

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 10, 1861

Mission Sabbath Schools.

In our last we referred to the work of Sabbath School teaching and the high estimation in which those who devote themselves to a faithful discharge of that office should be held. Whilst we would encourage those actually and actively engaged in this department of Christian labor, we would take the liberty of offering a suggestion or two for the purpose of promoting an extension of the good work.

The gathering together of a few young immortals and awakening in their minds an interest in the glorious and wonderful things in the Word of God, is a work so much in imitation of the Divine Redeemer that it commends itself to every pious mind. Argument is not necessary to shew that this should be done as extensively and generally as possible.

No church should be without its Sabbath School, and the larger the number of adults from the church and congregation it includes, the better. This should be deemed the centre of operations, not only for those whose opportunities of attending regularly and qualifications render them suitable for teachers, but for others, who might, by occasionally visiting in the neighbourhood exert a beneficial influence on parents and persuade them to send their children, or who might attend and form themselves into Bible Classes for the mutual benefit of themselves and others in the examination of the Scriptures.

All Christians admit that they are under obligation to serve Christ. Having been ransomed by him from everlasting death, they owe him a life of devotedness. The Christian's duties cannot be performed by proxy. Giving of one's substance for sustaining the ministry of the Gospel, devoting a portion of one's means to send the gospel to those destitute of that blessing in the form of Home and Foreign Mission,—these are but the fulfilment of parts, and perhaps some of the smallest parts, of Christian obligation. These things may be done by the ungodly, and are often as efficiently performed by them as by those who have made a confession of entire consecration to Christ. Christian obligation is not fulfilled by the discharge of these duties, nor yet by these and the addition to them of a life of moral rectitude; some love for souls should be displayed; some personal effort to recommend the Saviour should be manifested.

What more suitable channel for this than the Sabbath School and the various efforts which may be put forth as auxiliary to that institution.

When a church has a Sabbath School in operation, it should not be supposed that its work in that direction is accomplished. Its efficiency depends greatly on the amount of co-operation given to it by the church and people in connection therewith. It fails to fulfil its great design, unless it is made a nucleus of operations of a missionary character,—and this is the point to which we desire now to call attention. In many places around almost every Sabbath School, one or more branches or Mission Schools might be established where teachers might attend alternately, or regularly, and yet retain their connexion with their associates in the central body. This would form an opportunity for extending the blessed influence of christian love and become a source of interest to all concerned. Perhaps no means of growth would be more fruitful and confer more good on a settlement than this.

In many large towns almost every congregation has its mission school or schools, and it is the invariable experience, we understand, that such churches are those in which the most good is being done and the greatest progress is made.

Let there be then a survey of the field by those who aim to follow the Redeemer's example in this respect, and an adaptation of plans to suit circumstances, and we need none of the inspiration of a prophet to assure those who engage in this work, that the results will amply reward them for all their efforts, and probably through eternity they will have to rejoice over the good done by these humble labors.

Impartiality.

In these days of parties and personalities, many persons flatter themselves, that, whatever their own deficiencies may be, they at least, are impartial. If they were to express their thoughts aloud they would say;—“Mr. So-and-So is a thorough party man on one side and Mr. What's-his-name is the same on the other, but not so with me, I ex-

ercise my own judgement and are free from party bias.” Such an one fancies that he might almost sit as the umpire between contending parties. Another thinks he may maintain an impartial position amongst religious people and excuses himself by thinking, and perhaps saying:—“Mr. A. is an out-and-out churchman, Mr. B. is a desperate Methodist, and Mr. C. is an outrageous Presbyterian, but I like moderation and have no partiality for one more than for another. In fact I am impartial.” It is thought by such persons to be so much more dignified to be impartial than to be actuated by feelings and motives in common with others.

The misfortune is that many who boast of impartiality often make a standpoint for themselves on their own side, and judge the really impartial conduct of others by its nearness to, or distance from their own one-sided position.

Some people pretending to impartiality, carry it so far that they become indifferent both in political and religious matters. They think it safe to suppose both sides about equally wrong, and if they could get their own way, would have both make a compromise. They dislike discussion, and, where a difference of opinion exists, would prefer that a little sacrifice of truth should be made for the sake of peace.

The question here arises, has any man the right to be impartial between truth and error, right and wrong, justice and injustice? To be indifferent here we think is to be on the wrong side. A want of decision is unmanly and degrading. To be so impartial as to side with one party or the other as the force of circumstances may incline, argues a degree of imbecility incompatible with a dignified mind; and yet he who finds himself mistaken and refuses to acknowledge it and confess the truth, is even less entitled to respect than he who holds on to error from deficiency of information or mental incapacity. It is the latter class to which the mere partizan belongs. He perhaps accuses of partiality, those, who being really impartial, refuse to accept his statements without examination, or after doing so come to a different conclusion.

