

Religious Intelligence.

New Brunswick.

The Visitor informs us that the Roman Catholics are holding a Protracted meeting in St. John. They commence at 5 in the morning and continue to a late hour in the evening. Preaching and mass two or three times a day. A hope is expressed in which we most sincerely join, that a revival of pure religion will follow.

In connexion with this movement the St. John N. B. Church Witness informs us that "Some members of the 'Paulist Mission' have arrived in that City for the purpose of stirring up the zeal of the poor Romanists, and indirectly aiding the sale of a large stock of beads, scapulars, medals and other precious things of Rome. We read in the Romish organ, the Freeman, simultaneously with the announcement of the arrival of the missionaries, the following advertisement of 'a new Catholic Book Store,' which has just been opened in this City:—

The stock of Catholic articles comprises: 50 doz. Crucifixes, assorted sizes and prices; 24 doz. Holy Water Fonts, do.; 50 doz. Religious Pictures, do.; 40 doz. gross Prayer Beads, at from 3d. to 25s. each; 2 doz. Prayer Beads, Silver Mounted; 6 doz. Silver Medals; 30 gross Common Medals; 6 doz. Scapulars; 500 Framed Religious Pictures. The above articles are imported purposely for persons attending the Mission. It is almost needless to say that they will be sold at very low prices. 2000 of the Mission Prayer Book; or, Instructions and Devotions for the performance of the Mission, compiled by the Paulist Fathers, may be had in every variety of binding and of price, at the New Catholic Book Store; 7 gross of the Mission Medal, in remembrance of the Mission."

A letter from Rev. Isa. Wallace, says that on the 6th day of August, the brethren and sisters at Black River, were organized into a church. On the 28th four more converts were baptized and added to the Church, one of them a converted papist who a few months ago was a bitter opposer of the children of God and of the truth as it is in Jesus.

N. Y. Daily Prayer-Meeting.

FATHER CHINIQUEY.—A gentleman arose and said that ever since Father Chiniquey had appeared in this Fulton street meeting, and we had heard from his own mouth, of what he had done we had taken the liveliest interest in the great Protestant Reformation, which is going forward through his instrumentality. He and his people have often been remembered by us in our prayers.

He then read a letter which he had just received, containing a notice of the progress of the work in which Father C. is engaged in Illinois from which we make the following extract:—

"Last Tuesday I was invited to address the people of a small town, thirty miles from this place. After the address fifty-one of my dear countrymen, who were there, came out from the crowd, bravely and resolutely publicly the errors of Rome—and, with tears in their eyes, asked me, 'What shall we do to be saved?'—They asked me for the Holy Bible, which I distributed unto them. They pressed the Divine Book on their lips—many bathed it with tears of joy—and all gave themselves up to Jesus alone, and to him forever."

Prayer followed the reading of this letter, and Father Chiniquey and his glorious work was earnestly remembered before the throne of Grace, that God, in his abundant mercy, would prosper them in every way, and supply all their wants out of his abundant fullness.—N. Y. Observer.

THE FREE CHURCH in Scotland has come into conflict with the Court of Session. Some time since the general assembly suspended the Rev. Mr. Macmillan, of Cardross, on a charge of immorality and drunkenness. He appealed to a civil court against the sentence. "The vengeance of the insulted church was summary and severe. Mr. Macmillan was summoned to appear at twelve o'clock on Tuesday next," at the bar of the assembly. On his appearance the Moderator put to him the question, "Did you or did you not bring such an action against this assembly in the Court of Session?" And, immediately on his answering in the affirmative, the assembly proceeded, in solemn Scotch form, to depose him from the office of the holy ministry, and blot out his name from the roll of pastors of the Free Church. Whereupon Mr. Macmillan brings another action in the law courts against his church, in which he asks both for damages on account of the loss of his character and salary.

ROMANIST.—Change is marking the councils of his Holiness. Cardinal Antonelli, who has so long swayed the Vatican, retires from the Presidency of the Council. His influence is waning, and truth and liberty will benefit by it. The state of the city is thus depicted in a letter from Rome:—"It is not necessary to be here long to discover that there are many bad elements in the population. At the present moment I can assure you that there is little sympathy for France, and that gratitude has been very quickly forgotten. Romans belonging to elevated classes of society do not scruple to utter in the hotels, in general society, words offensive to the French army, to its chief, &c. Every morning are found frightful placards against Cardinal Antonelli, and the police show no great haste to remove them.

I shall not undertake to justify that minister, but a foreign statesman lately told me that he has a great habit of public business, and that it would be difficult to find a substitute for him amongst the cardinals, who are not generally experienced politicians. Nevertheless, according to my information, his Eminence's position is seriously attacked from within, and especially from without."

