

the scoffers, and did all that he could to pour contempt upon the movement and to prevent others from attending the meetings. But an arrow of conviction pierced his own heart, and on a sabbath day of this month his distress of mind became so intolerable that he came to the desperate resolve to stifle his convictions by drink. On the day in question he took the train to Portrush, and there spent 29s. in drink. He makes the remark that he was somewhat ashamed to find himself the only Protestant in the train, and this brings out incidentally the striking fact that railway traveling on Sabbath in the districts where the revival has penetrated is now almost entirely confined to the Roman Catholics. Mr. A. returned in the evening with the same stubborn determination to resist the strivings of the Spirit within him; but it soon appeared in his case that God was to be found of one who sought not for him. On the next morning, if we recollect rightly, he attended a prayer meeting, and then he felt his emotion increasing to such an extent that he ground his teeth with rage lest he should be overcome, and put his hand to the pew-door to get out, in case the congregation should find such a one as he capable of the weakness of manifesting concern about his soul. But his strength failed him,—he felt riveted to the seat, and was constrained to cry for mercy. Mr. A. is now magnifying the grace of God which once he despised, and taketh every opportunity of entreating sinners to be reconciled to God, urging that when such a sinner as they know him to have been has found mercy there is none who need despair.

There is among the people of Coleraine and the surrounding district a great thirst for the Word of God. After the address of Mr. Guinness on Thursday night, the booksellers in town were knocked up at a late hour by persons wanting Bibles; and in an excursion to the Giant's Causeway, the religious tracts distributed from the carriage by a zealous Christian friend were caught at with the utmost eagerness.

LATEST ACCOUNTS.

The Correspondent of the *Freeman* writes from Belfast, August 20, 1859.

Since I last wrote you, there has been a considerable decline of the peculiar manifestations connected with the revival in this place. The good work, however, seems to be extending in a quiet and ordinary way. Sinners are awakened, convinced, and converted. Prayer meetings are regularly held, and open-air services in different parts of the town are attended by earnest hearers. The movement continues to spread in the rural districts and small towns of the province. It seems to radiate in concentric circles, or spread like a leaven through the masses of society. Those who have been brought under its power seem to carry with them an influence to extend it to others. One of the most interesting events of the past week has been a great open-air union prayer-meeting in the Botanic Gardens here. The services were conducted by ministers and laymen of all evangelical denominations—Wesleyan, Episcopalian, Baptist, Congregational, and Presbyterian. About 20,000 people were present on the occasion. It is surely a sign of the times, when such a vast assembly can be collected at mid-day for prayer and praise. I can never forget the impression produced on my own mind, when I looked down on such a forest of human beings, like a harvest-field of immortal souls ripe for the sickle. A minister from England, present on the platform, said to me, that he never expected to see such a sight again, till he stood before the judgement seat of Christ.

As Christian friends in other places are generally most anxious to know the effect of the present movement on the Roman Catholic population of this country, I may devote the rest of this letter to mention some incidents which have come under my own observation, in connexion with persons of that communion. The prevailing feeling among Romanists, in reference to the movement, seems to be intense bitterness. One of them, speaking to me on the subject, said:—"The devil is surely broke loose at last. He is off the chain now. The Scriptures are fulfilling. This must be the antichrist that was to come in the last days."

I was present, some time ago, at a revival meeting in one of the churches in town. A number of persons had been prostrated during the service, and were carried into the vestry. Their shrieks, and cries to God to have mercy on them, had attracted a crowd of people, chiefly Romanists, in the street adjoining the place of worship. Whilst trying to minister to those in distress around me, you may judge of my horror when I heard the mob outside imitating the cries of the sufferers, calling out, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me," followed by shouts of derision. It was the most horrid blasphemy I ever heard. In the awful and solemn circumstances in which we were then placed, surrounded by souls as in the agony of coming vengeance, I could scarce-

ly believe at first that human beings could be guilty of such dreadful profanity. The treatment which some of the Romanist converts receive from their relatives and others is most barbarous. Some of the Romanists attribute the Revival, and especially the physical effects of it, to the agency of the devil.

