

by locks and chains; for in this state he had lain two years within five weeks, and had for a year and a half never seen the sun." (Ibid, p. 99-104).

Hans was committed to the charge of an officer, and they journeyed towards the sea. On the second day, while resting at a tavern, the officer became beastly drunk, and Hans improved the opportunity to effect his escape. He recovered strength and health, re-joined his brethren, was called to preach the gospel, and died in peace in the year 1583.

Thus God's servants suffered in Germany. There were Baptists in Italy in this period, some of whom attained the honour of martyrdom. Julius Klampherer, who had been a Romish priest, was drowned at Venice in 1561. Franciscus van der Sach, a minister, was drowned with another brother in the same city, in 1564. Hans George, Count of Grovtenstein, who had fled to Germany some years before, and had returned to Italy in 1566, in the hope of inducing his wife to share his exile, was betrayed by some who recognised him, and thrown overboard on the voyage to Venice. By faith he forsook all things, disregarding rank, preferring rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the honours and rewards of this world among his own people." (Ibid, p. 425).

Yours truly,
MEXNO.
From my Study,
July 14, 1857.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 22, 1857.

Our Church Music.

It must be evident to every attentive Bible reader, that no exceptions are made, in behalf of any who attend public worship, with respect to their uniting in the song of praise. The Psalmist seems to labour for terms to enforce the duty on all. He says in Psalm 146, "I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being;" and in Psalm 149, "Sing unto the Lord a new song and his praise in the congregation of the saints;" and in Psalm 67, 3, 5, "Let the people praise thee, O God: let all the people praise thee;" and after calling upon "every thing that hath breath to praise the Lord," he adds, by way of personal application, "Praise ye the Lord."

The New Testament also gives injunctions on the subject in Eph. v. 19, and in Col. iii. 16. These, with the example of our Lord in Matt. xxvi. 30, and of Christian churches in all ages, are sufficient to point out the duty of attending to this delightful exercise. There are various degrees of ability, arising from early habit and opportunities of obtaining instruction, together with the cultivation of the voice and the practice of vocal music, yet there are but few who cannot with a little attention and effort "join in" with a congregation so as to give expression to the praises of God in His sanctuary.

By observing the presence or absence of hymn books in different congregations, we have come to the conclusion that the principal reason why singing is not more general in our churches, is, because so many have not the words of the hymn before them. A remedy to this is attempted in some places of worship, especially at their more social gatherings, by giving out the lines of the hymn. Differences of opinion exist on the merits of this practice. It is objected by some that by doing so the benefits to those who have no book or cannot read, are more than counterbalanced by the sense being interfered with and the melody destroyed. These things are worthy of consideration. If, however, we must choose between two evils we think the latter of far less importance, than that the majority of a congregation should be obliged to sit, as mere listeners to the service which is being performed by others, without even knowing the language which is being used. It might as well be a part of the Roman Catholic Missal in Latin as far as they are concerned. This cannot be singing "with the spirit and with the understanding also."

Neither the want of books or of the ability to read them, are, we believe, valid reasons for "lining out" the hymns at the present day.

An incorrect view is often held with respect to congregational singing, as if it were necessarily hostile to the services rendered by a choir. Much unpleasant feeling has frequently arisen from the supposed incompatibility of the two. Instead of this they should be looked upon as both parts of the same exercise, and dependent on each other for their full efficiency. A choir or some-

thing that is equivalent, must have the management of the music of the church for anything like musical correctness. Those possessing any cultivated musical taste could not be satisfied with psalmody that had not the different parts properly sustained. This can only be done by those who are sufficiently near each other to attend to time and tune, whether called a choir or not. We therefore find nothing in the science of music or in our mode of worship to prevent every individual from the full enjoyment of this delightful exercise, and fully obeying the above injunctions of the Inspired Volume.

We have been led to make these remarks by reading an article in one of our New York exchanges, an extract of which we subjoin:—

SINGING THAT WAS SINGING.

"We went with a friend on Sunday evening to the 'Plymouth church' (Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's), in Brooklyn, and among the impressions of this interesting occasion, we must note as most profound and gratifying, that produced by the vocal praises of the congregation. Here, is congregational singing illustrated on a grand and healthful scale. It seemed as if we saw about as many open books, as human beings, in that very large and very crowded building; while over every book there seemed to bend an absorbed yet animated face, and to gush a stream of heart-felt, melodious devotion. The singing, in short, seemed to be general, hearty, intelligent, well-instructed, well-timed, and well-tuned. There are some musical critics, who, we have thought, had ears so long and fine that they might be sensible of some jar in the very songs of angels; much more in such poor performances as they have opportunity to criticize here below. To such ears, congregational singing is a standing horror and affliction. But having no such attenuated tympanum to expose to the rude sounds of this lower world, we, so far from being distressed, were delighted. We detected no discord sufficient to disturb the equability of a reasonably firm organization. Led by a strong and well-trained choir, and aided by the use of the musical notation, of which doubtless a majority in every intelligent congregation in these days have more or less knowledge, the great mass moved on in the harmony with both individual and united enjoyment, and to a mind intent upon the solemn and sublime sense of the exercise, with an impressiveness in the union of their many voices, such as mere music can never attain.

