

# THE MINERS' JOURNAL,

## AND POTTSVILLE GENERAL ADVERTISER.

IT WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS METALS WHICH WILL ENRICH YOU TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

VOL. 1.

POTTSVILLE, PA. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1838.

NO. 13.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY BENJAMIN MANNAN.

**SEMI-WEEKLY,**  
THREE DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS per annum, payable semi-annually in advance. If not paid within the year, \$1 will be charged for all those who receive the paper free of postage. To mail subscribers \$3 per annum. If not paid within the year, 50 cents will be added to the price of subscription.

**WEEKLY,**  
TWO DOLLARS per annum, payable semi-annually in advance. If not paid within the year, \$2 50 will be charged. Advertisements exceeding twelve lines will be charged \$1 for three insertions, and 50 cents for one insertion. Larger ones in proportion.

All advertisements will be inserted until ordered out, unless the time for which they are to be continued is specified, and will be charged accordingly. Yearly advertisements will be charged \$12 per annum, including subscription to the paper, with the privilege of keeping one advertisement not exceeding 2 squares standing during the year, and the insertion of a smaller one in each paper for three successive times. All letters addressed to the editor must be post paid, otherwise no attention will be paid to them.

All notices for meetings, &c., and other notices which have heretofore been inserted gratis, will be charged 25 cents each, except Marriages and Deaths.

**Wetherill & Brother,**  
AT THE OLD STAND,  
No. 65 NORTH FRONT STREET,  
EAST SIDE,  
PHILADELPHIA.

Three Doors from the Corner of Arch St.  
**MANUFACTURERS OF**  
White Lead dry and Calumet,  
ground in Oil, Red Receipt,  
Lead, White do, Vitrol Alb.  
Litharge, Sulph. Quinine,  
Cronick Yellow, Tart. Emetic,  
do Green, Elix. Scipho.  
do Red, Nitric do  
Patent Yellow, do Acetic  
Sugar Lead, do Lunar Caustic  
Coperns, do Con.  
Ol. Vitrol, do Accl. Morphia  
Aq. Fortis, do Sulph. do  
Muriatic Acid, do do  
Epsom Salts, do do  
Tert. Acid, do do  
Sup. Carb. Soda, do do  
Carros. Sub. Merc., do do  
Refiners of Chloroph. Salt Nitre, Brimstone, Borax, &c.

**N. Nathans & Co.**  
OFFER for sale at their wholesale and retail Family Grocery Store, Centre St. 3 doors below Market street, a prime assortment of best Groceries, consisting of

Java, Rio, Laguna, Coffee  
St. Domingo and brown Sugars  
N. Orleans, St. Croix, and lump  
White and Orleans, West  
India and sugar house Molasses  
Imperial, Gun Powder, Yeast  
Hyson, Pouchong, Orange Pecc.  
do Bourbon and Brandy  
Bakers, Chinas, Spices, Schmitz  
& Lingas, and sweet spices  
Prepared Cocoa, Cocoa shells  
Reading, Carice, Harvey,  
John Bull, Scotch Whisky, Sauces  
Canton soy and Currie  
Gherkin, Tomato, pepper,  
Mixed, Onion, Mangoc, Pickles  
Lemon and French  
Olives, capers, Anchovies,  
Cayenne pepper, allspice and Ginger  
Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs and cassia  
Rice, flour of rice, starch  
Currants, Figs, Raisins, Prunes  
Old hock, Ebbel, do  
Olive Oil, wine bitter, lemon syrup  
Preserved ginger, chesne, codfish  
Herring, mackerel, salmon  
White and colored wine  
Moulded and diph. Wines  
Elin, variegated brown and yellow soap  
Old Madeira, old port, claret  
Brown and pale sherry, champagne  
Cognac, champagne, Spanish & com brandy  
Sweet malaga, muscadel  
Malmsey, marseilles & Sicily Madei.  
Scottish, Irish, monogahela & com whiskey  
Annisette, amaretto, poppermint cordial  
Cognac, champagne, Spanish & com brandy  
Holland & com, Gin N. E. Rom  
Jamaica spirits  
Extra sup. span, inferior do  
Half Spanish and common cigars  
Cut & plain and moulded glass Ware  
China and crockery

**ALSO**  
a general assortment of Dry Goods, &c. &c. all of which they are disposed to sell on the most reasonable terms. Heads of Families and Tavern keepers are particularly invited to call.

