

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 1, 1867.

CHURCH LIFE should be the centre of all that is good in every civilized community.—Influences go forth from the church which affect all other interests in this world, human and divine. While these influences exercise a controlling power in moulding the individual, and in preparing him for the life beyond the present, they bring him into harmonious and healthy relationship with all the various parts of human society. In converting the wilderness to a fruitful field, and the fruitful field into the garden of the Lord, there appear various blossoms and varieties of plant and foliage which combined become sources of joy and delight in that garden.

Every man in the community has associations with his fellowmen, social, benevolent, and political, and if his church life is in full and vigorous operation, they draw all their inspiration and receive a wholesome direction from the fact of his relationship to the kingdom of Christ.

Family ties are kept in order and rendered increasingly happy, and the bonds of citizenship are sanctified by the controlling force of the truths on which church life is based.

In the struggle for existence and progress men are in great danger of allowing selfishness to gain an ascendancy over benevolence, and of attempting to set up independence of others as the climax of their earthly hopes, rather than the general prevalence of truth and love. When gospel principles are predominant, a desire for the latter becomes the great ruling motive, and the power of doing service to the cause of Christ by scattering blessings on humanity becomes the abiding habit of thought. Patriotism presents demands which without healthy church life becomes either an overbearing ambition, or a mean and cringing submission to the opinions of others. Even this virtue is liable to be superseded by its counterfeit—zeal for a political party, or to be overcome by the selfishness of human nature. In which case the citizen becomes changed into a traitor to his country, who will sell his birthright for some mess of pottage, or other temporary advantage. It is only when a man is standing face to face before Almighty God that he realizes his position as he ought, as a parent, a child, a member of society and a citizen.

There are various phases of Church Life as well as of Civilization, from "that of the first step from a state of the blindest heathenism up to the most highly cultivated and holy christian. It might be profitable for every individual to make enquiry as to what is his position in this respect. Having ascertained his own standing, then should he ask, What is the character of the community in which he lives and moves? Is it as fully under the direction of christian principles as it should be, or is it existing with just enough of christianity to claim affinity to the great brotherhood, and feeling satisfied therewith? If the former, then are the divine principles vigorously at work, raising the people nearer to a condition of church life, such as that to which we are taught to look forward when earth will more nearly resemble heaven. If this result is not effected by means of the christian church, where in this world is the organization adapted to that end? The church, notwithstanding all its imperfections, is the conductor, linking earth to heaven. We may not realize that we have Christ reigning personally over the world, but he does reign in His church. Wherever His word and Spirit do not exercise a controlling and guiding influence there it cannot be His church. In the progress of truth the church must be brought more and under His influence, and so be raised to a higher and still higher plane of spiritual life. Such a reformation is effected by each individual comprised in its membership, becoming imbued with the spirit of the Master, and reflecting his likeness. An earnest turning unto the Lord is necessary, and this without reserve or exception, on the part of the christian church. She would then come "forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." The world would receive the reflection of her light and be brought under her influence, and, thus advancing wave after wave, the kingdoms of the world will eventually become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.

The "Church Union."

The New York *Episcopalian* gives the following expression concerning what a contemporary a few weeks since termed "the new union movement now happily progressing in the United States:—"

PARTY (RELIGIOUS) JOURNALISM.—The new journal which has recently been started in our sister city, over the river, *The Church Union*, it is feared is doing more harm than good to the cause which it professes to have so much at heart—the cause of Christian unity. It cultivates a style that is not calculated to soften the asperities of denominational differences, nor to make brethren in Christ feel that, through his influence, they can be brought nearer to one another, in the bond of peace. Above all things, it lacks, to a most deplorable degree, that most excellent gift of clarity, without which all its earnestness and zeal in the cause which it professes to serve are worth nothing. The sharp personalities of its anonymous communications are calculated to multiply rather than diminish divisions; while the censorious character of its editorial commentaries upon men and things, in and out of the church, can only have the effect of widening the breaches that already exist in God's church. There is no probability that sensational journalism of this kind will obtain any permanent footing in this community. It will live and flourish, and make its little noise for a while, then die and be forgotten.

