The Protestant

AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

"PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."—1 Thess., v. 21.

Vol. 3. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Saturday, November 16, 1861. No. 20

The Protestant,

AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS,

Is issued every Saturday from Haszard's Printing Office, South Side Queen Square,

BY

DAVID LAIRD, Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS:

Twelve Shillings if paid within the First half year after being taken, or from the date of the last payment; Twelve Shillings and six-pence if paid within the Second half year; after which Thirteen Shillings will be charged.

Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. [To prevent disappointment, all advertisements should be sent to the Office before 3 o'clock on Friday.]

The Geneva Conference.

We copy the following from the October No. of the Edinburgh *News of the Churches*:—

The Conference, just held at Geneva, has proved to be one of the most successful that the Evangelical Alliance has yet assembled. Both in regard to the attendance and the variety and interest of the papers, it has, we believe, surpassed all that preceded it. The Conference did not meet, as in 1857, under the shadow of royalty; but it had the advantage of association with the city which stands pre-eminent and above all others in the history of the Reformation. This free city, surrounded by towering despotisms pledged to the cause of Rome, then throw its shield over the little band of reformers, and, through the presence and influence of Calvin, became the sun of the Reformation. Here there assembled the best men and most single-hearted reformers from different countries of Europe to carry back with them to their homes a clearer and more accurate knowledge of the Word of God—on which alone their work of ecclesiastical reform was to be built. It was the centre of Protestant unity three centuries ago. It stood out with such prominence as the antagonist of Rome—that Rome and Geneva became the watchwords of the Romish and Protestant parties, and have continued to be so till the present time.

It seemed peculiarly suitable that a Conference of evangelical Christians should assemble in this ancient and beautiful city. Great difficulties, however, opposed themselves. For a century and a half, till within a recent period, Geneva had lain under the cold shadow of Rationalism. The clergy of the National Church were, for the most part, Unitarian, if not even Atheistic. So early as 1725, this party had gained such influence as to procure the abolition of signature to confessions of faith, from the sole desire of being untrammelled in their infidel tendencies. Geneva became, indeed, the centre of a philosophic infidel movement. It was the frequent residence of Voltaire, the birth-place of Jean Jacques Rousseau, and the resort of our own Gibbon. Its intellectualism, for which it has always been noted, was devoted to the cause of error instead of that of truth, to the cause of religious revolution instead of that of conservation. Happily a change has been gradually taking place. Since Robert Haldane first visited Geneva, and found its students utterly ignorant of the Bible, and began to open up to them the riches of evangelical truth, a new life has arisen. Geneva has become again the centre of an important evangelical school. It has attracted the attention of the Church by the writings of its theologians, especially by those of its historian of the Reformation. Though these more prominent men have been without the National Church, the National Church has also been sharing in the blessing. A great change for the better has taken place in the theology of its pastors, the majority of whom now maintain the essential principles of the gospel. There is, however, an influential minority, including several of the professors of theology, who deny the doctrine of the Trinity and other vital principles of the faith. These made every effort to prevent the official recognition of the Conference by the opening to it of the gates of the old Cathedral, associated with all the stirring history of the epoch of the Reformation. For weeks before the beginning of the meetings, pamphlets appeared almost daily, setting forth in strong terms the grievance of giving recognition to a body which excluded persons who asserted the principles of free, unbiassed inquiry. Great credit is due to the Geneva Committee for the tact with which they warded off these assaults, without yielding to any demand. The Consistory of the Church and the Government remained firm. Even to the day of assembling, however, fears were entertained that the populace might be roused by the demonstrations of this party, and a guard was, we believe, under arms upon that day, by the direction of the Government. The whole tone of public feeling improved as the Conferences advanced; and there is reason to believe that this assembly has had a very happy influence upon the public feeling of the city and canton.

