

the general public in a very few minutes filled up the remaining seats. A few stragglers dropped in just as the rev. gentleman was about to commence his discourse, and Mr. Spurgeon told them that it was a point of his religion to disturb nobody else, and that therefore in Exeter Hall, immediately after the commencement of the service, the door for the future would be closed. Selecting for his text 1 Kings xvii. 16. — "And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruise of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord which he spake to Elijah," he preached a discourse on divine faithfulness—first, its object; second, the singular method of its exemplification; third, the undying faithfulness of divine love. At the conclusion of the discourse, Mr. Spurgeon said that they all knew the cause which had led to his leaving the larger edifice which they had so long previously been accustomed to use. He had entered his protest against what he considered the desecration of the Lord's-day. That protest had failed—and, therefore, in stern obedience to duty, he had come thither.

THE TEMPORAL POWER OF THE POPE IN PERIL.—"European potentates," says the oracle of the Prelates, "think it decent to summon the Supreme Pontiff before their tribunal, and to try him in the face of the world." Pontius Pilate and Judas have their successors, too, and the blind multitude, like the mob of Jerusalem on Good Friday, is ready to repeat the Hebrew cry, and to follow the unresisting victim to the place of crucifixion, in the vain hope that it will get rid for ever of the troubler of its peace. Men seem to be weary of the rule of equity and justice; hence the readiness with which they bow down before the brute force and the abject worship of material power. Promises, bribes, threatenings, are very plentiful, and the struggle will be a very arduous one. There is, nevertheless, hope for Italy. On the fitness of holding a public meeting in London there is no unity. By some it is denounced as impolitic, whilst the tools of the hierarchy are moving heaven and earth for its accomplishment. The latter are anxious to hold it in the first week of the new year, and to carry an address of sympathy to his Holiness.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—The dissensions in the parish of St. George's-in-the-East have occasioned the organisation of a committee for the correction of the abuses which it is urged have crept into the ecclesiastical administrations of the rector of the parish and his curates. On two Sundays the ceremony of turning the face to the east, at the commencement and conclusion of the sermon, was not adopted by the curate, but on the next Sunday Mr. King resumed the old custom, calling forth, at its revival, loud expressions of dissatisfaction from the congregation.

ITALY.—Religious freedom in Tuscany has not yet a firm foundation to rest upon. The members of the Provisional Government are personally its advocates, and their sincerity has been proved by the removal of all restrictions on the diffusion of evangelical truth, whether by preaching or printing. As a consequence, congregations have been gathered twice every day, and on three other days, in each week, a premises belonging to a Florentine carpenter, to hear Mazzarella and some evangelists from Piedmont preach the gospel. The numbers attending, some from real interest in evangelical truth and others from curiosity, have been continually on the increase, until at length crowds hang about the doors in the vain hope of obtaining admission when the room is full. These circumstances have proved gall and wormwood to the city priests, who are universally set down, and rightly, as deadly foes alike of civil and of religious liberty.

THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON AND CALVINISM.—We last week published a paragraph, copied from a London contemporary, in which it is stated that the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon had made some change in his religious views. We have, however, received a communication from the rev. gentleman himself, from which we extract the following, as a complete refutation, in his own words, of what has thus been said respecting him:—"The statement you have made with regard to my recantation of Calvinistic doctrine is a fabrication from beginning to end, and one which could only have been invented for malicious purposes. I am the same in doctrine as I have ever been, and I hope to remain faithful to the same grand truth until death." We are much obliged to Mr. Spurgeon for thus giving us an opportunity of rectifying an error into which we (having no personal feeling in the matter whatever) have been led, in unconsciously copying a misstatement from another paper, which, from the fact of Mr. Spurgeon's recent visit to Brighton, might, we suppose, prove interesting to the public, and for which, if true, we should doubtless have received the thanks of the rev. gentleman himself.—Brighton Examiner.

