

As he entered many of the faithful heard (as they assert) a voice from heaven, crying, "Be strong and have courage, Polycarp."

All being ready, he stripped himself for his last struggle; but for a long time he was unable to unloose his sandals, from the interruption of the faithful, who eagerly ran up to touch the body of the holy martyr.

"O Lord God Almighty, Father of thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we receive the knowledge which telleth of thee, O God of angels, and powers, and of all the creation, and of all the family of the just, who live in thy presence: I bless thee that thou hast thought me worthy of this day and hour, so that I should be a partaker in the number of thy witnesses, in the cup of thy Christ, unto the resurrection of everlasting life, both of soul and body, in the incorruption of the Holy Spirit."

The fire was then lighted around him, and when it had risen into a vast flame, bellowing like a sail, it encircled the martyr as it were in a chamber of fire, where his body remained unconsumed, like gold in the furnace.

Thus the prince of this world extinguished the last lamp which had been kindled from the light of the living Apostles, and the Church lost a witness, who had upheld her claims in her most difficult trials.

THE CHURCH.

COBOURG, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1839.

On our third page will be found the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, at the opening of the Provincial Parliament at Toronto, on Tuesday last.

We are compelled to think that Her Majesty's ministers have very seriously mistaken the best means of ensuring the permanence of that connection, in recommending a "Legislative Re-union of this Province with Lower Canada"; and we must declare our conviction that such a measure, unless guarded by provisions which, upon the principles of ordinary justice, it might be found impossible to enforce, must hasten the separation which every loyal subject is so anxious to avert.

The arguments against this measure strike us as very simple and conclusive. It will enfeeble the political condition by destroying the Constitutional ascendancy of Upper Canada, and add no efficient strength to the present Constitutional minority in the Lower Province.

It may be that, in labouring to undermine its influence, they have preferred the Scriptural method of striving to implant a sound and stable religious principle, to the adoption of those merely human devices, the result of which is commonly a fostering of the deceitfulness of sin rather than a conversion of the heart.

times than, we believe, it has ever hitherto been their good fortune to possess; while, in Upper Canada, our calculation embraces the largest number of constitutional members which, under the most favourable circumstances, it would be reasonable to anticipate.

With such a result from the proposed Union,—and who, as the elective franchise now stands, can doubt that it will be realized,—how is the government of the country to be carried on? How are our internal improvements to be advanced? How are our commercial interests to be forwarded? In the collisions which would inevitably arise between the Legislative Council and the popular branch,—in the contest for first principles which that collision would involve,—we can hardly anticipate that the agricultural improvement and the commercial interests of the country will be more than a secondary consideration.

This is one feature of the case,—one which must affect with becoming force the mere political economist, him who regards the Union of the Provinces, as probably many do regard it, simply as a question of profit and loss; but there are other grounds of objection which to the real philanthropist, to the Protestant Christian, will be immeasurably more important.

But by means of the Union, these happy presages would be swept away at once. In the United Provinces there would be nearly 600,000 members of the Romish communion,—a powerful, because a united phalanx,—arrayed against 500,000 Protestants, distracted and weakened by rival and often contradictory tenets.

But we shall be asked perhaps, if for the sake of prospective calamities, we are to refuse the application of the only remedy for present disquietude and misfortune? In reply, we can express our heartiest and most anxious wish for the amelioration and the removal of our present difficulties; but in the mind of all candid and cautious observers, there cannot be a doubt that the remedy proposed will only aggravate the disease.

But if Lower and Upper Canada cannot stand separate as they are,—if a union of some sort must take place,—then, for the sake of British interests and for the maintenance of British supremacy, for the preservation of our connexion with the Mother Country and for ensuring the ascendancy of our Protestant Constitution, let it be a Union of ALL the British North American Provinces.

The excellent Missionaries who are pursuing their quiet and unostentatious, but useful labours, amongst the Indians on the Grand River, can afford to receive with a complacent generosity the uncharitable accusation which will be found recorded in the communication of our esteemed correspondent from St. Catharine's.

