

9th. Wash the eyes abundantly every morning. If cold water is used, let it be flapped against the closed eye with the fingers of the hand, not striking hard against the balls of the eyes. But it would seem a better plan to open the eyes in pure warm water, because warm water is more penetrating than cold; it dissolves much more readily and rapidly any hardened matter that may be about the lids, and is more soothing and more natural.

10th. The moment the eyes feel tired, the very moment you are conscious of an effort to read or sew, lay aside the book or needle, and take a walk for an hour, or employ yourself in some active exercise not requiring the close use of the eyes.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 27, 1861.

Day of Humiliation and Prayer.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.

In times of calamity and distress arising from famine, pestilence, or war, it is deemed perfectly consistent to recognize these visitations as the voice of God speaking in his providence; and it is deemed highly proper to use special means for calling public attention to the supposed causes there, may be for withholding the blessings of peace, health, and plenty, commonly enjoyed. At such times, national Fasts and Days of Humiliation are consequently appointed by "the powers that be" and special prayer recommended.—Although we recognize no authority but that of Christ in his church, yet we would not depreciate these expressions of a desire to avert causes of sorrow. To put away evil and forgetfulness of God for a day is well, but we know, at the same time, that sin, which is the source of all sorrow, and is a reproach to any people, has a deeper seat than the outward conduct. National sins, however, do bring down appropriate judgments, and God often shews by these his hatred to what is contrary to his law; but the source of opposition to God can only be effectually reached by a change in the heart—eradicating the evil principle and implanting a new nature, which develops itself in "ceasing to do evil and learning to do well." If enmity against God continues in the individuals comprising a nation, it is not to be expected that the aggregate will be very far superior.

Inasmuch as the concerns of eternity are more important than those belonging to this world and time,—matters relating to the soul are of greater moment than those belonging to our material nature—the interests of the Church vastly transcend those of the State; in the same ratio a dearth of spiritual blessings and the absence of a harvest of souls brought into the Church of Jesus Christ, is a greater calamity than a short crop of the earth's productions, or a withdrawal of other common mercies.

All the good that exists in this world is found in connection with those who love and serve God,—who have repented of their sin and have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and with them only. If the absence of temporal good be a cause of lamentation, how much more should the withholding of blessing on the Divine Word—the good seed of the kingdom—command more general and earnest attention, especially of those who are commanded to "shine as lights in the world."—The laborers in God's vineyard need the encouragement arising from seeing that their labor is not in vain. Whilst we believe that every effort to do good is productive of beneficial results, and even "a cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple shall in no wise lose its reward;" and that such labor brings a blessing down upon both those who give and those who receive, yet the larger blessing sometimes experienced is greatly to be desired. During the past year this has been to a great extent withheld. Whilst some years have witnessed very large accessions of converts to the churches in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, the additions of the past year amounted to scarcely five per cent. The Report stating this fact at the late Annual Session of the Baptist Convention recommended that a day be set apart for special services on account of the same. The Convention subsequently appointed the day named at the head of this article as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer. It was considered desirable that services should be held by the churches with this special object in view,—that we might enquire amongst our own membership, and seek Divine direction in the examination, and thus be led to see more distinctly how we may more effectually serve God in the gospel of His Son, and be made the channel of blessing to the world. We might refer to many portions of the Word of God which give

suitable instruction for such occasions, and might call the attention of our readers to various matters which, in our opinion, are obstacles to a larger measure of prosperity in Christian churches, but in the exercise of prayer and humiliation before God, we trust, divine illumination will be given to the ministers and brethren as they assemble for this purpose on the day named. We would suggest however, that the Church of Christ contains in itself the elements of spiritual power; and it times of refreshing are to come from the presence of the Lord, they may be expected to appear first in the Church, before the world shall feel their influence, and before the wilderness is made glad and the desert rejoices and blossoms as the rose.

Missionary Contributions in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

We are glad to learn from the N. B. Baptist and Ch. Visitor that our brethren in that province have done more for Foreign Missions than we gave them credit for. The remarks we made a few weeks ago respecting the amount which appeared in the Treasurer's Report, and the desirableness of all the churches united in Convention in N. S., N. B., and P. E. I., doing something in this great work, were copied by our cotemporary; to which he appends the following:—

"Judging from the Minutes of the Convention and Associations, our cotemporary supposes that 'nothing has been done;' but in this he is mistaken. Instead of the 124 Churches composing our two Associations, making, as he asserts, 'no contributions towards our Foreign Missionary works,' certainly not less than 80 out of the 124 have made such contributions. They have done it through the Union Societies established by our Financial Agent.