The Metropolitan Tabernacle for the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

On the 16th ult. Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart., M. P., laid the first or foundation-stone of this spacious edifice, for the celebration of divine worship, in connection with the Baptist denomination, by the church now worshipping in New Park street Chapel, under the pastoral care of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

The total width of the building will be 86 feet, the length no less than 195 feet, and the height to the roof 85 feet, exclusive of the lanterns for light and ventilation. As we have said, the floor of the tabernacle will be raised some 14 feet above the level of the ground, and the whole of the extensive basement story will be entirely occupied by the spacious school and lecture rooms. Thus the chief school will be 81 feet by 78, and about 15 high. In addition to this there will be a lecture-room 81 feet by 56, and capable of accommodating 800 persons, with four separate class-rooms, each 14 feet long by 26 feet wide. The chapel, which is over these schools, will be 146 feet long by 81 wide, and with two deep tiers of galleries on either side. The facilities for entering and leaving the building are most ample, there being no less than 16 doors to the chapel. Each gallery has its separate door and staircase, and all the staircases are of solid stone. The cost of the building is to be 21,500*l.*, but fittings and other matters will probably swell this amount to some 24,000*l.* or 25,000*l.* before the edifice is opened for divine service, which can hardly be earlier than the spring of 1861.

One of the Elders, read an historical statement of the rise and progress of the church, for the use of which the building was about to be erected.

Sir Morton Peto, Bart., M. P., then went through the formality of laying the first stone of the building in the usual way, and its completion was the signal of several rounds of applause.

The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon then came forward, with the bottle, which was to be deposited in the stone, in his hand. He was received with loud cheering. He said that bottle contained not the current coins of the realm, for they had none of them to spare. It contained no newspapers, for, however much they might appreciate the newspaper press, they still thought it inappropriate to place papers in such a place. It contained the Bible; the old-fashioned Baptist Confession of Faith, which was signed by Benjamin Keach, their former pastor, the declaration of the deacons which they had heard read, written on parchment, an edition of Dr Rippon's Hymn Book, as published before he died, and, lastly, a programme of that day's proceedings. These would be for the perusal of the New Zealander who was to sit on the ruins of Londenbridge, when this great nation had gone to decay, if ever it did; and if such were the case, he had no doubt that they would eventually be stored up in some Australian or American Museum. The rev. gentleman then duly deposited the bottle in the stone.

Sir S. Morton Peto said he congratulated his friend Mr. Spurgeon, the deacons, and the friends generally, on the very interesting event which had just taken place, and to which they had looked forward with so much interest. He had listened with pleasure to the very admirable paper which had been read, giving a succinct account of the history of the church for whose use this tabernacle was to be erected, and he hoped God would graciously bless their efforts. For his own part, he rejoiced in the erection of what he might regard as the metropolitan cathedral for the Baptist body. But he was quite sure that it would be always lent with pleasure for the furtherance of great religious and philanthropic movements, although not connected with the body to which they belonged.

Mr. Inskip of Bristol a gentleman to whom Mr. Spurgeon had alluded, then came forward, and was received with loud applause. He said the sum of 3,000*l.*, which he had to present, came from a gentleman who has on his sick bed in Bristol, and who had not seen the outside of that city for many years. But that gentleman enjoyed the consolations of religion, which supported him in his affliction. The gentleman in question has reached his 83rd year, and had expended a sum of not less than 80,000*l.* in promoting the cause of God. That gentleman had sent him there that day to give them 3,000*l.* And he had further to state, that if any twenty gentlemen could be found, on the opening of the building, to give 100*l.* each towards the expenses of its erection, he was authorised to say that the donor of the 3,000*l.* would give a sum equal to the sum total of the contributions of the twenty gentlemen alluded to, viz. 2,000*l.* (This noble challenge elicited a very hearty round of applause.)

Mr. Spurgeon himself then gave a 100*l.*, and said that the parties on the platform were requested to quit it, and those friends who might wish to contribute were desired to come up to the platform by the left-hand side, deposit their offering upon the stone, and quit it by the opposite entrance.

The company then obeyed the request of Mr. Spurgeon and passed over the platform, depositing their various offerings upon the stone as they passed by it.

