Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 14, 1859.

Systematic Contributions to Religious Objects.

IMPERFECT financial arrangements are the source of some of the greatest difficulties our churches labor under. Want of attention to Systematic and Regular contribution introduces poverty and often disorganization. We do not think that as a general thing other denominations contribute of their substance for sustaining the gospel and for benevolent operations more freely than our own, but if the same liberality which is occasionally manifested by our brethren were persevered in, until it be- vi. 9. came habitual, there might be a vast deal more of good accomplished than is possible with the desultory and irregular method which prevails in many places.

suited to every place and adapted to the circumstances of all, has, in many cases, preyent- The second quarter would therefore only reed the adoption of any, and the churches consequently have suffered. Doubtless all plans with the paper so filled up, and the sum put are defective in some respects, but not all down upon it to the object named at the head equally so. Perhaps no plan is of more gen- of that quarter's column would be given; and eral application to individual christians than that laid down by the Apostle when he was receiving contributions for the poor saints at Jerusalem, "On the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God faithfully applied, there would be but little purposes; whereas some churches and congre- est for the use of it?

need of other arrangements.

Many wealthy churches do far less than of members, have hitherto often raised less they would be able, were the members general- than one-tenth part of that sum. ly to adopt such a principle as this. How often is it the case that the pastor's salary method which the churches may adopt with 5. The proprietor of the Christian Messeneven is made to suffer from want of system, advantage to themselves and to the objects ger desires that his patrons shall be all honest year, to any other address. much more than from want of means. By a they may desire to aid. Let a generous spirit men and women, and therefore commends the want of promptness in fulfilling obligations animate the hearts of the brethren and all above questions to the serious consideration his position is very frequently rendered one the churches, on some plan suited to their of all whom they may concern. of great discomfort, and consequently the circumstances, and we should see far more church is made to suffer in its best interests, good effected; and doubtless the blessing of all his funds to enable him to meet pressing and all from want of a little care and pre- the Lord, which maketh rich and addeth no liabilities and obligations, and therefore wishes paratory attention. The concerns of the sorrow, would descend upon us, and God to call in, from all parties at present holding church are far more important than any mere even our own God would bless us and make them, such monies, belonging to him, as may be worldly corporation, yet how little do Christian men consider the loss she sustains from want of proper attention to her finances. We cannot with impunity neglect the demands of the gospel upon our property any more than upon our hearts and lives. We are but stewards of that placed in our hands, and must give an account of our stewardship. Doubtless the making provision for preaching him. In true inquisitorial style he would January next ensuing. the gospel is the duty of every church, and must receive the great bulk of the means of as a mark for him to shoot at. After the cern, are hereby requested to take notice and Christians so "laid by in store" as God hath prospered them, and it is at the peril of the tist" who in the same columns, a short time church to think lightly of this demand. since, impudently talked of editors affixing Yet this is not the only claim that should be their initials to their writings; we shall not systematically attended to. The best interests of the body the permanence and extension of the churches, make demands scarcely second to those of pastoral support. Besides those of a more private nature, four great objects have received attention by the churches of the Baptist denomination throughout this Province. These are—1. Ministerial Education, including the support of the Institutions necessary for their instruction; and affording aid to such as may require it whilst pursuing their studies. 2. Home Missions including those to the Acadian French and to the Gaelic population of Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island. 3. Foreign Missions which at present sustain native preachers amongst the Karens in Burmah. 4. Infirm Ministers and Widows. These all have claims of a general character which must be more generally attended to before they will fully accomplish the objects for which they were instituted. It has been too much the case that they have been left for such as chose to contribute towards them rather than, what is most desirable, that all members of the congregations should contribute something if it were ever so small a sum, to each of the objects. All could then more fully sympathize in the work of the denomination, and have he may choose. the satisfaction of doing something for these public objects. It is not so much the amount that may be raised by these means, although that is not unimportant, as the affording an opportunity for all to participate.

our readers a plan which has been adopted in of "An Act to establish the Decimal system during the week evening services has been obtheir families an opportunity of contributing likely to receive more shortly. No difficulty members of the Church of England have es-

on the matter are given on the lower margin; templated change 50 pence will be a legal the texts of these are appended to the an- tender for a dollar, and we presume 21d will

Contributions for Benevolent Objects. CONGREGATION.

