

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mission on Cape Breton.

Left home on the 11th of July and on the 14th landed at the Strait of Canso. The church there being well supplied by the ministering brethren on the way to the E. Association, I travelled towards our annual meeting, preached as I went. Attended our Association. A pleasant meeting, very harmonious. O what heaven shall and will be when all the chosen race shall meet, none missed, none wanting. All isms left to perish in the general fire. Ifs, buts, doubts, all fears eternally unknown. His name written on every forehead. Every vessel full to the brim. One mind. One song. No discord there. "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.' The Assembly shall never break up. The song shall be eternal.

The Association being adjourned till July 1867, I travelled towards Mira, preached at Mira, Cow Bay, Cow Bay Mines, Boulardrie Island, St. Anns, North Shore, English Town, Big Glen, Big Beddeck, Mabou, and the Strait of Canso. Preached 33 sermons, visited as many families as I conveniently could, lectured and expounded the scriptures as often, and as much as I possibly could. Attended two conference meetings, took part at the administration of the Lord's Supper twice, assisted at the baptism of a young sister, attended Quarterly meeting with the ministering brethren, there, and took part at the funeral of Deacon Peter Musgrave, (North Sydney) who died in a good old age, an old man, full of years, and laden with the fruits of righteousness, and was gathered where kindred spirits are.

In general, I preached to large and attentive congregations, often broken down under the word. The reception I had, and the kindness shown to me whithersoever I went, and that by all classes, and every denomination, I make no attempt to describe. The liberality of the people towards the cause in past proves it. It was more than "a cup of cold water." The final day will bring it to light.

Cape Breton is a large field "white already to harvest." Boulardrie island, Big Glen, St. Anns and the North Shore are chiefly settled by Gaelic Protestants, and a few English people. At St. Anns in particular, congregations of three, four, five, six, seven and sometimes eight hundred people meet there to hear the word of life. Before I left it was in contemplation to build a large meeting house for Br. MacPhee there.

Yours in the beat of bonds,
JOHN SHAW.

ST. MARY'S BAY.—We are pleased to learn that the interesting state of religious enquiry at St. Mary's Bay continues, and that Rev. M. Normandy baptized eight persons on Lord's Day, the 9th Inst. Others are manifesting much anxiety on the subject, and will probably present themselves shortly to the church for admission to its fellowship.

NORTH RIVER P. E. I.—Rev. E. N. Archibald, writes Dec. 7th, that he had been encouraged by the reception of four into the fellowship of the churches under his care, on a profession of faith and baptism. May he have many similar tokens of Divine approval.

ST. JOHN.—We find the following in one of our exchanges and suppose it to be correct, but the circumstance has not yet been otherwise reported:

"A late St. John, (N. B.) paper states that a leading Church of England Clergyman of that city has changed his views on Baptism and was about to connect himself with the Baptist denomination. It is further stated that he will be made Pastor of Leinster Street Baptist Church."

BOSTON, MASS.—At the last monthly meeting of the Boston Baptist Minister's Conference, reports of Baptisms were given from fourteen churches, amounting to forty-two persons.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.—A letter just received from C. A. Buckbee, the Recording Secretary informs us that at the late Board meeting, letters of deep interest were read. These letters, selected from a correspondence of several hundred of a similar character, expressed the interest felt in the work of the Bible Union.

A letter from a Methodist minister was also read, expressing his profound gratitude to the Union for the translation. He writes: "It sheds a flood of light on the word of God. I am studying theology over again. I am determined to be right regardless of preconceived notions."

The electrotype plates of a beautiful edition of John's Gospel, were presented by two be-

nevolent ladies to the Board for its perpetual use. It contains eighty-eight pages, and is pre- faced with a few pages of "Easy Lessons," every letter and every word taken from the gospel itself, to help the child or grown person, to read this "History of Jesus." The book is especially adapted for the Freedmen.

The following grants of Scriptures were made:

For Virginia, 1,100 copies. For Alabama, 225 copies. For Louisiana, 1,500 copies. For Texas:—209 copies. For Missouri:—614 copies. To Baptist Home Missionaries:—300 copies for various fields in the West and in the South.

The benevolent contributions this month will reach 5,000 copies, and there is great need of largely increased receipts.

