

there no need to ask an outpouring of the spirit, that the church of Christ may arise from her lethargy and put on her beautiful garments; that we may see the stately steppings of Zion, once more in our land—when all nature is awaking to new life and beauty and freshness—when every little rivulet and sweet bird are praising God in nature's own music, shall the church remain in the wintry torpor of death?

Shall we not rather turn unto God that He may turn unto us, so that we may see that most beautiful of all earthly sights.—the young bowing to the mild sceptre of the Blessed Jesus, that we may hear the agonised cry, "Pray for me," wrung from hearts grown hard in sin. Oh that these things were desired strongly enough to induce more to "take the trouble to go out" because its a prayer meeting!

It is too often so with the weekly prayer meeting, a few are collected who have their hearts chilled and depressed, by the vacant seats of their absent brethren and sisters.

Or perhaps a few of the sisters meet, and one or two brethren who have "no gift," and some of the world, to wait, and watch for some of the leading members to conduct the meeting, and after waiting perhaps in vain, they go away. Christians burdened and discouraged, and the world thinking WHAT of Religion and its Professors.

L. B.

For the Christian Messenger.

Sketches of a Western Tour.

MR. EDITOR:

Having determined to visit our old friends at Indian Harbour, West, and its proximities, we left Canso on Thursday morning, June 5th, and after four hours violent shaking over an almost impassable road, we reached Half Island Cove—a small settlement in the vicinity of Crow Harbour. There is no regularly organized Baptist church in either of the places last named; but there are several families who are members of the church at Canso. The inhabitants are all Fishermen, and at this season are principally away from home. Our congregation, therefore, was necessarily small, though, as usual, very attentive. If a larger amount of labor could be expended in this extensive region, we have no doubt but a thriving interest could be raised.

There are a number of little settlements situated on the shore between Canso and Guysboro' a distance of about 30 miles. Some of these are seldom if ever visited by a Baptist minister; and none of them are supplied with the means of grace to the extent which is absolutely necessary to produce amongst them any actually beneficial results. These places have too long been neglected;—the people are perishing for lack of knowledge, and no one appears to care for their souls. They are exposed to many powerful temptations and demoralizing influences unknown to thousands differently situated, and being destitute of the indispensable aid of moral and religious instructions and privileges, they too frequently become an easy prey to the numerous evils that surround them. There are however some amongst them who earnestly desire a different—more spiritual and elevated state of society; and who would hail with warm and fervent gratitude and delight the commencement of a new and brighter era in their religious history.

The Macedonian cry echoes from every quarter of this extensive field; and should we not respond to their pressing-claims by extending to them our warmest sympathies, and putting forth our best efforts to effect their speedy deliverance from the deteriorating influences that surround them, and their consequent elevation in the scale of moral eminence and enjoyment?

It is said—and we fear on very unjustifiable grounds—that there are no men of the right stamp to send amongst them, and if there were, there are no means available to sustain them. Admitting that this were all true, to what can we attribute it, but to our present miserably inefficient system of operations. The necessity of improvement has long been acknowledged, and much has been said and written with regard to it; but absolutely nothing definite or satisfactory has been done to effect it. Shall we continue thus indifferent to a matter of such vast importance? Is it not high time to arouse ourselves from this state of inexcusable apathy? The enemy of souls is ever active and vigilant—corruption and error are disseminating their poisonous elements—

immorality and vice are extending their unhallowed boundaries, and souls of priceless value are sinking to endless night! and shall we not arouse from our slumbers?—More anon.

J. C. HURD.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 18, 1856.

BEFORE our present number shall have got into the hands of our readers in the Western and Southern sections of the Province, our Brethren in those districts will have held the usual Anniversary of their Churches. We trust that their reports of progress during the past year will be such as to strengthen and cheer us all in our various labours for the common interests of our Master's Kingdom. As far as we have learned, a great amount of union and good feeling have prevailed among our people generally and in several cases the churches have not been merely stationary, but have very considerably added to their numbers. The true character of the church of Christ is always aggressive, and altho' the weapons of their warfare are not carnal, yet they cannot rest contented unless to some extent the strongholds of Satan are falling under their assaults. But we will not anticipate, as we ourselves shall, we trust, have been enabled to gather at the meeting much interesting matter in reference to what transpires. As this is the first occasion, if we rightly recollect, on which the Association has been held at Brookfield, or among the cluster of churches that have so rapidly grown up in that central part of the Province, we trust that it may be made a source of great spiritual blessings to that active and flourishing community.

