

gives occasion to the world to blaspheme. Many could say with sorrow, as in the Canticles, "They made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept," Cant. i. 6. —Rev. J. C. Ryle.

For the Christian Messenger.

Correspondence from New South Wales.

Newtown, N. S. W., Sept. 2st, 1863.

DEAR BROTHER,—

Since my last, little has occurred in our domestic affairs worth recording. It is not ours to tell of revivals here such as cheer us from time through the medium of the Messenger. But we have had a revival in the Temperance cause, which may be the precursor of something better. A Capt. McGowen, of the ship Cossipore, has been the instrument of this work. On his arrival in Sydney he at once commenced to lecture. The meetings were kept up every night, either in the city or at the different suburban towns, to the different societies of which there are some half dozen, and about fifteen hundred have taken the pledge. A number of tea-meetings were got up in honor of the Captain and his teetotal crew, who all took part in the meetings and who are all professors of religion. At his departure from our port quite an excitement took place; two large steamers laden with the members of the different societies, accompanied the Cossipore out to the ocean, the Captain being presented with addresses there, the foaming waves watted him from our sight, amid cheers, prayers, and warmest wishes for his safe arrival at his destined port—Calcutta. Such a man will always make his mark wherever he goes. Since I last wrote, we have had an acquisition to our church by the baptism of Mr. and Mrs. Murray, of the London Missionary Society. He had laboured on the Island of Samoa for 25 years, but on account of his wife's ill health, they were obliged to remain here. Mrs. Murray has been under my care, and her health is so far restored, that they are shortly to leave for their old post on the Island, and I suppose will end their days there. We feel sorry to part with such esteemed friends, but the cry of the people is "come back," and he is a person so well fitted for the work that it would be wrong to keep him here, although Baptist ministers are by far too few. I only regret that the Baptists have not a mission there, where he could be employed—for the London Society are only too glad to support him. During his sojourn here he has been preparing his work on "Polynesia," which I hope you have seen ere this. We have also lost two young ministers lately, by death,—the Rev. Mr. Moneyment and Mr. Robert Wing, of Rawdon College. Mr. Spurgeon is sending out a minister for Woolloomooloo, a place adjoining the city, for the church formed by Mr. Moneyment. I have opened a new field for preaching 30 miles on the Great Southern Railway, at St. Mary's. The Pedsos were quite alarmed at the intrusion; beside, "Theodosia Earnest" has been using her influence to explain, in plain English, the proper mode of baptism. Several desire to be baptized. An edition of this work has been published and extensively circulated, which has caused quite an excitement among those who have read it. We have received quite a number of letters soliciting information about this country, and by your permission, through the medium of your valuable paper, will reply:

Australia is very unlike Nova Scotia in every respect.—1st, in reference to extent of territory, it embraces a coast line of 8000 miles, and one of its rivers will lead you 3000 miles into the interior, so that the term Continent is not inappropriate. It possesses all the elements of physical greatness. 2nd, in climate.—We have not seen any snow since we left Nova Scotia, except on the mountains of Africa; but there is a great variety of climate, for in many parts they have frost and snow. From the 1st of March to the 1st of November the climate of New South Wales, which through the whole year is equal if not superior to any other, is peculiarly delightful. The sky is seldom clouded, and for weeks together the sun shines with unrivalled beauty. The summer extends from November to March, during that time the thermometer seldom rises higher than 75°, and we always have a cool breeze through the day from the ocean, but we seldom have a hot night. The mosquitoes are rather troublesome, unless our beds are guarded by net curtains. They do not trouble us at all during the day. The products of the country differ from yours in some respects. There is not a forest tree here indigenous to Nova Scotia, but they are mostly hard wood and are well fitted for building purposes, especially the cedar, which takes a fine polish, and is much used for furniture, and resembles mahogany. Our fruit markets are well supplied at all seasons of the year, and certainly present a tempting appearance, for there is to be found in endless profusion everything to please the eye and tempt the palate. The fruits are mostly cultivated, for there are very few to be found wild, as in Nova Scotia. The orange tree can be seen in beautiful groves. The banana, with its broad waving leaf, bears a most delicious fruit. Pears, peaches, nectarines, pomegranates, figs, grapes, citrons, &c., beside most of the cultivated English fruits, grow abundantly. The vine of the passion-fruit forms a beautiful shade for verandahs, etc. The fruit is delicious, it is an evergreen and bears fruit twice a year. It is of the shape and size of an egg. The seed-time is from March till June; harvest from November till December; for wheat the same, also for barley and oats.

