

Agriculture, &c.

BEE-HIVE EXTRAORDINARY IN PENNYOCK VALLEY.—Admirers of the instinctive ingenuity of the Bee Tribe will, no doubt, feel some interest in a novelty lately discovered by Mr. Menon of this Valley. It consists of an immense Bee-hive constructed by the natural instinct of "the little busy Bee," without the care of man, or the aid of art, and was contained within the hollow of a giant hemlock tree, of some eighty feet in length, which on being cut down was observed to have in it, at a height of about 25 feet from its roots, a small aperture about the size of an auger-hole, from which issued immense numbers of Bees; and which, at once revealed the secret of a monster Bee-hive within the hollow of the tree.

Mr. Menon being a connoisseur in the matter, set about preserving his honeyed treasure, and had the tree carefully sawed across at such distance above and below the hole as enabled him perfectly to avoid disturbing the valuable contents within. The portion of the tree so cut is four feet, and this whole length was hollowed from one end to the other, the hollow measuring a diameter of about 15 inches throughout. The entire length was filled with neatly arranged comb, and, apparently, full of rich honey.

This extraordinary Bee-hive is now fixed in the homestead garden of Mr. Menon, and the strange novelty seems to draw strangers from far and near to witness what is, decidedly, considered a "great natural curiosity."

It is Mr. Menon's purpose to preserve his strangely acquired Bee-hive from harm by secure covering, and by duly resigning to the Bees their own industriously prepared food, throughout the winter, until the summer sun may again enable them to take wings and resume their labor—

"To gather honey all the day From every opening flower."

—Com. to N. B. Head Quarters.

BUCKWHEAT AS A WEED EXTERMINATOR.—Buckwheat, when sown on rich ground, will kill grass effectually. It must be sown as soon as the grass is ploughed. In such case, a few crops will even exterminate thick grass. Buckwheat seems to be poison to other plants; and it is even known to destroy insects. It does this probably by destroying the roots of the grasses and herbs on which they feed. No insect ever touches buckwheat in the ground.

GIGANTIC MUSHROOM.—A gentleman from Plattsburg is exhibiting at Montreal a monster mushroom, which grew in three weeks and four days. The same is 3 feet 6 to four feet in circumference, and weighs nine and a half pounds.

An effort is being made in California to cultivate the tea plant. The climate is similar to that of the best tea growing regions in China.

GRASS-FED INDIANS.—One of the California journals has the following statement relative to a new kind of food adopted by the "Digger Indians," as they are called. "There are two considerable Indian villages in the vicinity at the present time, and the Indians who looked as lean and gaunt as half-famished wolves during the past winter, now appear enjoying all the luxuries that an abundant supply of beef and bread can afford. The hills in the vicinity are verdant with nice, tender clover, which is devoured by these poor savages with as much gusto as an epicure would devour a most dainty dish. They gather the clover in baskets and prepare it for use by heating large stones and placing a layer of clover well moistened between each layer of stones. It soon becomes ready for use, and each one of them will eat a quantity of clover thus prepared that would almost supply a horse."

ECHOING FLOORS.—As houses are now built floors are apt to be very noisy annoyances. The timbers are so strained up that the floors become resonant like a drum. Now this can be easily remedied at a trifling expense. After laying the under floors, nail down some sawed laths, directly over and across the sleepers. These will show where to lay the upper floor. Now make a mortar of lime and sand, in which the latter ingredient may be in excess. It may be made thin. Pour it on to the floor and spread it just as thick as the laths, and let it dry before laying the second floor. Nail down the upper floor through the laths, and it will seem to you like walking on a brick pavement.

MAMMOTH REMAINS IN SIBERIA.—During the last two centuries at least twenty thousand mammoths have been washed out of the ice and soil in which they were imbedded in Siberia. They are, of course, most valuable remains of an extinct race of animals; but the inhabitants of the region have preserved only the tusks, which have commercial value as ivory. Russian geologists are now making preparations to promote the discovery of the concealed remains of these mammoth animals in Siberia, and particularly to preserve one of their carcasses as perfect and entire as possible, as it is considered that microscopic investigation of the contents of the stomach might throw a powerful light on a host of geological and physiological problems.

