

ner, to the achievements of the Denomination—how they had been the pioneers of modern missions to the heathen, and with what pride they could point to a Carey, a Robert Hall, and a Foster as belonging to their church. These he characterized as intellectual giants, as well as devoted and able soldiers of the cross, and he informed us such was the esteem and admiration in which he held them, that their works were in his library and used by him in his lecture room. The encomiums of the Rev. gentleman were all the more valuable as they bore every mark of sincerity, and as every one acquainted with the facts knew them to be just.

The learned Professor was followed by two or three other neat and appropriate speeches,—one by the pastor of the congregation, another by the W. Falkner, Esq., assistant railway surveyor, who has lately taken up his residence in Truro and has identified himself very heartily with the Baptist people.

The exercises were varied and enlivened with music by the choir, under the direction of Mr. Williams, an American gentleman who has lately established himself professionally in the village, and who, by his skill and devotion, is conferring a most valuable boon upon the society with which he is connected, and upon the community at large. Under his leadership the choir, composed chiefly of members of the Sabbath school, performed some pieces most ably and delightfully.

A few resolutions terminated the proceedings, and a vote of thanks to Professor Smith for his very friendly and interesting address,—another to the ladies for their most admirable entertainment,—a third to W. Fleming, Esq., who had kindly granted the use of his fine new house for the occasion,—and a fourth to Mr. Williams and the choir for the part they bore in promoting the enjoyment of the evening.

After about four hours spent in such exercises, the assembly dispersed—all apparently pleased and satisfied; the originators of the movement at its success; the remainder, at the provision made for their entertainment.

The pecuniary result of the meeting was a sum in the neighborhood of thirty pounds, which, considering that this is not a Baptist community, and that so little time and exertion were expended on the preparations, is highly creditable to all concerned.

ONE OF THE COMPANY.  
Truro, 10th Sept., 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from P. E. Island.

BENJAMIN CHRISTMAS.—THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

DEAR BROTHER,

The friends of Benjamin Christmas will be glad to hear something about him. He has just paid us a visit. He wanted a little relaxation and ran over for a few days. He delivered three addresses in our houses of worship, Baptist, Scotch Kirk, and Free Church. They were attended by large audiences, and gave the speaker a high position in the Christian regards of our city. Benjamin also delivered a more public lecture in our Temperance Hall, on Indian customs, &c. The large room in that building was filled to overflowing. I was not present on this occasion. But I have heard a good account of the lecture, though the sentiment in respect to it was not so unanimous as in respect to our friend's more religious exercises. It is not to be forgotten, that hitherto he has enjoyed but few advantages of mental cultivation, and the study of the English language. These, however, he has well employed, and his profiting is manifest to all. Spared and upheld by God, he bids fair to be a great blessing to his brethren, who, he assures us, use him well, and give him a respectful hearing. His family, too, trained under intelligent Christian influence, we may hope for something from them. Surely the morning breaks upon the Micmac mission. The friends may well take courage, and pray, and labour, and look for brightening days. The mission, of which Benjamin is the first ripe fruit, was born in this city, which may account in part for the interest here awakened about him. We did not send him away empty-handed.

About the Atlantic Telegraph. I met with a paragraph in the Leisure Hour—a London weekly periodical—for the second week in September, 1852, which I here transcribe. The writer has been describing the submerging of electric cables from Dover to Calais, and from Holyhead to Dublin. He thus concludes, "M. Dupont proposes a work far more stupendous. It is to span the Atlantic. He would suspend a cable like that already described, by bouys placed at certain determinate distances, say thirty feet, and never allow it to sink beyond the depth of forty feet. The water is

calm and still below, whatever the agitation and fury of the waves above. And from buoy to buoy he would carry the electric wires till the entire distance was accomplished. The very thought is startling of a message from the city of London traversing the breadth of England, Ireland, and the great Atlantic Ocean, and being delivered in New York, Boston, or Philadelphia, with electrical speed. Yet who that looks on what has been already and so recently accomplished, will venture to affirm that even this wonder shall not become familiar to another generation?" The italics and capitals here are mine.

Things look hopeful with our little cause in the city. We have candidates waiting for baptism. Our congregations still look up. At St. Peter's Road, and Lot 49, too, we are accustomed to have good gatherings. We are anxiously expecting the arrival of brother Hall,\* to enter upon his Island mission. Through a kind Providence, we are doing well so far with our harvest.

Your fellow laborer in the gospel,

J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Sept. 13th, 1858.

\* Rev. Mr. Hall left Halifax last week in the Eastern State for the United States.

For the Christian Messenger.

Progress at Onslow.

