February 10, 1864.

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Agriculture, etc.

THE GUTTA PERCHA TREE. The tree called the Isonandra Gutta, which furnishes the gutta percha, is a native of the Indian Archinelago and the adjacent lands. A few years since, this substance, now of such widely extended use, was totally unknown in Europe, for though from time immemorial the Malays employed it for making the handles of batchets and creeses, it was only in the year 1843, that Mr. Montgomery, an English surgeon, having casually become acquainted with its valuable properties, sent an ask. When we read that the people were bap-account of it, with samples, to the Royal Socie-ty, for which he received its gold medal. The he was baptized went up straightway out of the the was baptized went up straightway out of the stream to be from 80 10 or 12 feet deep. I bathed in the river withtame of the new article spread rapidly throughout the world; science and speculation seized upon it with equal eagerness ; it was immediately analyzed, studied, and tried in every possible of the ordinance ;--- unless, indeed, we take other way, so that it is now as well known and as extensively used as if it had been in our possession record. for centuries. The Isonandra Gutta is a large, high tree, with a dense crown of rather small dark green leaves, and a round, smooth trunk. The white blossoms change into a sweet fruit, containing an oily substance fit for culinary use.

The wood is soft, spongy, and contains longitu-dinal cavities filled with brown stripes of gutta percha. The original method of the Malays for collecting the resin consisted in felling the tree, which was then placed in a slanting position, so as to enable the exuding fluid to be collected in banapa leaves. This barbarous proceeding, which, from the enormous demand that suddenly arose for the gutta, would soon have brought repeatedly warned not to wade in above his stood upon its shores, and had bathed in its wanately became known before it was too late, and the resin is now gathered in the same manner as caoutchouc, by making incisions in the bark with a chopping-knife, collecting the thin, white, the edge of the stream, John does likewise, he ther extracts, nor will we stop to repeat the milky fluid exuding in large vessels, and allow- takes up water in hand, and puts it on his head." contessions of the most intelligent Pedobaptists ing it to evaporate in the sun, or over the fire. The solid residuum, which is the gutta percha of commerce, is finally softened in hot water, and pressed into the form of slabs or flat pieces, gen- feet, and of the simplicity of the ordinance as erally a foot broad, a foot and a half long, and thus administered, he goes on to say, " One can three inches thick. Gutta percha has many properties in common with caoutchouc, being com- of people in such a freshet." pletely insolutle in water, tenacious but not elastic, and an extremely bad conductor of cal-

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN.

Was the Jordan suited to the purposes of Baptism 7

quire ; and so we are half inclined ourselves to mated the breadth of the stream to be from 80 he was baptized went up straightway out of the out going out into the deep channel; the bottom water," we cannot entertain a doubt as to the here was clayey mud with also blue clay. I suitableness of the place for the administration ground and deny the correctness of the scripture

But we learn, by a recent number of one of our religious periodicals, that such discoveries erated stream, celebrated on almost every page have been made as completely to overturn the of the Old Testament as the border of the pro-Baptist theory, and to set the question forever mised Land, whose floods were miraculously at rest in favor of those who sprinkle or pour. driven back to afford a passage for the Israelites. According to the article referred to, the Rev. In the New Testament it is still more remarka-Gilbert Haven has recently been on a European ble for the baptism of our Savior : when the tour, and has given an interesting account of a heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God visit to the Jordan. After speaking of the great descended upon him, and, Lo, a voice from hearapidity of the current, and the fact that he was knees, he proceeds to say, " The true mode of ters, and felt ourselves surrounded by hallowed John's baptism is seen at a glance ; the subject leaves his sandals on the bank, and steps into Then after speaking of the convenience of such a mode, of the common habit of washing the see at a glance the peril of immersing thousands

