

DR. CHALMERS ON EDUCATION.

On Wednesday evening a public Soiree of the friends of the Established Church, was held in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, the Provost of Leith in the Chair. The large Room was crowded to excess long before the time of meeting. The speakers were Dr. Muir, Maitland Macgill, Esq., the Rev. Mr. Gibson, of the Synod of Ulster, Sir Andrew Agnew, the Rev. Mr. Begg, Mr. Chalmers, M. P., the Rev. Mr. Guthrie, and the Rev. Dr. Anderson. From the address of the last named gentleman, we extract the following remarks on the subject of education:—

"I beg you will all understand that after we shall have fully completed the work of what is now called Church extension, I shall not consider the work as little more than half done. I shall not consider the parochial economy complete by the mere erection of a church in every district. The scheme of Church extension must be followed up by an adequate and comprehensive scheme of school extension. (Cheers.) The parochial economy will not be complete unless, in addition to every church, there shall be placed a school—the one for Christian, the other for common education—the one for Christian education of all the people, the other for the common education of all the children in a district. But you must not imagine that because I make a distinction between Christian and common education, therefore I understand that in the teaching of the school Christianity should have no part, or that I at all give in to the headless system of disseminating religion from education. (Cheers.) Religion in Scotland gave the first impulse to education. Knox and his associates—(loud cheers)—Knox and his associates conceived the popular understanding of the country that the Bible was the genuine record of the communication from God to man, and that within the four corners of that book were contained the words, which were able to make them all wise unto salvation. This inspired them with an intense desire to possess the faculty of reading—that they might unlock the mysteries of the Scriptures, and acquire that knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ which is life everlasting. This created an universal demand for education among the people of Scotland. (Cheers.) Therefore, let us never forget that religion is the parent of the school; and if the school, by an act of unnatural rebellion, should cast off the authority of its parent—if it should ever forget and disdain its great progenitor, all the blessings, and the glory which it had conferred on the land would speedily depart from it. (Cheers.) By the wretched exchange of the bread of life for the mere husks of unscientific knowledge, the moral health of the youth of Scotland would wither into extinction, just as easily as their physical health would wither, if they were bereft of the nourishment of man, and driven to the necessity of feeding on ashes. I confess that I look with jealousy and dislike on all the impostors, on the part of crude and incompetent speculators, with the sacred business of education. (Loud cheers.) To take the Bible from the school, if it is not dropping poison into the fountain heads of morality, is at least to take away from those fountain heads the healing waters of the sanctuary. (Cheers.) Our people would indeed continue to be taught but the light put before them would be moral darkness; and we have the authority of our Saviour for saying how great would be that darkness—Knowledge, it is said, is power; and if knowledge is associated with religion, it becomes a power for the virtuous and the good, and tells with the best and most beneficial influence on the well-being of society. But if knowledge is dissociated from religion, that does not destroy the truth of the maxim that knowledge is power; but it is power emanated from the restraints of principle, and let loose on society like the policy of an artful tyrant, or the military science of a ruthless conqueror, only to enslave and destroy. (Loud cheers.) Yes, gentlemen, we mean to have our school, but we mean in the economy of the school to abide by the good old ways of our forefathers. We mean to have the Bible the regular and daily school-book. We mean to have the catechism the regular and daily scholastic exercise; and these shall be taught openly and fearlessly—not dealt with as contraband articles. (Cheers.) Not smuggled into holes and corners of the establishment—not mended or mutilated by human hands, that the message of the Eternal may be shaped to the taste and to the prejudices of men—(cheers)—not confined to the odd days of the week, skulking into by-rooms, lest the priests of an intolerant faith should be offended. (Tremendous cheering.) No, gentlemen, we will place the Word of God in the fore front of our system of education; and we will render it the unequivocal—the public—the conspicuous object, becoming this Christian and Protestant nation. (Loud cheers.) If there is one association more inveterate than another in the Scottish understanding, it is the association between the church and the school. I met with a gratifying instance of this three years ago in the Water of Leith. (Great cheering.) It was in the first instance suggested to get up a petition in that district for an endowment to the new church; we proposed no more at that time; but it occurred to themselves, and of their own spontaneous accord they determined to supersede another petition—for an endowment to the school also. This was entirely the doing of the people themselves. The first petition of the church, in a population of 1,300 was school, was subscribed by 618 signatures; the second petition, for the school, was subscribed by 616 signatures. The truth is, these two things, the church and the school, are held by a Scotchman to be inseparable. A church without a school would be regarded as an anomaly; and the only other anomaly which would be still more violent and outrageous to the feelings of a Scotchman, would be a school without the Bible. (Loud continued cheering.) But while I thus contend for the Bible, I would not limit the education of the working classes, as some would, to the mere capacity of reading it. I would give them as much education as they have time and taste for. Only grant me that primary education should be based on religion; and after that interest has been adequately secured, you can never overdo the business of education—you can never over-enlighten the people. In this matter, let us seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and then we may legitimately look and labour for the fulfilment of the promise, that all other things shall be added to us. I have a strong and confident anticipation—though it would require a long argument to make good—to rationalize it to you—I have a confident anticipation that the result of a well-taught and a well-

