

gathering within its wall, like sparrows under the eaves of a house when torrents of rain are falling.

The Christians of London are just commencing a crusade of a somewhat extraordinary kind. They have taken unusual places for worship, and are hoping to attract to them a class of persons who will not enter our regular sanctuaries. There are three bodies in the field. The church of England, using Exeter Hall in the evening, are about to open another campaign in St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. Then there are the Nonconformists, who fix their headquarters at St. James Hall; these, with my dear brother, Rev. W. Brook, at their head, have lately commenced special services in the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, a place notable for the lowest school of dramatical performances. Judging from the placards which I have often seen on our walls, the "raw head and bloody bones" are very popular at the Britannia on week nights, and it is a noble sight, to see the minister of the Gospel lifting up his voice in such a place on Sabbath evenings. Besides these two associations there is a third just coming to the light of day, consisting of Christians of all denominations, Episcopal and Nonconforming. I must confess a great liking to this last, and am only fearful that some element of discord may arrive to break the league of union I have just received the following circular from this last body, and I have sent it to you, as it contains interesting matter that may be found useful to your churches in America.

65 Lombard Street, City, Dec., 1859.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.—The united Committee for providing Special Religious Services for the Working Classes especially in the eastern and southern parts of the metropolis finding the following buildings available for their use on Sunday afternoons and evenings viz :

- The Garrick Theatre, Leman Street, Whitechapel,
- Eppingham Theatre, Whitechapel Road,
- New Concert Hall, Limchonse,
- Winchester Hall, Minor Theatre, attached to a tavern, Southwark Bridge Road,
- Astley's Horsemanship, Circus and Theatre, Westminster Road,
- Royal Albion Theatre (late Rotunda) Blackfriars Road,
- Sadler's Wells Theatre, Clerkenwell,

will have great pleasure in placing one or more of them at your disposal for the simple preaching of the Word to a portion of that vast multitude in this great city who are daily perishing for lack of knowledge.

The committee think it only due to themselves and to the public to state the principal considerations which have influenced them to engage, in some instances, the use of theatres for the carrying out of the objects of the conference on Special Religious Services held November 22nd.

1. The deplorable spiritual condition of the working classes in London, as shown by the estimate that about 2 in every 100 of the working men are found to attend any place of public worship.
2. The impossibility of obtaining neutral secular buildings in the localities.
3. The unfortunate prejudice existing, as a rule, among the working classes against churches and chapels as such.
4. The smallness of the sum generally required by the lessees for the use of their theatres.
5. The circumstance that the Music Halls in the East End are invariably connected with taverns.

Waiting the favor of as early a reply as possible, believe us, Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your faithful servants,
 SHAFESBURY.
 A. KINNAIRD, } Treasurers.
 R. C. L. BEVAN, }
 SAMUEL GURNEY, } Hon. Secretaries.
 R. N. FOWLER, }

May God speed this good work, and may the theatres be empty six days in the week, and crowded on the seventh, or "first day of the week," sacred as the memorial day of our Saviour's resurrection from the dead.

I am now preaching on Sabbath mornings in Exeter Hall, and not at the Surrey Gardens. Not one-half of my people can get into Exeter Hall, if they were all able to go so far, and alas, not a third of them can make it convenient to walk that distance. However, all things work together for good, Exeter Hall is full; a fresh company of sinners are brought under the word, and by God's grace we hope to see a new host of converts.

The devil is doing his best to injure me, and my foes are many. I have just seen a paragraph in which it is stated that I have recanted my Calvinistic sentiments, and am very penitent on account of the mischief I have formerly done by my doctrines. This is but a specimen of the villainous lying to which I am daily subject. I am now quite used to these things, and do not think that those who know me believe any such infamous libels. I fear I have hardly grace enough to have recanted if I had been an Arminian, for I find in me a very strong tendency to conservatism, which nothing but an

earthquake can shake. As it is, I shall renounce my Calvinism when I lose my reason, or forsake my God; but not till then. I had rather die than deny the truth. By the grace of God the precious doctrines of grace shall always be my delightful theme.

