

of others a spirit of inquiry is awakened, which frequently results in the Scriptural recognition of this divine institution.

"But I would observe, lastly, that this continuance in a false position may be further explained, as it respects myself and others by the fact that there has been paid too great a deference to human authorities and dogmas, and too little regard for the Scriptures of truth. We profess to believe in the all-sufficiency of God's Word. But how often do we act in opposition to this fundamental principle. How readily do we turn away from the infallible oracles to consult the opinions and to receive the teachings of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. And is not this often done for the purpose of strengthening and confirming opinions which we have long entertained, and which we are reluctant to renounce. This human and traditional Christianity, so frequently opposed to the simple teachings of God's Word has done more to foster human dogmas, and even to perpetuate and multiply sectional distinctions, than all other causes put together.

"In the careful and long-sustained examination of this question there are two very important truths which have been especially impressed upon my heart, and which if it should please God to call me anew to the ministry of His Gospel, shall be more fully than ever embodied in my course of study and preaching.

"The first is, The danger of placing an indiscriminating confidence in human authorities and teaching. In prosecuting my investigations upon this question, I have had deeply impressed upon my mind the utter folly of trusting to a traditional Christianity—a Christianity made up of human dogmas, handed from one generation to another—loosely allied with the Word of God, and employed for the most part to uphold and defend some leading doctrine or some institutional peculiarity of a Denominational Theology. Here is the stronghold of manifold religious theories—baptismal and others.

"But, secondly—I think I never had so deep an impression of the divinity, the beauty, and the preciousness of the Inspired Record, as I have obtained in the prosecution of this subject. I have come with the fullest certainty, to this conclusion, that the Word of God, apart from all other teaching is sufficient to lead the mind to just and satisfactory results upon all religious questions. In this respect it asserts, over every human production, an immeasurable superiority. From the Word of God, exclusively, I speedily found that I could have most fully satisfied my understanding and conscience upon this question of baptism. On account, however, of the ministerial position I occupy, I determined to subject the question to every test—and what have I gained by the process? Absolutely nothing but the conviction that the plain and prayerful reading of God's Word is all that is needed to come to right conclusions upon the varied subjects of its teachings.

"It is my intention, as I have already stated to deliver two lectures on the Baptismal Question. I will therefore indulge in no further remarks on this occasion. I should prefer, at the present moment, to have my mind and heart solely occupied with the religious aspects of this service. In the observance of this sacred ordinance, I would recognise, with all simplicity and fullness of faith, the authority of Christ—my Divine Master. What I have done to express my obedience to his command I would not for one moment regard in the light of sacrifice. Did it require me to perform something inexpressibly more trying and self-denying, most gladly would I do it. To my Divine Lord I owe everything—a recovered existence with its divine life—its noble privileges—its glorious destiny, and its immortal joys. I am, therefore, here to express through this ordinance, my attachment to His name, my subjection to His authority, and my devotedness to His cause.

"My confession of faith in respect to this divine institution is very simple.

"I believe that no one has the right to be baptized but such as have repented of their sins and exercised faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.—This, I trust, I have done.

"I believe that the divine institution is the symbolic representation of our faith. To me there are here exhibited, as in a figure, the precious truths of my salvation, that Christ has died for my sins and has risen again for my justification: that by submitting to this Christian ordinance I am buried with Christ that I may rise in newness of life in Jesus Christ. Of this, I want on this solemn occasion to have the deepest impressions; nay, I could wish to carry through the remaining course of my pilgrimage down to the dark sepulchre the most vivid remembrance of this night's consecration to my Lord and Saviour.

"I believe that this divine institution is the significant badge of Christian discipleship. I show to the world, through my baptism, that I am risen with Christ—a follower of the Lord Jesus—that I must, therefore, breathe His spirit, testify to His salvation, be devoted to His service, and wait for His coming and kingdom.

"I feel that the vows of Christ are now upon me. Oh, may I continue faithful unto death that I may receive a crown of life.

"Let me remark, in conclusion, that in the observance of this divine ordinance there are associated with me my dear wife and one of my sons, both members of the church over which I lately presided.

