

seven churches, from which the following particulars appear. During the year

800 have been baptized  
529 have been restored  
188 have been received

Total increase 1526

374 have died  
786 have been excluded  
45 have been dismissed  
73 have withdrawn

Total decrease 1278

Nett Total increase 248.

Number of Members . . . 17,492  
Number of Inquirers . . . 1,803  
Sabbath School Scholars . . 6,742  
Of Teachers . . . . . 750

These figures excite mingled feelings of joy and sorrow. Who can but rejoice to discover that so many as 809 individuals have, as we hope through Divine grace, been constrained to be baptized on a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus; and that 529 persons who had backslidden, have thought upon their ways and returned to the Lord? A band of 1,338 has during the past twelve months, been added to the churches, being an average of 28 to each station, exclusive of re-entrants. For this we bless God. Against this increase, however, we have to set 783 exclusions, and 73 withdrawals, in all 859, not reckoning those who have departed this life, and who, we hope, are now in a better world. The nett average increase on every church is only 5. This fact should be duly weighed, as affording a loud call for a revival of deep toned piety.

Ministers in the Union generally have not to complain of diminished congregations. In three or four places, the attendance is far from good, but generally, the sanctuaries of the Most High are filled. Though cholera and small-pox removed thousands from our chapels, the places of the dead are for the most part occupied by other hearers.—This proves that there is a spirit of hearing for which we cannot be too thankful. But the returns alluded to, show that conversions are not equal to the efforts employed. Then where is the evil? This is a subject which demands the serious and faithful consideration of the pastors, officers, and members of the united churches.

We admit fully that we have many difficulties to contend with, and many influences against us. Numbers of the better educated classes set a fearful example to the community; the rulers, as a body, are not godly; the rejoicings over the fall of Sebastopol, have had in some localities a most pernicious influence, and whetted the appetite for disgraceful carousings; superstition now and then displays its soul-injuring effects; the sins of at least 786 professors of religion excluded from the churches; must tell sadly against the work. Still with all these, and a host of other obstacles and drawbacks, the conviction remains that the church of Christ is not making any proportionate inroads on the world. Christians must awake, arise, and attack the kingdom of darkness. Let ministers and members unite in earnest, united prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit; let the pulpit present the truth to the hearers earnestly, affectionately, faithfully; let the deacons and leaders institute house to house visitation, and call on sinners to turn to the Lord; let special class meetings be held to stir up believers, and draw the ungodly under the influence of the gospel; let the churches secure the aid of the sisterhood to help in the work of the Lord; let each wrestle with the Great Head of the Church for a blessing, and we have no doubt, that next year we shall have to present a report which will yield joy to the church, and give glory to God.

LOVE OF CHILDREN.—Tell me not of the trim, precisely arranged homes where there are no children; "where," as the good Germans have it, "the fly-traps always hang straight on the wall!"—tell me not of the never disturbed nights and days, of the tranquil unanxious hearts where children are not; I care not for these things. God sends children for another purpose than merely to keep up the race—to enlarge our hearts, to make us unselfish, and full of kindly sympathies and affections; to give our souls higher aims, and to call our faculties to extended enterprise and exertion; to bring round our fireside bright faces and happy smiles, and loving, tender hearts. My soul blesses the Great Father every day, that he has gladdened the earth with little children.—Mary Howitt.

### Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 24, 1856.