It may be that the vice of drunkenness amongst the objects of their charge, is one which our fellow-labourers referred to, have found the most difficulty in eradicating; but comparatively discouraging as their labours in this respect may have proved, we are much mistaken if abundant testimony cannot be advanced of the triumph, in many instances, of Gospel principle over this besetting sin.

It may be that, in labouring to undermine its influence, they have preferred the Scriptural method of striving to implant a sound and stable religious principle, to the adoption of those merely human devices, the result of which is commonly a fostering of the deceitfulness of sin rather than a conversion of the heart.

We are persuaded that the author of the denunciation expressed in the letter of our correspondent, has affirmed what he will find it impossible to substantiate by proof; but this as it may,—whether drunkards are, or are not, still to be found amongst a professedly Christian community,—we know that our Missionaries at the Grand River are labouring with zeal, and we trust with success, for their reformation; and we know that if this

success should appear to be all, they will persevere without discouragement in the labour of love; and, if the Lord of the harvest is pleased so to ordain, they will be rejoiced and give Him thanks if they should be rendered the humble instrument of the salvation of but one soul.

That we are not singular in the opinion we have expressed of the religious bearing of the proposed Union of the Provinces, the communication of our correspondent "Claud Halcro," given below, will serve to prove. This is a view of the question while it brings to individuals so much anxiety, will engage, we trust, the most serious consideration of our Legislature. It is one thing to concede to our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects those civil rights and religious privileges to which in justice they are entitled; but it is another thing to yield to them an ascendancy which must endanger the security of our Protestant religion, and lead at last to the subversion of our political freedom.

We have been favoured with a communication, courteous and Christian in its spirit, from a "Zealous Churchman;" and we trust we shall not be considered as departing from the temper by which, we are free to acknowledge, his own communication is characterized, if we adhere to our opinion that it would be better, for the general good of the Church, not to canvass the question to which his letter refers.

In a verbose address from the Editor of the Christian Guardian to his Excellency the Governor General, on that thread-bare topic, the "grievance" of the Clergy Reserves, it is stated,—"Yet when we [the Methodists] complain, we are termed raitors and rebels, and charged, even by The Church, with being in league with murderers and robbers and brigands!" We deny ever having made such a charge.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE GRAND RIVER INDIANS.

To the Editor of The Church.

Rev. Sir,—A few weeks ago I attended a "Centenary Meeting" held in this place, at which Rev. Mr. Stinson, President of the Conference, and the Rev. James Evans, Missionary among the Indians, were present, and took part in the proceedings.

The latter gentleman, however, in the course of his remarks, exhibited much less of that Christian spirit and brotherly love towards the Church, by which Mr. Stinson's speech was characterized, and dwelt forcibly upon the superior power and efficacy of the labours of Wesleyan Missionaries, and of the Gospel, when preached by them among the Indian tribes of the Province, as exhibited in their lives and conduct, when compared with the fruits of the labours of other sects, and especially of the Church of England.

I have therefore felt it my duty, as a humble member of the Church, to bring the subject under your notice, in order that the evil may be corrected if found to exist, or the falsehood of the accusation exposed;—and I do so, in full confidence that those concerned, will meet the charge with that ample refutation which I have no doubt it is in their power to afford.

I am, Rev. Sir, Your obedient Servant, AMICUS ECCLESIE.

St. Catharine's, Nov. 28, 1839.

POPIH LEGISLATION FOR THE COLONIES.

The historian Hume, in his account of the character of the religious parties in the time of Charles I., sneers at "the superstitious fears" of the Puritans, that the Papists, secretly aided by the king, purposed to subvert the Protestant Kingdom of England, and bring it under the power of Rome.

Many in the present day,—either professing the Romish faith, or, like Hume, acknowledged infidels,—would fain treat as lightly the fears of those conscientious Protestants who declare, that they behold, in the advancement of O'Connell's partizans, a deadly and imminent danger to the nation, because it involves an abandonment of the National Religion.

