

were chiefly coloured persons, residing at Preston and Hammonds Plains. A wonderful blessing had rested on John Burton's labours among them. "Last Thursday," he said, writing to Edward Manning, under date Aug. 13th 1817. "I had a royal day; I baptized twenty-five Ethiopians. The day preceding and the day following were precious."

After the introductory sermon, by Joseph Crandal, who preached, as the Minutes state, "much to the satisfaction of the Association generally," Joseph Dimock was chosen Moderator, and Edward Manning, Clerk. The churches at Horton and River Philip were received into the Association. The former had been dropped in the year 1815, having failed to correspond with the body for three years. The last report had been sent in 1812, when the church consisted of 220 members; but various untoward circumstances had occurred, not distinctly recorded, which led to its dissolution. The following note appears in the Minutes;—"The church at Horton is newly constituted, the former one being dissolved several years ago." The number of members at its re-union was forty-five.

The missionary cause was prospering. The reading of David Harris's journal "excited much interest," and the thanks of the Association were given him "for his faithful services." Contributions were received, amounting to £46 12s. 2d., which included £4 17s 9d from the "Female Mite Society in the City of St. John." This is the first mention of those useful organizations. The appointment of a Committee, "to superintend the Missionary concerns in these provinces," was a wise measure. Ample powers were conferred on them. The first Committee consisted of the brethren T. H. Chipman, Edward Manning, T. H. Harding, Simon Fitch, Daniel Lockhart, George Dimock, and William Chipman. They met at the close of the Association, and here is the record of proceedings:

"Committee met in the evening, and concluded to request Brother Burton, of Halifax, to accept of a mission among the people of colour at Preston and Hammonds Plains, for six weeks."

"Employed Brother F. Ansley for eight weeks, to the eastward of Halifax; Brother D. Harris for eight weeks on the North Shore, on the South banks of the River St. Lawrence; and Brother J. Munro for eight weeks to the destitute up the River St. John. It was also agreed that each missionary shall receive ten dollars per week, and all expenses borne;—and that they account for all monies received, to the Committee; but this does not apply to any article of clothing given to the missionary, or to his family."

The following note, appended to the Minutes, is a curiosity;—

"Any lady or gentlemen wishing to aid the funds of the Society and have their names concealed, may depend upon secrecy, (though it may be painful,) and communicate their donation to either of the gentlemen composing the Committee, or any of the ordained ministers of the baptized churches in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick."

Joseph Dimock wrote the Circular Letter. It contained some useful doctrinal statements and distinctions. The closing paragraph will commend itself to your attention;—

"We are led to judge of our own religion and that of others, not from the length and fluency of our prayers and other religious improvements, but from our deadness to the world, to our own righteousness, and all expectation of help from the sayings or doings of any creature—by our entire trust in the great sacrifice—our hearty embracing the cross of Christ, and its consequent doctrines of free grace, which set the crown on the Great Jehovah's head, and lay every creature at his sovereign feet. The glory of God and the salvation of sinners lie near our hearts."

Yours truly,
MENNO.

Jan. 12th 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 30, 1861.

What is a Revival?

By a sort of conventionalism the term revival has become far too limited in its signification, and is applied now almost exclusively to the awakening and conversion of sinners from the error of their ways, a confession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and obedience to his commands. Such a consequence may very properly arise from a genuine revival of religion, and often does, but we think that this is not the essential feature in a revival. A real revival must be, by a kindling into fresh activity that life which existed pre-

viously rather than the introduction of life where formerly death reigned supreme. Where a church has become cold and languid, and the flame of religion burns but dimly, its members manifest but little of love to God or to each other, conformity to the world seems to becloud the profession they have made, and by a want of appreciation of the blessings of godliness they realize but imperfectly the position they are called to occupy amongst their fellowmen. There may have been a certain amount of real life and a degree of respect for the gospel, and attention to the claims of Christ in such a community, but the fine gold had become dim, and the spark had become so feeble that it required rekindling and the principles of life brought into more vigorous action. This reviving influence may at such time come in the form of greater earnestness amongst the members themselves, causing self-examination and confession of deficiencies and short comings, and a determination to resume the service of God with more constancy and fervor; or the church may receive new life into itself by a number of recently converted ones being added to its membership, either, or both of these results would be good evidence of a revival of religion. Perhaps however the former is the more desirable of the two, but where both are seen, and the latter follows as a result of the former, it affords more satisfactory indication of a renewing of life which will be continuous. A revival of religion such as this will extend itself to the neighbourhood around, and instead of maintaining a flickering existence for a short time and then dying out and the church returning to its former condition of apathy, so inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus, it will effect a reformation the influence of which will be felt for a series of years upon earth, and produce fruits which heaven alone will fully reveal.

Let then the prayer arise from the heart of each one who may read these few thoughts, "O Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years."

Parliamentary.