MANY of our readers who some fifteen or twenty years since must have felt deeply interested in the accounts which so often appeared in the publications of the day, relative to the Baptist Missions of Jamaica, then struggling with difficulties which from time to time it would seem impossible for them to have surmounted, will be gratified with the extract we have given from the last report of the Jamaica Baptist Union, giving so satisfactory a relation of the present state of the churches in that Island. It is well known what an amount of trouble that once rich Colony has of late years passed through, in the first place owing to the change from Slavery to Freedom, and next the heavy afflictions that have since been visited upon it, in the form of the desolating epidemics that have half depopulated many parts of the Island. From these severe trials, however, we rejoice to find that the Colony is now beginning to recover, and that the rich resources of the country will probably ere long be again brought into activity under circumstances unaccompanied with the degrading and inhuman institutions which, from its first colonization, with all its wealth and prosperity, must be considered one of the heaviest curses that can afflict our race. It will be remembered that the Churches referred to in our extract, composing the Jamaica Union, are almost exclusively made up of the colored population; and the fact that within so short a period from the first establishment of the mission, and since the members have been relieved from their state of slavery, those churches are all self-sustaining, and also contribute no inconsiderable amount to other religious and benevolent objects, is one of the most conspicuous evidences of modern days, of the character and efficacy of Christian Truth under influences the most unpropitious and hostile. It also affords a most signal refutation of the pretence of the advocates of Slavery that the colored race are incapable of self-government, or of any great degree of moral or intellectual improvement. From all that we can learn, the Academy for the instruction of the native youth in Jamaica, is in a very efficient state, promising the most happy and satisfactory results, and producing a full share of industry and mental acquirements as compared with any Seminary of similar standing among a white population. A better proof of the spirit by which the Baptist Churches of Jamaica are actuated, cannot be given than the warm interest they have taken and the efforts they are making to carry the blessings of Christianity into the land of their forefathers, and we may well entertain the hope that such efforts will not be in vain. In Jamaica itself the labours and sufferings of the apostolic Knibb and his devoted fellow-workers are producing their appropriate fruit, while their glorified spirits even now may be rejoicing in the final accomplishment of their earnest and incessant prayers and desires while in the flesh. Happy would it be for millions of our enslaved fellow beings on this continent, if the same spirit of missionary zeal as first animated the English Missionaries to Jamaica, were suffered to have free course of operation in elevating an injured and degraded race, who, equally with ourselves, retain in their soul the traces of the Divine image, to the hopes of heaven and eternal life.

#### Obituaries.

Christian Biography when well written and the subjects faithfully treated is perhaps one of the most useful and profitable descriptions of reading. We are enabled by it to study character and observe the results of certain courses of conduct. We may discover by it what influences have been in operation to produce certain characteristics of mind, and what has caused the individual to experience seasons of sorrow and of joy. We thus obtain a further acquaintance with human nature and the dealings of God with his children.

Nearly related to this are the Obituary Notices we have supplied to us from time to time, for insertion in our pages. We know well how to sympathize with those who are called to suffer painful bereavements, and are desirous of affording them every facility for giving a permanent record

of their losses. When the subjects of them have occupied any prominent position in the Church of Christ, or have manifested traits of character which might be exhibited so as to be beneficial to others, a more extended notice is desirable. We have however had suggestions, given in all kindness, from some quarters that the persons noticed are sometimes but little known beyond their own locality and therefore afford less interest than other matters would, to the general reader. We have lately, therefore, only allotted a certain portion of our pages for matter of this description. We have sometimes received several such notices at one time from the same pen, the deaths having taken place some considerable time previous. When this has been the case, we have been compelled to defer some and insert others or we should have had much too large a portion occupied with this department. Our friends will therefore bear with us if their notices do not appear quite so early as they expect, and further we would suggest that it is desirable, except in some special cases of interest, to let the notice be condensed as much as possible.

#### Enlargement.

We are anxious to avoid delay in giving insertion to the communications of our correspondents, and to give the fullest exhibition of the state of public matters, especially in connection with the Christian Church, past and present, both living and dying, its extension and triumphs, which our columns will afford. That we may be the better able to accomplish this we have made arrangements for a further addition to the length of our pages, to commence next week. We doubt not our friends will appreciate our efforts and continue their endeavours to add new names to our list of subscribers, and we trust they will have the blessing of God resting on those endeavours and receive an abundant reward, by seeing those around them becoming more attached to the cause of truth and righteousness, and at last by meeting many of them in the Kingdom of their Father.

By our latest accounts from England it appears that the seat of Eastern warfare—the great battle ground—which for two years past has rivetted the attention, we might almost literally say, of the world, is finally evacuated by the allied forces—left a desolated province of the great northern despotism, occupied by a few hordes of impoverished Tartars and troops of half savage Cossacks.—Thus ends for the present the fearful drama of war. One of the principal difficulties that results from the late events is the final adjustment of the boundaries and government of what are called the Principalities—Wallachia and Moldavia.—The Russian Protectorate of course no longer subsists and the Provinces are nominally still under the Government of Turkey.—It is however understood that this is not to be the ultimate adjustment, but that some more permanent arrangement as regards their future destiny, is to be made by the general consent of the united Powers and of Turkey. In the mean time joint commissioners are defining the new boundaries on the Russian frontier, under the late Treaty.

