

A Remarkable Feature.

The following paragraph from the Philadelphia Ledger, a secular journal, justly refers to one of the remarkable aspects of the present great awakening:

The most noticeable feature of the present religious movement is, that it springs up so directly among the people themselves. We do not say that it springs from the people, because we would rather hope and acknowledge it as one of the blessings coming of His providence and grace from the Father of Mercies. But we mean that we find it commencing among the laity rather than the ministry, and not under the powerful preaching of some revivalist. No Elder Knapp, no Mr. Spurgeon, no Mr. Whitfield or Wesley, no minister of any denomination, is prominent in the movement. No one man seems noticeable at all. Merchants lead the meetings. The universal right of the citizens peaceably to assemble and petition, is one of those political rights of greatest value in earthly citizenship. So the great natural right and duty of every man who believes in God to pray to his Maker, is here exercised with a simplicity, a freedom, an interest, and a power, worthy the consideration of all. In former seasons of this kind, preaching has been the great means of good. But here, business men turn aside to pray for five minutes, and find it does not distract, but calms and elevates their minds, and fits them better to grapple with the cares of the day.

Means of grace.

Very prominent among the visible agencies that preceded the present great awakening, must be reckoned the sale of over a hundred thousand volumes of Spurgeon's Sermons. It may be natural for minds of a certain kind of literary culture, to undervalue the power of these plain discourses. But when the popular mind devours them by the hundred thousand volumes, criticism must be silent, and own that here is a taste excited and fed, and doubtless to be blessed, by the wisdom of God. The publishers call attention to Mr. Spurgeon's volume, entitled "The Saint and his Saviour," as a book for enquirers and converts. It is eminently such a book, and where so many minds are found to receive eagerly the former volumes from the same hand, it may be confidently expected that this will also be the means of much good.

In the Right Direction.

The Journal of Commerce of Tuesday has an article, from a correspondent, making a suggestion that strikes us as particularly important and reasonable. The writer says:

"I would respectfully ask all those interested in the great religious movement now spreading itself throughout the length and breadth of our favored land, to take some decided and well-concerted steps to carry the work more into the midst of the lower classes; and with this object in view, to organize a committee in every church throughout this city and Brooklyn, whose business it shall be to raise the necessary funds to hire suitable rooms in the lower parts of the city, where prayer-meetings may be held daily, and the poor and lame and spiritually blind entreated to come in and participate. Many of these poor unfortunate people, perhaps, never were inside of a church in all their lives. Their poverty and their rags make them ashamed to go out of their own neighborhood. Here is a noble work, and here is just the class that our Saviour himself labored among, sympathized with, and loved."

Mid-day Meetings.

Our personal observation of the mid-day prayer-meetings, in the business part of the city, has been no less refreshing and cheering than ever, the past week. The last preceding the close of this number, on Tuesday, were all crowded as usual, and almost every opportunity to speak or pray was sought by several earnest competitors. In the Chambers street meeting, many of the addresses were from persons, young and old, who had just given themselves to God. Among the many requests for prayer, was one from a young lady in behalf of her impenitent brother, now on his death-bed, and in despair. Two minutes silent prayer were announced, and many supplications, tears and sobs responded to the affecting appeal. After the benediction, Rev. Mr. Strickland, the converted actor, pastor of the Bedford Baptist church, Westchester Co., addressed the audience, which remained seated to hear him. He remarked that he had lately buried with Christ in baptism, forty-three hopeful, trusting, happy converts, and looked with assurance for many more.

Five Union Prayer-Meetings are now held in Washington city.

A Weekly Bulletin of the various locations of Union Prayer-Meetings in the city, has been posted at steamboat and ferry landings, railroad depots, newspaper offices, and other public places throughout the city.—Examiner.

EPISCOPAL.—The Bombay Times, just received, has some remarks on the project set afoot by the Ecclesiastical party in England to erect more bishoprics in India. While expressing satisfaction at the movement to enlarge the missionary band in that country, the Indian journalist intimates that any attempt to introduce a native Church system, dependent on the State for support, will meet the most determined opposition. India does not want more State bishops—it has enough already. Let those who are burning for the conversion of the Hindoos, go out in primitive missionary guise, if they will; but India, evidently, does not want, and will not have, a hypocritical State Church.