Nor the least among the immediate consequences of the truly evangelical labours of Brother Oncken, which are at present awakening a large part of Germany from the torpid formality or the presumptuous heresy of more than a century past, is the striking work of grace that has for some time been going on in the kingdom of Sweden, of which some notices will be found on another page. The native agents of the American Baptist Publication Society are to all human appearances, doing a great work in that country. The Swedes are almost wholly a people of plain and simple habits and manners, and from the climate and nature of their country, not liable to the rapid changes that are passing over more southern portions of the Globe. In a great measure occupied in pastoral and agricultural life, their protracted winters confine them to their homes and afford them leisure for reading and reflection, which they have not failed to improve. Altho' ever since the great Reformation tied down to the formulas of a State Church Establishment, yet their Lutheranism has enough of spirituality still remaining in it, to have ensured a strong love for the word of God in many a lonely village and hamlet of Sweden. The labours of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which for many years past has been widely scattering the Word of Life in Sweden, has greatly helped to prepare the minds of the people for a better state of things. The announcement of a more scriptural and vital form of Gospel truth than their national creed can impart, seems to have awakened a deep and general response in many hearts, and we cannot refrain from the lively hope that in the purposes of Divine mercy, a great work has commenced among this interesting people.

The latest accounts of the insurrection, which for two or three years past, has been threatening the overthrow of the ancient Dynasty of China, lead to the probability that the efforts to supplant the reigning power, however promising they may at times have appeared, are likely eventually to fail. It was no matter of surprise, however much it might be of deep regret, to learn that the christian element, that in the first instance appeared to have influenced the leaders of the movement, had soon degenerated into pretensions equally arrogant and blasphemous. All Europeans in China, whether engaged in Missionary labour or in Commerce, have wisely and scrupulously avoided all participation in the political questions

that are agitating the nation. Missionary enterprise, which to a large extent, and under the direction of all the leading Protestant denominations, is making aggressions on the long cherished superstitions of the country, wears for the present an encouraging aspect.—The Scriptures are becoming familiar to many promising converts in their native tongue, and as yet no serious opposition has been made to their general diffusion by the Government, altho' private persecution is by no means uncommon. It is not so much the Religion of China, which in fact stands on a weak and tottering basis of disjointed superstitions, which counteracts the labours of the missionary, as the gross and sordid love of gain, which characterizes the universal mind of the people, debasing them in all ranks, to the lowest type of falsehood and hypocrisy. There are not wanting however signal instances of sincere and genuine conversions, affording ample proof, in this as in thousands of other cases, that the gospel alone can effectually purify the human heart in whatever clime or under whatever circumstance.

We cannot better enforce what we have so often repeated of late, in regard to the deep spiritual wants of large portions of the population on the Eastern shores of the Province, than by referring our readers to the account of the Rev. J. C. Hurd's short tour over some part of that destitute region, inserted in our present pages. The time has assuredly come for an active, well-filled Mission between Canso and Halifax. Bro. Eagles is at present, we believe, the only Baptist Minister settled on that Shore, and he has more than he can do within a very few miles of his own residence, and whatever time he can spare for Missionary labour ought to be given nearer home. In fact his present position and services are wholly of a missionary character. The increase of population on these shores is fourfold nearly what it was when Bro. David Harris first travelled those rugged Capes and inlets, and yet for years the field has been almost uncared for by ourselves. As we have often said, in such cases first impressions are of inestimable value as regards future religious attachments, and developments. The whole of this field is properly within the bounds of the Central and Eastern Association, but its value to the whole Denomination is the same. We trust ere long to see some means adopted by which our incohesive system of missionary operation will be remedied, and some plan devised to meet the constant and ever varying calls of our growing population for a supply of their spiritual wants.

We are happy to learn from almost every part of the country that notwithstanding the lateness of the spring, the appearance of the crops are every where promising. The Hay crop especially will certainly be more than usually large, and as the early season, altho' cold, has been highly favorable for planting and sowing, there is every hope that the products of the earth will be abundant. The very high prices that all articles of provisions still maintain render this more important. The show of blossom on the fruit trees is also very exuberant, and provided frost or blighting east winds do not intervene, a good fruit crop may be reckoned on.

