

be a permanent institution. Instead of being like a perennial plant, prepared to send out new branches from the growth of the previous year, the Sabbath School among us, is like the annual which in autumn dies out root and branch, so that every spring it requires to be planted anew, and to spring up from the tender germ. It never attains to such solidity of growth but that the gentle frosts of October will cut it to the ground. Or to change the figure the visits of the Sabbath School, like that of the wild goose, are summer visits. It is sure to keep in a warm climate. And to carry out the rule of Nova Scotia it would travel from the tropics to the pole and back again whenever the sun traveled North and South of the equator. It is not the constant companion of the abodes of man. And whoever might wish to enjoy its benefits must abandon all idea of a fixed dwelling place and travel North and South, unless indeed all the human family could emigrate from the cold and temperate regions, and form a vast colony under a tropical sun. Considering the Sabbath School as an institution of unspeakable importance, if indeed it cannot thrive in winter in our latitude, it might not be an idea wholly quixotic, for us all to emigrate to some warm region, where like other tropical plants the Sabbath School could yield its fruit all the year round. For in our climate, like Jonah's gourd, no sooner does it spring up and form a grateful shade over our head, and over the heads of our children, than by some fatal worm gnawing at the root it is withered. After the church has been working from May till October, for six months, to build up this institution in all its heavenly proportions, at whatever stage of progress it may then be, the work of building must cease, and that of destruction be consummated.

Supposed the church should deal thus with all the rest of her institutions and ordinances and means of grace, how absurd it would appear. Suppose the christian community should begin in May to organize churches, to build houses of worship, to establish religious meetings, form missionary societies, build academies and colleges, organize bible and tract societies, and work on vigorously till October, and then abolish them, as if with fiendish glee to see how quickly the hopes of a perishing world could be obscured, what would be thought of such proceedings? Why then is the Sabbath School singled out from these various objects, and razed to the ground every October, as if we feared it might grow, and become a permanent institution to bless the world?

The farmer who should plant his fruit trees every year in May, and pull them up again in October, would not be more unwise, though he would be less guilty, than the spiritual husbandman in the vineyard of God who systematically begins and ends his effort, in the Sabbath School in the months above mentioned. Because as an institution the Sabbath School is the most fruitful tree in the orchard of the Lord.

The merchant who should begin his business establishment every spring and abolish it every autumn; the minister who should invariably settle and unsettle himself in those periods; the doctor who should endeavor to establish a new practice every May. The business company who should incorporate their firm annually in May and dissolve in the fall, these men would be wise and innocent, compared with those who solemnly commence to work for God every May and undo what others have done for the Sabbath School in October. In plain terms the Sabbath School never will accomplish its mission in the church, until it becomes a permanent institution. And it will never become a permanent institution so long as our present system continues.

III. Unless our Sabbath Schools are continued through the winter, they are separated from the usual revival efforts of the churches. It is a well known custom with churches during the winter season, when there is most leisure to attend special religious meetings, to hold such meetings daily, it may be for several weeks or months. During such a period as this the Sabbath School would furnish the most fitting opportunity for christians to ply the minds of the young with religious truth. Thus every member of the church could bring the motives of religion to bear upon his pupils, and a most mighty influence be exerted for good. And such an opportunity of working for Christ would have the advantage over all others, as the influence of the church upon the souls of the unconverted and of the tender youth would be easy and direct. Thus through the instrumentality of the Sabbath School our revival efforts might be turned to the very best account. And no member of the church, or lover of souls could find the slightest difficulty in gaining access to the minds of the unconverted. In these periods, when the minds of the public are all astir, the Sabbath School classes might be greatly augmented by the addition of earnest enquirers after salvation, and what a sublime spectacle for men and angels to contemplate! A whole church thus laboring to save the perishing community! How often too would there be rejoicing among the angels in heaven over souls converted to God, and we add that this is the immediate design of the Sabbath School to bring souls to God, so that in the revival of religion the school would be in its native element. It could but prove a blessing and be blessed. One would suppose that if there were no other reason for keeping up the school, it would be kept up for this reason, and that though it were discontinued during every other season of the year, it would be resuscitated during this period of revival effort.

