

Now, what but a conviction that Sunday's rain, cold, or storm, is (especially deleterious, could induce them, to put such a restraint upon their governing inclination as to cause them to forego the pleasure of assembling themselves together in God's house?"—Presbyterian.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 22, 1863.

Prayer.

THE privilege and power of prayer are but imperfectly understood by us. Our employment of this, as the ordinary mode of divine worship, probably leads us to forget its higher aims and objects. How simple, and yet how sublime, a position for mortal man to occupy,—calling upon God his Maker. Whilst we feel no satisfaction in the use of a form of prayer, we yet often become too formal, and fail in attaining the abstraction of mind from surrounding objects which, even an approach to a human being, for the purpose of soliciting favors, at times, commands.

The great object of christian fellowship is united prayer and praise. It is not so much to hear as to worship that we assemble together even on the Lord's Day. When the preaching of the Word produces a greater regard for spiritual blessings, then, and only then, is its legitimate object accomplished.

Many things may interfere with a meeting for prayer, and make it more or less profitable to those who participate, in its exercises, but when all assemble fully conscious of the greatness of the occasion, and realize that they come, by agreement, for the purpose of petitioning the Almighty One, then the slight barriers, which might otherwise be impediments, are overcome, and the importunity that will not be refused, brings the answer, so as often to surprise the petitioners with its abundance.

What joy comes from answers to prayer! How beautifully is prayer adapted to our condition in this world! Perfectly helpless to produce the changes in ourselves or others, we present the burden of our hearts to Him who understands and manages all our affairs, and who has made this a part of his plan of distributing his favors. We can as little understand how it is that God hears our supplications, and condescends to make them the medium of securing his favor, as we can the secret operations of nature; but every christian knows that he does hear and answer prayer. He has promised to those who thus seek his face that he will be found of them, and that he will not disappoint the expectations of the contrite. When thus, in the exercise of believing, earnest prayer, we prove him, he will open to us the windows of heaven, and pour out his blessings, till there shall not be room enough to receive them.

Do we desire the present and future good of our fellowmen? We may make efforts to ameliorate their condition, but unless our prayers go up before God with our alms, they will not be "had in remembrance in his sight." For the accomplishment of any good, prayer must accompany our efforts, and unless it does, we have no reason to suppose they will succeed. Do we long to see the extension of Christ's kingdom? his ministers more powerful to cope with prevailing worldliness? and their labors more effectual in subduing men to the obedience of faith? We have no machinery for this so efficient as Prayer. If we fail to bring this into operation we plainly prove our ignorance of the Divine plan. Our Lord taught his disciples to pray together, using the plural form, "Our Father, &c." He gave them a model, a perfect specimen of prayer, the first petition of which was: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." Let this be the spirit of our prayers and our lives, and we shall find that our prayer-meetings and our assemblies for public worship will bring us to participate more largely in the blessings promised to those who wait before Him.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLINE.—Two writers "Philauder" and "Philaethes" have for some time past been edifying the readers of the Presbyterian Witness with a discussion of the question, "Whose children should be baptized?" One arguing that only the children of communicants are entitled to baptism and the other contending that all who have been baptized may claim the rite for their offspring. We have no desire to interfere with either party in such a profound debate. We should be sorry to waste much ink in such a controversy. A paragraph in the last letter of the former writer makes a candid exposition of the Presbyterian rule with regard to discipline which will startle those of our readers, who regard church-membership as co-extensive with church

fellowship, and believe it to be the christian's duty to "come out from among them and be separate and touch not the unclean thing." The writer remarks:

"The second article of Philaethes calls for very few remarks. The only thing on which it is necessary to animadvert, is the appeal which he makes as to exercising discipline on baptized persons, but not communicants, who commit such sins as fornication, drunkenness, swearing, and Sabbath breaking; would I, or would I not exercise discipline with them? So far as I know, the almost universal practice of the Presbyterian Church is, that they do not exercise discipline until in some way or another these persons apply for privileges. And this is right. It is scriptural. While minors, through parents, the Church exercises control over them; but when of age, the year left to their own conscience. I would use all scriptural means with them—instruct—exhort—warn—threaten—rebuke, but farther I consider I am not authorized to go. But the moment they applied to me for privileges I would call them to a strict account. Philaethes would suspend, expel, excommunicate and I know not what. If a minister in a large city were to act on this principle, he and his Session would have their hands full. They would be sitting every week, and every week, suspending, expelling, and excommunicating, those who never had connexion with them and perhaps never intended to have. Philaethes is quite astounded at this doctrine. I must have been dreaming when I announced it. If so, hundreds of ministers have been dreaming the same dream, aye, and Presbyterians too."

We cannot perceive any distinction here between the church and the world. Surely baptism was intended to produce some other effect, than appears in this extract.

Political.

THE FRANCHISE BILL DEFEATED.—In the hurry of going to press, earlier than usual with our first edition last week, we copied from a morning paper a statement that "the new Franchise Bill had passed the Legislative Council by a majority of one." This we found, when too late to correct, was slightly inaccurate, and therefore removed the paragraph from our second edition. The said Bill having been sent to a select Committee probably misled our contemporary.

The Bill was before the Upper House last week. On Monday, the 18th, it was moved "that the report of the select committee be not received, and that the Bill be deferred for three months."

The debate was continued on Friday. Several members spoke in its favor, but no reply was made by those opposed. On the vote being taken, there appeared:

For the motion—Honbles. McNab, Brown, Creighton, Almon, Holmes, R. B. Dickey, Black, Keith and Cutler.—9.

Against—Honbles. Anderson, McCully, McKeen, McHefley, Archibald, Pineo, Comeau, Whitman, C. Dickie, Tupper, Patterson.—11.

The Bill was then read and ordered to Committee.

On Saturday, the debate on the Bill in Committee was brought to a close by an amendment, or new clause, being introduced by the Hon. R. B. Dickey, to the effect that the operation of the Bill be deferred until after the ensuing General Election,—until June, 1864.

This motion was carried by a majority of one.—Hon. Mr. Pineo voting in opposition to the members of Government. The division standing:

For the new clause—Hon. Messrs. McNab, Pineo, Brown, Creighton, Almon, Holmes, Dickey, Black, Keith, Cutler and Kenny.—11.

Against—Honables. Anderson, McCully, McKeen, McHefley, Archibald, Comeau, Whitman, C. Dickie, Patterson, Tupper.—10.

This action being taken, on the proposed alteration in the franchise, will probably also affect the passing of the Representation Bill, now before the Council. We did intend to give the said Bill a place in our columns, that our readers, in each of the counties of the Province, might see the alterations proposed to be made in the districts where they would have to vote for their Representatives in Parliament; but as that Bill would take up about two columns, and its passing into law is now matter of doubt, we shall defer doing so till it becomes an Act of Parliament.

We presume that the franchise, at the next election, and the districts sending representatives, will, now, remain the same as at present, and the *furor* created by the attempted changes will subside into preparation for the coming struggle.

There appears to be considerable activity in many parts of the country, amongst political men. We have heard the names of several of the gentlemen nominated as Candidates by the two opposing parties in some of the counties and districts. Some had already made arrangements in accordance with the provisions of the government Representation Bill. These of course will now be put aside till it is really known whether the

Representation Bill will pass into a law. If the election is to take place about the 20th of May, as intimated by a contemporary, there will be but little time to attend to these matters. The government will, however, determine the time, and of course will give the notice required by law.

News Summary.

The Arabia with English Mails arrived on Friday—London dates to the 4th inst.

