

been produced; and should the country be involved in the expenses of another abortive military expedition against the tenantry, he will know who to blame.

Your correspondent wishes to associate "Responsible Government," in a particular manner, with me and my family; and asserts that by the diffusion of its principles among the tenantry, we may hope to see the "enviable distinction of M. P. P." added to our family honours.

Your obedient Servant, WILLIAM CLARK. Darnley, Jany. 10th, 1844.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD. SIR,—Understanding that a portion of our community have it in contemplation to establish a District Visiting Society in this town, may I request your insertion of the following extract from the Rev. C. Benson's District Visitor's Manual, published in 1840, for their information and guidance.

Jany. 17th, 1844. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.—Jon xxxix. 16.

An Inquiry, concerning the formation of District Visiting Societies, answered.

As the following questions, proposed by a correspondent, relate to a difficulty which has no doubt often presented itself to the clergy, on entering a new parish, we have given them, with the answer, at length, and hope both will be found useful under similar circumstances:— "May I take the liberty of putting a question, which I should be very glad if you would answer? What is your advice, in the case of a clergyman's entering upon a parish in which he can find very few, or none, fit to be visitors? Is there any good done by appointing persons to deliver tracts who are not serious? In case none were to be found, would you recommend any Society being established until some change was perceptible? In case of one or two, would you advise a portion of the parish being committed to their hands, and more being added as you could find serviceable persons? I rather incline to this latter plan; because, if in order to sweep a parish you put any persons in the place of visitors whose heart is not occupied in their work, even although you might light upon more proper persons afterwards, it is exceedingly difficult to get rid of those whom you have already employed."

Answer: "The questions you have proposed, as to the employment of persons as District Visitors who are not serious, are important. And as it has often been put to the Committee before, they would offer to you the same opinion they have given to others, which is, in fact, to adopt the latter of the two plans that have presented themselves to your own mind, and rather to begin with a portion of the parish, and add to the districts and visitors, as suitable persons can be called into action, than to have the whole pre-occupied by those whose spiritual qualifications are not satisfactory."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD. Sir, I have refrained from addressing you on the important subject of the Church School Glebe fund, in the vain hope that, ere this, some public explanation would have been afforded, proving that the best interests of the Church were no longer violated, and that preparation was going forward towards giving the children of our poorer brethren a religious education. In fact, a statement ought to have appeared in the shape of an Account Current, from the commencement of the receipt of the fund to the present moment, detailing every particular transaction as to its investment, securities, &c. &c.

Although a mantle has been thrown around these matters, and every encouragement given to frustrate so desirable an object, I will not, nevertheless, be deterred in reminding the public of the evil under which the poorer classes still suffer—one so detrimental to their spiritual and moral welfare and comfort. That the communicants of the Established Church have an undoubted right to make any inquiries into this fund, is undeniable; and though we may not possess the power legally to interfere, it still becomes our duty, as Christians, to yield evangelical obedience, in all that appertains to the honor and glory of our Redeemer, and not wilfully to neglect or evade his service, under an erroneous idea that responsibility cannot exist without our concurrence. We are commanded "to be diligent in seeking to save souls," and to stir up others in promoting public good, by example and influence.

In what manner have we fulfilled this trust reposed in us? Have we not woefully neglected this sacred duty? Are our consciences so seared as to be dead and insensible to our deeds of omission as well as those of commission? If we, the laity, are found deficient in not requiring a full investigation into this fund, in what position do our ministers appear? Have they only to preach the gospel, and permit rumours so seriously affecting the safety of the fund to pass unnoticed and unregarded, and patiently to await the fulfilment of a duty committed to those who are put in authority over them? Previous to such a conclusion, these rumours ought to have been openly brought before the public authorities, for enquiry, that their truth or falsehood might be ascertained; for if the clergy residing on the spot appear to attach no importance to them, how can our respected Diocesan, residing at a distance, be reasonably expected to take the burden upon himself.