CALIFORNIA.—Rev. J. B. Knight of Ione City, in a letter received by a correspondent on the Mississippi, says:—"I have just returned from the San Francisco Baptist Association. We had a delightful and harmonious sitting; yes, best of all, a glorious work of grace is in progress in the city of San Francisco, under the labors of Rev. A. B. Earle. Hundreds have already professed conversion. All evangelical denominations are united in the work. There are indications that the wave of mercy will roll on over the whole coast. Pray for us."

NORTH CAROLINA.—Rev. N. B. Cobb in the *Biblical Recorder*, describing a scene near the Albermarle Sound, says:

Of those received for baptism one hundred and eleven went down into the water at one time. They formed two long columns, one behind the other, like soldiers in line of battle, who marched out into Pasquotank River, about two hundred and fifty yards from the shore.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—A correspondent of the *South Carolina Baptist* notes a revival in the Anon Church. Sixteen were baptized. He says:—"The baptismal scene was one of the deepest solemnity. The door of the church was opened at the water, when two young ladies, members of the Methodist church came forward and said they felt it their duty to be baptized."

VIRGINIA.—'Uncle John' E. Vassar, the ardent and soul loving missionary of the American Tract Society in Virginia, writes the *Examiner* that a powerful work of grace has commenced in Rev. Drs. Burrows' and Jeter's churches, in Richmond, Va. He says, under date of Nov. 10th:

"I think that several hundreds must have found Jesus, to the joy of their souls, within the last few weeks. I am looking for a glorious winter. Ask the prayers of the friends of Jesus for us. I am sure the field is ripe for a great harvest work. The families among whom I visit all receive me very kindly. The work of grace is making progress. Strong men are bowing at Jesus' feet. To-night is the young men's prayer-meeting, and I have just been visiting some most intelligent young friends whose souls are distressed on account of sin. Dr. Jeter's meeting is grand. May many more come and join themselves to the Lord, in a covenant well-ordered and sure!"

ANOTHER IMPARTIAL TESTIMONY.—In the fourth volume of Lange's Commentary just issued, the exegetical notes are written by Dr. Lechler, Professor of Theology, and Superintendent at Leipzig. This is what this p-dobaptist scholar says in reference to the fifth verse of the first chapter of Acts.

"Baptized with the Holy Ghost. The gift of the Spirit is here termed baptism, and is thus characterized as one of most abundant fullness and as a submerion in a purifying and life-giving element. The term and the image are both derived from the water baptism of John."—*National Baptist*.

YOUNG LADIES INSTITUTE AT LEWISBURG.—The following extract is from a private letter "Our hall to night is a happy one. Eight young ladies can to night trust in the Saviour, who could not a few weeks ago." From the same source we learn that a thorough religious influence pervades all the departments in the University at Lewisburg."—*ib.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PROFESSORSHIP.—The friends of Kalamazoo College, Michigan, have proposed to the children of the Sunday-schools in that State in particular, and of any other part of the world in general, to raise fifteen thousand dollars to endow a professorship in that college, to be known as the *Children's Professorship*. The fund is divided into thirty thousand shares, and each child who gives half a dollar will receive a medal, on which will be a picture of one of the colleges. For more than one share a certificate is issued, on which the two colleges will be engraved. A friend of the college, who lives in Chicago, will provide a large and elegant roll-book, in which the name of every donor to the fund will be entered.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S BAPTISM.—A Presbyterian of the Church of Scotland makes the following statement:—"It is generally believed in Scotland that the Bishop of London received baptism from a Presbyterian of the Church of Scotland. Now, the High Church party believe that baptism is essential to make one a Christian. If Dr. Tait never was baptized—as on High Church principles, he never was—the good Bishop was incapable of consecration; and Mr. Mackenzie, of St. Alban, is a layman."

MISSIONARY SUCCESS.—Sixty years ago, in Polynesia, there was not a native Christian; but now, on all the islands on which the missions have been established, it would be difficult to find a professed idolator. The churches sustain their native pastors, and are sending their noblest sons as missionaries to unevangelized islands.

Colonial and Foreign News.

Newfoundland.

Three telegraph posts were recently cut down and carried away, near Harbor Grace, thereby communication between Europe and America was stopped for about five hours.

