

A part of the troops had already, Nov. 29, reached Hongkong. Only Mr. Adkins remains at Peking making preparations for the permanent residence there of Mr. Bruce. A Chinese official is to reside in London. With such precautions we shall have a chance of escaping such little misunderstandings as that which brought about the last war. A week ago we had news that our fleet of gun boats had met some terrible disaster in Chinese waters. A tornado had destroyed some ten or more, but the latest news does not repeat it. We hope it may not be true.

The state of parties in Europe is one of expectation. Everybody looks for a political storm to burst over Central and Southern Europe in March. Warlike preparations are being made on a large scale. Gaeta still holds out. The besiegers amusing themselves with a small cannonading, and the besieged replying when it suits them. Much is said of the French blockade of Gaeta. Its object is to afford Francis II. a refuge when he chooses to vacate the city, or it is in the cause of humanity to prevent the effusion of blood which must follow a bombardment by the Sardinian fleet. Again, it is to keep the game alive till the re-actionists, reinforced as they have been throughout Italy by the hordes of royalist troops turned adrift out of Gaeta and let loose from the Papal trap into which they had fallen, are prepared to rise en masse against the Sardinian occupation of Naples, and so open a way for the restoration of the Bourbon King, or it is to keep out Prussia from coming to the rescue. The policy of Louis Napoleon is really inscrutable. At last we have a rumour that the French blockade will be raised on the 19th inst. If so, and a talked of truce be agreed to for a month, we shall expect to hear of some sudden movement of the French navy in the neighbourhood of Venice or Trieste and perhaps in the general melee which must follow a declaration of war, France will take advantage of her occupation of Syria. As was predicted, when once France set her foot in Syria, she would find means to evade the agreement to evacuate in six months, so it is. The strong protest of Lord John Russell against this trespass avails little. To get and to hold (fast is the French rule but not to relinquish anything without force compels her. This is the method of the English in India, and the Russian plan for centuries past. Garibaldi still remains at Caprea gathering strength for the coming campaign. He boldly declares to the world his intention to conquer Venetia from Austria, and Rome from the French or any other power. "A United Italy" is the motto of Garibaldi and Mazzini and his party. If Victor Emanuel will adopt their views, they will fight for him and he shall be king of Italy, and Rome shall be its Capital, but if he submits himself to the guidance of the Emperor of the French who would rather see Italy mapped into four States, at least; then the "party of action" as Mazzini calls it will oppose him and carry out their own views in their own way. In any case the whole combination of France and Italy go against Austria. A regular army it is said has been secretly organized in Hungary, and will be ready for action when the signal is given. Austria will be the Centre of disturbances. It is difficult to imagine how far they will extend, Prussia and all Germany evidently fear for the Rhine provinces. And on the other hand there is danger to Turkey in the West and North.

Our own position is one of watchfulness and preparation. Our policy is still non-intervention. That seems agreed on by all parties. To meddle in European affairs would damage us immensely. Those who are not in the secrets of diplomacy could not easily decide on which side our greatest interest lay. There is a movement amongst the liberal members of parliament to influence the government to retrenchment. Our taxation now realizes seventy millions. Without some restraint this would go on increasing. Our Volunteer force of 140,000 men, half of them fit to take the field ought reasonably to produce some check on the rapid annual increase of expenditure. We hear little of reform or indeed of anything likely to engage the attention of parliament during the coming session. There will be a bankruptcy bill to pass and plenty of railway legislation, and as usual lots of questions night after night on the foreign policy of our government.

Since Dec. 19th we have had an unusually hard frost. Heavy snow falls over the whole country. Most rivers are frozen, even the Thames. This has produced some temporary distress in the building and a few other occupations.

HASTINGS.
Manchester, Jan. 12th, 1860
The tree to be planted over a debtor's grave—the will-ow.

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATIONS.

TO REV. JAMES REID.

