

and poverty entail on juvenile immigrants and orphan boys of Irish and Catholic parentage in this country, an individual case like yours might easily have escaped her notice. But you have taken from her the bliss of ignorance, in the premises. "Kirwan" tells her that you, Nicholas Murray, now a Presbyterian clergyman, gave her the cold shoulder, when you were quite a boy, thirty years ago. Nay, more; he says that one of the means employed by her for arresting the progress of sin, was by you turning into an opportunity of additional sinning;—"you always found," he says, "that you could play your pranks better after confession than before." This inward railing of yourself, so early an age, should have convinced you that already, and unknown to yourself, you were a genuine Protestant book, done up, some how, by mistake, in Catholic binding.

I honor the man who, under his responsibility to God, has the moral courage to change his religion, when, after mature investigation, he conscientiously believes that he is passing from error to truth. It is a great and solemn act. When it is attended, as it sometimes is, by the greatest sacrifice of worldly interest, and is manifestly done for the soul's and God's and Truth's sake, it becomes, in my estimation, the most heroic and sublime act that man is capable of performing on the earth. I do not say that it is always insincere even when the convert professes his temporal interests by the change. But, in the latter case, it loses much of the influence which, as an example, it would otherwise exercise on the public mind. Neither do I regard it as improper that he who has experienced such a change, should assume the reasons that brought it about. But in assigning them, all serious men would expect that they should be good and true reasons. Now, I propose, in reply to your Letters, to prove that the reasons assigned by you are not good reasons in themselves, and that even if they were, in the nature of things, they found no place in the circumstances of your supposed conversion from "Popery" to Presbyterianism.

Your Letters, so far as regards the grammatical construction of phrases, and a correct and almost elegant use of Anglo-Saxon words, are not unworthy of the country which produced a Dean Swift or a Goldsmith. They are also pervaded by a silvery thread of wit, which is unmistakably a legacy, but which too often, in your Letters, runs into profanity. As a Logician, you are entitled to little praise. As a Theologian, even on the Protestant system, to less still; whilst as an upright, candid adversary, honestly laboring to overthrow doctrines believed to be erroneous, you can lay claim to none whatever.

Two things, at the outset, tell very badly against you. You represent me as teaching a doctrine which I do not believe, and yet, in various unexpected forms, you profess to render me the homage of your respect. Now, dear sir, let me say, that if you believe me to be a deceiver of my fellow-Catholics, you cannot have entertained any respect for my character, unless your moral perceptions are too dim to discover any difference between vice and virtue. If you profess a respect, which you do not feel, it is equally manifest that your standard of morals is artificial, subject to the control of your will and your pen. In either case you are inconsistent, and it is, perhaps, well for you that you did not write your Letters under the solemnity of an oath, in which case something like perjury would come out on the cross-examination.

By what right, sir, did you assume that I am not sincere in the profession of the Catholic Faith? And if you did assume it, by what rule of hypocrisy and falsehood did you stultify yourself by professing respect for my character? You could find the premises of such a false and uncharitable conclusion only in your heart, or mine. To mine you have had no access, and you should have been cautious in revealing such discoveries as could have been derived, only by analogy, from your own. I believe the truth of the doctrines taught by the Holy Catholic Church as firmly as I do my own existence. Nay, more. I believe that, as containing the fulness of Divine revelation, it is the only true Church on the earth—although many true Catholic doctrines are found floating about as opinions in the religious atmosphere of Protestantism. This is my profession of faith, of the sincerity of which the Almighty is my witness; and I am sure that you, or any other man, have given your own human being, reason to infer, by word or action, that I believed otherwise.

I must decline, therefore, the tender of your respect for my character. But I would not have you on that account regard me as an enemy. On the contrary, I would be your friend; and the highest proof of this which you have left in my power to offer, is the sincere declaration that, as a fellow-being, you have my pity—and best wishes withal. I shall begin to analyze your reasons next week.

