

conscience"—and they conclude by saying—"we detest the fore-mentioned Toleration, so much pursued and endeavoured in this kingdom, accounting it unlawful and pernicious." The Presbyterian ministers of Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Somersetshire and Devonshire, in which counties Presbyterianism chiefly prevailed, signified their concurrence in these sentiments. Their practical design and tendency were shown in a "Remonstrance" sent in to Parliament the year before by the Corporation of the City of London, praying "that all separate congregations may be suppressed; that all such separatists who conform not to the public discipline may be declared against; that no person disaffected to the Presbyterian government set forth by Parliament may be employed in any place of public trust." Such was the spirit of the Presbyterians of England "more than two hundred years ago."

They were fully sustained by the Scotch, for the Scottish Parliament had already issued a declaration "against Toleration and liberty of conscience." And they had John Knox for their exemplar. John was a hero, but in the matter of christian freedom he needed that some one should "expound unto him the way of God more perfectly." In a controversy with a Baptist who had exposed the guilt of persecution, he maintained the right and duty of punishing "the blasphemer" with death, and he gave his opponent warning that he would enter Scotland at his peril:—"my full purpose is to lay the same to thy charge, if I shall apprehend thee in any commonwealth where justice against blasphemers may be ministered, as God's word requireth." Poor John Knox! Had he not read Luke ix. 51-56?

The writer of the article in the "Home and Foreign Record" goes on to say that "while Presbyterianism was training the people of Scotland, Holland, and Switzerland," and the English prelates were persecuting dissenters, "Anabaptism by its wild vagaries was disgracing the very name of Protestantism and liberty." I am sorry to say that truth compels me to denounce that statement as a foul slander.

Yours truly,
MENNO.
March 2nd 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 13, 1861

Christian Progress.

The importance of a profession of religion cannot well be over estimated. It is supposed by many that such profession is a mere matter of choice, and that those who have made no profession are under no obligation to do so; and that Christians by their confession of Christ are placed under solemn engagements which are not also equally binding upon others. Whereas the same things which are duties of the Christian are also incumbent on the unbeliever. Even the infidel cannot relieve himself of obligation by any effort he may make to throw off restraint.

Believers know that their profession of attachment to Christ and their union with his people are but acknowledgements of blessings received, of which they are no more worthy than the vilest sinner. Whilst a confession of Christ and baptism into Christian fellowship is connected with salvation in the clearest manner by Christ himself, yet there is no virtue in either one or the other; and if such an idea as their being meritorious should creep into these acts of obedience it would become as the poisonous fly in the pot of ointment and render the performance of that very obedience, sinful. The nature of Christian confession and discipleship is often greatly misunderstood. A sinner must feel his lost and ruined condition before he will perceive his need of a Saviour. When he does experience this he will gladly accept the free salvation offered in the gospel. A desire to obey the precepts enjoined by Christ on all his followers will naturally arise from this deliverance; and fellowship with the people of God will, as a matter of course, be sought.

It is often the case that those who have but recently become acquainted with the transforming power of gospel truth find it difficult when appearing in the Church meeting to make anything like a full statement of their experience, but on giving a relation of what has been made known to them, if it be considered satisfactory evidence of their being new creatures in Christ Jesus, they are welcomed by the disciples to a participation in the privileges and blessings of the Church of Christ. A full confession of all the evangelical doctrines is not to be expected at first, but it should not therefore be inferred that progress is deemed of little importance. Our Lord added to the commission to preach and baptize, which he gave to his apostles, the injunction to teach those who became disciples

to observe all things whatsoever He had commanded them. Progress is therefore to be expected. The vague notions of early profession should be matured, by diligent enquiry, into clear well defined views of truth; and an acquaintance with the scriptures on which that truth rests should be secured. Our position demands this of us. If we would honor our Master and the name we are permitted to bear, either that of Christians or Baptists, we shall be anxious to rest on something more than the mere accidental circumstance of being found in association with those bearing these names. The child at first has his ideas of the world limited by his knowledge of it, but he soon extends his acquaintance with things around and gets his first impressions corrected; so the Christian must add to his faith courage, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity.