principled population will be, that they will reach a higher status in the community than they now occupy. Less work—so that they may not be drudged like beasts of burden; more wages—(cheers)—greater leisure for the culture of the higher faculties of their nature—(continued cheering)—and an indefinitely nearer approach in science and all other sorts of scholarship to those who now stand above them in apparently hopeless superiority. I do not say that I shall see this in my day; but I am confident that if we christianize the people we shall intellectualize them also—that we shall transform them into kindly and companionable men, with whom we may at all times hold delighted converse; and the specimens of the intercourse that I have had with them has given me a foretaste of those delightful and brilliant conversations. (Cheers.) Therefore it is that I for one am a friend to popularising philosophy—to popularising institutions—to the copious supply of a large and liberal information to all classes of society. Only let Christianity be ever present as a presiding influence to heaven all and sanctify all, and then all will be right and safe; and the blessed conjuncture will be realised, of ours being at once an intellectual and a religious nation. I trust I have made myself understood—(loud cheers)—so far as to make it palpable that I hold a Bible class to be an integral and indispensable part of every school, and that I hold Christianity to be an integral and indispensable part of every system of popular education; for I confess that I look with sympathy on the general improvement of the national character from any scheme of education, if it is merely an education of letters, and not an education of principles. (Cheers.) It is not scholarship alone, but scholarship impregnated with religion, which tells on the mass of society. Apart from this, I have no confidence in the efficacy of mechanical institutes, or even in primary and elementary schools, for building up a virtuous and well-conditioned peasantry. There is a church attached to the system of Scotland; and it is believed that if it could be transferred to England or Ireland, the same results would follow. But it is forgotten that a warm earnest Christianity animated the spirit of all our institutions, for generations after they were framed; and that wanting this, they are no more fitted to discharge the functions of civilizing the people than a human skeleton would be fitted to perform the functions of discharge the energies of a living man. The school is wrought into our ecclesiastical system, not in an ignorant or exclusive spirit, but for the purpose of impregnating the boyhood of the land with the religion of the Bible. A mere scholastic of letters may diffuse intelligence among the people, but it is mainly to the power of religion that the moral greatness of our people is owing."

From Liverpool Papers Dec. 15—22.

DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE PARK.—On Saturday afternoon, at five minutes before two o'clock, Sir James Allan Park, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, expired in the 75th year of his age, at his town residence, No. 32, Bedford-square. His Lordship had been confined for several days to his bed, from a violent complaint in his bowels, which brought on inflammation. His sufferings are said to have been most excruciating; several consultations of physicians and surgeons were held, but so violent was the disorder that it baffled all the skill of his medical advisers. On Tuesday a change for the better took place, and the learned judge experienced considerable relief. On Thursday he relaxed again, and never rallied during his illness. He bore his sufferings with the most Christian fortitude. The whole of his family and relatives were in constant attendance upon him. The poor have sustained a great loss by the death of Sir James. Upwards of one hundred men and women were every Tuesday and Friday relieved with soup, meat, and coals; and, at the present inclement season, the poor of the village of Merton, in Surrey, his country residence, were provided with blankets.

There never was anything so foolish as the argument of a profound contemporary, when he says the new education system is less exclusion than the old, because it pretends to admit all denominations. In order to comply with the insolent tyranny of the Roman church, it excludes all conscientious Christians who value prayer and reverence the Bible.—The new system is more exclusive than the old. It excludes the Protestant population to admit Papists and Unitarians, both of whom mutilate the Word of God. We did not, however, apply the word exclusiveness to the religious bigotry of the liberals, but to their intense political bigotry, which will not allow a single man to enter the Council who is not a slave to their narrow political faction; and we applied it in proof of their inconsistency, in doing that which they formerly denounced. Let them go on building schools; their faction will soon have had its day: the Angel company will soon be a company fallen angels, and then prayer and the Bible will be restored to general use again. Their faction, we repeat, will soon have had its day. They might have consolidated their power on the basis of honour, equity, and truth: they have built it on the quicksand of party, bigotry, and it must fail.

