

Religious Intelligence.

OPEN AIR PREACHING has been commenced in Halifax on Lord's-day afternoons. The two last Sundays it has been at the South-east corner of the citadel grounds. Rev. Mr. Brewster preached on the 1st inst., and Rev. Mr. Munro on the 8th. The audiences thus far have not been very large, but of a miscellaneous character; just such as that mode of presenting the gospel is intended to reach. They have been very attentive and respectful.

LUNENBURG.—Rev. L. B. Gates writes, May 31st, 1862.—Dear Brother,—The Lord is favoring us here with an increase of souls, last Lord's day I baptized four believers in Christ, others expressed a desire to follow their Master. A strong influence is exercised here against Baptist sentiments; but the Lord is able to take care of His own. Therefore pray for me "that my entering in among this people may not be in vain."

For the Christian Messenger.

CHESTER.—Rev. I. J. Skinner writes June 2nd, 1862.—Dear Brother Selden.—The Lord has been pleased to give us some tokens of his favor in this place. In answer to the prayers and in connection with the labors of his people, God's work has been to some extent at least, revived. Some backsliders, who have been for many years absent from Church ordinances, have returned and are enjoying the fellowship of the saints. Others we think have, like the prodigal, "come to themselves" and are saying "I will arise and go to my Father." Some who have been lingering on the borders of the church for years have taken up their cross and followed the Lord in Baptism, and some have been recently, we trust, converted to God.—Eight have been baptized, and several others we hope are on the way. To God be all the glory.

Yours very truly,

I. J. SKINNER.

For the Christian Messenger.

French Mission.

Dear Brother,—It affords me much pleasure to inform the friends of the French Mission of the success that we have met with. God has visited us in mercy this year. Five have been baptized,—three by brethren Stubbart and Cogswell, and two by myself. This is an increase of success for which we ought to be the more thankful to God. There are still more who are converted to the Lord Jesus. The last Baptism we had was apparently the most encouraging. The ordinance was administered in a lake that is beautifully adapted for the purpose.—A great number of the French were present, and the day was beautifully pleasant. The Lord met with us, and at the close of the afternoon service there were some crying to God for mercy, and others were rejoicing in the Rock of their salvation. The next night brother Charles Randal preached to us; the meeting was very interesting. After service there were three who received the right hand of Christian fellowship. May God continue to bless us, until we see the sons and daughters of Acaia by hundreds with one voice rejoicing in Christ and blessing those who sent them the word of life.

Brethren pray, for us.

Yours in Gospel bonds,

M. NORMONDAY.

Tusket, May 30th, 1862.

FREDERICTON N. B.—The following is an extract from a letter by Rev. J. C. Hurd to the Visitor.

I am sorry that I have nothing very encouraging to communicate from the church in Fredericton; for we have serious cause for complaint. When I commenced my labours with the church as its pastor, less than two years ago, the interest was exceedingly low. The church and congregation had for a considerable length of time been destitute of regular pastoral oversight, and stated preaching. As a necessary consequence they became weakened and scattered to a considerable extent. And doubtless they would have suffered still more had it not been for the self-sacrificing and faithful efforts of our highly esteemed brother, the Rev. Dr. Spurden, who with the care and burden of the Seminary upon his shoulders, was ever ready to respond cheerfully to the church's call for a supply of the pulpit, or any other service he could render to the cause. The church in Fredericton owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Spurden, which they are not slow to acknowledge.

Since I commenced my labours amongst them, no special interest has been awakened. Few actual conversions have occurred, only one has been baptized, and but one restored. Several

have been added by letter. Still we have not labored in vain. The interest upon the whole has been satisfactorily sustained. Sabbath congregations have been constantly on the increase.

"On Thursday evening the 29th ult., a platform meeting was held in the body of the chapel in aid of Home Missions."

"The speakers were, Rev. E. McLeod, (Free Baptist,) James Johnston, (Editor of the Philanthropist,) Rev. Mr. England, (Wesleyan,) Rev. Dr. Spurden, Rev. Dr. Brooke, (Presbyterian,) and the writer. In reference to these speeches I can only say—and say truly—that they were all good, and gave very great satisfaction to all present."