At five o'clock, the company repaired to the Repository, which was gaily decorated for the occasion with flags and flowers and variegated lamps, and in which tea was provided. We

may remark that the building was lent gratuitously.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided, and grace having been sung, his lordship said—This is a day to be commemorated in the annals of our country. That we meet here to-day in perfect freedom, with the guardians of the peace around us to prevent any disturbances, is a striking proof of the progress which civil and religious liberty has made in this country. Formerly, as Dissenters, we met in holes and corners, but now we come out boldly into the leading thoroughfares, and invite all who will to be spectators of our ceremonies. Our beloved young friend, Mr. Spurgeon, has through the providence of God, been enabled to gather the largest congregations which ever assembled to listen to the preaching of the gospel. But he comes before you in no episcopal guise, clothed with power and authority from the State. He comes before you as a plain, simple-minded preacher of the Gospel—a man of nobler origin than that of our brethren of the Established Church; for he comes armed with the authority of his Lord and Master to speak the truth in simplicity and love. Evidently, God is with him in the great work in which he is engaged, and you, as his people, love, honour, and esteem him for his work's sake. You, who have gathered together here in thousands this day, to lay this foundation stone in peace and security, will, I am sure, do honour with me to those noble ancestors of ours who during the past three centuries have laboured, suffered, and, in fact, have died in defence of those principles by the prevalence of which we meet here in peace and security at the present moment. You are able to preach, to raise money, and to erect edifices for public worship without the intervention of the State. And let me say, also, that when people tell you that there is no uniformity or certainty of doctrine in these dissenting denominations, and that we have no creed, you can truly answer that we have a creed the best and purest ever man possessed; our creed is the Bible. As has been said—and it was a Churchman who said it—the Bible, and the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants. Popery, at this moment, is making great strides, both secretly and openly, and the more enthusiastic talk boldly of the day when they shall take possession of our cathedrals, and once more dominate throughout the land. (Loud cries of "Never!" and enthusiastic cheers, which resounded throughout the vast edifice.) My friends, I believe that religious truth and religious liberty are quite safe in such hands as yours. You will, I am sure, at all times so uphold and defend the truth, that it will become an impassable barrier to error.

The Lord Mayor resumed his seat amidst loud and protracted cheering.

The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon thanked the Lord Mayor for his attendance, and for the sympathy which he had expressed. He thanked also the numerous ministers of various denominations for their attendance, and amongst those unavoidably absent he expressed his obligations to the Rev. J. A. James, of Birmingham, and the Rev. Dr. Campbell. Dr. Campbell, it appeared, had been misled in making another engagement for that day, owing to a statement in the papers as to the ceremony being postponed in consequence of the builders' strike. Mr. Spurgeon said that the rev. doctor, as an editor, should have learned by this time not to believe everything which he saw in the papers. At any rate, his friend ought not to believe in those paragraphs unless he knew of his own knowledge that they were true. For his own part, he only wished he could compel the papers to make good their statements, except when they were abusing him. Some of the papers had discovered that a magnificent fortune had been left to him (Mr. Spurgeon), of which, however, he himself had no knowledge whatever. He could only say, that he would divide the dividends of that fortune amongst the editors of those papers. The fact was that no one had left him a sixpence. But, if he might judge by the headache and weariness which he felt at that moment, it seemed as if some one was thinking of it. But he would say, to such a one, "Don't do anything of the kind." He approved of ministers getting a good salary for preaching—and in this respect he would cordially say that he was, for his own part, perfectly satisfied; but, if ever any one left ministers a large sum of money, they generally lost their voices or got an attack of bronchitis, or something of the sort, which put an end to their preaching. Referring to the press, he would say that he cared not how they attacked him or attempted to combat his doctrines, he would come out all the stronger; but when the press began to praise him, then he felt the necessity of Divine support to keep him humble. The rev. gentleman concluded by thanking the Crystal Palace Company for the loan of their chairs, when he had applied in vain to some of the neighbouring places of worship for the loan of their forms.

A person in the body of the meeting here rose, and asked if nothing could be done to admit at least a portion of the vast crowd which had congregated outside the building, but Mr. Spurgeon said that, after careful consideration, it was deemed unsafe to admit any more. A meeting was, however, held outside, which was addressed by Mr. Spurgeon and other gentlemen.

After appropriate addresses from the Rev. W. G. Lewis and the Rev. E. Probert, which were well received.

The Rev. John Spurgeon (Mr. Spurgeon's father) delivered a very touching and appropriate address, which was greeted with earnest and continuous applause. He said he had opposed his son's coming to London, and he had opposed also his entering upon the ministry without the advantage of a college education, in both of which courses he had since believed that he was in error. The rev. gentleman very feelingly alluded to the fact that for his son's religious impressions and subsequent usefulness they were indebted

to the judicious and untiring exertions of a praying mother—a statement which elicited the most enthusiastic applause.