Errors abound in the world and are brought forth with much speciousness and plausibility. It is not wise for the Christian to shut his eyes to the existence of the evils which prevail, whether they be of false doctrine or vice. If he is to become "the salt of the earth" he should prepare himself to exhibit the truth on every proper occasion and especially before his brethren; so that by a combination of individual believers, the church may become a body of faithful men thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

PROGRESS OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES.—We learn from the N. Y. Independent that:—

"The whole number of infant baptisms reported in the 2,734 Congregational churches of this country for 1860, was 4,481—or an average of two to each church. This gives one infant baptism to every fifty-eight of the 260,389 members in our churches, or only about one to eleven families of five souls each."

On which the Examiner remarks:

As our Congregationalist brethren and sisters continue to be married and to be given in marriage, as heretofore, we accept this statement of the Independent as another cheering indication of the growing influence of Baptist views in the Congregational churches.

"We are tempted to make a brief extract from a private business letter received a few days since from our aged friend Rev. W. Chipman—he will please excuse the liberty.

After expressing his deep interest in the Christian Messenger and his desire to see its circulation extended, he says:—

"My age and indisposition prevent my going out much this winter—and I feel that my days of usefulness in every department are drawing near a close. I therefore look forward with pleasing emotions to that period of life's existence here, with a full assurance of joyful hope; that when I shall, through divine grace abounding through Christ my glorious Saviour and Redeemer, to the chief of sinners, leave this world of sin and sorrow I shall enter that eternal rest of joy and felicity where neither sin or sorrow will ever enter, and where I trust I shall drink from the fountain head of divine consolation, from which sweet foretastes have been so abundantly poured out upon me here. "O! to grace how great a debtor."—And O may God be glorified in my life and my death. Amen."

FEMALE EDUCATION.—We are glad to hear good accounts of the Paradise Female Seminary, the advertisement of which may be found in another column. A new era we trust has commenced for Female Education in Nova Scotia.

Perhaps there is no part of the province where a superior School for Females is more needed than the City of Halifax. If the Protestant Alliance had honestly accepted the proposition of the Rev. David Freeman, some two or three years since, and united their energies to establish such a Seminary, and thereby remove the excuse Presbyterians and Methodists were making for sending their daughters to the Roman Catholic Convent, we should not now be in this state. That body would then have had the honor of combining Protestants, and of establishing for the City and province a valuable Institution.

The following from The "Semeur Canadien," has been handed us for publication by a friend for the benefit of those who can read the French language.

"AVIS AUX ABONNES.—Nous expédions cette semaine nos comptes a nos abonnés, et nous les prions de ne pas s'en blesser, vu que le journal est payable a demande et que nous avons grandement besoin de tout ce qui nous est du pour faire face aux dépenses courantes. Nous prions ceux qui ne seraient pas en fonds d'emprunter la somme qu'ils nous doivent, de leurs voisins, plutôt que de l'emprunter de nous, en d'autres termes, plutôt que de ne pas nous payer. Nous comptons sur leur bonne volonté et sur leur ponctualité."

He also furnished the following translation for the benefit of English readers, as he thought the hint was too good to be lost.

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.—We send this week our accounts to our subscribers; and we beg of them not to be offended, since our

terms are "Payable in advance," and we are in great want of all that is due us, in order to meet our current expenses. We beg of such as have not the money in hand, to borrow the amount due us, of their neighbors, rather than of us; in other words, rather than not pay us. We count upon their good will and punctuality.

