

Africa, and has here given the narrative of his adventures, together with other matters of interest connected with that vast and populous country.

Chapter 26th on "the means of regenerating Africa," is a well written exposition of the gospel plan. Not only does it point out the means necessary for giving permanence to evangelical progress there, but shews the important place which educational institutions should occupy in the estimation of every Christian mind and Christian community.

We extract the first two or three paragraphs.

"The barbarous negro of Africa, and the enlightened white man of America, are endowed with a common human nature. Although in different degrees of development, they both have the same good and evil propensities, the same hopes and fears, the same instinctive religious yearnings, and the same capabilities. It follows, then, that the Gospel is adapted to both. The fiercest savage on earth is not too unhuman to be capable of conversion. If a priori reasoning on this point were not sufficient to convince us, the fact is manifest in the success of missionaries among the Hottentots. No Christian will deny that men may be converted without civilization, or that whole communities of barbarians might become at least nominally Christian, like the civilized nations of Europe and America.

But our designs and hopes in regard to Africa, are not simply to bring as many individuals as possible to the knowledge of Christ. We desire to establish the Gospel in the hearts and minds and social life of the people, so that truth and righteousness may remain and flourish among them, without the instrumentality of foreign missionaries. This can not be done without civilization. To establish the Gospel among any people, they must have Bibles, and therefore must have the art to make them, or the money to buy them. They must read the Bible, and this implies instruction. They must have competent native pastors, and this implies several things which can not exist without a degree of civilization.

Suppose, now, that all the people of Africa were converted to-day, and left to-morrow to perpetuate their Christianity without foreign assistance. In a few generations they would sink to a level with the Christians of Abyssinia, as unconverted, as superstitious, and as vicious as the very heathen themselves. The great Roman apostasy was only the natural result of that superstition, and that ignorance of the Bible, which were inevitably connected with the social state of the people in the first ages of Christianity. While it is the glory of the Gospel that the weakest reasonable creature can perceive its essential truths sufficiently to be sanctified and saved, it is nevertheless true that the Gospel can not be divorced from the written word, as it must be among illiterate barbarians. To diffuse a good degree of mental culture among the people, though a secondary object, is really and necessarily one part of the missionary work in Africa; and he that expects to evangelize the country without civilization, will find, like Xavier in the East, and the Jesuits in South America, and the priests in Congo, that his labors will end in disappointment."

Special Notice.

Those of our Subscribers in the Western Counties who are in arrears for the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER are respectfully informed, that the Rev. Dr. Tupper has kindly consented to call on some, on his way to the Convention at Yarmouth, and has been furnished with their accounts for that purpose.

We shall be glad if all who have not yet sent in their subscription for the past year will hand the amounts due, to him, or forward the same to our office, without delay.

We need not refer to the peculiar circumstances in which we are at present placed as a reason for urging attention to this request; the demand made upon us every week, for the expenses of the paper, can be met only by the payments of our subscribers.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 19, 1857.

THE Baptist Convention will assemble at Yarmouth on the 22nd inst. This time was substituted for the latter part of September, the period at which it has hitherto met. We much regret that we cannot ourselves be present. The journey thither and return would occupy more time than we can possibly afford just now.

Our Conventional Meetings hitherto have passed off with great unanimity of action, and have been attended with the best results as regarded the important objects which called them together. We doubt not a similar spirit will prevail on the present occasion. It is one of the noble characteristics of truly Christian assemblies, that the constraining principal of brotherly kindness and prudence is that which every member feels it his highest duty to cherish and promote, and it is this alone which so strongly distinguishes their business meetings from those of mere worldly men. Variety of interests and feelings will of course at times produce a diversity of

opinions, but when the spirit of the common Master prevails, the spirit of love and self-sacrifice will temper and adorn their proceedings.

We are not aware that we can offer any further remarks than we have already done, as regards the principal objects which will come before the Convention. Our Educational affairs are in some respects in a critical position, but we feel fully assured that a steady, vigorous, and united effort, such as we have often had the satisfaction to witness, will carry us beyond all our perils, and establish more firmly than ever the great results of our past labors.

