

restrictions it imposes, but if they are voluntarily undertaken, and found practically beneficial, especially in the reformation of the drunken, the least one can do is to respect the self-denial which its members practise, and rejoice in the measure of success they may achieve thereby. A question may, it is true, be more fairly raised as to the propriety of apparently yielding greater homage to a human engagement than to a Divine obligation; but even here it may be pleaded, that the mitigation of an evil from inferior motives is so far advantageous, although by no means all that a Christian would desire, and is, at any rate, the principle on which human legislation proceeds, and by which society is greatly regulated. If I saw a person who evidently meditated suicide, checked on a sudden by some impulse from above, I should rejoice with unmingled satisfaction; but it would not deprive me of every atom of such a sentiment if, in the absence of a higher principle, some human arm interposed between the self-murderer and the perpetration of so awful a crime. If I am wrong, either in my arguments or my illustrations, I shall, perhaps, be pardoned when I say, that for more than fifteen years I have been the Chaplain of a prison, through which there pass annually about 1,200 persons, of all ages, and both sexes, and that every one of them, with very few exceptions, may be said to owe their imprisonment, and their degraded condition, to that disgusting vice which is our nation's curse, and which the Society in question endeavours to remove.

INDEX AND TITLE-PAGE for our third volume are ready for delivery to those Subscribers who have taken the volume from its first number; but as our Publisher's Messengers would not be able to distinguish, we have to request our Town-Subscribers entitled to them, to apply at Mr. Stanley's, 4, St. Ann Street, and they will be supplied.

Those of our Subscribers who are about to change their residences at this season, will please to give notice to our Publisher's, in order to ensure the regular delivery of their papers.

The Berean.

QUEBEC, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1847.

Resuming the subject of Common School Education, to which our editorial remarks in the last number of the BEREAN were directed, we offer the suggestion that a great increase would be obtained in the efficiency of schools, if it became a rule that all the requisites to be used by the children in the school-room be furnished at the public expense—books, paper, pens, ink &c. Time and temper would be saved, and one fruitful source of discouragement to the Teacher would be removed. A journeyman mechanic would be ill pleased with a master who does not supply him with a set of tools, complete and serviceable, to work with; and, indeed, it would raise no favourable opinion of him, if he were content to do imperfect work for lack of a proper regard to the essential requisites of the workshop on the part of his employer. But, oh! what a set of tools may be seen in almost every elementary school in this country! Three or four different Spelling-Books among ten or a dozen children who ought to form one class, and might every one profit by the one Master's time together, if they had all the same book in their hands—Reading-Books ditto, Arithmetic, Grammars, and Geographies—not to speak of leaves torn out, covers come off, pages blotted with ink, and so on. A good Teacher is the one that will be soonest disheartened with such difficulties, and withdraw from the work, when the worthless hireling perhaps struggles on, because he has no other employment to turn his hand to with better prospect of success.

If power were given to School-Commissioners, to provide in a complete manner all the requisites for carrying on the business of the school, a mode might then be suggested by which it would be made desirable for the community which has elected them, that the Commissioners should exercise their power in that respect. Suppose certain schools could obtain the privilege of having Monitors, or Pupil-Teachers attached to them, with stipends out of the public purse, somewhat on the plan which forms part of the new government measure for National Education in the mother-country: that privilege could not with any propriety be extended to a school that is not completely provided with the requisites for carrying on the work of instruction to the best advantage. The primary requisite, of course, would be a Master qualified to give to the Pupil-Teachers the training which may be required to qualify them for the office they are hereafter to fill. But in immediate connection with that, would be the various requisites of ample room—suitable desks and forms—good warming and ventilation—books and apparatus. The privilege, in fact, ought to belong to the school and to the Master jointly:—so that a school, well provided with every requisite to promise effectual training, would not enjoy the privilege if it were conducted by an incompetent Master; and a competent Master would not have the privilege of retaining Pupil-Teachers by means of a public allowance, if he were to connect himself with a school deficient in the requisites before referred to.

