EARLY CHRISTIANITY.

There can be no doubt but that the first ages of our holy religion were the most pure ; and the Christian name and character less sullied by the debasing spirit of worldliness, and love of show and vanity during the first two or three conturies immediately succeeding the Apostles' times, than they have been ever since. This may appear rather a reflection upon professors of religion in the present day, and not much in ac cordance with the advantages and privileges we possess, owing to the extension of Christianity, and the wider diffusion of Evangelical truth. True it is, indeed, we sit under the sunshine of the Gosnel, and bask in the full blaze of revelation, to an extent that deprives at once every formalistevery unspiritual worshipper of God-of all pleas and pretexts for his insincerity and hypocrisy. But privileges and benefits of this kind, though claiming our regard as a cause of great and increased thankfulness to the giver of all good, and though always valued by the sincere and devout,do not necessarily augment the number of real believers in proportion to the extension of the visible Church. When it becomes an easy thing to be a Christian, and is unattended with danger and inconvenience, multitudes for fashion's sake fall in heartily with its external system, and are even zealous in the cause to a certain extent, that is-as far as a world yet loved will let them go,-who in times of persecution-say the second or third century-had either "fallen away," or never professed at all. The age we live in is very advantageous to such characters, and affords great opportunity for mixing up together in a most ungodly amalgamation a worldly and religious spirit: uniting the service of the world and the service of God. and with all plausibility striving hard to please at the same time both sential part of Christianity to "keep themselves Christ and Belial. This conciliating spirit has all along in some degree operated to the serious injury of true and genuine piety. For as the number of such has ever far exceeded the remnant who feel their religion to be nothing unless they separate themselves wholly, when they profess to come out from the world, and give an undivided heart to Christ; so they have always possessed great influence in the misnamed religious world from their numerical strength, and seemingly fervent attachment to those parts of religious exercise which are least connected with the heart; and which, while they are calculated to attract great notice in the eyes of men, are unattended with self-denial, and performed without any of that mortification and crucifixion of the flesh, which others feel who "worship in spirit and in truth."-But 'the form of godliness without the power' is nothing or, if any thing, rather makes against the cause of sincere piety: especially as it serves much to deceive and beguile many unsteady and wavering converts into a dangerous reliance upon things that cannot profit withal; and thus multitudes are deluded into an opinion that it is not necessary to be so circumspect in their conduct and life, as the humble believer, who understands the conflict between sin and grace, daily insists upon. Thus strong attachment to the world, and a vehement thirst after such of its pleasures and follies as are not glaringly contradictory to the tenor of Scripture, are now made quite compatible with much profession of religion; and when spoken against, openly advocated by numerous defenders. There is no test or ordeal in the present ago by which such characters can be brought to trial, and the truth of their religious pretensions proved; and so they escape in the crowd, and pass among mankind as zealous Christians, and good soldiers of the cross, which as yet they have not learned to bear. May times of tribulation and distress never come!-but should persecution again be the lot of the Church of God, we much fear, those who in times of peace and tranquillity have not sufficient self-denial to give up the vanities and frivolities of life, and the allurements and seductions of an ensnaring world, would be but ill prepared to endure sharp affliction for the name of Christ, or present their bodies to God at the blazing pile "as a living sacrifice," if called upon. To do the greater, we must first be able to do the less. If we cannot endure to part with the vanities of the world for Christ's sake, how could we part with life? If abstraction from pomps and pleasures is too great a self-denial, what would it be to face torture and death?-Treating of this subject, an able ecclesiastical historian wisely remarks, " the sunshine of religious liberty produces an abundance of the professors of Christianity; but a time of affliction and persecution produces martyrs"adding also the pertinent question-"Reader, do you live a martyr?-if not, you could not die one."-But we hope our readers are aware that the true Christian is in one sense-and that a very important one-daily a martyr, dying to the world and to sin, and constantly "crucifying the flesh." If there is not some experience of this, more or less, we have but little reason to suppose that the faith which perseveres to the end, and follows "through both evil report and good report" is there .- And wherein can the true spirit of a martyr be shewn in these days, if not in the overcoming of worldly desires, and the subjugation of the carnal heart to the principles of the Gospel, "bringing every thought into captivity to its obedience?"-Such were the Christians of the early ages. They were not only martyrs at the stake, but they were martyrs in life and conduct; in "walk and conversation" manifesting, while in the world, the same spirit of devotion and obedience, which led them so triumphantly through greater proofs and trials of their faith, in the hour of suffering and death. As they had but little opportunity or inducement, so they had no inclination to waste and squander their precious time in frivolities and fooleries, which are so greatly sought after in the present age. According to the accounts of the best historians, a rigorous course of self-donial, temperance in all things, and abstraction from worldly pursuits and amusements marked their general conduct and character; indeed the very discipline of the Church in those days laid, a wholesome restraint upon such wretched compromise. As they would member of the American Union, have also jesty's gracious consideration.

