

nel Zeller, serves gratuitously for the same reasons.

She was several times warned by the authorities that her hospital was illegal, as not being under the direction of a regular physician; and she was twice fined—the last time so heavily that she appealed to the Government Council, giving a full statement of her life, motives, and success, and bringing hundreds of testimonials from men and women of all ranks, including eminent physicians and theologians. The District Court, however, decided against her, she appealed to the Supreme Court at Zurich, and after a splendid defense by her advocate, was completely successful, and is permitted to go on. The ground of her defense was that her operations can in no sense be called medical practice, and that while two-thirds of her patients had been abandoned by all physicians, no case could be shown in which her treatment had been injurious. "Where," shrewdly asked the advocate, "is the medical doctor who can say as much of his own practice?" The Swiss and Germans call her "the Trudel," and it may readily be conceived that she is held in the highest veneration.

For the Christian Messenger.

The bread vs. meat and bread controversy.

ANGEL'S FOOD.

MR. EDITOR,—

Seeing no prospect of a termination to the waste of paper and patience involved in the vegetarian controversy, and although my individual tastes incline the other way, I submit a clinching argument on the carnivorous side, which I hope may arrest the fearful shedding of ink. The angels ate veal! Vide Gen. chap. xviii., v. 7, 8.

March 11, 1862.

CRUSTY.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Physical Education of our Students.

No. 2.

MR. EDITOR,—

I read with pleasure the "Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Acadia College," which has been arranged with so much taste and published with so much neatness. One asks as he reads over the names of those one hundred and fifty young men, who during the space of nineteen years, were matriculated at that Institution, and have since gone forth to their various vocations in life, what account have they given of themselves? Let us be glad, that from the different fields of labor in which most of them are engaged, there comes an answer with no uncertain sound. And that our College has been honored of her sons. But not, alas, of all. Here is one, whose place in life, is many a degree lower than the standard he raised in his College days. There, another; whom sickness has driven from the profession in which entered his genius and his ambition. Another's life work has been carved and fashioned by the world, before which the principles and purposes of men so often and so strangely give way. And eighteen or more of the number have gone down to their graves, with life only opening. The fingers that were wont to trace many a kindly memorial of the heart, are cold in the ground, and the lips, that spoke ambitiously of life and action, have forgotten their cunning. I will not attempt to measure how far ill health,—the result of weak muscles and physical inaction—was concerned with ruined constitutions, discarded purposes, blighted hopes and premature death; but it is not a fact that many of our Alumni trace their present want of physical energy, and even mental as well as physical health, to the absence of robust outdoor exercises while pursuing their studies? It is but reasonable to expect that if dyspepsia be sapping away the strength of my body, I bring to my daily labors, whether among men, or in my closet, a bilious temperament and a morbid mind. If the nerves flag and the head aches, and the heart be faint, all thought is distracted, all effort paralysed, the stamina adequate to meet life's great work is lacking. Our fathers left the threshing-floor and the plough, and travelled by foot from village to village that they might preach the word of God. And who can doubt but that the brawny limbs and the life-blood beating hastily through their veins gave a power and majesty to the words they uttered. Who of their young successors to day could bind those clumsy snow shoes of father Manning's to their feet and tread over the snows to Chester? But irrespective of these practical considerations, we have no right to overlook another important result of muscular development. As a general rule, the healthiest men are the

happiest men. He who spends all his time in his study, knows little of those "wild joys of living" that sweeten the life of the hale savage in his wild mountain home. But if, while conversant with the lore of ages, and knowing well the arts of polite life, he can also infuse into his being more of the wild man's characteristic energy and exuberance of spirits, who can doubt but that his life will be a happier, better and more successful one.

The poets tell us that life's freshest pleasures come in youth. The reason is obvious. Violation of nature's laws have not yet deformed the functions of life. "Health," as one observes, "is perpetual youth,—that is, a state of positive health. Merely negative health, the mere keeping out of the hospital for a series of years, is not health. Health is to feel the body a luxury, as every vigorous child does—as the bird does when it shoots and quivers through the air, not flying for the sake of the goal but for the sake of the flight—as the dog does when he scours across the meadow or plunges into the stream. But neither dog nor bird nor child enjoys his cup of physical happiness, with a felicity so cordial as the educated palate of conscious manhood. To feel one's life in every limb, this is the secret bliss of which all forms of athletic exercise are merely varying disguises." Surely the Student, jaded in body and mind by his daily mental toil, requires some exhilaration like that above described.

March, 1862.

ALUMNUS.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 19, 1862.

Emancipation Prospects.

