

**IMMERSION.**—Wichler, a German Baptist minister, was brought before a magistrate in April last, and at the close of a two hours examination, was addressed as follows: "Personally, I have perfect confidence in you, nor do I intend to interfere with your ordinary meetings; but I cannot suffer your proselyting. The spectacle of public baptism seems calculated to win adherents to your cause, and I shall therefore give instructions to the authorities within my jurisdiction, to permit baptism to take place only on week days, as the people will then be prevented by their employments from attending."—*Boston Watchman & Reflector.*

**A NEW RELIGIOUS SECT.**—A new religious sect has been holding a prolonged meeting at Concord, New Hampshire. They number about one hundred, and have not yet fully decided on their name, but are inclined to call themselves the "Orthodox Catholic Church." Their creed is said to be as follows: "They believe in the community of goods. Civil law they do not regard, and endeavor, as far as they are able, to separate themselves from its influence. Their laws are Bible laws. Human authority is weak, and, consequently, cannot be perfect. To avoid acknowledging the law of the land, they do not intend to buy any real estate, but, in the spring, they will hire farms, where all the brethren and sisters may live together in peace and harmony. They hold that, after one has once received the reviving influence of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for him, not only to fall from grace, but even to be tempted. Absolute perfection seems to be their expectation. As an off-shoot of the old Second Adventists, they believe in the speedy coming of the Saviour. The time is not yet revealed, but soon will be. They intend that, when He comes, He shall find His Church ready and waiting, a part by themselves. They respect the marriage covenant. Three apostles, who are to have charge of their affairs, have been chosen."

**The Rev. Mr. Maturin.**

[From the N. B. Church Witness.]

We insert to day a letter from a highly esteemed correspondent, confirming the rumours previously in circulation, relative to the defection from the Church of England, of the Rev. Edmund Maturin, late Curate of St. Paul's, at Halifax. Our correspondent gives him a high character for piety, scholarship, and devotedness to the duties of the ministry, all of which we believe there is good ground for asserting. Various causes for his defection will no doubt be assigned by different parties. Men of the Low Church school will attribute it to insanity; those of the High Church to a want of "sound Church principles." We must take the liberty of differing from both. We do not believe that Mr. Maturin was any more insane, in the true sense of the term, than he has been for twenty years past; nor can we regard a man who held the strong views of Episcopal power and authority which Mr. Maturin did, as devoid of what High Churchmen call "sound Church principles." The truth is, he had too much of these said principles, and gave ample proof of his having them in the late contests at Halifax, in regard to the Synod. As to his preaching "Evangelical doctrines" this is no evidence of his belonging to the class of men who are gratuitously styled "Low Churchmen." Many very High Churchmen, at the present day, preach evangelical doctrines. The truth is, these doctrines are now so amply vindicated, and so widely believed, that men of all schools think they ought to be preached, and, as far as they understand them, endeavour to preach them. But the test of a man's school is the query—*What does he believe about Church Government?* Does he believe that vast powers are committed to the Church visible, by its founder, and that the only question is where is the true visible Church to be found, in order to come in contact with these powers? Does he hanker after a visible centre of unity on earth, where all controversies are to be finally settled, the scriptures infallibly interpreted, and uniformity maintained by the decree of supremacy? If so, he has Romanism in embryo, in his constitution, and the very juice of Popery in his stem, call him High Church or Low Church, Puseyite or Evangelical, Puritan, Methodist, or what you may, it only requires the favorable time and circumstances to arrive to see the exotic translated to its true Italian soil. That Mr. Maturin long since had this preparation for the transition from Protestantism to Romanism, is obvious. We believe that at the very time of his ordination, he wavered between the two Churches: our correspondent says he meditated such a step as he has now taken, 16 years ago. No doubt late affairs in the Diocese of Nova Scotia brought his meditating to an issue, and he has only made the transition for which he was long since prepared—not because he was insane, but because he wanted that good common sense, which all the scholarship in the world cannot give, which would have enabled him to see the error of the principles he had imbibed, and the folly of those pretensions which the Church of Rome makes to supremacy and infallible powers. We believe he has only gone to the sphere for which his principles prepared him; and that those principles were what are commonly designated "High Church principles;" and believing this, while we are sorry for him and sorry for his friends, we do not wonder at the result.