Mr......and family, hereby pledge for the year 1859 and '60, the amounts set against their names, in aid of the several Benevolent Objects below specified; to be collected quarterly, as follows:

names.	Ministerial Education. 1st Sept.		Mis 1st	Home Missions. 1st Dec.		Foreign Missions. 1st Mar.		Infirm Ministers 1st June.	
	£	s. d.	1	N. 13					
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Proverbs iii. 9, 10. 2 Corinthians viii. 9. Acts xx. Hebrews xiii. 16. Matthew vii. 12. Galatians

Sufficient space is given to write several names of members of the family, and the sums they would give during the year, to the several objects. The paper was then returned The impossibility of devising a plan exactly to Collectors appointed for the purpose, together with the first quarter's contribution. quire a call of the collector, upon the person, this means a church of a hundred members, mission? each, contributing on an average say 2s. 6d, gations consisting of four times that number

This very imperfect sketch may suggest a use of it for so long a time? us a blessing.

THE Editor of the Morning Chronicle, in ducement for parties to send on such monies a hollow pretence preparatory to seeking a an article referring to what we said last week, without delay, the proprietor is willing to reattempts to frighten his readers into acquies- ceive from each person above referred to, the cence with the bold position he has taken on principal sum so held by them, and will not exact so deeply important, as any thing must be, the Preeper case, and would fain excite them the interest from those who pay the amount to hostility against all who dare differ from of their indebtedness before the 10th day of have the names of such gibbetted and held up | 8. All persons whom the above may consame fashion as the self-styled "Bunyan Bap- govern themselves accordingly. follow the bad example set us and ask for the name of the editor of the Morning Chronicle. He has chosen to hide his name from the Gidney are the Editors and Proprietors. public, and may still remain in his chosen obscurity. He may imagine that doing so adds somewhat to his dignity. It may enable him to traduce others with impunity. He possibly CHRISTMAS, FANCY SALE, on Thursday the fancies that his daring us to mention names is a very manly course. They must be very shallow however, who are deceived by it. He surely cannot suppose that we shall be influenced by so silly a manœuvre. We have intercourse with hundreds of persons, and can learn their sentiments, without having, or wishing to have, the liberty of publishing their names. His opinion may be very independent, impartial and sincere; and he may try persuade his readers that it is so, yet we doubt if many, even of them, will value it and suggestions respecting parental duty and more than they will that of some others who influence, were made, and the whole atmosphere choose to think for themselves on the subject. If by such means he thinks he can throw dust into their eyes, he should understand, at least, that our readers are not so easily imposed upon. We might re-assert and strengthen I have not heard of any special interest in any our former statements, but do not care to con- churches; but there is apparently an earnest tinue harping on that one string, or to use his own elegant language "fiddle" such tunes as

Our Currency. Dollars and

Our readers will have observed the adver-We will take the liberty of laying before tizement in our columns and other newspapers Increased attendance on the means of grace The tollowing is a condensed view of said can out of the change, A dollar has hither- have been held?

be the price of a postage stamp. The last clause of the Act is intended to relieve any embarrassment occasioned by the change, but we appreheud that the Act will be in a great measure imperfect and unjust, until we have a withdrawal of our present copper currency, and a new one issued.

The first clause of the Act says "This Act shall come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1860", yet the Witness believes that "the new Act will not come into general operation at the beginning of the year," and thinks that "the Legislature will do something to meet this difficulty." The Legislature, however, does not meet till Jan. the 26th. We must therefore have the Act as it is for about a month. To say the best of this, it is a very imperfect piece of legislation. It may perhaps be as near as we could get it, but it is unfortunate that the remedy was not provided at first, as it will bear particularly hard upon the poor. state and to list!

A short Chapter on Honesty. Principal and Interest, &c.

1. Is it right or honest to borrow from a person without his permission?

2. When a person retains his subscription so on for each quarter, thus letting each per- for a newspaper after it is due, instead of son in the congregation have the opportunity sending it to the proprietor, does he not borof contributing something every quarter. By row the proprietor's money without his per- sired by him.

3. When a man borrows money either with hath prospered him." Were this done, and per quarter, may raise £50 for benevolent or without permission should he not pay inter-

4. When the amount of subscription is re- to any other address. tained for several years, should not compound interest be paid by the person who has the

6. The proprietor of the Messenger requires

in their possession.

7. GREAT INDUCEMENT .- As an in-

"THE ACADIAN."-This is the title of a newspaper just started at Digby. It is got up in good style, and is well filled with reading matter. Messrs. A. E. Dodge and I. B. They have our best wishes.

The ladies of Granville Street Congregation, have announced that they purpose holding a 22nd inst., at the Masonic Hall.

DAILY PRAYER-MEETINGS IN MONTREAL.-The Montreal Correspondent of the Toronto Christian Messenger writes Nov. 21st :-

"The daily prayer-meetings are kept up with a good degree of interest, and the attendance is good. One day last week I noticed over a nunared in the room, probably three fourths of them females and young persons. The special of the young. Some very important remarks of the meeting was solemn and spiritual There is not, however, that hearty co-operation on the part of churches and ministers, that seems desirable; and yet, a'l things considered. perhaps there is as much as could be expected desire for a revival of religion in the city Whether it is, by many, desired that it should begin inside or outside the churches, I do not

The meetings in Halifax continue deeply interesting, and are attended by large numbers. We believe they have had a beneficial influence on several congregations in the city. one of the churches in this province for the of Accounting." This has been the subject of served, and in some additional services have Nov. purpose of giving all the congregation and some considerable amount of remark, and is been held. In the National School some pious directly to each of the above objects. appears to exist in the adaptation of our tablished Prayer-meetings two evenings in For this purpose a printed paper is pro- present currency to that of the Decimal sys- the week. In the Granville Street Church vided with four columns, having the date of tem-Dollars and Cents-except in the case meetings were held every evening last week, the beginning of the quarter, and the object of our present copper coins. In those, how- and are continued during the present week. to which the contributions for that quarter ever, no small amount of inconvenience is an- We shall be glad to learn of good being done are to be devoted, at the head of each column. ticipated. The present deficiency of copper in all the churches and in other parts of the One of these was given to each head of a coin is attributed to some parties having hoard- province. Will some of our friends send us tamily, or individual, as the ease might be, ed thom for the purpose of making all they information of such meetings wherever they

paper. Several passages of Scripture bearing to been equivalent to 60 pence; -by the con- To our Agents and Patrons generally.

Dear Friends,-In prospect of the commencement of a New Year, we are desirous of showing that we appreciate your efforts to extend our circulation, and of co-operating with you in securing that desirable object.

As the large number of new subscribers we are accustomed to receive during the first two or three weeks of the New Year, have sometimes rendered it difficult for us to attend to other pressing duties at that time, we therefore propose, to all who forward their names any time between this and the end of the year, sending the paper from the time of receiving their names, and charging only from the first of January 1860. We would further briefly intimate our wants, our intentions, and our offers.

1. OUR WANTS .- One thousand new subscribers before the first of January, 1860. PAYMENT FROM ALL WHO ARE IN ARBEARS.

2. Our Intentions.—To strike off from our list of subscribers those who have for several years neglected to forward their subscriptions; and place the names of such in a list FOR IMMEDIATE COLLECTION.

3. Our Offers.—For the names of two new subscribers, sent at one time, with the payment, (£1) besides sending the Messenger to their address, as shove, to Dec. 31, 1860, we will also send a copy, for three months, to the person sending, or to any other address de-

For the names of four new subscribers, sent at one time, with the payment, (£2) besides sending the Messenger to their address, as above, we will also send a copy, for six months,

For the names of eight new subscribers, sent at one time, with the payment, (£4) besides sending the Messenger to their address, as above, we will also send a copy, for one

A Telegraph Despatch from New York brings a few days later European Intelligence than that received by our last English Mail.

It refers to a proposition having been made by the French Emperor to the English Government for the disarmament of both powers. No particulars are mentioned, but that the London papers treat the proposal as one that cannot be entertained by England. Probably quarrel. We must wait for the arrival of our coming mail to learn more of a question that has reference to the present relations between England and France.

It would seem that there cannot be a doubt that the ulterior designs of France in her gigantic preparations, both at sea and land, are directed against Great Britain, and that the impending rupture may break out almost at any moment. It is true that no subsisting cause of quarrel exists at this moment, but that the flames of hatred and revenge against England for past successes against France, have been and are being fanned up by the Press and the Government of that country, is unquestionable; and it is equally certain that no moral or religious principle will for a moment restrain either France or its Ruler from the most lawless acts of aggression, if only they believe they have sufficient power to sustain them. The intelligence of France, which is great, is deeply and hopelessly infidel; whatever of religion there is, with a very slight sprinkling of Protestantism among her thirty millions of souls, is represented in the gross and ignorant superstition of the masses in her country districts. Our surest reliance subject of prayer that day was the conversion to avert a bloody and destructive conflict, should be, using at the same time every prudent human precaution, upon that Power which can alone restrain such a nation from those acts of violence, rapine and ambition, to which they are naturally prone. We believe that the prayers which are ascending from thousands of Christian hearts in al parts of the world, will be more efficacious than all other means to withhold within due bounds the godless ambition of France, or if it be suffered to break out into open action, to curb and limit its effects.

Latest Intelligence.

The following is the important despatch reerred to above:

The Steam-hip Persia arrived at New York on Friday. Dates from Liverpool to the 20th

Nothing definite respecting a Peace Congress had transpired.

State of Italian affairs unchanged.

The London Journals scout the reported proposition from Napoleon for a disarmament of the two powers.

The English Army is to be increased by the addition of eleven Regiments.

All the Canadian Steamers in future to call

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