

Ladies' Department.

The Worship of Home.

No rises from around the fire. A pleasant strain. To giddy sons of mirth, retire, And ye profane!

The patriarchal Book divine, Upon the knee. Open where the gems of Judah shine, (Sweet minstrel!) Flow o'er each heart with each fair line, O God, to Thee!

Around the altar low they bend, Devout in prayer; As snows upon the roof descend, So angels there. Guard o'er that household, to defend With gentle care.

R. HOYT.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.

Buffalo Correspondence.

"Should the glad tidings, exultingly sing, Jerusalem triumph, Messiah is King."

Grand and full was the organ's peal, and exultant the voice of the choir as the glad chorus echoed through the vaulted roof of St. John's Church this morning, and awoke the spirit of praise and thanksgiving in the hearts of its large and attentive congregation. I thought I had never witnessed a more gorgeous religious ceremony, even in Roman Catholic churches than this our Christmas festival. Scarcely fell the lights through stained glass windows, and the arched roof seemed even higher than it was, from the dark shadows cast by its heavy beams. Festoons of dark evergreen draped the walls and gracefully looped together the various points in the windows and ceiling, while wreaths and heavy bouquets adorned the altar and choir, and so filled the building that it was almost like a forest scene. It seemed to me a fitting type of that glorious morning when Heaven's own choirs shrouded glad tidings to the sons of men, and the morning stars rejoiced together over the birth of the Saviour of the world; and one that might well awaken the devotion of every Christian heart. I would fain encourage all innocent festivals, and the return of any fixed epoch fills my heart with memories and anticipations, and most especially is this the case with the Christmas and New Year holidays. There are happy memories of the midnight visits of St. Nicholas long years ago, fresh in my mind now, and I almost live over again the wild delight of those Christmas mornings with their well-filled stockings and merry greetings. There are also memories of those merry times, when, for what was then an unbroken family circle, as is now dispersed by death and separation. On these sad days as well as joy mingled with all our festivities. Ere this reaches you dear reader, you will have greeted the advent of the New Year; may it be to you a more fruitful and happy one than the last revolving cycle governed the realm of time, may we not moralize a little? The monarch lies dying! Well may his little subjects tremble as he wraps his snowy drapery about his head, and draws the heavy canopy about his ears, while his flight heavenward to yield up the fruits of his mission; for to each one of the millions he has governed, he is now either friend or foe. To some, he seemed at his birth a changeling who was to bring them only bitterness and sorrow; to others a bright harbinger of hope and joy. His coming was greeted with sighs and tears, and even curses, which mingled with the merry laugh of childhood, and the thousand happy greetings of "the glad New Year." How are those voices changed since then? How many ambitions have been blasted—how many fond dreams cruelly severed? Alas! alas! for the tears that have watered his pathway! And what of his successors? Shall we see the glad coronation of a long line of them, or will the snowy sceptre of the next wave over our graves. We know not. We all cling to life, and yet our better judgment teaches us that those later years are but "labour and sorrow." After all, if the summons but find us prepared, it is a happy destiny to be among the early called;—to go earth loses any of her charms;—to give youth and health and buoyant spirits give rest to all our pleasures;—to be the bright of experience has cast its baleful influences over all things below. But my realizing has driven all local news from my mind, and in fact the anatomical discussion of Turkey and its relation to the sea seems to be the peculiar business of this section, has quite taken the place of intellectual enjoyments. Our Mercantile Library Lectures have thus far been very superior, and the last by Geo. W. Curtis (author of the famous Potpourri papers) was the gem of the season. The subject was "Young America," as he called it, and should be, in all its social and intellectual phases, and he proved quite conclusively that there is still some room for improvement in that order of the genus Homo. We have also had some pleasant concerts. Among them—Mad. Bishop, the inimitable ballad singer, and Bodie the Harmonist, who looked venerable enough for a second David, though his harp had not that solemn sound which accompanied the inspired effusions of the ancient bard. The sleigh bells have been jingling merrily of late, and a northern winter creeps in through the chinks and crevices—how the evening, and blows his icy breath in our faces without any ceremony. After all, there is something ethereal and inspiring in this clear cold weather, which quite makes up for the milder air of some southern climates, which generally keep a reserve of roughs and constrictions for those who inhale its mousty breath. But Christmas Day is waning fast and the hushed and holy night seems more fitted for thought than conversation, therefore will I bid you good bye dear reader, and beg you not to forget Madly Bawn, in your kindly New Year's greetings, even as she has not forgotten you.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.

Education.

On the intelligence and high moral and religious character of a people, their real substantial prosperity mainly depends, and therefore we are and must be, the friends and advocates of a good and judicious system of education. Nothing that we have ever seen or ever read, has led us to alter our opinion, that education is effective and really useful, and to fit its possessors for stations of responsibility on earth, and for their higher destiny in another world, should not be dissevered from religious and moral principle. On this point our opinion is fixed, and we think unalterably so. We have studied the subject in all its bearings and tendencies, and have deliberately and conscientiously arrived at the conclusion stated. Here for the present, we let the matter rest, only expressing our conviction, that in so concluding, we consult the best and most important interests of youth and of persons of ripe years.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.

Annual Meeting of Halifax Wesleyan Sabbath School Society.

Held in Brunswick St. Church on Thursday Evening, Dec. 15, 1853.

Rev. Dr. RICHIE in the Chair. Report read by Rev. J. F. BENT.

RESOLUTIONS.

