

the amount of every discussion has been this—Sectarianism must not enter within these walls! We commend the wisdom of this determination. Allow the dogmas of the sects to be agitated in a society devoted to the interests of literature and science, and it would not be long before such a society would be turned into a *bear garden*! But it never was intended by the exclusion of sectarianism from the Institute, to shut out all references to the perfections of the great Creator. In fact nothing is more common with us, than for a lecturer to extol the wisdom, or power, or goodness of God, as displayed in his works. On many occasions we have admired the glowing eulogies of this kind which have been uttered by various lecturers, in their allusions to the Maker of all worlds. And such references aptly introduced, we cannot but think, render a lecture more popular at the Halifax Mechanics' Institute. There is a growing taste for tracing

Nature, up to Nature's God,

and the individual who indulges this wise disposition will not be without his meed of praise.

One other difficulty we will now advert to on the connection of religion and science. Comments on the Bible have become so common, that with many persons no distinction is made between the *comment* and the *text*, and to dispute the correctness of the comment is with them to deny the inspiration of the text! Nor is this absurd notion confined to matters of pure theology, it is extended to matters of science. Take an example:—formerly it was believed that the sun and all the planets moved round our earth, and not the earth and planets round the sun; of course, the comments on a numerous class of scripture passages agreed with this mistaken system of philosophy, and at the period referred to, to call in question the propriety of such interpretations was to denounce the Bible as false. In the estimation of many persons it was infidelity to oppose a fallible, human comment on the word of God. That the above case is not a mere supposition—that it is grounded on historical fact, all our intelligent readers know well. GALILEO maintained the doctrine of Copernicus concerning the motion of the earth round the sun, and although he essayed to prove that his opinion was not contrary to the text of scripture, yet he did not escape the imputation of heresy. Galileo was cited to Rome to answer for his alleged infidelity. On the 15th of February, 1633, he appeared before a tribunal summoned to try him for doubting the infallibility of fallible expositions of Scripture. Concerning his defence before this body he says, "My reasonings were cut short by bursts of zeal; they spoke to me only of the scandal which I had occasioned; and always opposed to me the passage of Scripture on the miracle of Joshua as the victorious piece of my process." The sentence pronounced on Galileo, is one of the most remarkable records of intolerant ignorance and bigotted folly to be found in the history of science. We can quote only the first part of it—"Whereas you Galileo, aged seventy years, were denounced to this holy office, for holding as true a false doctrine taught by many, namely that the sun is immovable in the centre of the world, and that the earth moves, and also with a diurnal motion; also, for having pupils whom you instructed in the same opinion; also, for publishing certain letters on the solar spots, in which you developed the same doctrine as true; also, for answering the objections which were continually produced from the Holy Scriptures, by glozing the said Scriptures according to your own meaning; and whereas thereupon was produced the copy of a writing, in form of a letter, professedly written by you to a person formerly your pupil, in which, following the hypothesis of Copernicus, you include several propositions contrary to the true sense and authority of Scripture: therefore this holy tribunal, being desirous of providing against the disorder and mischief which was thence proceeding and increasing to the detriment of the holy faith, by the desire of his holiness etc. The two propositions of the stability of the sun, and motion of the earth, were qualified by the theological qualifiers as follows. 1st, The proposition that the sun is in the centre of the world, and immovable from its place, is absurd, philosophically false, and formally heretical, because it is expressly contrary to the Holy Scripture. 2dly, The proposition that the earth is not the centre of the world, nor immovable, but that it moves, and also with a diurnal motion, is also absurd, philosophically false, and theologically considered, at least erroneous in faith" etc. etc.

Poor Galileo was condemned to suffer imprisonment for an indefinite period, and the venerable philosopher was made to say "I abjure, curse, and detest the error and heresy of the motion of the earth, etc." It is said that, after having pronounced his abjuration, Galileo as he rose from the kneeling posture, indignant at the monstrous injustice of his age, stamped on the ground, and said in an under tone, *It moves notwithstanding*. Now we think it must be clear to every mind, that this persecution originated in confounding a human comment with a divine text. The same difficulty was felt by Ray in his treatise *On the Wisdom of God in the Creation*. Speaking of the motion of the earth he says—"Howbeit, because some pious persons may be offended at such an opinion, thinking it inconsistent with divine revelation, I shall not positively assert, only propose it as a hypothesis not altogether improbable." The motion of the earth round the sun is now universally believed, and hence this difficulty has passed away. But not so with some other sciences, more particularly with re-

