

year, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; to manifest that the excellency of the power is of God, and not of us.

Christish, then, simple means. Encourage little gatherings for prayer and conversation. They ought to be held frequently in every neighborhood in the country, in every street of the city, in every class in our literary institutions. God will surely bless, if we rely on him in the use of suitable means.—Morning Star.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Maturin and the Latin Vulgate.

MR. EDITOR,

There is a curious passage in the second part of Mr. Maturin's "Defence of the Claims of the Catholic Church," to which I may invite the attention of your readers.

He says,—"The Vulgate has adopted some peculiar readings, which express the true doctrine of the Gospel in a much more clear and decided tone than in the English Protestant Translation. We have a remarkable instance of this in Rev. xxii. 14, in which the Protestant Version contains the words, which seem to breathe the very spirit of legal obedience—"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life,"—while the Catholic Version, in conformity with the Vulgate, expresses the same text in these beautiful and evangelical words—"Blessed are they that wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb, that they may have a right to the tree of life."

That is—the Roman Catholic Version is more evangelical than the Protestant!

I will state the facts of the case. There are various readings here. One is—"that do his commandments": this is the common reading of the Greek manuscripts, is generally found in the Greek Fathers, and is supported by the Coptic, Syriac, and Arabic versions, as well as by the citations of Tertullian and Cyprian;—it is adopted by Griesback and Scholz. The other is,—"that wash their robes": this is the reading of the Alexandrine manuscript, and of two others, one of the eleventh and the other of the fifteenth century; it is supported by the Armenian (MS.) and Ethiopic versions, and is found in Athanasius and Fulgentius: it is adopted by Lachman and Tischendorf.

The celebrated Vatican manuscript, probably the oldest in the world, does not contain the Apocalypse. In his edition of the New Testament, according to that manuscript, printed at Rome, Cardinal Mai supplied the Apocalypse from another manuscript, in which the reading is—"that do his commandments." The Cardinal did not adopt the other reading, notwithstanding the authority of the Vulgate, which is the Roman Catholic "authentic" version. It appears that he preferred the commonly received text.

The two Greek readings convey the same meaning. The expression "wash their robes," is explained by Rev. xvi. 15, "Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments."

But whence came the addition—"in the blood of the Lamb"? It is found in no Greek manuscript, and was probably added by some copyist, to express what he thought to be the sense—"interpretandi causa," as Grotius says (in loc.).

The question is not—which reading "expresses the true doctrine of the Gospel"—but, which is the true reading? There is a disingenuousness in Mr. Maturin's reference to the case, which deserves to be exposed.

Yours, SENIOR.

Nov. 4, 1859.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 9, 1859.

Halifax Union Prayer Meetings.

THESE meetings have been held during the past week, and were attended by probably from sixty to one hundred persons. They have been conducted by parties from various denominations of Christians. In consequence of a Soiree in Temperance Hall on Friday evening the Saturday morning meeting was held in the old Methodist Chapel, Argyle St. As the use of that building has been offered to the Committee for this purpose, the meetings have been held there, at the same hour as they were commenced in Temperance Hall—from 9 to 10 o'clock in the morning. If it is found desirable to change either the place or time, to that more likely to suit the people generally, they will be altered. The earnest pleading of those who have hitherto sustained these meetings, indicate that they are looking for a visitation from Heaven of those influences which have been experienced in other places. It will doubtless require

much faithful labor and patient perseverance before Halifax becomes embued with a spirit of prayer; yet we are not without hope that God will yet visit His people in this city with great spiritual blessings, and cause the wilderness to be glad and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

The meetings hitherto have been conducted by the following gentlemen:—Monday, last week, Rev. W. Hall; Tuesday, R. McLearn; Wednesday, A. Morton; Thursday, Dr. Avery; Friday, T. A. S. DeWolf; Saturday, James Farquhar. Monday, this week, S. Selden; yesterday, Rev. W. Hall.

On Monday morning a larger number assembled than on any previous occasion. It was estimated that about three hundred were present. Prayer was offered by eight or ten persons, and a spirit of deep devotion evidently pervaded the meeting. Capt. Webber Smith read a deeply interesting letter from Mr. —, a colporter on the Eastern Shore, describing the state of religious awakening existing in the neighborhood of Jeddore. Exhortations were given by Rev. Mr. Brewster and Rev. Mr. Humphrey, and all appeared to feel it good to be present. The hour so spent must be highly beneficial to men immersed in business during the day, and will, doubtless, aid them in exerting a christian influence on their fellow-citizens.