If what is called impartiality arises from fearfulness of heart, weakness of mind, or idleness of habit, it must not be considered genuine, but when it is the result of careful examination and personal conviction, this we conceive may be the rare and precious virtue which should be honored. Let us then “prove all things and hold fast that which is good,” and not accuse of partiality all those who fail to walk in a line exactly in the centre between two opposing parties.

News Summary.

To all human appearance the year 1861 is likely to be distinguished in the pages of future history, as being the era of some of the most important and remarkable revolutions that the world has ever witnessed. Our remarks however are not merely confined to the great political changes which most generally pass under that name—changes accompanied by internal violence, commotion, and bloodshed—such revolutions indeed, have taken place and those of vast magnitude. The first in importance is that which is now being consummated in Italy, from the results of which the world at large is filled with hope.

The next nearest in character as respects the violence of the movement, is the great disruption which is making such fearful progress in the neighbouring States. We grieve to say that so far as human eye can reach, its probable effects will be the reverse of what we hope for in Italy. Instead of letting “the captive go free,” its professed and only object is to rivet his chains.

But there are other Revolutions whose legitimate results must be of incalculable importance to humanity. In no other age than the present, where the civilization and intelligence of the human race have reached a point far above any previous period of the world's history, could such political changes take place with so little of commotion or violence.

The chief and by far the most important, as we conceive, of these events, is the decree of the Emperor of Russia, in virtue of which on the 3rd of March, the whole Serf population of that vast Empire amounting to many millions, were set free from bondage, and restored to the ranks of independent men. For three centuries past they have been the Slaves of the Soil, and transferred by their owners, the great Nobles of the land, with that soil, from one possessor to another. This Act alone would be sufficient to hand down the name of Alexander the Second to posterity, with far higher honor than has ever attached to the first miscalled hero of that name. But he is also restoring to the long oppressed kingdom of Poland a large share of political liberty.

But perhaps one of the most important movements in the direction of natural freedom are the large and important Constitutional concessions which the spirit of the times is effecting in the Austrian dominions. To suppress the threatening aspect of Hungary and quell the disaffection that was shewing itself with a bold and determined front in other parts of that extensive and populous Empire, Joseph the Second, is conceding evidently much against his will privileges, and granting representative institutions, which have only been possessed by a few of the more advanced Nations of Europe, but are now being loudly demanded, where despotism has hitherto reigned almost without control.

Another leading fact in accordance with the same spirit, is the late decree of Louis Napoleon, by which he has granted to the French Legislature the freedom of debate on all questions brought before them. Such freedom has been strictly prohibited since the last revolution in 1851 which placed him on the throne.

The events we have recurred to, are indicative of a progress in the state of human society which but a short time since was wholly unlooked for: at least within so brief a period. We rejoice to say that many of these political changes, especially such as those of Italy and Austria are accompanied by large advances in religious freedom, as no doubt we may trace their origin in a great degree to the vast diffusion of the Word of God among the nations of the Earth.

The letter from Mr. Levi W. Eaton at New Zealand, on another page, will be read with pleasure by many of his friends, particularly to learn that the war in that country is not of so alarming a character to its people at a distance from the seat of war, as had been supposed.

LECTURE.—Rev. Dr. Clay gave a very interesting and instructive lecture at Temperance Hall in this city, on Monday evening, to a large and respectable audience on “Temperance and the effects of alcohol on the human system.” In a highly popular style, he exhibited the fearful effects of intemperance and illustrated his subject by large plates of the different organs of the body in a healthy state, and others showing them in a diseased condition, and explained the process of digestion, and the deleterious influence of alcohol.

Last evening Dr. C. gave the first of a course of lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene.

We have a few words for our New Brunswick brethren, on the liberties they have taken with us, but have been obliged to defer them till our next issue.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

INCENDIARISM.—An attempt was made on Friday night last to set fire to the Acadian Hotel. It was fortunately discovered in time to prevent much damage. Investigations are going on by the City Council. We hope they may not be deterred from making them thorough, and prosecuting the guilty parties if discovered. Discoveries have been made, we learn, not very creditable to some parties accustomed to spend their time in haunts of dissipation.

We were much pleased at the model of a Water-tight Wharf, which has been patented by Mr. Thos. DeWolfe, of the Financial Secretary's Office. The model is now in the Provincial Secretary's Office. The wharf is built on wheels so arranged as to run on rails from high to low water mark, always shewing the same depth of water at the wharf, which may be arranged to suit the trade of the port where the wharf is built; it is easily constructed, and probably would not cost more than half the price of the ordinary wharf, and is most admirably adapted to places on the Bay of Fundy. As grants have been made by the Legislature this Session for wharves at Hantsport, Digby and other places, we should suppose they could not do better than build them of this pattern as they can easily be kept out of the way of any storm or ice during winter months.—Sun.

HANTSPORT SEMINARY.—The quarterly exhibition and examination of Hantsport Seminary took place on the 30th of March. The exhibition was of a good character. The New Hall was crowded to overflowing. The audience expressed themselves to be much disappointed for the better. Their expectations had not been raised very high, as it was the first time that the school or community had been called to engage in such an exercise.

