

on his body. A merciful Providence averted from me that terrible fate. The disciples told me afterwards, that they were silently praying that I might be restrained from making any resistance, as they well knew that my life depended upon my remaining passive. And I knew Burman character sufficiently well myself, to understand that nothing but a forlorn hope would justify any interference. But where all this time were the six men who were with me? lying down as quiet as rabbits, their respiration almost suspended by terror. The event proved that we had adopted the wiser course, and that prudence was the better part of valour. We all escaped without even a wound. The robbers made off with nearly everything of value we had, the disciples losing, besides their bedding, a considerable sum of money, and I all my bed-clothes, a number of articles of clothing, &c., which a missionary can ill afford to lose. To secure themselves from being immediately followed the fellows had taken all our oars but one, and as our boat was large and unwieldy, the problem was how we should get home against the swift current of the Irrawaddy. There was just a chance that the thick fog of the morning might delay the mail steamer from Rangoon until we could get into her track. This failing us, then there would be nothing left us but to get through the long bitterly cold nights without any covering as best we could. A kind Providence again favored us. The fog was unusually thick and we soon had the pleasure of seeing the steamer creeping slowly along and feeling her way through it. Our signal of distress was noticed, and we were soon on her hospitable deck, and steaming on for home which we reached early the following day. The conduct of the disciples thro' all this unfortunate episode was most admirable. The robbers had scarcely left us before they proposed that we sing a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to Him who had delivered, and we sang, I believe, with most sincere and heartfelt gratitude. For men in their circumstances their loss was really a heavy one, and yet it did not seem to rest upon their spirits with the weight of a feather.

That you may understand how utterly defenceless I was, I ought to have mentioned that I was under the covered part of the boat entangled in my mosquito curtains, and so confined that I could not use my arms with any freedom, nor rise from a crouching posture.

On reaching home I found that Mrs. C. had also had a visit from a thief, who advanced so far as to open a window and strike a match, but finding the inmates awake and aware of his movements, he decamped without taking anything.

I am, in haste, most sincerely yours,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ordination at Chester.

An ecclesiastical council was convened at Chester, on the 14th day of May inst., pursuant to an invitation from the Chester Baptist Church for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of ordaining to the work of the Gospel ministry, brother Thomas W. Crawley, A. M., Licentiate.

From the credentials of the delegates it appeared, that the following churches were represented by the following brethren:—

Hantsport Church,—Rev. W. Burton.
Bridgewater Church,—Rev. J. V. Tabor,
Bro. John Mader.

Lunenburg, N. W. Church,—Rev. A. W. Barss, Bro. Gideon Longille, Bro. Worshylake.

First Horton Church,—Rev. S. W. DeBlois,
Chester,—Brethren J. Hume, John Bezan-
son, James Webber, John Rafuse,
John L. Corkum, David Hume, John
P. Melvin, Alexander Anderson.

The Council was organized by appointing Rev. W. Burton, Moderator, and Rev. S. W. DeBlois, Clerk.

The Moderator briefly stated the object of the meeting, and requested brother Crawley to give a relation of his christian experience and call to the ministry, which being deemed eminently satisfactory, it was voted unanimously, that we proceed to the ordination of brother Crawley, which accordingly took place in the following order:

Ordination sermon by the Rev. W. Burton from Philip. ii. 16.—"Holding forth the word of life." Asking of questions by

the Clerk. Ordaining prayer by Rev. A. W. Barss. Right hand of Fellowship and charge to the candidate by Rev. J. V. Tabor. Charge to the Church by Rev. Wm. Burton. Benediction by the Candidate.

Bro. Crawley enters upon an interesting field of labour with the hearty concurrence of a united church. May the Lord bless the union!

By order of the Council,
STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Clerk.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 21, 1856.