Dear Brother,—To promote the glory of God, to stimulate my fellow christians and to encourage the ministers of Christ, I desire to give notice of another Donation visit, which my beloved people gave to me on New Year's eve. About seventy persons both of the aged and the young, came to my house. After spending the evening, in singing and giving a few excellent addresses, which indeed cheered and animated my heart (our dear sisters having previously favoured us with suitable refreshments) they separated, giving to me the handsome present of £8 0 0. An excellent spirit was displayed. All seemed to be influenced by Christian love. All seemed happy and desirous of strengthening and encouraging their pastor. It is my fervent prayer, that the Lord may reward them a hundred fold, that he may supply all their need, and finally give them eternal life. I might also mention, that a few days after, they hauled to me a large pile of wood, sufficient for the winter. Would it not be well in these hard times for all our churches to remember their pastors and endeavour to encourage their drooping spirits. What is done to the servants of Christ, is considered by Him as being done to himself, and will certainly meet with a suitable reward.

I remain yours sincerely,
JAMES REID.

Bass River, Jan. 17th, 1861.

TO REV. A. W. BARSS.

MR. EDITOR,

Permit me gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of our friends here by inserting in your valuable paper a notice of a visit received from them. On New Year's day a party of upwards of one hundred persons composed of the aged, middle aged, and young assembled at our dwelling. The evening was passed in the most agreeable manner. Before separating, a donation of £22 0 0., £9 0 0. of which was cash, was presented to us accompanied with a very feeling and appropriate speech by Deacon John Locke, who shared largely in the enjoyments of the evening. It is useless for me to attempt a description of my feelings on receiving the people's donations from the hands of so venerable a representative. One year and a half have now passed away since we settled among this people and I flatter myself by believing that their kindness towards myself and family has not been surpassed by any people in similar circumstances; they have effectually secured to themselves our warmest affections.

One thing only causes us anxiety, it is that God has not yet manifested his power by converting sinners in connection with my labours. Here may He soon grant that the quickening influences of his Holy Spirit may be felt by many of our dear unconverted friends, calling them into the life of the Gospel.

May God abundantly reward all our friends for their kindness towards us and grant us grace to devote ourselves afresh to his service.

In view of the benefit and encouragement which a minister's family derives from such visits of their friends, one cannot help feeling a pity for those narrow minded ones who stand opposed to them and deny themselves and minister the happiness which necessarily arises from cheerfully giving and gratefully receiving.

A. W. BARSS.

January 19th, 1861.

TO MR. CHARLES NORWOOD.

A donation visit was made to Mr. Charles Norwood, Licentiate, 2nd Baptist Church, Cornwallis, on Tuesday evening 15th inst., the friends from South Mountain and Valley West, Cornwallis. An Address was presented, of which the following are paragraphs:

"We feel grateful to God now even at the noon of life he has influenced your heart to devote your energy and talents to the important work of warning sinners to flee from the wrath to come.

"We feel that your labours have been blessed to us and to others. May the fruit that we have already seen be but the earnest of the great work that God will deign to perform through your instrumentality.

"As your duty calls you much from your family, may He who has promised that they who wait upon him shall not want any good thing, comfort them by his presence.

"Think not, dear Brother, that we suppose for a moment that we have remunerated you for your unselfish devotion and ceaseless toil for our good. We believe 'tis only He who sends forth his servants can reward them, that Heaven's richest blessing may rest on you and your family is our earnest prayer.

JACOB WEBSTER,
GEORGE WOODWARD, } Committee.
WILLIAM GEORGE,

After the address was read by Brother William George a short reply was made by Mr. Norwood, then followed a number of speeches from warm hearted donors, backed up with good singing.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

JULIA L. PEARSON,

Third daughter of John E. Pearson, Esq., and his wife Isabella, of Kingston, Aylesford, died on the 3rd inst., aged 18 years.