We shall await with some degree of anxiety the course to be pursued in reference to our Foreign Mission, as we have already said, it is not a matter in which we are any longer at liberty, as a numerous and powerful Denomination, to lay ourselves open to the charge of indifference—"Whatever our hand findeth to do," we should "do it with our might." It is our earnest prayer that a blessing from on high may rest on the labors of our assembled brethren—may direct their measures and render them largely conducive to the fulfilment of the ends in view.

Frightful explosion of Powder Magazine in Halifax.

WE have to record this week one of the most terrific explosions which has ever been experienced in this city. At about 1/2 past 12 o'clock on Thursday night the inhabitants were aroused from their slumbers with more or less violence, according to the distance from the scene of the disaster. Those in the northern part of the city being thrown from their beds without a moment's warning. It was generally supposed that we had experienced a violent shock of an earthquake. An alarm being given by the watchmen it was soon known that the Magazine at Richmond, in which was kept the stock of gunpowder belonging to the merchants, had exploded. Hundreds of people soon collected on the spot with several of the fire-engines. There was, however, but little occasion for these, for the destruction had been occasioned instantaneously, and no fire was to be seen, except among some of the scattered fragments. It was soon found that the Magazine itself was no longer in existence, every stone being carried away, and the materials lying scattered in every direction, and that several houses in the neighbourhood had also been completely demolished.

The occupants of the houses so destroyed had suffered various injuries, and were taken from among the ruins, some with broken bones and others with severe bruises.

On visiting the scene of disaster early on Friday morning, a picture of the most melancholy description presented itself. Fragments of the magazine and of the buildings destroyed lay scattered in every direction. Every house all around exhibited marks of the destruction which had taken place.

The houses nearest the magazine belonging to Mr. McGagy, were a complete wreck. The house at the northern corner of the dockyard had the gable-end entirely removed by an immense stone which appeared also to have passed through the trunk of a large willow tree in the rear.

A poor man from Stewiacke, named Harney, had come to town the previous day to dispose of his horse, and had taken lodgings at Stokes's, one of the houses destroyed, he was so much injured that he died early the following morning. Another man has since died from injuries sustained.

A stone wharf lately erected a little below was shaken to pieces. Does thrown off their hinges and broken, windows without glass and sashes, plaster thrown down from walls and ceilings, sheds and other outhouses carried away, and various other marks of ruin were presented all around. The handsome new residence of Mr. Kaye on the opposite side of the road was so shaken as to damage the whole of the interior—the furniture was also much injured.

The new barracks, about four or five hundred yards off, have suffered a large amount of damage, scarcely a pane of glass or a sash remains. A large stone, probably weighing three hundred weight, was carried up and fell through the roof, coming away all the wood work beneath. A horse which was grazing near was completely cut to pieces.

It is said the shock was felt near 20 miles distant. Windows and sashes were broken, and doors forced open in Dartmouth, all down as far as to Eastern Passage and Cow Bay.

The loss to some parties will be very considerable. The whole extent of loss must be immense. We are informed that

about 10,000 lbs. of powder were deposited in the building, probably worth £2000. Bessonett and Brown had about £300 worth; E. K. Brown, a similar quantity; Albro & Co., the same amount or more; Messrs. Stairs, about as much; P. Welsh, more than any. It is estimated that £20,000 will scarcely cover the whole loss of property.

On considering the damage actually done and the immediate vicinity of the Military and Naval Powder Magazine, we are aghast at the awful consequences which must have been the result if the explosion had communicated to the interior of that building, containing probably 3 or 400,000 lbs. of powder, besides a number of live shells, rockets, and other deadly munitions of war. The roof was badly injured, and the sentinel thrown to the ground. It appears almost miraculous that it should have escaped, as the roof was much damaged, and the interior exposed; some of the shells, too, were driven about in several directions in the inside. Had this exploded; the city and many of its inhabitants must have gone. Various conjectures are afloat as to the cause of the catastrophe, but nothing has occurred to afford positive evidence. It is believed, however, to be the work of an incendiary, or what is more probable an accidental spark from parties engaged in stealing powder from the magazine. If any parties were inside at the time their remains must have been carried in some way beyond the reach of human search, as no vestige has as yet appeared.