"The faith in believer's baptism they had both acquired before myself. I should have preferred being baptized alone, lest it should be said that some undue influence had been exercised to secure their acquiescence. It is, however, their own act and deed, to the performance of which they have been impelled alike by their convictions and by their sympathy for me, sustaining,

as I do, the unkind and unjust reflections of former friends, on account of the course I have thought it my duty to pursue."

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 31, 1861.

It affords us pleasure to learn that the Rev. Isaiah Wallace has removed into this province, and is settled with the church at Lower Granville. That thriving and prosperous locality embraces a large population and presents an inviting field for the labors of a devoted servant of Christ. We trust that both pastor and people will be abundantly blessed; and that we may soon hear of much good being done.

News Summary.

THE first decisive passage at arms between the two contending sections of the heretofore United States, has at length occurred. On Saturday, the 21st inst., the Federal Army, consisting, by some accounts, of 55,000, by others of 35,000 men, under the command of General McDowell, advanced in four columns from Centerville in Virginia, towards Manassas Junction. Their way was first obstructed by advanced parties of the enemy, posted in the woods, and by masked batteries, from which they suffered some loss. They succeeded in taking some of the batteries, but as they advanced were encountered by the enemy in force, and were obliged to retreat, which was effected in good order. On Sunday morning, the 21st, they again advanced and soon became engaged with the enemy, when the fight became general, and continued during a good part of the day. They were evidently, it would appear, unacquainted with the force and position of the enemy, who it is stated, were strongly reinforced by a body of 20,000 men, under Gen. Johnson. One or two of the Federal Regiments having broken rank in a sharp encounter, a retreat was ordered, when a scene of utter disorganization and confusion prevailed throughout a great part of the Federal Army. The consequence was a hasty and complete route, in which artillery, ammunition, baggage, arms and everything that could impede their flight, were thrown away and abandoned. Great loss of life, of course, ensued in the retreat, although a considerable part of the Federal Army appear to have retreated in good order. The enemy are also said to have suffered heavy loss, but no facts are given on which to ground the statement. The loss of the Federalists was at first reported to be as high as 5,000 killed and a large number wounded. This was, however, largely exaggerated. It has since been reduced in the Northern papers to 1500, 1000 and 500. But as no official details are given, the telegrams and newspaper reports are, as usual, almost valueless. The Southern Army, in like manner, swelled up to 90,000 men, and the Federal reduced as low as 20,000; both statements are highly improbable. If such were really the case, it must have been more than doubtful generalship, to have advanced with so little knowledge either of the locality or the numbers of the enemy. One thing is certain, that the defeat has been a severe and disastrous one, and no doubt has decided the fate of the first campaign. The South have unquestionably had superior generalship on their side.

Certain parties in the Northern States seem to cherish the old hatred to Britain and seek every opportunity of spitting out their venom.—Many of the 4th of July Orations, we learn, were, more than ever before, made up almost wholly of that material. The following from the *New York Herald*, in referring to the late defeat and retreat of Federal troops shews something of this amiable spirit:

"If, therefore, England, rejoices over the federal loss, or what she may possibly construe into a federal defeat, in this battle, it will occasion us no surprise. But if she thinks that the number of our slain will pave the way to Charleston, she is mistaken. We have lost two or three thousand men, or it may be more, in this battle, but if we had lost ten or twenty times the number, any attempt on the part of Great Britain to break the blockade of our Southern ports would have been attended with just as disastrous consequences to herself now as heretofore. We have resources enough to drive every rebel into the sea, and defy or make war upon England, at the same time. And England may rest assured that we should not emerge beaten from the fray. The muscle and sinew of the country have been placed at the service of the government, and the hearts of more than twenty millions beat loyal to the Union. Already more than three hundred thousand brave and stalwart volunteers have been rejected by the department of the Army, because enough had been enlisted before. But now fresh troops will be required, and millions are ready to volunteer, if

necessary, to support that flag which was outraged at Fort Sumter."

Our English Mails bring dates to the 13th inst. There is nothing of public importance in European matters. Sir Richard Bethell, the Attorney General, and a man of great eminence at the English Bar, has succeeded the late Lord Campbell, as Chancellor.

