

Agriculture, etc.

THE GUTTA PERCHA TREE.—The tree called the Isonandra Gutta, which furnishes the gutta percha, is a native of the Indian Archipelago and the adjacent lands.

The wood is soft, spongy, and contains longitudinal 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 banana leaves.

THE FARMER'S CREED.—A Canadian contemporary gives the following:—"We believe, in small farms and thorough cultivation. The soil loves to eat as well as its owners, and ought therefore to be nurtured.

SIMPLE REMEDY FOR A SORE THROAT.—The best remedy we have found for a sore throat is, on retiring to rest to rub on the outside a little "Volatile Liniment, and swallow a few drops of paregoric, letting it dissolve in the saliva, and spread along down the inflamed parts.

A terribly fatal fever is prevailing at Carbondale, Pa. It is called the black or spotted fever, and with the exception of a very few cases, has completely baffled the skill of the physicians.

Among the quaint sayings charged to Old Abe, is one that "you cannot, to-day, buy a poor horse in Pennsylvania."

In Yorkshire, England, up to the week before Christmas, there had not been more than twelve hours of slight frost. Roses were in foliage, gooseberries had flowered, and rhubarb was "pushing up the open ground."

The coffin of the King of Denmark weighed 3000 pounds. It took thirty men an hour and a quarter to get it down the grand staircase. There were 20,000 or 30,000 men in the funeral procession.

The manure from the streets of New York sells for \$12,000 per annum, and according to the Tribune, it is worth \$45,000.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN.

Was the Jordan suited to the purposes of Baptism?

Why such a question—our reader may inquire; and so we are half inclined ourselves to ask. When we read that the people were baptized by John in Jordan, and that "Jesus when he was baptized went up straightway out of the water," we cannot entertain a doubt as to the suitability of the place for the administration of the ordinance.

But we learn, by a recent number of one of our religious periodicals, that such discoveries have been made as completely to overturn the Baptist theory, and to set the question forever at rest in favor of those who sprinkle or pour. According to the article referred to, the Rev. Gilbert Haven has recently been on a European tour, and has given an interesting account of a visit to the Jordan.

This, if true, is an important discovery, and must revolutionize our Baptist churches, since we endeavor to cherish the simple truths of the gospel, and to observe its ordinances as established by the Head of the church, and since, in consistency with our avowed principles, we are bound to renounce whatever is shown to be unscriptural in our belief, or practice.

After all, we in these times are not compelled to take a man's "ipse dixit" for law. We are vain enough to cavil even with one who has visited any given locality, when his description does not correspond with that of others, equally as credible.

And further if in this extract we have a correct representation of the Jordan, we have a right to suppose it would be perilous for any to attempt the passage, and that the river would be almost an impassable barrier, in ruder times, between the countries it separated.

But we understand that both Abraham and Jacob crossed the Jordan and we learn that there were fords near to Jericho, and others higher up the stream known and crossed to the present day. The sacred narrative informs us that Naaman dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, and that without giving any hint of the danger of such an experiment.

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 sill though very rapid current; the water was of a clayey color, but sweet and delightfully refreshing. \* \* \* We estimated the breadth of the stream to be from 80 to 100 feet. The guides supposed it now to be 10 or 12 feet deep. I bathed in the river without going out into the deep channel; the bottom here was clayey mud with also blue clay. I 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 venerated stream, celebrated on almost every page of the Old Testament as the border of the promised Land, whose floods were miraculously driven back to afford a passage for the Israelites. In the New Testament it is still more remarkable for the baptism of our Savior; when the heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God descended upon him, and, Lo, a voice from heaven saying "this is my beloved Son." We now stood upon its shores, and had bathed in its waters, and felt ourselves surrounded by hallowed associations." Page 266.

We will not trouble the reader with any further extracts, nor will we stop to repeat the confessions of the most intelligent Pedobaptists concerning 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 them into manifold error in doctrine and practice.