JOHN HUGHES, Bishop of New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—On looking over the *Islander* a few days ago, I noticed a lengthy report of a public meeting, said to have been held in the school-house at Georgetown, on the 18th ultimo, in which, to my great surprise, I am represented as one of the principal speakers on the occasion. I feel that the worthy secretary of that so-called public meeting hath done me a great injustice, in thus publishing me as taking part in proceedings from which I entirely dissent. Whether it has been intentional on his part or not, I am at a loss to know; but it is certain his report tends to show that I spoke as an advocate of those strong-worded resolutions, which are stated to have all passed unanimously. The facts are otherwise. In the first place the meeting was not public, but was convened by private invitations alone, in which not one solitary liberal was included. In the next place it may appear strange how I should have obtained any knowledge of such a meeting, and what induced my attendance. In reply, I would state that I am one of the trustees of the school-house, that even as such I had not the least knowledge of a meeting being held there. At about eight o'clock in the evening, when part of the debates was over, a friend of mine called on me and wished to know what assembly was then in the school-house. I replied that I did not know, but supposed it was the Mechanics' Institute. I then proposed that we would call in and see. Imagine my position on entering, to find that the meeting was exclusively composed of men who are opposed to the party at present in power. To depart precipitately would argue a want of moral courage, so my friend and myself concluded to remain, merely to hear what would be said; but on the reading of some of the resolutions I could not forbear calling on different gentlemen present for an explanation, two of whom had the kindness to reply to my questions. These were all that was uttered by me. I neither wrote, proposed, nor seconded any resolution put forward at that meeting, neither did I vote for the adoption of any of them; and I now take advantage of emphatically denying connexion with any of the measures brought before the same.

Hoping, Mr. Editor, that you will allow the foregoing a place in your journal, I remain, yours, &c.,
Geo. Town, Mar. 2, '58. JOHN B. HOWLETT.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—Last evening Mr. Fullerton delivered a lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association, on "Decision of Character." In examining what are the elements which constitute a decided character, the lecturer would not allow that anything depends on corporeal constitution. It is true that very little depends on bulk of body; but, as has been observed by Foster, in his elegant Essay on "Decision of Character," may there not be something in the texture of the body favorable to this turn of mind? or, to use his own words, "a very decisive man has probably more of the physical qualities of the lion in his composition than other men." This supposition is favored by the fact, that men of really decided characters are never slothful or sluggish, always restless and active, witness the Apostle Paul, Napoleon, Cromwell, Clive, &c. Another element, according to the lecturer, is "knowledge and experience." Now, sir, it is hard to understand what knowledge, or experience either, has to do with it; for the most wavering would act unhesitatingly if, by knowledge or experience, he could foresee the result of his action; none but a fool would deviate from a path indicated by knowledge and experience. A man of a decided character turns his knowledge and experience to the best account; but as knowledge is only accidental and extraneous, it cannot form an element in a constitutional and innate phase of character. Lord Clive's officers, before the battle of Plassey, had as perfect a knowledge of their dangerous position as he himself had, yet they unanimously advised a retreat; he disregarded the admonition—the Indian Empire was the reward of his decision. Indeed the most distinguishing characteristic of a man of this description is that he acts determinedly and confidently in the absence of knowledge, and when he has not experience for his guide; supplying the want of knowledge, occasioned by the circumstances in which he is placed, by his self-reliance and sternness of determination. I should think that a logical method of thinking is necessary to decision of character. Brougham says of the late Lord Eldon, that he never doubted; that while he appeared to waver, he only deliberated. With a decision of character well worthy of imitation, he lived up to his motto: "Live like a hermit, and

work like a horse;" and from being a coal-filter's son in Newcastle he became the friend of King George III., and Lord Chancellor of England—an office which he ably and honorably filled for twenty-five years. A body with a "cross" of the lion (as Sam Sheik would say), and a mind logical and stern of will, constitute a decided character, whose conduct and aim will be shaped by the "ruling passion."

And here one master passion in the breast,
Like Aaron's serpent, swallows all the rest;
Nature its mother, habit is its nurse,
Will, spirit, faculties but make it worse;
Reason itself but gives it edge and power.