Nova Scotia Literature.

WOMAN AS SHE SHOULD BE: OR AGNES WILTSHIRE. By Mary E. Herbert, Halifax. PP. 145.

This effort to add to our literary home productions deserves encouragement. The readiness of the authoress in bringing out a new book where so many have failed, indicates that her former productions have met with some public favor. Her courage will doubtless be rewarded. The book is well got up, and does credit to the publisher. The title would lead one to suppose that the heroine of the story is a model woman. Every reader will, however, be apt to exercise an independent opinion on a subject on which there is so much diversity and will decide for themselves, whether "Agnes" with all her virtues, is really "Woman as she should be."

NEW MAP OF NOVA SCOTIA.—We are glad to find that the desideratum so long felt has been supplied by Messrs. Mackinlay, by getting up a handsome, well-executed Map of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island.

The reasonable price at which it is published, (for which see advertisement) will, we doubt not, induce many to purchase a copy, and not allow their families to continue better acquainted with the geography of all other parts of the world than of their own country.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

The Royal Acadian School held its usual examination on Friday last, preparatory to the pupils receiving their summer holidays.

A GRAND CONCERT is to be held at the Gardens of the Horticultural Society to-morrow evening, when Madame Anna Bishop and the Band of the 62nd Regiment are engaged to supply vocal and instrumental performances. The gardens are to be brilliantly illuminated. Admission 24 cents. Commence at 7 past 7.

PRINCE NAPOLEON and his wife CLOTILDE, daughter of Victor Emmanuel, King of Sardinia, paid a visit to Tangier on Wednesday last, in the steamer *Jerome Napoleon*, accompanied by W. Cunard, Esq., the French Consul. On going ashore the Royal party were received with much cordiality. The Prince took a trip for several miles inland. He bought a number of fine specimens, and after going on board, the miners sent him a present of a large box full of fine pieces of gold-bearing quartz.

The Prince visited Chobham Camp on Tuesday, and yesterday he steamed out of the harbor, it was said for New York.

We learn from the *Journal* of Wednesday last that "On board the *Jerome Napoleon*, is a beautiful little steam screw iron yacht, not much larger than a ship's long-boat, of which the Prince makes use while lying in harbor. Yesterday it steamed past the Market Wharf, on which a large crowd had gathered to witness its movements. In the stern-sheets, under the folds of the "Tri-color" was Prince Napoleon and his wife, Clotilde, daughter of the King of Sardinia, while quite a party of gentlemen, among which we noticed General Trollope and suite, occupied the remainder of the space. The party landed at the Queen's Wharf, where the Prince and his wife stepped into General Trollope's carriage and drove into the city."

The French Ship *Cabinet*, with Admiral Renaud on board, sailed on Saturday for New York.

A very sudden death occurred on Thursday last at the Admiralty House. The Butler, Mr. Tremer, while in the performance of his duties at the table, was struck with an apoplectic fit, from which he shortly after died.—*Sun*.

Mr. W. A. S. Blewett is now in Liverpool, organizing Divisions of the Sons of Temperance.—*ib*.

EXTRAORDINARY FOOT RACE.—One or two gentlemen in this city, considering we have some fat, stout, sowsy gentlemen among us, offer an extra prize of \$20 to competitors in a foot race on the 14th August, when the Caledonian Games come off, each competitor to weigh 220 pounds!—*ib*.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS.—A medal presented to the members of the Scottish Volunteers, by their officers, to be won by the man who made the largest number of points at the yearly practice, was last evening handed to Mr. Alfred Hutchins, he having beaten all his competitors at the firing this year.

The medal of the "Chebucto Greys," which was won by Mr. Charles Stayner, was presented to him and pinned on his breast by the Commanding officer, in presence of the Company.—*Reporter*.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION COMMISSIONERS have advertised for a Secretary, and offer to give £100 for the best Essay on "The Resources of the Province."