Many of the addresses, of which, in the space at our command, we can give but an imperfect view, were of high value—equal, in respect of their philosophical and literary merits, to the papers read before any of the great scientific societies. We would specially notice the address of Mr Rossouw-Saint-Hilaire upon the state of the working-classes in France,—this paper furnishes a masterly picture of the state of French society, as affected by the revolution;—the address of M. Ernest Naville upon the scepticism of the present day in France, the principles enunciated in which, with philosophic clearness, have a much wider application than designed; we do not remember to have seen anywhere so clearly and truthfully depicted the influence of a dishonest and changeable press in promoting the cause of scepticism; we would invite special attention to this part of the subject;—the paper of Dr Merle d'Aubigné, which, in its broad views of Calvin's character and mission, is calculated to alter entirely, in the minds of many honest inquirers who have not before made deep researches for themselves, the idea of this prince of the reformers;—the paper of M. De Pressensé, which, though somewhat extreme, gives a clear view of the effect of despotic restrictions in preparing the way for revolution, and breathes throughout a noble spirit of independence;—the paper of M. Rougemont upon the churches of Hungary, Transylvania, Poland, and Russia,—the paper of Professor Riggenbach, of Basle, upon the scepticism of German Switzerland,—and various German papers of a profounder type read within the last few days. There were a few objectionable statements, which we have given faithfully, as to the doctrine of inspiration, and which is not an open question within the Alliance; but there was much less of this than at Berlin;—the few semi-rationalists who found themselves there, not having perhaps felt the atmosphere to be congenial. The doctrinal basis of the French branch of the Alliance was read daily before the beginning of the proceedings, that the position might be clearly and unmistakably defined. Nothing can be more important than the taking up of a most firm and resolute position on the subject of the full inspiration of all parts of the Bible, the attack upon which is the chief weapon of infidelity in the present day, and any wavering from which would shatter the foundation of the whole structure of evangelical unity.

One of the most interesting features of the Conference, was the impetus given by it to evangelistic effort of every kind in Geneva and its neighbourhood. Various gatherings were held in the open air, at a short distance from the city, at which many attended, and not a few were impressed. The Rev. Baptist Noel, especially, to whom, as a speaker, the French language is familiar, exerted himself indefatigably to bring the gospel to the people. As in many other parts of the Continent, the revival of life among a portion of the clergy has scarcely yet seized upon the masses, most of whom are Materialists and open scoffers. These open-air services were to them an altogether new feature. An attempt was made to influence the Government to forbid them, but without effect. Such an exhibition of earnestness to win souls, was in itself calculated to exert thought and attention. The Churches of the Continent are too much restrained by stereotyped methods, and nothing would be so well calculated to arouse the mass of the people as an exhibition of such zeal as that of Wesley and Whitefield, bursting through all the narrow restraints of routine in earnest love to the souls of the poor.

It will be observed that we have given only a limited space to the proceedings in English. This does not imply a supposed want of interest in these proceedings themselves, but the subjects, such as Foreign Missions, Sunday Schools, the wants of the Colonies, are familiar to our readers in our Annual Reports, etc. These subjects were most suitable to the Continent, where they were less known, and they excited a hearty interest. The subject of Sabbath observance was considered at an early date. An excellent paper, descriptive of the Scottish Sabbath, was read by Dr Thomson of Edinburgh. It might do much good if this paper were widely circulated upon the Continent. The utter neglect of the Sabbath in Germany, France, Switzerland, even Geneva itself, is one chief cause of the little influence of the Church over the people. Without Sabbath observance, spiritual life cannot prosper. We are glad to know, that in consequence of what was said of the Sabbath in Scotland, a series of lectures will be delivered on the Sabbath in Geneva this winter.

Sermons were preached, almost every evening, by one or other of the most distinguished preachers assembled from different countries. Dr Guthrie preached a sermon on the text "Faith without works is dead," which was well adapted to the times, and abounded in historic and other suitable illustration. Dr Tholuck gave a remarkable exposition of the Lord's Prayer. Dr Krummacher, Dr Cairns of Berwick, Dr Urwick of Dublin, etc., also preached on successive occasions. The communion was celebrated as at Berlin, when prayer was offered up in French, German, English, and Italian successively, and the elements were distributed by ministers of different churches and countries. Two large gatherings were held in beautiful gardens in the open air, in the neighborhood of Geneva, when many addresses were delivered in various languages, and praise and prayer might be heard arising from different corners, in German, French, or English—commingling their sounds as they ascended into heaven, and reminding of the various tongues of apostolic days.

