

which by their elaborateness require a severe effort of attention. The simple presentation of the gospel, with tenderness and earnestness, meets the wants and wishes of both saints and sinners. The latter have sufficient perception of their own state and of the object of preaching to appreciate and desire such a handling of the Sacred Word as leaves it to make its own impression without factitious additions. They prefer close and direct dealing, even though it wounds and disturbs. And if they, how much more true believers? Intellectual display freezes them: unadorned directness warms and melts. Happy the preachers who are natural without being obvious, instructive without being cold, and interesting without overshadowing their theme! —*Christian Intelligencer.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 20, 1865.

OUR SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS.

EDUCATION is perhaps one of the most prosy subjects on which a public journalist can write, but it is one which must not be ignored, for it is that which concerns every community, every family in a community, and every individual member of a family. Our present school law is of such a nature, that every man in the province must give some attention to it, whether he feels inclined to do so or not. Although he may be unwilling to recognize its claims, he cannot resist the arguments by which it is now invested. These appeal not to his inclination or judgment alone, but come to a very tender part of human nature—the pocket—and make a demand—a very small one—that he shall not rid himself entirely of the responsibility of being a member of civilized society, and shirk the duty of providing for the instruction of the rising generation. We are governed by laws and it is right that all should obey them, and all must be taught to read that they may be enabled to know what the laws require. Because some have got along pretty well with little or no education, that is no reason why others should do the same. If all were in the same condition with respect to the ability to read and write and keep accounts, we should soon relapse into a state of barbarism. The possession of property is more or less dependent on the intelligence of a community, and this is deemed a good reason for making property contribute towards the support of education.

The law enacted last session will come into operation on the 16th day of October next. Its provisions are the result of a vast amount of thought, consultation, and experience. Heretofore we have had modes of operation confessedly imperfect, and only endured until some more satisfactory state could be reached.

On the day above named, Trustees must be elected and provision made for the organizing and support of schools for the year. The subject of assessment will not be open for discussion in the public sectional school meetings. A certain amount of provision is made by the law for an assessment to be collected with the county rates. This, with the amount of Provincial Grant, will be available in every section where a school is held and where its advantages are free to all who may wish to receive instruction therein. But this sum will be insufficient in most places and will need some addition to be made to it to enable the Trustees to secure the services of a respectable, competent Teacher. This addition must be raised by subscription, and it will be for the parties present at the sectional meetings to commence their subscription liberally, so that the Secretary of the Trustees may have a fair start before calling on other persons in the Section. The larger the amount subscribed the better the Teacher to be secured for the Section; and the greater the probability that the enlarged amount for Superior Schools will be obtained.

It cannot be ascertained exactly what amount will be received from the Commissioners by each Section, until it is known how many sections in the County or District will provide schools according to law. The subscription should therefore be of such an amount, as will warrant the Trustees in making an engagement for a fixed salary with a good Teacher. This can be ascertained sufficiently near for the purpose. This matter should be taken up in time. A little conversation and agreement before hand would be very desirable, so that when the meeting takes place there would be a fair chance for the routine to be attended to, and difficult points to be elucidated. It is useless to raise objections now to Subscription, the doing so will only have the effect of diminishing the amount raised, and by that means probably damage the school for the year.

If it is thought that it would be better to make up the supplementary amount required

by a sectional assessment than by subscription, an appeal to the Legislature will bring the matter up for consideration and amendment. Those who are opposed to this feature of the law, should carefully avoid letting that opposition appear as against the law itself, and so against the education of the children in their own Section. We are far from thinking the law perfect, but are disposed to make use of it as far as possible, and find out its weak places by practical application of the machinery to the work it is meant to perform, and then seek for a correction when the remedy becomes apparent. We have several other points to notice in reference to the School Law, but must defer them for another occasion.

WESTERN EXTENSION.

THERE has been considerable discussion since the return of the Hon. Provincial Secretary from England respecting the result of the delegation on the extension of our railways. We were informed by the *Colonist* that,—

“Contracts have been executed between the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the International Contract Company, for the immediate construction of the Railway from Truro to Moncton, involving no greater expense to the Province than that contemplated by the act, viz: Thirty Thousand Pounds Currency per annum for twenty years.”

The prospect for the railroad to Annapolis are not quite so satisfactory. The reason given for the same company declining to contract for that work, is, that it has not been surveyed. This may be a good reason as far as that company is concerned, but are we, and the western counties to be content with it? Surely not. Some further action towards the furtherance of this great work should be effected without delay. The want of a bridge across the Avon is said to be the great barrier to proceeding westward. But we would ask why not commence the line on the western side of that river, and have a section built, say to Kentville, without the Avon bridge? This would be a boon not only to Kings and Annapolis, but also to all the counties beyond, and a guarantee that the bridge would be built soon, and that the railroad would, eventually, be extended further westward. We would advise the government that western men will not be long content to remain as they are, whilst the eastern are absorbing so large a portion of the provincial revenues.