Prince Edward Island.

An inquest was held in Queen's County, on Tuesday last, on the body of a woman named Margaret Hewitt, who died suddenly in the house in which she resided. After hearing the evidence medical and otherwise, the jury returned a verdict of "death from inflammation caused by the use of ardent spirits."

Canada.

MONTREAL, Dec. 14.—It is stated that Sir J. Michel, commander-in-chief of the forces recently prepared a report at the request of the Imperial authorities which shows the impracticability of fortifying this city except at very heavy cost.

The body of a boy, about fifteen years of age, was found on the Grand Trunk Railway track a few mornings since, dreadfully mangled by being run over by the night train. The name and residence of the boy are unknown.

The Governor-General left Montreal on the 10th inst., en route for New York, there to embark per *Scotia* for England. Sir John Michel has been sworn in Administrator of the Government.

NEW ORGAN FOR THE BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANTFORD.—The *Montreal Gazette*, furnishes a description of this fine instrument in the place of worship belonging to the Baptist church in Brantford:

This organ has two key-boards; scale from C to F; fifty-four notes, and a pedal of twenty notes. It is built to be placed in a tower, the key and stop action passing under the floor to the front of the gallery, a distance of eight feet, leaving space between the player's desk and the tower for the choir. The desk is also sunk some distance below the floor on which the singers will stand, so that the organist, by simply raising his eyes, obtains a full view of all those before him, and necessarily has greater command over his singers than if the key-boards were arranged in the usual manner. It has 21 stops.

The Brantford *Expositor* adds:—"We heartily congratulate this enterprising congregation in not only liquidating a debt of \$5,600 during the present year, and also liberally increasing their pastor's income, besides extending a support to missionary and other benevolent enterprises; but also in the spirit displayed in securing this magnificent organ. The formal opening of the instrument was to be inaugurated by a concert of sacred and instrumental music."

LATEST FROM UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—It is understood here in semi-official circles, that the criminal Surratt, will be offered his pardon on condition that he will testify as a faithful witness, against all the other parties with whom he had communication, either directly or indirectly, with the atrocious plot.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The *Tribune's* Washington despatch says United States Treasurer, to-day, received a letter from the rebel agent in Europe, enclosing a certificate of deposit of the rebel Government of four hundred pounds. He stated that, inasmuch as no such Government was in existence, the money belonged to the United States. Mr. Spinner gave orders to-day to have it sold, and the proceeds turned over to the Treasury.

S. B. Haliday, superintendent of the Five Points Mission House of Industry, New York, writes to the *Tribune*, imploring persons in search of employment not to go to New York. There are thousands of men, women and children, he says, out of employment, and in a suffering condition.

MICHIGAN.—Rev. J. A. Davidson, writes from Detroit to the *Abstainer*:

"The Principal Temperance Order here is that of the Independent Order of Good Templars and they are stronger and composed of a more reliable, solid material in Michigan, than we in general found them elsewhere. The Clergymen and solid church going people are largely represented in the Order here. We have, it is estimated 400 Clergymen of the various denominations in the Michigan Lodges.

We have upwards of three hundred Lodges, and nearly 30,000 members of the Order in the State, and they are growing rapidly. The local societies are building Halls and making other improvements, and are aiding in the enforcement of our Prohibitory Law, and I would here say that I never had as firm a faith in the possibility of Prohibition as since I came to Michigan. Here I have seen and learned that the law can be and is in scores of towns and villages enforced to the letter. I saw in a town as large as Pictou or New Glasgow, this summer, where not a drop of intoxicating liquor was for sale. In another place I saw the closed up liquor shop of a dealer who had been caught violating the law, and who was then confined in the common jail, paying the penalty of selling liquors.

"If you only had the same law in Nova Scotia, you would have something solid to work up to, and rely upon. I tell you friends, you may moralize and talk humanity, love, gentleness and religion to the hardened liquor seller, but you might as well reason with, or attempt to move and melt, one of your Gulf icebergs."

MEXICO.—By the arrival at New York, on the 12th inst., of the steamer *Eagle* from Havana, on the 8th Inst., it still appears doubtful if Maximilian will abdicate at present.

