

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1857.

EDUCATION NO PARTY QUESTION.

THE secular papers are engaged in controversy on the subject of education. A great deal of dust has been thrown into the eyes of the people by the party spirit which has been evoked upon this and other questions of public importance.

One of these disputes, to which we may incidentally allude, as showing the action of that party spirit which at the last dissolution of the Legislature, our present rulers had it in their power to allay—the question of the cost of the Railroad—has been worn threadbare. The discussion however, has proved to the country the folly of the disputants—the one side trying to make it a serious matter with the electors whether the railroad ought to cost £5,000 or £10,000 a mile—and the other trying to get up a serious defence against what will be the real cost—as if what is essentially necessary to the prosperity of the country is not cheap at any price, and the only real question connected with such cost in which the country is interested, being, whether the money has been peculated or improperly squandered, neither of which can be proved. The dispute is a certificate to the integrity of the Railroad management—as an attempt to cast animadversion upon it and to damage individuals connected with it, it has been totally worthless.

If the Government party have agitated the question as to the cost of the Railroad, and have signally failed, either to damage individuals or the opposition by it,—the party in opposition with a view to damage the government in public estimation, and also to make a little political capital out of religious differences, and by way of retaliation—have commenced a discussion of the causes which operated to destroy the School Bill. They are engaged in a ticklish operation, and risk an equal failure.

The question before the country on the subject of education, is not the condemnation of either the general or separate school system. That would be the party view. A general school bill was approved by every denomination except the Roman Catholics, as one which seemingly offered the best opportunity of settling the educational question upon a basis of common utility. The Romanist influence was brought to bear against it, and the leader of the Government did not possess firmness enough, to place the issue before the country, but weakly succumbed to that influence. But after all, this does not prove that a separate School Bill might not be so guarded as to give the Romanists all that they want, with proviso that the Bible should be read in their schools, and to satisfy other denominations likewise. We do not see that injustice would be done to all other denominations except the Romanists by a Separate School system. It would have its difficulties of management certainly, but we do not know that these would be greater than would occur with a School Bill made for all denominations, but from which the Romanists would voluntarily exclude themselves. We can easily imagine that a School Bill apportioning the Provincial grant for education to each denomination according to the census, would be highly beneficial to the Church or the Wesleyans, who would not disagree or fight amongst themselves over their respective shares, and quite fair, altho' not so beneficial, to the disjointed Baptists or Presbyterians. In fact under it the Episcopalians, the Wesleyans, and the Romanists would reap a much greater advantage than under the general system, by which they might in some measure, be subject to Baptist or Presbyterian influence. We think that in this view of the subject, which has been carefully kept in the background by the advocates among the latter, for a general school bill, there is a very strong argument in favor of the equality of privileges that the separate school system would convey. We are by no means insensible, however, to the defects of the separate system. It was with a serious consideration of these defects, as they would apply to the sparse populations of thinly settled and extensive districts; and to the still more serious consideration, that such a Bill would be meant to imply a godless system of instruction; and with the desire to dispose for a time of an important question, on a basis which would be satisfactory to all, that the Episcopalians generally agreed to the principle of the Government Bill.

In the introduction of any measure of general education, the fundamental principle to be established by the State is, that Christianity shall be taught. The Bible is the great text-book, and the authorized version amongst Protestants ought to be for them the standard. The use of that Bible must be imperative in all the schools that agree in the principles of the Reformation. If, on the other

hand, the Douay version be believed in by the Romanists, its daily use must be imperative in their schools also, so that no anomaly shall prevail in the scriptural teaching, although the circumstances of the country may in some instances make it expedient that Romanist children may have to go to a Protestant school, and Protestant children to the school of the Romanists.

The state would have a right thus far to see that the provisions of a law should be observed, through their Superintendents, Inspectors or School Commissioners. All other matters of importance in the differing tenets of the various religious persuasions, might be left to their own management.

The question will lie ultimately between the general system and some such system as we have shadowed above. Both require a fair, candid and impartial examination. Both have their advocates, and both have their advantages and defects. Perhaps one of the difficulties would be, that where there was the least intelligence and the greatest numbers, the least amount would be contributed to the educational fund. This and such like would however be matters of detail. But let not such an important question as that of education, be made the stumbling block of party. Keep that out of the melee. Better, than that it would be to leave it entirely in abeyance, and until every vestige of party spirit be extinguished in the country, and able men of all persuasions, meeting upon one common platform, can come to its discussion upon its own merits, and with that christian mind and disposition that will ensure to all the community equal privileges in the general knowledge and enlightenment of the world.

The arrival at St. John, N. B. on Monday last, of the Steamship *Jura*, after a quick passage of 10 days from Cork, gave to this Continent news of importance 4 days later (thanks to the electric telegraph) than previously received by the regular mails. Our readers will find a summary collected from the *Christian Visitor* of St. John, in our columns. The Cawnpore massacre is full of horrors. The ladies and children connected with the 32nd Regt. appear to have suffered a fate to which death must have been a seasonable relief. Colonel Inglis, a native of Halifax, son of the late Bishop Inglis, who distinguished himself during the late war in India, commanded that Regiment, and his family are supposed to have been at Cawnpore.—Well grounded fears are entertained that they were amongst those who have met their fate in that inhuman massacre. It is understood that he himself is at Lucknow. It marks the just retribution of such wicked deeds, that the avenger of blood was upon the track of the Indian savage who authorized them. Knowing the fate that awaited him should he have fallen into the hands of the British force which discomfited and pursued him, the fiend is said to have anticipated it, and first having destroyed his family to have committed suicide.