A fireman of San Francisco has procured for an aged and valuable dog a fine set of artificial teeth, got up in the best style of the dental art. The dog has been for years the first to raise an alarm of fire, and was always foremost to ring the bell. His master appreciating fully his valuable services, has taken this rather novel mode of repaying the debt.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

European Correspondence.

Paris, August 25th, 1863.

MR. EDITOR,—

My last communication was dated from Dover. The trip across the Straits is a short one of two hours, the distance being twenty one miles, but to reach Calais, one has to pass over a troublesome sea. The German Ocean pours its volume of waters through the narrow passage, to mingle there with the Atlantic, and the Atlantic seemingly rejecting this uninvited visit, throws them back again, causing at all times a cross bobbing sea which tosses the steamers, and few escape the unpleasant sensation of sea sickness. The British Channel is now crossed by five or six distinct lines of steamers, and these make usually two trips daily, meeting the lines of rail which convey passengers to the most important cities in Europe, or on return to the metropolis or chief towns in Great Britain. This continual intercourse between England and France does more to keep up a good understanding with these two important nations, than any other circumstance or matter of diplomacy could effect. The trade between the two is large and increasing in interest, and binding the nations to peace by the strongest consideration, pecuniary advantage. Four hours after leaving London I found myself on the pier at Calais, a few minutes sufficed to convince me I was off British ground. The number of gaily-dressed soldiers sauntering at their ease, (a thing rarely seen in G. B.) gives one to understand he is on the ground of a military ruler. On the other hand here is a host of polite but lynx-eyed policemen, pacing the landing, as much as to say: We expect you to conduct yourselves correctly whilst in this city. The babbling of cab men and porters in an unknown tongue also make one feel that he is in a foreign if not a distant land. Calais though a small city of some 15,000 inhabitants is conspicuous in English History. After being held by Great Britain, for two hundred years, it was the last place they yielded up to the arms of France in 1558. The harbor is shallow, having no more than 18 feet of water at full tide and is bare at low water—so can never be made much of a port for commerce. It is favourably situated for the herring fishing which is largely prosecuted from this place. After a short detention, in obedience to the guards whistle, we took our seats bound for Paris, this was the first time I found myself seated in a French rail-car, and I notice upon comparison that they were much ahead of the English in point of comfort. The management on the road was so complete that nothing could exceed it; the officials were polite to passengers and attentive to their other duties. In no country is travelling pursued with greater comfort and security than in France and other parts of the continent. I would here speak a word in passing of English railways, which, if not so elegant in their carriages, are still well-conducted, and produce a vast amount of traffic through the Kingdom. Last year 180 millions of passengers travelled on the lines in Great Britain and paid over twelve millions sterling for fares, whilst the amount paid for goods freight was as much more. The deaths from casualties was less than one person in six million travellers, showing with what care and perfection the trains are managed. The distance from Calais to Paris is 203 miles, about the same as from Liverpool to London, and is traversed in six hours. I was most agreeably disappointed in the appearance of the country as I passed through it. I had erroneously conceived of France as being a broken and badly cultivated country, with its people bowed down under poverty and wretchedness, consequently I was hardly prepared to see the rich cultivation that presented itself on every side. The whole distance of the ride was like a landscape garden, for 100 miles or more the country was perfectly level, and as far as the eye could extend on either side was cultivated with the greatest care. A stone or weed was no where to be seen. There were no fences or hedges—except occasionally the latter by the roadside, apparently more for ornament than use,—to obstruct the view. But the scenery was beautified by rows of trees in long lines dividing one field from another, and the roads were every where on each side shaded by trees as far as the eye could reach, making them look like long avenues to noblemen's parks. There are no houses or barns scattered about the fields and for several miles along the richly cultivated land no building would be seen, but villages of ten to fifty houses are grouped together, from whence proceeds the agriculturist each day to