All we now require is zeal and energy; and when the Clergy shall have come forward, fearing no man's power, and courting no man's favor, we may then be certain that those "whispers" will be well looked into; they ought to set the example; theirs ought to be the first place in every Christian enterprise. I have been unwarrantably accused of making unjust and calumnious statements, and of having arrived at false conclusions; these, as well as other ungenerous expressions,

have been the only arguments (if such they can be termed) advanced against my opinions. The cause I advocate is one of common justice, due to the poorer classes from their more affluent brethren, to whom they naturally look for assistance and protection, in all their difficulties; and however disagreeable it may be to be subject to uncharitable remarks, so strongly conveyed, and, in my opinion, so unbecoming a Minister of the Gospel, the sacred interests that are said to be misapplied vindicate the duty I have thus endeavored to fulfil; and should these series of letters, with their replies, be eventually the means of properly securing the fund in question, I shall feel myself amply repaid for the unfair treatment to which I have been exposed.

The charge of "fawning upon the public," is almost too contemptible to notice. I have sought no man's favor or approbation; the tenor of my letters are more likely to incur reproach and censure from a misjudging world; but I have the satisfaction to know that many entertain similar sentiments, and most ardently desire a reformation in the affair.

This is a public question. As such I have treated it, and shall exercise my own judgment when and in what manner I shall appear before the community. I disclaim imputing unworthy or improper motives to any one; but must maintain that we all have neglected our duty; and as it is admitted that we have an undoubted right to investigate into the affairs of this trust, it necessarily becomes our bounden duty to enforce it.

In conclusion, I may observe, that these Lands were sold in 1836, and realised £3,900. This sum ought to have been paid immediately into the Treasury. Has such been the case? If not, who has benefited by this transaction? By Lord Glenelg's despatch, dated in Decr. 1838, the proceeds of the Church Lands, amounting to about £3,000 (interest not included), were directed to be appropriated to Schools, in connexion with the Church (the amount the School Lands realised was about £900, for general education). It is evident that if this fund was properly managed during the preceding seven years, it would have yielded, to this period, at least £1200 interest, thus making a total of £4200. At present, I shall forbear entering into this question, but shall patiently await the appearance of an Account Current, when the secrets of the trust (if any really exist) will, no doubt, be brought more fully to light.

18th Jany. 1844. P. S.—With respect to the management or expenditure of the £900 towards general Education, this also may require looking into. I trust others, more competent than myself, will not lose sight of this subject.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

SIR,—I have been much gratified in perusing the Seventh Report of the Colonial Church Society, which has recently reached this Island. Among other interesting subjects, the following quotations are calculated to call forth greater energies, on the part of our Church, towards effectually supporting this excellent Institution, which hitherto has been met with a spirit of lukewarmness, although its introduction, in the year 1840, promised its permanent establishment in this Island.

Your obedient Servant, B. Jany. 16th, 1844.

"I have reason to believe that Dissenters would, in many quarters, heartily embrace the Church, had we more evangelical ministers to send among them."

"Your Committee continue to receive assurances from the Corresponding Committee, and other friends on the spot, that nothing would prevent its beneficial operations, were existing impediments removed."

"The people are anxious to have faithful clergymen and pious Catechists and Schoolmasters. They are willing to contribute for these purposes, and generally desire to see the Colonial Church Society assume a bolder position."

"A public Meeting of the Members of the Society was recently held in the Council Chamber in Charlottetown, His Excellency the Governor in the chair, and attended by the Chief Justice and several Members of the Legislature. Very decided Resolutions were unanimously adopted. His Excellency pointed out, in elegant and forcible language, both the utility of the objections made to the introduction of a new Society into the field of Colonial destitution, and the claims of the Colonial Church Society upon the regard and support of the Members of our Church."

"Fully participating in the anxiety felt in Prince Edward Island, that an increased number of Clergymen should be appointed, your Committee promptly responded to the Resolutions of the Meeting, by offering to meet Colonial subscriptions of £100, for any destitute and defined locality, with an equal sum—to be continued annually, so long as the meeting demanded it, and the funds of the Society enabled your Committee to make the grant. The result of this proposal is anxiously expected."

"The humble labours of Mr. Brooks, the Society's devoted Catechist and Schoolmaster at Murray Harbour, in this Island, have been very satisfactory. Testimony has been borne to his irreproachable character from different quarters."

