

of the long talked of Railway from Halifax to Quebec, and, through that enterprise, immigration on a large scale, not only of the poorer but of the better conditioned classes of the home population, to the British Provinces. He advocates the necessity of constructing "a steam transport, colonization yacht, or ocean omnibus, suitable for the service," to run from the West of Ireland to Halifax, on a scale to afford a cheap and speedy transit for a much larger number of passengers than can be possibly accommodated at one time by any of the present modes of conveyance. Such "facilities of crossing and re-crossing" the Atlantic "both as regards time and expense," he argues, would induce multitudes to pass to and fro, and lead to "that degree of intimate intercourse which is essential to the development of these countries, by enabling people who might contemplate settling here, to visit and reconnoitre them," and so become more extensively and accurately acquainted with their resources. Another great advantage, he thinks, would result from the execution of this project,—that is,—that the poorer class of emigrants could be "conveyed from the United Kingdom to British North America for under 28s. each, exclusive of provisions, which may be considered 7s. extra," and that they might be "landed at their destination in the Western Hemisphere in six days, instead of about forty days as at present by inferior sail vessels." "It is," however, "absolutely essential," he adds, "that simultaneously with the production of the proposed steam transport, the Halifax and Quebec Railway should be commenced," to open up the country, and, in the meantime, to afford means of subsistence to emigrants and others, whose labour would be required on the undertaking. The cost of the Railway—by whom it should be undertaken—its feasibility—its advantages direct and collateral, with other kindred topics, are severally treated of by the author, accompanied by valuable statistical information. We shall take another opportunity of referring to the contents of this pamphlet. At present, we think the inhabitants of British North America should regard the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway as the grand scheme of the day, which should call forth their mightiest efforts, and lead them promptly and vigorously to co-operate with the English Government, or with well certified voluntary Associations in the Mother Country, to secure as early as possible the consummation of this great enterprise, which as yet has floated across the mind as a beautiful vision, but which, we hope, is destined ere long to become a magnificent reality.

#### REV. MR. BREWSTER'S LETTER.

The friends of Sabbath Schools will doubtless be much gratified by reading the excellent letter of the Rev. Mr. Brewster which appears on a preceding page. During his recent visits to our City the Rev. Gentleman delivered interesting addresses to our Sabbath-School children, which we trust made good and lasting impressions on their minds. Affected by the relation of an incident, to which reference is made in the letter, they made up a parcel of books which they presented to Mr. Brewster for the children under his care. After his return to his sphere of labour, remembering the kindness of our children, he wrote them the letter in question as a token of his affection and of his continued interest in their eternal welfare, and among other things has narrated in a most touching manner the happy death of a little lame girl, which took place during his absence. This letter was read lately to the

children of the Argyle Street Sabbath School, and was listened to with much interest and feeling. It is proposed to issue it in small pamphlet form, in coloured paper covers, with title, &c., for sale at the low price of one penny each copy, the proceeds of which, after deducting expenses, to be devoted to the purchasing of suitable books for the children on the destitute parts of the Barrin Circuit. We wish this laudable effort to do good great success, and hope the Sabbath Schools in the City and Country will assist in giving the work a wide circulation.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE EDUCATION BILLS.

We cannot but regret that the Bill for the grant of £1200 for the support of Academic and Collegiate Education, and Mr. Henry's Bill for the withdrawal of the permanent grant to King's College, Windsor, have been amalgamated in the House of Assembly, and in this state sent to the Legislative Council. It would have been far more satisfactory had these Bills been kept separate, and been sent to the Council for its action on their independent merits respectively. As the subject now presents itself, it places the members of that House in a singular position. We hope that they will dispose of it wisely, and in a manner which will justify the expectations of the friends of Denominational Institutions.

#### THE CHRONICLE.

We have no doubt but that the subjects referred to by the *Chronicle* will come up for discussion in due time. We shall take our own course in regard to time and manner of treatment.