THE BALLOT.—The friends of the ballot must feel deeply indebted to Dr. M'Hale for a new argument in favour of that system, quite as cogent as any hitherto advanced. According to the worthy politico-ecclesiastic (vide his speech at the recent precursor meeting in Galway), "the ballot is the method adopted at Rome, by the holy cardinals, at the elec-

tion of the Pope—the sovereign head of the Romish Church!" Surely that is infallible authority for the ballot: henceforth not another syllable need be said it, or can, with any decency, be said against it. Nobody ever heard of bribes or intrigues among that illustrious body of electors. Of course, not.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.

For a week past, this city has been exceedingly flat and dull. Not a breath, calculated to agitate or excite, has blown over its tranquil bosom. Mackenzie and his companion, Theller, took their departure the day after their abortive attempt to get up a meeting, finding that the citizens of the metropolis were not to be humbugged by such charlatanism, or led into difficulties, by fellows who are striving to make dupes of some of our excitable countrymen. Theller, it would seem, as I before intimated, was a resident of Washington some four years ago, in which he attempted to practice medicine; but not being able to get any patients, he got into debt, which he could not pay, left two children being him on the charity of the public, who were found some time after on the point of starvation, and put off to Canada, where, as the last resort, he turned patriot. When here, he had not been naturalized, and it is most probable, is still an alien, though he claims to be a citizen of the United States.

The president's proclamation, and the fate of our deluded countrymen, in Canada, where they were led to expect a strong support from those who were making such an outcry, about the tyranny and oppression of the mother country, have been a terrible damper to their patriotism, and will no doubt put a stop to all further attempts to get up an insurrection in Canada. The meeting here, though the largest assemblage of persons seen for some time, made so little impression, or the object was regarded with so much contempt, that it is now almost forgotten. The people of this city see so much political humbuggery, and are so little excitable, that all such projects as that got up by the Canadian refugees, are at once discountenanced and put down.—The proclamation of the president has been received with decided approbation by almost all the citizens of Washington, with the exception of a few hot-headed loco focos.

It has been conjectured here that the friends of Mr. Van Buren were desirous to embroil this country in a war with great Britain, under the impression that it would enable the dominant party to retain their power, and put an end to the efforts of the whigs. But Van could not be prevailed upon to "go it," and their last and only hope now, is that abolition will be the means of destroying them, if they can delude the people so far as to make them believe that they are the exclusive abolitionists. Another hope is entertained, however, that the sub-treasury scheme will prevail, and then that will give the leaders the power of bringing a majority of the people to side with them.

I must confess that I am shocked and disgusted with the barefaced corruption practised by this administration and the last. I tremble for the Republic.—Places are actually bought and sold—and the grossest bribery and favouritism are the order of the day; and when these are pointed out the answer is, "party slang; all's well."

LORD DURHAM'S ADDRESS. EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS

From the Western Luminary.

There is now no question of an obvious quarrel between Lord Durham and the Ministers, and whatever may be the result, one thing is certain—viz., that the addresses presented to his Lordship have been so many reproaches, levelled at his Ministerial foes. The Liberals of this city are painfully aware of this fact, as the following singular proceeding, for the authenticity of which we can vouch, will testify.

No sooner was the late meeting over at the Guildhall, than Mr. M. Kennaway went, in a state of great trepidation to the mayor, and said, that though the address had been presented in style, and he had even held up his and for it, still he did not exactly like the thing; he was almost afraid they had done wrong—he did not know what ministers would say to it; at all events, he hoped Lord Durham would not turn it into a political matter, and, under all the circumstances, he thought they had better wait on his Lordship, and beg him not to do so!!! To this modest proposal, the mayor with his usual good nature assented, and accordingly a deputation was formed of his Worship, Mr. M. Kennaway, and Mr. William John Playtors Wilkinson, who

proceeding to Lord Durham, at the New London Inn.

On being ushered into his lordship's presence, Mr. M. Kennaway, who was spokesman on the occasion, entered into an explanation, wishing to impress on his lordship's mind, that though an address of congratulation had been presented to him, still that the Council hoped he would not consider it as a censure on ministers, and beseeching him not to withdraw his support from Lord Melbourne. In this respect Mr. William John Playtors Wilkinson joined with solemn visage.