"The three following Resolutions, moved, seconded, and ably supported by the gentlemen above named, were unanimously adopted:—

1st. Resolved, That the success which has hitherto attended our Home Missionary enterprise is matter of devout thankfulness to Almighty God.

2nd. Resolved, That the cause of Home Missions is one of vital importance, demanding the cheerful and hearty co-operation of our Churches in its support.

3rd. Resolved, That it is the imperative duty of those enjoying the privileges and ordinances of the Gospel, to aid by their prayers and voluntary contributions, the dissemination of the same great blessings throughout the destitute portions of our Province.

England.

The London City Mission Magazine of April is filled with an account of the most extraordinary mission which has yet been introduced, viz., to the public houses. The sole duty of the missionaries engaged in this work is to visit public-houses, where, strange to say, they have generally been well received at least after the first few visits, though often exposed to attacks. One of these missionaries gives the following description:—

"The Infidels have been more than usually active among working men especially those connected with clubs. This may be accounted for by the opening of their new hall in Cleveland Street,—a very spacious and convenient building, which has cost £2500. It has a reading room and library, which is supplied with all the standard infidel works, and current literature of the day. Lectures are delivered on Sundays and week evenings, and powerful efforts are made to advance infidel opinions. It is remarkable that I was especially invited to take tea with them at the opening. The gentleman who asked me remarked, 'You have for years been a determined, but honourable and friendly opponent'. I thought it well to go. At the other side of the district, Lisson Grove, the Hope Temperance Hall is let on Sunday and Monday evenings to Mormonites for preaching and very frequently to Infidels for lectures and discussion. No wonder, then, that I have daily to contend with the men for 'the faith once delivered to the saints.'"

"Another evil of recent introduction, but rapid growth, is the music halls of London. One, the Marylebone, was opened about three years ago, in the centre of the district. It is crowded on week nights, and let on Sundays to Scamian preachers. The working classes are invited, by large posters, to those 'Special Services,' and many attend expecting to hear gospel truth, instead of which they hear deadly error, and words to pervert them from 'the right way of the Lord.'"

"During the past year, the Oxford Music Hall has been opened. It is also in this parish, and is on a grand scale. A short description will show the style and tendency of these places. The visitor to the hall enters from Oxford Street beneath a beautiful Corinthian portico, whence a passage 38 feet long, enriched with Doric columns, an entablature, and semicircular roof, conducts him to a spacious hall, in which is the grand stair case leading to the galleries. On entering the hall, which is in the Roman style, its elegant proportions, and the general beauty of the architecture, make themselves felt. The graceful Corinthian columns which surround it, and the beautiful ceiling which springs from the entablature, supported by them, are pleasing to look upon. The hall is 94 feet in length, by 44 in width, to which may be added a promenade, passing entirely round the building. The height of the hall is 41 feet, and this is divided by the galleries, the front of which is artistically decorated with gilt reliefs. The proscenium is spacious, and of the Ionic order. The effect of diffused light is perfect, being produced by 28 gas stars. The entertainment is entirely musical, and consists of English and foreign operatic selections, madrigals, songs, &c. The admission is so low as 6d to the hall, and 1s. to other parts of the building. The places themselves, and the talent employed, are most attractive; and therefore, this and similar halls, are well attended. Many of the working, and a few of the upper classes attend; but the large proportion are clerks, shopmen, and respectable tradeswomen, with very many depraved men and women scattered among them.—Liquors are sold, and the sale pressed by a staff of waiters. The people are seated before long narrow-tables. As the evening advances, the hundreds of smokers 'blow a cloud' that fills the hall. The tables become crowded with silver-looking tankards, pots, and glasses. Many of the visitors get excited with liquor, and when a song strikes their fancy, such as 'The time when I was hard up,' the encore is uproarious. In fact these halls might properly be styled 'magnificent taprooms,' or 'monster free-and-easys.' Their influence upon society, especially the young and thoughtless, has mingled with what is good, much which is pernicious."

