

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 15, 1865.

THE PUBLISHER presents his respectful compliments, with a brief message, to the following two classes of our readers:

- 1. TO THOSE WHO HAVE PAID—Much obliged.
2. TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PAID—Please pay soon, and save further trouble.

FAMILY RELIGION.

THE rising generation and the influences operating on them for good or evil are subjects of vast moment and always in season. It is impossible to form too high an estimate of the responsibilities of youth, whether connected with parents in the christian church, or in the world.

Much is said by certain parties about christian children for which there is no warrant in the sacred Scriptures, and yet we believe that the children of Christians owe much to the gospel. With Watts, they may sing

I thank the goodness and the grace
Which on my birth have smiled,
And made me in these Christian days
A happy English child.

Not only are they benefitted in their early days by the common sentiment in favor of virtue, but all through their more mature years is the fact of a pious parentage to be deemed a matter demanding the deepest gratitude to Almighty God. Whether such young persons recognize the claims of the gospel or not they are under the greatest obligations to religion, simply from the fact that their parents are christians. We have no idea of grace being transmitted from parent to child, and believe that, however holy the former may be, their children are, nevertheless, born in sin, and are the children of wrath even as others. The evil inclination soon develops itself in the life; and yet in ten thousand ways they are partakers of blessings with their parents. Although there may be much of imperfection in the lives and deportment of believers, yet if they are new creatures in Christ Jesus a change of inestimable importance has taken place in them, and they are far removed from what they would have been if without God and without hope in this world. Physically and mentally as well as morally, we believe that children are benefitted by the enlightened piety of their parents. It may not be easy in every instance to trace these qualities to their source; sometimes the beneficial influence comes directly, at other times indirectly, or from more distant connection than the parent. As "the iniquity of the father is visited on the children to the third and fourth generation," so we believe, in general, blessings pronounced on the righteous may be traced more or less to their posterity.

But whilst this may be true, and may serve to enhance the value of true religion in our estimation, it involves a vast amount of responsibility on such descendants of christian people. In some respects there is greater danger on this very account. If they fail to recognize the obligations resting on them, the blessings bestowed become sources of condemnation. Mercy is offered to all alike, but by none is it more needed than those who despise the good already conferred on them in having parents who draw their supplies from Heaven.

The children of christian parents are often neglected by others under the impression that they do not require the same exhortations and instruction as those who are not so favored. Christian parents themselves we fear are often defective in this very particular—they neglect to converse with their own children on matters of personal religion, and take it for granted that they must eventually be brought under the direct influence of the gospel. They thus fail to recognize themselves as the depositories of that truth which is to save their children as well as themselves. We believe in family religion, and in having households of believers; now as well as in apostolic times; and we would invite our readers to endeavour to realize more fully that wherever one in a family is brought into the kingdom of God it is that he or she may be the connecting link between heaven and earth, to introduce others to a like blessed experience.

LABRADOR.

The large number of NOVA SCOTIA fishermen who spend a portion every summer on the Labrador coast, engaged in fishing, might very properly suggest the importance of evangelical efforts there, and the employment of missionary operations during a portion of

that time. The Presbyterians had a missionary, Mr. Edward A. McCurdy, engaged there during a part of last summer. His report published in The Home and Foreign Record, for the present month, is exceedingly interesting. He went to Newfoundland and was disappointed in the vessel which was to take him thence to the field of operation, but went on in the steamer "Ariel." The following is a summary of his labors:—

"During the ten weeks from July 31st to October 9th, which your missionary spent on the coast, he sailed along 250 miles of it, from Holton Harbour to Red Bay, visited 54 Harbours, 120 families, and 26 vessels, with reading, exhortation and prayer; preached 46 times; addressed audiences numbering in the aggregate about 5180, in all of which there were probably between 1500 and 2000 different persons; distributed about 2290 tracts, and sold or gave away 24 Bibles."