Lord Durham heard what the enlightened deputation had to say, with a look of extreme astonishment (as well he might), and then replied, "that he did not exactly understand what the gentlemen meant; as for the address presented to him, it spoke for itself; he had it in his pocket, and he would take care of it. With regard to Lord Melbourne he had a large bone to pick with his lordship, and he would take care to pick it clean." His lordship then bowed haughtily, and signified an obvious wish that his inopportune visitors would withdraw. Accordingly, his Worship, Mr. Mark Kennaway, and Mr. William John Playtors Wilkinson retired much embarrassed and discommoded; leaving the runaway dictator of Canada to ponder over the strong inconsistency of this worthy trio presenting to him a congratulatory address in a public hall one moment, with a whole string of compliments attached to it, and then coming to ask him to say nothing about it the moment after. Verily this proceeding makes us laugh!

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.—From the annual report of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, just issued, it appears that 95,649 Bibles, 87,426 Testaments, 191,723 Prayer Books, 10,660 Psalters, 145,479 bound books, 2,222,652 Tracts have been sold this year, making a total circulation of scriptural publications of 2,753,698. The income of the year amounts to £28,163 11s. 5d., while the expenditure is stated at £25,140 3s. The number of schools in connexion with the society are 6668 Sunday school, containing 433,280 scholars; 19,152 Sunday and day schools, in which are 514,550 scholars; and 704 infant schools, containing 43,730 scholars. Total schools, 16,224; total number of scholars, 996,460.

IRELAND.—Dreadful and Destructive Storm.—The most furious and calamitous storm with which we have been visited for a number of years was that of Wednesday week (Nov. 27.) At half-past one, a hurricane, which, for violence and duration, has never been exceeded in this district, came on and continued with unabated violence until eight o'clock, p. m., when there was a partial cessation. The city at three o'clock, when the tempest was at its height, presented an appalling scene. The shops were, for the greater part closed and business was suspended, whilst the streets were inundated in many parts to the height of five and six feet. The Grant Parade, South Mall, Patrick-street, and those passing north and south were entirely covered.—At Hammond's Marsh, the water was six and eight feet deep. The gale sweeping along the inundation, created an effect truly awful—the spray having, particularly on the parade, been blown to the tops of houses. The loss of property has been considerable.—Dublin Post.

Bill of Fare of the Great Western.

As a specimen of the dinners provided on board the Great Western, our readers may take the following bill of fare:—Breakfast—6 dishes broiled ham, 2 do. fish, 6 do. mutton chops, 100 eggs in omelets, 6 dishes devilled legs poultry, 6 dishes Indian meal. Dinner—6 dishes mock turtle, 2 dishes venison, 4 roasted turkeys, 4 couple of ducks, 4 dishes roast beef, 4 ditto cod fish, 4 couple of chickens, 6 dishes fried oysters, &c., 4 ditto stewed oysters, 4 do. boiled mutton, 4 do. macaroni, 6 dishes backed washed potatoes, 6 do. mashed turnips, 6 ditto potatoes, 6 do. parsnips, 6 do. plain potatoes, 6 plum puddings, 6 custard do., 6 raspberry pies, 6 apple do., 6 cranberry do., 2 cherry do. Choice wines in abundance.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER.—Her Majesty the Queen Dowager of England arrived at Malta, from Syracuse, on the 30th ult., when the royal standard of England was seen, for the first time, floating in that port. The fortifications of Valetta, Point St. Angelo, and every other spot which commanded a view of the novel and interesting scene were covered with spectators. The Queen landed on the following day, under a royal salute and the cheers of the sailors of the Hastings and the ships under Sir. R. Stopford, who manned the yards; her majesty was at-

tended by an palace, where a the national air of After inspecting queen returned remained on board when her Majesty abode on shore entry, as the *Te Deum* as proceeding the town was

Irish Lord jesty's letters the Great S Lord Chancel of Dublin, an the Forces, the absence of the wandly these sworn in before on Saturday.

The follow nouncement Underwriters We have no the correctio on:

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We have rec ca papers to intelligence v cate is most eative and come to an d Governor ha the Assemb election of no issued, and w 17th Decen Gazette and t censure the lency, and th that the wno West India ing, though tent, from th stimulus to the very inju the home go

NATIONAL R ON—THE R

From the States We are pe ers, and the education ge to hear, from that the Rev abandoned t Mr. Carlile a gregation yes himself had solved. He king this ste the elders of b unanimously leave the bo meeting of th members of which will be he would stat