We have received a copy of Professor Everett's Lecture on "ORIGINALITY." The learned gentleman discusses the subject under the two following paradoxical statements:—

- 1st. That nobody can be original.
- 2nd. That everybody can be original.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, February, begins with a capital article on School and College life: its romance and reality. Its other pieces are Carthage and its remains; Spontaneous generation; The trans-Atlantic Telegraph.—Iceland route; Norman Sinclair, part 13; Biographia Dramatica; Judicial puzzles, and the Foreign Secretary.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW, February is also a valuable number. L. Scott & Co., New York. E. G. Fuller, Halifax.

News Summary.

THE R. M. Steamer Niagara, which arrived on Saturday, brings our English dates up to the 23rd ult. The final capitulation of Gaeta is fully confirmed. It took place on the 13th of February, after much destruction of life, from the bombardment of the City. Francis the Second, and no doubt the last of his race who will wear a crown, left the place in a French Man-of-War, with his wife, for Civita Vecchia, the only port now belonging to the reduced Papal dominions, from whence he goes to Rome. His late father Ferdinand, usually called King Bomba, received Pius the Ninth at Gaeta, about twelve years since, when a refugee from his own subjects. It can hardly be long before the Pope and Prince will have again to shift their quarters. A pretty sure presage of this was afforded by the enthusiastic rejoicing with which the fall of Gaeta was received by the Romans, under the very shade of the Vatican. The election of Representatives for liberated Italy had taken place, and had resulted in the return of a large majority in favor of moderate as well as decisive counsels. Victor Emmanuel, the patriot king, who has so worthily represented the cause of unity and freedom in the Peninsula, had met his new and enlarged Parliament at Turin, and has by the voice of the nation, assumed the style of "King of Italy." It would be strange indeed if a nation, now comprising nearly twenty millions of souls, after ages of thralldom, oppression, and superstition, should quietly subside into an orderly, peaceful, and progressive state of constitutional liberty. Such a consummation, although "devoutly to be wished for," is most improbable. Secret conspiracies and partial outbreaks of turbulent and unprincipled men will no doubt occur, and create much and perhaps serious embarrassment to the Government. But thus far the union, wisdom and decision with which these liberties have been achieved, reflect unbounded credit upon the Italian nation. The Government have already commenced the work of restoration in moral and material improvement in many parts of the country, and already is commerce and industry in various branches beginning to produce the invariable fruits of social progress.

Hungary appears to be on the very borders of a general insurrection, and unless the Austrian Government shall speedily commence a very different policy from that which she has lately pursued, and restore the constitutional rights, of which she has treacherously or violently deprived the nation since 1848, a scene of confusion will doubtless ensue, which may involve Europe in war and bloodshed.

The Installation of Mr. Lincoln took place on the 4th inst. Happily without disturbance or opposition. His Inaugural Address, which is too long for insertion in our columns, is wholly taken up with the existing difficulties. It does not denote any distinct or decisive line of policy. Indeed in a Government of such feeble executive energy as that of a great number of confederated States must of necessity be, it must be difficult indeed under present circumstances to know what measures would soonest heal or terminate the existing crisis. The South, or at least the great Cotton States, are bold, reckless, and determined. The middle Slave States are anxious to preserve the Union, but also anxious to preserve Slavery intact. Will the North for the sake of the name of the Union, historic recollections, and commercial interests, consent to a compromise which must end in the general contamination of every true principle of liberty and keep her subject to the bold encroachments and dictation of the South? We shall see.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

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

APPOINTMENTS.

Colchester Co.—James K Blair, Samuel Rettie, and Robert Chambers, to be additional members of the Board of Health.

Halifax Co.—James Mason, Richard Shellnutt and James Ward to be Justices of the Peace. James Davison to be a Deputy Surveyor for the County of Halifax.

Annapolis Co.—Henry Parsons, William J. Crosscup, John Lockwood, Elias Messenger, and Manley White, to be Justices of the Peace. Wiswell Winchester to be a Coroner.

