

wall. Everything was clean and proper, and though the minister's wife did try to loop up the curtains more gracefully, a moment after Aunt Hester's coarse, rough hands had stretched them tightly back. There was no disputing the matter with her,—she would have her own way, and a pretty good way it usually was. Nothing could exceed her activity during the evening. She it was that welcomed the church to the little parsonage, if welcome it could be called. The minister's wife was thrown completely into the shade.

In a gully not far from the village lived a bachelor, by the name of Jacob Green. He was one of the quietest of all quiet men. The very land he owned had a certain retiring look, as if it longed to creep out of sight,—his house was half hidden under a hill,—his horses modestly bowed their heads as they jogged along the road,—even his lambs had a certain sheepish look and ran at the sight of strangers. He went regularly to church, but had a habit of slinking unnoticed into his seat under the gallery. No living man could say aught against him. He paid his tithes once a year, fasted, if we may so judge by his lean, lank figure, but in no other respect was he a Pharisee. That night of the donation, after the guests were all assembled, there was heard a timid knock at the door. It was Jacob Green's. His poor old mother had been taken suddenly ill, and he had come for Hester to go and take care of her. As usual, she was ready at once. The quiet Jacob had no words to express his grief, but as they rode along she could see by the starlight that his tears were falling fast. He loved his old, stricken mother with an all-absorbing love. When he reached home he hurried into the house to see if she were worse.

"O, mother," said he, sinking down by the bed, "I don't ever want to leave you alone again. I was afraid you'd die afore I came back."

The poor creature's face was motionless as that of a corpse, but at the sound of Jacob's voice, she roused.

"Jacob," said she, "you must not love me so well; I am going to leave you, and I want you to be willing to give me up."

Jacob answered only by his groans; meantime, Hester had been busy straightening the bed, shaking up the pillows, and preparing some gruel. "Hester," said the dying woman, "come nearer, I want to take your hands in mine. I have loved you these great many years—you have been so kind in sickness, so good to every body. Now I want you should sing me a hymn. Hester's voice was sharp, unmusical, but strong. She began,

"Jesus, lover of my soul,"

but for the first time in her life, her voice faltered. She was weeping like a little child. When she turned to look on that wasted face, she was startled, for Death had already been there and stolen away the soul. Jacob went for some neighbors, and soon Hester, strangely silent, was stitching away at the shroud.

For the Christian Messenger.

French Mission.

MR. EDITOR,

I suppose that you and your numerous readers are deeply interested in the French Mission, and would be cheered by the news of its progress.

I have been labouring in this country about five months, and have had much more to encourage me than I had anticipated. I am happy to inform you of three converts from the church of Rome to the truth as it is in Jesus. They are heads of families; and two of them, a man and his wife, left the Papal Church, renouncing its errors, about two months ago. The wife has been converted to God about two years, but had not formally separated from the so-called Mother Church until I visited them, some two months since, when both she and her husband seemed to receive the Word with joy. Some time after I had left them, the Priest came to them and forbid them attending Protestant preaching any more. The man informed him: he would go and hear the gospel wherever it was preached. The Priest told him that he would excommunicate him and his wife. They replied that they were already out of that Church and he could not turn them out of heaven. While the man and the Priest were thus earnestly engaged in conversation, the Spirit of God took such a hold of the man's heart, that he began to rejoice in God his Saviour. This started the Priest, who ran off exclaiming that his opponent had become a New-Light; so the Priest left, and had not returned at my subsequent visit, when I found them happy in the Lord.

From thence I visited another family, and gave the mother a tract. She lent this tract to her brother-in-law, and he of course must show it to the Priest from whose hands it went into the fire. The woman claimed as payment for her tract a New Testament (Douay version). After some consideration he lent her the Testament, warning her against placing too much confidence in it, for it might lead her astray. But it did its work, and one more soul is converted to God, and added to His Kingdom. Blessed be the name of the Lord, for his goodness to the children of men! Pray for us that this work may increase more and more.

MICHAEL NORMONDAY,  
French Mission House,  
Tusket, Nov 18th, 1858.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 1, 1858.

The first day of December.

WE shall probably be repeating only what hundreds of our readers may have thought, when we say that DECEMBER has never before come upon us so unexpectedly.

The rapid flight of time becomes a subject of remark with all who have passed the early days of youthful anticipations. In our first few years of life we are all buoyant with hopes of what the future has in store. The days seem to move with a too tardy pace to bring what we fancy will afford us gratification and pleasure.

DECEMBER is probably the month in which this feeling is indulged by the juvenile portion of our race more than in any other. The long evenings remind them that Christmas and the New Year is approaching, with its holidays, its presents, and its friendly family greetings. The more advanced in life, however, at this period look back at what has appeared on the stage of life, and comparing the present with the past are painfully reminded of some with whom they have been formerly associated. The blank produced by their absence occasions a pang, unless we can, by the aid of our glorious Christian faith, look forward to the time of our own departure, and with a spirit of submission to our Heavenly Father's will, say "All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee."

