

My grandfather had a servant very subject to this infirmity, and he was resolved, if possible, to cure him of it. Towards the close of his sermon on one occasion, he saw the man very soundly asleep in the gallery. He told the congregation that he wished the usual hymn after the sermon to be omitted, and begged they would leave the chapel as quietly as possible, 'because,' he said, 'I see my servant asleep, and I don't want you to awake him.' The people did as they were requested, and the man was left to awake in an empty chapel. He was greatly annoyed, and dreaded to meet his master. But he never said a word to him, then, or afterwards. This person told my informant, a nephew, who, within the last twenty years, inquired of him as to the accuracy of the story, that he never slept again during divine service, a positive dread coming over him whenever he felt inclined to do so." Page 362.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ordination of Eliakim N. Archibald.

A Council was convened in the Baptist Meeting house, North River, P. E. I. on Saturday Jan. 6th, in accordance with a request from the church, to consider the propriety of ordaining Bro. Eliakim N. Archibald to the work of the gospel ministry. Rev. Jno. Davis was chosen chairman of the council, and M. P. Freeman, Clerk. The following were the delegates representing their respective churches.

Deacons Donald McKinlay and James Warren. Brethren Donald Scott, Jno. McPhee, Francis Bain, Allan McKinlay, Jno. Cummings, Geo. Scott, Alex. McKinlay, Henry Warren, Jacob Dockendorf, Rob. Cummings and Wm. Cummings.—North River Church.

Rev. Jno. Davis,—Charlottetown and St. Peter's Road.

Rev. Wm. Dobson,—Tryon. Alexander Scott,—East Point. Rev. M. P. Freeman, and Bro. Stephen Baker,—Bedeque.

The candidate having related his christian experience and the evidences of his call to the ministry, and his views of doctrine and church polity in a manner satisfactory to the Council, it was resolved to proceed with his ordination.

The public services took place the next day, 7th, at 11 o'clock, in the following order. Ordination Sermon, by Rev. Jno. Davis, Text Isa. vi. 8.

Questions, by Rev. Malcom Ross. Ordaining Prayer, by Rev. Wm. Dobson. Hand of fellowship, by Rev. Jno. Davis. Charge to the Candidate, by Rev. Wm. Dobson. Charge to the Church by Rev. M. P. Freeman.

Prayer by Bro. Alex. Scott. Benediction pronounced by the candidate. We believe that Bro. Archibald has been directed to this field of labor by the Head of church, and trust that past favors in connection with his labors here, are the earnest of future blessings.

M. P. FREEMAN, Clerk.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 24, 1866.

SABBATH SCHOOL UNION.

THE first Quarterly Meeting of the Halifax and Dartmouth S. S. Association was held on Monday evening at the Grafion Street Church. Mr. Charles Robson occupied the chair.

Rev. Mr. Botterell opened the meeting by giving out a hymn and offering prayer. The chairman then spoke briefly on the importance of the S. S. institution and the assistance and encouragement which might be secured by mutual co-operation in it.

The Secretary, Mr. McNutt, then read the statistical information that had been received from twelve of the Sabbath Schools in the city, embracing those belonging to the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists.

Dr. Pryor then gave an excellent address on the Teacher's work, and in several ways showed that the Lord Jesus was the great model Teacher who should be studied, and whose teachings should be sought. His example should be imitated and his spirit cherished by those who would do good to the young, seeing that the work to be done by Sabbath School Teachers is to bring their charge to Jesus, and make them his disciples.

Brief addresses were given afterwards by ministers and others, and we believe all felt that it was a profitable meeting.

A wish was expressed that the address of Rev. Dr. Pryor might be published, and widely circulated in the city, and through the country.

Sympathy for the bereaved.

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTERS and BRETHREN who met together during the week of prayer had it put in o' their hearts, not only to lament the loss of the ministers who were taken so suddenly from this world during that week, but to carry out their christian sympathy towards the widows and fatherless families. An invitation was given at one of the meetings to those who felt interested in the matter to remain after the service had closed. About a dozen did so and agreed to call on members of their several congregations and present the case of the one who was a comparative stranger in this community, and having no Widows and Orphans Fund on which to rely, seemed more to require such substantial sympathy at the present time. The Rev. G. W. Hill was requested to prepare a letter of condolence to Mrs. Joplin, and the Rev. G. M. Grant one to Mrs. Crisp. They agreed also to meet again in a week or so and report the result.

Accordingly on Saturday last they met and brought together from the several churches in the city contributions amounting in all to upwards of \$2500.

It was resolved to place this amount in the hands of the following gentleman, John Naylor Esq, the County Treasurer, James Scott Hutton, of the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and R. W. Fraser Esq., Merchant, as Trustees, to invest the same and appropriate the interest thereof to the bereaved family of the late Rev. J. J. Joplin. Proper regulations were introduced for the future action of the Trustees, to be confirmed at an adjourned meeting.