SIR MORTON PETO in company with a number of about 200 other gentlemen from England arrived in New York on the 5th inst., on a visit to the American and Canadian Oil wells, and to inspect the works for the bridge at Niagara which is to connect the American and Canadian lines of railway. Sir Morton Peto has taken the contract for the construction of this great public work.

On the 9th inst., a banquet was given at Meadville, Pennsylvania in honor of these gentlemen. Sir Morton made a highly complimentary speech on the occasion, and one that will doubtless have some good effect on the public policy of the country. A short extract will indicate somewhat of its character.

In speaking of the National Debt of the United States he said:—

“The world says you have accumulated a mighty debt. Well, the figures do look large; but it may be some consolation to know that your debt is not so large as ours, the figures being as eight hundred million pounds sterling to six hundred million pounds sterling. The interest at present will be at a greater rate of charge in your country than our own; but such is the enormous extent of your territory, and such its rapid development, and such, I believe, the self-reliant attitude of your people, that no difficulty will arise in your meeting the annual charge. Our own progress as a nation was shown to be so great in a recent speech by Mr. Gladstone, since the adoption by us of a free trade policy, that, by the showing of the people themselves in their income tax and property returns, the increase in ten years has exceeded the total value of our entire national debt. Let me adopt familiar explanations:—Suppose each American spent on his dinner one shilling a day for a year, your people would consume as much as the entire national debt you have incurred. (Laughter) Look at the railway whose completion we are here celebrating. Why, it has cost one sixtieth of your entire national debt, and yet it has been subscribed mainly by foreign capitalists during the period of your struggle, and the receipts show it to be a highly remunerative investment. Again, let me refer to another fact: We pay in London on cab hire and omnibus hire yearly, in that single city, as much as the income and property tax of our entire kingdom; and when I look to the enormous development and rapid increase of the population and wealth of your country—when I look, for instance, at the oil districts over which I have passed to-day, where I saw evidences of unexampled wealth and prosperity on every side, and where I saw in one place, where on

the 1st of June last not a single shanty had been erected, at the present time, on this 9th of September, four hundred houses finished and inhabited, two churches built, six banks established, two telegraph stations and the extension of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, began only four months since, within a month of its completion—I say, sir, when I see such facts as these, there is nothing in your debt which need create anxiety or make you feel you have incurred responsibility which you cannot honorably meet. I say, sir, though we cannot too much deplore all the blood shed and its lamentable consequences, there is nothing for you to deplore in your future. You have only to base your taxation equitably, fairly and in such a transparently honest way that every class may see that none are excepted and none are unfairly treated. Be true to yourselves, and the world will not be slow to appreciate your position and do you full justice. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)”

We should be glad to learn that Sir Morton Peto would visit Nova Scotia, on his way home. A man of such celebrity and large hearted benevolence, and a whole-souled Baptist withal, would afford us pleasure to look upon.

PRESBYTERIAN.—At a meeting held at Windsor on the 5th and 6th Inst., of the Presbytery of Halifax, we learn from the *Witness*, that “the Rev. John Sprott was restored to his former status in the Presbytery and in the church.”

This veteran Presbyterian minister, we understand, was excluded some year or two since from the body for refusing to obey the mandate of the Presbytery to appear before them; in reference to the performance of a marriage service between parties deemed by them within the limits of consanguinity.

NEWS SUMMARY.

The latest intelligence from Great Britain shews that the cattle disease which had previously been confined to some of the larger cities, was appearing in other places in different parts of the kingdom. The cattle on being attacked are seized with trembling and purging, and mucous discharge from the nostrils follows, and death takes place in a period of from twelve hours to seven days.

Meetings were being held to devise means for preventing its extension. Great alarm was prevailing: it should be the precursor of wide spread disease amongst the people.

At a meeting held at Warwick in the previous week, Lord Leigh spoke of one poor tenant farmer who had suffered from its ravages at Bubbenthal, and moved a resolution that a fund be opened to compensate those whose losses had occurred before the formation of the County Cattle Plague Insurance Association. Mr. Mark Phillips, a wealthy landowner, seconded his lordship's motion, and suggested an appeal to the Lancashire manufacturing districts, the inhabitants of which were generously assisted in their time of distress and trial by the Warwickshire farmers. Mr. Newdigate, M. P. who had come from London specially to assist the meeting in its deliberations on the subject spoke in favor of a general rate for the relief of the sufferers. He also thought the importation of cattle ought to be prohibited. Ultimately Lord Leigh's motion was withdrawn on the understanding that a subscription should be opened at once for the sufferers hitherto, as also those who may suffer loss before County Insurance organization is perfected. Several cases of cattle plague were reported. A committee was appointed to draw up rules and regulations for the County Insurance Association, and to bring it into operation with as little delay as possible. The plague has appeared at Coleshill, Bubbenthal, and several other places in the county.

Meetings of a similar character had been held in other parts of the country.

The apprehensions of the cholera advancing westward were subsiding. An article in the *Times* of the 23rd ultimo, compares the course of the cholera on its former visitation and the present, shewing that there is no similarity between the present and the past. It concludes:

“It has not spread beyond Ancona though the disease in that town was very intense. Once there was a story of its appearance in Milan, but that was not confirmed. It has not advanced beyond Marseilles, or beyond any of the infected ports on the east coast of Spain.