**THE** subscriber has now on hand at his Store and Storehouse on Centre and Rail Road streets, a full assortment of Goods, suitable for the coal region viz:

Barrel of assorted sizes, do  
Band and Hoop do  
Nails and Spike Rods do  
Steel, Round & Square do  
Nails and Spikes do  
Coal Shovels do  
Hardware, a general assortment.

All of which he is selling at reduced prices, Jan 13 J. CLAYTON.

**NEW GOODS.**  
**JOSEPH C. KERN**  
RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Pottsville & vicinity, that he constantly keeps on hand, at the corner of Centre and Callowhill streets, next door above the National Hotel, a large and elegant assortment of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, with a choice selection of Wines, Liqueurs and Crockery ware, all of which have been purchased at the very lowest cash prices in the Philadelphia market, and will be sold at 12 1/2 per cent advance.

All kind of country produce taken in exchange for goods, aug 19 39-46

**Notice**  
IS hereby given, that letters Testamentary have been granted to the subscriber, by the Register of Schuylkill County, on the estate of Richard Bruce, deceased, late of Minersville, Schuylkill county. All persons indebted to said estate are therefore requested to make payment to the subscriber immediately, and such who may have claims on said estate are likewise requested to present them, well authenticated, for settlement.

**HENRY CHRIST,**  
Administrator.

### ENGLAND.

Exchange at New York, on London, 7 1/4 per cent prem.

**Saddlery.**—The woolen manufacture of Saddleworth is in a depressed condition; the weavers are not earning more on an average than six or seven shillings per week; it becomes a matter of difficulty for families of five to eight individuals to exist; yet these poor and wretched operatives are not without hope for the better; they are looking with anxiety to the results of the enquiry of the Commissioners into their condition.

**The Cotton Trade.**—The demand for goods during the present week has been improving, and an advance has been obtained upon most descriptions of grey cloth. Cotton and materials, however, continue to take the lead in the increase of price. At the present rates of woad and warps, it is impossible for the manufacturers to replace their goods at the prices which they are now making; and if the demand continues, a further advance in the price of all kinds of cloth will undoubtedly take place. *Manchester Chron.*

**Hand Loom Weavers.**—There is not a set of workmen in Lancashire so imposed upon as the silk and cotton hand-loom weavers. Last week fourteenth weavers from the neighborhood of Little Moss Ashton, took their work to a warehouse in Manchester, and were obliged to sign a paper to be reduced; scarcely a weaver takes his work to the warehouse, but they are obliged to submit to the reductions; hundreds of families are in a miserable state in many of the neighboring towns round Manchester.

The American houses of Grant, Bell & Co. are about to resume business, to the great gratification of a large circle of friends, by whom they are esteemed for their uniformly honorable and prudent conduct. A dividend of 10s. in the pound will be paid almost immediately.

**North Midland Railway.**—The contracts for the formation of the railway in the Ekeington district, have been taken by Messrs. Nelson and Kitchen, of Halifax; the Beighton portion, by Mr. Rutherford of Wingerworth; the Treston, by Mr. Joel Barton, the contractor for building the new church; and the Bullbridge, by Mr. Jackson, of London.

On Tuesday, one of the boilers of the Hartwell colliery exploded, by which means several of the workmen were severely scalded. We understand that the recovery of some of them is very doubtful. *Sunderland Herald.*

A landlord in Sussex has adopted a new mode of correcting the evil consequent upon the growth of weeds. Whenever any of his farms are found to be overstocked with weeds, the rent is immediately raised, it being a maxim with the individual in question that "if a tenant can afford to grow weeds, he can afford to pay more rent."