But what are the facts of the case? No sooner does the time for these revival efforts begin to draw near than the Sabbath School is broken up, the classes are disbanded, and the children are sent home. The church "falls back into the harness" and ceases to work for God.

And what is most strange no sooner do they cease to work than they begin to pray for the blessing of the Spirit. No wonder the cloud of mercy which seemed to draw near departs again and mocks our expectations. No wonder that when we think sometimes that we are feasting on good things, they turn to gravel in our mouths. The only wonder is that in these circumstances God should ever deign to bless us at all. He has blessed us, but O how much more abundantly would He bless us, if we were faithful to His cause.

When we remember that the Sabbath School has been well termed "the birth place of souls, and the nursery of the church" we see how unwise it is to lay it aside in our special endeavors to enlarge the church. When we reflect that we must look to the school for the most, and for the best, of our church members, we feel that the discontinuance of it, is an arch device of the evil one, to rob our revivals of that element which is best fitted to make them really useful and desirable.

Conclusion next week.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MR. ISAAC REAGH, Of Upper Wilmot, died on the 17th day of September, 1862, aged 46 years.

This valued Christian brother became a subject of Divine grace in early life. At the age of about fifteen years, in a time of general darkness and indifference to religion, he went forward alone, professed faith in Christ, and became a member of a Baptist Church, with which he continued to walk in an orderly manner to the close of his life.

At the age of twenty one years he was united in marriage with Miss Ann Tupper, daughter of the late Francis Tupper, of Aylesford. From the commencement of house-keeping till bodily infirmity prevented, he constantly maintained the daily worship of God in his family. This example should be imitated by every professor of religion. He was a kind and affectionate husband and parent. By diligence and industry he provided well for his family. His sterling integrity secured to him the esteem of his neighbors and acquaintance. He was a man of grave deportment, and of few words.

For several years brother Reagh was in a feeble state of health. At length it became apparent that consumption had marked him for its prey. His fond wife, who knew not how to endure the thought that he was to be taken from her, attended upon him with the utmost care and solicitude. All means, however, proved unavailing. His disease advanced with increasing rapidity.

He sometimes complained of depression of spirits; but frequently expressed an unwavering confidence in that gracious Redeemer in whom he had trusted from his youth.

Our departed brother has left a sorrowing widow, 5 children, an aged mother, 2 brothers, 8 sisters, and numerous other relatives. His departure is lamented, as a great loss, not only by the family circle, but also by the Church and community. "The memory of the just is blessed."

At his interment a consolatory discourse was delivered by the Pastor from 1 Thes. iv. 13, 14. — Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

MRS. MARY MOORE,

Formerly widow of the late Isaac Whitman, of New Albany, calmly resigned her breath October 9th, 1862, aged 79 years; she was one of the oldest members of the New Albany Baptist Church; but formerly belonged to the Nictaux Church, having been baptized by the Rev. Handley Chipman. Her life manifested that she had been with Jesus. She did not merely wish to die the death of the righteous; but her every day life especially towards the end of her pilgrimage, bespoke that her heart had been renewed by grace. Her warnings, her prayers and exhortations will not soon be forgotten. She suffered a long time, patiently waiting till her change came. When she seemed past uttering her feelings the writer said to her, thinking to express her thoughts,

"When this poor feeble, faltering tongue, Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing his power to save."

She raised her eyes full of expression and said, "Up yonder." I said "We will all come soon." She replied, "All who have chosen the better part." The occasion was improved by the Rev. R. S. Morton from a text chosen by herself, Psalm xxvii. 4th verse.

"The saint expires
The corn that stood so long,
Is gathered to the garner,
Is numbered with the throng,
Of quiet dead."

The frosts of age
The stormy blasts of years,
Have broken up the cistern,
Have ended hopes and fears,
Joy now is full."

P. W.

Religious Intelligence.

DIGBY NECK.—Oct. 22nd., 1862.—Dear Brother, — God is visiting us in great mercy again. The First Digby Neck Baptist Church is being refreshed with his divine presence, backsliders have been restored and sinners converted. Five were baptized last Lord's day, others are waiting for an opportunity to profess Christ by baptism. Baptism next Sabbath.—The good work is advancing.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who hath visited and redeemed his people."