MR. EDITOR,

As you are deeply interested in hearing tidings of Zion, and many of the numerous readers of the Messenger are also of similar spirit, I purpose informing you how the church, long since planted in this place, is now flourishing. We have been highly favoured by Him who ever watcheth over and careth for the sheep of his pasture, in obtaining the faithful labors of Elder Benjamin Scott, who has been our pastor for some months, and appears to give universal satisfaction: each and all esteeming him and his amiable and pious companion, "very highly in love for their works' sake." He is a faithful and devoted laborer in his Master's vineyard; his whole delight being in the work to which his Lord has called him, and we are much encouraged to hope that he will be eminently useful in this community, in leading many hungering and thirsting souls to the flowing fountain of eternal life. He is just recovering from a severe illness and scarcely yet able to perform his accustomed labour; but we sincerely hope that he will speedily regain his wonted vigor, his valuable life be long spared, and be made the honored instrument of planting many in the garden of the Lord, who shall vigorously flourish while spared on earth, and when transplanted, brightly bloom in the Paradise above. Since the commencement of his labors there have been manifestations of deep religious feeling, and anxious desires for a display of Almighty power among us in the conversion of precious souls. Four persons who fill the important station of mothers, two of them, far advanced in life, have come out from the world, and professed their attachment to Him, who they trust "has loved them and washed them in his own precious blood." May they be the first-fruits of an abundant harvest, which shall cause all heaven to resound with songs of joy, fill our hearts with rejoicing, and lead us to sing in hallowed strains, "this is the Lord, we have waited for Him." Oh! for such a blessed revival in this place, and all around us, as has been experienced in the United States, even until every household shall become a praying one, and spiritual and acceptable sacrifices daily ascend. We trust that better, brighter days are dawning; the eye of faith already sees the Sun of Righteousness rising in our own spiritual horizon, and we look forward joyfully to his shining more and more unto meridian glory and splendor.

A FRIEND TO ZION.

Onslow, Sept 11th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

HOME MISSIONS.

Sydney County.

DEAR BROTHER,

I beg leave to inform my friends and the numerous patrons of your valuable paper, that I left my home three weeks ago for the County of Sydney, the field of my mission, presented to me by the Home Mission Board. I labored one week in Merigomish, both in public and from house to house. I found the church there in a dark state.

Having made arrangements with the brethren to meet them in three weeks, I reluctantly left them, and also some others who manifested much concern of mind, and came to Antigonish. Here, too, I found the church in a low state;

but the meetings are well attended and solemn. Last Saturday a few of the brethren came together in conference, renewed covenant, and expressed a desire to hold on the good way, and much interest in the labors of the missionary. After every member had spoken a young woman arose and deliberately related what God had done for her soul, and desired to be baptized and become a member of Christ's Church. Her parents and friends are Presbyterians; she never before attended a conference or witnessed a baptism; but she believed it to be the right way, and was willing to forsake father, and mother to follow Christ. Accordingly on the Lord's day I immersed her in the presence of a number of solemn spectators, though the day was quite rainy. After the morning service the Lord's supper was dispensed, a privilege they had not enjoyed before for over two years.—We all enjoyed a precious season. May it be the harbinger of good days.

Dear brother pray that the Great Head of the Church may bless the labours of his unworthy servant. I have already six preaching stations, at all of which there are attentive audiences. The brethren all seem anxious to have the mission continued for a year; but they are afraid they will not be able to remunerate the Board. They are making an effort to ascertain what can be done, of which I will write hereafter.

Yours in christian bonds,

A. F. PORTER.

Antigonish, Tuesday, Sept. 14th, 1858.

Cumberland County.

DEAR BROTHER,

I landed at Parrsboro' on the 14th of August. Preached there twice on the Sabbath; from thence to Westbrook and Maccan, and preached as often as practicable.

I have been to see the brethren at Amherst and consulted about the Mission. The people at the village of Parrsboro' requested me to preach to them a part of the time assigned me by the Board. I have resolved to do so, and I am also going to the Five Islands; from thence return to Maccan. Wherever I have been the people have at heart the Mission.

Yours, &c.,

NELSON BAKER.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

DEAR MESSENGER—

Your weekly visits, accompanied with good tidings, have been joyfully welcomed during the year that is past. As a medium of home news you are becoming one of the indispensables of human life. The changes and occurrences in one's native land, become more interesting as separation in time or distance increases. The associations of childhood and youth are freshened by the departure of old friends, and the approaches of age or of death.

THE REVIVAL.

