

For the Christian Messenger.

The School Commissioners and the Clergy.

Dear Sir,—

The new School Commissioners have been gazetted. The names of sixty seven clergymen appear in the lists, distributed among thirteen Districts. But not a clergyman has been appointed in the Districts of Yarmouth and Kings. How is this? Are there no educated and competent men among the clergy in those Districts? Why should they be proscribed there, when their services are sought elsewhere? The clergy of Kings have been passed over in this manner for many years. I should like to know the reason for it.

Yours, &c.,

IMPARTIAL.

Kings County, Nov. 27, 1865.

For the Christian Messenger.

Insurrection in Jamaica.

Dear Brother,—

I copy the following from the Presbyterian Witness of this day:—

"It seems that Dr. Underhill, Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, was the leader in the fatal agitation."

Other "fanatical Baptists," we are told, "figured largely in the plotting and villany"; and "Baptist and Methodist preachers" were among those who were "hanged." One would wonder how Dr. Underhill escaped.

Strange to say, our esteemed brother (who, by the way, resides in London,) was all the while peacefully pursuing his labours in England. While the insurrection was going on in Jamaica, Dr. Underhill was attending public meetings on behalf of the Missionary Society in the Counties of Northumberland and Durham.

Some time ago he visited Jamaica. He saw the oppression endured by the coloured people in that Island, about which there can be no doubt, and he addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary, in the spring of this year, stating their grievances and asking for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry. Such is the statement of the Jamaica Guardian.

If, as the same paper informs us, Dr. Underhill's letter has been the innocent occasion of the late insurrection, or has been improperly made use of by those who promoted it, it is much to be regretted. But Dr. Underhill is not to be blamed. He discharged his duty, in endeavouring to procure the redress of grievous wrongs. He would be the last man to counsel violence of any kind.

But the whole truth has not yet come out. We must have better testimony than that of the Jamaica Guardian. There is a strong anti-negro prejudice in that Island. England has not yet been forgiven for the emancipation of the slaves.

It is said that "oppression maketh a wise man mad." Presbyterian history as well as all other church history furnishes many illustrations of the truth of that saying.

I hope that the Editor of the Witness, will correct his report in the next number.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Nov. 25, 1865.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 29, 1865.

We know not what arrangements are made in the Baptist churches throughout the province for the observance of the first THURSDAY IN DECEMBER, the day recommended by the Convention as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer. We trust the suggestion has been adopted, and that generally, where it is possible, public services will be held, in which ministers and people will join in the earnest enquiry and prayer: "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation."

Surely there is great need of humiliation. The very blessings bestowed call upon us for deep abasement before God. A small amount of consideration will be sufficient to show us how utterly dependent we are on God for his gracious manifestations. When we are resolved to prostrate ourselves before Him and make no reserve, we may expect that He will arise and make Zion's praise in the earth.

This is a matter which concerns every member of our churches and congregations. In places where no special services are appointed there may, and should, still be close searching of heart, and more earnest believing prayer. If this is the case, the living God who hears the petitions of the contrite, will not withhold the blessing.

New Publications.

HOPES FOR THE HOPELESS: an Autobiography of John Vine Hall, author of "The Sinner's Friend," edited by Rev. Newman Hall, of Surrey Chapel, London.

This is an abridgement (published by the American Tract Society at New York,) of an English Edition of the same work. We have derived no small amount of pleasure from a perusal of this little book. Having had the privilege, when quite a boy, of attending, for several months, the Congregationalist church at Maidstone, of which Mr. Hall was so distinguished and useful a member and a deacon, it has revived associations which have been slumbering for many years. The countenance in the frontispiece is a fine likeness of one who was regarded by us at that time with great reverence. We knew nothing then of his earlier history. The remarkable triumph of Divine grace in his experience is full of instruction, and should inspire the christian laborer with hope without limit. Mr. Hall's relapses after his conversion were almost numberless, and his repentance evidently most sincere. The great remedy for drunkenness—total abstinence—had not then been fully discovered or at least not generally recognized.

His little book, "The Sinner's Friend," has perhaps been the means of the conversion of more souls than any other human production. No book except the Pilgrim's Progress has probably been translated into so many different languages. He first printed 1000 copies for gratuitous distribution. In 1836 he sent out of his establishment, from January 1st, to Nov. 17th, of the same year 75,802 copies. It passed through about thirty editions during the author's life-time. We shall give the first chapter of this autobiography of Mr. Hall, for the benefit of our youthful readers. It has some remarkable and marvellous incidents.

GOSPEL WORKERS, OR A PLAN FOR DOING GOOD FOR EVERYBODY; by the Rev. J. C. Cross.

This is another,—a little book of 80 pages—from the American Tract Society's press. When the principles and precepts it inculcates are in full operation, the church will rise to a level more in accordance to the high calling of the followers of Christ.

