

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON.—A welcome letter from John A. Moore, Esq., informs us of the further progress of the work of the Lord in this neighbourhood. Additional accounts to those we have had in previous numbers are given. Mr. M. says:—

“The Lord has been doing a great work in this place for the last two months, in reviving the church and converting sinners. There have been baptisms every Sabbath for many weeks. On the 1st of May nine, and last Sabbath six more were buried with Christ by baptism,—making, in all, between 40 and 50, from the age of 11 to 82 years. Elder Porter is laboring hard in different parts of the community with much acceptance, and has been the means of doing much good. Our house, when built, (fourteen years ago,) was considered large enough, but now it is too small.”

BOULARDRIE, CAPE BRETON.—The Rev. Ronald McDonald gives the following report of his mission to this island under date,

Margaree, 29th April, 1859.

DEAR BRETHREN,

“After fulfilling the two months Mission sanctioned by the Board through the Island of Boulardrie, as it was inconvenient for me to finish the above at one time I had to defer one month till this year. Last year I preached at seven different stations, five at Boulardrie, and two on the north side of the great Bras d’or. When crossing back we were taken by the ice, and as the tide was coming in through the Gut, and our little ferry boat was in danger of being crushed like a shell but by the protecting hand of God and the sagacity of the two smart young men that were rowing, they instantly jumped on a solid clumper and pulling the craft on the top of it launched it out on the other side and I was again safe on Boulardrie. May God have the glory. After preaching at different places I made my way home on the 4th of May or thereabout. I went from home about the latter part of March to finish my Mission, I arrived at the hospitable house of the well known Mr. David Corbett, and was very kindly welcomed, where I was glad to see the presence of our organ the Christian Messenger, coming weekly with its cheering news. I preached at his house, again made my way to my old station, Mr. Donald MacLean’s, Big Bank, whose house is opened for our Missionaries,—preached there several times, again went to the Big Bras d’or and preached at Duncan MacLean’s house to an attentive audience, waited part of two days to get across to Cape Dolphine but could not as the wind was Easterly, the Gut jammed with ice, I made myself contented to cross through the Island, and I found myself well accommodated under the roof of Bro. Donald MacLean Little Bras d’or. I preached the gospel among them as God gave me ability, and was refreshed in the work committed to my charge. Dear Brethren pray for your Missionaries that their labour be not in vain, and that sinners may be converted.”

RONALD MACDONALD.

SYDNEY COUNTY, ANTIGONISH.—Extract of letter to Rev. S. N. Bentley:—“Since my last I have labored with some encouragement, 3 have been added to the churches by baptism, and one who had been previously immersed.

I have been holding meetings at the glen, in the southern part of the county with some cheering indications of good, part of the time I was assisted by Bro. Eagles and a good Wesleyan Brother (a teacher). The people generally left their work and attended regularly after the first meeting, which was not a little disturbed by drunken persons, there was marked attention. I intend to go down again next week. Last Lord’s day I immersed in Barney’s River, the first candidate in Merrigomish since the mission was commenced. It was a deeply interesting season. The Rev. Mr. Mair being absent, I preached in the Old Kirk Meeting house. Many listened with tearful eyes. The Congregation at French River is increasing notwithstanding the opposition experienced, and I do hope soon to enjoy like precious seasons there. The Church there, as well as here, is small and its Members very much scattered and poor. They cannot yet sustain a Sabbath School, “Oh may the wilderness and the solitary place be made glad, and this moral desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.”

Yours in the gospel,  
A. F. PORTER.

Antigonish, May 14, 1859.

United States.

NEW YORK BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES.

THE CONSOLIDATION CONVENTION.

For some time past a movement has been in progress for the purpose of uniting the two great Baptist Societies,—the Baptist Publication Society and the American and Foreign Bible Society. A Convention was called, for the purpose of consultation on the subject, on the 10th inst., at the Oliver Street Baptist Church. The Churches throughout the Union were invited to send Delegates to determine on the Consolidation of these Societies.

The Consolidation Convention consequently met according to appointment and occupied two days in various speeches and resolutions from some of the most prominent men in the country.

The result of the two day’s debate was that two resolutions were agreed to, recommending the two Societies to consider the expediency of a union of the two Societies under one Board, and if found practicable that the Convention would approve and advise a consolidation.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

On the following day this Society held its Anniversary in the South Baptist Church.

