

Joplin. I hear, while busy with this letter, that the Rev. T. Crisp, to whose serious illness you refer in the same issue, has quietly followed him. "Ah! why are these brethren taken away thus early? Who shall replace them?" Such are the questionings which arise in our hearts, as we meditate upon these repeated and heavy visitations. To the first of them the reply is that they were wanted to shine in other spheres, as stars, which are not quenched as they vanish from our vision, but only set to us that they may rise upon others. But who shall replace these men, cut off in the prime and promise of their consecrated manhood? To this the answer is, that "the residue of the Spirit" is with Him who gave them. Many a time, too, has he shewn his independence of means and agencies, how excellent soever in themselves, by withdrawing them when it was least expected, and replacing them in methods of which none had conceived beforehand: as when he took away a Stephen to replace him, and more than replace him in the person of fierce and bloody Saul as transformed into the holy and seraphic Paul. As for smitten households, and bereaved flocks, may the Great High Priest himself heal the wounds which he has inflicted, comfort the hearts which he has made to bleed, and deeply sanctify the sorrows proceeding from his own hand!

And now for my matter of business. The subscribers to my promised book want to know when it is to appear. I beg to say to them, first of all, that there is no teacher like experience; and that my experience as a book manufacturer has taught me, that it is easier to lay plans than to get them executed: especially when one is dependent for the carrying out of those plans upon the concurrent action of many individuals, some of whom reside in far off places. And again, when sometimes one seems to have got fairly under way with his work, there is no saying what obstacles may arise, nor when they may spring, to check him in his career. Which statements, apart from their illustrations, will supply some hints as to the difficulties with which I have to contend in getting out my book. I may add, however, that I have now completed my preliminary arrangements, and begun to put my work to press. I hope soon to proceed rapidly with the printing of it, and trust that in the course of the summer, at the farthest, the book will be ready for delivery. I cannot express myself more definitely, lest I should awaken expectations which may not be realized. Yet if my subscribers and friends at large will have a little patience, they may now look for my volume, all being well, before many more months have passed away.

Yours in the Gospel,
J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Jan. 20.

P. S.—Dr. Cramp's Catechism of Baptism is a capital *multum in parvo*; an admirable *Tract for the Times* and contains all that could be wished—sinning neither by defect nor excess. Please send me at once three dozen copies."

For the Christian Messenger.

The School Law.

Mr. Editor,—

I have read a number of articles in the *Messenger* and other papers, respecting our School Law, but I remember seeing but two penned by a farmer. As the farming class compose so large and respectable a part of the community, I know no reason why the farmer, or the day labourer may not express their minds on so important a subject, as the Education Law should be regulated in agreement with the well understood wishes of the people. Having waited expectantly for some time, (though in vain) for more of our yeomanry to give their opinion and wishes respecting the Education Act, I deem it a privilege to write, if you will afford my article space in the *Messenger*, being confident that it expresses the opinion of the greater part of the industrial classes, and especially the farmer.

There can be no doubt in the mind of every charitable man, that our Government had a good motive for passing an Act to establish a system of Free Schools sustained by taxation throughout the country. That the same is now the law of the land, we are well aware, and that it is not wholly acceptable, we are also fully sure. I agree with Mr. Colchester Farmer in saying that it was not the Confederation question that caused the apparent reaction in two fine Counties at the last election, but the Education Law.

The great problem of Government is to find out the utmost enjoyment of liberty and equity, compatible with the good of society. Every law should be considered in two points of view, first, how far it abridges natural liberty, and how far, herefore it is an evil, or a benefit, and secondly

the good it will do by preventing of evil; or by the direct procurement of benefit to society. Every Act of Legislation should be tested in this way, and no Act should be passed which after such an examination does not promise a balance of good. I do not think the School Law under all circumstances will bear this test.

