

either in England or America. We have no foreign missionary, and the prospects are still very dark. Then shall we refuse to contribute to a present important mission, because some of the present race of infants, may when grown up, offer for the Foreign Mission? In the mean time hundreds of sinners in the Golden Isle, as Bro. Bill designates Australia, may have sunk to endless perdition. Surely then the present state of the Foreign Mission cannot be an argument against our sending Bro. Wallace on a Mission to Australia.

In the third place, the inefficient state of the Home Mission department is said to be a serious objection to an Australian Mission. It is a serious fact that our Home Mission organization is in almost a defunct state, and especially needs revising and reviving. But it is not being revived, nevertheless. And shall we withhold aid from our brethren over the sea, because at some future time we may get wise enough to reorganize our Home Mission? And even if we were able to reorganize now, there is no argument growing out of the reorganization, against an Australian Mission. There have been no Foreign Missions of our own of any kind for these few past years. Has the Treasury of the Home Board proportionally increased during that time? No! I believe it to be in the philosophy of our religious natures that in proportion as we allow our foreign mission spirit, Australia or India, to grow cold, so the home field will need labourers and means to support them. Then if this be true every effort to make the Australian Mission unpopular helps dry up the resources of the Home Mission. Then we conclude the Home Mission is not in the way of the Australian Mission.

Fourthly, we are referred to the critical circumstances of the Institutions at Horton, as strongly indicative of the absurdity of the present mission movement. In reply we ask, is it reasonable or just to withhold aid from this mission because the Committee of investment have made a blunder in investing the Endowment fund of Acadia College? We really stare when we ask the question! Then our beloved institutions at Horton should not call our minds entirely away from Australia. Other home objects could be classified as the foregoing, and the same arguments brought to bear upon them.

Let us now pass on to another view of the subject. We have considered the negative side, let us now view the positive.

First. It must be admitted that great destitution of Baptist preaching prevails in Australia. And that if our distinctive sentiments are so important as to require distinct institutions and efforts in N. S., why not in Australia? If it is right for Australia to be given up entirely to the religious influences of other denominations, why not give up these Provinces also? But brethren we can't give up. Then let us occupy Australia also, if in our power. If Australia is supplied with Baptist ministers the supply must come from England or America. Then what excuses N. S. & N. B.?

Secondly. When we ordain a man to the work of the ministry, we believe that God has called him to preach the gospel, and by his Spirit and Providence directs him to the locality where he designs he should labour. If we saw no reason to believe this we would ordain him. Yet a great part of this conviction is derived from the professions of the person to be ordained, other things being equal. And another part of the conviction is derived from the appeal made by the Church for such ordination. If we think a person is called to go on a foreign mission a great part of that conviction grows out of the destitution abroad and the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," "Send by whom thou wilt, only send."

Then we apply the above general principles to the case in hand. Brother Wallace professes that God has called him to preach the gospel. His brethren believe that. They encourage him to get an education. They ordain him, or set him apart to the work of the ministry. "It is the love of Christ that constrains him." But his heart more especially yearns over sinners in Australia. He is pressed in the spirit. While he is thinking and praying over the subject, here comes an appeal from the very men he is thinking about and praying for. This looks to me like the voice of God. And I fear we should be guilty of gross neglect of duty if we did not send him, and pray for him too.

Many additional arguments could be presented, but these few may suffice to place this subject in a more favourable light than anything that has yet appeared in your columns.

I shall not, at this time, presume further upon the patience of your readers. But at some future opportunity shall address the Australian Mission Board through your paper.

Yours, &c.,
HUGUENOT.

Milton, Dec., 1856.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 24, 1856.

The subject of our Domestic Missions is one to which we cannot too often recur, although we would willingly say something that might operate more forcibly upon the minds of our people, than we have yet done.

The truth is, as we have again and again said, this matter lies at the very root of our progress in every branch of our Denominational efforts, and while we sleep upon it, power is being wrested out of our hands by other and more zealous and active bodies, and we may shortly see our very strongholds of moral and religious influence invaded by those more earnest in the contest than ourselves. Nor have we any right to complain if it should be so. Among the evils that attend the visible church being split up into sections, it is, nevertheless, a largely redeeming feature that the "lack of service" in one portion, is often supplied by the ready emulation of another, and by whomsoever the Gospel is preached, we may well rejoice.

The brief, but forcible view of the subject of our pastoral wants contained in the note from our esteemed brother, Dr. Cramp, is greatly to the point. Very considerably more than one half of our Nova Scotia churches without pastors! What a field for active and unremitting exertion on the part of Churches who are enjoying an able and efficient ministry, and are blest with abundant means of aiding their destitute and suffering brethren! What a large call also for our organizing the most speedy and effectual means of collecting and distributing our resources in aid of the Missionary cause!

The judicious letter which we also publish from Sydney, C. B., contains unquestionable evidences of the need of missionary effort in a part of the field which is comparatively unoccupied, and where we have consequently the prospect of establishing an interest fraught with results of the first importance to the future influence and permanence of our churches. We fear that our ablest and best supplied churches are not sufficiently alive to the necessity of allowing their ministers, a portion of their time, to help supply the spiritual wants of our waste places. In our early recollection, a year never passed but some of our oldest and best pastors,—the Mannings, Dimocks, Hardings, Ansleys, and others, were sure to devote more or less of their time to missionary work, and that not merely in their immediate vicinity, but in rugged and distant journeies, often where the gospel had seldom or never been preached. Until something akin to this old spirit of gospel work is revived among us, we may look in vain for what we, no doubt, all desire to witness—the spirit of general revival awakened, not only in our churches, but in the remote and destitute corners of the land. We feel assured that the same spirit which planted Nova Scotia with Baptist Churches, can alone maintain their existence or add largely to their numbers. The close of another year naturally leads to the enquiry, How have we employed the talent committed to us in regard to this all-important matter, and also suggests the necessity, if conscious of negligence, or slothfulness, that we should leave no effort untried to make the coming year, as it hastens onward, more fruitful in winning souls to Christ.

Supreme Court.

Our readers will recollect seeing in the papers during the past summer an account of the Riot which occurred on the Windsor Railroad between a number of the Irish and Scotch labourers. The accused parties were arrested and held under recognizance to appear and take their trial. In the Term just elapsed a Bill was found by the Grand Jury of the County of Halifax against James O'Brien and nine others, for Riot, assault and demolishing the house or shanty of Thomas Gourly a man employed on the Railroad, and who lodged a number of the labourers. The indictment has been tried at the Sittings after the Term. The case on the part of the Crown was distinctly proved against several of the accused persons, and would doubtless have led to their conviction,

had they not as distinctly proved, what is in law called an *alibi*, of the fact of their being elsewhere when the riot occurred. Under these circumstances the Jurors after being out several hours found four of the parties not guilty, but could not agree on their verdict against five others. The Jury was dismissed by the Court and the indictment stands over for further trial. One of the parties named McCarty has absconded.

John Thomas Small, a man residing at Chezetcook, was indicted for breaking at night into the house of Oliver Pettipas, and robbing him of £18. A number of witnesses appeared on the trial against him, and Pettipas swore positively to his identity, but the prisoner having called several persons to prove that he was in Halifax about the time of the offence committed, the Jury after considerable absence, brought in a verdict of acquittal. His innocence appeared at best very doubtful.

Allan McIntyre, a Railroad labourer, was indicted for, stealing from a fellow-lodger in one of the Shanties, on the road, a considerable sum of money. The trial occupied some time, when a number of witnesses were called, upon whose evidence the prisoner was finally convicted.

One of the most important cases on the Criminal Docket.—The Queen against Izatt for shooting McKeen, is awaiting the arrival of witnesses from the Country in order for trial. It is expected to be a long trial as a large number of witnesses are summoned in the cause.

The Civil Docket of causes for trial at the Sittings after term is large, and will probably prolong the Sittings until far into January. But few civil causes have yet been tried.

Moody vs. the Etna Insurance Co., for £700 insured on a store in the County of Cumberland, resulted in a verdict for the Plaintiff for £250. The defence was, that the premises had been purposely set fire to by the Plaintiff or his agents. It is probable a new trial will be moved for.

The cause of Hill vs. Fraser and others has been for several days on trial, and engrosses a good deal of public interest. It is an action brought by Mr. Henry Hill, architect, against the principal officers of H. M. Ordinance in Halifax, for breach of contract in the construction of an extensive cofferdam and wharf at the Ordnance Yard. The outlay made by Plaintiff amounts to many thousand pounds. The grounds of his action are that he eventually failed in the construction of the projected work in consequence of the site on which they were to be erected, surveyed by the Engineer Officers, and on which survey the contract was based, was wholly unfit for the firm construction of such works. Great numbers of witnesses are in course of examination and a large mass of documentary evidence will be given in the cause. We shall notify the result. The defence of the Ordinance officers is, that the survey was a correct one, and the site and foundation of the intended wharf such as described in such survey.

