

A very large supply of Burnese books and tracts went to the flames. These, however, can be immediately replaced. Not so my own library, which contained many books most important, or rather indispensable to me in giving instruction to the Assistants' class. Hebrew Bibles, Greek Testaments, Dictionaries, Grammars, Commentaries, all gone, and I fear the process of replacing them will be a very slow one. As some may see this, who feel inclined to make a donation to the mission here, let me say that Atlases, maps, globes, planetariums, mathematical and scientific apparatus, commentaries, &c., &c., &c., would all be most useful to the mission.

I have forgotten whether I reported to you the baptism of a young man and his wife a few weeks since. They, with all the other christians continue firm and faithful to their profession. So far as casting us down or discouraging us is concerned, no such result of the recent disaster is perceptible. There is some reason to fear that the new Income Tax, which Government has just been collecting, and which has much irritated the natives, was the origination of this great fire.

As all my letters, papers, accounts, &c., perished (money in hand fortunately was left in a safe place when I went away, and was not lost), will you please let me know again the exact value of the Draft you sent me, as also how much of it was from your Board, how much from St. John Juvenile Missionary Society and how much for Female School?

I'm very thankful that the support of the native preachers is independent of the American Bible Union, for just now, when so heavy a demand must be made upon their treasury for new buildings, I fear the native preachers would fare badly.

With kind regards to Mrs. Tupper.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

MESSESS. EDITORS,

The painful intelligence contained in the letter above, will doubtless produce grief and sympathy in many hearts. It is to be hoped that sympathy with our beloved brother Crawley will be evinced in a tangible shape, by contributions towards making up his personal loss in library, clothing, &c.

Please get some friend in Halifax to take charge of money, books, and other articles that may be contributed. I will give \$2 00 myself, and \$2 00 out of a small sum entrusted to me by a friend, for objects of benevolence.

Yours, as ever,

CHARLES TUPPER.

Aylesford, March 18, 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 27, 1861

Rev. A. R. R. Crawley's losses by fire.

In accordance with the suggestion of Rev. Dr. Tupper in his note appended to that from Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, giving an account of his sad disaster, we have applied to Rev. W. H. Humphrey, and Rev. A. H. Munro, pastors of the Halifax churches. They will both be most happy to receive contributions of money, books, &c., &c., to aid in supplying the sad loss experienced by our brother Crawley. If any thing could be said to commend this case to the brethren and friends we would most gladly say it, but the fact itself as given in Mr. C's note is the most eloquent appeal that could be made. We advise all to read it over again and ask, What can I do? Let there be no delay. What thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might for there is no work or device in the grave whither thou goest.

Independent Journalism.

The health of a city is affected by the food and water with which it is supplied. If the source whence its inhabitants obtain either of these be infected or impregnated with any deleterious substance, they can but expect eventually to suffer from its use. The ailment administered to the mind is of vastly greater moment than that provided for the sustenance of the bodily organization. The introduction of any noxious quality here, is therefore of far more serious consequence.

The periodical press is the great channel by which mental supplies are furnished to the people, at least on this continent. Each political party and religious denomination of any considerable extent, has its exponent in a weekly or other newspaper, every town of any pretensions, too, has its sheet of local intelligence. The vast influence of the press on the community in which it circulates, ren-

ders it most important that it should be kept free from corrupting influences, which might prevent it from giving full expression to the principles by which it professes to be governed, especially is this important with the religious press. To secure public respect, those who profess to be enlisted in the service of Christian truth, must be above suspicion, and free from all that would bring them into subjection to any inferior influences. By sacrificing their independence to their partizanship they forfeit the confidence at their most discriminating patrons, and no longer occupy the commanding position which properly belongs to them.

If the press in general may be compared to the material taken into the system to sustain its vitality, the religious press and its operation on the community, may be considered as the vital air or the light of heaven which surrounds it. Once deprive even the animal and vegetable kingdoms of their full and necessary supply of these, and instead of having objects possessing animation, symmetry and beauty, we have sickly mishapen things, not only useless but positively baneful or poisonous. Nothing should find a place in a religious journal by constraint, or even by way of compensation for favors received, that will at all compromise its character. Its permanent advantage cannot be promoted by any hiding of principles for the sake of apparent profits. Those who value truth will not be willing to barter it away for a piece of bread. To be independent then the religious press must be preserved from any such circumstances of degradation.

The organ of a religious community has in some instances been made a commercial speculation of the body, and dependant for supplies on its ecclesiastical rulers. Its patrons become in such cases, contributors to the general fund by which it is sustained, rather than making payment for what they deem an article of value to themselves and families. This has not been found to work satisfactorily or promotive of the independence of the press, but has rendered it rather the exponent of those who rule than the representative of the body.