St. JOHN, N. B.—Since the notice in another column of the organization of the New Marsh Bridge Church, we have learned with much pleasure that indications of progress are appearing. We are pleased to find that the pastor, Rev. E. B. DeMill, has recovered from his late attack of illness, and on last Lord's-day baptized eight new converts.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival at Weymouth.

Dear Brother,—While the press is teeming with revival intelligence to gladden the hearts of the friends of Zion, permit me to say that the Lord is visiting us at Weymouth also. Yesterday I had the privilege of baptizing twenty persons, in the name of the sacred trinity, in the presence of an immense crowd of spectators, many of whom appeared deeply interested. These, with two others who were baptized the Sabbath before, have been enabled to give satisfactory evidence of conversion to God, and we confidently hope that the work will still progress, and that others will soon follow in the same path of christian obedience. "Let us all thank God, and take courage."

Yours, as ever,  
CHAS. RANDALL.

Weymouth, April 5th, 1858.

PORT HOOD, C. B., April 9, 1858.—We are rejoicing here in the manifestation of God's love towards sinners. Bro. Richardson has been here, also Mr. Teed, (Wesleyan,) labouring amongst us, and uniting their prayers and praises in common for our eternal good. A revival has followed: backsliders have been restored and sinners are made to rejoice in the forgiveness of their sins through the blood of the Lamb.

The writer has reason to bless God for his special grace bestowed on himself and some of his family.—Oh that they may continue faithful and adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour. We have established a Society at Mabou, in support of the H. M. Board—this, however, is but a trifling matter compared to what ought to be given to this first of all objects in support of the cause of Christ.—Communicated.

MARGARET'S BAY.—Interesting services were held at the Bay on Lord's-day, the 4th inst. Although for some time without a pastor the brethren have continued to hold their meetings for Prayer and Conference. Some persons desirous of obeying the command given by the Lord Jesus to his disciples, presented themselves to the Church for Baptism and Christian fellowship. At their request, the Rev. R. D. Porter made a visit last week, for the purpose of preaching and administering the ordinance of baptism. After preaching to a large concourse of people, Mr. Porter baptized two persons. Those connected with various denominations were present. Deep solemnity prevailed, and the great significance of the rite seemed to strike every beholder.

GREENFIELD.—We are pleased to learn that the Rev. Mr. Philp has administered the ordinance of baptism to twenty-six persons at Greenfield.

WINDSOR.—The special meetings which are being held at Windsor, are, we are informed, largely attended. The Rev. Mr. Welton baptized three last Lord's-day.

The Rev. S. N. Bentley baptized four persons on Lord's-day afternoon. Meetings are being held every evening by the North Baptist Church. The Morning Prayer Meetings are continued from 4 past 8 to 4 past 9.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, April 6th, 1858.

Hon. Mr. Young said—It was his painful duty to announce to the house the death of Mr. McLellan, the member for Colchester, which had occurred that morning. The hon. gentleman had long filled a prominent place in the politics of the country, and had been of great service to his party and the province. A more industrious and zealous member could not be found in this house, and he brought to his public duties a degree of intelligence and shrewd common sense which was not often to be met with. He had often hewn out of the rough material valuable ideas which had been polished into shape and form by other members of the house. Having been associated with him for many years in political life, he looked back upon his memory with esteem and regard, and it would be long indeed before his accustomed voice, so often heard in every public question, would be forgotten. With these feelings I would move that this house adjourn over until Thursday next, at 3 o'clock, as a mark of respect and esteem for the memory of the deceased member, and that the house attend his funeral in a body.

Hon. Attorney General seconded that motion, and remarked that arrangements should be made in the meantime for the house to attend the funeral of the deceased gentleman.

The motion passed unanimously.

Hon. Mr. Archibald asked for leave of absence for Mr. Hyde after Thursday next. Leave was granted accordingly.

The house adjourned over until Thursday at 3 o'clock.

THURSDAY, April 8.

Mr. Wade from the committee on expiring laws, reported two bills—one to revise and con-

tinue the present militia law for five years, the other to continue the law relating to the sale by weight of vegetables and coals for the same period.

Hon. Fin. Secretary asked special leave to introduce a bill to amend the act passed in the 14th year of Her Majesty's reign, concerning the city of Halifax. On motion of the hon. Atty. General, the time for presenting bills was extended until Wednesday next.

