

John Fierman

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

VOLUME II.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1889.

NUMBER 18.

POETRY.

SOLITARY MUSINGS.

BY HANNAH MORE.

Lord! when dejected I appear,
 And love is half absorbed by fear,
 Ev'n then I know I'm not forgot—
 Thou'rt present though I see thee not.
 Though I am cold, nor feel the flame,
 Thy boundless mercy's still the same.
 Though dull and hard my sluggish sense,
 Faith still maintains its evidence.
 O would thy cheering beams so shine,
 That I might *always* think Thee mine!
 Yet though a cloud may sometimes rise,
 And dim the brightness of the skies,
 By faith thy goodness I will bless—
 I shall be safe, though comfortless;
 And still my grateful soul shall melt
 At what in brighter days I felt.
 O wayward heart! thine is the blame;
 Though I may change, God is the same.
 Nor feeble faith, nor colder prayer,
 My state and sentence shall declare;
 Not nerves and feelings shall decide—
 By safer signs I shall be tried.
 Is the fixed tenor of my mind
 To Christ and righteousness inclined?
 For sin is my contrition deep—
 For past offences do I weep?
 Do I submit my stubborn will
 To Him who guides and guards me still?
 Then shall my peaceful bosom prove
 That God not loving is, but love.

EDUCATION.

ST. JOHN'S PAROCHIAL INFANT AND JUVENILE SCHOOLS, LEITH.

The first annual examination of the schools of the above parish took place on Thursday and Friday last in the presence of the minister and elders of the parish and magistrates of Leith. The infant school, conducted by Miss Hume, and which has only been in operation for one year, exhibited a most gratifying progress, and afforded a beautiful evidence of what can be accomplished by moral training. The gallery of the school, which was occupied by 100 children from the age of three to six, presented a lovely range of happy countenances, whose cheerfulness gave evidence that the school was a pleasure, and its exercises a delight. Throughout the examination Miss Hume illustrated the union, pursued in the school, of Bible with common instruction. The Bible lessons formed the first and prominent exercises, and were followed by picture lessons in natural history, and on various objects, and natural productions, as flax, cotton, silk, &c. these were enlivened and relieved with hymns and sacred songs, with manual exercises, and the imitations of various natural and artificial sounds, as those of a breeze, a hurricane, a weaver's shuttle, a steam engine; and so happily were amusement and instruction blended together, that the examination throughout sustained the animated attention of the children. At the close of the examination, Bailie Thom paid a well-merited compliment to Miss Hume for the success attending her past year's efforts, as manifested by the discipline, order, obedience, and intelligence of the children; and the Rev. Mr. Lewis stated several instances which had been narrated to him by the parents, of the practical effects of the religious and moral training of the school upon the habits of their children. The examination was such as to leave but one earnest desire amongst the numerous spectators, that such schools might be speedily multiplied all over the land.

The examination of the juvenile school followed on Friday, and from the large attendance and numerous classes occupied nearly the entire day. Not fewer than 200 boys and girls are receiving instruction at the school, and were present at the examination. After opening with prayer, and singing the morning hymn, the usual Bible lesson, at which all the children were assembled in the gallery, was given by the teacher, Mr. Gibson. Each class on its exami-

nation was questioned freely upon the meaning of the words and sense of the passage in the lesson read by it, and the higher classes upon the derivation and composition of words. The examination of the higher classes in geography, elicited a universal expression of admiration from the numerous spectators. Not a mountain, or river, or wilderness, or plain of Palestine—not a village, or city of the Holy Land famed in Scripture history, but were instantly pointed out by the pupils, and the historic incidents connected with them briefly told. The map seemed to them a home-walk, and its great and solemn historical recollections familiar tales. Nearly the same proficiency was exhibited in the geography of Scotland. As a specimen of the English composition of the higher class, an essay, in the shape of a letter, written by one of the girls to her cousin, was read, in which letter a week's life at St. John's juvenile school with its lessons and sports, its cares and pleasures, was with much good feeling, and not a little simplicity and good humour, described. Several such essays were given in, in competition for the composition prize, and all of them proved how much might be done amongst the poorest class of children for refining and elevating their sentiments, and training them to correct habits of thought and expression. The entire examination was such as to reflect the highest credit upon the diligence, application, and talents of Mr. Gibson, and to deepen the conviction throughout the community, of the value of the labours of the General Assembly's Educational Committee, in upholding and superintending such schools. Amongst the many remarks made upon the appearance and proficiency of the children, none struck us as so characteristic of the school, as that made by one of the magistrates, who had never before witnessed its arrangements, "that the children were not only taught, but were put under military discipline and order." A large distribution of prizes was made, at the close of the examination, by the Rev. Mr. Lewis; and what diffused still more universal joy amongst the children, and rewarded them for their weary tasks and school labours during the past year, was a bountiful strawberry feast, which was provided for them in the evening, at which 200 hungry and happy boys and girls, with impatient but glad faces, sat down to partake.

CHALMERS' REMARKS ON THE LOCAL SYSTEM.

