

rob the night of its hours of sleep, the body and mind of its vigor, and bring on the train of evils which we find so prevalent on some of our streets, in some of our public houses, and not a few private ones; and these are the "books" which prevent the merchant's clerk from acquiring a taste for wholesome, instructive reading, and which throw him into society, that, however well known at night, is content to acquiesce in its own shame by indulging no sign of recognition by day. These are the insignia of honor, the creed of worship, and the bagatelles of "no time" devotees and disciples of Hoyle, who wear pale faces with dull, soulless eyes, and whose facial lineaments arrest your confidence, and hold in check your otherwise ready appreciation. It is no want of time which leaves these evidences so profusely prevalent; but the sordid abuse of that already in possession. And were time only victimized the default were less; but an upheld pack of well-used cards will be a powerful witness, in a day of judgment, when the account of the unnumbered nights and hours they employed is demanded.

Young men argue that they fail to perceive that hours thus spent are sinful. The true test of the value of hours in the sight of a just Judge is the product of the same: what they accomplished, or was accomplished in them. Then the man of pleasure, when called to account for the years, months, days and hours mispent, will turn to his idols:—his horse, his boat, his carriage, his accomplices and companions; his dice, his dominoes, billiards, or grease besmeared cards, and in them will find his only answer for those unimproved hours—too often of midnight, which have brought no proper return to their Giver? Can they assist him on to heaven, glorify his Maker, or recommend his soul in judgment? Such an idea even a lunatic would reject! Then, what of the past? What are its signs of promise? How, and with what, are we going to answer for its privileges? These are questions which are inevitable, and have to be answered. How, reader, you yourself best know. Doubtless, more hope of heaven have you if you have never seen them. I never knew a young man who indulged largely in card playing, but acquired vices from it, or the associations of the game, which were without the pale of refined society, as also the catalogue of moral characteristics. I never knew a person to indulge in the game but felt conscience-smitten when accused by it in presence of a moral or religious person; and the more exemplary we find society, the more in detestation are cards held by it. If all the grim catalogue of ills and vices which, like the tail of a kite, were lopped from it and only its squandered time remained, even then it were hideous. Those hours, fraught with golden opportunities for mental, moral, religious and social improvement, which only need the seeking once, would furnish associations, influences and society which we should be happy to carry to the bar of God, because it will be that of justice, when we are called to an account of our stewardship, as connected with the "privileges which are providences" contained in the past.

Because of these misappropriated hours, social and religious society starves, its stamina, the young, are absent. Congregations are small, the vacant seats discourage the good pastor, the inattention to vocal cultivation renders the praise inharmonious, and an abundance of good talent for the office of praise is buried in worse than earth.

WATCHER.

(To be continued.)

For the Christian Messenger.

Answer to "A Young Pastor."

MR. EDITOR,—

The inquiries respectfully made by "A Young Pastor," (C. M., Oct. 10.) are entitled to a courteous reply.

If the dissolving of a Church be in every case contrary to Scripture, then, of course, that recorded in my "Sketch," (C. M., Sept. 26.) must have been unjustifiable. In my opinion, however, where no definite rule is laid down in Scripture, general principles ought to be regarded, and discretion exercised. The inspired Oracles distinctly shew, that a Christian Church should consist of baptized believers only; but when and where a new church ought to be formed, how small a number may constitute one, as also the calling of a particular Minister to the pastorate, and his retention or dismissal appear to be matters in which "wisdom is profitable to direct."

In some instances it is obviously the part of prudence to take down a large building that is ready to fall and be utterly ruined, and of the

sound materials to construct a smaller one, that will stand firmly. As a Church is constituted by the voluntary associating of a number of Christians, if, under peculiar circumstances, they judge it for the honor of God and the general good to dissolve that compact, surely they have a right by mutual agreement to release each other from former engagements. This is what was done in the case related by me.

I do not regard it as a sufficient reason for the adoption of this course, "that it was the least difficult and painful;" but the special reason assigned for it was the persuasion, "that an attempt to remedy existing evils by discipline would tend to create more animosity and strife, and to destroy all the union that remained." While the subject was under discussion, a man of discernment, well acquainted with the state of things there, spoke to this effect:—"Discipline has been so long neglected, and so many disorders exist, that if you now attempt to purify the Church by discipline, you will kindle a fire which you will never be able to quench." No one adventured to gainsay this; but it appeared to be generally deemed correct. The vote might be considered unanimous, as no hand was raised against it, and the few that hesitated agreed to acquiesce.

One man who was absent did, indeed, subsequently express disapprobation. He maintained that the disorderly and immoral ought to have been allowed to remain in the church; and quoted in support of this view, "Let both grow together." When, however, his attention was called to the fact, that the "field" in which the wheat and tares are allowed to "grow together," is not the Church, but the "world," (Matthew xiii. 28-30, 36-38) he perceived the untenableness of his position, approved the course adopted by his brethren, and reunited with them. The results of the measure were evidently beneficial.