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH.**—The erection of this new and spacious edifice for the accommodation of St. Matthew's congregation is advancing with much rapidity. The walls are finished, and the building roofed in; and it is expected that the church will be opened for public worship early in the ensuing autumn.—*Monthly Record.*

**MILTON.**—A friend writes:—"Bro. Hobbs has been with us for a season, and we trust the Lord has signally blessed his labours. Four have been added to the church and others we trust awakened. May the work be deepened and God be glorified in the salvation of many souls."

From the *Monthly Record* of the Church of Scotland we learn that the St. Mathews Church District Visiting Society have collected and expended £74 2s. 5d. during the year. The following extract from the Report will shew the excellent objects of the Society:—

"The leading feature of this society is, that poor women and children are furnished with work at a fair rate of payment, and are thus encouraged to form habits of industry and usefulness, and to cultivate feelings of independence and self-respect."

"The work furnished consists of materials for making rough garments, useful to the poorer classes. These garments are made and sold at reduced prices, or given in charity to the aged or bed-ridden, the sick and the destitute."

**General Intelligence.**

**Foreign and Domestic.**

**THE SUPREME COURT.**—Michaelmas Term commenced on Tuesday last. All of the Judges were upon the Bench. Several important causes come on for argument, this term. Two of the motions already made excite an unusual degree of interest in consequence of their novelty and the importance that attaches to them. Mr. Alex. James, on behalf of certain parties in Dartmouth, has moved to bring up on *certiorari* the proceedings of the Court of Sessions of Halifax County relative to assessments for Railway Damages. The voluminous affidavits read by Mr. James tended to show that a much higher rate, for Railway Damages, had been imposed upon Dartmouth and other sections of this county than upon the City of Halifax. Mr. J. W. Ritchie, on behalf of T. C. Haliburton Esq., late Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, moved for a Mandamus upon the Receiver General, commanding him to show cause why he should not pay to Mr. Haliburton the pension of £300 which was granted to him when the Common Pleas Court was abolished. Some of our contemporaries, we see, appear to be much tickled at the funny nature of this application. We have a very strong suspicion that when it is argued out, on its merits, before a full Bench, that the laugh will be all on Judge Haliburton's side, and that the province will be obliged to resume payment of the pension.

The Attorney General, on Tuesday, moved for the admission, as Attorneys of the Supreme Court, of Messrs. J. W. K. Johnston, N. W. White, W. A. D. Morse, and N. G. H. McKay. The candidates for admission were subsequently examined by Messrs. McCully and Thompson, in presence of Mr. Justice Dodd, and, we understand, passed a very creditable examination.—*Recorder.*

**EXCURSION TO TRURO.**—His worship the Mayor and the Corporation together with about 400 gentlemen accepted an invitation to make a trip to Truro and back on Monday last by Railroad. They were about 3 1/2 hours on the road each way. All parties appear to have been well pleased with the day's enjoyment.

**THE WANT OF RAIN.**—We are informed that much inconvenience is being felt in many parts of the country from the absence of the usual fall rains. At Wolfville some of the wells are quite exhausted. At Milton, Queen's Co., the Water-mills have been almost standing still in consequence of lowness of the river. Great difficulty is being experienced in getting logs down the river so that lumber is an exceedingly scarce article in the Liverpool market.

On Sunday week Bishop Connolly administered the Total Abstinence pledge to 250 persons. In his recent discourses, we understand from a St. John paper, he greatly denounces the rum-selling business as "evil, and only evil, and that continually."—*Sun.*

Dr. Jewitt, the Temperance Lecturer, is about to visit New Brunswick, to deliver a series of Lectures.

**REPEATED BEREAVEMENTS.**—*Messrs. Editors.*—Mr. William and Mrs. Eliza Jane Logan, of Stronach Mountain, Wilmet, having previously been called to part with two children, had seven remaining, namely, three sons and four daughters. On the 17th day of October last Mrs. Logan left home for St. John, N. B., leaving the family in health. The night following their eldest son, Alexander, was violently attacked with scarlet fever and putrid sore throat. Medical treatment was unavailing.

On being informed of this affliction, and requested by Mr. Logan to visit his son, I went on the 21st. It was indeed a distressing sight to behold this active and promising youth, at the age of 16 years and 7 months, now speechless, and succumbing under the strong hand of this fatal malady. I endeavoured to direct him to the gracious Redeemer, who died to save lost sinners, and implored mercy from God upon his soul. He expired on the afternoon of the same day.

All the children were brought low by this deadly disease, which has made great ravages in this region, as well as in many other parts of the Province. On the 25th of the same month, William, the second son—ardently attached to his eldest brother—died at the age of 11 years and 3 months.