#### Early Closing.

At a public Meeting recently held in the Tabernacle, New York, to sustain the Dry Goods Clerks in asking a reduction of their hours of labour, his Honor Mayor Woodhull, who presided, made the following appropriate remarks, which we commend to the attention of all concerned:—

The Retail Dry Goods Stores in this City, are open at an early hour in the morning, and continue open till late in the evening. The Clerks are there through the day, from the opening to the closing of the stores, being thus employed on some days upwards of 16 hours, and upon an average more than 14 throughout the year. This is a kind of servitude which leaves them no time which can be properly regarded as their own leisure, no time for recreation, reading, study, or any intellectual improvement whatever. They propose as a remedy, closing the stores in the evening and the discontinuance of evening shopping, except on Saturday evenings. They make the proposition in no hostile spirit towards either their employers or the public, but with a view of cultivating a more friendly relation with both, and in the full belief that it will not operate to the injury or inconvenience of either, but will, after a short experiment, prove to be more satisfactory to all parties than the present system.

There are about 2000 retail dry goods clerks in this city, a considerable proportion of whom are young men between the ages of 12 and 21, whose education is necessarily incomplete, and who have no opportunity of completing it under the existing practice of evening shopping.

Under such a system it may be enquired how are they to fit themselves for future usefulness, and what will be the character for respectability and intelligence of our future merchants. For it will be remembered that many of those who are now clerks, will in a few years become our leading men of business; if, then, we expect to have a class of intelligent merchants we must allow those who are now clerks an opportunity to qualify and elevate themselves for such a position. Show me who and what are the clerks in this city, and I will show you what its merchants will be; for what the one is, such will be the other, and such will be the men who are to control the future destinies of this great and growing commercial mart.

I think this subject is one of especial interest to our citizens, and commends itself strongly to their favour. I will only add on this occasion that as you regard the character and intellectual improvement of these young men, and as you

regard also their influence and usefulness in after life, suffer me to appeal to you and through you to the public; and more especially to the ladies, an appeal to whom for any good object, I am happy to say is seldom made in vain, for a generous, just and kind consideration in their behalf.

#### Mechanics' Institute.

Last Monday evening, the members of the Mechanics' Institute had another rich mental treat served up to them by the Rev. Mr. Elder, of Fredericton. The subject was "The Dignity of Labour," one in which the Artizan and Mechanic alone might be thought to be interested; but it was treated in such a dignified manner as could not but gain the attention and applause of those who move in more elevated walks of life. If the statements to which the Rev. lecturer gave utterance, and which he expressed in language at once pure and elegant, could gain the influence to which they are entitled, and which they must ere long acquire, we would discover among the various grades of Society a more willing recognition of their absolute dependence on each other, and a greater sympathy of this higher with the lower ranks of life. The dignity of labour is a subject which certainly has hitherto not received that attention which it merits, and to Mr. Elder we must express our gratitude for bringing it forward, and supporting it in so masterly and convincing a manner. It would give us pleasure to see the whole lecture in print.

Next Monday evening, the Rev. Mr. Cooney will lecture, and intends to make no less a personage his subject, than "HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN."—*St. John N. B. Observer.*

#### The Evidences of Christianity.

The second of the course of *Lectures on the Evidences of Christianity*, was delivered last Wednesday evening in the Saint John Presbyterian Church, by the Rev. Robert Irvine. The subject was, "Christ the Messiah of the Old Testament." The limits of one lecture confined him to the Pentateuch, or the Five Books of Moses. The argument derived thence was divided into three parts—the Prophetic announcements—the official characters—and the typical representations; to each of which, as far as time allowed, he did ample justice. The dense congregation listened with great attention, and though the services occupied nearly three hours, there was not the smallest symptom of weariness in any part. To the Christian, who cannot, but delight in seeing how fruitful every part of the Bible is in its testimonies of Christ, it was a valuable discourse; and we would recommend to every one its perusal, when it issues from the press as a tract.

Next Thursday evening, the Rev. Mr. Caswell will deliver the third lecture of the course, in the Centenary Chapel, which the Managers have kindly offered to the Committee, for those lectures, on any occasion.—Subject: "The Evidences of Christianity derived from Prophecy."—*St. John N. B. Courier, 9th.*

#### ITEMS.

Remorse is the echo of a lost virtue. Idleness wastes a man as insensibly as industry improves him.

Those who cry the loudest, have generally least to sell.

The benefice of the poor man cannot be so extensively a blessing to others as the benefice of the rich man, but it may be quite as intense a blessing to himself.

Guests are often invited to witness the ostentation of the host.

THE MARCH OF INTELLECT.—It is ten years on Monday last since the establishment of the penny postage. There is an old man, living 100 miles from Hallowbury, who, for a quarter of a century, has farmed an estate of 400 or 500 acres, and who never, in the course of his life, received or sent a single letter through a post-office.