Mr. Inskip, the bearer of the donation of £3,000, next spoke, and said he was glad to hear that the results of that day's proceedings had amounted to £3,900. He repeated the offer he made in the morning—viz. that if twenty gentlemen would each give £100, he would promise for his friend that the amount should be doubled. He hoped that the challenge would be accepted; for he could assure them that whenever the £2,000 thus raised might be forthcoming, he should have immediately the pleasure of bringing to present to them a similar sum from the friend alluded to.

Colonial & Foreign News.

New Brunswick.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—Nine persons drowned.—On Saturday last, a pleasure party consisting of eleven persons, mostly women and children, left Reed's Point in a large skiff boat, intending to visit Mispeck. The wind at the time was blowing strong from the North-West, and the water was rough along that shore. When the boat was within about a mile of Red Head, the sail was jibed, but as it went over the sheet became entangled, and before it could be cleared, the unfortunate boat went over, pitching its helpless occupants into the water. Some men who were at work on the house at Red Head belonging to Mr. Carl Regen gave the alarm, and Mr. Jas. Davis, a painter in the employ of Mr. Joseph Bell, and an apprentice named John Kelly, proceeded with all haste along the shore in search of a boat, which they found at upwards of a mile from where they were working. These, with two others, whose names we did not learn, rowed off and succeeded in rescuing two persons, the only survivors, viz. Messrs. Hicks and McKain, who are seafaring men,—all the others having met a watery grave. When picked up, they were quite exhausted, and one of them sustained severe bruises in his efforts to maintain his hold on the bottom of the boat. The News says those lost were the two Misses M'Gahy, daughters of Widow M's Gahy, of this city; Miss Wayne; two Misses Wilson, sisters of Capt. Petch's wife; Mr. James McLean Wilson, their brother; William aged 13 years, and Charles, aged 9 years, sons of Capt. Petch, residing at Reed's Point; and Mr. Charles R. McGee, (nativa of Dublin,) a boarder in Captain Petch's house. Capt. P., we learn is at present on a voyage to Liverpool.—Newbrunswick.

A large bear having killed a sheep belonging to a farmer on the Douglas Valley Road on Sunday night, and having buried it in the woods, the Messrs. Ogdens were induced to set a trap for him near the place of burial; and fortunately the murderer was taken and killed. Our informant says the monster weighed, after being dressed, over 400 lbs. As bears are becoming unusually bold in that region the capture was hailed with delight.—Visitor.

We are glad to see by our contemporary that new arrangements have been made respecting the mails between St. John and Amherst. We shall be most happy to find them such that "there will be no room for the shadow of a complaint."

Canada.

EXTENSIVE CONFLAGRATIONS.—Toronto, C. W. Aug. 30.—The most disastrous fire which has occurred at Toronto for several years, commenced at 12 o'clock last night on the north-west corner of Victoria and Gault streets. Victoria Terrace, a row of six fine dwellings, owned by Sheriff Jarvis, was destroyed; several other dwellings are also destroyed. Rev. Dr. Taylor and Rev. Mr. Darling are among those who are burnt out. A large amount of furniture was destroyed, and a very valuable library badly injured. The loss is estimated at from \$35,000 to \$40,000. Partly insured.

Hamilton, C. W., Aug. 30.—At three o'clock this morning the Roman Catholic church on the corner of Park and Sheaf streets, was discovered to be on fire, and when the engines arrived it was a mass of flames and past saving, and it had evidently been burning for some time.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Quebec, C. E., Aug. 20.—The Chronicle of this morning says that the Prince of Wales, his Tutor, and a Cou. Physician may be expected to arrive here by the next Canadian ocean mail steamer.

SUPERINTENDANT OF THE GRAND TRUNK.—Walter Stanley, Esq., has accepted the office Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway, position which he formerly occupied with much credit to himself and advantage to the Company.

By the Act passed during the late session of the Imperial Parliament, butter and deals, the produce of Canada, may be imported via Portland, at the same rate of duty as if imported direct from Canada. Formerly butter paid 10 per cent foreign duty, and deals 10s. per ton of 50 cubic feet, via Portland. Canadian butter will now only pay in England the Colonial duty of 2s. 6d. per cwt., and deals 2s. per load. The alteration will give a great impetus to the trade on the Grand Trunk Railway, and keep the steam saw mills of Canada going. Ships will also be able to obtain deal freights from Portland, as well as Canadian flour, corn, and provisions.

FRIGHTFUL AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—While Blondin was walking the rope, two men for the purpose of seeing the performance, got into a tree on the Canada side. Horrible to relate, the branches gave way, and they were precipitated into the gorge and instantly killed. Hamilton Spectator.