

argument for its own sake. Something more than a statement of Christian truth is necessary in order to ensure conviction. Here we notice the peculiar obstacles which the Burman character presented to Christianity. Their consciousness of intellectual superiority over surrounding tribes led them to doubt and reject what the more ignorant and simple readily received. The pride of country led them to treat with contempt a foreign religion, while the pride fostered by their superstition, made them think with scorn of a religion which made merit of no account, a religion whose founder died as a malefactor.

It will be perceived that the missionary's work was no light one. The undertaking required a brave and hopeful heart, and still more, faith in the power of Christian truth when accompanied by the Spirit of God.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 30, 1856.

BURMAH still continues to be one of the most favoured central points of missionary effort, from whence the rays of Divine truth and light are radiating with still increasing lustre, and spreading on every side with wider and still wider circles. Nothing but the frequent repetition of such facts as are contained in the following extract from an American paper, can account for Christians in every land not exclaiming with joy and wonder "what hath God wrought," and opening their eyes to the meaning of facts which so strongly attest to the true and only fulfilment of Prophecy which we ought to expect or wish. The vague and multiplied fancies and conjectures which fervid imaginations in these latter days, have so frequently put forth as the certain fulfilment of the prophetic pages, and as indisputable proofs of the near approach of a Millennium, have, we fear, done much to hinder the real progress of Gospel light, and check the efforts of those, who, was it not for their mistaken views, might do much to further the success of gospel truth. Within our own memory, interpretation after interpretation of the prophetic writings has sprung up, perished and been forgotten, because founded only on the crude and fallible conceits of erring humanity. The adoption of such views by sincere and excellent Christian people, has in the mean time done much to hinder the preaching of the gospel "to every creature." Nevertheless there have not been wanting others, who felt it their first duty, whatever might be the purposes of God in the accomplishment of the predictions of his word in regard to time and place, to carry forth that word to the remote corners of the earth still lying in darkness and the shadow of death—men and women too, who counted not their lives dear to them, so that they might be the means of helping to remove that thick veil of darkness still brooding over the nations, and feeling that whether the "end of all things," were, in the inscrutable counsels of God, to take place to-morrow or a thousand years hence, the best and safest position in which to be found by Christ at his coming, would be, that of striving to multiply the stars in his crown of rejoicing. Such results as are so blessedly apparent not only in Burmah, but in many other fields of Christian missions, are the surest tests which party has best interpreted the word and will of God.

THE GREAT WORK IN BURMAH.

Mr. Kincaid writes to the *Christian Chronicle*:
A week, last Lord's-day, we baptized Captain D'Agle, Deputy Governor of the Province. Over one hundred and forty have been baptized in Prome, and the spirit of inquiry is increasing. A wide door, and effectual, is opened in a cluster of villages, to the north of Prome; twenty-one have been baptized, and there are many earnest inquirers. In one village they have built a neat little chapel, and one of the disciples teaches school in it during the week days. In two villages, they have turned away the Buddhist priests. We are now thinking of ordaining one of our most mature assistants, to take charge of that field. We have disciples in various towns and villages for sixty miles below Prome, and then to the north, our field extends to Ava, 270 miles. Besides this, we have a large Karen field to the east and southeast, for sixty miles. We baptized forty-two Karens, and are instructing ten of them, to fit them to go into the villages and teach their countrymen. Only the other evening, I was up till midnight with a deputation of five Karen chiefs, who had come about fifty miles to beg for teachers to be sent into their villages, that they might

learn to read; and also be taught "how to worship God." There is a Divine impulse moving this people. We have no teachers for them, but are preparing a few for this work. I have a traveling Theological School, and while they are gaining biblical knowledge, they are also learning how to endure hardness, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Our great Provincial Council will assemble in the Capital to-morrow. As this is the first Session of a New House, much conjecture, and perhaps no little anxiety in many quarters, will be afloat to know how they will commence their new duties. We believe one half at least of the lower House will be new members. Many of them have never been in any previous House. We need not attempt to enumerate the many important matters that must necessarily occupy the business of the Session. To one or two of the principal ones we may briefly refer.

