

have thus a manifold right in thee; and I can and will assert my claim." Or, as we have it in New Testament language, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish; neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." Thus believers are peculiarly Christ's own, his ransomed and consecrated ones.

§ The composition of Christian churches.

The churches of Christ are, by theory and profession, made up of those who are thus ransomed and consecrated. Hence the current description of these churches in the apostolic epistles. So Paul, "called to be an apostle," addresses himself to the church at Rome, "called to be saints." And again, the same Paul addresses himself to "the church of God that is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." Not only were these "saints" favoured with the means of grace, but had attained to the enjoyment of grace. It was not an external relation to the church which they maintained, but an inward, a vital, and an experimental one. Such was their profession: which profession was uniformly recognized in the letters addressed to them by inspired apostles. Just here there come out essential contrasts between the Jewish church and the Christian. The one is built up upon the basis of a carnal relationship to Abraham, and the other upon that of a spiritual relationship to Christ. The one is largely made up of multitudes who shall hold no fellowship with Abraham in the world of spirits; while the other, according to their profession, is made up of those who, as they have Abraham's faith, shall also attain to the blessing of Abraham in all its fullness. A state of things to which our Lord distinctly points when he says, with solemn emphasis, "that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

§ Believers' baptism precisely adopted to these views.

It is not the baptism of families, but of individuals. It is not the entrance upon a course of Christian training, in the hope that Christianity itself may one day be actually realized. In it we do not behold infants brought to the font, that they may receive a Christian name before they can possibly have attained to a Christian experience. Nor do we see adults, professing a willingness to be instructed in Christianity, with a view to their final Christianization. No! here are men and women, who come before us as professed exemplifications of that great fundamental statement,—"As many as received him, [Christ,] to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Or, to take the thought as it is presented in the Catechism of the Church of England, we here have persons who "promise and vow," by themselves, and not by proxy, to "renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh;" to "believe all the articles of the Christian faith;" and to "keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of [their] lives." Such, and such ONLY, do we find approaching the baptismal waters in the New Testament. And so, again, do I establish the harmony between the New Testament dispensation and the baptism of believers.

J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISIT

TO REV. G. F. MILES AT AMHERST.

The annual donation visit to the Rev. George F. Miles, was made at the Parsonage, on the 13th inst. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, quite a large number were in attendance, the usual amount of about two hundred dollars, was contributed on the occasion. With tea, music and speeches, the evening passed very pleasantly.

The presentation address was made by Deacon Layton, and responded to by the Pastor, in his usual felicitous style. Addresses were also delivered by John H. Harding, Esq., of St. John; Dr. Clay, of Pugwash; and W. F. Cutten, Esq.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

BENJAMIN HAYDEN.

Died at Ragged Islands, on the 13th of June, 1864, aged 91 years. He was one of the oldest

inhabitants of this place. In the year 1803, he made a profession of religion, was baptized by the Rev. John Crage, and united with the Baptist Church, of which he continued a steadfast member until his death; thus for 61 years, he was a pilgrim on this world's high way, the narrow way—seeking a city which hath foundations; whose builder and maker is God, Heb. xi. 10. It was his meat and drink to do the will of God. He peculiarly loved the house of God, like David, he desired the place of a door-keeper there, rather than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. I never became acquainted with a man who so constantly used the shield of faith; With it he indeed quenched the fiery darts of the wicked, Eph. vi. 17.

He seemed to breathe the atmosphere of heaven, his conversation was evidently there, Phil. iii. 20. For the last three years of his life, he was not able to attend religious meetings, but realized a constant feast at home. When Christians visited him, he showed the warmest affection for them. He possessed unfeigned love for the brethren. For him we can truly quote the language of John, Rev. xiv. 13: "Write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."—*Com. by Rev. A. W. Barss.*
Lockes Island, Nov. 23rd, 1864.

LYDIA ANN DILL,

Wife of Elisha Dill, died at Kennetcook, June 25th, 1864, in the 80th year of her age. We have good reason to believe that to our departed sister, death was but the gate to endless joy. She was baptized by the Rev. Geo. Dimock, May 6th, 1855, and united with the Church. She proved a faithful Christian. Although her last sickness was long, she murmured not against God, but was willing to wait her appointed time. When the time came that she had accomplished the days of her pilgrimage here, she slept sweetly in Jesus.—*Com. by Rev. George A. Weathers.*

Religious Intelligence.

JAMAICA.—The Rev. John Clark writes to the Secretaries of the English Baptist Union Oct. 11, 1864.—"This is our jubilee year, but it has not been one of unmingled joy. In consequence of successive droughts, great distress prevails amongst all classes throughout the island. The poor in many districts are almost starving for want of food, and have to travel many miles for water to drink; clothing so dear that they cannot but it, and are unable to attend the house of God, or to send their children to the Day and Sunday-schools, for want of raiment. The small-pox is also slowly travelling through the country. While these troubles are leading many of God's people to Him to seek for grace to help them in their time of need, others yield to despondency, and those who make no profession of religion recklessly abandon themselves to temptation, and rush into all manner sin, carrying with them many of whom we hoped better things.

