

DEPENDANCE OF MAN UPON HIS CREATOR.—For the continuance of life a thousand provisions are made. If the vital actions of a man's frame were directed by his will, they are necessarily so minute and complicated, that they would immediately fall into confusion. He cannot draw a breath without the exercise of sensibilities as well ordered as those of the eye or ear. A tracery of nervous cords unite many organs in sympathy, of which, if one filament were broken, pain, and spasm, and suffocation, would ensue. The action of his heart, and the circulation of his blood, and all the vital functions, are governed through means and by laws which are not dependant on his will, and to which the powers of his mind are altogether inadequate. For, had they been under the influence of his will, a doubt, a moment's pause of irresolution, a forgetfulness of a single action at its appointed time, would have terminated his existence.

Now when man sees that his vital operations could not be directed by reason, that they are constant, and far too important to be exposed to all the changes incident to his mind, and that they are given up to the direction of other sources of motion than the will, he acquires a full sense of his dependance. If man be fretful and wayward, and subject to inordinate passion, we perceive the benevolent design in withdrawing the vital motions from the influence of such capricious sources of action, so that they may neither be disturbed like his moral actions, nor lest in a moment of despair.

When man thus perceives that in respect to all these vital operations he is more helpless than the infant, and that his boasted reason can neither give them order nor protection, is not his insensibility to the Giver of these secret endowments worse than ingratitude? In a rational creature, ignorance of his condition becomes a species of ingratitude: it dulls his sense of benefits, and hardens him into a temper of mind with which it is impossible to reason, and from which no improvement can be expected.

Bell.

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 14, 1838.

POTATOES AGAIN.—The *Pictou Observer* of the 28th ult. has a short article on the *dry rot* in potatoes which we copy below. Our readers will oblige us by giving it a careful perusal. It certainly presents an original view of the subject.

From the *Pictou Observer*.

"An intelligent correspondent, whose opinion we much respect, though in many particulars it differs from our own, writes us on the subject of the *dry rot* in potatoes.—'You and your contemporary are both out on this subject. The riper and finer the potato the more liable it is to be attacked by the *small fly* which causes the *dry rot*. Potatoes prematurely killed by frost, or planted too late to be fit for food, are always to be preferred for seed. The *dry rot* is nothing more nor less than the erosion of the potato or *set* by a swarm of minute maggots, the germ of which being deposited by the parent fly on the juicy cut of a good potato, and becoming quickly animated in warm weather, feeds on as much of the root as is agreeable to its taste, until it has arrived at the rhind, or has passed into a state in which it no longer requires such food. Never mind the speculations of others on this subject: take a microscope, as I have repeatedly done, and examine for yourself. There is no remedy but preventing the deposition of the egg of the ugly *black long-winged fly* which may be seen hovering round the potato when cut, and to prevent it having access the sets should be immediately covered with dry sea-side sand or any dry mould.' This opinion on the important subject to which it refers is deserving of attention, and may satisfactorily account for the fact that potato sets thoroughly dipped in quick lime escape the rot, as in that case we can easily fancy the germ of the pernicious maggot which occasions it, to be destroyed by the lime."

Thus, according to the correspondent of the *Observer*, the *dry rot* is caused by the deposition of the eggs of the *black long-winged fly*, and if we understand the writer aright (but of this we are not certain) the eggs are deposited only on the cuts of potatoes. This we gather from the words, "the germ of the maggots being deposited by the parent fly on the juicy cut of a good potato"; and again, "the fly may be seen hovering round the potato when cut." Now admitting the correctness of this hypothesis, it furnishes a most powerful reason for planting the potato whole. For we presume the fly will not deposit its eggs on the hard rhind of the potato, and hence to plant it whole will be to save the root from the deleterious operation of the insects. But we are not sure that the *dry rot* is caused by the *black fly*. It is true the intelligent correspondent of the *Observer* refers to an examination by the microscope; but theories have been built on microscopic observations which have proved altogether baseless. We remember one such in which nearly all the medical faculty concurred for a long period, and yet in the present day it is totally discarded. Let it be granted, however, that the *dry rot* is caused by a *black fly*, and that the *black fly* can pierce the rhind and deposit

