

"A poor sermon!" said the young man; "it took me a long time to study it."
 "Ay, no doubt of it."
 "Why, did you not think my explanation of the text a very good one?"
 "O, yes," said the old preacher, "very good indeed."
 "Well, then, why do you say it is a poor sermon? Didn't you think the metaphors were appropriate, and the arguments conclusive?"
 "Yes, they were good, as far as that goes; but still it was a very poor sermon."
 "Will you tell me why you think it was a poor sermon?"
 "Because," said he, "there was no Christ in it."
 "Well," said the young man, "Christ was not in the text; we are not to be preaching Christ always; we must preach what is in the text."

So the old man said:
 "Don't you know, young man, that from every town, and every village, and every little hamlet in England, wherever it may be, there is a road to London?"
 "Yes," said the young man.
 "Ah!" said the old divine, "and from every text in Scripture there is a road to the metropolis of the Scriptures—that is Christ. And, my dear brother, your business is, when you get a text, to say, 'Now what is the road to Christ?' and then preach a sermon, running along the road to the great metropolis—Christ. And," said he, "I have not yet found a text that has not a road to Christ in it. If I should, I would make one. I would go over hedge and ditch but I would get at my Master, for the sermon cannot do any good unless there is a savor of Christ in it."

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prince Edward Island.

A MISSION TO THE WEST.

A mission of three weeks was undertaken in the month of February, to the Western extremity of the Island, at the expense of the Bedeque Church; with the injunction to collect for the benefit of the Home Mission Board. The weather, however proved very unfavorable, and prevented the accomplishment of all that was desired. One service was held at Alberton, one at Tignish, and one at Kildare. The remainder of the time was spent at Lot 7. The greater number of the brethren composing the Cape Wolf Baptist Church reside in this place.

Here, if tradition be correct, Gen. Wolf landed when on his way to Quebec. The small promontory taken possession of by him, in the behalf of his Sovereign, retained his name, which was afterwards transferred to the whole settlement adjacent.

Though the brethren had not been favored with the preaching of the gospel, as was most accordant with their own views, excepting a solitary sermon from a visiting brother, for near a year and a half, yet they have met regularly upon the Sabbath day, under the direction of Deacon Lidstone. They have no meeting house but they assemble in the dwelling house of one of the members. They constitute a small band of disciples; but we trust, that, if true to the teachings of God's word, the divine favor will be vouchsafed to the church, and that continual growth will be the reward for their continuance in well doing.

The brethren were, we trust, revived by our visit among them, and confirmed in their resolution to serve the Lord. Bro. Jacob Strang was unanimously chosen to act in concert with deacon L. in conducting the services of the church. This Western section offers a wide field for missionary labor, and our brethren there earnestly desire it. The harvest field seems to be growing—but where are the reapers? Do we act as though we desired an increase, when we turn to other occupations than preaching the Gospel.

OPENING A NEW MEETING HOUSE.

The new meeting house at Long Creek, West River, was dedicated to the worship of the living God on Sabbath, March 10th. In the absence of Bro. Shaw, the expected preacher, the writer addressed an overflowing congregation from 1 Tim. iii. 15. The Rev. William Ross, Presbyterian, preached in the afternoon from Ps. li. 18. This service was all in Gaelic, so that we cannot venture an opinion with regard to the discourse.—Judging, however, from the energy of the speaker, and the attention of the audience, as well as from the reports of others, we suppose it safe to pronounce it good. Bro. Davis came in the evening from town, and gave an admirable sermon from Isa. liii. 11. The preacher showed, First—That the salva-

tion of the sinner is the delight of Jehovah. Secondly—That the salvation of the sinner is in the hands of Jesus. And Thirdly—that the design of God to save cannot fail of accomplishment since it is in the hands of Jesus. We congratulate our beloved brother Ross on the increased accommodation now afforded to his congregation. May there be within the walls of the New House, repeated manifestations of the divine presence; and may it prove the birth-place of precious souls. The seats are free—just as they should be. Bro. R's. people have enlightened views upon this point. We trust that now, their Meeting House, being completed, the subject of Pastor's salary will receive their reasonable and earnest attention.

PULLING DOWN AN OLD HOUSE.

A very usual thing in these days of reform and improvement. But then there are structures that the world does not care to have demolished, and therefore every effort is taken to preserve them from decay. Not so with all however, as experience testifies. While we write, the process of destruction is going on upon a dwelling house in Bedeque, that has been standing for upwards of fifty years. It was built by "old Mr. Bradshaw, of blessed memory," and intended to answer a double purpose; to be an abode for his family, and a place of worship for the little Baptist church. He himself used to fill the preacher's place, among the little band of believers—who seldom enjoyed a visit from a regularly ordained minister of the gospel. Since its erection a meeting house has been built and taken down again, to give place to another of ampler dimensions. The old house has long been vacant and useless, as it was, and must be sold. But we are pleased to learn that the son intends devoting the proceeds of the house, in greater part, towards the purchase of a "parsonage," recently negotiated for by the church.