We rejoice in this noble exhibition of christian kindness towards those so suddenly bereaved, and we believe it to be a partial fulfilment of the promise of God to those in like circumstances, and a guarantee that He will not leave them comfortless.

The prompt and hearty response to the invitation, in most cases by those who were personally unacquainted with the excellent lady and family, adds greatly to the value of the donation.

The following is a copy of the letter sent to Mrs. Joplin, with the signatures of those present at the meeting on Saturday last :

HALIFAX, January 20th, 1866.

Dear Madam,—On behalf of the members of the various religious denominations in this community, we desire with much respect to express to you the earnest sympathy which your late sad and unlooked-for bereavement demands.

Suddenly deprived by death of one who was the stay and support of yourself and your helpless family, the God of the widow and the fatherless seems in an especial manner to commit you, a stranger in a strange land, to the kind consideration of those among whom your lot has been cast during this heavy trial, and we therefore beg to offer you the accompanying sum, placed in the hands of Trustees for your benefit and that of your family, cordially contributed for your acceptance by the members of this community, who desire thus to express their sympathy for you at this time of deep sorrow. We are well assured that neither our sympathy nor aid, however deep or large, can fill the void which it has pleased our Heavenly Father to make in your lot, but we should be depriving ourselves of one of the privileges of Christians, if we did not assure you how deeply we feel for you in your great sorrow; and if we did not give expression to our sympathies in the only mode open to us.

We commend you to the God of mercy and love, who is able to sustain you in all your trials, and who has assured us, that he doth not afflict willingly or grieve the children of men.

- Believe us, &c., GEORGE W. HILL, Rector of St. Paul's, Chairman. E. BOTTERELL, Wesleyan Methodist Minister. JOHN PRYOR, Pastor Granville St. Church. W. MAXWELL, Minister of Chalmers' Church. GEO. MUNRO GRANT, Minister of St. Matthew's. THOS. CUMMING, Minister of St. John's Church. JAMES W. JOHNSTON, JUNR. THOMAS A. S. DEWOLF. J. SCOTT HUTTON. JOHN DOULL. D. HENRY STARR. A. HATTIE. S. SELDEN. CHARLES ROBSON. PHILIP THOMPSON. ROBERT MURRAY, Secretary.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

This is not the most favorable time to discuss the question of Capital Punishment in this province, and yet we cannot forbear referring to it. The last mail brought to us the report of the Commission appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, to enquire into the provisions of the law, respecting the punishment by death, and to report their opinion as to whether any and what alteration is desirable in said laws. Evidence was taken by the Commissioners from many witnesses, including all the judges in Great Britain, criminal lawyers and others. Questions have been submitted, and answers received, from nearly all

the nations of Europe, and some of the States of the United States of America. The Report of this Commission is a voluminous document. They recommend that none but murders of the first degree shall be punished with death; and,

(1) That the punishment of death be retained for all murders deliberately committed with express malice aforethought, such malice to be found as a fact by the jury.

(2) That the punishment of death be also retained for all murders committed in, or with the view to, the perpetration, or escape after the perpetration or attempt at perpetration of any of the following felonies: Murder, arson, rape, burglary, robbery, and piracy.

(3) That in all other cases of murder the punishment be penal servitude for life, or for any period not less than seven years, at the discretion of the court.

The question of infanticide is surrounded with difficulty, although they pronounce that, "The crime of infanticide as distinguished from murder in general is not known to the English law. The moment a child is born alive it is as much under the protection of this law as an adult."

The Report states that "The witnesses whom we have examined are with very few exceptions, in favor of the abolition of the present system of public executions, and it seems impossible to resist such a weight of authority." They therefore recommend, "that an Act be passed putting an end to public executions, and directing that the sentence of death shall be carried out within the precincts of the prison."

Other features of the law are treated on in the report, such as the plea of insanity, and appeals for the mercy of the crown, &c.

The taking of human life by an individual, or, by the process of law, is so serious a matter that we hesitate to pronounce an opinion, either against the infliction of death as a punishment for murder; or in favor of the right of governments to take life under any circumstances. Like the War vs. Peace question, it is so interwoven with our national existence, and made a part and parcel of what we consider good government, that we hardly know our own mind on the question. To affirm that it is wrong under any circumstances either to take up arms, or to inflict capital punishment, calls up so many other grave questions which must be answered, that our judgment and our feelings are greatly at variance. Human nature is so bad, that, whatever may be our own wishes in the matter, we fear the day is yet far off, when we shall have reason to hope for the entire abolition of capital punishment, or that the art of war will go into desuetude.

The fate of Dowcey and Douglas.