We must reserve till next week the account of the revival in Scotland.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 14.

Christian Church Principles.

We briefly intimated last week that benevolence was an essential characteristic of a Christian church. This, we suppose, is admitted by all, and a willingness to manifest it practically, we believe, is cherished by not a few amongst our brethren in the Baptist churches throughout the provinces. The great defect with us, we think, is, that we have no systematic and uniform plan of proceeding, in gathering together the offerings of the people for these purposes.

Each church being independent of every other, the brethren composing an individual church have perhaps been disinclined to follow in the steps of another, and having raised sufficient for their own church purposes by their method, they have not systematically and perseveringly carried out their benevolence further; but leaving their brethren to act out the dictates of their own hearts in other matters, have allowed their denominational organizations and Institutions to suffer in consequence.

We trust, however, that a new era will shortly dawn on us in this respect. We were glad to find an effort was being made by Dr. Parker at our late Convention to introduce a more general and systematic plan of operation so as to give all the members of the churches a part in the benevolent operations of the body. Other brethren warmly espoused the movement, and we doubt not will use their influence to carry it out. Other denominations have the advantage of more centralization than Baptists. For example, our Wesleyan friends, we believe, are all required to do something for the common purposes of the connexion. Although it is, in their case, given weekly at their class meetings, and quarterly, at the time of receiving their tickets of membership, and may have less appearance of voluntarism than Baptists are inclined to cherish, yet it is nevertheless no less efficient in raising a revenue for denominational purposes. We are not disposed to envy that body the method by which they accomplish their objects, as we believe it is only necessary to faithfully apply the principle of true benevolence to do as much and probably more than is done by such means. We only refer to them to illustrate the great secret of their power—making all contribute of their substance towards their benevolent objects.

We see no reason why those who maintain the principle of independency, which they believe essential to scriptural church organization, should allow that to prevent them from using the principle of combination for doing good in the world. When we say combination, we do not mean that those only who are the more prominent members of the churches and congregations should form such combination, but that all the members may unite—young and old, rich and poor. All should have a share in the benefits and also in the credit of sustaining their denominational objects. It would be easy to shew how much might be done if all the Baptists in the Province would contribute to a common fund a very small sum per week or per annum. We are glad to see that our New Brunswick brethren have the subject before them. Without any departure from scriptural church order, the New Testament injunctions may be brought to bear upon us as a people. We may expect that a blessing will descend and rest on us according as we carry them out in our church matters. We shall next week bring out more fully the plan proposed, and hope to find that it meets a general response.

GREAT FIRE IN HALIFAX.

THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE CITY DESTROYED!

On Friday last, Halifax was visited by a more fearful and extensive conflagration than was ever known in the annals of the city. About 1/4 after 9 in the evening the alarm was given, when the fire appeared in Hollis Street at the back part of the store of Mr. John W. Wills, Paper manufacturer. This building, it is said, was perfectly safe and free from fire, when closed a little before nine. The flames

soon made great progress—the materials in Mr. W's. store being all of a highly inflammable nature. The firemen were early on the spot and used every exertion to extinguish the flames, which soon got hold of the back part of the stores occupied by Messrs. Wm. Ackhurst, J. Richardson, A. & W. Mackinlay and J. A. Graham. Mr. A. had barely sufficient time to remove his goods before his store was wholly consumed.

