

The first of a course of lectures was recently given in the Baptist chapel, Sheffield-road, Barnsley, by the Rev. L. B. Brown; subject, "Hear, hear, hear." There was a numerous and attentive congregation. The subject next Sunday is "A Word on Fashions."

SPRINKLING.—In reference to the ridiculous assumption of the Roman Catholic Church, that the baptism, by a servant woman, of the Jewish boy Mortara, to which we have before referred, and the present position of which is given in another column, *Punch* has the following amusing paragraph:—

WARNING TO PROTESTANTS.—It is finally decided by the Pope, the Emperor, and the *Univers*, in re the little Jew boy, Mortara, baptized surreptitiously by his nursery maid, that baptism into the Church of Rome, "even when administered without the knowledge or consent" of the victim, renders him a Catholic, and no power can do away with the efficacy of the process. Mr. *Punch* understands that in consequence, the eminent missionary, Cardinal Wiseman, has succeeded in corrupting the proprietors of Exeter Hall into allowing him to place in their gallery a fire-engine charged with consecrated water, and that at the next meeting of the Protestant Association, the cardinal, aided by some stout-limbed priests, means to play upon the crowd, and declaim the baptismal service of Rome. As there is no doubt that this will quite fulfil the conditions required by the Church, Mr. *Punch* advises all true Protestants to take their umbrellas.

The following is from *Le Semeur Canadien*, a translation of which, given below, has been handed to us by a friend.

L'EVANGILE EN ESPAGNE.—Les chrétiens d'Europe qui font des efforts pour évangéliser les 17 millions d'Espagnols soumis au joug de Rome, ont eu beaucoup de succès, vu les obstacles nombreux qu'ils rencontrent tous les jours. Malgré la vigilance des officiers de police placés sur les frontières pour empêcher l'introduction de traités et de bibles dans ce pays rendu au romanisme, l'œuvre avance constamment, quoique d'une manière lente et silencieuse. Les évangélistes et les colporteurs sont obligés d'agir avec la plus grande précaution, pour échapper aux persécutions des prêtres et des Jésuites, qui demandent au gouvernement des mesures très sévères contre ceux qui osent faire du prosélytisme au milieu d'eux. Des Espagnols convertis à l'Évangile sont employés comme missionnaires, pour expliquer la Parole de Dieu, ce qu'ils font presque toujours dans de petites réunions d'une douzaine de personnes, afin d'éviter les soupçons de leurs ennemis. Par le moyen de ces missionnaires, plusieurs centaines de personnes ont ouvert les yeux sur les erreurs de l'Église de Rome. Bon nombre ont embrassé la foi qui est en Christ, et les autres ne sont retenus dans le sein de Rome que par la crainte des persécutions.

[Translated for the Christian Messenger.]

THE GOSPEL IN SPAIN.—The Christians of Europe who are making efforts to evangelize the 17 millions of Spaniards, who are under the dominion of Rome, have had great success, considering the obstacles which they have continually to encounter. In spite of the vigilance of the police officers placed upon the frontiers to prevent the introduction of tracts and Bibles into this country, sold to Romanism, the work continually advances, although in a quiet and silent manner. The evangelists and colporteurs are obliged to act with the greatest caution, in order to escape the persecutions of the priests and Jesuits, who demand of the government very severe measures against those who dare to make proselytes in their midst. The Spaniards who are converted to the gospel are employed as missionaries to explain the Word of God, which they do usually in small gatherings of a dozen persons or so, in order to avoid the suspicions of their enemies. By means of these missionaries many hundreds of persons have opened their eyes to the errors of the church of Rome. A large number have embraced the faith which is in Christ, and there are others who are only retained in the bosom of Rome by the fear of persecution.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mission to Cumberland County.

EXTRACTS OF LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF THE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

"At Maccan the meetings were well attended and a deep interest was taken in the preaching. The Baptists here have three new Meeting-houses fitted up in good style. The people possess a good degree of wealth, consisting of dyke and up-land, and, also, what is much better, a large amount of moral worth. They have given me a unanimous call to become their Pastor, with which I have complied. I have received from them every mark of respect and kindness beyond any thing I had expected.

"The places that I visited are Parrsboro', Lakeland, Half-way River, Westbrook, Maccan, The Forks, Maccan Mountain, Economy, Five Islands, and Springfield. In this latter place there are only a few Baptists, and I held the first Conference ever observed there. It was well attended by different persuasions, and God was present. Never did I enjoy greater liberty in speaking of His glorious name. Next day was the blessed Sabbath, and though it rained fast and the roads were heavy, a goodly number came, and a faithful God, who always aids us, moved them by his word, and we had a deeply impressive meeting.