OUR American files are crowded with accounts of "indignation meetings" in all the northern sections of the Union, from Pennsylvania to Maine, and from Maine to the Mississippi, expressive of the feelings excited by the late assault on Mr. Sumner in the Senate Chamber, at Washington. To judge by present appearances this question, which certainly very deeply implicates American freedom, is likely for some time to come, to absorb all others. It is very evident that Slavery, as it now exists and operates in the United States, must be shortly abolished, or the country must formally abandon all pretensions to Constitutional Liberty. Even at this moment it is but a mere subtle distinction which is made between Slave States and Free States, and has no foundation in fact; for under the Fugitive Slave Law, which pervades the whole Union, altho' a Slave cannot be owned and made to work within the Northern States, he must by law be apprehended and sent back to his Master in the South. The distinction is, therefore futile and unmeaning. We have given a few extracts from the Bes-

ton Papers, shewing the present state of feeling throughout the country, and describing the state of things at Washington. There, indeed, brute force seems to be fast acquiring the ascendancy. The most stringent Resolutions have been passed, without any dissentient voice, by vast meetings in almost all the great northern cities, and it surely besteads them to act with promptness and decision at such a crisis; for unless some speedy and effectual remedy can be applied to the evil, it must go on from bad to worse. It is morally impossible that it should end here, while the grand procuring cause is in active existence. The state of things in Kansas has also come to a crisis. Bloodshed, confiscation and imprisonment have been visited on the opponents to its being made a Slave State, and many of the leading men of the country have been compelled to fly for their lives. We have long thought that the population of the United States was becoming too large and heterogeneous, and the Executive too weak and indecisive, to promise their much longer continuance as one people. Late events would certainly seem to strengthen the probability of their separation. Liberty and Slavery cannot work together under the same yoke, and our northern neighbours soon find that the mere name of a Great Union will be a poor compensation for the evils and degradation they must suffer in making the attempt.

A new Cabinet has been formed by the Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick. Their permanence, however, will have to be tested by the new House of Representatives. The Elections are actively going on there. We have seen nothing as yet in the papers to indicate what is likely to be the final result.

Notices of Books.

THE CHRISTIAN REVIEW for April contains the following articles:—1. The Jansenists. 2 Progress of Baptist Principles. 3 Christ in the Old Testament. 4 Archibald Alexander, D. D. 5 Sin and Redemption. 6 History and destiny of Coal. 9 Biblical and Classical Hymnology, &c. This Quarterly is one of the ablest in the United States, and commands some of the highest talent

From E. G. Fuller.

HARPER, GODFREY, and GRAHAM for June are fully equal to the best in every respect. The latter promises to exceed itself in the hands of its new proprietor.

Telegraph Despatch.

Merchants' Reading Room, June 14, 1856.

The Steamship Arabia arrived at New York last evening. Dates from Liverpool to the 31st May. Cotton market recovered from late depression, and demand was better.

Weather continued very favorable. Market for Breadstuffs dull with declining tendency. Flour declined 1s. per barrel in the week. Sugar a shade higher—a small increased demand.

Money market easier. Bank rate of interest, 5 per cent. Stock of bullion has increased. Consols for Money 94 1/2 to 94 3/4.

There is much anxiety relative to affairs with the United States.

It is expected that Lord Elgin is going to Washington as Special Envoy.

Palmer has been found guilty.

General Intelligence.

THE REVENUE.—The Revenue of the past year derived from impost and excise Duties including the duties of Distillery Licences amounts to £94,538 8s. 6d. sterling.

The Revenue of the year 1854 from the same sources amounted £104,142 15s. 1d.—showing a difference in favour of the year 1854 £9,604 6s. 7d. sterling.

The Revenue from the same sources for 1853 amounted to £83,069 16s. 3d., which shows a balance in favour of 1855 over 1853 of £21,068 12s. 3d. sterling.—Journal.

The lot of Land, opposite the Halifax Grammar School, on which the Mechanics' Library is about to be erected, has been leased from Conrad West, Esq. of this city, for ten years, at a ground rent of £25 per annum. The proprietor has given the magnificent donation of £100 towards the erection of the building. It is gratifying to learn that the Library, under present able management is in a high state of efficiency and usefulness.

We have it from good authority that the Military force to be stationed in Halifax this summer, will number about three thousand strong.—Liverpool Transcript.