Perhaps it is too much to expect that every congregation shall have such congregational singing as that of 'Plymouth church.' Few congregations are as large; perhaps a majority are, as a whole, less intelligent and less acquainted with music; certainly, few have the aid to their devotions, of such soul-inspiring eloquence as we heard on that evening."

It may not be out of place here to make a remark by way of suggestion, that whilst we welcome visitors or strangers to our places of worship we should endeavour to afford them all the facilities in our power to unite with us in this as well as other parts of the service.

A few days ago a friend of ours was instituting a comparison between the attention he received in one of the churches in a neighbouring province, and in the very church referred to in the above extract. He was shewn to a comfortable seat and a book placed in his hand immediately on entering the latter, which was in striking contrast with his reception in the former.

Hantsport and Truro.

We have lately had occasions of visiting these two interesting localities, and as our readers in some parts may not have had similar opportunities, we shall take the liberty of giving the results of our observation.

They are alike in some respects. Both are thriving and prosperous. Quite a number of new buildings may be seen, lately erected, or in course of construction.

HANTSPOET has arisen without having the advantage of being on a line of post road, but being situated on the left bank of the estuary of the River Avon, it has conveniences for ship-building which have been embraced by a few individuals. Of these the name of Churchill is perhaps the most prominent. By skill, industry and sobriety these have become prosperous and, in some cases, wealthy. An air of comfort and happiness pervades the village. It is pleasantly situated, sheltered by hills on every side but that on which the river flows. It has not yet arrived at such a state of maturity as to demand many public buildings. The two most prominent are the Baptist Meeting-house and a large steam saw-mill. The village may be considered a Baptist community, there being scarcely a family in it of any other denomination. One circumstance has probably contributed more than any other to preserve the inhabitants from poverty, that is, a rum-shop is unknown there. May the people be ever preserved from the curses which invariably flow from such degrading establishments.

Being nearly at the head of the free

navigation of the river, it enjoys advantages for a shipping port which will doubtless render it progressive, and will continually enhance the value of property in the neighbourhood. When the railroad has crossed the Avon, it must pass through Hantsport, which will doubtless be made a large depot, and will by that means receive a powerful impulse. These considerations surround the place with a degree of importance in its future prospects which should be borne in mind by its inhabitants, and arrangements should be made to secure all the advantages of a religious, moral and temporal nature that present themselves.

TRURO being an older place and situated on the great eastern road is much better known. Its rapid progress of late has, however, produced a great improvement and change in what was always a beautiful country town.

The locating of the Normal School here has made a considerable accession to the number of its inhabitants. This institution is a building of small pretensions for a Provincial Educational establishment. Although it is well adapted for the purpose for which it is intended, yet we think it would have been more creditable to the province if a little more architectural taste had been expended on its exterior. The more recently erected Model Schools are considerably in advance of their parent structure. They appear admirably adapted to the purpose for which they have been erected. Their location is excellent, with a large area in front, so that no interruption can arise from the road, and ample space is afforded for a nice lawn, besides shrubbery and flower-garden. We embraced the opportunity of spending a few minutes in the Normal School, and were gratified with the highly respectable and intelligent appearance of the Students. The indefatigable Principal, Dr. Forrester, was giving some instruction on the importance of teachers having fixedness of purpose, and bringing their own wills into subjection to the plans which they had previously formed. We were also interested in an exercise on English Composition, conducted by Mr. Randall. Vast benefits must be realized from such an establishment where all denominational distinctions are forgotten, and the work of preparation for professional ability alone recognized. The Model Schools were well filled, having about 150 pupils in the three departments,—Primary, Intermediate, and Higher. They have been in operation only about a month, and taking into consideration the labour required in organizing and classifying so many pupils, they may be considered in a state of great efficiency.

Much attention is given to singing and the simultaneous movements of the arms as a relaxation from study. The pupils are allowed frequent intervals of about ten minutes in the play-ground. With the Normal School for theoretical instruction in the art of teaching, and the Model Schools for the practical exhibition of the principles of that art, and for the training of the students in their work, full provision is made for raising up a first-rate class of teachers, and we doubt not the future progress of education will shew the wisdom of all the appropriations of public funds in behalf of this institution.