The conflagration then soon advanced to the rear of the other stores in Granville and Duke Streets, and it became evident that a general sweep would be made north and west. It was also feared it might cross Duke and Hollis streets, and proceed south and east. The timely and vigorous efforts of the firemen, the naval and military forces, and citizens generally, eventually succeeded in preventing this; but the fire reaching Granville street and overwhelming Murdoch's store, shewed that no time must be lost by the merchants in clearing out their establishments. On sped the devouring element from one house to another, neither brick nor stone stayed its onward progress for several hours. Crowds of all classes were endeavouring to save portions of goods, and one general scene of confusion and demolition ensued. Efforts were made to keep distinct the Dry-goods of the different merchants but all to no purpose. E. W. Chipman's store caught from the opposite side of the street, and from the intense heat was soon a mass of flame. It then communicated with W. Jordan's Woollen Hall, and thence to Romans' handsome stone residence and shoe-store. Passing on west it enveloped the houses on the south side of Barrington street. Romans' stone building proved a check to the fire taking Esson's large store, or nothing could have saved Chalmers' Church from the common ruin which threatened that edifice. The flames swept along the eastern side of Barrington street, and passing over, destroyed one house on the western—the one next the Royal Acadian School. Efforts were made to pull down the office of the *Acadian Recorder*. These were, however, rendered perfectly unnecessary by the flames taking that and all the intermediate buildings. The two blocks now became one general body of fire, raging and sending up its roaring flame so that engines and water were absolutely useless. About forty or fifty houses were under the control of the terrible Devastator. Terror and alarm were depicted on the countenances of the thousands present, who were evidently wondering where the fearful scourge would stay. The falling of McNeil's hat-store was the commencement of another step, and what proved to be the final one in the ravages of this calamitous visitation,—the bursting out of the whole of the pile of buildings containing E. K. Brown's Hardware Store, Brown Brothers Drug-store, McNeil's tailoring establishment, and Harvey & Co's. Shoe and Leather Store. This high wooden building now became one mass of living flame playing up into the heavens far above all that had preceded it. At this point the scene was one of the most awfully grand that can be imagined. Several explosions took place, which, with the falling masses of burning timber, gave a fresh impetus to the devouring element and caused the flames to arise to a most terrific height. Being isolated, and having nothing but a brick and stone building opposite on one side, and the Ordinance yard on the other, the fire here expended its fury and apparently only for want of communication with other buildings subsided. About three o'clock on Saturday morning indications appeared that further danger need not be apprehended.

Melancholy to relate, we understand one or more lives were lost. One poor man named Jackson, a stevedore, was killed by the falling of a portion of one of the buildings. Some military men also received very severe injuries. It is also reported that one of the sailors belonging to the *Indus* received fatal injury. We fear that several of the brave and daring firemen, even those who received no accidental injury, will long feel the effects of their exertions and exposure to the heat of the fire. What with the falling of burning timbers, chimnies, and portions of high brick buildings, it is not a little surprising that more injury was not done to life and limb. The loss of real estate and goods together, is very large, probably not less than TWO OR THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS. The Printing offices of Bowes & Sons, and of the *Acadian Recorder* were entirely destroyed. Some of the material was saved from both. Notwithstanding the calamity falling upon our contemporary, his readers were not disappointed in receiving their copies as usual on Saturday evening. The majority of the merchants were, we presume, insured to near the value of their stock. Several were, however, with little or no insurance. Some we hear, are deprived of all their worldly possessions. The Halifax Insurance office will suffer, we are informed,

only to the amount of about £8,000, so that parties here who would be ill-able to bear a large sum from their dividends will scarcely feel the demands upon them. The rest of the insurances were mostly effected in offices in England. The liabilities of the principal ones, we learn, are about as follows:

Alliance	£35,000
Royal	32,000
Liverpool & London	28,000
Phoenix	15,000
Hartford, U. S.	4,000

The following is a list of the stores and buildings burnt. The stone buildings are distinguished by a (*) and the brick by a (†).

IN HOLLIS STREET:
 J. W. Wills—Paper manufacturer.
 W. & S. Symonds—Stove Importer.
 W. Ackhurst—Auctioneer.
 James Jackson—Blacksmith.
 J. M. Chamberlain—Stove Importer.
 T. Bain—Dwelling.
 *C. D. Hunter—Provision Store.
 J. Davie—Shop and Dwelling.
 †Mr. Taylor—ditto.
 †David Sheppard—Boarding House.
 †J. L. Whytal—Shoe and Leather Store.
 †P. Murphy—Shop and Dwelling.
 Duffas & Co's. Wholesale Warehouse.

IN DUKE STREET:
 H. Y. Mott & Son's Soap and Candle Store.
 H. B. Cunningham's Office.
 L. Estano—Tinsmith.

