

England, while her articles abound in evangelic truth, it cannot be denied, as Spurgeon has lately shewn at large, that her Liturgy and Catechism plainly teach that doctrine. What, then, may we not expect, among the masses even of Protestant countries, when Reformers and Reformed Churches hold doubtful language in regard to the doctrine of sacramental efficacy, and the practice of those churches directly goes to give effect to that language?

§ Genealogy of baptismal regeneration. The heresy of baptismal regeneration, it is well known, has come down, with many an error beside, from a wide-spread misinterpretation of John iii. 5; as though that text taught a necessary connection between baptism and salvation. From this misinterpretation infant baptism at first arose; for who could find it in his heart to withhold the sacrament of salvation from the poor babes? The practice of infant baptism has kept alive the error from which it at first sprang. The Greek and Roman churches have notoriously nursed this error. Upon its basis they rear their glory. From them it has spread far and wide, while it is the acknowledged doctrine of all the ancient eastern churches. And to this day the overwhelming majority of those who practice infant baptism are the advocates and patrons of the doctrine of baptismal regeneration.

§ A predicament. Thus it is that infant baptism either degrades the ordinance of baptism to a thing of naught, or clothes it with a mysterious, magical, soul-saving power. Men evermore vacillate between these two extremes. They seek to avoid the latter, and fall back upon the former. Yet, if baptism be really a thing of naught, can it have been prescribed by our all-wise Lord? Is it not insulting to him to say, that he has appointed a rite void of all meaning and force? Is there not thus an element of trifling introduced into religion deeply detrimental to its proper efficacy? If, however, by way of avoiding this extreme, men go about to shew what, in point of significance and utility, infant baptism really is, they are already on the highway towards Rome. It is an ordinance administered to mere babes. It is not in the nature of things that it should produce in them any appreciable change. If then, men attempt to set forth what it works without claiming for it that it works regeneration, they get into a labyrinth of explanations, and distinctions, and refinements, and metaphysical subtleties, from which there is no escape without the abandonment of the unauthorized rite, or the admission, if in ever so small a degree, of the Romish dogma of sacramental efficacy. Under the pressure of a logical necessity, many men do really, by this path, find their way to Rome; while those who stop short of Rome find their footsteps yielding and slipping beneath them; and hard indeed is it, between their regard for evangelical truth, on the one hand, and their sacramental leanings, on the other, to pursue an upright, straight-forward career. There are, for instance, the evangelical clergy of the Church England. These protest vigorously against the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. And yet they use formulas which certainly seem to contain that doctrine. They do as Rome does. They say as Rome says. And yet they do not really believe in what the language they employ, strictly interpreted, would seem fairly to involve. So of evangelical Pædobaptists who are not of the Church of England. In administering what they call baptism to unconscious babes, they also do as Rome does; and yet they neither say as Rome says, nor intend what Rome intends. Thus there obtains, both within the Church of England; and without it, a singular conflict between evangelical theories, on the one hand, and an unevangelical practice on the other. And so reason is corrupted as well as religion. Nor will it be otherwise until the corrupting element of infant baptism is forever purged away.

J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICE.

SARAH PICK.

Died at Wolfville, on Thursday the 10th inst., Sarah relict of the late Robert Pick. Deceased was born at Parsboro in the year 1770, and at the time of her death had reached the age of ninety four years and three months. Her memory of events in early life was remarkably clear. She often related incidents connected with the first American war, some of the hardships of which she was made to feel. These recollections did not leap over the intervening period, as is often the case, but she was a living chronicle of events and incidents in this whole community; often referred to, and never at fault.

She was left a widow about twenty three years ago. Her life, while health and strength were continued, was one of quiet active usefulness. Early in life she had deep convictions of sin which resulted in conversion to God, but it was not until about thirty years ago that she made a public profession, was baptized by Father Harding and united with the 1st Church, Horton, of which she has always continued a member. Up to within a year of her death her mental faculties remained unimpaired and the delight she took in hearing the word of God, and joining in prayer evinced that much of her thoughts were taken up with eternal realities.

She was universally beloved and respected in this community, as a sincere Christian, a kind and benevolent friend. Of her descendants as far as can be ascertained there are now living seven children, thirty seven grand-children, seventy nine great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Religious Intelligence.

HANTSPOBT, Nov. 27, 1864.—Dear Brother, I returned home on Nov. 19th, after an absence of nine weeks. I found all well in my family, and thanks be to God I found the little Church at Falmouth somewhat revived. One dear sister was baptized by Rev. J. Stephens while I was absent, who supplied for me one Sabbath. Yesterday I baptized another, a young brother of promise, and others are expected a fortnight hence.

On Sept. 4 I baptized two brethren and received them into the Hantsport Church, one of some promise, under God, for time to come. Thanks to God, our dark and discouraged day begins to give way before God's truth. I will report my Cape Breton Mission soon. Yours in Christ, WM. BURTON.

CANADA.—The Canadian Baptist of the 10th Inst., informs us of two more ordinations, and other installation services in other places. The Baptist Churches of Canada are evidently making progress.

We also find several other items of religious intelligence. Additions by baptism have been made to the churches at Woodstock, three; Paris, three; Almonte, several lately; Roxboro, twelve; Ottawa, three by baptism, and five by letter, &c.

The theological course in the Congregational College of British North America, has been removed from Toronto to Montreal, and affiliated to McGill College.

MAINE.—The Zion's Advocate says, the Baptist churches in North Alfred and Waterboro, are enjoying revival seasons. Thirty in the former place, and twenty in the latter have professed conversion. At North Livermore, in the same State, six have been recently baptized.

TURKEY.—The Evangelical Alliance has taken up the cause of religious liberty in Turkey. A large deputation from it recently waited on Lord Russell to call his attention to the recent conduct of the Turkish Government, and to request him to enforce, diplomatically, the observance of the Hatti-Humayoun. The language of the Sultan in that now celebrated document is, "As all religions are freely professed in my dominions, none of my subjects shall be hindered in the exercise of the religion he professes, nor shall he be molested in the exercise of it." Respecting the facts of persecution, there seems to be the usual difficulty of conflicting evidence, though it is difficult to believe that the representations of the Turkish Government are correct. But the main point seemed to be to prevent the Turkish Government from putting an illiberal sense on the clause in question, one which was certainly not intended by either party when it was inserted in the Treaty. The Turks plainly wish to hinder attempts at conversion, and the sale and circulation of the Bible. Lord Russell acknowledges that the right to teach one's faith is an essential part of its free profession. As he too justly observed, however, some of the professedly Christian nations of Europe who permit free worship do not permit assailing the national religion, by attempting to teach the people what the teacher thinks a purer faith. Whether the deputation, or its more enlightened members, assented to all Lord Russell's views, we cannot tell; but we confess the probable meaning of one or two important remarks might be used by the Turks against missionaries who showed Mohammedanism to be error. He said, "Every Government will enforce respect for its own laws, and its established religion. We maintain that Christianity is part and parcel of the law of the land, and, although we permit temperate discussion, we punish persons who cast open insults on the Christian religion;" and his Lordship distinguishes this from causing street disturbances by preaching. Now, it is as natural for the Turks, as for the Spaniards and Roman Catholics generally, to regard hostile and condemnatory teaching as "insult." How very recently were Socinians and Catholics treated as insulters of orthodoxy, or of the Church! His Lordship should have been able to tell the Turks, that we permit every man to attempt freely the propagation of his faith; that we should not hinder Mohammedans more than we do Mormons; and that we should only punish as insults to any body of religionists, what would be regarded as punishable insults if offered to the holders of any opinion on politics or social matters.—Freeman.

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

[From Telegrams to Associated Press.]

TUESDAY, Nov. 22.—Receipts of National Sailors fair which closes to day will exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

Brig Vicid, of Halifax, sunk at sea, 4th inst; crew took to boats. Capt. Nickerson and crew arrived in New York to day, in the Brig "Lady of the Lake."

The Confederates report the exchange of prisoners progressing at Savannah.

The operations in Georgia and Tennessee are characterized as "vast campaigns singularly complicated."

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 23.—The Government has received no direct information from General Sherman for over two weeks.

A despatch from San Francisco reports the loss of ships "Minnehaha," "Matapan," and "Arno," in a gale, on the sixth of Oct, off Baker's Island—the ship "White Swallow," was missing.

Evening.—Late Richmond papers state that Sherman had captured several members of the Georgia Legislature and occupied the suburbs of Macon. They acknowledge that the Georgia Militia cannot defend the City. Sherman had captured the town of Griffin in his march.—Sherman spread out his forces sweeping a wide swathe of devastation and creating universal panic. Another column was reported as moving on Augusta and Milledgeville.

THURSDAY, Nov. 24th. To-day is observed as Thanksgiving. No gold market.

It is reported that rebel steamer Tallahassee got aground trying to run into Wilmington and was wrecked, guns &c, saved.

All reports of change in Washington Cabinet are without foundation.

FRIDAY, Nov. 25th.—The Philadelphia Bulletin yesterday published extras announcing that Sherman had captured Macon with many prisoners.

It is further reported that Vice President Stephens expressed desire to meet Federal commissioners in Canada. Very little credit attached to the report.

Sheridan had a severe cavalry engagement with Early in Shenandoah on Tuesday, lasting six hours. It appears to have been brought by a Federal reconnoissance and was without definite results. Gold 220.

Latest advices from the rebel General Hood estimate his army at 35,000 men which was marching on Pulaski, Tennessee. He intended to operate in Middle and East Tennessee and Kentucky.

Breckenridge and Forrest are also demonstrating in Tennessee in connection with Hood. All reports show a very active campaign progressing in the Southwest.

The Federal forces in that region are said to be strong and fully prepared to drive back the enemy.

Rebel pickets around Richmond are forbid to exchange newspapers with Federal pickets.

SATURDAY, 26th.—By arrival of vessels with exchanged Union prisoners from Savannah, at Fortress Monroe, papers from the former place to the 23rd are received. They are filled with reports concerning Sherman's expedition which is announced as one of burning and devastation; among the places reported captured and partially burned are Macon, Milledgeville, Monticello, Hillsboro' and Canton.

Beauregard has issued an appeal to Georgians to rally and drive back the vandal invaders, and says he will be with them soon. Georgia members of Confederate Congress at Richmond also make an appeal to same effect.

Evening.—Steamers from Europe to-day take about one million and half in gold. During last night fires were set in nearly all the leading Hotels in New York and also in Barnum's Museum. Great panic was created and many robberies committed during the confusion, in each case the fire was extinguished without serious damage. Phosphorus was used—being placed in beds of the several Hotels.

In Louisiana active military movements are reported.

Ten regiments of negro troops are being organized by the rebel Governor of that State. General Buckner is reported at Alexandria with ten thousand rebel troops.

A Federal expedition to Lafourche districts had defeated a Rebel force, destroyed their camps and captured a number of boats.

MONDAY, Nov. 28.—In consequence of the incendiary fires in New York, Gen. Dix has issued a special order that parties arrested shall be immediately tried before a Military Court, and if convicted they will be executed without delay of a single day.

A plot has also been discovered to set fire to the public buildings in Washington. The Governor of Georgia has called to arms all the able bodied men in that State to take the field.

The Confederate army under Hood, and the Federals under Gen. Thomas, were near each other and a battle was momentarily expected. Gold 228.

Evening.—Evidence has been obtained, showing that the facts of incendiarisms, on Friday night, were the result of a plot concocted in Canada by Confederate officers. Four of the band are under arrest, including the Treasurer, whose remaining treasure in gold is also secured.

The Federal Government has refused to receive the monster petition, containing three

hundred and fifty thousand names, forwarded from Great Britain, urging peace between the North and South. Gold 224.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon has been on a visit to the Emperor of Russia at Nice. He arrived at Nice at eight o'clock on Thursday evening. He was received at the railway station by M. Gavini, the prefect, and entering an open carriage with that functionary, Vice-Admiral Jurien de Lagravière, and General Fleury, passed through the town at a foot pace, amidst the loudest acclamations from the persons assembled.

The Emperor of the French had, on the 9th, returned to St Cloud, while the Czar betakes himself to the banks of the Rhine.

Accounts from the continent speak of the revival of the Napoleonic idea of a European Congress, where the principal subjects of discussion would be Rome and Italy. It is said that France, Russia and Prussia are agreed, that the objections of Austria and England are nearly overcome, and that Italy and Belgium are expected to assent to the general proposal.

ITALY.

The French Government not being satisfied with the interpretation put upon the Franco-Italian Convention, has called upon the Cabinet of Turin to give a more explicit definition of the engagements which it understands itself to have contracted. Writing on the 30th ult., M. Drouyn de Lhuys declares that the note of Chevalier di Nigra, of Sept. 15, does not sufficiently represent the sense of the Convention, and takes special exception to the ambiguous use of the words "national rights," and "national aspirations." In order to remove the misapprehensions which the use of such phrases might occasion, the French Government requires the Italian Government to declare that it undertakes to employ no revolutionary agents or incitements on Pontifical territory; that the transfer of the capital is a serious guarantee, and not a provisional expedient or a halting place; that it maintains the policy of Cavour, who declared that Rome could not become the capital of Italy without the consent of France. At the same time the Government of the Emperor would reserve to itself liberty of action in the event of a revolution at Rome. To this interpretation of the Convention the Chevalier di Nigra has formally consented.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

The official text of the treaty of peace between Denmark and the German Powers has been published. It contains twenty-four articles, together with a protocol referring to the evacuation of Jutland. Principal points of the treaty are already known. Denmark renounces all right to the Duchies, cedes the Slesvig islands along with Slesvig, and agrees to recognize any disposal of the ceded territories which the allies say make. Denmark is to be compensated for the war contributions levied in Jutland, and the vessels and cargoes captured on either side during the war are to be restored or the owners indemnified. The treaty has been laid before the Rigsraad, which opened on Saturday, but the public discussion of the subject has not yet begun.

JAPAN.

The official news of the forcing of the Straits of Simmonosaki appears to have reached Paris, from whence it has been supplied to the British authorities. The accounts are still, however, very brief. The straits were forced by sixteen ships of war after three days' fighting and a comparatively trifling loss of life on the side of the Europeans. All the batteries have been destroyed, and sixty bronze cannon captured. The guns appear to have been carried on board the fleet. The report that the Japanese are suing for peace is confirmed.

GREECE.

A message was recently sent by King George to the National Assembly, complaining of the slowness of the deliberations of that body. The following are the closing paragraphs:—

"I have desired my Ministers to lay the annexed draught of the remainder of the constitution before the National Assembly, and to declare that I am ready to accept and sign the portion already voted, as well as that which shall be voted, according to the plan I submit, the conditions of which in no degree differ from the wishes expressed by the Assembly up to the present time. I request the Assembly to deliver its vote upon this plan within a period of ten days. My Ministers will also bring forward within a period of ten days a bill relating to the election of deputies. I request the Assembly to debate and vote upon this bill in the course of this month.

But if the National Assembly does not conclude these labours within the above-mentioned periods I reserve to myself full liberty as to my future course, which will be such as shall be dictated to me by my deceived hopes, and I make the Assembly responsible for all the consequences.

(Signed) GEORGE.

"Athens, October 6 18"

Advices from Athens, received in Turin, describe the King's message to the National Assembly as a proper measure. Addresses from the Greek provinces enthusiastically approve of it, and the Assembly itself now goes about the work of consolidating the constitution with "calm celerity."