**Horrid Murder.**—The usually peaceable county of Westmorland has been the scene of a most atrocious and cold-blooded murder. A person named Thomas Hunter, about 32 years of age, residing at Langdale, in the parish of Orton, a butter dealer, and who acted as a common carrier between his own neighborhood and the market town of Kendal, was shot on his return home on Saturday night, within half a mile of his own house. Being a steady and industrious man, he was known to be frequently entrusted with large sums of money, and from Kendal, and the knowledge of this fact doubtless tempted him to the perpetration of the diabolical act. He was in the habit of leaving home on the Friday morning and returning from Kendal on the Saturday evening about 9 o'clock. On Saturday he had been commissioned to bring home some articles for a neighbor; but not arriving at his usual time, the neighbor walked out on the road to meet him, and had not gone far before he met Hunter's horse and cart standing in a field, and no appearance of his owner. An alarm was given, and a few neighbors assembled and proceeded in search of Mr. Hunter. At a short distance and not more than half a mile from his own door, they found the unfortunate man lying across the road, a horrid spectacle, with the back part of his head blown off.

At the annual sale of Underwood, on the Acon place estate, by Messrs. Blunden and Rolle, the high price of £16 per acre was obtained for only 12 years growth.

**Manchester and Leeds Railway Contracts.**—Messrs. Faville & Sons, are the contractors for the Horbury line on the Wakefield line of one mile, including the spacious arch over Kirkgate; the Leeds line has not yet been let, but it is fully expected that Mr. M'Intosh will be the contractor.

In the Insolvent Debtor's Court, on Thursday, Lord Edward Thynne was examined and discharged. His debts were stated at the enormous sum of £221,059; for £155,000 of which he had received no consideration. Among his creditors is Mr. Thomas Duncombe, for £28,200.

The contest for the Coronership of one of the divisions of the county of Worcester had just terminated in favor of Mr. Smith, who has, out of eight thousand votes, polled a majority of two hundred in his favor. The remarkable features of the contest are, the immense number of freeholders who voted, and the large expenditure of money by the candidates. Mr. Smith and Mr. Stokes having each spent £5,000, to obtain £200 a year, that being the highest remuneration yet received from the office. *Worcester Jour.*

### IRELAND.

**Theatre Royal.**—Visit of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.—Thursday night his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant visited the Theatre in state. His reception was flattering in the extreme. The house was thronged to suffocation. No command was ever so complimented by the public. Seats seemed to be out of the question, unless where pre-occupied. There was no seemingly disturbance, unless such as here and there occurred in the effort to obtain or keep places. When his Excellency entered the cheering was tremendous, and again and again the warm, welcome notes, as his Excellency entered this carriage, in taking his departure, the crowds of the humblest classes of our fellow-citizens that thronged the area in front of the Theatre gave louder, if not more earnest, expression to their love than those who had gathered within its walls.

G. C. Banton, Esq. second son of the late Timothy Banton of this city, was last week sworn in her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, a member of the Hon. Society of King's inn.

The Dublin Freeman states that the removal of Chief Constable Henderson from Clonbeg to Enniskillen was for having kept two notoriously improper women in a house next door to the police barrack, of which a report was sent to Government.

**Agricultural and Commercial Bank.**—We must, as Irishmen, express our satisfaction at the resumption of business by the Agricultural and Commercial Bank, which, while working, conducted so largely to the advancement of the Agricultural and Trading districts of the country, and would, ere this time, if not interrupted in its usual operations, have enriched Ireland by no less an amount than two millions. While the re-appearance of the Agricultural Bank cheers the farmers and gladdens the population of the various districts in which they are now being circulated, gloom and grinding, and paucity have been already evinced by certain rural establishments, for this national reform, popular support, and general confidence which the pressed integrity, and well tried stability of this Irish Bank, have produced among all classes of our countrymen. *Limerick Chron.*

The High Sheriff of Wexford was obliged to call out a detachment of the 10th Depot last week to protect his bailiffs in serving latitudes for tithes, in that county.

