

the authority of the parent will not have so powerful an effect as the systematic authority and discipline of the teacher. Herein lies the great obstacle—every denomination desires that religious principles should be inculcated, but each according to its peculiar views. All differ in this respect, and we fear their difference is irreconcilable. Yet, to a certain extent, they may be brought to agree in forming a system. They may co-operate to provide the means that shall be available for further operations: and in so far, it is the duty of the Legislature to make them occupy their ground, and establish their position. It is a material step in advance.

The State, then, has a primary duty to perform, and that is to provide a available fund for public instruction. Various means have been resorted to, in order to meet this public requirement, but that which seems to have been attended with the best results wherever it has been tried, is, by a direct assessment, to create an interest in its behalf, in the mind of every individual member of the body politic. If it be the duty of the State to provide for the well being of the people, and so to apportion their burdens that each one of the common family shall sustain his proper share—there is no public exigency where this duty can be more urgent, than in providing for public education. Just in proportion as its blessings are acquired, the country advances in the scale of refinement and civilization, and its productive powers and resources, unfold and develop under their influence, twenty, fifty and a hundred fold. The people may probably fail at first to perceive that a little government coercion upon their means to accomplish this object is necessary, but there is no reason why they should be dissatisfied with this mode, especially as they have the oversight of the measures by which they are to be benefited, and can judge of their fitness. There is, however, something uncongenial to the human mind in being forced to do a thing, though it may be for the manifest advantage of the individual. No one likes to take physic, and even the stomach of the educated man rebels against the necessity which his reason approves—but no friend of the patient would care that he should perish, if a little coercion would be sure to effect a cure; and the resolution of the physician is often the surest test of his skill. The simile will apply to the cause of education in Nova Scotia. All other remedies have proved inefficacious. The State must step in to the cure, and Blue Nose, will go nil ye, if his true friends have any regard for his growth and future health, and the strength of his constitution, must be drenched with the nauseous draught of a *School tax*. If it is bitter in the mouth, it will be sweet in the belly.

After all, this first great step, which has ever seemed the most to be dreaded, will be found the easiest. It is, however, so much vantage ground, which once gained, further operations will rank as so many experiments. There can be no gainsaying the assertion, that from this starting point the subject is beset with its real difficulties. It will be no easy matter to reconcile the conflicting religious elements. The State would probably endeavor to solve the difficulty by ignoring them altogether in its system of common school education, while it would effect a sort of compromise of opinion, and offer an inducement for each denomination to undertake its own religious teaching, by granting aid to their Colleges or higher seminaries of learning. There would be no hope of unanimous action if each denomination persisted in a demand for education based upon its peculiar religious tenets—and such a feeling is no doubt prevalent. The conflicting elements would separate into hostility upon the first motion towards this object, and then must arise the question of a denominational instead of a general system.

There appears in one quarter already, a disposition to urge this principle upon the Legislature; and were it done fairly and with strict equality, it might engage a very extensive support in its behalf: but there be some who would make but two divisions of the religious world for this object,—who would give to the Roman Catholics one portion of the State aid, and to Protestantism another portion—as to two bodies each in unity with itself. Now, although there may be unity of endeavour—the former of these bodies, it cannot be so asserted. If the other; which, although well enough satisfied with the general term, is as distinctive within itself as is Romanism from Protestantism, and therefore as much entitled to legislative consideration in its separate parts. As Churchmen, we feel assured that the great body of Churchmen would never quietly acquiesce in such a division. Nor, we think, should we judge our Protestant brethren right, if we attributed to them a peaceful inclination under such an attempt. Thus, then, would be brought into view the claims of denominational education, much more consonant than any other to the feelings of many

among us, and perhaps as easy to be regulated as any other system.

A good deal of progress has been made in this direction already. Romanism has its separate College and Schools in the capital and in the country, and the denominational principle is sedulously inculcated among its members. Church Schools have also sprung up, and a College, free indeed from all tests, but with Churchmen for its Governors, holds the first rank among the Educational Institutions of the country. Acadia College affords the Baptists a theological and secular education. The Wesleyans patronize the Sackville Academy, and ask for it the aid of the revenue of Nova Scotia. Even the recent Free Church has its college and schools, and the Pietou Academy is still existing. Indeed it may be asserted that our Provincial education is to a great extent, if not altogether, denominational. There was a time, when a general system might have been attempted, with good hope of success—but much now would have to be undone, before the public mind could be brought to act decidedly in its favour. We very much question if any of the religious bodies we have named would be willing to give up the distinctive teaching which obtains in their schools, and it must be as certain, that if the assent of several of them cannot be obtained to a trial of the State system, the opposition would be fatal to the experiment, and that it would be worse than useless to attempt its introduction.

We have thus glanced at some of the common sense difficulties that beset the subject. We do not pretend to say that they may not be overcome, and we only hope that some reasonable measure may be introduced, that all may be able to cooperate in giving it a trial. There are Members of the Government who during a long life have bestowed more than a passing attention on the subject of Education, and are now in a position to propound for Legislative discussion the results of their matured experience. We shall soon be enabled to judge of their ability for the important task they have undertaken; and while we hope they may acquit themselves well, we shall not regard even their failure, either as a discredit to their endeavors, or as making the task so hopeless, that those who come after them may not gather wisdom from their suggestions, and improve upon their experience.

We publish to day the notice which has been circulated among the Members of the Church in the City, in the hope of giving to it an additional publicity, and expressing our satisfaction that something like a systematic effort is to be made to awaken the dormant energies of the Church, and to engage Churchmen in the work of the Lord.