This letter is quite long enough for a man to write on a holiday, so farewell.

Yours, &c.
 C. H. SPURGEON.
 Clapham, London, Dec., 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

THOMAS H. C. GATES,

Elders son of Handley C. Gates, departed this life, at North Reading, Mass. August 6th, 1859, aged 25 years and 5 months. Our esteemed brother, who is called to endure this additional bereavement, in a letter addressed to me, says:—"His religious experience dates from his tenth or eleventh year; but he did not make an open profession of religion until his nineteenth year. Owing to his poor health he was often obliged to leave his employment—in dry goods stores, both in Boston and Salem—come home, and recruit. He was much esteemed by his employers.

His general deportment was upright, and his walk consistent with his profession. To shew the general state of his mind, I subjoin extracts from two of his letters. The first was written to his brother H. T. Gates, about two years since:—"Dear Brother, think not that when you embrace religion, your pleasures will diminish. It is not so: the nearer we live to Christ, the greater and purer our enjoyments will be. I have found it so. When we forsake the fountain of pure and living waters for pleasures of earth, our peace of mind sadly declines."

In the second, written just four weeks before his funeral, to his sisters in Nova Scotia, he says:—"I should have written often, but since I last wrote I have not been so well, and I find it very tiresome to write; but your letters have given me renewed vigour. O how much I want to see you! but that may never be in this world. I am conscious that I am growing weaker every day. It has been hard for me to give up seeing you this summer, and I have murmured at the hand of Providence; but I think I feel more resigned to His will; and do feel the assurance that I shall, before long, meet my dear sisters who have gone before to that bright world above, where we shall mingle our songs of praise to our blessed Redeemer for ever and ever." He preserved that confidence to the end, and died with serenity on his countenance. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."—Forwarded by Rev. C. Tupper.

MRS. ELIZABETH PYLE,

Widow of the late Stephen Pyle, died at Manchester, Oct. 15th, 1859, in the 80th year of her age. Mrs. P. was converted about 40 years ago under the ministry of Father Ansley. She was then an Episcopalian but became a baptist solely by reading the New Testament. It was not until many years after her conversion that she was baptized by the Rev. Bro. McLearn, and united with the Baptist Church in Manchester, with which she maintained a steady Christian walk until the close of her pilgrimage. During an illness of 3 months she bore her sufferings with Christian fortitude. She continued strong in hope till the last, but had no extatic joys nor deep depressions for she trusted in the Lord and he did not forsake her. Truly her end was peace. May our last end be like hers.

Her funeral sermon was preached by the writer.—Com. by Rev. A. F. Porter.

MR. WILLIAM ELLIOTT,

Died at his residence in Manchester, Jan. 25th, after a protracted illness, aged 69 years. Mr. Elliott was brought up in the Church of England, but in 1851 he made a profession of religion, was baptized by Brother Eagles—and joined the Baptist Church in this place. He remained in fellowship with that body until, we hope, he joined the Church triumphant. In his loneliness he often said he found the Saviour precious. Many assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to his remains.—lb.

Religious Intelligence.

BROOKFIELD, QUEEN'S CO.—Extract of Letter from Rev. T. Kellor—"I had the privilege of baptizing five willing converts at Parrsboro, before I left that field for this. There were several more who professed faith in Christ that were not baptized. Parrsboro is an interesting field, and should be looked after. I wish some good brother would go and labour with them a while. I have been engaged here over a month. The prospect looked dark for a time, but I hope the day begins to dawn. There are some who are enquiring. Last Sabbath was to me a happy day. I had the pleasure of baptizing three willing converts in a place beautifully adapted to the purpose. I hope the Lord will add unto the church daily such as shall be saved.

I am engaged with the Brookfield and Caledonia Churches. Persons corresponding with me please direct to Brookfield, Queen's Co.

Yours truly in Christian bonds,
T. KELLOR."

ONSLow.—Rev. B. Scott writes Feb. 13th.—"Our meetings for several weeks past have been deeply interesting. I have buried with Christ by baptism, recently, nineteen willing converts, who have been added to the Onslow church; and the work is still progressing.

