

his will and our duty. He leads us in paths we had not known, and often into the furnace of affliction and we cannot tell how this trial, or that trouble can possibly be for our good. But then we know that if we love him, our severest trials, be they what they may, are among the "all things" which "shall work for our good."

Dear Brother, God has sent his chariot, and has borne away the happy spirit of our precious Lavinia. We have just returned from the place where rest her mortal remains. Lavinia Alice Morton, my second daughter, aged 13 years and 3 months, died on Tuesday, the 6th inst. Her funeral services were conducted by Brother de Blois and Brother James Parker. The latter preached on the occasion from Psalm ciii. 15, 16. "As for man his days are as grass," &c. How true it is that "in the midst of life we are in death." Her death was caused principally by diphtheria. She continued sensible and happy as long as she could speak. Almost her last words were—

"Jesus can make a dying bed,
Feel soft as downy pillows are;
While on his breast I lean my head,
And breathe my life out sweetly there."

And there she did breathe out her life and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus. O! I do but wish that all those who despise religion; could have stood with me by her bed side during the last few hours of her life, I think they must have been convinced of the value of the religion of Jesus, seeing it could give such peace, and hope, and triumph at the very gate of death.

She had been the subject of serious impressions and had lived a life of prayer ever since she knew good from evil. She put on Christ at Berwick in the early part of the last spring. She has never hesitated to pray in the family when asked to do so. About a fortnight before her death on being asked to pray, she seemed for a moment to hesitate, and then kneeled and poured out her heart to God in prayer in behalf of the Church in this place, and that sinners might be speedily brought to love and serve God. O may her prayer be answered. We find it hard to part with our beloved child, but I adopt the language of Job, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord." Amen.

ROBERT S. MORTON.

For the Christian Messenger

CANNING, Aug. 17, 1861.

My Dear Brother,—

I noticed in the Messenger for Aug. 14th, a letter from North Sydney Church, signed Robert Rice and George Musgrave, also some time ago a letter signed "A Church Member," denying the statement made by me, that that church last year sent no delegate, nor letter, nor money, to the Association. I have re-examined the Minutes of the Association, also the report of the Home Mission for the last year, and find that according to them my statement is correct.

The statement was originally made by me not to be "an accuser of the churches,"—the brethren in North Sydney know me better than that—but to show the necessity of having a separate or an auxiliary Association on the island to develop the resources of the churches there, and I think the brethren in North Sydney have another argument for a separate Association in the fact that their very reasonable request to have the next annual meeting with them was this year, refused, by the Association in Guysborough.

Yours in the love of the cause,
D. FREEMAN.

Religious Intelligence.

DISASTROUS NEWS FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES—DEATH OF REV S. F. JOHNSTON.

We learn with profound regret the death of our amiable and highly valued friend and correspondent, the Rev S. F. Johnston, the last Presbyterian Missionary who left these shores for the South Seas. He died on the afternoon of Monday the 21st January, from illness brought on by hard labour and exposure to the weather in an unhealthy climate. Mr. Johnston was but a young man, and his days of toil in the Mission field were few. It seems but yesterday when we bade him farewell on board the *Eastern State*, as he started on the long voyage which took him out to Tana. It was twelve months ago in November last that he left for his destination, and he was on the field just long enough to be able to converse with the heathen in their own language. Shortly before his death two of the natives attempted to kill him at his own door!

Mr. Johnston's death is a heavy blow to the Mission. The Church here and the brethren on the field regarded him as a valuable addition to the Missionary force, and it is hard to say when or how his place will be supplied. He was a young man of deep piety, burning zeal, uncompromising sincerity, and the most admirable simplicity and consistency of character. His visits to our Churches before leaving the country made an ineffable impression wherever he went. He was a diligent student, a good scholar, an earnest and effective speaker, and latterly he wielded the "pen of a ready writer." He learned the art of printing in this Office while pursuing his studies in the Free Church College. His death will be deeply deplored throughout the Church; but it becomes us to submit to the will

of God. We have no doubt but Mr. Johnston was fully prepared for entering on his eternal rest, and God will supply his place in His own good time.

Mrs. Johnston is with Mr. Geddie on Anceiteum.

