

THE YOUTH'S PRECEPTOR.

Devoted to General Information, Tales, Sketches, Amusements, Poetry, Music, Anecdotes, &c.

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The next Number of THE YOUTH'S PRECEPTOR will be published on Wednesday, 22d June.

The Youth's Preceptor.

PROFANE LANGUAGE.

Those who indulge in the use of profane language are dangerous companions, and deserve to be held in detestation by all who desire the esteem of their friends. The example they set has a baneful influence upon those with whom they associate, by leading the thoughtless and irresolute into the paths of error.

Whatever may be the temptations to induce the perpetration of other vices, no seemingly temporary advantage can be urged as an excuse for profane language; and although it is one of the most wanton and degrading vices, yet its indulgence is more general, and apparently excites less surprise.

Profane expressions are frequently employed on the most trivial occasions, not only by the ignorant and reckless, but even by those whose intelligence in other respects should induce them not only to avoid such an indiscretion in their own conduct, but to discountenance it in others. If profanity could be more generally viewed in its own peculiar character—as a crime without aim or object, as a habit as intolerable and degrading as it is uncalled for and absurd, and as a vice that is unanimously denounced by christians of every denomination—it ought certainly to be presented as a legitimate object of universal condem-

nation; and steps should be taken for the adoption of extensive and especial organizations for the suppression of a propensity so demoralizing.

Geographical.

LAKES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

(From Haliburton's History of Nova Scotia.)

The great inequality in the surface of Nova Scotia is the cause of the existence of numerous lakes, which are scattered over it in every direction. Some of them are of very great extent, and in many places form almost a continued chain of water communication across the Province. The largest is "Rosignoll," situated to the westward of Liverpool.

The dimensions of this lake have never been ascertained by actual measurement, but it is said to exceed thirty miles in length. In the same neighborhood there are a number of others, extending from the head of Allan's River, near Annapolis, to within a short distance of the Liverpool river. This route is always adopted by the Indians, when passing between these towns, who affirm that there are but two short portages in the whole distance. In the township of Yarmouth there are eighty, besides Lake George, which is of nearly the same extent as Rosignoll, and although they are not to be found in equal number in every township, yet they are of frequent occurrence in all. From the head of the Shubenacadie river they almost reach the Harbor of Halifax, and afford such an extensive inland navigation, that a company has been formed to complete the junction by means of a Canal. Between Windsor and the Atlantic, there is similar connexion in two different places—one between the St. Croix and Margaret's Bay, and the other between the head of the Avon and Chester Bay. There is also a chain of lakes, situated between the source of the Gaspereaux in King's County, and that of Gold River, in the County of Lunenburg, which nearly unites them. Some of these lakes are extremely beautiful, containing in general one or more small islands, which are covered with a luxuriant growth of wood, and vary in every imaginable shape; while the hills, with which they are generally environed, are often undulated in the most romantic manner. These highlands are, with few exceptions, well wooded, and embellish the scenery at every season of the year. The first frost in the autumn invests the foliage with an infinite diversity of color, and in one

night alters the whole appearance of the forest. The leaves of the maple become red—those of the birch yellow, and the sumach pink; while the elm, the oak, the evergreens and others, by preserving their colors, add to the variety of the landscape. The aspect of the country is, however, in many places deformed. A large portion of the land on the Southern coast, for many miles in the interior is stony and barren, frequently devoid of trees, and presenting a dreary and desolate waste.

There are also some inconsiderable bogs, covered with peat and aquatic grasses. One of the largest of these is the Carriboo bog, situated in Aylesford, the source of both the Horton and Annapolis rivers, which flow from thence in opposite directions, one discharging itself into the Bay of Fundy. There are seldom any trees growing in these bogs, but in all are to be found the trunks of those which once stood there, and have been preserved by the waters that originally deprived them of existence. Although numerous, they are not very extensive, for the surface of the country is too uneven to admit of their covering much ground. In other places where fires have raged, the forest has been destroyed, and tall dead trees, stretching their naked limbs in the air, threaten the traveller with destruction. Where these "burnt lands" occur, nothing can exceed the desolation and dreariness of their appearance. The fire, while it burns the stem of the tree, seldom consumes it, but hardens and preserves it from decay, and it not unfrequently maintains its erect position for years after it has been stripped of its foliage. If the ground has been dried by a previous drought, the fire consumes the soil and the seeds of trees contained in it, and a long period elapses before it is again clothed with a new growth of wood, which in many instances is altogether of a different kind from that with which it was previously covered.

The soil of the country is so various, and the changes so frequent, that there is a constant succession of forest scenery. The birch, the spruce, beech and hemlock, constitute the most prominent classes of woodland. These are to be severally found in extent, according to the properties of the soil, sometimes distinctly, but often intermingled with each other. In winter, when the ground is covered with snow, the appearance of the evergreen is peculiarly agreeable, and refreshes the eye when fatigued with the uniform glare of a white surface.