PRICE AT WHICH WHEAT CAN BE GROWN IN AMERICA.

(From the Liverpool Times.) The following estimate of the extent of the wheat-growing capabilities of the United States, and of the price at which that description of grain can be grown in that country, is from the pen of a gentleman who has made the corn trade of America his study and business for between thirty and forty years. If it is at all near the truth, it proves that the hopes entertained by some parties, and the fears felt by others, of an immense extension of the corn-trade of America, are very ill-founded. The writer, after examining the results of the last two or three harvests, and showing how little foundation there was for the reports of a great annual surplus of wheat, which have from time to time (and especially after last harvest) been published in the American papers, observes:—

"Very erroneous estimates have been made abroad, as well as at home, of the capacity and disposition of this country to extend the culture of wheat, and the idea is constantly held up in England, by the advocates of the Corn Laws, that if these are abolished the United States will inundate England with wheat at any price she will pay for it."

"The price of one dollar per bushel in the Atlantic cities is not considered more than remunerative, nor is wheat esteemed a profitable crop by the farmers at less than a dollar and twenty-five cents. The reason is evident. Not only does it require more labour and better tillage than Indian corn, but it is a far more uncertain crop; experience having proved that a general good crop cannot be expected in more than one out of four years—perhaps the average of the last fifty years will go nearer to one in five. This is sufficient to account for the fact, well ascertained, that wheat does not increase in the old States pro rata with the population, but that these already have to rely on the west for a part of their consumption. In the west, there must be an increase every year to meet not only this demand from the old States, but also to feed a population at home, increasing in the Mississippi Valley at the rate of eighty per cent. in ten years, and a large proportion of that increase not in the wheat districts. If Great Britain will abolish her Corn Laws, and guarantee fifty-five shillings per quarter for ten years, for wheat delivered at her seaport towns, it might have some influence to extend its culture on this side; but below that price our export will be very small, as it always has been, unless after unusually productive crops. And should the population of Great Britain continue to increase in the same rate as since the year 1800 she will be compelled, by the actual want of bread grain, to abolish her Corn Laws within ten years, and to grant bounties, to obtain a regular supply of bread before twenty years. For at the termination of that period, without any allowance for unfavourable crops, the population will be such, that English soil cannot furnish us with food of all kinds."

The fact that the abundant harvest of last year, though aided by three million quarters of foreign wheat, was barely sufficient for the wants of the country, bears out the opinion

expressed in the last paragraph, and proves that unless the population of this country ceases to increase, the Corn Laws must be swept away before many years have expired, to save the people from absolute starvation.