work his land. This is the case I was told generally through Europe, and arose from the necessity of mutual assistance against marauders. This mode of village life has its advantages, as its inhabitants are close to their church, their school, their mechanics, physician, &c. Near these villages on a rising eminence, I noticed the windmill in full operation. As I saw very few streams I presumed there is a scarcity of water for turning mills, and consequently the old primitive mode is still kept up. There are no fences, yet, of course, the flocks cannot range at large, the herds of cattle and sheep of which I saw a large number were watched over by shepherds and their dogs. I observed on one occasion a large flock of sheep removing from the field, the shepherd went before, one sheep followed close to him, and the others marched in regular file, the dog walking along side the flock. Probably as of old, The sheep heard the shepherd's voice and followed him. On this side of the channel we lost sight of the hop-gardens, but the quantity of broad beans was greater than in England, also numerous fields of flax, with broad fields of rich yellow wheat and oats, as the crops in France this season, like those in Great Britain are magnificent and abundant. I saw many fields of colza, a plant looking like tall poppies, the seeds of which were being thrashed out on cloths, and from which oil is quite extensively made. Women were every where seen working with the men in the field. The work is not so hard or unsuitable to females as our notions would lead us to believe. The smooth and lawn-like fields and the care with which cultivation takes place makes it more like dressing a vegetable or flower garden than otherwise, and the air being pure it is no hardship for females to live out of doors. The large domains or undivided fields, were only large in appearance, as the lands here, as in other parts of France, are owned by small proprietors and each cultivates his own property. The peasantry every where, were well dressed and looked cheerful and happy. If there is poverty and distress among them they are hid from the eye of the traveller. Towards Paris the landscape varied and became more undulating, but all well cultivated, and evidencing a rich harvest. I must reserve my description of this city for another letter.

J. W. B.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from a Presbyterian Minister.

We hear that the Dalhousie College is to go into operation immediately. I am slow to believe it, the path is strewn with difficulties. It is not wanted. Church people have a College which has been in operation for 70 years; which is the mother of many gentlemen and scholars, and which may be regarded as a bright pillar in the temple of science. The Baptists were displeased when Doctor Crawley was rejected at Dalhousie to make room for a favorite among Presbyterians, they built a College for themselves which has sent more than 40 young men into the ministry, and which they regard as second to none. The Presbyterians built our College at Pictou, and another at Truro, they are hard pressed with the schemes of the Church. They would need a gold mine at the door to be able to give £900 a year to make livings for scheming politicians at Halifax. I still object to Dalhousie College, because it would afford only half the course of study required by students for the Church. It would be very awkward to learn Greek and Latin at Halifax, and to go elsewhere to learn Hebrew and Church History. A large commercial city is not favorable for study, where young men would be exposed to many temptations. Dalhousie is to exclude all religious tests and leave Professors' chairs open to men of no religion. The stock of religious training is already too little in our seminaries, and we do not wish to see it diminished. Infidelity might not extend to mathematical lines; but it is a dangerous atmosphere for young men. The infidelity of David Hume had a disastrous influence at Edinburgh, and its fatal effects are felt at this day. Education is a means employed by providence to promote Christ's Kingdom, we should like to see Professors' chairs filled with men of the highest learning, and the deepest piety. Unsanctified learning has done much injury to the world. The noble Byron and Voltaire might have been blessings to the world had they been men like Rutherford or Thornton. Some of the American Colleges abound with a pure religious spirit, and some of them are tainted with Unitarianism, the frozen zone of Christianity. The tree of knowledge is not good for food unless sheltered with the tree of life. Satan is the most intelligent person out of

heaven, and is still the enemy of all good. France was the most enlightened nation in Europe, yet it took the lead in impiety and infidelity. They thought they could do without the Sabbath and govern the world without God. I would never send my sons to an institution which turned a cold shoulder to Christianity. It has conferred far higher benefits on the world, than ever learning did. Christianity has broken the fetters of slavery and abolished Polygamy. It has mitigated the horrors of war, softened the rigours of despotism and introduced an improved spirit into all the relations of life.