Maize, or Indian corn, is sown from October to November, and ripens from March to June. The vine in many parts is receiving great attention; where a few years ago there were but few now may be seen broad acres of them. The labor of hand-trenching has given way in some places to the steam-plough, and in one district fifty acres are being put to vines by one person. Wine is becoming quite an article of export. If vine-planting goes on at the same ratio as in the past season, in the space of five years there will be an exportable article in the shape of wine of something like 15,000 hogs-heads of 50 gallons each, and this only from two districts; at 6s. per gallon, the 15,000 hogs-heads give £187,500. Few other crops can produce anything like this. Oranges are also receiving great attention, and are shipped to Melbourne, New Zealand, and elsewhere. Honey is produced in great abundance, the country being well adapted to the raising of bees, for there are flowers always in bloom.

The manufactories of the country are not numerous, owing to the high rate of wages, which cripples their efforts, hence the raw material, such as hides, are plentiful and at a low figure. Tweeds and some other cloths are made here. There is no want of material in this line. Iron foundries are numerous, where castings of all kinds are done. Ship building is carried on quite extensively. A new war steamer has just been launched for New Zealand, iron-clad, with an apparatus for scalding the Maories. Ship carpenters wages are from 12s. to 14s. per day. Government land is from 20s. per acre, with free selection before survey. The new colony of Queens Land offers greater inducements to emigrants, but the climate is much hotter,—there the pine apple grows luxuriantly.

The first appearance of Port Jackson as you enter Sydney harbour, is not very prepossessing to a stranger, though surrounded by ships from every part of the globe. The aspect is bold and rugged, with strange looking trees and flowers; but one soon forgets this as he approaches the great city, with its din and noise of busses, coaches, cabs, train-cars, etc. There is no lack of conveyance on any part of the country, for the trains run till 11 o'clock at night for the accommodation of the theatricals who come from long distances. One must go into the country, and see the undulating prairies clothed with grass for the flocks of the shepherd, before a correct estimate can be made, as the sea-coast is no index to the country. Some of the squatters possess mere sheep and cattle than Job had, thus thousands of cows, not all kept for dairy purposes, but for raising stock. Sheep-herding is the most profitable business in Australia, as it is a pastoral country. For instance, a young man well instructed in pastoral affairs, landed 300 ewes and 20 rams; the lambing commenced soon after landing, while the ewes were suffering from the effects of the voyage, so that a number of lambs were lost. The produce, however, of the flock amounted on the 1st of June, to 351 lambs; on the 1st of June last the same ewes lambed the second time, and their produce was 306, making the increase of the flock as follows:—May 1st, original flock, 400; June 1st, increase, 357; Jan. 1, increase, 306; actual increase, within 7 months, 651; total, 1057. The lambs of August next, along with the imported ewes, the owner calculates that his increase of lambs upon the whole flock during that month, will amount to 570, which, added to his present flock of 1057, shewing an increase upon the original importation of 400, of 1197 within little more than 16 months. It is not surprising that so many should engage in sheep-farming. This is a small flock compared with others. In crossing Cook's River, a little above Botany Bay, yesterday, we saw a magnificent flock,—the largest we had seen,—the shepherd and his dogs had just driven them to the banks of the river to graze and slake their thirst. We drew up our horse to admire and make enquiries, from whence they came, and who was the owner. Horses are very numerous, and are continually coming into market,—about 400, beside the wild ones, are sold every week; many are shipped to India, China, New Zealand and elsewhere. Some sold last week as high as 500 guineas, and one for 700, but the generality are at a low figure. A country possessing so many resources and occupying one of the most commanding positions on the globe, cannot but go ahead. To persons of industry and active habits there can be little difficulty in making a choice of situation, whether he possesses capital or goes trusting to the strength of his own arm and the blessing of Heaven. Any of the pastoral districts will answer his purpose. It is equally the same whether he proceeds north to the Hunter or McQuarry rivers west to Bathurst, or south to Argyle and Port Phillip, you will find no want of employment. This should be the first thing even before property, as land can be purchased at any time, his money can be safely and profitably invested in sheep, which he can assign to the care of a trust-worthy person, of whom there are many ready to undertake, on conditions of receiving one-third of wool and increase. In three years this plan will be found to have returned, at the most moderate calculation, not less than 70 or 80 per cent, which will enable him to stock land of his own and obtain a knowledge of the country as well. I can see the folly for a new proprietor to commence land improver. All the money spent in clearing, draining, fencing or building, invested in sheep cannot fail to become most profitable. Beef is always plentiful and of good quality,—prices ranges from 1 1/2d. up; Butter, from 1s. to 2s. 6d. I have much more to write, but must defer it until another time, as the mail closes shortly.