Rev. Dr. Cramp, President of Acadia College, as corresponding member of the Society of Arts, the originators of this Exhibition, called the attention of His Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave to this matter during the sitting of the Legislature last winter. If steps had been taken immediately, there would have been a better opportunity of Nova Scotia displaying her resources, and of having some preparatory exhibition here before sending them home.

The cases of Small pox in the hospital is now diminished to 15, six of whom were admitted last week.

Two boys were drowned at Sydney Mines on the 13th inst., while bathing in a pond. Their bodies were found sunk into the mud about eight feet apart. The eldest, 12 years of age, was son of Mr. John Grey, and the youngest only 7 years old, the son of Mr. Lee.

THE COMET.—The remarks of our correspondent respecting the comet, are corroborated by some of the English papers.

Mr. E. J. Lowe, of Nottingham, writes:—"In answer to Mr. J. R. Hind's inquiry regarding the evening of Sunday, the 30th of June, I beg to say that the same peculiar appearance of the heavens was noticed here in a marked manner. The sky had a yellow, auroral, glare-like look, and the sun, though shining, gave but feeble light. The comet was plainly visible at a quarter to 8 o'clock (during sunshine), while on subsequent evenings it was not seen till an hour later. In confirmation of this, I may add that in our parish church the vicar had the pulpit candles lighted at 7 o'clock—a proof that a sensation of darkness was felt even with the sun shining. Without being aware that the comet's tail was surrounding us, yet being struck by the singularity of the appearance, I recorded in the day-book the following:—'A singular yellow phosphorescent glare, very like diffused Aurora Borealis, yet being daylight such Aurora would scarcely be noticeable.' The comet itself had a much more hazy appearance than it had since that evening."

BUILDING SOCIETY.—The Eleventh Annual Meeting of this Society was held at Mason Hall, on Wednesday last. The Report submitted showed the Society to be in a very flourishing condition. The three retiring Directors were re-elected. Votes of thanks were passed to all the officers for their efficiency.—*Sun*.

The *Express* of Monday evening says there is a report in circulation through the city that H. M. S. "Mersey," which vessel left this port a few weeks ago, had sunk two American ships.—The "Mersey" left here bound to the blockaded ports in the Southern States. The report, however, cannot be traced to any reliable authority.

GOLD AT LUNENBURG.—Gold has been recently discovered at the "Ovens" a few miles from the town of Lunenburg. This fact has already created quite an excitement in these parts. Hundreds may be seen daily hurrying to the spot, many of whom, doubtless, expect to fill their pockets with the shining ore. Unhappily however this cannot be accomplished as easily as they imagined; much hard work having to precede the filling of the purse.

Monday last, having business in the town of Lunenburg, I concluded to pay a visit to this noted spot. Not however for the purpose of digging gold, but to ascertain, if possible, whether or no the reports were true. Accordingly in company with a friend, I stepped on board Mr. Charles Hewet's Ferry boat, and we were soon gliding swiftly through the waters of the beautiful harbour of Lunenburg. Stepping on shore we repaired to the diggings, and found some hundred and fifty individuals, about fifty of whom were busily excavating the Cliff. They might justly be said to be "earning gold by the sweat of the brow."

I saw some very excellent specimens taken from three claims, and it is the prevailing opinion that gold in large quantities, lies buried far beneath the surface.

I was informed that Mr. Dowling, of Lunenburg, first discovered the gold, he with Messrs. Baily, Anderson & Co., and also some others, (it is said) are doing a good business. Others are doing but little.

Persons are coming from all parts to these Gold diggings. It is rumoured that a *crusher* will soon be on the ground, after which parties can work to better advantage.

Should gold be discovered in large quantities, Lunenburg Town will be greatly benefitted.

Gold has also been discovered in other parts of Lunenburg Co., a very good specimen was quite recently found about 5 miles from Bridgewater. The finders, however say but little about it, as they wish to have a thorough search before making it known to the public.

I hope all that are or may be engaged in this enterprise may be fully remunerated for their trouble. And that if they "freely receive" they may be led to "freely give;"—and pay up for their newspapers.—[AMEN, ED. C. M.]

W. J. G.

Bridgewater, July 18th, 1861.