

vice to the young. Mrs. Bowden, probably the only one among them that cares for reading, takes the Christian Messenger. She complains bitterly that her paper is opened in the post office and sometimes lost. Will you Mr. Editor attend to this, and if necessary bring the offender to justice? [Yes, we will try.—Ed. C.M.]

I arrived at the strait which separates Nova Scotia from Cape Breton, at a favorable time for crossing. Here it is a mile and a quarter wide. The fare for driver, horse and carriage in summer is a dollar, in winter it is half a dollar more. As the population and travel increase a steam ferry boat will be required between Ship Harbor and McNair's Cove. Except in rare cases the ferry boat crosses all winter. The little church at the Strait enjoys no Baptist preaching except occasionally when a minister is passing. A missionary located here could visit the regions of Tracadie South, and Port Hood and Mabou on the North. None of these localities now enjoy preaching by Baptists. Our great want is lay preaching. If this were encouraged as it is in our colored churches, no place would be destitute of preaching though they might be deprived of ordained ministers. I believe that in this respect we shall have to travel back many degrees before we arrive at primitive christianity, and shake off our lethargy, and free ourselves from this universal famine of the Word unless forsooth an ordained minister can be sustained to break to the people the bread of life. May we have grace to recognize the universal priesthood of the christian church without at all infringing upon the rights of ordination.

Yours in the Lord,
D. FREEMAN.

Port Hood, Dec. 15, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

Temperance Intelligence.

Dear Brother in Christ Jesus:—By the newspapers published in Pictou, you have doubtless been much gratified to note the great revival of the Temperance cause that for some months past has been going on in the County of Pictou. Since August 23rd upwards of twenty-four new societies were organized by me in that interesting County, and on the whole not less than two thousand additional members added to Temperance Societies. One remarkable feature of the Revival is, that it has taken hold of the members and officers of Churches, of the Kirk of Scotland, and Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, as these are the denominations by far the most numerous in that county, it gives me pleasure to inform you that their ministers and members have evinced a disposition to co-operate with me in the good work, and have greatly assisted in the labor, and have given their names as members of the Societies in a most commendable manner. The Clergymen and official members of the denomination referred to, have to a man given us their assistance and influence, and I rejoice to make this public, as an encouragement to all engaged in promoting Temperance, on Bible principles. You need not be told that I found all my efforts on the Bible, and have no faith in any permanent good being done unless Bible directions are obeyed. I never was in a county where the truths of the Bible were listened to with greater attention than in Pictou County. It was my privilege to hold 77 meetings there since 23rd August last, and most of them were large, and all of them were well conducted and orderly meetings. During the whole tour of the County we had not one insult offered us, or one disorderly meeting, and it would be impossible for brethren of our own denomination to treat me with more respect and hospitality than did the Presbyterians, Wesleyans and Episcopalians of Pictou County.

I am now in Truro, where we held a meeting on Tuesday evening last, which was well attended. The Hall was filled with a most attentive audience. Brother HUDSON WALKER occupied the Chair in a very creditable manner, Revd. Brother DIMOCK and DAVID McCURDY, Esq., and Mr. J. CUMMINGS, assisted with remarks to the point. There are a few zealous Sons of Temperance yet in Truro who have not grown weary in the work and warfare. To exercise a patient continuance in well-doing requires something more than natural strength. Men may for a time give attention and assistance to the Temperance Reform, and be zealous too in opposing the Rum-seller in his infamous trade, but without DIVINE GRACE in the heart, we will soon grow weary of the uphill thankless warfare, and one will grow disgusted, another disheartened, and another discouraged, and the infection will spread from one to another in the Society and in a little while we find the Rum-seller has no opposition, the laws of the land no

defenders, the interests of morality and Religion no defenders among the scores and hundreds Pledged and banded together as the friends of Temperance! Had they Grace Divine in their hearts they would have persevered to the end of the race. Grace Divine never faileth, is not easily discouraged, is not disposed to give up the ship! But any and every other motive of action will fail in the day of trial and difficulty, and it is therefore important that the example of the Christian ministers and people of Pictou County, be followed everywhere, and the Temperance Reform taken in hand by those whose principles are founded on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and whose connection with the Temperance cause is from a desire to obey the Saviour's teachings as given in such Chapters as Matthew's Gospel 5th chapter from 13th to 20th verses inclusive.