In England trade, commerce, and manufactures appear to be in a healthy and flourishing state, and the crops of all kinds are likely to give a fair average yield. The great question which is for some time likely to engross public attention, is the reduction of the war establishment, as a large amount of the war expenditure must of necessity be reduced. It is however pretty certain that the Naval and Military force kept up will be much larger than that which preceded the late war. The general state of Europe is not such as to justify any well grounded hope of the commencement of such a period of peace as began in 1815. Most of the great Despotisms of Europe are maintaining their positions with strong but uncertain grasp, and as it is next to impossible for any great overturn of the present state of things to occur without involving Great Britain to a greater or less degree, it would be dangerous to leave herself unprepared to meet emergencies.

There is some appearance of a reduction in the prices of provisions and other articles of living, although until after we shall have for some time returned to the habits and feelings of peace, we cannot look for any very material alteration in this respect.

The last telegraph news speaks of the failure of an extensive London Bank—the Royal British. It is not stated to what amount, but it is probable heavy individual losses will be incurred.

We have nothing novel in public matters on this side of the water. We hope before finally going to press, to receive the latest European intelligence by our own Steamer, now hourly expected.

#### Halifax Mechanics' Library.

On Tuesday evening the 16th a Literary and Musical Entertainment was given at Temperance Hall in aid of the Halifax Mechanics Library. Dr. Hume the President occupied the chair. After a few preliminary remarks the chairman introduced the Hon. Joseph Howe who gave a historical sketch of the Library from its origin in the "backshop of John Naylor Esq." to the present time, with a notice of several who have been shareholders and have arisen to distinction. He referred to some of the celebrated libraries in the world and their influences. J. W. Passaw, Esq. then gave some readings in good style from Shakespere's "Merchant of Venice."

The 62nd Band performed some beautiful pieces of music in the course of the evening.

A second entertainment is to take place this evening when Hugo Reid Esq. will lecture on "Galileo and his discoveries." It will doubtless be highly instructive as well as interesting.

#### Our Exchanges.

We have been greatly disappointed by not receiving our U. States and New Brunswick exchanges for the past week. The N. Y. Chronicle has lately come to us very irregularly. The St. John's Visitor last week and for some time past has not made its appearance. We have had but two numbers for the last five or six weeks. The last number we got seemed as if just dipped, for it was completely saturated. Whether this irregularity arises from there being so many Halifaxes as the Recorder affirms or from carelessness on the part of those engaged in transmission, we know not. The Recorder says:—

"Most of the principal towns and villages of this Province belong each to a numerous American family of the same name. In looking into Harper's Gazetteer, we find that of places bearing the name of Lunenburg, there are in the Provinces and the United States, 7; Liverpool, 8; Shelburne, 6; Barrington, 5; Yarmouth, 5; Weymouth, 4; Annapolis, 6; Windsor, 24; Falmouth, 7; Newport, 30; Truro, 4; Onslow, 4; Londonderry, 9; Amherst, 9; Sherbrooke, 15; Bridgetown, or Bridgeton, 7; Dartmouth, 2. Most of these places have their duplicates, or triplicates in British America. Moreover they are all European names, and most of them occur frequently in other parts of the world. It is no wonder that everybody in this community is complaining of his letters and papers incessantly going astray."

#### REVIEW OF BOOKS.

Lessons at the Cross: or, Spiritual Truths familiarly exhibited in their relations to Christ. Whipple & Co., Boston: Christian Messenger Office, Halifax. 3s. 6d.

This book deserves more than a passing notice. Dr. Blagden says:—"I have been animated and strengthened in my own religious principles by reading it. It is luminous with Christ, and therefore may be conscientiously and unreservedly recommended." "No Christian can read it without being helped by it in walking the strait and narrow path."

English Traits, by R. W. Emerson. Phillips, Sampson, & Co., New York: E. G. Fuller, Halifax.

This volume gives a pretty fair analysis of English character as seen by an intelligent American during two visits in 1833 and 1847, written in a free, lucid, graphic style.

Monthly Magazines. E. G. Fuller, Halifax.

POTNAM has "A conflict with Chinese pirates," "Sketch of the Jesuits," and other smaller pieces.

GODEY has a beautiful frontispiece of "Chancellor's darling," with other superior plates, &c.

BLACKWOOD has a critique of "Macaulay," a continuation of "The Athelings," &c.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS is not equal to either of the foregoing, either in a literary or typographical point of view.

Brother H. Angell will please accept our thanks for a recent number of *The Bulwark*.

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