The meeting, on the whole, has been one of much blessing; successful beyond expectation in its main object—the interchange of thought on subjects of deep Christian interest. No one can have intelligently heard its proceedings without having acquired much valuable information as to the progress of the kingdom of Christ, and the characteristics and strength of the infidelity of the present day. The Geneva Committee deserve much credit for their selection, both of men and subject. To the Geneva citizens cordial thanks are due for their hospitality. They have enjoyed this reputation from the time of the Reformation, and they have proved that they deserve it still. May the fruits of this meeting be of great benefit to the ancient city, stimulating its whole people to return to the faith of its reformers.

Temperance.

Annual Session of P. E. Island Grand Division.—In a former No. of our paper we noticed some of the proceedings of this Body, at its Annual Session. This week, we publish for the information of Subordinate Divisions a few of the resolutions which were passed. We may also mention that the G. D. agreed to support the proposition that the next meeting of the National Body, be held at Halifax, N. S. The communication from the Grand Division of Canada West in favor of the formation of a National Division for the British North American Provinces, was considered, but there appeared to be little inclination among the members of our Division, to separate at present, from the National Division of North America.

It has been thought advisable to publish the names of the Representatives who were present at our Annual Session. They are as follows:—

"Prince Edward, No. 1—J. B. Cooper. J. W. Morrison, W. C. Trowan, Benj. Williams; Rising Sun No. 2—D. Laird, John Scott, Wm. Boyle, John Hatch, Wm. O'Brien, J. P. Tanton, H. H. Pollard, R. Percival, J. J. Rice, John Kennedy, Chas. Saunders, F. W. Hughes, Matt. Stephenson; Victoria, No. 4—Rev. J. Davis, J. S. Carvell, T. Keirstead, W. F. Morris; Diamond of the Desert, No. 9—Wm. Sanderson, D. G. W. P. King's County; North Star, No. 37—T. T. Fairbairn, D. G. W. P. Prince County.

The subjoined are the resolutions above referred to:—

Resolved—That the thanks of this Grand Division be, and are hereby tendered to the Clergymen of all Denominations in P. E Island, who during the past year have labored assiduously for the propagation of the principles of our Organization.

Resolved—That the several Subordinate Divisions are hereby recommended to form Committees composed of the P. W. P.s and others for the purpose of extending the cause of Temperance in every possible way during the ensuing year, as suggested by "Pioneer" and "Banner" Divisions.

Resolved—That this Grand Division having learned that steps have been taken to organize "Bands of Hope" and thus enlistour youth in the cause of Total Abstinence, most heartily approve of this movement, and trust it will be carried out extensively and successful.

Resolved—That a Committee of two be appointed to prepare a Petition to the Legislature praying it to carry out as far as practicable the prayer of the Petition presented to that Body at its last Session, and by the House of Assembly referred to a Special Committee to report thereon next Session: and that copies of said petition be forwarded to the several Divisions, and also friends of our cause, and they be requested to use all deligence in obtaining signatures thereto; and that the Temperance Alliance be requested to appoint a Committee to co-operate in this matter.

The several Sessions of the G. D. during the year, are appointed to be held as follows:—

Georgetown, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.
Charlottetown, Tuesday, April 29, "
Cascumpec, Tuesday, July 29, "
Charlottetown, Wednesday, Oct 29. "

Annual Meeting of Nova Scotia Grand Division.—We take the following extracts from the Halifax *Abstainer* of the 5th inst:—

The Annual Session of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia commenced, in this city, at 11 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday last, and closed at 1 o'clock P. M., on Friday. All the Officers were present except the Grand Chaplain and Grand Sentinel.

The forenoon and afternoon sittings were taken up with reading of Reports of Standing Committees, Reports of Grand Worthy Patriarch and Grand Scribe, and Communications, Appeals, &c., and appointment of Committees.

Among the Communications was one from the Grand Division of Canada West on the subject of the formation of a National Division for the British North American Provinces; also Communications from Grand Divisions of New Brunswick and Canada East, in reference to next meeting of the National Division—all of which documents were referred to a Special Committee. The Report of this Committee, which was adopted on Friday, we will endeavor to publish in our next. We would state, however, that the Grand Division decided not to separate from the National Division of North America at present, and consented to the proposition that the next meeting of the National Body be held at Montreal—provided circumstances prevented it from taking place at Nashville. * *

During the afternoon a Telegram, of which the following is a copy, was received from the Grand Division of New Brunswick, then in Annual Session at St. John:—

St. John, Oct. 31, 1861.