That will be a happy day, if it ever come, when the "watchmen shall see eye to eye; when all who love their Lord shall observe his commandments; when the church shall embrace within her ample folds every sincere follower of Jesus.

F. P. M.

Provincial Parliament.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The twenty-second General Assembly of Nova Scotia commenced its first session on Thursday last. According to public announcement at 2 o'clock, p. m., His Excellency Major General Doyle, the Administrator of the Government, and staff, came to the Legislative Council Chamber where a brilliant assemblage of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, were present to receive him and witness the opening ceremonies.

By command of His Excellency, the House of Assembly appeared and were directed to go to their usual place of assembling and elect a Speaker; after which to return and make known to him the choice they had made. After a few minutes delay the "faithful commons" re-entered the Council Chamber, and the Hon. Attorney General informed His Excellency that the House of Assembly had elected Mr. Wade, the member for Digby, as their Speaker, General Doyle having signified his approval, the usual privileges were demanded and granted, and he proceeded to read the following

OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me great pleasure to meet you in Parliament, where, I feel assured, your exertions will be unceasing to maintain the honor and advance the interests of this highly favored Province.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts will be submitted for your inspection, without delay.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be prepared with the utmost regard to economy, consistent with due provision for the public necessities.

You will be glad to find that our Exports during the past year have very much exceeded those of 1862, and that although a material reduction was made in the ad valorem duties, the revenue of 1863 largely exceeds that of the preceding or any former year, leaving a considerable surplus in the Treasury after meeting the demands of the public service.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of congratulating you and the people whom you repre-

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 attention will shortly be invited to a measure having that object in view.

You will be gratified to learn that great activity has been exhibited throughout the year just closed, in Mining enterprise, a large number of new leases for coal mines having been taken out, and the yield of gold being nearly double that of the previous year. Amendments in the laws relating to these valuable public resources, suggested by increased experience, will be brought under your notice. In connection with this subject and closely allied to it, you will be asked to consider the propriety of authorizing a Geological Survey of the Province.

Under the legislation of last Session, Agricultural Exhibitions were held in the Eastern and Western Districts of the country, and I am happy to be able to state, with highly satisfactory results. Some alterations, however, in the existing enactments on that subject will be proposed for your consideration, in the hope that still greater stimulus may be given to the culture of the soil, the improvement of the stock, and the advancement of the textile manufactures of the Province.

A Bill to provide for the proper Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, a subject of very great importance, will be brought under your notice.

The correspondence between the Imperial Government and this Colony respecting the due investigation of Ship-wrecks taking place on the coasts of this Province, will be laid before you with a measure providing for maritime Courts of Inquiry.

Our grateful thanks are due to Almighty God for the continued peace and prosperity we have enjoyed during the past year, marked as it has been by an abundant harvest, a successful fishery, an expanding trade, and the increased development of our great mineral resources.

The people's representatives then retired to the House of Assembly, and, after the grand array of military and volunteer officers had withdrawn, the ladies and gentlemen present soon followed to the northern end of the Province Building, there to use the privilege granted on the first day of every session,—that of surrounding the red benches, and filling the lobbies and galleries, feasting their eyes on the Speaker's wig, and getting a general survey of the personnel of those sent to make our laws and manage our public affairs.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

When the members had resumed their seats, and his Honor the Speaker had assumed his official wig and robe, he arose and returned thanks for the handsome manner in which he had been unanimously called to the high position of presiding over the deliberations of the House.

The Speech having been read.

The Hon. Attorney General moved that Mr. H. C. D. Twining be the Clerk of the House.

The Hon. Solicitor General seconded the motion, and Mr. Twining was elected without opposition.

Hon. Mr. Johnston then proposed that Mr. James Tobin be Assistant Clerk.

Mr. Archibald moved that Mr. Alex. James be the Assistant Clerk. Mr. S. Campbell seconded the motion, which being put to ballot, their appeared for Mr. Tobin 37 votes, for Mr. James 14. Mr. Tobin is therefore Assistant Clerk.