

For the Christian Messenger.

Domestic and Australian Missions.

Amid the various objects making claims upon the Christian and the christian church, it may often be very difficult to decide the path of duty. It may be so, and often has been, with reference to personal labour. The devoted Samuel Pierce earnestly desired to labour in the Foreign field—his brethren, to whom the case was referred, were of different opinion. To them it appeared more important even for the Foreign Mission, that he should continue at home—with the humility of a child-like spirit, he submitted to the brethren.

We may often feel doubtful, to which of some different objects to devote our contributions—sometimes we may be better able to decide than at others. Prayer, examination, and mutual consultation may assist.

In connecting the two objects at the head of these remarks, it is not for the purpose of comparing their different claims upon our churches, nor to enter at all into the question of their comparative importance.

For the present, all things considered, it appears to be deemed expedient not to prosecute the Australian Mission: The decision of Bro. Wallace, is so far as I understand, thought to be upon the whole judicious. Let us all seek for that wisdom which is from above, hoping that we shall know "what is that good and perfect and acceptable will of God."

Meanwhile, let us be careful that we do not lose sight of that department of christian labor, which all have admitted to be of great importance—Domestic Mission. Let us with renewed diligence devote ourselves to this part of our duty, and who knows what God may do for us, in blessing our exertions, and so enlarging our hearts, as to make us feel that our labors are to be circumscribed only by the limits of the world. Verily we are doing next to nothing in this respect. Entreaties arise all around us for help. The Mission to Australia for the present not making any demands upon us, the Providence of God seems clearly pointing us to our own home destitution. Let us not fold our hands, for an excuse for not entering into the vineyard to labor, say—"no man has hired us!"

Men of age, of experience, of wisdom, sleep not. Men, Christian men, to whom God has given means, help us! Persons in important localities, also not professors of religion ask why we do not occupy these places, and why we relinquish previously occupied ones. Persons living in destitute places are constantly making appeals for the preached gospel. Our churches weak and languishing ask for help, and their necessities as well as the labor already expended, all combine to urge us to help them. Time is short, our working time will soon end.

A letter is before me, making earnest request that a brother in Cape Breton may be sent among some portion of the Gaelic on that Island.

A man from a distant part of the Island, and destitute too, inquires of my informant if Bro. R. McDonald, whose preaching has been beneficial already, cannot be again sent among them?

My correspondent also remarks, "I know the funds are low, but cannot the Western or Central Boards assist?" Brethren will you? Will the Western Board send us a donation for this object, or take the Mission under its own direction, and give Bro. R. McDonald a Mission among his countrymen on that Island?

Then will the Central Board order a further period for him to labor?

This letter would have received my attention before, only that for the past few weeks I have been unable to attend to any public duties. I hope the request may be granted.

D. W. C. DIMOCK,  
Onslow, Dec. 30th, 1856. Secretary.

WORK INSTEAD OF TRAVEL.—A medical writer in the Boston Congregationalist earnestly opposes the practice of ministers and professional men travelling abroad to regain lost health, affirming that in nine cases out of ten, health is injured rather than benefited by such journeys. He asserts that if a parish, instead of furnishing their minister with means for traveling abroad, would furnish him with land for tillage and the implements for husbandry, it would better improve his health, and more "abound to the riches of their liberality." "Any sedentary invalid," he says, "who will resort to this heaven-ordained means of health of body and peace of mind, will soon understand why the old clergyman of this country had a long ministry and a green old age."

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 28, 1857.

A few days will bring the members of our Legislature together in the capital for "the despatch of business."

The assembling of the Provincial Parliament will of course be the signal for contending parties to muster their forces, and so to use their strength as to carry out the plans formed during the interval.

The province will be looking on with more or less of interest as the various questions may affect them individually or collectively.

Whilst we consider ourselves more particularly concerned in what affects the moral and religious interests of the people, we shall also feel ourselves free to use our best judgment with regard to all measures which concern the well being of society.

The late excitement on the subject of retaining in office or dismissing, those opposed to the acts of the Government, will no doubt command much attention. We shall, however, not consider this within the scope we allow ourselves, any further than it gives privileges to one sect which it withholds from others. We certainly shall not feel called upon to follow in the wake of some of our religious contemporaries by inserting in our columns articles from the secular papers so as to share in the triumphs of either party, whether it be in the continuance of the present government in office, or compelling them to an alteration of their tactics, or to a reconstruction for the purpose of a change in the parties composing it. We shall watch the proceedings of "the assembled wisdom" and keep our readers posted up in what is going on.