To the Grand Division of N. S., Sons of Temperance

The Grand Division of New Brunswick, in Annual Session convened, unanimously tenders you a fraternal salutation—Peace, Progress and Prosperity.

S. K. Foster, G. W. P.
W. H. A. Kraus, G. S.

The following reply was sent by the Grand Division of Nova Scotia:—

Halifax, Oct. 31, 1861.

To the Grand Division of New Brunswick, Sons of Temperance.

The Grand Division of Nova Scotia, in Annual Session assembled, reciprocates your fraternal salutation—May you possesses the whole land!

Avard Longley, G. W. P.
Patrick Monaghan, G. S.

We give the Report of Committee on State of the Order, and copy of Resolutions adopted at the last sitting of the Session:—

The Committee on the State of the Order to whom were referred the Reports of the Grand Worthy Patriarch and Grand Scribe, beg leave to submit the following:

Your committee feel much gratified to learn from these Reports the highly prosperous condition of the Order throughout the Province, and hope that members of both the Grand and Subordinate Divisions will feel encouraged to renew their individual efforts still further to advance the good cause.

We would recommend that the amount due the National Division be immediately paid.

Lady Visitors.—Your committee feel the increasing importance of this acquisition to our Order, and approve of the granting of Travelling and Withdrawal Cards, &c., for their use, as suggested by the Grand Scribe. We would therefore recommend that he be instructed to have Cards prepared for the use of such Subordinate Divisions as may apply for them. We would suggest the propriety of Subordinate Divisions—who admit Lady Visitors—to require that each Visitor contribute a small sum quarterly (say not to exceed 12½ cents,) and that the proceeds of such contribution be appropriated as the Lady Visitors think proper to promote the cause of Temperance; and that they appoint quarterly their own Financial Scribe and Treasurer:—that the name of any Lady Visitor neglecting for twelve months to pay their dues be erased from the Books, and that she forfeit her right to visit the Division.

Agency.—The employment of a competent person to visit the various Subordinate Divisions, and deliver Public Lectures throughout the Province, is well deserving the consideration of the Grand Division. The collections taken at the various public meetings would, in the opinion of your committee, materially assist in defraying the expenses. We would therefore recommend that the Agency Committee be instructed to endeavour to procure the services of a suitable person, giving them full power to arrange with him as to his duties and compensation.

Prohibitory Law.—We re-affirm the oft-repeated declaration of this Grand Division respecting the necessity of a Law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors as beverages. Nevertheless, as a means of ultimately obtaining this much desired object, and in order to train the public mind for its vigorous enforcement, we would urge the Grand Division, for the present, to use every effort to procure the enaction of the amendments to the License Law which passed the Lower Branch of the Legislature at its last Session; but was lost in the Legislative Council; and therefore recommend that both branches of the Legislature be respectfully petitioned to consider the important amendments sought for,—and that a Committee be appointed to prepare and sign such petition on behalf of this Grand Division,—and we trust they may be able to present such reasons, as will induce many who have hitherto opposed our views on this subject, to change their minds and give it their support.

Bands of Hope.—Every member of Order must feel the great importance of these Societies, and that those friends of the cause who interest themselves in organizing them are entitled to all the aid and encouragement in our power to render them.

All which is respectfully submitted in Love, Purity and Fidelity.

James D. B. Fraser,
N. Gunnison,
D. Johnston,
W. G. Parker,
Roderick M'Gregor.

G. D. Room, Halifax, Oct. 31, 1861.

The following named were appointed a Committee under 5th section of Report:—Stephen Selden, Avard Longley, Charles Robson, E. M. M'Donald, Rev. P. Gunnison.

Resolutions.—*Whereas* the traffic in intoxicating beverages has always, and in all countries, been productive of untold misery to the people—demoralizing their character and wasting their revenues—consequently demanding legal restrictions on its sale:

And Whereas all the efforts hitherto made in this Province to enact laws for the purpose of regulating the sale have been comparatively unavailing:

And Whereas the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance of Nova Scotia, in common with organizations of the Order generally, have repeatedly declared their adherence to the doctrine of "Prohibition," and have striven for the practical adoption of the same by the Legislature.