It is true a just proportion of the amount so collected went to pay the expense of agency which renders the sum total less than it otherwise would have been; but still there are upwards of \$180 in the Treasurer's hands waiting the order of the Foreign Missionary Board, the seat of which is in Nova Scotia. Dr. Tupper, the Secretary, wrote us some time ago in regard to the amount then on hand. We replied giving him the information desired.

Now when our brother remembers that in addition to the amount contributed through our Union Societies, the Juvenile Society connected with the Brussels Street Church gives to this object some \$100 per annum he will see that the New Brunswick Churches, in proportion to their numbers and wealth, are not, after all, so very far behind their sister Churches in Nova Scotia in this good work of Foreign Missions. It asked why this money in the Treasury has not been forwarded, we answer, for the simple reason that no application has been made for it. The Treasurer, Mr. S. Hersey, is prepared to honor the order of the Foreign Missionary Board at any moment, to the full amount of funds in his possession for this object.

We make this explanation for the purpose of doing justice to all concerned. But at the same time we have to confess that but little is being done by the churches of these provinces for Foreign Missions when compared with the magnitude of the work and with their ability to contribute. At some future time we may show the reason why no more is done in this important department of Christian enterprise. In the mean time let us all seek a fresh baptism of the spirit of missions, and then shall we be better prepared for the great work committed to our care."

The information contained in the above will be received with pleasure by our brethren. We still think we were justified in our conclusions respecting the past year. The Treasurer's Report is the authorized channel in which the contributions of the churches should appear, whether they come through the Associations or the Union Society. When they find their place there we conclude they are paid in, but not before. We are glad to learn therefore that the Report of next year will shew an improved state of things.

We would however still urge the subject on our brethren in New-Brunswick, as well as in N. S. The Rev. T. Todd the late Agent of the Union Society has retired from his work of organizing branch Societies, and it will devolve on those Societies to be diligent or they will not be making such progress as should be seen in a work of this nature, and the end of year will fail to shew satisfactory results.

With all our heart we say Amen, to the closing remarks of our brother in the above extract. We hope also to find that the churches on this side the Bay, who have not hitherto contributed, as well as those who have, will strive to do something, "as God has prospered them"; even though it may be ever so small a sum, remembering the Scotch proverb "Many wees make a muckle." When the Christian labors for this world's goods, only that he may be able by the proceeds of his industry to aid in disseminating the Gospel amongst his fellow men, his worldly business is exalted to a heavenly calling, and he may say with the Apostle "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Let this be the motive in every church and every family and

we shall find a very different state of things prevailing. Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do we should do all to the glory of God.

The Census.

On another page will be found a tabular view of the Census Returns of Live Stock, Cultivated Lands, and Agricultural Produce. It would be very inconvenient to publish in a newspaper the full details of all the root crops and a number of other particulars given.—We have therefore taken these, which, we believe, will be the most valued from the tables which are shortly to be published in one large volume, under direction of the government.—These portions we believe, will possess considerable interest for all our readers, and will be examined carefully and often referred to by them. We have also taken considerable pains to get the Returns under the same heads made to the House of Assembly in 1851, and have placed them in columns, side by side with those of the present year, for the purpose of more readily shewing the changes made in these respects during the past ten years.

No separate Census of the City of Halifax was then taken, consequently there are no numbers immediately under 1850. Victoria and Cape Breton were but one county ten years ago, it will be seen therefore that to compare the different items in them with 1850, it will be necessary to add the two numbers opposite those counties together. In the present year's Census "Improved Lands" "Interval" and "Upland" are given in two separate columns, we have therefore added them together for the purpose of making the comparison between them. They will be separate when published officially. One curious fact will be observed—the number of "Neat cattle" in most of the counties is diminished; whilst the number of "milk cows" and "horses" is increased, the latter very considerably. This may arise from oxen being now used for farm work, where oxen formerly were, or it may be that there are not so many cattle reared as there were ten years since. It will be observed too that the number of sheep now kept is greater than it was then, in all but three or four of the counties.

The whole quantity of "potatoes grown" is more than doubled since 1850; and in some counties more than trebled.

We did not suppose so large a quantity of apples were grown in the county of Lunenburg; that appears to be the third county in this respect—only the counties of Annapolis and Kings growing more—whilst it has diminished its quantity of wheat grown, by upwards of 30 per cent, and has the smallest number of horses; that county and Shelburne being the only two where the number of horses is smaller than in 1850. There must surely have been some defect in the returns from Shelburne county, as it appears from the numbers given at the acres of "Improved Land" has diminished from 16,435 acres to 7,825, less than half the extent there was in 1850. It may be however that the county has made a retrograde motion arising from local causes, with which we are unacquainted. Will some one who knows please inform us if this be the case? Queens, the adjoining county to Shelburne, it appears, has in the same period, increased its quantity of wheat, more than 50 per cent and its improved lands by upwards of 2000 acres.