1.—Moved by Rev. W. CROSCOMBE, seconded by S. L. SHANNON, Esq., That the Report now read be adopted and that this Meeting express its cordial approval of the same.

2.—Moved by Mr. G. R. ANDERSON, seconded by Mr. JOHN STARR. That this Meeting express its entire confidence in the excellence of the Sabbath School Institution, as an instrumentally well adapted to promote the religious, moral, and spiritual benefit of the children of the poor, and that the Schools of this Society shall be fully and cordially sustained in their course of usefulness.

3.—Moved by Mr. J. STARR, seconded by Mr. H. H. STARR. That this Meeting devoutly cherishing the conviction of the utility and necessity of human efforts for the spiritual enlightenment and salvation of men, apart from the agency of the Divine Spirit, would hereby resolve to continue in prayer for the support of the Society of Grace, upon our own and upon all other Sabbath Schools.

4.—Moved by S. L. SHANNON, Esq., seconded by S. L. SHANNON, Esq. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Teachers and Officers of the Brunswick Street and Trafalgar Street Schools for their self-denying and useful labours, also to the supporters of the Society and the Committee for their valuable aid during the past year; and that the following gentlemen be the Committee for the year ensuing:—

Messrs. M. G. Black, E. Jost, Jos. Bell, S. F. Sars, Jas. Hills, J. S. Knowlan, W. Full, M. G. Black, Jr., S. L. Shannon, E. Billing, G. Ritchie, Jas. B. Morrow, J. H. Anderson, Treasurer; G. H. Starr, Secretary.

REPORT.

The Committee of the Halifax Wesleyan Sabbath School Society, in their this Annual Report deem it quite unnecessary to present any elaborate argument to show the excellence and importance of Sabbath School instruction. They are assured that, for the Christian instruction of youth, the Sabbath School ranks, in the estimation of an enlightened Christian public, among the most important institutions of the age;—affording to youth in every class of society facilities for acquiring an acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make them wise unto salvation—throwing around them a religious influence, administering instruction in the blessed truths of the Gospel in such a mode and spirit as will by the blessing of God be most likely to secure the reception of those truths into the youthful mind and heart, not indeed as intended to supersede the duty of parental teaching, but as auxiliary thereto. The religious instruction of youth was under the Jewish economy an acknowledged obligation, as enforced by divine requirement; and to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, is enjoined upon all who profess the Christian name, as an obligation of Christian law.

In the solemn recognition of the dangers to which youth are exposed, and the necessity of the mind from tender years being under religious restraint, and being pre-occupied by the truth of God to the exclusion of error, as a safeguard against the snares of life; and more especially in view of the value of religion to youth to fit them for life's responsibilities, and for usefulness in the Church, and to direct their footsteps in the path of holiness and of life everlasting; the Committee regard Sabbath School instruction as engaged in a truly good and noble work, and that

FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.

Principle MacLaren.

lived the conflict came, week after week, to listen to the teachings of one who was a soldier of the Cross, seeking to win them for Him who came not to slay—but to proclaim liberty to the captive—peace to the troubled—rest to the weary—and life, life eternal, to those who were obedient to His will.

The memory of hours like these came back so vividly, as yesterday thrilling my heart like some remembered melody. I almost thought to hear the martial tread of those who came up to worship. I almost thought to see at the sacred desk, one whom I had heard so sweetly tell of Jesus.

It was but a passing thought. In that same hour—I doubt not, he was at his post, but his voice reached me no longer. That desk—the very railing, shouting the altar in, seemed like some familiar faces, for I had seen them, ere they reached this their final destination.

I almost wished to lay my hand upon the cushion, where rested the Holy Book, or to kneel at the altar, where I might seem to hear his parting words—"My child, God bless you."

But these were not thoughts for such a place, not this the hour for such indulgence. The result of the remaining worshippers had ceased—the bright sunlight fell upon them like a blessing—the service commenced, and my heart grew calm.

God bless those who shall minister in holy things within these walls, dear to me from their association. Bless the Ministers and the people, all are remembered in the prayers of one whose heart is in the cause, whose name will ever blend with this consecrated spot.

May it indeed be consecrated by the gathering in to the Redeemer's fold those who shall stand with us in the hour of our departure. We cannot be coerced into any measures of which our judgment, as Editor, does not approve. Mr. MacLaren should have replied to the letter forwarded to him, but as he has not done so, but has appealed to another tribunal, we tell him plainly that our columns are now, and henceforth will be, closed to his communications on this subject; on the announcement of which conviction, we are prepared to stand by the consequences. Our Barrington friends, we trust, will not be led aside so easily as he imagines. A communication bearing on the merits of the case, from any other person in Circuit, would receive immediate attention.

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Principle MacLaren.

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Now we beg leave to say that we ourselves have heard Baptist Ministers in the County of Annapolis preach "reprobation," as strongly as any Calvinist could desire, without any cloak or concealment,—before the modern views on Calvinism had become prevalent. The enquiry is interesting, why Modern Calvinists do not preach "reprobation"—according to their system, can the doctrine be denied? Is not Scripture? Did not God forbid Pharaoh's heart? Did not His blood Judas and a host of others to destruction? We once heard with our own ears a Baptist Minister say, that there was no warrant within the whole compass of the Sacred Scriptures for a sinner to pray; and that too, after the strongest declaration of the repulsive dogmas of rigid Calvinism. The Messenger is Calvinism; but why? Calvinism is Calvinism; is it not?

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FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.

Principle MacLaren.