Guyborough Co.—Lewis W. Desbarres to be a Notary and Tabellion Public: William Hart, Edward J. Cunningham, Edward A. Franchville, John Mahany and Lewis W. Desbarres to form a Board of Health.

Cumberland Co.—William Henly, Archibald Dickey and Charles Creed, to be Justices of the Peace.

Cape Breton Co.—William Gammell, John A. Moore, L. Robertson and John McLean to be Commissioners for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, and also Commissioners for taking Affidavits and Recognizances of Bail.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to establish the Port of St. Ann's, in the County of Victoria, as a Port of Entry and Clearance, and to appoint John McAulay to be Collector for that Port.

THE BAZAAR in aid of the Sons of Temperance Reading Room came off on Thursday last, and was continued on Friday. Such a display of ladies handiwork is rarely seen. The provisions were abundant and went off with great rapidity. The labours of all concerned were great, but the rewards were also considerable; the amount of proceeds is not yet ascertained. Donations were received from the Countess Mulgrave the Chief Justice and the Bishop of Nova Scotia. The Military band under the direction of Mr. Carey played and sung some fine pieces of music in splendid style.

We learn from the *Yarmouth Tribune* that the Steamer **EASTERN STATE** has been purchased by the enterprising firm of Messrs. Ryerson, Moses & Co., and Capt. Theodore Churchill, who will command her. She will leave about the 25th inst., for Boston, where she will receive a new boiler and undergo extensive repairs, and and be put in thorough order; and will resume her route between Halifax, Yarmouth and Boston as usual.

H. POOLE Esqr., delivered another highly interesting lecture on his travels in the **HOLY LAND** on Tuesday the 5th, at the special request and in behalf of the Mayflower Volunteer Rifles. The Hall was crowded by the different Volunteer Companies and their friends and the lecture was listened to by them with rapt attention for two hours. At its close a vote of thanks to Mr. Poole was moved by Dr. Tupper and passed unanimously.

Mr. Henry Elliot, Architect, has been awarded the premium of One Hundred Dollars, offered by the Nova Scotia Marine Insurance Company, for the most approved plan of a building to be erected on the lot owned by the company in Bedford Row.

SMALL POX.—Cases in Hospital on Saturday, March 2, 24. Since admitted 6. Died 1. Discharged 7. Cases remaining 22.

SAD AFFAIR.—It was reported last evening that a young man named McGrath had been accidentally killed by a ball fired from the gun of a friend at St. Margaret's Bay, yesterday. The man who fired the gun, after returning home, procured a razor and cut his own throat, and at last accounts his life was despaired of.—*Chronicle.*

A Bear, weighing 450 lbs. was killed on the 22nd ult. by Mr. Charles Hamilton at Pleasant Valley.

New Brunswick.

Much excitement has been caused in New Brunswick by the disclosures of land jobbing recently made in the *Colonial Empire*. In consequence of these statements made in that paper a Committee of Enquiry was appointed in the Legislature.—The examination has brought to light some considerable complicity between officials in the Land Office and men in high places. Mr. Andrew Inches, evidence is of a very damaging character, and as we learn from the *Ch. Watchman* the disclosure made by him was really startling. In his evidence he implicates the Attorney General, who he says sought to prevent him from telling the Committee all that he knew respecting the management of the Land office, because, if the truth were told, he (Fisher) would be seriously compromised. Inches stated that the law was notoriously evaded, and that even by the members of the Legislature, names were frequently conjured up to accomplish this object.

He went on to describe the plans adopted to evade the law, when it was desired to obtain large blocks. One was to use fictitious names; this was very common. Large blocks of land had been obtained in this manner on the south side of the Annapegance.

The following are specimens of the jobbing:—He (Inches) acknowledged that he had two agents operating with him in obtaining land and that they had gotten large quantities. He (Inches) held over 26,000 acres.

In 1853 he got a large block of land in Salisbury—Mr. Wilmot was Surveyor General at the time. He applied for it in fictitious names—Mr.