The entertainments consisted of Reading original Essays, Speaking Dialogues and other pieces, interspersed with singing. Those who took part, acquitted themselves well. The Essays were good, some displayed a great deal of originality and fineness of thought. It is worthy of observation that a peculiarly religious feeling and sentiment were very generally manifested in them. The examination also came off well.

ONE PRESENT.

Hantsport, April 3rd.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.—The Directors acknowledge, with much pleasure, the following contributions, since their last monthly announcement:

Mrs. General Trollope,	£1 0 0
S. N. Binney, Esq.,	2 10 0
W. Murdoch, Esq., London,	5 0 0
Sir S. Cunard, Esq., Bart., do annual,	5 0 0
W. Cunard, Esq., annual,	5 0 0
M. G. Black, Esq., (Senr.)	5 0 0
W. Jordan, Esq.,	1 0 0
Miss Stairs,	1 0 0
J. C. Wilkie, Esq.,	1 0 0
Messrs. Northup & Sons, in account,	1 0 0
Messrs. Bowes & Sons, do	0 16 3
Collection in Chalmers' Church,	7 5 0
Female School in Halifax, by Mrs. John Silver, viz.:	

Miss Grove, £1 7s. 10d. Miss Foster, £1 1s. 3d; Miss Lawson, £1 0s. 1d; Miss Boland, 11s. 3d; Miss Stansfield, 10s; Mrs. Ritchie, 5s.

The School is open to Visitors residing in the City on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 4 p. m. To strangers from the country, on every day of the week.

JAS. C. COCHRAN, Secretary.

The Parish of Granville has been reconstructed, and the Rev. Henry DeBlois, A. M., has been presented to the Rectory of All Saints, Granville, the former Rector, Rev. J. M. Campbell, A. M., retaining possession of Bridgetown and Bellisle.—Church Record.

We learn that the steamer Eastern State will leave Halifax for Boston, on her first trip, on Tuesday, the 23rd inst.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALFRED'S ARRIVAL IN THE WEST INDIES.—Demerara papers of the 27th ultimo inform us that His Royal Highness Prince Alfred arrived at Barbadoes on the 20th ult. On the following day His Royal Highness went ashore on duty in charge of the market boat, for fresh provisions. Afterwards he paid a private visit to the Governor, and spent some time at the Government House. In the evening H. R. H. dined with Admiral Milne on board the Flagship. On the 23rd the Prince made his formal visit to Bridgetown, and was received with great enthusiasm. At the Wellington Stairs a grand triumphal arch was erected, and here, while the guns poured forth a Royal Salute, Governor Hincks awaited and welcomed the Royal Midshipman. The Governor read an address, to which the Prince responded.

A Levee at Government House, and a display of fire-works in the evening, concluded the business of the day.

New Brunswick.

The LEGISLATURE has been hurrying through the business of the session preparatory to its close. The supplies have all been granted. The “want of confidence” motion, of which Mr. Gray gave notice, is deferred until the evidence on the Land Jobbing is printed, which will not be until a few days after the Session is closed. Amongst the various bills passed are a Bill abolishing head money for emigrants; and a bill providing for a general system of prepayment of postage on letters, to come into operation the 1st of May.

AN ADDRESS to Her Majesty in favour of the great INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY has been adopted. “It is silent with regard to the route through the Province. The advantages it will furnish are fully set forth; and it is stated that the Province will assist to the extent of its means.”

It is said by some of the papers that the Legislature will be prorogued on the 9th or 10th instant.

THE FREDERICTON UNIVERSITY.—The public will learn with deep regret, the death of Professor Robb, who died somewhat suddenly, yesterday afternoon. His loss to the College will be greatly felt, while to the Board of Agriculture, it will be almost irreparable.

Dr. Jacob, formerly President, and of late one of the Professors, has retired from the College, with a life allowance of £150 per annum.

The delivery of the decision of His Excellency the Visitor, in the matter of Dr. Hea, has been postponed, in consequence, it is said, of the death of Dr. Robb.—Col. Empire.

The News says:—“We understand that Professor Jack has retired from his situation in the University of Fredericton.”

Since the above was in type, we find that the Colonial Empire of the 5th inst. contradicts the statements respecting Dr. Jack's resignation and Dr. Jacob's retirement, and says they are both “utterly groundless.”

A young lady of high accomplishments and prepossessing appearance about 16 years of age belonging to a highly respectable family, and a worshipper in Bishop Medley's Cathedral in Fredericton, has we learn just joined the Church of Rome.—News.

The Church Witness remarks upon the above:—“The incident is a striking commentary upon the teaching so much in favor in the provincial capital. We are informed, however, upon what we consider good authority, that the young lady in question has returned to the Church of England, where we hope she will have the good sense to remain.”

DAVIS' PAIN KILLER.—“There is nothing in the shape of medicine selling like it in Canada. It is superceding and giving better satisfaction than any other article now in the Canada market.” E. HEATHFIELD, London, C. W.