One of the most momentous surely, and the longest agitated under one shape or another, is that of Education. May we not truly say it stands first of all. For some years past it is well known, the action of every Session of the Legislature on this great question, has terminated in adopting some mere temporary expedient as a substitute for full and mature consideration and the enactment of some permanent provision to meet wants that are daily multiplying in numbers and increasing in importance. Perhaps under all circumstances nothing better could have been done. It is full time however that the subject should be taken up with a determination to deal with it seriously, and with a feeling that the future well-being of society is deeply implicated in the wisdom of the course which shall be pursued. We ought certainly by this time to know pretty well what is the exact nature of our wants in the matter of popular Education, to be able to form some proper idea what are the best means of supplying them. In our own view of the case, we could not do better than take a lesson from our neighbours of the Union; of course modifying our enactments according to the peculiar circumstances of our country. It cannot, we think, be fairly denied, that their system of common School Education, and which we believe is of general application throughout all the United States, works admirably for the general improvement of the people. There is nothing very materially to vary our own circumstances from theirs. Nor could anything afford us higher gratification than to see the adoption of a system of general common School instruction, modelled as near as might be, in its main features, after so excellent a pattern.

As respects the mode of application and the working of the system among ourselves, the Report of the Committee of Privy Council on Education in England, and the plan of inspection and employing pupil teachers, especially in the larger schools, to which we referred in the C. M. of the 9th inst., will afford some excellent hints which might be easily adopted here. In no country is the internal management of Schools probably brought to greater perfection than in England.—the great difficulty there, is on account of the conflicting interests of different classes,—to enforce by law a system so comprehensive as to include the whole community of every religious name.

Another great question is the Liquor Law. On this subject it is well known that a vast number of the well thinking and intelligent part of the community—we should say, a decided majority—are strongly of opinion that Legislative enactments should be introduced, to put down the traffic and sale of intoxicating drinks. We have no doubt, notwithstanding all that is said to the contrary, that wherever such course has been pursued the result has been highly satisfactory. That the objections to the enactment of coercive measures are merely those of expediency and not moral ones, is in our view quite certain; and we shall look with much anxiety to the course which may be taken by the Legislature in dealing with this important question. The advocates of the measure throughout the Province, are, we believe fully alive to the means needful for the ensuring the passage of such an Act as would meet the requirements of the case, and will no doubt be on the alert in enforcing their claims to a full and attentive hearing.

We have transcribed into our pages from the *New York Chronicle* a few highly appropriate remarks on the subject of the

contributions furnished by Newspaper Correspondents. They are such as we entirely adopt in our own case, and such as we think all considerate persons must approve. A periodical like our own can very seldom venture to publish, without damage to its interests, contributions which they feel fully assured will not meet the views and expectations of the great mass of their readers or apply only to the mere personal wishes of a few. We do not, of course, here refer to cases where great principles are concerned, but these are a thousand matters of minor import, where to gratify a few, many may be offended, and evil instead of good be the result. For these reasons we are always anxious that when we accept or reject a communication our friends should give us credit for exercising our best judgment, without respect to persons, and not by any means imagine that we have acted from caprice or wrong motives. It will often inflict pain on the mind of a discreet and conscientious Editor, that he feels compelled to pass over contributions from sincere friends. His doing so, however, will not offend the contributors, if their only aim has been the general benefit, nor should it, by any means deter them or others from renewing their efforts.

WRITERS FOR A NEWSPAPER.

There is a class of persons whose grist exceeds their grinding. They think much, but write little, and are full of rich stores of experience and reflection, which are really far more valuable for the columns of a newspaper than much that is furnished by those who are most expert in the use of the pen. Constant writers are in danger of having more grinding than grist, and what grist they supply is so mixed with the dust as to be nearly valueless. But men of robust sense on our farms, in our work-shops, and amid the active scenes of life, think and feel much which, could it be secured, would afford the most valuable matter for the columns of a newspaper.

It is our purpose to mine as much as possible among these neglected ores, and we would bespeak contributions from all classes, on the one condition that we be left to our own taste and judgment as to the mode of serving them up. No one can know so well as the builder how to work in a marble slab or a block of granite, and we claim to understand better than anybody else how to work up the materials with which our contributors are so kind as to furnish us. We hope, therefore, that in this thing they will show us all due forbearance, while they continue to supply us, more and more, with their unsophisticated thoughts on all subjects pertaining to life and godliness.

Our ambition is to make our sheet more an aggregation of valuable experiences than of elegant and polished sentences. We desire that every one should have a hearing,—the servant as well as her mistress, the employed as well as the employers, the farmer, merchant, mechanic, sailor, yea, high and low, learned and unlearned. Occasionally we are compelled to reject an article, because we have before published on the same subject, or because it is in a field of thought not adapted to our columns, or for some other reason; but our principle is to absolutely reject none except we are compelled. We find in nearly all something valuable, something too good to be thrown away; and after adjusting it to the general spirit of our paper, we make a point of using it when we can.

