

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 2, 1856.

are developing the resources of the country; the awakening of the masses to the importance of a more enlarged and liberal system of education, and the zeal which is manifested in carrying forward the temperance reform are sufficient to awaken in them feelings of pride. It is also encouraging to every lover of Zion to witness the progress which true religion has made—the triumphs which have been secured to a pure christianity. The handful of corn which was sown many years since, in what appeared to be an unfruitful soil, has already begun to “shake like Lebanon.” I can furnish your readers with but few items of interest relative to the cause of Christ in this city. The “First Baptist Church” is at present destitute of a pastor, the vacancy being caused by the resignation of the Rev. J. C. Burroughs, who was elected some months since to the Presidency of Shurtleff College. During the winter there has been in this city no revival of a remarkable character, but several important towns in the interior of the State have been visited by an outpouring of the Spirit, and the conversion of large numbers has been the result.

Great material prosperity has frequently an unfavorable effect upon evangelical religion; there is danger of becoming “conformed to this world,” and this has been too much the case in Chicago. The increasing ravages of intemperance are also among the agencies which combine to render the preaching of the gospel ineffectual. We have in this city sixty religious organizations the professed objects of which are to improve and elevate—to sanctify and save mankind; but as a counteractive force we have one thousand places where intoxicating drinks are vended. One train of influences is in motion during one day in each week, the other during the entire week.

Our annual election was held on the 4th inst., which resulted in the choice of mayor, and several city officers of the Nebraska stripe. This is to be regretted, as it endorses the political course of Senator Douglas, who claims to be a resident of this city. He is well known as U. S. Senator from Illinois, and the originator of the Nebraska bill, which resulted in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the introduction of Slavery into Kansas. Since the passage of that bill the course of the Senator has been denounced by his constituents, but the friends of popular sovereignty and slavery extension will make use of the recent triumph to redeem his good name, and it is highly probable that at the Democratic Convention soon to be held in Cincinnati, he will be nominated for the next Presidency. I have not alluded to the rapid growth and the great commercial prosperity of Chicago, presuming that these are facts with which your readers are already familiar. It is but little more than a quarter of a century since it had no existence, but “manifest destiny” had written here the word “City,” and at the present time the population numbers ninety thousand. With its favorable location—being the natural outlet to the produce of a vast tract of fertile country—it requires no prophetic vision to foretell its future greatness.

The educational advantages of the city are unsurpassed, affording, as they do, a liberal education to the most destitute youth. For some years past there has been a disposition among our wealthiest citizens to undervalue the public schools as being adapted only to the education of the youth of the middle and lower classes, but happily this state of things is undergoing a change. A “High School” has recently been erected at the expense of the city, which will provide a free education for such youth as are too far advanced to be profited by the public schools. Our wealthiest and most influential citizens are now among the firm supporters of these free institutions, and we may safely predict that ere long the “Select Schools,” “High School for young ladies,” “Private School for boys,” &c., &c., will be among the things that were.

Wishing you success in your enterprise, I subscribe myself,  
Yours very respectfully,  
SIGMA.

Chicago, March 10, 1856.

Extract of Letter from Yarmouth.

“A protracted meeting commences with this church to-day. Pray the great head of the church to come among us, and rouse us up, and revive his cause among us.”  
Yours respectfully,  
WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

March 24th.

We willingly give place in our columns to the appeals from the American Bible Union, forwarded by Brother Wyckoff, its devoted Secretary. Whatever relates to the extension of Christ's kingdom in the preparation and supply of His pure Word to every nation and tongue and people, must win the approval of every christian heart and enlist the service of every christian hand. We have of late had queries put to us by valued friends, as to our own feelings in regard to this Institution, and surmising, to some extent, our want of zeal in its promotion. We have never been backward to define our position in this respect. We should count ourselves unworthy of the office we have undertaken as Christian Journalists and professors of our common faith, if we were to withdraw our hands from rendering our feeble assistance to a Society which we believe has for its great object the furtherance of the cause of God and the welfare of men. It is well known, however, that the numerous readers of the Christian Messenger are, perhaps pretty equally divided in their inclinations as to the amount of support they shall give to the Am. and For. and the Bible Union Societies. We also believe that very little of mere party feeling in favour of either has as yet been introduced among us, and that to a very large extent individuals contribute of their means to both, as we ourselves do. We should be sorry if it were otherwise. We wish to follow both with our prayers and our assistance, in so far as they follow Christ. We are the partisans of neither, and are rejoiced to believe that whatever of a spirit of rivalry or hard feeling may at times have grown up between those excellent Institutions, is giving place to higher and holier sentiments—to the sole and single desire to unite in heart, if not in outward effort, in advancing the cause they mutually love.