Since my last the manifestations of grace in our village have been glorious. About five hundred persons were hopefully converted while the renewing influences were continued. The most part of these are still adorning their profession, and labouring to promote the Kingdom of God. The cares of the world have had a sad influence already, however, upon all the churches, and there is evidently a decline in spirituality and consecration to God. It would be delightful if Zion were at all times robed in her beauty, and days of decline were apparent.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The completion of this great international work which has united both continents, produced the most enthusiastic expressions of friendship for the people and country to which it has bound us. The past seemed to be entirely forgotten amid the universal rejoicings of the present.—The cable has already done much to unite the daughter with the mother from whom she had been estranged. It is to be devoutly hoped the two mighty nations may never be separated again by hostile feelings.

THE ASSOCIATIONS, IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Associational gatherings of the present year have been, and still are, of the most delightful character. The churches come together to tell of the great things the Lord has done for them. All the glory of the work of salvation is ascribed to the riches of unmerited grace. The glory has been so great, and so manifestly the Lord's, that there is no room for human ambition to put in any claim. The revival rebuked the unbelief of the church in the conversion of multitudes that were given up to perish. Like that of Pentecost, it seemed to come down from the throne, not, however,

while the church was with one accord in one place awaiting the promise, but bringing her members together to receive the fulness of the blessing.

THE DESTRUCTION ON STATEN ISLAND.

The outrage of the best feelings of humanity, in the burning of the Quarantine Hospital, on Staten Island, and the exposing of the sick, at midnight, in the rain to almost certain death, has awakened the feeling of universal indignation in our State. Mob-law violence finds no support in public sentiment—even when self-preservation seems to call it into existence.—But it is to be feared that the criminals arrested will, by some evasion of law, escape the punishment they deserve. When men sin in the mass it is difficult for retributive justice to be righteously administered. In the world to come these difficulties will be all removed.

THE 'CONSOLIDATION OF SOCIETIES' MOVEMENT.

Our benevolent Societies are feeling the result of the business depression. The churches are weary of their number, and displeased at the expense which it costs to keep them in motion. One or two articles recently published in the Examiner have also done them an inconceivable injury. These are quoted as texts when one of their agents appears, but not only those who wish an excuse for not giving, but by their warmest friends and firmest supporters.—Their influence for harm will for years be incalculable against all benevolent societies that require agents, secretaries, or any other office for business. Editors, as well as ministers, need an abundance of that wisdom that cometh from above, which is first pure, and then peaceable.

There is a feeling of great quietness in Foreign Missionary affairs pervading the denomination since the meeting of the Union. The resolutions instructing the Executive Committee have by no means given perfect satisfaction, but a disposition prevails to let them be carried out in a practical manner, and to await the result. The desire for a union is constantly increasing, and those who would prevent its accomplishment will suffer a defeat. All differences will merge in the great work of saving the perishing heathen from death. May the Lord hasten the time.

Yours truly,

J. M. HARRIS.

Ithaca, New York, Sept. 8th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Presentation at Bedford Sunday School.

BEDFORD, now one of our suburban villages, is daily increasing in interest and importance. Such pleasing little incidents as the following also invest it with an additional charm. This and the letter of the Rev. Mr. Porter, in our last, show that in religious matters its wants are not neglected.

MR. EDITOR,—

Having occasion last Sabbath to visit the Sabbath School at Bedford, I had the pleasure of witnessing an interesting occurrence—the presentation of a Bible to one of the teachers, Mrs. Harriet Ward Crandall.

Some time was first occupied by Mr. Dakin in picturing out an emblem, in which exercise the pupils took an active part. The process seemed well calculated to arouse and strengthen the minds of the children.

Soon a respectable number of the parents had assembled, and very many youthful eyes glowed with animation as one of their number read the following

ADDRESS.

TO MRS. CRANDALL, OUR MUCH ESTEEMED TEACHER.

With a deep sense of your kindness, and the lively interest you have always taken in our Sabbath School, we desire to manifest our love to you upon the eve of your leaving us. In doing so we know no better token than that Word which you have taught us to love and reverence.

Receive then from us this sacred volume, and our prayer to God is, that you may long live to enjoy its divine teachings, and after this life may teacher and taught meet where parting is not known.

The address having been read, Mrs. Crandall, made the following affectionate

REPLY.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—

I can scarcely find words to express my gratitude to you for this valuable present. I have ever been more than paid for my labour in this Sabbath School by your punctual attendance and good attention, and in meeting with you to receive and impart instruction. Believe me some of my happiest hours have been spent here. Those who do not attend a Sabbath School little know what pleasure they lose. As I am about to leave you I hope some of the young ladies of Bedford will take my place, so that in after years I may hear of the prosperity of this school. What pleasure will it afford