

in a very neat and appropriate speech, delivered with considerable feeling, beside many other valuable hints and exhortations, made a happy comparison between the soldier, who has enlisted under the banner of Jesus Christ and his Church, and the one who rallies around the standard of his Queen and country. And, as Mr. Smith, from earliest childhood had been known to be, in the words of the Resolution, a consistent and firm friend of the Established Church, he could, with the greatest force and propriety, in the conclusion of his address, urge upon all, as he did, not to desert, forsake, or think lightly of the Church of their Fathers, but to "rally around her altar," and as good soldiers of the cross of Christ, fight manfully under her banners against the enemies of their salvation, so that when the battle was fought and the victory won, they might, for the sake of their adorable Saviour, receive the crown of everlasting life. This being seconded by Mr. G. W. Draper, Teacher of the Church School, passed, as did the others, *nem. con.* A Resolution was then moved and seconded, and passed by acclamation,— "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. Messrs. Bullock and Ruddle, for their presence and for the efficient aid they had rendered the Society by the part they had taken in the proceedings of the evening."

Another resolution was moved and seconded, and passed by acclamation, "That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. and Mrs. Drake, and the other members of the choir of Christ Church, for their attendance, and for the satisfactory pleasure they had afforded to all by singing the praises of our common Lord. Collectors were then appointed, and a Committee chosen for the ensuing year. The Doxology was sung, and the meeting dismissed with the Apostolic benediction.

The small band of Churchmen in the parish of Dartmouth deserve not a little praise for what they have done during the past year for the "House of their God and the officers thereof." Their contributions to this Society, amounting to £38 18s. 4d. surpassed the contributions of every Parish in this Province, excepting St. Paul's at Halifax, and the Parish of Liverpool. In addition to this, a sum of well nigh £250 was raised to pay the salary of the Assistant, and to wipe off an accumulated debt of several years past on the Church, the Parsonage, and the School-house. It is to be hoped, that, while they grow not cold in their exertions for the welfare and prosperity of the Church of Christ, other Parishes will be stimulated to excel them, or at all events, to "go and do likewise."

—Com.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

According to previous announcement, the Sydney branch of the above named Society, held its nineteenth annual Meeting in Temperance Hall, in this place, on Thursday evening, the 5th instant. The hall was filled with a highly respectable company, amongst whom we recognized the faces of a large number of our friends of the Wesleyan Connexion.

The President of the Society, the Rev. R. J. Uniacke, Rector, occupied the Chair.

The proceedings were begun with Prayer, and by singing part of the 100th Psalm, Next came the reading of the Report, which contained some very encouraging items of receipts and disbursements, by which it appears that the affairs of the Parish of St. George, are in a very healthy condition. It also contained a reference to a Bazaar in aid of the chapel of Ease, at Coxheath, to be held during the ensuing summer. Not having this Report at hand we are not in a position to give any of the details with which it so fully abounded.

The objects of the Society were pointedly brought forward, and enforced by the Rev. the Rector, with earnestness and zeal.

The Rev. Secretary, Mr. Porter, made, as usual, a highly effective Missionary appeal, in behalf of the Diocesan Church Society; which Address was deservedly acceptable to all, and was subsequently so spoken of.

The Rev. Mr. Arnold was present, and made a humorous speech. He also favored the Meeting with some gratifying intelligence of the progress of the Church of England, in Ireland, the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

J. L. Hill, Esq., in moving one of the Resolutions spoke with ability in behalf of the Church, and her various institutions.

Mr. George Bradley, came out in an ingenious and clever speech, on the points embraced in the Resolution moved by him. We think we are correct in saying that this speaker pleased all who heard him, and that his speech did credit to him.

We had ourself the privilege of speaking to a Resolution.

The Choir sang two other Psalms during the evening. A collection, amounting to three pounds and some odd shillings, was taken; and the meeting was concluded by singing the Doxology, and by a Benediction from the Rector.

Apart from the pecuniary success resulting from the Meeting on Thursday, which however fell somewhat short of that in 1856, there were a freshness and heartiness in all that was said and done thereat, well calculated to benefit the Church itself; and particularly to encourage her children to pursue with zeal and unwavering faith, those things which pertain to the welfare of our beloved Zion. We must be just in our dealings with the institutions of the Church, and give liberally and cheerfully of our substance to promote her interests, and the extension of the Kingdom on Earth of her Divine Founder and Head.

Since the foregoing was put in type, we have received, in answer to our request, the Secretary's official Report, from which we beg leave to extract a few particulars. We do not republish it entire, as it reached us too late, and because many of the facts stated therein are embraced in our notice above; which together with the following additional items make our report sufficiently long for space.

"The sum of £338 19s. 4d. was raised within the twelve months for Church purposes within the Parish and Mission, including the sum of £29, remitted to the Diocesan Society in Halifax—*Vide Report.*

"It was moved by J. L. Hill, Esq., seconded by J. Bourinot, Esq.

Resolved, 1st.—That the Report now read be adopted and forwarded to the Parent Society in Halifax, by the Secretary of this Committee.

Moved by Mr. George Bradley, seconded by Rev. W. Y. Porter.

Resolved, 2nd.—That this meeting desires to return thanks to Almighty God, for the measure of success vouchsafed to the Society during the past year.

Moved by P. H. Clarke, Esq., seconded by C. E. Leonard, Esq.

Resolved, 3rd.—That the following be the Officers of this Committee for the ensuing year, viz:—

Patron.—The Bishop, } Ex Officio.
President.—The Rector, }
Vice Presidents.—Judge Dodd, Henry Davenport, Esq.

Secretary.—Rev. W. Y. Porter.

Treasurer.—Capt. Ouseley.

