

of a few; and this notion has driven out of them not only catechetical instruction, but even the reading of the Scriptures. While "the schoolmaster is abroad in the land," were he himself a man of sound head and heart, and carefully seeking the highest good of those under his care, much might be accomplished for the influence of Christian principles; but exparisoned as he now is in many a case, and floating from point to point, and relying on the business of instruction as a forlorn hope, little is to be expected.

Nor does the present course of parents warrant high expectations in that quarter. The practice which obtained in the last century in many parts of our country, England and Scotland, and some countries on the continent, which brought all the youth of a household under regular parental instruction, has gone into sad disuse. It was a most happy and blessed practice—one which gave the parent the place which God has given him, that of the priest of his family. But owing either to a low state of piety among parents, or a criminal want of proper qualifications, or some other unjustifiable cause, few, even among Christian parents, are found gathering their flocks around on the holy Sabbath, and leading them into the green pastures of divine truth. Their neglect is the more culpable as their duty to their children is a natural primary duty, and neither reason nor the Bible allows any substitution.

Nor do the labours of the ministry warrant the expectation of much directly from them. These labours are so various, growing out of the circumstances of our times, that a proportionate attention must be given to every department, and it has become a matter of constant anxiety to preserve a proper balance between them, and preserve the good feelings of the friends of each.

His circumstances lead the minister to operate more directly on the adult portion of his charge, and if he retain the old system of catechetical instruction, excellent as it is, its benefits are partial. He has to contend unceasingly with the indifference of parents, and the dissimulations of children—out of five hundred, he may secure the attendance of some fifty of both sexes. If he would as a pastor carry his influence from house to house, it is a rare occurrence to find youth at home.

We are necessarily led to look in these circumstances to our Sabbath school teachers. Here is a great body of persons, whose specific business is Christian culture, and who have committed to them a great proportion of the children of our churches, and who have from time to time in succession, and for different periods, nearly all the youth of our older states—they are our last hope. While our circumstances lead us to look to them, they are peculiarly favored with facilities for accomplishing every thing we ask. They can gain access in the most familiar way—they are the particular friends of their charge—have their confidence—bring home truth directly and personally—can follow up their impressions by visits, and especially deepen them by an invaluable auxiliary in the well-filled department of juvenile religious literature; and it aids them exceedingly that the public mind has all confidence in their efforts, and readily yields the youth to them. Ministers may do much, parents may do much, the ordinary teachers may do much—but the Sabbath school teacher much more, and more than all.

Is it not clear then, if the view we have taken be correct, that to our Sabbath school teachers is principally committed the Christian culture of our youth, and if such culture be so important to our country—if it be indispensable to our prosperity—how immense the responsibility of a teacher's place—what a tremendous weight of obligation rests upon him! How many circumstances combine to magnify it. Look over this great and growing country—what is it destined to be?—who can give the bounds or limits of her power and importance a century from this time? And yet a fearful tide of evils is setting in—infidelity is rife—emigration brings in upon her the materials of ruin—commerce deluges her with turgid luxuries—while iniquity in her own bosom has far the advance of Christian efforts. Is it desirable that her glory be perpetuated—that integrity and uprightness preserve her—must the youth of each generation be brought up in the fear of God to accomplish this—and are they committed to our Sabbath school teachers?—What a work is theirs!

FOR THE BEE.

MR EDITOR,

Sir.—In reflecting on the Freeholders' Meeting, held in the Court House at Princeton, on Tuesday the 31st ult., for the purpose of making provision for the poor of the Township, I am astonished that the majority of the Freeholders there present, should concur with, or countenance the unjust sentiments and dishonest principles evinced by those who had made themselves

most active on that occasion. Indeed, the whole conduct of that Meeting, particularly that respecting the attempts of David Crichton, Esq. and others, against this Township, was such as would reflect discredit on any Christian community.

If upon strict examination of Mr Crichton's account, (I particularise him, as supposing him to be a principal loser), it is found that he has given of the necessaries of life, to relieve, the present wants of our half starving and abused Poor, in value to the amount therein stated, having advanced the same upon the credit of the Township, by orders of the Overseers, it is quite evident that we are justly indebted to him in the amount. If this then appears to be the case, and that we still persist in our refusal of the payment of this just debt, I leave conscientious men to judge whether we act honestly and uprightly in so doing, or not. Let us not suppose, that because there are many of us concerned in the fraud, our guilt will be less than if it were only an individual; in my opinion, an equal degree of guilt will attach to each one of us, as if himself only were concerned.

Let each one of us suppose himself to be in the situation of Mr Crichton, and to have given of the products of his own industry, in the same manner, and to the same amount, that Mr Crichton did, and when he had come to demand payment, to be insulted and treated with contempt; and then say from his heart, if he can, that he met with any but an abominable treatment; I am disposed to believe that none of us will think otherwise. How basely and ungratefully have we therefore acted respecting Mr Crichton every time he presented his account, in not only refusing payment, but, when he should have met with that expressed gratitude to which his generosity was entitled, in loading him with insults. It is truly shameful, and extremely unjust in us, even to think of swindling an honest man out of £70 or £80, of a just debt, because he cannot recover the same by law. It we would act in this respect as become professing Christians, we would not regard what is law, but what is justice; we should be guided by that golden rule of our Saviour, "As ye would that men should do unto you, so ye, even so unto them."