It seems to us, that a plan of this kind would be the most effectual, in the present condition of this Province, to answer the purposes of a Training Seminary. In a thickly peopled country like England, where it is difficult, even for young men of good attainments and fair character, to obtain situations, a great majority of the students of Normal Schools may probably be dependent upon as future Teachers: they may not be able to do much better for themselves in any other capacity than in that to which they have been trained at the public expense. But in these newly settled countries, public money might be spent upon training many

students for the Teacher's office, of whom a small portion only would eventually continue engaged in that calling. The stipendiary Pupil-Teacher, however, would be rendering service all the while that the public gives him the benefit of training: perhaps not a service fully equivalent to the expense bestowed upon him; but a certain amount of service at all events. If he eventually relinquish the employment of a Teacher, it will be a disappointment, certainly, but the pecuniary loss will be nothing like that which the public would suffer in the former case.

The subject of seminaries, for the training of Teachers for Common Schools, has been mooted in this Province, but we do not know whether there is any intention to take early measures for setting on foot such institutions. The difficulties and expense of their first establishment, and of their working afterwards, will probably make public men slow to approach the subject. In the meantime, nothing is doing to raise up Teachers. The plan of employing Pupil Teachers, connected with a number of well selected Training Schools, would render immediate practical benefit, by aiding the efforts of deserving Masters who would thus, in the first instance, be assisted in their schools by salaried, permanent, and responsible—though young—assistants: and it would open a prospect of eventual extended benefit, by fitting these assistants for the greater responsibility of the entire charge of schools, by the training thus afforded to them.

Though we have used the word Master, and the pronoun masculine in all these remarks, we design them to be applied to Female Teachers equally: and we feel well persuaded that, in many cases, these would be the much more eligible parties to conduct elementary schools. Wherever a classification can be effected between the older children and the younger, females are preferable, to conduct the instruction of the latter. They have more sympathy with the little ones, and more winning ways; and they have more contentedness under the confinement of a school room: moreover, they can be better spared for its duties, in countries like this, than those whose bodily strength fits them for the out-door business of agricultural life. It would be an incalculable benefit, if a body of well trained Infant School Mistresses could be raised, for town and country, and if their employment were made so respectable as to render parents of slender means, but of genteel connections, willing to have their daughters engage in that employment. We hear often of girls learning the "accomplishments," in order that they may become qualified to be governesses: we wish they were furnished with the ordinary life acquirements which would fit them for conducting Infant Schools. These, in fact, demand far higher qualifications than the "accomplishments," and are as far superior to them as the tones of an organ are to the tinkling of a cymbal. That fertility of invention, presence of mind, and rapid turning of opportunities to account, which belong to the tactics of an efficient Infant School Teacher, make a demand upon faculties which lie asleep in the great majority of governesses, in the houses of the genteel.

We have been led back, then, to the point which was spoken of in our last—the necessity of raising the position of Teachers, male or female, in order that persons qualified for the employment may be induced to engage in it. With respect, more immediately, to the government plan for promoting National Education in the mother country, we have endeavoured to lay before our readers information interesting in itself, and likely to be of some practical use to us in these distant possessions of the Crown. The plan has been received with great favour by some, and with determined opposition by others. We extract the principal passages from speeches delivered at two separate public meetings held at Leeds, on the 6th of March; the first speech by Dr. Hook, Vicar, in favour, and the second by Mr. Baines, jr., in opposition to the government plan. It will be perceived that Dr. Hook looks upon the proposed measure as a step in the right direction only, and thinks that his own scheme, published last year, is coming. It is a treat to hear the Tractarian Vicar of Leeds compliment that liberal Churchman, Lord John Russell, upon his endeavours to deal equal justice on both sides, and condole with him upon the jealousy with which the Whig minister has been viewed; and one cannot help thinking that the Minister's measure might meet with less hostility, if it were not supported by praise from that quarter. Says Dr. Hook:

"I stand here as an advocate for the education of the people on the most extensive scale (cheers). I stand not here as the supporter of the Government, or as an advocate of the present measure, but having myself suggested education on an extensive plan, I care not whether my plan is condemned or not; I say bring forward another, bring forward a better, and I will support it. (Applause.) I find that her Majesty's Ministers have brought forward a measure which does not propose to go so far as I would go; but, because they won't go with me 20 miles, I see no reason why I should not go with them five miles. (Cheers.) As I have said before, I consider this to be a movement in the right direction. (Hear, hear.) And I wish that the working men of Leeds would use their usual good sense, and look on the subject as it is now brought before them. There is an attempt to confuse the matter—to make it appear as if there were a contest between the Church and dissent. Now, we cannot understand persons taking that ground. We might oppose education as Churchmen; or we might oppose it as Dissenters; but the great objection brought against, not only this, but any other measure, is the interference on the part of the state. (Hear, hear.) That is the grand objection brought against the measure. Do not lose sight of that. Do not in course of controversy let that fact be lost sight of. The question is whether we will admit the principle that the state may interfere, or whether we will not admit the principle. ("No, no."—Yes, yes, and interruption.) Well, all I can say is, that if you are of

opinion that the education of the country is now sufficient in quantity and quality, I have nothing more to say. (Hear, hear.) It is your look out, not mine. I have published a pamphlet, in which I have shown that education in this country is deficient both in quality and quantity. My statements have been attacked, but I have not found they have been disproved, and I believe them now to be substantially correct. But I don't care about the theory: if you will look about you as I have looked around me, and if you are content with the present state of education, then we need not move a step farther. But if you are convinced that the education of the people ought to be conducted on a more extensive scale; if you are convinced that both in quantity and quality it ought to be improved, why, then, take your stand boldly on that principle, and demand that that improvement shall be made—demand that aid and assistance shall be given. (Cheers.) Now, a few years ago I am perfectly well aware that the church was unwilling to concede that point, that the state should interfere. The church took precisely the same line which is now taken by the opponents of this measure. 10 or 12 years ago I confess I should have taken that view. (Hear, hear.) I was not desirous of seeing the experiment made. We have now on both sides exerted ourselves to the utmost. We know that the Dissenters have used all their exertions. We only ask them to give equal credit to us. We have both tried and exerted ourselves to the utmost; and from observations I make, I find that, though we have not failed, we have certainly not by our united exertions been able to meet the evil. (Cheers.) Look at the state of things now. The Government proposed measures, which I believe the church generally is desirous to have accepted, being ready to make large concessions—concessions that 10 or 12 years ago we should not have been willing to make, because we think that all concessions, except those that lead to a sacrifice of principle, ought to be made, in furtherance of this righteous cause. If you will bear this general principle in mind, I have no fear whatever of your coming to a right conclusion. (Hear, hear.) Well, now, then, as I said, I do not appear here as a supporter of the present Government; but I do think that the present Minister has acted wisely and cautiously in the first move that he has made. His measure is not intended, I presume, to be a final measure—it is but one step in advance. (Cheers.) He has been surrounded with difficulties. His life has been devoted to what is called the cause of civil and religious liberty. He has been looked upon with jealousy on the one side, and he has endeavoured to see his way clearly, and to deal equal justice on both sides. It is not equal justice done on both sides, let us give over the measure. All we want is fair play. (Hear, hear.) If those who oppose this measure will only go to the President of the Privy Council, and say, "You are doing us a manifest injury and wrong," I will go along with them, and ask him to redress that wrong. (Cheers.) I speak in the name of many persons, and I am sure they would agree with me that the church at the present day—I don't care what may be said about it in former times—only wants fair play. We don't want to encroach upon the liberties and rights of any class of persons, and I really believe, if you only examine this measure thoroughly, you will find that an attempt has been made to do right to both sides, to favour none. (Hear, hear.) We do not want favour, but, as I said before, we want fair play. (Cheers.) If you will only bear those points in mind—first of all, that the real question is whether the state may assist in the education of the people or not—that is the real question—and in the next place, that the measure which I admit at least is made to assist all parties without injury to any—I think you will come to the conclusion that we ought to give this measure at least a fair trial. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Working men of Leeds, I believe, and I hope that you too believe, that I am your friend, and desirous in every possible way that I can to further and promote your interest. I may have given much offence, but all I can say is, that my heart is right and my heart is yours [cheers], and I call upon you at the present time to prevent the cause of education being retarded in its progress, and to prevent sectarian influence from throwing any impediment in its way. I call upon you—as the rev. gentleman who has preceded me has done—to assist the government of this country to reward merit as well as to punish vice; I call upon you to assist them to do what will add to the comfort, the respectability, and the intelligence of the working classes; I call upon you to assist in doing what will enable you to educate your children so that they may be able to exercise any constitutional privilege with which they may be intrusted. [Cheers.] In a word, gentlemen, I call upon you to allow the Government to empty the goals by building schools." [Loud cheers.]

