

For the Christian Messenger.

Infirm Ministers' Fund.

To JOHN W. BARSS, ESQ., TREASURER OF THE INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND OF THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION:

Dear Sir,—

I have just seen your note in the Christian Messenger of the 11th inst., which you say is "in answer to an enquiry in the issue of that paper of the 28th ult., respecting the Infirm Ministers' Fund in connection with the Central Association." As you are the Treasurer and one of the Committee of Management of this Fund, I propose, as the more convenient course, addressing the further remarks I feel called upon to make in reference thereto, to you direct.

My communication, to which you refer, sought information on several points; and it is unfortunate that your reply is so very meagre, and that several of my questions have been passed over by you in silence,—because the subject is one of grave and deep interest not only to the ministers of the Central Association, but to the lay-members of the denomination as well: if the munificent bequests of the late Captain Jacobs to the fund, is to be accepted as an index to the Baptist mind on the subject, and I think that in view of this interest and your connection with the fund, a little further elucidation of the matter might have been expected, and I venture to suggest, would not have been out of place.

I observe that you do not vouchsafe any reason why the account was not published in the last Minutes, but content yourself with expressing regret at the omission and promising amendment in the future. This regret, I doubt not, will be shared in by more than yourself, especially when it is known that had the Association at that time been made acquainted officially with the fact that the late Treasurer of the fund was a defaulter, measures might have been adopted which would have secured the whole amount due,—for I am informed that an individual has, since the time when the Association met, pressed a private demand against Mr. Chase, and has succeeded in obtaining payment in full. And how a methodical business man like yourself came to neglect so important a part of his duty, as presenting his accounts and reports to his constituents, and has only regrets to offer for the omission, seems also to require some further explanation at your hands.

I observe again that you do not say explicitly that Mr. Chase is indebted to the fund, but leave it to be inferred from the statement, that you "have claimed on his estate for the amount due by the former Treasurer." In order, therefore, to obtain information on this point, I called on the Assignee of Mr. Chase, and that gentleman kindly allowed me to take a copy of the claim made, and as you may possibly not have retained a duplicate, and therefore being unable to furnish it, I insert it here.

[COPY.]

REV. JOHN CHASE, To the Committee of Infirm Ministers' Fund. 1859. Dr. July 1. To amount his note on interest for money rec'd. by him, £56 19 8 Interest from 1st July, 1859, to 31st December, 1860, 5 2 4 £62 1 0

(Signed)

J. W. BARSS, Treasurer Infirm Ministers' Fund.

J. W. Barss, of Wolfville, appeared before me, and made oath that he holds the above note, as Treasurer of the Infirm Ministers' Fund, and that he believes to still unpaid and due.

(Signed)

WILLIAM JOHNSON, J. P. Wolfville, Dec. 8, 1860.

You will perceive that in your calculation you have made a slight error, which I only mention lest you should think I have not made an accurate copy.

It would appear from your affidavit that in Dec. 1860, you were the Treasurer of the Fund, I was under the impression that you were appointed to the office at the Association held at Wolfville in June 1861, and the Minutes of that year prove that I was correct in that impression.

If you had replied to one of the queries in my former letter, I should have been informed on a point necessary to this investigation, and that is: How comes it that this amount of money was left in Mr. Chase's hands? Was it because he appropriated the money to his own use as he received it? or was his note taken because the Committee, of whom I presume you were chairman, as your name heads the list, sought a permanent investment for the money, and deemed Mr. Chase's own note, the most eligible they could select?

If the former, how comes it that the Committee—while Mr. Chase was solvent, and able to respond—took no steps to recover the money, and have it securely invested? If the latter—were the Committee justified in loaning the Funds of the Society, which were liable to be called for at any moment, to a man engaged in country trade, to be embarked in his business,—and upon no other security than his own note? And, whichever of these two reasons operated, are not the Committee morally, and may they not be legally, bound to refund the money lost, through, what I must hold to be, a most negligent discharge of a sacred duty entrusted to their care?

Lest I should tax you too much at one time, I refrain for the present, and awaiting your reply, I am yours, &c.,

JAMES W. JOHNSTON, JUNR.

Religious Intelligence.

