

I feel thankful to the Lord, who is the first mover and giver of all good, I do sincerely thank all the kind friends, and pray that the blessed one, whose I am and whom I desire to serve, may reward them all a hundred fold. May this meeting tend to unite the church and prosper our Redeemer's cause in this place.

I remain yours sincerely, JAMES REID.

DONATION AT GREAT VILLAGE.

A large assemblage of the church members and friends, paid a Donation Visit to their pastor the Rev. Jas. E. Balcom, on the evening of the 26th ult. A number of friends from De-Bert River and Portauquique came to the meeting.

The amount of contributions was as follows:—In cash \$46; in other articles \$37. Total \$83 00.

DONATION TO REV. JAMES STEVENS.

A subscriber informs us that the friends of the Rev. James Stevens in South Rawdon had their usual gathering at the Mission House on New Year's day, and although the unfavourable state of the weather prevented many from attending, there was a goodly gathering of the aged, middle aged, and young, male and female, who all seemed to enjoy themselves, both at the bountifully supplied tables prepared by kind-hearted ladies and in listening to the appropriate addresses and singing. The amount presented to their respected Pastor, was, we believe, about fifty-three dollars in cash, and useful articles.

Religious Intelligence.

KINGSTON, AYLESFORD.—Extract of letter from Mr. John Wheelock.—I would add the Lord has appeared amongst us in a powerful manner, backsliders are returning home, and sinners are being converted to God. To his name be all the praise.

VALLEY WEST, NICTAUX.—Mr. Editor.—Dear Sir,—At the Valley West Meeting House, after Sabbath afternoon, this branch of the church conducted prayer meetings without any minister, (the pastor being occupied in other sections of the church.) until Friday, "during the week of prayer." It was apparent, from the first, that the Divine Spirit was moving upon the minds of the little company that came up to seek the Lord, and indications seemed to be more favourable every day. On Friday the pastor came, and brought tidings that in every section of the church of Nictaux the minds of the brethren seemed to be moved. We are glad to hear, through the Messenger, that other places are sharing in redeeming mercy. Pray for us in this place.

Yours, &c., JOHN WHITMAN.

HOPEWELL, N. B.—Rev. J. C. Hurd gives an account in the Visitor of the revival which is being experienced in his field of labor at Hopewell. He says:

"On the 7th Dec., the day set apart by the Convention, to be observed as a day of 'Humiliation and Prayer, with Thanksgiving,' large congregations met for religious service. The occasion was one of deep interest. Many truly humbled themselves before God; sins were confessed, pardon supplicated, and wisdom to direct, and grace to support were earnestly sought. The indications being thus manifestly favourable, I appointed meetings for every evening the following week."

"Several most interesting conversions have occurred, and fourteen have been received for baptism, and the work seems to be but commencing. Meetings are being held every night, and the congregations are very large. Earnest prayers are being offered up, warm exhortations are given, sinners are warned—urged—entreated to be reconciled to God. Many of the church members seem to be fully alive, a loftier tone of piety is being cultivated, and a spirit of earnestness, truly evangelical, is becoming more and more manifested."

USE OF PRAYER-BOOKS IN THE SCOTCH KIRK.—On Wednesday the Presbytery of Edinburgh took into consideration a motion of which the Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Liberton, had given notice, proposing the appointment of a committee to inquire into the use of a book of prayer in the worship at Old Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh, in order that the case might be dealt with in accordance with the act of last General Assembly. A long debate took place, in which the use of the prayer-book was censured on the one side as contrary to the laws and usage of the Church of Scotland, and vindicated on the other as within the limits of the freedom enjoyed by the ministers and congregations of the church. A great deal was said as to the former proceedings of the church court in respect to Dr. Lee's innovations; and it was contended by the objectors to the motion that the matter was not judicial, and by the supporters of it that no judicial finding had yet been come to. Reference was made by several speakers to other questions now agitating the Church of Scotland, particularly by Dr. Muir, who ascribed the recent movements to the hands of Satan seeking the destruction of the church. On a division, the motion of Mr.

Stewart was lost by 20 to 15.—Edinburgh Courier.

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE U. STATES.