The following description of the country will interest our readers:—

"Labrador proper, drained by rivers which flow into the Atlantic, extends from Blanc Sablon lat 52° N. lon. 57° W. to Cape Chudleigh lat. 60° 37' N. lon. 65° W. All the territory included between a strait line drawn from Blanc Sablon to Cape Chudleigh belongs to this district, and is under the jurisdiction of the Government of Newfoundland. The length of the curved line along the coast between these two points is not less than 740 miles. The northern part of the coast from Cape Chudleigh to Cape Welsback, is the proper home of the Esquimaux. This tribe of Indians are said to have received that name which means "eaters of raw flesh" from the other Indians their neighbours. They call themselves "Innuit,"—men,—and the rest of mankind Kabbnat "inferior beings." The Esquimaux are thought to be only a single tribe of a race which is scattered over the whole coast from Greenland, round Baffin's Bay as far as Behring's Straits. The several tribes speak dialects of the same language which has received the common name of Karalit. A hundred years ago the Esquimaux lived in the deepest darkness, practising all the crimes of heathenism, but by the self denying labours of the Moravian Brethren, upwards of 1100 of the 1500 of the tribe, have been brought under instruction, many of whom seem to have felt the power of the truth. Their mission was undertaken in 1769. Since that time they have established 4 settlements Hopedale, Nain, Okkak, and Hebron, at which there is a total of 128 houses, 244 families, and 1163 individuals of the Esquimaux tribe. Nain and Okkak have each 4 missionaries, Hebron and Hopedale 3 each. The total number of the Moravian brethren on the coast is 28. The spiritual oversight therefore of this extensive district is entirely in the hands of the devoted Moravians."

"Immense numbers from Newfoundland flock to Labrador towards the last of June, and remain there during the whole of the fishing season which lasts three or four months.—In each of the harbours, rude houses and fishing stages are erected, and when fish are abundant, they present a scene of bustling activity. It is impossible to state with accuracy the number of persons who have a temporary home upon this coast. At each of the harbours there is a population ranging from 20 to 100 souls, and it has been estimated that there are not fewer than 20,000 or 30,000 persons engaged in the prosecution of the shore fishery alone. Beside these, there is a large number of men in vessels, called green fish catchers, who come from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the States. I was told that not less than 1000 sail passed through between Indian Island and the mainland, on their way north during the past season. These vessels had at the very least an average of ten men on board, so that in all there were 10,000 of a floating population besides those living upon the coast. It is thought that from a third to a half of these people belong to the Roman Catholic Church. The rest adhere to the different Protestant denominations, but in what proportion is unknown. The most of those with whom I came in contact, were either Episcopalians or Wesleyans.—But to their honour it may be recorded, that they hail with joy the preaching of the gospel by anybody who was willing to tell the story of the cross, and on the Sabbath the preacher need never want a congregation."

"The Wesleyans have for some years sent one of their young men to the coast during the summer. Rev. Mr. Allen, formerly of Nova Scotia, was their missionary on the coast, during the past season, and a fortnight spent in his company at Indian Tickle passed away very pleasantly. The spiritual oversight therefore of the thousands to whom we have referred devolves upon three men of whom only two are permanently in the field. Truly the harvest is great but, alas! the labourers are few. Three times the present number particularly in the summer season would find ample employment. But from what quarter are these labourers to come? The fact that all the Protestants upon the coast are either Episcopalians or Methodists imposes weighty obligations upon the Church of England and the Wesleyan to put forth greater efforts on behalf of their adherents."

CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATURE.—At the opening of Parliament, the new Legislative Councillor, Hon. J. W. Ritchie was in his seat, having been duly installed previous to the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor. Although we entertain the greatest respect for that gentleman, yet we should have preferred, other things being equal, to have seen one of another religious denomination placed there. The late Hon. W. A. Black, who resigned for

the purpose of allowing Mr. Ritchie to sit in the Council, belonged to the Wesleyan Methodist body, and notwithstanding the Church of England was before so largely represented there, another member of that body is added. The Methodists with upwards of 84,000 and the Baptist with upwards of 62,000 of the population of the province, are scarcely represented in the Upper Branch of the Legislature, whilst the Church of England with a population of but 47,000, has, we believe, a majority of its Protestant members, and all the offices of the Council, except that of President.

