

Ritualism Condemned.

The historian Macaulay—himself a staunch Episcopalian—says, in his history of England, that the Anglican Church occupies a middle position between the Churches of Rome and Geneva. In the opinion of many of its clergy in these days, the Church of England, instead of being a compromise between Roman Catholicism and Puritanism, is so nearly allied to the former that the difference is scarcely worthy of mention. The movement of some thirty years since was the first successful endeavour to introduce into the formula of the English Church ceremonies not in vogue since the days of the Reformation, and since then the admirers of Dr. Pusey have not only gone on increasing in numbers, but have even exceeded him in their zeal for strange doctrines and new-fashioned formularies. Practice such as are indulged in by those commonly called Puseyites, though at first received with distrust by their flocks, have at length become so common by continued repetition, that even many of the laity who once denounced in strong language innovations of the enthusiastic Oxford divines, now regard them without prejudice, if not, indeed, with admiration. Becoming bolder by the apathy with which their doings were received, still more radical changes have been made which are so foreign to the spirit and letter of the Episcopal Church, that at length interference and an appeal to the law courts were loudly demanded. It was certainly a strange anomaly to hear a minister claiming to be an exponent of the views of a church which claims the title of the "bulwark of Protestantism," advance the doctrines of auricular confession, prayers for departed souls and the Real Presence. It was just as strange also to enter the church of one of these enthusiasts, and notice the fantastic decorations of the altar and the officiating minister, the burning of candles and incense, and the general mutilation of the liturgy. A casual observer might well wonder whether the congregation were kneeling at the shrine of England or Rome. Of course these doings are not at all congenial to the feelings of what is generally termed the evangelical party in the church, and many efforts have been made to arrest the spread of these practices—heretofore without avail—but at length they have received a check which will put a stop to at least the most objectionable of the practices complained of. On the 23rd ult., the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council delivered judgment in the case of Martin vs MacKintosh, in appeal from the Court of Arches as to ritualistic ceremony, at St. Alban's, London. The defendant has been condemned upon every one of the grounds raised, and is required to pay the costs both of the original suit and of the appeal. The four offences against the ecclesiastical law were—1st, elevation of the paten and cup, and kneeling, 2nd, using lighted candles; 3rd, using incense; 4th, mixing water with the wine in the solemnization of the Holy Communion. The importance of this decision is very great, since from it there is no appeal except to Parliament itself—and it is not at all likely that that body will be disposed to favor the Ritualists.

PREVALENCE OF SMALL POX.—From almost all parts of the Continent come reports that small-pox is raging with unusual violence. It is exciting more or less apprehension in all parts of the States, on the Pacific coast, and even in Central America. The type it is assuming is also much more malignant than has been common of late years. In Canada we have a good deal of it. Montreal and Toronto have been visited somewhat severely, and within the last few weeks several cases have occurred in Hamilton, Guelph and other towns, and even in the townships several people have been taken ill with the disease. Parties who have neglected the vaccination of their children, will, if they are wise, remedy the neglect as quickly as possible. Where the prevention of a dangerous disease is possible—and in the case of small pox it fortunately is—they are highly criminal who fail to use the preventive means at their disposal.

HANGING MADE EASY.—A murderer named Carwell was hanged, a few days ago, in New York State. Being naturally somewhat feverish over the matter, he was on the morning of the day blooded by the gaol physician, in order to enable him to be calm under the law's last attentions. This not being found sufficiently soothing, he was chloroformed just before the sentence was executed, and in the state of happy unconsciousness thus produced, was started off on his trip to the other world. This, we believe, the first time that chloroform has been used for such a purpose, but the idea is not a bad one. There will be a festive celebration of the 110th anniversary of the birth-day of Robert Burns in New York.

Letter from Washington Territory.

We give below a copy of a letter from Mr. James M. Dewas, now residing in Washington Territory, U. S., addressed to his old friend, David Sturton, Esq., M. P., of Guelph. The writer some years ago resided in this vicinity, where he has many friends; and we have no doubt an account of his experience in far away lands will prove at once interesting and instructive.