SMALL POX IN MOBILE.—The small-pox is making great havoc among the blacks in Mobile. The Times of that city says:—"The wretched victims are perambulating our streets; they enter our yards, lie down on our steps, invade our bedrooms, and piteously beg a glass of water or the favor to lie under the shade of our stables. The consequences are frightful to contemplate; no home, no family circle is safe from the intrusion of those unfortunate victims of blind philanthropy, and before the cry of alarm has been raised the fatal disease may have swept off half our families.—The soldiers camped around our city are compelled to drive the infected subjects from around their quarters by force of arms, and yet some have already fallen victims to the scourge."

A few weeks ago a native of Nova Scotia, employed in the Grand Trunk railway repair shop in Portland, while in the act of lighting a cigar, suddenly fell backward across the door-stoop in such a manner as to dislocate his neck, causing his death in a few minutes after the accident.

Upon the three lakes in Central Park, New York, opened for that exercise, there skated on one day last week over twenty-five thousand persons.

THE RECIPROCITY DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON.—A telegram was received from New York, on Thursday to the following effect:—

"A Washington despatch says the delegates from the North American British Provinces, who are here for the purpose of securing, if possible, an extension of the Reciprocity Treaty, accompanied by Secretary McCulloch, called on the President to-day and paid their respects. They propose in a day or two making a trip to Richmond, and upon their return will have an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Committee on Ways and Means with regard to the subject of their mission."

A despatch from Toronto came on Tuesday the 16th, as follows:—

"A rumor is circulated, that arrangements have been made in Washington, for a continuance of the Reciprocity Treaty beyond March, for the purpose of securing more mature consideration."

POLYGAMY and the hostile attitude of Brigham Young and his people, receives a good deal of attention in the present Congress, because the Congressional Committee, who travelled across the Continent, had it brought very unfavorably upon their notice. The House Judiciary Committee are instructed to report whether the existing laws against polygamy are sufficiently strong to repress that institution.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

FRANCE.

The usual New-Year's reception of the Diplomatic Body by the Emperor took place at the Tuileries on Monday. The ceremony was rather longer than usual, as the Emperor addressed a few words to each Ambassador. In receiving the members of the Corps Legislatif and the President, Count Walewski, his majesty stated that he received their compliments with pleasure as a testimony of the concord which should exist between the great bodies of the State, and which constitutes the happiness of the country.

The foreign correspondent of The Pall Mall Gazette states that Prince Napoleon is again on the best of terms with the Emperor, and will shortly resume the presidency of the Paris Exhibition Committee.

News is said to have reached Paris that the three protecting Powers of Greece—England, France, and Russia—have determined to "take energetic steps" to restore order in that country. A Vienna correspondence in Cologne Gazette says that those steps are to be the dispatch of two war vessels by each of the three Powers into Greek waters, the suspension of the Hellenic constitution, and the dissolution of the Chamber by a Commission to be issued by the Powers.

There seems to be little doubt that France and Austria are drawing closer together, and a probable alliance between them is widely discussed in the Prussian papers.

SPAIN.

Queen Isabella opened the Spanish Cortes in person, with a speech from the throne, in which her majesty announces the intention of her government to pursue a "policy" tolerant but firm, in which they "will repress disturbances without cruelty, and will respect the law." The significant portions of the speech are those in which the Queen mentions that Chiffi "had obstinately refused to make amends for wrongs done to the Spanish nation during the Peruvian war;" her recognition of the Kingdom of Italy, which will not lessen her "firm intention to watch over the rights of the Holy See;" and her acknowledgment of the necessity of reducing the expenditure and of increasing the taxes, so as to put the finances of the country in a proper condition. Bills are promised, one of which is for the prevention of the slave-trade in the Antilles, another to promote municipal liberty, and a third to regulate the national domains.

ITALY.

The new Italian Cabinet has been formed. General La Marmora retains the Presidency of the council and portfolio of foreign affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—Several hundred miles of the core or interior portion of the new Atlantic telegraph cable are completed. The Great Eastern is chartered to go to sea in June, 1866, for the double purpose of laying an entirely new cable and of raising the broken end of the 1,100 miles of cable laid last year, so as to splice additional cable thereto, and thus, if successful, furnish to the public a second means of communication. This 1,100 miles of submerged cable is ascertained to be in the most perfect order by daily tests taken from the time it broke, and still continued daily. The buoys at the end of it are washed away, "but this," writes Mr. Seward, "is of no consequence, as they were intended only for a temporary purpose, the spot for grappling having been laid down by solar observations, so that a good navigator can at any time sail to within half a mile of the broken cable."

