

thoughtless, the profane and the immoral, the scoffer and the skeptic, the infidel and the atheist? O! search and see.—British Messenger.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 7, 1859.

December,

FORMERLY the tenth month of the year, now completes the circle of the twelve,—each of which has brought its own mercies and seasonable pleasures. Perhaps this is more the month of reminiscence and of anticipation than either of the others.—We are called to look at the results of past labour, to calculate the profits and losses, to review the mistakes and errors; and to make resolutions with regard to the future course we would pursue, so as to correct them and avoid their repetition.

During this month we commonly consider plans for commencing the New Year, so that with a more matured judgment we may bring our experience to our aid in devising what we hope may issue in a greater measure of success. The harvest now is past, the summer is ended, and we have the dark dreary days of winter to ruminate on what has befallen us. Let us consider what use we have made of the opportunities now forever flown past. Is the great work of the summer accomplished? The year is an apt emblem of human life, and we may with great propriety during this month consider whether our great life-work is done. Is salvation nearer now than at the beginning of the year? Have the good resolutions made at its commencement been carried out? or, have the eleven months of eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, which are gone into eternity, taken no better record than those of previous years? The volumes of the great book of account are being written, and each page contains more or less against us. Have we applied to the only Friend who can cancel for us the enormous debt? Have we reason to believe that, seeing the unprofitableness of the past, with regard to ourselves, the command will not be given before the close of the year, "Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground." If so, dear reader, let the possibility of such a sentence being pronounced, induce an immediate application to the great Deliverer, or it may soon be said by us, with terrible emphasis, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!"

The Morning Chronicle on "the sympathies of the 'Christian Messenger.'"

The half dozen lines we gave last week on the decision of the jury in the Preepre Case, appear to have troubled the editor of the Morning Chronicle. After quoting our article on the Supreme Court, he adds, "If any doubt existed before as to the strong predilections of the Editors of the Messenger and the warm sympathy they cherish for the Romo-Johnston Government and its Catholic supporters, such doubts must now be entirely dissipated. We should like the Messenger had particularly described the 'many quarters' where the 'much dissatisfaction is expressed with the verdict,' &c. &c."

We were not aware, before, that the liberal party had endorsed that decision of the jury; or that to agree with Judge Wilkins, and question the righteousness of the verdict given was proof of a person being a sympathizer with the Government party. If the writer of the said article is so much in the dark with respect to the opinion formed out of doors on this subject, we think it quite time that some person should enlighten him on that point. He would then learn, as he probably may have done before this, without our 'particularly describing' them, some of the 'many quarters' where the 'much dissatisfaction is expressed with the verdict.' We can assure him many respectable members of the liberal party, or those who have been hitherto recognized as such, and some who are probably not less influential than himself, take the same view as ourselves and in this particular, sympathize with us in regarding the results of the trial as a most dangerous precedent. There are various modes of vindicating the law. We presume that but few would desire to see any punishment inflicted more severe than would accomplish that object; but an entire acquittal has greatly surprised parties in both town and country, who are as well acquainted with the merits of the case as he is himself. The fact of the jury being composed of the prisoner's own friends was looked on, by many, as a gratifying circumstance, because it was believed that he ought to have the benefit of merciful consideration, and be subject to no injurious prejudice from either religious or political feeling. But after such statements as were made by reputable witnesses called

for the defence, we know that a large number, even of those opposed to the present government, were astonished to find him cleared of crime in the matter.

We were not dependent for our information on the reports of the trial given in the newspapers, but, what is very unusual, we attended and heard for ourselves a good part of the evidence, also the addresses of the Counsel for both prosecution and defense, and also the Judge's charge to the jury; and therefore feel perfectly at liberty to form an independent opinion on the case, as much so as the Editor of the Chronicle or Colonist or any others of the large audience in the Court Room during the trial.

We are not aware of doing any injustice to the jury by entertaining a different opinion from that to which they arrived.—Juries, and even christian churches, we believe, may err in judgment in certain cases, and have done so in some vastly more important than in this trial of Preepre for manslaughter.