In another case—fully known to me—wherein a Church had unhappily become divided into two distinct and antagonistic churches, interspersed through the same region, it was subsequently agreed by the members generally of each, to dissolve both, and let all that could walk together constitute one united Church. In this case also the salutary effects were obvious and unquestionable.

In conclusion, I repeat the advice, to guard sedulously against those things which may render the dissolution of a church needful, by prudence in the reception of candidates, and promptness in the exercise of discipline. If, however, there be a case in which these precautions have been so neglected that attempts to produce the requisite purifying will be morally certain to destroy all remaining union, it now appears to me advisable to dissolve and reorganize.

Yours in Gospel bonds,
C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, Oct. 18, 1866.

ERRATA.—In No. 2, C. M., Oct. 10, Col. 1, line 34, for "mornings," read morning; l. 42, for "be removed," read to be, &c. Col. 2, l. 30, for "ride before," read ride behind.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

On the 19th September, at the residence of his son, in West Cornwallis, Mr. Ebenezer Huntington, was called from his earthly home to his "House not made with hands," in the 85th year of his age. Mr. H. was one of the first settlers of the place, and also one of the original members of the 2nd Cornwallis Baptist Church.

He was baptized by the Rev. E. Manning, when he was twenty-eight years of age. His life as a Christian was such, that of him it could with all safety and propriety be said, "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile." Through his long and peaceful life he enjoyed uninterrupted health which enabled him to perform labor in the field only a few days before his death. He was highly esteemed in the community and greatly beloved in his own family and in the church. He leaves ten children, seventy grand children and nineteen great-grandchildren.

A sermon was preached on the occasion of his burial by the pastor of the church, from these words, "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

WILLIAM BENT STRONACH.

Son of Asaph B. Stronach, of Margareeville, died in Lower Aylesford, on Lord's day, Oct. 14th, aged 27 years, leaving a sorrowing widow and three small children.

Bro. S. professed faith when quite young, and united with the Baptist Church of Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot, of which he continued to be a steadfast member to the day of his decease. He was a zealous and consistent advocate of Temperance, and readily took an active and useful part in the Sabbath School.

As his mother, a sister, and two brothers had died of consumption, so soon as symptoms of this fatal disease appeared in him, he expected

it would determinate his life. He endured his sufferings, which continued upwards of two years, with much composure and submission, sustained by a consoling hope in the Saviour.

A short time before his departure, in conversation with his father-in-law, Rev. Abraham Stronach, he expressed some dread of the pains and struggle of death; but he expired as easily as if dropping into a sweet sleep. At his burial a discourse was delivered by his Pastor from a text chosen by him, namely, Job xiv. 10. "But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?"—Com. by Rev. C. Tupper.

Religious Intelligence.

HALIFAX.—The Rev. J. E. Goucher is laboring to much acceptance at the North Church. On Lord's Day the 14th inst., after a considerable period having elapsed since the last baptizing service, Mr. G. administered that ordinance in the presence of a large congregation. We trust it may be the beginning of new progress in gathering men and women into the church of our Lord and Saviour.

CANNING.—We have learned that a revival of religion is being experienced in the field of labor occupied by Rev. David Freeman. Further particulars have not yet reached us. We hope to receive them shortly.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.—We are pleased to learn that Rev. W. W. George's labors at Little River are being attended with the Divine blessing. Four persons have recently been baptized on a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus, and there is ground for expecting further accessions shortly.

MARGAREE, C. B.—Rev. J. F. Kempton in a P. S. to a letter received from him says:—"I am happy to inform you that I had the privilege of immersing two professed believers in Christ on the 7th inst. These make five to whom I have gladly administered this Heaven-appointed ordinance in Margaree during the summer. Others stand on the banks of the river looking anxiously—only waiting for satisfactory evidence of their acceptance with Christ."

JACKSONTOWN, N. B.—A letter from the Rev. John Rowe to the Visitor says:—

"I have been baptizing every Sabbath since my return from the Convention, and I anticipate baptizing more shortly. The Lord is working a deep work of grace in the hearts of many. Our hearts were made glad to see the manifestations of Divine power in the salvation of ruined sinners. God has greatly blessed this Church with pious, talented deacons, who take the deepest interest in the advancement of the cause. The Lower Church is also blest in a similar respect. God is doing great things for us, and we give him all the praise.

Brethren Titus and Howard have been greatly blessed in originating and carrying forward this revival. It appears to me to be a providential circumstance that they were there engaged in this delightful work of saving souls. I trust God will greatly bless our young men who are coming into the field to gather souls into the great harvest.

Eleven have been added by baptism, and more will soon be."

Colonial and Foreign News.

New Brunswick.

Mr. Thomas Hutchings is appointed Agent and Lecturer for the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance in New Brunswick.

We learn from the Visitor that Tea Meetings, Farmer's Suppers and Bazaars are greatly in vogue in the country just now; mostly for benevolent purposes.

A one dollar subscription is being made in St. John, N. B., for the purpose of erecting an appropriate monument to the memory of the Rev. Samuel Robinson.

