

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 20, 1856.

We have observed both in recent English and American publications, a very general complaint that a great decrease of spirituality has taken place of late years among the members of Evangelical Churches, and while it is acknowledged, and is indeed evident, that the number of those who are, in the judgment of charity, hopefully converted to God, in almost every place in the known world, are largely increased, it also too plainly appears, that in very numerous cases, the lives and conversation of those who have thus professed to have experienced the saving love of God, do not come up to the high and holy standard of faith and practice, without which the example of religious professors is little worth. If the complaint be real, as we must believe it is from the various sources from which it emanates, it reveals a state of things which deeply concerns the future prospects of the Church of Christ. In our own experience we do not hesitate to say that there appears much less separation from the world and its maxims, than even a few years since. A general assent to the distinguishing doctrines of the Cross is no doubt much more common than formerly, but the earnest desire to advance the cause of God and the welfare of the souls of men is evidently abated. The young convert too often gains in prudence what he loses in zeal, and the older disciple, becoming habituated to a society which has consented to avoid whatever may greatly shock his scruples, has in too many cases, met the world half way, and is making the vain and dangerous attempt to serve both God and Mammon. If the observation of an excellent Minister of Christ be true, "that we are but half awake" in the great matter of the salvation of our souls, how deeply does it concern us, one and all, to retrace our steps and earnestly beseech of God that he would redeem his people from a course which must otherwise result in the most fatal consequences to the Church and to the world.

We observe in the *Catholic* of the 9th inst. an Editorial article, on Legislative action as regards Education—a subject to which we ourselves briefly alluded in our last. Among some sensible observations on the general question of Education, there are also some strong objections to what is termed the "Massachusetts System,"—that based on public taxation, and being the model on which most of the respective State laws in the support of Common Schools throughout the Union, are substantially founded. We differ widely, in several points, with our cotemporary on this question, especially important at this moment, when the subject is likely to occupy much of the attention of our own Legislature, and to give a character for good or evil to the general course of future operations in Nova Scotia. In the first place we are wholly at issue with the *Catholic*, as to the effects produced by the respective systems, general and sectional. We believe that the happiest effects in regard to the moral standing and social happiness of the community at large, have followed from regulations which, without difficulty, bring the whole youth of a country together under well-instructed teachers, to imbibe the first rudiments of learning. If for no other reason, it would merit great consideration for the effect which such a system ensures of bringing the youthful progeny of all classes of religionists together, to be taught what they all admit is highly essential to their future well-being in life, and thus nipping in the bud that sectarian antipathy which is so likely to spring up and gain strength among different religious professions, when kept wholly separate—a result which we feel confident our cotemporary would not desire to encourage. The instructions which, at a more mature period, the youth would receive in Academies and Colleges, supported and governed by each particular denomination, would seem to us amply to provide against all improper influences, and serve to give what each may conscientiously believe to be the right bias. We also think that the Free School system, which brings together and places upon an entire equality the children of all ranks and degrees in society in

their earliest years, must have the best effects, and greatly tend to engender feelings of respect and kindness between different classes, in all stages of after life. The truth is, education must be obtained by our youth by some means. It is idle to suppose that the desire to obtain it, so prevalent in every country in Christendom—especially among American populations, can be repressed. The great question is—How shall it be inculcated? In our view, the earliest means of imparting its blessings should be as simple, as comprehensive, and as general as possible. We believe no other system meets and ensures these requirements so effectually and unobjectionally, as the one we advocate.

In respect to Normal Schools, we have not space to enter on the subject; but, it would certainly seem, that if we are to have any general system of popular instruction, we must have persons properly qualified to carry it into operation. Such schools should be so regulated as that persons of all denominations may receive their instructions without compromising their religious predilections, or they will be highly defective.

The following statistics taken from the Philadelphia Baptist Almanac, for the present year, may not be unacceptable to our readers:—

There were in the year 1854, in the United States, British Provinces and West Indies, *Five Hundred and Forty* Associations of Regular Baptists; *Ten Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-three* Churches; *Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Twelve* Ordained Ministers; *Sixty-six Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty-five* Persons Baptized;—and *Nine Hundred and Three Thousand, One Hundred and Ten* Members of Churches. Multiply this last figure by *five*, which is supposed to be about the average of individuals connected with each Church Member inclusive, it will give just *Four Millions and a Half* as the population of regular Baptists in North America.

The population of what is now the United States was, in round numbers,

In 1701, . . . . .	262,000 Souls.
" 1750, . . . . .	1,046,000 "
" 1800, . . . . .	5,305,000 "
" 1820, . . . . .	9,630,000 "
" 1830, . . . . .	12,806,000 "
" 1840, . . . . .	17,069,000 "
" 1850, . . . . .	23,191,000 "
" 1854, . . . . .	26,500,000 "

The English Mail has brought us communications from "our London Correspondent," and other valuable matter with which we shall be enabled to enrich our pages, but, owing to the lateness of its arrival, and the space being required by legislative intelligence, we must reserve it for future numbers.

