

greater aptitude to the Southern States than the word "belligerent." (Hear.) When we look at the firmness and consistency with which they have combined for the purpose of carrying on the war—when we look at the numbers of armed men they have brought into the field, and the ability of the generals by whom those armies have been commanded—the pertinacity with which the contest on their part has been waged—the extent to which they have threatened even the capital of their enemy—when these things are looked at it surely cannot be denied that they deserve the name of belligerents—(applause)—and that they have carried on a war against the Northern States. (Hear.) I confess it seems to me that an unfounded charge is made against the Government of this country, when it is said that they have departed from a strict neutrality by recognising the belligerency of the Southern States. (Hear.) But when the Government is asked to go a step further, and, with my hon. friend (Mr. Mildmay), one of the members for this county, to say that the South is actually at this moment, and has constituted itself an independent State—for such I understood to be the effect of his opinion—then it seems to me that international law would not be on our side. (Hear.) Everybody who reads in the newspaper the accounts of the progress of that struggle must see that it is a war which is not yet decided—that it is a war which is waged on the part of the Northern States for the maintenance of the integrity of the Union, for the purpose of restoring the American Union to the state it was in prior to the war; that it is war on the part of the Southern States for the establishment of their independence, and thereby creating new relations between the two belligerent parts of the Union; but the war must be admitted to be undecided. (Hear.) The last battle-field is still reeking with the blood of many thousands of soldiers killed on both sides; and until the war has been decided in favour of one or the other—until it has been decided so far in favour of the Southern States as to induce the Northern States to recognise their independence, or to prove to foreign nations that the means of reducing the South are exhausted and at an end—that the Northern States are therefore incapable of continuing the contest—until that moment has arrived it cannot be said, in accordance with the well-known doctrines of international law, that the actual independence of the Southern States has been established.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Usury."

MR. EDITOR,—

I should be glad to have a little space to notice an article in your last issue, under the above title, signed "Lex." Some things advanced by the writer must of course gain our assent. For instance, no one, I presume, contends that our laws should not be observed, or disputes that many of those laws will be unnecessary when the perfect law of love shall be obeyed. "Lex" not only states the law, but endeavours to find arguments in its support. He makes a distinction between money and other articles of trade, and affirms that men may very well be left to purchase the latter in the cheapest and sell them in the dearest market. Competition, he says, will ensure us from being overcharged or over-reached, and supply will always wait upon demand, but it will not be the same with money. The demand for it is always greater than the supply, and hence the utility of restrictive laws to protect necessity from avarice.

Now, is it quite true that the demand always exceeds the supply, even in a young country like Nova Scotia? I can hardly understand, then, why so much of our capital has been invested in other countries. And "Lex" when he intimates the danger of a private understanding among money-lenders, innocently admits that those lenders who are not bound by such an agreement, will be always underbidding each other in the money-market,—that in fact supply and demand will be regulated in this as well as in other merchantable commodities. Who for a moment can imagine such an understanding to take place? It may be attempted, but will not "competition" interfere? Is not money a good traveller, and does it not love the best market?

"Lex" has truly propounded the law, after all that he has said in its favor, the question will be loudly asked,—Was the legislature right in enacting our Usury laws? And there is no wonder that the question should be proposed. At a time when on every hand are occurring frequent violations of these laws, when connivance and intrigue are constantly overstepping the legislative restrictions, when lender and borrower are joining hand with hand to evade the statute,—at such a time ought we not seriously to enquire whether we are not keeping upon our

statute book that which is doing evil in our midst?

I am not, Mr. Editor, advocating a repeal of our Usury Laws, but merely endeavoring to show the insufficiency of the arguments advanced by your correspondent.

There may, however, be better reasons for retaining the present law than those adduced. If so, it would be praiseworthy in any person to bring them forward, because I think that in many quarters very serious doubts are at present entertained as to their propriety.

I am yours, J. M.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 19, 1862.

1862. 1863.

We need not remind our friends that the present year is rapidly drawing to its close. We find it necessary to look forward, and prepare for the year 1863, so as to protect the interests of our patrons.

[We intended to insert the whole article, of which the above is the first paragraph, but find that if we do, we must exclude other matters which we deem important for our readers, we therefore sacrifice our own interests, as we have frequently done before, to those of our patrons. We ask in return that our friends will refer to our last number, and read the whole article over again. We merely add the last sentence of said article, addressed to those in arrears.]

We promise you more profit from the paper, improved rest, and a greater degree of self-respect, in addition to our thanks, for an early settlement of your account up to Dec. 31, 1862; or, if you prefer, up to Dec. 31, 1863.

Thanksgiving Day.