As was anticipated from the previous letters of the Missionaries the measles have proved exceedingly destructive on all the Islands. *Two thirds* of the Natives of Erromanga are supposed by Mr. Gordon to have perished! Mr. Geddie states that one third of the natives of Anceiteum have been swept away; and on Tana the mortality has been so great that the dead cannot be buried! The heathen persist in regarding this scourge as brought upon them by the presence of the Missionaries. In Mr. Gordon's case, almost all those who were under his charge escaped with their lives. The fever was abating by latest accounts.

Another most trying calamity has befallen the Anceiteum Mission: the large new Stone Church finished a year ago has been wholly destroyed by fire! Mr. Geddie has little doubt but it was the work of an incendiary who was under the impression that Christianity was the cause of the loss of so many lives by measles. After the fire came a terrible storm which did great damage on all the islands. The sea rose ten feet above high water mark, and both wind and water caused much destruction.—*P. Witness.*

The following are Statistics of Religious Denominations in this city and Dartmouth:—

	Halifax.	Dartmouth.
Protestants.....	13,089	2,348
Roman Catholics.....	11,417	807
Church of England.....	6,068	1,115
Methodists.....	1,978	168
Presbyterians, not including Ch. of Scotland,.....	1,952	414
Baptists.....	1,501	408
Church of Scotland.....	953	118
Universalists.....	252	98
Bible Christians.....	56	7
Congregationalists.....	37	8
Lutherans.....	31
Unitarians.....	13
Sandemanians.....	25	10

"Disciples" 7; Swedenborgians, 6; Jews, 3; Deist, 1; Free Thinker, 1; Huguenot, 1; Quaker, 1; Mormon, 1; "Protestants," 62; Religion not given, 133.—These all in Halifax. There are 2 Quakers in Dartmouth.—*ib.*

The Rev John Rattenbury has been elected President of the British Wesleyan Conference for the next year.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

FLORAL AND FRUIT EXHIBITION.—The Society for promoting these exhibitions have appointed Wednesday the 11th of September, for their Annual Show of Fruit and Flowers, at the Horticultural Society's Gardens. We trust the competitors will not be discouraged by the former disappointments occasioned by unfavorable weather. We hope the Committee's labors will be appreciated and sustained by the public.

HEALTH OF HALIFAX.—The Report of Dr. Hume, City Medical Officer, presented at the Board of Health last week, shows that there have been 316 cases of Small Pox treated in the Hospital, of which over 150 cases were confluent, in addition to which there were about 10 cases aggravated with "purpura" and petechial spots, or what is commonly called black Small Pox, a disease considered by all practical men and writers as almost necessarily fatal, but he is happy to say that some of these have recovered and been discharged.

There have been 40 deaths from the disease, and he congratulates the Board that under all the circumstances the percentage of deaths has been unusually small.

Dr. H. suggests some alterations in the law which would enable the Medical Officer to take precautionary steps for preventing the spread of contagious disease. This should be done forthwith.

We are happy to find from the report of Saturday last, that the number of patients now in the Hospital is reduced to five.

THE ARMY WORM.—It is stated that the army worm has been greatly checked in its ravages by the cold rains of this last two days.—Large quantities have been found dead in some fields. The best way to destroy them appears to be the turning in of fowls and pigs where they are found. The following is given in the *Boston Journal*:—

HOW TO STOP THE ARMY WORM.—The plan which we published recently as being effectually employed at the West for stopping the ravages of the army worm, was successfully adopted, with an improvement, when the army worms made their appearance on the Cape.—Mr. Eldridge of Chatham, seeing their approach, took a plough and made a furrow each side of the fence, in which he dug holes about ten feet apart; and when they came to this entrenchment they could not scale it, but crawling lengthwise, they would fall into these holes, and were thus easily destroyed.

THE CROPS.—Farmers have cause to be thankful that the crops look exceedingly promising. All kinds of grain will be more abundant than they have been for many years. Six weeks ago, the prospect as regards Indian corn, was very discouraging; but the continuous heat and moisture during the whole month of July, have imparted to it such vigor as to insure an unusually large crop; and some of our neighbours, we understand, have already been luxuriating upon green corn. Potatoes, too, are looking well. Hay, notwithstanding fears expressed in June, is more than an average crop. We saw wheat harvested in the vicinity of this town three weeks ago.

The army worm is doing considerable damage to the grass on the marshes that skirt our River.—*Bridgetown Register.*

Complaints are made of the confusion caused by the Omnibus and Cab drivers at the Railway Depot. This should be prevented by some means. First impressions are often the most lasting, and if travellers find disorder and bad language greet them on their first arrival it will be difficult to remove the impression.