THE CARDROSS CASE.—In which the Free Church raised the question of the absolute independence of their Church in the civil courts, because it is a voluntary association, the Lord President has delivered an elaborate and well-argued judgment, in which the other Lords concurred, adverse to such independence as the Free Church claimed. The judgment does not strike us, at first perusal, as inconsistent with ecclesiastical liberty, but only with the liberty of ecclesiastical bodies to depart from the terms of contracts they have made with individuals.—Freeman.

A proposition to hold a General (Ecclesiastical) Council in 1860, has been made to the Vatican, with a view of taking in consideration the actual condition of the Roman Catholic world, and what means should be employed to maintain its influence throughout the world.—Post Paris Correspondent.

AGED MINISTERS.—The New York Chronicle, says, Dr. A. Maclay's sickness still continues to be a subject of much anxiety to his friends. It began with a cold, taken during the anniversary last Spring, producing swelling and supuration in the muscles of the neck. He is now eighty-two years of age, and resides with his daughter in New York.

Dr. Lyman Beecher is eighty-five years old, and healthy and vigorous as could be expected at so great an age. His overtaxed brain has yielded to the pressure, and memory fails to give back the stores with which it has been entrusted, especially for the last twenty years.

YARMOUTH.—The Rev. H. Angell writes:—"The union prayer meetings, in response to the call from the east, were, in this place, very well attended, and I think wielded a gracious influence. We have recently added 3 by baptism to the town church. We are hoping for a 'shower of blessing.' Bro. Harris baptized 4 more at Hebron last Lord's day. The churches at Beaver River and Chebogue are destitute of pastors. We trust they will soon be supplied with faithful men."

For the Christian Messenger.

Valedictory Address

FROM THE CHURCH AT BRIDGEWATER, TO THE REV. I. J. SKINNER, A. B.

In view of your approaching departure for another field of labour, we deem it but just to express to you our high sense of the constant interest evinced by you, in all things that tend to our welfare.

We regret, exceedingly, that you must go from among us, but as Providence we trust is directing you, we can but acquiesce.

We can assure you that your sojourn with us will not soon be forgotten, and your urbanity, kindness, and friendly feeling toward all who have had the pleasure of your acquaintance are too well known, to require any eulogium from us.

Your faithful labours among us, have resulted in large accessions to the church under your care; the interest you have taken in the cause of Temperance, and your untiring zeal in promoting the general interests of the community, merit our warmest thanks.

You have been called to wade through seas of affliction, in which we have felt, deeply to sympathize; but trust you have long since learned, that "Behind a frowning Providence, God hides a smiling face," and can now look up with resignation and say, "Thy will O God be done."

We are pleased to know, that the station which you go to fill, is one of importance and much interest, and sincerely hope and pray that you may be eminently successful in advancing the cause of the Home Missionary Society, and that you may bear the light of the gospel to many, very many, who now know naught but nature's night.

Finally, dear Brother, farewell! Pray for the little church planted in this place—and should we never again be associated as Pastor and people, may we be united in that "peaceful abode," where parting is no more known.

Signed on behalf of the church and congregation,

W. A. C. RANDALL, DANIEL WATERMAN, WELLESLEY J. GATES, } Committee.

REPLY:

TO THE BAPTIST CHURCH, AND CONGREGATION AT BRIDGEWATER.

Dear Brethren and Friends,

In attempting a reply to your affectionate address, I am utterly unable to give expression to the deep emotions of my heart. Our connection as Pastor and people—though not for a very lengthened period—has been sufficiently protracted to have produced a bond of union between us, not easily severed; and, while I feel compelled though reluctantly to part from you, the separation contemplated, is rendered far more painful by the recollection of so much pleasure and profit derived from association with you in public, social and domestic life.

Your co-operation in endeavouring to advance the cause of our blessed Redeemer has greatly cheered and encouraged me while labouring among you; and, for whatever good may have resulted under God from our united efforts, to Him alone be all the glory.