Dr. Simpson, of York—one of the most eminent physicians out of London—has just published a monograph of Asiatic cholera; and he has arrived, as he states, at the fullest and most complete conviction of the truth that Asiatic cholera is a contagious disease, depending for existence on an animal poison.

A little girl, only nine years of age, was asked at the Drottwich Sunday-school, the other day, to explain the meaning of the words in Proverbs, "A soft answer turneth away wrath," and after a little hesitation made the following rude but expressive answer—"Why, please ma'am, it's when a body jaws a body, and you doesn't bang at 'em again."

PRINTING AND STATIONARY.—In a recent address, the Rev. J. Aspinall said, "A day or two

ago, as I was reading 'Printing and Stationary' over a shop window, I could not help galloping the hobby of my imagination. How much depends upon one vowel, the spelling of a word! Change but one vowel, take away an e and substitute an a, and how does it read? Printing and Stationary! But nothing has been stationary since printing was invented, and nothing can be stationary since it abides. It is the moving power. On! on! Forward! forward!"

ORIGIN OF BY HOOK OR BY CROOK.—Persons entitled to fuel-wood in the king's forest were only authorized to take it of the dead wood or branches of trees in the forest, "with a cart, a hook, and a crook."—*Notes and Queries.*

USE OF A Moustache.—The editor of the Medical Times, referring to the moustaches of medical students, assures a correspondent that "moustaches have their uses; and among the most important, they are considered to point out the idliest, the vainest, and most self-conceited, if not, probably, the most dissolute in the class. They are beacons to warn others."

It has recently been decided that a draft on a banker may be stopped by the drawer at any time before payment; and that it is no security to any third party who may hold it, as he neither can proceed against the banker nor the drawer.

AMERICAN CITIES.—The growth of American cities is unparalleled in the history of the world. Already half a million are embraced within the suburbs of New York; and more than half that number within those of Philadelphia. New Orleans contains about 150,000, Boston 130,000, and Baltimore 105,000 inhabitants. The second child born in Cincinnati, it is said, is still living, and has not reached the middle age of life, while the city has a population of 100,000. The population of St. Louis was about 1,600 in 1810; 12,000 in 1810; 40,000 in 1815; and it is probably now not less than 60,000. Buffalo contained 2,112 in 1825; in 1846 20,773; and it now contains about 45,000. In 1828 the population of Lowell was 3,532; it is now more than 30,000. Chicago, a place scarcely known on the latest maps, has already reached a population of 15,000; and Milwaukee, of still more recent origin, is rivaling it in population and growth.—*Edna Cook's Journal.*

#### PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

(Selected chiefly from the City Papers.)

#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, March 7th.

Hon. G. R. Young reported from the Small Pox Committee. Mr. Killam reported from the Fish Inspection Committee. Mr. Creelman reported upon the expenditures and regulation of the Provincial Penitentiary. Hon. Provincial Secretary's Law Bill was then brought up from Committee—when after an amendment of Mr. Hall's was negatived, Mr. Blackadar moved that the Bill be deferred to this day three months, which was negatived—25 to 16. Mr. Johnston's Agency Bill was read a third time and amended by a proviso that it should not affect or restrain the Law of 1855, making the agents of foreign companies liable. Mr. Henry reported from the Currency Committee, recommending measures for the establishment of a uniform rate in British America. Mr. McLeod reported favorably on the petition of James Black claiming remuneration for a sum stolen out of the Savings' Bank. A committee was also appointed to revise the Savings' Bank regulations, with a view to greater security. The Bill for the survey of Timber and Lumber was passed through Committee. The House went into Committee on the Registrar of Deeds Bill, the substance of which is to reduce the fees of Registrars throughout the Province—making deputies principals—commuting Sir Rupert George's fees for the Halifax office to £100 currency, and providing an iron safe to keep the public records in, in each county, to be paid for out of the surplus fee fund now accumulated. The committee adjourned without passing the Bill through.

Friday, March 8th.

The house went into committee and passed the Registrar of Deeds bill. The motion to give Sir Rupert D. George £300 cy., in exchange for his fees as Registrar being negatived, the sum of £100 stg. was agreed to. The bill reduces the fees of Registry one half. The house went into committee when the Hon. Provincial Secretary proposed to unite the bill for repealing the grant to King's College with his bill for granting £1200 for collegiate education; which after some discussion—and three or four divisions, was carried by a decisive majority. The house then went into committee on ways and means and the duty upon sheet zinc and zinc Nail was fixed at 24 per cent. A majority decided

against any decrease in the duty upon spirits. A duty of 1s. 3d. per barrel was imposed upon all wheat Flour.

