

creating difficulties than by controlling them, he was always intent on giving a practical and sensible direction to the business in hand, and had always a benign suggestion for any abrupt outbreak of temper. Baptist Noel is one of the best and most agreeable men I have met in Paris. He appears to be not older than forty-five years.—*Ch. Advocate.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 9, 1856.

THE progress of Christian Missions in the world, independent of its moral and religious aspect, is well adapted to awaken inquiry and reflection in a merely philosophical point of view. Looking at the inherent energy of the Christian faith, even under the deteriorating influences of the most corrupted forms, it has exerted a power and maintained a hold vastly superior to any other religious system under like circumstances. The mission of Francis Xavier, one of the of the earliest Jesuits, who with all his errors, was very probably a truly Christian man, has left its traces in China, which no persecutions have been wholly able to erase. In every part of that vast Empire are scattered some few disciples of the Romish Church, who at least profess the religion of Jesus, and who, like the synagogues of the Jews, dispersed thro' the Roman Provinces in the first age of Christianity, altho' buried in the rubbish of their own traditions, may yet be made subservient in the providence of God to minister to the introduction of a more holy faith, in its power and purity; a work which is now being so zealously prosecuted in China by various Evangelical Churches. Believing as we do that all civil and social improvement on earth will go hand in hand in its real progress with the prevalence of the vital truths of the Gospel, we view every missionary sent forth into the dominions of Heathenism, as also an agent to introduce the inestimable blessings of good government and social order and happiness, far superior to all the purely political changes to which the people may have been compelled or induced to submit. One cannot therefore read of the operations of the different Christian missions lately commenced at various points of the great Chinese Empire, without feeling something like a confidence that the effect must be a sure and perhaps a speedy one, to reclaim that vast idolatrous people from their blind and antiquated superstitions. Some might fear that the conflicting doctrines and opinions of the Churches that have sent forth these preachers of righteousness would serve in a great measure to counteract the growth of the genuine fruits of faith. We do not think so. They all agree in holding forth the great saving truths which distinguish Christianity from all other modes of belief: repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and the history of our own times, which all who will may read, declares that where such is the case, the various Evangelical sections of the Christian Church are daily becoming more desirous of the final removal of all errors and hostile feelings which tend to separate the sincere disciples of our common Lord. We are but just beginning to understand or appreciate the true nature and value of Christian Missions. They are nothing less than the true and literal fulfilment of the pages of Prophecy.

We offered a remark or two in our last on the desirableness of individual action in the Churches, grounding our observations on the fact, generally admitted, we believe, that the pastors have more work to do than can be easily or efficiently executed, with due regard to their own improvement. We adverted, also, to the duty of employing all the gifts that may be found in the churches, under suitable superintendence.

This subject has attracted attention of late, in both hemispheres. At the last meeting of the Congregational Union, in England, a suggestion was made, to this effect, that in larger churches one or two young ministers, or students who had completed the College course, might be advantageously associated with the pastor; and it was argued that such an arrangement would be doubly beneficial, inasmuch as it would relieve and assist the pastor, and afford useful training to the younger brethren.

In the Baptist newspaper, the *Freeman*, several communications on "the plurality of Elders," have recently appeared; one writer maintaining the necessity of reviving the primitive practice, and others endeavouring to show that without taking that step the object might be accomplished, if the pastor could secure the aid of judicious "helpers," in addition to the Sunday School Teachers, who are already enrolled in the service, and the deacons, who should not only "serve tables," but in various other ways promote the interests of the church. A series of papers on "Baptist principles and practices" is in course of publication in the *New York Examiner*, advocating the views we have briefly hinted at, and enforcing them by powerful arguments. The clear, vigorous style, and logical acuteness of those articles, indicate the pen of the late President of Brown University. Dr. Wayland is employing his leisure most usefully, in instructing and arousing the churches. He strives to convince his brethren in the United States that the moral destitution of the country cannot possibly be provided for, unless professing Christians generally engage in the work. His statements and reasonings deserve very grave consideration, and they apply, to a considerable extent, to these Provinces.

"The people had a mind to work." That was the way the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt. And in that way the churches everywhere will be preserved and extended.

