities of the Province gives us some rather startling, but by no means doubtful figures. Turnips seem to produce, with fair care, an average crop of twenty-two tons to the acre. Wheat is not a certain crop (it will be though, we are convinced, as soon as the farmers shake off their fear of the midge, and *determine* to grow wheat by skilful cultivation, a result quite attainable in each of the three Lower Provinces:) but it averages twenty bushels—a higher average than that of this State, and only four bushels short of the British average. The light warm soils prevailing in the Province produce barley with certainty and abundance, and of a quality equal, we once heard a competent judge say, in firmness of skin and plumpness of grain to the celebrated English malting variety known as the "Chevalier." Oats are very fine and very prolific, being easily raised at the rate of forty bushels to the acre. Immense quantities are exported, and if properly ground, the meal is not inferior to the best Scotch, as we can bear witness. Buckwheat and Indian corn are also good crops. Potatoes yield an enormous average quantity, and are of excellent quality. Of these also great quantities are exported, many thousand bushels finding their way to New York. They are, however, for the most part spoiled by the voyage. Education is free on Prince Edward Island, there being 263 schools of different classes, supported by legislative grants. The progress of the colony is satisfactory. The revenue has steadily risen from £4,228 12s 0d in 1825, to £41,106 3s 10d in 1859. In 1829, there were exported 47,797 bushels of oats, 14,471 bushels of barley and 123,547 bushels of potatoes. In 1859, the export of the same articles relatively was 1,111,970, 97,935, and 465,390; and there was a corresponding increase in the export of flour, fish, beef and pork.

A Manual of the Geography and Natural and Civil History of Prince Edward Island, for the Use of Schools, Families and Emigrants. By Rev. George Sutherland. Charlottetown: John Ross. 1861.

This little work was undertaken at the request of the Board of Education of Prince Edward Island, for use in the public schools. It is excellent in plan and arrangement, contains a great variety of information valuable to the islander or the intending emigrant. The reverend author goes over much of the same ground with Mr Bagster, but the style and character of the two works differ essentially. Each has desirable features of its own. Mr Sutherland's is, perhaps, chiefly valuable as a school book, yet it is copious enough on all the points of which it treats for general use. The style is vigorous and correct. It is nicely printed, with clear new type. Mr Sutherland gives a very perspicuous resume of the Land question, which is to Prince Edward Island what the Emancipation question is to this country, or what the Reform question was to Britain before 1832.

[Halifax Correspondence.]

## Gold Diggins, Island Produce, &c.

Halifax, Dec. 9, 1861.

Dear Editor,—It would stir up a little excitement in your pleasant city, were your citizens to see the valuable lots of gold, lately brought to town from different localities. There was a lot by Hattie, (brother of our Missionary Doctor) from Wine Harbor, weighing 120 ounces, which paid the proprietor eight dollars per day, and they have a large lot of unwashed quartz to have the finer particles extracted from it, so soon as there is a convenient crusher. Then Messrs. Dixon and Hewitt had six pounds weight of pure gold, the result of but a short period's labor. Their find was made near the village of Sherbrooke, which promises to be one of the richest of our gold fields. I understand that at Leidlow's place, distant 10 or 12 miles from this, sixty tons of quartz were sold at twenty one dollars per ton. Two auriferous veins have been discovered by the Chebucto Company, at Allan's, and a lot of quartz will soon be crushed by a very efficient mill, which is in operation in the south end of the city, which separates the gold very completely, at the rate of ten dollars per ton. You may perhaps remember that a gentleman named Sibley, of Australian experience in quartz mining, had commenced a shaft some time ago in Tangier. The story to-day is, that at a depth of 90 feet an auriferous vein, 15 inches in thickness, had been struck. I do not pretend to say what this will yield, but I know that the news produced anything but an unpleasant excitement on the mind of the enterprising miner, who, with an *esprit gent*, who takes great interest in such matters, hurried off to secure more ground in the neighborhood. I think some very extensive operations by English mining companies, will probably begin with the opening spring, as the facilities for travel are so great, and as the different fields become better known. I understand that Government is granting mining rights, to lots of three quarters of an acre, at one hundred and sixty dollars, payable quarterly, and five acres at proportionate rates; but probably when the Home waste, a royalty will be substituted. They are finding gold down about Guysborough too, and at Lunenburgh the number of claims taken up is daily increasing. Old Jack Frost has kept his fingers off them until this time, but no doubt he will soon clap his padlock on the earth, and cool down the excitement to a reasonable degree.

The market is almost bare of Island produce, and good oats would bring 2s. 3d., and Barley 2s. 9d., or 4s. Potatoes have maintained their price better than could have been anticipated, 1s. 9d. to 2s. may be quoted as their present market value. The Banks are drawing sterling exchange at 60 days sight at 12½ per cent., premium. Sight exchange is nominally 5 per cent., but private bills on the U. S. are current at considerably less rates, and the Banks do not care for long sighted paper, if offered to them for sale. There was a newspaper story, current after the arrival of the Bermuda Steamer, that an American Corvette had fired across the bows of a British man-of-war. This was not confined by the Admiral's letter to our Governor, dated the same day as the steamer sailed, and it is thought, had such a circumstance occurred, it would have been mentioned by the Admiral, as an important piece of news. A sad accident happened on the rail cars last Saturday. A man whose name I heard was Fraser, was proceeding in the Windsor train, having a ticket for Truro. He was told that he could not go in the Windsor cars, and was put off at the junction, but being determined to proceed, he jumped upon the train when it was in motion, leaving the platform, and fell between a first and second class car. He received such severe injuries that he expired in half an hour's time.

