

way, and we headed straight for meetin'—I heard enough there to make me think a great deal more, but I didn't know what to do.

"Soon after, I came on a trip to Boston, where I got among breakers. A sharper passed off a counterfeit bill on me, and when I offered to put it away, they took me up for a swindler, and flung me into jail. I hired a lawyer, and he cleared me and took all my money. That didn't trouble me much, but I had a great load on my heart, and the first free Sunday I steered for a church. Saw one large one, with open doors, on H— Street, and went in, but the sexton turned up his nose, and told me they didn't seat sailors in that church. Then I thought I must have missed my reckonings, but made bold to ask him if, supposing we were all goin' toward heaven, it made any odds what trade we had, or if it did any harm to get a little mixed; but he only turned up his nose the more, and said there were places on purpose for sailors to worship in.

"Very well, then show me where," said I; "but I suppose I may say to you that after all, sailors are just about the same to you land's people, as feet and hands to the stomach—we go off and ply your commerce through hot and cold, thick and thin, and you stay at home easy, and feed and clothe yourselves out of the cargoes, but when Jack lands and comes to meeting of a Sunday, 'Avast there!' you cry out, 'no room for sailors in here.'

"You smell of tar," says he, (I had on a blue jacket and canvass pants.)

"Never mind," said I, perhaps if I got to heaven they won't smell the tar there."

"So I put out again, and after beatin' about awhile, I hove to at the Seamen's Bethel. I got a welcome there, I assure you—I signed the pledge, and they gave me a Testament, and the minister, too, acted as if he loved me, and that aint all—*Jesus Christ* was there and gave me *His* welcome.

"O, shipmates, I've found just what I wanted. Why, the Lord has been leading me just like a father all this time, and I haven't known it. He knew just where I should anchor at last, and now I've found Him and I am happy!—happy and safe! I've no money, and my sisters can't give me any—nor my father, but I shall go on a trip with my brother next week, and I've got the Testament, and a clear conscience, and a good Saviour, and glory to God! that's enough for Sam Harding!"—*Watchman & Reflector.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 15, 1860.

The Baptist Convention.

WHATEVER affects the extension of our Redeemer's Kingdom, deserves the first place in the hearts of Christians. Nothing of a worldly character can for a moment be brought into competition with that which is calculated to promote the peace and progress of the churches of Christ. No true servant of our Heavenly Master will desire to avoid the duties which loyalty to King Jesus demands of him. Some of these duties are of a more private nature, and belong to the believer as an individual; others demand union and co-operation with those like-minded with himself. As the field of operation becomes more enlarged, so the numbers to engage in the work must become greater, and the more general must be the combination of effort. The whole world has claims upon us, and only when we take an extended view of our responsibilities can we be considered as fulfilling the obligations resting upon us as disciples of Christ. Not only should we endeavour to spread the gospel throughout the world, but, as we are indebted to the generations by which we have been preceded, for our own salvation and all the blessings of the gospel surrounding us; so we should feel that obligations rest on us to provide for the transmission of the light given to us, down through all succeeding ages.

The Baptist Convention of the three provinces has been organized for these purposes—giving the Gospel to the world by means of Foreign Missions—and providing for the necessities of future generations, by supplying a proper course of ministerial education.

The union of Baptist churches into Associations gives facilities to efforts for the purpose of evangelizing the localities comprised within their boundaries, and takes cognizance of statistical information concerning them. The Convention takes a more general view and comprises the Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and has under its direction and management their Foreign Missionary matters and the affairs of Acadia College.

The Annual Session of this body will be held on Thursday the 23rd instant, at Sack-

ville, N. B. Matters of importance will come before the body at that time, and it is most desirable that a large representation be sent from the churches. Delegates will be there from the five Associations in the Provinces, but there should also be Representatives from as many as possible of the Churches.

The sympathies of the whole denomination and of all the members should be secured.—It may comport with the constitution of some religious societies to allow some of their members to stand by and look on at the work done by their ministers and their more wealthy and influential brethren. Not so however in Baptist Churches. There, every one is called to participate and every one has duties. None are private members in the sense of being exonerated from responsibilities. All are required to aid to the extent of their ability in counsel and support in these matters, as well as performing the duties belonging to them as individuals, believers, and church members. The more extended duties referred to in the former part of this brief article, demand attention to the work in the hands of the Convention. Baptists love their ministers no less fervently and sincerely than do other denominations who invest theirs with a greater amount of Church power and responsibility, but they have no desire to place upon them exclusively the burden of managing their affairs, or of charging them with determining how their funds shall be appropriated. Whilst then we rejoice in our freedom from unscriptural priestly dictation, let us be desirous of uniting with the ambassadors of Christ in furthering the interests of the kingdom of their Master and ours.

"Our Young Prince."

