

mission, firm trust. That so fearful a tide of war should overspread the neighbouring country, inflicting miseries of such magnitude and extent, appears one of the dark dispensations of Providence. Yet it is reasonable and scriptural to believe that great designs worthy of God, and tending to promote, ultimately, the welfare of man, are to be brought to their issue by this means, but which might have been otherwise indefinitely postponed.

That the chief magistrate of the United States should be removed from his post at such a time and in such a manner, is a melancholy and mysterious event. His countrymen will doubtless lament that he was not permitted to superintend the re-construction of the Union, and to apply to that object, confessedly surrounded with difficulties, the considerate prudence and tact by which he was distinguished.

Let us therefore submissively bow before God, the almighty and all-wise Sovereign, and "be still" in his presence. We must not question his goodness. "Who is among you that feareth the Lord and obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and stay himself upon his God."

"Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain:
God is his own interpreter,
And He will make it plain."

Let us indulge in cheerful hope. The sun is rising on the down trodden African race. The neglects and wrongs of ages past will be repaired. Africa itself will again be plentifully dotted with churches, as it was in the early centuries of the christian era. And the pleasurable feelings with which we contemplate this prospect may be transferred to other parts of the world. There is hope for Italy, where moral slavery has shed its baleful influence for ages. There is hope for Russia; its emancipated serfs are thronging into schools, and the word of God is sown broadcast among the people. There is hope for Turkey, for a streak of light is penetrating the darkness of Mohammedan bigotry. There is hope for Mexico, where religious toleration has become law, in spite of the Pope. There is hope for India: Brahminism and Buddhism are giving way to the gospel, and science aids the gospel by sapping the very foundations of idolatry. The devil's reign is doomed. The kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of Immanuel.

Let just aspirations be encouraged. The illustrious man whose death we this day deplore was a striking instance of well directed energy and enterprise, and steady self-reliance. He felt that he was born to command. He sought education to fit himself for his destiny. He succeeded. The humble farm-labourer became President of the greatest republic on earth. Here, in North America, the path to eminence lies open to all, free from the obstructions which check the progress of the aspiring in the old world. Let our ardent youth be encouraged. Get solid education, based on christian principle, and you will be fit for any thing. Cultivated mind governs the world. Let every young man aim to be one of the governors.

Finally, let us learn a lesson of duty. Our neighbours and ourselves may learn it. There has been much rancorous feeling expressed on both sides. The religious press, we are sorry to say, has been foremost in the matter, particularly in the United States. Some of the weekly periodicals are continually fomenting hatred and strife, and stirring up the bad passions of the multitude against the British. This is unkind and unwise. Great Britain and America, united, may control the affairs of the nations, and place the drag on the wheel of despotism everywhere. It is observable also that the missionary enterprise is chiefly in their hands. Of the 541 missionaries now in India, the larger proportion by far, probably seven-eighths of the whole, are Britons or Americans. The proportion is about the same elsewhere. Now, these countries ought to be indissolubly united. Nothing could be more calamitous than unkindness or war between them. The churches of the Lord should do all in their power to prevent such a disaster.

All duty requires immediate attention, for "the time is short." That death at Washington warns every one to prepare. We may have no reason to dread the pistol or the dagger, but the messenger may be as swift and the stroke as sudden. And it may come any day. "Be ye also ready." Who is "ready?" Not the careless—not the formalist—not the self-righteous—not the man that thinks himself safe because he has done his duty to his fellow-men, while neglectful, as in too many cases, of his duty to God. No! The humble believer in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is seeking to be like him, and is daily endeavouring to live to his glory—he, and he only is "ready." If Abraham Lincoln was such a man, he was "ready"—and then it mattered not, as far as he was concerned, when or how the blow came. There was no cause to fear death. Are we "ready?" "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith."

TEMPERANCE.—The Quarterly Session of the Grand Division, held last week at Bridgetown, was one of interest. About fifty Delegates were present. A public meeting was held on Wednesday evening last, in the Session house, and was addressed by Dr. McRoberts, Revs. Messrs. Keane and Vidito, and Mr. R. M. Barratt. The returns from the various parts of the country, are highly encouraging.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Bible among the Freed-men.

New York, April 21st, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am sure your readers will be pleased to learn that the work among the millions of Freed-men in our country, is going forward. I send you a copy of a letter from Rev. B. Thomas, with whose character we have long been acquainted. It is the latest communication on the subject of the wants of the now liberated bondmen, before us. I feel certain that there are multitudes of good men and noble women in Nova Scotia who will be glad to help forward this enterprise.

Our country is in deep mourning. We have lost a good and tender hearted ruler. The ways of God are mysterious. We bow before him. But we all feel that the people of the South have lost their best friend. He was always studying how best he could pardon the leaders in the war against the government. Peace was so near. The carnage was so nearly ended, that we hoped he might, with his own hands heal the wounds of the nation. But an assassin prevented it. We hope and pray that his successor may have wisdom and firmness to do right. Our city is draped in the habiliments of woe. Scarcely a house in the city is not clad in mourning garments. Broadway, from the Battery to Central Park, in all its length, is one extended canopy of grief. The habitations of the humblest show that the inmates are stricken with a great sorrow.