The lecturer said that history in general is objectionable, because it "does not point out the true from false religion!" Has it struck the lecturer that a man may be a very good historian, but a very indifferent theologian; such was David Hume, but a very partial account for the alarming defect that Mr. Fullerton has discovered in the works of historians. Again, historians narrate and comment on secular and political events, and until the Reform Bill and a Lecture on Predestination, or the doctrines of Cobbett's Political Register and those of the Thirty-nine Articles, are identical, I cannot clearly see how the lecturer's antipathies are to be overcome. Let us leave this to the *Protector*.

The lecture before this last one was delivered by Captain Orlebar; subject, "India." For the historical part of it he drew pretty liberally (without acknowledgment) from Alison; and, say you, the lecture was none the worse for that.

On the whole, both lectures were rather interesting, because the lecturers abstained from sermonizing. Yours, &c.,
March 12, 1858. A YOUNG MAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—Deeming it to be the duty of every unprejudiced mind to express approbation or disapprobation of any measure affecting the public welfare, I solicit a portion of your valuable space for the purpose of pointing out some of the good results arising from the operation of the Free Education Act, and noticing the malicious designs of idle and impractical individuals.

We are all aware that previous to the enactment of the Free Education Law, the public generally were rather declining than increasing in intellectual and literary pursuits. And no wonder, when we consider the difficulties and embarrassments they had to contend with. The amount paid annually to the teacher was such that few besides the wealthy could afford to pay for the education of their children. It was then utterly impracticable for a poor man having a family of five or six children, to pay for their education annually a sum of two pounds to the teacher alone, not to say a word about boarding and lodging him, paying a no inconsiderable amount towards the erection and repairing of the school-house, and the tax contributed towards the public revenue. We are also aware that the school-houses were something like angelic visits, "few and far between;" and even if a man was able to pay, the distance often prevented him from sending his children. The teachers themselves were then badly paid, and law business was the result; his station was considered as not worth aspiring to; his services were often scorned by the community. The difficulties which impeded the road to education were almost insurmountable, and the last mite was paid for what gave little or no return.

Now, owing to the blessing of Responsible Government, we are extricated from those difficulties. We have about 13,000 of the youth of the Colony enjoying the benefits of a liberal education. Persons living in the most remote settlements are now on a level with those in the city, as far as sound learning is concerned. Only think of a standing army of 200 schoolmasters, all ready and determined to storm the strongholds of ignorance, and plant upon its ramparts the banner of knowledge. Instead of paying two or three pounds annually per scholar for a miserable education, we now receive a liberal one for a few shillings, and can send a dozen children if we choose. Well may we say that our school system stands unparalleled, as to efficiency, in British North America. Who would not be the supporter of a system productive of such incalculable good? Who would endeavor to disturb the harmony which prevails? No person, I presume, in his senses. But there are always fanatical individuals in every community who are continually disturbing the peace of society, and through whose instrumentality the masses are often deluded and falsely informed. Last spring the Bible question caused much discontent, and those same impostors are again fomenting distrust between Protestants and Catholics, by the most groundless charges against the latter with respect to the Bible in our mixed schools. They are now not satisfied with the perusal of the Bible themselves, but they must cram it down the throats of the Catholics; and this is attended with the most scandalous denunciations against the Church of Rome. Why do the hydra-headed editor of the "public-spirited" *Protector* ignominiously backbite or slander any christian religion? The Bible does not inculcate such a pernicious spirit. Does not the doctrine of consubstantiation seem just as unreasonable to many as that of transubstantiation appears to us? Recollect, the Roman Catholics perceive doctrines practised in the different Protestant churches which they believe to be inconsistent with the laws of God, and not without good foundation; but they do not wish to interfere with our religious beliefs. Let us all then support toleration, and ever live on friendly terms with our fellow men. Everlastingly thine,
Lot 50, March, 1858. AGRICOLA.

(INTERCEPTED EPISTLE)

TO MR. JOHN PARKER, HEAD OF St. PETER'S BAY.

