

MR. ELISHA PAYSON

Died at Westport, on the 27th Dec. last, in the 87th year of his age.

Mr. Payson was brought up in the county of Attapulgus, and moved to Westport when quite young. He filled the situations of Justice of the peace and collector of revenue, and carried on business for many years. He stood deservedly high in the estimation of all around him on account of his uprightness in business, his blameless morality, and peaceable deportment.

Mr. Payson never made a profession of religion; he was attached to the Methodist body, and, very probably, had been situated near a church of that denomination would have joined them. He had considerable religious exercises at different times. Westport has had its share of religious revivals, and on those occasions Mr. Payson enjoyed to a large extent the heavenly influence. In the revival which occurred at Westport last spring, he was exercised very strongly, and took the liveliest interest in the conversions which occurred. His views then underwent a great change, he expressed decidedly his approbation of the Baptist denomination, and but for his very advanced age and great infirmity, he would probably have united with them.

Mr. Payson's last illness continued about 5 months, during which he manifested great patience and submission to the Divine will, but had no desire to live longer. He was visited regularly by the writer and a number of pious persons in the community, whom he was always pleased to see, and with whom, he conversed freely on the things which pertain to the soul and eternity.

Mr. Payson had a family of 12 children, 11 of whom survive him. He has left a large number of grand-children, and great-grand-children.—*Com. by Rev. John Miller.*

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISITS.

Mr. Editor, I wish to acknowledge a donation paid me on the 18th inst., by the church and congregation with whom I labour, which in cash and useful articles, amounted to \$120. The evening was fine and the attendance large. After partaking of a beautiful tea, Deacon William Dunn presented a purse accompanied with an appropriate address. We also had an excellent speech from the Rev. Mr. Spencer, of Digby.—The evening was spent very pleasantly, both minister and people feeling that it was good to live together in unity. For this and similar acts of kindness I would tender my sincere thanks.

Yours very truly,
J. A. MOORE.

Hillsburg, Jan. 19th, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

The following extract of a letter from Capt. R. F. Cutten, of the ship *Gorilla*, will be read with interest by others besides his immediate friends:

New Orleans, January 2nd, 1864.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I had a pleasant passage of fifty-one days from Liverpool G. B. to the mouth of the River, and have sold my cargo at fair rates; port and other expenses here are very heavy. You will perceive by the enclosed price and shipping list, that goods are sold here at moderate rates, and that there is a large quantity of shipping in port, freights are very low, and indeed many vessels leave in ballast. The Cotton to New York is carried principally in the regular Mail steamers at 2½ cents.

I called on Mark Bigney Esq., formerly of Pugwash, he is reporter to the "Picayune" and of course well posted in city matters; the paper is decidedly in favor of the South as far as they are allowed. He hesitates to express any opinion as to their political affairs, but has nothing favourable to say of the conduct of those now in power. I went up the country and remained a few days on some of their plantations, and was fortunate enough to see the process of sugar making, I also saw their cotton growing fields. I was on the plantation of Madam Ellis mother-in-law of General Bragg, and regret since that we did not call and pay our respects to the ladies.

The Southern Ladies are very bitter in their hostility to the Northerners. I have met quite a number of them and confess my surprise at the expressions I often hear. One lady expressed a wish that she could hang Abe Lincoln, several others objected unless they could also have hold of the rope.

I had an introduction to a lady here, from her friends in Liverpool, and called several times to see her, one evening I met five young ladies there; when I entered they mistook me for a Yankee captain in the army and all walked across to the other side of the room, but on learning their mistake I found them very sociable, and passed a very pleasant evening in their

society. I invited them to make me a call on board the ship, they did so and on my offering them refreshments, they would not touch the apples because they came from the North.

The New Orleans ladies will not go to church or the theatre if they have to meet Northern soldiers, and the men will not do business because they would have to go to Yankee officials for permits, &c. The feeling appears to be growing stronger against the Federal occupation of the city. Those persons I have talked with from the Southern Army limit the war to six or seven years longer, they say the country may be overrun, but never conquered, they think England and France should have assisted them. As far as I can see the people of New Orleans treat the Federals as enemies, and they boast that Mrs. Banks, wife of the General in command, is not, nor will not be received in the best society here.