The sympathy and kindness you have shown me under all circumstances, and especially in deep affliction, have laid me under lasting obligations; and on memory's tablets where those dark lines of sorrow are traced, are just as indelibly written, the very many kindnesses received from the Brethren and Sisters, and Friends in Bridgewater.

And now dear friends in taking my departure for another field of labour, I bid you farewell, and leave you in the hands of a covenant keep-

ing God. I love you all. I love Bridgewater—its rocks and hills—its groves and waters. I love the places where we have so often met to praise and pray, and attend to the ordinances of the Lord's house. I love the church and long for her advancement. While health and reason remain, I shall not cease to pray for her prosperity. I love too, that hallowed spot, where, side by side, beneath the grassy mound, in peaceful slumbers rest the precious remains of my loved ones. In my imagination I shall often visit that sacred spot, to drop the sorrowing tear—to heave the deep-drawn sigh and breathe to heaven the fervent prayer that I may be permitted to meet them and you in the "better land."

In conclusion, may Heaven's choicest blessings rest upon you. And though we may be far separated as we journey here, yet I trust we shall "by faith" often meet each other "Around one common mercy-seat."

And when life's pilgrimage shall have ended, may we have a happy meeting, where mourning will be turned to joy, and prayer to praise—where peace and love shall reign for ever.

I. J. SKINNER.

Bridgewater, Jan. 17th, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

Wanted, a Plan for embellishing Acadia College grounds.

DEAR BROTHER,

At our meeting of the Governors, and of the Executive Committee yesterday, I was authorized to say in your paper, that if any friend of our institutions in Wolfville would furnish a plan for laying out and decorating the field in front of the buildings, such favor would be thankfully received.

The enquiry is often made why the above premises are left in such an unsightly condition. One reply is, those on the spot who would be glad to make a walk, or plant a tree, cannot do it for a want of a plan to guide them. Then why has not a plan been secured? The simple answer is, to employ a scientific landscape gardener to draw up a plan, would require a fee of from fifty to one hundred pounds, which cannot be afforded in the present state of our funds.

The utility of giving the institution a decent appearance is obvious to all. No degree of thoroughness in the teaching departments can atone for the neglect which is manifest in our college grounds. We seem to be sanctioning that Nova Scotia Vandalism which wages a war of extermination upon every beautiful grove and tree that God has planted to ornament His fair creation, instead of placing before our people a model for imitation, and teaching their children to appreciate whatever is beautiful and elevating in the works of the Creator. Many of the patrons of our institution are aggrieved at this state of things. They are now invited to aid in removing the stumblingblock out of the way. Some of them have adorned their own private grounds, and as we pass along we instinctively feel a thrill of gratitude for the pleasure they afford to us, by beautifying rather than deforming the fair face of nature. How important then that our public institution should commend itself to public favor, by a becoming and inviting appearance.

The field in front of the College is capable of receiving the very highest degree of ornament; but I need not say what its dilapidated appearance is now. Perhaps it could not be made as beautiful as the Paradise which Adam and Eve were commanded "to dress and to keep;" but it could be made as fair as any other spot that can be readily thought of. May we not hope that before long it may resemble in some degree the ancient Eden, where "out of the ground, made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge," with this exception, that to the tree of knowledge no one is forbidden to come, but all are invited to taste. To secure this object I would again urge any one who has the skill to form a plan for improving the field here spoken of on the principles of landscape gardening, to enclose such plan to the Rev. S. W. Deblois, the Secretary of Acadia College. I would add that if possible such plan should be presented early enough to enter upon it with the opening spring.

Yours in the service,

D. FREEMAN.

Wolfville, Jan. 19th, 1860.

P. S. I expect early in February if the Lord will, to visit Aylesford, Nictaux, Wilmot, and Bridgetown, to collect funds for present necessities. Will all subscribers be prepared? D. F.