Dear Sir—last night I read your letter
Of self-defence against the Doctor,
Whom you offended praising Barker
For lively preaching;
He thinks that those you spoke of, Parker,
Requires no teaching.
You've told "Old Drug" in English print
His treacherous tricks without a hint;
He little thought you were the flint
To spit such fire.
Through his odd frame, I'm sure, it went
Like points of brier.
Oh! Parker, had he but the chance,
He'd sharpen up his knife and lance;
You'd rue the day you spoke but once
Of the Election;
You'd first get chloroform—then a trance—
And then dissection.
As for religion, those who know him
Might have a guess which way he's going;
God knows if e'er he had a toe in
A church at home.
For all the prate at you he's throwing,
And those that's gone.
You know an old woman once was ask'd,
By a stranger who travel'd past,
What sort of Christians did they grasp
For such fine guardians?
"There are no Christians here," she said at last,
"They're all 'Johnstons an' Gordons."
Now, Parker, as sure as you are there,
This is my constant daily prayer,
That Doctor Jardine may stand fair
And try your logic;
I'll bet a cow you'd strip him bare,
A houndy object.
I'm sure, ere this, you are tired reading—
My rustic verse requires some weeding;
Perhaps there's not three words of logic breed in
This whole harangue;
I only want to show the way my mind is leading
As well as I can.
"Giv' me a spark o' nature's fire,
That's a' the learning I desire,
Then though I drudge through dub and mire,
At plough or cart,
My Muse, though hamely in attire,
May touch the heart."
Georgetown, January, 1858. A FRIEND.

ERRATUM.—In the communication signed "A Member of the Church of England," dated February 26, and published in the first page of the *Examiner*, March 8, 3rd column, at the end of the 2nd paragraph, for "common sinner," read *common Saviour*.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MARCH 15, 1858.

PUBLIC WORKS UNDER THE OLD AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Our attention has been directed, within a few days past, to stray copies of the *Islander* and *Monitor*—the latter of a recent date—in both of which we find an impudent claim set up on behalf of the old Family Compact Government to the construction of all the principal public works in the Colony, out of the means provided by the general revenue. We shall do the *Monitor* man the honor of copying the language in which he prefers this claim—not that we think his paper entitled to more credit or more influential than the *Islander*, and therefore the more dangerous of the two—far from it; but because it is nearest to hand, and is of a later date than the other. After ringing the changes on the usual slang of the Opposition papers, about "incompetent officials," increase of "public burdens," and "bankrupt Treasury," the long-eared censor of the *Monitor*, who has very properly selected a stable as the scene of his meditations, brayeth forth in the following style:—

"This state of things is the more remarkable, since the Tory party, so called, had undertaken and completed nearly all our great public works prior to the advent to power of our present rulers. Our Government House, Colonial Building, Court Houses and Jails, Lunatic Asylum, and nearly all the principal wharfs and bridges throughout the Colony, were erected by them."

Although we are told that a certain description of animals should be answered in such a manner as to mark our sense of their mental inferiority, we shall condescendingly suppose that our friend of the stable has a small share—a very small share—of common sense, and shall therefore discourse with him as if he were really a rational being.

Anent the Colonial Building first, which we are told was erected by the Tory Government by means of their small revenue. Now, it is well known that the money expended on the Colonial Building was drawn exclusively from the produce of the Land Assessment, which has for the last five years been appropriated to the service of Education. Several years were required to produce a sufficient amount from this tax to put the Colonial Building together; and when it was handed over to the care of the Liberals in 1851, it was a remarkable monument of the extravagance and jobbery of their predecessors, inasmuch as it required a large sum of money every year since to keep it from tumbling to pieces. Why, the Liberal Government expended nearly as much money for the education of the youth of the Colony last year as the Colonial Building cost their Tory predecessors, although the money by which it was built had been accumulating for years. Of course the amount of tax, in this case, bore a very small proportion to the grant for education, and from the general revenue the balance had to be paid.