A Proclamation has been issued, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, appointing Thursday the 4th day of December next as a day of general Thanksgiving in this Province. To this invitation doubtless all good subjects and orderly christian people will give heed; and will observe the day reverently and devoutly. Our mercies are great. Not only have we had abundant supplies of the fruits of the earth and the fields yielding their increase, but we have been exempt, in general, from the various forms of distress and sorrow which have fallen on some other countries; and we have had a continuance of peace in our borders. Whilst we have been sufficiently near to the ravages of war to feel some of its dire effects, and to know the miseries it entails, yet, in the good providence of God, we have been permitted as a people to enjoy the greatest security under the protection of the great empire of which we rejoice in forming a part.

These are all blessings from Heaven. A thousand others call for suitable expressions of gratitude to Almighty God, from all his creatures, and we commend, as a recommendation, the proclamation and exhortation of His Excellency, to the serious attention of our readers.

RELIC OF A STATE CHURCH.

The last paragraph of the proclamation, noticed above, informs us that His Excellency had "directed that a suitable Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving be used by all ministers of the Church of England in this Province."

This is one of the last relics, in the Colonies, of the connexion that existed between that body of Christians and the State. The absence of Church dignitaries from the halls of Legislature and there being no Commissioner of the State in the Synodical Assembly of the Episcopal Church, would lead one to the supposition that both were independent of each other, and that the Lieutenant Governor exercised no jurisdiction over the ministers of that Church more than over those of any other. But it appears by this Proclamation that this is not the case, for while other ministers and churches may offer what they believe to be suitable Prayer and Thanksgiving for such an occasion, this—the Episcopal—must use what His Excellency may direct and sanction. We desire at all times to render honor to whom honor is due, and fear to whom fear, but whilst rejoicing in the possession of entire religious liberty we would remember that although this is one of God's free gifts—the birth-right of every man—yet it is left to us as an inheritance by those who have suffered and bled to obtain it, and we are under obligation to guard it lest it be in any way abridged or injured.

The Proclamation would have been all-sufficient for the purpose intended, without the last invidious paragraph. The ministers

of the Church of England would then have been saved from the mockery of dictation without support from the State. They would have appeared as they are in reality, on the same level as other churches with regard to State connexion, support, and control.

No inconvenience may arise from this practice whilst the Lieutenant Governor is a member of the Episcopal Church, but, if, at some future time, the Lieutenant Governor should happen to be a Roman Catholic, as lately in Prince Edward Island, or a Presbyterian, Methodist, or Baptist! there might be strong objection in the minds of some clergymen to the use of such prayer by his direction.

We respectfully submit, therefore, whether it would not be better, in future, on all such occasions to let each provide its own forms:—the publication and postage of which from the metropolis to the clergymen, in different parts of the country, would not be a large item of expenditure.

DAY OF HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

At the late session of the Baptist Convention the Report on the State of the Denomination contained the following:

"The religious aspect of the Denomination, your committee feel compelled to state, is still of a comparatively unfavorable character," (the increase of the membership in the churches being not quite 3 1/2 per cent, whereas in the previous year it was nearly 5 per cent, and much larger in 1859.) "The gloom that hung over us last year is not yet dispelled. Our progress is at present but slow. Zion does not prosper and prevail as in former days. How is it to be accounted for?"

Is it because the distinguishing truths of the gospel are held with less firmness, and taught less clearly and fully? Is it because there is a lack of the strength and fervour of primitive godliness? Is it because Christians have become luke-warm, idle, selfish? Is it because the Churches have relaxed the bonds of discipline, or failed to realise their missionary, witness-bearing purpose? Is it on these accounts, or for any of these reasons, that the Lord's blessing, is so scantily bestowed?"

In whatever manner these questions may be answered, the facts of the case ought to be very seriously pondered by us all. The Committee, therefore, deem it their duty to renew the recommendation of last year, respecting the observance of a Day of Humiliation and Prayer throughout the Churches of the Convention, that we may confess our sins before God, and implore the restoring influences of his grace.

The following resolution was passed in conformity with the above recommendation:

Resolved, That the first Thursday in December next be appointed as a day of Humiliation and Prayer according to the suggestion in the above Report.

This being the same day as the date named above by His Excellency as a Day of Thanksgiving, there will be a double call for special religious exercises on that occasion—thanksgiving for temporal blessings, and humiliation on account of the small progress made by the churches, and Prayer for manifestations of the Holy Spirit's power in the conversion of men.

Since the above was written, we have received the following letter in relation to this subject, which we commend to the attention of the brethren:

DAY OF HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

Dear Brother,—

I beg to remind the ministers and members of our churches that at the last meeting of the Convention a resolution was passed, appointing the first Thursday in December next as a day of humiliation and prayer.

The need of humiliation must be apparent to all impartial observers of the present state of our denomination. We have great cause to humble ourselves before God.

I take the liberty to suggest that among the objects of prayer the following appear to be especially important:—

1. The manifestation of divine grace in the growth of warm-hearted, consistent, active godliness.
 2. The blessing of God on the preaching of the gospel, the instruction of the young, and other efforts, so that conversions may become much more numerous.
 3. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on intelligent, earnest young men, disposing them to consecrate themselves to the work of the Lord, either for home or foreign service.
- The churches, it may be hoped, will meet in great numbers on the appointed day and offer "effectual fervent prayer"—such prayer as shall be followed by "showers of blessing."
- Yours truly,
J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Nov. 11, 1862.

