

earnest desire to labor as an evangelist among his kindred, his brethren according to the flesh. For this purpose he is seeking the necessary qualifications. Can your committee entertain a doubt respecting the forthcoming means of educating him?

It is only necessary to add, that Mr. Rand bears testimony to the christian deportment of Benjamin. He says, "I have known him for more than seven years. I often contrast his appearance and conduct seven years ago, with what they are now. With the deepest solicitude have I watched him for the last 18 months, but I have never seen or heard anything inconsistent with his profession. How often has my heart been moved, while listening to addresses in his own tongue, to "Our Father in Heaven." How has my soul been stirred while hearing him read and speak to his people. I have been led at such times to exclaim, "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

The report of last year gave an account of a Micmac dying in the triumphs of faith and going as he firmly believed, to be with Christ. We are happy in now being able to speak of another whose conversion we hope is genuine. We pray that he may be spared to labor on earth for the salvation of his people, and that he may be but a drop before a plentiful shower—the first fruits of an abundant harvest.

[The first part of our London Correspondent's letter giving highly interesting statements respecting affairs on the continent of Europe, &c., we must defer till next week. The following, being the latter part of his communication, from the denominational connexion as well as from the appalling nature of the catastrophe possesses most painful interest.]

For the Christian Messenger.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

(By our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, Oct. 24th, 1856.

MR. SPURGEON—THE DEAD, WOUNDED, AND DYING.

A fearful accident took place on Sunday evening, Oct. 19. Mr. Spurgeon's chapel in Park Street having proved much too small to accommodate the masses who throng to hear him, he preached at Exeter Hall; and latterly engaged the large Music Hall in Surrey Zoological Gardens, for four Sundays, collections to be made after each service, for funds towards building an immense new chapel. This hall was built expressly for concerts on the Jullien scale. The gardens in which the Hall stands, like a small Crystal Palace, are decked with sculpture, ornamental parterres, artificial lakes, a gigantic diorama, fireworks galleries, and all the usual or unusual appliances of a first-rate, unequalled place of entertainment.

At four o'clock sufficient numbers assembled to more than fill the Hall. At six the gardens were filled with 12,000 persons, and 8,000 more packed in the surrounding streets! The ordinary members and friends of the rev. gentleman's congregation were admitted by tickets; so that, before the outside gates were opened, the hall was nearly full.

"Mr. Spurgeon commenced by ascending the pulpit, which had been erected on the stage or platform, and, after the preliminary prayer, read a selection from the 16th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, in which he forcibly showed that 'No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.' In introducing his subject, he said that there were many present who had frequently neglected to serve God, although they knew it was their duty; but the fact was, they had done so, and they thought it was no sin, they imagining that they could run with the hare, and at the same time run with the hounds. If the congregation professed to be Christians, let them act as such; but if they did not profess to be such, let them say so, and there would be an end of the case, for they could not 'serve God and Mammon.'

"After dilating at considerable length upon the Gospel, another hymn was sung, and Mr. Spurgeon offered up another prayer, in which he alluded to certain persons, whom he knew, he said, to be present, who had been backsliders from the house of God; he also said he could see many present who were bringing their fathers' gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

"At this stage of the proceedings, (says the police Superintendent who was present,) three persons rose simultaneously in the body of the hall, and throwing out their arms in a very frantic manner, called out 'Fire, fire!' It is needless to attempt to describe the effect these shouts had upon the audience. They rose en masse, as if electrified, and, apparently with one mind, made a rush towards the various places of exit, causing

the most fearful confusion and uproar, every person endeavouring to save their own lives at the risk of sacrificing those of their fellow creatures. The rev. gentleman implored the excited multitude to keep their seats, assuring them there was no danger—that nothing had occurred—that the alarm was false. This was repeated by the officials and others at every point of the building. It had no effect upon those to whom it was addressed. Those in the rear of the doors pushed heedlessly upon those in front, and carried all before them like a roaring flood.

