

thought we were coming to rest; the avalanche, however, crossed the brow which terminated this gentler slope, and regained its motion. Here H— threw his arm around his friend, all hope for the time being extinguished, while I grasped my belt and struggled for an instant to detach myself. Finding this difficult, I resumed the pull upon the rope. My share in the work was, I fear, infinitesimal, but Jenni's powerful strain made itself felt at last. Aided, probably, by a slight change of inclination, he brought the whole to rest within a distance of the chasms over which, had we preserved our speed, a few seconds would have carried us. None of us suffered serious damage. H— emerged from the snow with his forehead bleeding, but the wound was superficial. Jenni had a bit of flesh removed from his hand by collision against a stone; the pressure of the rope had left black welts on my arms, and we all experienced a tingling sensation over the hands, like that produced by incipient frostbite, which continued for several days. I found a portion of my watch-chain hanging round my neck, another portion in my pocket—the watch itself was gone. This happened on the 30th of July. Two days afterwards, I went to Italy, and remained there for ten or twelve days. On the 16th of August I was again at Pontresina and on that day made an expedition in search of the lost watch. Both the guides and myself thought the sun's heat might melt the snow above it, and I inferred that it its back should happen to be uppermost the slight absorbent power of gold for the solar rays would prevent the watch from sinking as a stone sinks under like circumstances. The watch would thus be brought quite to the surface; and although a small object, it might possibly be seen from some distance. I was accompanied up the Morteratsch Glacier by five friends, of whose conduct I cannot speak too highly. One of them in particular, a member of the British Legislature, sixty-four years of age, exhibited a courage and collectedness in places of real difficulty which were perfectly admirable. Two only of the party, both competent mountaineers, accompanied me to the scene of the accident, and none of us ventured on the ice where it originated. Just before stepping upon the remains of the avalanche, a stone, some tons in weight, detached by the sun from the snow slope above us, came rushing down the line of our glissade. Its leaps become more and more impetuous, and on reaching the brow near which we had been brought to rest, it bounded through the air, and, with a single spring reached the lower glacier, raising a cloud of ice-dust in the air. Some fragments of rope found upon the snow assured us that we were upon the exact track of the avalanche, and then the search commenced. It had not continued for twenty minutes when a cheer from one of the guides—Christian Michel of Grindelwalde—announced the discovery of the watch. It had been brought to the surface in the manner surmised and on examination seemed to be dry and uninjured. I noticed, moreover, that the position of the bands indicated that it had only run down beneath the snow."

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College Museum.

DEAR BROTHER,

I have received the articles mentioned by you in the *C. Messenger* of the 16th inst., as contributions by the Rev. J. Goddie to the Museum of the College. They are a very valuable accession to our collection.

Mr. J. R. Willis, of Halifax, has also sent us specimens of the eggs of the *Mergus Serrata* and *Sterna Hirundo*, from Sable Island, as a commencement of an oological collection. At the same time he forwarded upwards of forty mineralogical specimens—some fragments of marble and of stucco work from Pompeii, and of Pompey's Pillar at Alexandria. Mr. Willis has frequently favored us in this manner. We are much indebted to his kindness, and hope there will be many imitators.

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Nov. 28, 1864.

**BLACKFISH AT STRAIT OF CANO.**—We learn from a friend that a large number of blackfish were captured in Ship Harbor a few days since. Thirty were taken and killed in about half an hour on Wednesday last. Some of them shewed considerable resistance, and if the fishermen got within reach of the fishes' tail, they received a blow which levelled them. One case occurred in which a large one was making out to sea, after receiving the harpoon from an aged fisherman; some young men came to the rescue and saved both fish and man. Hatchets, axes, and jack-knives were brought into requisition for their destruction, until about forty-five were secured,

British America in a Denominational point of view.

The following is a statement of the different religious denominations of the inhabitants of the British American Provinces, as shown by the last census:—

PROVINCES.	Church of Rome.	Church of England.	Presbyterians.	Methodists.	Baptists.	Lutherans.	Congregationalists.	Miscellaneous.	No Religion.	No Creed Given.	Errors and Creeds not Classified.	TOTAL.
Newfoundland.....	56,805	44,283	838	20,220	62,040	2,183	2,291	44	2,814	822	122,638	
Nova Scotia.....	86,281	47,724	88,725	31,055	47,724	2,183	2,291	44	2,814	822	330,857	
New Brunswick.....	85,258	42,776	26,072	25,672	57,720	113	1,200	2,694	617	232,017		
Prince Edward Island.....	35,532	6,785	5,864	6,450	2,515	2,515	2,515	10	294	80,857		
Upper Canada.....	238,141	311,565	303,284	341,574	61,550	24,299	46,434	17,373	8,121	14,286	1,396,091	
Lower Canada.....	943,253	63,487	43,725	30,000	7,751	8,271	4,927	1,417	5,728	1,128	1,111,506	
Total.....	1,465,990	516,642	498,646	457,957	192,830	29,631	18,104	62,951	18,800	16,255	16,350	3,294,056
Add, for Labrador, 319 Roman Catholics, and 1,331 Protestants.....												1,650
Grand Total.....												3,295,706

\* Error 284 too few to make up the total.  
 † Error 2 do. do. do.  
 ‡ Error 450 do. do. do.