It was my good fortune to meet with my friends and brethren and sisters at North River Church last evening where we had a happy time. Rev. B. SCOTT in the Chair. Meeting addressed by Brother WILLIAM CUMMINGS of Truro (whose hospitality I am enjoying during my stay in Truro) and myself.

It was at North River that I was baptized by Rev. B. Scott on 3rd January 1858. The friends were happy to meet me, and happy to hear of the Lord's continued goodness to one of the most unfaithful of His children. We expect to have a few more meetings in this County, where the cause of Christ Jesus and every branch of His cause has many earnest friends.

For some time past I have been in correspondence with the heads of the Temperance Reform in California, and have been greatly encouraged to visit that country as a Lecturer, and have made up my mind to go there, if it is God's will, as soon as I fill a few appointments already engaged for me in this Province. We can find a field of labor anywhere and everywhere if we seek it, but it seems to be my lot to wander like a comet, while many of my brethren have fixed and happy homes, I have to work and wander among strangers and adversaries, all the way fighting against the malice of Hell and the enmity of the world and the weakness of the flesh. But it is all right. I am going home, every storm we meet, is helping and hastening us to our home in Heaven, where the wicked cease to trouble, and where the weary are at rest.

I request the prayer of God's people for the cause in which I am laboring, and for its weakest advocates.

Yours truly in Christ Jesus,
JAMES A. DAVIDSON.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

SARAH JANE BAKER,

Second daughter of Deacon Thomas and Mary Baker, died at her father's house on Stronach Mountain, Wilmot, on the 6th inst., aged 19 years and 11 months.

In the time of a gracious revival of religion in the early part of the year 1854, Miss B., the 13 years old, was happily led to embrace then Saviour, was baptized by the writer, and became a member of the Church under his care. She always remained steadfast in the faith, constant in her attendance on the means of grace, and exemplary in her Christian department. She was much loved in the circle of her acquaintance.

During a protracted illness by pulmonary consumption, she seemed quite desirous to continue with her friends, who were very reluctant to part with her; and she entertained hopes of recovery till near the close of life. When, however, she became sensible that it was the will of her heavenly Father to remove her, she bowed with cheerful submission to the Divine appointment, and expressed an unwavering confidence in her adored Redeemer. Her death was improved by the Pastor, in a discourse founded on the words of Stephen, Acts vii. 59, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit." Agreeably to her request Rev. A. Stronach took a part in the exercises.—Con. by Rev. C. Tupper.

Religious Intelligence.

CHANGE OF SENTIMENT.—The Rev. Mr. Alexander, the highly esteemed pastor of the Free Presbyterian Church in Brantford, last Sabbath evening, in the presence of a very crowded audience, announced to his people that he had adopted Baptist sentiments and therefore must bid them an affectionate farewell. Mr. A. had resigned his pastorate some weeks before; he gave his reasons for so doing last Sabbath, in the evening. The Rev. gentleman has the universal reputation of being a man of God, and a most successful pastor. He will be quite an acquisition to the Baptist ministry of Canada.—Canadian Baptist.

The members of the Marsh Bridge Baptist Church intend, until further notice, to conduct Divine Services in the large Hall at Judge Ritchie's Building; the Rev. Mr. Crawley to officiate.—Presbyterian.

The English correspondent of the Morning Star writes: "The Baptists of Scotland are the largely participating in the revival. During past year six students received education with a view to the ministry, partly at the University of Glasgow."

Rev. H. G. Guinness addresses a card to the American Presbyterian, denying that he has joined the Plymouth Brethren, and alleging that his baptism left him purposely on the perfectly unsectarian ground he has hitherto occupied, connected with no religious denomination.

American & Foreign News.

United States.

By Friday's mail we have news from Boston to the 19th:—

Advices from Washington were more hopeful. The Seceders' Convention in session at Charleston has thus far been engaged with the appointment of committees.

The New York money market shows a better feeling, but the best paper ranges from 7 to 15 per cent.