The fighting for Union in the United States has hitherto been sustained by many christian people, under the impression that that is the only way of getting rid of slavery in the South, and of freeing themselves from a participation in its evils. The opinion that the Northern States withdrawing from the southern belligerents would be a more effectual blow to the system of slavery, has been scouted by the Northerners generally as unworthy of notice. Antislavery men have been cashiered and denounced by friends of the U. S. government, and unless they would consent to hold their sentiments in abeyance, they have been considered only second to the rebels themselves and worthy of incarceration with them. An order was recently given by the President that political prisoners should be set at liberty "on their subscribing a parole engaging them not to render aid or comfort to enemies in hostility to the United States." Whether this is dictated by necessity, occasioned by the immense number in durance vile, or, by a desire to shew leniency with the hope of producing a change in the feelings of persons so liberated, is uncertain, perhaps both reasons have had something to do with it. It is however, somewhat doubtful if it will have that effect while the war is being waged with so much determination on both sides. The N. Y. Examiner says in regard to this order:

"We know not what could exceed the significance, the clemency and the wisdom of this order. A like amnesty will probably be offered to all the misguided rebels who lay down their arms, and return to their allegiance to the Government? We can think of only about a dozen ambitious and unprincipled leaders, in this murderous secession swindle, whom the country will insist on having shot or hung."

It would appear then from this that "only about a dozen" need fear the extreme penalty of the law. Surely this is but weak ground on which to sustain an army of hundreds of thousands in active warfare.

The friends of emancipation seem by the latest despatches to have had more consideration than hitherto. This will probably arouse the hostility of some in the North, who have been warm advocates of the government while that subject was compelled to slumber.—Whilst the cry was for "the Union" and it was thought that this could be used to smother emancipation, or put it off indefinitely, they were quiet, but there is perhaps more danger now than heretofore. It is quite possible that after all the fighting and even the victories gained by the North on the battle-field stained with blood, there will be another battle to be fought before quietness is restored. Then will be the time of trial. Then will it be discovered whether anything has been really gained by all this expenditure of blood and treasure. We fear it will be then be discovered, too, that after all, it has been but a struggle for the temporary mastery, and that the ruling powers even when they may have put down to a large extent organized armed rebellion will prefer granting favors and making concessions to continuing the contest, and that "the peculiar institution" will, by

some change in the constitution, remain perhaps more secure in its strongholds than it was before.

Since writing the above we find in the Boston Christian Era, a paper which has always maintained consistent antislavery sentiments, an article containing similar apprehensions, from which we copy the following:

"The great conflict, if we mistake not, is to be transferred from the bloody field to the halls of Congress. Slavery still has its abettors there. We have not a few Senators and Representatives in Congress who are ready to-day to enter into a compromise which would doom millions of our fellows to hopeless bondage, if such a compromise were presented. Although by their declared secession and revolt the rebel States have forfeited what protection the Federal Constitution and laws afforded them for their human property, and reduced the States to the condition of territories, there are men in Congress—and Northern men too—who are determined that slavery shall not be touched: that the seceded States shall come back with all, and it need be, greater guarantees than they hitherto had. The evidence of this has been presented to every one who has carefully watched from day to day the doings of Congress.

Here then is, in our view, the greatest danger. It is that the friends of the South in Congress will there do what the South has utterly failed to do or herself on the field. Now is a time such as God seldom grants to any nation for striking a blow for humanity and religion whose influence will roll on to the end of time. While therefore the present is a momentarily critical time, it is fraught with responsibilities such as have never yet rested upon any nation. It is a time when the church of God may and should make her influence felt in the nation. It is a time when importunate prayer should ascend from every Christian household, not only that God will give success to our arms, but that he will give Christian principle and Christian firmness to our rulers and legislators."

Common Education.

We hear nothing about Education in our Legislature at present. On the first day of the session something was said concerning the revelations made by the Census Returns of the amount of ignorance prevailing in the country but since then it seems to have been entirely forgotten. Last year we had a number of petitions asking for an Assessment Law for educational purposes. We hear nothing of such petitions now. While this subject is commanding so much attention in the Imperial Parliament and the difficulties by which it is surrounded, do not deter the legislators in Great Britain from dealing with it, here, the matter is almost left to take care of itself. Our difficulties are of a somewhat different character. We have not the masses to contend with or to operate upon that are found in the large towns of England, ours are rather of a local or denominational character. The scattered population presents limits to the numbers that can be expected to attend School. This, and the different denominations making different demands are some of the inconveniences which our lawmakers have to meet when dealing with this subject. Men of all parties admit that Assessment is the only effectual plan by which a competent remuneration for teachers can be provided. We have not now the same reason for a want of attention to this as was given a few years ago—a deficiency of qualified teachers. The Normal School and the Academies of the province have been training and sending forth young men and women who should command remuneration something above that of the common laborer. Until the Assessment principle is adopted we see no probability of much progress in this important part of our social arrangements.