The present season is perhaps more favourable for serious reflection than those when all Nature invites man forth to admire her beauties and partake of her joys. It may be dreary, dull DECEMBER, "the last and saddest of the year," but if it is the month which awakens reflection on the past and inspires to holy resolution, it will nevertheless be the seed-time for a future harvest of joy and blessedness. A whole life-time may thus be made the better for having one month with but little to call us forth to out-door pursuits and pleasures.

We look at the close of the year, and think it emblematic of Death. The trees appear without animation, as the searching wind whistles through the bare branches. They have now no pleasant rustle of foliage, nor graceful motion which, during the summer months, characterize those life-like friendly ornaments of this lower world. The earth is also, during this month, covered as with its snow-white winding sheet, and has become changed from the prolific parent, supplying all our wants, into that of the stoney frozen form of nature's death-bed. How feeble are man's efforts to stand against the changes of the seasons and yet by receiving the lessons of wisdom taught by God's Word, his Providence and grace, we may, by industry and frugality, even here partake of much that is called happiness. The Summer is the period of gathering the fruits of labour, yet much may be done in winter to prepare for a more profitable employment of time in future operations. Our thoughts being more confined in their range, will perhaps aid us in this, whether our occupation be of an agricultural, commercial or professional character.

Those who have laboured to supply our wants should now have attention. Debts should be paid and accounts settled. Balances may be made of past operations, for the purpose of discovering if we have been judiciously spending our time, and making the most of all our advantages. Above all should we make this month one of strict enquiry into our state before the Most High. If this be neglected, we may have our barns filled and our stores enlarged, but after all shall have a far more dreary anticipation for the future than the poorest of this world's poor in the prospect of ap-

proaching winter, when we have to say, "the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

WE made a few remarks last week on a subject of great importance; but had only entered the threshold, when we found our space insufficient to treat it as fully as it demands. We spoke of the necessity of forbearance and the exercise of Christian love in carrying out towards our brethren the spirit of true Christian liberty. We referred to the question of Temperance and of the Christian Doctrines as subjects in which brethren might and almost necessarily must have slight differences of opinion, if they examine them carefully for themselves. We may add another subject, which has at times proved a root of bitterness amongst brethren, we believe, more because there has been too little of genuine Christian liberty, exercised by perhaps both parties, than anything else,—we allude to Party Politics. In some cases, members of churches have taken upon themselves to denounce other brethren who have not seen fit to walk in the same path or vote for the same candidate for Legislative honors as themselves. Having too little of independence of mind, they have been persuaded to adopt the views propounded by any prominent man in their party, and have taken his dictum rather than exercise their own judgment from a Christian point of view, and in the attempt to follow the course of those making no pretensions to religious character, have incurred the displeasure and active opposition of those on the other side, and so they have become alienated if not positively at enmity one with another. Far be it from us to attempt such a task as trying to bring our readers all to take one view of the policy which should be pursued in the government of this their native or adopted country. No, we are quite aware that circumstances are very different in different parts of the country, and even in individual churches and families there may be good reasons for members differing one from another; but surely this should not be a sufficient reason for severing the dearest ties of social feeling and Christian fellowship. Neither our Temperance views, our political opinions, or our differences in minor doctrines, should be allowed to override and destroy our love for the brethren. Where this is the case the cause may well be suspected. If a Christian brother thinks it necessary to justify all that is said or done by members of his political party, or thinks his Temperance principles of more importance than those great saving truths which unite him to God's people and which he will cherish on his death-bed; and if he allows such things to alienate him from brethren with whom he hopes to unite in the heavenly world, we think it arises in most instances from holding imperfect views of Christian liberty and wanting his brethren to exercise far more of Christian forbearance towards himself than he is willing to practise towards them.

We desire to encourage no cynical alarm at the exercise of the Elective Franchise. We do not think the Christian deteriorates his religious character by filling up his place as a man in the poll-book or at the hustings when necessary. There is in some a morbid view of public affairs that would lead them to such conclusion, but we think this both unworthy and unnecessary for others to adopt. Those who have put on Christ should not forget that fact when they speak of or act with others in any worldly matters. In exercising their duty and privilege as freemen they should value Christian liberty for their brethren as well as for themselves, and never allow their warm christian affection to be withdrawn because of some trifling difference of opinion. "Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