"On my way home, I came to Parrsboro', and found several converts to God happy in the enjoyment of religion. Preached two sermons with good effect. They speak of my coming among them, as do many of the people of Maccan, as being of divine direction.

"I have been laboring, in behalf of the Board, 13 weeks and 1 day, during which time I preached 63 sermons, attended 2 funerals, held prayer and conference meetings as often as practicable, visited about 160 families, travelled over 800 miles, distributed all the tracts I had, and collected, on behalf of the Society, the following sums:—

At Westbrook, (col.)	£0 8 0
Parrsboro', (col.)	0 11 0
Mr. V. Davison,	0 10 0
Mr. J. Davison,	0 5 0
Mr. J. DeWolf,	0 5 0
Mr. F. York,	0 5 0
Mr. A. P. Bradley,	0 5 0
Mr. F. Jenks,	0 5 0
Maccan Church,	7 10 9
Mr. Harrison,	0 5 0
Five Islands, (col.)	0 10 0
Economy, Mr. H. Durning,	0 10 0
Forks, (col.)	0 4 0

Total, £11 13 9
Expenses, 2 10 0

13 weeks 1 day, at £2 per week, £26 5 0
9 3 9

Balance, £17 1 2

"I had a quick passage home.—Left Parrsboro' at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, and next day, Sabbath, at 12 o'clock I landed at home. NELSON BAKER.

Tancook, Nov. 25th, 1858.

GASPEREAUX.—We are glad to learn that the Rev. E. O. Read is holding Special meetings at Gasperaux, and that he baptized three persons on Lord's day the 21st., and eight on the 28th ult.

MILTON.—The Rev. W. Hobbs writes.—"We have been holding extra services here during the last week. What the result will be we know not. Some [a word in the M. S. here, probably a number, is not sufficiently legible] here have entertained a hope, and we expect to baptize next Lord's day. We hope the time is not far distant when all the churches generally will enjoy times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

AMHERST.—The Rev. J. E. Balcom writes.—"Our friend, Benjamin Christmas, has just made us a visit; he preached twice last Sunday to very good acceptance, and lectured admirably on Monday evening to a very large auditory. Success to the "Micmac Mission." Amherst, Dec. 2nd, 1858.

Missionary Intelligence.

The *American Baptist Missionary Magazine* for December gives some highly interesting particulars respecting missionary work in China, from the journal of Dr. Macgowan, of the Ningpo mission.

After crossing over a mountain pass, in which they were somewhat alarmed from robberies having been committed there, he gives an account of a visit to the city of

TAICHAU,

The capital of the department of the same name. Subordinate to it are five other districts with their cities. It is situated in a valley, on a small river, about twenty-five miles from the sea. Its commerce is small. The population within the walls may be about 200,000. It is beautifully situated amidst verdant hills, several of which are crowded with towers or pagodas. In our walk to the city we fell into conversation with a scholar of upwards of seventy years of age. On parting we gave him a book, seeing which some villagers, who had travelled with us and were turning off into the mountains, became importunate for books, offering to pay for them. At length we parted with a few, when the poor men went and purchased some cakes for us in return.

Throughout the journey we found tract distribution the most painful labor we were called on to perform. I do not refer to the physical difficulty, which was very great, of keeping off lusty vagabonds, when trying to put a volume into the hands of a reading man, but the necessity we were under of refusing books to fifty worthy applicants, while complying with the request of one. Having before us a journey of a thousand miles or more, and only about two books to spare for each mile, every square mile averaging between five and six hundred inhabitants, we were constantly compelled to resist the most pressing applications. In selecting one out of a crowd of petitioners, we often gave offence, the most forward and least deserving, doubtless, generally getting the prize.

Throughout this whole department, we had evidence that the character ascribed to the people, of being irascible, was strictly correct. Yet are they the most hopeful and the most interesting for that very reason. Give me any people rather than the apathetic, even as antagonists; the men of metal are to be preferred to impassive men. Nearly the whole of this day was spent in the wilds of an unfrequented mountain, without attendants and without food. We emerged from the mountain just as night was closing in upon us; but we had to walk till a late hour to reach the point of destination, which was the city of Hwangyen.

We breakfasted by daylight, walked through the principal streets of that noisy town, and put a few scores of books upon the counters of the largest shops.