The City Council met on Friday morning to take the matter into consideration. They have offered a reward of £500 for information that may lead to the conviction of the perpetrator. The Government have offered a like sum—as may be seen by advertisement in another column.

A committee of Aldermen Jennings, Bell, and Noble, are appointed for the purpose of investigating the matter. Representations were some time ago made by the Military authorities to the City Council, of the imperfect management and care of this building, but no effectual remedy was applied. Now that "the horse is stolen," of course "the stable door will be locked." We forbear offering further comment at present. The facts elicited by the Committee of Aldermen will be published, we presume, and will speak for themselves.

Although it is a circumstance which must cause great distress to many yet we should be deeply sensible of the mercy which has spared us from the greater calamity, and thankful that so few lives have been sacrificed, compared with what might have been the case.

OUR first August Mail from England brings London dates to the 1st inst.

The Indian Mutiny, we regret to say, continued to spread among the Bengalee Sepoy Regiments. Delhi was still in their possession. Their numbers there were said to be about 30,000. Great anxiety, of course, prevails in England, as there appears for some time past to have prevailed great remissness and want of prudence in the discipline and management of the Indian Army. This has produced a great want of public confidence as regards the means likely to be pursued at the present alarming crisis, and although no real fears are entertained in any quarter as to the final quelling of the mutiny, yet the dangerous position of hundreds of English in India, and the uncertainty of immediate suppression of the insurrection, afford ample ground for anxious forebodings. The Ministry only now appear to have become fully alive to the danger, and are hurrying off troops and ships-of-war. Two months, however, must necessarily elapse before they can reach their destination. There is a reasonable hope entertained that ere then the danger will be over. For a more detailed account of the Indian news, we must refer our readers to the interesting communication in another page from the graphic pen of our valued London Correspondent.

It is supposed the Frigates Niagara and Susquehanna commenced laying the Atlantic Telegraphic Cable from Galway Bay about the 5th inst.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

In the boat race on Wednesday last the Wide-awake, Halifax boat, was one second behind the Neptune, St. John. The former is said to have gone somewhat out of her course.

John Esson, Esq., of this city, has gained as a prize from the Art Union of London, six valuable Pictures, worth £240 sterling.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC TEMPERANCE SOCIETY walked in procession on Saturday last through the principal Streets of the City. There were probably upwards of 2,000 persons, headed by the fine band of H. M. S. Indus. It was a highly respectable affair and must have a beneficial influence on the families of hundreds of our citizens.

We are informed that a commencement has been made in the ranks of the liquor sellers—some two or three having given up the traffic and joined the above organization. We shall be glad to hear that others have followed the same good example. Would it not be well for the Sons of Temperance to try their hand at moral suasion a little, more on this class of our fellow citizens? If a general impression is produced amongst them of its injury to society, so as to induce them to give it up, the work of prohibition would be an easy matter.

A grand display of fireworks is shortly to take place, for the benefit, and on behalf of the Halifax Mechanics Library.

We perceive by an advertisement in the Provincial Wesleyan that a Camp-meeting is to be held at Wallace on Wednesday the 25th instant to continue six days.

Full instructions are given for cutting out and making tents 30 feet by 20—the quantity of cotton required,—Mattresses, blankets, lanterns, candles, and provisions for six days.

The people of Amherst have determined to erect a new School-house, 60 feet in length.

A Donation Visit was lately made to the Rev. D. Lawson at Amherst. Cash and other valuables amounting to £20 were handed in.

A man named Tower was much injured while blasting rock at the quarries at the Cumberland Joggins, on Saturday last.

Edward F. Randolph, Esq., near this place, has informed us that on the 8th instant he put into his barn, in prime order, a portion of his oat-crop. He describes it as being a most satisfactory yield, and says that for 20 years past he has not garnered any so early a period in the season.—Western News.

