

and when it is convenient. So far, this is all very well; but it may all be done without any great self-denial, or without severely testing one's devotion to Christ. Many kinds of benevolent labor are easy. The preaching of the gospel is not usually a work of unmitigated self-denial; nor does the work of the foreign missionary always give proof of the highest degree of faith and love. But to remain at home and give—not now and then—what one can spare as well as not—not the crumbs that fall from his table, or lie on his table, after his own wants are supplied—not by bequest, after there is no more power to possess and enjoy; but to give now, to give often, to give freely, to give largely, to give self-denyingly, to give as the steward of Christ, and to make giving the chief end of acquisition—here is a proof of faith and devotion that cannot easily be counterfeited. It is so much easier to do anything and everything else, almost, that there is danger of failing just here.

ALLEGED ABDUCTION OF A CHILD BY PRESBYTERIANS.—A curious case was brought before the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland on the 26th of July. A Mrs. Magee, of Belfast, applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*, to compel a Presbyterian minister (Mr. Hanna) to give up her daughter, whom he had, according to the evidence, abducted. Mrs. Magee and her whole family were Roman Catholics, and her child had been brought up in the same faith. On Saturday, July 9th, she went out, leaving her daughter at home, but on returning found her gone. Until the Tuesday following she did not see her. On that day she saw her coming out of the house of the Rev. H. Hanna, Presbyterian minister, of Belfast, with a bible in her hand. She (Mrs. Magee) requested her to give back the bible, and return to her home, but she refused to do so, and began to screech and bawl. Persons carried her into the meeting-house, and remonstrated with Mrs. Magee for having interfered with the child. She (Mrs. Magee) succeeded in recovering possession of the child, who, however, in the course of a few days, was again missed. Mr. Hanna called on her, and informed her that the child had come to him. He consented to restore her upon the terms that she should be allowed to attend meeting-house. This she refused, when Mr. Hanna told her she was leading the child astray, and that Roman Catholics worshipped images, and would go to hell. She could not succeed in her efforts to recover her daughter. The Lord Chief Justice made an absolute order, and directed that notice should be served on the Rev. Mr. Hanna to bring the child to his house, in Leeson-street, Dublin, at one o'clock on the 8th of August.—*London paper.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 7.

Christian Church Principles.

BENEVOLENCE is the great characteristic of the gospel. All the arrangements of the Christian Church are made to give this principle the opportunity of working among its members. The very existence of the church is for the purpose of exhibiting this feature in the Divine character. Whenever it ceases to operate among the brethren, their real character as disciples of the benevolent Redeemer is no longer apparent. Jesus went about doing good, and his people should consider this as their great mission. Although the Church is not a mere society for the amelioration of the condition of the human family, yet it more effectually accomplishes this object than any organization invented for that special purpose. Wherever Christ reigns amongst his people, and his doctrines and truth are allowed to maintain their supremacy, there benevolence of the highest and holiest kind controls the minds and hearts of his people. Where worldly policy comes in and usurps the place of the Word of Life, there the life and spring of Christian activity is taken away.

The proper work of the church is the salvation of men. The members being themselves saved from the condemnation passed upon all men, they will aim to reach out the hand to help those who are still in the road to destruction, and point them to the "City of Refuge." Whatever means are most likely to accomplish this, will commend themselves to the genuine follower of Christ and secure his advocacy. The laws of the church are of the same nature as those which bind the individual believer. As he is no longer his own, but is "bought with a price," so is the church. It is no earthly corporation for the

fulfilment of any mere selfish purpose, but a great Divine institution under heavenly influences, and having heavenly aims. The believer does not unite with his brethren for a certain length of time, such as may suit his convenience, but being under obligation to the great Saviour he gives himself to His people, to live for the advancement of His cause upon earth, and is prepared to sustain it to the utmost of his ability, and if necessary even to die for it.

The benevolence of the church, therefore, is no matter of convenience and policy, but an inherent principle which lies at its very foundation. A thousand ways might be shewn in which this principle will operate; we leave it, however, at present, to be applied by each in his own way according to his own circumstances.

What a Religious Newspaper should be.

We are happy to find that the independent course we have pursued, as religious journalists, meets the approval of our best friends in all parts of the province. Our refusal to receive any dictation from any party, either in political matters; with respect to church principles and action; or, as to christian ordinances, is we feel the only firm foundation on which we can expect to retain the confidence of our patrons and the respect of the religious public.

We are constantly being confirmed in this position by the expressions of opinion by our contemporaries. Occasionally we find a slight recognition of these principles in the organs of other bodies, but in those representing the Baptist denomination, they are the most fully acknowledged and illustrated. The following extract from the *Zion's Advocate*—the Baptist organ in Maine—is a clear definition of the position a religious newspaper should occupy.