But while we express our disapprobation of the principles of the Puritans generally, and while we exultate the Royal Martyr from the reason which their fears implied, we regard their extreme vigilance to ward off all danger of Popish re-establishment as a redeeming point in their character;—we believe that great caution is at all times necessary to preserve our protestant national faith inviolate. How much more, now, should the cry of the unbelieving scoffer be disregarded, when an Administration, entirely controlled by a Roman Catholic faction, sways the destinies of England?

Arising out of this dependence upon the Irish agitator, we will find numerous ramifications, calculated to turn the scale in favour of the Romanists throughout the Empire. These, while they indicate on the part of the Government an unhappy subjection to the power of Rome, look like parts of a well-planned and extensive conspiracy against our National Protestantism.

One of these, the proposed measure of A UNION OF THE CANADAS, ought particularly and immediately to engage our attention. Doubtless many in the true spirit of ultra-liberalism, will ridicule the idea that this can be charged upon the Ministry as another blow to be given by them to the National faith.

A Legislative Union of these Provinces would put supreme power into the hands of Roman Catholics! The power of persecution would thus be obtained by them in part of the Empire; the power of joining the United States would be in their hands; and if we are to believe the statement of the shrewd "Clockmaker," the last mentioned nation is to be a "Catholic Country."

The power of Ancient Rome thus transferred to a Western Empire, and vested in the hands of a mighty nation, would prepare for the overthrow of Protestant England;—shorn of her transatlantic possessions, her energies must decline, and the sceptre drop at last from her enfeebled hands. While, therefore, every Protestant throughout the realm should protest against this measure; while the spirit of the first Reformers should be roused to life throughout the land, we must disregard the attacks of liberalism and infidelity. It has become a painful duty emphatically to proclaim that this pandering to the spirit of Rome,—this shameful prostitution of high places to be filled by the enemies of Protestantism,—is a departure from the essential principles of the British Constitution—a violation of the trust reposed in her Majesty's ministers! It is our duty to point out that if these pernicious counsels be persisted in; if this be the policy which is to guide the British Government; those words of awful import,—MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN, will be inscribed on the destinies of England and on England's religion.

Belleville, December, 1839.

ECCLESIASTICAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE UNIVERSITIES.—OXFORD, OCTOBER 17.

This day the following degrees were conferred:— Bachelor of Divinity.—Rev. Thomas Byrth, Magdalen Hall. Master of Arts.—Rev. Marcus Richard Southwell, Exeter, Grand Comptroller; Horace Lewis Knight-Bruce, Christ Church; Robert Alexander, Christ Church; John Robert Cornish, Student of Christ Church; William Charles Fynes Webber, Student of Christ Church; William Goodenough Penny, Student of Christ Church.

Bachelor of Arts.—Jacob Youde William Hinde, Wadham.

OCTOBER 24.

On Saturday last the Rev. Thomas Byrth, of Magdalen Hall, was admitted to the degree of Doctor in Divinity; and in a Convocation holden on that day the Rev. Frederic Charles Plumtree, D. D., Master of University, was nominated by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, and approved by the house, as a Delegate of Accounts, in the room of the Rev. the Master of Pembroke College, resigned.

In a Convocation holden this day (Thursday) the nomination of the Rector of Exeter College (Dr. Richards), to be a select preacher, in the room of Dr. Burney, was agreed to, as was the nomination of the Rev. Richard Mitchell, B. D., Fellow of Lincoln College, to be a Public Examiner in Literis Humanioribus.

In the same Convocation, the Rev. Charles John Daniel, M. A., of Trinity College, Dublin, was admitted *ad eundem*.

In the Convocation holden the same day, the following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—W. B. Clements, Trinity; J. E. Golding, Queen's; J. R. Young, Caius; J. Caddell, Corpus Christi. Bachelor of Arts.—E. Over, Catherine Hall.

Pro-Froctors.—At the same Convocation the Rev. M. Gibbs, of Caius, and the Rev. J. Pullen, of Corpus Christi, were appointed Pro-Froctors.

OCTOBER 25.