'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake.'"

LONG POINT, CORNWALLIS.—Rev. Jas. L. Reid writes under date Feb. 13th.—"We have been holding meetings in this place for a few days. The Lord has manifested his presence in reclaiming the backslider, and in the salvation of precious souls. Last Sabbath I baptized ten happy converts, on a profession of their faith, and two were received by letter. Many rejoiced to see that day. The work is still going on. Brother McPhee is engaged in the good work.

Yours in the Gospel,
JAMES L. READ."

HILLSBOROUGH, ANNAPOLIS CO.—From the Rev. Obed Parker we learn that:—"The Union Prayer Meeting commenced on the 9th of January, in answer to the call from India. The congregation increased so fast that on the 7th day we were, by mutual agreement, obliged to separate the churches, and each occupy their own meeting-house, which meetings still continue with increasing interest. Many backsliders have returned to the church, and sinners are manifesting great concern for their souls. Great good is resulting from these prayer-meetings. May they go on and prosper, until the whole earth is filled with his glory. Amen.

FRENCH MISSION.—Rep. H. Angell writes, Feb. 14th:—"Brother Normondy is much encouraged in his Mission. At St. Mary's Bay, which he has just visited, there are several hopeful inquirers. At Chetecamp one person has renounced Romanism. There are now five families who have abandoned the Romish church. Several in those families give satisfactory evidence of conversion to God. It is hoped that there will soon be a little church gathered in that vicinity. The converts stand firm amid much persecution, and we commend them to the prayers of the brethren. At Montagon there are also favorable indications. The Bible is readily received, and the missionary welcomed by some who before would resolutely reject both.

We trust the churches will still sustain the mission with their contributions and prayers. Our funds are exhausted, and we need pecuniary aid. "A word to the wise" and generous "is sufficient."

New Brunswick.

Our N. B. contemporary *The Christian Visitor* we perceive has a slight change in its management. It announces Rev. I. E. Bill *Religious and Denominational Editor*. Thomas Melleny *Secular Editor and Manager*.

N. B. BAPTIST UNION SOCIETY.—The Rev. Thos. Todd the Financial agent of the above Society, embracing Home and Foreign Missions, Education, &c., reports that since the commencement of his labours on the 1st of November last he has organized nineteen Societies, and obtained subscriptions to the amount of £151 18s. 5d., of which sum, with collections, £72 14s. 11d. has been paid in. He has travelled 1052 miles and attended 77 religious meetings.

SAINT JOHN.—Revival Progress.—Our numerous friends in the country, will be glad to hear that the work of grace, in Germain and Brussels street Churches, is going forward with increasing power. Pastors Robinson and Bill, administered the rite of Christian Baptism to new-born souls, on Sabbath morning in the open air. The former baptized before, and the other after service, so as to give the people opportunity to attend both baptisms. The sun shone with unusual splendor, and the waters of old Fundy were as smooth as glass. The spectators assembled in crowds, and the Spirit of God was present to bless. Such precious seasons leave impressions upon memory's tablet never to be obliterated.

The evening services in both chapels were full of religious fervor and power. Ten candidates were received in Brussels Street, and thirteen in Germain Street. It has not been our happiness to witness so signal a manifestation of divine favor since we came to the city.—*Christian Visitor*, 9th inst.

The Pastor of Germain Street baptized seven rejoicing converts on Sabbath evening last in the presence of an overflowing and deeply affected assembly.

Brother Carly baptized two persons last Lord's day in Portland.—lb., 16th inst.

United States.

Henry Ward Beecher, in one of his addresses, during the late slavery discussion in his church remarked that if there was any one from of slavery which had utterly abhorred, it was bigotry for liberty.

Colonial & Foreign News.

New Brunswick.