The adjourned debate on hon. Mr. Young's resolutions was resumed.

The following gentlemen addressed the house:—Mr. Henry and Mr. Munro.

Then the debate adjourned.

The hon. Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table of the house, the report of commissioners for establishing the boundary line between the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; also a plan in connection with the report.

Mr. Moses asked the government to submit a return of applications for grants on the railway line in the years 1854-5.

Mr. Chambers asked leave for Dr. Webster to return home after to-morrow; leave was granted.

FRIDAY, April 9.

The adjourned debate was resumed. Mr. Ryder addressed the house.

A message from the Legislative Council announced that the Council had passed a bill to authorise the sale of the old Presbyterian Church at the East branch of the East River, at Pictou. Also, a bill relating to Trusts and Trustees. Also, had agreed to the bill to amend chapter 126, of the revised statutes, Of the Supreme Court and its officers.

The adjourned debate was resumed. The following gentlemen addressed the house:—Dr. Brown, hon. Mr. Young.

Some conversation ensued between Mr. Henry and Mr. Archibald, relating to the resignation of his office of Provincial Secretary, by the former gentleman, upon Mr. Condon's dismissal. A call of the house was had, and the division was then taken on the amendment of Mr. Henry, when there appeared:—For the amendment, Messrs. Bourneuff, Bent, Churchill, Killam, Fuller, Caldwell, C. J. Campbell, Tobin, McKeagney, Financial Secretary, Martell, Bill, Henry, McLearn, Moses, Shaw, Ryder, Smyth, J. Campbell Ruggles, McFarlane, Wade, White, Attorney General, Brown, Provincial Secretary, Solicitor General, McKinnon, and Robicheau—29.

Against, Messrs. Esion, Rhinard, McKenzie, Bailey, Parker, Geldert, Chambers, Archibald, Munro, Dimock, hon. Mr. Young, Wier, Locke, Morrison, Anand, McDonald, Robertson, hon. Mr. Howe, and Chipman—19.

The second resolution, introduced by the hon. Mr. Young, relating to Mr. McKeagney's appointment, was then put and negatived 29 to 19—the names standing as previously. The house then divided on the remaining resolutions introduced by hon. Mr. Young, the members and names remaining the same.

Hon. Mr. Archibald moved that a committee be appointed to consider the petition of Thos. Gourley, for railway damages.

Hon. Atty. General moved the adjournment, which passed 19 to 18.

Then the house adjourned until 3 o'clock the next day.

SATURDAY, April 10.

A select committee was appointed on a petition of T. Gourlay for remuneration for damages to his property.

Petitions for a Township member for Wilmot, were presented.

The Committee on Inland Navigation Company's application, recommended that the company have power to borrow £10,000 on mortgage of the works, under condition that the money be applied to the completion of the works, and that the £500 due to the province be secured next after the new loan. A Bill was introduced in accordance with the report. The report was laid on the table.

The committee on petitions concerning Railway Damages, reported adverse to the petitions. Committee on Bills. The bill for abolishing the allowance to Wardens of river fisheries, and giving authority to the sessions, in reference to such affairs, caused discussion, and passed.

A bill for removing technical objections relative to Mr. Selden's claims for damage done to his property, in consequence of the fire of Jan. 1, 1857, caused discussion,—and was laid over in reference to an expected consultation with a committee of the City Council.

Other measures were considered, adopted, and reported.

The report was adopted and the house adjourned.—Sun.

European & Foreign News.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 24TH.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Lord Bury, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister, observed that the question was narrowed to this point, whether the alleged scriptural prohibition did really exist, and whether, failing the scriptural prohibition, these marriages were so objectionable that they ought to be prohibited. Either these marriages were prohibited by Scripture or not; if they were, he asked for the chapter and verse; if, as he contended they were not, the question was so far settled that he was entitled to ask for leave to introduce a declaratory bill to remove a bar which abridged the liberty of Englishmen.

Mr. Divett opposed the motion.

Mr. Fox, with reference to the alleged scriptural prohibition, contended that liberty of interpretation should be allowed. Not only individuals, but churches, differed upon this point; and the text being open to different interpretations, the opinion of one body should not be forced upon other bodies. But he should denur to the Levitical prohibition, he said, even if it had been more distinct. These marriages could not be put down, and the only question was, whether the law of the country should be opposed to the law of nature.