This, if true, is an important discovery, and them into manifold error in doctrine and pracoric and electricity. The uses of gutta percha, must revolutionize our Baptist churches, since tice. tion will shortly be invited to a measure having as is well known, are manifold. It serves, among we endeavor to cherish the simple truths of the that object in view. other other purposes, for the insulation of tele-That will be a happy day, if it ever come, You will be gratified to learn that great acgospel, and to observe its ordinances as estabgraphic wires in submarine cables; and also for tivity has been exhibited throughout the year when the "watchmen shall see eye to eye; water-pipes ; for vessels fit for the reception of lished by the Head of the church, and since, in just closed, in Mining enterprise, a large numwhen all who love their Lord shall observe his alkaline or acid liquids, which would corrode consistency with our avowed principles, we are ber of new leases for coal mines having been tacommandments ; when the church shall embrace metal or wood ; for surgical implements, for boxes, ken out, and the yield of gold being nearly bound to renounce whatever is shown to be unbaskets, combs, and a variety of other articles. within her ample folds every sincere follower of double that of the previous year. Amendments scriptural in our belief, or practice. How unin the laws relating to these valuable public Jeaus. fortunate-the good man had not lived in some THE FARMER'S CREED, ... A Canadian contemresources, suggested by increased experience, F. P. M. porary gives the following :-" We believe, in preceding age, or, at least, had not travelled will be brought under your notice. In connection small farms and thorough cultivation. The soil earlier in life ! What a world of mischief might with this subject and closely allied to it, you Provincial Parliament. loves to eat as well as its owners, and ought therewill be asked to consider the propriety of authohave been averted, had every sincere inquirer fore to be nurtured. We believe in large crops, rizing a Geological Survey of the Province. been properly instructed on this very important which leave the land better than they found it-Under the legislation of last Session, Agrimaking both the farm and the farmer rich at point ! As it is, ignorance on this subject has cultural Exhibitions were held in the Eastern OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE. We believe in going to the bottom of caused much discussion, and alienation ; has and Western Districts of the country, and I am once. things, and therefore in deep plowing, and happy to be able to state, with highly satisfacoperated sadly against the interests of vital re-The twenty-second General Assembly of Nova enough of it-all the better if with a subsoil tory results. Some alterations, however, in the plow. We believe that the best fertilizer of any ligion. Barnes should have known this before Scotia commenced its first session on Thursday existing enactments on that subject will be prosoil is the spirit of industry, enterprise and inhe wrote his comments on the 6th of Romans. posed for your consideration, in the hope that last. According to public announcement at 2 telligence ; without this, lime and gy psum, bones still greater stimulus may be given to the culture Wesley's opinion would have been greatly modio'clock, p. m., His Excellency Major General and green manure, marl or plaster, will be of of the soil, the improvement of the stock, and fied had he been aware of the fact just now Doyle, the Administrator of the Government, and little use. We believe in good fences, good the advancement of the textile manufactures of communicated to the religious world ; and many barns, good farm houses, good stock, and a good staff, came to the Legislative Council Chamber the Province. orchard. We believe in a clean kitchen, a neat a divine would have been saved the confession where a brilliant assemblage of Her Majesty's A Bill to provide for the proper Registration wife in it, clean cupboard, dairy and conveience. that he was in all candor compelled to make, of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, a subject of loyal subjects, were present to receive him and We firmly disbelieve in farmers that will not very great importance, will be brought under and would thus have been able to harmonize his witness the opening ceremonies. improve, in farms that grow poorer every year, your notice. practice with his avowed belief. in starved cattle, in farmer's boys turning into By command of His Excellency, the House The correspondence between the Imperial clerks and merchants, in farmer's daughters un-After all, we in these times are not compelled of Assembly appeared and were directed to go Government and this Colony respecting the willing to work, and in all farmers who are due investigation of Ship-wrecks taking place to take a man's "ipse dixit" for law. We are to their usual place of assembling and elect a ashamed of their honorable vocation." on the coasts of this Province, will be laid bevain enough to cavil even with one who has Speaker ; after which to return and make known fore you with a measure providing for maratime visited any given locality, when his description to him the choice they had made. After a tew SIMPLE BEMEDY FOR A SORE THROAT .