

Catechism, even if we receive it from our American Brethren.

Yours truly, Wm. Hall.

Catechetical Instruction.

This most precious and important mode of impressing truth on the memory, the conscience, and the heart, and cherishing a healthy and stalwart piety was long common in the Church of England. Among her choicest London clergy, in the seventeenth century, this was the means of special blessing in the parishes of the City Proper. It was thus also that Richard Baxter was enabled to make his Parish at Kidderminster as a garden filled with the trees of righteousness and fragrant with the graces of the Spirit. The memory to some still living of catechetical examinations in Parish churches by such men as the late Rev. Basil Wood, James Haldane Stewart, and Dr. Penfold, is still fresh and delightful. But there is at least one living illustration of this in the London of to-day. In the Rectory Church of Marylebone on the afternoon of the second Lord's day of every month, at half-past three o'clock, after the reading of the evening service, the minister, instead of preaching a sermon, opens the Bible, reads a portion, explaining it with great clearness, asks the children questions upon it, tells them what is the prominent doctrine or duty set forth, and then after a while requires them to repeat to him the information thus given. More than this, not confining his questions exclusively to the School children, the young of every class present are encouraged to give answers. In point of fact it is a Bible class, conducted in the best possible way. Would that the practice in and out of the Establishment were universal. Work like this done in faith and love and with fervent prayerfulness, would spread a tide of blessing over the land through the knowledge of those "holy Scriptures," which (in spite of blasphemy and rationalistic depreciation) are now as they were in the days of old, "able to make wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." At Marylebone Church as an eyewitness, testifies "hearts of children are gladdened, the eyes of parents beam joyfully a large congregation drink deeply from the wells of salvation. Cold hearted sceptics (if such occasionally creep into the house of God,) are smitten, and much moved if not converted by the Spirit of eternal truth."

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Rev. A. D. Thomson.

Saint Andrews, Nov. 9th, 1864.

DEAR BROTHER,

I cannot light upon a paragraph or stanza that in brief expresses the sense I have of myself a great portion of the time, better than that contained in the 2nd verse of the 380 of the Psalmist, accredited to the genius, and pious humility of Rev. C. Wesley.

"Though I have most unfaithful been Of all who e'er thy grace received, Ten thousand times thy goodness seen, Ten thousand times thy goodness grieved."

I nevertheless have a desire to let the many friends of Zion in Nova Scotia, and elsewhere as far as the good Messenger is often publishing good tidings, that the hand of our God is now being graciously extended toward the inhabitants of this locality.

A brief respite from agency duties, has given me an opportunity of attending to home concerns, and especially to that of the church, of which I retain the pastoral charge. Brother T. W. Crawley has given our people a sermon weekly in my absence, but farther than this he has exercised no control. Prayer and Conference meetings as a matter of course, were not regarded or attended to in their place, discipline was required, and the painful duty of exclusion had to be done. Immediately upon this there began to be a moving, if not of dry bones, of dull and inactive professors, soon a young man asked for a special interest in the prayers of the church, he did not remain long before he enjoyed the blessings of a sense of pardoned sin, and grace received through the infinite mercy of God in Christ Jesus. The work has been in progress about five or six weeks, the number as yet baptized is thirteen, eight males and five females, two of these are persons having family charges, the rest are single, and under twenty five years of age. We have baptized on five sabbaths successively, the numbers ranging from 1 to 4 at a time, others are received and awaiting appointments to day.

The rise and progress of the present work reminds me of a season I enjoyed with Brother Burton a few years ago, at Falmouth, and Hantsport. May he and his experience a similar visit over again, and again, and may all others also who need reviving.

Before closing this note I would, in taking an affectionate adieu of very many dearly beloved friends and acquaintances, among whom I have gone labouring for our beloved institution, entreat them that they will still give it their sympathy and support. It is indispensable to us as a denomination, and of incalculable worth to the interests of education throughout the province generally.

A. D. THOMSON.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Revival at Newcastle, Miramichi.

Newcastle, Nov. 13th, 1864.

Dear Brother,

Two weeks have passed away since I wrote you. This blessed revival is still increasing in interest. Every night the places of worship are crowded. Our Meeting-house cannot contain the numbers who desire admittance, and although there was service this evening in the Presbyterian and Methodist places of worship, yet our Meeting-house was so crowded, that all the people could not be accommodated. Scores are crying for mercy and numbers are rejoicing in God their Saviour. Bro. Hickson assisted by Bro. Powers, is baptizing every Sabbath. Last Sabbath five were baptized into Jesus Christ, and to-day six were buried with their Redeemer on a profession of their faith. These are all rejoicing in God, and have been added to the Church. This evening, after sermon by Bro. Powers, a number, some thirty or forty persons rose up in meeting, confessing their unregenerate condition and earnestly requesting the prayers of the Church for their conversion. Some most remarkable cases of conversion have occurred. These are principally young men of promise. Many of the people of Miramichi, look on with wonder, and are constrained to say "What hath God wrought;" others that "the world is turned upside down." The revival is two months old, and we hope it will continue all the winter. God has heard our prayers. Zion is putting on her beautiful garments. Yet all is carried in a quiet solemn tone of deep feeling. The spirit of Christ is evident in the conduct and experience of the converts. We hope the ensuing week will be a blessed season. Numbers are earnestly crying for mercy and we know that God is with us of a truth. Brother Powers leaves here (we expect) for St. John, this week, and we want help. Who will come? Brethren pray for us?

We hope some of our young men will devote themselves to the ministry after they have sat at the feet of our teachers, who are awaiting and willing to instruct them more fully in word and doctrine. We wish to see an educated ministry and, blessed be God, the time has arrived when baptized believers can acquire thorough education. Brethren in Halifax pray for us, We desire all the Churches in Nova Scotia to remember Miramichi. We believe you are praying for us? Such a gracious revival has never been known in these parts. Ministers and old christians, say they never saw any thing to compare with the present. It is not confined to the Baptist church, the Methodist society is increasing very much, their meetings continue every night and their house is crowded. The whole country appears to be under the power of the Spirit of God. To Him be all the praise. The harvest is great but the laborers are few!

Yours in the faith of the gospel,

WM. GREMLEY.

THE REV. MR. YOUNG, OF KINCLAVEN.—On Tuesday, Oct. 4th, a meeting of the Perth United Presbyterian Presbytery was held for the consideration of the case of the Rev Mr. Young, who, as has been already stated, resigned his position as a minister of the United Presbyterian Church some weeks since, in consequence of a change in his views on baptism. It was reported by the committee appointed to confer with Mr. Young, that the committee met on the 20th September, and had a lengthened conference with Mr. Young, but that they failed to produce a change in his views regarding infant baptism, as expressed by him when resigning his charge of the Church of Kinclaven. After a lengthened discussion it was agreed to accept the resignation of Mr. Young, and to declare him no longer a minister of the United Presbyterian Church, and it was directed that his name be deleted from the roll of presbytery.

LOSS OF THE MISSIONARY SHIP "JOHN WILLIAMS."—It will be with great regret that our readers will learn the loss of the John Williams. This admirable missionary ship, which

was bought with the pence of our Sunday-school children, was launched at Harwich, in 1844, having been built expressly for the purpose of taking out missionaries, and enabling them to pass freely among the islands of the Pacific. She was of some 300 tons burden, and was well suited for the objects to which she was devoted. After twenty years of the most useful service, the good ship has been wrecked on Danger Island, latitude 10 deg. south, longitude 160 deg. west. She had repeatedly visited the island in safety, having carried the first native teachers there in 1857. Happily, all on board were saved, but that is all we know at present.—Patriot.

A GLASGOW MINISTER BECOME BAPTIST.—Mr. Joshua Denovan, one of the pastors of the Free Gospel Church, Charlotte-street, Glasgow, has resigned his pastoral office. In a printed paper, Mr. Denovan gives the following reasons for this step:—"1. The doctrines generally propagated by the United Free Gospel Churches are I believe, God dishonouring and soul-destroying. 2. Infant baptism I believe to be unscriptural. Baptism is a sign of regeneration—the spiritual baptism of the Holy Ghost. 3. The right of unregenerate persons to church-membership I deny. No morality, no conviction of sin, can constitute a man a member of Christ's body—the church. The second birth alone makes a sinner one of the "household of God."—Mr. Denovan is preaching for the present, we believe, in the Trades' Hall, Glasgow.

Colonial and American News.

New Brunswick.

CONFEDERATION.—A public meeting was held in St. John, on Thursday last, at which Messrs. Tilley and Gray gave some elucidation of the proposed confederation of the British Provinces. The Hon. Provincial Secretary gave a glowing picture of the advantages which might be expected to arise from federation, and replied to the various objections which have obtained to the scheme. He shewed that no danger need be apprehended of the maritime provinces being losers by union with their more extensive and powerful neighbor—Canada. The fifteen representatives from New Brunswick need not fear being lost in the great Legislature,—"they might even hold the balance of power, and control the government of that country."

Snow has fallen in various parts of New Brunswick from two to eight inches in depth.

We learn from the St. John Globe that the New Brunswick Government have agreed to submit the Confederation question to the vote of the people.

GENEROSITY.—After the late fire in St. John it is said that a number of gentlemen offered the proprietor of the Globe \$1500 to assist him in recovering from the disaster. The kindness was respectfully declined, lest it should embarrass the independence of said journal.

Canada.

FENIANISM.—Much excitement has been caused in Toronto by an exhibition of the force of the Hibernian Society—the Fenian Brotherhood—on Saturday, the 5th inst. A report was in circulation that the Orangemen intended, on the evening of that day, to burn the effigies of Guy Fawkes, Daniel O'Connell, and the Duke of Newcastle. In consequence of this, about 400 men came together from different parts of the city in organized squads. They then patrolled the streets, marching in regular order four deep, armed with Irish pikes and occasionally firing guns. The police have been searching several premises, and discovered a quantity of pikes at the house of a person named Maguire. He, with several other persons, have been arrested, and subjected to examination, but nothing was elicited which is likely to subject the parties to punishment. This organization is believed to be the result of the Orange Lodges, as a counter movement, but is charged with murderous designs and an insane intention to free Ireland from British control.

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

[From Telegrams to Associated Press.]

TUESDAY, NOV. 15.—S. W. Smith, bankers in New Orleans, have brought suits against Gen. Butler in New York to recover \$60,000 in coin which they allege he seized in their banking houses while in command of New Orleans.

The log book of the Florida, lately captured, shows that since January 16th, 1863, she has captured thirty-six vessels, of which twenty two, with their cargoes, were valued at three millions and a half dollars. The Government will sustain Collins in his capture of the Florida.

At the recent election the republicans gained thirty-six congressmen. Gold 238.

WEDNESDAY, EVENING, NOV. 16.—The resignation of Gen. McClellan in the United States Army has been accepted and Gen. Sheridan promoted to the vacancy.

Richmond papers of Saturday generally accepted the re-election of Lincoln as presenting no alternative but four years more of war.

THURSDAY, NOV. 17.—The officers of the pirate Florida have been committed to the old capital prison in Washington.

Further proceedings on trial of the St. Alban's raiders at Montreal have been postponed till 13th Dec. to enable the accused to procure testimony. Gold 229.

Evening.—Forgeries to the amount of 250,000 dollars have come to light in New York. The parties have been arrested.

Rebel newspapers state that Forrest, in his recent movement in Tennessee, destroyed four Federal gunboats, 14 steamers, and 20 barges, with a vast amount of stores.

Rumors of a proposed amnesty to all rebels including Jeff. Davis if accepted before 8th of January next, are current, but probably without foundation. Gold 218.

FRIDAY, NOV. 18th.—Heavy revenue frauds have been discovered in New York, and three distilleries seized by the Government valued at one million dollars.

Richmond papers of the 15th announce the evacuation of Atlanta by Sherman, and express great surprise at the step.

Receipts at National Sailor's Fair, in Boston, already amount to over \$130,000.

Evening.—In the cavalry action on Saturday the Federals took many prisoners, including thirty officers.

A plot to capture the California mail steamer has been discovered. Gold 210.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19.—A report that Beauregard is advancing on Memphis creates excitement in that vicinity. Preparations are being made for the defence of the city.

Contributions for furnishing the army with a thanksgiving dinner are on a scale of great liberality.

Cotton at New Orleans 116 and 126. Gold 218.

Evening.—Steamers which leave for Europe to-day take nearly a million and a half in gold.

The Federals have evacuated Rome, Georgia, after destroying all the buildings which could be made useful to the rebels.

The Herald's Hilton Head correspondence of the 15th says a report has come down the river that Sherman was marching on Savannah, and that the inhabitants of that city were fleeing in dismay.

Advices via New Orleans state that the French have evacuated Matamoras, leaving the inhabitants to take care of themselves.

MONDAY, NOV. 21.—Newspaper advices state that Sherman's Army left Atlanta in two columns, one on the 9th, and the other on the 12th, moving Eastward, the former via Macon, and the other toward Augusta. The first column was heard from on the 14th, and had then advanced 70 miles on the road towards Macon, driving everything as it went—Atlanta is reported to be in ruins, and its streets will soon be overgrown with grass.

Gen. Sherman issued an order to his troops that they were expected to subsist on the country through which they marched.

Evening.—The blockade of the Ports of Norfolk, Fernandina, and Pensacola will be partially raised on the 1st proximo, and commercial intercourse be permitted under proper restrictions.

The N. Y. Herald's correspondent says the rebels attacked our picket lines on Thursday and Friday twice, between the James and Appomattox Rivers. In the first attack the rebels captured four officers and eighty privates, but they were soon driven back. The next attack was more feeble. Gen. Butler has resumed his command. Gold 217.

GIVING THE SLAVES THEIR FREEDOM.—It appears from a careful and complete report made up in New Orleans, that over fifty thousand "freed" negroes have perished of starvation and misery in that department during the past two years.

Commercial.

Halifax Markets.

Corrected for the C. Messenger, Nov. 23rd, 1864.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Flour, Butter, Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Molasses, Salmon, Mackerel, Herring, Coal, and Wood.

Farmers' Market.

Table listing market prices for agricultural products including Hay, Beet, Pork, Bacon, Veal, Mutton, Poultry, Ducks, Turkeys, Geese, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Oatmeal, Oats, Apples, Potatoes, Calfskins, Yarn, and Homespun Cloth.