Our next city was Lohtsing, which is in two

parts, about a mile distant from each other. Each part had its own wall. Geomancy led to this doubling of the city. The walls first built were badly situated for luck, and another trial made. They were dull places, and a dozen volumes was our allowance for them both.

We had now entered the department of Wauchau, and another day's journey brought us to the city of that name, where we spent a part of two days.

Wauchau is a large city, the most important on the coast between Ningpo and Fuchau.

From Wauchau we ascended the river to the department of Chihau, which gave us five days' rest in boats.

When this stage of the journey was in part accomplished, we reached the walled city of Tsingtien—Clearfield, so called, perhaps because it was the only even place in that part of the country, being situated in the centre of the mountainous region through which we had been travelling. Our stay at this town was brief, less on account of want of time or money, than from the caution requisite to be observed lest the authorities should send us back. Hence we made rather a dash at the city, than a visit to it. Sending on our boat to the farthest suburbs, we entered at one of the nearest gates, ascended the walls, took our bearings, and then pushed through the main street, lying parallel with the river, putting a book on the counter of the principal stores. Growing bold, at last we entered a mandarin's office, where we left a Testament. By the time we got out of the farthest gate, the town was all astir; but our boatmen, fearful on their own account, sculled and pulled up the stream so actively that a turn in the river soon put us out of sight.

Our next cities were Sungyang and Snychang. Nothing of interest occurred at the former place; and as we reached the latter city late at night, and proposed quitting it early on the following morning, we did not expect any adventure. But it proved to be the birth-day of one of the local gods. There had been processions and theatrical representations. Every body was out doors, bent on prolonging the holiday till midnight. On passing one of the suburban villages, some one in the gaping crowd called, "They are rebels, they are rebels!" This was the first intimation which reached us of the panic which had lately seized that part of the province, occasioned by the recent advance of the rebel army.

The rebels are known by the name "Long hairs," from their having rejected the tonsure imposed on the nation by the ruling dynasty. The villagers saw that our heads were unshaved, and that we were strange looking beings; and they, not unnaturally, supposed that we must belong to the party which was hovering over their hitherto quiet country. Knowing that liberal rewards had been offered for the capture of Long hairs, we stopped to argue the point, although the lateness of the hour and our fatigue,—we had parted with our boats early in the day and had been walking ever since,—made us desirous of finding an inn, rather than entering into a parley with obstreperous villagers. "Is it according to propriety to annoy strangers who quietly pass through your village?" we asked of the foremost of the crowd. "O no, it is not proper," said some one in the crowd; whereupon they turned to the gaming-tables which they had left, and we passed on, sending our men and baggage in advance to secure lodgings. This accomplished, one of them returned, and tried to lead us through the less frequented streets of Snychang. We reached the tavern almost unobserved, as we thought; but the news of our arrival was soon hinted abroad. We crossed the court of the house, and shut ourselves in the room assigned for our use.

Soon the street was filled with people; they crowded into the house, and then into the court, forming a tumultuous sea of heads and lanterns. Retirement was out of the question. We threw ourselves on the straw and had just recovered breath, when the knocking outside, as well as words, indicated that the shanty would be pulled to pieces if the curiosity of the populace was not soon gratified. We opened the window, mounted a table, borrowed a lantern from one of the crowd, and asked those who were nearest to procure silence, promising to address them as soon as they would give audience. They were put at once into good humor by our turning in different directions and adjusting the lantern so as to make a satisfactory exhibition. We told them that we were propagators of religion, distributors of books, and healers of the sick; that books should be given early next morning, and finally, that we were hungry and tired, and begged to be allowed to retire. The crowd was easily pacified, owing to the presence of some officers from the magistracy, to whom we gave books for their superiors. We then obtained a few minutes' respite, until the magistrate's assistant and clerks claimed to be admitted. The former had long been at Ningpo, had attended our chapel, and had heard us speak there. This soon became known, and we felt at home in Snychang.

