

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 11, 1861.

1862.

A Word to all.

We have additions to our list of Subscribers from time to time, from amongst those who see the *Messenger* in the houses of their friends, or such as remove from the parental roof, who, having been accustomed to its weekly visits, desire still to have it as part of their own domestic circle. But there are families, we believe, in every locality who have not yet become aware of the advantages of a weekly religious newspaper. We wish to visit these, and desire our friends generally to give us an introduction. A few words from them would in many cases be sufficient. If every one of our present readers would but try and induce another one to send on his name we should be well satisfied. As, however, there are probably some who may not engage in this labor of love, we hope that others will try and send on more than one.

We would be glad to enlist many valuable Volunteers in this cause, and would ourselves forego considerations of profit, for the sake of obtaining a large increase to our circulation.

We propose therefore to any person who may secure the names of—

SIX NEW SUBSCRIBERS,

and send them on before the end of the year, with the payment in advance, to send

ANOTHER COPY, FREE,

to whoever he or she may name, viz :

Seven copies, for new subscribers, for the price of Six.

Any person, therefore, who is able to get six names may, if he chooses, make a present of the *Messenger* for a year to some other person, and each of those six would also be participators in such donation.

We shall be glad to hear from our friends as early as possible, so as to prepare for the enlarged issue of the first week in 1862.

PRIZES.—We will also send to the person who forwards to us, before the close of the year, the greatest number of new Subscribers (if more than twelve) either

SEARS' LARGE PICTORIAL FAMILY BIBLE with about 1000 engravings, Price \$6; or

The ILLUSTRATED DOMESTIC BIBLE with numerous engravings and Notes by Rev. Ingram Cobbin. Price \$6.50.

And to the person who obtains the next largest number (if more than 10) a copy of THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING, or Jerusalem as it was, as it is, and as it is to be, by J. T. Barclay M. D. Price \$3.50.

Belligerents, or Rebels?

The question as to whether the Southern rebels should be called belligerents and entitled to belligerent rights has been a subject of much controversy. Great Britain has been reviled, and attempts have been made by parties high in authority to insult her statesmen because they used the term belligerents in the British Parliament when referring to the Confederates. But this seems now no longer a matter of dispute. The following article from the N. Y. *Examiner*, Baptist paper, gives up the point, and shews the South to be already a separate government, and for the sake of their own prisoners now in duress at the South; they will, for humanity's sake, allow an exchange of prisoners, and permit the "piratical privateer's men" to return to their homes unpunished.

EXCHANGING PRISONERS.—The people are becoming a little sensitive upon the inaction of the Government, respecting our officers and soldiers who are held by the enemy as prisoners of war. It is no wonder. There cannot be less than three thousand of our men in duress at the South, comprising some of the flower of our army, and we have reason to believe that they are dishonorably treated. It is certain that a number of Colonels and other officers have recently been confined as common felons, to await the result of the trial of the piratical privateersmen in our courts. Three thousand prisoners of war from the Northern volunteers, touch most nearly the sympathies of twenty times that number of relatives, who hear from them but at infrequent and uncertain intervals, and from many not at all. Something should be done. Humanity demands it, and the voice of the people will soon be heard to the point, unmistakably. A few prisoners, indeed, have been exchanged, informally, but the great number remain unrelieved. It is not easy to read without emotion, the uncomplaining letters that came from these brave fellows, and to discern in them the wishful, though often unexpressed trust that something is on foot for their benefit.

It is said that the principal difficulty is the recognition of belligerent rights, which a proposal to exchange is supposed to imply. With due submission, this objection approaches nonsense. An enemy who has belligerent power enough to take some thousands of our soldiers, and shut them up where we can't get them, if he has not belligerent rights, has at least an efficient substitute for them. The fact is, that we are merely playing with words, while the thing that we ignore is going on. Do we not virtually concede to the rebels the status of belligerents every day? What is implied by the flag of truce that passes continually between our armies? What did the agreement of Gen. Butler and Com. Stringham, to receive the Hatteras garrison as prisoners of war, amount to? What did the release of Col. Pegram's command, on parole, by Gen. McClellan, in Western Virginia, mean? Certainly, that a state of things exists—call it what we will—that necessitates a recognition of a veritable power, opposing us.

Now, the right of rebellion is another thing altogether, and is in no wise admitted by an exchange of prisoners. This we take to be the main question, and that which we should be solicitous to guard—not an empty prattle about belligerent rights. The army itself needs to be assured of the course of the Government in this important matter; for it cannot be doubted that many are withheld from enlisting by the present uncertainty. Let the case, then, be understood. If there is a good reason why those who are taken prisoners from us must rot in Southern dungeons, why, the patriotism of the people will rise to meet the necessity. But if not, let those who go to fight, and those who spare and send them, have the encouragement of knowing that they will be cared for.