Standing Committee.—C. E. Leonard, J. Bourinot, J. P. Ward, E. P. Archbold, J. L. Hill, H. V. Bown, F. Oliver, P. H. Clarke, Thos. Townsend, Wm. Muggab, T. S. Bown, George Bradley, Esquires.

Moved by J. P. Ward, Esq., seconded by Judge Dodd.

Resolved, 4th.—That the amount of funds realized by the end of March be then remitted to the Parent Society by the Treasurer.

Moved by T. S. Bown, Esq., seconded by Rev. R. Arnold.

Resolved, 5th.—That it is the duty of all to contribute according to their ability for spreading a knowledge of Christ and his Gospel throughout the world.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Rev. the Rector for his conduct in the Chair, and to the Choir for their efficient services.

We are glad to learn from some who were present, that the meeting of the Church Society at the Sydney Mines, on Wednesday evening, was a highly successful one. Several members of the Church from Town were present. We note this evidence of good feeling with pleasure, and as being worthy of imitation.—There was some good speaking; and a gratifying interest in the cause was exhibited throughout the proceedings.

The collection at the Meeting reached nearly Four Pounds.—*C. B. News, March 14.*

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1857.

EDUCATION.

THE Educational Question has puzzled the wisest of statesmen. All acknowledge that the people should receive the benefit of education, but all are impressed with the difficulty of legislating to meet religious objections to the only system that seems practicable. It unfortunately happens that that system would exclude the religious element from the public school, and hence it would be vicious. The knowledge imparted unrestrained by religious influence, would be an incentive to vice rather than virtue—would prepare the mind rather for infidelity than to receive with implicit confidence the truths of the Gospel. There are likewise particular objections on the part of various religious persuasions. One would have its teaching entirely exclusive. Others would require that their youth as they grow up should imbibe at school distinctive principles. The difficulty is to form a plan of union that shall be satisfactory to all. It has come to this at length, that the majority are inclined to adopt the principle of secular instruction in the common school independent of the religious element, leaving that to be more especially cared for by the parents or guardians, or by the Churches or pastors interested in the spiritual welfare of the rising generation. Now it is evident that this is leaving a most important part of the subject to more

voluntary action, and that voluntary action is not to be depended on. It might do much undoubtedly to meet the requirements of the case, but on the other hand it would in many instances be insufficient for the purposes intended. There ought to be no uncertainty on this point. Whether on this momentous subject of religious education, there might not be some coercion, making it obligatory on the part of Churches and pastors to impart religious knowledge, at stated times, to the young of their respective flocks?—is a question therefore that we think has not yet been sufficiently considered in connection with the subject of education. For instance, were it the rule, or part of the law, that one day of the week should be set apart for religious instruction by the pastors of the various churches, and that the children respectively should all attend, as part of their routine education, there could be little or no scruple we should imagine, to their promiscuous attendance at the common school. Some stringent provision of this nature might obviate objections to that which without it would be a godless system. It is not clear, however, that the State would have the power to enforce this duty, although for the sake of its good effects, it might be expected that all denominations would submit to an obligation so imposed. Nor perhaps would it be practicable generally.

The plan which has called forth these observations, and which will be found described in the speech of Sir John Pakington in this day's paper, differs from this, and does not so nearly approach the thing to be desired. He leaves the religious teaching in the school. It is to be there or not, as the governors of the school shall determine, and in such a measure and of such a quality as the parents shall approve. His conclusions prove but do not obviate, the difficulty experienced by the ablest minds in coming to a satisfactory determination on a subject so important.

We have published on our first page an abridgement of the proceedings of the Manchester meeting, the object of which was to forward a system of national education. It will be found interesting, as treating upon a subject which may be expected at an early day to engage the serious attention of the new Provincial Administration: The importance of a general system of education, commending itself to all classes, cannot be overrated, and Sir John Pakington has done a good deal to merge the differences of opinion entertained with regard to it, and to mature a plan which has the semblance of feasibility, however much it may in practical operation lack the certainty. All that, however, has yet to be tested. There is a good deal of study in his speech for our Legislators. Had some of them adopted his enlarged liberality, instead of forming combinations, which, from their nature must be hollow and insincere, and, in their operation, must be altogether unsatisfactory, this great question of Provincial education would have presented no insuperable difficulty.—Sir John Pakington's observations deserve a careful perusal, as well by those who are endeavoring to discover a mean which shall diffuse the benefits of education generally, without the necessity of depriving it of a religious element—as by others, who from his example may learn the true line of a statesman's duty.

☞ All the interest in our political affairs appears now to be centered in the elections which are to take place on the 25th. The day of nomination was the 18th, and telegraphic despatches of that date appear in the several papers, each one colored according to the hopes or prejudices of the party sending them. It is useless laying them before our readers, as they are very contradictory; nor have we anything more reliable as to what has taken place. *Much anxiety is felt as to the result.*

☞ The Members of the two Branches of the Legislature now in Session entertained the Delegates from Newfoundland at a public dinner, at Butler's Hotel, Bedford Basin, on Saturday last, March 11.

☞ Rear Admiral Wallis, a native of Halifax, who was second lieutenant of the Shannon, in her glorious action with the U. S. Frigate Chesapeake, has been appointed to the command of the squadron on the south coast of America.

☞ The Temperance Hall Company have declared a dividend of 4 per cent. on the original shares, and 6 per cent. on the preferential stock.

☞ The St. Patrick's Charitable Irish Society, celebrated the anniversary of St. Patrick's Day, by walking in procession, headed by the Band of the 63rd Regt., from St. Mary's Chapel to St. Patrick's in Brunswick street, where service was held, after which the Society returned again through the principal streets of the City to the Mason Hall, where they dispersed. The banners and flags of the Society had an imposing effect, and the numbers present were greater than usual.