

do much good in the field where he labors. In the afternoon seeing a card at a door near my lodging, that a Young Men's Bible Class was to be held in an upper room, I went in, I found about 200 present, all intelligent well dressed and very attentive young men from 15 to 25 years of age, with a few elderly persons, all had their bibles; after singing and two prayers, a chapter was read verse by verse for over an hour, each gave his views, and the one leading summed up the different opinions and made a few suitable remarks. How pleasing to find so much good being done, in various ways in this great city.

J. W. B.

For the Christian Messenger.

Valedictory Address

To THE REV. A. F. PORTER, FROM THE CHURCH AT GUYSBORO.

Dear Brother, We, having been appointed by the Church to present to you expressions of brotherly kindness and affectionate regards on your retiring from the Pastorate of our Church, beg leave to say that it was with deep heartfelt regret that we were compelled to accept your resignation.

Were it not that the state of your lungs made it imperative on you to take this step, and hoping that rest from the arduous labors of a Pastor might be the means of your restoration to health again, we would not endure the thought of a separation.

We look back with much pleasure over the four years you have labored with us as our minister, and we have reason for much thankfulness that your labors have not been in vain in the Lord, but that precious fruit has been gathered by you, and many souls through your instrumentality have been brought from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

We deeply sympathize with you dear Brother in your affliction; we assure you of our highest respect and unabated confidence in your piety, zeal and kindness of heart, as well as your unwearied efforts for our comfort and the furtherance of the cause of God amongst us, and our prayer is that the work in which you are now about to engage may not only be conducive to health but be crowned with much success to your joy.

We would also wish to convey to your beloved partner an expression of our high estimation of her worth as a sister in the church, praying that the Lord will guide you both, and continue to make you useful and happy in your future sphere and labor of love.

On behalf of the Church, H. R. CUNNINGHAM, CHRISTOPHER JUST.

Reply

To THE MEMBERS OF THE GUYSBORO AND MANCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH.

Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ,— Your address affects my heart. Four years have swiftly passed away since I became your minister, and how endearing and hallowed are the Associations of these years. They are amongst the brightest and happiest of my life. I can never forget the numberless tokens of Christian affection you have given to me and mine, and the deep interest you have ever manifested in our welfare. I can assure you our regrets at parting are mutual.

The separation is to me a painful necessity. What delightful seasons we have enjoyed together, not a year has passed without an outpouring of the Spirit of God in our midst, which has resulted in the reviving of our hearts, and the conversion of precious souls. To God be all the praise. With gratitude I accept your expressions of sympathy for me in my affliction. May the Lord regard your earnest prayer for my speedy restoration to health, only that I may be more faithful in future to proclaim the truth in love.

Words cannot express my attachment to you or my feelings when forced to resign my charge. You know my decision to do so was not made without much prayerful consideration, and now if I could perform the arduous duties of a pastor of this large Church, no flattering prospect could allure me from you. No, dear Brethren, I could live and die among you sharing your joys and sorrows. I do not think that we shall ever cease to remember each other with the warmest affection. May the Great Head of the Church be with you, and enlarge you more and more. May He be pleased to send an undershepherd who shall labor among you more faithfully and successfully than I have ever done.

Mrs. Porter unites with me in these expressions. She fully appreciates all your kindnesses to us and reciprocates your attachment. We heartily thank you for your kind adieu, which so well agree with the deeds of the past. I remain your brother in Christ,

A. F. PORTER.

Guysboro, Sept. 10th, 1863.

Religious Intelligence.

HAMMOND'S PLAINS.—Quite an interesting baptismal service was held in connection with the 2nd Hammond's Plains Church on Lord's Day last. The Revs. R. R. Philp and Jacob Allen were engaged in baptizing twenty converts who had previously given evidence of their

faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The deep solemnity of feeling which appeared to pervade the large assemblage on the margin of the lake, rendered it an occasion which will not soon be forgotten.

New Brunswick.