During a revival of religion in the spring of

the year 1856 Miss P. obtained a hope in Christ, was baptized by the writer, and united with the Church under his pastoral care. In the Sabbath School, that useful department of Christian labor, she took a lively interest. Her constancy and punctuality in attendance, and her diligence in acquiring and imparting instruction, were highly commendable. Her regularity in attending the means of grace, so far as it was in her power, was worthy of imitation. She was present at the last Conference before her decease, and spoke with much Christian feeling.

By the mysterious arrangement of Providence this amiable and beloved young sister was removed by diphtheria, after a few day's illness. Her relations and friends being extremely desirous of her recovery, were reluctant to speak to her of the probability of her death. Hopes of her restoration were entertained by herself and others to the very close of life.

When visited by her Pastor, however, she expressed reliance on the Saviour, and submission to the will of God. On Lord's day, the 13th inst., a discourse was delivered by him, in reference to this solemn event, from Eph. iii. 15, "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." At the close of the service the following Hymn, found in the pocket of our departed sister, doubtless cut by her from a paper, was sung. Its appropriateness to the occasion will be readily perceived.—Communicated by Rev. G. Tupper.

THE DYING.

Oh! mother make my bed for me
I'll ask it not again,
Why are thy eyes so dim with tears
I would not give thee pain.

Father, dear father, ere I die
Draw near my couch of death
And seal thy blessing ere I yield,
My last expiring breath.

Sister, stretch out thy trembling hand,
I feel I'm dying now,
Wipe off those tear-drops from thy eyes
And smooth my burning brow.

Brothers, breathe out thy last farewell,
And give your parting kiss,
Ere my freed spirit takes its flight
To you bright world of bliss.

Friends of my gay and joyous hours
I've loved you deep and long,
Offer for me one parting prayer
And sing one parting song.

Farewell, but when I'm laid to rest
Breathe not for me a sigh,
Death comes, it was a grief to live
And endless bliss to die.

MRS. BETHIA VICKERY,

Wife of Mr. Jacob Vickery, died at Ohio, Yarmouth, on the 4th January, 1861, aged 75 years.

Our departed sister, whose maiden name was Allen, was led to trust in the Saviour, in her youthful days, under the faithful ministrations of the late Father Harding. She was baptized during the memorable revival of 1827 in which the labors of the late Father Ansley were so signally blessed.

With the husband of her youth she was permitted to enjoy life for more than half a century;—her death occurring on the fifty-first anniversary of their marriage.

Their children, eleven in number, are all members of the church of Christ, one of whom, in the triumphs of faith, passed the Jordan before her mother.

In view of these great blessings, Sister Vickery was wont to rejoice and testify the goodness and faithfulness of God, in thus abundantly answering her prayers in behalf of her children.

During many of the latter years of her life her sense of hearing totally failed her. This prevented her from enjoying the pleasures of the sanctuary, which she highly prized; yet she would affirm that she was not unhappy. She took great delight in the reading of God's Holy Word and other good books. On one occasion she expressed to the writer the great pleasure the *Christian Messenger* afforded her, as from it she could learn of the state of our Zion—"Name ever dear to her." All Missionary operations had the benefit of her sympathy. Of our Bro. Crawley, and his labors, she would speak with strong emotions, and with Dr. Watts would say:

My soul shall pray for Zion still,
While life or breath remains;
There my best friends, my kindred dwell,
There God my Saviour reigns.

By her removal a mother in Israel has fallen. May others of like faith be raised up to fill her place, and may our aged brother be sustained, by the presence of the Master, the few days of his pilgrimage. A Sermon was preached on the occasion of her funeral from 2 Cor. v. 1-4.—Communicated by Rev. Jos. H. Saunders.

HOME MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mission to Lunenburg County.

MR. EDITOR,—

I have just returned from a six weeks mission to Lunenburg County, assigned me by the Western Domestic Missionary Board.