"A religious newspaper should be independent. By this we mean it should be subservient to no clique or party, who for selfish ends may wish to control it; but be free and ready to speak the truth on all subjects that pertain to the welfare of the community. When one and another say, we will 'stop our paper' and withdraw our support, if you speak so plainly on this subject or on that, the conductors of such a paper must be prepared to say, 'Do as you please, gentlemen. We are not to be intimidated in giving utterance to our honest convictions of truth and right.' If a paper cannot be thus independent, cannot thus speak out what is right, in connection with any question which concerns the community at large, especially in its social, moral, and religious aspects, then the sooner it ceases to be, the better. But while we say this, we do not confound independence with recklessness or radicalism, nor a bold and fearless statement of truth with personal or party misrepresentation and abuse. It is a manly and honourable independence of which we speak; such as they have who clearly apprehend the right of any subject, and believe the interests of virtue and religion demand them to proclaim it. In doing this no frowns or smiles should move them. This should be their motto:

"Be just, and fear not;
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,
Thy God's, and truth's."

It would be well if these views were recognised more generally by the press in this province. If they had been, we should have saved some of the time we have occasionally had to spend in repelling attempts to dictate to us by some of our neighbours. The efforts to do this, too; have shewn that the parties were themselves incompetent to deal with the questions on which they have sought to lead and guide others.

WHAT IS SAID OF "THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER."

We should be doing injustice to our own feelings, as well as to the opinions of our brethren, were we to fail in making an acknowledgment of the handsome manner in which we were treated this year, at the Annual Sessions of the three Associations. The action taken at these gatherings is, we think, a fair indication of the mind of the body whose interests are, to no small extent, committed to us. We are bound to listen to suggestions from our brethren, and are at all times prepared to give them our most serious and attentive consideration. Our responsibilities are great; but when we are assured of possessing the confidence and sympathy of the great body of the wise, and the good amongst our brethren, the burden is greatly diminished, and we address ourselves to the work with no small amount of real pleasure. We have hitherto published nothing but our own report of the proceedings of these bodies, and think we may now be pardoned for making a few extracts from the reports adopted by these bodies, respecting the *Christian Messenger*. The Western Association comprising forty-nine churches, with 6760 members, says:—

"We are of opinion that nothing can supply the place of our own highly valued paper, the *Christian Messenger*, and that, where it is possible, it should be in every house.
"We highly approve of the independent posi-

tion which the *Messenger* has assumed with reference to the party politics of the day, inasmuch as there is, at present no denominational interest at stake.

"We are pleased to see the position assumed by the *Messenger*, as to our denominational principles, and hope that the proprietor may still be encouraged to add to its efficiency in this respect, and to enlarge its publication.

"We ask the sympathies of every Baptist in behalf of the *Christian Messenger*, and recommend it to every christian family."

The Central Association having thirty-six churches, with 4076 members, gives the following expression of sentiment on the subject:

"The Committee on the *Christian Messenger* beg leave to report that the extensive circulation of a religious periodical, ably and judiciously conducted, is of incalculable value. Your Committee, therefore, regarding the *Christian Messenger* as such, deem it highly desirable and important, that the valuable matter contained in its weekly issues should be disseminated much more widely than it is at present. In order to this, general, energetic, and persevering efforts are requisite. If every friend of the Paper would do his or her utmost to obtain additional subscribers, the list might soon be greatly enlarged."

The Eastern Association of fifty churches, having 2,221 members adopted the following as their Report on the *Christian Messenger*:

"This paper generally retains the confidence of the Association. We trust that our brethren at large will render it that countenance and support which it so well deserves."

POLITICS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY.—A writer in the *Presbyterian Witness* of last week, probably the editor himself, gives the following revolting picture of the state of morals in that fine county. Surely some one must have been practising upon his gullibility.

"Nowhere in Nova Scotia was the late contest keener than here. I regret to say that the constituency is fearfully corrupt. Money was used to influence voters to an extent that is amazing. Something should, in all conscience, be done to put a stop to this, though I cannot even hint at what can or ought to be done. *Bribery oaths* are worse than useless, for they are generally used as a weapon to insult a man of integrity, and a man who accepts a bribe has but little respect for an oath. The price of votes in Cumberland ranged during the last Election from £1 to £7 10s. cash. One of the candidates had numerous accounts to collect; for these in ordinary cases he gave receipts in full on condition of getting a vote. Another of the candidates has still a levy at his office every fine day, of men seeking relief who are being pushed by patient creditors of the opposite party. Were I to state the estimate I have formed of the money spent directly or indirectly in the Cumberland election it would sound fabulous. It is proper to state these facts, humiliating as they are; for publicity is a check upon iniquity. But, alas, Cumberland though perhaps badly pre-eminent in this matter is by no means singular."

The arrivals on this Continent from Europe during the week add nothing to our previous news. The Conference at Zurich, to adjust the pacification of Italy, had met but nothing had transpired as to their proceedings.

The most difficult matter with which the British Ministry have at present to deal, is the financial state of India. The expenses of the late war have probably added some fifteen millions sterling to the public debt, making the whole national debt of the three great Indian Provinces, about one hundred millions sterling. Her financial affairs are represented as being in a most unsatisfactory and confused state, both as to sources of revenue and the modes of collection. All this applies, strange to say, to one of the richest and most fertile countries on earth. It is, however, like almost all great national debts, the result of wars,—wars entered into by the East India Company for the purpose of acquiring extension of territory, or defending what they had acquired. To add to the embarrassments of our great Indian dominions, the war of the rebellion is scarcely over, when a very serious mutiny has broken out in several of the Regiments of European troops arising from dissatisfaction with their pay.