The most important news of the week is the total failure of the attack of the Federal blockading squadron on Charleston, S. C.—Nine of the Iron-clad squadron advanced to the attack, which lasted but a few hours, during which Fort Sumpter and the other defences of the harbour opened a most destructive fire, and five of the squadron were so badly injured that the whole were compelled to retire without passing the Forts, or approaching near the city. The Keokuk, one of the largest ships, was so much injured that she sunk shortly after, and the others were so battered and maimed by the heavy shot of the forts, as to render them unserviceable without large repairs. The harbour is said to be so impeded by various obstructions, as to render it almost impracticable to attack the city from the sea. The protection afforded by the iron shields, with which the ships were covered seems to have prevented loss of life. There being very few killed or wounded. Operations against both Vicksburg and Port Hudson appear to be at a stand.—The general tenor of latest accounts is adverse to the North.

There is little new by the English Mails. The Poles are still keeping up a guerilla warfare with the Russian troops. It is reported that England, France, and Austria, are about interfering to mediate with Russia in favor of Poland, and induce the Emperor Alexander to confer constitutional privileges upon the Poles.

The Greeks have at last succeeded in obtaining a King. Through the intervention of England, Prince William George of Denmark, the second brother of the Princess Alexandra, now Princess of Wales, has been induced to accept the Crown of Greece. He is a youth of only eighteen years of age, and will ascend the throne under the name, it is said, of George the First.

Notices, &c.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The last lecture of the season will be delivered on the evening of Friday, April 24th, by Rev. R. McG. Sommerville, A. M.

Subject.—The Preacher of the Desert; his life and death.

S. McVANE, Cor. Secy.

Acadia College, April 18th.

Annapolis Co. Ministerial Conference.

The next meeting of the Annapolis County Conference of Baptist Ministers, is appointed to be held at Parker's Cove, on Tuesday morning the 28th April, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Preaching on the previous evening.

ISA. WALLACE, Secretary.

Associated Alumni of Acadia College.

The following subscriptions to the above society for the year commencing June 1862, are hereby acknowledged.

- D. R. Eaton, Esq., \$4.00
Rev. A. H. Munro, 4.00
J. B. Peck, Esq., 4.00
Rev. Dr. DeWolf, 4.00
Rev. D. W. C. Dimock, 4.00

ROBERT L. WEATHERS, Secretary.

Letters Received.

- Rev. J. Davis, 7th. Rev. J. E. Balcom, 10th.
Rees Stror ach, Esq., 3rd, 20s. M. P. Freeman, 7th.
S. McVane, 13th. H. Starratt, Esq., 2nd.
Rev. Isa Wallace, S. Wheelock, 6th, 22s. 6d.
—per M. Armstrong. Rev. J. McKenne, 11th, the \$5 came correctly.
J. Parsons, 13th. A. J. Hill, 11th. M. Kinsman, 14th, 12s. 6d.
A. J. Ledbetter, 9th, 1 sub. Rev. W. G. Parker, 10th.
Rev. A. F. Porter, 13th. Rev. George Dimock, 16th.
Rev. Charles Randall, 10th, £2 5s.
Geo. Musgrave, 5th. Rev. W. Hall, 13th.
Rev. Geo. Armstrong, 15th. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 16th, 2 subs. omitted before.
Yes we make a consideration. The bookbinding corrected.
P. F. Murray, 13th. Yours of 19th, with 20s. received and credited.
Sorry to find it was not acknowledged.
Rev. S. T. Rand, 18th. All sent to Mr. F. last week.
Alex. Meldrum, 24th, 7s. 6d.
Edward McLatchey, Esq., 17th. J. Woodland, 17th.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

The ladies of Chalmers' Church held a Soiree at Mason Hall on Friday evening last in aid of the church funds. The volunteer Band was in attendance.

The cadets (pupils) of the National School were inspected on the Grand Parade on Thursday last by one of the Drill Instructors, and passed through the ordeal with great credit.

A FLOWER AND POULTRY SHOW was held yesterday and Monday at Mason Hall. This is the first of the season, of which we trust there may be many repetitions. The rink building in the Horticultural Society's Gardens is well adapted for this purpose.

A bill to prevent imposition in the selling of coal has passed the Legislature. Any one who sells coal under any other name than that of the Mine from which it was obtained may now be fined \$40.

The dwelling house of Mr. James Stewart, Middle River, Pictou, was destroyed by fire, with all its contents, on the 1st inst.