IN GRANVILLE STREET:
 W. & C. Murdoch—Dry Goods Store.
 W. H. Bent—Shoe Store.
 W. A. Hassen—Tailor and Dwelling.
 J. W. Webb—Druggist.
 J. Richardson—Confectionary and Dwelling.
 A. & W. Mackinlay—Stationers.
 †J. A. Graham—London Book Store.
 †W. Moore, Vaux & McCulloch—Dry Goods Store.
 W. J. Veith—Silversmith.
 J. McKenzie—Watchmaker.
 C. Mitchell—Daguerrean Artist.
 †Creighton & Wiswell's Dry Goods Store.
 †W. G. Coombes—Shoe Store.
 †J. B. Bennett & Co.—Dry Goods Store.
 Duffas & Co.—ditto.
 Dela Torre & Rayner—Fancy Repository.
 H. S. McNeil & Co.—Hat and Shoe Store.
 John Silver—Dry Goods Store.
 A. H. Creighton—Stationers.
 C. Robson & Co.—Dry Goods Store.
 †S. Strong—ditto.
 †N. Silver—ditto.
 E. Billing, Jr. & Co.—ditto.
 R. McMurray & Co.—ditto.
 H. Mignowitz—ditto.
 K. Skerry—ditto.
 Unoccupied Store, (formerly S. Strong's.)
 E. W. Chipman & Co.—Dry Goods Store.
 *Jordan & Thompson—British Woollen Hall.
 *Robt. Romans—Residence and Shoe Store.

IN ORDINANCE SQUARE BUILDING:
 Brown Brothers & Co.—Druggists.
 E. K. Brown—Hardware Store.
 Alex. Neal—Tailor.
 Harvey, Verge & Morse—Shoe and Leather Store.

IN BUCKINGHAM STREET:
 J. McCleave—Shoemaker.
 Mr. —Dwelling.

IN BARRINGTON STREET:
 W. H. Tally—Grocery Store.
 H. Blackadar—Acadian Recorder Printing Office.
 P. S. Hamilton's Office.
 C. Legg—Clothing Store and Dwelling.
 J. Mooney & Sons—Printers.
 J. Bowes & Sons—Butcher's Shop and Dwelling.
 T. Hood—Dwelling.
 Smith & Mitchell—Plumbers.
 J. P. Muir—Water Works Office.
 Alex. Troop—Watchmaker.
 Mr. Boyd—Baker.
 T. Power—Dwelling.
 Much damaged house—late Wellner's property.

Although the loss of property is immense, yet but few, compared with what would have been the case in some other parts of the city, have been rendered houseless. The loss of property, although so great, yet is less by tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds than it would have been if it had occurred a few weeks later, after the fall goods had arrived.

In common with the citizens generally we most sincerely sympathize with the sufferers. Experience enables us to do this. We shall be glad to learn that less of their property is lost than they supposed. Insurers will doubtless meet the claims promptly, and enable the parties insured to resume their business without loss of time.

What may be the effect of this destruction of the very heart of the city, it is now impossible to conjecture. Whether the owners of the property will soon reinstate themselves in similarly handsome places of business with the permanence of brick or stone, or whether they will allow the unsightly ruins to disfigure this Broadway of Halifax, may at present be a matter of very uncertain speculation. A good opportunity is afforded to put up a fine uniform pile of buildings on each side of this great thoroughfare. If the owners of property on both sides would combine and build simultaneously, and import a large number of workmen from the mother country for the special purpose, we might have the loss made eventually a gain to the city, both in appearance and value. The large sums which will be received from Insurance offices will bring a considerable amount of money into circulation, so that a great demand will be made for labour of all kinds.

The scattering of Dry Goods merchants to other parts of the city will be very perplexing, especially to the ladies. Instead of one or two blocks in Granville Street having a monopoly of their attention, they must divide their favours, and find their way to parts not often seen by them, at least for a good while to come. The merchants are locating themselves in places of business but little resembling their former handsome situations.