Another of these missionaries says— "Upon the Sunday after the death of our lamented Prince, I visited the lowest dens of vice upon the district, and was quite struck with the sorrow manifested in tap and bar rooms, where criminal and depraved men alone meet. There was the silence of grief, and all listened with deep attention while I told them about the Prince's good life and his hope in Christ. Love to, and anxiety about the Queen, was expressed in strange words, but with heartfelt meaning. I repeat, that there is much to attach one to these men, and I am content cheerfully to use my life in efforts to lead them to the Friend of sinners. Thus to labour is a high calling. It is obedience to the express command of the Lord Jesus: 'Preach the gospel to every creature.' The day of his appearing draweth nigh; may grace be given me while sowing in tears, to be looking upward for his signal in the heavens, so that at his second coming I may be clothed upon with his righteousness and enter after a life of toil with the soul. He shall give me into his rest. Amen."

Another missionary notices the same deep sympathy for the Queen. He thus describes the nature of the opposition he encounters:—

"I meet with almost all sorts of characters in these houses, and some of them are very civil. Those most uncivil are, first, the Roman Catholics. They, as a rule, are very abusive and insulting; and, if they cannot have their way with me by any other means, they will make a noise, and so try to make it appear that I am the cause of a disturbance and I know very well, as they are customers, I am the more likely to be ordered out by the landlord than they are. Under these circumstances, I often find myself in such a position that I am compelled to retire and leave the field to my antagonist."

"Another class of men who are difficult to deal with are gentlemen's servants; they are so proud that they seem to think themselves of more consequence than their masters. I in general find them in front of the bar, or in the parlour, with a glass of grog and a cigar; they do not frequently condescend to drink common porter, and smoke a common pipe. When I introduce myself to them, they in general look at me with a great deal of contempt, and treat me as if I was somebody beside myself. Their consequential and important airs, are sometimes ludicrous."

"We know of no mission either at home or abroad that needs so much faith and fortitude as this. The idea seems to be far-fetched, but like many other experiments which are doubtful till tried, experience has shown that the work is attended with much blessing. Numbers are reached who could be got at by no other means, and many have been turned from evil ways in these haunts of vice."

Switzerland.

A MONUMENT IN HONOR OF JOHN HUSS.—A monument will in a short time be erected near Constance, to the precursor of the Reformation, John Huss. On the very place where that courageous martyr ascended the scaffold, a block of granite with an inscription will preserve the memory of his faith and heroism. The citizens of Constance, who conceived the idea of this pious monument, have resolved to bear the expense of it by themselves. The subscription list, which has circulated only among them, it shows a fund of more than 1200 francs, to have been realized, which is the more remarkable because the majority of them are Catholics.—This monument will be inscribed simply with the words (in German) "Here John Huss was burnt."

American and Foreign News.

Latest from the States!

[From telegrams to Morning and Evening papers.]

JUNE 4.—The Federal loss before Richmond in the battles on Saturday and Sunday last, in killed and wounded, was three thousand. The Confederates left twelve hundred dead on the field. The Confederates threw their main body on the Federal left wing, for the purpose of crushing it. General Fremont's advanced guard has driven General Jackson from Strasburg through Woodstock, and is pressing upon him in hope of forcing him to a stand up fight.

Generals Fremont and McDowell's movements have wholly relieved the Shenandoah Valley and Northern Virginia. It is reported that General Stoneman with twenty-five thousand men, marched round Richmond towards Petersburg. The Federal Government at Washington regards it as palpable that the movers of the rebellion never entertained the expectation of achieving a successful revolution, except by opening a point for foreign intervention, on which they relied to overthrow the Union.

JUNE 5.—General Pope, with 40,000 men, is 30 miles North of Corinth pushing the enemy hard.

He already reports ten thousand prisoners and deserters, and fifteen thousand stand of arms captured.

A farmer says that when Beauregard learned that Col. Elliot had cut the Railroad on his line of retreat, he became frantic, and told his men to save themselves the best way they could.

A number of locomotives have been captured and are being put in working order.

Confederate General Jackson's whole army succeeded with train and prisoners in reaching Newmarket.

Schr. Lucy L. Homes, has been captured by the blockading squadron while endeavouring to escape from Charleston, with a cargo of cotton.

General McClellan has issued an inspiring address to his army before Richmond, in expectation of a grand and decisive battle before that place. The report that Forts Pillow and Memphis had surrendered to the Northern forces was premature. The former place was bombarded on Tuesday and resumed in the evening, and the enemy did not reply with vigor. Vicksburg is being strengthened by additional batteries. A number of Federal gun-boats had shelled their defences, but retired down the river. The Confederates represent the battle of Saturday and Sunday last before Richmond, as a success for them. An English officer, who deserted from Beauregard's army, says that when the Confederate army left Corinth they had 120,000 men, but that 50,000 deserted before they reached Booneville.

