

sometimes a touching allusion would start a tear. He always gave great prominence in his preaching to the distinguishing doctrines of the Bible. Dr. Ryland's three R's were always set forth more or less in every sermon—"Ruin by the fall, Redemption by Christ, and Regeneration by the Spirit."

At times he indulged in abstract reasoning, but he usually closed with remarks that were intelligible to all, and that tended to leave a solemn impression.

He was generally most at home in his own pulpit, and would often address himself to his own people in language of deep sympathy and affection. When he preached abroad, especially at denominational gatherings, his diffidence and self-depreciation often caused him to fail, and many, whose expectations were raised, would express disappointment.

In prayer, I believe, he was excelled by few in deep devotional feelings. He drew near to God, and came with blended confidence and humility. I never heard him either in the sanctuary, or in the family circle, but I was impressed with the conviction that he realized the solemn importance of the exercise, and that he regarded it not as a task, but a pleasure.

As a friend he was true and firm. "Confidence" with him, "was a plant of slow growth," but when it was given it was not easily shaken or destroyed. The writer remembers with deep-felt thankfulness the four years that he resided in Milton and enjoyed Brother Bentley's friendship. The scriptural rule, "let each esteem other better than themselves" was constantly evinced by him. He would often commend an excellency while he would faithfully expose a fault. He was ever ready to help, to counsel and to cheer.

But he is with us on earth no more. He is gone to render service in a higher sphere. While we mourn his early removal, we thank God we had him so long, and that it in his short season of toil he was enabled to accomplish so much. "Brethren the time is short." Let us "work while it is day," for the "Master" will soon "come and call for us."

### Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 23, 1861.

#### Am I Insured?

After such a conflagration as that by which we have recently been visited, a question such as the above must recur to every prudent household, especially if he reside in a city constructed of inflammable materials or near neighbours who may not be over cautious in the use of fire. The presence of alcohol, whether used as a beverage by a neighbour or kept by him for other purposes, or even of tobacco, used carelessly, (in smoking) renders this question increasingly important.

The blessings of Providence conferred upon us bring with them obligations, which if not fulfilled often lead to self-reproach and great loss. One of these is the precaution of paying a small sum for the insurance of a given amount of compensation in case of loss by fire. Our duty to others ordinarily requires this at our hands.

Not only should the question at the head of this article be asked, but even if answered in the affirmative, another enquiry may well be instituted. Is my insurance effected in a reliable Company's office? When the sweeping fire comes and consumes the accumulation of years and we present our claims for the amount of policy we hold, then, it is too late to find out that the Company is a sham, or an insolvent one. With all the precaution we can take, whilst there is so much corruption in the world, we may be disappointed. The presumption is, however, that a body of men well-known for uprightness who give their names as the responsible parties in such companies, is a guarantee for whatever sums they may engage to pay on such a contingency as an accidental fire.

Having given these suggestions regarding the insurance of property, perhaps it may be equally important for each of our readers to enquire again, Am I insured? We do not mean a Life Assurance, so that a certain sum of money may be paid to your survivors at your death. This may be a very proper investment of a portion of your income, but we would lead you, gentle reader, to an application of the enquiry of a far more important character and one that concerns what will always remain your personal property and real estate—yourself—Are you insured? If not what reasons are preventing this important arrangement, when such a favourable opportunity is offered? Do you imagine the risk is slight? or that the premium to be paid for such insurance is too high? The position occupied by every man, woman and child as a sinner in the sight of God, renders us all lia-

ble at any moment, to be called to surrender all our possessions in this world. Do you think reader that without securing a policy you can then present any claim to "an enduring inheritance"? Have you any assurance that yours would not be an everlasting loss, or that you could then recover yourself by any amount of endurance of 'the worm that shall not die, and the fire that shall not be quenched.' Trust to no such delusion, you have no reserve fund for that day.

No real security can be effected, but through the riches of grace in Jesus Christ. His terms are faith and obedience. So soon as you comply with these conditions you may rest satisfied that you are safely insured for time and eternity.

You may experience the losses of this world, not only of houses and property—the results of years of persevering industry—but even of health and strength, and indeed of life itself, and, if you have the Lord of Life and glory as the person on whom you rely, you may gratefully reply to the question when put by your conscience, and with which we began—Yes, I am insured?

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Mr. James E. Masters will please accept our thanks for forwarding us a copy of Minutes of the Western N. B. Baptist Association, which was held in September last. Its contents are highly interesting and important.

The Annual Reports of the N. B. General Union; of the N. B. Home Missionary Board; and the N. B. Baptist Education Society, are all comprised in one pamphlet with the Minutes.