A letter from Mr. W. H. Rogers will be found on another page. We would just remark, with reference to it, that although we cannot allow our pages to be occupied with mere personality or party politics, yet we rejoice in the free discussion of all matters of interest to our readers, connected with the progress of truth and righteousness. As we are disposed to give reasonable latitude to any persons who may think that explanations are required of them by any considerable number of our friends, we have readily consented to give insertion to the letter referred to. We reserve to ourselves the right, however, of determining what limits to allow such matters, and when the public good requires us to refuse further discussion of them in our pages. The statements alleged to have been made at the Kentville political meeting did not appear in our columns, and we might therefore be excused from publishing any reference to them, but as the Christian Messenger and the proceedings at the Eastern Baptist Association have been mixed up with the subject, we have less objection to explanations being given on one side or the other, so long as they are confined to that subject. Our advice to Mr. Rogers was, to send his letter to the Hon. Provincial Secretary before publication, so that his answer might appear at the same time as the letter. Should that gentleman, therefore, desire to make any reply, we shall, of course, be equally ready to give it insertion.

If we were disposed to advert to the discussion which took place at the Eastern Association on the Christian Messenger we might state that the opinion expressed by several valued brethren, and which we believe prevailed pretty generally, was, that the action of Churches is necessarily open to criticism, and no more infallible than that of individuals; and that if any person supposed himself injuriously referred to by the published resolutions of any church, it would be unjust in the conductors of the press to deprive him of the opportunity of defending himself, in the same paper, over his own signature. With regard to the expression of opinion concerning ourselves, and our "future" course, we have only to say, that we never felt more proud of our friends and the sentiments we hold in common with them, than we did after the meetings of the Eastern Association. The determination expressed on the part of those present, that in the defence of the principles so incalculably dear to us, we should be left untrammelled and free to the exercise of our own judgment, was, to us, as our readers may well conceive, highly gratifying. The wish expressed by many that our press should continue independent, like our churches, so as to act without dictation from any parties or subservency to any, was so much in accordance with our own feelings, as well as with Baptist usage the world over, that we were greatly encouraged in view of our future labours. The animated discussion which took place we looked upon as a great safety valve, which enabled us to remove the incorrect and unfavourable impressions which some had received; and consequently we have since felt ourselves bound to our Eastern brethren by a stronger tie than ever before.

OUR London dates by the last Steamer are up to the 22nd ult. The political state of Europe is much the same. The Conference at Zurich had been closed. The result of their labours was the final conclusion and ratification of the treaty of Villafranca, and the confirmation of the several changes effected by the War in Italy so far as relates to Lombardy and Venice, the former of which be-

comes an integral part of the kingdom of Sardinia, and the latter is to continue an unwilling appurtenance of Austria. Nothing was done as regards the Duchies or the northern part of the Papal territories, now in a state of revolt.

To settle, if possible, these great political difficulties, a general European Congress of the diplomatic representatives of all the greater, and some of the lesser States of Europe is very shortly to take place at Brussels, the capital of Belgium. The States to be represented are Great Britain, France, Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Naples and Rome. It is most devoutly to be hoped that this expedient will be found effectual to readjust the dismembered States of Italy upon a basis that shall ensure a fair amount of civil and religious liberty. As regards the Duchies, this may with some considerable amount of probability be hoped for. There is small chance, however, that the great Catholic Powers will consent to any arrangement that will better the position of the Papal Provinces.

Rome itself appears to be in a very perturbed state, and it is asserted that the Pope is about taking up his residence for the present within the confines of the Neapolitan territories.

The King of Naples is actively organizing his military forces, especially on his frontiers on the Papal States. He is doubtless alarmed at what has taken place in the Duchies and the north of Italy. It is to be hoped that one of the results of the approaching Congress will be to modify the grinding and despotic rule of this corrupt and lawless Power.

The Anglo French expedition against China is being organized. It is said France will send 15,000 troops. The English will probably furnish a much larger contingent. Report says that the Chinese Government are about to attempt a settlement of the difficulty by denying that the attack on the Ambassadors Ships was a Government affair, but only the unauthorised act of the populace on the Peiho River. Such a procedure will be quite in accordance with the treacherous and unstable character of their government.

The formation and disciplining of Rifle Corps is still going on with great activity in all parts of England. The Queen had returned from Scotland, and visited the Great Eastern at Holyhead, on her way back. The Great ship will return to Southampton, and it is said will not cross the Atlantic this winter. This, however, is yet doubtful.

Robert Stephenson, the great Civil Engineer, and the planner of the Menai bridge, the Victoria bridge, and a bridge of stupendous magnitude to be built across the River Nile, is dead.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The opening lecture of the season was advertised to be given last evening at Temperance Hall by the Rev. G. W. Hill. Subject,— "The pleasures of Intellectual Recreation, and the materials for it in our own province."

These Lectures are proposed to be continued on every alternate Tuesday evening. Tickets of admission to be had at the Rooms, 128 Barrington Street. Single Lectures, three pence. Season tickets, two shillings; to members and subscribers to the Reading room, one shilling and three pence.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE CRUCIBLE: or Tests of a Regenerate State designed to bring to light suppressed hopes, expose false ones, and confirm the true. By Rev. J. A. Goodhue, A. M., with an Introduction by Rev. N. Kirk, D. D. pp. 352. Gould and Lincoln, Boston.