**Trade in Ireland.**—The Leeds Mercury says that the state and prospects of trade render it probable that there will be considerable suffering among the laboring classes during the winter. The monks of Mount Bellow, are establishing a branch of their order in Clifton in Connemara. A branch of the Bank of Ireland is about to be opened at Ennis.

### SCOTLAND.

**Manufactures in Edinburgh.**—The want of manufactures in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, so long a desideratum, is, we are happy to observe, beginning to be supplied. It is generally known that a respectable company has recently completed the erection of a large silk manufactory, near Fountainbridge; but our respectable and enterprising citizen, John Craig, Esq., of Prestonholm, has taken the start, in this patriotic endeavor to give employment to the working population. We had the pleasure, on Tuesday afternoon, to see the extensive spinning-mill just erected by Messrs. Craig, in Salsburgh Street Leith, commence working. This establishment, when it is fully set in motion, will employ 800 individuals. The principal building is the spinning-room, an elegant oblong hall, 120 feet by 66 feet, and containing about 2000 spindles, besides spreading, drawing, roving, and carding machines. The engine house contains two steam engines, upwards of 30 horse power each, and the counting-house, heckling, and reeling rooms, warehouses, stables, &c., all attached, form a complete and handsome establishment, the whole being splendidly lighted with gas.

On Thursday evening the 7th inst., one of the heaviest castings ever made in this country, perhaps in Europe, was completed in the Vulcan Foundry. This great "article" of workmanship is intended as one of the sole plates, with double condensers, for the engine of that magnificent vessel, building in London, the engines for which are to be fitted up by our talented townsman, Robt. Napier, Esq. This piece of workmanship, weighing upwards of 30 tons, and completed within 14 days, is a great credit on Mr. D. Elder and Mr. J. Allan, the great managers of the above-mentioned extensive establishment. This vessel we learn is to be named the Victoria, and the size of the vessel and the power of her engines will excel any ever built and her engines are intended to work at the rate of about 550 horse power. *[Glasgow Herald.]*

A number of the friends and neighbors of Mr. Andrew Hay, farmer, Middleton, Paisley Road, invited him to dinner in Mr. Neil Carmichael's Parkhouse, on Wednesday the 29th ult. previous to his leaving that district; and then presented him with an elegant inscription:—"From a few friends to Mr. Andrew Hay, farmer, Middleton, as a small mark of their esteem for him as a gentleman, and his obliging manner as a neighbor, 29th Nov. 1837."

About ten o'clock on Thursday evening, a gabbert man named Campbell, when going down a stair in Harvey Lane, Greenock, in a state of intoxication, stumbled and fell to the bottom. He was taken up quite insensible, though the height from which he fell was not more than six feet. Medical assistance was immediately sent, and the unfortunate man bled, and restoratives were resorted to, but without success, it being discovered that the violence of the fall dislocated his neck. He survived but a few minutes after the accident. The deceased was a young unmarried man. This is the second case in this town within four days, of young men meeting an untimely end in precisely similar circumstances, from the excessive use of "brandy spirits." *[Greenock Advertiser.]*

**Death of Robt. Nicoll, the Poet.**—We regret to announce that yesterday this talented young man departed this life at the residence of Mr. John Johnston, Newhaven. Mr. Nicoll continued editor of the Leeds Times till within few weeks, when the state of his health forced him to resign a charge, the duties of which he performed with credit to himself, satisfaction to those with whom he was connected, and benefit to the party whose politics he supported. Mr. Nicoll is well known as the author of a volume of poems, and some beautiful pieces which appeared in Tait's Magazine and other periodicals. *[Edinburgh Observer.]*

We understand that her Majesty the Queen Dowager has been graciously pleased to intimate her intention of sending a considerable number of articles, the workmanship of her own hands, to be disposed of at the sale of Ladies Work, which is to take place in the Assembly Rooms the week next, in aid of the erection of a Mariners' Church and School at Leith. We hail this as a pleasing proof of the amiable disposition and Christian character of her Majesty, and it comes with peculiar grace from one whose deceased consort gloried in the name of a sailor. *[Edinburgh Courier.]*

**Part, Dec. 2.**—Weaving.—Since harvest, the weavers here have been generally employed, although we are sorry to say no advance on the price of weaving light goods has taken place. Within these few days an advance of a half penny per yard has been given by some of the leading houses on umbrella gingham. A considerable quantity of light work is daily arriving from the west country; there are also some very rich patterns of brocade work from Paisley going on.