We might pursue these comparisons to almost any extent; but must leave our readers to do so for themselves. Statistical information of all kinds is exceedingly interesting to intelligent minds, and as it is more studied, becomes more and more highly appreciated. With these introductory remarks, but few will look at the thousands of figures, standing in battle array in the table referred to, as unworthy of their consideration.

ERRATA.—In our article last week on "The Census of Nova Scotia" for T. Fulton Esq. the Chairman of the Census Board" read "S. Fulton Esq. Secretary of the Census Board."

Discipline.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have had several inquiries (private, of course) as to the localities from which communications on church discipline have been received by us; each thinking the cases mentioned so much like some in their own neighborhood that they must have been written with special reference to them. In every case the enquiring parties have been greatly mistaken in their supposition, some of them by hundreds of miles. One fact is illustrated by this circumstance, that is that human nature is much alike in every place and in all ages. The delinquencies and irregularities of church members in one community, at one time, are similar to those which may be expected in any other, although continents

may divide them and centuries may elapse between them. They may appear in one form in one place, and another in another but, if traced to their origin, they will generally be found in their essential features very much alike. We are often led to fancy our own trials peculiar, and to suppose that if relieved from such and such things we should then be in a state comparatively comfortable and happy.—This may possibly be the case in some instances, but we think trials and comforts are, on the whole, pretty equally measured out by the Great Dispenser. The riches of the wealthy are often the source of as much trouble as the poverty of the poor, and even afflictions are not always unmitigated evils.

We remember on one occasion hearing an excellent old minister remark, that "the psalmist David would have shewn more wisdom, if, instead of exclaiming, 'Oh, that I had wings like a dove, then would I flee away and be at rest,' he had prayed for the strength of an ox, to bear the troubles by which he was then surrounded." So would we suggest to our brethren that they should not magnify the matters of difficulty in connection with themselves and their brethren, and fancy that some change of place or people will secure immunity from trouble, but manfully meet their own duties, and so illustrate the principles of the gospel and their efficacy to destroy all the works of the devil.

The communication from "A Subscriber," respecting the "Infirmary Ministers Fund," came to hand yesterday afternoon, just as we were going to press. We may mention that we believe aid has been given from that fund, by each of the Associations in N. S. and N. B.—The Treasurers' Reports may be found in the Minutes of each of the three Nova Scotia Associations. We shall be happy to furnish "Subscriber" with a copy of each.

THE REV. R. D. PORTER has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church at Milton, Queens County. We regret that we accidentally omitted to mention this in a former number. We were requested to notify that Mr. Porter would be glad to have communications for him, sent to Milton. We congratulate both pastor and church on the connexion formed, and trust it may be a source of happiness to all concerned, and that their happiness may arise from seeing many becoming 'obedient to the faith,' and 'walking in the ordinances of the Lord, blameless.'

THE WESTMINSTER and LONDON QUARTERLIES have come to hand. The former has several ably written papers, but their rationalistic tendencies render them dangerous to those not well protected by the truth. The latter contains articles on—

- 1. The life of Shelly. 2. Life, enterprise and peril in coal-mines. 3. The immutability of nature. 4. Newton as a scientific discoverer. 5. The growth of English Poetry. 6. Plutarch. 7. Education of the Poor. 8. Alexis de Tocqueville. 9. Church-rates. The third and fourth of these will afford a rich treat to cultivated minds.

News Summary.

THE European news of the week is unimportant. England, France and Spain have probably ere this dispatched their United Armament to the Coast of Mexico, to enforce reparation for the injuries and spoiliations suffered by their subjects from all the contending parties in that distracted country, where revolution succeeds revolution in a continual series, and life and property lie at the mercy of a fanatic or a lawless mob. Whether foreign coercion can remedy the evil remains to be seen. At any rate foreign Governments are bound to protect the lives and property of their own citizens. The country is at present rent asunder by a Priestly and a Democratic party, each equally sanguinary, unprincipled and violent. There is, however, no end to the feuds and factions that overspread one of the richest regions of the earth.

No material change has taken place during the week in the position of the Northern and Southern Armies. Decisive action is still deferred, although a conflict is said to be impending on the line of the Potomac. Another expedition on a large scale is being fitted out for the South—intended it is said for New Orleans. Nothing of importance seems to have occurred in the first Expedition, now established at Port Royal, S. C. The advanced season of the year must now interfere materially with all military or naval operations. Much excitement has been caused by the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, the Southern Delegates to Europe, by a Northern ship-of-war, from the English steamer Trent. How far the act involves an infraction with the friendly relations between England and the U. S., cannot be known, until all the circumstances transpire, and the two Governments shall have communicated on the subject.