To enrol all the baptized Members of the Church in this Society was a favorite scheme of the late Bishop, and we cannot but regret that we have in great measure lost sight of this, and so reduced both the sympathy and the means which are necessary to the success of our Missionary work. This is certainly the case in the city, where such a failure ought to have been the least discernible: yet it is impossible to take up the Report of the last year, and not observe the contrast with the country districts, in which although the Members of the Church are poor, the subscribers to the Funds are much more numerous. We do not complain of the sums which are given, but of the few who give. The few who love the Church and put a right value upon her Missionary Institution, do their duty well in this respect, and we trust that the present effort to increase their number will be creditable to the City and satisfactory to those who have undertaken the work.

We have been requested by the Local Committee of the Diocesan Church Society to solicit your co-operation in our missionary work, and being anxious to enrol if possible, all the members of our congregations as fellow-workers with us in the cause of Christ and his Gospel, we earnestly entreat you in His name to afford us all the assistance in your power. The hearty desire of the Committee is to make the Church in the City, as it ought to be, a pattern of liberality to the Church in the Country, and we trust that your zeal will abound and provoke many to the same diligence.

Your names as regular subscribers will be a gratification to the Society and a service to the Church. Already much has been done by our Missionaries, but much is still left for us to do, and many places are left destitute for want of more abundant means; and it is urged as a privilege no less than a burdened duty, to supply the present want as God has prospered us; that while enjoying ourselves all the means and ministries of grace, we should, with a ready mind and loving heart, do our utmost to communicate them to others.

WILLIAM BULLOCK.
WILLIAM C. SILVER.

Halifax, Feb. 13, 1856.

THE additional Services for Lent have again commenced, the hours being so arranged, that all persons may attend some of them. There is Evening Prayer at St. Luke's on Tuesday and Thursday at half-past four, and at St. Paul's with a Sermon on Wednesday at 7. Also, at St. Paul's, Morning Prayer on Wednesday and Friday at 11. And for the benefit of the labouring classes, the Bishop's Chapel is open on Thursday evenings at half-past 7, when there is a very short Service, the Litany only being used, followed by a Sermon.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WE do not see by the Reports of proceedings in the Assembly, that any thing of importance has taken place during the past week in that branch. Doubtless if the routine business were more minutely given, a good deal of information upon the subjects of petitions, and connected with Committees, useful to the country in its various interests, would be elicited: but no question of commanding importance has yet been discussed, save that a motion for the appointment of a Committee of Public Works, the object of which was to form a supervising power over the Railway board, and as we understand, generally over Railway matters, separate and distinct from the Committee of Public Accounts, was raised in the affirmative. The importance of a thorough supervision by the House of every thing connected with the Railway, cannot be overrated; and it would seem to require that the duty should be an exclusive one to be performed satisfactorily. There may however be some other design connected with this motion. It seems intended to take away responsibility from the Administration, and to place it in a general Committee, and it may lead to the Country being saddled with another large salary in the shape of a Railway head of department. In former times the lawyers were famous for inventing heads of departments out of the necessities of their own profession,—*tempora mutantur*—the country will now have to watch the clever civilians. There may however be a necessity for such an appointment, but we hope that the means to pay for it will be first made evident by the revenue of the Railroad.

WE gather from some of the Provincial papers, that a Convention of Clergy and Lay delegates of the Diocese of Montreal assembled in that city on the 17th ult., have resolved that a Church Synod is desirable for that Diocese. We have seen no particulars of the proceedings, but the Resolution was carried, Yeas 65, Nays 22.

WE listened to a very pleasing and instructive Lecture by Mr. Hugo Reid, Principal of the Seminary in Dalhousie College, on Saturday last. The subject was the *configuration of the Earth, with its phenomena*, and the Lecture was the first of a Series, with the object of imparting an agreeable variety to the stock of popular education. The audience listened with much attention to Mr. Reid's graphic and instructive delineation of familiar subjects, and at the close on motion of Robert Noble Esq., gave expression to their satisfaction in a vote of thanks. It is not too much to say of Mr. Reid's lectures, that all who attend them cannot fail to be both instructed and delighted. We recommend the young especially to follow the whole course.

ANOTHER entertainment of a somewhat similar description, was given at the Temperance Hall on Monday evening last, in behalf of the funds of the Athenaeum Reading Room. A large audience assembled upon the occasion. Robt. G. Maliberton Esq., delivered an amusing Lecture on the Historical changes in the Manners and Customs of the English people—and Hon. L. M. Wilkins gave a series of poetic readings from Byron, Campbell and other celebrated Poets. Both these entertainments were of a superior order, and what is more to the point, they realized a considerable sum for the benevolent object which induced the above gentlemen to exert themselves after so pleasing a fashion. The public may anticipate a few more intellectual treats of this nature from the same source. The excellent Band of the 76th was no inconsiderable attraction to the entertainment.

WE are requested to state that the Annual Meeting of the Dartmouth Local Committee of the Diocesan Church Society, will be held in the School House adjoining the Dartmouth Church, on Thursday evening the 21st. inst.

WE acknowledge the receipt of a series of printed papers on Railway affairs, which appear to be generally satisfactory as to the progress of the work, and the prospects of remuneration from it when it shall be completed.

Vols. III. and IV. of "*Macaulay's History of England*," are on sale by the Publisher of this Paper, at his Bookstore, 24 Granville street. They are Harper's superior edition, and after the expenses are paid and the duties on reprints, we are assured that the importer does not realize more than 7½d. per volume. This superior edition can therefore be had by retail in Halifax, at a less cost, than it could be purchased from Harper's in New York. Persons who purchase it can do so with the certainty of being able to procure the 1st and 2nd volumes also, and all the new ones that may be issued subsequently to the fourth, of a uniform size and type, making them an unexceptionable set for a library.