

other about half a mile. At Caledonia, up the western branch, two school-houses have been built, about a mile and a half apart. These strange freaks are the result of opposition. I have seen in Canada a school-house built in the middle of a desolate swamp, so as to be in a central spot, and allay dissension. But it remains for Nova Scotians, to find a remedy for this, by each one having a house built at his own door. People will soon find, however, that a good school two or three miles away is better than a poor one close by. I would suggest that all unite in establishing one good school in each small community, and devote their surplus funds, in supporting their respective Colleges. It is worthy of consideration, whether enough is not foolishly squandered on miserably inefficient schools to support all our higher institutions.

The people in St. Mary's are mostly Presbyterians. There are, however, two little Baptist churches—one embracing the Backlands, Lockaber's Lake, and Glenelg, where the pastor resides, and a second at the mouth of the river. Elder Eagles also visits Isaac's Harbor, about twenty-five miles east. In Indian Harbor, 18 or 20 miles south, is another church. These four churches owe their progress, and probably their existence, if not their origin, to the labors of Elder Eagles. Would that more like him could enter these destitute regions, and cultivate for themselves. This field is now large enough for a second judicious missionary, occupying Isaac's Harbor as a centre. In contemplating the destitute localities in our Eastern Association, one not only regrets that our able pastors do not more frequently visit them on preaching tours, and our young men go thither as pioneers, but also to enquire why the Lord has sent a famine of the Word of Life on these perishing thousands. When there were no churches there the Lord sent missionaries; but when churches were planted the work was committed instrumentally to them.—"Go ye into all the world," &c. Have these churches done their duty? Are the members improving their talents? Do they afford sufficient encouragement to those young men who seem to have the necessity laid upon them,—"Woe is me if I preach not the gospel"? Are we fulfilling the Saviour's command, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth more laborers into the harvest"? I remain, in the common cause,

D. FREEMAN.

Caledonia, West Branch,
St. Mary's River, Jan. 3, 1859.
P. S.—My address will next be Wolfville.

For the Christian Messenger.

Great Temperance Demonstration at Truro.

MR. EDITOR, AND DEAR BROTHER,

The friends of Temperance held a meeting last evening in the Court House here, which was crowded in every part with a most respectable assemblage, a great proportion of ladies being among the audience. The chair was occupied by David McCurdy, Esq., President of the Colchester County Temperance Association, and the meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Dimock. The speeches were to the point, and were delivered by Rev. Mr. McCulloch, Professor Ross, Rev. Mr. Dimock, Hon. A. Creelman, David Crow, Esq., Longley, Esq., and Robert Chambers, Esq. Excellent music, vocal and instrumental, under the direction of Professor Williams, greatly enlivened the proceedings. It is seldom that I have had the pleasure of listening to such speeches as these delivered by Messrs Creelman, Dimock, Ross and McCulloch; and the man who could, after hearing the appeals to conscience made by these gentlemen, continue to hold up his hand for license to Rum-sellers, must, I think, be given over to strong delusion. As the Magistrates are now in session here, it is to be hoped that the proceedings of last evening will have an excellent effect on the minds of those functionaries. A magistrate should always be a terror to evil doers, and by precept and example show no favor to a custom and traffic that causes so much rioting, and vileness, and violence in our Province. How any magistrate who reads his Bible can go for licensing Rum is a mystery to me, after what I read in Isaiah 5th chapter, and Habakkuk 2nd chapter, Proverbs 20th and 23rd, and the whole NEW TESTAMENT.

Yours truly,
A STRANGER.

This world is a very good world that we live in:
To lend, and to sell, and to give in;
But to beg and to borrow, and get of one's own,
'Tis the very worst world that ever was known.

—Some old Author.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Quarterly Meeting at Port Medway.

Our Quarterly meeting took place, according to announcement, on the 8th of November last. The Rev. Messrs. Hobbs, Higgins, Barss, Skinner, and brother John McKinnon, Licentiate, came to our aid, and rendered us valuable assistance. We enjoyed a delightful season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The church was greatly revived. The brethren very willingly gave up their time to attend the meetings, and confessed that they sustained no loss, for what they enjoyed in their own souls, and witnessed in their families amply repaid them for the trifling sacrifices they had made. Fourteen were added to the church, thirteen by baptism and one restored, making the whole number added to the Port Medway church since the Association twenty-four, nineteen by baptism, one by letter, and four restored.