The ordinary business seems to have been soon despatched and the attention of the meetings to have been directed principally to the question of consolidation. It terminated in the passing of the following resolutions:

- 1. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Society the union of this Society with the Publication Society is highly desirable.
- 2. That the whole matter be referred to the Board of Managers with instructions to carry out such union if practicable.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The fourth and fifth days were occupied by this Society. Three sessions were held on the fourth and two on the fifth day. The Report gives the following:—

SUMMARY OF LABOURS AND RESULTS at the stations occupied by the missionaries during the past year:

One hundred and sixteen missionaries, assistant missionaries and agents labored under the commission of the society. Thirty-one of the number were new appointments at various periods of the year. The number in commission on the 31st of March was eighty three. Twenty-two of the missionaries preached in foreign languages; twenty of them were natives of foreign lands.

The number of States and Territories occupied was sixteen. The number of stations and out-stations supplied was two hundred and sixty-nine. The aggregate amount of time bestowed upon the fields is equal to that of one man for eighty-five and a quarter years.

The missionaries report the occurrence of revivals of religion at twenty-six stations; the baptism of seven hundred and sixty-four persons; (of whom seventy-four were converted Roman Catholics and foreign Lutherans,) the hopeful conversion of one hundred and seventy-nine others; the organization of fifty-three churches; the ordination of twenty-two ministers; the completion of fifteen church edifices and the commencement of fourteen others.

The churches aided by the society contributed to the usual objects of Christian benevolence \$3,342 97, and for the support of the Gospel among themselves of \$15,121 20.

Seven churches heretofore aided by the society have become self-sustaining.

In addition to the above, the missionaries report the following:

Sermons preached, - - - - -	11,896
Lectures and Addresses, - - - - -	1,315
Pastoral Visits, - - - - -	26,196
Prayer and other meetings attended, - - - - -	9,560
Signatures to Temperance pledge, - - - - -	579
Miles travelled in discharge of duty, - - - - -	102,926
Schools visited, - - - - -	534
Sabbath schools in the churches, - - - - -	237
Bibles Classes, - - - - -	95
Number of Teachers, - - - - -	915
Number of Scholars, - - - - -	7,573
Volumes in S. S. Libraries, - - - - -	16,610
Stations where Monthly Concert of Prayer is observed, - - - - -	53
Preparing for the Ministry, - - - - -	24

A resolution was agreed to, that one of the Secretaries occupy the western part of the country and travel amongst the churches, conduct correspondence, and render such other service as may best promote the interests of Home Missions, and the other to remain in New York.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The week was closed by the sixth anniversary of this Society being held on Saturday evening at the Tabernacle Church.

The objects of the society are the collection and preservation of documents pertaining to Baptist history in particular, and to other events in general history. Membership consists in the payment of an annual subscription of one dollar.

The annual report acknowledged the receipt by donation, during the year, of a large quantity of documents, books, letters, &c., gives the titles of their various publications, and appeals to members of the denomination to preserve every fragment which can possibly throw light on Baptist history.

Rev. Sewall S. Cutting, of Rochester University, delivered an able address on the province and uses of Baptist history, for which he received a vote of thanks.

THRILLING SCENE ON SHIPBOARD.—On one of the beautiful afternoons of last week, (near 6 o’clock,) Rev. Phineas Stowe, the devoted pastor of the Boston Baptist Bethel, preached, and held religious services on board the receiving ship Ohio, in the Boston harbor. Hundreds, at that late hour of the day, were in attendance, and the whole occasion was felt by Mr. Stowe himself to surpass all that he had yet experienced, though the witness, for years past, of many memorable scenes among the sons of ocean. In the course of his sermon from the text: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ,” &c., the preacher remarked he was fearful many of his hearers did not understand the cardinal doctrine of SUBSTITUTION, or CHRIST a substitute for the Sinner. He would be glad to know how many comprehended this truth. Scores of hands were promptly raised, declaring this glorious doctrine one clearly understood. Scores, also, responded in like manner, to an appeal as to whether they would avow this Gospel and “stand up for Jesus.”—W. & R.

THE MORMONS.—It is reported that Mr. Kimball, eldest son of Heber C. and Joseph Young, son of Brigham, have apostatized, and are about leaving for the States with their first wives, leaving their “spirituals” behind. At least five thousand apostate Mormons have left for California this spring.

European & Foreign News.