D. B.

## Young Mens' Christian Association and Literary Institute.

W. A. Johnstone, Esq., lectured before the Association on Thursday evening. "Genius and Self-Culture in Cottages" was his subject. The world and its history abound with instances and stories of self-made men in every department of life. The lecturer, however, confined himself to the poets. Indeed, he might have taken for the title of his lecture, "The Cultivation of Poetry under Difficulties." He began with Cadmon, an inspired herdman, who lived in the eighth century—who composed poetry before he knew the alphabet—and in some of his strains anticipated even the mighty Milton. He then introduced Taylor, the Water Poet of the days of Charles II., with his quaint adventures, and his witty descriptions of them. Robert Nicoll was then passed under review, being described as a "second Robert Burns;" dying younger than he, however, and leaving behind him a purer, if a less dazzling fame. Crabbe, Bloomfield, Tom Moore, Leyden, Hogg (the "Ettrick Shepherd,") Tannahill, Cowper, Gerald Massey, with others, all too little known among us, were severally noticed, characterized, and illustrated by quotations. The lecturer recited a spirited patriotic poem by the last named author, with the refrain,

"There's life in the old land yet;"

and took occasion to advert to the present posture of affairs as between Great Britain and America. The poem and the allusion were both received in a manner which clearly showed how strong is the current of public opinion among us in favor of the British policy in this matter. The whole was concluded with words of encouragement to all to sound their own capabilities. Who knows what genius may lurk among us, waiting only to be elicited?—or what may be accomplished by lofty aims?—or what consolation may be attained, if no other result be realized? The lecture occupied the whole evening. It displayed great research—was excellent in its moral tone and tendency—was written in a style not unworthy of the "genius" which it celebrated—and was heard by a large audience, with close and interested attention. It is pleasant to perceive, that Mr Johnstone's legal studies have not "frozen the genial current of his soul," and we shall hope hereafter to profit farther by his literary lucubrations.

Next Wednesday being New Year's Day, the New Year's United Prayer Meeting in connection with the Association, will be held, as heretofore, commencing at eight o'clock p.m.—*Com.*

Gaspereaux Debating Club.—Although this Institution has been in operation but a very short period of time, yet its members would astonish those of older Societies in the manner in which the debates are conducted. On Tuesday evening the 17th instant, the question, "Which is the most indespensable implement, the Farmer's Plough or the Mariner's Compass," was discussed in an able and interesting manner, and decided in favor of the Mariner's Compass, by a majority of one.

The question for the next evening's debate will be, "Which is the most useful to man, Salt or Iron." The subject is one which cannot fail to elicit a good discussion.—*Com. by Sec'y.*

Dundas Mutual Improvement Association.—According to announcement, Mr Angus M'Kenzie, Teacher, delivered a very useful and entertaining lecture on "Astronomy," before the above Association, on Tuesday the 3d instant, at Springton Schoolhouse. After the lecture, several gentlemen offered some interesting remarks on the subject under consideration. Next meeting to take place at the above named place, on Tuesday the 31st inst., at which time Rev. D. Morrison will illustrate Astronomy by diagrams. A scientific treat may be expected.—*Com. by Sec'y.*

No Mail has been received here from abroad since Saturday last, consequently our news columns this week are destitute of that interest which they ought to possess at the present crisis. The latest telegrams from the United States, which we copy from Nova Scotia papers, are very unsatisfactory, because almost contradictory.

We would call the attention of our citizens to the advertisement in to-day's issue of a Soiree to be held at Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening next in aid of the funds of the Charlottetown Debating Club and Reading Room. As this Institution is deserving of the countenance and support of the community, we hope the Hall may be crowded on the occasion.

We have received the *North British Review* for November. Its contents are: 1. Pascal as a Christian Philosopher; 2. What is Money? 3. Plato and Christianity; 4. Spain; 5. Poets and Poetry of Young Ireland; 6. Edmund Burke; 7. Scottish humor; 8. Comets; 9. Mr Mill on Representative Government. The first three articles are well written. The fourth represents Spain as in "a reviving state, and that her civil government, long tyrannical, has become comparatively free. "Her ecclesiastical tyranny, the last bondage to be relaxed, is growing less and less severe." In the fifth article, some very good specimens of the poetry of Young Ireland are given. No. 7 is the most indifferent article in this number, and is chiefly composed of anecdotes illustrating "Scottish humor." The remaining articles are all good—especially Edmund Burke—his Life and Genius.

"Rhymes for the Times and Reason for the Season."—This little pamphlet of 32 pages, by the Author of "The Island Minstrel," has for its subject "American Revolutions." The work is certainly all that it professes to be—"a rhyming rhapsody," and we should say, a little more. The rhyme is good, and the reason better than that of perhaps most metrical compositions; but the reader who expects to be carried away with flights of imagination, will have to be satisfied with an agreeable jingle, plain facts, and occasional sallies of wit. Mr Le Page is somewhat facetious at the expense of our republican neighbors; but that will