ACCIDENT FROM A SCYTHE.—A fine son of Mr. James Stevens, of Stewiacke, aged 16, on returning home from the hay field, carrying two scythes, accidentally fell and inflicted a serious wound in the knee-joint.

FIRE IN NEW GLASGOW.—A barn belonging to James Fraser, Esq., New Glasgow, was destroyed by fire on Monday night last, together with a quantity of hay, several carriages, sleighs, harness, &c., the whole amounting in value to about £400. A man named Smith has been arrested, charged with the offence.

THE CROPS IN P. E. ISLAND.—Our anticipation of the destruction of Wheat has been fully realized. In so far as we can learn, it rules from an estimate of half a crop on some farms, down to a total loss on others, the whole not averaging so much as a quarter crop. Barley has also been attacked by the wheat-midge, which in one respect resembles the people of this Island. It prefers wheat, but if it cannot get it, it will, in hard times, take barley. The barley is not so much hurt as the wheat, but still it is injured. Oats will be a full average. Hay will hardly be an average. Potatoes can not yet, (3rd August) be said to be diseased, but disease is anticipated.

New Brunswick.

The steeple of Sackville, N. B. Episcopal Church shortly after it was erected, fell to the ground and was broken to pieces.

A settler, near the upper Magaguadavic bridge, named William Dowling, was killed a few days ago, in a trap he had set for bears.

Canada.

The Toronto Bank Robbery is discovered to have been by Mr. Cummings, a clerk in the bank. Warrants are issued for the arrest of Mr. Kerby, barrister, and Mr. McGaffey, a director of the Northern Railway—his accomplices.

A collision took place between the two steamers Quebec and Montmorency, near Quebec, on the 4th inst. The crew of the latter vessel jumped on board the Quebec and in five minutes she sunk with a cargo of 1500 barrels of flour, belonging to H. J. Noad & Co., Quebec. The Quebec was uninjured.

The Montreal City Council have voted £100 to defray the expenses of entertaining the members of the Scientific Convention.

THE CROPS IN CANADA.—The Toronto Colonist, of the 30th ult., says:—"Wheat cutting will commence in this neighbourhood in a day or two, on farms lying west of the city. The fields now ripening have a bright and healthy appearance, without any appearance of rust, and promise a yield. Those in a more backward state may perhaps suffer some injury from rust, and the more so on account of having been a good deal laid by the late heavy rains. We have noticed some fields near the city, slightly infested with the fly or midge, and the grub or caterpillar, but the injury from this cause will not be material in this quarter, whatever it may be in other parts of the Province.

THE CLOSING OF THE RUM SHOPS and Lager-beer Saloons in New York on the Sabbath day, is producing its natural consequences. Peaceable inhabitants are not disturbed, and quiet reigns in the city on that day. A Convention is to be held in Buffalo, during the autumn, to devise means for securing a more general observance of the Sabbath.

1857 THE NOR... in consequ... its manag... ing on the... said to be th... Dr. Dick... Christian... &c., died... He leaves a... A piece... cable, whic... up and su... Detroit, M... Two th... claimed ba... dent of the... be sold at... 18th of Au... Orygen... Asthma... its favor ar... cluding m... unguished... The Fov... his hand... rious four... Killer, and... from pain... LET... Dr. Serv... post I have... During the... in the left... a raising of... dition to th... duced me to... nament bor... Balsam of... desired eff... which had... strength wh... was comple... ever since... The Ed... ges to his r... ment in re... No... wrapper... Sold by... everwher... Joan N... Halifax... Ev... will pleas... SEARS' P... the Printe... To... Books, m... money m... mines of... At... will risk... which he... works, (&... and direc... the Agen... able to a... ingly... Angus... CORRE... Bread, I... Beef, P... Butter... Coffee... Tea, C... Flour, &... Corn... India... Moiss... Pork, I... Sugar... Codfish... Salmon... Macker... Herrin... Alewi... Haddock... Bar... Hoop... Sheet... Lamb... Cod... Fire... PRIC... Fresh... Oats... Pork... Lamb... Bacon... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Poul... Call... Var... Pot... App... Flu... Ho... Do...