THE TENURE OF LAND IN IRELAND.—If the commission appointed to inquire into the tenure of land in the sister Isle is faithfully carried out, and if the reports of that commission are honorably acted upon by the Government, it will do more for the peace and welfare of that distracted country than has ever yet been contemplated by either its Legislature or its most devoted advocates. Next to the Church (that frightful incubus, which has preyed upon its very vitals, and which has convulsed Ireland to its very centre), stands the monster evil—the law of landlord and tenant—which has so subdivided and destroyed property, that it has left to a numerous and naked population nothing but a few potatoes, and those of the worst description, for their daily food. Hence arises that constant struggle between landlord and tenant, in which the former does all in his power to obtain the highest rent, and the latter exerts all his subtlety to evade the fulfilments of the covenants that bind him to that rent; and hence there is not to be found in Ireland that independence which makes Englishmen happy in their holdings. The destructive and unnatural warfare that is carried on between landlord and tenant is solely attributable to the tenure under which land is at present held, by which the actual cultivator of the soil has nothing for his labour but the sweat of his brow, and which does not even afford him his daily bread. Englishmen, accustomed to live under the fostering influences of the owners of the soil, can have no idea of the profitless vassalage of the Irish, who, although proverbially industrious and patient, are deprived of the blessings of food, the comfort of clothing, and almost of their natural right of a roof to shelter themselves from the bleak winds of heaven. The causes of these evils are many and varied, and the chief of them is, that of the tenants being, by the tenure of their land, exposed to the tender mercies of a grasping, grinding agent, who, while in power, omits no opportunity of converting the tenant's necessities to the aggrandizement of their own wealth. As soon as the 25th of March or 29th of September (which are the rent call days) arrives, these hungry cormorants serve notice upon the tenants, that on such a day they will expect the rent to be paid at their offices. The unfortunate tenants are generally unprepared to meet the one-sided appointments. The result is, that on the following day an attorney's letter is sent, which is quickly followed by a distress, and the sale of the farmer's stock. This proceeding naturally reduces the tenant to insolvency, and puts it completely out of his power to meet either of the succeeding gales. Ejectments follow, an "habere" is issued, the tenant is turned out, and he sees the land which he and his ancestors cultivated late and early, pass into strange hands, the heartless agent receiving, as a douceur, £100 or £200 from the coming-in tenant. What follows? The murder of either the agent or the new tenant, and the expiation upon the gallows of the foul crime by the execution of the wretch who was ejected, and who, driven to madness by seeing himself, his wife and family, thrown wanderers upon the wide world, satiates his vengeance in the blood of his real or imaginary enemy. To these frightful and lamentable causes are to be attributed the assassinations of Messrs. Hall, Hussey, and others, who, through their agents, endeavoured to enrich themselves, and their ruthless mercenary, by trampling upon ruined cottages and broken hearts. The expiration of leases is another fruitful source of gain to the grinding agents, and of misery to their victims. No matter with what care the tenant may have worked the land—no matter how punctually he may have paid his rent, he cannot obtain the renewal of his lease, unless he is able and willing to pay such a premium for it as is offered by another. He demurs to the terms. Then follows an ejectment upon title, accompanied by all its horrors, which fill the cruel agent's pockets with gold, while it locks up in a dungeon the wretched ejected tenant. How can peace—how can industry—how can loyalty be expected in a land where such brutal atrocities are perpetrated and are sanctioned by law? Facts will on another occasion prove that these appalling statements are not idle assertions, but that they are a part and parcel of the frightful picture which Ireland at this moment presents. They are facts which, without the slightest expectation of redress, are, with a blind stupid desperation, driving the Irish into all the risks and dangers of imprisonment, banishment and death.

BREAKING UP OF THE ICE IN THE NECKAR.—When a thaw comes, after a long frost on the large rivers, the boatmen are on the watch for its suddenly breaking up. For days it will be all still, and as if apparently it would last for ever; but the practical eye of the waterman knows when it will suddenly take its departure. "The ice will go to-night," they say; for it is a very singular fact, that it almost invariably goes in the night, and generally about twelve o'clock. It is said that, by referring to the files of newspapers where the breaking up of the ice is each year recorded, it is found that regularly in 20 times it breaks up in the Rhine, 19 of them are in the night. The boatmen on the Neckar, after the severe frost of 1840, accordingly, one night, when the thaw had continued some days, said, "It will go to-night." To our eyes there appeared no more likelihood than there had done on the first day of the thaw. All was one hard surface of ice. No water had flowed over it; and one could at sunset have ventured to walk across it. But when it became dark, torches were seen flaring here and there, along the banks of the Neckar, especially by the city, where the houses and mills might be endangered by a sudden breaking loose, and as sudden rising of the flood; for the Neckar, lying in a deep valley, and running for forty or fifty miles along it, with a high and mountainous country on each side, rises rapidly sometimes after heavy rains, or a deep snow, followed by a rapid thaw, to thirty or forty feet; and marks may be seen on many of the houses showing the height to which it rose in certain years. The highest of these is one accompanying the breaking up of the ice in 1784, and is on the second story of the houses, about twenty feet above the road, which road is as high again above the ordinary level of the river. When one of these sudden floods accompanies the breaking-up of an ice perhaps two feet thick, the spectacle is perfectly sublime. The solid mass, heaved by the water, which is driven like a mighty wedge beneath, rifts and explodes as with the reports of cannon. The huge masses of ice are tossed up by the torrents that rush from beneath them, and rearing their sharp crystallised edges against each other, grind and roar, like lions in combat with tigers. The whole scene, that a few minutes before was silent and motionless, becomes one chaos of confusion, uproar, the crushing of conflicting, and grinding of furious and vast sheets of ice against each other. There is a rush and sough of waters all in activity. It is as if they had sprung at once from a long sleep, and awoke not only with their old voice, but with a hubbub of strange sounds both from their own bed and from the men on the banks. As these tremendous blocks of ice are thus rushing down the river—and many of them are carried out by their own mutual violence upon the banks—they would, if not guarded against, do infinite damage, crushing boats, smashing mill-works, and tearing away every thing that obstructed them. A constant and anxious watch becomes necessary. A man from each village or town is ready, at the first glimpse of its breaking up, to ride to the next place, giving the alarm as he goes, by crying aloud, "The ice goes! The ice goes!" The people all flock to the river side; guns are fired, and torches appear in every direction. The boatmen get their vessels, which happen to have been frozen up, dragged out of the waters; and along the streets of towns, men and boys in crowds stand with poles, ready to push away the blocks that threaten damage; and if the waters appear likely to rise rapidly, to be in readiness, many of them, to get the goods out of their houses, into numbers of which it will flow. Imagine at the same moment this scene of excitement extending along the banks of the great rivers of Germany and of their tributaries—and what an animated idea! On the night, then, on which the boatman prognosticated the going of the ice, we were actually awoke by the swift galloping past of a horse, and the loud cry of a man—"The ice goes! The ice goes!" I leaped from my bed, struck a light, looked at my watch, and it was—just twelve! Throwing open a