The "movement" sought by this new journal appears to be simply another broad church effort and probably exists more in the sheet put forth on its behalf than any where else. There are in most communities a number of kind hearted people who are taken by this plausible platform—a denunciation of the denominations. Their pretended hostility to sects becomes only another sect often narrower than those it seeks to supplant.

The International Exhibition at Paris.

The English papers give very full descriptions of the Exhibition Building in its exterior appearance, as well as its interior arrangements. The former does not appear to afford satisfaction to all parties. The spaciousness of the building is said to give it a squattish appearance—far inferior in its general design to the Crystal Palace, of the last International Exhibition in London.

The building cost eleven millions of francs, about \$2,000,000. It is described as exceedingly ingenious, but

"The interior is cut into numberless compartments and divisions, and there is no one hall or transept to redeem the general littleness. The central space has not been covered by a dome or hall, but is arranged as an open garden, with fountains and promenade walks. The effect of this central garden may be imagined from the following graphic description by the Paris correspondent of the *Guardian*:—"This space is an oblong court of considerable dimensions, forming the smallest of the seven concentric ovals of which the entire structure consist. The court is quite open, with the exception of a narrow portico which runs round it, and is enclosed by a low wall, high enough to impede air, but not high enough to afford shade. The effect on entering this court, even at the present season, is that of intense glare and heat. You feel, indeed, as though you had been passing through a series of gradations of temperature, one hotter than another, in the preceding circles, until at last you had reached the full centre and force of the huge calorifere. Where you feel shut up is a sort of walled pound, without a bit of shade, over the low enclosure of which the hot sky hangs even already with threatening aspect. I wish I may be mistaken; but if many persons be found capable of pursuing their investigations into the *Histoire du Travail* under such conditions of atmosphere as this court seems likely to present, they must be of a very ardent temperament." It must be confessed that what the building lacks in perspective, it gains in detail—for some of the halls or courts are extremely handsome in appearance. Many of these halls are ceiled over with muslin, stamped with elegant coloured patterns, presenting a very pleasing appearance and subdued light, as well as the immense advantage of hiding the ugly iron rods and rafters which support the glass roof. The Austrian and Swiss compartments have been particularly successful in this mode of arrangement, which seems to have been quite overlooked by the French.

THE ENGLISH COURT.—In the English compartment, the entire space is left open, with only blinds drawn over the glass roof, the cases of the exhibitors being disposed without boarding or partitions of any kind between them. The consequence is that the eye ranges agreeably at once over the whole allotment, and there is none of the boxed-up feeling which one experiences in the far more pretentious but close and confined French department. The decorations are exceedingly effective. Girders and columns are alike painted a dark green, relieved by a slight gilding round the caps of the pillars. Some of the other nations, such as Turkey and China, are more gorgeous in their decorations, but the effect of the English is, upon the whole, decidedly better than that of any other. The English Court is more forward than most of the other courts, and the advance made lately has been very rapid. The picture gallery will be an attractive feature; although great regrets have been expressed that English painters should on this great occasion be so inadequately represented. Picture dealers and picture collectors have, it is said, learnt such a lesson from these constant Exhibitions during the last few years as will not induce them to lend their art-treasures for show again. The English gallery will, however, contain a fine collection of water

colours, and in this branch of art competition is not even attempted by foreign countries.

