

The Protestant AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

"PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD." —1 THES., v. 21.

No. 2.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Saturday, December 8, 1860.

No. 23

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TELL WATCH FOR THREE.

I'll watch for thee up there,
Within the party gate,
I'll stand among the throng down
Who sit at the pretty wail.

And so the measured song—
With pulse of victory come,
And pass the everlasting dove
To gather their heavenly home;

I'll mark with eagle eye
The radiant spirits blest,
And gladly welcome every saint
Into the promised rest.

But when the soul is freed
From earthly toil and pain,
And wings its flight to enter in
With all the blood-washed train.

With bounding heart and hand
I'll sweep my golden lyre,
And rush to greet and welcome thee
To heaven's rejoicing choir.

Then will we sing the song
With bladed voice above,
The song we used to sing on earth
Of Jesus' dying love.

We'll gather round the throne—
Our Lord Redeemer's seat—
And cast his robes he bought for us
Aflame at His feet!

And with ten thousand more,
All purified with blood,
We'll call the echoing anthems forth
To Christ the Lamb of God!

Then walk and suffer on
A few more years here,
Giggle outside the zone of earth,
Though I see earth must go.

In heaven I'll wait for thee,
While thou art telling here,
My heart will still be true to thine;
I'll watch for thee up there.

—*Over of N. F. Oberner.*

From the New York Observer.

Kirwan's Letters from Europe.

NORTH WALES, July, 1860.

As we had a day of varied service before us, we left Bangor at an early hour, for the great slate quarry, at Bethesda, about six miles distant. Leaving the town by a road cut in the solid rock, and as smooth and clean as a floor, we soon entered the little village surrounding Penrhyn Castle, and in which we were informed, its servants mostly reside. The houses are built of stone, and stoned; raised from the street; and were fastened with roses. It appeared in the cloudless light of the morning, a thing of beauty. It is said to be the pride of Lady Penrhyn, who awards a premium to the family which raises the most, and the most beautiful flowers. Soon the towers of the castle itself, making a grand and imposing appearance, rose upon our view. The building stands upon an elevated height, and commands a charming view of the bay, of Menai, of Great Orme's Head, and of the mountains of Caernarvon. Nothing to be compared to it have we seen in Wales. Now we crossed the village of Bethesda, which was the mountain of slate, to see which was the object of our visit.

It rises about two thousand feet from the plain below. We drove up in our carriage as far as we could go, and then, leaving it, we walked up to the quarry entrance. There is here no underground toil, as where men work in mines, from which pure air and the light of heaven are excluded. The mountains are cut into ridges which rise in succession, like stairs, one above another, to the distance of a thousand feet. Everything is uncovered, and open to view. Upon all these ridges, or stairs, men are working in great numbers. One informed us, there were twenty-seven hundred on the galleries before us, and in the sheds around us, in which the blocks of slate were split into plates and cut into shapes. Looking up from below, the men on the higher ridges seemed like pigeons; and looking down from above, the men at the bottom seemed only moving ants.

The manner in which the quarry is worked is peculiar. They all the edges or galleries we saw men were holding rods, with a rope tied round them, and ministering to their necessities. They spent their days together in a private parlor, connecting by folding doors with another parlor which was occupied by a woman who was their master.

At about noon, we dined in a room which was occupied with a fire in one corner, and the brother and the master of the day, the brother and sister, and their slave, the master of the day, were seated at a table, opposite each other, and all the rest of the house was to order them to eat. Their master. We lay down, and took a place in their master's chair, and ate. And during those hours, the rapid movement of all the men, on all the ridges, in unceasing. The whole side of the mountain was alive. In a minute they all disappeared.

The men are again supplied; every five in five; and as quickly the mountain side seems like a battery from which a hundred guns are fired at once. The simultaneous explosion from all the galleries is grand and terrible. After the men were gone, the men came out from their houses, and commenced removing the masses of rock which had separated from the mountain. And this scene is over several times each day. The men are courageous, hardy, and immovable provided they have a good master. The great quarry is a tremendous one, and the men who scarcely live among them,

but they were brought under the blessed influence of the revival now here in progress; and wonderful has been the gracious change wrought upon them. Sobriety, has supplanted intemperance; and prayer, proficiency and the large majority of those now working upon those galleries have been made very zealous in Christ Jesus.