Now, with respect to Government House, the Central Academy, and the Jails and Court Houses in Prince and King's Counties, the Tory Government did not expend much of the general revenue on these works, but obtained an issue of Treasury Notes for the purpose to the amount of £16,500, £11,500 of which they have left, amongst their other precious legacies, as a charge against the present Government. In support of this statement, we recommend to the especial notice of our readers the following extract from the report of the Committee of the House of Assembly on Public Accounts, presented to the House on February 25, 1854, which will be found in the *Journal* of that year, page 28:—

"The expenditure for the past year appears considerably to exceed that of any former year, the total amount being £13,759 6s. 5d. This great increase was contemplated by the House of Assembly at its last Session; and an issue of Treasury Notes was made to meet the expenditure which was occasioned by the appropriations for the erection of the new Government House, Academy, and other public buildings."

With respect to the Lunatic Asylum, another of the public buildings for which credit is given to the late Government—we can only say that the editors of the *Opposition Press* deserve to be placed under the roof of that establishment, if they think they can convince the intelligent public that their masters and patrons applied any portion of the general revenue towards its erection. We all know that the Crown Land Fund was used for this purpose, by consent of the Imperial Government, at whose disposal the Fund was exclusively placed; and the local Government had no more right to it than to any portion of the revenues collected in Great Britain.

Then with regard to other public works, let us see how the account stands.

The Tories, including all the branches and ramifications of the old Family Compact, divided the Government of this Colony between them from 1773 down to 1851. During this long period of seventy-eight years, we grant that they opened a few roads, with the pecuniary aid of the landed proprietors, and constructed a few bridges and wharfs. But before the Island became a British Dependency it had some excellent public thoroughfares, the traces of which are visible to this day; and while it was annexed to the Government of Nova Scotia, its local improvements kept pace with those in other sections of the united provinces. Here, then, we have historical facts to show that the old Government did not open up all the roads or build all the bridges and wharfs in the country.

The Liberals have been about six and a half years in office. Let us see what they have done towards repairing old works, and making new ones.

Ferry Wharf at Minchin's Point. This wharf had to be entirely rebuilt by the present Government, it was so inefficiently constructed by their predecessors that it soon yielded to the action of the weather.

Poplar Island Bridge had also to be rebuilt, owing to its inefficient construction; and we believe the Liberal Government have spent more money upon it than was at first required to erect it.

Government House. Very nearly the same remark as the preceding one will apply to this work.

Poential-street Wharf. The same remark will also apply in this case.

Point Prim Light House required to be newly covered. It was the only Light on the coast of the Island when the Liberals came into office; they have erected four others since.

The Jails and Court Houses at St. Eleanor's and Georgetown were disgraceful wrecks at the time the Liberals took office, and unsuited for the purposes for which they were intended. A large expenditure was, therefore, necessary to put them in their present condition.

The Colonial Building has been already noticed. A very large sum of money has been laid out by the Liberal Government to remedy the defects of its construction.

Central Academy. When the Liberals came into power they found one part of this building used as a cow-house, and another part devoted to worse purposes. In summer the lowest class teacher converted some of the upper rooms into a place of shelter, while in winter he was nearly frozen to death. It is now one of the best and most comfortable public buildings in the Colony; but we have to thank the present Government for liberal appropriations of the public money applied towards repairing it.

The Old Court House was suffered to go to decay, after the new Colonial Building afforded places for the Courts of Justice and the Legislative Assemblies. At this time the old Government was paying a heavy rent to one of their own relations for a room for the Post Office in an out-of-the-way place in Water-street. The new Government set themselves to work to repair and improve the old building, which they converted partly into a Post Office, and partly into a Town Hall and Corn Market, and we are certain that no alteration of a public building ever afforded more general satisfaction.

So much for repairs to Old Works; now for the New. We have had four new Light Houses erected since the present Government came into office, viz: 1. Panmure Island, 2. Richmond Bay; 3. Casempee; 4. Block House.

Normal School,
Ferry Wharf at Prince-street,
Eggle's Ferry Bridge,
Souris Bridge,
Oyster-bed Bridge, Rustico.