ROBERT R. PHILP.

Port Medway, Jan. 10th, 1859.

ST. MARY'S EAST.—Since our Association in July there have been eight added to this church by baptism. The weekly meetings for prayer are kept up regularly. This we believe one great means of preserving the brotherly love and christian harmony which we trust prevails in our church.

HENRY EAGLES.

Prince Edward Island.

CHARLOTTE TOWN, Jan. 5, 1859.—Rev. J. Davis, in a letter to the Secretary of the Home Missionary Society, writes:—"I have preached constantly, twice every Sabbath, and once in the week in Charlotte Town. Almost every Lord's-day afternoon I go out to Lot 49, or St. Peter's Road. Our congregations in town keep up well; though of course affected by the winter's weather. In the country, especially at St. Peter's Road, the attendance is excellent. I have baptized six since I last wrote you, while several members from other churches have united with us." One of the baptized was my own daughter—the third. Her baptism completed—that of my household. Another was Mrs. —, and her baptism completed that of the household to which she belongs. Two households baptized, but no infants in either, an instructive commentary upon New Testament baptisms.

"When I said every Sabbath above, I should have excepted three Lord's-days which I have spent in the country, in discharge of my missionary engagement."

United States.

BAPTISTS IN NEW YORK.—The fifty-first annual report of the Baptist Missionary Convention of the State of New York, shows that there are 43 Associations in the State; 839 churches; 689 ministers; 115 licentiates; and that the whole number added to the churches by baptism the past year was 10,193—making the present membership of our churches 90,253. Such an addition in a single year calls for special thanksgiving to God.

A JEWISH SYNAGOGUE OF CHRIST.—It is stated that there are twenty-eight Jewish converts to the Christian religion in New York, who meet every Sabbath. A periodical is published in New York, entitled, "The Israelite Indeed," which takes the ground that Jesus of Nazareth is the "true Messiah." A converted Jew lately stated in a Boston prayer-meeting, that he was led to investigate the Christian Scriptures, by hearing Christians pray for the descendants of Abraham. He stated that 600 converted Jews are now preaching Christ.

England.

A private letter from a Christian friend in London, with whom, about twenty years ago, we were associated in Sunday School teaching, shews that he is still actively engaged in the good work. He says—

"We are plodding on much as usual; working hard—but not too hard for the calls of the cause of Christ and souls. We see more to do every day, and only want more grace and more strength to do it, and this we lack, not because our God is unwilling to give it us, but we do not ask it, or we ask amiss. There is a great and remarkable change coming over the people,—a spirit of hearing is abroad. The houses of God, where an earnest spiritual preacher is to be heard, are crowded; and many signs are visible that God is visiting his people. May the year 1859 be remarkable for the increase of our Redeemer's kingdom." He also gives the following:

Dr. Leifchild on Preaching.—On Christmas day, annually, a sermon is preached to the Sunday School Teachers in the South of London. This year a very excellent discourse was given by Rev. J. P. Turgard, the successor of Rev. George Clayton, at York St., Walworth. While exhorting his hearers to be more earnest and zealous in their work, related the following:—"A short time since, while visiting and conversing with the Rev. Dr. Leifchild, I put to him this question,—How was it, Dr., that you were enabled to preach for so many years, and during the whole of your ministry to secure the attention and excite the interest of your

very large congregations? Oh! said the Dr., I adopted these four rules,—

- 1 begin low.
- 2 get higher.
- 3 speak slow.
- 4 take fire.

Perhaps some of your Nova Scotian ministers may find it useful to imitate so good and so useful a minister of the Gospel, if they are not already practising such a course in their labours. Sunday School teachers should be earnest workers—and not mere fine talkers.