The freedom of the enslaved in our land is purchased at a great price. But it is secured. The war is substantially over. Now our great work will be to lift up into civilization and christianity the millions who have so long and patiently endured their bondage. Give us your prayers, your sympathies and your help, to place the word of the Lord in the hands of all this people.

Yours very truly,

C. A. BUCKBEE, Assist. Treasurer.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN BENJAMIN THOMAS.

Fort Pinney, Helena, Ark., April 9, 1865.

WILLIAM H. WYCKOFF, Cor. Sec. A. B. U.

My very dear Brother:—Buried as I have been in the din of war for the last four years, and missing nearly all mail matter, I had a real treat this rainy Sabbath morning. I found it in the Bible Union Quarterly for November, and in the Soldiers' Edition of the New Testament by the Bible Union, containing Galatians and Thessalonians.

The rain and water to-day prevented my preaching to my command, and I felt that I could not better spend a part of it than by presenting the claims of these colored people who crave the Bible.

They learn to read very rapidly, and the clear type and paragraph form make it well adapted for them. They ought not to have the whole New Testament in one book. It costs more, and they will not take care of books as well as the educated white people.

These poor blacks can now have the Bible, for the first time, freely put into their own hands. They commit with great ease, and their quotations will be in better English than others who have learned from the old version.

This is the great missionary field for the Christians of this age. Over 4,000,000 of heathen are in our country, nearly all of whom are anxious for the truth. We love to Christianize the Karens, because they welcome us. The harvest truly is great, but the real laborers are few. I have had a life-long desire to be a missionary; and now I have the opportunity, while serving the Government, to do some missionary work at the same time.

We have a large Sabbath school here of 200 scholars, and I would like to put these little volumes in the hands of all who can read. There are about 100 who could use them well. I could distribute on the plantations around here 200 or 300 more. I would be glad to hear from you. God bless the Union and its officers!

Your brother,
BENJAMIN THOMAS.

We have sent 300 copies to our Brother Thomas. Opportunities are numerous for doing good to the multitudes of freedmen. We could distribute many thousands of copies immediately, if we had the means; and we earnestly desire the co-operation of all who feel interested in Christianizing and lifting up these millions from their ignorance and degradation. Help us, friends, in the good work. Aid for this object may be sent to

WILLIAM H. WYCKOFF, Cor. Sec.,

or to C. A. BUCKBEE, Ass't Treas'r,
AMERICAN BIBLE UNION,
350 Broome Street, New York.

OUR SCHOOLS.—The Halifax City Clauses of the new Education Act, have several provisions differing from those made for the other parts of the Province. We have been unable to learn exactly what these are, but as far as we hear the Commissioners are to be appointed by the Governor in Council, two from each Ward. These are to be a Board to have entire charge of the Schools of the City, and attend to the expenditure of the Provincial Grant, and the two-thirds of that amount Assessed on the City, the same as in the counties. We shall be able in a week's time to shew more certainly what they are.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 3, 1865.

We are much obliged to Rev. Dr. Cramp for his Notes of the Sermon preached by him at Wolfville, on the death of President Lincoln, given on the first page of our present issue. After preaching said sermon a request was made for its publication in full, but having only the notes in manuscript, Dr. C. consented to their appearing in our columns. We doubt not they will be perused with much interest by many others besides our regular readers.

THE MONTH OF MAY:

ASSOCIATIONAL AND ANTICIPATORY.

It is not surprising that this should be called the "merrie month of May." Under the more vertical rays of the sun, all Nature is enlivened and inviting man to join in anticipating the pleasures of the coming summer season. After being bound up in the iron fetters of Winter the vegetable world is released by the genial hand of Spring, and is coming forth, a resurrection of life and beauty. The various tribes of animated creation, from that of the feathered songsters, which render the recesses of the forest vocal, and the tiny insect floating in the sunbeam, all are again laughing out their tribute of praise to their beneficent Creator.

The opening of Spring, too, gives, or, at least, should give, fresh expansion to christian hearts. Although it makes increased demands on mankind, to secure the opportunities offered for cultivating the soil, and prepare for the summer and harvest, yet men must not suppose they are to overlook their obligations to Christ and his church because they are required to labor for the meat which perisheth. Those christian brethren who are accustomed to cherish feelings and sentiment in common, and, although separated from each other by long distances, yet, nevertheless, act in harmony in different parts of the Lord's vineyard, will, with the opening of this month be looking forward to again uniting either individually or in their church capacity in our religious anniversaries. Many of the brethren have no other opportunity, from year to year, of fraternal christian intercourse with each other, but what is afforded by the gatherings of the associated churches; and will be anticipating these with feelings of deep interest. The Baptist churches recognize no external authority but that of Christ. Having no ecclesiastical power to control their action, they regard God's word as the only final appeal and book of laws. Although existing by their own constitution in separate communities, yet they acknowledge the claims of the law of love and common fraternity. These bind them together in their associated capacity with no less force than if they were an essential part of their constitution, and a degree of union is felt even greater, we think, than that which binds together some other churches under episcopal or synodical control.