We heartily recommend to our brethren the touching appeal to their christian liberality which will be found below. There are many, we doubt not, who can well afford their help in the hour of necessity, and and it is no new lesson for God's people to learn “That there is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”

The March number of the BIBLE UNION REPORTER contains a continuation of the New Version of the Book of Job as far as the 29th chapter. The beauty of many passages is brought out more fully by the rendering given, and we doubt not from the authority and reasons given in the margin, more in accordance with the original.

NEW YORK, March 16th, 1856.

My Dear Brother,—You will greatly oblige us, and subserve the interests of a noble and suffering cause, if you will copy into your excellent paper the enclosed appeals on behalf of the American Bible Union, and call attention to them editorially.

Yours in Christian bonds,  
W. H. WYCKOFF, Cor. Sec.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNION ROOMS,  
350 Broome St., N. Y., March, 1856.

My Dear Brother,—Enclosed please find a copy of our earnest request for aid, issued last month; and also a copy of the action of our Board in relation to the anticipated completion of the New Testament.

We regret to have to inform you that our receipts still average below our expenses: that our revisers cannot be paid; and unless assistance be rendered us by the friends of pure versions, the work will be most disastrously suspended.

If a reviser is dismissed for want of compensation, and engages himself elsewhere, he cannot be recalled at our option. But the injurious consequences of a suspension of operations, will not be confined to the loss of revisers. The reputation of the Union will be sullied, and the reproach of not meeting our engagements, will cast a blight over the history of the enterprise.

You can aid us, my dear brother, to some extent in this season of difficulty. We need personal contributions, collections in churches, payments on life-memberships, and every form of assistance which will relieve the pressing demand for funds. May the Lord grant you grace and wisdom to adopt and prosecute the best measures to meet the present emergency.

Your brother in Christ,  
W. H. WYCKOFF, Cor. Sec.

We have been much gratified in reading the last number of the Register, to find an interesting Report of the proceedings of the past year of the Grand Ligne Evangelical Society, by which it appears that they are still earnestly pressing forward in the good work of the Evangelization of the French Canadians, with many evidences of pleasing success in their labours. The Annual Meeting of this Society took place in Montreal on the 28th of February, when the Report of last year's proceedings was submitted and the officers of the Society for the present year chosen. Their field of operation, as is known to our readers, is the vast area of Lower Canada, inhabited chiefly by a French population. In this immense field the Report states they have 15 preaching stations, attended by 650 adult hearers, and surrounded by thousands that willingly receive the visits of Colporteurs and Ministers, but they have only 16 male labourers to minister to their religious wants. Fifteen have been hopefully converted, and were baptized during the year; while not less than twenty families, in part or in whole, have renounced the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. Infidelity is stated to be spreading far and wide among the general mass of the people, who are beginning to open their eyes to the errors of Popery, but are destitute of a better hope. The Institution for young men at Grand Ligne contains 23, and for females at Longueuil, 27 pupils; and the Superintendents and teachers are much encouraged in their labours. The excellent and indefatigable Madame Feller, who appears to have regained her health, is still laboring with undiminished zeal, for the instruction of the youth entrusted to her care, and the salvation of her French Canadian brethren. The Female School at Longueuil has cost \$9000, \$1000 of which remains unpaid. The mission continues to be sustained in a great measure by the liberal contributions of Ladies' Societies in the Baptist churches of the United States and the friends of the mission in Montreal. So far as the most earnest and unremitting zeal and activity in its friends, ministers and teachers, and the steadily increasing influence, which their labours are achieving amid an ignorant and grossly superstitious population, is concerned, the mission may be said to be in a healthy if not visibly in a very flourishing state. Many prayers will ascend to a throne of grace for the increasing success of this excellent Mission, and for Divine assistance to its devoted labourers in their noble enterprise.