JUNE 6.—A released federal officer, who was ten days a prisoner at Winchester, talked freely with Confederate officers, who looked to inevitable destruction of their armies, and made up their minds to guerrilla warfare. Officers seemed devoted to rebellion, but rank and file had little heart in it. Fort Pillow had evacuated and in Federal possession. Federal flotilla passed down to Fort Randolph, on route to Memphis. The town of Weisport, to Lohigh Valley, has been washed away by the freshet. Only three houses were left out of 300. Terrible loss of life. Senator Sumner, in the Senate, moved ousting of military governor of North Carolina, for his unfriendly course towards the blacks.

JUNE 7th.—The Confederates, on evacuating Fort Pillow, destroyed the barracks, equipage, and stores that could not be transported; also the cotton which formed the breastworks.

They also destroyed the Pontoon bridge over the Hatchie River. This fort was a very strong position.

Deserters report that General Joseph Johnston was mortally wounded in the late battle before Richmond; also that the Confederate loss, in killed wounded and missing, is estimated at 10,000. During the battle the Richmond people were on the bousetops, expecting to witness the Federals driven into the Chickahominy River.

JUNE 9.—The Federal Flotilla, assisted by Colonel Elliott's ram fleet, attacked the Confederate Fleet, consisting of eight rams, and gun-boats near Memphis, Tennessee, on last Thursday morning. The action lasted two hours, and resulted in the capture or destruction of seven of the Confederate vessels, only one escaping, which was pursued. The Federal Rams did splendid execution.

Memphis immediately surrendered.

General McClellan's Official Report of the recent battle at Fair Oaks, in front of Richmond gives a Federal loss of 890 killed, 3,600 wounded, and 1200 missing.

All reports received at Washington, from Europe, are highly satisfactory to the Federal cause in that quarter.

The Federals landed two thousand men on James' Island, opposite city, who were repulsed with small loss.

Private letters from reliable source places Confederate army at Richmond 200,000 strong, well disciplined, and determined to make desperate defence. Flower of Beauregard's army reported there.

Lord Lyons has received two months' leave of absence.

Richmond Dispatch states Confederate loss at Fair Oaks on 31st ult. and 1st inst., 9,000 including 5 Generals and 23 Colonels.

The steamship Great Eastern sailed from New York on the 1st inst. She had 740 passengers and an immense freight.

It is stated that there are fifty ships under the English flag lying off New Orleans and Mobile, to buy cotton at any price when these ports are opened.

General Butler has forbidden the people of New Orleans to keep the fast day appointed by President Davis, has distributed large quantities of provisions among poor people.

The greatest catch of shad within the memory of old fishermen—25,000 in one night—was made at a place called Saybrook, Conn., on the 14th. The men were obliged to go on shore to assist in dressing the shad caught, to save them from spoiling.

REMARKABLE LONGEVITY.—Three of the passengers on board of the last ship which left Massachusetts with British colors before the American revolution, are now living. The vessel was the Minerva, and sailed from Marblehead eighty-seven years ago to-morrow, namely, May 27, 1775. The surviving passengers are Miss Copley, Mrs Gardiner Green and Lord Lyndhurst, all children of Copley, the great artist.—Boston Transcript.

The Pittsburg Chronicle learns that the loss of stores at Winchester and along the line of General Banks' retreat will amount to \$2,000,000. Its correspondent writes in a private letter: 'There has been an immense loss, but it will not do to put it on paper. A portion of the supply train was cut off, wagons burned up on the road, large quantities of stores and forage destroyed, and in crossing here (Williamsport) one hundred mules were drowned, and there was great loss of stores.'

Many Southern traders have written letters to the North expressing their intention to pay up their debts at the earliest possible moment. Especially is this the case at New Orleans.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Post says there is reason to believe that the State Department will make a satisfactory arrangement with the Minister of the Netherlands in reference to the money seized under the Dutch flag in New Orleans by order of Gen. Butler.

Private letters from New Orleans of a late

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