The steamer *Eider*, from Vera Cruz on the 6th inst., had arrived at Havana, with intelligence that Maximilian had decided not to abandon the Empire, and that a proclamation communicating said fact had appeared.

Among the passengers by the *Eider* was the private secretary of Maximilian, and was to leave for New York in the *Eagle*. He had been very private and reserved since his arrival, and it was supposed that he carries despatches or has particular business to leave Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 12.—A correspondent writing from Vera Cruz on the 2nd inst., says that \$25,000,000 for immediate use has been placed at the disposal of Maximilian by the church party, and a similar sum is promised annually to enable him to keep up an army. The merchants of Mexico have pledged themselves to give \$10,000,000 annually; and on these terms he has decided upon retaining his crown. Gold 137 5/8.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By Atlantic Telegraph.

London Dec. 10.—The *Times* in an editorial this morning says the Fenians have been fairly checkmated, and that it would be madness on their part to attempt rebellion.

Cardinal Cullen has issued a pastoral, urging the Irish people to obedience to the law, and the avoidance of all secret societies.

Arrests still continue to be made, and more artillery will leave for Ireland soon.

Dec. 10, evening.—Many Delegates from British American Provinces having in view the final settlement of the Confederation scheme, have arrived. They have formed members into a Conference and elected Mr. McDonald to preside over their deliberations.

Dec. 11, evening.—A quantity of arms, intended for the use of the Fenians, and all the fittings of a gunshop, were seized to-day at Cardiff, while on their way to Ireland. The steamer *Bolivar* has been seized in the Medway, on suspicion of being a Fenian cruiser. A large quantity of arms, and ammunition, and 30 tons of gunpowder, were found on board the steamer.

Dec. 12.—In the Commission to adjust the Alabama claims, those of this country against the United States for the losses of British subjects by depredations, &c., during the war, will be brought promptly forward.

Dec. 12, noon.—A strict guard has been placed over the steamer *Bolivar* which was seized in the Medway on suspicion of being a Fenian cruiser. No access is allowed those on board. The captain and mate of the vessel who did not join the crew say that the vessel was for the Government of Columbia. In the Rappahannock case, the claimants against the U. S. have been ordered to file an amended answer.

The Fenian troubles in Ireland are increasing. Another regiment of artillery has been ordered and will soon proceed to Ireland.

Dec. 12.—evening.—It is rumored on the continent that the Emperor of Russia has proposed to the Great Powers that they hold a conference to take into consideration the position of the Christian subjects of the sublime Porte.

A factory for the preparation of Greek Fire has been discovered by the police in Dublin.

The ministers of the United States of Columbia have made a demand upon the English Government for the restoration of the steamship *Bolivar*, and it is probable that she will be given up to the owners without further delay.

Dec. 16.—A man has been arrested in Norfolk, who is supposed to be James Stephens, the chief organizer of the Irish Republic, but the establishment of his identity is as yet considered dubious.

Liverpool, Dec. 12, eve.—The steamship *Indus* from Liverpool bound for Philadelphia is ashore near Wexford. She is a total loss.

Barnsley, Thursday night, Dec. 13.—A third explosion took place at Oak's colliery at ten o'clock this morning. There is no longer any hope for those in the pit. They must all be dead. It is estimated that three hundred and fifty have lost their lives by this terrible catastrophe. The mine is now on fire and the flames have burnt from the mouth of the main shaft with great violence. The work of drawing out the balance of the dead has been suspended and the mine is to be flooded with water. The cause of the accident will probably remain a perpetual mystery.

Dec. 15.—Three more terrific explosions occurred this morning; the first at ten minutes before five, the second at 5 o'clock, and the third at nine o'clock. Engineers are busily engaged flooding the pit.

Hanley, Thursday night, Dec. 13.—There was a fearful explosion at noon to-day at Fox-under-the-Hill, near this town, in a coal pit belonging to the North Staffordshire Coal Iron Co. Two hundred men went into the mine this morning, of whom only thirteen have been taken out alive, and they are badly injured. The rest, it is believed, are dead. Up to the present moment forty dead bodies have been brought out. The excitement among the inhabitants is intense.

FRANCE.—Paris, Dec. 10.—It is again rumored that M. Fould, the eminent French minister, will soon resign.

Serious difficulty is apprehended in Rome after the withdrawal of the French troops. It is