THE *Grand Ligne Register* for December contains some interesting particulars of the present state and progress of that most useful mission. We gave in our last number a short account of the opening of an Academy at Longueuil, within a few miles of Montreal, for the education of Canadian Females. It is a branch, so to speak, and is under the direction of the *Grand Ligne Mission*. All pupils must pay something, but the charges are very moderate—from one to three dollars per month. The venerable and excellent Madame Feller, in an address to the different Ladies' Associations which support the mission, well and truthfully observes: "We consider this Institution for the education of our Females as a gift of God to our country, and one of the best means of scattering the inestimable blessings of the Gospel around its firesides." The Institution, in its educational department, is under the care of the Rev. T. and Madame Lafleur, assisted by a young Lady from Switzerland; and the household duties are superintended by a French Lady well qualified for the office. The pupils, of whom there were 26 at the opening, are to do all the work of the Establishment. Too much cannot be said in praise of such an Institution, or indeed of all that has been effected by the *Grand Ligne Mission* within the twenty years since it was first commenced by Madame Feller and Mons. Roussy. Surely, as regards Canada, in the words of the Prophet, we may say, "a blessing is in it." We devoutly trust that means will not be withheld by those who are able to contribute to its wants, to help it on in its noble career. Hosts of God's people, we are assured, will offer up their fervent prayers that it may be prospered with the Divine favour in accomplishing all that its best friends can wish. The Report says—

"One was there in her serene old age who saw the commencement of such efforts in Canada. Of her it might be said, 'her children rise up and call her blessed,' for she has lived to see many for whom she prayed and labored brought to Jesus. We heard two ministers speak, who, we afterwards learned, were once members of the mission family in which she presided, and who are now men of power and devotion to the work of preaching the Gospel. How small do all the sacrifices she has made appear to her now in comparison with the glorious results. We could not help looking upon her and her fellow laborers with love, while we silently prayed that they might be still further honored in bringing souls to glory."

"Another monument of mercy has been reared in our world—another door has been opened to call sinners to the Saviour! Oh, may it not be in vain, but may Christians of Canada sympathise in the work, and sustain it by their prayers, and personal interest, as well as contributions; then may we hope to see much good done, and many precious souls won to the service of God—souls that shall shine in the Saviour's diadem throughout eternity."

WE willingly insert the correspondence between the Rev. Jas. E. Balcom, Pastor of the Baptist Church at Long Island and his Church, on his resigning his charge to prosecute a course of study at Acadia College. The mutual kindness and regard existing between brother Balcom and his flock, so warmly evinced on his quitting them, does honour to both pastor and people. We sincerely trust that the good wishes so strongly expressed, may be abundantly fulfilled in the case of each. However important the field of usefulness in the church at Long Island may be, we cannot but heartily approve of Brother Balcom's resolve to avail himself of every means in his power of rendering still more efficient in the cause of his Master the talent committed to his charge.

Dr. CRAMP'S Lecture on the "Plurality of Worlds," was delivered in the Temperance Hall last evening, before the Young Men's Christian Association and a numerous audience. Dr. Grigor had lectured on the same subject, in the Mechanics' Institute, on the 2nd inst., and is expected to deliver a second lecture this evening.

After a brief sketch of the system of the Universe, as ascertained by recent astronomical discoveries, Dr. Cramp stated the arguments in favour of the "plurality of worlds," and of their being inhabited by races of beings adapted to their soils, climates, &c. He observed, that there is no positive evidence on either side, and that the argument is altogether analogical; but he judged that analogy points to the affirmative decision, and that such decision is supported by Isaiah xlv. 18. He then noticed at some length the objections to this theory, which he considered might be easily disposed of. In conclusion, various practical reflections were introduced, and young men especially were exhorted to exert themselves for the constant improvement of their intellectual powers, and to "live for eternity."

THE Legislature will meet on the 31st inst. No programme of government measures has yet appeared. There are two subjects, however, we presume, on which the Provincial Parliament will be expected to legislate.

Temperance is one of them. The Prohibitory Liquor Law will be re-introduced. We hope that it will be passed in the Assembly by a good majority. In addition to the ordinary arguments in its favour there is now the fact, that a similar measure is in operation in New Brunswick. On our parts, therefore, legislation has become necessary on the score of self-protection, for the liquor that is expelled from the neighbouring province will be brought here. Some of it has already arrived, and liquor dealers from New Brunswick are establishing themselves in Nova Scotia. The attention of our Legislators must be specially directed to that fact.

