

We all know that the acquisition of useful knowledge is a necessary ingredient in the character of a Christian, because it fortifies him against error on the one hand, and firmly establishes him on the other in the truth of salvation. Christ himself saith that he who heareth the word and understandeth it, bringeth forth an hundred fold. But, "when any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart." Matt. xiii. 19.

An evidence of this came under my notice some twenty-five years ago, when the Mormons, I was told, had made sixty converts to their party on the St. John river, about half way between Fredericton and Woodstock. I drove about one hundred and thirty miles—reached the settlement—and spent three weeks labouring hard to convince the people of the fatal delusion of Mormonism, &c. One of their proselytes was a man of high standing, a medical doctor. I asked him how it was that he, being a literary character, and ought to have known more than the common people, why he suffered himself to be deceived and imposed upon by the subtilty and sophistry of the spurious Mormons; adding, "Sir, you have astonished every man on the St. John river who has known you." He stood aghast, and said, "I must acknowledge that I have received a liberal education;" but, said he, "I have never been taught the Bible, and when the Mormons presented their scheme, I could not tell whether they were right or wrong." So much for a fashionable education without a knowledge of the Scriptures.

"How empty learning, and how vain is art!
Save as it mends the life or guides the heart."

By good providence only two or three out of the sixty left for Navoo.

It is acknowledged that no subject has ever engaged the attention of man so much as that of religion. In all countries wheresoever the traveller casts his eye, there he beholds priests, altars, and a sacrifice offered to some divinity. Thus it has been found both in pagan and heathen countries: proving to the world that the great Creator did not leave men in darkness. These nations all once had a knowledge of the true God; but they apostatized and degenerated. In the present work we shall show that the fountain was pure at the source, but that the stream got corrupted as it flowed along.

In all countries and in all ages the world there have still been acknowledged a good and a bad religion. The good, as superlatively good, and having hosts of good angels in command, employed in protecting those who strive to serve him. The evil, as Satan, is represented as being the desperate enemy of the good, and having under him multitudes of diabolical spirits, engaged in work in opposition to the good being. This is acknowledged in all countries, differing