Denominationalism should not rule in such appointments, yet in the bestowment of office and position in that body, we think such considerations should not be lost sight of, or the confidence of a large proportion of the people is weakened.

Another change is made in the Upper House. The Rev. G. W. Hill succeeds the Ven. Archdeacon Willis, as Chaplain. No one could object to Mr. Hill personally, in this office, but it is likely that if it had been known to other clergyman that Dr. Willis was going to resign, there would have been other names equally acceptable before the Council. An Episcopal clergyman having been so long in that office, it would have been in harmony with our professions of religious equality to have had one of another denomination to succeed him. We mention these things not by way of faultfinding, but for the purpose of reminding the "powers that be" that the people are likely to think of them. We are desirous of guarding our rulers from future mistakes.

The Rev. James Palmer, we learned from a friend a few days ago, is still lying on a sick bed. He has been perfectly helpless for about four months, and without hope of being raised up to engage again in the work on which he had just entered. Although suffering so much yet he is strong in the faith of the gospel, and is patiently waiting to hear the message "Come ye blessed of my Father." Whilst deeply sympathizing with our brother in his affliction, we must bow submissively to the Allwise disposer, and say, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

ERRATUM.—The errors of the typos are sometimes serious and at others laughable. For instance it is not pleasant to find him who was known to be your friend by the omission of an r turned into a "fiend."

In our last issue we were made to say that Jeannie Geddie threw a "cutty stove" at the head of the Dean, whereas it was written "cutty-stool," and should have been so printed. It is unfortunate that "the art preservative of all arts" also preserves these typographical blemishes.

NEWS SUMMARY.

THE week has been more than usually barren of news from abroad. There appears to have been an encounter between some sections of the hostile armies before Richmond, in which the Federals were repulsed in an attempt to advance, with some loss, but no accurate particulars are given. Gen. Sherman is said to be advancing on Charleston, which it is not improbable may fall into his hands. The failure of the late Peace Conference at Fortres Monroe, seems to have left both parties more resolutely determined to prosecute the war.

Our own Legislature was opened by the Lieutenant Governor for the despatch of business on Thursday last. His Excellency's opening speech will be found in another column. The principal subject referred to, is, as a matter of course, the great question of the proposed Union of the British Provinces. It seems quite uncertain how soon this highly important subject will come on for discussion in the House. It has been already to a certain extent commenced in the Canadian Parliament now in session at Quebec. The ultimate action on the subject will, however, be somewhat retarded by the New Brunswick elections now, we believe, going on. The writs for the election of members there are not returnable until the end of March. A large diversity of opinion prevails among ourselves. Such being the case, it would be undesirable that the question should be hastily pressed on, which, however, as far as we can learn, there is no disposition to do.

Notices, &c.

The Lecture advertised to be delivered before the above society, on the 17th of February, by Avard Longley, Esq., is hereby postponed until further notice. J. M. MACDONALD, Cor. Sec. Wolfville, Feb. 11th, 1865.

Meetings of the N. S. B. Home Missionary Board.

Wednesday, 4th Jan., 1865.
IN THE VESTRY OF THE G. S. CHURCH.
Present.—Bro. J. W. Nutting, in the chair.
Revs. A. H. Munro, R. R. Philip, Dr. Camp, Brethren D. A. Steele, Geo. Robins, A. E. Robinson, D. Thompson, Dr. Parker, S. Selden and Secretary.

Letters read from Revs. Thos. Powers, A. S. Hunt, Malcom Ross, Geo. Weathers, and Obed Parker.

Present.—Rev. Dr. Fryor, in the chair.
Revs. Obed Parker, R. R. Philip, Brethren S. Selden, Geo. Robins, Dr. Parker, Lewis S. Payzant, and Secretary.