The following is the main part of Mr. Baines's speech:—"His belief was, that a worse measure than this was never proposed to this country. It went to the very root of the national character of Englishmen, and that was an important consideration, for if they ought not to allow any law to be passed through Parliament without the observance of all those forms established by the constitution, still less ought they a measure which was so entire, so great, and so fatal an innovation upon the usages of England during all the centuries of its past history. Hitherto, education had been independent, free, and voluntary, in this country. This was a measure which was calculated totally to extinguish that independence, and to make it entirely dependent upon the Government. Therefore the measure was a very serious one, and therefore, that was another argument, a fortiori, against submitting to any violation of the constitution. It was very often difficult to trace what were the real springs and sources of the power, the virtue, and the independence, in fact, the character of a nation; but his firm belief was that some of those sources lay within this very fact, that the education of the people had been left to the people themselves (hear, hear); that they had not been placed—as they were in continental countries where despotic Governments existed—that they had not been placed under a schoolmaster employed by Government and under a system of instruction sanctioned by Government, but that each religious body had had the care of their own education, and that they had been able to impress the character of independence upon that education. But let this measure be introduced and that independence was totally gone; and, although it did not appear so at first sight, yet they would find on reflection that it was so, for they could not accept Government aid without at the same time accepting Government control. (Hear.) Every one would admit that Government could not with any propriety give money without inspecting the institution to which it gave money, so as to be satisfied that the money was rightly applied. There must, therefore, be a system of inspection. What did that system of inspection imply? It implied that there must be a judgment on the part of the inspector as to the mode in which the institution was carried on, and if he exercised that

judgment, and if it was not carried on in the way which he approved, and if he had the power of giving and withholding money according to his approval, then that inspector was made to have the absolute control over that institution; so that, although the Government measure did not profess to control, it was the newest fashion of despotism. It was the most subtle, the most powerful, the most seductive, the most insidious, the most despotic. It professed to be free, and it put you in bonds. (Hear.) He did not know how it was possible, by any other means, to produce such an effect upon the mind of England as would be produced if all the teachers of England should be put under the control of a Government authority. They were all of them liberal men, and they looked at this question from disadvantageous ground. They saw men in power who they supposed were disposed to freedom, and therefore whom they could trust, and whom they were accustomed to trust and support; and, therefore, they looked at it under circumstances unfavourable. Now, the truth was, that all parties were necessitated to suffer the greatest danger from their own friends. (Hear, hear.) It was a proverb, "Deliver me from my friends and I will take care of my enemies." (Hear, hear.) But they had to consider—supposing this power over all the schoolmasters and all the school-assistants of England put into the hands of a Government directly opposed to them; such a Government as they had seen in the present century, a Government such as that of Lord Sidmouth, which brought forward a measure which the Wesleyans and other dissenters combined to overthrow, and which they did overthrow—supposing such a body as this given over to the entire management of a Government like that, how could it be expected that they would not use that power for political purposes, and if used for political purposes it would be the most fatal to all liberal views, nay, to liberty itself, that could ever be imagined. Then look at the seductive effects of the measure upon the working class. There would be a power of making every 25th child in a public school either a pupil teacher or stipendiary monitor; and, as well expressed in the placard issued by the church school, Holbeck, there was here a "provision for life." What a monstrous power was given to those who had thus the means of giving provision for life, when brought over the whole mass of the population! (Hear.) And every 25th child would be in this position, how many candidates would there be, and what a kind of proselytism would be going on? It was anticipated by the minutes that there would be a number of candidates for those situations of pupil teachers and stipendiary monitors. It was no unusual thing that there were five times as many candidates as persons to elect, and he did say this, that it was most reasonable to believe that there was hardly one single father amongst the working classes who, when he sent his child to school, would not think, "I may get a provision for life for my child." Well, then, he said, there never was anything like this proposed in this country; and if so, then see what a dreadful amount of influence this gave the executive, and to what it might lead; it not only gave it to the executive, but to the established clergy. It had been said by *The Times* of last Saturday, that all he had done had been done in opposition to the established church, and that his object in writing had been to show that the schools of the established church were altogether worthless—that that was the object of his endless letters and pamphlets. Now there was not, from the beginning to the end of all his letters to Lord J. Russell, a single sentence in opposition to the schools of the established church; and until this measure came forward he had not been influenced by sectarian feeling in any the slightest degree. He was reminded of the fact, that there was a voice from Leeds gone out against the schools of the National Society. They had been spoken of in a derogatory manner. They had been cried down, and by whom? By Dr. Hook, in his pamphlet in June last, but all who had done him (Mr. Baines) the honour to read his letter knew that he had no motive of the kind, that his views had been altogether different from what the writer of the *Times* presumed. He only mentioned this to show the meeting that he had come forward with no sectarian view; but now that this measure had been presented, and gave to the parochial clergy of England power far greater than they had ever possessed, then he said, as a Dissenter, they could not take the bribes offered, though they might be offered impartially."