KESWICK, N. B.—The Rev. W. H. Corey writes to the *Victor*:—"Sabbath before last, five willing converts following their Lord and master in the ordinance of baptism; and last Sabbath nineteen more obeyed the sacred rite, and the work is still going on. Bro Samuel Burt is labouring with us with good acceptance. His whole heart is in the work. Bro. E. Corey is also with us now. He is deeply engaged in the work, and other brethren visit us occasionally. Last Sabbath was a great day here. Some eleven hundred persons were present to witness the administration of the sacred ordinance. Marked attention pervaded the whole audience, and we felt truly God was with us.

Rev. Mr. Evans, pastor of the First Presbyterian Colored Church in Washington, writes that his church have paid off a debt of nearly \$6,000. He says: "One member paid for his freedom the sum of \$3,000; his wife also paid the additional sum of \$600. They live in their own house, and have educated seven daughters in the city of Boston."—*Chr. Intelligencer*.

RELIGION IN SCOTLAND.

The following is from a correspondent of the *London Freeman*:—"Since the great awakening with which we were favoured three years ago, in this country, we have never been entirely without such seasons. Then it was more general. Recently it has been but partial showers; yet showers have ever been falling. About that time a number of men had their hearts stirred up to evangelistic work: some to give themselves wholly to it; others, retaining their calling, have given it much of their time; and not a few, whose time is at their own disposal, have given themselves wholly to this good work. Those men are busy still, and God is owing their labours wherever they go. Not only so, but their own profiting is apparent to all. And it is deeply impressed upon my own mind that all this is but preparatory to some greater blessing from the Head of the Church. Should He favour us again with the reviving breath of the Spirit, we have now more sails spread, and we shall speed further and faster. Not only so, but we are learning better how to steer the ship in such times—the Church is learning how to receive and to use such precious opportunities. Another thing that indicates a gracious purpose towards us, and which makes us believe that if the blessing is again given more will be made of it than on former occasions, is the greater unity that exists in many of the churches of saints, called by different names. Formerly I heard from almost every quarter that a fair prospect of harvest had been blighted by the cloven foot of sectarianism stepping in. Men would rather scatter the promising blossom to the four winds than see others than their own party gain by it. We are learning better now. And this I say is hopeful; for until the saints of God are willing that sinners be saved, and God's glory advanced, whether their own "cause" gain or not, we cannot expect to see Zion prosper.

I was present some weeks ago at an immense gathering on the links of Aberdeen, when some 6,000 or 8,000 people was addressed, mostly by laymen, on their eternal interests. It was then, especially, I noticed the advance made by many of these honoured brethren, in knowledge, in preaching power, in grace. I believe the Gospel came at that meeting not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost. There have been similar meetings since in that capital of the North, attended by similar results.

During the past ten days there have been a series of evangelistic services held in Perth, and sinners, not a few, have been turned to the Lord. It may, I believe, be said of this city, "the Lord is there."

In Edinburgh there have been no special united efforts of late; but many of the individual churches are working vigorously and with success—and the same may be said of Glasgow.

LIBERAL OFFERS TO PÆDOBAPTISTS.—In *The Tennessee Baptist* several premiums are announced, competition for which is open to residents in Europe as well as in the United States. The proposals are as follows:—"To all Pædobaptist Catholics and Protestants.—1st. I will renew the grand premium offered some years since.

One thousand dollars for a passage in the Bible affording a plain precept for or example of, infant sprinkling for Christian baptism.

Five hundred dollars to anyone who will furnish a solitary passage usually relied on or quoted by the Pædobaptists to prove infant baptism, which has not been denied as authority for the practice by eminent and standard Pædobaptist divines.

One hundred dollars to anyone who will produce, from standard historians, a solitary instance of infant baptism among Christians (some heathen nations have practised it before the coming of Christ) before the third century.

One hundred dollars to anyone who will produce Scriptural authority to prove that the visible Christian Church, as organized by Jesus Christ, is an institution identical with the Jewish commonwealth (or nation), once called "the church in the wilderness."

One hundred dollars to anyone producing Scriptural authority to prove that baptism comes in the room or place of circumcision.

One hundred dollars to anyone for one passage in the Bible in which 'baptize' in the

Septuagint, or New Testament, is translated in our version by 'to sprinkle or pour upon.' One hundred dollars to anyone producing Scripture to prove that the peculiar form of church organization and government were left to the discretion of Christians in any age or ages after Christ.