So we see that in this world there is a "pulling down" as well as a "building up." O that we may learn to build with material that shall never decay, nor be shaken; that our house may stand secure and immovable, in that day when "the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is!"

Yours, &c.

M. P. FREEMAN.

Bedeque, April 1st, 1867.

For the Christian Messenger.

Cape Breton.

NORTH SYDNEY, April, 1st 1867.

Dear Brother,—

In the Messenger of March 13th you gave some extracts from a communication respecting the work of grace, going on in this branch of Zion. And as those few quotations gave a general view of the work under our present pastorate, from its commencement up to the date of the communication, it will not be necessary for me to do more than commence where it left off, and relate what has occurred since, which I trust will be gratifying to you and all who love to hear of the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. I rejoice to say that the blessed work is still going on.

The seven years of spiritual famine, will be succeeded, we trust, not only by an equal length of time of plenty, but by a continuous flow of Spiritual blessings, infusing into the heart of every member of our church, that confidence in God's grace which will enable them to say with the Psalmist, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." May the Lord use his quickened people as instruments for the gathering of an increasing harvest from the fields which are already white.

In all ages of the Church, the great Shepherd, having put it into the hearts of his people to call upon Him in the time of need, has answered their requests; and having assured them that "If any two agree on earth as touching any one thing, it shall be done for you of my Father which is in heaven;" and having said "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me," he surely has an ear to hear, and will to the utmost extent fulfil his promise.

As previously informed, we, as a church, have been unfaithful to our Saviour, to ourselves, and to the world; but thanks be to God he influenced the brethren present at the Conference, just preceding the New Year, to decide to observe the "week of prayer." The services were exceedingly interesting, our Pastor having had valuable assistance from brother Capt. Thomas of London, G. B., who is sojourning here for the winter, and other brethren. They were productive of much good. Notwithstanding the apathy manifested by many of our members, those who attended realized that the little cloud was rising above the horizon, and that a shower of divine grace was near at hand. The result of this week's waiting upon God, was, that some were awak-

ened, and two or three found peace in believing. Appearances thus favoring the conviction that the set time to favor Zion had come, special services were held, and have been continued in different sections of the church, and still the interest seems to be increasing. Revs. J. F. Kempton, W. B. Boggs and Father Richardson, have at different times visited us and sown the good seed, the fruits of which, we feel assured, will be seen after many days. Backsliders and those who have to a greater or less extent withdrawn from the services of the church, have returned and renewed their covenant engagements. Eight young persons have put on Christ by a public profession of religion and have been added to our numbers, and others expect to follow their Saviour in the baptismal rite next Lord's day, while several have given unmistakable evidence of having been washed in the all-atoning blood, but have not yet seen it to be their duty to obey that command and unite with us.

The Lord is also working in other portions of our Island. The church at Mira has enjoyed a refreshing season, but they are without a minister. We have had appeals from them saying "Come over and help us," but help we could not render. Our pastor has materially injured his health by excessive work. There are precious souls there enquiring the way. May God send a man after His own heart, to break unto them the bread of life.

It is soul-cheering to learn through the C. M. that this great and glorious blessing is being experienced in many of our churches. May it widen and deepen, until "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Him," is the prayer of

Yours in Christian love,

N. H. DOBSON.

For the Christian Messenger.

PORT WILLIAMS, ANNAPOLIS Co., }
 April 1st 1867.

DEAR BROTHER,—

After a wintry season in our Church the hearts of christians have been made glad in seeing Zion awake and put on her "beautiful garments."

Special meetings have been held five weeks. The results are glorious. We can truly say "the Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The earnest prayers of God's people have prevailed. The heaven begins to permeate the mass of the church. Backsliders have returned, one especially, who had starved on "husks" nearly thirty years, now feasts upon the rich bounties of his Father's table.

A marked characteristic of the work, is, it is affecting a class of the middle aged, heads of families, who have experienced many seasons of God's power without producing any tangible results. Several of these have publicly expressed their hope in Christ. We expect they will shortly follow Him. Others have requested the prayers of christians. Many family altars have been rebuilt. Difficulties have been overcome. Opposition is subsiding. Sinners are weeping and inquiring the way to Christ. A deep seriousness pervades the community. The fields are white for harvest. We had yesterday the happy privilege of immersing two believers.

It is our earnest prayer, that more abundant showers may descend.

Yours truly,

J. MELBOURNE PARKER.

UPPER AYLESFORD.—A worthy brother writing thence on the 28th ult., says. The Lord is reviving his work among us. Backsliders are being reclaimed and sinners are yielding to the claims of divine love. "The Lord is doing great things for us whereof we are glad."