### WALES.

We are given to understand that a stone quarry has lately been discovered in Wales, which produces stones of a very superior quality, from thirty to thirty-six feet in length, and from ten to twelve inches square. To ascertain the strength of one of these columns, a stone ten yards long and ten inches square, was lately submitted to the following test:

Having been placed in a horizontal position, and supported by bearers at each end, a weight of twelve tons was placed in the centre before the stone broke. It is of importance for railways, forming continuous sleepers of stone, as used on the Dublin and Kingstown railway, will be apparent; which, from the faces which the stone presents requiring little or no labour, renders it useful for building purposes generally, more particularly when applied in lieu of bond timbers. In case of fire in ware houses, or other large buildings where bond timbers are used, the walls generally fall, in consequence of their being unable to resist the action of the fire, whereas if stone was used in the walls above described, this would not be the case. Two or three cargoes are said to be on the eve of shipment for the Liverpool and London markets.

The progress of a community may be fairly tested by its intercourse, and this criterion establishes the fact that the property of Swansea is advancing rapidly, for an increase of £370 per annum was obtained at the letting of our gates last Tuesday, which was a rise of about 15 per cent on the former taking, and increases the aggregate income of the Trust to about £3000 a year, and this despite of immense traffic on our various canals and rail roads.

**Church rates, Ross.**—On Friday, in pursuance of a decision given by the Churchwardens of the parish applied for a Church rate of six pence in the pound; when the Dissenters and others, who had formerly withheld their concurrence, proposed a rate of eight pence in the pound, with a view to the liquidation of arrears, and future harmony; which was unanimously agreed to.

**PORT CARBON, Feb. 13, 1838.**

**B. Bannan, esq.**—Sir, You will confer a favor on me by publishing in the Miners' Journal "the Report of Mr. Barnard, to the House of Assembly of the State of New York. The subject of Education is one in which the citizens of a Republic have a deep interest; and if the remark of the eminent civilian, (*Montesquieu on the Spirit of Law*), be true; that the basis of a Republic is virtue, then to us more than to others is the theme worthy of all consideration. The lucid, cogent, and conclusive argument of the hon. gentlemen will commend itself to the sound judgment, pure morals, and patriotism of the community.

The Report was adopted by a majority honorable to the State and Nation—121 to 1. **R. M'C.**  
*Report of the Committee on Colleges, Academies and Common Schools, on the memorial of Wm. G. Griffin and others.*

**IN ASSEMBLY, Jan. 29.**—Mr. Barnard, from the committee on colleges, academies and common schools, to whom was referred the memorial of William G. Griffin and others, asking the Legislature to enact a law to prohibit the practice of praying, singing, reading the Bible and other religious exercises, in such schools, academies and seminaries of education, as receive aid from the public treasury.

The committee have given to this memorial the most serious and deliberate consideration. They have been deeply impressed with the importance of some, at least of the questions raised by the petitioners, and involved, directly or by implication, in the object they are pursuing, and the indispensable necessity, if possible, of having those questions settled, and settled right, in the public mind. In recommending that the prayer of the memorialists be not granted, the committee would not deem their duty faithfully done, without an effort to show that their conclusions in the matter are sound and just; it is believed that this can be shown to the satisfaction of the house, and it is hoped, to the satisfaction of the petitioners and of the country.

The substance of the complaint in this memorial is, that religious exercises are tolerated in those public schools which participate in the public bounty; and this practice they regard as a violation of the law of equality and the rights of conscience, as aiding to propagate, and enforce peculiar religious opinions at the public expense, and leading to, if not actually forming, a union of church and state.