One hundred dollars to any showing that Christians, as individuals or as churches, have a right to change the ordinances of externals of religion, as taught in the New Testament, in the least, whether in substance or form, by addition, diminution, change, or substitution.

An impartial jury is to decide the validity of any claim presented; an equal number to be chosen by each party, the authority relied on being furnished to the proposer of the premium one month at least before the trial."

American and Foreign News.

Latest from the States!

[From Telegrams to morning and evening papers.]

SEPT. 17.—The steamer "Mary Handford," which left Charleston Bar on the night of the 12th inst., has arrived at New York. She does not confirm the previous reports about Fort Moultrie.

A Charleson despatch of the 14th inst., to Richmond, says that the Federals are perfecting arrangements for the permanent occupation of Morris Island,—erecting a telegraph along the whole length of the island and converting Fort Wagner into a most powerful work. Battery Gregg fires upon the boats plying in the harbor.

The New York *Post's* "special" says latest from Burnside states that he has sent 10,000 prisoners northward from Cumberland Gap.

SEPT. 18.—Times despatch says that the idea is entertained in high army quarters that the bulk of Lee's army is going down East Tennessee and Virginia railroad, to attack Burnside. Such a step ought to lose Richmond to the Confederates.

Tribune's despatch says that Cotton States troops departed homeward, leaving Virginia to be defended by Virginians.

Herald's despatch says the belief is prevalent that the enemy is about abandoning recent line, and making a stand on the border of North Carolina.

Lee is believed to have about 40,000.

SEPT. 19.—General Steel occupies Little Rock, Arkansas, and General Price is rapidly retreating before General Davidson.

Refugees continue to come in and report from the South that Bragg has been reinforced by Johnston and is driving Rosecranz before him.

A refugee from Atlanta states that 3 divisions of Lee's army have gone to reinforce Bragg and crush Rosecranz and Burnside.

On the other side, it is reported, that these statements have been all circulated to entrap General Meade into a forward movement.

The Times Washington despatch reports a proposition has been made by Napoleon to Jefferson Davis to abolish slavery and substitute "poisonage" similar to that in Mexico, and by these means remove England's reasons for refusing to recognize the South. The Confederacy then could arm the negroes.

Evening.—Confederate forces concentrated in Rosecranz's front, supposed to number over 60,000. The Confederates are holding an interior, and Federals an exterior crescent, separated by mountains.

Franklin's expedition from New Orleans met a formidable resistance at Sabine Pass, and gunboats *Clifton* and *Sachem* were captured, causing Franklin to abandon that part of the expedition.

SEPT. 21.—Advices from the Army of Cumberland of the 19th inst., report desperate attack that day on Burnside's line with evident intention to get between it and Chattanooga. They attacked both wings. There was a general engagement, lasting from 11 to 6 o'clock. Enemy repulsed; then were reinforced and regained position. They were driven a mile and a half. Expected battle would be renewed on Sunday.

Louisville despatch of 20th, reports Rosecranz's army has been beaten and compelled to retreat to Chattanooga by Bragg, who was heavily reinforced from Lee, Beauregard and Johnston. No particulars.

Morris Island letter reports the Confederates busy repairing Fort Sumter. Deserter reports Beauregard intends attempting to regain Morris Island.

A few weeks ago the managers of the New York Bible Society voted twenty thousand Bibles for the use of the rebel soldiers, and Secretary Chase has given orders for their transmission South.

The Paris correspondent of the *NY Times* affirms that "France is going to manoeuvre in such a way by bargains on collateral questions as to bring about a European coalition against the United States on the Mexican question."

A turtle was lately found in the woods above Acushnet village, Massachusetts, on which was inscribed "D R Russell, 1821." Mr. Russell remembers cutting the letters in the shell 42 years ago. His turtleship looks hale and hearty still.

VALUATION OF HUSBANDS.—Several females of New York city have sent claims to the Comptroller for the loss of husbands killed during the late riots. The estimates of value of the deceased very greatly, ranging from ten thousand to as low as two thousand dollars.

