

ness and the happiness of being like Him, and see what a gloom you have cast around! See how you have marred the joys of the happy party; and then ask is it reasonable that these should keep such a day? Go again to the decaying hovel of the poor man. It is pleasant to see his family around him partaking of a full meal. He has scraped together money sufficient to buy a goose for his dinner, and perhaps some more favored citizen has sent him sweetmeats for his children, and he has invited some friend, equally poor with himself, to partake of his hospitality. Listen to their conversation. Hear the low jest, the Christless song! Ay, hear the name of Christ blasphemed, and then say, is it reasonable that such persons should keep such a day? Is it not strange that such a day should be kept by them?

Yea! Christmas is a lovely sweet day to those who love Christ. How full of holy recollections! How full of anticipated joys! The song of the angels, "Peace on earth, and good will towards men," pours its heavenly music over the soul, and seems to breathe its living truth in the "meekness and gentleness of Christ!" How profitable to think of that meekness and imitate it. How good to admire that gentleness and practice it! But, O! how heart-sickening to see the enemies of Christ, those who have never given their hearts to Him, as well as those who blaspheme His great Name, assuming unwonted cheerfulness; having "the harp, and the viol, the tabret and pipe, and wine in their feasts, while they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of His hands." His first coming seems to them full of mirth and gladness; what will His second coming be? Brethren in the Lord! Let us keep the feast indeed; let us keep it with holy gladness; let us partake of the temporal comforts which Christ has purchased for us, while our hearts burn within us with love to Him who so loved us as to leave the glories of His throne to make us "joint heirs with Him," of "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away." RUFAMAU.

(COMMUNICATED.)

A meeting was held at St. Mary's School House, Aylesford, on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 8th, on the great subject of Education. Mr. Chas. Randal Superintendent of Schools, took the chair, according to the Provincial Act, and delivered to a very respectable audience a neat and appropriate discourse. He treated the present state of most of the Country Schools—spoke of the necessity of proper Teachers, Houses, and Grounds,—would have the first suitably sized, the 2nd conveniently large, properly ventilated, and comfortably heated,—the last tastefully ornamented and arranged for gymnastic exercises. He stated that the mode of teaching in not a few of the country schools, admitted of much improvement, (a fact too true.) He would introduce the system so successfully adopted in the United States and Upper Canada, &c.

The meeting was also addressed by several other gentlemen present, including William Miller, Esq., Commissioner of schools, who exhibited a laudable zeal in this noble cause. The following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously acquiesced in:—

1st—Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the principle of assessment for the support of Schools is sanctioned by the circumstances of the country, and should be promoted to the interests of Education.

2nd—Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting a Normal School for the training of Teachers, is indispensable to the promotion of the interests of Education in this Province.

3rd—It is to be hoped that a notice of similar meetings should appear in the Provincial journals, in order that representatives of each county may become aware of the well understood wishes of the people, and that the united wisdom such laws may be enacted as to revolutionize a system now so abortive, but which others so necessary, to place "our own, our own hand," in a scale not inferior to her neighbours.

INGLIS VAN BUSKIRK,  
Secretary.

Aylesford, Nov. 10th, 1853.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

THE BOOK OF NATURE.

None need be ignorant! a book  
Of knowledge doth its leaves unfold,  
To all who in it choose to look!  
Yet not to careless, or to cold  
Peruser, is it given, to see  
Of each bright page, the mystery.  
It needeth patient poring o'er,  
Determined will and ardent mind;  
To such it yieldeth up its store,  
And those its hidden lore may find;  
Nature's great volume ne'er denies  
Its treasures to enquiring eyes.  
A universal speech doth clothe  
Its broad, illuminated page;  
And nought but intellectual sloth,  
Shunning in labour to engage,  
Preventeth Man from mastering  
That language, study for a King.

Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, each  
Doth, in its own appointed time,  
Sweet, soul enlightening lessons teach  
To habitant of every clime:  
Alas! that Man so little heeds  
Those lessons, and so seldom reads!  
The birds that in the forest throng,  
Or with swift pinions cleave the air,  
Beast, insect, fish,—things weak—and strong,—  
Shew forth their Maker's skill and care,  
Who, when His reason's power denied,  
With instinct's gift its place supplied.  
Yea, even the ringed earthworm speaks  
(Wriggling through the obstructing sod),  
To him who for instruction seeks,  
Of Him the great Creator! God!  
It saith, "Though I am but a worm,  
Me, none but God, Himself, could form."  
Nor pass we microscopic tribes,  
Seen but by magnifying lens;  
For each its signature inscribes,  
In cyphers legible, for men's  
Instruction! though unaided eye,  
Would fall their being to desery.  
The flower, that spreads its sweets abroad,  
The tree that lifts its boughs in air,  
Proclaim "Nought but Creation's Lord  
Could give us our proportions fair."  
Proportions fair, indeed! where shino  
Traces of workmanship divine.  
Day unto day doth knowledge prove,—  
Knowledge design'd man's heart to bless!  
It speaketh in the ocean's roar,  
'Tis 'n the solemn tenderness  
That, in the dewy twilight-time,  
Mingleteth the soft with the sublime.  
The stars reveal it night by night,  
As in their courses high they roll;  
Written in characters of light,  
It radiates man's inmost soul,  
That, viewing, longs its flight to urge,  
Beyond mortality's dull verge.  
None need be ignorant! before  
Mankind a mighty volume lies;  
And he who looks its pages o'er,  
Beholds, each hour, new wonders rise:  
None need be ignorant! oh, Man!  
Neglect not Nature's book to scan.

SRELSBURNE.

A. B.

Diocesan Church Society,

LUNENBURG COMMITTEE.

THE Sixteenth Annual Meeting of this Committee was held in the Temperance Hall of this town, on Wednesday evening, December 14th. The interesting and important objects of the Society, and the beauty of the evening, were again successful in drawing together a large and attentive audience; and the excellent singing, and some good speeches, combined in rendering the hours thus spent, both profitable and pleasing. We hope the time is approaching when every member and friend of the Church in the Diocese, will consider it their duty, where practicable, to strengthen the cause and promote the operations of this most valuable association, not only by pecuniary contributions, but also by their presence and influence at its stated meetings. What is the duty of one is the duty of all, and union like this will become its strength.

After the 100th Psalm was sung, and the appointed prayers were offered up, the President opened the meeting by stating the various objects the Society had in view, entering somewhat particularly into each, and giving some interesting facts connected with them. The Annual Report was next read in a clear and distinct manner, by the new Secretary, Mr. Charles Edwin Kaulback, in which was shown the steady growth of the Society, and a statement of what has been done during the last five years by the members of the Church, for the Society; the Bishopric; the College; and the Pastoral Professorship.

The adoption of the Report was moved in the 1st Resolution, with some appropriate remarks, by J. Heckman, Esq., seconded by Mr. Joseph Rudolf, Senior Church Warden.

The 2nd Resolution, expressing the Society's liveliest hope of the Divine blessing upon its several designs, and of the diligent co-operation of the members of the Church in effecting its objects, was moved in an able speech by Rev. W. H. Snyder, missionary at Mahone Bay, seconded by H. M. Moyle, Esq., Collector of the Port, and supported by J. H. Kaulback, Esq., High Sheriff.

The 3rd Resolution, contemplating the present state of the world; the command of God, the resources of the Church, and the promise of ultimate triumph, as multiplied motives of continued and increased efforts, was moved in an entertaining and highly practical speech by Hon. W. Rudolf, seconded by Mr. George Anderson, and supported by Capt. King, with some excellent remarks.

The 121st hymn in the new collection of Psalms and Hymns, was here given out by the Chairman, and was well sung by the ever-ready and obliging Choir of St. John's Church, and by the meeting generally.

The 4th Resolution, urging the necessity of fervent prayer for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and upon the vast field of Missionary

labour, was moved in the unavoidable absence of H. S. Jost, Esq., M. P. P., by Daniel Owen, Esq., in a very earnest manner, and seconded by C. E. W. Schmidt, Esquire.

The 5th Resolution, expressing the thanks of the Society to its office bearers and supporters during the year now expiring, and appointing the officers and committee for the year ensuing, was moved in the absence of Dr. Jacobs, by Mr. Joshua Kaulback, Churchwarden, and seconded by Mr. James Dowling.

