

For the Christian Messenger.

Temperance in Cape Breton.

MR. EDITOR,

It affords us great pleasure in this remote corner, to see by the late issues from the Press, that the great cause of Temperance is making rapid progress in the County of Pictou. We trust this step in the right direction may be the precursor of gospel grace and power.

On the evening of the 24th ult. a large number of the people of Margaree met in the Baptist chapel, to consult about some mode of operation by which the many and great evils arising from the unwarranted sale of intoxicating liquors, sold in quite a number of these low and odious schools of hell, lately opened for the training and tutoring of the youth for the Lock-up, the Penitentiary and the gallows, may be prevented. Mr. Donald McDonald was called to the chair and after the usual exercises, the following Resolutions were passed and spoken to with great energy and good effect by Rev. David Freeman, Mr. Laughlan McDonald, Mr. William S. Hart and the subscriber :-

1st. Resolved, That this meeting approve of the formation of a Temperance Society on the basis of total abstinence from all that intoxicates.

2nd. That we deprecate the evils arising from the establishing of grog-shops in this community and pledge ourselves to discourage their existence in every possible manner.

3rd. That the selling and drinking of, intoxicating liquors are destructive of property, of health, of intellect and morals. It brings property to the hammer of the auctioneer, the body to a premature grave, and the soul to the drunkard's doom. Destroys the peace of families, of communities and nations; and is a powerful barrier to the spread of the gospel of the Son of God.

4th. That we entreat the inhabitants of this community, the members of christian churches, the heads of families, the young men and young women and all the children to sign the Pledge of total abstinence, and thus, free this otherwise happy community from the fearful curse which threatens to fall upon it from the maddening influence of intoxicating drinks.

The Pledge was then read and the importance of entire and perpetual abstinence urged by the writer, after which 47 persons took its obligations.

From these, officers were elected as follows:

William S. Hart, President.

Donald McDonald and William Ingraham, Vice Presidents.

Laughlan McDonald, Treasurer.

5th. Resolved, That the above officers together with Rev. Augustus Shiels, act as a committee to form a constitution, and mode of operation, and that a copy of the evenings proceedings be forwarded for publication in the Christian Messenger, the Presbyterian Witness and the Provincial Wesleyan.

AUGUSTUS SHIELS.

Margaree, C. B., Jan. 2nd, 1861.

P. S.—Since we began our campaign one of these establishments was broken up completely. One of the patrons was sent to Porthood jail to learn to abstain from the inordinate use of fresh mutton and geese, as well as Rum. Two others fled from the country rather than keep him company. These are some of the results of the nectarious traffic.

A. S.

For the Christian Messenger.

Literary Societies

IN CONNECTION WITH ACADIA COLLEGE AND HORTON ACADEMY.

The Acadia Athenaeum is a literary Society composed of students pursuing their studies in the College. All graduates of the College are honorary members of this society.

The Mutual Improvement Association is composed of students belonging to the Academy. It is the aim of these societies to favor the public with a course of lectures during the winter season. The Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D. delivered the first of the series before the "Athenaeum" on the evening of Nov. 19. Subject—"The strange and incomprehensible." In this lecture the Dr. well sustained his reputation.

Mr. T. H. Rand followed on the evening of Dec. 19th, before the mutual improvement Association. The lecturer gave an able and satisfactory solution of the question, "Shall woman earn the alphabet?"

The Rev. S. T. Rand is expected to deliver the next lecture before the Athenaeum on the 23rd inst., at 7 o'clock, P. M.

JUNIAS.

Wolfville, Jan. 8th, 1861.

"Among other blessings," said Dr. Franklin, "a man should thank God for his vanity, because it makes him feel happy."

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

THE LATE WM. MATHESON, ESQ.

MR. EDITOR,—

As your paper is frequently adorned with graceful mementoes of the departed, I trust the following brief notice will not be unacceptable, although the subject of it was not a member of our denomination. Yet if we are to judge of a tree by its fruits, his works indicate that he was largely imbued with the spirit of christian liberality.

