

CENSUS OF NOVA SCOTIA.—Stock, Cultivated Lands, Agricultural Produce, in 1850 and 1860.

Table with columns for Counties, Neat Cattle, Milch Cows, Horses, Sheep, Lands (Acres Impro. Interv. e and Upland), Hay (Tons cut), Wheat (Bushels grown), Potatoes (Bushels grown), and Apples (Bushels grown). Rows list various counties like Halifax, Colchester, Cumberland, etc., and a total for the county.

Agriculture, &c.

The rapidity of growth in Fungi.

Mr. Ward, in his work "On the Growth of Plants in Closely-glazed Cases," says of it: "I had been struck with the published accounts of the extraordinary growth of the phallus imputicus. I therefore procured three or four specimens in an undeveloped state, and placed them in a small glazed case. All but one grew during my temporary absence from home. I was determined not to lose eight of the last specimen; and observing one evening that there was a small rent in the volva, indicating the approaching development of the plant, I watched it all night, and at 8 o'clock in the morning the summit of the pileus began to push through the jelly-like matter with which was surrounded. In the course of 25 minutes it shot up three inches, and attained its full elevation of four inches in one hour and a full elevation of four inches in one hour and a half. Marvellous are the accounts of the rapid growth of the cells in the fungi; but in the above instance it cannot for a moment be imagined that there was any increase in the number of cells, but merely an elongation of the erectile tissue of the plant." The force developed by this rapid growth an increase of the cells of fungi is truly astonishing. M. Bullard relates that on placing a fungus within a glass vessel the plant expanded so rapidly that it shivered the glass to pieces with an explosive detonation as loud as that of a pistol; while Dr. Carpenter in his Elements of Physiology, mentions that "in the neighborhood of Basingstoke a paving stone, measuring 21 in. square, and weighing 83 lb, was completely raised an inch and a half out of its bed by a mass of toadstools of from six to seven inches in diameter, nearly the whole pavement of the town being heaved up by the same cause." Every one has heard of the portentous growth of the fungi in a gentleman's cellar, produced by the decomposing contents of a wine cask, which, being too sweet for immediate use, was allowed to stand unmolested for several years. The door in this case was blocked up and barricaded by the monstrous growth, and when forcible entrance was obtained the whole cellar was found completely filled, the cask which had caused the vegetable revel, drained of its contents, being triumphantly elevated to the roof, as it were upon the shoulders of the bacchanalian fungi.—Macmillan's Footnotes from the Page of Nature.

HYACINTHS IN WINTER.—Butler and McCullough's extensive catalogue of Dutch and Cape bulbs, just published, lays down the following directions for the winter culture of hyacinths:—"Place the bulb on the top, and fill the glass with pure rain or soft water, so as almost to touch its base. The glasses should then be placed in a perfectly dark, cool, but not damp situation and, in the course of three or four weeks, the bulbs will have become sufficiently rooted, and may be removed to the light. In all cases a flower-stand or table close to the window is the most desirable position; nevertheless the hyacinth may be grown successfully on the mantel-piece, or on the centre-table of the room, provided there be sufficient light. The Dutch have another very interesting mode of culture—they take a flat dish, either crystal or porcelain about the depth of a soup-plate, and, according to its size, place three, six, nine or twelve strong healthy bulbs in about half an inch of water. In a few days the roots begin to spread out horizontally, and so clasp each other, that in the course of a few weeks, they form a natural support for the group. The bulbs may or may not be covered with moss."

CUCUMBER TOAST.—Select your cucumbers—fresh, crisp, medium size—just as you would prefer if served up in the usual manner; pare and slice lengthwise in cuts a quarter of an inch thick; rinse in cold water; dip each singly in flour, and hurry them into the dripping pan, using for material to fry them the gravy in which either beef-steaks, veal-cutlets or mutton-chops were cooked, or butter may be used; but be sure to fry briskly until the slices are a light brown on both sides, have your bread toasted, buttered or dipped, as you prefer, and close at hand; slip the slices of cucumber hot from the pan between slices of toast and serve at once.—Any one following these directions implicitly, will find cucumber toast really good to eat.—American Farmer.

ROTATION OF CROPS.—The Country Gentleman says that James Beatty and Sons, successful farmers in Cayuga county N. Y., adopt the following rotation:

Their fields successively lie in meadow two years; in pasture the third; the fourth, corn is planted on the sod, the manure having been applied the previous autumn, and the sod plowed just before planting. Corn is followed the fifth year by barley, which is seeded to clover by rolling. This clover is pastured with sheep, the pasture thus obtained being equal to the expense of seeding until the following summer, when it is converted to summer fallow for wheat. The droppings of the sheep, and the crop of clover, furnish an excellent preparation for this grain, which is harvested the sixth year. It is followed by a growth of timothy and clover, which constitutes meadow two years and pasture one year, as already mentioned.