Trial by jury has been a great safeguard for liberty, and we should be thankful for its blessings and careful to guard it from corruption; but we still cannot shut our eyes to the fact that justice, in hundreds of instances would have been far more impartially administered by an upright individual, than it has been by the voice of nine or twelve men together. If, however, the very sensitive editor of the Chronicle wishes by the course he has taken with us, to cast off all who dare express an opinion different from himself as to the merits of Preepre for shooting Hurley, we shall not trouble ourselves to quarrel with him about it. If he wishes to set up this case as a sort of 'Gesler's cap' to which all must bow down, or endure his wrath, we doubt not he will find that such tyranny will arouse the spirit of independence in many a William Tell in Nova Scotia, who will, like men, choose to think for themselves and abide by the consequences, rather than enjoy his smile and such degrading chains.

We have gone a little out of our ordinary track by referring to this matter. Our object in doing so is not that we would alter our course in the least from the one we have hitherto pursued, but as we conceive that an unfair advantage has been attempted upon us, for daring to think for ourselves, we feel that our duty to ourselves and to our patrons requires us to take a decided stand and make a frank statement, so as to avoid being placed in a false position with our readers.

THE DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS continue with no abatement of interest. The stormy and severe weather during the past week, has diminished the number in attendance to some extent, but they are still large and solemn gatherings and are, we trust, the precursor of some very much improved state of religious matters in the capital. As these meetings attain a more popular form, and still retain their high religious tone, we may expect to see a more general awakening among the masses of society. But few comparatively of those unaccustomed to such religious services, however, have, as yet attended. The meetings have hitherto, principally, consisted of those who ordinarily attend their own more social religious gatherings. The great want is for the good influence which pervades the prayer meetings, to reach beyond these, and bring in the hundreds of artisans and laborers and their families who do not commonly participate in such services.

On Friday last a written request was made for prayer for seamen visiting Halifax. It was also stated by Capt. W. Smith that the Seamen's Friend Society, we believe, in London, would be quite willing to sustain a pious, suitable person in this city if one could be found who would devote himself to the religious improvement of the mariners in this harbour. We are not quite sure that the person would be required to be in connexion with one particular denomination. If that were not required we believe it would be possible to find highly efficient agents for such work if their support were guaranteed. By accomplishing the salvation of the sons of ocean, we should dry up one fruitful source of sin and crime, intemperance, ruinous alike both to sellers and buyers of the liquid poison. A few warm-hearted pious sailors would be able to exert a powerful influence on their associates. Perhaps a better work could not be performed for this invaluable class of society, than personally inviting them to attend the Daily Prayer Meetings.

BAPTIST SENTIMENTS CONFIRMED by the testimony of the most learned Pede-Baptists, by Rev. R. A. Fyfe, D. D. Third Edition, revised and enlarged. Toronto. pp. 24.

This is a compact and lucid collection of testimony on the ordinance of baptism, which if on any other subject, would for ever silence objectors, and cause them to admit at least that if the evidence of witnesses for the truth be of any value, we have it in great abundance.

N. S. Home Missionary Society.

In consequence of the lamented death of Brother S. N. Bentley, the Secretary and agent of the Board, much inconvenience is experienced from the want of funds. All the arrangements made to obtain collections and subscriptions have been frustrated. The Board in consequence have no funds to meet the demands for labor already expended, and expended by those who require their money to lay in store their winter supply. And although the Committee hope to obtain the labors of a competent Agent to fill the place of the departed, still the arrangement contemplated does not meet the present emergency. It is very desirable that the several churches, who are deeply interested in our Home operations would now relieve the Board by sending forward, in advance, as much as they can control. It would be a subject of deep regret if the operations of the Society which of late has been so very successful, should be cramped. A word to the wise and good, we hope will now as in time past be sufficient.

RICHARD McLEARN, Chairman. December 5th, 1859.

UNACCOUNTABLE SLANDER AGAINST HALIFAX.—We clip the following from a newspaper, (The Hastings and St. Leonards News,) we received from England by the last mail:

"HORSE FLESH is considered to be a dainty at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, where it is eaten dried and smoked, taken from a small kind of horse which is found wild upon Sable Island in that vicinity—such horses being descendants of some which were wrecked off that island many years back."

How this story can have originated we know not. Some unfortunate wight, visiting Halifax as a seaport, or connected with it as a military station, may have been unsuccessful in some commercial or love speculation, and may have sought to gratify a revengeful spirit by calumniating this fair city and its purveyors. But few cities, we believe, are better supplied with good beef, mutton, pork and poultry, than Halifax. Less necessity exists here for feeding on such carrion as that mentioned above, than in many European cities.