The Colonist of Thursday last gave us the following information respecting the above two unfortunate criminals:

"THE FATE OF THE CONVICTS.—We are authorized to state that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor decided, on Tuesday last, to allow the law to take its course in the case of DOWCEY, who is to suffer the extreme penalty on Wednesday next; and to commute the sentence of DOUGLAS to imprisonment for life, with hard labor. It was impossible that DOUGLAS could be executed, when two of the Judges before whom the case was argued, had given the opinion that the evidence was insufficient for his conviction; and the CHIEF JUSTICE, who tried the case, and Judges DODD and DEBARRES, before whom it was argued, while sustaining the legality of the verdict, declined to express any individual opinion upon it, of approval or disapproval. On the other hand the Executive advisers of the Lieutenant Governor, being firmly convinced that DOUGLAS was guilty of the murder of Capt. BENSON could not advise any less punishment than imprisonment for life. The hand that committed this cruel murder will soon be cold in death, and society will be protected by the life-long imprisonment of his not less guilty accomplice.

This decision has aroused strong feeling in the minds of a large number of person in Halifax, and will of course for some time be the subject of comment in the press and by the people generally. Whilst we would not for a moment think of Douglas as innocent, or hide the enormity of his guilt, as a man, and especially as the chief officer under the murdered captain, yet we cannot see how the statement made in the above paragraph can be sustained "that Douglas was guilty of the murder of Captain Benson." His crimes doubtless merit severe punishment, and, under the circumstances, we are not disposed to question the propriety of the course adopted in reference to him, nor do we see under our present law that any other course could be taken with the actual murderer Dowcey. Petitions have been in course of signature since Friday last, seeking to obtain the commutation of sentence in his case, as in that of Douglas.

The ground for this appeal to executive clemency is that both should be hanged or both sentences should be commuted. The

statement made by the cook, in what is called his "confession," charging the mate with being the instigator of the murder, seems to be fully believed by these petitioners! As the time for carrying the sentence into execution will have passed before our present issue can appear, nothing that we can now say, will affect the matter. We therefore make these remarks simply for the purpose of informing our readers what has taken place, in reference to this perplexing and difficult case, and not with the expectation of influencing either public opinion or the government.

The Evening Express has perhaps been the most earnest advocate of a reprieve for Dowcey, and pronounces the above decision of the Lieutenant Governor and government "a fatal mistake;" and predicts, that in consequence, the Executive will have "such a storm of indignation about their ears as will not subside in a hurry." This is the last thing surely that should be thought of in considering such a solemn matter, a species of intimidation not likely to affect honest men.

Archbishop Connolly has written a long letter to the Morning Chronicle giving his reasons for signing the petition for a commutation of Dowcey's sentence. We know no reason why Archbishop Connolly or any other person should not, if he sees fit, publish his opinions and motives for making this appeal to the Lieutenant Governor, but we do doubt the propriety of his drawing the contrast he has, between Dowcey and Douglas on religious grounds, and referring to the circumstances of the former being "without any exhibition of the pious and Jehovah-loving, and with the profession of a faith which I am proud to say, did not procure for him one single sympathizing friend outside," and urging that as any reason for there being a change made in the sentence pronounced upon him. What is meant by the latter part of the above extract, we are at a loss to determine. Why Archbishop Connolly should be "proud to say" that Dowcey's profession of faith "did not procure for him one single sympathizing friend," we cannot comprehend.

Other writers besides Archbishop Connolly have sought to prejudice public opinion against Douglas, from the circumstance of his having made a profession of religion. If he had sought to exonerate himself from criminality on account of his religious convictions, this might be urged with some propriety, but it should be admitted by intelligent and candid men, that such derelictions of duty as that proved against Douglas, and acknowledged by him, arise from the absence of religious influences and not from that profession. Sneers at religious profession, do not become religious men. It should be rather shown that if he had acted out his faith, his position would have been a very different one, from that he at present occupies.

We have our own opinions as to the amount of guilt resting on the several parties concerned in the brutal transaction on board the Zero, but as they might not have the support of the direct evidence produced on the trial we shall not intrude them on our readers. With the facts before them they may doubtless themselves form a no less correct idea on this difficult question.

The Presbyterian Witness of Saturday last expresses the opinion "that His Excellency's decision will meet with almost universal approbation."

We learn from the Express of Monday evening, that the petition to His Excellency for a commutation of Dowcey's sentence, received between 3 and 4,000 signatures, and was taken to the Hon. Provincial Secretary on Monday afternoon by John Tobin Esq., M. P. P., the Very Rev. Dr. Hannan, W. A. D. Morse and J. S. D. Thompson Esqrs.

It is further stated that "the deputation was very kindly received by the Provincial Secretary," and after noticing the principal features of the case, he said: "It was a matter of regret that so deep an impression should prevail in the community of an unequal administration of justice; but, no precedent, he thought, could be found for the adoption of any other course than the one which had awakened so much dissatisfaction." The deputation received the assurance that the petition would meet with careful consideration.

A letter was received last week by the City Marshall from young Stookwell at Richmond. He expresses great anxiety concerning the mate.

EDUCATIONAL.

SCHOOLS IN PICTOU.—The same results appear to have followed the adoption of Free Schools in Pictou, as are found in other places. The Standard of last week, states, that on the re-opening of the Schools after Christmas holidays:—

On the first day the number of pupils who presented themselves for admission exceeded by 75 per cent, the attendances at any previous