Another building of quite an ornamental character is in course of erection at Truro, for the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia which has hitherto been held at West River. It has a fine commanding situation and consists of a long range parallel with the road, but rather too close to it. It has a small cupola and when finished the building will be highly appropriate for the purpose to which it is to be applied.

The railroad operations are in various stages of progress all the way between Truro and Halifax. The Depot, we were informed, will be at a little distance back of the Normal School.

Although we cannot say the same of Truro as of Hantsport with regard to the business done in liquid fire yet we believe it has been considered a sober community. What a blessing it would be to those engaged in the railway operations, if the use of intoxicating drinks could be prohibited, and such a law passed as is referred to in another column, providing "that it shall not be sold within half a mile of any place."

We have looked over the communication of "A reader of the Presbyterian Witness," but think it will not be desirable to publish it however well written and well deserved, as occasion might be taken to give a repetition of the bitterness which he desires to reprove. The inconsistencies to which he refers are so palpable that any effort to expose them would be quite a work of supererogation.

Presbyterianism.

At the Synodical meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, held in Toronto last month,

"The case of a Church in connexion with the Synod where an Organ is used in Public worship gave rise to much discussion. It was at last resolved that the Musical Instrument be removed."

We are not informed where the said "Church in connection with the Synod" is situated, but shall be interested to learn if they submit to have the obnoxious organ removed.

"THE DIFFICULTIES OF INFANT BAPTISM."

In the same report we find the following Resolution was discussed and agreed to:

"The Synod took up an Overture on the subject of Baptism in the Romish Church. The following was the deliverance of the Synod in this matter, viz:—The Synod considering the overture to involve matters of difficulty and doubt, and recognising the importance of the subject as bearing upon our testimony against the errors of the Church of Rome, send said overture to Presbyteries to be by them considered and reported upon at next Synod."

We presume the subject of the overture was, whether Roman Catholic Baptism may be considered valid for a convert to Presbyterianism.

CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF ROMAN CATHOLICS.

We find an article in the *Presbyterian Witness* headed "French Canadians," the first paragraph of which reads as follows:

"While we pity the French Canadian Papists we should not forget those who are nearer ourselves. There are many in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island almost if not quite as priest ridden and ignorant as those in Canada. What a pity Protestant churches could not do something for this people."

We beg to inform our contemporary that the Baptist Churches have had a Missionary labouring for some years among "this people," and that a Mission-house is just completed and nearly paid for. Should other Protestant Churches wish to "do something" they have here a favourable opportunity. W. Churchill, Esq. of Yarmouth, is the Treasurer.

Which is true?

THIS, OR THAT? We have seen the great Church Directory spiritual legislation of and Statute Book,—Dr. Chalmers—"Presbyterian Witness" Motto. We have seen the people go through with by a Synod in less than one week.—Editorial "Presbyterian Witness," July 11th.

The last English Mail brings London dates to the 4th inst.

The news is highly important, as fully confirming the revolt of the Sepoy regiments in India. Three or four of these regiments broke out into open mutiny, and after murdering and wounding several of the European officers were attacked and put to flight by some of the Queen's troops, quartered near them. They retreated to the City of Delhi, about 40 miles distant, where some native regiments were stationed. These immediately joined them, when a general massacre of all Europeans that could be found took place. The most shocking outrages and barbarities were perpetrated. A good many, however, escaped to places of safety. By the latest accounts the British regiments and those of the native force that adhered to their duty, were closing on the City of Delhi, and it was confidently expected that signal retribution would be inflicted on the insurgent regiments. A descendent of the former Sovereign of the Country had been proclaimed King at Delhi. Disaffection has shewn itself in some other of the Indian regiments, but prompt and effectual measures were taken to prevent any further outbreak. Immediate re-inforcements of troops to the number of 14,000 men have, ere now, been despatched from England to India.

There is no later news of any importance by the steamer. The French Elections, as stated in our last, had resulted in an overpowering majority in support of the Government.

The crops in England, Ireland and generally throughout Europe wear a highly promising appearance.

We observe by the American papers that numbers of Mormons are constantly arriving from Europe to join their deluded co-religionists in Utah, although thousands are quitting that ill-fated Colony and renouncing their connection with Brigham Young and his godless crew. The U. S. troops are gradually advancing upon the territory to restore and enforce the authority of the general Government. It is not improbable that scenes of bloodshed may follow, ere this shall be effected.

A serious riot occurred in New York on the 4th inst. between the Irish and American parties, in which eight or ten people were killed and 60 or 60 wounded—some of them dangerously.