THE WAR.

MANIFESTO OF AUSTRIA.

The Wiener Zeitung, of the 29th ult., publishes a manifesto signed “Francis Joseph,” of which the following are some of the chief passages:—

“IMPERIAL MANIFESTO.—TO MY PEOPLE. “I have ordered my faithful and gallant army to put a stop to the inimical acts (Anfeindungen) which for a series of years have been committed by the neighbouring State of Sardinia against the indisputable rights of my Crown, and against the integrity of the realm placed by God under my care, which acts have lately attained the very highest point (auf ihrem Hohenpunkte angelangt). By so doing I have fulfilled the painful (schwere) but unavoidable duty of a sovereign. My conscience being at rest, I can look up to an omnipotent God, and patiently await his award.

My patience was not exhausted when the more extensive measures which I was forced to take, in consequence of the revolutionary agitation on the frontiers of my Italian provinces and within the same, were made an excuse for a higher degree of hostility. Willingly accepting the well-meant mediation of friendly Powers for the maintenance of peace, I consented to become a party to a Congress of the five great Powers. The four points proposed by the Royal Government of Great Britain as a basis for the deliberation of the Congress were forwarded to my Cabinet, and I accepted them with the conditions which were calculated to bring about a true, sincere, and durable peace. In the consciousness that no step on the part of my Government could, even in the most remote degree, lead to a disturbance of the peace, I demanded that the Power which was the cause of the complication, and had brought about the danger of war, should, as a preliminary measure, disarm. Being pressed thereto by friendly Powers, I at length accepted the proposal for a general disarmament. The mediation failed in consequence of the unacceptableness of the conditions on which Sardinia made her consent dependent. Only one means of maintaining peace remained. I addressed myself directly to the Sardinian Government, and summoned it to place its army on a peace footing and disband the Free corps. As Sardinia did not accede to my demand, the moment for deciding the matter by an appeal to arms has arrived.

“I have ordered my army to enter Sardinia. “I am aware of the vast importance of the measure, and if ever my duties as a monarch weighed heavily on me it is at this moment. War is the scourge of mankind. I see with sorrow that the lives and property of thousands of my subjects are imperilled, and deeply feel what a severe trial war is for my realm, which, being occupied with its internal development, greatly requires the continuance of peace. But the heart of the Monarch must be silent at the command of honour and duty. On the frontiers is an armed enemy who, in alliance with the revolutionary party, openly announces his intention to obtain possession of the dependencies of Austria in Italy. To support him, the ruler over France—who, under futile pretexts (nichtige Vorwände) interferes in the legally established relations of the Italian peninsula—has set his troops in movement. Detachments of them have already crossed the frontiers of Sardinia. The crown which I received without spot or blemish from my forefathers, has already seen trying times. The glorious history of our country gives evidence that Providence, when there is a foreshadowing that the greatest good of humanity is in danger of being overthrown in Europe, has frequently used the sword of Austria in order to dispel that shadow. We are again on the eve of such a period. The overthrow of the things that be is not only aimed at by factions but by thrones. The sword which I have been forced to draw is sanctified, inasmuch as it is a defence for the honour and rights of all peoples and States, and for all that is held most dear by humanity.

To you, my people, whose devotion to the hereditary reigning family may serve as a model for all the nations of the earth, I now address myself. In the conflict which has commenced you will stand by me with your oft-proved fidelity and devotion. To your sons, whom I have taken into the ranks of the army, I, their commander, send my martial greeting (waffen-gruss). With pride you may regard them for the eagle of Austria will, with their support, soar high.

“Our struggle is a just one, and we begin it with courage and confidence. We hope, however, that we shall not stand alone in it. The soil on which we have to do battle was made fruitful by the blood lost by our German brethren when they won those bulwarks which they have maintained up to the present day. There the crafty enemies of Germany have generally begun their game when they have wished to break her internal power. The feeling that such a danger is now imminent prevails in all parts of Germany, from the hut to the throne, from one frontier to the other. I speak as a Sovereign member of the German Confederation, when I call attention to the common danger, and recall to memory the glorious times in which Europe had to thank the general and fervent enthusiasm of Germany for its liberation.

“For God and fatherland! “Given in my residence and metropolis of Vienna, on this 28th day of April, 1859.”

MANIFESTO OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

“Paris, May 3 “The following communication, made by the

French Government to the Corps Legislatif this day, was received through M. Reuter’s office:—

“Austria, in causing her army to enter the territories of the King of Sardinia, our ally, declares war against us. She thus violates treaties and justice, and menaces our frontiers. All the great Powers have protested against this aggression. Piedmont having accepted the conditions which ought to have insured peace, one asks what can be the reason of this sudden invasion? It is that Austria has brought matters to this extremity, that she must either rule up to the Alps, or Italy must be free to the shores of the Adriatic; for in this country every corner of territory which remains independent endangers her power.

“Hitherto moderation has been the rule of my conduct; now energy becomes my first duty. Let France arm, and resolutely tell Europe:— “I desire not conquest, but I desire firmly to maintain my national and traditional policy. I observe the treaties on condition that no one shall violate them against me. I respect the territories and the right of neutral Powers, but I boldly avow my sympathies for a people whose history is mingled with our own, and who groan under foreign oppression.”

“France has shown her hatred of anarchy. She has been pleased to give me a power strong enough to reduce into nonentity the abettors of disorder and the incorrigible members of those old factions whom one incessantly sees confederating with our enemies; but she has not for all that abdicated her task of civilisation. Her natural allies have always been those who desire the improvement of the human race, and when she draws the sword it is not to dominate, but to liberate. The object of this war, then, is to restore Italy to herself, not to impose upon her a change of masters, and we shall then have upon our frontiers a friendly people, who will owe to us their independence. We do not go into Italy to foment disorder or to disturb the power of the Holy Father, whom we have replaced upon his throne, but to remove from him this foreign pressure, which weighs upon the whole Peninsula, and to help to establish there order based upon legitimate satisfied interests. We are going then to seek upon this classic ground, illustrated by so many victories, the footsteps of our fathers. God grant that we may be worthy of them! I am going soon to place myself at the head of the army. I leave in France the Empress and my son. Seconded by the experience and the enlightenment of the last surviving brother of the Emperor, she will understand how to show herself equal to the grandeur of her mission. I confide them to the valour of the army which remains in France to watch our frontiers and to protect our homes; I confide them to the patriotism of the national guard; I confide them, in a word, to the entire people, who will encircle them with that affection and devotion of which I daily receive so many proofs. Courage then, and union! Our country is again about to show the world that she has not degenerated. Providence will bless our efforts, for that cause is holy in the eyes of God which rests on justice, humanity, love of country, and independence.”

THE WAR IN ITALY.

On Thursday morning an “address to his troops” was issued by the King of Sardinia from which the following are extracts:—

“Soldiers,—Austria, who is increasing her armies on our frontiers, and who threatens to invade our territory, because liberty reigns here with public order, because not force, but concord and affection between the people and the sovereign govern the State here, and because the cries of anguish of oppressed Italy find a hearing among us—Austria dares to intimate to us, who are armed only for self-defence, to lay down our arms and give ourselves up to her mercy. The insulting intimation could not but receive the merited reply. I have contemptuously refused.

“I will be your general. Many of you I have known on other occasions in the heat of battle; and I, while fighting side by side with my magnanimous father, admired your valour with pride. On the field of honour and glory, you, I am certain, will uphold, nay, increase your reputation for bravery. You will have for companions those intrepid soldiers of France, the victors in so many celebrated battles, whose comrades you were on the Tchernaya, and whom Napoleon III., always at hand where there is just cause to defend and civilisation to protect, generously sends to us in numerous bodies.

“Oh, then! rely on victory, and adorn your standard with fresh laurels: that standard which, by its three colours and the brave youths assembled around it from every part of Italy, points out to you the task you have to perform—the Independence of Italy—that just and holy enterprise, which shall be your war cry.”

In addition to the proclamation addressed to the army, the King of Sardinia has issued a proclamation, countersigned by Count Cavour, to Italy. The substance is as follows:—

“Austria, who boasts of her love for peace, attacks us by refusing to submit to a European Congress. She violates the promises made to England; she asks us to reduce our army, and to abandon those brave volunteers who have thronged from every part of Italy to defend the sacred flag of Italian independence. I intrust the cares of Government to my well-loved cousin and draw my sword.”

“Austria now publicly tears to pieces treaties which she never respected. Henceforth, by right, the Italian nation is free, and I may conscientiously fulfil the oath I took upon my father’s grave.”

“I have no other ambition than to be the first