

THE VISITOR.

HALIFAX, N. S.
SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 19, 1842.

EDUCATION.—A Proposition was before the House of Assembly since our last, which was of a very pleasing and important nature, and which elicited views and feelings very creditable to the Representative body, although the proposer was left in a minority. The proposition was, that the Rev. J. Knowlan should be employed during the ensuing year, at a salary of £200, as a Lecturer on Education, and Visitor of Schools throughout the Province. The importance and desirableness of the work, the efficiency of lectures on matters connected with the moral improvement of the people, the beneficial effects which might be expected to follow from the plan proposed, and the many good and able qualities of the Rev. Gentleman named in the proposition, were urged by various speakers in an excellent spirit. The objections seemed to be, that the available funds had been exhausted, and that, for the present, enough had been expended under the act establishing a Central Board of Education. The opinion of some gentlemen seemed to be, that the Missionary, if appointed, would consider Common Schools his chief object, while others thought it of consequence that he should examine and report on the Classical Establishments also. The latter would not be the best mode, we believe. Common School Education is of vast importance; but few, comparatively, are acquainted with its peculiarities, the science of English knowledge; and of teaching the subject requires an *enthusiast* in the cause; the time and abilities of such a person would be well occupied in the sphere of English Schools,—and, if the classical department were made a portion of his work, the nature of that part of the task would be, to distract attention from the more important, to excuse a superficial examination of it, and to make that secondary which should be made the first object to some strong supervising mind.

During the discussion of the object above mentioned, one gentleman—whose reasoning on a proposition respecting a Temperance Lecturer, we objected to in our last—bore ample testimony to the importance of this great reform, and also to the mode of extending it by paid lecturers. As an argument in favour of the employment of Mr. Knowlan, he spoke of the good performed by that gentleman during a late mission, of the wonderful effects of public opinion in turning men from ruinous courses, of the fearful mortality from Intemperance which formerly was experienced in the Army,—and the glorious change to habits eminently conducive to health, good order, and general virtue, which has been effected by the benign influence of Temperance advocates and associations. We have abundant cause to be thankful for what has been accomplished, and to be hopefully alive in the onward course which lies before us. Much has been done for the happiness of man, much remains to be done, in our own country, and the world, and the humblest may be made—if he yield to virtuous impulses, and persevere in well doing—the honored instrument of being benefactor to his race.

St. Patrick's day was distinguished in Halifax, by Religious Services, a Procession, and Public Dinner. A sum of £80 was collected at St. Mary's Chapel, for the Poor. The influence of Temperance was everywhere visible.

The contrasts which an observer frequently feels forced on his attention, connected with the Temperance Cause, are of the most delightful and surprising character. Men, who, a few months ago, were deeply degraded, grovelling

in misery, rags and vice,—a terror or a disgust to their neighbourhood,—now look and act like gentlemen, have comfortable hearts and homes, and are acting as men and christians should, for both time and eternity. Where is the bosom which does not swell with delight at these things? Who would grudge expenditure of time or labour, that he might be the means of such moral resurrections from the dead?

The Halifax Temperance Society held a Meeting on Wednesday Evening, and 42 new names were added to the list of Members. Of these, seventeen were young ladies, who came publicly forward, gave in their names, and consented to the terms of admission to the Teetotal Army. This is a most encouraging circumstance; there were never so many ladies joined at one meeting before; and it will not be without its effect on the rougher sex, with some of whom either Fathers, Brothers, Lovers or acquaintance, they doubtless possess some influence. The eloquent and earnest appeals to the ladies at late meetings have not been lost upon them.

Fifteen lads, from 10 to 17 years of age, belonging to the city also joined, and 10 men of the 64th Regt. These last mentioned, as they stood encircling the boys and young ladies who were near the President to receive the Pledge, seemed as a protection from any assault, which the opposing or disaffected body, from which they were then separating themselves, might be disposed to offer; while Hope and Joy shone in their countenances as they contemplated their future comparatively safe course, and promised "by the Divine assistance" fidelity to the rules of the Institution "in a spirit of unity with its members, and of charity towards all men."

The President occupied the chair, and several friends addressed the assemblage. The Treasurer made known the receipt of some considerable sums from Country Societies for the Mission fund; and a Member gave an account of the formation of a Society among the Youths of the Baptist Sabbath School, 43 of whom are united on the principle of abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.—*Com.*

On Thursday afternoon a meeting was held in the Garrison Chapel, and 17 members were added to the Society. The Rev. Doctor Twining, Rev. Mr. Dewolfe, Mr. J. McDonald, the President, and the Secretary, addressed the assembly. By the kind permission of Col. Clarke, the Band of the 76th Regt. attended, and performed some sweet airs with much taste; and thus was St. Patrick's Day (which formerly, by some who were then present, was spent in revelry and in unprofitable pursuits,) made an occasion of intellectual enjoyment; and moral improvement; and some were transferred from the Bacchanalian and neutral forces to the extended ranks of the now triumphant and increasing Temperance Army.—*Id.*

A New Brunswick paper says, that the whole tribe of the Micmac Indians has become converted to total abstinence principles: