

held by the Government for the benefit of such of their children or heirs as should conform to the established religion!

The preceding statements relate chiefly to Zurich. But the Baptists were similarly treated in Berne and in the other Cantons.

This is a specimen of Protestant persecution. I have many more specimens of the same kind to produce.

Yours truly, MENNO. From my Study. Oct. 13th, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from New York.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

In traversing the thoroughfares of this crowded city one has enough to do to think and care about himself. This feeling of selfishness, I acknowledge, was in some degree attacked and subdued by meeting here with your journal for two weeks in succession—like an old friend, the face of which brings up many a pleasant association;

You may ask me, friend "Messenger," what I have seen in and about this city?—Well, I have seen a great many people going to and fro. Not much to be wondered at! was the remark of a person from the country, as he entered Broadway.

Of course where so many dwell together, where are men of all nations, we may expect to find a great deal of evil. Human nature is depraved. Sin is strengthened by amalgamation, and constant temptations await the unwary.

Many are the evangelical churches of this city, where the "gracious gospel of the blessed God" is preached. Many are the faithful heralds of this gospel, who labor ardently for the salvation of their fellow-men, for their restoration to holiness and to God.

If, on the one hand many are the temptations to evil, many are the moral influences raised to restrain their power. The various moral and religious societies and institutions that intersect the pathway of death, are already doing a good work.

The present commercial distress casts a gloom over many faces, the Sabbath and the gospel are the best solace, and some find their repose in these. How soon worldly riches take wings! How unsubstantial are all earth's good things!

The desire to "make haste to be rich" has no doubt led many onward, to trade upon false capital. Many good men and true no doubt are thereby brought to suffer.

Many of the buildings in this great metropolis, evince great architectural skill—and some of the chapels, or as they are called churches, are instances of the same.

The removal of those persecutions which have been, and are still, endured by Baptists from Protestant governments in Denmark, Germany, and Sweden, have been as much objects of consideration of the Evangelical Alliance as the expression of sympathy for those pious Protestants who suffer oppression in Roman Catholic countries.

\* "Meeting-house" is probably the more correct term for a place of worship; yet the word "church" may be used in a figurative sense for the building where the church meets, without doing any serious injury.—Ed.

How deeply is felt here the loss of the Steamer "Central America," with its rich freight of golden treasure, and still richer freight of human beings. Thousands upon thousands of dollars are sunken in the deep waters of the sea. But what are these, compared with the loss of so many lives? And the soul! Ah, this thought gives point to the wreck, and has power in it to move christian sympathy and lead the people of God to activity and diligent labor, for the conversion of men, ere the general wreck of earth shall take away the opportunity.

But I must not encroach more on your pages at present. Meanwhile, I remain, yours fraternally,

VIATOR. New York, October 5th, 1857.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 21, 1857.

The Evangelical Alliance and the Morning Chronicle.

THE Editor of the Morning Chronicle of the 15th instant makes a very touching appeal to us to lend our aid in forming an Evangelical Alliance in this Province. After making a quotation from our pages of last week, on the Berlin Conference, he refers to the position of the Catholics in this Province, and especially to the fact of their having lately held an ecclesiastical meeting in Halifax, which they designate the first "Provincial Council," and thinks all this, requires a combination of Protestants in this Province formed for the purpose of opposing them, and then concludes by the following pathetic request:

"We advise our contemporary of the Christian Messenger to put his hand on his heart and seriously ask himself the question if there is not at this moment a strong necessity for an Evangelical Alliance in this Province, and why it is that he does not urge forward the good work. Of course this is not the business of the Secular Press? If thoughtful and pious Protestants are content with the present state of things, or if dissatisfied will not exert themselves to remedy the evil, upon their heads not ours rest the responsibility."

We have not tried the effect of the pressure on the particular part to which he refers as we place but little reliance on suddenly assumed religious zeal, or do we think any different response would be given if the experiment were tried.

Our contemporary probably wishes us to understand by his remarks that he has great regard for Evangelical religion, and thinks it necessary to give us a word of exhortation, by way of inducing us to make an effort in some way to promote it, in connection with other denominations. If this is the object which he desires, we should be sorry to undervalue his wishes on our behalf, and hope to profit by his expressions of concern for us.

We have a faint recollection of reading in some of the papers, not twelve months ago, of a "highly important movement among the clergy," stating that a combination of "all denominations," for such an object as he refers to, had been formed somewhere. We also remember something of the bitterness with which we were assailed by Protestants, for publishing the fact, that the "all denominations" consisted only of Presbyterian ministers, belonging to two churches, we believe, and one Congregational minister, who has since left the Province. We should be unwilling to charge the writer in the Chronicle with forgetfulness of such a circumstance, and as he does not now call on us to aid in forming a Protestant (that is to say Anti-Catholic) Alliance we must take it for granted that he is really desirous of seeing an Evangelical Alliance formed, for the purpose of raising a barrier against infidelity and all heterodox sentiments generally, as well as against ecclesiastical oppression, whether arising from Roman Catholic or Protestant power. This, we understand, is the object of the Evangelical Alliance, which he so much commends. We are not aware that any attempt has been made to form such a body in Nova Scotia.

The removal of those persecutions which have been, and are still, endured by Baptists from Protestant governments in Denmark, Germany, and Sweden, have been as much objects of consideration of the Evangelical Alliance as the expression of sympathy for those pious Protestants who suffer oppression in Roman Catholic countries.

As to the demand for Separate Schools forming a ground for such an Alliance we can only say in reply, that the only parties who have intimated their desire for them,

are the late Attorney General on introducing the separate clauses of his Education bill to the Legislature, and the Church Times, a week or two ago, so that if the danger of having separate schools be a reason for such a combination we must have something more than a mere Protestant qualification for its members.

We entirely sympathize with the Evangelical Alliance, and rejoice in any efforts for the promotion of union among believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, especially for the purpose of securing as extensively as possible the blessings of religious freedom and sympathy for those who suffer for conscience sake, from whatever source; but we shall at all times use our own judgment and discretion as to the path we think it right to pursue on public measures without resorting to any dramatic performances such as those suggested above.

French Protestants versus American Slavery.

AN Address on the extinction of Slavery has been sent from the Protestants of France, signed by five thousand persons, to "all their brethren in the United States." It is an earnest, affectionate appeal to slave-holders, and expresses deep concern, for both master and slave. It appears to be the impression in that country that Protestants are more deeply implicated in the evils of slavery than Roman Catholics. The New York Chronicle remarks, on this feature in the address:—

"From this language in this letter, we gather that the Catholics of France are endeavouring to make the Protestants believe that their brethren of America are more favorable to slavery than the Catholics are, or that slavery is peculiarly a Protestant institution,—whereas it is directly the reverse. The whole Catholic Church of America, so far as we know, are favorable to slavery; whereas the majority of the Protestants are opposed to the institution. Almost all the Catholic votes in the free States are given to the political party with which the South is for the most part identified. And we never knew a Catholic priest or Catholic man of any distinction, who took an open and active stand against the institution of slavery. Whereas thousands of Protestants are zealous and determined anti-slavery men."

It affords us pleasure to hear that an arrangement has been made to secure the services of a Professor of Modern Languages for Acadia College and the Horton Academy. Official announcement will, we presume, be shortly made.

It is highly important in the study of a foreign tongue that the first efforts shall be directed by a teacher well able to speak the language. The pronunciation and orthography of French and German are so peculiar and different from that of English, that those who have had no opportunity of acquiring either of those languages under one accustomed to speak them, are liable to mistake and much inconvenience in the use of words from them.

So much of French is now incorporated with English literature, and the commercial relations of the two countries are becoming so common, that a course of education without some provision for an acquaintance with that language is very imperfect. The students and friends will doubtless hail with pleasure this effort on the part of the Governors of the College, and the Principal of the Academy, to increase the efficiency of those Institutions.

Many families living in the neighbourhood will we doubt not avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the residence of the Professor at the College to give their younger members some instruction in those languages.

OUR Correspondent "WILL" has given us a very satisfactory account of the Upper Canada Agricultural Exhibition, on our sixth page. We received his second letter after the previous one was in hand, yet as it was a piece of the passing intelligence, we were unwilling that it should be delayed and have therefore two letters from him in the present number.

