

tion is therefore 851. The introduction of the press and printed books has led to a re-organization of the schools, with an improved system of teaching.

**MOUNTAIN NESTORIANS.**—The Mission is annoyed and hindered by the hostility of the surrounding Kurds, and recently by the jealousy of the Turkish government, which appears to have fears that the mission may somewhat retard the subjugation of the Nestorians. The government refused to give firmans to Mr. Bliss and Dr. Smith, who were sent out to reinforce the mission the past year, though it had given one to Mr. Laurie, who preceded them. The firman pledges the protection of the government. It was willing, however, to give *passports*—a feature in western policy lately adopted by the Porte. Dr. Grant's life has been, at sometimes, considerably in danger. It has not been thought best to take the female members of the missions into the mountains, and Mr. Laurie, at the last dates, was with them at Mosul. Mr. Bliss and Dr. Smith, advised by the brethren at Constantinople, remain at Trebizond, till they can learn more certainly the will of the Lord concerning them.

The following is an extract from a letter, dated Constantinople, August 17, which we find in one of the London papers:—

We have now received strange advices from Moussel. It is stated that the Governor of that city and the Kurds of the neighborhood have entered into a combination for the total destruction of the Nestorians. The Mussullees and the Kurds penetrated into the mountains, where the Nestorian patriarch was, burnt his church, destroyed his books, killed his mother and three or four of his brothers, and mutilated his sisters. The patriarch with difficulty escaped to Mous-soul, where he took refuge in the British consulate. I give this history just as I hear it, and for the present shall make no comments, as I am not yet sufficiently master of the subject to discuss it with effect.

#### MASSACRE OF THE NESTORIAN CHRISTIANS.

Since the above was put in type, we have received the *Halifax Guardian* of the 5th instant, containing a full confirmation of the massacre of the Mountain Nestorians, by the Turkish Pasha of Mosul,—by which this interesting body of Christians have been nearly exterminated. We shall publish the particulars in our next.

**TWO CHILDREN LABOURING AS MISSIONARY EVANGELISTS.**—Mr. Shaw, one of the missionaries among the Namaquas in South Africa, gives the following account of two little Hottentot girls:—

About ten years ago, the Committee of the Bible Society sent me a case of Bibles and Testaments to Cape Town, for free distribution, or for sale at a reduced price. Many were exceedingly joyful on that occasion; and some are now safely landed in a better country. Others are still in the land of the living, daily perusing that Law which is perfect, convertin'g the soul," meditating on the "testimony of the Lord, which maketh wise the simple." The Children of the Desert desire this word more than gold, and find it sweeter to them than the honey from the clefts of the rocks. Almost twenty years ago, when the sacred Scriptures were exceedingly scarce, two little girls went from my Station in Namaqualand to visit a tribe on the borders of the Bushmanland. They carried their Testaments with them, and read among the people. The natives were so interested with what they had heard, that they allowed the two children but little time for rest. Day and night they were under the necessity of reading out of the "Great Word," by which several persons of that tribe were brought under the sound of the Gospel. Thus, "out of the mouth of babes and sucklings He has perfected praise."

The members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, presented the Hon. William Morris, on the 3d instant, at Kingston, with a splendid Candelabrum, in testimony of his efforts for the benefit of the Church, as a Member of Assembly, and afterwards as a Legislative Councillor, and as agent to Britain, to support her claims for a share of the Clergy Reserves. A deputation from Toronto

presented the testimonial with a flattering address, to which the Hon. Gentleman made a corresponding reply.

## THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, OCT. 19, 1843.

#### THE BIBLE IN COMMON SCHOOLS.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the two Petitions to the Provincial Legislature on the subject of Education, which will be found on another page. The importance of introducing the Bible as a class-book into our public schools will be readily admitted by all who believe that the Holy Scriptures are designed to make us wise unto salvation. We fully agree with one of the Petitions in the persuasion "that no system of Education can be permanently beneficial to any people unless associated with an intimate knowledge of the will of God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures." These Petitions are now being offered for signature to the Protestants of Montreal, and will, we understand, be also circulated through the country parishes. Let every individual who values the "precious treasure," and feels interested in the spiritual welfare of his fellow men, at once come forward, and sign these truly important documents.