THE FOREIGN COURTS are too many to even notice in a short article. The French division is not improved by the light grey paint which is the prevailing colour. The court of Tunis, Morocco, Japan, and China are, as might be expected, gorgeously coloured. The Prussian court is somewhat heavy in appearance, while the Austrian department is far more attractive. The Danish compartment is pleasant to look upon. Portugal presents a very elegant piece of arcading, half Gothic, half renaissance, dividing her from Switzerland. The Ottoman Court looks brilliant in colour. Italy is behind hand in her arrangements. The Paris correspondent of the *Guardian* a few weeks ago aptly described the effect which the whole of these courts has upon the spectator. He wrote:—"It is worth remarking that the unrivalled superiority of the mode of grouping and classification of the present, as compared with former Exhibitions, begins already to tell upon the spectator. "It is already interesting, for example, to pass immediately from the same work of one nation to that of another, though that work be confined at present to the getting-up only of their several allotments. The comparison of the different styles and tastes and conceptions displayed even in this way is very curious and striking, and marks strongly the various modes in which national instinct develops itself. You literally thus feel that you are walking 'round the world' as you make the circle of one of these galleries! while at the same time the immense advantage of always having the same immediate object of comparison before your eyes is very greatly and satisfactorily appreciated. The pleasurable sensation produced arises largely, doubtless, from the mind of the observer being saved from that distraction, bewilderment, and consequent fatigue which are created by a multitude of dissimilar objects being either at once or consecutively thrust upon his attention and judgment. Here, comparison will be without toil and difficulty, because without confusion."

Each foreign commission is building temples, churches, houses, or little villages characteristic of its peculiar style of national architecture. Most of them are of the very slightest kinds of temporary erections, though none would judge them to be so who looked at them from the outside, so carefully are their transient characters concealed under a thick coating of cement-like stone. Some of the Turkish, Tunisian, and Egyptian buildings will be very beautiful indeed, and will look well by day and slow like a little fairy land when well lit up at night. In the Egyptian park a small model of the Viceroy's summer palace is being erected. It is a very handsome building, about as large as a good sized English mansion. This, however, is being built in the most permanent fashion of solid stone, with massive walls and splendid roofs. It is believed that this building is meant as a residence for the Viceroy during his visit to the Exhibition this summer.

One of the novelties of the Exhibition will be a well-filled infant asylum, established in the park of the Camp de Mars, where the large number of female assistants employed in the building—one half of whom will be married women—may leave their young children to be taken care of during the hours of the employment.

M. Fland expects to derive considerable advantages from a piece of mechanism which will enable ten or twelve persons to be sent up in a balloon five hundred yards above the Great Exhibition, and brought back safe to mother earth.

Russia has sent a monster cannon. Every shot it fires costs the country 5,000*l.*, it being warranted to kill off 500 men per shot. This puts the price per man at forty sous!

Sunday at the Paris Exhibition.

We are glad to find that the British, American and Colonial Exhibitors at Paris, have taken a stand with respect to the Sabbath which, we hope, will not be without its influence in that city of Sabbath desecration. A meeting was held on the 3rd ult., to take the matter into consideration—the Rev. M. A. Forbes in the chair.

Mr. J. Weyland first addressed the meeting. In the course of his speech he remarked:

I thought it well to seek an interview with a leading member of the Imperial Board of Commissioners, that you might act with full information as to the feeling of those in authority. This gentleman, in the most courteous manner, assured me that their desire was to promote the comfort and happiness of the exhibitors; he thought, if done without affectation, it would be a valuable testimony. Personally, I feel that, as visitors to France, we ought to act as Christians and Englishmen. The Almighty has said, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable, and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words, then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and wilt cause thee to ride on the high places of the earth." Mr. Stewart said he had conversed with exhibitors and found that the feeling with them was general, that while desiring to give their employes rest, they wished out of courtesy to the French people to remove the coverings from their cases early on Sunday mornings.

An animated conversation then followed; several exhibitors strongly expressed their conviction that Christian duty required that there should be no exhibition of their goods on the Lord's-day; others considering that this question of covering or uncovering should be left to indi-

vidual feeling. One gentleman expressed his fear that the French visitors might tear the covers from off the cases. A member of the Imperial Commission, who had just entered, assured the meeting that there was no reason to fear discourtesy or roughness from French visitors. If they acted from principle it would be a valuable testimony. He was personally of opinion that those cases only need to remain covered, which if uncovered would require attendants, but that all works of art and beauty might be exposed for public enjoyment. He also informed the meeting that a regulation concerning the Sunday had been made by the Imperial Commission.