THE LAWTON OR NEW ROCHELLE BLACKBERRY.—We acknowledge the receipt of a pamphlet on the qualities and cultivation of this fine fruit. A berry of 3 or 4 inches in circumference, of which sixty or eighty will fill a quart measure, is worth cultivation. Efforts are being made to bring it into more general notice and to induce parties to cultivate it extensively.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOREIGN MISSION.—A soiree will be held in Temperance Hall tomorrow evening, for the purpose of taking a farewell of the Rev. Mr. Mattheson and lady, who are about leaving the Province for the South Sea Islands, to join the Rev. Mr. Geddie and Mr. Gordon, who are now labouring in that distant part of the world.

THE latest N. York Telegraphic Despatch brings us a few days later Indian news, from which it would appear that things remained the same before Delhi, where reinforcements (we suppose, under Gen. Nicolson, from the Punjab.) were daily expected, and it was reported that the British would be in a position to make the long premeditated assault about the 20th August. Sir Colin Campbell will, in all probability, have joined them, as Commander-in-Chief, previous to that period. Gen. Havelock is reported to have advanced to Lucknow and been obliged to retrace his steps without raising the siege, on account of the fewness of his numbers and the overpowering force of the enemy, but to have defeated them again near Cawnpore on his retreat. Our next mail will, we hope, give full particulars ere we finally go to press.

For many weeks past great commercial embarrassment has prevailed in many of the chief emporiums of trade in the United States, especially in New York, the great capital of American monetary transactions. A few days since the whole of the Banks in the City stopped payment, finding the drain of specie so great as to endanger their solvency. This of course put an immediate stop to all commercial transactions, with certain consequence of universal pecuniary embarrassment or bankruptcy throughout the country, as well as in other parts where there had been extensive dealings. It now appears, however, that the whole of the Banks by common agreement have recommenced discounting, in paper only. Whether they are authorized in such a measure without infringing legal enactments, we are not aware. The ruinous rate of interest which has been given for money for some time past, rendered it impossible that business could continue under such circumstances. Our Halifax Banks have also ceased to discount for more than ten days past.

We observe that our Canadian friends are still earnestly discussing the question of the Hudson's Bay Company monopoly of the extensive regions adjoining them on the North West. It is one which cannot remain long undecided in the present state of European emigration, and the strong tendency to extend speculation and occupy lands westward.

Latest Intelligence from Calcutta, to the 23rd ult., on the seventh page.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

FIRE.—The barn and outhouses of the Hon. W. A. Black, at Bellevue, were burnt to the ground on Friday night. Two cows, a large quantity of hay, and garden and other produce were entirely destroyed. The beautiful garden which had been the admiration of the passers-by was fearfully mutilated and trodden under foot by the hundreds of the citizens who went for the purpose of aiding in extinguishing the flames. Had the wind been in a little different direction no efforts could have saved the mansion. The efforts of the military on the occasion are beyond all praise. The city engines were soon on the spot and the noble body of firemen at work, but were unable to prevent the destruction of those buildings which had caught. It is supposed to be the work of some unknown villain. We hope he may soon be discovered and punished.

The City Council met on Thursday last for the purpose of appointing the various city officers for the ensuing year. The officers for the past year were all re-elected with the exception of the pound keeper.

The Royal Gazette of last Wednesday mentions a correspondence respecting the Signal Station at the Citadel Hill—giving notice to the Provincial government, that it will not be continued at the expense of the Imperial Government after the 1st of January next.

The Hon. Edward M. Archibald late Attorney General of Newfoundland, a native of Nova Scotia has been appointed British Consul at New York.

CIVIC.—Mr. W. Ackhurst, we understand, at the earnest request of many of the citizens, has consented to be put in nomination for Alderman for Ward No. 4; the election to come off this day.

An inquest was held on Sunday last before Dr. Grigor, one of the coroners, on the body of a female infant which was found dead, rolled up in white linen, in an uninhabited house near Piers's rope-walk, on the morning of that day. The jury returned the usual verdict—"Found dead."—Col.

Considerable excitement was caused in this place on Monday last, in consequence of a person being robbed in noonday. As Mr. Nathan Munroe was walking in a by-path, near the College grounds, he was suddenly pounced upon by two colored ruffians and relieved of nearly £40 in Province bills. A high (hue?) and cry was raised and strict search made for the desperadoes but without success. This is a heavy loss for Mr. Munroe, as he is a poor man, and the amount of which he was robbed was a portion of the proceeds of a little vessel sold in Halifax.—Liverpool Transcript.