its eggs within the potato; still it appears to us that an advantage will be gained by planting the potato whole. In a few instances only, will the maggots be enabled to devour the whole potato before it has shot forth its stems. Most certainly before the potato is cut, the *dry rot* makes its appearance; whole cargoes have come into Halifax affected; we witnessed its ravages in our own cellar during the last winter, and nearly all the potatoes we planted whole the present season had the disorder upon them. Could the *dry rot* in these have been caused by the *black fly*? If so its eggs must have been deposited in the fall? Is this possible? But whether or not, we recur to our position that it is no loss, but a positive gain to plant potatoes whole. Will any of our intelligent readers furnish us with their views on the subject?

MISTAKE CORRECTED.—Our article of last week on the subject of the principle of the Friends, contains an error which we are happy to rectify. The mistake will be found in the notice of the capture of a Quaker vessel by pirates in the Mediterranean. The true account we have published on our fourth page from Chambers's *Edinburgh Journal*, with the remarks of the editors of that useful journal.

PEACE CONVENTION AT BOSTON.—A Peace Convention! The words sound strangely in our ears. To hear of military conventions, and councils of war, and grand and little reviews of regiments, is quite common; but for Christians to convene to ascertain from the immutable standard what is their duty with respect to war, and whether the followers of him who laid down his life for the world, can ever consistently kill and destroy their foes, is most singular, most unprecedented! 'Shall the sword devour for ever?' Not if Christians awake to their duty, and disseminate on every hand the benevolent principles of the Prince of Peace. The following notice of a Peace convention we copy from the *Boston Liberator*. On Tuesday next a multitude of persons, imbued, we trust, with the meekness and gentleness of Christ, will assemble in Boston for objects of peace and love. God speed their efforts and make them a thousand times as many more as they are.

PEACE CONVENTION.

A meeting of the friends of Peace was held in Boston May 30, 1838, William Ladd, of Maine, was chosen Chairman, and Edward Noyes, of Boston, Secretary. It was voted that a Convention be called, before the close of the current year, of the friends of Peace throughout New England, for the purpose of having a free and full discussion of the principles of Peace, and of the measure best adapted to promote this holy cause; and that the time and place of the proposed Convention be designated by a Committee, appointed by this meeting. The following gentlemen were placed upon this Committee, viz: Rev. S. J. May, of South Scituate; Henry C. Wright, of Newburyport; Rev. George Trask, of Warren; Edmund Quincy, Esq., and Amasa Walker, Esq., of Boston.

WILLIAM LADD, Chairman.

EDWARD NOYES, Secretary.

In pursuance of our appointment, we, the above-named Committee have thought proper to invite, and we do hereby invite the friends of Peace, throughout New England, of every religious sect, of each political party, to meet in Convention in Boston, in the Malboro' Chapel, on the 18th day of September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

It would be impracticable, if not improper, to prescribe beforehand the course which shall be taken by the Convention. A number of deeply interesting radical questions will be presented for consideration and debate. What shall be the result we leave to be seen hereafter. Our purpose and our endeavour will be to have the subject of Peace searched to the bottom; that we may ascertain, if we can, whether defensive war, any more than offensive, is consistent with the precepts and spirit of the Gospel. Great differences of opinion exist among the avowed followers of Christ respecting the extent to which our Lord and his apostles inculcate submission to injuries; whether, in any case, they do or do not permit a resort to violence; whether any cause or interest, however important, or any life, however valuable, may or may not, on Christian principles, be defended by the infliction of death or any other injury upon an adversary. We propose not to evade any question that may be found incidental to the decision of this one, namely; how is the evil that is in the world to be overcome? Whether by violence, or by love, forbearance, forgiveness, long suffering, self-sacrifice? We wish this momentous question, and all its connexions, should be looked at in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, and that all who profess to be the children of that light should follow whithersoever it may lead.

We earnestly invite as many as have thought upon this subject, to meet at the time and place before mentioned, that they may assist and be assisted, to the right conclusions. And may every one be quickened to live and act, under all circumstances, in a manner more worthy of the Christian faith.

SAMUEL J. MAY,
HENRY C. WRIGHT,
GEORGE TRASK,
EDMUND QUINCY,
AMASA WALKER, } Committee.