THE Editor of the Presbyterian Witness appears to have formed but a low estimate of "lawyers" and what he designates "the lower classes of politicians." If his opinion is derived from the experience he has had with his own friends, we think he has been unfortunate in his choice of associates. In his issue of Saturday the 20th inst., he asserts that "Lawyers may tamper with truth and coquette with falsehood; they do so professionally, but not innocently. The lower classes of politicians also will act on the maxim that the end justifies the means—that anything may be said to advance the interests of party." The Editor announces in the same paragraph, the doctrine that men should be judged by their own "plain assertions," and not by any view others may take of their actions. This may be a very convenient rule for our contemporary to lay down when he wishes

to serve a certain purpose, as in the present instance, in trying to prove the non-political character of the so-called "Protestant Alliance," but we think he himself soon forgot to use that rule in his own case. When have lawyers admitted that they "tamper with truth and coquette with falsehood?" or, where are "the lower classes of politicians" who profess to "act on the maxim that the end justifies the means?" We have nevertheless sometimes thought we perceived indications of those principles in our neighbour's writing; but were not prepared for so open an admission as he makes on behalf of himself and friends. Such statements as those of our contemporary do not say much in favour of the cause he endeavours to serve by them.

We have no desire to take up the cudgel on behalf of the "lawyers" and the "lower classes of politicians." We should not have noticed the article referred to, but believing that such loose vague statements tend to diminish the respect which the people ought to feel for the press, we should not be fulfilling our duty to the Fourth Estate were we to let it pass unnoticed.

DEATH OF CHARLES F. ALLISON, Esq.

—We regret to learn that this gentleman expired on Saturday the 20th ult, of erysipelas, aged 64 years, at his residence at Sackville, N. B. But few men have earned for themselves the more general respect and affection of Christians. By his munificence in a great measure, the Wesleyan Academy for the two Provinces was established at Sackville.

THOSE of our readers, and they are many, who have felt a warm interest in the success of that part of our Domestic Missionary efforts, which relate to the French Mission, will doubtless feel much gratified by the information contained in Mr. Normanday's letter, which appears in another column. These first fruits which are now beginning to appear, will, we trust, inspire with new life and vigour the supporters of this interesting mission, and encourage them to hope for a far greater harvest of precious souls, delivered from the toils of superstition and error. Mr. Normanday is, we believe, from a stock well qualified to appreciate the work in which he is now engaged, being from Lower Canada, possibly a descendant of some of the Acadian French, who sought refuge in that country when expelled from their possessions in this province. We feel assured that the labours of our Brother Chute, whose place Mr. Normanday is now filling, will not have been in vain. None could feel more warmly interested in the good work which he commenced than himself, and we may reasonably conclude that the results of his prayers and labours are now beginning to appear. The earnest prayers of our churches and our brethren will not be wanting to sustain the hands of the good brother who is now supplying this important post, and we all must feel it a privilege to be permitted to contribute in so good a cause.

THE English Mail Steamer, with the second November Mails, arrived on Monday last. London dates are to the 20th ult. She brings somewhat later news from India, where several encounters with the Sepoys had occurred in which the enemy were invariably defeated, in some cases with heavy loss. We have given the most interesting extracts. Lord Clyde (Sir Colin Campbell) was preparing, as the cold season advanced, to make an extensive effort to clear the kingdom of Oude of the rebels. The great body of them are at different localities in that extensive district.

There have been pretty severe shocks of earthquake felt in Seville in Spain and at St. Ubes in Portugal.

The first Railway in the Turkish dominions has been commenced at Smyrna.

It is said that the Hon'ble. Col. Bruce, a brother of Lord Elgin, has been appointed the British Ambassador to the Court of Peking (China).

A new Company has been formed in London, who are to purchase the Great Eastern (Leviathan) from the former Company, who sell at a discount of 50 per cent. The shares are to be £1 each; and there is now every prospect of the monster ship being fairly got to sea.

It appears that a great reaction has taken place in the Fraser River Gold fever. Vast numbers had returned to San Francisco, having been disappointed in their hopes, either from the exaggerated accounts of the richness of the diggings or their labours being put a stop to by the approach of winter and the heavy floods which prevailed in the Thompson and Fraser Rivers.

Nothing as to the Delegation the Great

BELCH annual, part of its made its the good during the well got

CUNY a large Much of Court province. on in this

G

YOUNG The Rev fore this influence nations." eloquent man.

On Tu lecture of chael con

DEAF behalf of thing but newspaper the bene

triously through dren who have eno

ing. Ma Had it b would ha the Scho and they some of t is gratify wards of modious much lar

His E the Cou fication of our p ACADIA each a v of thes instituti distinguish

A larg also in each ca We are given to be calle pose of

Our supplied ting in both ea their m what du ties for upon it

GEN Monday with th Halifax

The moned purpos Doctor

SAC in a let ing a ty, giv were p

1st. year.

2nd. vancia

3rd. 4th. subsc

5th. vance

6th. up th

7th. for w tract whic

T and with

L by th 12th evid ferre Que futu ques the mig of i pee pre