not swear by heathen Emperors; nor sacrifice to | been carried in the Senate by a vote of 27 to heathen deities, nor implously curse the name of 25, and nothing now remains but the signa-Jesus, though threatened with the fire, the sword, and the still more dreadful Ampltheatre; so notther would they take any part in the scenes of amusement, dissipation, and pleasure in its various forms with which the age abounded, even when unattended with danger to their Christian profession. Nothing could induce them to assemble together in the public resorts of mirth and revelry: nay, in some cases it was even made a distinct charge against them, as we learn from Minutius Felix, Tertullian, and others, that they refused to participate in the usual scenes of festivity.-Nor in those days was there any such thing known as the setting apart and establishing places dedicated to pleasure and worldly gayety, among Christians. Such a thing was not thought of then. Had any one introduced it, he would have been excommunicated as an apostate. Meet they did most surely, as Pliny informs us, and often too in the dark and gloomy night, - but it was for the purpose of secret prayer, and spiritual edification. They had "public assemblies" too, but it was for the worship of God they came together. They attended Theatres, we are told, but it was that they might be made "a spectacle to angels and to men," for the profession of their faith, and the heroic constancy with which they endured suffering and reproach, "as seeing Him who is invisible." Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, and Perpetua and Felicitas, two distinguished Carthaginian converts from paganism, more especially closed their career in this manner; and are now with "the noble army of martyrs," who wait "underneath the altar" for the appointed day of retribution .- Thus "living and dying, they were the Lord's." They deemed it an esunspetted from the world," as we learn from the works of some of their most ancient writers: and though their simplicity and errors in some things need not be imitated, yet their conduct in this particular claims especial regard. The more so indeed, when we see with deep concern and regret how men professing Christianity and calling themselves members of the Church, can now openly profane the very seasons she has solemnly set apart for fasting and prayer, with their ungodly and worldly amusements; bringing discredit upon themselves, and reproach upon the religion and doctrine which it is our duty to 'adorn.' Deeply do all good men deplore this worldly, compromising spirit, which is so happy as to go under the mask of religion and piety, and strenuously should they endeavour to set forth, both by precept and example, the nature of that life which the Gospel requires of its professors, and of which St. Paul gives us far more exalted and consistent ideas where he says of himself (as of every believer) "Iam crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God."-On the subject of Theatres, and such other places of sinful pastime and pleasure, a singular anecdote related by Terfullian, though we cannot vouch for its truth, shews at least-which is all we care for-what opinions the early Christians entertained upon it. A woman, he says. ' went to the theatre, and came home possessed by a devil :-- the exorcist who endeavoured to cast him out, asked him how he had the assurance to enter into a Christian?'— Why not?' said the demon. 'I found her at my own house.'-It is believed that evil spirits exercised their malignant powers on the bodies of men for some time after the Apostles' days and the circumstances here related may be true: the writer stands high for integrify and truth among the early Fathers. But true or not, it would be well if all who frequent such places had some sensible proof that they are not the ground for Christians to tread upon. Attestations of his displeasure the Almighty sometimes does give, of very awful nature. The unfortunate woman who was burnt some time ago during her performance in the Drury-lane Theatre was proof sensible and terrible enough, if men would but take a warning. We cannot but think they are the favourite resort of evil spirits; who, though restrained in their power to inflict bodily injury, maintain entire possession of the hearts of sinners as much now as ever. They are the peculiar encampments of Satanic influence, and it is a dangerous venture to go knowingly within reach of the pawof the roaring "lion:"-rather let us-if we be Christians at all-frequent those places "round which the angels of the Lord encamp," and seek the society of such worthy, followers of Christ as may "impart unto us some spiritual gift."