Several meetings in Boston lately have broken up in a row on account of abolition sentiments having been expressed.

In one case Wendell Phillips was mobbed and escorted to his home by 150 policemen.

Thirty-one persons were arrested in New York on Sunday, the 9th, for exposing liquor on sale, in violation of the law.

Queen Victoria's thanks to the American people for their kindness to her son have been communicated by Lord Lyons to Secretary Cass. The letter overflows with gratitude and courtesy.

A movement is in progress to expel northern teachers from the South Carolina Schools. There are eleven Yankee schoolmasters and mistresses in the city of Charleston.

European News.

THE EMPEROR'S LAST MOVE.

Is it a great one or is it a sham? On Saturday the 24th a telegram told us that "some changes in the constitution in a liberal sense were expected." On Monday the Imperial decree appeared here in all the morning papers. It had been signed on the Saturday. It contains many details of administrative changes, down to the very important one of "the administration of the Government studs." It is the first four or five clauses however, which are of interest to us. Can we ascertain their value before we add a remark or two?

Whatever importance they may have, it should be noticed that they are an emanation from the spontaneous bonitiveness of "NAPOLEON, by the Grace of God, and the National Will, Emperor of the FRENCH"—they have not been demanded by the nation, as their old constitution is by the Hungarians, as Constitutional Government is by the Italians, or as our Magna Charta, Petition of Rights, and others, franchises, were by our forefathers. It is all grace from above, not coercion from below. It magnifies the donor, does not exhibit a power in the people to do battle for freedom. The difference is very important. What a people can, by steady effort, force from a despot, they have learned the value of, and have vigour and self-command enough to keep. What a despot bestows he can withdraw, or at least nullify in practice while not abolishing the form. But, indeed, France is under too iron a pressure to demand anything. "The Great Bodies of the State" have been especially well behaved; for it as "a marked proof of his confidence" that he "affords them a more direct participation in the general policy of his Government."

In other words,—"Your obsequiousness in fetters and chains induces me to knock off your heavy irons, and to let you exercise yourselves to the full length of your chains!" We must confess that the Imperial proposals do read to us very much in this strain. They are substantially three. First, the right to vote an address "in reply to our speech at the opening of the session." Secondly, a plan to facilitate the expression of its opinion by the Legislative Body on the bills laid before it. Thirdly, another plan to secure publicity for the debates—propositions which have all a look toward constitutional liberty, yet each seems to be accompanied with the checks supposed to be necessary. The address is to be "discussed in the presence of Government commissioners; their business is said to be to give the requisite explanations; but time must prove whether that is more than their ostensible business. The plan for discussing the bills can only be properly appreciated by those better conversant than we can be with the machinery of the work of the French Parliament, such as it is; it has been far too unimportant a body for any of us on this side the water to notice its course of procedure. We observe, however, the presence, here also, of those political gendarmes, the Government Commissioners, and see no indication of power given to the Chambers to alter or amend a Government Bill, much less to originate a bill themselves; besides, these discussions, if we rightly understand the clause, are to be secret. But again, on the last point, which we in England better understand, the fuller publication of debates—every care seems to be taken they shall be innocuous. The reports, of the two bodies are to be drawn up by authorized persons, supervised by the President and sent to the papers the same evening. The debates, in extenso, are to be taken down in

short-hand, and published in the official paper next day. We can hardly imagine that the *Moniteur* will print sentences which it thinks should not have been uttered.

