

UNITED STATES POLITICS.

We give below the remarks of the editor of the *Evangelical Pioneer*, on what is the grand question of the day in the United States,—the *Election of a President*. Some of our readers may require to be informed, that this paper is published in our own town of London, and we can willingly testify to the talent and judgment with which it is conducted. It is the earnest advocate of the principles of the free communion Baptists—principles which we of course do not approve. We doubt not, that the vigorous pen of its devoted Editor, will tend greatly to strengthen the denomination of the Strict or Regular Baptists as they are called; yet, we are inclined to think, that the same energy and zeal advocating those views of christian communion, which were maintained and expounded by those distinguished ornaments of the Baptist denomination,—Joseph Hughes, the founder of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and Robert Hall, would do more in the end to promote the cause of our common christianity.

"A glance round the world leaves new ground of gratitude to those whose lot is cast in this province, the Goshen of the world,—peoples and nations in every way threaten the old world, and if in the new world, the United States seems to share our exemption from the disturbance of public order, and the failure of the supply of food, and the overflow with political agitation of more serious import than most of those who engage in it seem to apprehend."

"The day is not very far distant when it shall be determined whether Gen. Cass, Gen. Taylor, or Mr. Van Buren, with their respective adherents shall claim the spoils of a Presidential victory. But although this may be all to which stump orators and a party press are looking at the decision of this immediate question does not it involve the contest? This is but the opening campaign of a great conflict, in the issue of which are involved the perpetuation of the Union, and what is more important still, the establishment of human freedom. If the naked truth could be seen, American institutions are now endangered this moment more than ever they have been since the declaration of independence. It cannot but be viewed with painful apprehension, that the agitation of this great question is opened in a way that will necessarily bring into it all the unhallowed rage of party feud and local prejudice. There will be no such thing as calm discussion and unbiassed advocacy. Instead, there will be rancour and clamour, calumny and misrepresentation. It is a well established fact that an ordinary Presidential election has a depressing influence upon the religion and morality of the country. Usually when the contest is at an end, these great interests have been relieved, and there has been a gradual recovery before the ignominious alliance has been renewed. We believe that it may be shown by facts and figures that there has been a decrease of religious faith and piety during the year of the election; on each successive year there has been an advance until the fourth year. The records of churches, the treasures of missionary societies, and all ecclesiastical journals will prove this. But there is reason to fear that the present will be an exception. Not only will the agitation be prolonged, but from its nature it will tell most forcibly upon the religious interests of the country. Already the question of slavery has torn churches into shreds and fragments in every part of the Union, and there is no reason to suppose that it will now be recovered by different fruits."

"In every view of the matter, we may find additional reasons for increased devotion and fidelity to the cause of the Redeemer, in the favour of the Powers, who are a constant reminder of the evil."

be diverted from that cause, while the demand for all these will be vastly increased. It is a time for us to be laying aside every weight, to put on the whole armour of God, and to go as like men. An exemption from the duties and consequences of turbulence and party agitation is a thing but a consolation for our sitting down, supinely and unreflectingly, to consume the bounty of our Father. It is a precious opportunity to apply the lessons which are to be gathered from the experience of nations, and to seek in a calm and unobscured exercise of reason to reform abuses in their aggravated results, might one day produce the day which occasioning the people of the earth to tremble. The woes of a weeping and bleeding world are exhorting with us, against every temptation to indifferency on any question in which religious freedom and equality are involved."

SELF-IMPOSED BURDENS.

BY THE REV. JAMES HAMILTON, LONDON.

