

driven from the field. The "war on Christian principles" had prevailed. It always will.

Mr. Dimock was left to finish out his sermon to the half dozen who comprised the remainder of the audience—the friendly Irishman, who might now resume the control of his stick, a solitary sailor and the members of the family.

The sermon, I take it, was brief. Not of such longitudinal dimensions as those to which brotner Nutter's good natured hearers used to listen with such marvellous tranquillity in those palmy days of cowhide boots, meeting houses without clapboards or stoves, and a handful of meal in the barrel. Before the friends at the "farms," to whom word had been sent, had arrived, all was over, and the blessing pronounced. They had been anticipated by half an hour. The minister met them at the door. "You have arrived too late," said he, "for the meeting, but I trust you will not be too late at Mercy's gate." He proceeded to converse with them individually upon the concerns of their own souls. Soon there was an interruption. Two fierce looking fellows were coming down the hill from the tavern; on they ran, seemingly bent on mischief. They were two of the party for whose benefit the service had been held. Mr. Dimock threaded his way through the group, and went up to the foremost, laid his hand upon him, and kindly spoke to him of "Jesus and the Resurrection." The poor fellow stood as though petrified and transfixed to the spot, and listened attentively to the exhortation. The other turned on his heel and fled, shouting at the top of his voice, "He's got him, he's got him;" but whether he meant that the man had got the minister or the minister the man, was never ascertained. No one could doubt what the fact was in the case. As soon as he was released, he walked slowly back to the place whence he came a wiser if not a better man.

It was afterwards ascertained that on re-assembling at the tavern, some such enquiries were made as were once made in a case somewhat similar. Such as, "Why have ye not brought him?" and answers were returned somewhat like those of the Jewish officers: "Never man spake like this man." It was agreed unanimously that no violence could be committed upon the person of so good a man. But might he not be brought up to the house "without violence?" It was to test this question that the two had returned. They were to be "treated" if they succeeded. A gallon of rum was, I believe, to be the reward. But it could not be done. Mr. D. had taken the best course for self-defence. O could the world but be persuaded to "go and do likewise," what woes and miseries would be prevented. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty" in every sense. So far as Christianity prevails, wars must cease. And, bear in mind, that public bodies and nations are composed of private individuals. The principles of Christianity must control us in all states, situations and relations, or we ignore their control altogether.

But my story is not yet ended. The effects of the "war spirit" were illustrated on that memorable day, as well as those of the "peace principle." In returning to his home it was necessary for Mr. Dimock to pass the tavern. Mr. Hubley and the Irishman accompanied him, the latter still grasping his cudgel. One of the rowdies put his head out of the window and addressed them in obscene and insulting language. "I cannot stand that," said the Irishman. "My blood boils to be revenged." The others remonstrated, but he would not listen, and returned to try the potency of the "war principle," of which he was a little embodiment. They met him as he approached brandishing his weapon, and he levelled them right and left. "He'd teach them to insult decent people and disturb divine worship." In their broken heads and bloody noses, they would reap the fruits of their doings. But the odds were against him, as they were against Napoleon, after Blucher had "come up." His force was overpowered and crushed. The poor fellow was almost beaten to death. Such is the war spirit. Such is war. Such are its results. Heaven grant that it may cease!

**TOBACCO.**—The distinguished Dr. Warren, of Boston, says, "In the course of my experience and observation, I have not found one individual who began to use tobacco largely and freely, and persisted in it, who had a sound spinal marrow."

## Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 16, 1856.