And Whereas all the reasons which have hitherto been influenced to action on this subject are still in full force, and seeing that British constitutional practice is to reiterate remonstrance and petition until great and good objects are conceded, be it therefore

Resolved, That while the efforts of the Grand Division for the ensuing year may be appropriately employed, in accordance with the suggestion of the Committee on the State of the Order, in endeavouring to procure the re-introduction and passage of the Bill which was passed in the House of Assembly but rejected by the Legislative Council last year, it is hoped that the friends of Temperance through the Province will persevere in petitioning the Legislature for the entire prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating drinks as beverages.

Revival Intelligence.

Switzerland—Geneva.—Amongst other subjects of interest during the Conference, was a series of meetings, conducted in various parts of the city, by the Rev. Joseph Denham Smith, of Dublin, and which grew in interest. He spoke to them of the great work of God in Dublin and Kingstown, and then in the simplest manner told them of the love of Jesus, and his willingness to save to the uttermost all who were willing to accept Him. His words seemed to fall with unction and power: the people wept—many, it is hoped, sought and found Christ to be a present Saviour. It was also very gratifying to see so many active Christian ladies and gentlemen taking part and directing the anxious inquirer. The Revs. W. M. Bunting and William Arthur, Lady Kinnaird, with others, were very actively employed in this work; others there were who felt the power and assisted with their prayers, but from not knowing the language could not speak to the anxious. One thing which showed unmistakeably the hold these truths had taken upon the minds of the people, was the large number of requests sent up in writing for prayer, some on behalf of the writers themselves, but mostly on behalf of others, members of their families; wives on behalf of husbands, and children for their parents. Another pleasing feature was the number who returned thanks publicly for blessings received. One young man sent a note up, requesting the prayers of the people that he might then and there be converted; he had been convinced deeply of sin the day before. The friends were advised to hold one or two weekly-meetings for prayer and counsel, and to let it be generally known, so that anxious souls might know where to go in order to be directed to the Saviour. In the course of what was expected to be the closing meeting, Mr Smith promised to attend another, after three or four days, and that then, if the people were disposed to work with him, he would give up his proposed trip to Venice and other places, and would devote the time in pointing the Genevese to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. Thus while numbers of others were discussing the best means of extending the Redeemer's kingdom, he was practically and most effectually carrying it out on the spot, and will doubtless have many stars in the crown of his rejoicing in the great day, even from Geneva.—*Recorder*.