WALLA-WALLA, Dec. 10th, 1867. DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 25th April, dated from Ottawa, came to hand in due time. Fourteen years have rolled by since I trod the soil of what is now the Dominion of Canada. My interest in its prosperity has never ceased, because it was there I had my first American experience, and made warm friends. After living three years in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, I found I was not getting along in the world as well as I could wish, neither did I see any prospects of bettering my condition; so I resolved to emigrate elsewhere, and after a voyage of twenty-four days from New York, landed at San Francisco. The voyage was interesting, for the tropical products and scenery of New Granada engrossed my attention very much. The flying fish of the Caribbean sea, the natives with tempting baskets full of the finest fruits, and many other scenes rendered the trip very pleasant. After arriving safely in the land of gold, I asked myself what was next to be done. I could not live in San Francisco under \$14 a week, and at that state of living my funds in hand would soon get beautifully less. I took a trip into the interior, saw a little of mining and the condition of men engaged in it, and concluded that the place would not suit me; so returning to San Francisco, I again sailed further up the coast and landed at Humboldt Bay, lumbering port—and went to work piling lumber at \$60 a month. A damp, foggy atmosphere prevailed, and after working a week I took rheumatism, and was laid up. As this place would not suit me at all, I resolved to leave, but could get no vessel, so I had to take a horse. I started for Crescent City, some ninety miles further up the coast, and had to leave my trunk and clothes, but took a blanket and my grey plaid, for I expected to have to camp out frequently. The road was merely a trail for pack animals, and lay over high spurs of mountains and deep ravines. The high parts were covered with a thick scrubby oak bush, ferns, briars, etc., which was impossible to penetrate except where the trail was cut. The ravines were heavily timbered with trees of enormous size—some of them measuring thirty feet in diameter, and in several places houses are built in the stumps. The trail frequently wound round precipitous bluffs, and underneath the great wall of the Pacific ocean dashed and foamed among the rocks. On the right were the everlasting hills and bush. At other times my route lay along ridges of sand between the ocean and lagoons. Travelers are frequently lost there, for at high tides the sea breaks over in tremendous waves, and I myself had a very narrow escape from drowning in this way. The Indians there are entirely naked, and are very hostile to the whites, but I managed to get safely to Crescent City—a small, half-deserted place. After resting a day or two, I again struck out in search of a better country, and travelled on foot through the northern counties of California clear to the Willamette river, in Oregon, having walked 320 miles. Northern California is the poorest country I ever saw, fit only for wild animals and savages. To make matters worse it was the rainy season, and streams were high and roads very heavy. Oregon is a fine agricultural country, with timber and prairie interspersed, where cattle and sheep could live the year round without being fed, and land could be easily obtained. I had made up my mind to stop here, but was advised by a fellow countryman whom I met here, who knew the whole coast, to push on to the Walla-Walla country. My course was up the Columbia river, 200 miles by steamer. The Columbia is a large stream, and the scenery in some places along its banks is truly grand. I passed Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens—both 17,000 feet above the level of the sea—which are perpetually covered with ice and snow, and now and then emitting smoke. The river passes through the Cascade range of mountains, where the perpendicular walls of rock rise hundreds of feet in height, with numerous cascades of water falling, over which forms a spray, before reaching the ground. After landing at the head of navigation, I found I had 180 miles to go through an Indian country, where there were no houses; and it being in December, I was liable to be overtaken with snow. I hired a horse, and went through to Walla-Walla in four days. All the way not a tree or a bush could be seen, except in the far distance I could see a high range of mountains, the tops of which were heavily timbered, and in the streams I crossed were a few willows. I found Walla-Walla still in the possession of the Indians, who were, however, overawed by the presence of several companies of soldiers, but as it was not safe for a man to be found straggling far North of this country was not open for settlement. There were a good many adventurers like myself, but the most of them carried favor with the Indians by buying squaws and living with them. They were a bad class of men—most of them had committed some crime in California or the old settlements of Oregon, and had fled here to escape justice. Livestock was very high—four \$14 a cwt., bacon 50 cents a pound, beef 25 cents, potatoes 5 cents a pound, and so on in proportion. In a few weeks I got a job at ploughing at \$50 a month and board. The summer following I bought out one of the wild white adventurers, and have kept at farming ever since. A year afterwards gold was discovered in this northern country, and soon the valley was settled by a different class of men from the first—the latter of whom could not bear civilization, and left as soon as school houses began to be built. The Methodists and Catholics have erected churches; and all things considered, we are now a civilized and prosperous community. JAMES M. DEWAR.

BRIGHAM YOUNG has telegraph wires leading to his office, and connecting with every hamlet in Utah. The line is 500 miles long in all. Every settlement of half a dozen houses has a telegraph office, with female saint operators, in a charge of a bishop of the Mormon Church, who reports all that takes place to Young. From his private office in Salt Lake City, like the watchmen in the fire telegraph, the Mormon chief may give an order or ring an alarm from Idaho to New Mexico.

A RELIC OF SEBASTOPOL.—While Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family were at Windsor Castle, the magnificent bell captured at the siege of Sebastopol by the Allies, and presented to the Queen, has been hung in the Round Tower, or "Keep" of the Castle. The bell bears the inscription, 'Sebastopol, Nicolas Sanctus.' Weight 54.5 pounds [17 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs.]