The same paper of the 14th ult., in discussing the financial ability of the rebels to hold out in sustaining their army, draws a comparison between the fathers who fought for the constitution of the United States, and "the pirates and thieves of the Cotton kingdom," and concludes, by saying:—

"Confederate scrip is not very valuable, but so neither were the old continental shin-plasters. But the shin-plasters of to-day answer the purpose of their issue about as well as their ancient predecessors. At any rate, armies are raised, fed, equipped and transported somehow, with or without money, and are brought into the field in about as good condition and with as good success, as we with all our wealth are able to muster against them.

Louis XIV. said, to be sure, that in war it is the last piece of gold that wins; but it is supposed that the pieces of gold are laid out in military enterprises. If our energy and our resources are fairly put to the work of suppressing rebellion, the weakness of the rebels is an argument that they cannot hold out against us. But we may depend upon it that the rebellion will never die of itself. It must be fought down, it is ever to go down.

Ah, but, it will be said, our fathers had alliances with France and Spain, and pecuniary and military aid, but no European power will help these rascals. Probably not, if it is seen that we are in earnest to suppress them. But whenever France and England see us faltering in our work and trusting to our good luck, they will interfere, and we shall be at war not only with one-third of our own country, but with half the world. We must fight, with all our heart and soul and might and strength or we are undone."

THE LYING TELEGRAMS.—The N. Y. *Methuendist* gives an amusing hit at the habit of serving up the "latest news" in some of the seculars of that and other cities of the U. States. The editor says:

"The competition between the *Blower* and the *Gas Boy* runs so high, that a necessity is created of appearing to have the full quantity of intelligence, without regard to quality.

Some of the news the poor public is forced to swallow, is indeed extraordinary; we doubt if the like of it was ever known. It runs somewhat in this wise: An engagement is impending—in fact going on. We are on the tiptoe of expectation. *First Dispatch: We have beaten the enemy. Second Dispatch: The enemy have beaten us. Third Dispatch: Both of our former telegrams were true; the enemy have beaten us and we have beaten them.* Whereupon, we are treated editorially to something like the following: Our extraordinary facilities for procuring intelligence have been severely but successfully tested during the late engagement with the enemy; while our cotemporaries were wondering what was going on, we had already given our readers information of this brilliant affair. But for our promptness the public would not have been so soon apprized of the unparalleled result of two armies being both victorious over and being defeated by each other. Such an issue of a contest, we need not say, could only occur on the battle-fields of this continent."

The news by the coming mail steamer is looked for with intense interest, as it will doubtless shew how the capture of Slidell and Mason from the *Trent* will be looked upon by the British Government and people. We might fill columns with the discussion, *pro and con*, on this side the Atlantic. There appears even in the most peacefully disposed of the American journals, a nervousness which indicates that they entertain doubts about its being a perfectly justifiable act. The Boston *Christian Era* says:—

There is much discussion in the papers and in political circles as to the manner in which Eng-

land will regard and treat the seizure of Slidell and Mason while on board a British Mail Steamer. Intelligence from there is looked for with deep interest. We have no doubt that there is strong Southern sympathy in the British Government, and that much aid and comfort have been rendered secession, evidently by English officials. For example, it is well understood that the rebels have lately purchased several war vessels there, and are fitting out quite a little navy there. These vessels were the property of the Government; yet by some means they have passed into hands of the secessionists. If England does really sympathize with rebellion and is seeking occasion to interfere with American affairs, the late arrest will admirably serve her purpose. But it will affect the destiny of nations as no other war in the nineteenth century has done.

The above is but a faint reflection of the blood-thirsty effusions of the New York *Herald*, one of the most extensively circulated papers of the States. The editor of that paper asserts that "the feeling at the North is strongly in favor of wresting Canada from the power of England;" and that "the idea of a war with Great Britain alarms no one, but is rather spoken of with complacency than otherwise."

Such counsellors are no friends of the Union. They had better finish their work in the South, we think, before they talk about going Northward.

PROGRESS OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES.—The Statistics of the Religious Denominations obtained from the Census Returns of the present year shew an increase of near fifty per cent since 1851 above those who then held Baptist sentiments.

We find by referring to the statistics of church members in Nova Scotia, in the same period of ten years, that the increase has been a little less than 39 per cent, while in New Brunswick, according to the statistics from the churches, the increase has been 50 per cent. From this we may conclude that in Nova Scotia the Baptist population has increased more rapidly than the churches—that the number of converts received has been less than the progress of Baptist principles. The doctrine of immersion has been becoming the sentiment of the people more rapidly than they have been brought under the influence of the truth so as to submit to gospel ordinances in the churches of Christ. Whilst these facts may afford ground for encouragement and hope, they point out the necessity for a greater amount of spiritual influence, to make men not only Baptists but believers in Christ.

OPEN COMMUNION.—A Unitarian church in Bloomington, Ill., receives members by their signing the following:

"We associate ourselves together that we may co-operate in the study and practice of Christianity."

This is only a further development of the open communion principle.

QUESTION BOOKS.—In reply to an Enquirer respecting Question Books, we may mention that some of the series of Union Questions published by the American Sunday School Union, are on the Old Testament.