Bermuda.—The Union Prayer Meeting at St. George's.—For some months intelligence has been coming across the Atlantic to us of *union prayer meetings and great revivals of religion* in England, Ireland, Scotland, &c. Now we would read that at London, "there was an immense concourse of people gathered into many large companies of attentive listeners to preachers of all grades, from the church clergyman to the mechanic boy." Again we would read of our bishops, rectors, curates, the Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Baptist clergy being met with thousands of their parishioners for union prayer, and that God met them in a pentecostal manner. When reading those wonderful accounts of Divine manifestations, which send a thrill of joy to the heart of every lover of Christ, we have been led to ask will this ever be the case in Bermuda? Will our clergymen follow the praiseworthy example of our bishops, yea, the example of a greater than bishops even, St. Paul, who was made all things to all men that he might by all means save some? And while we have ardently desired, and earnestly prayed that this might be so, the prospects have been few, and unpropitious, until very lately. Our churches seem to have fallen into a Laodicean atmosphere; and while, we trust, they were not fighting against each other, we have to confess that they were not assisting each other as they ought, to fight the common foe. But thanks to a kind providence, that in the midst of our spiritual lethargy Capt. Kerr, of the Engineers, arrived here filled with zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. He called on all denominations of Christians to meet for *union prayer*. The first meeting was held in the Town Hall on the evening of the 23d ult. At the time appointed the hall was well filled, many having to go away without being able to enter. Capt. Kerr presided, and used the little collection of hymns first sung at the special services in Dublin and Kingstown, and which have produced such marvellous effects in various parts of the united kingdom. The singing of the first hymn occupied five minutes, after which the captain offered up an earnest prayer. Then they again sang for five minutes, at the close of which the captain read the Scriptures, and gave an address of twenty minutes' length. He spoke of the manner in which he was impressed with the *spiritual dearth* of our town, and of his desire to do something for the salvation of souls here; and in a plain, affectionate, comprehensive and chaste style he invited all to come to Jesus and be saved. Rev. W. Ryan, Wesleyan minister, and Mr Toddings, clerk of the Church of England, followed each other in prayer. At the close of which they again sang, then all bowed before the Lord, and spent a few moments in silent communion with God, and the captain offered the closing prayer, and dismissed the congregation with the apostolical benediction. Thus ended the first union prayer meeting held in this town; and it was one of the most reverential, solemn, and gracious meetings that it was ever our privilege to attend. Every Christian must have been blessed and strengthened for the battle of life; and if there was one soul present who felt not the power of God we envy not that callous heart. Probably a more pleasing meeting in the sight of Heaven was never held in this town before; and certainly never one that so much resembled Heaven. For in Heaven all the redeemed worship together. Whatever were their names on earth, in Heaven they mingle their praises together; and the meeting on earth, in which all evangelical Christians forget every name but the name of Jesus, and offer their united prayers and praises, most resembles Heaven. The second union meeting was on the evening of the 30th ult. The hall was literally crowded, and many again had to leave without being able to enter. The exercises of this meeting were similar to the first; and with more of the influences of the Holy Ghost. The third of these refreshing meetings took place on the 6th inst.; and though the weather was unfavorable the hall was well filled. It was then announced that Colonel Turner, of the Royal Artillery, would address the next meeting. Will not all who love God pray that these meetings may be blessed to the salvation of souls?—*Bermudian*.

Encouragement for the Diffusion of the Bible.

On the establishment of a National Bible Society in Holland, the British and Foreign Bible Society promised the sum of five hundred pounds, besides a grant of Bibles and Testaments. When this liberal offer was made, in the presence of three of the wealthiest citizens of Amsterdam, one of them shed tears, another one seemed overcome with astonishment, and the third exclaimed "The English are a pattern to all nations?" In 1819, in the town of Hoorn, in Holland, scarcely a single servant could be found without the Scriptures, and the large halls of the Alms House, formerly filled with disgraceful mobs, now resounded with hymns of praise. School masters in Zigp, were ordered not to let a day pass without reading a chapter to the children, "for the Bible places every one in the sphere where he ought to be, it is itself the best rule, the most faithful counsellor, and the safest refuge.

In 1820, in the Netherlands, a certain day in October was appointed throughout the whole kingdom to offer, at six o'clock in the evening, prayers and supplications to God, for the success of the circulation of the Bible. The Dutch society in 1821 furnished the Scriptures to all the sufferers by a dreadful inundation that occurred in the country, and a very active marine Bible society was formed. The Bible is indeed a Divine legacy to the human race.

In Germany, rationalism had taken the place of Divine revelation. Then it was that the agents of the Bible society began to spread the Word of God without note or comment, as the most powerful of all means for stemming the tide of neology. The Rev. Dr Schwabe describes the tract of country through which the retreating and pursuing armies had passed, the ruined villages, the lost Bibles, the scattered schools, the churches even left without the Scriptures necessary to the performance of Divine worship. He established a Bible society at Erfurt, the locality of Luther's monastery, once well supplied with Bibles, but where the destitution was then great. Among the mines of Salfield, children came to bring him, with tears of joy, the whole little treasure they had gained by picking ore, in exchange for a Bible. A poor German workman brought fifteen silver groschen to the clergyman whose ministry he attended, saying it was his "little all," but that he felt bound to offer it to the Bible Society, in gratitude for that excellent Book, which he had received from it the year before.

On the establishment of the Bible Society in Prussia, the first clergyman in the city rose with a Bible in his right hand, and represented with striking eloquence the floods of infidelity and wickedness, the ravages of war, and the general misery under which the Prussians had suffered for so many years. A minister of a village in Switzerland says: since that excellent law has fallen into disuse, which compelled every couple to produce their Bible at the altar, many families are without it. I was singularly struck, says another correspondent, with your idea of introducing young children to assist in founding the Bible Society. It is for two young orphans that I desire this favour, and I will take care to instil into their minds, that having been received in the years of weakness and infancy, they are bound to devote to its service those of maturity and strength.