Patron.—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

President.—The Rev. H. L. Owen, Rector of the Parish.

Vice Presidents.—John Heckman, Esq.; Dr. G. Jacobs; Geo. T. Solomon, Esq., Hon. W. Rudolf.

Secretary.—Mr. Charles C. Kaulback.

Treasurer.—John Croighton, Esq.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

John H. Kaulback, Esq., Daniel Owen, Esq., Mr. Edmund Zwicker, Mr. Adolphus Gaetz, H. S. Jost, Esq., Mr. Joseph Rudolf, Mr. Peter Mason, Mr. Joshua Kaulback, Mr. W. B. Lawson, Mr. Robert Scott, Mr. Geo. Anderson, H. M. Moyle, Esq.

DELEGATES.

Hon. W. Rudolf, John Croighton, Esq., Henry S. Jost, Esq.

Member of the Executive Committee, under the 9th Bye Law of the Society, Hon. W. Rudolf.

The above named Delegates were appointed to the next annual meeting, to be held in Halifax, on Thursday, the 2nd of February, and the Hon. W. Rudolf, was likewise appointed as the local member of the Executive Committee, under the 7th Bye Law, passed at the annual meeting of the Society in Halifax, February 18th, 1852.

The 6th Resolution, conveying the thanks of the Meeting to the Rev. W. H. Snyder, for his presence and assistance.

Was moved by Mr. Adolphus Gaetz, and seconded by Geo. T. Solomon, Esq., both of them expressing their cordial concurrence in the sentiments of the Resolution.

Several Annual subscriptions were handed in, and a collection taken for the use of the Room. The President then stated that he had distributed printed collecting cards in various parts of the parish, which he was confident would alike swell the number of subscribers and the amount of subscriptions, as well as engage the feelings and efforts of the scattered and distant members of the Church. In conclusion the meeting united with the choir in singing Bishop Hebers beautiful Missiary Hymn; and the President concluded with the apostolical benediction; but he cannot close his report of the proceedings of this interesting evening, without expressing his conviction that the sponsors and supporters of the Resolutions, who did so well on this occasion, will at the next annual meeting feel confidence enough in their own powers to be effective movers, as well as judicious supporters of the Resolutions.

Editorial Miscellany.

FISHERMAN'S CHURCH, TURNS' BAY.

'God loveth a cheerful giver.' 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

I offer my best thanks to the undersigned friends for their much needed help, and hope this season for "presents" will be yet more productive.

Hon. C. R. Prescott, Cornwallis,	£1 5 0
Hon. W. Young,	1 0 0
Hon. Hugh Bell,	1 0 0
Mr. T. Woodill,	1 0 0
Mr. S. S. B. Smith,	1 0 0
T. C. Kincaid, Esq.,	1 0 0
An old friend at Kentville,	0 12 6
Dr. Almon,	0 15 0
Mr. W. M. Harrington,	0 12 6
Captain Durkee,	0 12 6
Mr. Jas. Woodill, 10s. Mr. John Woodill 5s.	0 15 0
Rev. Mr. Yewens 5s. Cash 3s. 1 1/4 d.	
M. G. Black Jr. 5s.	0 13 1 1/4
Mr. Thomas Braine	0 12 6
Dec. 24. J. C. COCHRAN, Missy.	

ST. ANDREWS' AND QUEBEC RAILROAD.—The difficult pass at the Goldsmith Lake has at last been conquered, and the Locomotive now crosses the Bridge. Beyond the Bridge the rails are laid for six miles in a continuous line, whilst beyond at intervals, tracks are laid for several miles; the fact is that the contractors are now in a position to receive the produce of the forest, in ship timber, &c., &c., from the well wooded ridges in the neighbourhood, and with the greatest ease to convey the same to a highly remunerative market.—Charlotte Gazette.

THERE was some excitement among the gold diggers in Australia, on account of license fees. Large and tumultuous meetings were held to procure an abatement of the charge.

VERY stormy weather has lately been experienced at Bermuda, which no doubt has had a beneficent effect on the atmosphere.

THE Revenue of Canada for 1853, is calculated at £1,034,969—being an excess over the preceding year of nearly £300,000.