THE Canada from England, which arrived on Friday evening, brings the welcome intelligence that to all human appearances the Peace Conference at Paris were progressing towards their close with every prospect, so far as could be judged, of a happy result. Indeed it is said in many of the papers that Peace is looked upon as certain. With much prudence the Plenipotentiaries, who have met for only about three hours per day, determined that the utmost secrecy should be preserved by every member, as to what transpired within the important conclave, where the probable destinies of nations, as regards mere human means, were being decided. This resolve seems to have been adhered to with singular fidelity, as nothing but what they chose appears to have transpired. One of the most certain evidences of the favorable progress of the deliberations seems to be that it has been determined that Prussia should be at length admitted to the Conference, it having at first been decided against her having any participation in settling the leading questions of the dispute which she had taken so little interest in compelling Russia to adjust in a spirit of humanity and justice. Those great points having now been settled by the Allies and Austria, Prussia is merely admitted as a principal European Power, to attend to what in the general adjustment may specially pertain to her own interests. It is said to be certain that the Fifth Point of the basis of negotiation, which regarded the defences, trade and arrangements connected with the Black Sea, are conceded and settled, and that all that remains to be done is of minor importance. Such being the case we may with some confidence look for immediate intelligence of a final adjustment of the momentous quarrel that has desolated Europe for the past two years. It is stated in some of the papers that such was the anxiety of Russia for peace, owing to the fearful evils entailed on her by the continuance of hostilities and

the disorganization and misery of her Provinces, that she has conceded every point without difficulty or reserve. As a pretty certain index of the general belief of the public in the peaceful termination of the deliberations at Paris, the English funds have had a speedy rise, and bread and provisions of all kinds are lowering in price. That Peace would be the result of the Conference has been our fixed opinion ever since the consent of Russia was signified, to negotiate on a basis, which a year since she would have rejected with scorn—which indeed she did reject in a form vastly less humiliating to her national pride than the present.

The excitement as respects any rupture with the United States seems pretty nearly to have subsided. It is a great pity that the electioneering speculators of the Union could not have found some other and more innocuous political capital, than the attempt “to throw firebrands” between two nations who, whatever may be the case with others, could not go to war with each other without a tenfold portion of guilt and moral responsibility.

Great excitement has been occasioned in Berlin, the Prussian capital, by a M. Von Hinkeldey, Principal of the police, having been shot dead in a duel on the 12th ult., by a young Prussian nobleman named Roshow, owing to some grudge entertained by the latter and his companions, for the attempt of the former to suppress their gambling establishment. The duel took place in the most formal and open manner, before a number of witnesses. Hinkeldey was a great favorite of the King, who ordered him a pompous funeral, which he himself attended. The delinquent is under arrest and will be tried, but most likely will be honorably acquitted.

The Prohibitory Bill.

It will be seen by our Legislative Intelligence that this Bill has been defeated in Committee, notwithstanding the majority in its favour on its second reading.

Its consideration is postponed till next session, in order that we may learn the success of the measure from the experience of New Brunswick. Various reasons are given for the defalcation of some of its former supporters. Their constituencies will doubtless be greatly disappointed, and the people generally will not fail to express their dissatisfaction that a measure of such vast moment should be set aside, and the paltry consideration of revenue brought into competition with it.

The fallacy of the argument that the Bill if passed would interfere with the credit of the Province is clearly shown by the late Railroad negotiations entered into by New Brunswick, after the Bill went into operation in that Province.

We wish to correct the statement made last week on the authority of one of the Morning Papers that Mr. McFarlane moved to reverse the division on the Bill. The motion was made by the Hon. Solicitor General.

THE EDUCATION BILL is undergoing a course of preparation in a large Committee preparatory to action being taken by the House. When it comes up for discussion it will afford matter for warm debate. We understand the clauses providing for separate Schools will be incorporated with the Bill.

THE Steamship Carlew, was lost on the north side of Bermuda, on the morning of the 18th inst. Vessel a total wreck—crew all saved—mails lost.

NEAL DOW, Mayor of Portland, Maine, has presented His Worship the Mayor of Halifax, and also the Mayor of St. John, with a large and magnificent view of the City of Portland accompanied with a courteous and respectful complimentary letter.

We have been favoured by His Worship with a sight of the above picture, and are informed that it is intended to return the compliment by presenting a view of the city and harbour of Halifax. Such interchanges of courtesies are deserving of much commendation, especially during the slight interruption of our friendly relations with the Great Republic.

The President of the United States has recently forwarded through the U. S. Consul in this city, an elegant gold chronometer, a gold watch, and two massive silver medals, for presentation to Capt. Cameron, master of the schr. Mars of this port George Duffoit, mate, and James Williams and John Rowan, seamen, of that vessel, in commemoration of their gallantry in rescuing Capt. Philbrook from the wreck of the American Schr. State of Maine, in January last.