

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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THE CHILD AND THE BIRD.

"O mother, see! my little bird,
Where'er she stoops to drink,
Lifts up her little bill to Heaven;
Why is it, do you think?
Is it because she thinks that God
Supplies her want each day,
And she would show her gratitude
In this sweet, simple way?"

"We'll think 'tis so," the mother said,
As she caressed her child:

And beading o'er him, softly spoke,
In accents sweet and mild—

"We'll do it so, my darling one,
And thus a lesson learn—

Our hearts and souls, like Birdie's bill,
To Heaven we'll grateful turn:

We'll thank God for our daily food,
For every want supplied;

We'll thank Him for this glorious world,
Which He has beautified.

We'll raise our hearts in grateful praise
For every thing we see,

And like your bird, for stranger things
We will most thankful be.

"It's God who gives us all we have;
He 'keeps our daily breath;"

And if we love and serve Him well,
He'll raise us, after death;

Take us to dwell with Him in heaven—
And there, my precious one,

We'll meet your angel sister, when
Our race of life is run.

"Remember this, and never take
The smallest offering given,
Without returning thanks to Him
Who cares for us, in heaven."

Far higher is the office of the teacher, who makes admirable men, than that of the sculptor or painter, who makes admirable imitations of them.

The greatest good a miser does is to prove the little happiness there is to be found in wealth.

Nothing is so great an instance of ill-manners as flattery. If you flatter all the company, you please none; if you only flatter one or two, you affront the rest.

Mrs. Partington says, "I cannot deceive how the young gentlemen can drink to such a recess, when they know it is so conjurious to their institutions."

"Sam, I have lost my watch overboard, it lies in twenty feet water. Is there any way to get it?"—"Yes, of course there is."—"How, Sam?"—"Why, divers' ways, to be sure."

The three most difficult things are—to keep a secret, to forget an injury, and to make good use of leisure.

HALIFAX, N. S. FEBRUARY 11, 1864.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

In addition to the appointments previously recorded, Mr. Richardson Harris was elected Assistant Sergeant at Arms, and Rev. Mr. Cochran was unanimously chosen Chaplain.

On Friday (Feb. 5) the Answer to the opening Speech was unanimously passed, and presented to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government.

Mr. McLellan presented a petition from Lewis Smith, Esq. against the return of Charles Allison, Esq. as member for North Queen's County. Saturday the 18th was named as the day on which the House would take it into consideration. A general committee was appointed to prepare lists for standing committees of the House.

On Saturday Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle, announcing the birth of a Prince; and a committee was appointed to join a committee of the Legislative Council to prepare an address to Her Majesty on the subject. Standing Committees were also appointed.

Correspondence, relating to the tenure of office, which had passed between Lord Normanby, the Duke of Newcastle, and the Provincial Government, was laid on the table and afterwards read. A lengthy correspondence on the subject of the International Railway was also submitted.

On Monday the bill for the consolidation of the Revised Statutes was read a second time. The House then went into committee on the bill; and a few amendments were made.

On Tuesday Hon. Prov. Secretary submitted copies of despatches relative to the appointment of Hon. Samuel Chipman to the Legislative Council.

The House decided to accept Mr. Bourinot's proposal to publish the debates and proceedings in the *Colonist*, *Chronicle* and *Reporter*.

A Bill to vest certain property in the Board of Works—which it was believed might be very conveniently appropriated for the site of the new jail, for a drill ground, and for agricultural and other exhibitions—was read a first time.

On the presentation of several petitions considerable discussion took place on the rule regarding the initiation of money votes by the Government; and the following resolution, moved by Mr. Tobin, was allowed to lie on the table as notice:—"Resolved, That all petitions for grants of monies presented to the Government under the rule for the initiation of money votes, be reported upon by the Govern-

ment within 21 days after the meeting of the House."

The House then went into committee on Bills, and took up the bill for consolidating and revising the Statutes of the Province.

On Wednesday a despatch was laid on the table, from the Duke of Newcastle—acknowledging the receipt of the address of the Legislature to the Queen. Also despatches relating to the resignation of the late, and the formation of the present Government.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table a Minute from the Executive Council of Canada, relative to the Intercolonial Railway, dated 25th February, 1863.

Mr. Blackwood presented a petition asking for a change in the distribution of school monies. Referred to committee on Education.

The bill to vest certain public property in the Board of Works was read a second time. The House then went into committee on Bills, and took up and passed the bill just named.

The bill for the revision of the Statutes was next taken up. Several amendments were made in the License Law, at the suggestion of Mr. Longley and Dr. Hamilton.

Mr. Kaulback presented a petition from J. D. Nash and Samuel Rettie, against Adams G. Archibald and Francis Parker, Esqrs. Wednesday the 17th instant was set down as the time for taking the petition into consideration.

Family Department.

The Evil of a Bad Temper.—A bad temper is a curse to the possessor, and its influence is most deadly wherever it is found. To hear one eternal round of complaint and murmuring, to have every pleasant thought scared away by this evil spirit, is a sore trial. It is like the sting of a scorpion, a perpetual nettle destroying your peace, rendering life a burden. Its influence is deadly; and the purest and sweetest atmosphere is contaminated into a deadly miasma wherever this evil genius prevails. It has been said truly, that while we ought not to let the bad temper of others influence us, it would be as unreasonable to spread a blister upon the skin and not expect it to draw, as to think of a family not suffering because of the bad temper of any of its inmates. One string out of tune will destroy the music of an instrument otherwise perfect; so, if all the members of a church, neighborhood and family, do not cultivate a kind and affectionate temper, there will be discord and evil work.