The Queen's Professor of the Civil Law has given notice that his course of lectures will commence on the 7th of November. The days of attendance during the present term will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

At a congregation on Thursday last, J. Philipot, B. A. of Trinity College, was created Master of Arts by Royal Mandate.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.—At the public meeting of this useful and interesting society last week, Bristol witnessed, perhaps for the first time, three right rev. prelates at one of its public meetings; our diocesan being supported by the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, and the lately created Bishop of Toronto, of Upper Canada. During the meeting a spirited individual informed the indefatigable secretary, the Rev. G. N. Barrow, that he would give £10 if nine similar names could be found; in a few minutes £110 was subscribed. This tribute at once evinced the rapidly increasing interest felt in behalf of this noble and most important society.—Bristol Mirror.

Various meetings have been held during the last quarter in all parts of England; and the society, while thankfully acknowledging the increased support which it has received, recommends most earnestly, as the best way of raising means at all adequate to its claims, the formation of parochial associations. Great success has already attended them in many parishes. The following calculation is taken from a paper of suggestions on the subject, which has been extensively circulated:—

"There are in England about 1,600,000 families in communion with the Church; if each family gave on the average 2s. 6d. a-year (which is scarcely more than one half-penny a-week); the amount contributed would be £200,000. The rich may be reasonably called upon to give much more liberally of their abundance; but surely there is hardly a single Church family in the country that cannot afford to contribute, though it be of their poverty, 1d. a-week towards the propagation of the Gospel in foreign lands."

Nearly all the collections under the Queen's letter have now come in. The following is a summary of the amount contributed by the several counties of England and Wales:—

Table with columns for County, £, s. d., and Total. Lists counties like Bedford, Berks, Buckingham, Cambridge, etc., with their respective contributions.

Table with columns for County, £, s. d., and Total. Lists counties like Anglesea, Brecon, Cardigan, Carmarthen, etc., with their respective contributions.

The Bishop of London has lately ordained, as a minister of the Church of England, a gentleman who had been born and educated in the Church of Rome, and who had been studying at Rome eight years, to qualify him as a minister of the Roman church. His residence at Rome has led to his conviction of the errors of Popery, which he has in consequence renounced, and is now a zealous defender of the faith once delivered to the saints.—Windsor Journal.

FOUNDATION OF A NEW CHURCH AT MANCHESTER.—Friday morning the first stone was laid of a new church, which is about to be erected by subscription in Every-street, Great Ancoats, in the centre of one of the most densely populated districts in the town. The building will be a very neat edifice in the Norman style, which prevailed in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The subscription already amounts to upwards of £2000, and is rapidly increasing. The Rev. Dr. Warren is to be the minister. It is intended that this edifice shall accommodate about 1500 persons; one third of the sittings are to be free. Sir O. Mosley, the lord of the manor, laid the stone, and delivered a very impressive address on the occasion, in which he feelingly exhorted the multitude around him to a right use of the privilege that was about to be placed within their reach.

Dr. Hook.—On Wednesday evening last, this distinguished divine preached a sermon in Hillingworth Church, in aid of the Society for Promoting the Employment of Additional Curates in Populous Places. Prayers were read by the Venerable Archdeacon Musgrave. The rev. doctor ascended the pulpit and took his text from Acts xiii. 32.—"We declare unto you glad tidings." The discourse was most heart-searching, and the strong and nervous appeals to the conscience were irresistible, and were well calculated to carry conviction. In advocating the claims of the society the doctor said that though it was a society for the employment of additional curates, the duty of the state was fully recognised, though it appeared as if it were relieved of its responsibilities. But they were not to leave undone that which it was the duty of the state to do; and until the state is awakened to a sense of its duty, till the people through their representatives cause the Crown to do that which it ought to do, they must request their subscriptions in aid of the society. In reference to that society it was, he said, a Church of England society—the Church of England as built upon the Bible and Prayer-book; the Bible as the rule of faith, and the Prayer-book as its interpreter. It was upon that principle that the society acted,—in a spirit of liberality, in the true sense of the meaning of that term. The learned doctor then enforced the claims of the society upon his hearers in a most powerful manner, and a collection was afterwards made.—Halifax Guardian.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—The friends and supporters of these schools are exerting all their power and influence to raise subscriptions throughout England towards their maintenance. With this laudable view they purify holding meetings immediately at Bath, and to have curious sermons preached. According to the last report of the society, which has been just circulated, the total number of schools amount to 3006, which contain 226,650 scholars, having 21,828 teachers. Of the total number of boys 139,102 read the Bible and Testament; 45,944 are adults above the age of 15, and not one-half are receiving education at the daily schools. The number of schools founded during the past year considerably exceeded that of the preceding years. The increase of the distribution of Bibles during the same period reached 1423 copies, and that of Testaments averaged an equal number.