HENRY WARD BEECHER'S BAPTISMS.—A recent writer in the Christian Times and Witness, describes a visit to Mr. Beecher's church in Brooklyn, and briefly notices his divers and diverse baptisms, as follows:—

"Some twenty-five persons, mostly young women, were admitted to membership by profession. Of these fifteen were sprinkled. I saw no water; not a person there (unless some in the galleries and around the platform,) could see a drop of water. The ladies uncovered their heads. Each knelt by the font. It took more time than was needful to baptize as many. He said, 'Next Sabbath, the children of pious parents, not yet baptized, will be baptized, if it is pleasant; if not, the next fair day!' He did not say that 'Friday evening next some will be baptized,' (as some truly were.) 'For then he opened his baptistry, and administered the ordinance "as delivered to the saints." When the church members arose in token of receiving the new comers, not near two hundred arose, (at which I marvelled,) and they were "of the common people;" (the aristocrats do not come here!) I think it not so hard a thing to get into Mr. Beecher's church, as to get into his meeting-house. They don't insist much on sharply defined doc-

trines and exercises. But yet, on the whole Plymouth church is a power for good."

HILLSBOROUGH, N. B.—Rev. W. T. Corey writes to the Visitor:—"The Lord is prospering His cause here; sinners are being converted, and backsliders reclaimed. We have had baptisms the last four Sabbaths. Thirteen in all have been baptized, ten of them have been heads of families; we are expecting more. Pray for us dear brother."

PORTLAND AND ST. JOHN N. B.—Rev. E. C. Cady baptized five candidates last Sabbath morning, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Rev. W. A. Coleman has returned with health improved, we rejoice to say, to aid the pastor in the revival meetings at Portland. Rev. I. E. Bill baptized one candidate last Sabbath.

We find the following paragraph in the Visitor:—"We exceedingly regret that our esteemed Brother, Rev. T. W. Crawley, feels it to be his duty to retire from St. Stephen, and to seek a new field of labor. His mission in both these places has been quite a success, and his place will not be easily supplied. We hope that he may yet see his way clear to remain in this or the neighbouring Province. The Baptist Church of Milton, Liverpool, N. S., have extended to him a cordial invitation to become their pastor." We shall be glad to hear of Bro. Crawley coming to Milton.

THE REVIVAL IN SPRINGFIELD.—Under date of March 26th, Bro. Corey, the pastor, writes:—"God is blessing us in this place with a refreshing season. I have baptized four Sabbath in succession in the 1st and 2nd Baptist Churches. Wanderers have been reclaimed; the Churches generally revived, and sinners converted. Rev. E. Kierstead come to our assistance early in the series of meetings, and still remains with us, rendering valuable service. Rev. B. F. Rattray spent the Sabbath with us, and, we hope, will spend a few more days in this place. His labours are highly appreciated, Rev. A. Mutch was with us one Sabbath. Seven have been added to the 1st Church and ten to the 2nd, since the revival commenced, and still the work goes on; many more are seeking the Lord. The work is deepening and widening, taking hold of old and young. I feel to thank God and take courage. Pray for us, dear brother, that the good work may still continue."

A note just received from Brother D. Crandal, informs us that twenty candidates were immersed by the pastor, Brother Corey last Sabbath.—Visitor.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 3, 1867.

What can be done?

This is a question which is being asked by many of the good christian men of the city of Halifax. They see that a large number of young men, some of whom belong to respectable families, are under most injurious influences which are dragging them along in a course, which, in all probability, will prove to be the road to ruin. Without thinking of the end, or believing that they will go further than they choose, they are pursuing the way which leads to destruction; and have but little chance of escaping the fate which has overtaken numbers of others, who, not long since, stood in as good or perhaps a better position than themselves, but who have now become either wrecks of what they were, or have passed away beyond the hope of rescue. Some of these young men are attendants, more or less regular, at one or other of the city churches, but having made no pretensions to a profession of religion, and acknowledging none of its claims, they feel at liberty to follow their own inclination wherever it may lead them. They have an hour or two to spare perhaps, each evening—and seek for and find congenial society at the saloon, or in the back parlor of the liquor seller. After the weariness of business they have no inclination for reading, and seek for something exhilarating. The proprietor knows the state of his customers and carefully provides them a stimulant according to the taste acquired, together with cards and other games. Thus the society, the comfortable room, the gaming, and the liquors, all minister to a diseased appetite, and command an amount of influence over them which those who have no well-formed religious principles find it difficult or impossible to resist. The evenings of a large portion of the young men of the city are spent in patronizing such establishments. There may be many who remain a long time in this condition, and resist the tendencies to utter dissipation, but there are others who having a different temperament, descend gradually or rapidly, as the case may be, until they are no longer capable of exercising self-restraint, and become helpless and hopeless drunkards.

This being the state of things and the sad results appearing from time to time, in the entire destruction of one and another, it is asked, almost in despair by anxious parents and friends: What can be done? To recom-