I spent quite a pleasant Christmas and New Years—in fact I like New Orleans much—and enjoy the best of health. With kind regards,

I remain yours truly,
RUFUS F. CUTTEN.

For the Christian Messenger.

BARRINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH.

NEW MEETING HOUSE.

Mr. Editor.—

I beg leave on behalf of the Barrington Church, to acknowledge the receipt of the following materials and money, towards the erection of their Meeting-house.

From Milton and Liverpool, Queen's Co.

Samuel Freeman & Sons.....	2 M. Lumber.
James Shiels.....	"
F. Tupper & Sons.....	"
Thos. Knowles.....	"
Jos. Cook.....	"
Stephen Kempton.....	"
J. F. Freeman.....	"
Curtis Kempton, Jr.....	"
Simeon H. Brown.....	"
Nathan Freeman, 1st.....	"
Nathan Ellis.....	"
John Freeman.....	"
Lewis Freeman.....	"
Edward K. Freeman.....	"
E. G. Freeman.....	"
Chas. Bill.....	"
Edward Kempton.....	\$2.00 worth Lumber.
Benj. Kempton.....	2.00 "
Curtis Kempton.....	2.00 "
Isaac Freeman.....	1.50 "
Joseph Wyman.....	0.25 Cash.
Wyman & Freeman.....	2 M. Laths.
Wm. Starrat.....	2 pr. Sashes.
Jas. Tupper.....	1.00 Cash.
Whitman Freeman.....	4.00 "
Joshua Freeman.....	1.00 "
James Nickerson.....	1.00 "
Malinda Morton.....	0.50 "
Jas. Ford.....	1.00 "
Thos. P. Calkin.....	4.00 "
T. R. Fatullo.....	4.00 "
Otis DeWolf.....	5.00 in nails.
Hogg & Wilson.....	3.00 coach fare.

There may be some small inaccuracies in the above, as the checked list has been lost, and I am guided mainly by the original subscription list. The above is in addition to about thirty pounds in cash, contributed by our friends in Liverpool and Milton, towards the same object, a few years ago.

STATE AND OPERATIONS.

During the past seven months I have been laboring in Barrington, Shelburne, and intervening settlements, with what results eternity alone will reveal. A spiritual lethargy seems to prevail to a great extent throughout the county. Doubtless there are some praying, "Oh Lord revive thy work," but the love of many professed followers of Christ has waxed cold. Our Baptist friends in Shelburne have succeeded in obtaining a school house for a place of worship, but I regret to say that differences have arisen, which seem detrimental to our interests there. Some were opposed to the purchase of the school-house, and anxious to undertake the erection of a new Meeting-house, thus you may readily perceive, influences are brought to bear upon us, not at all favorable to the cause. But God is mighty, and I trust that his power and willingness to save, will yet be exhibited in Shelburne.

The little church in Barrington is holding on its way amidst many difficulties.

DONATION VISIT.

On new year's eve the brethren and sisters, and a few other friends, assembled at our house, where they prepared, and we all partook of a bountiful repast, after which we spent a very pleasant evening, varied by conversation, speeches, music and prayer. The company then retired, leaving behind them in money and useful articles, substantial tokens of their benevolence. May God reward them by increasing their graces, and adding to their number such as shall be saved.

Yours in Christ,
W. H. R.

Barrington, Jan. 16th, 1864.

Religious Intelligence.

BAPTIST IN NORTH AMERICA.—The Baptist Almanac for 1864, issued by the American Baptist Publication Society, gives the following statistics of the denomination in the U. States:—

The total number of regular Baptist church members is 1,039,400; baptized the year past 67,176. Number of churches 12,551. Number of associations 597. Number of ordained ministers 7,952. The above does not include 74,000 communicants in British America, nor about 500,000 of other denominations practising immersion, and known by various names such as Campbellites, Free Will Baptists, &c.

There are 24 Baptist periodicals published in the United States, of which the *Christian Secretary* is set down as the oldest. It is the oldest retaining its simple original name and published in a continued series. Then the *British Provinces* issue five more, of which the *Christian Messenger* was the first. There are fourteen Baptist Theological Seminaries of which the oldest is Hamilton. The number of Baptist Colleges is thirty-five.

WHICH SHALL YIELD?—A prominent Episcopal clergyman, in a special discourse recently preached in Boston, kindly suggests the Episcopal church as the fitting fold in which to embrace all the evangelical sects, for the sake of unity. The church, he argues, is eminently orthodox in its articles, and would be willing to introduce some modifications in its Liturgy, in order to the end proposed. The *Christian Secretary* desires not to be outdone in generosity, and proposes the Baptist platform as the proper basis of universal union. The evangelical denominations will be asked only to give up their sprinkling for baptism, (and to relinquish that "non-essential" matter, infant sprinkling, would nearly sweep the whole,) whereupon it would cheerfully give up our "close communion," which it believes is the only really huge objection to the Baptists.—*Canada Baptist.*

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

[From Telegrams to morning and evening papers.]

TUESDAY Jan 19.—The *Sylvanus*, from Nassau, captured by the gun boat *Huron*. Two more blockade runners, the *Adair* and *Ranger* beached.

The number of the Confederate troops west of the Mississippi is estimated at 30,000.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20.—Correspondence from Hilton Head of the 15th inst., mentions the sailing of a few vessels on a new expedition accompanied by a large negro force.

The siege of Charleston is temporarily suspended, except by fire of guns from Morris Island.

The *Richmond Sentinel* of the 8th inst. says that the Yankee troops are being landed in Morehead city, N. C.

The Confederate Generals Hardee, Cheat-ham, and Breckenridge recommend the conscription of soldiers whose term of service shortly expires.

Evening.—Secretary Seward congratulates Gen. Banks on his occupation of the Rio Grande, at apparently critical juncture, and instructed him to preserve strict neutrality in regard to Mexico, in preventing supplies and aid to either belligerent in that country; but to observe events there and advise Government thereof.

St. Domingo advices represent Spaniards getting the worst of it.

THURSDAY, Jan. 21.—General Banks is satisfied that more than a tenth of the people of Louisiana desire the earliest possible restoration of that State to the Union. He orders the election of Governor, &c, for February 22, and also abrogates so much of the Constitution and laws of the State, as recognize and regulate slavery.

A gentleman from Richmond reports a universal feeling of terror and despondency at the South.

Evening.—Believed in Richmond that Yankees were about abandoning Virginia, and whole Confederate force would be concentrated for action in Tennessee and Kentucky.

World's Chattanooga letter says that when Spring campaign opens, battle ground will be in East Tennessee.

Sherman is to concentrate his army at Huntsville.

Conscription law creating consternation in Western North Carolina, preparation making to resist. Raleigh Standard defies its enforcement.

Schr. Don Jose, from Nassau, bark *Roebuck*, from Havana, and schr. *Hancock*, been captured off Florida coast; also Confederate steamer *Grey Jacket*, off Mobile.

FRIDAY, Jan. 22.—Resolutions introduced into Maryland Senate, endorsing President Lincoln's administration and policy; and naming him as preference for loyal people of Maryland for re-election.

A refugee from Mississippi reports that full half the people in that State left at home are strong for the Union.

The *New Orleans Era* also reports overwhelming Union sentiment.

In Western Texas a number of men have been imprisoned by Magruder (Confederate,) for publishing a book called "Common Sense."

Blockade runners at Nassau report that the blockade is more strict at Wilmington, but still a successful way open for runners.

Evening.—Five-twenty loan closed. Entire five hundred millions taken up.

Commissioner of Agriculture communicates

to the Senate that a tax of 20 per cent, on leaf tobacco would destroy the export trade, which produces twenty millions of revenue.

Mexican advices chronicle series of reverses to Juarez army.

SATURDAY, Jan. 23.—Large quantities of cotton are coming within the Federal lines from the interior of Texas.

A Mississippi gentleman says that the Confederate conscription is being enforced, but that the conscripts desert about as fast as they are collected. It is also reported that the planters hide away everything of value from impressment.

The *Tribune's* despatch says that the government has information that the people of the South are decidedly in favor of an exchange of prisoners. Butler is sanguine about effecting exchange within a month.

Evening.—General Banks's proclamation is much commended by the loyal people at New Orleans. The most prominent candidate for Governor is Thomas J. Durant, an eminent lawyer and firm loyalist.

The Government of Serana made a forced loan at Matamoros upon foreigners as well as Mexicans. General Dana, at Brownsville, compelled the return of the money to America by threatening hostilities.

A letter from a lady in Richmond to her brother deserted from the Confederates, states that a large amount of machinery, &c., is being removed from Richmond to Columbia.

MONDAY, Jan. 25.—Reports of Richmond being gradually evacuated continue. It is positively stated that the removal of the gun making machinery from the Tredegar Works has been going on several weeks.

Deserters report that the President's Amnesty Proclamation is creating a feeling in the Confederate army threatening its utter demoralization.

The Sanitary fair in Cincinnati realized over two hundred thousand dollars.

Evening.—Reported that John Morgan, with 5000 cavalry, are about attempting to cut off communication between Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Twenty-three thousand men of 17th corps re-enlisted; nearly entire 16th corps will re-enlist.

A Frenchman, formerly in Confederate army, writes from Richmond on the 6th to a friend in New York, that another agent from Napoleon arrived at Richmond, and held conference with President Davis, relative to Mexican Empire, &c. The writer thinks Lee will be made Dictator, Davis being unpopular. He gives a gloomy picture of Southern affairs, regarding days of Confederacy as numbered.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

DENMARK.

PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTILITIES.

Copenhagen, Jan. 5.—About 14,000 men of the reserve have been called out by the Ministry of War.

Flensburg, Jan. 4, (Evening).—Large reinforcements are to be sent from Eckendorp to the island of Fehmern. In case of war it is believed that flank attacks will be made from that position.

PROCLAMATION OF KING CHRISTIAN TO THE ARMY.

Hamburg, Jan. 5.—King Christian has issued a proclamation to the Danish army. It says:—"The new year finds you in arms for the defence of our Fatherland, and your King is therefore among you. I have entered upon the full inheritance of my predecessor in love to our native land. Our motto is the honour of our country, and it shall be upheld with peace, or, if requisite, by force of arms. No life is too costly for the salvation of the Fatherland. From the former struggle the army has retained experienced leaders whom the young troops will now follow with enthusiasm. Courage, not numbers, above all unhesitating military obedience, in all cases lead to victory."

Advices from Copenhagen state that it is generally believed in the capital that a French and also an English fleet will soon appear in the Danish waters.

THE GERMAN INTERVENTION IN HOLSTEIN.

Rendsburg, Jan. 4.—Hanoverian and Austrian pioneers, with a small pontoon train, have arrived here. It is said they will be employed in erecting coast defences.

It is reported that the Danish pioneers have left the Kronenwerk with instructions to blow up the bridges next the sluice bridge immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities.

GREECE.

REPORTED DEPARTURE OF KING GEORGE I. FROM ATHENS.

Paris, Jan. 5.—The Paris evening papers state that the news that King George had left Athens is considered false. The statement that the French and English fleets would proceed to Copenhagen is also considered untrue.

The English authorities have commenced the dismantlement of the fortress of Corfu. The cannon of the fort commanding the harbor have already been taken away, and the garrison will be gradually withdrawn to Malta and India. This seems to be the easiest way of dealing with the unreasonable demands of the Greek Government. At present the Greeks will not take the Ionian Islands as a gift, unless they can have the fortress along with them; but when the gratification of their childish wish to become possessed of a fortress which they could not maintain has become impossible, they will perhaps condescend to take the present for which they have so long been begging.