William Matheson, Esq., who died at Pictou Oct. 30th, 1860, in the 87th year of his age was "well known throughout the Presbyterian church, and beyond its bounds for his large hearted benevolence in behalf of every measure for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom." By industry and prudence he amassed an ample fortune, "and as Providence prospered him in his worldly circumstances he religiously acted as a steward of God devoting largely of his property for religious purposes. Every measure for the advancement of religion at home and abroad had his cordial support. But the British and Foreign Bible Society was his special favorite. From the first formation of an auxiliary society in this county (Pictou) in the year 1813 he was a liberal contributor to its funds. For many years his regular contribution was £50 (£62 10s. 0d. currency) besides occasional donations such as the same sum to the jubilee fund of that institution. But the London missionary Society, the London Tract Society and other institutions shared largely of his benevolence, while the columns of the Register (the missionary publication) have frequently borne testimony to his liberality in behalf of the schemes of the (Presbyterian) church. But much of his benevolence was never made public, nor will be until that day when what is done in secret shall be revealed on the house tops."

He was a lover of peace, and a strong friend of the Union which was lately effected between two of the Presbyterian bodies, at which time by taking cold he contracted the fever and illness of which he died, "He gradually sank, in the possession of all his faculties, and calm confidence in his Saviour."

By his will he devoted the bulk of his property to religious purposes; I state the amounts in Nova Scotia currency.

£125 to the London Missionary Society.

£25 to the London Religious Tract Society.

£12 10s. 0d. for the religious tract society in Ireland.

£40 for the French Canadian Mis. Society.

£250 for the Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church of Nova Scotia.

£200 for the Home Mission of said church.

£100 for assisting students of said church in preparing for the ministry.

The British and Foreign Bible Society and the Education Society of the Presbyterian church of Nova Scotia are the residuary legatees; and it is stated that the sum to each of these institutions will be six or seven thousand pounds.

The record of such a man's life is an ornament to the annals of christianity. Possessing as we trust a personal share in the great salvation, how many ransomed spirits have before this time hailed him in a better world as the instrument in the hands of God of their conversion.

Yours truly,

Novascotia, Dec. 20th, 1860.

Bios.

MRS. TAMAR VAN BUSKIRK.

Wife of Mr. James Van Buskirk, of Prince Albert Street, Wilmot, deceased on the 15th day of December last, aged 47 years, leaving children, with her bereaved husband, to mourn their irreparable loss.

She had been a member of the Baptist Church where she resided about 20 years. As a wife, a mother, a neighbor, a friend, and a Christian, she was justly held in high esteem.

The last sickness was a lingering consumption. It was endured with remarkable fortitude and resignation. A steadfast confidence in her beloved Redeemer cheered and animated her through her protracted sufferings, and sustained her in the solemn hour of nature's dissolution. At the time of her burial a discourse was delivered by the Pastor, founded on the words of the Apostle (1 Thes. iv. 16.) "And the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Sister Van Buskirk was the 13th member of the Baptist Church of Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot removed in 1860, to join, as is confidently believed, "the general assembly and Church of the first-born, which are written in heaven."—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

HOME MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

MONTHLY MEETING OF HOME MISSIONARY BOARD.

Members present at the last meeting,

Bro. J. W. Nutting in the chair, Rev. W. H. Humphrey, Rev. A. H. Munro, Brethren J. Whitman, W. L. Evans, S. Selden and R. N. Beckwith.

Letters received during the month, From Rev. Geo. Richardson, Rev. Ronald McDonald, Bro. Wm. McPhee and 1st Horton Church.

Amount of funds in the Treasury - - - \$29 20 Amounts due Missionaries for labour already performed about - - - 568 00

Received in aid of the Society during the month, From John McLearn, Rawdon, - - - \$1 50 A Friend, Pictou, - - - 4 00 H. R. Cunningham, Guysboro, - - - 4 00 A Friend in Newport, - - - 5 00

R. N. BECKWITH, Sec. H. M. Board.

Religious Intelligence.

WALTON.—Mr. Jos. F. Kempton, Licentiate, writes from Wolfville, Jan. 11th, 1860:—"My Dear Brother,—I am happy to inform you, after having spent my winter vacation in Walton, that the cause of God appeared to be revived there. I believe the Lord was present. His power and goodness were manifest in causing slothful professors to return to duty as Christians, and in awakening sinners, leading them to rejoice in His mercy in giving them a hope of pardoned sin.