SWELLINGS ON HORSES.—Swellings on horses or other domestic animals may be almost always dissipated by applying the following embrocation, viz.: To two quarts proof whiskey, or other proof spirits, add one pint of soft soap.—Warm the whole over the fire, and then bottle it, having added one ounce of camphor. This constitutes a liquid opodeldoc, and is an excellent article, if prepared according to the above recipe.—N. E. Farmer.

It must be somewhere written that the virtues of mothers shall occasionally be visited upon the children, as well as the sins of the father.

THE GREAT METROPOLIS.—It is calculated that there are from 1000 to 1500 acres within ten miles of London under the strawberry crop. The Commons' Select Committee on the local taxation and government of London have to deal with an area of 78,029 acres, on which stand 360,237 inhabited houses, with a population of 2,803,034 souls. The assessment is over sixty millions of dollars annual, and 7000 persons are employed entirely in the government of this vast body of people.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letters to a Young Preacher.

LETTER XXI. CHOICE OF A WIFE.

My Dear Brother,—

It is evidently not consistent in any man to enter into the marriage relation without a reasonable prospect of being able to provide for the comfortable maintenance of a wife and family.—With the single man who is in circumstances to do this, it is, of course, optional whether he shall remain in his present state, or seek a change.—Marriage, however, is an institution of divine appointment, designed and adapted to promote human happiness. I am not aware of any valid reason why a minister of the gospel should not be considered as included among those of whom the Apostle says, "Let every man have his own wife." It is manifest that from the first, elders, bishops, or pastors of churches had wives, as had also Peter and "other Apostles." (1 Tim. iii. 2, 4, 5. Tit. i. 6, 7. Matt. viii. 14. 1 Cor. ix. 5.) An affectionate husband and kind father can, from experience, enter more fully and feelingly than an unmarried man into the spirit of those numerous portions of Scripture which represent the union between the Lord and His people by reference to these endearing relations. (See Isa. liv. 5. Jer. iii. 14. Eph. v. 23, 25, 26, 32. Ps. ciii. 13. Mal. iii. 17. 2 Cor. vi. 18.) He has a deeper interest in the general welfare; and is better prepared to sympathize with the families under his care.

A minister who marries should unquestionably be careful to obtain a wife that will be indeed "a help meet for him." It appears strange at the first view that, while the Apostle specifies the qualifications requisite for the wives of deacons, (1 Tim. iii. 11.) he gives no directions with

reference to those of pastors. A reason for this, however, may be assigned. There were usually numbers of persons in the churches who were capable of filling the deacon's office. Men were not specially called by the Lord to this work; but were selected by the "brethren." (Acts vi. 3.) These might choose such as had suitable wives. But men possessing the endowments required for the ministry were comparatively few in number: and such as were directly called of God to the work, could not be consistently rejected on account of the unfitness of the wives whom they had previously married. It does not, however, thence follow, that one who is called to preach prior to his marriage, has not need to exercise prudence and caution in the selection of a partner.

Unquestionably there shall exist a peculiar attachment; but no man, and more especially no preacher, should allow himself to be led wholly by blind fancy. Matches that are professedly formed through uncontrollable love, often prove to be very unhappy. When, therefore, a preacher perceives that his affections are being drawn toward a female, he ought to inquire seriously and deliberately, Is she a suitable person to be a minister's wife? He must not suffer the attractions of personal beauty to influence his decision. Neither should the possession of wealth, the respectability of family connexions, nor any other worldly consideration, be allowed to pervert his judgment. The main question should be, Does she possess the mental and moral qualifications requisite?

Assuredly these must not be inferior to those required in the wives of deacons, namely, to "be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things." These imply ardent piety, manifesting itself by the avoidance of improprieties of conduct, and the practice of Christian virtues. Courteousness is commendable and useful; but a woman who, instead of being "grave," is addicted to "foolish talking and jesting," is unsuitable to be a preacher's companion. So also is one inclined to indulge in "slandering," or tattling. A disposition to be haughty, inattentive to the poor, indolent, or imprudent in expenditures, as opposed to being "sober," (nephalos, vigilant, prudent,) disqualifies a female for so important a position. Being "faithful in all things" includes industry and frugality in temporal matters, a readiness to assist the distressed, and fidelity in the discharge of all the duties of religion.

In the choice of a wife a minister should seek to obtain one who will feel interested, not only in his personal comfort, but also in the success of his ministry; one whose affability and kindness will tend to secure the good-will of the people, and whose cheerful and zealous co-operation in every good work will afford him material aid in his arduous labors.

A young preacher has need to exercise much circumspection with reference to entering into any matrimonial engagement. Imprudence on this point has occasioned no little trouble, and done no small amount of harm.

