

we early rise to pay our grateful regards to Him whose blessed day it is called, and to whose services it so emphatically belongs. The very mantle of such a morning has something about it that is holy and heavenly. Sweetly and piously does the poet sing of it:—

"The robe thou wearest is all celestial woof,  
Come from the grave with Jesus. Heaven's blue  
roof  
Seems nearer earth, and all earth hath of fair  
is fairer. On thy calm and glassy floor  
We sit in commune sweet, thy riches blest  
Recounting, and forget that we are poor.  
Let us be bright to meet thee, Angel guest,  
With contemplation of enduring rest,  
And with thee listen at the heavenly door."

## The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 1857.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

THE question whether the Bible ought to be a school book, has engaged the attention of some of our contemporaries during the past fortnight. We have not read these remarks attentively, and are therefore but little qualified to judge of the manner in which the subject has been handled. We have seen enough however, to show us that a good deal of acrimony has mingled with the discussion, and that instead of a fair and dispassionate consideration being given to both sides, the exercise of a freedom of opinion has been met with unsparing condemnation, which in turn has been assailed with invective, and charges of bigotry and hypocrisy.

We are ourselves quite in favour of religious teaching as an element of school instruction; and are aware at the same time that a good deal may be said on the other side of the question. There would hardly however be two opinions upon it, were it not that a diversity of religious doctrine, prevents the adoption of one definite mode by which religious instruction should be conveyed.

It does not however follow, in our estimation, that because a general agreement in one mode or system of religious instruction is impossible, that therefore it should not be imperative to adopt religious instruction in public schools. If the State has a religion it is bound we think to communicate its fundamental truths at least, in any system of popular education which it may patronize or support. If it only care for the secular instruction of the people, and leave it to the people's voluntary action to infuse the religious element into the mind, the chance is, that it will not be infused at all, or so imperfectly, that the consequence will be a practical infidelity. Our neighbours of the United States, with an excellent system, if the secular instruction of the mass is alone considered, are becoming alive to its defects by woful experience.—They have pursued the plan of educating the masses, with the end in view that thereby they would be made wiser, happier and more virtuous—but they have just discovered the fact, that the result of their mode of teaching is a great increase of crime wherever it prevails, crime connected with mental cultivation, but divested of all restraint of conscience, and of all fear of eternal punishment. A paper that we hold in our hand, not a month old, thus portrays the state of morals in New York:—

"Throughout the country, it is to be feared, crime is still increasing, and more especially the crime of murder. There is a recklessness of human life pervades, more or less, almost all classes of society. Human life is not allowed to stand in the way of the gratification of any object if that object can be attained by even so dreadful a sacrifice, and so horrible an offence, not only against society, but against God. It is not merely that men kill in order that they may rob; they kill that they may seek their revenge—the slightest insult seems quite sufficient to provoke them to assassination or to murder."

"At first sight one might suppose that such a state of things was the immediate result of the prevalent distress among the working classes, but a little consideration must dispel any such idea. Not only do I think better of the industrious classes than to suppose that even want would drive them into so abominable a course of conduct; but it is evident from the discoveries that have been made of the character of those gangs of men that commit such bloody outrages, that they are not the 'wretched' industrious, but the idle and dissolute, and that the number of such is fearfully on the increase among us."

Upon this state of society reformatory institutions it would appear have no effect—the mischief is in the heart of man, and is not to be eradicated by ordinary means. No religious instruction has grown up with his growth—the boy leaves school unimpressed with the verities of religion, the rewards it offers to virtue, the punishment it threatens to vice; and the recipient at the utmost of a loose morality loosely inculcated, finds little difficulty in following bad example and entering upon a course which eventually leads to shame and disgrace. Well the wise men our neighbors of the United States, find that

this state of things, is owing to a defect in their educational system. They have not trained up the child in the way he should go. It will not be very easy for them to retrace their steps; but it will be easy for communities which are casting about to find a system of education the best suited to prepare youth for the business of life, to take warning by the example, and to avoid the rock upon which they have made shipwreck. It is susceptible of proof, that education without religion, affords no restraint upon vicious inclinations, but rather incites to their gratification. There should be then no question about making it a necessary ingredient in any system of public instruction. If the principle is a just one it must be enforced for the benefit of the greater number, altho' thereby a few may have to sacrifice their cherished opinions to the public good.

R. M. Steamship *Canada* arrived on Thursday night, in 12½ days from Liverpool. A summary of the news from India will be found in our columns. Parliament was opened on the 3rd inst., by the Queen in person—the Royal speech will be found in another column. The *Leviathan*, steamship, has not yet been launched, altho' an attempt to move her has proved successful. There were no fears but that she would eventually be got off, although it will be found to be a very difficult operation.

The London *Times* announces that soon the ministry intend to propose to Parliament the total abolition of the Company's Government of India, which will be brought immediately under the control of the Crown and Parliament, with such a machinery of administration as will be thought conducive to its welfare.

The Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, with Mrs. Binney and infant, arrived in the R. M. S. *Canada* on Thursday night from Liverpool—all well.

We learn that His Excellency Sir J. G. LE MARCHANT, has been appointed to the important post of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, and will leave Nova Scotia in February next.—Colonial Government is now very easily administered by Her Majesty's Representatives, and with common sense they need not involve either themselves or the Imperial authority, in difficult and angry questions. It is not too much to say for our present Lieutenant Governor, that if his popularity is not so great as that of some of his predecessors, he has committed but few grave or substantial errors, and will leave this command with the respect of all classes.

The Earl of Mulgrave, successor to His Excellency, it is stated on the authority of the *Colonist*, which may be considered the official organ, will sail for Halifax on the 30th Jan., next.