I have not told you about our new Bible Hall, which is a splendid affair, with the Bethel and Sailors' Home. A new Baptist Chapel has been opened at Kissing Point and another is building

in Sydney. Our buildings here are all of stone and brick. A wooden house is rarely seen. There are now 5 or 6 churches professing to be Baptist, in Sydney; no two of them agree in principle,—some are open communions,—which has been much against their advancement in this country, while others are very exclusive both in their views and communion. Notwithstanding all these hindrances, we expect there is a good time coming. Do pray for it to hasten.

Yours, &c.,

W. Honns.

P. S.—Mrs. Hobbs and children are well. G. H. Page is in New Zealand; Silas Page is on the Fiji Islands; Maurice Bent is in Sandhurst, Victoria; John Bigelvw and family have lately gone to New Zealand,—like the country, but the war is making its ravages, which makes everything very high, and many are driven from their homes. The McLanes are living a few miles—excepting Muddock, who is at the New Zealand diggings. Mr. Eaton's family, G. Seaman and Robert DeWolfe are in New Zealand. Of the rest of our fellow-passengers I cannot tell. Please insert this for the benefit of friends. W. H.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 16, 1863.

The Bible and Baptism.

A vast amount of labor is often employed, to make it appear that infant baptism is a christian ordinance, and that Pedobaptists confer some sort of privilege on their children by its administration. Much time too is wasted we think by good men in endeavoring to establish a connection between baptism and Jewish circumcision. Perhaps none have employed more sincere effort in doing this than those who have ultimately given it up in vain and have become Baptists.

It is incumbent upon our contemporaries who sustain this practice occasionally to give their readers an Essay on the subject, but we think a little Bible study would be far better for them, and more likely to lead sincere enquirers to conviction, and the performance of duty in this matter. Arguments a hundred times related are reproduced as if they were new and sound. Logic is tortured and ignorance of what the scriptures teach is taken for granted. A strange amalgamation is formed of old testament rites with the duties enjoined by our Savior and his apostles,—until it becomes, to many, difficult to find on what authority christian ordinances rest.

Whatever the Bible contains is the birth-right of every human being. It belongs to the whole race of mankind. By its light the mists of ignorance are to be scattered. Whatever will not bear the light from this source must ultimately fall. Bible circulation and Bible study should be encouraged by all Christians. This is the great desideratum. The following paragraph from a late number of the Bible Advocate puts Christian baptism in a very clear light, and will commend itself to many of our readers:

THE BIBLE THE BEST DENOMINATIONAL PUBLICATION.—Would you turn men from the error of their ways? Lead them to the Bible. Would you present to a friend a book that will teach him the whole doctrine of Baptism? Give him a Bible. President Wayland married a lady who was of the Episcopal persuasion. He had never said a word to his wife on the subject of Baptism, although she was expecting that he would some day commence a discussion of the question. As he continued silent on the subject, she one day ventured to suggest it. His only reply was, that the next time he went to the bookstore he would purchase for her a volume that treated the matter in the most satisfactory manner. A few days afterward he brought home the promised book—a handsome copy of the "Holy Bible."

Its inspired words settled the question in her mind for ever. There are thousands of similar instances of persons who have been made Baptists by the mere reading of the New Testament. In making proselytes, the glory of these achievements depends on the way they are won. How honorable is a victory that is gained by "the Sword of the Spirit" alone!