All human affairs are imperfect and arrangements intended to avoid one evil sometimes produce others, but the general voice of experience seems to be, that the freedom of the press is promoted by the authority and responsibility resting on some recognized individual. The character of the press depends greatly on its patrons. If he who stands at the helm is led to adopt any questionable expedients in a time of threatening danger, and by steering so far from Scylla gets his bark on Charybdis the pleasant gale of popular favor will but little avail him. It will but bring him to more speedy loss and certain destruction.

When we speak of the independence of the press then, it will be seen that we have no other thought than of its being outspoken in the expression of truth, and without fear or favor in adhering consistently to the principles by which it professes to be governed. When truth so affects society that men are influenced by the great moral law, the press generally must reflect the same sentiment, and the selfishness which now binds together parties will no longer sway either press or people, but righteousness and peace will reign triumphant over the nations.

THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY INTERFERING WITH THE PRESS.—Our reporter informs us that during the time the Hon. Mr. Howe was speaking on Thursday last, he was informed by the Deputy Sergeant-at-arms that the Speaker of the House of Assembly had sent up orders to have him removed from "the reporter's seat." Surprised at this, he demanded whether he had not given the Deputy our certificate for his admission—he was answered by that official with apologies that such was the case, but that he could not disobey the orders of the Speaker.

We cannot account for this interference with our office on the part of the Speaker, but conceive that some sufficient explanation or apology is due to us, or the press generally may be as summarily dealt with as ourselves, and any accommodation made for its representatives may be considered as done but for the purpose of affording the Speaker an opportunity of insulting them.

The Editors of the *Provincial Wesleyan* and the *Presbyterian Witness* it appears are troubled occasionally no less than ourselves with the productions of rhymesters. They give specimens in their last number. It is easier to make words jangle than to produce valuable thoughts. We recommend more attention to the latter and then if poetry is the result it will bear reading and perhaps not be unworthy of being printed.

CURIOS.—The *Witness* of Saturday last has an article on "Party Spirit" beginning with the following sentence:—

"No one, comparatively free from party spirit, can hear or peruse the speeches delivered in our House of Assembly without a feeling of regret mingled with shame and loathing: and nothing but the blinding influence of party spirit can make such speeches possible or palatable."

THE STORMS of the past week have deprived us of our usual exchanges. It has been quite difficult to travel even in the city. The roads throughout the Province and New Brunswick, we learn, have become almost impassable.

We fear that many of our readers in some parts of the country have had some delay in receiving our last issue. We may hope that this fall of snow, as it has been the greatest during the winter, will be the last, and that now after a few days we shall have to welcome spring with all its cheering influences.

News Summary.

The Steamer *Canada*, which arrived on Saturday, after a long and stormy passage of 14 days, brings our London dates up to the 9th inst. The chief items of interest in the way of news are those which relate to the Parliamentary proceedings of England and other European States. Not much requiring special notice has occurred in the English Legislature. A Bill designed to settle the long vexed question of Church rates has passed the House of Commons by a considerable majority. A similar Bill was passed there last year; but fell through in the House of Lords. Some interesting debates have also taken place on the present state of Italy and the Roman Question.

In Italy, thus far, the prospects of the Union appear to wear the most prosperous aspect. The New Italian Parliament were in Session at Turin, and appear to be governed by principles of great prudence and harmony. A vote of the Chambers had passed, conferring on Victor Emmanuel, hitherto King of Sardinia, the title of *King of Italy*, under which name he and his successors will hereafter take their place among the Great Powers of Europe.

In the French Legislature, under a recent decree of the Emperor, granting a much enlarged freedom of debate in political questions, and in reference to the Acts of the Government, a very warm discussion has taken place as regards the separation of the spiritual and temporal power of the Pope. There is an evident determination on the part of Louis Napoleon, supported by the opinions and feelings of the leading men in his Ministry, and probably by the great bulk of the intelligence of France, to shake off sooner or later, the trammels of Papal authority.

The policy and independence of the Old Gallican Church, which formerly showed a strong tendency in this direction, seems to have revived, and the almost entire annihilation of the Pope's temporal power, will most probably afford a fitting opportunity to the Emperor to form an independent National Church.

It had been fully anticipated from the professed determination and promises of the Emperor of Russia, that on the 2nd instant there would have issued an Imperial Decree declaring the whole body of the Serfs of the Empire free. Of the Sixty Millions of Russia, they are supposed to be about *forty millions*. Great excitement of course prevailed throughout the dominions of the Czar. The decree however did not appear on the day expected.—It is understood to have been delayed by the powerful opposition of some of the great Nobles, one of whom alone is said to own one hundred and thirty thousand serfs, or in fact slaves attached to the soil. But there is no doubt but that the measure will very soon take place, as the Emperor is said to be firm in his determination.

A serious popular commotion has taken place at Warsaw the Capital of Poland, when a number of the citizens were fired on and killed by the Russian soldiery.