Notice is also hereby given that the Board has engaged the services of Rev. Jos. H. Saunders, to collect funds in aid of the Mission. He has already entered upon the agency, and anticipates laboring in the counties of Annapolis, Kings, Hants and Halifax. He may also visit Stewiacke, Truro and Onslow, and return by the way of Chester and Liverpool.

Bro. Saunders and his mission are commended to the favorable regard of all who are interested in the cause of Christ among the French in those places. The French Mission has a history and shall have a future, and present indications are calculated to stimulate faith and hope in the hearts of its friends. R. D. PORTER, Secretary.
Hebron, Jan. 27th, 1865.

Letters Received.

- Rev. S. T. Rand, 3rd. J. Oakes, 1st. O. H. Cogswell, 31st. \$4. W. S. Parker, 31st. J. Moser, 31st. M. Kineman, 2nd, \$4, 1 sub. J. P. Saunders, 3rd, \$15 65. Rev. A. W. Bars, 2nd. H. C. Creed, 26th. J. McLearn, Esq., 1 sub. H. E. Payson, Esq., 4th, \$20. W. Hall, Esq., 2nd, \$24. J. M. Parker, Esq., 7th, \$8. J. Welch, 8th, \$2. Chas. Bill, Esq., 8th, \$6 50. R. Harris, Esq., 11th, \$6. W. J. Gates, 9th, \$9.50. W. Churchill, 7th, \$32. G. W. Freeman, 9th, \$20, 1 sub. J. F. Marsters, Esq., 9th, \$4. H. Roberts, per W. Blackwood, Esq., \$4. W. Milberry, 9th, \$1, 1 sub. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 10th. W. A. Morse, 10th, 1 sub.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Halifax, November 26th, 1864.

APPOINTMENTS.

To be one of Her Majesty's Counsel, learned in the Law,—Silas L. Morse.

February 7th, 1865.—To be Chaplain of the Legislative Council:—The Reverend George W. Hill, in place of the Venerable The Archdeacon, resigned.

To be Notaries and Tabellions Public,—Wm. D. Sutherland and Simon H. Holmes, Attornies at Law.

Guyborough Co.—To be an Issuer of Marriage Licenses, and Deputy Registrar of Marriages, Births and Deaths,—Thomas Milward Stormont.

Halifax Co.—To constitute a Board of Health at Dartmouth:—Patrick Fuller, George Shiels, Wm. H. Weeks, M. D. To be Justices of the Peace:—Nicholas Power; William B. Christian; Andrew Gray; John Hays; James Conway.

Cumberland Co.—To be a Justice of the peace for said County:—John Hewson, of Goose River.

Civic.—The City Council met on Friday afternoon. An abstract from the Treasurer's Accounts was read, showing the amount assessed for sundry services from 1st May, 1864, to 1st May, 1865, and the amount disbursed to 31st December, 1864, as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Amt. assessed, Amt. Disbursed, and item descriptions like Internal Health, City Prison, Fire Department, Board of Health, Streets and Drains, City Water Works, Gas Company, Contingent, Salaries, Police Establishment, Rock Head Land.

Over £3000 were last year expended in opening and repairing streets. The Street Committee had disbursed £500 in addition to the appropriation, and the Council was asked to supply the deficiency. It was decided, by the casting vote of the Mayor, not to grant the request.

We learn from a morning contemporary that the Juvenile Reformatory, established last summer in the City Prison Buildings at Rock Head, is now in operation. There are already a large number of juveniles in the institution. A school has been established on the premises, in which the lads are taught lessons in spelling, reading, and writing, every day. A workshop has been fitted up for the purpose of instructing the inmates of the Reformatory in the art of shoemaking and other trades that require but little stock to experiment upon.

Pigs!—Four pigs raised at the Poor's Asylum weighed respectively when killed: 459lbs, 376lbs, 349lbs, 410lbs; total, 1494lbs.

Mr. Charles W. Moser, of Pleasant Valley, Rawdon, Hants Co., on the 30th ult., killed a hog aged nineteen months, which weighed seven hundred and thirty pounds. The fat fried out of the carcass weighed one hundred and seven pounds!