Our ministering brethren and other friends of Temperance will doubtless bestir themselves, and circulate petitions in every direction. This is essential to the success of the measure. If there be a general expression of public opinion in its favour, the Legislative Council will be bound in honour to yield to that expression.

The other subject is Education. Our Common School system much requires to be improved and invigorated. Dr. Forrester, the Superintendent, has gathered a large amount of information respecting modern methods of instruction and general management, and it is likely that the results of his observation and experience will be embodied in a Bill, and submitted to the Legislature. The people of Nova Scotia will be prepared, we trust, to accept and sustain any well-considered plan, even if they should be called on to contribute moderately towards its support. Taxation on knowledge is odious; books and newspapers should be free as the winds of heaven. Taxation for knowledge may be a great blessing. Should any such proposal be brought before the Legislature, it will, no doubt, be fairly and dispassionately considered.

THE Sittings after Term of the Supreme Court at Halifax are drawing near to a close. The time for some weeks past has been solely taken up with the trial of Civil causes, a considerable number of which, some of them of importance, have been disposed of. One of the most so was that of Grant versus

Creelman, which was an action brought between partners for breach of contract, growing out of a large Railroad tender. The trial occupied three days, and terminated in a verdict for the Plaintiff, damages £700. The cause will however, no doubt, be further contested.

THE long delay of the arrival of the English Steamer deprives us of news later than that received by the last New York mail, relative to the fall of Kars, and an attack by the Russians on the French lines near Sebastopol. We do not apprehend that any thing like a general attack has taken place, as the season of the year renders all extensive movements in the Crimea almost, if not quite impossible. The great want of the Allied Armies undoubtedly is, a man to lead them, adequate to the occasion, and fitted to cope in strategic skill with such experienced veterans as Gortschakoff, Luders and other Russian Generals, who are without doubt ended by nature with superior military talents, and have had advantages of gaining experience upon a scale which no other European soldiers possess. However much above their opponents in personal self-reliance, discipline, equipments and all the materiel of war our Armies may be, if they have not also a thorough confidence in the skill and knowledge of their Commander, a very inferior force under a consummate General, may out-manoeuvre and overmatch them. Hard fighting will not always, or even often, win the day as opposed to superior science and ability to command. We trust, however, that the experience already gained may shew itself to advantage, if the contest continues, but we much rather hope that a safe and honourable peace may be shortly concluded.

The American House of Representatives at Washington are in a singular state, altho' the same state of things has occurred before. They have been for some weeks in Session, endeavouring to appoint a Speaker, but after a number of trials have not yet succeeded. By some organic law of the House, it requires, we believe, a majority of the whole number of members to appoint a Speaker, but as there are several Candidates, no one of them has yet been so fortunate as to obtain the amount of votes required, and thus they may go on manoeuvring and voting indefinitely, or until some of the parties withdraw their Candidates. This puts a stop to all business, and presents rather a ludicrous position for a great nation and a grave Assembly to be placed in. It is said the Presidential Election, which is approaching, has much to do with it. The President's message, which, as usual, is a lengthy document, is somewhat belligerent as regards Great Britain; but so little can be predicated of what is to be done from what is said, in American politics, that we do not apprehend any great danger from Mr. Pierce's manifesto. When business is fairly entered on in Congress, one of the most absorbing topics will most probably be the question of Slavery as connected with the recent disturbances in Kansas. Every year seems to augment the importance of this question, and at the same time to render its adjustment more difficult and distant.

Arrival of the Asia.

THE Steamship *Asia* arrived from Boston on Friday, with news from Great Britain brought by the Pacific, up to the 18th December, from which we gather the following items.

The city of Kars has at length fallen into the hands of the Russians. The particulars are not received, but it is believed that the garrison were compelled to surrender through famine. Their numbers did not exceed 8000 men, and they were so much reduced in strength as to be incapable of cutting their way through the enemy's ranks, when General Kamety and another escaped from the city, to hasten, if possible, the advance of Omar Pacha, General Williams was sending a flag of truce with an offer of capitulation.

Omar Pacha was near Kutais, which the Russians held with considerable force.

In the Crimea, the Russians had attacked the extremity of the French lines, with about 3000 men; but after an hour's sharp fighting withdrew.

Correspondence from the seat of war states that the Russians on the northern side of Sebastopol continue to pour a very heavy fire of artillery against the southern side, the Allies replying but little, their engineers continuing their work within the town.

The British army is said to be over-supplied with equipments now.