A WESTERN paper says: "It is only twenty one years since the first log cabin was erected in Burlington, Iowa, and now it contains 20,000 inhabitants."

The camels bought by the United States Government when Mr. Davis was Secretary of War at a cost of \$10,000 each, have just been sold. The price ranged from \$115 to \$205.

Washington appears to have become a rendezvous of blacklegs, prostitutes and gamblers. A correspondent of the Boston *Traveler* says that "gambling, licentiousness, drunkenness, and every species of evils runs riot throughout the city, until now profligacy reigns supreme."

The number of prize vessels taken into the port of Philadelphia since the beginning of the war is eighty-five. The most valuable including the cargo, was the steamer *Bermuda*, which realized more than half a million of dollars. Several of the late prizes, which brought heavy cargoes of cotton, realized large sums.

THE ARISTOCRACY OF ARMY CONTRACTORS.—Mr Smith (an army contractor, ordering books for his new house up town) —"It's no use bringing these books to look at. I know nothing about them. Just measure and see how many it will take to fill the shelves. You may scatter some Bibles and Testaments among 'em, just to give a moral tone to the affair. And be sure and have plenty of gliding on the backs."

The Charleston *Mercury* describes the evacuation of Batteries Wagner and Gregg by the enemy, and says both places were mined to give the Federals a hot reception. The slow march was applied at Wagner and at Gregg, but owing to some defect in the fuses no explosion took place. The Richmond Examiner alludes to regard the loss of Morris Island as of very slight consequence, and says that the fortification of Charleston is stronger now than when the first shot was fired on the island, which was never the key to Charleston; and that batteries have since been erected which supercede to utility of Wagner.

A SERIOUS JEST.—On Friday evening a girl named Julia Matthews, was instantly killed at the India Rubber Works, in Newark, N. J. She had been at work during the evening, and after putting on her bonnet and shawl to go home, jestingly remarked that she would have a ride upon a shaft which projected about a foot through the floor, if it broke every bone in her body. The shaft was midway between between two upright posts about three feet apart, turning around quite slowly. She sat upon it, but her hoops becoming caught, she was dashed against the posts, and before she could be reached was killed—nearly every bone in her body having been broken.—*Bangor Times*.

European News.

CHINA.

The advices from China do not record any important military movement, but they represent, thanks to the aid given to the Imperial Government by European officers, the rebel cause is decidedly on the wane. There is a short story about an Englishman having been shot in a very irregular manner by the French military authorities at Ningpo, which will probably have to be inquired into.

INDIA.

The latest letters from Calcutta say that official opinion in that city is unanimous as to the identity of the man now in custody with the long-sought Nana. But the matter has not yet been sufficiently cleared up, and a good deal of incredulity appears to exist among the general public.

JAPAN.

The latest advices from Japan report "a growing affinity between the Tycoon's Government and the foreigners," and state that the Tycoon has chartered British vessels for the conveyance of troops. This intelligence only strengthens the impression which various circumstances had already produced that it is necessary to draw a wide line of distinction between the Tycoon's Government and the intolerant Mikado and his nobles. The Tycoon has always shown towards foreigners a spirit which was hospitality itself when compared with the grim hostility of the Spiritual Emperor and the Damios. The former, at the head of the responsible Government of Japan, seems to have done what he could to carry out the treaties made with foreign countries, but the latter, as the representatives of a blind conservatism, have done everything possible to obstruct their execution. When we remember these circumstances it is difficult to believe the excuse sent by the Tycoon to our representative, that the Government had not the ability to take the murderer of Mr. Richardson by force.

SPAIN.

THE SPANISH ELECTIONS.—*Madrid, August 31 (Evening)*.—A letter from Marshal Epartero has been published recommending the electors to abstain from voting.

General Prim had a long conference with the Queen yesterday at La Granja, after which he returned to Madrid and had an interview with Signor Olozaga. The leading members of the Progressista party will meet this week in Madrid. Should they decide upon abstaining from voting, they will publish their motives from this course. The Ministry persist in excluding non-electors from the preparatory electoral meetings.

The King of Portugal has ordered a census of the population—a process never before realised in that kingdom.