THE review of the progress of the Baptists in Germany during the past year, discloses perhaps some of the most encouraging facts connected with their modern history and is strongly indicative of the ultimate triumph of their principles and of a return to true scriptural usage in the Church of Christ. Throughout Protestant Germany, it is well known that the most lax and erroneous principles of Scripture interpretation among the great body of theologians has for many years past, prevailed to an alarming extent; threatening indeed to undermine the very foundations of Christianity, and to substitute in their place the vague and fallacious surmises of human reason. Rationalism or Neology, or in plainer language, Deism, subverting all just rules of interpretation, and dispensing with the plainest historical facts, assumed to judge of matters far beyond the province of unaided reason, and for the solution of which the revealed Word of God is alone sufficient. Other and highly influential means have no doubt been raised up of late to counteract these evil agencies, but certainly one of the most effectual has been the rise of the Baptist churches in the North of Germany. No instance of modern christian effort affords in reality a more important evidence of the power of gospel truth, or of the strength of its vital energy, than the history of Mr. Oncken's labours since he commenced his ministry in the city of Hamburg a few years since. Without the aid of more than a common education, or the privilege of a degree in any seat of theological learning, so highly influential in that learned country, he has under the Divine blessing commenced a work which is not unlikely ere long to subvert the whole system of mere formal and traditional Protestantism in Germany.

In looking over the published report of the progress of the Baptist churches there, within the year, there is, as we have said, much to excite our gratitude. The Baptist Conference at Memel in Prussia last summer, attended by about twenty ministers, appears to have been followed by much good. A strong missionary spirit, so indispensable for supplying the present spiritual necessities of Germany, prevailed. Crowded attendance on the word preached was everywhere apparent, and although the Government authorities offered occasional opposition, still the good work was suffered to proceed. In Berlin, the Capital of Prussia, the Baptist pulpits are filled with earnest and faithful preachers, and continual additions are being made to the churches. But not only Prussia but all the lesser Protestant states as well as Germany and Switzerland, are comprised within the missionary operations presided over by Mr. Oncken. In Belgium also there are encouraging facts of the successful efforts of our brethren. This state has long been known as one of the very strongholds of Papal superstition, altho' it is in a great measure an exception as regards persecution. No doubt this is in some measure to be attributed to King Leopold being a Protestant. An interesting fact as regards the prospects of our brethren in Germany was the appointment of a delegation by the Meeting of the Protestant Alliance in Paris in August last, to intercede with the sovereigns of the German States in favour of free religious toleration. In the case of Prussia this was favourably received as regards the Baptists, as the king is known to be strongly inclined to freedom of religious opinion. In some of the lesser states persecution in some of its severest forms has been exercised against the Baptists, but we believe and trust that even this will be overuled for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

The American and English Baptists deserve much credit for the lively interest

they have always manifested in the progress of the cause in Germany. The former especially are yearly expending a large amount for the distribution of the Scriptures and religious Books, as well as for the preaching of the Gospel, for carrying out which object a highly efficient system of Colportage has been set on foot by our German brethren. A most interesting result of this state of things has been the commencement of a similar work both in Denmark and Sweden, in both of which Countries, the German Baptists have for some time past been labouring, in many cases with manifest evidences of success. All that we have here recounted has sprung from the zeal and devotedness of a single individual, the extent of whose labours and the measure of whose success is only apparently limited by the want of agents and of means. Truly "the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

A remark in the communication of brother Hobbs, which will be found in another column, is quite in accordance with our own views. We refer to what he says, and what has been said by many others for years past, as to a Book concern in the capital, and the need of a ready supply of publications on the subject of our peculiar views. We have ever been averse from any course that should separate us one iota farther from our Christian brethren of other denominations than our honest adherence to our conscientious views of Scriptural truth demanded. Feeling, however, as we do, that truth is of greater value than all else, we deem it of no small importance that every member of our churches, and especially our young people, when brought to make a profession of their faith in Christ, should be well instructed in every point that may better enable them, not only "to give a reason of the hope that is in them," but also to justify their practice by an enlightened understanding of the scriptural arguments on which it is founded. The want of publications more immediately bearing on our own principles and history, we have often felt ourselves, and heard expressed by others, and shall be glad to see such want supplied. In this view we are much gratified in publishing the first of the series of letters, which appears on our first page, and which is evidently well adapted to convey much useful instruction to the class of persons to whom they are addressed.

As regards a Book concern, it will be seen by the advertisement which has lately appeared in our pages that the commencement of such an undertaking is in contemplation, in connection with the publication of the Christian Messenger. It must necessarily be begun with prudence, and at first upon a limited scale. We trust the interest and patronage of the Denomination will encourage its extension, and concur in the ultimate establishment of a concern which shall be of lasting benefit to themselves, and at the same time save harmless those engaged in it.