"Yet we are not without hope. We have thousands of faithful, earnest Christians in our churches who sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the land, and cease not to implore God to return to us and bless us.

"Allow me to entreat the prayers of the churches in the Union on our behalf in this our time of trial. Our temporal and spiritual distress are great, but He who heard your supplications for us in former years, is the same prayer-hearing God, and will hear you now and give us gracious answers of peace."

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

[From Telegrams to Associated Press.]

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.—The President has issued a call for three hundred thousand levies, and all absentees from the army, except the sick and those on special duty, are ordered to report to Headquarters in the field at once.

A new regiment of Cavalry is to be raised in New England for service on the Canadian frontier.

Gold 225.

Evening.—Gen. Thomas, so far has captured fifty-four pieces artillery, four Major-Generals, 3 Brigadiers, and 20 or 30 commissioned officers of lower rank, and 9000 private, including the wounded. Entire Federal loss up to yesterday was about 4000.

A despatch from East Tennessee states that Gen. Stoneman had attacked Beckenridge, routed him, capturing a large number of prisoners, and taking nearly all his artillery.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.—A despatch from Montreal announces the re-arrest of some of the St. Alban's raiders, and a reward offered for the remainder.

There is a large amount of excitement in Canada in reference to the calling out of the Militia. A great number of them have volunteered.

President Lincoln has issued a Proclamation, calling for two hundred thousand volunteers.

The repeal of the reciprocity treaty with Canada is before Congress.

Evening.—An arrival from Port Royal brings advices from Gen. Sherman to the 18th. Savannah had not then surrendered, and no attack had been made.

The city is entirely isolated from all communication, and Sherman is preparing for a close and active siege. It is positively stated that the

Great Armada, which left Hampton Roads last week, is destined for Wilmington, N. C.

THURSDAY, Dec. 22.—Young and two others of the St. Albans raiders are re-arrested, they were making for New Brunswick.

FRIDAY, Dec. 23.—A portion of Hood's army retreating South.

A delegation from Canada were in Washington, to exert influence against the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty.

Evening.—Richmond papers of the 20th take a gloomy view of the military situation. The *Whig* confesses that Hood has met with disastrous defeat.

Richmond papers of the 21st report that 30 vessels of Porter's fleet had arrived off Wilmington.

The exchange of prisoners at Charleston having ended, hostilities will at once re-commence.

SATURDAY, Dec. 24.—At least one-third of Hood's army are without arms. Everything which impeded their flight having been dispensed with. Forrest effected a junction with Hood on Tuesday. The loss of the rebels during this campaign is estimated at 7,000 men, 51 pieces of artillery, and 18 general officers.

An official despatch from Gen. Bragg to Jeff. Davis states that the entire fleet of Admiral Porter was in sight of Fort Fisher, New Inlet, N. C., on the 28th. The weather was bad.

Gen. Davidson's raiding party from Baton Rouge is reported by the Richmond *Whig* to have passed through Augusta Ferry, Corinth, Miss., on the 9th, on their way to Mobile.

MONDAY, Dec. 26.—Late Richmond papers state that a portion of Sheridan's army estimated at 5000 had crossed Blue Ridge at Chester Gap and occupied Madison Court House. Their destination being Gordonsville: Another Federal force was marching on Weldon. These papers confess that Richmond is in serious danger of being cut off from all its railroad and telegraph communication.

The same papers report the Federal fleet off Wilmington on Friday, but weather too rough to permit an attack.

They give currency to a rumor that Charleston has been evacuated.

Our Fort Monroe despatches report a batch of rumors in effect that Savannah, with its garrison, had surrendered, and that Fort Fisher the chief fortification of Wilmington, had been captured.

Later.—A despatch from the Secretary of War announces that Gen. Sherman entered Savannah on the 22, capturing 8000 prisoners, 250 guns, 33,000 bales of cotton 3 steamers.

The Confederate Gen. Hradek escaped with his Infantry and Light Artillery, on the afternoon and night of the 20th, first destroying the iron clads and Navy Yard.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The Continent of Europe does not furnish much news this week. Italy is showing an amount of public spirit which is most satisfactory. Not only does the Parliament vote the heavy and exceptional though necessary taxes, but the municipalities throughout the country, following the example of Brescia, are spontaneously voting the Land-tax in advance, to aid the Government under present pressing difficulties Piedmont has gained more than she lost in losing her capital, for the Italians are loud in her praise; and the old charge of having "annexed Italy" is now withdrawn.—*Freeman.*

FRANCE.