KEMPT, HANTS CO.—Mr. Joseph D. Masters writes, Feb. 19th:—"Dear Brother.—Some mercy drops have of late fallen upon this branch of Zion. It has been our blessed privilege to see precious souls seeking after salvation, and a few rejoicing in a newly found Saviour. Two have been received for Baptism, and expect to attend to that holy ordinance on Sunday the 22nd. Brethren, pray for us.

New Brunswick.

The revival at HILLSBORO is progressing gloriously. A note from William Wallace, Esq., informs us that twelve were baptized Sabbath before last, and we are just now informed by a friend that sixteen were baptized last Sabbath, making in all since the work commenced sixty-seven. Meetings are held every evening, and are crowded to overflowing. This state of prosperity calls for an enlargement of the house of God.

SALISBURY is also sharing largely in this blessed work of grace. Twenty-nine have been baptized by the pastor, Rev. G. Seely, and the meetings are full of interest. Bro. S. Robinsin, of this city, has been sent for, to aid the pastor in his onerous duties. He will go if he can.—Ch. Visitor.

Canada.

BAPTISMS IN WOODVILLE.—On a recent Sabbath, Rev. A. A. Cameron, of Woodville, baptized two interesting converts into the fellowship of the Woodville church. The congregation is steadily increasing, and there are several hopeful inquirers.—Canada Baptist.

MALABIDE.—Rev. J. P. Hall says:—It has been my happy privilege to baptize into the fellowship of the two churches with which I am laboring thirty willing, and, I trust, happy subjects of the grace of God since the last Sabbath in November.—Ib.

TORONTO.—The Bond Street church, is enjoying precious manifestations of the Spirit's presence and power. The prayer-meetings are largely attended, and much solemnity pervades them. There are a number of the older scholars in the Sabbath-school under serious impressions, and the prospects of additions to the army of Christ are good. Last Sabbath evening the pastor, Rev. Dr. Caldicott, baptized six interesting, candidates in the presence of a large congregation. The text selected for the discourse was, "Follow me!" (Luke v: 27).—Ib.

LAWRENCEVILLE.—We are very happy to learn that the labors of our Bro. Rogers are being blessed at Lawrenceville. On Sabbath week he baptized five adults. The attendance is large, the house being crowded with solemn and attentive hearers, and the prospects for farther increase are most encouraging.

WOODSTOCK C. W.—Dr. Fyfe baptized four converts in Woodstock chapel, on Sabbath evening last, one of whom was a member of the Bible class.

United States.

"We record this week numerous reports of revivals gathered from our exchanges of various denominations. The Spirit seems to be visiting the churches in different parts of the land, and especially in some of the Western States, to an unusual degree. Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, appear to be specially blessed with the gracious shower of Divine mercy.—N. Y. Observer.

ILLINOIS.—From the Christian Times we learn that a revival has been enjoyed in Pleasant Ridge, and 11 persons baptized, one lady 69 years old, and her household,—there were no infants however.—In Chicago several churches report conversions and baptisms.

TURKEY.—Some commotion has been excited in Constantinople by the publication of a work of Dr. Pfander, entitled, "The Defence of Christianity against Mahomedanism." The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in a note to the representatives of the United States and Great Britain at the Sublime Porte, accuses the missionaries of publishing calumnious works against the Mahomedan religion, and declares such conduct quite unbecoming in those who have the protection of the Sultan. He has intimated also that such publications will be interdicted. The few, however, that have come into circulation are in great demand; and already a learned Mahomedan has entered the lists under the sanction of the Government.

HAYTI.—The Baptist mission in Hayti has past year suffered much affliction. The congregations are now wearing their wonted aspect. Much trouble, however, has been occasioned by the conduct of the Romish priest at Jacmel, who has kept up a perpetual agitation in the town since the conversion of one of the teachers in the Government School. This event, at the time, led to the interference of the Minister of Public Worship, and induced the directress of the school to resign her position. Although known to be a Protestant, the president refused to receive her resignation. Recently he has paid a visit to the place, and opportunity was

taken by the priest and his partisans to resume the agitation for her dismissal. Some thirty applications were made to him to this effect. Seeing this, the lady again placed her resignation in the president's hands. He would not accept it; but told her, amongst other things, that "he had placed her in the school, and also retained her there, in order that the Gospel might be propagated among her pupils; that he believed the Gospel to be the only true means of civilization for his poor country; and that, though other mistresses should be given her to teach the Catholic religion, he wished her to maintain her own convictions as a Protestant, and not to violate her own conscience."