Six individuals, four of whom were, I believe, upwards of 60 years of age, after avowing their attachment to the Saviour, followed Him in His ordinance of baptism, administered by the Rev. D. Shaw, who united with us on the 30th Dec. and remained a week faithfully and powerfully preaching Christ. His labors were blessed to the good of souls.

The Rev. Geo. Dimock also joined us a day or two; and it was truly solemn to see so aged a servant of the Most High, in the most tender and fervent manner, pointing sinners to the Lamb of God. Hoping and praying that the blessed Lord may still continue His work of love in Walton.

I remain, &c."

New Brunswick.

The Baptist Church at Harvey has just lost its pastor, who resigns to take up missionary labor on the North Shore.

We are informed that the Church at Amherst, N. S. extended a unanimous call to Rev. Geo. F. Miles to become their Pastor. This invitation has not been accepted. Mr. Miles having entered into an engagement to continue his labors with the church at Moncton.—Ch. Watchman.

A few weeks since the Church at Dorchester requested Rev. A. Mutch to become their Pastor. He entered on his duties and after a few weeks, appointed a protracted meeting. That meeting was well attended by the people; only one minister attended to aid the Pastor. He preached five sermons, attended a conference meeting and then the meetings were continued every evening for a week.

The ordinance of baptism has since been administered to those who have found Christ precious, who only a few weeks before were strangers to the grace of God.

A GOOD WORK.—We are informed that Rev. Mr. Ferrie, of this City, has held several prayer meetings recently in Sheffield Street, with special reference to the Christian welfare of the unfortunate females who reside in that section of the city. They attended in considerable numbers, and some of them indicate a desire to reform their lives. May success attend this benevolent effort.—N. B. Baptist.

MUSICAL CONCERT.—The Baptist Sabbath School of Portland gave a Musical Concert in the Mechanics Institute, on Thursday evening last. The weather was exceedingly stormy, but notwithstanding there was a large assemblage present. The juveniles acquitted themselves in a manner which called forth the admiration of all present. So great was the satisfaction that a request was made for a repetition of the treat. This was granted on Tuesday. The weather was favorable, and the audience much larger than the first.—Ib.

AFRICA.—The Wesleyan Times says:—"A providential opening for a mission to Eastern Africa has manifested itself. Our readers will remember our account of Dr. Krapf's travels in that region. This led to a correspondence between the committee of the United Methodist Free Church and that gentleman, which resulted in his coming over from Germany to confer with them on the subject of a mission to that part of the African continent. Finding that the Doctor's theological views substantially accorded with their own, the committee had no hesitation in availing themselves of his offers of service. Mr. Eckett and Mr. Cheetham have been deputed to visit a missionary seminary in Switzerland, brought by Dr. Krapf under the notice of the committee as likely to supply them with young men qualified for the intended mission. The proposed plan is to send out four missionaries, two from Switzerland and two who are now preaching among the United Methodist Free Churches, with Dr. Krapf, who has engaged to give two years to their introduction. The party will sail in April."

ROME.—A letter from Rome of the 11th says:—"In private conversation Pio Nono alludes frequently to the determination to hold his sacred post until the last extremity. Such expressions were used by his Holiness on Saturday last to Mr. Justice H. Terry, of Sydney, who with his lady was received in private audience by the Pope, with the consideration due to them, not only as good Catholics, but also as zealous benefactors to their cause, and co-religionaries in the Australian colonies. Pio Nono presented a handsome silver medal to Mr. Terry, and gallantly placed upon Mrs. Terry's finger a gold ring enriched with a jewelled cross. The Australian had presented to His Holiness about £300 of tribute money, and the intimation that about £10,000 in the whole, might be expected from good Catholics in that part of the world." The Pontiff wants money, and smiles greet those who bring any