"On my way home the other night," said a good hearty Sunday School teacher, "I saw a house on fire.—I ran to the spot, and at once took up my place in the rank to help convey water to the engine. While thus engaged, a young gent fashionably dressed, with one hand carrying a small fancy cane and the other carefully enconced in the breast of his great coat, came up and with a thin nasal mincing voice said, 'I say Allport do you not notice what an egregious blunder these men with the fire engine are committing,—why they are only supplying sufficient hydrogen to assist the combustion of the oxygen.' A sturdy rough Fireman passing by just at the time, and hearing this dillitante speech, turned round, and giving the young gentleman a good push at the shoulder, called out, 'bustion, away with your bustion.—Why don't you go and pump.'"

"So, dear friends," said the speaker, "let us all be more anxious to pump, or in other words to work heartily and simply, than to use words without meaning,—let us aim at being useful." Yours very sincerely,

SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S.—When Dr. Hook conducted the services, on the 19th ult., at the south door a most amusing and entertaining incident occurred. The time is half-past six. Dr. Hook arrives on foot, unknown to the police who guarded the gates, and with his gown wrapped in a large yellow silk handkerchief. His neck closely muffled up, looking certainly somewhat unparsonic. The following colloquy occurs:—First Policeman.—Tickets! Please show your tickets! No admission without tickets. Dr. Hook.—I have no ticket. Second Policeman (patronisingly)—The next door, Sir. No admission here without tickets. Third Policeman (peremptorily)—It's no use, Sir. Positive orders. Dr. Hook.—But I must get in. Fourth Policeman.—Next door, Sir. Dr. Hook (somewhat testily)—I must get in, or there will be no service. I am the preacher. Police-constable (astonished)—Beg pardon, Sir. Pass on. The foregoing says *The Advertiser*, is strictly and literally correct.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN SWEDEN.—Some time since public indignation was aroused by the fact that four Swedish women had been banished from their native country merely because they had chosen to leave the Lutheran for the Roman Catholic Church. But it appears that the law of Sweden is equally severe against persons who relinquish Lutheranism for other forms of Protestantism. A Mr. Rechnitzer, a respectable retired tradesman, has recently been committed for trial before the Swedish courts of justice, on the charge of having brought over a member of the Lutheran Church to Baptist tenets, and of having administered to him the rite of baptism. This is an offence which, if proved, will entail upon Mr. Rechnitzer banishment, and the confiscation of his property. The trial is fixed to take place on the 7th of February next.—*Leeds Mercury*.

Australia.

MELBOURNE, October 18, 1858.

The Rev. Thomas Binney is still in South Australia, preaching everywhere and drawing immense congregations. During a portion of his stay he has been the guest of the Governor, Sir. Richard Macdonnell. He has also been visited by the Bishop of Adelaide. On the occasion of one of Mr. Binney's lectures, tickets were issued at 1s. 6d. each, for as many as the place of meeting would contain; but, so general was the desire to procure admittance, that tickets were subsequently sold at a premium of 1l. This beats Spurgeon!

One of the most popular topics of discussion has of late been the question of colonial defences, the troubled aspect of the political horizon in Europe having aroused the attention of the people and Government of Victoria and New South Wales to the probability of our shores being visited by a hostile fleet should Britain become involved in another war; and the recent addition to the French armament at New Caledonia—much in excess of what is required for the protection of its inconsiderable commerce—gives strength to the belief that should war unfortunately ensue, the probability of an attack upon Melbourne or Sydney—if only to empty the banks of their bullion—is not a mere groundless apprehension. The necessity of adopting measures for our defence, in the event of such a contingency arising, is admitted on all hands, and a royal commission, lately appointed to consider the matter, has recommended, among other things, the immediate enrolment of a national guard or militia force. The Rev. D. Lang, with characteristic precipitancy, has published a proposal, that, in the event of a war with France, the colonies of Australia should at once declare themselves independent of England; but this policy finds few supporters, the more general opinion being that by rashly "cutting the painter," and falling adrift from the good old ship, we should find ourselves involved in perplexities and troubles we are ill prepared to encounter. Dismemberment from the British empire will come in due time, but not yet. At present it is only, but unmistakably, our duty to be prepared for any expectation that may come down upon us with filibustering designs; or, rather, that by being ready to repel an invading foe, the danger may be peaceably prevented. We hope, however,

despite the threatening signs of the times, that our people and our country may long be spared the calamitous results of horrid war.—*Correspondent of Freeman*.