BISHOP COLENSO.—The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England were summoned to meet at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday, February 4th, to consider the case of Bishop Colenso in its relation to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The Bishop of Rochester has addressed a letter of very great length to the clergy of his diocese, in acknowledgement of addresses presented by them, thanking him for his recent letter to the Bishop of Natal. The bishop states that to pen his letter to Dr. Colenso was the most painful act of duty which he had been called upon to discharge since the diocese of Rochester was intrusted to his care; but, at the same time, he never entertained a shadow of doubt that the letter must be sent. The bishop considers that Dr. Colenso issued his book in a precipitate and hasty manner; that it must infallibly shake the faith of many who are weak; that he has brought discredit upon his own scholarship for the work he has undertaken; that many of Dr. Colenso's cavils have been suggested, if not copied, from Voltaire; that Dr. Colenso's acknowledged range of German reading is proof that he is incompetent to assume the position he does in dealing with the divinity and opinions of the foreign theologians and critics; that those who are versed in Hebrew declare that he is constantly, palpably, and egregiously wrong in his citations of the original text in support of his arguments, &c.

Colonial and Foreign News.

Prince Edward Island.

The Election of Legislative Councillors has resulted in favor of the government. It is supposed that 8 out of these 12 members elect will support the government.

The Vindicator states that the expenditure of the Island Government, during the past year, exceeds the local revenue to the extent of £17,000.

PRESBYTERIANISM AND POLITICS.—The correspondence concerning the Presbyterian Pastoral letter continues. The Rev. George Sutherland writes of a brother Presbyter, the Rev. Mr. Allen, as follows:—

"He explains that the charges have reference to the Pastoral. He now speaks of as treating the Romish Bishop "in the most unchristian, un-courteous and scurrilous manner"; as "malicious and libelling many sincere Protestants in the Church"; as containing "clap-trap" and such like.

Now all this is said of a letter prepared not by me, but by several members of Presbytery; and carefully read sentence by sentence before the Presbytery, and adopted by them as their public Pastoral Letter, after very mature deliberation. Such very serious charges against the Presbytery cannot pass unnoticed. The Presbytery should vindicate its own dignity and authority, and place Mr. Allen at its bar and demand a proof of these accusations."

New Brunswick.

MIRAMICHI.—One of the Pilots informed us that on Friday morning, 6th inst, the ice cleared out of the Miramichi Bay; and from Portage Island outwar, not a particle could be seen. This is a circumstance, we expect, never before witnessed.—Gleaner.

The quantities of ship timbers, spars, &c., that are being brought in daily to the ship-yards, surpasses everything we have ever before witnessed. The demand for this description of wood, and the favourable season for procuring the same, and hauling it to market, has created the unusual bustle in this particular branch of trade.—Ib.

A Simultaneous Peeling Bill has been introduced into the N. Brunswick Assembly.

CARLETON.—The Sentinel says that some "sacreligious creature" lately entered the Episcopal Church in Woodstock and defaced portions of the lately completed internal decorations.

Canada.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—Montreal, Feb. 13th.—The Governor's speech was read in Parliament to-day. It congratulates the country on the spirit of loyalty and zeal displayed in the enrolment and organization of volunteers. If necessary, a bill will be submitted for the improvement and extension of the present militia system. Measures are to be introduced for the adjustment of Parliamentary representation, respecting a bankrupt law, the administration of justice, registration of titles and the patent laws. A report upon the Parliamentary buildings at Ottawa will be submitted, with a view to their speedy completion.

The speech refers to the negotiations for an International Railway, and says the attention of the Imperial Government has been called to the importance of opening up the Northwest settlement and a direct communication between

Canada and British Columbia. Very favorable results are expected. The Governor hopes that the Commission of Inquiry into the condition of the public will result in bringing the expenditures of the province within the revenue received. He alludes to the Canadian contributions for the relief of the distress in Lancashire as gratifying evidence of sympathy with fellow subjects and tending to strengthen the ties between the colony and the parent State.

