

very short. We must educate the coloured voter of the South—we must educate the ignorant white voter there—or the preponderance of ignorance will yet bring ruin—not only to the South, but to the whole land."

A grand ideal, a nation of free men, but the true patriot only knows what self-denial and moral truth are needed to make that ideal practical. And so with self-governed churches, the noblest type indeed; but what of self-governed graceless churches? Self-governed churches—churches made free with Christ's own liberty; what blessings involved; and what strenuous upgathering of moral worth and spiritual power to render such a boon truly our own. How are we educating our children in self-government? How read we the phrase—self the governor, or the governed? Too often in the first sense, but they whose motto is "One, your master, Christ," can only mean the other. Which mean we? All know what the self-government of the madman would be, of the wilful and the criminal; they who would walk according to "the perfect law of liberty" would do well to read from the New Testament of the heavenly *Ecclesia*. "Where no citizen neglects the duties involved, despises or abuses any honour it brings, lives mindful of all the responsibilities and jealous of the powers laid upon him, and renders the Church the most beautiful of all human things—the home of Christian freedom," freedom from strife, freedom from envyings and all uncharitableness, the abode of love and purity and peace. Then may we be free in self-government, free to work and wait and live. Thus too may we train our children; otherwise Ichabod is over our portals.

SOMEONE has said that a lie will travel a thousand miles whilst truth is putting on her boots; and audacious ignorance to-day has a greater following than unpretentious worth. It does seem that the more outrageous a bold man's unblushing utterances are, the greater credence they gain from a certain class of people. Last September an announcement, which we will reprint, was made:

"Owing to the advice of friends and to the fact that every man should feel an interest in his fellow, I now make the following announcement:—

"A great storm will strike this planet on the 9th of March next. It will first be felt in the Northern Pacific, and will cross the meridian of Ottawa at noon (5 o'clock p.m., London time) of Sunday, March 11th,

1883. No vessel smaller than a Cunarder will be able to live in this tempest. India, the south of Europe, England, and especially the North American continent, will be the theatre of its ravages. As all the low lands on the Atlantic will be submerged, I advise shipbuilders to place their prospective vessels high upon the stocks, and farmers having loose valuables, as hay, cattle, etc., to remove them to a place of safety. I beg further most respectfully to appeal to the honourable Minister of Marine that he will peremptorily order up the storm drums on all the Canadian coasts not later than the 20th of February, and thus permit no vessel to leave harbour. If this is not done hundreds of lives will be lost and millions' worth of property destroyed.

"E. STONE WIGGINS, LL.D.,

"Ottawa, September 22nd."

"Astronomer.

That an LL.D., or D.D., or any other D., could predict so particularly and certainly, no one not utterly bereft of sincerity or common sense could for a moment believe, and yet in this day of enlightenment and progress, and in this country of schools and colleges, men and women were found to swallow this precious piece of humbug, and to prove their sincerity by acting like—fools! for we read that "Gloucester fishermen lost a voyage because they did not dare to risk the Ides of March upon the Grand Banks. An ocean steamer left New York without a passenger. Any number of sea-captains took their clearing papers on Thursday—"who's afraid!"—dropped down to the outer harbour, and anchored until the hurricane should blow over. It is said that some became insane through fear; and it is certain that an incomputable amount of suffering was caused to hundreds of families having friends at sea. Altogether the pecuniary damage to the various commercial interests of the country, in various ways occasioned, may fairly be counted at least by hundreds of thousands of dollars." Some few years ago a stormy February was predicted months beforehand. February came and went without a snow-flake, rain or breeze. The prophet consoled himself with the thought that February was all wrong. He predicted what ought to have been, but the month was perverse! Wiggins has not even this consolation. March came and was itself—nothing more and nothing less: but the amount of credulity and superstition evidenced by those who joyed in being dupes—we heard that even learned divines endorsed the folly—would be supremely amusing were it not so deeply humiliating. Let us hope and pray that this disgusting fizzle will do something towards