As Mrs. Logan was in a feeble state of health, and was expected to return by the first direct conveyance, it was not deemed prudent to apprize her of the troubles at home until her ar-

rival. How sorrowful was the scene when she suddenly found herself bereft of these two children, with more evidently about to follow them! On the 28th Elizabeth died, at the age of 5 years and 3 months; and on the 31st Oliver, the only son then remaining, aged 2 years and 2 months.

Under these circumstances it was not judged expedient to attempt to improve these solemn visitations by a public discourse adapted to the occasion, till the survivors could attend, without danger either to themselves or others. Accordingly, on Lord's-day, Dec 5th, I delivered a discourse with reference to the repeated bereavements, from Ps. xxxix. 9, "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because Thou didst it."

The bereaved parents appear remarkably composed and submissive under these painful dispensations of Providence. They evince gratitude for the sympathy and kindness shown them by their neighbours, and the community in general. In my repeated visits I could not fail to notice, especially the continued attendance of a pious female, who freely subjected herself to great toil, hardship, and danger, in order to alleviate the distress of this afflicted family.

May these very impressive calls be sanctified to the everlasting good of the mourning parents, their surviving children, and other relatives, and the youth at large, who are thus solemnly admonished to "be also ready."—*Com. for C. M. by Rev. C. Tupper.* Aylesford, Dec. 10, 1858.

**Inter-Colonial Railway.**

**GREAT MEETING AT TEMPERANCE HALL.**

According to the notice referred to in our last a public meeting was held in Temperance Hall on Wednesday last for the purpose of giving Lord Bury an opportunity of explaining his views and the proposals of the Company he presents in relation to an Inter-Colonial Railway between Halifax and Quebec. The weather could scarcely have been more unpropitious—the streets being covered with ice and the rain descending in torrents. Notwithstanding these drawbacks the Hall was filled by all the principal business men of the City. Some few distinguished ladies also ventured out, and occupied a portion of the gallery. His Worship requested the Members of the Legislature present to take seats on the Platform, when a number of gentlemen, Judges Dodd and Bliss, &c., responded to the invitation. The entire renunciation of party distinctions, by the leading men on both sides moving to the platform, was highly applauded by the audience. The presence of LORD BURY seemed to be embraced as a favourable opportunity to bury the distinctions by which they are in political life kept apart.

His Worship the Mayor in a few brief remarks introduced the business of the meeting by stating that a requisition had been presented to him signed by a large number of Citizens, desiring him to call a public meeting. He had felt much pleasure in complying with this request as he considered the object one of vast moment to this country and city. He felt assured that his fellow-citizens would give Lord Bury a hearty and cordial reception and would highly appreciate this effort of his Lordship to promote the development and combination of these provinces by means of an Inter-Colonial Railroad. He had much pleasure in introducing Lord Bury to the meeting.

Lord Bury arose and said, he felt it an honor to meet so large an audience of Nova Scotians. He felt relieved of the embarrassment he might otherwise have felt by the cordial reception he had met. The presence of ladies also tended to assure him that the object he had in view would meet with favour. He hoped they would advocate the subject, as they could so well, in other places after retiring from this meeting. He had been spending some time in these colonies for the purpose of feeling the pulse of the people with regard to this matter. In Canada and New Brunswick he had met with the most flattering reception. It had long been felt that this railroad must at some future time be built. The difficulties had been as to the proper time and the best means by which the work might be accomplished.

These three Provinces geographically connected and enjoying the same laws, speaking the same language, equally attached to the throne of Her Majesty the Queen, yet are so separated by the natural obstacles that it is necessary to pass through the United States to get from Halifax to Quebec.

Railroads have been built through Canada nearly from one end to the other but instead of having the effect of combining the Provinces, as far as the present is concerned they rather keep them further apart, for they act as feeders to the lines passing down to New York and Portland and so actually divert the trade of Lower Canada from its natural channel. During the portion of the year when the St. Lawrence is closed, these roads in Eastern Canada are comparatively useless. With a line through New Brunswick to Halifax they would immediately command the trade and render Halifax with its noble harbour the natural port of British America.

He was much pleased to find that the divisions of the political parties in the province were not now to interfere with their harmonious action on this great question. The requisition he found was signed by the Hon. Attorney General and the Hon. Wm. Young, gentlemen who he believed were sometimes opposed to each other in the political arena. He was glad that the same view had been taken in the other provinces. He therefore had reason to hope that this would not be considered a party question, as it was of such vast importance. He was himself desirous of passing on from here back to Canada, and must either take the steamer to Boston, thence to Montreal, or go from Halifax to St. John, as he probably would do, and thence through British Territory in an open sleigh.