BANK ROBBERY AT YARMOUTH.—The *Tribune* says that the office of the Agency of the Bank of Nova Scotia, in the town of Yarmouth, was feloniously entered by means of false keys, between one and two o'clock, on Monday afternoon last, during the absence of the Cashier, and £1500 in bank bills stolen from the money drawer.

YELLOW FEVER.—Her Majesty's Ship *Spitfire*, in charge of Lieut. Croke, arrived on Friday afternoon from Nassau—Commander Wilson was left at that port sick. The *Spitfire* has 46 cases of Fever—has lost 11 men since she left Nassau, on the 9th inst. One man died an hour after her arrival in this port. The sick have been removed to the *Pyranus* "hulk."

The ship is in strict quarantine and will be kept so until the Fever has abated. We regret to add that a fine young man, a midshipman from H. M. Ship *Nile*, was one of the first victims of the disease. He has only been a few weeks absent from this city, having been sent to join the *Spitfire*, by Sir Alexander Milne.—*Reporter.*

DROWNED.—An inquest was held at Lochaber Lake on the 9th inst., on view of the body of Patrick Long, a young man who had accidentally drowned on the previous evening whilst bathing in the lake.—*Casket.*

ACCIDENT AT TANGIER DIGGINGS.—Several rumours respecting the extent of this calamity having been circulated in the city. We have procured the following facts which can be relied on.

On Thursday Mr. Matt. James McCurdy from Musquodoboit, and Mr. Robert Archibald, from Clifton, were loading a blast. The gunpowder exploded causing injury to them both, particularly to Mr. McCurdy, whose face and left hand have been considerably blackened and cut. He was brought to the city by the *Neptune*, where medical aid was promptly in attendance and he was pronounced out of danger.

Mr. Archibald's wounds were even less severe than Mr. McCurdy's. What medical aid could be procured on the spot was imparted to them both.—*Reporter.*

Prince Edward Island.

The people of P. E. Island are anxious to learn the result of the Land Commission enquiry.—Some are asserting that the award has been handed in to the Government, but the *Islander* says: "the truth and fact of the matter is, that up to the present time neither His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, nor any member of the Government has received the slightest intimation relating to the award, beyond this, that it has been agreed upon, and on the way to the Colonial Office, to be laid before Her Majesty the Queen. When the award shall be received by the Government, it will be made public, and we are very much inclined to the belief that it will afford but little comfort to Edward Whelan or George Coles.

New Brunswick.

BUSINESS IN ST. JOHN.—Business is completely at a stand. There are very few ships in the harbour, and nothing being chartered. The markets for all kinds of staples and goods are merely nominal. The weather during the week has been exceedingly fine, giving the hay makers a chance for getting in their abundant crop.—We were pleased to learn from all parts of the Province that the crops, except potatoes, which are rotting, are in a highly promising condition.—*Col. Empire.*

THE LUMBER TRADE OF ST. JOHN.—The following is given by the *Morning News* as the amount of shipments from St. John in two weeks, from 23rd of July to 6th of August:

	Vessels.	Tons.	Tons Birch.	Tons Pine.	Sq. ft. Deals.
Liverpool.....	7	6524	535	2261	4,461,000
Clyde.....	24	747	30	427	113,000
British Channel.....	3	1231	1,068,000
Ireland.....	19	4149	178	30	3,611,000
	51	12,651	743	2618	9,253,000

This is a tolerably large fleet for St. John to send out these hard times, but, in addition to these there were in port on Wednesday last, the 6th of August, a fleet of 51 ships of 28,506 tons loading or waiting for loads.

EMIGRATION.—The Government Emigration Officer received by the English mail last week, a communication from E. St. Claire Williams, Esq., Ex-Commissioner at Lucknow, Oude, East India, asking for information relative to a tract of Crown Land of about 5,000 acres, on which he proposes to settle a number of families. As his inquiries relate to land near Fredericton and Bathurst, it is evident he must have some knowledge of the country.—*News.*

GLASSVILLE.—The Editor of the *Carleton Sentinel* recently visited Glassville in Carleton County. He says that the Scottish Emigrants who have located, seem perfectly satisfied with the arrangements made by Mr. Glass, and have every confidence in that gentleman.—*Intelligence.*

GOLD IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—The *News* says that something which looks very much like gold has been found in the vicinity of Hammond River.