A work was published in numbers, several years since, by Dr. Chalmers, entitled, "The Christian and Civic economy of large towns," which well deserves the attention of all who are endeavouring to do good, in any form, to a large population. He urges, that whether we attempt to supply the bodily necessities of men, or their intellectual and moral wants, it is important to adopt a local system. He proposes, that in all beneficent efforts, a town or city should be divided into districts, each of which should be assigned exclusively to an individual, or committee, to be explored and supplied as the object may require. The general and obvious advantages are, that in this way, all the suffering or want will be discovered,—that none will be neglected for want of some responsible agent,—that the agents themselves will feel a deeper interest in a field which they cultivate constantly and permanently,—that they will become better qualified by their knowledge of the people to operate in the best manner,—and that they will have a great advantage, of gaining the confidence and affections of those with whom they are conversant.

The plan was applied in Glasgow, to the subject of instruction both in Sunday and day-schools for the poor; and in looking over our papers, we find the following summary of remarks on this subject, made by Dr. Chalmers, at Edinburgh, in conversation with the Editor, several years since. We present them to our readers as they were noted at the time.

"The Local System is chiefly valuable, as it searches every corner, and brings every child under its influence. It is cultivating a small portion of ground thoroughly, instead of scattering the seed over a large tract. It is giving an example of what culture can do, to stimulate all around to action. It has the advantage of proximity. It enlists the gregarious feeling in its support. It flatters the pride of the parent, or conciliates his good will. It is generally effectual in bringing out nine-tenths of the whole teachable population of the whole two hundred inhabitants." "There are Sabbath schools of thirty children, generally one to every district."

"One teacher is employed for each school, usually an humble man. He is found fully sufficient. If a

sufficient number of teachers cannot be obtained, begin with a smaller district and extend.

"It is not made the great object to cultivate the memory. On this ground, Dr. C. prefers Watts' Catechism. He would never carry the memory beyond the understanding. Owen's school gave him new views, as to the capacity of the young mind. He does not see any ground for continuing in religion the rote system, which is abandoned on other subjects. He does not require over one verse to be committed to memory on Sunday. As to storing the mind with passages, he believes learning a verse, or reading a chapter daily, will be as effectual in furnishing topics. He does not see the advantage of continuous narrative."—*American Annals of Education and Instruction.*—William C. Woodbridge.

McGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

Yesterday being the day appointed for laying the Corner Stone of M'GILL College, by His Excellency Sir JOHN COLBORNE, the Governor General, His Excellency, accompanied by Major General Clitherow, and attended by his Staff, and almost the whole of the Field officers in garrison, left the Governor's residence at a quarter to twelve o'clock; and arrived at Burnside, the site of the new building, at the hour appointed for commencing the interesting ceremony. His Excellency was received by a Guard of Honour consisting of a company of the 24th Regiment, stationed in front of the residence of the Rev. Dr. BETHUNE, Principal of the College. A guard, consisting of two companies of the Grenadier Guards, lined the road from Sherbrooke Street to the ground of the College; and a company of the 71st Highland Light Infantry, was on the side of the building to receive the procession.

The Procession was formed outside the Garden Wall, at Burnside, and proceeded to the site of the College.

When the Procession which had an imposing effect reached the scaffolding erected to receive it, prayers were offered up by the Rev. Principal for a blessing upon the work which was about to be commenced. After prayers, the Hon. GEORGE MOFFATT addressed His Excellency.

To this Address His Excellency made a suitable reply, expressive of the gratification which he felt at being present at laying the corner stone of an edifice for the promotion of the greatest of all earthly blessings—the cultivation and instruction of the human mind, and consequently the true and only foundation of morality and religion. The architect of the College then came forward, and presented, for His Excellency's inspection, a plan and elevation of the building. A glass tube, hermetically sealed, and containing an inscription of some coins of the present reign, and an account of the endowment of the College, were handed to His Excellency, who deposited the same in the cavity of the lower stone. The upper stone was then lowered to its place—the band playing during the operation. When properly adjusted by the architect, His Excellency gave three strokes with a mallet, when a herald proclaimed, "God save the Queen," and three cheers were given. The band then played the National Anthem; and Dr. BETHUNE having again offered up a prayer, the ceremony was concluded amidst great cheering, and mutual interchanges of congratulations at the laying the corner-stone of the first English and Protestant College in Lower Canada.—*Montreal Gazette, Oct. 8.*

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK.

UNION WITH SECEDERS.

On Wednesday an ordinary meeting of Presbytery was held in the Sheriff Court Hall—the Rev. Mr. Dow, of Largs, Moderator.

After the minutes had been read, the Rev. Mr. Stark laid on the table a memorial and other documents from himself and the elders and members of the Associate congregation, Cartside, requesting to be admitted into full communion with the Church of Scotland, in terms of the Act of last Assembly anent Union with Seceders. The documents in question having been read.

The Rev. Dr. McFarlan remarked, that he need scarcely inform the members of Presbytery, or the public, that the application now made, and the other similar ones which were about to be made elsewhere afforded to him great delight. He had all along taken the deepest interest in this matter, and had been appointed by the General Assembly, Convener of the Committee to negotiate with the Committee of the Associate