I left home Nov. 22nd, visited and preached in the following places, New Albany, Springfield, Bridgewater, Northwest, Mahone Bay, New Cornwall, and Corkum Settlement. Preach-

ed twenty-one sermons; attended four prayer meetings; visited and prayed with forty-five families; travelled 280 miles; and collected three pounds, eleven shillings and eight pence in aid of the Mission. Though my mission was assigned me to Bridgewater and vicinities, I only passed two Sabbaths there; for on arriving there I learned that the people had engaged the labors of the Rev. E. N. Harris for a season. I then went to Northwest, where I was cordially received, and during my stay, there was an increasing interest manifested by the people in religious matters. I preached twice at Mahone Bay, and on the latter occasion to a very large and attentive congregation. On visiting from house to house on the following day, I found persons anxiously inquiring what they should do to be saved. I also found persons who were waiting to go forward in the ordinance of baptism. All through that section the people seemed to appreciate the labors of even an ordinary preacher; and it did my heart good to hear them speak, pray, and sing their songs of praise, free from the cold restraints apparent in many places.

LAWRENCE B. GATES.

Wilmot, Jan. 16, 1861.

Religious Intelligence.

REVIVAL AT GASPEREAUX.—HORTON.—

The Rev. E. O. Read writes:—Dear Brother,—It affords me pleasure to inform you and the readers of your excellent paper, that the Lord has revived his work among us of late. Ten have publicly professed faith in Christ by baptism, who give evidence of being useful members in the Church. Some who had "left their first love" have consecrated themselves anew to the work, while others are making the important enquiry "what must I do to be saved?" I expect to baptize again soon.

Yours in the Gospel,

E. O. READ.

Gaspereaux, Jan. 23, 1861.

Canada.

THE CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE BURNT.—Since the publication of the telegram in our issue of the 16th inst, we have received a confirmation of this catastrophe to our brethren in Canada West. The Canadian Baptist of the 10th has a letter from the Principal, Rev. Dr. Fyfe, in which he says:—

"Alas, alas! in less than an hour-and-a-half that which had so long been a subject of prayer and interest to the Baptists of Canada was a mass of ruins! Little or nothing could be saved. One cause for devout gratitude is the fact that but few of the students had arrived." "The origin of the fire is a mystery. No fire had been in the room where it broke out during the day. Matters look dark, but a searching investigation will be made into the whole affair."

"O, brethren, pray for us. I do not think we shall stop the School, although I do not yet know how we shall carry on our work. I feel sure we shall have the sympathy of many in this our great calamity."

The same paper of the 17th, gives further details, shewing the losses of the Teachers and Students. A public meeting was held the same day, the mayor in the chair, to express the sympathy felt for the sufferers, \$1600 was soon collected and the Woodstock Hotel was hired for a year, so that no interruption might be permitted in the work. Dr. Fyfe in behalf of the Board makes an appeal for \$20,000 to rebuild the Institute.

BROTHER B. W. ROGERS, of Boston says: The Lord's work is going on here. Thirty have been added to our ranks. We thank God and take courage. Twenty-eight received the right hand of fellowship last night. It was a scene never to be forgotten. Several heads of families are among the number. To God be all the glory.—*ib.*

THE Baptist Church in Springfield are enjoying a precious revival meeting. Twenty one have been baptized, and others are expected soon to follow.—*ib.*

A STRANGE TEXT.—In one of the Aberdeen churches, on Sunday last, a young preacher somewhat astonished the congregation by giving out at his text the last four verses of the first chapter of the 1st Book of Chronicles—"The dukes of Edom were; duke Timna, duke Aliah, duke Jetheth, duke Abolihamah, duke Elak, duke Pinon, duke Kenaz, duke Mibzar, duke Magdiel, duke Iram. These are the dukes of Edom." Though the text was, as an intelligent lady of the old school remarked, "gay affectitkin," it was very well handled—the burden of the lesson being—Who were these men? what has been the influence of their lives? and what, brother, will be the influence of your life and mine?—*Aberdeen Herald.*

Mr. Spurgeon held a meeting on the 1st Inst, for the reception of New Year's offerings towards the building fund; nearly a thousand pounds were handed in.