The hats of the workmen whitened over the quarry were coarse, and of peculiar construction. They were of stone, octagonal, and very low. Their roof is a hole which admits a certain amount of light. There is a rough, east round the wall inside; and the fire when kindled, is built in the centre, just under the hole in the roof. The outer walls have a tall man made go on his hands and feet. To these the workmen resort for shelter when the blasting commences, and to eat their dinner meal. They club together, and each club has its own hut. In days not long past they were the scenes of gambling, intemperance, and profanity. Now the clubs resort to them as usual, for dinner; eat their meals as speedily as possible, and spend most of the hour of recess in prayer. In one of these huts we saw a thin rough, wooden box just under the roof. On taking it out and opening it, we found it contained a Welsh Bible. And was placed in the box to preserve it from the damp and rain. When the meal is ended, that Bible is taken from the box; a portion of it is read, and three prayers are usually offered before the hour closes; and each member of the club takes his turn in reading and in prayer. And in fifty or more of these huts there is now a daily prayer meeting such as this: The club number from twelve to twenty each. Taking the lowest number, there are six hundred, and taking the highest number, there are one thousand men daily working in these huts, to bring about the conversion of their fellow workmen, and for the propagation of the world to God! The spot in Britain which most deeply impressed us, and of which we have carried away the most vivid recollections, is the slate quarry.

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Again, what unexpected and oftentimes mysterious ways God employs in accomplishing his purpose. That minister thought it a trying dispensation that he should be torn from his family, and separated from his flock in a season of religious awakening; but God saw that he had a testimony to give in a distant city. Two of his elect were to be gathered in; and the first link in the visible chain of influence by which they were to be drawn to Christ, was the minister's voice of prayer. Then the influence of wisdom was called in to carry on the work, Miss C.—was in the right place at the right time. God did not mistake. He never mistakes. Trials are mercies in disguise. In sickness and in health, at home and among strangers, the Christian may let his light shine. While we live we may, if we will, honor Christ.—Am. Messenger.

the way of life. Miss C.—gave her appropriate counsel. A few hours elapsed, and another daughter of the host was found weeping under a sense of sin. Miss C.—had frequent interviews with the sisters, and pointed them to the Lamb of God, who alone has power to save.

Three weeks rolled away, when the clergyman, much improved in health, returned to his charge, and Miss C.—removed to the northern part of the city. But she kept up correspondence with the two sisters, and in a few weeks had satisfactory evidence that they both had given their hearts to the Saviour.

What a lesson is this on the value of prayer. What an encouragement to professed Christians to testify for Christ amid the whirl and tumults of city life.

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THE PROTESTANT, AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

WEEKLY CALENDAR—DECEMBER.

Last Quarter, 6th day, 11, 17m., evening.
New Moon, 13th day, 5h. 45m., morning.
First Quarter, 20th day, 1h. 29m., morning.
Full Moon, 27th day, 10h. 33m., evening.

DAY	DAY WEEK.	SUN	High	Moon	Day &
MONTH.		rise-set	morn.	rises.	length.
9	Sunday	7 27 4	9 7 19	4 45	8 32
10	Monday	7 27 4	9 8 21	5 30	8 30
11	Tuesday	7 28 0	9 9 21	6 44	8 21
12	Wednesday	7 29 0	9 10 21	7 30	8 20
13	Thursday	7 29 4	9 11 15	5 22	8 20
14	Friday	7 29 4	9 12 15	6 35	8 20
15	Saturday	7 29 4	9 13 30	7 50	8 20

THE LAND COMMISSION.

(Continued from our last.)

Mr. McEachern examined by Com. Hixley.—You live on another portion of the Lot? Yes. What kind rent do you pay? £30 or £60 acres. Are the people there generally good tenants? No, not at all. They cannot meet them with their exertions.

Com. Howe.—When districts come, I suppose property is generally sacrificed?