Nova Scotia Fruits, &c., at the London Horticultural Exhibition.

A large number of our readers are interested in the culture of fruit, and will be pleased to find that our Province has secured so much attention in the great metropolis by the speci-

mens recently sent to the Exhibition there. But little effort comparatively was made in preparing these. The notice having been given so late that the specimens were not such as might probably have been obtained if more time had been allowed for special care in their cultivation. We have, however, reason to be well satisfied to have received such a certificate from the *London Times*. This will introduce our productions to the mother country, so that a profitable business may be calculated upon at no distant day, in the export of fruit from Nova Scotia to Great Britain.

We give the following from the several sources indicated. They will speak for themselves.

LETTER FROM REV. MR. HONEYMAN.
LONDON, 149 STRAND, W. C.,
October 30, 1862.

Dear Sir:—I have great pleasure in informing you that the Nova Scotia contribution, instead of coming to grief, appeared in London in such condition as to elicit the admiration of all who saw it. You will find the opinions of the best authorities set forth in the *Times* and *Gardener's Chronicle*. Dr. Lindley, than whose authority none is higher, declared that the fruit was the "pearl of the show," and that it had appeared on the 8th, or the first and great day of the show, it would have taken the highest prizes. The show was to have closed on the 18th,—the R. H. S., in order to do justice to Nova Scotia and in appreciation of her noble effort, continued the great show a week longer.

An interesting contribution arrived from Turkey with the van that brought our own, and was exhibited by the side of ours.

I can only give an approximation to the honors that have been awarded by the judges. I cannot give you exact information in regard to the number of medals awarded, as they have not been announced; from the tickets attached to the various articles we have:—

Exhibited by R. G. Haliburton, Esq., Sec'y. of Nova Scotia Committee, per R. H. S. Inter. Show:

Apples, large collection,	Silver Medal.
(The Society's highest award.)	
Gourds,	Large Bronze Medal.
Potatoes,	do. do.
Fruit in jars,	Two Bronze Medals.
Onions,	Bronze Medal.
Grapes,	do. do.
Carrots,	do. do.
Corn,	do. do.
Grain,	do. do.
Fruit exhibited by Richard Starr, Esq., Cornwallis,	do. do.

We have thus, one silver medal, the award of the first order; two large bronze medals, the awards of the second order; and eight bronze medals, awards of the third order. These make, with the two bronze medals awarded to me before the fresh arrival, a sum of thirteen medals; so that in the two Great International Exhibitions of 1862 Nova Scotia has received as awards thirty-two medals.

I may state that the expense of the latter show on this side of the Atlantic falls short of £4 stg. As the expenses thus incurred appear to be trifling, I did not consider it to be necessary to attempt to raise the sum expended by the sale of the fruit, &c. I thought that it would be more to the credit of Nova Scotia to do as the Hamburgers had done, so I asked the officers of the society to affix prices to the articles, and after they had been duly exhibited, to sell them for the benefit of the distressed operatives of Lancashire. This has accordingly been done, and the saleable part of the articles has already nearly realized the sum of £5 stg. A great many of the apples sold at 6d. each, and the sale was so rapid that we did not get an opportunity of tasting the quality of the apples.

"Nova Scotia has thus, by these two great efforts, secured an enviable reputation where she was entirely unknown, or known by report not always of the most favorable description. This character must be sustained by continuous effort. It is expected that the Horticultural Society's International Show shall be repeated at least every two years and it is to be hoped that if ever there shall be another International Industrial Exhibition we shall be in a position and disposition to equal if not surpass the display of 1862."

[From the London Gardener's Chronicle, Oct. 25.]

Since our last two very remarkable foreign collections of garden produce have been received by the Royal Horticultural Society, and are now on show at South Kensington. One is from Turkey and one from Nova Scotia.

The former, which is for the most part agricultural, contains beautiful specimens of the apple of Amassia, which is probably the Italian Male Carle, the finest apple of the Mediterranean, but only ripening well in better climates than ours. That from Nova Scotia consists chiefly of apples, distinguished for their size and brilliancy of their colors. Among them are Gravenstein, a Danish apple of the highest excellence for both table and the kitchen—beautiful specimens, far finer than those sent the other day from Denmark and Germany; Blue Pearmain, an excellent variety, not unlike the King of the Pippins in shape, but three times as large, and prettily mottled over with reddish spots, giving the whole apple a warm brown aspect. (Of this there is also an example among the wax models of apples shewn from Tasmania.) In the Nova Scotia collection are moreover wonderfully fine fruit of the Emperor Alexander Apple, brilliant in color and possessing more clearness of skin than it ever attains in this country; King of the Pippins, bright orange yellow, but not larger than