"The chief burden of every age and nation, though that Britain expend every year, fifty millions of money on intoxicating drink. We often complain of our high taxation, and we often grow nervous at the thought of our enormous national debt. But here is a tax for which we cannot blame our rulers—a tax self-imposed and self-elected—a tax which would pay the interest of our national debt twice over—and a tax as large as the revenue of these United Kingdoms. We thought it a great sum to pay in order to save the slave his freedom—we thought the twenty millions given to the West India proprietors a mighty sacrifice; and it was the noblest tribute any nation ever paid to the cause of philanthropy—but large as it looks, half a year of national abstinence would have paid it all. We rather grudge the eight millions which Ireland got last year, seeing it has failed to set our millions on their feet; but it was eight millions given to save a famishing people; and large as the grant to Ireland sounds, two months of national abstinence would have paid the whole of it. But remember, as are the fifty millions which as a people we yearly consume in strong drink, the thought which afflicts and appals us is, that this terrible impost is mainly a tax on the working man. The lamentations, that many a working man will spend in a year as much money as he had saved it, would this year have furnished a room, and next year would have bought a beautiful Henry; as much money as would secure a splendid education to every child, or in a few years would have made him a landlord, instead of a tenant. Why, my friends, it would set our blood a boiling if we heard that the Turkish Sultan taxed his subjects in the style that our British workmen tax themselves. It would bring the days of Wat Tyler back again; nay, it would create another Hamelin, and compare up a second Cromwell, did the Exchequer try to raise the impost, which our publicans levy and our labourers and artisans so cheerfully pay. But is it not a fearful infatuation? Is it not our national madness, to spend so much wealth in shortening our nerves, and exploding our characters, and ruining our souls? Many workmen, I repeat to know, have been ruined by intemperance, and many have been preserved by timely religion. In whatever way a man is saved from that horrible vice, which is at once the destruction of the body and the damnation of the soul, there he do rejoice and will rejoice. Only ven cannot be a christian without being a sober man, and the more of God's grace you get, the easier you will find it to vanquish this most terrible of the working man's temptations."

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The *Freeman's Journal* the organ of Bishop Hughes of New York makes the following confession of the defections from Poverty, in consequence of "Kirkman's" series of lectures addressed to the Bishop and widely circulated through the country:

"These defections, alas, may be called not only

numerous but frightfully numerous. Every part of the country is full of a crying wretchedness of it. Week before last two gentlemen unacquainted with each other called on us at different times. Each had recently arrived from Ireland, and the conversation chancing with the first of them to turn on the comparative state of the Irish at home and in America, he remarked with horror, that of his numerous acquaintances who had preceded him to this country he found a fearful large proportion of them who never went to church at all. And on our mentioning it to the second gentleman, he said he had found the same thing. They had become *Kirkmanites*—infidels."

Scientific Intelligence.

While the French Astronomer, Arago, has been deeply engaged with the revolutions in Paris, to the neglect, it might be well supposed, of his political business as a philosopher, and the revolutions of the heavenly bodies—Arago, the celebrated Swiss naturalist, more true to his vocation, has been traversing the borders of the great lakes of Canada and the United States.

It seems that some few species of those strange fishes which Hugh Miller describes in his old Red Sandstone, are still to be found in the waters of Lake Superior. Some account of these will be found in an extract which we give from an address of the Swiss naturalist, delivered by him at the Scientific convention lately held at Philadelphia.

The old red sandstone lies deeper than the mountain limestone that is found in the mountain at Hamilton. How marvellous that fishes of the same species which are buried up in those rocks should be found still inhabiting one of our lakes! The following extract is from an account of the late Scientific Convention at Philadelphia, contained in a New York paper:—

ANCIENT FOSSIL-FORMED FISHES YET IN LIVING.

Professor Arago remarked that it had been his good fortune, during the past summer, to have opportunities in company with several friends—some of whom he now saw present—to explore the Northern Lakes, and more especially Lake Superior. His attention had been called particularly to the fishes, a subject always of very great interest to him, and of which he acquired at the Lakes some new and valuable knowledge. His object, he observed, was not so much to effect a comparison between the fishes of the United States and Canada, as to ascertain their geographical distribution, and to satisfy himself whether they were indiscriminately distributed through all these Lakes, or whether there were differences in the localities where found.

On carefully comparing, he found that the distribution is entirely different—that particular families are in some, and other families in other parts, and that they never leave their peculiar locality, that there are families in Lake Huron which are not in Lake Superior, and some in Lake Superior which do not move down into the lower Lakes, although the communication between them is always open and easy. The fishes, then, of the several Lakes are very different—another illustration of the great law of distribution and localization. Prof. A. considers that these fishes originate where they are found; and it is a singular fact, that they are generally located in very similar positions with the fishes of Europe—yet, although they agree so generally with the European varieties, they are greatly different in zoological characteristics; so that there can be no transportation of the separate varieties from our own country to another, and there is no connection of the fresh water fishes