--Courts of Inquiry. The best remedy we have found for a sore throat does not correspond with that of others, equally minutes delay the " faithful commons" re-enter-Our grateful thanks are due to Almighty God is, on retiring to rest to rub on the outside a litas credible. According to Rev. G. Haven's actor the continued peace and prosperity we have ed the Council Chamber, and the Hon. Attorney tle " Volatile liniment, and swallow a few drops enjoyed during the past year, marked as it has count of the Jordan, we are led to suppose that General informed His Excellency that the House of paregorie, letting it dissolve in the saliva, been by an abundant harvest, a successful fishthe stream, flows in a direct course with impetuof Assembly had elected Mr. Wade, the memand spread along down the inflamed parts. The ery, an expanding trade, and the increased definiment is simply a mixture of sweet oil and aqua ammonia (called liquid has tshorn.) These ous violence, until it reaches the Dead Sea. If ber for Digby, as their Speaker, General Doyle velopement of our great mineral resources. there are any curvatures in the river, some having signified his approval, the usual privileges The people's representatives then retired to are put in a vial and shaken, using such places would be found when the water flows less were demanded and granted, and he proceeded proportion as to form a semi-liquid soap. An the House of Assembly, and, after the grand rapidly than in the main channel; and if it is to read the following ounce or two can be got cheaply at the drug-gists ; and if tightly corked, will keep for months array of military and volunteer officers had not always plunging in its headlong course down withdrawn, the ladies and gentlemen present OPENING SPEECH. Rub it on with the fingers. We find nothing the declivity, there must be places where the Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the soon followed to the northern end of the Probetter than this for soreness of the chest or waters are comparatively calm. These two vince Building, there to use the privilege granted Legislative Councit ; joints, or for lameness, stiff neck, etc. facts we presume are clear enough to any one Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of on the first day of every session,-that of surwho ever saw a river, or ever watched the pur-A terribly fatal fever is prevailing at Car-Assembly : rounding the red benches, and filling the lobbies bondale, Pa. It is called the black or spotted ling brooklet that irrigates his fields. It affords me great pleasure to meet you in and galleries, feasting their eyes on the Speaktever, and with the exception of a very few Parliament, where, I feel assured, your exertions And further if in this extract we have a corer's wig, and getting a general survey of the cases, has completely bafiled the skill of the will be unceasing to maintain the honor and rect representation of the Jordan, we have a advance the interests of this highly favored physicians. From six to eight deaths a day ocpersonnel of those sent to make our laws and cur, the victims dying within a few hours after right to suppose it would be perilous for any to Province. manage our public affairs. being attacked. attempt the passage, and that the river would Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of be almost an impassable barrier, in ruder times, Assembly : Among the quaint sayings charged to Old between the countries it separated. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. Abe, is one that "you cannot, to-day, buy a poor horse in Pennsylvania." The explanation The Public Accounts will be submitted for But we understand that both Abraham and your inspection, without delay. When the members had resumed their seats, is that all the bad horses have been sold to the The Estimates for the ensuing year will be Jacob crossed the Jordan and we learn that there and his Honor the Speaker had assumed his ofprepared with the utmost regard to eccuomy, government. were fords near to Jericho, and others higher up ficial wig and robe, he arcse and returned thanks consistent with due provision for the public nefor the handsome manner in which he had been the stream known and crossed to the present cessities. In Yorkshire, England, up to the week before unanimously called to the high position of preday. The sacred narrative informs us that during the past year have very much exceeded Christmas, there had not been more than twelve siding over the deliberations of the House. hours of slight frost. Roses were in foliage, Naaman dipped himself seven times in the Jor-The Speech having been read. those of 1862, and that although a material regooseberries had flowered, and rhubarb was dan, and that without giving any bint of the duction was made in the advalorem duties, the The Hon. Attorney General moved that Mr. H. C. D. Twining be the Clerk of the House. The Hon. Solicitor General seconded the mopushing up the open ground." danger of such an experiment. It is, moreover revenue of 1383 largely exceeds that of the proknown by those who read the accounts of travceding or any former year, leaving a consider-The coffin of the King of Denmark weighed tion, and Mr. Twining was elected without opable surplus in the Treasury after meeting the 3000 pounds. It took thirty men an hour and ellers in that country, that Greeks and christians position. a quarter to get it down the grand staircase. demands of the public service. are accustomed to go yearly on pilgrimage to Hon. Mr. Johnston then proposed that Mr. James Tobin be Assistant Clerk. There were 20,000 or 30,000 men in the funeral the Jordan for the express purpose of bathing, Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the and that they carry their children thither, to Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Mr. Archibald moved that Mr. Alex. James be the Assistant Clerk. Mr. S. Campbell se-conded the motion, which being put to ballot, their appeared for Mr. Tobin 37 votes, for Mr. James 14. Mr. Tobin is therefore Assistant The manure from the streets of New York give them likewise a baptism in its waters. (See Assembly : sells for \$12,000 per annum, and according to Stanley's Palestine). These and numerous facts of a similar nature that might be adduced, stub- gratulating you and the people whom you reprethe Tribune, it is worth \$45.000. Clerk.