Surrounding the hall were several galleries; and, of course, the occupants of them were as much excited and alarmed as those on the basement. When the cry was raised an immediate rush was made to the staircase, which soon became thronged. The pressure from the people in the first gallery, at the north-west tower of the building, was so dense that those nearest the staircase were driven out by those pressing behind with such terrific force that the iron banisters which were fixed into the stone staircase, and surmounted by a thick mahogany rail, were torn from their sockets, shivering to atoms the mahogany, and precipitating between fifty and sixty persons down the side of the staircase, on to the crowd below, killing some instantly, and fearfully wounding others.

The cries and shrieks at this period were truly terrific, and added to the already pent up excitement of those who had not been able to make their exit. They pressed furiously on, treading over the dead and dying, tearing frantically at each other. Hundreds had their clothes literally torn from their backs; masses of men and women were driven down and trodden over, heedless of their cries and lamentations; men appeared to care not for women, and women seemed equally callous of their own sex, one object only appearing to fill the mind of all, and that was self-preservation. Some climbed over the galleries, and dropped upon the heads of those beneath them; others smashed out the windows, vainly endeavouring to escape by jumping out, to the injury of those below. All this time the pressure from those behind became greater and greater, and many who would not otherwise have been injured were crushed and injured by the surrounding multitude. Women and even strong men fainted, dropped upon the floor, and were trodden over by those following them.

Notwithstanding the number that had fallen from the gallery, the crowd still pressed on to the staircase; and had it not been for the providential circumstance that there was an iron pillar supporting the end of the gallery, the loss of life must have been most alarming.

While this scene of devastation and terror was proceeding at the north-west end of the building, similar horrors were being enacted at all other outlets.

The persons on the platform in vain tried all they could to induce the congregation to understand that no danger was to be apprehended, provided the parties kept their places; but such was the excitement consequent upon the sudden alarm thus raised, that men, women, and children were forced down in terrible confusion, and, being trampled upon, eight lives were lost, and a great number seriously, if not fatally, injured. The preacher, finding it utterly impossible to quell the disturbance, called upon those under the pulpit to sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." The chorists immediately did as they were desired, but without the least effect, and men in the upper galleries commenced breaking the windows and jumping out. At the same time a general rush was made down stairs; and so great was the pressure against the banister of the staircase leading to the north gallery that the same was forced down, and as the parties made a rush to escape they kept falling over each other and alighted upon the ground, a distance of at least seven or eight feet. Here the poor sufferers laid, being trampled upon by those who were so fortunate to escape with their lives.

Then a general onslaught was made on the glass doors on the ground floor; and after demolishing them, and large sheets of plate glass in the windows, the parties near crawled through the apertures, but in so doing many persons' heads were much cut, and several legs and arms broken. Being thus rendered unable to move either one way or the other, owing to the serious nature of the injuries they had received, and, after being trodden upon by numerous parties, they were extricated.

Mr. Spurgeon, finding that it was impossible to obtain anything like quietude, commenced singing again, in which the congregation on the platform joined most fervently; but even this had no effect, and doors, windows, chairs and benches could be heard breaking, which had the effect of inducing the persons in the place to believe that

the building was really on fire. This caused another general rush towards the doors, and a scene like the former ensued: men, women, and children cast down and trampled upon. The shrieks and groans again became fearful; and, in spite of those on the platform endeavouring to convince the congregation that the building was perfectly safe, the rush continued, and as the persons came down stairs they continued to fall over that part of the staircase that had been forced away, by which it is roughly estimated that upwards of 500 persons were more or less seriously injured."