Southern Italy has been attacked, but only under similar conditions. Cholera is last reported from San Nicandro and San Severo—the former a town close upon the coast, the latter a little beyond. There are results of a survey of the case up to the present moment. The only exception is a report of the cholera in Hanover, but this in professional statement is reduced to “cholera,” and is apparently only such a disorder as occurs most autumn in London. In short, upon a summary of the evidence we come to this conclusion, not that an Asiatic pestilence is advancing upon us across Europe, but that there has been an extraordinary outbreak of cholera in the basin of the Mediterranean.”

The crops in England were good. The food for cattle on the great marshes was more abundant than for many years past. Wheat was quite an average crop although inferior in quality, in consequence of the wet weather in the early part of the summer.

The French Fleet were at Portsmouth, returning the visit of the English at Cherbourg, and festivities were the order of the day.

If we may judge by our telegrams, the U. States people are greatly interested in the villain Wirtz, the late jailor of Andersonville prison. Almost every day there has been some mention of him as if some capital were to be made by it. His trial certainly reveals a depth of depravity and heartless cruelty almost unparalleled. The horrible details given of the treatment he inflicted on the thirty thousand prisoners incarcerated in that wretched place are most sickening. Three thousand died there, and a number of others were reduced to a state of insanity, almost worse than death.

Notices, &c.

A memoir of the late Rev. James Palmer, by Rev. Dr. Tupper is received. It will appear next week.

Mr. Oliver Cogswell has kindly consented to aid us by being our agent for Morristown, Aylesford. We should be obliged if our subscribers in that neighbourhood would forward their subscriptions by his hands.

Rev. D. G. Shaw begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums for the 2nd Hammond's Plains (colored) Meeting House.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| From 1st Cornwallis Church, | \$8.00 |
| Newport West, | 2.71 |

Any Collections which, in accordance with the recommendation of the Central Association, have been taken for the same object, the friends will please forward to R. N. Beckwith, Esq., Halifax, as soon as possible, as the work is being delayed for want of funds.

Western Infirm Ministers' Fund.

The Board of the Infirm Ministers Fund of the Western N. S. Baptist Association will meet (D. V.) at the house of Mr. William John, St. Mary's Bay, on Thursday, the fifth day of next month, (October) at two o'clock, P. M., for the transaction of important business. A full attendance is respectfully urged.

CHAS. RANDALL, *Convener.*
Weymouth, Sept. 6, 1865.

P. S.—The Members are,—Rev. John C. Morse, and brethren Charlton Sabean, William John, Wm. Aymar, W. H. Gridley, Samuel Whitecock, W. S. Raymond, and the Subscriber.

C. RANDALL.

Colchester County S. School Convention.

The Annual meeting of the Colchester Co. Baptist S. S. Convention will be held in Truro, on Friday, the 29th inst., at two o'clock, P. M. It is earnestly desired that every school may be represented, and statistics forwarded.

T. B. LAYTON, *Secretary.*

Letters Received.

Rev. J. McAttee. Rev. E. M. Saunders.
Rev. Dr. Tupper. Rev. R. J. Langridge.
J. M. Parker, Esq. Rev. L. B. Gates. W. Faulkner, Esq.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

THE HORSE RAILROAD was inaugurated on Saturday last, with much *clat*. A large company assembled on the rising ground near the Railway Depot at Richmond. At about 12 o'clock His Excellency arrived and, after a few minutes conversation with Mr. O'Brien the projector of the enterprise, and manager on behalf of the Company,—took the handsomely gilt pick-axe provided, and gave a few energetic strokes in the previously unbroken ground. On his doing this Lady McDonnell, in the true character of a help-meet, took the gilt spade and removed the earth loosened by her husband. His worship the Mayor, seeing the work so well begun, then took the pick and gave a few more vigorous strokes in the ground and the Lady Mayoress in like manner, lent her aid with the shovel. Cheer upon cheer arose from the spectators.

His Excellency then made a short and appropriate speech remarking that although the horse-railway would be a local work yet it would prove of great advantage to all who might travel by the railroad, supplying what had long been needed reliable and speedy connection between the city and the Railway.

A portion of the road had been partially loosened and now a team of six horses with a heavy plough were brought forward and the excavation for laying the sleepers was commenced, to the admiration of all present.

The company then proceeded to an enclosure of tables in the Governor's field and partook of lunch, over which Mr. O'Brien presided. Toasts were afterwards given and speeches in reply to them made, by Sir R. G. McDonnell, Judge Jackson the American Consul, Hon. A. Keith, the Hon. Provincial Secretary, Mr. O'Brien, Aldermen S. Tobin, W. Compton and J. D. Nash.

The progress of this much-needed work will be regarded with interest as it progresses and we trust its successful completion will be shortly effected to the great comfort of our citizens and visitors from the country, especially those bringing their produce to our markets.