The Committee of the Athenæum Reading Room, gave their second Literary and Musical Entertainment on Monday evening, at the Temperance Hall, before a densely-crowded audience. Robert C. Haliburton, Esq., gave some amusing descriptions of some of the old-English customs which are now becoming obsolete—after which the Hon. L. M. Wilkins recited some very beautiful poetic selections, prefaced by Brief remarks on the true spirit of poesy.

The excellent Band of the 76th was in attendance, and enlivened the meeting by some fine pieces of music.

The Young Men's Christian Association are extending their efforts beyond their own rooms and that of public lectures, by soliciting the attention of Ministers of different Denominations to the objects of that Association, and the spiritual good of young men generally.

On Sunday 10th a sermon was preached by their request in the Brunswick-street Wesleyan Chapel. On Sunday next a discourse will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. Freeman, before the Association, in the Granville-street Baptist Chapel, at 7 o'clock in the evening.

The R. M. Steamer *Canada* arrived on the 17th inst. The news of the peace negotiations continue to be satisfactory. The preliminaries have been already signed at Vienna by the English, French, Austrian and Russian Ambassadors: and the Conference finally adjusting the terms of the Treaty, were to take place in Paris within three weeks. Two Plenipotentiaries are

named by each Power, among whom England will be represented by the Earl of Clarendon, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Lord Cowley, her Ambassador to France. Turkey and Sardinia, will be, of course, represented at the Conference—but it is said, not Prussia, owing to the vacillating course she has pursued. Her Majesty met Parliament on the 31st of January. We have given, from her Speech on opening the Session, that part which relates to the war, and the pending negotiations for peace. As regards the exact terms to be agreed on, we have not yet sufficient means to enable us to state them more exactly than in the general terms we have already done. The Russian and Turkish fleets are, we believe, to be put on an equality in the Black Sea, and limited in number, and the defences of the frontier shores, on all sides, to be abolished, and the Sea to be opened to the trade of all nations. A portion of the Russian territory on the northern mouth of the Danube to be given up, so as to leave that vast artery of commerce open to the free access of trade. The Protectorate of Russia over the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia to be withdrawn, and all pretence to interference with the Christian subjects of the Turkish Empire, to be abandoned. It does not appear what specific measures will be pursued as regards the Baltic and the Aland Isles on the Swedish frontier, but, no doubt, certain stipulations will be entered into, to prevent further aggression on the part of Russia. While great satisfaction pervades the public mind in England and on the Continent, at the prospect of an immediate peace, yet considerable jealousy is manifested in the public prints, lest any terms should be agreed on more favorable to Russia than her past conduct and present condition entitle her to receive. The preparations for the Spring campaign are in no wise relaxed, notwithstanding the strong probability of an immediate cessation of hostilities.

The Queen recommends in her Speech the adoption of several measures of improvement, as respects Laws and Commerce. Notices of the introduction of several important measures have been already given in the Commons. Among them we observe one by Lord John Russell, on the subject of General Education. All the propositions hitherto made in Parliament on this question have been wholly unsatisfactory, and, in fact, impracticable. So many interests are to be consulted, so many prejudices to be combated, and such multifarious difficulties to be encountered from the prescriptive rights and claims of Establishments, that it is scarcely doubtful that no possible enactment can be enforced which would answer the great ends of a large and comprehensive measure.

General Intelligence.

THE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION will meet this day at 3 p.m. Rev. Mr. McArthur will lecture in the Temperance Hall at 7 1/2.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Benjamin Wier, John Lock and Samuel Chipman, Esquires, were this day sworn in Executive Councillors. The latter gentleman is appointed Financial Secretary, vice Creelman.—*Recorder 16th.*

The Bazaar held in aid of the Mechanics Library, on Thursday last—Valentine's Day—turned out to be quite a brilliant affair, and was very successful in its substantial results. The two large rooms in Masons Hall where it was held, were visited by a great number of people during the day; and in the evening were literally crammed. The assemblage was enlivened, during the evening by the presence of the Band of the 76th Regt. We are informed that the gross receipts of the day amounted to about £270, of which sum about £230 would be netted.—*Recorder.*

ACCIDENT.—Some of the side walks in this city are in a very unsafe condition. We regret to learn that a clergyman of the Episcopal Church fell yesterday on one of them and had his arm broken.

FIRES IN WINDSOR.—A barn belonging to Messrs. B. DeWolf and Sons, Windsor, was totally consumed by fire, on Wednesday night, Jan. 30, together with a barn on the adjoining wharf property of Mr. James Geldert.—On Friday evening, (1st inst.) about 9 1/2 o'clock, the store of Mr. James Fletcher was discovered to be on fire, but happily the flames were speedily extinguished.—Both these fires were undoubtedly the work of incendiaries.—*Chron.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 15.—*Commissariat.*—Assistant Commissary General, Joseph William Wybault to be Deputy Commissary General. Deputy Assistant Commissary General, H. Sheil, to be Assistant Commissary General.