The Financial Agent of the General Union says:—

"Your Agent has been very much encouraged as far as he has gone. It is not flood tide now in money matters, yet the amount raised has not been of the meanest kind. I have obtained in subscription to the Union and Home Missionary funds about £760, of which sum £490 is already paid. I have formed 52 Societies, with 52 Secretary Treasurers, and 143 collectors; have travelled 3,940 miles, attended 240 religious meetings, baptized 12 persons, assisted at the organization of one new church, preached one opening sermon of a new Meeting House. I have met with a cordial reception wherever I have gone."

The Home Missionary Board report an amount of service performed equal to "Twenty-four years in all."

Number of Religious Meetings held, - - -	4,500
Visits made, - - - - -	6,300
Pages of Tracts distributed, - - - - -	30,000
Chapels erected, - - - - -	3
Number Baptized, - - - - -	250
Churches formed, - - - - -	8
Amount expended, - - - - -	£2,500

Who can measure the amount of good resulting to immortal souls from the seeds of eternal truth thus cast by God's faithful witnesses over such a wide extent of country? The Annals of Eternity alone can furnish the reply.

The Education Society's Report shews that

"The Seminary is in a healthy state. The number of pupils in attendance for the year has been 105, and the average number present has been between 49 and 50 each week throughout the year."

#### Review of New Books.

EVENINGS WITH THE DOCTRINES; by Nehemiah Adams, D. D. Author of "Friends of Christ" "Christ a friend" "Communion Sabbath" &c. &c.—pp. 415. Boston: Gould & Lincoln.

The Introductory Note of this volume informs us that it contains the substance of familiar lectures delivered in the Lecture Room of the Essex Street Church, Boston, on successive Tuesday evenings, of the winters of 1858-9. This will account for the very appropriate title. The work is under the following different heads; God; Divine Revelation; The Trinity; Deity of Christ; Deity of the Holy Spirit; Man; Atonement; Election; Regeneration; Perseverance; Christian Perfection; The Intermediate State; Retribution.

Any church fed by such truths as are contained in these chapters must be "thoroughly furnished" and prepared to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." The style of the writer and his course of argument and illustration will secure for him readers. The modern forms of error are taken up and disposed of very effectually. The perusal of the chapters on "Man" and that on "The intermediate State" have afforded us much pleasure. The subjects are treated in a plain clear scriptural manner which must satisfy and convince every unprejudiced reader, who may have been troubled by those errors. On the former of these subjects, the author completely destroys the idea that man is capable of arriving at moral excellence without divine interposition. As certain as the acorn develops into an oak so does the evil that is in the heart of every human being at birth, bring forth the sad fruits, of disobedience and sin,—having no desire for God or his laws, he chooses the

creature rather than the Creator and his own gratification rather than submission to Divine precept. The notion of the soul sleeping with the body till the resurrection, is well met by both argument and scripture; and the credulity of those who reject the truths taught by the Word of God that as soon as we are "absent from the body" we are "present with the Lord" is ably exposed.

We fully concur with the author, when he says "The Christian use of the word heaven, rather than any substitute, in connection with departed spirits, points to the deep-seated belief which the Bible has wrought in the hearts of men that 'the souls of believers are at death made perfect in holiness and do immediately pass into glory.' With the respect which is due to distinguished names in the Christian Church, let us be grateful if we find ourselves free from those views of scripture which indicate the lingering influence of Roman Catholic superstition, to which we perceive good men are subject who nevertheless abjure all affinity with Rome."

We omitted to notice last week that *The Temperance Reformer and Telegraph* had been received. It is quite a respectable sheet and as far as appearances go a very considerable step in advance of *The Telegraph*.

ILLUSTRATED PAPERS are now an established institution in the mother country. Of these *The Illustrated London News* and *The Illustrated News of the World* are the best, being embellished with wood engravings well worthy of preservation. George E. Morton & Co., will accept our thanks for copies of these papers. Christmas and New Year generally supply extra subjects for the artists employed upon these periodicals.

BAPTISMAL REGENERATION.—The *Witness* takes the *Church Record* to task for admitting an article into its columns teaching this "very dangerous doctrine."

#### News Summary.

The Southern States of the Union appear to be rapidly hastening on to a crisis, beyond which it will soon be difficult to recall their steps. It is asserted by some of the Northern papers, that the extreme measures that have already been taken, have been urged on by a comparatively small but violent party, against the judgement and wishes of a large number of the more prudent and substantial body of the citizens of the seceding States—Accounts however are so conflicting that it is difficult to form an accurate judgment as to the extent of disaffection, in what are usually termed the Cotton States. From all accounts however it would seem that there is throughout these States, an amount of sympathy that tends to a general coalition to resist any coercion from the North. The Northern and Middle States on the other hand are daily becoming less alive to their party divisions, and making strong demonstrations, of their determination to maintain the integrity of the Union, even by a resort to force. That they will agree to make any further concessions in favor of Slavery, or even rest satisfied without making some material modifications in the measures that have hitherto been forced upon them by Southern influence, is most improbable. The only thing therefore that can avert the threatened dissolution of the Union, will be the weakness and want of support of Southern Secessionists within their own States, when it comes to the last step, which must either sustain or break up the Unity of the Federal Government. The great question will not perhaps be finally tested until Mr. Lincoln shall assume the Government, which will be in the beginning of March. In the mean time the utmost confusion prevails at the seat of Government. The President exhibits great timidity and indecision, and seems utterly incompetent to the occasion, while the Secretary of State and some of the other principal officers of the Government, more or less implicated in the doings of the seceding States, have abandoned their offices. Against some of them the most loud and direct accusations are made, of open acts of treason against the Union. A plot is said to be getting up in Virginia too on Washington to get hold of the Government Archives and prevent the ceremonies of Lincoln's inauguration there. There is evidently a long score of troubles before our neighbours of the Union.