It seems to be a settled matter that the Charter of the Great North West or Hudson Bay Company, which expires during the coming year, will not be renewed, or at least, if renewed, it will be on a greatly limited extent, as to territory and, under restrictions which shall not impede or interfere with the settlement and colonization of the vast tracts of fertile country comprised within the bounds of British North America.

It would seem now an established fact that the produce of the earth, both on the European and American Continents, as far as what constitutes the main items of food, are equal to, if not above the usual average amount—in many cases, on our own continent, a good deal above it. In this province, the crops, taken as a whole, are abundant. The blight has in many instances shewn itself in the Potato, although as yet the root itself is better than for many years past, and it is hoped that the disease will be chiefly confined to the vine.

GARDEN AND POULTRY EXHIBITION.—We have received from M. G. Black, Junr., the Secretary of the Society for Garden and Poultry Shows, a Circular, with the list of the Prizes offered by this Society for Greenhouse Plants, Cut-blooms, Fruit and Vegetables, Poultry, Eggs, &c., &c. The Exhibition will be held in the Horticultural Society's gardens on Wednesday, the 14th Inst., to open at 11 o'clock, A. M. Articles for competition must be at the Gardens not later than 9 o'clock, a. m., on the same day. Each article must be labelled with a private mark and accompanied by a sealed note containing a corresponding mark.

The highest prizes are £2 for the best grown twenty sorts of Greenhouse plants; the same for the best collection of Fuchsias. A prize of £1 is offered for the best bouquet of Wax Flowers; same for the best collection of native painted flowers; same for the best twelve Dahlias; same for the best collection of apples with their names, not more than two specimens of any one sort. We trust this highly commendable effort may receive all the countenance and support it deserves.

The Rev. Mr. Jardine will preach the third of the series of discourses to be delivered at the request of the Young Men's Christian Association, in the church presently occupied by St. Matthew's congregation, in Argyle Street, on Sabbath afternoon, at the usual hour.

The Calendar of King's College for 1859 is received. From it we learn that twelve students were in attendance at the classes during the year. It gives a full description of the year's proceedings,—course of study,—degrees conferred,—benefactions received,—fees,—prizes, &c., &c.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

POLITICAL FESTIVAL.—We have to apologise to our readers, of both political parties, for omitting a notice in our last of the Conservative Picnic which came off at Kentville on Wednesday in the previous week. Our space and attention was so much taken up with the Convention affairs, that we confess to having neglected saying what we knew about the great festive occasion. On our way home from the Convention we saw the beginning of the procession as it started from Wolfville, and were struck with the number present and the splendor of the arrangements. In that portion of the procession which passed through Wolfville there were

1 carriage with 10 horses,
1 " " 8 "
8 carriages with 4 "
26 " " 2 "
220 " " 1 horse.

and about 20 gentlemen on horseback, making near 350 horses, and occupying upwards of a mile from one end to the other.

We were not present at the pic-nic, and therefore can give no report of our own of what took place on the ground.

We shall not take any report from our Halifax contemporaries concerning the affair, as they might be considered tinged with the feeling of the parties they severally represent, but as the Editor of the *N. B. Christian Visitor* had a good opportunity of observing for himself, we copy the following from that journal:

CONSERVATIVE PIC-NIC.—A grand demonstration in favour of Conservatism came off in King's Co., N. S., on Wednesday the 24th inst. At an early hour many thousands assembled and walked in procession from Wolfville through some of the principal districts of Cornwallis to the beautiful grounds of Mr. Robinson of Kentville. Here, after a glorious feast of fat things, which had been provided by the accomplished housewives of the old and flourishing county of Kings, the vast assembly was entertained for some hours by speeches from the Hon. and Venerable Attorney General, the Hon. Financial Secretary, Mr. Marshall; the Provincial Secretary, Dr. Tupper; and Solicitor General, Mr. Henry. The manoeuvres of the opposition were handled by the Hon. speakers, in succession, without gloves, and in a spirit which evinced a determination on their part to still prosecute with redoubled energy and vigour that policy which had heretofore attended their administration, and which they were there on that day to defend. The assemblage was distinguished for its quietude and peaceable aspect."

Lord Howard has been residing in Halifax for some time past. He has entertained select pic-nic parties during the past week.

Our fish market has been plentifully supplied with small mackerel during the past week. They are said to be precursors of larger ones.

The Temperance Aid Association gave a social entertainment on Wednesday evening last. Some good speeches were made by the Rev. Mr. Brewster and others on the occasion.

Extraordinary mineral discoveries, including large amounts of silver, are said to have been recently made in Newfoundland, by a Cornish miner.

We are happy to state that large quantities of mackerel have been caught on our coast during the past week. In some places the weirs have contained so many that it has been impossible to cure them all, and many hundreds of barrels of the fish have been lost in this way. There has been an active demand for salt, the supply of which has become short. A number of horse mackerel of immense size have been captured in St. Mary's Bay within the last few days.—*Yarmouth Herald.*