In a few weeks we shall have the time arrived for our first Association at Milton. What is to be the nature of the meetings this year? will be enquired by many thoughtful minds. Not only are those who attend interested in these gatherings, but even a larger number who are unable to do so regard them as the centralization of their dearest institutions and connections.

We sometimes see, after such meetings have been held, that the opportunity of rendering them more profitable has passed away, and we regret that some step had not been taken which, we conceive, would have been beneficial. If we had thought about it beforehand we might have done good to others, by a certain course of action, or obtained good from the services which we could not after the occasion had passed away. We may, by saying these things, be only expressing what many have been thinking about, but we have thought it well to suggest to our readers whether it is not well to consider what are the thoughts and feelings by which we should be actuated so as to be in full harmony with the demands of the times. If we have amongst us any, like "the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do," we hope to lay them under tribute for suggestions so that we may not again have to reproach ourselves with having let the opportunities pass by unimproved.

Although there may be no special emergency before us, yet if we feel as we ought, we shall regard ourselves, one and all, as the instruments to be employed, in God's service for the purpose of saving our fellowmen in this and other lands. The commission, "Go

ye into all the world," is the same to-day as if our Lord were at the present time personally speaking it into every ear. Our Associations, our Conventions, our Colleges, our Churches and Missionary Societies, and, may we not also say, our religious periodicals, are all only different agencies by which this command is to be carried into effect.

What then is to be our watchword, as we meet in solemn convention during the coming months? Whatever may be the reports of passing events, and the results of faithful christian labor we must feel more and more convinced of the great fact, that "The Lord reigneth" in the world and in the church. Whatever of good effected we have to rejoice over, let us bear this in mind that it is only by His direct and effectual working that sinners are truly converted and men are brought into his fold. That the word has been in any instances blessed to the souls of men and rendered effectual in converting them from the error of their ways, is cause of grateful recognition of Divine interposition. The proper spirit manifested in the reception of blessings is often a precursor of their continuance. We shall not, however, attempt to exhaust this subject, and so forestall what any of our ministerial or other brethren may feel called upon to offer in reference to it, but these few thoughts may lead to profitable reflection for the month on which we now enter.

PARLIAMENTARY.

Our Legislature brought its labors to a close yesterday. We had to go to press so soon after the closing took place, that we have to defer the Speech and other ceremonials till our next issue. A larger amount of actual business than usual has been effected. One hundred and thirty-seven bills have been under their consideration. We congratulate the individual members on being relieved from attendance in their places on the red benches. The monotony of the latter part of the session must have become exceedingly irksome to those accustomed to active life in the country. Several of them obtained leave of absence some days since. It would be a work of supererogation to attempt to give our readers anything like a review of the session. We have sought each week to place before them, as fully as our space would allow, what has been engaging the attention of their representatives. The amendments introduced to measures during their passage through the various stages of first, second, and third readings, and the sifting given to them in Committee, both in the lower and upper House, often causes a great difference between the Bill assented to by His Excellency and that first submitted by the introducer; so that even the members themselves except those giving close attention scarcely know all the details of the several measures they have assented to. The most important measure of the session is doubtless the one on Education. It will be found that the present Act, to come into operation in October next, is different in many respects from that of the former session, now in operation. Having no Sectional Assessment in this one of 1865, will do away with what some conceived to be the objectionable feature in that of 1864. Whether the Provincial Grant and the two-thirds County Assessment will be sufficient to give a fair remuneration to Teachers is we think a matter of doubt. And to demand that the Schools shall be free to all and yet leave the supplementary sum for making up the salary to depend on Voluntary Subscription is calculated, we fear, in many places to interfere with the independent character of the Teacher. We should have preferred to have adopted the Hon. Mr. Pincus's amendment, to enable a Section on a three-fourths majority to supplement the county Assessment by a Sectional Assessment where necessary, but it was supposed, we believe, that the introduction of such an amendment would lengthen a debate so near the end of the session; and therefore it was withdrawn. But like all good legislation this must be proved to be valuable by experiment. Whatever will not bear this test, although in theory the most perfect, yet must be thrown aside for what is practicable. It is a common maxim that "whatever is best administered is best," and it will, we presume, be so in this instance. We therefore recommend our readers to make themselves well acquainted with this law, and then to do what they can to make it accomplish the purposes for which it has been enacted. But in any case whatever party they may favor, to avoid using it for party purposes. Education is of too sacred a character for this.

The question of Confederation has been pretty fully discussed, but the action taken upon it we think not likely to offend even its greatest opponents. The governments have certainly carried out the instructions of the Lieutenant Governor,