PAYMENTS received on account of the Be-REAN:—From Miss Ogden, No. 53 to 104; Mr. Wm. White, No. 49 to 100.

£1 15s. 9d. received from R. V. R. by A

To Correspondents :- Received Mikros -Enquirer; -That reprint, is it not more than 12 months old, and perhaps only seeking to be noticed now again? We were grieved at one of the kind at that time, and it was the advice of several friends to " let it come to nothing."-It must be something very strong that could induce us to touch again upon the deplorable case of Bp O.—H. H.

English Math.—To be closed on Monday 24th March;—Paid letters till 9, A. M. Unpaid till 10, A. M.

Political and Local Intelligence.

UNITED STATES .- The bill for reducing the rates of Postage, which was mentioned in a recent number of the Berean, has passed both Houses of Congress and is now the law of the land: some amendments have however been made to it, the most important of which is that 5 cents are to be paid for any distance not exceeding 300 miles, and 10 cents for distances exceeding 300 miles.

ture of the President and his proclamation to consummate this high-handed piece of legis-lative violation of the rights of Mexico. Much interest is felt to know what course her Government will adopt at this juncture. It is asserted that Gen. Almonte, the Mexican Minister at Washington, is preparing to leave the capital and break off all diplomatic intercourse between the two countries, as soon as the signature of the President has

been attached to the bill.

The Hon. J. K. Polk, was inaugurated as President of the United States on the 4th inst. His address upon the occasion appears in the American Journals. He informs the American people that Texas was formerly a part of the "Union," and that in now seeking to be "restored" she is only exercising the right which she possesses as an independent state.

The American title to the Oregon territory he pronounces "clear and unquestionable.3 He professes himself " favourable to a tariff for revenue, but opposed to one for protection merely." He alludes in guarded terms to repudiation and says "he has no doubt but that all the States will pay off their just debts, as soon as they can do so without imposing too heavy burdens upon their ci-

NEW BRUNSWICK .- The office of Provincial Secretary of the Province having become vacant a short time since by the death of the ncumbent, the Lieut. Governor, Sir W. M. Colebrooke, appointed Mr. Reade, his private Secretary and son in law, to that office. This gave great offence to the Executive Council, who, it seems, were not consulted in the matter, and consequently, four of the members retired. The question having been brought before the House of Assembly, now in session, the retiring members were sustained in their course by a large majority, and subsequently, a vote of want of confidence in His Excellency's advisers was passed. The latest accounts from the Province do not mention any symptoms of an amicable settlement of this unfortunate disagreement: the Lieut. Governor has called two other gentlemen to the Council, and the House of Assembly have addressed the Queen, setting forth their grievances and praying for redress.

Nova Scotta.-The Legislature of this Province have been engaged for nearly a fort-night in a discussion upon the propriety of the policy of the Lieut. Governor, Lord Falkland. The discussion was caused by the production of some despatches and correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and Lord Falk land, in which the latter gives Lord Stanley an account of the dispute which had arisen between himself and the "liberal party" of which Mr. Joseph Howe is the leader, concerning certain appointments to the Executive Council. Lord Falkland states that certain members of the opposition had expressed their willingness to accept of office, with the understanding that Mr. Howe should be excluded (whose conduct towards the be welcomed. Queen's Representative, Lord Falkland says has been such as to render it impossible for Mr. Howe to sit at any hoard over which Lord Falkland presides) but that afterwards they declined doing so; while the opposition members deny having made such overtures. After a debate of 13 days, Lord Falkland's course was approved of by a majority of

Yesterday's eastern mail brought Halifax papers of the 3rd inst. They state that the session of the legislature was proceeding more harmoniously since the termination of the debate upon the despatches. H. M. Troopship Resistance had arrived at Halifax from Barbadoes, with the 46th Regiment on board, which is to relieve the 71th now at Halifax but under orders for England. The Mail Steamer Hibernia reached Halifax on the morning of the 3rd inst., in 41 hours from Boston, and sailed for Liverpool in the after-