Mr. McE.—In the failure of the crops has thrown us all behind.

Com. Howe.—What would the tenants pay for their friends? Mr. McE.—£5 or 6s. or more with time, pay for it.

Com. Thompson.—Do you pay rent for the fishery rights? Mr. McE.—Yes.

The delegation all were of opinion that it would be better to break up the fishery rights, and then let them occupied as other rights.

Mr. McE.—My brother took 100 acres of land on the Lot, and when he came to measure it, there was only 72. He applied to Mr. Forgan, the agent, for a reduction of rent accordingly, but he would not listen to him. Mr. Forgan always sent the sheriff and made him pay the whole amount.

Com. Gray.—If you would put your lease into a lawyer's hands who would arrange that business for you.

Com. Thompson.—According to the wording of the lease, it would be a delicate point of law to decide.

Mr. McE.—When a man in such a case goes to the agent, he is laughed at, and when he goes to a lawyer he finds that he is refused.

Com. Thompson.—It is certainly unjust to make a man pay rent for land which he does not hold.

Mr. McE.—My brother was deprived of his land by the running of the boundary line which divides the Lots.

Com. Palmer.—Then the Boundary Line Act comes in to provide a remedy in such cases.

Mr. McE.—The Boundary Line Act ensures that the tenant, instead of paying out his fees as he should, only does so to the extent of his out-of-pocket, and a person sometimes goes in upon the title of his land, and holds it against him; and when the trustee does this for 20 years, the tenant loses his right in all cases where a particular person is to do so, the agent makes no effort to get the full amount paid.

Com. Gray.—No man of sense can complain of that.

Mr. William McGowen appeared before the Court as a delegate from Lots 44 and 45. He presented no manuscript, but made some important statements, of which we give the following:—I have no personal acquaintance with the proprietor, but I often hear him speak of the Colony, and the relations which exist between landlords and tenants. Many years ago I settled in the green woods, and there I came in contact with others experienced those difficulties and hardships incident to such a mode of life. I intended first to return to the growing away of the lands of this Island as a means of getting rid of the waste of land, and to make a middleman. In the next place I intended to buy up the lands of the proprietors, and to sell them at a profit. I purchased a small piece of land, and it was then that the man on set up by the settlers exceeds its actual value; but the impolicy of the mode in which the land was granted is generally admitted. I will confide myself more particularly to existing events. With regard to the price of land, I would say that the price must be my own, and a reasonable one. I have purchased a considerable portion, and I think this is the only fair way of determining the value of land. At a land assessment sale in Charlottetown, we purchased, 25 years ago, 100 acres having a valuable mill site, for £25. There was no limitation to the conditions of sale, and the proprietor thought it would be reasonable to let us have the land, but we incurred heavy liabilities to prevent that.

Com. Howe.—In what manner was this done?

Mr. McGowan.—By spending money upon the place. Every succeeding year we bought tracts of land adjoining the 100 acres first purchased. The next 100 acres were taken in, and so on, until, after all, make as much difference. Each succeeding sale showed that it was deteriorating in value. The third 100 acres, we purchased for £15, and by the time we had 1000 acres, its value was only £15 per acre. This property is on Lot 44.

Com. Thompson.—Even so much is only separated from us by a survivor's line, is valued at 20s. an acre, by the proprietor, Sir Samuel Caward.

Com. Gray.—Your labor increased the value of your property!

Mr. McG.—Certainly; and the resultant colonies generally are the men who have borne the weight of property even when it is not their land. They have been compelled to move far into the country, and there have rendered valuable the estates of the proprietors, which otherwise would have been useless to them. Yes, the tenants have made the lands valuable, and that without any expense on the part of the proprietors. For so doing, the tenants have received compensation, a little thanks. We are now in a position to pay for the land, and improving it, laid in a large population to that part of the Township. Of course the proprietor was benefited by our enterprise, for in addition to the rent, we received 40s. for every lease which he granted. We erected mills, not in consideration of the proprietor retaining the land, but in consideration of the fact that the proprietor of grain, when breakfast is required, is advantageous in the Colony, and that the exportation of grain without being ground has injured this country for many years.