Upon a division, the motion was carried by 105 to 62, and leave was given to introduce the bill.

FRANCE.

THE EXECUTION OF ORSINI AND PIERRI.

The appeal of Orsini, Pierrri, and De Rudio having, as was expected, been rejected by the Court of Cassation, their execution took place on the Place de la Roquette on Saturday morning at seven o'clock. The sentence of death passed upon Carlo de Rudio has been commuted into that of hard labour for life. It is stated that he is to be sent to London to give evidence against Bernard.

Since their condemnation (says The Times' correspondent) it was judged proper to employ the strait-waistcoat with the three convicts. The reprieve of De Rudio rendered that restraint no longer necessary, and the governor did not delay a moment in giving orders to free him from it. When the turnkeys who were charged with the duty entered De Rudio's cell they found him buried in sleep. They shook him once or twice before he awoke; when he opened his eyes and sat up on his pallet he stared fearfully at them. He thought they came to announce that his last moment had arrived. "Don't be afraid," they said, "we are not going to injure you; far from it; we bring you good news; you are to have a commutation of punishment, and we are going to take off your *canisole de force* (strait-waistcoat)." You need hardly be told what the feelings of the poor wretch were. It is said that he hummed an air during the operation. . . . For the last two nights the Place de la Roquette and the streets contiguous were covered with a multitude, who braved the intense cold and wet to witness the execution; the crowds that held vigil the whole of Friday night were almost beyond calculation. On Saturday morning the weather was bitterly cold, and the ground wet, from the snow which had fallen. The sky was covered with clouds of a slate colour, and under that dismal dark canopy grey mists, transparent like funeral shrouds, were drifting about. The streets in the more distant part of the city were deserted; but, as you neared the quarter contiguous to the prison, detached squads of Sergens de Ville might be seen moving towards the same direction, the occasional flash of bayonets in the gaslight was discernible, and nearer still the vague mass, without form or outline, and heaving to and fro, showed that the awful moment was approaching.

Many of the spectators had brought their breakfasts with them. Some men were grave and serious, and spoke in a low tone of voice; others jested and laughed, and many observed that the prisoners well deserved their fate. About fifteen paces from the gate of the prison the scaffold was erected, and on it rose the guillotine. All presented a most hideous spectacle. At five o'clock the sound of huges and drums was heard. In a few minutes several squadrons of cavalry were heard advancing, the dragons' helmets gleaming in the lamplight. They wheeled round, and, separating into several detachments, swept the Place and the streets close to it, and quietly but firmly compelled the multitude to fall back. In less than half-an-hour numerous detachments of infantry, preceded by squads of Sergens de Ville to clear the way, took possession of all the points of the Faubourg St. Antoine, issuing on the Roquette. The armed force was calculated at over 5,000 men.

Precisely at six o'clock Orsini and Pierrri were awake from their sleep by the governor of the prison. The Abbé Hugon and the chaplain of the Conciergerie were present. I do not profess to give particulars of what passed within the walls of the cell, but I may observe that the wretched men appeared calm when the news, which could not have taken them by surprise, was announced to them. I am assured that they heard Mass and received the Communion with respect, if not devotion. Soon after they were taken to the room for the change of dress. It is not large. On the present occasion it contained, besides the chaplains and the governor of the prison, about thirty persons. When the convicts entered the *chambre de la toilette*, they were placed at different extremities of it, with their backs turned to each other. There were two assistant-executioners—one from Rouen, the other from Caen—besides him of Paris. These lost no time in preparing the convicts for the scaffold.

During the dreadful operation Orsini remained calm; and, though he was not so loud or contradictory as during his trial, Pierrri was somewhat excited. The strait-waistcoat interfered with his gesticulations, but he hardly ceased talking for a moment. When the executioner was pinioning him he asked that the fastenings should not be drawn too tight, as he had no intention of escaping. The cold touch of the steel on his neck when the scissors cut off his hair, so as not to interfere with the guillotine, for an instant appeared to thrill through him; but he recovered himself when he found that his beard was left untouched. He thanked the executioner for letting him die with his face uncovered as became a man. When the hood, to which the veil which covers the features of the paricide is suspended, was put over his head, he is said to have laughed and attempted a joke about the figure he must cut. At this moment he turned his head and perceived Orsini; he saluted him