Still, we think it not unlikely that the Emperor would be glad just now of any extent of constitutional liberty compatible with the safety of his dynasty. After the hazards he has ventured, and the crimes he has perpetrated to found a Bonaparte dynasty, it were absurd to think that that is not the great object of his policy. He must, also, doubtless be aware that constitutionalism affords far the best chance for a young man's succeeding to the throne, which it cost all his father's genius, cunning, and recklessness, to gain and to preserve. And if he thinks the present time to inaugurate a movement towards a form of Government of which posterity will not wish to deprive his son, he is probably right. The heads of the Legitimists and the Orleanists have, ever since the victories of Magenta and Solferino, been hors de combat as pretenders to the Crown, and their factions have been powerless. The Republicans are, where Republicans ought to be, who could initiate the attack on the Roman Republic—nowhere. The only party which gives trouble is the same which is the pest of Ireland, the Ultramontanists. They have lately been taught obedience in the matter of Peter's Pence and of their political episcopal pastorals, and compelled to listen to a pamphlet's elaborate proof that they had better be subjected to a Pope in Paris; and it is quite certain that in proportion as the Emperor can enfranchise the Legislature, and give it real power, it will be his best support against clerical rebellion. And then constitutional liberties are becoming the law of civilized Europe. Italy will be really constitutional; Austria will probably be obliged to become so; the German States must all follow. "The Moderator of Revolutions," and "Pacifator of Europe," ought rather to lead than to follow in such a widely-spreading change; and what is more, his own people may become discontented if he do not. If Louis Napoleon be in earnest, he has chosen his time well.

England will of course rejoice if anything like political freedom accompany the dawn of commercial freedom in France. The two are made for each other, though we long and foolishly kept them apart here. May France see both rapidly grow up together on her soil! The former will unite us more with her in public sentiment, the latter in pecuniary interest. Two nations whose trade becomes worth millions of money to each, and whose liberties are mutually respected, will, we may be sure, be slow to fight; and Mr. Cobden's next commission may be one in which his heart would delight indeed,—one to arrange the plan of mutual disarmament, and of spending on reproductive industry what is now wasted in war.—London Freeman.

MR. BASS, M. P., ON HOUSE OF COMMONS TALK.—On Wednesday evening, a banquet was given at the Royal Hotel, Derby, to Mr. W. P. Cox, mayor. Mr. BASS, M. P., was present, and in speaking of the waste of time during the last session, said: "Notwithstanding cabinet ministers have to speak on most questions of public importance—the able and distinguished Chancellor of the Exchequer, to wit, Sir George Cornwall Lewis, who never utters a word more than is necessary to elucidate his meaning; Lord Palmerston, one of the most genial of men, and one who displays so much ability and tact as leader of the Commons; Lord John Russell, one of the ablest parliamentary leaders of the times; Sir John Pakington, Mr. Henley, Lord Stanley (one of the most rising politicians of the day);—these great parliamentary men, occupying the important positions they do, never speak oftener than is absolutely requisite; and whilst Lord Stanley, with his great ability, only spoke nine times, some private members spoke at least 200 times in the last session. (Laughter.) Now, I don't wish to disparage any of the speakers, for some of them are undoubtedly able debaters, but when I tell you that some spoke at least 100 times, and others as often as 200 times, I think I have given you a pretty good reason why so little has been done. (Hear hear.) For instance, Mr. Ayrton, a clever man, spoke 217 times; Mr. E. JAMES, Q. C., spoke 196 times; Mr. Newdegate, 123; Mr. Beuverie, 120; Mr. Pope Hennessey, 109; Mr. Malins, 103; and Mr. Darby Griffiths, 101. (Laughter.) But no doubt not one of these gentlemen spoke oftener than they believed the true interests of the country required. (A laugh.) Again, nine metropolitan members, exclusive of the city of London and Middlesex, made 955 speeches, and if all the rest of the House had spoken in the same proportion it would have taken five years to get through a session of Parliament. (Hear hear, and laughter.) Well, gentlemen, it has been suggested that 27 additional members should be given to these metropolitan boroughs, and allowing them the same proportion of talk, that would add 2,700 more speeches to the 955. (Laughter.) Ardent reformer as I am, I confess to you that I shudder at the idea—(laughter)—and when that day arrives, though I am prepared to go many lengths, if it is to be a mere increase of talking power, instead of applying to you for a ticket of leave." I shall solicit a final discharge. (Cheers and laughter.)

DIFFICULT OPERATION BY A DIVER AT GALLE.—One of the most difficult operations ever performed by a diver has recently been accomplished in recovering the remainder of treasure sunk in the Malabar at Galle. This consisted in cutting away the large iron plates from the mail-room, half an inch thick, and working through fine feet of sand. Heinke's diving apparatus was employed, as on the previous occasion, and 16,000 lbs. was thus got out in one day. The whole of the species on board this vessel, upwards of 300,000 lbs., has now been saved.