Continued from page 27.

News Summary.

We find no item of public news of the least importance in any of the papers.

The American Congress have as yet done nothing in the way of business. There seems a want of system and organization in the mode of doing business in this great body, which is every year increasing and is highly obstructive to the free and orderly operation of a good Government. It is more easy to account for this serious difficulty in carrying on the Government of the Union, than to suggest a remedy. A large proportion of a Session of Congress is often expended before any of the real business of the country is even begun.

We cannot look for much European intelligence before the meeting of the Paris Congress, as well as that of the British Parliament, both of which are to take place during the present month.

Our own Provincial Parliament meets tomorrow. The Representatives from the country have, we learn, pretty generally arrived in town. The conflict of parties will not be likely to slumber.

We are not at all aware what measures of general public interest are likely to be brought forward. We suppose some time will be occupied, as matters now stand, in adjusting the Legislative machine, so as to get it into working order. There is one subject, however, of paramount importance to the future material prosperity of the country, which it were well for whatever party may be in power, not to forget. We allude to the continued agitation, in connection with the other Provinces, of the question of the Great Trunk Railway to Quebec. From notices in some of the Canadian papers we are glad to see that it is considered in our sister Colony an object of much moment. As regards ourselves in this Province, we cannot too highly appreciate its value. The truth, we fear, is, that until this great Intercolonial thoroughfare is completed, our own Railroads are likely to hang like a mill-stone at our necks. It may be difficult to suggest in what way the question can be revived, but at all hazards it ought not to be left to slumber.

Our next issue will doubtless inform our readers more definitely what complexion the House will assume, and what will be the probable course of proceedings.

Meteorological Register.

Abstract of Meteorological Observations

TAKEN AT ACADEMIA COLLEGE, WOLFVILLE, N. S.

In Lat. 45° 6', Long. 64° 25'. Height above sea, 95 ft.

For the month of November, 1859.

Table with meteorological data: Barometer, reduced to 32° Max'm., 4th, 7 a.m., 30.776; Min'm., 21st, 7 a.m., 29.198; Mean for the month, 29.846; Thermometer in open air, Max'm., 8th, 7 a.m., 58° 000; Min'm., 28th, 9 p.m., 4° 000; Mean for the month, 24° 806; Hygrometer, Mean of Dry Bulb, 24° 806; Wet " 23° 900; Fraction of Saturation, 87; Mean Cloudiness, 8.7; Number of cloudless days, 6; Mean velocity of wind, 7.5 miles per hour; Prevailing wind, W.; Number of days on which rain or snow fell, 21; Amount of rain or melted snow in gauge, in inches, 6.64; Depth of snow, in inches, 17.9; Number of evenings on which the Aurora was visible, 2. G. F. H.

General Intelligence.

Domestic and Foreign.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT,—IF TRUE.—The Colonist, of Saturday last, states that the "Disqualification question" has been submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown in England, and that their opinion has been sent out. According to our contemporary these High Officials have decided, after viewing all the facts—"That they are clearly of the opinion that the seven members elect, above referred to, are disqualified to be elected—that any attempt on the part of the House to shield them from the qualification oath, would be unconstitutional, and that there is no mode by which the House can confirm them in their seats, which would not set the law at defiance, deprive their acts of all respect, and render a dissolution necessary."—Journal.

A Volunteer Rifle Company to be composed of "gentlemen of color," is in course of being organized in Halifax! What next?—Bridgetown Weekly Register.

That they will make Soldiers.—Ed. M. Journal.

FOUR CHILDREN DROWNED.—The Cape Breton News says:—"We deeply regret to learn the melancholy death by drowning of four young children, in George's River, whilst on their way to their homes from school. Two of the lost ones were children of Mr. Dunlap, of that district. We have not heard the names of the others. This startling and distressing occurrence, will not be without effect, perhaps, in warning young persons of the danger of venturing on newly made ice."