

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 26, 1859.

Infant Salvation.

This subject has engaged the attention of some of the greatest and best of men. Errors of various kinds have arisen on it at different periods of the history of the christian church.

This difficulty has induced some to entertain the idea, that the ordinance of baptism is intended to remedy the sad results of our fall from a state of innocence, and in the case of infants, to bring them into the covenant of grace, and entitle them to the blessings of God's people.

The Roman Catholic doctrine of baptismal regeneration and sacramental holiness, is the natural result of this mistake. So fast a hold does this error seem to have on some, even professing christians, that whilst they disclaim a belief in it, yet in their advocacy of infant baptism, they go so near to the verge of it, that others who depend on them for their opinions fail to distinguish the difference.

The instance given on our first page in which John Leland felt the impossibility in some cases, of reconciling the doctrines of revelation one with another, well illustrates the disposition we should cherish on such subjects. We have no hesitation in believing that the work of Christ reaches to every child born into the world, and compasses the salvation of those who have committed no actual transgression, or are taken away before they have the power of receiving the truth as it is in Jesus.

The ordinance of baptism, however administered to the unbeliever, either an infant or an adult, has no effect in making him a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and cannot make him a member of His Church.

An article in the Provincial Wesleyan of the 19th inst., copied from Zion's Herald, and entitled "The relation of children to the church," pronounces most unblushingly, that "The child has an undoubted right to receive the sacraments of the church—Baptism and the Lord's Supper."

For the purpose of answering all objections the writer remarks:

"But does the parent say, I have fears that my child will not be satisfied with his baptism when he becomes an adult; if this be so after having done your duty, if he is not satisfied let

the preacher re-baptize him according to the Discipline of 1784."

This is certainly a short cut to get rid of the difficulty.

The further objection which seems to arise in the mind of the writer, that those who are baptized are therefore fit subjects to receive the Lord's Supper, he meets by freely admitting that:

"In relation to the other sacrament, I have not much to say; it is somewhat different in its nature, and presupposes education. It is evident that the Passover, the type of this sacrament was administered to the child, and I can see no valid objection against administering this sacrament to the children so soon as they can be taught the glorious truth that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

This, again, is a very summary mode of escaping a difficulty. We cannot, however, perceive why the Lord's Supper more than baptism "presupposes education." In that respect both ordinances stand on the same foundation.

The article evidently starts with an error with respect to infant salvation, and proceeds to build a superstructure of the same nature. Once firmly establish that the infant is a believer, and all the rest is plain. We are quite agreed as to the order of the work,—faith, baptism, the Lord's Supper,—but to allow that an unconscious infant is in any sense a regenerate person, is to falsify all experience, as well as all the teachings of the Divine Word.

The Evangelical Alliance.

THE Annual Conferences of this body were recently held in Belfast, Ireland. Great interest was felt in them in consequence of the late extraordinary revival of religion in that city.

The meetings were convened in the Music Hall, which was crowded by an audience of 1000 persons. Ministers of different denominations were present and took part in the proceedings. After discourses from the nine appointed preachers, the Bishop of the Diocese in the chair, gave a brief address breathing the spirit of fraternal christian love.

The Rev. Professor Gibson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, delivered the address of the day, and in an eloquent manner exhibited the doctrine of Christian unity. He enlarged on its numerous blessings, reminding the meeting that about thirteen years ago, the Alliance, which now met for the first time in the North of Ireland, sprang into existence on the basis of a broad evangelism. It had done good service to the reformed cause by manifesting that the boasted unity of Rome—a unity secured by the repression of mental liberty, by anathema, espionage, and torture, was after all but an idle form compared with the substantial harmony and unity of feeling which reigned through the free domain of Protestantism.

Rev. Dr. Steane delivered the following message from the Rev. J. Angell James, who was prevented from attending the Conference:

"Mr James sends his fraternal love to the brethren assembled at the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, and, while praying that the great Lord who is the centre of Christian unity may be in their midst, earnestly solicits their prayers on his behalf, that if the cup of personal and relative suffering which is now put into his hand may not pass from him, he may be favoured with the bright manifestations of the presence and power of Christ, and be enabled to bear present and future affliction with all long-suffering and joyfulness, and be thus assisted to glorify God in the flesh."