Saturday, March 9th.

The House was engaged in the reading of the Collegiate Education Bill a third time.—Mr. Creelman moved a proviso by way of rider, that no part of the £1200 should be given to denominational institutions. This was negatived—22 to 17. The Registrar of Deeds Bill again provoked discussion with curious results. Hon. Mr. Johnston moved that it be recommitted for the purpose of raising the retiring allowance of Sir Rupert to £300 Sterling instead of £160—negatived, 7 to 23. Hon. Provincial Secretary moved that the Bill be recommitted to increase the allowance from £100 to £140 Sterling, for all the officers—town and country—carried, 22 to 13. On the bringing up of the report Mr. Henry moved to reduce the sum to £160 on which the House divided 23 to 22, when the speaker was obliged to give his casting vote for the reduced sum, against his own opinions. Two important despatches on Postage and Free Ports were brought down. Mr. Killam moved to impose a duty of two pence Sterling for wheat—to correspond with the 1s 8d a barrel on flour—negatived 23 to 19. Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table a return from Mr. McKenzie, Surveyor in Cape Breton, showing that out of applications for £900 for damages for lands taken for great Roads, only £183 ought to be paid. Some extraordinary disclosures were made on this subject.

Monday, March 11th.

The Bill for regulating the Survey of Lumber, was passed through with an amendment by Mr. Hignowitz. The Registrar's Bill on coming up for a third reading was the subject of another division—and passed finally with a resolution moved by Mr. Henry—24 to 23. The Committee on Navigation Securities, Royalty on Coal Mines, Horse Morgan, Masonic, and Bona of Temperance Incorporation Bills—reported. Hon. Provincial Secretary gave notice of a Resolution authorising the Government to issue debentures, payable in 20 years at four per cent, to build a Railway to Windsor. The Halifax Municipal Corporation, Masonic do., and Pugshe's Fire Engine Bills were passed through Committee. The Bill for preventing fraudulent drafts from the Treasury in the shape of damages for lands taken for new Great Road, was also forwarded. The House adjourned till 11 on Tuesday.

Tuesday March 12th.

The House met at eleven o'clock, and after calling several committees together, adjourned till 3. On opening a second time Mr. Freeman introduced a bill to enable certain persons in Queen's County to borrow money for the purpose of removing obstructions from the Liverpool River, between the Indian landing and Milton. The Legislative Council sent down the bill regarding the anchorage ground in Halifax, amended with amendments. A number of bills were passed through committee. At 4 o'clock the house adjourned to six—members being desirous of hearing the debate in the Upper Branch on the subject of an Elective Council. On re-opening, some routine business was transacted, and the house adjourned till 9 on Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 13th.

The house opened at two o'clock, and shortly after the Hon. Herbert Huntington, Financial Secretary, walked into the house, accompanied by Dr. Brown, and on taking his seat received the hearty congratulations of hon. members present, on both sides of the house, who evinced much happiness at seeing the hon. member so far recovered from his late severe illness as to take his seat once more on the red benches. Hon. G. R. Young reported on the Pictou Corporation bill. Mr. Blackadar moved that it be deferred till next Session;—negatived 21 to 19. Reports came in from committees on Temperance, Small Pox and other subjects. The house went into committee and passed a number of bills. Mr. Fraser reported upon the Halifax and Dartmouth Mutual Insurance Company. Mr. J. W. Johnston's Resolutions touching the Legislative Council, were made the order of the day for Monday. Some discussion arose on a motion by Dr. Brown to change a sum granted last year, from the main to the cross road appropriation, in Horton. The motion passed and the house adjourned till 2 o'clock on Thursday.

Thursday, March 14th.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced a Bill to incorporate the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society. Several reports were read—one recommending that the sum of £12 be granted to the publisher of the Colonist, for publishing debates, last Session. The House in Committee of Supply voted money for various services—among others £50 for the relief of Coloured People of Preston and Hammond's Plains. A motion to give £50 to a female Seminary at Amherst was lost. The house adjourned till 2 o'clock on Friday.