THE AUTHORISED VERSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.—Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., proposes in the coming session of Parliament to move for an address to the Crown for a royal commission to inquire into the accuracy of the authorised version of the New Testament, with a view to getting it made more correct. It is now ten years since Mr. James Heywood made a similar motion, which was opposed by the Government of the day and lost. Mr. Heywood's motion, however, was not limited to the New Testament, but embraced the whole Bible.

THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON'S BAZAAR FOR CHAPEL EXTENSION IN LONDON.—Thursday, the 23rd ult., and the two preceding days an extensive bazaar of useful and ornamental articles was held in the Lecture-hall and School-rooms of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington. These apartments are very capacious, occupying the same area as the chapel itself, and they were filled with every species of saleable commodity, together with many new features not generally found at this species of gathering. The attendance on the first day was about 1,700 persons, and the subsequent ones presented pretty much the same average. The receipts of Tuesday and Wednesday rendered a total of nearly £840. Mrs. Spurgeon's stall, as might have been expected, was a source of great attraction, and that lady drove what may be called a "roaring trade," and the amount placed against her name as cash received is consequently much higher than that of the other amateur shopkeepers. An autograph letter from Mr. Spurgeon was circulated among the visitors, and it best explains the objects of the bazaar. He says:—"Impressed with the necessities of our ever-growing city, I have used my utmost exertions to increase the number of our Baptist churches, and, as a result, solid and flourishing churches have been founded in Wandsworth, Stepney, Bromley, Redhill and Ealing, while the small church in Paradise-place, Chelsea, has entered into a noble house of prayer; and in Bermondsey a chapel is nearly completed for the use of a congregation now in connection with the church in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and worshipping in a small room. From the success already achieved, I am encouraged to attempt yet greater things, and to seek the erection, during the year 1866, of several new buildings. My faithful friends, to whose generous co-operation, under the blessing of God, all is due, intend to hold a bazaar. As the object is one which concerns all our Baptist brethren, and, indeed, all Christians, we make a very earnest appeal for aid, and confidently look for it. We have no personal end to serve; we have no motive but the glory of God. London needs the Gospel; its thousands perish for lack of knowledge; the teachers of error are leaving no stone unturned; Puseyism is compassing sea and land;—why should we sit still? Other churches are doing their best, but the Baptists are hardly lifting a hand. Better days are dawning. Let us now rise and build. On the south side of the water we have the nucleus of three churches all needing buildings, and promising success if these can be erected. On the northern side, Buckhurst-hill, Kingsland, Clapton, Barking, and Bow, and several other districts, crave our aid. Why should not all be assisted? They shall be if the Lord's people will aid us."

MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN BRITAIN.—The London correspondent of The Manchester Guardian writes:—"The impression gains ground that before Parliament meets some important changes will be made in the effective strength of the Ministerial staff. The Colonial-office is plainly destined to be the Hougoumont of the coming conflict. Round it, therefore, must be gathered the greatest available force; and if the position is to be held against the varied attacks from opposite quarters that are palpably preparing, there must be a firmer hand, a more resolute will, and a more adequate judgement, to guide and control the pay than those of the present amiable but feeble holder of the post. Five-and-twenty years ago a Jamaican storm broke over us when inefficiently commanded by the late Lord Normanby, and the complete ruin of the Liberal party was only averted by his prompt displacement, and the appointment in his stead of Lord Russell, then in the zenith of his official vigour and reputation. Those who dare to say what everybody of discernment thinks, admit that Mr. Cardwell lacks the peculiar qualities requisite to meet the emergency. He is a very good man in his way; he has no enemies; and as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster he was faultless. But there is no use in blinking the

fact that neither in the affairs of New Zealand, Australia, or Jamaica, has he shown the sagacity or energy indispensable to deal with unusual work.

THE JAMAICA QUESTION still commands much attention in Great Britain, and correspondence from persons in that Island continues to be published, bringing out more fully the wrong done to the peasantry.