A few days after, this aged and eloquent christian minister was taken to his rest.

Rev. Dr. Steane said, when they held that large Conference of Christians in Berlin, the Conference adopted an Address to Christians scattered all over the world, living apart from Christian Churches, not, therefore, enjoying Christian fellowship, many of them living in Roman Catholic countries, and some in heathen countries, far away from all opportunities and means of grace. That Berlin Conference had no executive behind it, and therefore, as far as it was concerned, the address remained a dead letter. It had, therefore, been taken up by a warm-hearted member of the British organisation of the Evangelical Alliance, Mr. Robert M'Fee, of Liverpool, who said to the committee of the Alliance here, "I will place at your disposal 1,000*l.* for the purpose of being expended in the translation of that document into all languages, or as many of them as you are able to compass, and have it circulated in all parts of the world."

Scriptures, or had brought the language into something of grammatical order.

The Revival in Sweden was dwelt upon by the Rev. Geo. H. Scott and other ministers. The physical manifestations in the revival in Ireland were ably reviewed by the Rev. Dr. M'Cosh and the Bishop. The Rev. W. M'Ilwaine, incumbent of St. George's, Belfast, could not assent to the views expressed by the two preceding speakers. Did not believe the Spirit operated except through the preached Word. Thought the revival was in some cases made a cloak for proselyting from other Protestant churches. His address was not acceptable to the meeting, being met by hisses. This induced several other ministers to enter upon the discussion of the revivals, and to give the result of their own observation with regard to those peculiar manifestations, believing them to be the genuine work of the Spirit of God.

The Roman Catholic Bishops' late Address on the subject of Education, was the subject of a condemnatory resolution, which was carried unanimously. Infidelity and Sabbath Desecration were also made the subject of consideration and vote.

The meetings continued from Tuesday to Friday.

An invitation was given to the Alliance to hold its Annual Conference in 1861, at Geneva.

Bible Society Meeting.

THE Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in Temperance Hall on Monday evening last.

The audience was, we believe, the largest that has ever been seen at any of this Society's Anniversaries; the Hall being well filled. The speeches were good and to the purpose, not perhaps the most thrilling we have listened to, but calculated to be useful, and cause a continued interest in the work of Bible distribution. The Rev. Dr. Twining occupied the chair, and spoke forcibly to the objects of the Society. S. L. Shannon, Esq., the Secretary, read an abstract of the Committee's Report. This was, as usual, a well prepared and highly interesting document, and will abundantly satisfy the contributors to the funds of the Society with what has been accomplished during the past year.

Appropriate Addresses were delivered by the Rev'ds. Messrs. Hill, Brewster, Boyd, Humphrey and Jardine, and A. MacKinlay, Esq. The two first-named gentlemen spoke with much animation and power on the value of the Bible as a Revelation from God and as the only secure foundation of temporal as well as spiritual good.

"INQUIRER" is anxious to ascertain if in our churches—there is any falling away from the true principles and rules laid down in the New Testament, as well as in our "Articles of Faith and Practice." For the purpose of having this more fully developed, he proposes three questions, and wishes "some one who has received grace and wisdom from the mouth of God himself" to reply to them. They are:—

- 1st. What constitutes a church of Jesus Christ?
2nd. What qualifies persons to be members of such church?
And 3rdly. What constitutes a Pastor or Shepherd of such church?

Here is a wide field for any of our friends who feel prepared to give the required information.

FATHER CHINIQUY.—The statement of the Churchman respecting Father Chiniquy having become an Episcopalian, is questioned by some parties. One of our contemporaries gives what professes to be an extract of a letter from Mr. C. on the subject; but as it is not stated from whence the letter is copied, or to whom it was sent, we must leave the question in uncertainty for the present.

We insert in our present issue another communication from Mr. Oliphant, with the reply thereto from Dr. Tupper. We have good reason to believe that our readers would prefer that we should not have this controversy further continued in our pages. We must therefore be excused from publishing any thing further on the subject, unless some reason, beyond what at present appears, demands it.