POTATO DISEASE.—We learn from the *Religious Intelligencer* that up the River St. John the Potato rust has made its appearance, and in some places is doing serious damage to the potatoe crop.

Canada.

OIL WELLS.—The *Montreal Gazette* gives a glowing account of the oil wells lately discovered at Enniskillen. Mr. T. S. Hunt of the Geological Society has been engaged in exploring the district and in a letter to the above journal says:—

"The late discoveries in the oil region in Black Creek, in Enniskillen, are very remarkable. Besides a great number of surface wells i.e., wells dug from 40 to 60 feet through drift to the rock of the country, and yielding, many of them large quantities of oil, there are now numbers of wells bored in this rock to depths varying from 40 to 200 feet. In sinking thus through the soft limestones and marls of the Hamilton group, irregular fissures affording oil are met with at varying and uncertain depths, but yielding petroleum in quantities hitherto unexampled on the continent. The most remarkable of these rock wells have been opened within the last ten or twelve days, and furnishing oil with considerable quantities of gas, but without any water. Some which have been opened a week (July 30) have afforded from 200 to 400 bbls of pure oil, and after extracting this amount the well was filled up again in a few hours to the surface, and in two is now flowing over into the adjacent creek. It is impossible to say what amount of oil these wells would furnish it wrought continuously, but the supply seems to be enormous. Meanwhile there is no market for the oil, and many thousands of barrels are stowed up in tanks and pits awaiting purchasers. A plank road is about being made to Wyoming Station on the G. Western Railway, 13 miles distant. It is hoped from recent information from England that a good market for the oil will be opened there. The result of the last ten days in this region have surpassed the dreams of the most sanguine as to the supply of oil, and judging from present appearances the wells of Enniskillen will rival those of Burmah and Persia, which have for centuries supplied the East with petroleum.

It is worthy to remark that the oil wells of Canada are in a much lower geological formation than those of Ohio and Pennsylvania. These rise for the most part from the Upper Devonian sandstones, while the wells sunk in Enniskillen are in the Heilton shales, and even seem to have reached the underlying Devonian limestones, which with perhaps the addition of the Silurian limestones, we conceive to be the source of the petroleum both in Canada and the adjacent States. It is evidently connected with the undulations subordinate to the great anticlinal axis which we have traced through Western Canada, and which permit the accumulation of the oil elsewhere diffused through the rocky strata."

A Quebec paper of the 6th inst, says—Mr. C. Johnson, a Queens messenger, has arrived from Europe, via Washington, bringing despatches for His Excellency, which rumour says are of an important character, relating to the Southern Confederacy and the efficiency of the blockade.

It is stated that before the close of the navigation of the St. Lawrence Canada will have twenty thousand British troops scattered throughout her territory.

The assessment rate this year in London, Canada West, is eighteen cents in the dollar.

Latest from the States!

THE BATTLE NEAR SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI seems to have been a very different affair from what the first telegrams represented it.—Instead of Northern troops retreating in good order without loss, it seems they were badly beaten.

The following is an official report of the fight near Springfield on Saturday, forwarded by one of Gen. Lyon's aids:—

To Major-General Fremont: Gen. Lyons in three columns, under himself, Gen. Siegel and Maj. Sturgis, attacked the enemy at 6 1/2 o'clock on the morning of the 10th, nine miles southeast of Springfield. The engagement was severe.—Our loss is about 800 in killed and wounded.—General Lyon was killed in a charge at the head of his column.

Our force was 8000, including 2000 Home Guards. The muster rolls taken from the enemy give his force as 23,900, including regiments from Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas Rangers, and Cherokee half breeds. Their loss is reported heavy, including Generals McCulloch and Price. This statement is corroborated by prisoners. Their tents and wagons were destroyed in the action. Gen. Siegel left only one gun on the field. He retreated to Springfield with a large number of prisoners. At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 11th, he continued his retreat on Rolla, bringing off his baggage trains and \$25,000 in specie from the Springfield banks.

Fears are entertained that the rebels will attempt to subjugate Lower California.

By a land slide on Sunday night, seventeen miles from Richmond on the Manasses road eight cars loaded with Southern soldiers were smashed and shivered to pieces. Two Louisville companies were the principal sufferers.

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