WE feel it necessary to revert to a subject, which altho' it has of late been often referred to in our columns, has lost nothing of its interest—on the contrary every succeeding month gives it a deeper and more permanent importance. We allude to the claims and management of our Home Missions—claims which cannot be neglected or postponed without the most imminent danger to the vital interests of the Denomination, and to the welfare of immortal souls. We sincerely hope that our brethren of the different Churches, who have carefully weighed the matter, as no doubt many of them have, will come together at our Approaching Associations, determined to originate some far more efficient means than at present exist, to concentrate the powers and enlarge the efforts of our Missionary Boards, in order that they may if possible be made to meet the growing exigencies of the land we live in. The rapid increase of our population, and the small means at present in operation, to impart the blessings of the Gospel to thousands who are at present almost beyond its reach, urge upon us the need of prompt and well matured plans to effect any thing adequate to the demand made upon us. We feel satisfied that with well organized means and no very great amount of steady effort, a treble amount of money to that now collected, could be realized among our people for an object which has always been so much favoured by them, as that of Domestic Missions. Without entering into a long recapitulation of what we and our correspondents have so often repeated on the subject, we will only here make special reference to one particular field of missionary labour, which has of late suffered much by our apparent indifference to its claims. We refer to the state of Missionary effort in Prince Edward's Island. We can well recollect an observation of our late departed Brother Manning, who well knew the religious wants and capabilities of that rich Province, that there were materials there, which if rightly cultivated, were, within no distant period, sufficient to form two or three flourishing Baptist Associations. We believe such opinion, the result of the careful observation of one of the most sagacious and far seeing minds we have ever had among us, was entirely correct, nor have we ever seen any thing since, as relates to the Baptist interest in the Island to change our views. We are however sorry to think that owing to the little aid we have of late afforded them, the connection between us is every day growing weaker, and that if left without our help, owing to their peculiar circumstances, other influences are likely to come in and materially interfere with the progress of the Baptist cause there. But this although a highly important, is by no means a solitary instance of the evils of our present want of system.

THE London Religious Press continues to be filled with notices of the ministry of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, the youthful minister, whose precocious pulpit talents have been for the past year creating so much sensation in the great metropolis. The New Park Street Baptist church in Southwark, formerly presided over by Dr. Rippon, to which he ministers, appears to have been already much enlarged and blessed under his labours, and the congregations continue to be so crowded as to require several police constables to be in attendance to keep order and prevent accidents at the doors. His warmer admirers seem to accuse his ministerial brethren, both of his own and other evangelical bodies, of rather holding aloof and not according him their sympathy and fellowship to the extent which his talents and devotedness merit. The truth is that so young a man (not yet twenty-one) coming out in a somewhat new and startling style of preaching, so far as manner and language is concerned, appears to have created in his older and more sedate brethren of the ministry some fears; lest there should be a good deal of false fire in his zeal, and which rendered it of doubtful expediency to give him a full and hearty recognition. As far, however, as yet appears, his walk is quite consistent with his profession, and his popularity, after a years incessant preaching,

is rather on the increase. His labours are in no degree confined to his own church, as he is notified as almost daily preaching or attending and addressing religious or benevolent meetings in and around London. We sincerely pray that his character and his success in winning souls to Christ may continue to be all that his devoted adherents can desire.

WE are pleased to hear that Mr. C. A. Cooke, of Boston, is expected soon in Halifax, as an agent and colporteur in behalf of the American Tract Society. He will call on the citizens of Halifax at their houses with books. To ministers and dealers we understand he will sell at a liberal discount. He will be sure to meet the patronage of all who understand the excellent character of the society by which he is employed,—the low price, and the purely evangelical stamp of its publications, and its freedom from any denominational bias.

A friend from Port Hood called on us a few days since, endeavouring to raise a sum of money to enable Capt. Potter, of Mabou, to replace his vessel which was lost during the gales of last fall. Persons willing to assist may send any sum for that purpose to J. L. Tremain, Esq., Port Hood.

THE R. M. Steamer *Cambria* arrived on Monday morning with the English mails, bringing dates to the 29th ult. The Treaty of Peace was not definitively signed, but, it is said, was expected to be the day after the steamer left. Some slight interruption and delay appears to have occurred upon the question as to the position which Prussia should be allowed to take, as a party to the Treaty. This, however, seems to have been finally arranged, and doubt can no longer be entertained that Peace will be concluded. Nothing further has transpired that we have yet seen, as regards the more specific terms of the Treaty. We give as full extracts as our time for going to press will allow.

As far as we have been able to judge we should say that hardly any reasonable terms of peace will thoroughly satisfy the disappointed feelings of many both in England and the Colonies; that the war has ended without larger military successes on the part of the British Armies, after so vast a preparation of physical force and so great an expenditure of lives and treasure. Especially has the partial failure of our troops in the final assault on Sebastopol awakened in the nation an impatient desire to retrieve what might to some extent lower our position in a military point of view. This is, however, by no means a justifiable view of the case, and springs chiefly from a thirst of military glory. If only the ability of Russia to trouble the world for the gratification of a bad ambition by future aggression be thoroughly curbed, it is all that we need wish or look for. As far as her humiliation or severe chastisement for her offence are concerned, there has been surely enough to satisfy even the bitterest thirst for revenge. Christians will at any rate rejoice that violence and bloodshed have ceased, and that they are again left free to labour for the more glorious conquests of peace and righteousness.