The Legislature of the Province was opened at Fredericton, on Thursday last, with the usual formalities. His Excellency in his speech, congratulated the members on the prosperous condition of the Province—the late abundant harvest, the improved price and demand for labour, the success of the fisheries, and the increase in the revenue. The act establishing the New Brunswick University had been approved by Her Majesty, although he had not yet been officially notified of it. He had received from the Home Government 3000 stand of Enfield Rifles, and had thus been enabled to arm, without expense to the Province, several companies of militia. He regarded with much satisfaction the determination which had been exhibited by the people to adopt precautionary measures for self-defence. The railway to Shediac, he had reason to hope, would be opened for traffic in the course of next summer. He intimated that the revenue during the last year exceeded the expenditure—if the railway disbursement was set aside. The Decimal system of computation was a subject for consideration.

On Friday an effort was made to rescind the resolution requiring the payment of £7 on the introduction of a private bill, but it was not successful. Fifteen hundred copies of the journals were ordered to be printed, and authority was given to the Postmaster-General to distribute them. An Agricultural Committee was formed, consisting of one member for each County. A long discussion took place on a motion of Mr. Lawrence for the appointment of a Railway Committee. The subject was finally deferred. 4000 copies of the debates were ordered to be printed.—*Church Witness*.

ST. ANDREWS RAILROAD.—It is quite currently reported that information was received by the last English Mail that arrangements have been entered into between the St. Andrews Railroad Company, and the Grand Trunk Company of Canada, for the actual completion of this line through to Canada.—*Visitor*.

Some of the Opposition papers in New Brunswick hint that there is a "hitch" in the Government of that Province, and mention Mr. Fisher's name in connection therewith. The "split" in the Cabinet is supposed to be between Mr. Fisher on one side, and Messrs. Smith and Mitchell on the other.—*Journal*.

John Bennett, Esq., has been appointed Superintendent of Schools in New Brunswick, in the place of the late Henry Fisher, Esq.

A new weekly periodical, to be called the *Tribune*, is about to be published in St. John.

United States.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION is assuming a position in the United States, which, if it continues to make the same progress, must soon exercise a most destructive influence on all independent expression of opinion, and break up all social and commercial connection between the North and South. It is unsafe for a northern man to travel in the Southern States. He is liable at any moment to be expelled, or mobbed, unless he will boldly avow slavery to be "a social, moral and political blessing." Cases are now frequently given to the public, through the press, of respectable and exemplary citizens of Northern origin, having their dwellings searched and themselves imprisoned merely on suspicion of holding other sentiments than the above on this subject. In one case a week or two since a Mr. Fairchild, a worthy deacon of a Baptist Church, was committed to jail, by a magistrate—a member of the same church. The only crime of which he had been guilty was having an abolitionist newspaper in his possession sent him by a friend some time ago.

Mr. PENNINGTON Speaker of the House of Representatives, is a man about sixty years of age, of rather prepossessing personal appearance, and inclined to be conservative in his views. He was trained to the profession of the law, and has held several honorable offices in his native State, New Jersey. The Hon. THEODORE FREELINGHUYSEN Chancellor of the University of New York, who stood a good chance fifteen years ago of being President of the United States, took to himself a wife two years ago at the ripe age of seventy-two, and last week he had born to him a son and heir. ROSA BONHEUR is about to visit the United States professionally. An opulent French gentleman, an enthusiast in art, some time since commissioned her ladyship to cross the Atlantic, proceed to the great prairies of the Far West, and paint, from life, a herd of wild buffaloes. She was to take her own time, accomplish it in her own way, and fix her own price. At first she declined to entertain the proposition, but finally, after turning it over in her mind, and reflecting what an original and splendid work she could make, she has accepted the offer, and comes over in the spring to make the picture. Mr. SUMNER's Boston friends sent him on New Year's day a present of a set of knives, forks, and spoons, which formerly belonged to Count BATTYANY, the Hungarian patriot, who was shot by the Austrians a few years ago. His property was confiscated and sold at auction, and these articles were purchased by an American who happened to be in Austria at the time. They are very magnificent, made of gold with handles of onyx, set with turquoises. A clergyman in Salem, N. J., says the *Standard*, recently announced from his pulpit that upon the next Sabbath evening he would preach a sermon to "moral men." Upon this occasion the house was crowded in every part, and a large proportion of the congregation was made up of those who had not "darkened a church door" for years!—*Life Illustrated*.