Bonaparte paid a fine compliment to religion in his melancholy hours in St. Helena. He said "Religion is a mystery which subsists by its own force. Julius Caesar, Alexander and I founded empires; but they were founded in force. They passed away like gliding shadows. Jesus Christ founded an Empire in love. Millions would die for him. I die before the time and worms must get my body. What a difference between my deep misery and Christ's Kingdom which is extending over all the earth."

CHRISTOPHER NORTH.

September 17th, 1863.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ordination at Upper Aylesford.

An ecclesiastical Council met at Upper Aylesford, Sept. 30th, at 10 o'clock, A. M., according to the request of the Church, to consider the propriety of setting apart Bro. Warren L. Parker to the work of the Christian Ministry, as an Evangelist.

The Rev. C. Tupper, was chosen Chairman of the Council, and the Rev. E. O. Read, Secretary.

The following Churches were represented:

- Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot.—Rev. C. Tupper, D. D., and Bro. Allen Banks.
Upper Aylesford.—Rev. J. L. Read, Deacons. J. Graves, G. West, J. Palmer and O. Cogswell.
2nd Cornwallis.—Rev. Wm. Chipman, and Rev. E. M. Saunders.
3rd Cornwallis.—Rev. James Parker.
2nd Horton.—Rev. E. O. Read.
3rd Horton.—Rev. S. B. Kempton.
Nictaux.—Rev. W. G. Parker, Rev. R. S. Morton, Rev. H. Saunders, Deacons S. Wheelock, W. C. Felch and Bro. John Whitman.
Pine Grove.—Rev. W. H. Porter.

The following brethren were invited to a seat in the Council. Rev. J. E. Balcom, Deacon Abel Parker, Bro. Wm. West, Bro. Elias Clem, Bro. J. Hutchinson, and Bro. W. S. West.

The Candidate then related his Christian experience, evidences of his call to the ministry, and views of scriptural truth, which were deemed satisfactory.

After mature deliberation the Council agreed to proceed to the Ordination of Bro. Parker, at 3 o'clock, P. M., which took place in the following order.

Reading the Scriptures, by Rev. W. H. Porter.
Prayer by Rev. E. O. Read.

Ordination Sermon, by Rev. J. E. Balcom from 1st Cor. ii. 2.

Theological Questions by Rev. C. Tupper.

Ordaining prayer by Rev. W. G. Parker.

Right hand of fellowship by Rev. James Parker.

Charge to the Candidate by Rev. Wm. Chipman.

Concluding prayer by Rev. S. B. Kempton.

All the exercises were of a deeply interesting character.

By order of the Council E. O. READ, Secretary.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

HENRY THOMAS.

Died very suddenly at Canaan, Horton, on the 29th of September, Mr. Henry Thomas, aged eighty-four years. Deceased was a native of Wales. He was baptized at Newcastle, South Wales, in 1803, by the Rev. Evan Evans and emigrated to this country over forty years ago. His life was a steady consistent exemplification of Christian character. An unwavering attachment to the great principles of our faith, was one of his distinguishing traits. An unvarying gentleness of disposition and Christian courtesy was another. His death though sudden was not unprepared for by him. Some six years ago he requested the writer to preach his funeral sermon from a text he then named Rev. xiv. 13. A severe illness last Spring was the token to him that the silver cord was loosed and although he appeared to rally from that attack, yet several times through the summer, he expressed his conviction that his death would be soon and sudden, but he was ready. He returned from a short walk on Friday morning—laid himself upon his bed and in five minutes ceased to breathe. His funeral was attended on the 1st inst., by a sorrowing concourse of relatives and friends.