We are informed that Charles D. Archibald, Esq., and the other proprietors of the London-derry Iron Mines, have sold that valuable property to an English Company for the sum of £40,000. Mr. Archibald is about opening, upon a large scale, a new and extensive stone quarry on the Peticoodiac River, in Westmoreland County, N. B.

Brigt Rapid put into Sambro on Sunday at 3 p.m. A 2 o'clock yesterday morning, drove from her anchors—vessel a perfect wreck, crew saved with difficulty. Part of the cargo and some of the materials may be saved.—*Colonist*

FIRE AT YARMOUTH.—A Fire broke out on the 2nd inst., between 2 and 3 a.m., in a barn rear of the residence of Mr. A. C. White. Engine No. 1 was speedily on the spot, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to save the Building or its contents, or a contiguous barn owned by Mr. G. Sanderson, which was also destroyed. Mr. White's dwelling was for some time in imminent danger. The exertions of the fireman happily averted such an additional calamity, but not before every thing had been removed. Among the contents of the barn were 50 bbls. flour and meal, about 50 stoves, a cow and a waggon—all of which were burnt. Mr. White's loss is between £500 and £600, or which there was one partial insurance. Mr. Sanderson loses £75. The fire was unquestionably the work of an incendiary. It was fortunate the loss was not heavier. The supply of water was short. A fresh breeze prevailed, and had not the roofs of the adjoining houses been covered with snow, nothing could have prevented a disastrous conflagration.—*Tribune.*

WOLF KILLED AT YARMOUTH, N. S.—The *Tribune* of 13th inst. reports the following unusual circumstances:—The carcass of a grey Wolf, measuring 6 feet 9 inches from the nose to the tip of the tail, was brought to town on Saturday, from Cranberry Head, where it was slain under the following circumstances. A large number of sheep having been recently destroyed there, as was supposed by foxes, one of the neighbors, (Mr. Samuel Rodney,) on Thursday sprinkled the remains of one of his slain flock rather profusely with strychnine, and awaited the result. On repairing to the spot next day, there lay a huge wolf, within a few yards of the poisoned bait. The strychnine had done his business, and stricken him down in his wolfish career.

Liverpool.

DEBATE.—Agreeable to arrangement the members of the Merchants' Reading Room commenced on Monday evening last a debate upon the subject of the establishment of a Bank in this town, which resulted in an almost unanimous vote that such would be a decided benefit. The debate was conducted in a most becoming manner, and the evening considered not only pleasantly but profitably spent. The next parts of the subject are to be taken up on next Monday evening, viz:—Upon what principle should it be established? and how should we proceed to obtain it?

It is to be hoped that all the members will endeavour to prepare themselves upon these points in the best possible manner that another pleasant and agreeable evening may be spent.

At the close of the debate A. Knaut, chairman, and J. N. S. Marshall, Esq., secretary, were re-elected for the ensuing meeting.

Previously a subject was submitted and approved, for the Monday following.—*Trans.*

CHEERING.—A new Division of the Sons of Temperance was opened at Milton in this county last evening, called the *Hero of Kars*, No. 127, and its officers for the current quarter duly installed by W. A. S. Blewett, G. W. A., assisted by Charles Bill, D. G. W. P., and several of the brethren from Victoria and Queens Own Division. There were thirty-two members initiated, and from the present appearances and feelings this Division promises to be a useful auxiliary to the Temperance cause. Its name should ever be a talisman to their faithfulness and perseverance. We bid it God speed and hope it may be a lasting benefit to the community in which it is located. The officers are as follows:—

George Whitfield Freeman, W. P.; Theodosius Ford, W. A.; Reuben G. Freeman, R. S.; Thomas Kempton, A. R. S.; Samuel Ford, F. S.; Isaac Freeman, T.; Samuel Miles, C.; Alexander Ford, A. C.; Lathrop Ford, I. S.; Jabez Freeman, O. S.; Joseph B. Freeman, P. W. P.; Zoheth Freeman, Chaplain.—*Id.*

The Liverpool, N. S. Marine Slip Company have decided to purchase the properties of Messrs. Thomas and Colin Campbell, near Fort Point, for the location of their new slip.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Steamer *Merlin*, arrived at this port on Sunday last, in 4 days from St. Johns. The Provincial Legislature was duly convened on the 15th ult. The Governor's Speech, on that occasion, is of extraordinary length for anything of the kind emanating from a British throne. The ministerial Address in reply to the Speech passed, after a good deal of debate. Considerable excitement prevailed—at least, inside of the Legislative Chambers—in consequence of the declared intention of the Government to impose an export duty of 2 per cent upon fish and oil. The export of those staple products of the colony are so considerable that not less than £20,000 is expected to be added to the annual revenue by that additional duty.