Probably, we will soon have another Meeting, when I hope (if it is the will of Providence), to meet my fellow Freeholders, not however as at the last meeting, with the frown of the wicked one on their countenances, nor with a peevish, angry disposition, which indicates the certain absence of all charitable feelings; but with the expression of benevolence visible on their countenances, and with minds cheerfully and willingly inclined to pay all arrears, and make a liberal provision for the poor, for the ensuing year. I hope when the Freeholders will have conscientiously investigated, or considered these matters, they will save the Township from further disgrace, by coming to an amicable settlement.

Doubtless, many of us have hitherto acted under very erroneous impressions respecting the arrearage; for we were blindly led by a few designing individuals, who, in order to gain their own objects, would not scruple to trample upon both the laws of God and man! Some of them have even laboured most assiduously, to persuade the simple among us to the belief, that if we pay the arrearage, we will be subjected to the payment of an equal sum annually—than which nothing can be more absurd.

I trust, Mr Editor, when you will have viewed the subject in its proper light, and considered the importance thereof, you will be disposed to give these imperfect remarks upon it, publicity. I hope you will make a reasonable allowance for defects, when I tell you that I am neither qualified by nature or art to make this *comme il faut*.

Yours respectfully,

A FREEHOLDER.

West River, Feb 8, 1837.

[The above Communication was not received until Thursday last.]

THE BEE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 8, 1837.

THE JANUARY PACKET.—Our advices by the Packet are only three days later than those we were previously in possession of. We have therefore almost nothing new to offer. Advices had been received from Spain that the Queen's General Espartero had attacked and defeated the Carlists, before Bilbao, and succeeded in relieving that fortress. A part of the British legion was in the engagement, and nobly sustained their national character. General Evans was about to leave the Camp for the Senate. Gomez, the Carlist Chief, after having traversed nearly the whole

length of Spain (in the enemy's hands), with a mere handful of men, had succeeded in reaching Navarre, after many hair breadth escapes, having been several times surrounded by the Queen's troops. His small band of heroes were, however, greatly reduced, and the Carlist cause upon the whole, wore a very gloomy aspect.

Great distress prevailed in Ireland, owing to the scarcity and dearth of provisions.

An Anti Corn Law Society, had been formed in London, embracing many of the liberal members of Parliament.

A great fire occurred in Edinburgh on the 27th Dec. which consumed many houses in and about Greenside street, and Nottingham Place. About the same time, a tremendous snow storm prevailed throughout England and Scotland, which rendered all the great Post Roads for some days impassable.

Sir Michael Shaw Stewart died at Edinburgh on the 19th December.

The City of Edinburgh has become Bankrupt, and the authorities have offered a composition of 75 per cent to its creditors.

The Jamaica and Bermuda papers contain the particulars of the present unhappy difference between Great Britain and the states of New Grenada.—There is every prospect of a war, though it cannot be of long duration. The British Fleets, in the West Indies and in the Pacific, had received orders to proceed to the Main, and blockade the ports of Columbia, the President of which had issued a Proclamation, justifying the conduct of the Government, and calling upon the people to resist the threatened invasion.

The Port of St. Georges, in Bermuda, has been declared a Free Warehousing Port.

New Work.—Judge Marshal, of Cape Breton, has a Work ready for the Press, on the Duties of the Magistracy. It professes to give a comprehensive view of such British Statutes and Province Laws as require in any measure to be enforced by the Conservators of the Peace in this Province. Than this, we conceive no work could be more desirable at the present time, more particularly as the proposed consolidation of the Laws has been neglected. We have been favored with a reading of the Prospectus of the proposed Work, and we shall publish it so soon as it appears in any of the other Provincial papers. In the mean time we shall take the liberty of observing, that from the known acquirements and long experience of Judge Marshal, we have every confidence in the ability of the production. We are pleased to observe that he takes the same view of the present state of our Laws and Magistracy, which we have done frequently in this paper; and however willing we may have been heretofore in admitting any thing as an apology for our administration of the Law, when the Magistrates get the Judge's Work in their hands, we can no longer extend that courtesy to them.

BILLS, &c.—On the 16th ult., a Bill which had been introduced for enabling Members to vacate their seats in certain cases, was read a second time in committee of the whole House, and was lost by a majority of 11. The following was the state of the division:

For the Motion.—Messrs Chipman, Heckman, Morton, Dobb, Dewolf, Doyle, Holmes, McLellan, Dickey, W. Young, Upham, Huntington, B. Smith, Hatton, Annand.

Against the Motion.—Messrs Archibald, Gouge, Elder, J. Sargent, McDougall, Whitman, DesBarres, McDonald, Taylor, Forrester, Spearwater, W. Sargent, Holland, Bell, Clements, Benjamin, Fairbanks, Rudoll, Umacke, Athson, G. Smith, Stewart, Lewis, Miller, Kavanagh, Wilkins.

On the 20th, the British Colonial Bank Bill, was passed; and the report of the Committee on the Road Service, was also received and passed, — granting £17,000 for the current year.