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"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will towards men."

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PROSPECTUS

OF
A WEEKLY PAPER,
TO BE ENTITLED
THE NEW-BRUNSWICK RELIGIOUS AND
LITERARY JOURNAL;

ALEXANDER McLEOD, Editor.

In an age which with peculiar propriety is denominated, "THE AGE OF IMPROVEMENT," and in a Colony of the British Empire, which is now fast rising in importance, and in which the means of knowledge are increasing and taking a wider range,—it has been suggested,—that as true Religion, sound principle, and good morals, are the foundation of every thing that is truly great and excellent in man; that whatever has a tendency in any measure to promote these, is, in a proportional degree entitled to favourable consideration, and to countenance and support from the Public. Periodicals, having religious instruction for their basis, have in other places been found to be a most efficient auxiliary to the labours of Gospel Ministers, and have greatly contributed to the diffusion and spread of the sacred and saving influence of Religion, and of " whatsoever things are true, just, lovely, and of good report."

In compliance with the earnest and repeated requests of persons deeply interested in this subject, and with an humble hope that it may in some small measure, at least, contribute towards so desirable an object, the present work, though with much diffidence, is intended to be undertaken.

The New-Brunswick Religious and Literary Journal, as its title imports, will be occupied chiefly with matter of a religious nature and character, and as opportunity offers, with articles on literature and science, morals, domestic economy, and general information. In the religious department will be given, choice selections of Memoirs and Biographical accounts of persons of different religious denominations, who have been eminent for their piety, and their literary attainments and usefulness; well authenticated accounts of the spread of vital religion; extracts from Missionary and Bible Societies, and Sunday School and Tract Society publications and reports, &c. &c. In making these selections and extracts, while a proper respect will be carefully cherished towards the publications and established institutions of Great Britain and her dependencies, yet, having the vast world before him, the Editor will have no hesitation in extracting from the publications of other countries, whatever he may suppose to be applicable to the circumstances of this and the neighbouring Provinces, and that may in any measure conduce to the prosperity of Religion, to the improvement of Public Institutions, and to the amelioration and improvement of morals.

That this publication will have a favorable aspect towards the doctrines which are taught, and the discipline which is exercised, among that body of Christians, with which for many years the Editor has been, and is now connected, may reasonably be anticipated; but, that it shall breathe a liberal, catholic, and friendly spirit, towards other denominations of Christians, may with equal confidence, be expected.

As there is not at present, either in this or in the neighbouring Province, in a course of publication, any work of a similar character, it is presumed that the Editor will not be thought to trespass upon, or even to interfere with, any other man's field of labour. And as in a religious point of view, the circumstances and the wants of both Provinces are nearly, if not quite similar to each other, whatever may be found substantially useful to the one, cannot be altogether inapplicable to the other. If this idea be correct, it may not be considered as presuming too much, if a favourable concurrence from the friends of Religion in Nova Scotia, be anticipated.

As usefulness on the most extensive scale, in the departments already mentioned, is the principal object designed in this publication; articles from any quarter, having this object in view, well written, and conceived in a liberal spirit, will be carefully attended to. But, as the Editor will solely be accountable to the public, for the matter which it shall contain, he must always be understood to have reserved to himself, the right of exercising his own discretion upon the articles which may be offered.

TERMS.—The New-Brunswick Religious and Literary Journal, will be published Weekly, at the City Gazette Office, in Quarto form, on a Royal sheet, at 15s. per annum, exclusive of Postage. One half payable in advance, the other half in six months.—All arrears must be paid before any subscription can be discontinued, except at the discretion of the Publisher.

Ministers of any denomination are authorized and respectfully requested to act as Agents. To any such, and to other authorized agents, procuring and forwarding to the Publisher ten responsible Subscribers, one copy will be sent gratis.

All communications involving facts, must be accompanied by the proper names of the writer.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

SURVEY OF THE PROTESTANT MISSIONARY STATIONS, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IN THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL ORDER.

[CONTINUED.]

Yet, through the mercy of God, has the work of His Grace begun in Africa! In Sierra Leone, on the West, the spectacle of a peaceful and happy Christian Government is exhibited, in delightful contrast with all these horrifying scenes—the fruit of Superstition and of the unchecked vices of the human heart: there, no Slave exists—no blood is spilt—no oppression lights upon the poorest! The Church and the Chapel receive the crowded worshippers of the True God, and his praise is heard in their peaceful dwellings; the security of which is guarded by an equal law, as powerful for the poor, as for the rich, for the black peasant as for his white Governor. Southern Africa, too, now exhibits her converted tribes; and her civilization, carried forward along with the knowledge of Christ and the kind and hallowing influence of the Gospel. Let us not, then, faint, nor be discouraged: by the Messengers of Peace, sent forth into all these dark lands, shall the glorious work be done, under the blessing of God: and the cruelties of Pagan Africa be remembered, only as those of ancient Pagan Britain, to call forth the song of praise from all her tribes, and give new evidence to the truth and power of the Gospel!