UNION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.—The Earl of Durham, it is reported, is strongly in favour of a union of the North American Provinces under one Federal Government. With regard to the nature of the measure contemplated by the Governor General, a Prince Edward Island paper gives the following notice: "As far as our information goes—and we have it on tolerably good authority—it is briefly this:

"A Union of the five Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, (Newfoundland to have the option of joining,) under one Federal Government, each Province retaining its own local Legislature, *divested of a Legislative Council, or Upper Chamber*—the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of the Province, aided by an Executive Council, of not less than five members, to have the power of revising Bills; and suggesting alterations therein to the Assembly, but not to have the power of rejection—the Governor to have a veto on all Bills, as at present. Each Province joining the Federal union, whether large or small, to send ten members to represent them in a General Assembly, which shall legislate on such matters as are common to all, or to two or more of them, and which shall also be a Court of Appeal, to take cognizance of such cases as have heretofore been referred to the British Parliament or the Privy Council. The Governor General, with the assistance of a Council, to have the same power, with regard to Bills passed by the General Assembly, as the other Governors have in the Provincial Assemblies. Quebec, Montreal and Halifax to send two members each to the General Assembly (to be included in the ten returnable by the Province)—the same privilege to be extended to any other town as soon as its population amounts to 15,000 persons. Each of the Provinces to have the privilege of returning two Members to represent its interests in the British Parliament. The whole of the Revenues of each Province to be placed at the disposal of its House of Assembly, who shall determine the amount of salary to be paid to its Governor, Judges, and other public Officers, and provide for the payment of its Civil List."

HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF NOVA-SCOTIA.—At a Quarterly Meeting of the Highland Society of Nova-Scotia, held in the Masonic Hall, on Friday the 31st of August, 1838.

It was among other things ordered, that a copy of the Letter addressed by the Officer Bearers of the Society to the President and other Officers of the Parent Institution, and also a copy of the Circular addressed to the gentlemen hereinafter mentioned, be respectively published in the Newspapers as illustrative of the views of the Society.

HALIFAX, N. S. JULY 17, 1838.

Gentlemen,

Under the Commission addressed to his Excellency Sir Colin Campbell, and Roderick C. MacDonald, Esq. a Branch of the Highland Society of London was recently formed at Halifax, and promises to become a numerous and influential body. We had the honour to be elected its first Office Bearers, and Mr. MacDonald, who was appointed one of our Vice Presidents, and to whose enthusiasm and personal exertions we are largely indebted, being about to proceed to London, we gladly embrace the opportunity of opening a communication with the Parent Society.

The documents Mr. MacDonald carries with him evince the united and cordial spirit which animates Scotsmen and their descendants, in this Province, in behalf of a sound, moral, and religious education, such as has elevated the Mother country to so high a place among the nations of the earth. With this grand object in view, all distinctions of creed or party are forgotten, and the ardent desire to transplant into our adopted country the blessings which many of us have enjoyed at home, knits us into one body moved by a generous and common impulse. Nor will we deny that the wearing of the Highland Tartan which we have chosen as our emblem, warms our blood, and kindles within us the spirit of the olden time. Sir Colin Campbell, the patron of this Society, entered cordially into our views, and has written the Marquis of Huntley as your noble President, to bespeak his powerful influence in aid of Mr. McDonald's representations.

We beg leave also to refer to Mr. MacDonald on all points, touching the state of our funds, the want of good Schoolmasters and books, and our rapidly increasing and loyal population. We are satisfied that the benefit of this Institution, if we can set it into active operation, will be felt and appreciated in every corner of the Province where Scotsmen are to be found, and we will be most happy to avail ourselves of any hints which your enlarged experience may supply for our direction and guidance.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Yours, respectfully,

WILLIAM YOUNG, President,
CHARLES W. WALLACE, } Vice
JAMES MCNAB, } Presidents.
J. MACKINTOSH, } Secretaries.
JOHN Mc GREGOR, }

To the President and other
Officers of the Highland
Society of London.

HALIFAX, N. S. JULY 17, 1838.

Halifax, N. S., July 17, 1838.

SIR.—We take the liberty of addressing you as the office bearers of a branch recently organized here of the Highland Society.