It is said that the young Prince of Prussia who visited England last season is shortly to return as the recognized suitor of the young Princess Royal who is just fifteen. Among ourselves there is little to vary the monotony of the season or gratify the desire of novelty. Our Legislature are just on the point of prorogation, having expended some twelve weeks without any very visible doings for the general good of the country. The only great questions brought forward,—the Education Bill, the Prohibitory Liquor Law and the Municipal Corporation Act, have all turned out abortive. As regards measures of a less comprehensive and more local nature, we cannot speak. A Law has also passed modifying Jury Trials, by diminishing the numbers of Petit Jurors on the trial of all Civil Causes, limiting them to nine, of whom a majority of seven are to be empowered to find a legal verdict. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the details of the Act to speak more at large. Similar innovations in the Jury laws have been introduced into New Brunswick and in other places.

The weather, altho' clear and pleasant, is still cold, and a considerable depth of snow is found in the woods throughout the country. There does not yet seem any indications of a very early spring.

ALTHOUGH we have given nearly four pages of original matter for several weeks past, we have still several highly important and interesting communications, which want of space has compelled us to defer, among which may be mentioned, "A letter from Australia," one on "Unscriptural Phrases," one on "Bible Revision," two on "Female Education," two or three on "France," &c. We do not feel overborne, however, by them, far from it; we only beg the writers to exercise the virtue of patience for a short time, and not suppose they are forgotten. Our readers will not fail to appreciate the increasing variety which these give to our pages. The expressions of interest in the paper and of satisfaction with its contents, we are continually receiving, demand from us grateful acknowledgments which we feel much pleasure in tendering to our numerous correspondents. When these communications are accompanied with the names of new subscribers, they are evidence of our friends' efforts that others should share with them the pleasure and benefit we wish to afford to all our readers.

We shall shortly be relieved from the demand made on our space by reports of our Legislative proceedings. Those who have had opportunity of seeing other papers will, we think, allow that our abstracts will compare favourably with those given in any of the papers, and may be considered a correct and impartial record of the session.

At the March commencement of the Medical department of Harvard University, the Degree of M. D. was conferred upon Alexander Crawford Page of Truro.

We understand Dr. Page intends returning to his native township to practice his profession, where, doubtless, his talents and professional skill will be properly appreciated.

It will be seen by the advertisement in another column, that the Quarterly Session of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance is postponed on account of the badness of the roads. In the present state of affairs in connexion with that organization, it is most important that as large an attendance of delegates should be secured as possible. The obstacles in the way of travelling will doubtless be much less at the time to which it is postponed than at present.

The Quarterly Prayer Meeting on behalf of the Mic-mac Missionary Society will be held on Friday the 18th inst., in the Granville Street Baptist Church, commencing at half-past 7 in the evening. The President of the Society, Rev. Dr. Twining in the chair. W. Howe, Esq., will deliver an address. A collection will be taken at the close.

The Houses of Legislature we are informed will be prorogued this day.

Accounts were received by the *Cambria* of the death of Sir Rupert D. George formerly Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.

THE Liverpool Transcript devotes nearly three columns to a notice of the public recognition of the Rev. J. Tomkins M. A., as pastor of the Congregational Church at Liverpool, which took place on Thursday, April 3rd,—the Rev. G. Cornish and the Rev. J. Melvin the former pastor took part in the services.

We make the following extracts from the Rev. Mr. Tomkins's address accepting the invitation to the pastorate.

"Mr. Gorham bequeathed £60 annually to the minister—this has been paid—£20 to be paid annually to the Sabbath School of the Congregational Church—one sum of twenty pounds only has been paid in nearly seven years. £25 annually to be paid to the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, one half to be returned in Bibles for distribution by the Queen's County Bible Association. Seven years have passed away and not one copy of the word of God has been circulated at present by the aid of this bequest. I felt it my duty to communicate with the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who is a minister of my own communion, and with whom I am personally acquainted. I sent him an extract from the will of Mr. Gorham, and the names of the surviving trustees. I waited for nearly seven years for those whose duty it was to do this before my pen was employed. I am informed that since the date of the letter I have quoted from, which was the 12th of December, 1855, that an instalment has been paid, but at present not a Bible has reached your town from Mr. Gorham's bequest. The residue of Mr. Gorham's bequest was to be employed in training young men for the ministry of the Congregational Church. There has been a large residue, but not one shilling has been thus employed up to the present hour. As your Pastor I shall become one of the protectors and guardians of this fund—a fund in which you and all this County are interested."