746

N. B.—These errors may be typographical in the printed volumes of the census.—*Leader.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

Educational Notice. (No. 3.)

MANY irregularities having occurred in the proceedings of the Annual School meetings, in consequence of imperfect knowledge and misunderstandings concerning the requirements of the law, and many Sections in several Counties having failed to provide for the support of Schools,

Notice is hereby given, that—

1. Measures will be adopted by the Government, upon the meeting of the Legislature, for the purpose of legalizing the proceedings of the Annual Meetings at which technical irregularities have occurred.
2. Where it is deemed necessary, in order to complete the arrangements entered into at the Annual Meetings, or to make provision for supporting schools in sections, in which no provision has yet been made, meetings may be called by the Inspectors, till the 1st of January, 1865.

Measures will be adopted by the Government to render the proceedings of such meetings legal, as if held on the 25th of October last.

It must be borne in mind that Schools, unless organized under the Act, cannot participate in the Provincial grants, either of money, books, or maps. By order of the Council of Public Instruction.

T. H. RAND, Secretary.

Halifax, Nov. 22, 1864.  
 Nov. 23rd. 4 wks.  
 Tri W. Col., Chron., Sun, Recorder, Citz., Rep., Exp., Journ., Wit., Ch. Rec., Free Press, Yar. Her., Trib., Liv. Trans., Pict. Chron., Stand., Ant. Cask, C. B. News.—4 wks. Editorial Page.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 30, 1864.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

Thanksgiving and praise belong to God at all times, and should be rendered by his creatures in every place. Special blessings call for special acknowledgement. Whilst we may look around and see judgment falling on those very near to us, we have been supplied with an abundant harvest, and are permitted to live unmolested in partaking of its fruits.

To-morrow has been appointed for special consideration of this matter, and we doubt not ten thousand hearts will be lifted up in gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his great goodness manifested to us above so many other peoples and nations.

The observance of the Day as one of Humiliation and Prayer will not make the Thanksgiving to Almighty God less sincere, in any of our churches. The honor of Christ in the salvation of men and the extension of His kingdom in the world should fill our thoughts on the coming day. Our past unfaithfulness and the little service we have

heretofore rendered to our Lord and Master, who has died to procure our peace and salvation, would be salutary and beneficial to reflect upon. Our own deficiency would thus be made evident; and prepare us for earnest Prayer and deep Humiliation in the sight of God; to whom be glory and praise forever.

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

The Advertisement "Educational Notice," in another column, will afford an opportunity, which we doubt not will be embraced, by such School Sections throughout the Province as have been under misapprehensions, respecting the Education Act, and have neglected to make provision for sustaining Schools, to retrieve their position, and place themselves so that they can legally participate in the Provincial Grant.

The Act passed at the last session of the Legislature is now being tested, as to its practicability and suitability to accomplish what is required of it, and what it proposes to supply in the education of the country. Whilst its provisions have been adopted in many of the more influential parts of the province; there are not a few others, where the people have heretofore given but little attention to school matters, and some, where from hostility to the administration of the law, they have allowed the time to pass by without taking such action; and, but for such extension of time, would be deprived of a considerable portion of their Teacher's salary. The great changes to be effected by the law are beginning to be appreciated. Heretofore the teacher has been allowed to draw his or her half-yearly pittance from the Provincial Grant on the signature of two or three Trustees, who in many cases were so called by courtesy, rather than because they took any other responsibility upon themselves. In no cases, we believe, were such duties demanded of these officers as are required by the existing law. Under the present law the provision made for payment of Teachers is a little more like what it should be; and demands united public action on the part of rate-payers. The trustees too are something more than merely nominal. In some cases those chosen to this important office have shrunk from the responsibility, and declined to give their neighbours the benefit of their efforts. This is to be regretted as the injury to the section of being deprived of a school are so great; and in many cases where the best men are elected and refuse to serve, it is difficult to get others to fill said offices. The notice, above referred to, will give an extension of time for these arrangements, which should not be lost.

A change in our School Law has been long demanded by both parties in the Legislature. The only difference between the two political parties, as to taxation for the support of schools, has been that the leaders of the present opposition have called for a compulsory assessment, and on one occasion introduced to the Legislature a measure of this nature, whilst the members of the present government have committed themselves only to the choice between voluntary assessment or the loss, on the part of those refusing, of a portion of the public money. This Notice is good evidence that the latter contingency is not desired by the Council of Public Instruction.

The experiment as to the efficiency of this plan is now being made. There will doubtless still be cases of difficulty and hardship in applying the law in some places. Much of the real difficulty will probably arise from imperfection in the Assessment Law; which, we believe does not, at present, bear fairly and equitably on all property alike.

We think it quite likely that the results of the year's experience will be, that, either County Assessment, or a general assessment, will be deemed more appropriate for the support of schools, than the present Sectional plan. The former would seem to be the least open to objection. If a certain sum were granted to a county on condition of a like sum, or double the amount being raised by assessment, the poorer districts might have the benefit of a school suited to their wants, whilst the more densely populated parts might provide for their Superior Schools by other means. But we are wandering from the present state of affairs, and the application of the law to supply the wants of the people, to that of a prospective enactment.

It must not be expected that the change from the past no-system to the present initiatory measure of reform, would take place without some commotion. And if the country will but take hold of the present opportunity with hearty good will, we doubt not they will find it far more efficient than some would lead them to suppose.

The Education Act, we believe, combines the wisdom of the former superintendent of Education—Rev. Dr. Forrester, with that of Mr. Rand, who was appointed to that office since it became law. It is comparatively

easy now to discover minor defects in it, but, we believe, that the ex-Attorney General, Mr. Archibald, and the Provincial Secretary, gave their honest united endeavours to adapt the measure to the wants of the country. The real defects in it may be rectified in another session, but this should not be allowed to prevent any section of the country from administering the law, as it is, to provide themselves with a School for their children. Any present suspension of schools will be highly injurious, not only to those who would attend them, but would have the effect of diminishing the number of Teachers, by inducing them to enter into other employments, and by rendering the office less permanent. The Teachers of the future would consequently be inferior to what they might be, if shewn that their services are appreciated now, and not liable to be dispensed with by the changes of feeling in their sections on a little alteration of the law.

The *Witness* tries to be very witty over the said notice; as follows:—

"We trust that the districts which have failed to organize in October, will avail themselves of the forty days' grace now granted to them! and then shall they have their portion of Maps, Books and Money. It seems that big children must be coaxed to swallow this bitter legislative pill by a skillful sugar coating. Put some books round it; wrap it up in blue sea maps; above all paste a few Twenty Dollar bills on it, and they are naughty people indeed who refuse to gu'p it down."

If the "pill" is but a remedy, we presume the "big children" would not object either to the bitter—the tax,—or the "sugar coating,"—the twenty dollar bills, &c., if by that means the patient have the disease—ignorance—removed. As a matter of course, he would soon present a more healthy appearance than heretofore.

JAMAICA, PAST AND PRESENT.

Whoever of our readers can carry back their recollections to a period of about thirty-five years since, will remember the great struggle which then took place on the subject of Negro Slavery. On that occasion the chief scene of interest was on the Island of Jamaica. The contest, as is well known, ended in the final and total abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, by a Parliamentary Grant of twenty millions sterling to the slaveholders, to purchase up their so-called rights in the bodies and souls of not far short of a million of their fellow-beings. The writer, who was in London shortly after the destruction of almost all the Baptist Chapels in Jamaica, by *white mobs*, well remembers the deep and excited interest which prevailed, not only among the Baptist Churches, but among almost every class of christian people throughout the country;—and he can never forget the intense feelings that were awakened by the glowing eloquence of the Rev. William Knibb, and other eminent ministers of various denominations, at crowded meetings in one of the largest chapels in London. The emancipation was naturally followed by great depreciation of property in the Island and which was immediately succeeded by a series of events which reduced Jamaica, from being one of most wealthy colonies of the Crown, to a state of ruin and starvation. From about the year 1842 a succession of several years of almost uninterrupted failure in the products of the earth, was followed by famine and pestilence in their most destructive forms, and which greatly diminished the population of the Island. It is only within five or six years past that the country has begun to recover from the heavy shock it experienced—It is gratifying to learn from an article in a late number of the *London Baptist Reporter* that notwithstanding its past reverse, Jamaica, and especially the Baptist Churches there, are once more regaining their energy and in a good measure are entering on a course of renewed prosperity. The English Baptist Mission commenced among the slaves in Jamaica in 1814, and from thence to the period of the general emancipation, we think, in 1834, advanced with almost unexampled success under the preaching and conduct of some of the most devoted missionaries, whose labours so eminently distinguish the present century. The following extracts from the publication referred to, affords a gratifying picture of the present state of our Churches in Jamaica:—

"At the present moment there are seventy-four regularly-organized Baptist churches in the island; these churches include thirty thousand members, there are several other churches in the island which have sprung from the operations of the Mission, though not now in connection with it; all the churches are, and for many years have been, supported entirely without foreign aid; and these churches are presided over by twenty-two European and nineteen native pastors, or forty-one in all. If this were all that could be said about our Mission in Jamaica, it would be cause enough for gratitude to God. Not often in fifty years is so much ac-