Dr. Eldridge, pastor of the American church, Rue de Berri, said that he was an exhibitor himself and had also the honour of representing a number of American exhibitors. With them a very strong feeling existed as to the proper observance of the Sabbath. Only the other day he received memorials from several Christian bodies in America, requesting influence to be used for the entire closing of the American Department. This might not be practicable, but as individual exhibitors, they were unanimous not to employ their assistants on the Lord's day. A French gentleman rose, and remarked that he considered the meeting one of great importance to France. In all quarters strong feeling existed in favour of a better observance of the Lord's day; it is one of the things which exalteth a nation, and he felt that the expression of English feeling would be favorably received by the people. Dr. Honeyman (Nova Scotia), said, "I am privileged to represent the English colonies. With us the old family feeling for a proper observance of the Lord's-day is very strong, and it is not, therefore our intention to employ any persons in the Colonial department on that day." The following resolutions then passed:—1. That this meeting of British, American, and Colonial Exhibitors, is of opinion that the services of attendants in their several departments should not be required on the Lord's-day, and they trust that their fellow exhibitors will unanimously agree in carrying out this resolution. The resolution was moved by Mr. H. Stewart (Hancock and Co.), seconded by Dr. Eldridge (America), and supported by Dr. Honeyman (Nova Scotia). 2. Resolution: That this resolution be forwarded to the British and American Executive, with the respectful request that their influence be kindly given in support of it. The resolution was moved by Joen Neal, jeweller, London, and seconded by E. H. Carbut (machinery), Bradford. Mr. Weyland, as secretary, was requested to have the resolutions printed for circulation among Exhibitors. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman closed this deeply interesting and important meeting.

It will be gratifying to many, to learn that Dr. Honeyman so well represented our province in this particular.

We learn that the Rev. William Burton of Hantsport, died on Friday night last, the 26th ult., aged 65 years. From the notices we have had recently of the state of his health we were not greatly surprized at this intelligence. Our dear brother was 65 years of age. The fall of another standard-bearer is to us another loud call, "Be ye also ready!" Brother Burton will be greatly missed and lamented by his brethren. His amiable disposition and devotedness to the work of His Divine Master, for so long a period as he had been in the ministry, had given him a large place in the affections of the whole Baptist denomination of these provinces. He is gone to his rest. A very large number of those to whom his ministry had been blessed, have preceded him in passing over Jordan, into "the land of pure delight," and numbers of others in different parts of the province, remain to mourn that they will see him no more in this world. To his widow, his family, and extensive connections, as well as to the church who have lost their pastor, we offer our warmest sympathy. His life has abounded with incident which we doubt not will be shortly furnished for our readers in the form of a memoir. Rev. Dr. Crawley officiated at the funeral on Lord's Day last.

THE PROVINCIAL MELODIST, a new collection of Hymns and Tunes for Sabbath Schools, Prayer Meetings, and the Social Circle, by G. W. Linton, A. F. Porter, pp. 150. This excellent collection of pieces just published is worthy of patronage, and will be found well adapted to the above purposes. We have not been able as yet to examine it thoroughly, but by the glance we have taken through its pages we have concluded that there has been great care in the selection of both Tunes and Hymns. The title will shew that it aims to take the place of imported books for Sabbath Schools, &c. It contains 197 hymns and 82 tunes, new and old, some of which are amongst the most choice with the young people, others are new and will doubtless soon become favorites.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Annual Report of the Several Departments of the City Government of Halifax, for the past year. It supplies a full account of the condition of the city, financially, criminally, and, to some extent, in its sanitary condition.