COULSON HOUSE,

T. Harneron, London, England; John Nay, Toronto; R. Hutchison, Hamilton, John B. Macrae, England; Andrew Stewart, Eden Mills; O. Jackson, Hamilton; Robert Hope, Hamilton; Thomas Mahon, London; A. Mize, Montreal; E. R. Ayers, Buffalo; James A. Clark, Toronto; Jas. Cross, Owen Sound; W. E. Sandford, Hamilton; Henry Emry, Ottawa; Mr. Burr, Toronto; Isaac Anderson, Galt; Mr. Wilson, Hamilton.

THE GEORGIAN BAY CANAL.—A stormy meeting was held in Toronto on Wednesday night for the purpose of condemning the course of the Government in reference to the Georgian Bay Canal. The following resolution was passed by a large majority—"That this meeting considers the refusal of the Government to allow the petitions of the people in favour of a grant of land to the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal Company to be received by the Legislative Assembly, unjustifiable and unconstitutional; and the conduct of Mr. Cameron, as a member of the Legislature, is a practical desertion of the interests of his constituency and of this city and Province. Therefore, he should be requested to resign his seat."

It is computed that the criminals of Britain cost every year \$50,000,000. It would surely be every way better to spend a large sum to reclaim the erring. The great mass of the criminals are the children of criminal and dissipated parents.

BIRTHS.

KENNEDY.—At Guelph, on the 15th inst., the wife of Mr. David Kennedy, Contractor, of a daughter.

New Advertisements.

FOR SALE, A commodious and well finished cottage. Situated on the south-west, adjoining the premises of H. W. Peterson, Esq. The house contains 8 rooms and kitchen. There is a good garden with number of fruit trees in bearing condition. The property will be sold cheap. Apply to THOMPSON & JACKSON. Guelph, Jan. 15. do wt

OYSTERS BY MEASURE.

Bring Your Bowls and Pails And get them filled with OYSTERS at WALKER'S, and save the price of cans and caning. HUGH WALKER. Guelph, Jan. 15. do ft

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The subscriber has to intimate that during his absence in England all orders left at the shop will be promptly attended to as usual. Parties indebted to him will please call at his house and settle as early as possible. W. H. JACOMB. Guelph, 6th Jan. do wt

SEE

THE

COMING

PROSPECTUS.

APPRENTICE WANTED.

Wanted at THE MERCURY Office an apprentice to the Printing business. A stout, active lad, possessing a good English education, 15 or 16 years of age, from the country preferred. Application to Guelph, 3rd December. do ft

BOARDING

Parties requiring board can be accommodated with good bedrooms in a first-class Boarding House, situated near the Post Office. Address A. B., Guelph Post Office, or apply at his office. Jan. 2. do ft

HOUSE WANTED.

Having six or seven rooms. Address, F. Mearns, Guelph Office, Guelph. Guelph, Jan. 5, 1869. do ft

MONEY TO LEND.

The undersigned are requested to obtain Farm Securities for several thousand dollars, to be lent at moderate interest. LEMON & PETERSON, Barristers, Solicitors, &c. Guelph, Dec. 9th, 1868. do ft

ACCOUNT BOOK LOST.

A large account book on Tuesday evening between the Market House and Sleeman's Brewery, Waterloo Road. The finder will be rewarded on applying to DAVIDSON & CHADWICK, General Agents, Guelph. do ft

NEW BUTCHER SHOP.

The subscriber has opened a new Butcher Shop on the London Road, near the Guelph Marble Works, where he is prepared to sell Beef, Mutton, Pork and Lamb as cheap as it can be bought in the market sheds. The subscriber respectfully requests a share of public patronage. Guelph, Dec. 23. do wt B. B. PRESENT.

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.

MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 31st of January, 1869. Guelph, 24th December. do ft

CHURCH-ST. - - GUELPH

MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 31st of January, 1869. Guelph, 24th December. do ft

100,000 COPIES SOLD OF THE

NEW METHOD OF TEACHING MUSIC, by L. O. EMBERTON. Every Choir and singing School should have them, for they will be sure of giving satisfaction. Price of each, \$1.25. Sent post-paid. A liberal discount made on quantities. O. DITSON & CO., Publishers, 277 Washington Street, Boston. C. H. DITSON & CO., 711 Broadway, New York. Guelph, Jan. 2. do wt

THE GREAT BLANKET SALE AT

A. O. BUCHAM'S WILL BE CONTINUED THIS WEEK.

Guelph, Jan. 12, 1869. do wt

BRITISH PERIODICALS.