TEMPERANCE and Education have so long been under consideration, and our views so frequently expressed, that it is unnecessary for us to do more than state that we shall be satisfied with nothing less than "Prohibition of the Liquor traffic;" but shall hail any approach to the adoption of that principle.

EDUCATION must be free from all sectarian bias. Schools for all classes and sects. No separate schools for any denomination, but a free provision for every child in the province. No exclusion of the Bible—the charter of our rights, and the source of our freedom.

These two subjects we consider more intimately connected with the well being of society than any or all others.

The extension of Railroads as far as possible east and west, we believe calculated to develop the resources of the province, and to give every man facilities of trade, which nothing else could supply. The best means of accomplishing this, we leave for the decision of our Legislators.

If our friend H. H. who complains so much of advertisements in the Christian Messenger, would ensure us 5000 well paid annual subscribers, we might undertake to fill the whole of our pages with the very best of original or extracted matter that our judgement can dictate. In the mean time he must remember that we have to live by our labour. The pages of the Christian Messenger, we believe, furnish a larger proportion of reading matter than any other religious Journal in the Province. Many of our readers in the country set a high value on our advertising columns. A large part of our friend's animadversions apply to the medical art in every shape, or in the words of our great Dramatist, "Throw Physic to the dogs: I'll none of it." This he must settle with the College of Physicians.

We think the evil complained of by "Observer," and which formerly caused some difficulties in our churches, is fast dying out; and although it may occasion some little trouble in the particular locality referred to, we doubt whether reviving a controversy on the subject would be at all beneficial.

Our acknowledgements are due to the Editor of our New Brunswick contemporary the Christian Visitor, for his kind notice of our late misfortunes. The knowledge that we have the sympathy of our friends, tends to alleviate sorrow, although it may not entirely remove it. Our brother is slightly in error however, when he says, "The fearful conflagration of New Year's Day had occasioned a suspension for a couple of weeks." One week's issue only having been omitted.

THE R. M. Steamer America arrived on Sunday the 18th inst. She met heavy, boisterous weather, and had a long passage. The London dates are to the 3rd inst. We gave in our last, extracts, from the English prints, of the most important items of foreign news. The commencement of hostilities with China is a sudden and quite unlooked for occurrence. The Chinese Government is as yet semi-barbarous in its appreciation of the right of others nations, towards all of whom it entertains a deep-rooted contempt and aversion. The utter disregard to the national rights and dignity of our own Government, and the forcible seizure and imprisonment of a number of seamen under the protection of the British flag, necessarily produced on the part of the naval authorities, a prompt and vigorous retaliation. Not, however, without every means being tried by the Admiral, Sir Michael Seymour, to obtain redress. The reprisals may to some appear to have been excessive, but it must be remembered, that if the offence were slightly passed over neither life or property of British subjects in China, would be safe for an hour; and that immediate redress, either voluntary or enforced, was the only means of securing future safety. We doubt not that the Chinese authorities will shortly make proper amends, under the apprehension of a yet more severe retribution.

Nothing further has transpired relative to the Persian expedition. It is said that the chief object of the English Armament from Bombay, is to seize the large and valuable island of Grand Kashma, in the Gulf of Persia, and which will command all the southern and maritime parts of the kingdom.

Milano, the soldier who attempted the life of the king of Naples, has been executed. He exhibited great firmness to the last, and openly exulted in the act, as meritorious and patriotic. It is said strong feelings of public sympathy were apparent.

Spain is hourly retrograding to her former condition of abject despotism; as every change of ministry is made the means of placing more absolute power in the hands of the Qu en.

It is said that Lord North is coming out as Ambassador from England to the United States, which post has been vacant ever since the recall of Mr. Crampton. If so, it would seem that all matters of difference between the two Governments have been finally adjusted.

Great alarm has prevailed lately in most of the Southern States, in consequence of a rumoured insurrection of the slaves, many of whom have been seized, and every effort made to discover the nature and extent of the threatened plot. It would appear that the free-soil-settlers are increasing in Kansas, and good hopes are entertained of the final establishment of the State, untainted by the curse of slavery. Should such be the case, it may be hoped that it will exercise a large and salutary influence on the future prospects of the whole Union. It is evident, however, that nothing but the entire abolition of Slavery throughout the Country, or a severance of the present Union, can ever wholly exonerate the northern States from the reproach of affording countenance to the hateful system. With the present feelings of the South, great doubt exists whether the former alternative will ever take place. The latter is far from improbable, and that at no very distant date. But the evil is too deeply rooted to admit an easy cure. As is well argued by some of our English Exchanges, the very opposition of the Northern States acknowledges or implies the constitutional right and legality of the Southern States to maintain and perpetuate Slavery. The fugit vo Slave law goes much further. Gen. Walker, the Nisaraguan Filibusterer, is said to be in a bad predicament, and unless shortly relieved by additional bands of desperadoes from the U. S., not very likely to obtain any footing in Central America.