A long-existing estrangement between the Empress Eugenie and Prince Napoleon, is, it appears, at an end. The immediate cause of the reconciliation is explained in a Paris letter:—

"It appears that the Prince's children, have not yet received the sacrament of baptism, but only what is termed 'ondoiement,' which is but a provisional baptism, without the assistance of a priest and the ordinary ceremonies of the Church, and is only permitted when the infant appears to be in danger of death, and when it is not possible to present it at the font. The 'ondoiement' may be administered by a person whose religious persuasion is unknown, but it by no means supplies the want of the sacrament. The reason of this being withheld is that the godfather of the children is King Victor Emanuel, the father of the Princess Clotilde; and as Victor Emanuel was excommunicated by the Pope on the annexation of the Pontifical States, he is not accepted by the Church as a proper person to fulfil the obligations incurred by a sponsor. When Napoleon I. suppressed in 1809 the temporal power of the Pope, and annexed the whole of his States to the French empire, Pius VII. contented himself with excommunicating in a general manner the authors of that act, without naming the person who signed the decree of annexation. This form was imitated by Pius IX., who, without designating any one in particular excommunicated all those who had contributed towards that event.

Though the Empress's efforts to effect a change in the decision of the pope have been unsuccessful, Prince Napoleon does not the less appreciate the kindly feeling which prompted them. Whatever coldness formerly existed between them has disappeared."

DEATH OF MR. DAYTON.—Some particulars respecting the sudden death of Mr. Dayton, the U. States Minister at Paris have been published. He was about to attend the Palais Royal Theatre, Paris, with his son, but suddenly feeling unwell, he changed his mind, and visited an

American lady at the Louvre, who was that evening receiving visitors. He complained of headache, shortly became worse, and lay down upon a sofa and slept. The gay party separated, and the lady was about to cover Mr. Dayton with a shawl, under the supposition that he still slept, when she was struck by the alteration of his features, and found that he had been dead some considerable time.

PRUSSIA AND DENMARK.

There appears to be a difficulty about the removal of the German troops from the Duchies, thought little is heard of it from Berlin or Vienna. The Prussian troops which yet remain in the Duchies have been directed not to quit till further orders. One battalion of Hanoverian, and two companies of Saxon, troops were ordered to march into Rendsburg on Monday, where they would be received by the Prussians with military honours. They will garrison the centre of the town, whilst Prussians and Austrians hold the suburbs. The Prussians who have left the Duchies will be concentrated near Berlin. It is asserted that the King of Prussia has sent a letter to the Emperor of Austria expressing a hope that a permanent understanding may be arrived at between the two Powers on the basis of existing relations."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH IN ITALY.—The transference of the capital of Italy to Florence raises an interesting question with which the Parliament must shortly be occupied. It is known that Tuscany possesses a penal code different from that of the other parts of Italy, and from which the punishment of death is excluded. The transference of the capital to Florence requires the extinction of these differences, and it will be a question whether the punishment of death will be re-established in Tuscany, or if its abolition will be extended to the rest of Italy.—*Le Nord.*

BANISHMENT OF THE INFANTE OF SPAIN.—The Infante Don Enrique, brother of the King of Spain, has been suddenly sent away from Madrid to the Canaries, there to remain during the Queen's pleasure. The *Pensamiento Espanol* offers the following explanation of the affair:—The Infante had addressed a letter to the King and Queen, making offensive observations on public and family matters, and showing a great want of courtesy and respect. The Queen, not treating it as a private letter between relatives, consulted the President of the Council. Narvaez, in so delicate a matter, begged to be allowed to consult his colleagues. The Council decided that the letter contained a grave act of disrespect, and recommended that it should be visited by the banishment of the Infante to the Canaries."

A choral festival is to be held at Dresden in Germany, in July next. It is to last four days, and to employ 10,000 singers. The expense is estimated at \$70,000.

GARIBALDI AND HIS YACHT.—The following letter has been received by the committee:—"Capra, Nov. 18.—Ladies and Gentlemen,—The yacht which you have presented me is indeed a precious gift, and immensely more precious is the generous benevolence with which you have honoured me. I shall all my life be justly proud of having—not merited, because it was merited by others rather than myself—but, by good fortune, gained your sympathy. Benefactors to me, a humble individual, this is a gift on behalf of the sacred cause of my country—the cause of every oppressed people. With every grateful feeling of my heart, I am yours, GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI.—To the generous Subscribers for the Yacht."

Spain has undertaken to assert that commanders of forts in her possessions will fire on any United States war vessels that may follow rebel cruisers within three miles of the shore.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH AND ITS CONSTRUCTION.—There are seven copper wires to form the conductor. The entire length of the telegraph will be 2,300 miles, so that there is 16,000 miles of copper wire. Every portion of this copper wire is subjected to electrical tests, to ascertain its quality for conduction before it is allowed to be worked up. The next stage is to coat these wires with eight successive coats of the insulating material, equal to an aggregate length of 18,400 miles. This cord is next covered with jute, wound round it from ten strands, making 23,000 miles of jute yarn. Then comes the outer coating, formed of the ten covered iron wires. The iron wire itself is 23,000 miles in length, and each wire is covered separately with five strands of tarred hemp, 135,000 miles of the latter being required, making together an aggregate length of material employed of 215,000 miles, or very nearly as much as would put ten girdles round the earth, or form a line that would stretch almost from the earth to the moon.

HALIFAX, Oct. 24th, 1864.

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