It is by many writers termed "The Jamaica massacre." We might quote by the page reports of public meetings and speeches, but we must refrain from doing so. A brief notice of one will be sufficient.

A Public Meeting was held in the Metropolitan Chapel on Wednesday, the 20th ult.

On Thursday, the 21st, the Rev. Alfred Bourne, (a Congregationalist, we presume,) who had recently arrived in England from Manchioneal, Jamaica, the centre of the districts, at which place he was during the recent outbreak, delivered an address at Clayland Chapel, Clapham, London. He said there were many points on which his information was imperfect, but as far as his knowledge went he was willing to speak; and claimed to be an independent and impartial witness, who had no interest to serve in making out a case for either side. He did not hesitate to tell the negroes what he thought of them, and he had been equally ready to point out to the soldiers the principles that should guide them. He proposed to avoid as much as possible the horrible details of the massacres—white and black. He did not consider his black brother a very respectable relation, and was ashamed of him and of his brutal atrocity; but he blushed for the acts of white man—English soldiers, for whom he would suggest no excuse. He only supposed that, being hired to destroy, they had become utterly callous and insensible to the best principles of their nature. The residents, having suffered, forgot the words, "Vengeance is mine;" but with the soldiers it had been cold-blooded work, and the English flag that waved over Jamaica was foully stained. It was said by Captain Holmes that he was sick of shooting and hanging men who offered no resistance to the troops. They had heard of many who had thought it better to save life than to destroy it, and who threw themselves between the pursuers and the victims at the risk of life itself. He could say for himself that he owed his safety to men and women with black skins but grateful hearts. He considered that those who commenced the riots had three objects in view, namely, to make a demonstration, revenge, and plunder. The parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East was confessedly the lowest in Jamaica as regarded the social progress of the negroes, and the most neglected by the religious bodies, but was perhaps the best sugar-growing spot in Jamaica. He begged here to give a description of the political parties in the parish, and accordingly described at some length the disputes between Mr. George William Gordon and the rector and Custos, including an account of Mr. Gordon's exclusion from the office of churchwarden. Having described the proceedings in the court house at Morant Bay, and the subsequent conduct of the rioters, he remarked that the brutality of Paul Bogle and his party was not cold-blooded as was the corresponding brutality of the troops. A stick, a cutlass, a gun loaded with fragments of gravel or of a tobacco pipe, could not, even in a white man's hands, effect so speedy an exit from the world as a rifle loaded with a carefully-shaped bullet and pointed by a trained marksman. He should remark that some of the negroes had not yet joined in the riot, and therefore he spoke of the rioters as Paul Bogle's party. Almost every white person that had escaped could speak of one or more negroes who had endeavoured to protect him or her at a time of extreme peril, and at the risk of their own personal safety. He went through the town of Manchioneal on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and was treated with respect. He preached on Sunday in no measured terms of the riots, and no one attempted to hurt him. He was not the only one that was safe in the midst of danger. It was unfair to point to eighteen white corpses and 2,000 black to show that the retribution was excessive. Those who killed the 2,000 had all the power in their hands. They could proceed leisurely with the work. No victim could escape them. He spoke of the outbreak as a riot, and traced it to purely local causes.

An influential deputation, representing the Jamaica Committee recently waited on Mr. Cardwell. The deputation included Mr. Charles Buxton, M.P.; Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, M.P.; Mr. T. Hughes, M.P.; M. C. Gilpin, M.P.; Sir S. M. Peto, Bart. M.P.; Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P.; Mr. J. M. Ludlow, and Mr. William Shaen. One object of the committee was to obtain for their legal representatives a locus standi before the commission of inquiry. Another was to impress upon the Government the importance of appointing commissioners who would have the absolute confidence of the country; and it is understood that Mr. Cardwell intimated to the deputation that "excellent" men, whose names would be generally accepted as a guarantee of good faith, would be selected to fill these most responsible posts. The Jamaica Committee have arranged to dispatch experienced barristers to collect evidence, and they contemplate other action of an important kind.

The engagement of Princess Dagmar, of Denmark, with the present hereditary Grand Duke of Russia is now regarded in Germany as a settled thing, though not yet officially announced.