Each class has its own views, which none can so well represent as writers from among themselves. Each one has its own sense of sorrows and difficulties, which one remote from itself, however gifted as a writer, cannot fully comprehend. And hence, the paper which embodies utterances from all the callings and conditions, will be at once the most truthful and the most varied, and will come home far more to men's business and bosoms. We hope, therefore, our friends will favor us with their communications,—on this sole condition, that we be left to our own judgment as to the mode of using them.

It is some six or seven years since we have had so long a spell of severe weather and unabated frost as has prevailed for the last month or six weeks. The snow is probably of the average depth of about two feet and in some places more, and except on the coast seems to have fallen with a level surface. As far as we can learn the cold weather appears to have been general throughout the North American continent, and even as far as New Orleans has been felt with much severity. With all its severity, however, a good, permanent coating of snow on the earth is highly welcome in our own latitude. The facilities it affords for winter work on the farm and the benefit it imparts to the soil far outweighs all its disadvantages.

We have really nothing to record this week in the shape of public news. The weekly despatch from New York adds not a particle of interest to our former European intelligence. We are not yet aware what

measures of importance are likely to come before the British Parliament. No doubt the leading point of interest will spring from the preparations for a vigorous prosecution of the war. If the dread realities of war are to continue, it will require wise heads and strong hands to direct and manage the contest. We believe, as we have often said before, that the best interests of mankind are involved in the success of the Allied Armies, and in such belief we can say, "May God defend the right."

We do not hear that the American Congress have yet ended their child's play in the choice of their Speaker. It gives but an indifferent opinion of the value of legislative time, when it can be wasted with so little compunction by those who are engaged in its expenditure.

General Intelligence.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, Jan. 8, 1856.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, has been pleased to make the following appointment:

To be Notary and Tabellion Public—Brenton H. Collins, Esq.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has imported into this Province upwards of twenty English Pheasants, which can be seen at Downs' grounds, N. W. A. M. These Pheasants become acclimated, and we believe it is the intention of the Governor to send a few to McNab's Island, and also to Sable Island, where they can run wild.

"L. O. C. Doyle, late of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has been admitted to practice as Attorney and Counsellor at Law in the City and State of New York.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The last two Wednesday evenings James Thompson Esq. lectured at the Institute on the History of the Russian Empire. He was evidently well posted up in his subject and succeeded in making it interesting. Dr. Gilpin is to lecture next Wednesday evening on Natural History.—*Witness* (Secular).

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The Rev THOMAS DUNN lectured before this Association on Tuesday evening last, on COLUMBUS AND HIS TIMES. The night was beautiful, the audience large and attentive, and the Rev. lecturer acquitted himself remarkably well. He brought out in clear relief the more interesting features of his subject, and in concluding, threw some valuable practical hints to the youthful part of the audience. The next lecture is to be delivered on the 5th February, by the Rev. S. T. RAND. Subject; *God in Language*.—*Witness*.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—We are sorry to have to announce some very serious railway accidents which have occurred recently. On Monday last, two horses working upon Messrs. Creelman & Tupper's section of the line, were precipitated over the lofty embankment adjoining the viaduct at Sackville, and both killed. Their driver had a very narrow escape, but fortunately, as we understand, did escape unhurt. A much more serious accident occurred upon Mr. Cameron's section, near Windsor. Two men were instantaneously killed by the falling in of a bank where they were excavating, on the 19th inst.; a third who was of the party died almost immediately after being dug out; and a fourth was so dreadfully mangled that his sufferings were intense and his recovery was considered very doubtful. Two of the deceased, were named Keefe and the third, Collins; and the name of the man who survived was Sexton.—*Recorder*.

Capt. Caldwell acknowledges the receipt of Ten pounds from A. Scott, Esq. Agent for the Aetna, and Ten guineas from P. C. Hill, Esq. Agent for the Equitable Insurance Office, in aid of the funds of the Union Fire Engine Company.

A building owned and occupied, both as a dwelling house and shop, by Mr. Neil McKenna, Saddler, at Antigonish, was totally destroyed by fire, during the night of Tuesday the 22nd inst., together with all the tools, furniture, and even wearing apparel of the occupants. Mr. McKenna and his family could but just manage to escape as they arose from their beds.—*Id.*

The Yarmouth *Herald* says—A shock of an earthquake was experienced here about 7½ o'clock on Thursday morning. It lasted upwards of half a minute, and shook buildings, furniture, &c.

Several sheep have recently been destroyed by wild cats, at Salmon River, near Yarmouth.

TRADE OF YARMOUTH.—Returns published in Yarmouth papers, exhibit a steady progressive commercial prosperity at that port. Ship-building, too, is on the increase, and everything seems to prove that all is well at that enterprising locality.—Such evidences of provincial prosperity are cheering in the extreme to every son, native or adopted, of Nova Scotia.