THE PENNY POST.—It is requested that Subscribers will notify of their intention to continue the Penny Post for 1858, as none will be sent after the December No without such notification, accompanied also by the arrangement to pay in advance. A few Nos of the Magazine, some four or five, can still be had complete for 1857, upon application at the Book Store of Wm Gossip, 24 Granville street. Subscriptions will also be received for 1858, payment in advance 1s. 6d per ann.

Subscriptions will also be taken for The Gospel Missionary, published by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, at 9d. per year. The G. M. is a neat little monthly, well adapted to create in youthful minds, a love of missionary enterprise, and therefore exceedingly useful.

We copy the following account of the Execution of Slavin, Senior, from the St. John *Courier* of Dec. 12:—

Yesterday being the day appointed for the execution, and the prisoner, Patrick Slavin, Senior, being still to dispose of, crowds began at an early hour to assemble in front of the Jail, over the entrance to which the scaffold had been erected during the previous night. Not having been privileged with admission into the Jail previous to the execution, we can only describe what occurred outside. The gibbet consisted of four strong beams set on end, with side ties and a centre cross piece on the top, and was of such height as to bring the platform on a level with the sill of the large window over the Jail door. The drop consisted simply of a flap board, hinged at one side like the half of an ordinary hatch, and supported at the other by two stout ropes passing over the top piece of the structure, and attached to a cleat inside. By this means all that was necessary was to cut the rope close to the fastening, with a stroke of a hatchet,

when the drop fell, and left the standing-place of the culprit an empty void. The whole arrangement was exceedingly simple and efficient.

About ten o'clock, the hour previously given notice of for the execution to take place, the crowd in front of the jail could not have been less than five or six thousand, of whom the greater part were men, with a sprinkling of women and boys. At ten minutes past ten the prisoner stepped on the platform accompanied by Charles Johnston, Esq., the High Sheriff, and the Rev. Mr. Sweeney, Catholic Priest. There were also in attendance his Worship the Mayor, Geo. Blatch, Esq.; acting deputy Sheriff, the Jailer, Thomas, who had charge of the prisoner during his confinement, and a number of the Magistrates of the City and County. The Sheriff himself performed the duty of adjusting the fatal noose, and Constable Pidgeon having drawn the cap over the prisoner's face, he stepped forward on the drop and seemed for about a minute engaged either in listening to, or accompanying Mr. Sweeney in prayer, during which time the Sheriff having stepped inside, cut the support, the drop fell, and death seemed to be almost instantaneous.

The prisoner's appearance on the scaffold seemed that of passive submission to his fate, and during the moment he was alone on the drop before it fell, he stood perfectly firm and composed, with his head bent forward on his breast. From the time he came outside he did not seem to look up, or hold intercourse with any one but his spiritual adviser. The body was allowed to hang for over half an hour. The crowd behaved with great decorum, and dispersed quickly, almost immediately after the body was cut down. A strong posse of the Police force was in attendance to keep back the crowd, and about forty of the military from the Barracks with fixed bayonets were stationed at the foot of the gallows, but there was not the slightest need for their services. Great praise is due to the Sheriff for the excellence of the arrangements made by him, and for the decorous manner in which he performed his onerous and disagreeable duties.—Long may it be before our City has to witness such another spectacle, or our Province be polluted with such heinous crimes to render it necessary.

We take the following Confession from this morning's *Freeman*:

I, Patrick Slavin, feeling the hour of my execution close at hand, with it, as a last request, that the public be informed, after my death, that I am now penitent, and acknowledge the heinousness of my crime and the justice of my punishment. I desire to return thanks to the Sheriff, Mr. Johnston, for any kindness he has shown to me, so great a criminal, so far as was consistent with his duty; I also thank Mr. Willis, Mr. Thomas, and the others who were in charge over me, for any kindness and sympathy they have shown me. I feel grateful both to my clergymen, for their persevering attention in bringing me to a proper knowledge of guilt, and in making me sensible of my Religion, and of the Divine Mercy; and also to those ladies who consoled me by their advice and religious instruction. I die forgiving every one in this world, especially those whose duty it is to carry out the ends of justice; and as I forgive, so I hope to be forgiven, trusting in the goodness and unbounded mercy of my Divine Redeemer; and may my wicked life and melancholy end be a timely warning to others who neglect their duty to God and Religion.

Signed in my cell in the Jail, December 10th, at 10 o'clock at night.

PATRICK (his mark) SLAVIN.  
In presence of Patrick J. Carey.  
Witness—Thomas Budge.

The Central Bank, of Fredericton, N. B., has resumed specie payments. The suspension was caused by a run, and was only a matter of precaution on the part of the directors.—*Western News*.

The Collections taken on the Fast Day, in the city of St. John, towards the Indian Relief Fund, amounted to the handsome sum of £123.—*Ibid*.

The Nictaux Iron Works are at present turning out 35 tons of iron weekly. The new furnace will be in blast in February next.—*Ibid*.

We are sorry to hear that J. W. Marriott, Esquire, Principal of the Colonial Church Society's model and training Schools in this city, is to leave us in the Spring, having been appointed to a higher and more influential position in Newfoundland, as the Society's General Superintendent of Schools throughout that Island.—Halifax will thus lose a Teacher of youth, of superior qualifications, and our Lecture room will be deprived of one of the most ready, polished, and acceptable speakers we have ever heard.—*Journal*.

We have been obliged to attend in the business of the Supreme Court during the past week, and one of our men has left us for a situation in the Post Office. Some omissions in our Western Edition, may be placed to account of these accidents of the Season, for which we claim the consideration of our readers.