BRITISH OPERATIVES RELIEF FUND.—The Secretary acknowledges receipt of twelve dollars and seventy-eight cents from Abraham Vanbuskirk, Esquire, which, with \$114 00 previously remitted to His Worship the Mayor, makes \$126.78 contributed by the inhabitants of Aylesford.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—As the Train from Truro was on its way to town on Thursday morning a sleeper suddenly broke between Elmsdale and Shubenacadie, and the two hindmost cars got off the track. The passengers and mails came on by the second lass cars after been detained there some time.

ARRIVAL OF MORE EMIGRANTS.—The Arabia, at this port on Thursday, had among her passengers 135 men, women, and children, emigrants destined for New Brunswick, and sent out at the expense of Miss Burdett Coutts. The emigrants in question are all English people, and have been accustomed to hard labor. On their arrival here, they were taken in charge by Robert Shives, Esq., the New Brunswick Emigration officer, and proceeded to Windsor by rail, from whence they will be forwarded to their destination.

MILITARY RIOT.—During the past week there have been several most disgraceful exhibitions of lawlessness on the part of the soldiers in our garrison.

On Wednesday evening a number of men, out on leave, took into their heads to demolish the windows of several liquor shops and houses of ill-fame in Barrack street, and not content with this, they proceeded to bestow on other stores and dwelling houses in Brunswick and Gottingen streets similar favors.

There appears to have been, for some time past, a bad state of feeling existing between a number of these men and some low rowdies connected with the above establishments. On Tuesday this was brought out more clearly, on one of the 17th Regiment succeeding in climbing the greased pole on the Parade. (a part of the celebration of which our authorities are probably by this time pretty well ashamed.) The hostility of the class of citizens above referred to, was freely expressed on that occasion, and this fracas seems to have been the ebullition of feeling thus aroused.

The aldermen were considering on Thursday, and consulting with Colonel Franklyn, the acting commandant, as to what steps should be taken, and orders had been given for a large picket to be in readiness to preserve order in the evening. But before these orders were carried into effect, a large body of about 200 soldiers armed with heavy sticks, headed by one with a white handkerchief on a stick, appeared in George Street, prepared to perpetrate any mischief which came in their way. They came on in a body and passed up Duke street. Here a number of citizens assembled, but dared not attempt to stop the infuriated military mob, who drove before them all that interposed. We walked up towards where they had gone. They made a halt, and on their making a rush down the hill towards the southern corner of the Province building, the people ran before them as if for their lives, but as we were not disposed either to run or become an obstacle to their progress, we therefore walked quietly down on the sidewalk, and allowed them to pass us, brandishing their weapons and hallooing as if pleased with the terror they were creating. They hesitated at the corner of the Province building, and seemed enquiring amongst themselves whether that were the object of their antipathy, but, concluding to the contrary, they passed northward, and went down George street to the City Court House. This they attacked with their sticks and stones, until scarcely a whole pane of glass remained in the front. They endeavoured to get inside, but the doors were barred against them. Having wreaked their vengeance, probably because some of their comrades had been here condemned to the City Prison for drunkenness, they left and went along Hollis street. Here they struck several of the large windows of the stores and broke one in Campbell's store. They also attacked Capt. O'Brien and inflicted upon him considerable injury.

At the corner of Somerset House they met Col. McKinstrey, but being in plain clothes they did not recognize him, and they knocked him down. An artillery officer remonstrated with them in Hollis Street when they retreated towards the Citadel. Stones were thrown by some in the large crowd of civilians now gathered, and these were returned by the military and both seemed pretty well exasperated. The fire-bell was now rung, and the firemen hastened to the Engine House and were soon ready for any command to protect property in the city. A strong picket or two were shortly on hand and, with bayonets fixed passing up the streets, hemmed in the riotous soldiery on the glacis, and drove them into the citadel, a few had however escaped and hid themselves, till under cover of the darkness they emerged. One gang got together in Spring Garden Road, where they were met by some civilians and a