Affectionately and faithfully yours,

JOHN C. MORSE.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN N. S.—The Bishop's charge to his clergy will be given in St. Pauls church this afternoon. The Session of the Diocesan Assembly will commence at the Bishop's Chapel (Salem) tomorrow after Morning Prayers at 9 a. m.

The Diocesan Church Society will hold its annual meeting on Friday in the National School and a public meeting at Temperance Hall in the evening.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.—A correspondent of the Boston Congregationalist, dated St. John, N. B., Aug. 20th, gives the following account of this meeting:—

"At the annual session of the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick held in Sheffield last week, and the beginning of the present, we had a season of encouragement.—One hundred years ago, the place where the Union met was settled by Puritans from Massachusetts, and they established a Puritan church, which by the blessing of God has stood to the present day, and is still strong and flourishing. The celebration of the centenary of the gathering of a Congregational society together, formed a part, and a very interesting part, of the services. Some of the churches in Nova Scotia claim an age equal to the Sheffield church.

Ten churches were represented in the Union, and the meeting together of ministers and delegates, their united prayers, and the words of encouragement with the present arrangement for missionary labor in the two provinces gave encouragement to those who there assembled.

A CHURCH IN JAMAICA, W. I.—Rev. W. P. Newman writes to the American Baptist:—"God has given us favor in the eyes of this people, so that our little bamboo chapels, which hold from two to three hundred persons, are often more than full. Our Sabbath-Schools are also doing well, all things considered. They now number from sixty to seventy scholars. True, many of them cannot read, and many of them are adults. We need books and teachers. I have already had the pleasure, within the last three months, of baptizing nineteen souls in the presence of large congregations. God be praised for all that has been done. There is much interest felt in the emigration of our people in North America to this country. One good Christian man proposes to give to one hundred families three acres each for three years, and timber to build themselves houses; and to give them labor on the plantation, which will pay them seventy-five cents for nine hours' work."

THE POPE.—The temporal power of the Pope continues to be the grand theme of Italy, and we are glad to perceive that light is rapidly breaking on the minds of the nation, who begin to view the temporal power as the bane, not only of the country, but of all religion and morality. A document to this effect, strong as is the sentiment, has actually been signed by 12,000 of the Italian clergy! The fact is most significant, and is a suitable answer to the recent oecumenical council held at Rome. It is tantamount to a notice to Pio Nono to pack up and prepare for his travels.—British Standard.

A Methodist minister in the west of Cornwall, having to preach to a crowded audience, and the heat being very oppressive, said, before he gave out his text, "I have seen men strip to curse and swear, and fight, and run a race; and now I will take off my coat to preach the gospel, and I am not ashamed to do it." He then took off his coat and preached in his shirt sleeves.—Western Morning News.

BAPTISTS IN NATAL.—The National Witness of June 13, reports that on the previous Tuesday evening an interesting meeting had been held in Pietermaritzburg, in the Baptist Meeting-house, to promote the erection of a new chapel in that city. Mr. Edward London who has for some time kindly undertaken the duties of pastor, and has devoted himself with great energy to the interests of the infant cause (notwithstanding the pressure of many business engagements), presided on the occasion. After tea, a public meeting was held, and several resolutions unanimously passed pledging to vigorous efforts. The proceedings passed off with great spirit. One gentleman promised to supply all the timber gratuitously, and money contributions were freely given towards the object. The new chapel (as we learn from an esteemed correspondent) will be commenced immediately; as the building at present used is inconveniently crowded. The National Witness also reports the baptism of two young men in the Bush river on the day after the above meeting.

THE MOFFATS.—Mr. S. Moffat, son of the missionary has suddenly died in Mosekatse's country. The Rev. John S. Moffat was dangerously ill. Dr. Livingston was about to proceed in the Pioneer to Mozambique and Johanna. The Lady Nyassa, a small river steamer, was launched June 28.

American and Foreign News.

Latest from the States!

[From Telegrams to Morning and Evening papers.]

OCT. 23. — The Schr. Revere of Yarmouth, N. S., from Cape Fear, was captured on the 11th by gunboats Maratanza and Monticello, with cargo of salt, wrappings, oversacks, &c.

The New Granada Government interposes no objection to the emigration of the blacks to that Republic.