A long article, called "New Testament Argument for Infant Baptism," is copied from the *Puritan Recorder* by the *Presbyterian Witness* of last week. If we may take it as a criterion of the strength of the cause of our Pedobaptist friends, we think it is one of the last efforts before giving up the question. About seven-eighths of the article are the best arguments which could be adduced for Believer's Baptism. The remainder consists of the oft-refuted figment that there were infants in the household baptisms mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. At the close of the article, and what the writer seems to consider the climax of his argument (!) he gives the following:—

"We admit the absence of proof in the case. We do not know that there was so much as one infant among them. But this we do know, wherever there is an infant, it is part of the household; and that no household can be baptized, unless that infant is. Until this is done, the most that can be possibly said of such a household is, that it is baptized in part. We conclude from this, that infant baptism is a divine institution (!) The apostles were inspired men. What they did is as binding as what they said. To say that we have no command for Infant Baptism is to talk strangely; since we have examples, set by the apostles, to sanction the institution as divine. What more can we want?"

What indeed! How very conclusive! They must be easily satisfied who are willing to take this for argument. We do

not wonder at the indifference of the people in bringing their children for baptism, of which the Synods complain, when these are the best "New Testament Arguments for Infant Baptism."

The Provincial Wesleyan came out last week in deep mourning, on account of the death of Dr. Beecham who came to this continent last summer for the purpose of organizing the Methodist body into a Conference independent from that of Great Britain. Dr. Beecham won for himself the esteem of all with whom he associated while in those Provinces.

We surely have reason to congratulate the readers of the *Christian Messenger*, that the cessation of War will put a stop to the exciting articles of political intelligence that we have for these two years past been in the weekly habit of conveying to their firesides. Such intelligence although necessary to be given, can never be esteemed a grateful task to a Christian Journalist.

Of European news, we have little later than that brought by the last English mail. The arrival of the Steamer before we close our columns, will probably afford us later dates. The principal matters that will now occupy the Government will be the removal of the troops from the seat of War, and their distribution upon a peace establishment. The embodied Militia and most of the Foreign Legionaries will be of course discharged.

Rumours were very prevalent in England of a dissolution of Parliament and a change of Ministry. It is pretty evident that the present men in power cannot much longer retain their position, with such numerous assailable points as are daily discovered and taken advantage of by their opponents. At the same time it is very difficult to conjecture what party or set of men will be found to supply their place.

A question of the greatest international interest at the present moment is connected with what is transpiring in some of the small Republics of Central America. The state of Nicaragua, lying a little to the Northward of Panama, has of late fallen under the control of a Col. Walker, one of those clever filibustering citizens of the United States, who are constantly of late patrolling this our Western continent to ferment disturbances and profit by their occurrence. He is at war with the adjoining small Republic of Costa Rica, but it is most likely that by the sympathy and connivance of many of his fellow citizens of like disposition, he will in the end prevail, and establish himself in his new possession. It is more than probable that in such case the result would be another annexation to the Union. By such a measure the vast countries, including Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Yucatan, would be shut up on the North and South by the U. States territories. Were such the case, no one need doubt that annexation upon a more extensive scale would shortly follow. We believe the question of the recognition of Col. Walker's Government is now before the Congress.

It is said the *Duke of Wellington*, Screw Steam Ship, of 130 guns, the largest ship of war ever built—is to bring the two Regiments ordered from the Crimea to this garrison.

General Intelligence.

The corner stone of the Provincial Asylum, Dartmouth, will be laid in due form on Monday the 9th of June ensuing. An effort is being made to make the day a general holiday in celebration of the Queen's birth-day, the Peace and the settlement of the City of Halifax.

On Wednesday last a Bazaar was held at Dartmouth by the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church. The sum of about £70 was realized.

A detachment of upwards of 80 men belonging to the Royal Artillery arrived here on Wednesday last in the *Lady Amherst*.

The Steamer Eastern State is advertised to run between Halifax, Yarmouth and Boston every ten days. She made a visit to the capital last week with a large number of Yarmouth merchants who returned on Saturday after making considerable purchases from our Spring supplies.

Two or three butchers were on Wednesday last, "skylarking" in the City Market House, when one of them accidentally, but with great force, drove his knife into the groin of another one, inflicting a serious, if not dangerous wound. The name of the injured man is Hanaan. He lost a great deal of blood before surgical aid was brought to the spot.—*Recorder*.