The late Agricultural Exhibition at Fredericton appears to have given but little satisfaction to any of the parties concerned. Horse-racing seems to have been one of its principal features. The award of prizes by His Excellency Gen. Doyle to the Volunteer and Militia Officers seems also to have been quite an interesting adjunct to the Exhibition.

Canada.

TORONTO, Oct. 17th.—There was a run on the Commercial Bank yesterday, owing to unfounded rumors. The Bank met all demands, and the excitement subsided.

The correspondents of the New York papers are circulating various rumors respecting disagreements in the Cabinet. What amount of truth there is in them must be determined by something more tangible. The following are some of these rumors:

The London Correspondent of the Toronto Globe says it is confidently reported that Lord Monck, Governor-General of Canada, is to be recalled in consequence of circumstances attending the abduction of the French refugee, Lamarand.

A despatch from Ottawa says that a serious difficulty is reported in the Canadian Cabinet, owing to the agitation of Mr. Galt and the Confederation and financial embarrassment of the Government.

TORONTO, 18th.—It is not decided whether the Governor-General will accompany the Confederation delegates on their journey to England. The probability is that he will follow them in a few weeks afterwards.

FURTHER DETAILS of the terrible fire at Quebec have been received. On Wednesday the following despatch came from Quebec:

Temporary sheds are being erected for the victims of the late fire. There is much suffering in prospect. Private individuals are contributing largely to provide the necessaries of life for the sufferers, and several soup kitchens have been established. Another man named Detoe has died from injuries received. An appeal is being made to the people of England and France for aid. The number of buildings burned was 2300.

Another despatch dated Quebec (Oct. 18th), states that another person died last night in the Hospital from the injuries received in the late terrible fire. Bread and provisions are being regularly distributed among the sufferers by the Catholic Priests and Sister of Charity, who are working night and day. In addition to the loss of property by the fire, there will fall an immense loss on the stock holders of the local insurance companies, the stock of which has largely depreciated. Nearly all the English Companies have withdrawn since the fire. At a public meeting, the City Government was denounced for the criminal neglect and folly which led to so much loss of life and property. The value of property destroyed is estimated at between two and three millions of dollars. Six lives were lost.

We are glad that a movement is being made in Halifax for affording temporary aid to the sufferers.

THE CROPS.—The latest reports of the crops in Lower Canada seem to show that they have not suffered so severely as it was apprehended. The greatest difficulty is in peas. A good deal of barley is discolored, but less than reported. Wheat will yield a fair return. Oats are in good quality and will give more than an average crop. Potatoes have suffered, chiefly in low ground. The quality is not quite as good as usual, but the crop is abundant. Other root crops are abundant.

A five mile foot race for \$1000 came off at New York on Wednesday last. It was won by John Wild, a Canadian boy. In horse racing, foot racing, boat racing, billiards, and every other sport, British America is taking the shine out of the States very nicely.—Canada paper.

TORONTO, C. W. Oct. 20.—Several more Fenian prisoners were arraigned to-day, one of whom proved to be a lunatic. The American Consul intimated to the Court that he had received instructions from Washington to engage counsel for all the prisoners of American citizenship.

LATEST FROM THE U. STATES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 22.—Official news from Vera Cruz, to the 5th inst., has been received here, with the following information:—The 81st Regt. of the line which arrived at Vera Cruz to embark, and which had been ordered back to Orizaba, has lost 50 pack mules, with a great deal of its baggage, the guerrillas having captured them. A company that was sent to the rescue of the baggage, was completely cut up by the liberals, at Chiquibaita, its losses being 20 killed and wounded, or captured. General Castelman was hourly expected at Vera Cruz; it was thought he would stop the embarkation of the French troops.

NEW YORK, Oct. 22.—From Paris, Rome, and Brussels we have the melancholy intelligence that the mind of the Empress of Mexico, overtaxed by the importance of her mission, and intensely depressed by her bitter failure, has given way; and that Her Majesty became insane after her interview with the Pope, and was taken from Rome to Brussels in this condition. The latest telegram from Brussels states that the mental "crisis" was alleviated.

The Herald's Rio Janeiro correspondence, of September 25th, says the Allied fleet, in moving up the Narana River, to attack Fort Caraprite, came upon a masked battery, when the iron clad Rio De Janeiro was disabled by a 68-pound shot, and was finally blown to fragments by a torpedo. All the crew perished. On the 3rd of September the army assaulted and captured the Fort. Up to the 7th no further advance had been made. Gold 146.

THE OPERATIVES IN MASSACHUSETTS.—An official investigation of the state of the operatives in the factories of Massachusetts has revealed a sad state of things. Mr. J. E. Ham, the commissioner, states:—"He found a dreadful state of things—the condition of some of the operatives being as bad, if not worse, than formerly existed among the slaves of the South. He spoke of the bad ventilation of some of the mills, the early age at which the children were placed in the mills, their deplorable ignorance, their wages, the obligations of the mill owners, and of the opposition of Catholic parents to have their children enter Protestant schools. The speaker is in favor of reducing the hours of labor in the factories, and the establishment of reading rooms, and the enforcement of the law in regard to children working in factories. He thought that the condition of the operatives in Lowell was better than in other manufacturing cities."