The formation of the Swedish Bible Society produced such joy in the hearts of the people that when Sweden had been forced to make peace with France in 1812, and to declare war against England, and the usual war-prayer was read in all the churches, the people inquired who were their enemies; and being informed that the English were intended, "No, no!" they exclaimed, "the English are not our enemies, They—they are our best friends. They sent us corn to sow our land when we had consumed our revenue; they sent us medicine and blankets for our sick and wounded; and now more than all they have sent us the Bible!" They said they could not use that war-prayer, and it was accordingly discontinued. The example of Sweden soon extended to the sister kingdom of Norway. Oddur, the son of a bishop of Holum in Iceland, was educated in Norway, and shared in the sensation which the doctrines of the Reformation produced through the north of Europe. We are told that for three nights, on his knees, he besought the Father of Lights to open the eyes of his understanding, and show him whether the principles of Rome or of Luther were from heaven, and afterwards repairing to Germany, he attended the lectures of Luther and Melanethon. On his return to Iceland he entered upon a translation of the Scriptures, and to avoid persecution commenced his labours in a small cell in a cow house. He completed a version of the New Testament 1539, but finding it impossible from the force of public opinion to print it in Iceland, he sailed for Denmark, and published it under the patronage of King Christian III. This edition has been called a faithful mirror of Luther's German version. The population of Iceland at this period, consisting of forty-six thousand persons able to read, almost without exception, had among them but forty or fifty Bibles. In the year 1845 another edition of five thousand extra Testaments left the press for Iceland. Rev. E. Henderson writes, on his voyage thither, "our vessel is freighted with corn for the needy inhabitants of Iceland, and also with the bread of life—the glorious Gospel of the blessed God." Wherever he went he was welcomed. The ardour of the people to obtain a copy of the Holy Scriptures, was excessive—they really hungered and thirsted after the word of God. At the house of the Dean of Iceland, he saw a Bible of the former days; it was a folio edition nearly devoured by the tooth of time, but the defective pages had been all neatly pasted in, and the text supplied in the most accurate manner, in a hand writing which would have done honour to any schoolmaster in Europe. It was the work of a common peasant. Mr H. underwent many perils on this journey. He forded on horseback upwards of sixty rivers, flowing cold from the snow and ice mountains, he travelled for five successive days without seeing any of the habitations of men. The road was cheerless and gloomy, with scarcely a tuft of grass to relieve the eye, or the note of a bird to charm the ear; but he had a delightful companion in a Danish officer, and he was carrying the Lamp of Life to those who longed for its light. He descended from the mountains into the beautiful valley of Eyaford, and in that neighbourhood met a clergyman who had been seeking in vain to obtain a Bible for the long period of seventeen years! They passed through a parish in which there were only two Bibles, and another in which there were none at all! It was then fifty years since the last supply of Bibles had arrived in Iceland! "Wherever I have come," he says, "I have been welcomed as an angel from heaven. The people often asked me whether old king George had sent them the Bibles; and then I told them of the Bible Society and the spirit it was diffusing in every quarter of the world." "It is the Word of God," was the reply they frequently gave; and they often recited some passage relative to the diffusion of the knowledge of the Lord in the latter day. So interesting are the religious annals of this people that we scarcely know where to cease quoting them.—*Ex. paper*.

Treasury.

The Life Boat's Last Turn.

BY AN OLD SAILOR.

"It's the last turn she'll make," said William to his friend, as they stood on the cliff watching the Life boat, as she was bringing to the shore part of the crew and passengers of the wrecked vessel. "It's her last turn; for the storm has so increased, that ere they reach the wreck again, she will go to pieces." Now, what the Life-boat is to the stranded vessel, such is the gospel of salvation to poor lost man. It is his only remedy—there is no other; self-salvation in both cases is out of the question! And also, what the Last Boat is to the stranded vessel, which in a few minutes will be in pieces, such is the gospel when preached at the end of the world. See how the sailors are tugging at the oar, if possible to reach the vessel once more—if possible to save some. Such surely is the ministry set forth by "the Angel flying through the midst of the heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to all