Mr. Colchester Farmer thinks a system of indirect taxation would give general satisfaction. Be easy, Mr. Farmer, you are too hard on the consumer of imports. Let us look at the ground of complaint. Well, then, we say, under the law but part of the community are to be taxed: We need a general income tax, and it will not be too much to educate the country. We say tax the mechanic of all descriptions; the lawyer, the Hon. Judge, the office-holder, and salaried men. Let the young man over twenty-one years, pay a light tax. "Many litters make a muckle." And if it is right that the minister of religion should be respected for his work's sake, let him pay a tax on real and personal estate. Give him clear as an incumbent, but not as a farmer. It is quite common for the minister to have a farm now-a-days. It is not a very agreeable law to the honest farmer. If a minister of religion is his next door neighbour; say, the farmer is worth two thousand dollars in real and personal estate, the minister is worth one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars, yet he is exempt under the law, though he may have a dozen boys and girls to go to school; the farmer, it may be, has got but one or two, whilst the good farmer pays to the minister's support. Query, is the law in this particular, acceptable to the farmer?

Another ground of complaint is the way the Provincial Grant and County tax is distributed. It is well known that the two sources will not pay teachers for every section without being largely supplemented by subscription,—i. e., to pay such teachers as the law requires and the country needs, to raise the standard of education. Again, the subscription is voluntary. No man is bound to subscribe, and yet under the law the school is free. Such as are anxious to have a school must pay to raise the supplement. Again, there are numbers of poor and scattered sections that cannot raise a supplement to pay a teacher the whole year, and for some it will be too much even for half the year, after paying their county tax. The County tax and Provincial aid can only be distributed where schools have been in operation. It follows, then, that the poor sections must lose their proposition, if they cannot get up a school; and it goes to a wealthier section that can raise their supplement and have a school the year round, and yet we are told, we have a Law to educate the poor.

The Provincial aid and County tax should be distributed semi annually to every section, and paid to the Board of Trustees, thus supplying a fund so that every section may have school at least part of the time, and every section get that which is their honest due.

It may be said that submission implies assent, and that the Law is being carried out in part by the country, and that it will in time become acceptable. But in many instances this is extorted by circumstances which control the freedom of the people. Now is the time to get up Petitions for amendment. Our Education Act must be amended or the country will speak at the next general election.

Yours respectfully,
A NEW GERMANY FARMER.

Religious Intelligence.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The Annual Meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held on Friday evening last at their Rooms in Hollis Street. From the Report read by the Secretary the Association seems to be in a very flourishing condition.

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—John S. Maclean, Esq., President; Peter Lynch, W. S. Stirling, A. K. Doull, Dr. Hattie, J. Farquhar, and T. A. Brown, Esquires, Vice Presidents; Henry Theakston, Secretary; S. H. Black, Esq., Treasurer; and twenty members of the Association were elected on the General Committee.

MAHONÉ BAY AND ST. MARGARETS BAY.—Dear Brother Seiden.—Since my last communication we have had tokens of the divine favour in my new field of labour at Mahoné Bay. Some mercy drops have fallen on the thirsty hill of Zion. The brethren are rejoicing greatly in God their Saviour. I visited St. Margarets Bay this week, preached the precious gospel and baptised three men who are heads of families. Bro. P. Foster is among them and is pretty generally liked by all the people. We hope the time is not far distant, when there shall be a great ingathering throughout that whole region.
Yours in Christ Jesus,
AUGUSTUS SHIELDS.
Halifax, Jan. 22, 1866.

CHESTER.—Rev. I. J. Skinner writes Jan. 22, 1866:—"Our hearts have been cheered of late by some additions to the church in Chester. Two have been baptized, another is received for baptism, and we believed there are others not far behind them. We pray that many more may come. 'Brethren pray for us.'"

LOWER GRANVILLE.—*Re opening Service &c.*—Dear Brother,—The services connected with the re-opening of our place of worship in Lower Granville took place as announced on Sabbath the 14th inst.

The Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D., preached at 11 o'clock, A. M.—Text, Psalm 122: 1. The venerable preacher discoursed most appropriately and effectively, on, 1. The House of the Lord; 2. The invitation to enter it; 3. The alacrity with which the invitation was regarded. During the delivery of this sermon, many in the large assembly, as they felt that God was assisting the speaker and blessing the people, could heartily say, truly "this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven."

The Rev. John Chase preached in the afternoon, from Deut. 8: 2-4. Subject—*God's care of his people.* Bro. C. had taken much pains in gathering historical information in reference to the rise and progress of the Baptist Church in Lower Granville. His discourse was listened to with marked attention and interest both by the aged and the young.

The Rev. A. McArthur, Lecturer of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, being providentially present, preached in the evening. His sermon was founded on Gen. 3: 15; and impressed as the production of a powerful and well cultivated mind.

Rev. Henry Achilles was present at the afternoon and evening, and took part in the services. The congregations during the day were large—in the morning all could not get seats—and the services throughout were solemn and encouraging.

The repairs and improvement consist of a new pulpit, the front of the gallery lowered, new pews, and the whole neatly painted and grained. The house has also been enlarged 8 feet, thereby enabling the Trustees to have a suitable platform in front of the pulpit, to reserve a pew for the Pastor's family, and to sell 13 new pews at a price to meet the expense of enlarging, with an excess of \$116. This excess is partially expended in providing a new stove and pipes, furnishing pulpit &c. The house is evidently greatly improved in comfort, commodiousness and respectability. May it be filled by the Holy Spirit, and become the scene of rich displays of God's grace! Credit is due to Mr. Charles Hill of Bridgetown, the architect, as also to the building committee for the manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

On the day after the re-opening, the pastor was called upon to occupy the pulpit in connexion with the funeral services of John Henry, eldest son of Samuel and Jane Ryder, aged 39 years. He was one of our Sabbath School Teachers, and was regarded as a pious and upright young man. He took the deepest interest in the enlargement of our Meeting House, and looked forward with pleasure to the time when he should worship in it again. How uncertain is life! His hopes were not realized. His sorrowing friends however cherish the hope that he is gone to worship his Saviour in the upper temple.

I have recently baptized five youthful converts.
Yours in christian love,
ISA. WALLACE.

ORGANIZATION OF A NEW CHURCH IN ST. JOHN, N. B.—We learn from the *Visitor*, that on Monday the 22nd, a Council of ministers and brethren from neighboring churches, was called at the New Baptist Meeting-house in Pitt Street, St. John. Delegates were present from the churches in Germain Street, Brussels Street, and Leinster Street, and Portland and Carleton. The Rev. Thos. Powers, and brethren Lewis and Wilson represented the brethren desirous of being formed into a church. A statement was made of their motives, objects and financial prospects.

It was then moved and unanimously agreed to, that we now proceed to the organization of a Church in this place, to be known as the Pitt Street Baptist Church. The organization was then proceeded with in the following order:—

Reading of the Articles of Faith and the Covenant by the Rev. W. V. Garner. Constituting Prayer by Rev. Geo. Sealy. Hand of Fellowship by Rev. E. C. Cady. Charge by Rev. B. Robinson. Brethren Bill and Carey, who came in during the organization services, then spoke a few words of approbation and sympathy, when the closing prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Carey, and the benediction pronounced by Rev. I. E. Bill. Moderator, Rev. J. Spencer; Clerk, Rev. E. C. Cady.

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE U. STATES.

FRANCE AND MEXICO.—The following telegram was received from Washington on Friday last:

"A Washington special despatch says a private letter from a gentleman in Paris, dated 5th, has been received, describing a recent interview between Napoleon and the American Minister. Napoleon spoke frankly on the Mexican question, expressing his determination to continue friendly relations with the United States, and his wish to withdraw the French troops as soon as he could be assured of our policy of neutrality towards Mexico would be continued. He intimated pretty plainly, however, that he would never abandon Maximilian so long as there was any danger that the United States would pull down what he built up at so much expense. He would ask that we should not interfere with the present Government of Mexico, the permanence and stability of which, it left to itself, he was convinced would be secured. The correspondent adds—"I have reason to believe that despatches from Mr. Bigelow, containing a full report of this interview, were received by the State Department by the late steamer."