DELEGATION OF INDIANS.—The branch of the Iroquois tribe of Indians at Caughnawaga, met at that village in solemn Council, on the 24th ult., to deliberate on certain grievances which had arisen in reference to the wanton destruction and stripping of firewood from their property on the Seignior of Caughnawaga, both by Indians and white trespassers—to consider the subject of the intermarriage of white men with descendants of Indians, with the view of having the present law amended, which accords to whites who have so intermarried, equal rights and privileges with the Indians in trading, &c., frequently to the great detriment of the latter; and also to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on their domain. Twelve of the leading men of the tribe were appointed, along with the chiefs, to debate the questions in council. The result was, that a delegation of three was appointed to confer with the government on the matter, who left for the seat of government, and on Thursday had a lengthy audience with the Attorney General East.

A PUBLIC meeting was held in Montreal on Monday, the 2nd inst., for the purpose of organizing measures to keep out of the City Council all candidates opposed to the abolition of the liquor traffic. There was considerable disturbance, but the temperance men gained the day.

POSTAGE.—Some difficulty is being experienced between the Government of Canada and the United States, respecting the payment of postage in U. S. currency.

A MEMORIAL window is to be erected in the Quebec Cathedral, in memory of the late Bishop Mountain.

Two more flowing oil wells were struck in Enniskillen on Saturday the 31st ult.

Latest from the States!

[From Telegrams to Morning and Evening papers.]

FEB. 18, 1863.—The New York World's despatch says that General Fremont's new command is reported to be in Texas. This decision sends Gen. Butler back to New Orleans.

Port au Prince advices report that the Alabama captured two or three prizes within six days after leaving Kingston, Jamaica.

General Hindman's army is reported to be in a sad condition, three hundred men were frozen to death on the retreat from Van Buren. When Hindman was ordered to Vicksburg his men refused to proceed thither. Gold 15 1/2.

FEB. 19.—Jackson's force is reported two miles south of Fredericksburg.

A Frankfort, Ky., despatch says that secession sympathisers attempted to hold a Convention there yesterday, ostensibly to make nomination for the August election. Delegates from 40 counties were present. The House of Representatives refusing them their hall, they rented the Theatre. Col. Gilbert formed a regiment in front of the theatre, and dispersed the assemblage, declaring that such gatherings were inadmissible within his jurisdiction.

The Connecticut Democratic State Convention assembled yesterday at Hartford. Four hundred and fifty delegates were present. T. H. Seymour, bitterly opposed to the war, was nominated for Governor. The Convention took strong grounds against the administration.

Flour—Super. \$7 to 7 20; Extra \$7 50 to 7 65.

FEB. 23.—The Richmond "Enquirer," of 18th inst. expresses great indignation against the French Minister Drouyn de L'Huys' peace propositions; scorns all idea of mediation; at the same time declaring that the only Commissioner that the Confederates will have, are Lee, Beauregard, Longstreet, Jackson, and Johnston.—The same paper goes on to state that the French Emperor having been snubbed by England, and lectured by the Northern States, it would be far better for him to at once recognize the Southern Confederacy.

The New York Chamber of Commerce has adopted strong protests against the British Government in the matter of the Alabama; and also passed resolutions for favoring letters of marque against piratical cruisers.

Evening.—The New York Times has information of considerable trouble in Banks's army relative to negro troops. Several officers resigned and one brigade refused to recognize or march with them.

Bombardment of Vicksburg commenced on the 18th. Confederate fire brisk.

Slave property depreciated in Maryland to very low figure. Value of 130 slaves in Orphan's Court, averaged only five dollars each.

Vicksburg correspondent of N. Y. Times draws terrible picture of sickness, suffering, and mortality, among Federal troops.

Hopes of Foreign intervention abandoned, and present considered most critical period.

Resolutions were introduced in Congress for withdrawing Diplomatic agents from all foreign ports.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Washington correspondent counted one hundred and forty Union officers in the whiskey shops of Washington—most of them drunk—during two hours time.