It affords us pleasure to find such sentiments as the following in our English denominational organ:

OUR YOUNG PRINCE.—We should not be doing justice to our own feelings, or represent fairly the sentiments of the denomination to which we belong, if we dismissed, with the mere mention of the event last week, what we hope and believe may become a fact of the deepest interest to our race on both sides of the Atlantic. Such honour as editors of a Baptist paper can offer to the visit of the heir-apparent of the Crown of England, to Canada, and to the United States, is due to Royalty, and due to the significance of the event too.

We like the Royal visit, for such we may term it, to our noble colonies in North America. We only hope that when *Great Easterns* shall have got into full play, and an Atlantic voyage be a comparative trifle, and the inconveniences of it almost converted into pleasures, our Queen herself may follow the leading of her son. We can hardly realise to our minds the unexampled enthusiasm with which she would be received in the Colonies, and still more in the United States. We have little doubt that much of it will be elicited by the presence of such a representative as she now sends. Still, we must not expect too much. Though the "first gentleman in England," "the child of Britain," and so forth, he is yet a minor, and the proprieties of age must be respected. But to be visited by the "First Lady in England,"—shall we say, in our vanity, therefore in Europe, thereore in the world,—why, the gallantry of the Yankees could know no bounds in the license taken to show all conceivable marks of honour.

The possibility suggested of HER MAJESTY making a visit on this side the Atlantic is almost too much to hope for. Should such be the result of the reception given to her amiable son—our late visitor, the Prince of Wales,—a right Royal Welcome would be accorded to her, "the first Lady in the world," by her loving and dutiful subjects in Nova Scotia and the other Provinces of British America.

Syria.

The terrible bloodshed lately produced by the feud which has so long existed in Syria is another event to be recorded in the long list of atrocities inflicted on that devoted land. There, have lived and died prophets and righteous men of whom the world was not worthy, and there too, have rivers of human blood been spilt in almost every age of the world. How full of interest is every mile of that ancient country. The present aspect of affairs appears to threaten still greater calamities.

Our first page gives some account of the tribes amongst whom those barbarities have been perpetrated.

The following description of the localities they occupy will assist our readers to form a definite idea of their position on the maps they may have.

THE DRUSES AND MARONITES.—On the northern part of the land in which, as the scene of nearly all Scripture history, we all feel so deep an interest, is a long and narrower strip of land than Palestine itself. It commences about the site of Tyre and the sources of the Jordan, is bounded on the eastern side by the celebrated range of Mount Lebanon—on which but few of the old cedars survive, LAMARTINE counted but seven, one of them thirty-two feet in circumference,—and by Anti-Lebanus, which runs further east

parallel with the range of Labanon, the ancient Leontes flowing southward along the fertile valley between them, almost all the way to Tyre; that river descends from the watershed from which the ancient Orontes flows in the opposite direction northwards to Antioch. Tyre and the sources of the Jordan form the southern limit of this strip of land; and a small stream, the Nahr-el-Kabir, which enters the sea about twelve miles north of Beyrout, its northern limits. The Levant, of course, washes the western side of this long and narrow district. It is a land of hills and valleys, of mountains and mountain streams, of one considerable river at least, and for Syria of a tolerable population.

This is the land of the Druses and Maronites. They are to a considerable extent intermingled; but the Druses chiefly occupy the southern part of it, the Maronites being more numerous northwards; Zahleh, or Zuhale, as it is diversely spelt, the scene of one of the worst of the recent massacres, lying about midway between the chief populations of the Druses and Maronites. Both the towns and villages, and the inhabitants too, are, however, very much intermingled, though they do not inter-marry; the small town of Hasbeya, where another massacre occurred, being so far to the south as to be near the sources of the Jordan, which, arising in the southern part of the ranges of the Labanons, soon flows into the Sea of Galilee, and thence passes rapidly along to the Dead Sea, there to vanish by evaporation.

Who are Dissenters?

One of our morning papers of Saturday last endeavoured to make use of a paragraph in our issue of last week, and has "put upon lasting record" (!) the fact that Lord Mulgrave "on the late occasion recognized each of the leading denominations of Dissenters and the Church of Scotland, and gave them all, so far as he was concerned, an equal station with the Episcopal and Catholic clergy, by inviting their Moderators, &c., for the time being, to meet His Royal Highness and dine at Government House."

Will the Editor please inform us in his next issue, Who are the Dissenters to whom he refers? We are not aware that any of the denominations in Nova Scotia are willing to acknowledge themselves Dissenters, seeing that there is no Established Church in this Province.

The same paper makes a slight mistake, it may possibly have been unintentional, in placing the Rev. Mr. Murdoch, of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, at the table with "the Rev. Dr. Binney, the Episcopal Bishop," whereas that gentleman was not present on that day, (Monday) but on Tuesday, with gentlemen, lay and clerical, of other denominations, as may be seen by a brief note on another page.

"Under the Patronage."