The Congress of the United States have commenced their Session with a large attendance of members, and already the great topic which divides the two sections of the Union is beginning to manifest its absorbing interest over every other subject. Indeed it is morally impossible that it can be otherwise, and the next few months may be looked for as productive of sharp and virulent contention. A Mr. Whitefield presented himself as the Delegate of Kansas representing the Pro-Slavery party. His rejection appears to have been carried in the first instance, but it seems probable that he will be ultimately received. The President's Message is said to be strongly indicative of Southern policy.

Our English Mail is not yet arrived but we hope before finally going to press to announce its arrival. The strong North-Westerly winds which have prevailed for some time past have no doubt delayed her.

Large Meetings of the Canadian Baptists have lately taken place for the purpose of adopting some plan for the Establishment of a general Academeal or Collegiate Institution. The Denomination in Canada are probably less united in some respects than ourselves, but we are glad to see judicious efforts being made to remedy the evil. With the rapid development of moral and material influences in the Country, an active and intelligent people like ours must very soon assume a very different position from what they have hitherto enjoyed.

The last week has been one of the most severe we have ever witnessed so early in the

season. Throughout the Northern and Eastern part of the Continent extreme cold has prevailed—in some places we observe the Thermometer has fallen as low as 30° below Zero.

Mormon principles seem to be producing their legitimate results among the disciples of the miserable impostors who have colonized Utah. It is quite impossible that it could be otherwise. Blasphemous doctrine and polluted practice must unavoidably lead to degradation and misery in the worst forms. It is a fearful prospect for North America to see so large a portion of its surface cursed with the twin evils of Slavery and Polygamy.

TEMPERANCE.

THE ABSTAINER, No. 3.—has the commendation of Professor Yeoman's Scientific Basis of Prohibition—an excellent tract, showing the action of alcohol on the human system.

Poisons affect the constitution some in one part and some in another. Alcohol is here shown to act more particularly on the brain—the seat of life and government, and predisposes those who use it in any quantity to all the evils of mental disease and insanity. It also contains the first part of a review of "Dr. Lees' Legislative Prohibition," and other matters which Temperance men (all should be such) ought to know.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.—The organization of the Sons of Temperance, has had the effect in many places of preventing action on behalf of those who are considered beyond the pale of that body. The aged and the young—children—and females have perhaps had less of the consideration of temperance men of late than formerly. Whilst we say this we would not be disposed to doubt the propriety of that Order, and its adaptation to accomplish the objects it proposes. At the same time we think there should be every effort made to sustain those institutions which would embrace the classes we have named, by upholding the old-fashioned Temperance Societies, and making as much use of Moral Suasion as possible. The evils of Intemperance appears to be gaining upon us, at least in Halifax. This may be owing in a great measure to the work of reformation having been given up too much to the Sons, and then wondering why the cause does not advance.

Under the influence of thoughts such as the above, an attempt has been made to revive the mode of action formerly adopted, by the establishment of Temperance Societies in connection with the Baptist congregations in Halifax. First at the North Church, and last Thursday evening at the Vestry of the Granville Street Chapel. Resolutions were unanimously passed expressive of the great necessity of exertion to rescue the drunkard and prevent the spread of habits of intemperance. The total abstinence pledge was adopted, officers elected and committees—male and female—chosen, to manage the affairs.

Meetings are to be held monthly or oftener at the call of the Committee. This is, we think, a move in the right direction.

Latest from England.

After looking anxiously for the past week for the R. M. Steamer America, we were surprised yesterday, about 12 o'clock, to find instead of her the Canada steaming up our harbour. The surprise was soon increased by information that the America had after pursuing her way for three days become so far disabled by the violent storm which she encountered on Tuesday, the 9th, about 50 miles west of Cape Clear, that she was compelled to "put back" to Liverpool, where she arrived on the 11th. No time was lost in transferring the mails and passengers to the Canada. We are therefore put into possession of news up to the 12th.

We are not aware of the extent of extent of injury suffered by the America, but hear that her decks were swept continuously by the fury of the storm, which appears to have been more severe than has been known for many years.

Five seamen were carried off the vessel but miraculously driven back by a returning wave, one man having his legs badly fractured.

The most important item of news is the acceptance by Britain of the proposal of Russia to re-open the Paris Conference for the purpose of arranging the difficulties in interpreting the treaty. The Emperor of France still keeps a semblance of a leading position. The following paragraph from the *Moniteur* appears as the announcement of this conclusion.

"The treaty of Paris has in its application met with difficulties which have given rise to divergent