It appears that in our article last week, on what the Witness would fain regard as "a threadbare subject"—Dalhousie College—we used a term at the commencement, which is surrounded by somewhat unpleasant associations. We do not feel at all concerned at any animadversions of our neighbour, at least, in reference to this subject, as we have had them so frequent that his disapprobation is rather acceptable than otherwise. Indeed, we regard the whole question of the occupation of Dalhousie as a cheat, and founded on—perhaps misrepresentation would be the more acceptable word. We have, however, had, from an unexceptionable source, some correction of the information given to us last week, and are glad to place it before our readers. We are assured by a member of Committee of the Church of Scotland, to whom

the obtaining of funds for the endowment of their Professorship in Dalhousie has been entrusted, that they have given the parties to whom they applied for subscriptions, distinctly to understand that whatever sums they might subscribe for this purpose, would be under the control of their Synod. On giving the said gentleman our authority for the statement of last week, he informed us that a very small amount had been contributed either in Halifax or the country from persons belonging to other denominations. Any applications which have been made in any other form, or with any other understanding than the above, on behalf of that body, he wished us to state had been without the sanction of the Committee. This explanation we were glad to receive, and here most readily give it publicity, believing it to be fully reliable.

FREDERICTON BAPTIST SEMINARY DEBT. We learn from the Ch. Visitor, that the Rev. A. D. Thomson has visited Fredericton, St. John, St. Georges and St. Martins in pursuance of his agency to endeavour to remove the burden of about \$2000 from the Seminary of our brethren in New Brunswick. The editor remarks. "One would naturally conclude that the capital of the province and these three sainted plans combined would have raised the needful amount at once, but we regret to say that this was not done. Our worthy agent returned home from his visit to the city quite disheartened, half inclined to give the matter up as a lost case. But" he adds "we have just received a letter from our esteemed Principal, Dr. Spurden, saying that a friend, whose name he is not at liberty to mention, has contributed EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS towards the \$2000 required." This we trust will be sufficient to encourage the brethren to lend their aid and do up the work forthwith.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.—The Committee of the Halifax Union Prayer Meeting have made arrangements to hold services, during the first week of the New Year, in various churches of the city:—

- Monday, Jan. 4th, in Temperance Hall, morning and evening.
Tuesday, 5th, in Granville Street Church.
Wednesday, 6th, in Brunswick Street Church.
Thursday, 7th, in Chalmers' Church.
Friday, 8th, in Grafton Street Church.
Saturday, 9th, in St. Matthew's Church.

We published the Evangelical Alliance Circular the week before last, (page 381) with subjects proposed for each day's consideration. This information is given us just as we are going to press, and we have room for no further remarks upon the subject. The meetings will doubtless be full of interest, as heretofore.

The editor of one of our Western exchanges proposes, by a new method, to improve the morals of the city in which he is located, condemning those guilty of crime to read the columns of an opposition contemporary—for larceny the criminal should be compelled to read the prison reports; for drunkenness the river news; pickpockets &c., should go through the financial and commercial reports; and for higher crimes we would prescribe the reading of the whole paper through, but he is repugnant to such a severe punishment, as he is opposed to capital punishment.

One of the morning papers calls attention to the Act of last Legislature relating to Guide Boards on public Highways and thinks the County Sessions are often engaged in less important matters than affording facilities to the travelling public.

J. W. B. will excuse us for deferring his letter till next week.

News Summary.

Our English Mail by the Canada did not arrive until Friday evening. Dates are up to the 28th ult.

The King of Denmark, Frederick the seventh, is dead. He died on the 15th November, very suddenly, from an attack of erysipelas in the head. He was fifty-five years of age, and came to the throne in 1848—the great revolutionary period in Europe. He was almost the only one among the Sovereigns of Europe, whose subjects demanded enlargement of Constitutional rights, who yielded to the demand with a frankness and sincerity which the subsequent acts of his reign have never contradicted. He was, in consequence, highly popular among his people, and his death seems deeply and deservedly lamented. He is succeeded in the kingdom by his somewhat distant relative, Prince Christian, (now Christian the ninth,) the father of the Princess (Alexandra) of Wales, and of George the 1st, the newly elected king of the Greeks. The late king has been