window that faced the river, the scene was most strange and striking. An hour before, when I lay down, all was silent; now there came a wild and awful sound of contending elements through the darkness. Souds of grinding, crushing, cracking—of rushing, roaring waters, and the sweep of winds, bringing from above the heavy dull explosions of ice-masses. Along the banks flared hundreds of torches. The cries of human voices—those of men, women, and children—came on all sides. Guns were firing rapidly near the city. One could perceive through the darkness, white and spectral masses moving on the waters, and then the reading of fresh sheets away as those rushed against them. Below, from the bridge where the gigantic pieces were continually striking against the piers, came the dull and continued thunders of a distant battle. I hastily threw on my clothes, and ran towards the city. A more picturesque scene is not imaginable. People were hastening from all quarters to the river-side. As I drew near to the intelligence. He was in his long dressing-gown and red cap, and made many apologies for showing himself in such dishabille. We turned down to the river bank, and proceeded under a wide-arched passage beneath a garden terrace. Before us flared a cresset fire, showing the blackened vaults and shadowy pillars around us. "It was like the passage through some bandit's cave. At every opening on the river's banks stood throngs with torches, and poles, and anxious looks. Women called out of the windows, and others with their clothes thrown on in haste equal to my own, and with their cloaks or gowns-skirts thrown over their heads, were hurrying here and there—all was life, wakefulness and animation. We made our way to the bridge, where, though the ice, considering that it wastwo feet thick, was moving off in an orderly style as could be expected, yet it presented a striking spectacle. By the light of their torches, we could see it hurrying along in huge platforms, of many yards square, which came ever and anon with such convulsions against the strong stone bridge, that it trembled beneath us. The grinding and rustling sound, and the whiteness of the ice-masses, as they chafed against each other in going along, and raised round their edges a snowy ridge, had a singular effect; but the scenes and the groups around were not less striking. Under old dingy archways, at whose feet rushed the vexed waters, at every opening from the city to the stream, on the bridge, and along the banks, were seen wild-looking throngs, made strikingly conspicuous by their torches. Above, by the collected glare of all the torches, might be dimly discerned the old dusty towers and gables of this picturesque town; and high around, the dim sides of the wooden mountains, silent and dusk. The ruins of the old castle, too, overlooked the busy river in majestic gloom and indifference, as if it felt that it had once had its times of stir and human excitement, but had long ago done with them, and had no more concern with man, and the changes of the seasons, than to stand through all, a solemn monument of the past.