Besides the commercial aspects of the question, it must be remembered that a great question will shortly be presented to the minds of politicians—the confederation of these provinces, and will demand the attention of their people. He was not prepared to enter into the question as to whether a Legislative or Federal union, or either, would be the form which the government would assume; but their geographical position, as regards each other and the neighbouring country, would compel attention to the question at no very distant day. The position of the harbour of Halifax with regard to Europe, together with the vast western portion of this continent, under British rule, with a magnificent line of railway running through them, will show that some sort of union must at no very remote period take place between them.

His Lordship wished it to be distinctly understood that his presence here was not at all interfering with the united Delegation now in England on the same subject. The company on whose account he was on this mission had had communication with that Delegation. They might be considered rather as both aiming to secure the same benefit, than as having any rival objects before them. His object was to elicit information and learn the feelings of the people with regard to the matter.

He wished to inform the people of the provinces what had been done by the company he had the honor of representing, and what they designed doing. He was one of a number of gentlemen who thought the time had come when such a work as this might be done, and ought to be done. A meeting had been held in London for the purpose of considering the matter, and having but one opinion on the desirableness of the railroad being built, they had agreed to wait on the Colonial Secretary to seek from the Imperial Government a guarantee to the same amount and upon the same terms as had been agreed upon in 1849, that is to say, £120,000 sterling a year, on condition that each of the Colonies consent to grant a certain quantity of ungranted lands, on each side, and guarantee the £20,000 a year, which they, by Act of Parliament in 1849, agreed to grant to the Imperial Government, until the working expenses of the road shall be sufficient to meet the interest of the sum expended on the road.

The Secretary for the Colonies shewed his readiness to do all in his power to forward the enterprise. Lord Bury then quoted from a pamphlet on "The Importance of a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec" as follows:—

"Sir E. BULWER-LYTON.—I think the question divides itself into two great divisions: one is the political and the other is the financial. So far as the political is concerned, which more immediately comes under my notice, I have given the best consideration I can to the subject, and I think that the imperial advantages are not exaggerated. I think that there is a sufficient degree of imperial advantage to be desired from the proposed line to justify, to my mind, the Government in giving assistance to the colonies; and the more I look at the great importance of it, the more favourable I think the proposed course is."

"But then there comes the other question, which clearly does not come into my department which is the financial, and that is really a question for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is a question for him to consider whether he thinks the financial state of the country would justify it and he also has to consider how far he thinks there would be a sufficient degree of Parliamentary support for such a purpose. All I can say is, if he will agree, I should be myself exceedingly proud and excessively happy to assist in carrying it out."

The deputation on the following day waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer and pointed out to him in like manner the advantages of the proposed scheme, and inquired whether he would propose to Parliament the guarantee required. He replied as follows:—

"THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.—I quite understand. I have no hesitation in saying as every body must feel, that this is an object of the greatest importance and most desirable to be accomplished. I should like very much to go into the financial part of it before I could speak with any precision upon the recommendation that I should give. You say there are gentlemen in this room who can communicate with me upon it."

And he afterwards said—

"It is not an UNFAVOURABLE PERIOD for undertaking THESE GREAT WORKS, if you can agree upon any arrangement. I can only say that I am *duly impressed* with the great importance of it; and your (Lord Bury's) very clear and lucid statement has revived my recollection; I remember a great deal on this point when Lord Grey was in office. It certainly is, in every point of view, a matter of the highest consideration, and I will confer with Sir Bulwer-Lytton immediately upon it. I will not lose any time. Perhaps I had better communicate with you Lord Bury?"

Lord Bury stated that subsequently he had waited on Her Majesty's Ministers on the subject, but was informed that there were some difficulties which would interfere with their giving any definite reply to the application. The changes which had taken place since the passing of the Acts by the legislatures of the three Provinces in 1849, guaranteeing £60,000 and the public works they had constructed or were now engaged in, might interfere with their ability to renew so large an appropriation of funds. In consequence of this he (Lord Bury) had consented to come out and meet the people of the three provinces, and learn from them what probability existed of their again endorsing the Acts of 1849.

The people of Canada had received his mission with much favour. The leading men of the province had promised their interest in its behalf.