The writer has some acquaintance with a minister who has been twice married, but who from the commencement of his ministry—nay, from the time of his conversion—never gave to any female the most distant intimation of any special regard until his mind was decisively made up, in the event of her compliance, to make her his wife. In each of these cases both parties, by mutual agreement, remained unpledged; so that should a change of mind occur in either party prior to the solemnization of marriage, there might be no constraint, and no charge of the violation of a promise. The adoption of this course is recommended.

A minister's courtship should, so far as circumstances permit, be an example for others.—It should not only be conducted with the utmost candor, frankness and delicacy, but care ought

to be taken to avoid those improprieties which are too common; such, for instance, as keeping unseasonable hours, and desecrating the holy Sabbath. Many persons do not seem to be aware of the harm there is in this. But if making bargains and visiting on the Lord's day are wrong, can it be right to be making a bargain of this kind, or visiting for this purpose, on the sacred day?

May you, my dear young brother, if unmarried and disposed to take a wife, proceed with prudence in the preliminary steps, and obtain one who will be a blessing to you, and to the people with whom you may labor!

Yours in gospel bonds,
CHARLES TUPPER.
Tremont, Aylesford, Nov. 1st, 1861.

New South Wales and New Zealand.

The following is from a young man who went from Halifax to Australia not long since, and is dated Sydney, New South Wales, August 21st, 1861:

The Baptist cause is not what it should be out here; yet, considering the class of people who form the population of New South Wales, the majority being mere adventurers, and consequently, not christians, from all quarters of the globe, I think, taking all things into consideration, we are fairly represented, and are making rapid progress. The cause is advancing. Since Dr. Hobbs arrived, there have been two Baptist ministers added to our force, one from Geelong, Victoria, and the other from England. There is another expected daily from the latter place, yet there is room. The field is indeed very extensive and the labourers are few. I think Nova Scotia might spare us one or two, if not more.

Our correspondent then gives a detailed account of the murder of Mr. Gordon, which has already been before our readers.

He proceeds "before leaving the subject of religion, I would say that not only has the Baptist interest progressed but also all other denominations. Missionaries are pouring in from England, Scotland, and Ireland. The Wesleyans have the preponderance, the John Wesley took six or eight of the latter to the Fiji and other islands not long since.

As our political news would not be of much importance, I shall therefore give a few general items. Firstly, the gold fields are continuing to yield a goodly increase, particularly the Southern. Several large nuggets of the precious metal have been found at Burrangong, at which place there has been considerable disturbance, so much so that we had to send up the military.—It was between the Europeans and Chinese, the former being jealous of the latter. There are some 30,000 Chinamen in this colony. They are no benefit whatever to it, and the sooner they are routed the better. If Government don't soon pass a measure excluding them from the diggings, the European diggers will be off to New Zealand, where a very extensive gold-field has been discovered. The last mail from New Zealand brought over about 4,000 ounces of gold from the diggings at Tuapeka. People are flocking from all parts of the island to these gold diggings. Several vessels have been abandoned by the seamen, in some of the ports near them.

The late intelligence from New Zealand is of the same character, as that by several of the past mails; that is, hostilities are still suspended. There has been no actual fighting. The British force numbers about 10,000, and the Maories about 12,000 fighting men.

The policy which the Government recommended is, first, to make a strenuous effort to conciliate the Maories, by the establishment of a tribunal for titles, in the formation of which the leading men of the Maori race are to be consulted, by the introduction among them, under the authority of Her Majesty, of a system of Government as nearly as possible after the model of the Runanga (Council of Chiefs), and the appointment of Maori Magistrates. While they propose to make every just and reasonable concession to the Maories, the Government are prepared, if that people should still refuse to submit to the Queen's authority, to recommence prompt and decisive military operations. Should the attempt at a peaceful termination of the dispute fail, it was expected that war would be commenced in earnest about the end of this month.

The reappointment of Sir George Grey to succeed Governor Browne has been hailed with the liveliest manifestations of joy by the Maories, wherever the news of the appointment has become known. He seems to be in great favour with them, in fact the news of his re-appointment to that post, seems to have been hailed with universal satisfaction. He seems to be the right man in the right place. During his former Governorship of New Zealand he had a good opportunity of gaining a knowledge of the Maori character, and he is said to possess a remarkable power over them. Let us hope that he will settle the present dispute speedily. Everything is at present at a stand still. It is a pity that such a rich country should be held by a few thousand would-be cannibals.

Now, Sir, I suppose you are almost tired out, I intended to write on several other subjects, but have neither nor time.

Dr. Hobbs, lady, and son are in the enjoyment of good health, and trusting you all enjoy the same.
I remain, yours &c.,
R. A. WATSON.