NEWS FROM BURMAH.—Dr. Wade writes, Sept. 1, that the Theological Seminary at Maulmain has prospered beyond his highest anticipations. "It has at this moment thirty-two pupils in the theological course, and eleven in the primary department, in all, forty-three young and promising candidates for the Karen ministry." Dr. Wade adds, "My labor in this department has been as pleasant, and I think, as profitable as any other of my missionary life."

Dr. Mason, writing from Toungoo, Aug. 14, 1858, says, "There is here a district of some three thousand church members, about five hundred of whom will have been added this year."—*Ex*.

We heard the other day of a Methodist pastor, in this city, who obtained sixty new subscribers for his denominational newspaper, by a few earnest words in its favor from the pulpit. That is the way the Methodists do such things, and a like course on the part of Baptist pastors would speedily double the circulation of every well conducted Baptist newspaper. Is not the experiment worth trying?—*lb*.

Colonial & Foreign News.

New Brunswick.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT FREDERICTON.—The *New Brunswick* of the 6th inst. says:—The following despatch to the News Room communicates the intelligence of a serious fire at Fredericton yesterday morning, supposed to be the work of incendiaries. The premises in which the fire originated were set on fire several times last year, but fortunately discovered in season to prevent much damage.

Fredericton, January 5, 1859.—A fire broke out in Beek's back building at half past 1 o'clock this morning—supposed to be the work of an incendiary—the wind blowing a hurricane. The fire extended North, South and West, burning nine buildings in the most business part of the city. The loss in buildings and goods is £8,000 or £10,000. About £5,000 insured at St. John Office Agencies. The Central (Fredericton Office) don't lose a dollar. J. MYRSHAL.

The Carleton, N. B., Water Works were tested on New Year's Day. The hose of the Engine Company were used. The water, after passing through 450 feet of hose was ejected through the nozzle of branch pipes 1½ and 1¼ inch in diameter, to a height of 70 feet.

Canada.

HOUSE BUILDING IN MONTREAL.—A recent census of the new-built houses shows that within the last thirteen months between 750 and 800 stone and brick houses have been erected in Montreal.

FIRE.—St. James' Roman Catholic Church was entirely destroyed by fire on the 4th inst. It was nearly new, and opened for worship only in June last. The fire is supposed to have originated from the flues. The *Montreal Gazette* gives a graphic description of the fire:

"The tower at the entrance very soon took, and the flames, spreading upwards, encircled the belfry in their fiery embrace. The supports sustaining the bell (a weight of about eight hundred weight) did not give way until the whole of the roof had been consumed: then, with a crash, and tolling a parting knell, it fell through the lower story, carrying burning rafters and beams with it in its downward course. The little tower shortly after fell in the street, and the work of destruction was complete. The roaring of the flames could be heard at a great distance. Shortly after the roof ignited, the draft caused by the fire rushed through the organ pipes, and it fell, emitting distinct musical sounds, thus playing its own elegy." It was insured for £6,000, but cost over £25,000.

Mr. Langwin, recently re-elected Mayor of Quebec, has been appointed by the City Council to proceed to England as their Delegate on behalf of the Northern Railroad.

United States.

THE QUARANTINE QUESTION SETTLED.—The Quarantine Commissioners have presented their report to the Executive officers of the State, by whom it was unanimously adopted. The plan adopted, is to construct an artificial island, five acres in extent, upon "Old Orchard Shoals," near the southern shore of Staten Island, and divided from it by a mile or more of water, and a low, uninhabited peninsula. The cost of the island to be made, is estimated at \$135,000.

It is understood that the Government of the United States will, when the Quarantine is established at Orchard Shoal, remove the public stores to Staten Island.

It is anticipated that the decision to remove the Quarantine, will have an effect upon the turbulent principality of Staten Island, enabling the Governor to relieve it from the presence and expense of the military force, which has already, up to January 1st., cost \$60,000.

Mr. John W. Farmer gave a dinner to the poor at his house in Ludlow street, New York, on New Year's day. Hundreds called and partook of his hospitality. After all had helped themselves to what they needed, Mr. Farmer presented each adult with twenty-five cents.

The work on the New York State Inebriate Asylum has been suspended upon the building at Binghamton until spring. About 500,000 bricks have been laid, and 50,000 feet of stone.