gard to Geology. With some persons the old notion of the recent origin of the earth is still current, and of course, they interpret the Bible in accordance with it. Others believe that the earth is millions of years old, and they furnish us with their comments on Scripture suited to their belief in the antiquity of the globe. The former class have been in the habit of regarding the latter as infidels, or at least as *semi-infidels*. Examples without end might be cited in proof of this assertion. But why should not the latter class condemn the former as heretical in their views of the age of the earth—surely they have an equal right to bandy about the epithets of infidel, and infidel philosophy, etc.? But enough, we hope has been advanced, to show the folly of making a question of interpretation, one of the inspiration of the sacred scriptures. But if men cannot, or will not, distinguish between a comment and the text, in public bodies the discussions of science must be separated from religion. And this to maintain peace and order—to avoid bickerings and wranglings as to the genuine sense of the Bible. If one person may attempt to confirm his views on certain points in Phrenology, Geology, etc. by his interpretations of inspired truth, another of opposite views on those subjects may make his appeal to the same standard, and thus we shall have specimens in abundance of the *odium theologicum*. But if the distinction we have now contended for were recognized in all its force, no difficulties could ever arise from the discussion of any branch of science in a Mechanics' Institute.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY JAN 31.

HON. MR. DODD rose to move a resolution, which he hoped would pass unanimously. It authorized His Excellency to forward the sum of £1000, to Sir John Colborne, for the relief of the wives and children of those who had fallen in the late disturbances in Canada.

After a few observations, among which it was explained that the sum was to be applied *not exclusively* to any party, but to all the sufferers as far as it would extend, the resolution passed unanimously.—*Recorder*.

ACCIDENTS.—Friday morning, in a house nearly opposite Mr. W. F. Black's wharf, a girl about 11 years of age, while huddling over some cinders, with a sister and two brothers, set fire to her clothes; her mother was away from home and no assistance at hand. She ran all in flames to the next room, where there was only a blind man, who did not succeed in stifling the flames till the clothes were literally burned from her body. The poor man, and one of her brothers, a boy of 13, were both severely burnt in attempting to relieve the sufferer.—*Rec*.

On Friday evening last, a man who attempted to cross the harbor, to Dartmouth, in a small flat, with his wife and child, got jammed in the ice, and in all probability would have perished, had it not been for the active and persevering exertions of Messrs. Wm. Fultz, John Barnes, Murphy, and Morris, who succeeded in reaching them in another boat. They were much exhausted when brought on shore.

We copy the above paragraph from the Journal. The men who have done this meritorious action, must be fine fellows. The best way to encourage the feelings of courageous humanity which they have displayed, is to show they are valued in the community. We will subscribe to a Medal for each—who else will?—*Novascotian*. [We will.—*Ed. Pearl*.]

THE DELEGATION.—The instructions to the Delegates were taken up, discussed, and passed yesterday—nearly all the clauses without discussion.—*Nov*.

THE HARBOUR has been frozen across for two or three days. Persons cross opposite the Ferry, and the ice extends this morning to Maugher's Beach.—*ib*.

Accounts from the United States show that much damage in various parts has resulted from the late storm. In New York several of the streets were overflowed and two or three persons lost their lives.—At Albany property to the amount of a million of dollars, it is said, has been destroyed.—A serious fire has taken place in Boston—loss estimated at \$60,000.

We have dates from England via New York to the 20th of December. There is no political or commercial news of much interest.

The Kingston U. C. Herald contains an account of an atrocious attempt to prison the Militia force stationed at Brockville.—The Toronto Patriot states that five soldiers of the 35th Regiment who were attempting to desert on the ice, to the American side, were fired on by the artillery—three were killed at the first discharge, the other two went back and surrendered.

Physiology—No 3. next week.

The concluding Lecture on the Divine Origin and Authority of Christianity will be delivered by Thomas Taylor, next Lord's Day evening, at 7 o'clock.

MARRIED,

At River Philip, on 26th January, by the Rev. John E. Cogswell, Mr. Timothy Copp, to Pamela Davison.—At the same place, by Donald MacFarlin, Cathbert C. Oxley, to Cleora Schureman.

On Tuesday evening, by the Rev. E. A. Crawley, A. M. Rufus S. Black, Esq. M. D. to Mary Theresa, only daughter of Mr. John Ferguson.

DIED,

At Wilmot, near Lawrencetown, January 25th, Mrs. William Merry, aged 73 years, entirely resigned to her Divine Master's will, in full hope of meeting her Redeemer at the Right hand of God.