In Hungary the discontent and resistance to Austrian authority still continue, and strong symptoms of the breaking out of revolutionary movements are daily more apparent. The Emperor of Austria has promulgated a Constitution for all his dominions, by which two Legislative Branches are to be summoned.—The lower or popular branch of Deputies to consist of upwards of 340 members. It does not appear however that they are to be chosen by the direct vote of the people, but by certain Colleges or Diets, so called, who are themselves constituted we believe, by some united action of the Government and the people.—The Election of the Deputies will be somewhat in the same manner as the American President is chosen.—Whether the Hungarians will accept it as a full remedy for their grievances, seems very doubtful.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY.—On Thursday last a serious and almost fatal accident occurred on the railway. The Hon. Mr. McCully and several others were badly injured. After the heavy storm of Wednesday much snow had accumulated on various parts of the track. Mr. McCully says in a letter to Hon. Joseph Howe on the same day.

SIR,—I proceeded to Richmond this morning, and having attached four large Engines to a Snow Plough, we proceeded with the mails, but without any passenger or other cars, to clear the track. In many places the drifts we found to be very heavy, and requiring all the power we had at command. I was upon the front Engine, next the Snow Plough, with Mr. Johnston, the Loc. Superintendent.

We travelled cautiously and safely till we were passing Black's Cut, near the old Cobequid Road, where the snow plough left the track—the signals for breaks was promptly given; but the first engine, on which I was, had its house struck by the end of the snow plough, which had run well off, and it was carried over with a crash. I kept my place till the train broke up, and got off and walked a few steps; but found my left leg, at and below the knee, hurt, and bleeding rapidly over and down my boot. The officers got me into this Engine, where I write this report. Having now quite recovered my recollection, which, through pain and loss of blood, I lost for half an hour or so. Our engine, strange to say, did not leave the track, nor our tender. All the others did, and the men are engaged getting them on. The Rails, it appears, got displaced, which threw them off. They are of course more or less disabled; but I hope not materially; as none of them lost their position.

Mr. Feetham, I am sorry to add, has experienced some injury in his head. Mr. Johnston has his arm injured. Some of the men more or less;—but I believe I am, (as I suppose I ought to be), the most seriously injured. But I believe all were flesh wounds.

Much damage was done to the rails and to one engine. The others were off the track, but not greatly injured. This accident and the storms of Friday and Saturday prevented the usual trains running but we learn that they have now resumed their trips as usual. Hon. Mr. McCully's injuries were found to be of a serious nature but he is now, with the others, fast recovering.

THE CENSUS.—The Census-takers are now on their rounds delivering the Schedules to be filled up on Saturday next the 30th inst. Twelve days we learn are allowed for the enumerators to perform their duties. We suppose they will in many cases have to instruct the people in the proper method of filling up the blanks. The press without exception has sought to urge upon its readers the importance of giving full and correct details, and it is hoped that the statistics will therefore be full and reliable.

Some doubt appears to exist among some Presbyterians as to the name by which their religious body is to be designated. The term "Presbyterian" is intended for the body formed by the Union of the Free Church and Presbyterian church of Nova Scotia, and those belonging to the Reformed Presbyterians and those of the Free Church who have not united with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia must not put themselves down as Presbyterians but under "other Denominations." We hope no difficulty may arise respecting this, or in ascertaining the numbers in all the religious bodies.

CITY RAILWAY MEETING.—In consequence of the storm on Wednesday last, the Public Meeting advertised for that day was postponed to Saturday, at 2 o'clock; at that hour a considerable number of the citizens of Halifax assembled at Temperance Hall, when His Worship took the chair and called the meeting to order by reading the requisition. J. B. Oxley was chosen secretary. The protest His Worship had made against the demand of the Government for the interest of £100,000 of the Provincial railway debt was then read.

The 1st resolution was moved by A. M. Uniacke, Esq., and seconded by John Duffus Esq., which was to the effect, that as the conditions upon which the engagements of the city to assume any portion of the Railway liabilities had not been performed, therefore the city was not liable and the passage of any law to render it liable should be resisted by all constitutional means.

The 2nd resolution denounced the effort of the government to pass an Act to coerce the city as arbitrary, unconstitutional and oppressive; and directed the Mayor to take all measures necessary to protect the rights of citizens. This was moved by John A. Bell Esq and seconded by Wm. Lawson Esq.

The 3rd resolution moved by T. C. Kinnear Esq and seconded by Dr. Avery appointed seven citizens to cooperate with His Worship in opposing the passing the Act now before the Legislature.

The following gentlemen were chosen in accordance with the last resolution. A. McKimlay, A. M. Uniacke, John Duffus, James Cochran, Robert Noble, John A. Bell and John Stairs, Esquires. The resolutions were all carried unanimously; Also votes of thanks to A. M. Uniacke Esq., and His Worship the Mayor.