The Potomac flotilla has been doing considerable business in capturing contraband goods and men in Confederate service.

Orders have been issued for the occupancy for government purposes of houses in Washington belonging to persons in the Confederate service.

OCT. 24.—The Confederates have destroyed the whole of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, from Harper's Ferry to a dozen miles beyond Martinsburg.

The Confederates feel safe while the Potomac River continues so low, as now it requires McClellan's army to be scattered along a distance of thirty miles to protect the State of Maryland. A rise of water, will, however, put a new face on these matters.

A Federal gunboat has captured near Wilmington, N. C., the schr. "Adelaide," of Halifax, N. S., while attempting to run the blockade, with a cargo of cotton and turpentine. The vessel being aground, she, together with her cargo, was destroyed.

Returns from the State of Iowa show that the result of the recent elections is in favor of the Republican ticket.

Evening.—Nearly half the army of Potomac is under the command of Gen. Burnside.

Appearances indicate active work shortly. Generals in view of complaints of the Northern press say nothing about going into winter quarters. Several announce they will not until Richmond is captured.

Sale of gold made yesterday in Buffalo, deliverable in six months, at 45 per cent. premium.

Grenada Appeal reports the capture of an Island in Galveston Bay by the Federals.

Some papers report Generals Van Dorn and Lovell ordered to report at Richmond.

Miners of Schuylkill Co., Pennsylvania, numbering five thousand, variously armed, have determined to resist the draft. Latest says troubles are adjusted; and the men are resuming work.

OCT. 25.—General Buell has been relieved of the command of the Federal army in Kentucky, and General Rosencranz ordered to the position.

A party of Federals has routed the Confederate Partizan Rangers in Boonesville, Tennessee. Drafted men are arriving by thousands at Harriburg.

Besides the camps as Philadelphia, Harriburg and Pittsburg, others are to be provided at Chambersburg, York and Gettysburg, and other points along the border.

The Grenada Appeal says that Sabine City, Texas, was occupied by Federals last month.

Gen. Devens, with his brigade, crossed the Potomac on Tuesday at Cherry Run Ford, leading the advance into Virginia in that direction. Other bodies of troops are within supporting distance of him.

The Herland's dispatch says that the Washington banker Coreoran, before quitting for Europe, purchased \$1,600,000 in gold.

Prince Edward Island.

Ross Weekly of Tuesday says:—The first snow of the season in this vicinity, fell on Monday night last. On Tuesday morning the roofs of the buildings were quite white, but the quantity of snow was very small.

Many thousands of bushels of Oats yet remain unharvested throughout the Island. We trust that weather favorable for gathering them in, will yet be experienced before it is too late in the season. Potato digging has been interrupted by the late wet weather. The quantity of potatoes produced for shipment will fall short of that of last year.

It has been proposed to load a vessel with 1000 bags of oatmeal, as a contribution from Island for the relief of the suffering poor in England, and the movement meets with much favor.

The Labrador fisheries have been a complete failure this year. The P. E. I. fishermen are said to have returned thence without so much as a "tail."

West Indies.

BERMUDA.—The Gazette in discussing the high-handed act of the Federal Admiral Wilkes remarks:—

"The ostensible object of obtaining coal is, we conceive, but a little scheme to see how far it might be possible for American pluck to drive through the rules of neutrality laid down by the British Government."

New Brunswick.

ACCIDENT TO STEAMER ARABIA.—A telegram was received at Chatham from River de Loup on the 10th Inst, which stated that one of the boilers of the boat had collapsed, that two firemen, and two other men were killed. She was on her voyage from Quebec.

The names of the men killed were William Donoghue, of Bathurst; John Cahill, of Bathurst; John Allingham, Shediac; James Adams, fireman, Quebec.

THE MECHANICS OF ST. JOHN.—A note appears in the Colonial Empire from Fleeming and Humber to the following effect:—SIR:—In order to correct the impression likely to be made by the report of the proceedings by the Common Council on Wednesday last, in reference to the unwillingness of the Machinists of this City to build a Steam Fire Engine, we beg to say that we have repeatedly stated to members of the Common Council, that we will furnish two of those Machines at as low rate as they can be imported. Papers publishing the report referred to above, will oblige by publishing this communication.