In order to understand the force and effect of this complaint, it will be necessary to look for a moment at our system of public instruction, to consider what our schools are, how constituted and supported, and why they are sustained and regulated as they are.

It happens unfortunately, that experience does not show that the mass of any people are disposed to keep up and support a sufficient and effective system of instruction for themselves by voluntary contributions, and it becomes necessary, therefore, for this sake of self preservation, that the community should make provision for the support of education by law. This necessity was early felt in this State, and it has been long, and is now, and always must be, the settled and steady policy of the State to furnish aid in support of public instruction.

To speak of our common school system only.—A large sum is distributed annually from the treasury in payment of the wages of teachers, and a sum equal to that which is thus furnished, and which the income of a large fund devoted to this purpose, is raised by the compulsory process of taxation; and applied to the same object. Each district, complying with certain prescribed conditions, receives a share of these public moneys.—The district taxes itself, if the majority in it so please, to provide the proper house and accommodations for the school. It contracts, through its trustees, with a qualified instructor, and provides for the payment of any deficiency in the amount of public moneys to pay the wages of the master, by a rate bill against those who furnish children to be instructed.

In this plan it will be seen, that while no person, liable to taxation, is allowed to escape the duty of contribution to the support of popular education, no individual is compelled by any law to educate his children at all, much less send them to the public schools. If he chooses to violate a solemn obligation which his position as a citizen, a contractor with the community, imposes on him to fit his offspring by a proper course of education & discipline for the part they are to act in the business of the common government, he is at liberty to do so. Especially is he left at perfect liberty, if he will have them educated at all, to do so in any manner he thinks fit, and under any masters whom he may see proper to employ. In regard to the support of the public schools, he stands in the condition of any tax-paying citizen, who may have no children to send to those schools. He has the same interest in the school fund, and like them he contributes to the amount raised by taxation according to his ability. Further than this the law does not oblige him to go. He is taxed for the support of an indispensable public institution, and if he have children to be educated, this institution is open to all others, and he is free to avail himself of its direct advantages or not, according to his pleasure.

Now it is to these schools, as we are to suppose, that the children of the petitioners are accustomed to resort, and in some cases, it is fair to presume, that it is found exceedingly inconvenient, perhaps impossible, for these parents to furnish their children with the means of instruction anywhere else. They are, therefore, obliged to resort to these schools, or take the alternative of keeping their children in utter ignorance; and it is under these circumstances, that they come before the Legislature with the complaint, that, on resorting to these schools, they find there a practice introduced—that of indulging in devotional exercises which they deem highly offensive and objectionable. The grounds of objection to this practice, as far as we can gather them from the memorial, are two:

1. That the Christian religion is thus supported or aided at the public expenses.
2. That the rights of equality and the rights of conscience are thereby invaded, inasmuch as the ungoverned minds of their children are thus exposed to be contaminated.

In regard to the first of these positions, the committee would only say, that it is a mere error in fact. It is simply untrue. These teachers are paid for teaching, and not for praying. No part of their wages is for this service, or any other religious exercises. And this ought to be evident from the fact that the wages of teachers are not in the least affected by the consideration whether they pray or do not pray.

In regard to the other ground of objection presented by the petitioners, we remark: Whenever a number of persons associate together in public assemblages for any specific object, it is usual and perfectly competent for them to agree on the forms of proceeding, and the terms on which the common object shall be prosecuted. This determination of course belongs to the majority; and it belongs essentially to the power of the majority to insist on any conventional forms of proceeding while the body is together, not inconsistent with the common object. As for example, if it be a company of Friends, or they are in the majority, they may agree to sit with their hats on; if not, they may agree to sit with them off. If the majority are Shakers, they may dance; if Jews or Christians, they may pray. And in all these cases it is the duty of the minority to submit. The only question for them is, whether the form or ceremony insisted on is in itself decent and becoming, and not in hostility to the main purpose of the association.