GREAT injustice is often done to certain parties by the use of this phrase. A company of play-actors, a celebrated fire-eating wizard, or a band of negro-melodists, having used up the other means of attracting the public, and failing to secure remunerative houses, need some inducement to bring together those who have money to spare for such purposes. Persons who have failed to appreciate their talents by the ordinary means of advertizing, may be acted upon by the name of some public man or body of men. We have no objection to this being done by an individual if he chooses, but when it is attempted to make use of a public body, such as the officers of a Regiment, or of the Volunteers, or the Sons of Temperance, unless the consent of the whole number so designated has been obtained, we think it a practice open to very serious objection. This is commonly done by complimentary tickets being given to Captain A. B. or C., and a few of his satellites, as an equivalent for the use of their names, and the programme comes out "under the patronage of Captain A. B. or C. and the officers of said Regiment or Company." Some of the said officers may have conscientious scruples against such exhibitions, and yet, contrary to their wishes, they are included in the announcement. The principles of religious liberty are thereby violated. In the case of the Volunteers there is much more serious objection than in the regular army,—real injury is done to the Volunteer cause by such announcement.

We are not disposed to indulge in any cynical feelings on the subject, but we wish that religious men may have no insult offered to them when engaged in their lawful and proper exercise of duty. If the members of Christian Churches are compromised by entering into such Companies or Societies, there will be no course left for them but to withdraw until their leading men learn to show more respect for freedom of opinion. If any individuals wish to patronize certain frivolities, and to publish it to the world, let them insert their own names with such, "Under the patronage," and no one will complain.

The same objection exists against pic-nics and other gatherings not contemplated in the

original constitution of certain mixed Societies. Members having no desire to participate, on such occasions are supposed to be less warmly attached to the Society than others, whereas, where the legitimate objects of the Society are concerned, they may be some of the most staunch and worthy of all.

News Summary.

London dates brought by our last English mails, which reached us on Wednesday last, are up to the 28th July.

Not much further progress has been made in Italian affairs. Gen. Garibaldi had advanced with a force of seven thousand men to Melazzo, a small fortified town within a few miles of Messina, the only fortress in Sicily in possession of Naples. Several of the Neapolitan steamers had gone over to him, and the garrison of Messina were deserting, so that little doubt remained of the whole Island being in the hands of the liberator in a few days. It was said that the King of Naples, had formally relinquished his claims on Sicily, but although probable, it was by no means certain. Great confusion had prevailed at Naples, where the King had formed a new Ministry of the liberal party, and made all kinds of concessions and promises; but little faith seems to be placed in his sincerity. It seemed to be generally expected that as soon as Garibaldi had reduced Sicily into his possession, he would pass over to the mainland, in which case there is little doubt but a general insurrection would take place. Affairs at Rome do not seem in a much more settled state than at Naples. Lamoriciere, the French General, who has taken command of the Papal troops, is said to have much trouble with his Irish brigade, who seem greatly disappointed in their expectations. Some of them are returning home.

The state of European affairs is otherwise quiet for the present, with no immediate prospect of hostile demonstrations, altho' as the immense armament of France keep all the other powers in a state of perpetual alarm, it seems hardly possible that such a state of things can long exist.

A Committee have reported to the House of Commons the sum of *eleven millions sterling* as necessary to put the kingdom in a proper state of defence. Parliament will probably be prorogued the latter part of this month.

The massacre of the Christians by the Mahometans in Syria, still continued, and the great European Powers are about to interfere to prevent further outrages. France is sending a large land and England a naval force to the scene of the disorders.

The interesting letter of our English correspondent, on another page, gives further details of things as they are in the Mother Country.

The steamship *Damascus* on Saturday brought European Intelligence to the 30th ult.

A patent has been issued creating the Prince of Wales a Viceroy during his visit to Canada.

At present, it is scarcely possible to conjecture Garibaldi's manoeuvres. The battle at Milazzo, from the latest accounts, seems to have been a most sanguinary affair; the Neapolitans having upwards of 1,200 killed, the Garibaldians 780.

Prussia has sent a ship of war to Beyrout, and also several transport vessels to Naples—the latter being intended for the reception of subjects of that monarchy in case of any violent change in the already threatening aspect of affairs.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

It is proposed to purchase the frames of the temporary structures erected on the north and south areas of the Province Building, have them removed to a suitable locality, and re-erected for the use of the Volunteers.

The materials used for the arches were sold last week. They brought only a few shillings. The carpets used at the Ball in the Province Building were also sold, and brought nearly as much as they cost.

A three-masted Schooner from the Canada Lakes, bound for Boston, was stranded one day last week at Isaac's Harbour. The *Eastern State* went down to tow her into Halifax Harbour.

PICKPOCKETS.—During the Prince's visit there were a dozen Pickpockets from the United States in this city. One Presbyterian minister lost £12, and another lost a smaller sum. A M. D. lost £14. Many were losers to a greater or less extent. Our Police could do nothing to prevent or punish.—*Witness.*