**SIGNS OF THE TIMES.**—We have had occasion in former numbers to notice the almost universal and simultaneous desire manifested by evangelical churches in Europe and America, to bring about a union between Protestants of all denominations,—in order to erect a powerful barrier against the spread of error in every form, and especially for the purpose of more effectually promoting the spiritual and eternal welfare of a "world lying in the wicked one." As it is generally admitted that an important crisis is at hand, it is high time that every sincere Christian should come out boldly, and declare his attachment to the great Captain of our salvation, and his determination to fight valiantly under his glorious banner. We copy the following from the *Scottish Guardian*, and claim for it a serious perusal:—

#### UNION OF PROTESTANTS.

There was one great and even sublime idea (says Mr. Hetherington in his last work) brought somewhat indefinitely before the Westminster Assembly, which has not yet been realised—the idea of a Protestant union throughout Christendom, not merely for the purpose of counterbalancing Popery, but in order to purify, strengthen, and unite all true Christian churches, so that with combined energy and zeal, they might go forth, in glad compliance with the Redeemer's commands, teaching all nations, and preaching the everlasting gospel to every creature under heaven. This truly magnificent, and also truly Christian idea, seems to have originated in the mind of that distinguished man, Alexander Henderson. The idea was taken up by Oxe-nstiern, the celebrated chancellor of Sweden, who bound himself by a vow "to prosecute a reconciliation between Protestants in point of religion;" and Oliver Cornwell, doubtless influenced by the same suggestion, proposed to establish, in opposition to the Roman Propaganda, a board to watch over the interests of Protestantism, and promote the cause of the gospel throughout the world. But political intrigues and earthly interests crept in, and marred the success of the noble project, and it came to nought. Two hundred years have now passed away since it was

proposed; and, in circumstances in many respects very similar, we find the same idea coming up again. The necessity for Protestant union is widely felt, and the desire for it, as well as the necessity, is every day increasing.

#### THE LATE HURRICANE AT NEW IRELAND.

We beg respectfully to direct the attention of our readers, and that of the religious community generally, to the following communication. We confidently hope that the affecting appeal therein made to the sympathies of all who value the benefits of a stated Gospel ministry, will not be made in vain, and that the excellent example furnished by the Rev. Mr. HARVARD will be readily followed by others. The amount proposed to be raised is not large, and the object is so worthy, that we are persuaded no argument is needed from us to secure for it a favourable response. We shall be most happy to receive the names of all who may be disposed to assist in this good work. Let but the golden rule be applied, and promptly acted upon, and the inhabitants of New Ireland will speedily be furnished with the means of "reconstructing their destroyed sanctuary."

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

DEAR SIR,—The account from the Rev. Thomas Campbell of the destruction of the Chapel at Lower Ireland, on his station, by the late hurricane, and which you were so good as to publish in your last number, is so truly affecting that it will not fail to speak to the hearts of many of your readers.

I know well the inhabitants of that section of the country—how truly they value the ordinances of religion—how great an affliction it will be to them thus to be deprived of their place of worship—and how unable they will be to repair their loss, unless by the aid of those who may sympathize with them in their Providential visitation.

On this account I beg to invite the attention of those who can feel for such a case, to its pressing necessity, and to the great desirableness of enabling them immediately to reconstruct their destroyed sanctuary, before the inclemency of the winter may set in, and prove the occasion of dispersing that interesting congregation of Christian people.

I regret my inability to make a more ample proposal, but I shall be happy to become one of twenty, to subscribe each Ten Dollars, towards putting them in funds, to encourage them to make the attempt forthwith.

The amount of my subscription shall be forwarded to you for transmission to Mr. Campbell, whenever I find you have nineteen other promises to do the same, and which I would hope you will soon obtain.

Believe me, dear Sir,  
Yours truly,

W. M. HARVARD,  
Chairman of the District.

Odell Town, La Colle, Oct. 10, 1843.

**THE MISIONARIES WILLIAMS AND MOFFATT.**—Though late in the publication of the following, we copy it, under the persuasion that whatever relates to those great men cannot fail to prove acceptable to our readers, and in justice to the merits of the eminent artist who has been so successful as fully to satisfy a distinguished intimate friend of the illustrious originals:—

Copy of a letter received from the Rev. Dr. Campbell, containing his opinion of Baxter's oil-coloured portraits of the Missionaries Williams and Moffatt.

Tabernacle House, April 15, 1843.

"My dear Sir,—I am at a loss in what terms to acknowledge your costly kindness, or to express my admiration of these productions of your genius. Although no opinion of mine can at all