MINISTERIAL CRUISE.—A telegram from New York on Monday states, that the United States steamer *Desoto*, with Secretary Seward and party, arrived at Washington yesterday afternoon. The *Desoto* proceeded directly to St. Thomas, and then made a complete tour of the West Indies, from St. Thomas to Santa Cruz, stopping at St. Domingo city, Port au Prince, and Havana, spending a few days at each place, and being most cordially and hospitably received by the authorities and people. The entire party are greatly improved in health and vigor, especially the Secretary and his son, who are now able to walk without the use of canes, for the first time in almost a year.

In the city of New York, it is estimated that there are 3000 places in which gambling is carried on, and that \$5,000,000 annually change hands in these places. In the judgment of a leading New York paper, one thousand young men are annually ruined in that city by this vice.

Mrs. Johnson, wife of the President of the United States, has received from Sir Morton Peto, since his return to England, a most elegant and costly present, in the form of a Christmas box of rare and exquisite device, filled with Parisian bon-bons.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

The *Hibernian* arrived at New York on Thursday last, with news from Liverpool to the 12th inst., and the *Java* on Saturday with news to the 16th.

A violent snow storm prostrated the wires, and telegraphic communication with London had been suspended for two days, and continued when the "Java" left Liverpool.

It was reported that twenty-one armed Fenians had landed at Sligo, and were immediately arrested.

The Fenian trials were still progressing. Tribune Byrne, ex-Warden of the Richmond prison, was under trial for aiding the escape of Stephens.

The Jury could not agree on a verdict in the case of Byrne, the Prison Warden charged with aiding the escape of Stephens, and were discharged.—Byrne remains in custody. Stephens, had gone to Geneva. Several men were arrested in Dublin on the 11th inst. They were engaged in casting bullets at the time.

SPAIN.—The military revolt in Spain, under Prim, made no progress. The insurgents had gauged the boundaries of Toledo, but were closed prisoners. It was supposed that Prim, who was ill, would disband them and attempt to escape to Portugal. The insurgent garrison of Avila have reached Portuguese territory, and have disarmed. Madrid was under martial law, but remained tranquil. Martial law was also proclaimed at New Castello. Considerable excitement was reported at Barcelona, and crowds were dispersed by the military. The Chamber of Deputies had unanimously resolved to present a loyal address to the Queen. The Emperor of Austria had restored the property and granted other concessions to parties who illegally emigrated from Verona.

MADRID, JAN. 11, P. M.—Official intelligence says Gen. Prim is retreating precipitately towards Portugal—Puente Dol Arcoyspe. The principal mountain passes are held by the Royal troops. The dispersion of the insurgents is complete. Tranquility prevails throughout the country. The Government had demanded the authority of the Senate to arraign Gen. Prim. The disturbances which took place at Saragossa on the 7th inst. were certain measures of the authorities. Those measures having been recalled no further troubles have occurred.

The weather in England had moderated, but the effects of the recent gales continued to be exhibited in disasters to shipping.—The Captain of the ship *Guy Mannering*, lost at Ban, was saved, along with 17 of his crew. The remaining 18 were drowned.—A number of disasters to American shipping are reported.

The *London Times* and other journals attribute the pressure in the money market to heavy exports to America on credit, and warns shippers against such proceedings.—Letters are published from commercial men refuting such arguments, and showing that the remittances have been most prompt, and that heavy cotton receipts are set off against British exports. The discount demanded is comparatively moderate. The rate remains at 6 per cent.

It is stated that Mr. Grochen is to have a seat in the Cabinet.