Several sorties had been repulsed from Delhi, but altho' it is reported that the rebels were defeated in all, the European loss has been great, proving the presence of an enemy having skill in the art of war and the use of its weapons. There have also been accessions of strength to the rebel force, by further mutinies—and the aspect of affairs proves, that while the British forces may be able to hold their own in the meanwhile, that the arrival of the reinforcements would be deemed a Providential deliverance. General Sir Colin Campbell, a host in himself, had taken the command.

THE CIVIC CONTEST.

Thursday, Oct. 1, the day appointed by law to determine the government of the city for the ensuing year, saw the elective machinery at work; and the process of manufacturing Mayor and Aldermen out of raw material, might have been studied by all who had the curiosity to examine for themselves. There was very little stir in the community upon the occasion. Indeed our people are perfectly content to bear anything that the powers that be may choose to inflict upon them in the shape of taxation, fines, and officials, so long as they comport with their ideas of public improvement, and sooth to say, sometimes when they do not. There has been no little difficulty this time in selecting a head for the City. Several who were named, and one to whom a public requisition had been made, declined the honor. Finally it was ascertained that the now ex-Mayor would have no objections to serve again. But the friends of Mr. Pryor, another ex-Mayor, who is himself abroad, determined to contest for him the possession of the office. The result has been that Mr. Pryor has been elected by a considerable majority, and we have no doubt will give pretty general satisfaction.

Aldermen elected:—

Ward 1.—Edward Pryor. Ward 2.—Matthew Lownds. Ward 3.—C. Twining. Ward 4.—W. Lawson. Ward 5.—P. Forrestall. Ward 6.—W. Jordan.

We like to chronicle such instances as follow, no matter what may be the religious persuasion of the parties. While praiseworthy in themselves, they are commendable as examples of Christian liberality, and are worthy of more general imitation by other religious bodies, our own amongst the number. It stands in the last *Christian Messenger*, as part of the experience of Adam D. Thompson, as travelling agent, on behalf of the Baptist Acadia College:—

"You will naturally be inclined to ask, how I weather the cape, or make any headway. Well, I will tell you, there are some oases in this desert, and a few sunny spots in this gloomy track. I will just name two or three.

"In the first place then, my Angel guide says, 'here's a man although not a member of our church, yet he may do something.' We call. After a few enquiries Mr. A. G. says, 'I'll give you a Hundred Pounds, call before you leave and we will fix it up legally.' Relying on the promise (which in due time is fulfilled) we leave with a buoyant heart, and say, 'the Lord bless the man and his household.'

"Again, the generous and noble Anna L. P. of Westport, whose worthy example may many good sisters imitate. While closing the morning meal at her father's table, I spoke of my agency and told of some self-sacrificing cases, and of our good sister S. H. in my own county. Miss P. said, Mr. Thomson I will give £10. I sat down to write the note. Father Payson, who has his Scholarship, and had given sums before, smiled upon his daughter for it, the mother spoke of it with approbation, the brothers and sisters cheered her on. Sister Anna says, 'Mr. Thomson, make the note £20.' 'Good again' said I, and so will you Mr. Editor, and so will all the well-wishers of a pure literature in the land. The note is signed; the first year's interest advanced and endorsed. Another young sister on the Island, also made a donation.

"Once more. Journeying from Yarmouth to this place I put up at Brother A. Leitch's, at Tusket; before leaving our worthy brother brought me an old doubleton that he said, had not seen the sun for twenty years, intimating by this that he was getting near the bottom or lower stratum of the mine, however that may be the doubleton was accompanied with three sovereigns, which reminded me of Charity and her three children."

Do not forget the Bazaar at Stewiacke on Tuesday. Tickets at half price, going and returning, may be had on Monday and Tuesday, by all who choose to attend it, by railway, and also by Coach from the Grand Lake Station. This will be about the last opportunity this year for a cheap and pleasant jaunt to the country. To the Church people of the capital, especially, we say—take advantage of it, and encourage by your presence your fellow Churchmen of Stewiacke.

[*Wings and Stings* is the name of a charming little story, just reissued by the Church Book Society. The idea is derived from the bee-hive, and very prettily the bees are brought in, and buzz away from the beginning of the book to the end of it. Amiable Silverwing, and vain Sipsyrup, and greedy Honeyball, and perverse Waxyswill, and passionate Stickasting, and purple-winged Violetta,—all these have wise teachings for little children; and are most ingeniously made to take their part in the story, where Minnie, and Polly, and Tom, and Johnny, and the baby, are such prominent characters. The story is as crisp, natural and easy in style, as it is ingenious and graceful in conception. The cuts have bee-accompaniments in perfect keeping with the story.]

The above is from the *New York Church Journal*. The Book can be had at W. Gossin's Bookstore, 24 Granville-street.

BOARD OF HEALTH.—At the meeting of the Board of Health for the city, held on Saturday last, Dr. Jennings was elected Health Officer for the city, vacant by the death of the late Dr. Allen.

HALIFAX, N. S., Sept. 15, 1857.

DEAR MADAM,

The members of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia beg to tender their sincere sympathy in the heavy bereavement you have recently sustained. The severe dispensation of Providence by which, at a very early age, your beloved husband has been removed from his labors here, has deprived the Society of one of its earliest and most active members, and one who by his kind and obliging manners obtained the regard and cordial good feeling of his professional brethren without exception. His public position as Health Officer and City Medical Officer, and formerly as President of the Mechanics' Institute as well as his general practice brought him prominently before the community, who will long remember his numerous acts of courtesy, his professional skill, and his unfailing kindness to those requiring his sympathy.

Accept the assurance of our sincere condolence, and please tender the same to his widowed mother on our behalf.

In the name of the society we beg to subscribe ourselves,

Dear Madam,
Your very obedient Servants,

CHARLES TUPPER, V. P.
JAMES R. DEWOLF, Secy.

Mrs. Allan, Argyle Street, Halifax.