From the Quebec Mercury. On Sunday, the 24th ult., after an excellent discourse from the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Montreal, a collection was made in aid of the funds of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, when the sum of £40 was contributed towards the support of this excellent institution. The congregation was not so large as is usual in the Cathedral upon such occasions, many, especially families living without the walls of the city, having, no doubt, been prevented attending by the state of the weather and the roads; but all who are desirous of promoting and extending the Christian labours directed by the Society, may deposit their contributions with Henry Jessopp, Esq., Her Majesty's Collector of Customs, who acts as Treasurer for the Society in Quebec.

From the Gospel Messenger. BISHOP OF TORONTO.—We most heartily unite with our esteemed brother of "The Church," and with all our brethren in Upper Canada, in thankfulness to God for the safe return of the Right Rev. Dr. Strachan, from England, where he lately received consecration as Bishop of Toronto, his diocese being the Province of Upper Canada. The division of the immense Diocese of Quebec, has been most satisfactorily settled, and we trust that one so well informed and experienced, so capable and devoted as Dr. Strachan, will, under the gracious guidance and protection of Almighty God, promote the best interests of the people of his charge, to the edifying of the Church, and the salvation of souls. Long may he live to carry forward those measures which he has, through many years of toil and difficulty, sustained with great talent, fidelity and zeal.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM INDIA. A Post Office messenger arrived in town yesterday, with mails from India—the (latest) dispatched from Bombay on the 27th ult., arrived at Suez on the 6th instant; another from Calcutta, the 13th of July, by the Waterwitch schooner; and a third by the Euphrates company's steamer, which left Bombay on the 23rd of July.

The dispatches brought by this conveyance announce brilliant successes on the part of the Indian army. Her Majesty's troops marched from Candahar in four divisions on the 27th, 28th and 29th of May, and on the 3d of June, and arrived, on the 16th of July, at Moker, four days' march from Ghuznee. Up to the 20th inst. it had encountered no more formidable obstacle than a troop belonging to the rebel tribe, which it repulsed without difficulty. On the 20th the army was concentrated at Nance, twelve miles from Ghuznee, and on the 21st arrived at that place. A heavy within gun-shot it was received by a smart cannonade and a fire of musketry, after silencing which, the army bivouacked, and the 22d preparations were made for assaulting the town, and on the 23d it commenced a few minutes before three o'clock on the 24th inst. The gates were blown in by the engineers, and the trumpets having sounded a charge, the artillery opened a terrible fire, under cover of which the infantry forced an entrance in the course of the most determined resistance, and by 5 o'clock the city of Ghuznee, the 13th and 17th regiments floated over the tadel of Ghuznee. This one of the strongest fortifications in Asia, defended by a force of 3500 of the elite of the Afghan troops, commanded by the son of the ex-King of Cabool, was reduced in two hours, 500 of the besieged having been killed, and 900 made prisoners. The entire loss of our troops did not exceed 191 men, out of which 60 were killed, and 131 wounded.

Intelligence of this defeat having reached Calcutta, the panic occasioned by the fall of Ghuznee was such, that it was shortly abandoned by all his soldiers, when he fled with 300 men, leaving the whole of his artillery and baggage in the hands of his enemy. The English army, availing itself of its position, pressed

Civil Intelligence.

We alluded briefly in our last to the intelligence brought by the Steam Ship British Queen, which sailed from Portsmouth on the 3d November, and has brought us London papers to the evening of the 1st of that month. Below will be found a selection of the most interesting particulars:—

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