SPAIN.—The Advertiser publishes a letter from Manuel Matamoros, who dates from the National Prison, Barcelona, Nov. 30. He gives a narrative of the imprisonment of Alhama and himself. He says:—"The Roman Catholic organs in the press are behaving towards us in a most violent and unjust manner, treating our alleged offence as one of a politico-religious nature, when in truth it is not so; and I hope the noble and heroic sons of Albion will know that it is exclusively our entertaining pure Evangelical sentiments, and because we do not belong to the Romish Church, against whose dogmas we have protested. Our defence in the Spanish Press is impossible, it is only allowed to write against us. The ruin of our families is an accomplished fact, and they have nought but poverty and sorrow before them, but amid all they have this consolation left, that they know they are suffering for the justest and holiest of all causes. Our persecutors fancy that they have annihilated our holy work in our martyrdom, but they are deceived, for innumerable are the Spaniards who have been converted to the Evangel, and our sufferings only redouble their faith and their strength." He concludes by reiterating that these persecutions "are in no way owing to political reasons, and that Spain has not seen the disappearance of the Inquisition, save in name only."

European and Foreign News.

FRANCE.

The Moniteur of Sunday Dec. 16, publishes the following:—"The Emperor has decided that after the 1st of January next, and by reciprocity, the subjects of her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland coming into France shall be admitted and allowed to travel about without passports. The Minister of the Interior will give instructions to his agents to see this measure carried out."

The Court Journal says that it is the intention of the Empress of France to return to England next summer, and to make also a tour of visits in Scotland.

ITALY.

At last there is news of Garibaldi from an authentic source. The yacht Julia, which belongs to Mr. Fielder, came in to Naples on the 12th, last from Caprera, and gives the following news of the Liberator:—"The party went to find him, and met him with his spade over his shoulder. They then returned to his house, a simple building and simply furnished, and the General did the honours."

The following are extracts from letters which have been received by a gentleman now in Naples, and which will be read with some interest:

"CAPRERA, DEC. 2.—"At break of day all are astir, and every one preparing himself for his own occupations, so that on the little square facing the house you see on one side Colonel D— sharpening a knife, on the other F— mending a spade; Menotti, his son, trying a musket; B—, who with a needle mends nets; G— selecting the seeds; and, inside the house, the daughter's good governess preparing some coffee for these working people.

"Then each goes about his business—one to the direction of the plough, another to the plantation of the vine, which is to be tried; some devoting themselves to fishing, others to the chase, and the General to survey all, to direct all, selecting the best agricultural systems that his mind suggests to him.

"Towards mid-day a slight and sober collation, where seated around an old walnut table, belonging to drawing or entrance room, they narrate to each other their campestrial feats, interspersed by relations of war episodes, of military adventures, and a hundred other things, which render that familiar intercourse so exquisitely agreeable.

"Then the daughter, a Pimprantu, makes the house resound with the accords of an excellent piano (sole luxurious article of furniture he possesses at Caprera), and begins playing the allegro, 'Dagliela avanti un passo,' followed by that here prohibited 'Vaufuri d'Italia'—hymns which recall so much grief and so many national joys. After breakfast each resumes his occupation again to meet at the frugal evening dinner, where certainly no one envies the regal repast shared in gilded saloons. At night, after a short walk, the Dictator retires to his own little room, and there, alone with his thoughts meditates on the future destiny of that Italy, which, I may say, he never names without a tremor of love.

"C. M.—"

The protest of the half-deposed King of Naples has been published, and a very able document it is. If it does not prove the innocence of Francis II, it at least puts his case before the public in the most favourable light in which it was possible to place it. He is a Neapolitan, he says, born amongst his subjects; he has never breathed any other air, never seen any other country." He is no foreigner from Piedmont, who has come to estrange the hearts of subjects and monarchs, but a victim whose faults are "a tender love for my subjects, and the natural confidence of youth in the uprightness of others." If he is accused of weakness, it must only be attributed to "an instinctive horror of blood." Of course, the opposite side, the policy of the Piedmontese, is painted in very lively colours, and the revolutionists are described as people who are disgraceful to humanity. It is for the Neapolitans to judge whether Francis the Second is correct or not in his descriptions. Assuredly there is much in his position that may legitimately be a subject of pity; but the claims of an old dynasty, and the "rights" of an old family, are not for a moment to be measured with the interest, happiness, and wishes of a whole people.