A full account of the recent discoveries in the interior of Africa was given in the last Survey: little authentic intelligence has since been received relative to further proceedings. Some ships have been sent out to Fernando Po, for the purpose of forming an experimental settlement on that island. If the place should prove, contrary to the fears of well-informed persons, sufficiently healthy for permanent occupation, the settlement would be important in various respects: it would act beneficially as a further check on the Slave Trade, and would also furnish the means of opening an intercourse with the interior by the rivers which fall into those seas, and especially if it should be ultimately found that the Niger there discharges its waters. We add, on this subject, the sentiments of a Missionary deeply concerned for the good of Africa: in reference to the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry he says—

I am happy to find that the Commissioners have so fully detailed the sufferings and numerous deaths, to which the Slaves are exposed and fall victims, after the capture of the slave-ship by the British Cruisers, and during the passage to Sierra Leone. The facts detailed by the Commissioners shew the important benefits, in this respect, which would be obtained by the selection of another spot nearer to that part of the coast where most of the Slaves are now captured; and to which place, whether it be Fernando Po, or any other, the cargo of Slaves might be conveyed much sooner than it could be to Sierra Leone. By such an arrangement much misery would be avoided and many lives saved.

It is sincerely hoped, however, that such a measure, if adopted by Government, will not be attended by the abandonment of the Colony of Sierra Leone: were this to be done, we may confidently expect that the rapacious Slave Dealers would desert their present haunts, only to establish themselves on some more northern part of the coast, perhaps on the Sierra Leone River itself; and from thence draw away into interminable slavery those, who, having been liberated, are now enjoying the comforts of domestic happiness and peace, under the fostering care of the British Government.

WESTERN AFRICA.

There is not a sphere of labour in the whole world, which has such strong claims on the conscience of Christians as those parts of this Continent that have been, for ages, demoralized and desolated by men hearing that name. The disciples of the Arabian Imposter have even dispensed benefits, in

respect of the state of the people as to this world, in all quarters of it where they have banished or contumelious Paganism; while those who dishonour the Holy name by which they are called, and still wear the Cross upon their recreant brows, have been, on these shores, a curse in the things both of time and of eternity. Their evil course is still continued; as may be seen from the summary view of the State of the Slave Trade, collected, at pp. 516—524 of our 1st Volume, from the twenty-first Report of the African Institution.

But better days are approaching: the Christians of Europe and America have entered on a warfare with the Powers of Darkness on this coast; and will never, we trust, lay down the sword till, under the Captain of the Host of the Lord, the victory shall be fully achieved. New Labourers are coming into the field: in the proceedings of the American Board of Missions at its last Anniversary we rejoice to find the following Minute and Resolutions—

Contemplating the miserable and degraded moral condition of our fellow-men in Africa, and reflecting on the causes which have conspired in this quarter of the world to render that condition yet more miserable, Resolved

—That it seems to be the obvious duty of the Board, as almoners of the public charity, to take immediate and decisive measures for communicating that relief, which the light of the Blessed Gospel will afford.

—That the Committee be enjoined forthwith to take such steps as to them shall appear sufficient for the establishment of a Missionary Station on some part of the Continent of Africa.

—That we rely on Almighty God for a blessing upon this undertaking; and on the Christian Sympathy of our fellow citizens for means to enable us to carry this important object into full effect.

If the intended Settlement on Fernando Po should be established, the Church Missionary Society will probably extend its labours to that quarter as soon as fit persons can be found for the work: on this subject, the Rev. Thomas Davoy, who was liberally granted a passage, with Mrs. Davoy, to Sierra Leone, by Capt. Owen, of H. M. Ship Eden, writes, in October—

Captain Owen has frequently expressed a wish, that when the Colony of Fernando Po is sufficiently established, the Committee of the Church Missionary Society would, turn their attention to the spiritual wants of the place. Lieutenant-Col. Lunley, the Lieut.-Governor, accompanies Captain Owen down the Coast, with a small party of soldiers. I believe the intentions of His Majesty's Government toward the Aborigines of the Island to be pacific; and it is hoped that those good intentions will in no way be frustrated. I believe Captain Owen is likely to have charge of the place as Governor for some time, should they succeed: and it is expected that his family will come out: and join him shortly. As many as sixteen houses, ready framed, were brought out from England, with a number of artificers to assist in erecting them: they have also taken down with them a number of mechanics and labourers from among the Liberated Africans of this Colony.

The American Colony of Liberia possesses, it must be acknowledged, very great advantages over every other on the coast, for all the purposes of benevolence and piety; the Government of that Colony being in the hands of a Society and administered by individuals who have the noble and elevated objects in view which respect the Eternal World. We are restrained, on various grounds, from making our readers acquainted with all the difficulties which harass and impede the efforts of a Religious Society, conducted under less favourable circumstances: these difficulties will, however, be easily conceived by those intelligent persons who consider the indifference of the natural heart to all religion, and its settled hostility to all whose life is, conducted on other principles and directed to other ends.