By command of our first Estate of the Realm—the Lieutenant Governor,—our legislators of the two Houses of Parliament are making their appearance in the capital, and will to-morrow assemble in their respective Chambers "for the despatch of business."

The Queen's representative will appear before the "assembled wisdom" and charge them with such of the affairs of the Province as demand their deliberations. His Speech will doubtless congratulate the Members on the Prince of Wales having passed through the Province and returned in safety to the Mother country. He will doubtless inform them that the "costs and charges" of entertaining His Royal Highness and suite will be laid before them "at an early day." These, of course will be discharged with but a word shewing how much less the bill we have to foot is than that of some of our neighbours. Education, the Railroad, the change of our currency, the disturbances amongst our Republican neighbours, and a number of other subjects would undoubtedly be suitable topics for paragraphs of His Excellency's opening Speech. We suppose however it will hardly be expected that a Prohibitory Liquor Bill, will be a part of the programme given by Earl Mulgrave to "Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council. Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly."

If we took upon ourselves, like some members of the Fourth Estate, to suggest to our representatives what was expected of them in detail, we might refer to several questions which will probably come before them for discussion. A wide field is open in legislation for the practise of wisdom and benevolence. Whilst so many politicians, in this as well as other countries, enter on their work merely to play "the game of politics" and secure their own aggrandizement, there is plenty of room for men of integrity and honor, to unravel the webs in which interested men would involve our affairs.

Doubtless some time at the commencement of the session will be expended in a constitutional debate. The position of men and the strength of parties will be by this means ascertained. The new feature or rather the absence of an old feature—the recognized leader of the Government party for so many years,—will awaken a little interest in the galleries. Various will be the speculations on the results of this change. Let the members on both sides come to their duties with a determination to do right, feeling that they are responsible to a higher tribunal than public opinion, even to the Great Ruler above. Whether they are in a majority or minority occasionally, is but a matter of small moment so long as they are approved by their own consciences in the sight of God.

We shall, as usual, keep our readers posted

up in the doings of their representatives including as much of their sayings as our space will allow. An occasional expression of opinion may not be inappropriate, as we may find necessary.

The COLONIAL EMPIRE is the title of a new tri-weekly paper published in St. John last week. Thomas McHenry Esq., is the proprietor and editor. Its motto; "Union, Reform, Progress," may indicate its main objects. Union of the Colonies is a leading feature. Its work will be accomplished it says when the whole of British America from ocean to ocean becomes one great nation.

We have received a copy of "an address to the people of Nova Scotia on the Support of the Common Schools, by the Superintendent of Education."

This is a pamphlet of 24 pages in which Dr. Forrester argues in favor of an Act of the Legislature for the support of Schools by Assessment. He recommends at present a modified form of assessment, for example, one third as heretofore paid out of the Provincial Treasury, one third by a compulsory county tax, and the other by taxing the rateable inhabitants of the district unless that amount can be raised by voluntary subscription. He gives a number of reasons for the adoption of this method of sustaining Schools.

Dr. F. gives a form of petition to the Legislature, and anticipates that the people will make known their views on this question during the ensuing session. We have no space for further remark on this important question but may return to it on some future occasion.

CUNNABELL'S ALMANAC for 1861 is just received. It has been accidentally delayed, we are informed, and is not quite of its usual dimensions. Its tables are, we believe, carefully compiled and correct.

News Summary.

The last Act of the Italian Drama in Southern Italy seem to be drawing near a close. By accounts received by the last English Mail, an armistice or truce had been agreed on between the late King of Naples and the Sardinian forces besieging him in Gaeta, for the period of ten days. The understood meaning of the measure being, no doubt, to allow the ex-King to evacuate the fortress and abandon his hopeless position. Thus ends the Bourbon rule in Naples. The only act of Francis II. during his brief and inglorious reign, which is worthy of praise, appears to have been the latent spark of manly feeling, which has prompted him to exhibit a brief courageous effort to retain the power he has so justly forfeited. It is thought he will take refuge either in Rome or Madrid. The remainder of his life, be it longer or shorter, will doubtless be spent in intrigues to regain his lost dominions.

Not much further progress has been made in the Secession movement. Five States, thus far, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana have formally resolved to secede. All the Southern members of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet have quitted office, and others have taken their places. He appears to be acting with somewhat more vigour to support the integrity of the Union, although evidently not equal to the occasion.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

CIVIC.—A resolution was passed by the City Council on Friday last, 11 to 1 to prepare measures for the purchase of the Water Works. A resolution was also passed to enforce the Statute respecting the erection of wooden buildings in the City and prevent Mr. John Lithgow from erecting the building now in progress on the site of the late fire.

Alderman Hill and His Worship the Mayor went last week in the Steamer to Boston for the purchase of a Steam Fire Engine.