It is just possible that at some period the Humane Establishment on Sable Island, sustained for many years past by our Legislature, for the purpose of rendering aid in cases of shipwreck, may have been short of provisions in consequence of some large addition to their numbers from shipwreck on the coast, and have had recourse in their extremity to horse flesh until they could get proper supplies. This however, has not occurred of late years, a vessel being sustained for the special purpose of visiting the Island, there could therefore be no excuse for such a statement as that in the above paragraph.

A LETTER FROM SPURGEON EVERY FORTNIGHT.

We perceive that one of our American exchanges has made arrangements with the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon to secure his services as a regular correspondent. Mr. S. has written, saying, "I am willing to serve you, and shall endeavor to write every fortnight." As we believe a large number of our patrons would be pleased to read these communications from this world-renowned preacher, we shall take the liberty of copying them into our columns from our contemporary, of course with suitable acknowledgement, whenever they contain matters of interest.

We are requested to notify that at the request of the Home Missionary Board the Rev. R. McLearn has consented to perform the services of Secretary of the Society, as well as those of Chairman of the Board, until a successor is appointed to the late respected Secretary.

The English dates, per Europa, are to the 19th ult.

The political state of Europe is still threatening and dark, and although no open and acknowledged cause exists for the interruption of the peace of Europe, there seems an almost hourly expectation that such an event is near at hand. Notwithstanding this, however, trade and commerce in England were never in a more flourishing state, and whatever may be the result of the present perturbed state of Continental affairs, Great Britain was never in a more prepared and efficient position to meet or ward off the evils of war.

No material change has occurred in Italian matters. The revolted Duchies continue to resist every proposition to receive back their fugitive Rulers, which nothing but the hand of strong coercion will compel them to do.

The Princess Frederick William of Prussia, the Queen's daughter, and her husband, are on a visit in England.

Severe and destructive storms have prevailed on the English coast, and loss of life and property to a considerable extent has occurred.

The Great Eastern has not yet left England. It would seem that there is some defect in the working of her engines, which has as yet prevented her undertaking more than a short trial trip. This, however, will probably be shortly remedied.

The two Regiments in this Garrison, the 62nd and 63rd, are shortly to proceed to the West Indies to relieve the 41st and 49th Regiments, which are to take their places here.

MIC-MAC MISSION.—The Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Temperance Hall, on Monday evening. Although the weather was most unfavourable yet a very considerable audience was present. J. W. Ritchie, Esq., occupied the chair. The Secretary Wm. Howe, Esq., read an interesting report of the Committees proceedings, after which the Rev. Mr. Rand read an extended and minute account of the visit of himself and assistant Mr. B. Christmas, to Missionary Institutions in Canada and in New England. This occupied the principal part of the evening. As it will be published we defer further notice till it appears in print. The Rev. Mr. McGregor, briefly commended the mission to the public, and expressed a hope that an Institution would soon be erected at Mount Mic-mac. The Rev. Mr. Sprague, moved the resolution of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year, and the Rev. Mr. Crisp, gave out the Doxology, and pronounced the benediction.

The following QUERIES have been sent us for insertion. We know nothing of the reasons for their publication. We think the reply to them would not require much space.

Query 1.—Is it right for a Baptist Church to keep a minister out of his salary for months and years, for no other reason than "We can't collect it"?

2.—Is it right for a minister to labor with and for such a church when he knows that his predecessor is thus treated?

3.—Can such church or minister expect the Divine blessing upon them!

Dear Editor,—If either you or your correspondents will answer the above questions, you will oblige

ONE INTERESTED.

Will the Christian Visitor please copy the above, as they will as forcibly apply to New Brunswick as N. S.

We have no materials at hand to furnish anything but a decided negative to Nos. 1 and 3. In reply to No. 2 we think a minister might well labour with such a church, for the purpose of shewing them their sin, and bringing them to immediate repentance and reformation.

BELCHER'S ALMANAC for 1860, bound and interleaved, has just been laid on our table. It contains its usual amount of information necessary for such an annual. The frontispiece is a really beautiful engraving, of an Indian Encampment. The popularity Belcher's has already secured renders further recommendation unnecessary.

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 ARREARS.

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 above, to Dec. 31, 1860, we will also send a copy, for three months, to the person sending, or to any other address desired by him.

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, to any other address.

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 year, to any other address.