The London Quarterly Review. The Edinburgh Review. The Westminster Review. The North British Review. Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

The reprints of the leading Quarterly and Blackwood are now indispensable to all who desire to keep themselves fully informed with regard to the great subjects of the day, as viewed by the best scholars and soundest thinkers in Great Britain. The contributors to the pages of these Reviews are men who stand at the head of the list of English writers on Science, Religion, Art, and General Literature, and whatever is worthy of discussion finds attention in the pages of these Reviews and Blackwood. The variety is so great that no subscriber can fail to be satisfied. These periodicals are printed with thorough fidelity to the English copy, and are offered at prices which place them within the reach of all.

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Subscribers should prepay by the quarter, at the office of delivery. The postage on any part of the United States is two cents a number. This rate only applies to current subscriptions. For back numbers the postage is double.

PREMIUMS TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

New subscribers to any two of the above periodicals for 1869 will be entitled to receive gratis any one of the four Reviews for 1868. New subscribers to all five of the periodicals for 1869 may receive gratis Blackwood or any two of the four Reviews for 1868.

Subscribers may, by applying early, obtain back sets of the Reviews from Jan., 1865, to Dec., 1868, and of Blackwood's Magazine from January, 1866, to Dec., 1868, at half the current subscription price.

Neither premiums to subscribers nor discounts to clubs nor reduced prices for back numbers can be allowed, unless the money is remitted direct to the Publishers. No premiums can be given to clubs.

The LEONARD SCOTT Publishing Co.

140 Fulton Street, N. Y.

The L. S. Publishing Company also publish the FARMER'S GUIDE, by Henry Stephens of Edinburgh, and the late J. F. Norton, of Yale College, 2 vols. royal octavo, 1,600 pages, and numerous engravings. Price \$7 for the two vols.—by mail, post-paid, \$8.

PETRIE'S DRUG STORE.

OLD POST OFFICE BLOCK.

MEEN FUN

A supply of that celebrated

Chinese Skin Powder

For Restoring, Beautifying and Preserving the Skin and Complexion.

AT PETRIE'S

Drug Store, Wyndham Street, Guelph

January 6. do wt

VALUABLE AND DESIRABLE DWELLING HOUSE FOR SALE.

That elegant and commodious Stone Dwelling House and Lot, containing nearly half an acre of ground, with large Stables and out-houses complete, the residence of the late Dr. Parker, situated on the corner of Market and Dublin Streets—This property is but a short distance from the Market and business part of the Town, and is an admirable location as a dwelling for a professional or business man. The above property will be sold on easy terms, which may be known by applying to GEORGE ELLIOTT, or N. HIGGINBOTHAM, do wt

New Advertisement.

ATTENTION. PROMPTNESS. DESPATCH.

ENGLISH MAGAZINES FOR JANUARY TO HAND AT

DAY'S BOOK STORE,

OPPOSITE THE MARKET HOUSE, GUELPH.

- Bow Bells English Woman's Belgravia Cassell's World of Fashion English Mechanic Boys' Own Young English Woman's Sunday at Home Leisure Hour Good Words Sunday Magazine London Journal The Quiver Good Words for the Young London Society Cornhill Argosy Young Ladies' Journal Beeton's Annual Belgravia Journal Xmas No. Chambers' Journal

I can supply any MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER published on short notice. Leave me your Order for what you require in the Newspaper or Magazine line. Then you will be sure to receive them early with promptness and despatch. My facilities for furnishing the above are very complete. You have the privilege of discontinuing by giving six weeks' notice for British and one week for American.

T. J. DAY, Bookseller, opposite the Market, Guelph.

Guelph, Jan. 15.

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ENTIRE STOCK OF DRY GOODS TO BE SOLD OUT.

WM. STEWART,

In returning thanks to his friends and the public for the liberal patronage bestowed on him for the last thirteen years, respectfully intimates his intention of retiring from the Retail Business.

In order to facilitate the entire clearance of Stock, he will on WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY, commence the GREAT SALE, when Goods will be offered at Cost, and in many cases under. The public should take advantage of this rare opportunity of securing first-class Goods at the Lowest Prices ever offered in Guelph. The reputation of the Stock being so well known for extra quality, and being composed of New and Fashionable Goods, all may rely on extraordinary Bargains.

On and after the 2nd of January the Books will be closed, and during the sale Goods will be sold only FOR CASH.

N. B.—This is no clap-trap sale, as the subscriber is positively retiring.

WILLIAM STEWART.

Wyndham Street, Guelph } Dec. 30th, 1868. } dw

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