Drowned at Lunenburg, on Thursday the 17th Jany. Master James Godfrey Rudolf, eldest son of Mr. Michael Rudolf, in the 15th year of his age, leaving a numerous circle of friends and relatives to mourn his loss.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED,

Sunday, February 3rd—H. M. Ship Crocodile, Capt Polwhole, (acting) late Polkithorne who died at Barbadoes, 8th ult., Barbadoes, 31 days, with 2 companies 69th Regt.

Monday, 4th—brig William, Jost, St. Thomas, 18 days, ballast, bound to Lunenburg; Am. brig Acadian, Jones, Boston, 52 hours, general cargo, to D. & E. Starr & Co. and others.

Thursday, 7th—H. M. Frigate Inconstant, Capt. Pring, Cork, 23 days, 310 men of the 37th, and 69th Regts. 11 days to Sable Island.

REAL ESTATE.

SALE AT AUCTION, by order of the Governor and Council, the lot of LAND, belonging to the Estate of the late John Linnard, Esqr., situate in the Town of Windsor, measuring on King's Street 60 feet, from thence to the rear 125 feet, with the Dwelling HOUSE, BARN, &c. &c., thereon. Will be Sold on MONDAY 1st April next, at 11 o'clock, in front of the said Premises.

This PROPERTY will be sold subject to a Mortgage of £100; ten per cent of the purchase money must be paid at the time of Sale and the remainder on the delivery of the Deed.

Windsor, Feb. 8.

THOMAS LINNARD,

Sole Administrator.

BANK OF NOVA-SCOTIA,

Halifax, 2nd February, 1839.

A DIVIDEND of Five per Cent on the Capital Stock paid in has been declared for the half year ending the 31st of January, and will be paid at the Bank on or after the 6th March next.

By order of the President and Directors.

JAMES FORMAN, Cashier.

ASK YOURSELF, IF YOU WANT CHINA, OR EARTHENWARE.

THE Subscriber has removed his China and Earthenware establishment to the new store at the north corner of the Ordnance head of Marchington's Wharf, where in addition to his present stock, he has received per barque Tory's Wife, from Liverpool, a general Assortment of Earthenware, etc. consisting of,

CHINA TEA SETS, Dinner Services—of neatest shapes and patterns, Tea, Breakfast, and Toilet Sets, and a general assortment of Common ware, which will be Sold wholesale and retail at low prices.

—A L S O—

40 Crates of assorted Common Ware, put up for Country Merchants.

February 1.

BANK OF NOVA-SCOTIA,

Halifax, 22nd January, 1839.

THE Stockholders are hereby called upon for the balance remaining unpaid on the Shares held by them in the Capital Stock of the Bank of Nova-Scotia, in two several instalments, viz—

Twenty-five per cent, or Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings on each Share, to be paid on or before the Fifteenth March next; and

Twelve and one half per cent, or Six Pounds Five Shillings on each share, to be paid on or before the 1st May next.

By order of the President and Directors.

J. FORMAN, Cashier.

EDWARD LAWSON,

AUCTIONEER AND GENERAL BROKER, Commercial Wharf. Has for sale,

50 hhds Porto Rico SUGAR,

200 barrels TAR,

30 Tierces Carolina RICE,

50 bags Patna RICE,

200 firkins BUTTER,

10 puns Rum, 10 hhds Gin,

10 hhds BRANDY,

10 hhds and 30 qr. casks Sherry WINE.

January 18, 1839.

UNION MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

JOSEPH STARR, ESQ. PRESIDENT.

AT the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company, the following Gentlemen were elected to serve as Directors for the ensuing year—viz.

James A. Moren, Joseph Fairbanks, J. Strachan, Wm. Stairs, David Allison, John U. Ross, Daniel Starr, Hugh Lyle, John T. Wainwright, James H. Reynolds, S. B. Smith, and Wm. Roche, Esqrs.

The Committee of Directors meet every day at 11 o'clock, A. M. at the office of the Broker, directly opposite the Custom House.

Jan. 18.

GEO. C. WHIDDEN, Broker.

JUST PUBLISHED, and for Sale by the Author, and the respective Booksellers. Price 7d. UNIVERSALISM explained and defended, or the Death of Christ the only and sufficient basis for the World's Salvation. A discourse on John, x: 17, 18.

Preached at Halifax, on Sunday, November 18th, 1838; and published by request. By W. F. TUDOR, Author of Sacramental Exercises. January 4.