ZACCHAEUS, OR THE SCRIPTURAL PLAN OF BENEVOLENCE; by the Rev. Samuel Harris.

Another of the same Society's publications of about the same size. Systematic Benevolence is now being recognized by quite a number of christian writers, as a duty resting on all disciples. The practical development of this subject will show the power of the church for good in the world and render it a far greater blessing than it has yet appeared.

Our thanks are due to some friend at Providence, R. I., for a copy of an official document of that city, entitled, Measures proposed for the prevention of Asiatic Cholera, by Edwin M. Snow, M. D., Superintendent of Health. It recommends close attention to removing all filth away from residences, lime washing back premises, and less discussion of the subject in the press, or at least of any thing calculated to produce fear or alarm at the possibility of its approach.

STAPLES' CIRCULAR-POINTED PEN is the latest and best; suitable for writing on all qualities of paper. This very successful effort of Mr. Staples to produce superior pens, as well as to teach the art of using them, deserves, and, of course will receive, encouragement.

We have to congratulate Mr. SELDEN on his appointment as Issuer of Marriage Licenses for this city. We have no doubt he will prove the "right man in the right place." We wish him a long and profitable occupancy of the office.—Witness.

Mr. Selden is not quite sure whether the Witness is mistaken, like many of his friends, who, from the ambiguity of the term applied to another appointment, had supposed that the administration of the Registration Act, generally, was committed to him. Their congratulations have been considerably modified when they have learned that it is but one on a par with the Way Office keepers, and made rather for the accommodation of the public than for the emolument it affords. He is willing however to accept these congratulations as expressions of kind feeling.

The Editor of the Witness should not have forgotten to congratulate Mr. John Costley, the late Principal of Picton Academy, on his appointment to office in connection with the Registration Law.

The appointment of Mr. Costley to the office of Secretary of the Board of Statistics, in place of the late Archibald Scott, Esq., or rather to that of Registrar General as it should have been called, seeing it is, in fact,—is, we believe, a judicious one, and

we doubt not Mr. C. will show that the important interests committed to him are in capable and good hands.

We have for several years past, and through the two former administrations sought to secure a law for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, for the province, such as would be really effectual and of value, as a source of statistical information and documentary evidence. The present Law is but a modification of that prepared by the Rev. Dr. Cramp, at the request of some of our legislators, several years since. Dr. Lewis, we believe, rendered good services in adapting the act in several particulars, to the circumstances of the province.

In re-examining the Law as at present on the Statute Book, we find it, as we believe, imperfect in some respects, and shall take an early opportunity of representing that fact to the proper parties, so as to render it more generally operative.

This is no matter of party politics, but one in which all are interested, and for which all who have any proper forethought, and regard for future generations, will see the necessity.

A case came to our knowledge during the present week in which the parties being able to obtain an official Certificate of the registration of a death added twenty pounds sterling to the amount secured for the heirs.

In all well-regulated communities Registration is a matter attended to with the greatest care, and we shall be glad to do what lies in our power to bring it into general use here. We may not expect at present to have it so perfect as it is in England and Scotland, but we should be making as near an approach to it as possible. Whatever interferes with any parties complying with the law, should be speedily removed, so that all the people may receive its benefits without regard to sect or party.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Earl Russell does not appear to have completed his arrangements for the formation of a new Ministry. The only certain appointment, besides himself as Premier, is that of the Earl of Clarendon as Secretary for Foreign Affairs. One of the obstacles to the completing the Ministry is, that as there can be no Speaker of the Commons until January, when the newly elected Parliament shall meet, there are no means of issuing writs for the election of such members of the present Cabinet as may require to be re-elected on their appointment to office in the new one. The Speaker issues all the election writs in England. Lord Russell, it is thought, will also experience a good deal of difficulty in making up his New Ministry an account of the conflicting claims of different sections of the Liberal Party. The ministries for some time past have been too much composed of the aristocracy and as there are several men of leading talents in the commons, who have no such recommendation (if it be one) for high official station, it is thought that Lord Russell's strong aristocratical tendencies, will prevent his calling to his Council some of the cleverest Parliamentary speakers. Should this happen his tenure of office cannot probably last very long. With the exception of Mr. Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and confessedly the most able member of the Lower House, all the leading ministers are in the House of Lords. Such a fact, the Commons, who have the entire control of the purse-strings cannot long tolerate.