GRAND DIVISION.—The Quarterly Session of this body was held last week at Lunenburg.—The Delegates from Halifax went in good style in the new packet Schooner *Friend* Captain Westhaver. The meetings were unusually interesting, a large meeting was held at Mahone Bay and quite a lively interest is being felt in the adoption of the principles of Temperance and the progress of the order of the Sons. The Halifax Delegates were delighted with their trip and particularly with Capt. Westhaver.

ACCIDENT.—On Thursday afternoon last, as John Curren, truckman, was coming down the Spring Garden road with a load of logs, the sled got a jolt at the Chapel corner, which turned it over, throwing Curren down and the wood over him. The unfortunate man was taken up speechless, and has so remained till the present time.—Sun.

The Hon. Alfred Whitman, died at his residence at Annapolis, on Tuesday the 22nd Inst. He represented his native township several years in the House of Assembly, but was appointed a few years since to a seat in the Legislative Council.

TEMPERANCE IN SYDNEY COUNTY.—Mr. Editor—Doubtless your readers will be pleased to hear of the prosperity of the Temperance Cause, in this part of the Province, the drinking dens are all but deserted, such a general taking of pledge never was known in this County before, by the persuasion of that able advocate of Temperance Dr. Cameron assisted by Bishop McKinnon, the people have come forward almost to a man, (and woman too) and are taking a noble stand on the side of Total Abstinence. The success that has attended Dr. Cameron's efforts, has been the means of stirring up the zeal of Mr. Downie and his people, and they will not be behind in so good a cause, but will unite to drive the Demon of Intemperance from our beautiful County. That this may effect this good and great object is the sincere prayer of

Yours, CONSTANT READER.

Co. Sydney.

LOCK'S ISLAND.—Extract of a letter dated Jan. 21st.—"The Diptheria is going about amongst us, now and then seizing one of our youths away to the spirit world, one died with it yesterday at Jordan River, and others are sick with it in different directions around us. May God prepare us for whatever awaits us."

The Pictou Chronicle says coal is advertised, from McGregor Pit, Frazer Mine, at \$2 75 per chaldron for large, and \$1 50 for small.

CUTTING TELEGRAPH LINE.—The following was received from Jesse Hoytt Esq. at Guysboro on Saturday last.

GUYSBORO, January 25.

Warrants have been issued against two persons for cutting line on th December, at Half Island Cove, also against six others as accessories or witnesses. Sheriff and suite go down to-day to arrest them. Custos will call Special Seisions and institute investigations on Saturday.

Newfoundland.

The following Telegram was received by W. H. Wiswell, Esq. of the Telegraph Company, on Saturday last.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Jan. 25.

Great excitement here in consequence of resolutions censuring Government in matter of Pauper relief. Sharp crossfiring between Speaker and Colonial Secretary. Boys in the gallery taking all in their own hands, and hooting, yelling, &c. House had to adjourn. It is expected that the Government will be ousted by the vote of sixteen to twelve.

MACKAY.

Prince Edward Island.

SENTENCED TO DEATH.—William Young and George Phillips, were sentenced to death in the Supreme Court at Charlottetown, on Saturday the 19th—the former for arson, the latter for highway robbery.

New Brunswick.

Judge Wilmot lectured last week at the Mechanic's Institute, on China. The Hall was full to overflowing.

The Military stationed at Fredericton have been enjoying them selves during the last week by practising on snow shoes.

Judge Cook, of Aroostook, died at his residence in Houlton to the 14th inst., aged 85 years, and on the 10th, at the same place, Mrs. Ann McMullen, at the venerable age of 106 years.

SUDDEN DEATH!—On Tuesday morning last Mrs. Vanwart, wife of Mr. Garrett Vanwart, of Hampstead, ate her breakfast in her usual good health, and soon after, while employed in her household duties, was suddenly seized with a violent pain in the back of her head. It increased rapidly, and in about four hours she was a corpse. How uncertain is life.—N. B. Intelligencer.

The St. Andrews Standard says that in consequence of the huge drifts of snow, the Railway trains heavily loaded with freight for Woodstock, did not get further than Dumbarton on Saturday; the men on the line worked night and day, and the road is now clear.

FIRES.—Several sad losses have been lately experienced by fires. That of the Wesleyan Parsonage House at Sussex Vale in which the minister lost a large part of his library and furniture three horses and one cow. Another was at St. Andrews where two or three houses were burnt.

United States.

We perceive that several of our cotemporaries are indulging in a fling at our Western neighbours by prefixing DIS, or inserting a mark of interrogation, in the heading of their States news, (Dis-United States, United (?) States.) We shall not follow their example. We believe a problem is being solved in that great country which will affect the welfare of millions for ages. The progress of the Republic depends on the movements of its present legislators. The value of that form of government is being put to a severe test from which it will eventually emerge to a far more substantial position. We may look to events which are now transpiring