DAY OF HUMILIATION AND FASTING.—*Willmer & Smith's European Times* introduces its remarks on this subject by this gratifying announcement:

"In connexion with this subject may be noticed the General Fast, which was so rigidly observed in these islands on Wednesday week. All business was suspended; shops and offices closed; churches and chapels opened; and even the 'chosen people' collected in their synagogues to pray that the uplifted hand of Omnipotence might be stayed." It is painful to find, from the sequel of the article, that levity and thoughtlessness shrank not from exhibiting themselves in the midst of the grave solemnities of that day; "The different places of worship in most of the large towns were better attended, it is said, than on the ordinary Christian Sabbath. But the Jews cleverly contrived to blend a little religious fervour with a good deal of holiday-making. On the Thames and on the Mersey the steamboats did heavy duty in conveying pleasure seekers to the various points of attraction on those noble streams. The omnibuses were loaded to repletion; and thousands of sturdy pedestrians lined the roads in every direction, thinking it no sin to breathe the pure air of heaven on an occasion devoted to penitence."

THE SECULAR PRESS.—Public sentiment has become in a measure changed of late. The religious enterprises of the day, with their benign results, and the condition and prospects of the moral world, are becoming known and read of all men, who have any claim to intelligence or philanthropy. Probably a five times greater amount of general religious information has been diffused through the secular press of this city, within the last year or two than in any previous year. And perhaps there is no country town, where the newspaper column would not now be cheerfully granted for condensed views of passing religious events, if judiciously furnished by those most conversant with such interests.—*N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.*

YOUTH'S CABINET.—The March Number of this monthly has reached us, and we have extracted from it two pieces for the fourth page of this number. It contains its usual selection of useful and interesting matter, and very well executed embellishments.

ECCLESIASTICAL. Diocese of Quebec. The day on which the Special Meeting of the INCORPORATED CHURCH SOCIETY is to be held (see advertisement in another column) being the festival

of the ASCENSION, it may be of use to mention, that the appointed service of the Church will be held at the Rectory Chapel, at the usual hour of 11 a. m. An ordination will take place, Dr. V., after that service.

Divine service will also be held in the morning of the same day, at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, to commence at the usual hour of half past ten.

St. George's Day.—Divine service was performed at the Cathedral, last Friday, being the Anniversary of the St. George's Society, who walked in procession from St. George's Hotel to Church. The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Montreal preached on the 5th and 6th verses of the 4th chapter of Deuteronomy; after which a collection was taken up, in aid of the Society's funds which amounted to £33; exceeding that of last year by £6.

Diocese of Toronto. The Lord Bishop of Toronto will hold his Triennial Visitation of the Clergy of the Diocese, in the Cathedral Church, at Toronto, on Thursday, the third of June next. Divine Service will commence at 11 o'clock, a.m. The Clergy are requested to meet in full black robes.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Incorporated Church Society of this Diocese will be held at Toronto, on Wednesday, the second of June next. Divine Service, preparatory to the business of the day, will be held in the Cathedral Church of St. James, at 12 o'clock, noon.

The Annual Meeting of the Managing Committee of the Diocesan Press will be held at the Church Society's Rooms, Toronto, on Friday, the 4th June next, at 10 o'clock, a.m.—Church.

It affords us pleasure to state that a sum of about £300 has been realized at the late Bazaar of the Ladies of the Protestant Female Orphan Asylum.—*Mercury.*

The Rev. C. L. F. HANSEL, thankfully acknowledges the receipt of Five Pounds from an anonymous Donor, by the hands of the Editor of the BEREAN, for the CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY; which he will forward together with the next remittance of the funds of the Quebec Juvenile Church Missionary Association.

Mr. JEFFERY HALE acknowledges, with many thanks, the receipt, by the hands of the Editor of the BEREAN, of a liberal and anonymous Donation of Five Pounds for the SUNDAY SCHOOL under his superintendance; and a like donation of Five Pounds for the Thursday Evening BIBLE CLASS.

The undersigned has this day received a letter from the Rev. E. Nangle, dated 31st March, acknowledging the receipt of a remittance of £7 16s. 3d. for the funds of the ACHILL MISSION. C. H. GATSBY.

Quebec, 28th April, 1847.

To CORRESPONDENTS:—Received C. B.; J. D.; Paper from T. H., whose friends are much gratified.—Paper.

PAYMENTS RECEIVED:—Messrs. John Hummel, No. 157 to 208; Robt. McKay, No. 137 to 210; S. Yarwood, No. 149 to 260; Hy. Cotton, No. 147 to 193; Thos. Parrish, No. 158 to 193; John Kane, No. 157 to 208; Henderson & Co. No. 157 to 508; Mrs. Stanley, Mtl., No. 137 to 188; Miss A. Robertson, No. 142 to 193; Dr. Badgley, No. 140 to 191; Capt. Hornby, No. 140 to 191.

Local and Political Intelligence.

The news brought from Europe to Boston by the *Cambria* reached this city on Monday, by the arrival of several gentlemen who were passengers in the Steamer. The *Mercury* issued an extra that day, and the *Gazette* gave the principal intelligence in its ordinary issue in the evening. The English Mail did not arrive here till yesterday, and letters were only delivered at five o'clock in the afternoon. We have selected the following, as the most interesting intelligence to communicate immediately to our readers; for the principal part of which we are indebted to *Willmer & Smith's European Times*.

The most important event since the departure of the *Hibernia* is the decline in the price of provisions. The Corn markets are receding in every direction, and in some descriptions—that of Indian Corn, for instance—the fall has been astounding. The price has receded about 2s. The rapid rise in this species of food surprised many persons, and, even in the judgment of the uninitiated, exceeded the necessities of the case. Flour, like Indian Corn, has sustained a considerable fall; and the existing depression can hardly fail to be increased by the fine spring weather we are now enjoying, which foreshadows an early and prolific harvest.

Mr. O'Connell has just quitted Paris, after a stay of two or three days, on his way to Italy. He is not so ill as the London newspapers have represented; but his medical attendants doubt that he will ever again be able to take part in public life. The greatest respect was shown to him by the most eminent personages of France, and his door was literally besieged by visitors, but he received very few.

Lord Morpeth has introduced an important bill into Parliament, which proposes to establish a board in London for promoting the health of towns, and regulating all measures bearing upon that object.

The commercial world are deeply interested in the select committee which is now sitting on the Navigation Laws. A section of the shipowners are in favour of these laws, but the great body are either inimical or indifferent to their continuance.

CANADA COMPANY.—A general court of the proprietors in this corporation, established for the purpose of colonising the lands of Upper Canada, was held at the Canada House, St. Helen's place, on Tuesday week; Charles Franks, Esq., in the chair.

The quantity of land disposed of annually for the last three years has been upon an average about 61,000 acres, and the average price obtained has been 11s. sterling per acre.

EMIGRATION TO CANADA.—On the 25th, Mr. VESSEY wished to know whether the Government had made any preparation, or had it in contemplation to assist poor persons emigrating from Ireland upon their arrival at Quebec. He believed that upwards of 400 families were now preparing in one part of Ireland to proceed abroad, without the assistance of the emigration committee; and as it was not probable that they would be enabled to collect together more than a sufficient sum to carry them across the Atlantic, it would therefore be desirable if the Government could afford them any assistance upon their landing.

Mr. HOWES said that there was a fund in Canada available for the sick and destitute emigrants