The last accounts from Jamaica bring details of the insurrection of the blacks of the most harrowing description. For several days the insurgents were unrestrained in the perpetration of the most revolting cruelties and atrocities of every kind. Numbers of men, women and children were murdered, and their houses pillaged and burned, and many driven into the woods and mountains, after great suffering, only escaped with their lives. The insurrection had, however, been nearly quelled by the troops sent from Kingston and sailors from the men of war and the Volunteer companies; vast numbers of the blacks had been executed, after being tried very summarily by drumhead Courts Martial, or shot down by the soldiery wherever met. The vengeance appears to have been speedy, signal, and we might be led to fear, in some cases, indiscriminate. As, however, the blacks are probably five to one or more throughout the Island, and there were fears of a general rising, a perfect reign of terror prevailed. We trust shortly to hear that quiet and order are restored.

THE JAMAICA OUTBREAK would appear to have had atrocities committed by the administrators of the law as well as by the insurgents.

The attempt to connect the name of Dr. Underhill, Secretary of the London Baptist

Missionary Society, with the affair, would indicate that strong prejudice has had much to do with the matter. On the arrival of the military at the scene of revolt there was some question in the minds of the insurgents whether the Volunteers would fire on them or would take their part. From the circumstance of Mr. George W. Gordon, M. P. P., being taken with them, and so summarily tried and executed, there is an appearance of political feeling and manœuvring not very favorable to the powers-that-be. We shall wait with some anxiety the fuller investigation and report of the whole case.

The following extracts are from a letter dated Port Antonio, 17th October. 1865:—

"Hard work from morning to night. Hung about 30 rebels yesterday—horrible sight, and a horrid set of wretches—a good many Africans among them. Lots of property destroyed, but we are taking the bull by the horns. My opinion is that the rebellion is already nipt. Astonished a local preacher this morning by sentencing him to three years' confinement in the Penitentiary. No end of fifty lashes and confinement in the Penitentiary."

HOW THE COURT MARTIAL WORKS.—The Court Martial, presided over by Lieut. and Commander Brand, resumed its sittings on Saturday about three o'clock. Eleven rebels were tried and condemned; among them there were two women who took considerable share in the insurrection. They were executed the same evening at about half-past five o'clock. Several were castrated and castrated.

The Court Martial met at 12 o'clock to-day, (Monday). Sixteen of the rebels were condemned to death, and one to be flogged—100 lashes. Late in the evening twelve were hanged.

There is one continual scene of hanging day by day; and it becomes a matter for consideration, whether the burial of so many people (packed as I heard a Blue Jacket say, "like sardines") in the Town, is not likely to produce some serious epidemic here—already the effluvia of the dead bodies commences to taint the atmosphere.

EXECUTION OF GORDON.—Rumour soon spread that George William Gordon was to meet his doom at 7 o'clock, and as it wanted only a few minutes for that time, I hastened down to the place of execution. There he stood high above all the other rebels, beneath the great arch of the burnt Court House, with his hands and feet pinioned, and the halter already around his neck. It was underneath this same arch he stood taking notes on the day of his ejection from the Vestry Board. Beneath him were the steps on which he was wont to stand when haranguing a multitude on the days of election. Through this same archway more than once have an infuriated mob rushed into the sanctum of the Queen's Hall of Justice, inflamed with passions roused by this deluded man's teachings, and it seemed the hand of retributive justice had doomed him to meet his death on the very spot of his vile machinations. Before the drop fell he requested the Provost Marshal to put him out of the world quickly, and not punish him. As the fatal plank was withdrawn, he struggled, but it was for a few moments—life was soon extinct.

The number of deaths effected by the insurgents is not given. This the papers do not appear to remember, but when we are told that one hundred and twenty had been tried by court martial and executed, up to the 4th inst., we are well assured that the law was tempered with vengeance rather than mercy; and further, when we are informed that "Among these were members of the legislature, ministers of the Methodist and Baptist churches, editors, officers and privates of the volunteer forces, policemen, and others in places of trust under the Government," we believe that judicial murder on a large scale has been resorted to, and further trouble will arise from the executions, as in former times in that island.

We have received the letter, in another column, from Dr. Cramp, since the above was in type.

THE "ZERO" MURDER.

According to the intimation given in our last, judgment was given in this case on Thursday last. The Court House was crammed some time before the time for commencement of business, by those anxious to hear the decision of the court. Soon after 11 o'clock, His Hon. the Chief Justice and Judges DesBarres, Dodd, Wilkins and Johnston entered and took their seats on the Bench; Major General Doyle also sat with the Judges. After the formalities of opening the court, the cook Doucey, and the mate J. C. Douglas were placed in the prisoners' dock. The two Germans and the boy Stockwell occupied seats near the dock.

The Chief Justice proceeded to review the objections raised by the counsel for the cook for an arrest of judgment in his case. These were set aside as invalid and not deemed sufficient reason for delay of judgment and it therefore only remained to pass the sentence of the extreme penalty of the law upon him.

There were however some points in reference to the mate which required some further consideration, and he, the Chief Justice,