ON PRACTICAL AND SPECULATIVE ABILITY.—The two kinds of ability here pointed out must exist more or less in every individual, but they are often combined in very unequal proportions. A high degree of speculative is frequently found in conjunction with a low degree of practical ability; and conversely, the practical talents are sometimes superior to the speculative. Men, who have exhibited the greatest powers of mind in their writings, having been found altogether inefficient in active life, and incapable of availing themselves of their own wisdom. With comprehensive views, and a capacity for profound reasoning on human affairs, they have felt bewildered in actual emergencies. Keen and close observers of the characters, the failings, and the accomplishments of others, they have not had the power of conforming their own conduct to their theoretical standard of excellence. Giants in the closet, they have proved but children in the world. This destitution of practical talent in men of fine intellect often excites the wonder of the crowd. They seem to expect that he who has shown powers of mind bespeaking an almost all-comprehensive intelligence, and who has, perhaps, poured a flood of light on the path of action to be pursued by others, should, as a matter of course, be able to achieve any enterprise and master any difficulties himself. Such expectations, however, are unreasonable and ill-founded. Excellence in one thing does not necessarily confer excellence in all, or even in things requiring the exercise of the same faculties. Both practical and speculative ability are, no doubt, modifications of mental power; but one, on that account, by no means implies the other, any more than dexterity in reefing a sail involves the art of leaping a five-barred gate, though they are both instances of physical skill.

EMULATION.—Emulation seems to be synonymous with laudable ambition; for when we excite emulation amongst children, what is it but ambition that we stir in them? And in doing so, we cannot too carefully guard against provoking their envy and jealousy. But the propensity in human nature to delight in superiority, may, however, be rendered highly useful both to the teacher and the pupil, if great care be taken to keep it within due bounds, and to attach a proper degree of importance, severally, to each advantage that may be derived from nature, or acquired by care and study. And the teacher, while he excites emulation, ought, in order to check presumption, to take frequent occasion to remind his successful pupil that every one gifted with distinguished talents is justly expected to excel his competitors, and that it is to be ascertained if he have not more cause for humiliation than pride upon comparing his acquisitions with his superior powers and opportunities of improving himself. Besides, if he excel them in one respect, they may possibly have some advantage over him in another.

DREAMS.—When reason descends from her throne and seeks a transitory respite from her labour, fancy usurps the vacant seat, and in pretended majesty would fain exert her sister's various powers. These she enacts to the best of her ability, and with about the same success as attends a monkey when he attempts the several operations connected with the mystery of shaving; and thus ends a very short and conclusive dissertation upon dreams.

HOBBIES.—If you want to be happy, mount a hobby. If you want to be learned, have a hobby. This world is a dreary place to a man who has not a hobby. He knows not what to do with his time if he has got any to spare, and if he has got none to spare, he knows not how to season his labour so as to make it palatable. A man will learn more in a week riding on a hobby, than in twelve months walking on his leather soles. Boys should not cease to ride hobbies when they become men; they ought merely to procure more manly hobbies, and ride on. In fact, the most valuable portion of the life of man, is that which he spends on his hobby. He himself is happy in riding, and most probably he invents or discovers something which promotes the happiness of others. All great improvements in art, all great discoveries in science, have been made by men when riding on their hobbies. In fine, the greatest luminaries of mind which the world has produced have been hobby riders; men who apparently sacrificed themselves for the good of mankind, but who, after all, were merely consulting their own private happiness in riding their hobbies. The silk-worm that spins its cocoon of silk *con amore*, is happier than the saucy termagant who sometimes decorates her person with the labour of the insect. It is an enthusiast, and whenever there is an enthusiasm there is happiness. We have no occasion to pity the enthusiast; he is happier than we are, if we are not enthusiasts. We are yawning for want of excitement, and for want of excitement we take to smoking, and drinking, and gambling, and roasting. He, on the contrary, has found amusement, and time flies sweetly over his head, as he feels on the luxuries of thought.

Friendships are sometimes as warm as they are accidental. One may be formed by sharing a Prayer-book in St. Paul's; another from a passenger in Oxford-street communicating the pleasing intelligence that our purse has been just abstracted by a pickpocket. A man who holds out for formal introduction before he ventures to offer a civility, goes to the grave leaving an unregretted clique behind, who do not value his demise at a pin's fee, while he who takes mankind as they come, rough and smooth together, will find one and all dress combined, but, with a little discrimination, he will not be frequently puzzled in making his election between the two.