The question of Repeal is being raised again by some of the discontented spirits in the Emerald Isle. Some of the busybodies—both priests and laymen, are talking largely in favor of a French occupation. As the Catholics generally have no confidence in Louis Napoleon such agitation is not likely to have any lengthened effect or serious influence.

#### Latest from Europe.

[By Telegraph.]

#### ARRIVAL OF THE CANADIAN.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—The steamer Canadian left Londonderry on the 4th, and arrived to-day at noon. The ship Guttenburgh of New York for Hamburg, was wrecked on Goodwin Sands, and 23 persons were drowned. Steamer Quagen Victoria with Rangoon Telegraph Cable ran ashore at Plymouth Sound. Prince Regent assumes Government of Prussia under the name of William V. Funds improved. Consols 92½ a 92 1-8. Flour advanced 1s. per barrel.

#### General Intelligence.

##### DOMESTIC.

SINCE THE FIRE.—STEAM FIRE ENGINE, &c., &c.—Since the devastating fire which we reported in our last the subject of providing means for the suppression of conflagrations and preventing similar destruction in future, has been receiving attention from our citizens generally.

Alderman Hill has been appointed by the City Council to proceed immediately to the United States for the purchase of a Steam Fire Engine, and making enquiry concerning the various appliances and arrangements in the cities of the Union (?) for preventing and overcoming fires. The cost of a Steam Fire Engine will probably be £1,500. This will doubtless be an economical expenditure.

The deficiencies of our Fire Companies have been pointed out by some of the writers for the press. The principal of these appears to be a want of authority in the commanding officers of those Companies and the harmonious co-operation of all under one general direction. No one doubts the efficiency of the men of whom they are composed, and as to bravery and an entire absence of anything like selfishness, no one could for a moment witness the daring feats of many of the firemen on several late occasions, without admiring their cool courage; nor their ready approach to points of utmost danger when necessary, without being proud of having such men for their fellow-citizens.

The chimnies on the site of the fire have been taken down either by the application of gunpowder or otherwise. So entire was the destruction that scarcely a stick or anything of an inflammable nature was left.

It is quite remarkable that so few should have been deprived of their homes by so large a fire. Not more than two or three families had their residence in the burnt district. Had a fire of the same extent been in other part of the city there must have been quite a large number driven out, and great suffering must have ensued. One or two of the Volunteer Rifle Companies have, with a readiness which deserves all praise, agreed to form themselves into a Fire Brigade to act at fires under the direction of the Chairman of Firewards. Having their discipline all in preparation, these bodies will be able to render highly efficient aid, and supply just the force which has long been in demand.

TEMPERANCE IN THE WEST.—The *Bridge-town Register* gives a glowing account of an Entertainment, provided by the Sons of Temperance at Paradise, on the 9th inst. Addresses by Rev. Geo. Armstrong and Rev. J. Robertson, a reading by Mrs. Morse, and a recitation and dialogues by junior members, gave the meeting a pleasing social character which appears to have gratified all present. The cause of Temperance will doubtless receive fresh interest by such gatherings.

POLITICAL.—We learn from the *Yarmouth Herald* that Political meetings have been held at DIGBY, WEYMOUTH, CLARE, and MONTAGON. Resolutions have been passed at all these meetings condemning the present government—in particular the course of Hon. Colin Campbell in supporting it.

The meeting at DIGBY was presided over by W. L. Bent, Esq. and addresses made by Dr. Tupper, J. C. Wade, Esq. and others.

At Weymouth William B. Vail, Esq. occupied the chair. Dr. Tupper, J. C. Wade, Esq., Hon. Colin Campbell and C. P. Jones, Esq. were the speakers.

At Clare Mr. Edward J. Potter was called to the chair and speeches delivered by the above named gentlemen and Mr. Robichau, Esq.

At Montagon P. McGirr, Esq. was in the chair.

The Rev. S. T. Rand is announced as the next Lecturer before the Young Men's Christian Association, at Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening at the usual hour. Subject—"The difficulties and advantages of Self Education"