As soon as the shrieks of the unfortunate creatures who were suffering in the inside were heard by those who had obtained ingress into the gardens, but could not obtain admission into the hall, they made a desperate rush to the outer gates: but, by a strange arrangement, they could find no means of getting without, the gates having been firmly closed, to prevent the great crowd, which had been outside all the evening, from entering the gardens. Men, women and children climbed and were drawn and thrown over the iron railings, many of them being severely injured in consequence. As soon as it was known by those outside that a terrible accident had occurred, the wildest rumours prevailed. Some asserted that the entire building had fallen in, burying all beneath; others, that the galleries had given way, carrying their occupants upon those below. Then the most fearful excitement prevailed outside. Fathers, whose wives and families were in the building—mothers, whose children were there—and, in fact, every person who knew of a relative of any kind that had gained admission, raised wildest lamentations for those believed to be lost forever.

By this time the greater portion of the audience had escaped from the hall, and, of course, with great precipitancy made for the street. Those who had been fortunate enough to escape without injury, assisted their less fortunate companions—which at once realized the fact of the sad calamity to those outside, who as quickly as possible made their way towards the building for the purpose of seeking their relatives and friends. All those who had power to do so, had now left the hall, and only the sad spectacle of dead, dying and wounded was to be seen.

The aspect of the hall, after the departure of the audience, from the debris of their garments too sadly told the tale of the fearful struggle which must have occurred during the endeavour to escape. There was scarcely any description of garment, worn by male or female, but was to be found in the building—boots, shoes, legs of trousers, tails and arms of coats, petticoats, shawls, bonnets, hats, victorines, caps, coats, and other articles of wearing apparel to a great extent.

As soon as the hall was entirely cleared, an official inspection took place, to see if there were any just grounds for the alarm which caused the dreadful catastrophe; but none were found, and it is believed that the disturbance was purposely created by swell mobs-men, for better pursuit of their nefarious trade. £50 reward for their apprehension has been offered by Mr. Spurgeon and his deacons, and the police are said to have a clue to their identity.

At a meeting in Park Street on Monday evening following, one of the deacons stated that Mr. Spurgeon had been removed from town, and would fulfil no public engagements that week. He is represented as feeling acutely the dreadful occurrence: indeed, who would not? £50 for the sufferers, and relatives of the killed, has been raised by the Park Street people, and various services will be held to further the same object.

The bodies of those killed present every evidence of suffocation, being quite blue in the face. Eight were taken away dead, at first; others have since expired. One female owns to having killed her sister, by being forced down upon her. She received her sister's last respiration on her face, but could not rise from off her, though shrieking for aid.

The wounded cannot be correctly estimated. Many of the less seriously injured got away and have not since been heard of; many more lie in precarious states, at workhouses, and private houses.

An inquest was held, but adjourned till to-day, when Mr. Spurgeon is expected to appear before the Coroner. Of course no real blame in connection with this lamentable event can be attributed to the former gentleman. The assemblage might have met, as others have done, without injury.

YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

All the London papers by the last mail give some account of the above melancholy catastrophe. They all agree in the main features, but of course, some of them attempt,

unjustly, to blame parties connected, for not taking better precautions for the preservation of order, with such an immense gathering.

The following may be relied on as the latest information concerning the matter.

"At a meeting, held at the chapel in New Park-street, on Monday night, over which Mr. Spurgeon usually presides, Mr. Moore, one of the deacons, made the following statement with reference to the accident. He said—

"Had it not been for an overwhelming sense of duty I never could have come here to-night. I am more fit to be in bed. I never passed through a more miserable and distressing day than this has been. With regard to the alarm last night, there is no doubt that it originated from wicked designing men. If ever Satan was permitted to take human appearance and walk the earth, it was on last night. Oh, that dreadful scene! But I must now let you know what particulars I have ascertained concerning the extent of the calamity, as preaching to-night is quite impossible. At an early hour this morning I was at the gardens, and found that seven persons had been killed, five of whom are lying at the workhouse, and about twenty-five or twenty-seven others more or less mutilated. Some of these we fear will not recover, but we must hope for the best. You are anxious to hear about our poor pastor—he is very bad. Very bad I say, not from any injuries or bruises he has received, but from the extreme tension on his nerves and his great anxiety. So bad is he that we were fearful for his mind this morning. Under these circumstances, only one thing could be done, that is, to send him into the country away from the scene. As we knew that a great number of persons would call at his house during the day, we sent him early this morning; so that none of his engagements can be entered into this week. From information I have just received, I am enabled to tell you that to-night he is a little better, but still very prostrate. Mr. Olney (another deacon) is ill in bed.