bornly protest against the statements of the author quoted above. The following extract, from "Robinson's Biblical Researches" will set the matter in its proper light.

"We proceeded to the place of crossing, (it was near to Jericho) where there was an opening through the canes, and trees. * * * * There was a still though very rapid current : the water was of a clayey color, but sweet and Why such a question-our reader may in- delightfully refreshing. * * * * We esti-When we read that the people were bap- to 100 feet. The guides supposed it now to be waded out 10 or 12 feet, and thus far the water was not over the hips ; but a little farther some of the party who swam across found it suddenly

beyond their depth. * * * Vol. II. p. 256. " Such is the Jordan and its valley ; that venven saying " this is my beloved Son." We now associations." Page 266.

We will not trouble the reader with any furconcerning the mode of our Saviors' baptism ; and of his disciples; nor will we add any further remarks of our own on a subject so easily understood. It is to be lamented that the prejudices of early education, and sectarianism warp the judgement of Christians, and lead

sent, upon the signal success which has attended the efforts made to place this Province in a creditable condition in connection with the local defence of the country.

The patriotic manner in which the great body of the people have responded to the call upon them for Militia drill, and the remarkable progress made in acquiring a knowledge of Military movements, affords the most conclusive evidence that this Colony fully appreciates the advantages of British connection, and is both willing and able to raise an effective arm in its own defence, in any emergency which may arise.

I have no reason to doubt that you will make such provision for this important branch of the Public Service as will enable your Volunteers and Militia to maintain that prominent position among the British American Provinces, which, in this respect, they now occupy.

The importance of consolidating the influence and advancing the common progress of the three Maritime Provinces, whose interests are so closely identified, has for some time attracted a large share of public attention, and I propose to submit, for your consideration, a proposition, in which the co-operation of the Governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island will be invited, with a view to the union of the Provinces under one Government and Legislature.

The correspondence and negotiations in which the Government have been engaged during the recess, in reference to a proposed survey for the Inter-colonial Railway, will be laid before you.

The traffic on our Railways has steadily increased during the past year, and committed as we now are to these public improvements, I hope to be able to submit, at an early day, a proposal for such an extension of the existing lines as may render them more generally useful and still more productive.

You will be called upon to consider the propriety of providing an improved mode of transit. between St. Peter's Bay and the Bras D'Or, demanded by the increasing business of that section of the Province.

The time, I think, has arrived when increased provision should be made, and improved legislation adopted for the wider diffusion of Education among all classes of the people, and your atten-