Homeward bound, we first visited the capital of Kinghwa, which we traversed at leisure, no longer apprehensive of being turned back. It is in this department and near the city that our converts reside. The beauty and richness of the country equal the expectations I had formed of it. Its name, "Golden Flowers," is not undeserved. In this department, as in those of Chiehau and Kuehau, the superstitions of the people are mainly local. Buddhism has not a strong hold on the people. For this reason, our converts tell us, there is greater reason to hope for their evangelization, than elsewhere. There is also a greater simplicity of manners in those departments, which, it is supposed, would prove more favourable to missionary labour.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

CHIEF JUSTICE HALBERTON.—Friday last was the birth day of this venerable gentleman. He then completed his 84th year.—Fifty-two of which he has been upon the Bench. The members of the Bench and Bar as has been their custom now for many years waited upon him for the purpose offering their congratulations. Justice Bliss on behalf of the Bench and the Hon. Attorney General on behalf of the Bar, severally addressed him on the occasion, to which the veteran replied with deep feeling.

INTER-COLONIAL RAILWAY.—LORD BURY arrived in Halifax from St. John N. B. on Thursday last.

In answer to a requisition His Worship the Mayor has called a Public Meeting for two o'clock to day. It is expected that His Lordship will attend, for the purpose of laying the scheme of the Company recently formed to build this railroad, before the people of Halifax.

A similar meeting was lately held in St. John N. B., at which it is said there were 1500 persons present. However important such a measure might be to St. John, it must be vastly more so to Halifax. Indeed if that work be but once begun it will give an impetus to Halifax which every year will but increase.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—The Mic-mac Division held the first of their public gatherings in the Division Room on Monday evening. A large audience, Temperance Essays, Recitations, Readings, and Singing, with a good cup of coffee, &c., rendered it a pleasing introduction to many similar meetings, which we believe will be held by the several Divisions during the winter.

Letter from Truro.

Dear Sir,—I take the time from the hours for sleep to inform you that to-day we had the pleasure of seeing the Locomotive, with a Passenger-car attached, direct from Halifax. After remaining here a few hours, it turned its back on us, and steamed away towards your city, and, no doubt, is there long ere this. I understand that most of the Staff of Railway Officials came over the road and returned by the same train.

It was expected that the train would be welcomed by a Dinner, in honour of the event; but the good folks here showed their good sense by omitting it. Perhaps some had not forgotten the scene that followed a dinner given on the arrival of the Engine—about two weeks since. While many could rejoice, some have had cause to sorrow.

On such occasions, the bulk of the people think it their duty to show their appreciation of a great event, by eating and drinking; and at this time, some were feasting in one of the first hotels here, to do honour; while others, in another part of the house, were making themselves mad with strong drink. One of the latter, excited by the liquor he had taken, feeling annoyed that his horse could not keep pace with the engine, and differing with the landlord about one penny on the price of two glasses of rum, undertook to fisticuff all with whom he came in contact. After knocking down a few professional gentlemen, he came in the way of a sturdy farmer, who proved not a match, but was more roughly handled than his friends. A harmless, inoffensive individual, seeing him change colour, fast sprang to his assistance, to prevent his being altogether choked; but, as the row now became general, he was knocked down and left to be kicked until he knew not what hurt him. On Sunday last, he was supposed to be dying, blood coozed from his mouth and nose, and so doubtful is his recovery, that prayers have been offered in public on his behalf.

If it were the custom to show our gladness by abstaining a certain time, instead of eating and drinking, it would improve our health, and there would be few public demonstrations such as we lately had here.

This most melancholy circumstance reminds one of that which took place on opening the line between Liverpool and Manchester, in 1830. William Huskinson, who had done so much for the commercial concerns of England, it is said, just as the train was to move for the first time, turned round to speak to a friend, loosing his balance, it passed over his body, causing instant death.

But, to proceed, it was fortunate, for the credit of the house, that some brick-layers, from New York, were an overmatch for these maddened characters. Next morning, however, the belligerents, mustered in force, attacked the bricklayers, they being at work at the Depot, who, acting on the defensive, drew their knives and stabbed one of the offenders on the ribs and cut the mouth of another. In this engagement no one was much injured. But the man who was stabbed met with a narrow escape, as the knife was clearly aimed at his heart.

This row commenced in rum, but that did not have much to do with it on the day following. Were it not for strong drink, our little village would be one of comparative peace and quietness, as those who do indulge are quiet and useful men when sober.

We have four houses of entertainment here, two of which are on temperance principles. One is kept by Mr. Northup, who has long since abandoned the sale of liquors, and who, no doubt, is richly paid by a conscience that does not tell him he is injuring his neighbour. The other is kept by Mr. J. B. McCully, who never sold it. The other two are kept by kind obliging men, of whom no one can say aught against, except it be concerning their trade. We must, however, judge charitably, as, perhaps, they cannot see the thing in the same light as those who do not drink.