WINDSOR.—We omitted to notice last week that the Hotel-keepers at Windsor had resumed business. As the sale of intoxicating drinks is now prohibited in that part of the county, we trust these gentlemen will second the efforts of their worthy magistrates in endeavouring to stop the dissipation caused by that traffic. Those who faithfully adhere to this wise decision of "the powers that be" will doubtless be rewarded by a clear conscience, as well as by the respect and patronage of the well disposed part of the community.

THE MINISTERIAL TEMPERANCE CONVENTION held its first session last evening in the Division Room, Temperance Hall. We are unable in our present issue to give any report of the proceedings. Several Baptist ministers were in town with those of other denominations, also for the purpose of attending its deliberations.

THE Autumn Sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of causes commenced yesterday. We understand that there is a pretty heavy Docket of Civil Causes before the Court, although none of very primary importance. The Criminal Docket also contains several causes, the most important of which is the case of Preepor, now in custody for the murder of the man Hurly, at the Election Riot at the Grand Lake in May last. The young man Morgan who was captured at St. John and brought back to Halifax, will also be tried for Forgery on the Bank.

The R. M. Steamer Europa, with the first October mail, arrived on Wednesday, the 19th inst. She brings nothing new in addition to former accounts.

The eyes of Europe are still intently fixed on Italy and its future prospects. The revolted Duchies still continue to conduct themselves with the utmost order and circumspection, giving no occasion even for "a dog to wag his tongue against them," except on the ground of their determination to resist the return of their despots. They deserve the prayers and best wishes of every enlightened man on either Continent. Pius the Ninth is said to be fast declining in health, occasioned chiefly by seeing the foundations of his temporal, no less than of his spiritual power and influence, crumbling to pieces before his eyes. The Conference of Zurich is said to have put a finish to the stipulations of the treaty of Villa Franca, so far as refers to the cession of Lombardy to Sardinia, and the retention and confirmation of Venice to Austria, leaving the question of the Duchies untouched. There seems little doubt that a general Conference of European powers will be shortly held, by which the subject of Italy will have ultimately to be discussed and settled.

Difficulties still exist between Spain and Morocco. The aged Emperor of this once powerful African Kingdom has lately died, and the nation appears to be in a very disorganized condition.

Arrangements are being made by England and France to send out a joint expedition to China to chastise the breach of national faith committed upon their Ambassadors. The command will, it is said, be given to Sir Hope Grant, who has lately so much distinguished himself in suppressing the Indian rebellion.

The Great Eastern after repairing the injuries occasioned by the explosion, had gone round to Holyhead, and would probably sail for Portland, Me., on the 20th inst. If so, she will now be not far from her port of destination. Thousands will no doubt flock to see this monster of the deep on her arrival. We sincerely wish her every success, although we think that success, so far as relates to any beneficial results to her proprietors, highly problematical.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

THE CITY COUNCIL have re-appointed all the City Officials for the current year, with the exception of one or two of the minor offices.

ALMOST A FATAL ACCIDENT.—On the evening of Wednesday last, after dark, a long shore man, whilst turning into Granville Street from Buckingham Street, in the burnt district, fell into the cellar on the property known as "Tropolet's corner." He was very much cut and bruised and considering the depth to which he fell among granite blocks and broken bottles, it is a wonder that he was not killed.—Recorder.

A man calling himself John Murphy stole four fat oxen from a field at Cornwallis, on the 12th inst., one of which he sold at Windsor, the remainder he disposed of in this city. The thief was traced back, arrested, and his ill-gotten spoil found on him.—Journal.

An excellent piece of work can be seen just at present at the railway depot, Richmond. One of the cars first imported, (No 2) which was considerably the worse of the service it had seen, has recently undergone a thorough refitting, which has been accomplished in such a manner as to fully warrant the belief that the most finished workmanship required in the construction of the first class cars, can be performed by our own mechanics equally as well as in any other part of the world. The general refitting of the car mentioned was done under the superintendence of Mr. Ward. The painting, which is really excellent, and quite equal to any painting of the kind which we have seen, is the work of Mr. William A. Smith, lately of Windsor.—Col.

Mr. Harris of Richmond nursery, gives a description of an immense sunflower in his garden, measuring across the centre flower 14 inches.