Com. Howe.—In the exportation of unground corn injurious to this island?

Mr. McG.—I think it certainly is, for the freight absorbs half the profit. The freight of a bushel of oats is nearly equal to the freight of a bushel of wheat.

Com. Gray.—You think it would be better to grind up the oats and take the meal to market?

Mr. McG.—I do.

Com. Gray.—So you have settled upon this land and have no title to it without any other means?

Mr. McG.—No.

Com. Gray.—You had other means?

Mr. McG.—Certainly, or I would have starved long ago. I believe no man on earth could make a living solely out of the land.

Com. Gray.—Would the tenancy not be better if they had another lease?

Mr. McG.—Not a man must procure firewood and feed cattle on his farm. He has only a few acres these meadows would soon become exhausted. The tide is timber roads, and roads out of timber, and the timber roads are mainly in timber and stone. I believe the timber roads were purchased largely in timber, and when breakfast was carried on somewhat extensively. Lately, consider, alone money has been made by exporting justice-sleepers and sleepers. We have had the opportunity of making something out of the timber roads, and the timber roads have been sold since the people have been left to depend on the agricultural resources of the country, back rents have accumulated.

Com. Gray.—Hence, you not only what would you like to do with the land, but also what is it?

Mr. McG.—£20 per hundred acres, with time to pay, say 20 years. I am acquainted with the means of the people to the country, and am not at all interested party, so my statement may be relied on. I acted a long time ago, opposing to the inventors, and have on that account incurred a much animosity that perhaps I will never retrieve my former position.

Com. Gray.—No country can prosper whose rights of property are not respected. Now would you mention to a fair trial for wilderness land?

Mr. McG.—I certainly think so, and then it would be more than is required from a settler in New Brunswick. Now, Sirs. I was pleased to tell you my Excellencies speech of the formation of the people; if he doth not he re- ingly doth not.

Com. Gray.—Suppose a man has property at a rent of £5 per 100 acres, which is regularly paid, what would be a fair sum to allow him for the land, providing his title is good?

Mr. McG.—I have already stated, £50 per hundred acres.

Com. Gray.—Suppose you leased 100 acres of wild land 40 years ago, and have been receiving rent for it?

ever since, if it became necessary to convert that leasehold into a freehold, what, under those circumstances, ought you to receive for it?

Mr. McG.—Perhaps £50 or £60.

Com. Gray.—Considering the trouble of collecting rent, etc., you think it would be better to take £50 or £60 for it than to let the tenant remain in the lease?

Mr. McG.—Yes. From my knowledge of the tenancy in the district where I live, I believe that for the last 5 years, not a single individual has paid 9d. of his rent which did not come from some other source than his farm.

Com. Palmer.—Do you think that statement applicable to the whole of the Island?

Mr. McG.—To a great extent, as a vast majority of the rents paid by young men who have earned money elsewhere.

Com. Howe.—Do you think the rental system has driven young men away from this Island?

Mr. McG.—I do indeed.

Com. Gray.—Are you interested in the fisheries?

Mr. McG.—No. I hold, however, that the individuals occupying the resources should retain them; but the law is required for fishing purposes, if not engaged in the business themselves, should let it to others.

Com. Howe.—How long would it take a young man, to make a profit of 20 years' purchase, to make his own out of a farm?

Mr. McG.—He would never do it.

Com. Gray.—Do you know of any purchases of that rate?

Mr. McG.—I am not aware of any.

Com. Gray.—What stock does one of your farmers generally keep?

Mr. McG.—Cows, 2 horses, a few head of young cattle, and some sheep.

Com. Howe.—In coming to this place, I passed a settlement called New Perth, where I saw fine farms, new buildings, good stock yards, and thought it contrasted favorably with many other portions of this Island; what is the cause of this property?

Mr. McG.—I am the collector of land assessment for the District of North Ontario, the representative of that District authority.

—The persons who went there to settle had money when they came to the country, and with the assistance of that, and by selling timber, have purchased their farms, and are all freeholders.

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