TEMPERANCE MEN IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—

The following upon the Budget brought forward by the Hon. Mr. Tilley, Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick, is from the N. B. Baptist & Visitor:

It will be observed, on reference to the Provincial Secretary's financial statement, that he openly and boldly proclaims his intention of retrieving the public credit, and enlarging the revenue for years to come, by additional duties on rum, gin, and whiskey!

"Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon," that the Provincial Secretary, the great apostle and leader of Temperance in the province, solemnly proposes to retrieve his financial position, and carry on the business of the country, by means of extra duties levied on intoxicating liquors! And further, he coolly calculates, that in a few years, with the improvement in business, those very duties will enable him to meet all Provincial engagements. "How are the mighty fallen."

REPORTING THE DEBATES.—Our tri-weekly secular papers are devoting considerable space in their columns to denouncing each other for publishing unfair Parliamentary Reports. There being now no authorized reporter each uses his own discretion as to what is really worth publishing or not. This was predicted when it was proposed to do away with the official reporting.

St. JOHN, N. B.—A series of Missionary Meetings is being held in the Baptist churches of St. John, N. B. for the purpose of raising \$300 owing by the Home Missionary Society to missionaries for labor performed in different parts of the province. This is well; regular contributions from all the members would perhaps be better. Brethren, try.

"Temperance in all things," a lecture by Rev. N. Gunnison delivered before the Mayflower Division of the Sons of Temperance, is a very temperate, sensible denunciation of the use of Intoxicating beverages and Tobacco.

We have several communications on hand which we have been obliged to defer. We hope next week to be able to place them before our readers.

News Summary.

PRESENT ASPECT OF THE WAR.

The Naval action between the Confederate frigate Merrimac and two smaller steamers, off Norfolk, Va., appears to have been a decisive and destructive one; and although the Federalist force consisted of five steamers, to the three Confederate ones, the weight and power of the Merrimac more than made up for the difference. The loss of life in killed and drowned of the Federalists was very great. The Cumberland was sunk, losing, it is supposed, 150 men. The Merrimac does not appear to have sustained any very serious damage. This victory will, no doubt to some extent, re-animate the Secessionists after the losses they have lately sustained in the west. In that quarter the Federalists appear still to be gaining ground. On the borders of Tennessee, on the Mississippi, and in Missouri and Arkansas they are advancing successfully. In an action in the latter State, the Confederates, as far as late accounts can be trusted, have been thoroughly routed, with the loss of one of their enterprising leaders, Gen. McCulloch, killed, and several other officers of note killed or taken prisoners. The Confederates have also withdrawn from their positions on the right of the Potomac, Manassas, Centerville, &c., which they have held ever since the battle of Bull's Run, and which are now occupied by Gen. McLellan's army. It cannot be expected that after a year's embodiment and discipline of the Northern Armies, with their overwhelming numbers—supplied from a comparative population of twenty to ten, or rather to six millions,—for four millions of the Southerners are slaves,—the latter can eventually have much hope of succeeding in general action in the open field. Their only probable hope of success must rest on a partisan and guerilla warfare on their own ground and amid the swamps and fastnesses which are scattered over the Southern States. If they have bottom and perseverance for such a struggle, it may greatly protract the war, and render it finally impossible for the North to effect their present purpose.

President Lincoln has sent an important message on the subject of Slavery for the consideration of Congress. By this it is proposed that any State that will agree to a gradual abolition of Slavery, shall be assisted by the General Government with pecuniary aid to compensate for any private loss that may be suffered. This is a just and proper measure. It is a great pity that some such had not been adopted or at least proposed, before the sanguinary and devastating warfare was commenced, that has set brother against brother, and cost already thousands of lives and millions of treasure. But the dark spot in the Northern cause has been, that neither the present nor future abolition of slavery has had any part hitherto in their motives or profession as regards the war. Their object has evidently thus far been, to recognize and sustain Slavery in the South, as they considered it to be recognized by the Constitution. So far from tending to abolish, such a course could only establish Slavery more firmly, by affording it the sanction and support of the whole nation, however it might have to some extent restrained its influence in the North. That the struggle has so far been solely for dominion and not for right, is too apparent to be denied by any impartial and disinterested witness. It is gratifying to see the disposition to adopt more humane and righteous counsels. Their real adoption would change the whole aspect of the contest.

Notices, &c.

NOTICES.

French Mission Collections. DEAR EDITOR,—The collections of the Churches for the French Mission come in rather slow, but I wish to acknowledge the receipt of \$23.17, being a legacy devised by the late Mrs. Jane DeWolf of Liverpool N. S. in her last will and testament, to the Nova Scotia French Mission through B. O. DeWolf Esq. Executor to the late Mrs. Jane DeWolf. WILLIAM CHURCHILL, Treasurer French Mission. Yarmouth, March 13, 1862.