Parliamentary.—Petitions were sented from the Bank of Montreal, City Bank, four hours' severe suffering, George, eldest son Banque du Peuple and Quebec Bank, for the of James Tibbits, Esq., Merchant, of this city repeal or reduction of the duty on Bank is- aged 9 yearssues; which were referred to a select com-

Mr. Draper introduced the three following

Bill for erecting a University by the name and style of the University of Upper Canada. Bill to vest the endowment granted by the Crown for University Education in Upper Canada, in the University of Upper Canada, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Bill to repeal a certain Act therein mentioned, and to alter and amend the Charter of the University of King's College.

Mr. Draper laid before the house Statements of the affairs of King's College for

The order for the second reading of the bill to incorporate the Quebec Forwarding Company being read; Mr. Aylwin moved that the bill be now read the second time, and after debate, the same was negatived upon a

Petitions were also received from Members of the Quebec Bar Association, for the appointment of proper persons to report the decisions of the Courts of Justice in Lower Canada, and from Alexander McLeod, of Stamford, relating to his imprisonment by the authorities of the United States in 1840, on a charge of having assisted in the destruc-tion of the Steamer Caroline, and praying redress; besides a number on the subject of

the Clergy Reserves and the new School Bill. In committee it was Resolved, - That it is expedient to grant a sum not exceeding £250 for each District in Upper Canada, for the encouragement of Agriculture and Agricultural Societies; which having been concurred in by the House, was referred back to the Com-

mittee to bring in a bill in pursuance thereof.

The House having waited upon His Lordship the Governor General at the appointed time, with the joint addresses of both Houses on the subject of the French language, Mr. Speaker reported the following answer:

Honble: Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

istance not exceeding 300 miles, and 10 I will not fail to transmit your Joint Ad- bles, if required, ents for distances exceeding 300 miles. dress to Her Majesty's Secretary of State to For further particulars, apply at G. STAN-The Resolutions for admitting Texas as a be laid at the foot of the Throne for Her Ma- LEY'S Book Store. No. 15, Bunde Street.

ST. Jours .- The Montreal Herald contains letter from Messrs. J. C. Peirce and Son, which gives a statement of the value of Goods imported and exported and the duties collected at the Port of St. Johns, C. E. for the last eleven years, furnished by W. Macrae, Esq. Collector. As we have not space to give the entire statement, it affords us much pleasure to lay before the readers of the Berean' the duties collected, &c. for the first and last years of the table, by which some idea may be formed of the increase of business at this flourishing town.

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that of 1835—£23,	134,207 3 5stg. 56,563 19 5 "	Value of Specie Imported.
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which must be n Quebec and	10,924 19 6Cy. 31,893 4 1 "	Duties Collected.

POST OFFICE ESPIONAGE. - An English Journal (the Observer) mentions that Government have abolished the department which formerly existed, in which letters were opened under warrants from the Secretary of State. As the discovery of this practice caused much surprise and indignation, no doubt the announcement of its cessation will

PASSENCERS .- In the Steamship Hibernia from Boston for Liverpool; Lieut. Col. the Hon. G. A. Spencer, 60th Royal Rifles, Mr. Pelley, 52nd Regt. Mr. Ross, 93d Regt. J. Simmons, R. E. Dr. T. Hughes of Canada. In the Packet Ship Prince Albert at N. York from London, Mr. Timins, 82nd Regt.

MARRIED. At the Rectory Chapel, on Saturday last, by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Montreal, John Macintosh, Esq., Assistant Surgeon Royal Artillery, to Mrs. Macnicol. widow of the late Captain Machicol, Royal Regiment, and second

daughter of Robert Wood, Esq. of this city.
This day, in the Cathedral, Quobec, by the Lord Bishop of Montreal. The Rev. Charles Morice, to Augusta Mary Anne, youngest daughter of the late Richard Zouch, Esquire, of Dublin Castle, Ireland.

DIED.

On Saturday last, of searlet fever, after twenty

On Sunday morning, aged 13 months, Clarissa, infant daughter of Samuel and Eliza Tozer.

QUESEC MARKETS.

Corrected by the Clerks of the Markets up to Tuesday, 11th March, 1815.