The Paris Conference has again met and it is understood will adjust the remaining difficulties without controversy and to general satisfaction.

We observe from the late English papers that the Queen of Madagascar and her son, the heir apparent, have invited Mr. Ellis, the well known English Missionary, to visit her Kingdom. Mr. E. has complied, and has been received with great distinction. The invitation appears to have been prompted on the part of the Queen by political or commercial rather than from favor to Christianity, against the introduction of which into the Island, there still exist severe penalties. For some time past indeed they have not been enforced, through

the favorable interference of the Prince. It is devoutly to be hoped that Mr. Ellis's visit will be attended with the best consequences, and that he will succeed in obtaining the free preaching of the Gospel among the inhabitants of this large and populous Island, where notwithstanding the bloody persecutions which took place a few years since, a large number of native Christians, the fruits of Missionary labours, still exist. The prince is said to be a most amiable and well disposed person, and is thought indeed to be at heart a Christian. His mother the Queen has until lately been "mad on her idols."

Several Canada papers have of late had articles on the appointment of consuls by the Imperial Government at those places where they were dismissed with Mr. Crampton. They very properly urge the importance of appointing some one connected with the British Provinces. The most prominent name is that of James Whitman, Esq., for New York. Having long resided in that city in connection with mercantile matters, and his having had a legal training and practice are referred to as highly important qualifications. His being a colonist, is spoken of by the Canadians as a circumstance which would make the appointment highly acceptable and satisfactory.

Telegraph Despatch.

Merchant's Reading Room, January 24, 1857.  
The Collins steamship Atlantic arrived at New York last evening, and brought Liverpool dates to 7th January.  
Breadstuffs steady. Flour market firm at previous quotations. Wheat unchanged. Corn firm, but no change in price. Sugar market buoyant. Money decidedly easier. Consols for money 94 1/2.  
Lord North appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington. Political affairs favorable.  
The Archbishop of Paris has been stabbed to the heart.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—A meeting of the Halifax Shareholders of this Company for the election of local Directors, took place at Mason's Hall on Wednesday the 14th inst. The Report and accounts for the previous year were submitted and read; and the statement of accounts was declared to be satisfactory and the Report adopted. Resolutions were passed expressing the satisfaction of the stockholders with the management of the outgoing Directors and voting them the sum of £100 in partial remuneration of their services. A dividend of four per cent upon the stock, for the past year, was also declared, to be paid when in funds. The Directors were then re-elected, with the exception of Mr. Eason who preferred retiring. Mr. Thomas Bolton was chosen in his place—Recorder.  
The Directors declined accepting the hundred pounds.

IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED.—The long expected Swiss and German Immigrants arrived in the Golconda, on Tuesday last. After serving in the Foreign Legion they were offered a free passage here, with a bounty of £20 on their arrival. They might be seen in parties of ten, twenty, and thirty, about the streets, on that and the following days. We hear they were paid the sum above named. We have not heard what provision is made for giving them employment. They appear fine able-bodied men, and at any other season of the year would doubtless have met with plenty of demand for the article they possess—unemployed labour.

LECTURE AT TEMPERANCE HALL.—A large and attentive audience was gathered at Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening last, to hear the lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association. The lecturer, Mr. J. W. Marriott, who is always acceptable on the platform, was equally so on the present occasion. The subject "The curse of labour," although not really novel, being about six thousand years old, was given in a somewhat unusual form and created some enquiry, as to how it might be treated. He advocated a diminution of the hours of labour and the encouragement of all means likely to benefit the working man.

TEMPERANCE.—The meeting of the Grand Division Sons of Temperance will commence this day, at South Rawdon. They will, we doubt not, initiate the measures for the Legislature.

The Divisions in the City are shewing an encouraging degree of prosperity. The steamer gives some items of intelligence which will interest many of our readers.

"The City Divisions have increased rapidly during the past quarter. The Mayflower Division had the greatest increase. The number of Sons in Halifax on 31st December last, was 640, showing an increase of 120 over 1855. This increase has been steady—we hope sure, and is encouraging. Keep the ball moving, brethren, and let your motto be—'Upward and Onward.'"