The title of this work is fully borne out by its contents. The author appears to have aimed at usefulness to Christians generally, by a close examination of religious experience, and by analyzing the inner life of christian feeling. Although a work so strictly of an experimental character, yet it is far from being an uninteresting or unreadable book. Its style is smooth and pleasant, and its illustrations are such as render it highly attractive. It is eminently suited to those who are concerned about salvation. Even those who have not professed to have any of the hopes which the gospel gives, may find in it much which would be profitable by way of self-examination, and defining their position in a religious point of view. It is a book for the times, and will no doubt be found useful in awakening discussion as to what constitutes regeneration as taught in the Word of Divine Truth. We venture to affirm that no one who procures the book and gives it a careful examination, will do so without great profit and satisfaction.

THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN ALMANAC for 1860 is received. This is the second volume of this annual. The information it contains is well arranged and well suited for common use. It has many improvements on the past, and will doubtless be welcomed by many as a necessary appendage to the desk.

A Model Letter.

THE following was not written for publication but it is so good a pattern for our friends that we are fully prepared to take the consequences of laying it before our readers, omitting the names.

November 4, 1859.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed please find the names of two subscribers for the "Christian Messenger," for one year, to begin immediately.

[Here follow the names and addresses.]

Twenty shillings enclosed.

I remain sincerely yours,

H— N— P—.

We shall be happy to receive as many similar letters as our friends can forward. We are prepared now to give them immediate attention and they shall have our best thanks.

DEPARTURE OF REV. DR. HOBBS FOR NEW ZEALAND.—It is with regret that we learn that one of our Ministering Brethren, the Rev. Dr. Hobbs, is preparing to leave for New Zealand. He has been extensively known in his native province on account of his usefulness, and untiring energy in promoting the cause of Christ. For these last three months he has been preaching in the North Baptist Church, Halifax, and the congregation has increased rapidly during the time. At a farewell meeting the church expressed, through the Clerk, their sense of his faithful ministrations, and accompanied the address with a fitting donation, to which a suitable reply was given.—Communicated. Halifax, Nov. 7, 1859.

MISSIONARY FAREWELL.—A Soiree was held in Temperance Hall on Friday last, for the purpose of taking leave of Rev. S. F. Johnson and lady, who are expecting to leave shortly for the New Hebrides, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. Addresses were given by Rev. P. G. McGregor and others. The entertainment was continued till about eleven o'clock. It appears to have been quite a success; three or four hundred persons of all denominations are said to have been present.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Halifax, October 21st, 1859.

APPOINTMENTS.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to re-appoint and constitute to be Members of the Honorable the Legislative Council of this Province, (with the rank and precedence which they before enjoyed,) provisionally, until the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure:— Robert Mollison Cutler, of Guysborough, in the County of Guysborough; Alexander Keith, of Halifax, in the County of Halifax; Hy. G. Pineo, of Pugwash, in the County of Cumberland; William McKeen, of Mabou, in the County of Inverness; Richard A. McIlfeffey, of Windsor, in the County of Hants; John Holmes, of Springville, in the County of Pictou.

His Excellency, by the advice of the Council, has also been pleased to appoint James McCurdy, 2nd, to be a Commissioner of Sewers for Upper Onslow Marsh Dyke, in the County of Colchester, in the place of James McCurdy, deceased.

November 2.

To be one of the Commissioners of Sewers for the Township of Cornwallis, Kings County— Abraham Newcombe.

To be a Member of the Board of Commissioners of Schools for the County of Richmond—the Rev. Wm B. McLeod, in place of Peter DeCarteret, who has removed from the County.

To be a Member of the Board of Commissioners for the North District of Inverness—Lauchlan McDougall.

To be Notaries and Tabellions Public:—Thos. H. Faller, of Arichat; Simon Donovan, of ditto; Joseph Martell, of Descourse.

BANK STOCK.—At a sale by Deblois & Merkel on Wednesday last 45 shares Bank of British North America realized £72 10s. to £76 2s. 6d. per share; 80 shares Bank of Nova Scotia, £68 17s. 6d.; 170 shares Union Bank, £9 5s. to £9 10s. each.

JUVENILE FOOT RACES.—The following resolution was passed by the Halifax Cricket Club on the 27th of June last:

"Resolved, That for the purpose of encouraging a taste for athletic sports among the youths of Halifax, prizes be granted, under the auspices of the Club, for proficiency in foot-raiding; the competition to be confined to boys under the ages of sixteen, fourteen, and twelve, respectively; the prizes for each class to consist of a suitable set of Cricket implements."

These races will accordingly take place (weather permitting) on Saturday Nov. 12th, on the Common, commencing at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The competitors under 16 are desired to appear on the ground with a red ribbon, those under 14 with a blue ribbon, and those under 12 with a white ribbon, tied round the arm.

The course for the first class will be 800 yards, for the second 400 yards, and for the third class 200 yards.

The prize for the winner in each class will be a suitable pair of Cricket bats, a ball, and stumps.

HENRY G. NORTUP, Secretary. Halifax, Nov. 2, 1859.