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TO BE LET,

THAT large commodious House, To No. 12, Parloir Street, for many years occupied by the late Mr. Noab, having every accommodation for a large family, with Stables, Coach House, &c.

The lower flat, which is well situated for a Gentleman's Office, being near to the Court-House, may be had separately, with the Stu-

The Resolutions for admitting Texas as a be laid at the foot of the Throne for Her Ma- LEY'S Book Store, No. 15, Bunde Street.

No. 53, St. John Street.

March 13th, 1845.

March 13th, 1845.

TO LET. THREE OFFICES on Arthur Street, opposite the Exchange.

Apply to CHRISTIAN WURTELE. St. Paul's Street. 11th Feby. 1845.

FOR SALE, A SMALL two story Stone House, Out Houses, Garden, and an excel lent Well of Water,—well adapted for a small family.

Apply on the premises, 9 D'Artigny-Street, St. Lonis Heights.

Quebec, 5th March, 1845.

TO BE LET,

THE House and Premises belonging to the Subscriber at LaCanardiere. Can be seen at any time. M. STEVENSON.

Quebec, 27th Feb. 1845.

PORTRAIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY LORD METCALFE, Governor General of British N. America, Sc.

THE undersigned has received a few copies 1 of the above, splendidly executed in MEZZOTIETO,

taken from Mr. Bradish's Portrait recently painted, and which has been pronounced by competent judges to be an excellent likeness of His Lordship.
Proof Impressions, 20s.

The Portrait is accompanied by an Authen-tic Sketch of the Life and Public Services of His Excellency, gratis.

March 6, 1845.

G. STANLEY, 15, Buade St.

## QUEBEC HIGH SCHOOL.

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Classics, Mathematics Revd. E. J. SENKLER NATURAL PHILOSOPHY

ENGLISH.....LEWIS SLEEPER.

ARITHMETIC......DANIEL WILKIE. FRENCH AND DRAWING. .. H. D. THIELCKE. PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.....REVERUND J. MCMORINE.

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Charges for boys under 10 years of age. £10, thove 10 years of ago, £12 10 per annum,—payablo quarterly, in advance.
Prench and Drawing, a separate charge.

Hours from 9 to 12, and from 1 to 3.

PREPARATORY DEPART.—Torms, £7 10s. per km. The branches taught in this department will be English Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, and the elements of the Prench Language.
The moral, as well as intellectual, training of

the pupils, and their religious instruction will be special objects of the Teacher. High School, 22d January, 1845.

## ANTIQUITY:

NEXTRACT FROM THE WORKS OF " THOMAS GOODWIN, D.D." Sometime President of Magdalen College,

Ox ford.Written in 1639, more than two hundred years ago.
TRACTARIANISM DESCRIBED.

There is no new thing under the sun." Ecl. i. 9. FOR SALE BY G. STANLEY.
Price 1d. a piece, or 9d. per dozen.

Feb. 20, 1815.

now is the time

FOR those who wish to have true Likenesses of themselves or families with the hearts of themselves or families with the beauty of colour, to call at Rooms No. 22, MOUNTAIN STREET, Lower Town, where they can be gratified with Portraits taken by the Photographic art at a small price, from 9 to 12, and from 1 to 3 o'clock, by FREDK. WYSE, who has Specimens to show. Quebec, Jan. 15, 1845.

W. HOWARD,

BLACK AND WHITE SMITH, FARRIER,

Fork-maker, and general worker in Iron and Steel,

DEGS to return his grateful thanks to the Gentry, his numerous friends and the public generally, for the very liberal patronage they have hitherto favoured him with, and at the same time to assure them that he will endeavour by superior workmanship, a rigid attention to business and strict punctuality in the execution of orders entrusted to him, to merit a continuance of the same, which he now has the honor to solicit.

Carriage Springs and Axles of all kinds made and repaired to order.

His Shop is at the rear of Mr. Woodbury's, tin-smith, Fabrique-St., entrance by the Gate Quebec, Jan. 15, 1815.

INDIA RUBBER SHOES.

THE subscriber acquaints his friends and the public that he has lately received a large assortment of India Rubber Shoes, which he 🔠

other house in the trade.

MATTHEW HAMMOND: