

For the Christian Messenger.

Sad and Sudden Deaths.

DEAR EDITOR, Seldom has there been, in any community, a more distressing ship-wreck than took place in the loss of the Sch. "Star in the East," which was driven upon the rocks and completely broken up, about two weeks since, at Port Nova point, near Mainadieu. The above named schooner, rather, her remains, were discovered, on Wednesday week last. But no soul survived to tell the sad fate of the crew. All had been either drowned or killed by being beaten upon the rocks by the force of the angry waves. In a day or two seven bodies were found on the shore, these were picked up and cared for by people of Mainadieu, till the sad news was sent to the friends of five of the deceased, all of whom lived near Sydney town. The names of these five are as follows: Capt. Joseph Bragg, and his two sons, David McLeod and Hanna Keenan, son of late Capt. Dennis Keenan. The bodies of the other two, who, it is supposed, were passengers are still (I believe) at Mainadieu; they are unknown.

"None," says the Cape Breton News, "none but the All-seeing Eye witnessed the loss of the gallant little Schooner, on the dreary shore of Port Nova. It is probable that the vessel had been blown off the land a week or ten days before that she was discovered, a shattered wreck. It is assumed, further, that the Captain on a change of wind, set sail for the coast and during the heavy, squally, thick weather of the preceding week, whilst running in on the land, the vessel struck the rocks, and became an immediate prey to the fury of the wind and waves. A GLOOMY FUNERAL most emphatically, was witnessed by the inhabitants of Sydney, where the bodies of the five known deceased were deposited in one grave, on Tuesday last. Even nature seemed to mourn for the horizon was dark and gloomy and the rain fell fast. Still there was a large attendance of people besides about 40 Sons of Temperance who performed the funeral service over the remains of their brother David McLeod—add to all this the thought of the four almost heart-broken widows and a large number of bereaved children, nearly all of whom are young and helpless, cast for support, upon the weeping mothers, stripped at one stroke of both husbands and property, and dry indeed must be that eye that will not shed a sympathizing tear; these husbands and fathers were just returning to the bosoms of their loved ones with nice gifts for the approaching holidays and supplies for the long, cold winter; and within two hours sail of their own firesides their hearts were beating high with hope. But one stroke from the hand of God, and all is gone.

What a striking lesson does this teach us who remain, of the dreadful uncertainty of human life, and worldly treasures. May God enable the weeping widows to look up to Him for grace and salvation. And may they, indeed, find Him to be the "widow's God" and a "Father to the fatherless."

"Prepare to meet thy God"—for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Yours in the gospel J. F. KEMPTON. Mirè Bay, C. B., Jan. 3rd 1865.

UNION MEETING IN ANTIGONISHE.—A crowded Union Meeting was held here last night.

The Attorney General addressed the assembly over four hours. The whole affair was a great success. The Union feeling is strong here and a vote of thanks was unanimously voted to the speaker.—Reporter.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.—The Directors thankfully acknowledge the following donations, subscriptions, &c, since their last announcement.

- His Excellency Sir E. G. MacDonnell, £3 0 0
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The late Judge Stewart, C. B., 2 10 0
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Collection in Knox Church, Pictou, 2 11 3
Do. in Presbyterian School, North West Arm, by J. J. Bremner, Esq., 1 0 0
Collection, second congregation, Mainadieu, 0 0 0
Thanksgiving Day, 0 0 0
Two young girls, Miss Sarah W. Carter and Mary Fisher, each \$5, their savings for a year, 0 10 0

JAMES COCHRAN, Secretary. Halifax, Jan. 10th, 1865.

LIBERAL BEQUESTS.—The late John Yorston Esq., of Pictou, whose death is recorded in our obituary column to-day, was noted for many years for his generous, but unostentatious liberality. We are informed that his will contains several large bequests for religious purposes. He left to the congregation of Prince Street Church, Pictou, of which he was a Member, the sum of £500 to erect a building for a Sabbath School. He also gave £500 each to the Foreign Mission, Home Mission and Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, making in all the large sum of £2000 bequeathed to religious purposes in connection with that church.—Citizen.

On Saturday night a soldier named John Sweeney deliberately broke eight panes of glass in one of the front windows of the City Court House, with his belt. He also assaulted Mr. Anderson, the clerk of the Market, in the Court House. The soldier was arrested and is now in custody.—Chronicle.

Mr. Thomas Low, 26 years of age, a native of Ship Harbor, N. S., was knocked overboard from a Pilot Boat a few days ago in the harbor of Portland, (Maine) and was drowned. He had resided in Portland for some years.

LECTURES.—The last week's Lecture before the Y. M. C. Association at Temperance Hall, was a highly popular one. The subject, "Have-lock and his last campaign," was an announcement which would prove, no small amount of attraction. The lecturer, too, is always well received on the platform. These two combined, were more than a match for the unfavorable weather on the evening of the lecture, and a large audience assembled, and were amply repaid for the effort to be present.

Our notice of the former lecture by the Rev. J. J. Joplin was accidentally mislaid, and we did not discover it till after we had gone to press. It was a very superior lecture. "Character" was held up as that which distinguishes men more than wealth, talents, or intellectual acquirements. The lecture was well adapted to young men, and calculated to do much good, by placing before them a high standard of character. The next lecture is to be on "A Happy Life," by Rev. Professor Ross.

THE ANNAPOLIS ELECTION resulted in the return of W. H. Ray, Esq., by a majority of 265 over his opponent. It is curious to observe the different opinions expressed as to what this election indicates. The Chronicle thinks it shows that the people are opposed to Federation, whereas that paper has been in favor of the Scheme till the past week. The new Editor of the Unionist—the late editor of the Chronicle—laughs at this and says:—"The gaddy perched upon the end of the axle, when the coach dashed off, shouted—Look at me! see what I am doing!—The Election is won, the School Bill is condemned. Quite so. How some folks like to strut in borrowed plumes!"

The Reporter says:—"No doubt the School Bill and the Dalhousie College question had much to do with the result." The Recorder thinks that "a goodly number voted from feelings of sympathy for Ray as he had previously run the county three or four times without success." This is a free country, and, meritorily every one may enjoy his own opinion.

MIDDLE RAWDON.—The new Meeting House at Middle Rawdon, was opened on Lord's Day, the 25th of December (Christmas Day).

A large congregation assembled, when the Rev. Mr. Wethers, of Newport, preached an appropriate sermon. In consequence of the pastor, Rev. Jas Stevens, being unwell, Mr. Foster occupied the pulpit in the evening. This sanctuary is on the site of the original one where the church held their meetings, under the patronage of the Rev. Mr. Munro. It is a very neat and commodious structure of 32 feet by 40, with a cupola; well finished and painted inside and out. The whole cost about \$1400, and by the combined effort of the church at Rawdon and their friends the whole is now paid for. The Building Committee take this opportunity of thanking the friends who have aided them in this undertaking.

THE MASON & HAMLIN CABINET ORGAN.—With your eyes shut, you cannot distinguish its sound from that of the pipe organ itself; and the advantages that commend it are: its price—for it can be had for one, two, three, or four hundred dollars, according to the size you wish; it takes up very little room, and may stand in any part of the church; it is not affected by heat or cold, or any change of temperature; it remains for a long period in good tune; and lastly, it can be sent by express or otherwise any distance with safety. It is admirably adapted to the performance of sacred music, psalm tunes, anthems, chants, etc., and any one who can play on the piano can readily master the Cabinet Organ. It is a grand accompaniment when the congregation sing, and is just the instrument that ought to be used in all churches where the people all wish to have the privilege of bearing a part in the praise.—New York Observer.

We find in Ayer's American Almanac, the remarkable statement that the temperature of the earth has not diminished more than 1-306th part of one degree Fahrenheit for 2000 years. To our enquiry how he could make such an assertion, Dr. Ayer writes us the following answer:—"Hipparchus gives the exact record of an eclipse in his time. This enables us to measure with extreme accuracy the earth's diurnal revolutions since to any eclipse now. Diminution of its heat would by concentration, shorten its axis and consequently its time of revolution on its axis. The data show that this change has been only such as I state it, mathematically and indisputably true."—New York Journal.

THE NEW STEAM FERRY BOAT is nearly ready for launching. It is said to have a number of improvements over those at present running between the City and Dartmouth.

New Brunswick.

The small pox is said to have made its appearance in King's County. A Mr. Sharp and his daughter have died of it, and other members of the family are sick. It is supposed that it was introduced by a sailor, who went from Quaco to King's County, and stopped at Mr. Sharp's.—Freeman.

John R. Partelow, Esq., Auditor General, recently received a severe cut from a fall on the ice. He died at his residence in Fredericton on Friday last.

Late on Wednesday night last, from overheating, the Hot House belonging to Judge Wilnot caught fire, and, together with all its contents—many specimens of rare and valuable plants—was totally destroyed.—Head Quarters.

The Country of Northumberland, N. B., has returned Richard Hutchinson, Esq., to the Legislature by a large majority over his opponent Mr. Howe.

A little boy, six years old, son of widow Robertson, Upper Sackville, N. B., has had two fingers cut off his right hand by a hay cutter with which he and some other children incautiously played.

WESTERN EXTENSION.—We understand the American Company which has made an offer to build Western Extension hence to the American frontier is very anxious to close the bargain, and that Mr. Poor telegraphed to the company here for their ultimatum yesterday. Some think that the work might be done by our own people, with out giving American speculators the benefit of the profits. We understand the matter is to be brought before the Common Council forthwith, and if the City Fathers will pledge the credit of the City for \$300,000 or \$400,000, it is said arrangements will be made to place the work under contract at once.—St. John Telegraph.

Canada.

The passport system is found to be exceedingly irksome and annoying to the Canadians on the borders of the United States. Any parties having to pass but a short distance, are compelled to obtain a passport for which they are required to pay \$2.50.

The Agents of the Grand Trunk Railway are not allowed to sell tickets to persons desirous of going to Buffalo, unless they are provided with a passport. The demand for passports keeps the Governor and Provincial Secretary busily engaged.

Lieut. General Sir W. F. Williams, Bart, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Volunteer Force called out for active service.

MURDERS.—A Mr. Lewis Jacques, of Oxford, met his death at the hands of his son, who subsequently delivered himself up to justice. The family had always lived on very friendly terms—the father, who was a native of New Brunswick, indulging in liquor to excess.

An employer had also been arrested for the murder of his hired man.

A man was last week found frozen to death near Kingston C. W. It appears that on the previous evening, which was a very cold one he had applied for shelter at several houses, but was refused, as from his appearance it was thought he might be a "raider."

INVASION OF CANADA.—The Globe has received a communication representing that a number of Federal soldiers now in Buffalo, have formed the design of making a raid into Canada, in revenge for the St. Alban's affair and the capture of the "Philo Parsons"; and that they are preparing a raft to convey them hither.

The rumor recently current in Montreal that a number of regiments had received orders to prepare to remove to Canada, is unfounded.

THE RAIDERS.—It is stated that should Mr. Justice Smith decide that he has no jurisdiction in the case of the St. Alban's raiders, and his companions, they would not leave the Province, but offer themselves for re-arrest, so that the case may be tried on its merits, and disposed of on the proper issue.—Quebec Mercury.

A farmer in the township of Wallace, (Canada West) alarmed by the appearance of something at his window the other night, which he thought was a "Fenian," about whom excited reports were prevalent, got out of bed, shot at it, and found he had killed his best cow.—Ct.

The Montreal City Council have accepted the resignation of the Chief of Police, Lamothe, arising out of the St. Alban's affair, after a lengthy discussion, by a vote of 14 to 11.

Mr. James Stenhouse writes us that the township of South Monaghan have resolved, by a majority of 91 to 9, to give a fair trial to Mr. Dunkin's Prohibition Bill. The friends of temperance in that township have set a noble example to others.

West Indies.

THE YELLOW FEVER at BERMUDA.—The Gazette gives the following statement respecting the ravages of this fatal malady during the past summer:—"What has been the total number of cases and what the exact proportion of deaths is extremely difficult to determine with accuracy—at least as far as the civilian part of the population is concerned, for though up to a certain

point a tolerably accurate record was kept, yet latterly the general confusion, as the epidemic increased, as well as the general concealment of cases by those who had their own private ends to answer in keeping them out of sight, both operated to render a reliable reckoning almost an impossibility. The cases among the military may be roundly stated at close upon 500, of which about one-third proved fatal—a rough calculation, based on statistics obtained as far as was possible, gives about 1500 cases in all among other classes, and furnishes a grand approximate total of within a few of 2000 cases and 670 deaths. A terrible per centage on the population."

Of the 71 blockade-running steamers that have visited Bermuda during the past year, 43 have been at various times captured, sunk, beached, or otherwise destroyed.

THE STEAMER "TALISMAN" FOUNDERED.—We regret to hear of the loss of the above named vessel and her cargo. The American schooner Orville, Captain Giles, from Philadelphia bound to New Orleans, called off St. Georges on Sunday last to land Captain Knox, officers, crew and passengers of the late steamship Talisman, which he rescued from that vessel when in a sinking condition about 350 miles to the westward of these Islands. The T. was from Wilmington bound to Bermuda, and had 450 bales cotton on board.

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June 15.

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