Large additions to many old wharfs, such as those at Summerside, Georgetown, Grand River, Launching Place, &c., besides the erection of many other wharfs in various localities.

But let us contrast the expenditure of the old Government with the new, in the matter of roads, bridges and wharfs generally, and education—monies for and from which the people derive the most material relief and advantage. The Tories never spent, in any one year, more than about £5,000 on these branches of the public service; while their successors appropriated (last year for instance) £24,000 for the same objects, shewing a balance of £18,000 in favour of the Liberal Government.

Then there is the grant for the encouragement of agricultural industry and the improvement of stock—in which all farmers are deeply interested,—it has increased from a paltry pittance to at least one thousand a year under the benign influence of a reform Government.

The grant to the Lunatic Asylum has likewise been largely increased, and the usefulness of that institution has been thereby proportionately advanced.

In the face of this enormous addition to the outlay for public works and public institutions, let us see what the debt of the Colony now stands. When the Liberals took charge of the sinking ship of state, her liabilities were £284,000. She had no assets. We are now informed by the A. G. that the whole debt of the Colony amounts to only £100,000. The debt after charging the Government with the purchase of 100 acres of Lead, at a cost of more than £20,000, and about giving credit for £10,000 on portions of this land sold, and for 50,000 acres yet to sell. If credit were given for these assets, and a fair balance struck, it would be seen that the debt of the Colony has dwindled to a few hundred pounds, notwithstanding the liberal expenditure of the past six years for all its public works and institutions.

SUPREME COURT AT GEORGETOWN.

The March Term of the Supreme Court for King's County was concluded on Thursday last. We are informed that there were very few cases for trial. The criminal business could not be gone into, in consequence of the Grand Jury panel comprising two minors. This defect vitiated the proceedings of that body in the cases of Alexander and James Parke, against whom a true bill had been found for murder; and in the case of three parties charged with wilfully and maliciously killing a horse. A good deal of feeling was, we understand, manifested by the public at the discovery of the defect in the Jury list; but as the list was made out and handed to the Court last July, long before the commission of either of the offences alluded to, it is quite clear that no corrupt complicity with the parties charged can be imputed to the Under Sheriff, whose duty it was to prepare such list and furnish it to the Court.

The March No. of the *Christian Chronicle*, under the editorship of Mr. Cephas Barker, made its appearance at the usual and proper time; and its contents are of a generally interesting character. Mr. Barker is becoming better acquainted with the nature of his new employment, and does his work very ably. His liberal and enlightened views on the question, now so much agitated, of sectarianising education, are very creditable to him, and cannot fail to have a salutary influence with the intelligent and respectable body of Christians of whom he is the advocate and organ in this Colony. We make the following extracts from his last No. with reference to the so-called "Protestant Combination," and the late Meeting which was intended to be a great one, convened under its auspices:—

"PROTESTANT COMBINATION."—We are not in the secrets of this combination; neither were we honored with an invitation to attend the public meeting; nor are we aware that any of the Bible Christian ministers received any such invitation. Nevertheless, we attended, and were struck with the fact, that while seven Presbyterian ministers addressed the meeting (and four of them made two speeches each), the Episcopalian and Wesleyan were each represented by one minister only,—the former by Mr. Fitzgerald, who acted as van guard; the latter by Mr. Sutcliffe, who acted as rear guard, under the generalship of Lieut.-Col. Grey (the chairman). The Baptist and Bible Christian denominations, next to none in their love to the Bible, and in their adherence to the distinctive principles of Protestantism—were unrepresented. Why was this?

THE MEETING.—We listened with great attention to the speeches, but listened in vain for any argument, or even the shadow of it, by which the position we had taken could be proved erroneous. On the contrary, the most enthusiastic speaker indirectly advocated the opinions we had previously put to paper. We congratulate the gentleman who addressed the meeting upon the greatly improved tone of their speeches. We strongly sympathize with many of the views enunciated upon the occasion referred to, and respectfully invite their attention to the following:

1. Do we act wisely to encourage the people to depend upon grants from the public treasury for the payment of the