Volume 3 embraces the Creation of the world to the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt.

Vol. 4 embraces from the release of the Israelites to the death of Joshua.

Vol. 6 proceeds thence to the death of Samuel.

Vol. 7 thence to the Babylonian captivity.

Vol. 9 thence to the end of the Old Testament, including the books of Daniel, Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah.

The other volumes are on the New Testament.

Rev. James A. Davidson will accept our thanks for Temperance Papers from San Francisco, California. He appears to be laboring with much acceptance and success in that far-west portion of this Continent.

New Subscribers for 1862.

We shall be happy to receive a few hundreds of names to add to our list for the coming year, and will send

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

to such as forward their Subscription in advance for 1862,

FREE OF CHARGE.

the remainder of this year (1861.)

A SOIREE, under the auspices of the Lady Visitors of Athenæum Division, will take place in the Division Room on Friday evening next, and will we have no doubt, be well worthy of patronage. Tickets 1s. 10d. each, to be procured from G. G. Gray, Hall & Beamish, J. B. Strong, and at the S. of T. Reading Room.

News Summary.

No late news of importance has been received during the week from Europe.

Over the extensive field of warfare on this side the Atlantic, no very material change has occurred since our last issue; nor can it be well accounted for, why two such numerous and, by this time, somewhat disciplined armies as extend their lines from the mouth of the Potomac to the western boundaries of Missouri remain apparently so inert. One might well suppose that at some of the points thus occupied, a forward movement would have been made on one side or the other, and some decisive result have been achieved. The Naval Expeditions of the Government seem thus far to have been attended with greater success. The landing at Port Royal and the occupation of the neighboring country, thus far, promises better results. Its ultimate success, however, must depend, in a great measure, on the favorable feeling of the Southern population, on which, there is no doubt, much of the hopes of the Expedition have been founded. There is unquestionably a large amount of Union feeling in the South, but whether in any proportion to the bitter animosity that prevails against the Federal Government, as well as against the people of the North, time only can reveal. A second Naval Expedition is probably ere now on its way southward. Its object is said to be, to block up the Southern harbours, so as wholly to impede the navigation. Nothing further is known as regards the view which will be taken in England of the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, the Southern Delegates, on board the British Steamer *Trent*. It would, however, seem to be the opinion of many able jurists, well versed in international law, that the act of the American Commander will come within the scope of previous precedents. We cannot but hope that such may be the case; for the deepest interests of both nations require that peace and amity between them should remain unbroken.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, Dec. 6th, 1861.

APPOINTMENTS.

To be the Central Board of Examiners under Chapter 76th of the Revised Statutes—John Taylor, William Pryor, Joseph Fairbanks. Halifax Co: To be the Local Board of Examiners for the Port of Halifax, under chapter 76 of the Revised Statutes—Peter Coffin, David Davidson, George A. McKenzie. To be a Notary and Tabellion Public—Israel Longworth, Attorney at Law. To be a Justice of the Peace—John A. Bell.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—A *Royal Gazette Extraordinary* was issued on Wednesday last, containing a proclamation by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor appointing Thursday, the 19th inst., as a Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the manifold and inestimable blessings which the inhabitants of this Province have received at His hands.

The Fleet experienced rough weather on their voyage to Bermuda, and suffered somewhat in their yards and rigging. A large force will remain at that station during the winter to watch the state of American affairs.

The gunboat *Landrail* arrived at Bermuda with the news that the Mexican Government has submitted to the terms of the allies. Preparations for the Expedition, however, continued.

It is said that an American corvette fired across the bows of the British gun-boat *Landrail* and stopped her on her way to Bermuda, which had caused no little disturbance amongst the authorities at the Islands. There are some doubts about the truthfulness of this report.

The Cape Breton News (which, by the way, never reaches our Office) states that two young Wesleyan preachers, the sons of the Rev. Dr. Richey, have got "tired of dissent" and joined themselves to the Church of England.—*Witness*.

The Rev. Dr. Smith commenced his professional labours for this Session in the Presbyterian College here on Monday morning. The number of Theological Students now amounts to seventeen, which is larger, we believe, than on any previous year.—*Id.*

THE AMERICAN EAGLE HUMBLED.—Yesterday we saw a live American eagle, with a seven-foot spread of wing. Even in its captive state it is a noble bird. It was caught in a fox-trap near Lawrencetown by Mr. Jarvis, and is now in possession of Dr. Parker of this town.—*Bridgetown Register*.

GOLD.—The *Chronicle* says that on Thursday last, there was received from the Sherbrook Gold Mines, in addition to small lots previously received, about 420 ounces of pure gold from these districts procured by three working parties. One of the gentlemen sold 120 ounces Friday to a firm in this city, at \$18.50 per ounce and it is expected the whole will realize nigh \$10,000. Part of this amount has been washed out of the soil overlaying the quartz reefs, and the remainder from the quartz.