Now it is on this principle that your committee suppose the practice objected to by the petitioners is adopted. The practice is not prescribed by any State authority; it is a matter wholly referred to the decision of the towns and districts. A majority of the parents sending children to a public school, acting for their children, as they have a right to do, may rightfully agree and direct that the proper business of the school shall be opened or

closed, or both, daily with religious exercises. Each parent has a right to pray himself and to teach his child to pray; and if one has this right, so have all, or as many as are of that way of thinking; and as each may practice acts of devotion individually, whenever they associate they may practice the like acts of devotion in a social way; and they may require the same thing of their children, whether individually or in a social assemblage. The practice is innocent and decent, and we know of no principle on which a minority, voluntarily associating with them in pursuit of an object in which they are all agreed, can properly dictate to the majority the conventional terms on which the body shall proceed.

But the petitioners ask for the passage of a law, to prohibit the practice complained of. They ask for a law to prevent the majority in a school district from ruling in a matter which is in itself, innocent and of necessity purely conventional. They ask for a law to prevent a majority, associated and meeting for the purpose of instruction, from indulging in social prayer and reading the Bible as a devotional exercise. The argument for this application is, that the children of the minority are exposed to have their minds tainted and corrupted by these religious acts.

It is undoubtedly true, that no person, and no association of persons, are at liberty to indulge in any acts or practices, in the face of the community, which, by their necessary operation, are calculated to corrupt and debauch the youthful or the unwary; to incite to licentiousness or to crime. It is on this principle that the law will not tolerate the publication of obscene books and prints. As no man has himself a right to rob or steal, so no man has a right to incite another man to rob or steal; and as no man has a right to trample on the common law of public decency, so no man has a right to stimulate the passions of others to the commission of the like offence.

If then it were true that the devotional practice complained of by the petitioners, tended of necessity to the contamination of the minds and morals of their children, it ought undoubtedly to be arrested by legal interposition. Such is not, however, the opinion of your committee. It is not enough to make out the case, that the petitioners differ in opinion with those who resort to this practice, in regard to the character and pretensions of the religion which the latter profess. The petitioners have an undoubted right to pronounce that religion to be a mere superstition; and its whole story a collection of legends and absurdities, as they seem to do in this petition; but this we apprehend is not enough to make out a case demanding its suppression by legal authority. They must go farther, and show that this religion, by its necessary operation, is pernicious in its effect on mind and morals, tending to set men free from all moral restraint, and turn them loose with excited and unbridled passions on each other and on society. When this is proved, then, undoubtedly, ought the practice of "praying, singing, and reading the Bible, to be prohibited in schools. And of course the prohibition must not stop there. If these Christian practices are interdicted by law in schools, because they contaminate and corrupt the youth who there witness them; they must be interdicted elsewhere and every where within the State, for the same reason. If the public reading of the Bible, whether in schools or elsewhere, has a necessary tendency to vitiate public sentiment, to incite to universal lasciviousness, or in any way to weaken and finally destroy all sense of moral obligation, then the public reading of the Bible should be prohibited by law, not in one place, but in all places; and not only so, but it would be the duty of the community to put an utter end also to the printing and circulation of such a book.

The committee cannot suppose that these petitioners themselves are ready to carry out the work of prohibition and exclusion to the extent here indicated; and for ourselves, we should be quite unwilling to begin such an experiment in this quarter; at least, upon any evidence we yet have of the pernicious and dangerous character of the book or the religion of which the petitioners complain.

But the prayer of these memorialists presents for consideration another subject of no little moment. They ask that the reading of the Bible in schools should be prohibited; and this goes of course to its utter exclusion—if it may not be read, it cannot be introduced or used there for any valuable purpose. Now your committee think that there are weighty reasons why the use of this book should be retained in our public schools, and why it may be without the least danger of offending any one's conscience, or injuring any one's rights. We have seen on what ground it is that the majority in a public school have a right to read the Bible as an act of devotion. We now mean to insist that its use, as a text or class book, is in our judgment indispensable to a good system of popular instruction.

To be concluded in our next.