"Let us be more merciful to our enemies of last night than they were to us. That wicked wretch—that man whom we are justified in calling a miscreant—who first gave the dreadful signal by which so much life was lost [here Mr. Moore, with many of his audience, burst into tears]. Let us even pray for him. Who knows but that he may one day stand in this room and own his great crime, and seek for repentance?"

The chapel was not nearly so full as it usually is on these occasions; and the dejected countenances, the sorrowful looks, and the tears of many of the audience, would have been alone sufficient to indicate to a stranger that some dreadful event had taken place.

A few minutes before the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Moore announced the death of another sufferer. He also assured the audience that he (Mr. Moore) was the first who proposed to Mr. Spurgeon to preach in the Surrey Music-hall—against that gentleman's wishes from the first. The money collected on Sunday night, amounting to about \$1, was intended to be devoted to the families of the sufferers, and a further collection was made after that service. It was announced that Mr. Spurgeon, as soon as he was sufficiently recovered, would preach a sermon with the same charitable object."

For the Christian Messenger.

Extract of letter from Rev. C. Randall.

"We have just had a visit from our esteemed Brother, Rev. N. Cyr, who left us yesterday, in the stage for Yarmouth, where he intends to remain till Tuesday next, when he leaves in the Eastern State for Boston.—May God speed his work.

A Donation Visit came off at my house on Thursday the 9th ult. Some 70 or 80 persons assembled, and after several hours very agreeably spent, and a comfortable repast served up by the Ladies in attendance, the company separated, leaving for the benefit of the Pastor and family, £10 in money, and useful articles to the value of about £8."

Weymouth, Nov. 5, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

MARGARET SANDERS.

DIED, at Hebron, Sept. 30th, Margaret, third daughter of the late Deacon John Sanders, Esq., in the thirtieth year of her age.

The deceased had been for several years afflicted with consumption, which at times confined her at home. At intervals she was restored so far as to attend the house of God. The attack which terminated her life was some four or five months doing its work; all of which time she kept her room and most of the time her bed. She was, however, through all her sickness sustained by the grace of God. She bore her sufferings patiently, and gradually ripened for glory. Sister Sanders had "remembered her Creator in the days of her youth," and was constrained by the love of God about seven years ago to unite with the people of God. She was at that time baptized by the Rev. James Reid, and united with the second Yarmouth church, of which he was then pastor, and of which she has since been a consistent member. Lovely in her life and

peaceful in her pastor her father, Barton, who was of a kind, christian, and sinless earth.—Com

Relig

New Bapti

The opening new college, House, were in the rooms of a kind, christian, and sinless earth.—Com

Dr. Leitch, on This was proffered up by J. Stratton, T. Pottinger.

The morning meeting, presided, superintends and also of the The Chair

the auspicious importance of everything c depress the r were to devo

He dwelt at i provision ma He said he in preference

colleges of having himse conscientious sould should ened member mist order.

of confidence Nonconform teaching work if now alive, The Rev. confined him of the quest originally as but they had

was insured to the value sidered they He thought ed by about available for to accommo comparative friends had who many into Stepane time his successfully thought of on condition as long as accepted.

The Rev. Baptist W. assembly. for and the and urged Gospel, at philosophi In the e institution the chair.

The Pre report, wh twenty-sev tages of t dent; and had settle on their w the church student hi Trinidad. After se resolution singing th

PRESB two month the Colon bounds of have been of fixed o The R accepted town, at the Rev. The R accepted tion at the past