

At times it required nearly all my strength to keep the gage to its place.

After the music, speeches from Baptists, Presbyterians and Wesleyans were listened to with interest. All seemed to take pleasure in making the meeting what it was designed to be—one of great cheerfulness and sociability. The speeches were closed by the recital of original Poetry. A vein of wit and pleasantry, which called forth frequent bursts of laughter and applause ran through each stanza; and though given rather at the expense of Pedobaptists, was, nevertheless, received by them with evident good feeling.

After these exercises there followed what was termed a "sociable." All the doors of that spacious chapel were thrown open to the people; and they were invited to visit every apartment and enjoy themselves in the most agreeable manner possible. Meanwhile the mighty organ, accompanied by 7 or 8 trained singers, entertained us with music, quite as exciting as could be consistent with the house of God.

The main audience room is splendidly furnished. The seats are circular. One row of galleries extends all round the room. The speakers platform stands directly in front of the organ. Just behind and above him are the Choir, on each side of the instrument. Beneath his feet is the Baptismal font. In the rear is the Pastor's vestry, and the large lecture and prayer meeting room; the latter of which is capable of seating more than a thousand persons. This is separated from the principal audience room by large folding doors. By this means, on special occasions—baptisms, for instance—both rooms may be thrown into one. In the basement of the building are all the accommodations of the Pastor's household. Then at the top of the third flight of stairs in the Sabbath School rooms; capable of accommodating 5 or 6 hundred. Here stands a nice organ, in one end of this beautifully finished apartment which like the room below has one tier of galleries on each side. Directly in front of the instrument is a cone shaped stand, beautifully arranged with many rows of flowers, which are watered by a jet playing from the top of the cone. The novel and beautiful appearance of this may be imagined but not easily described.

All these apartments were visited by the company; and after an hour or more thus spent they separated; some to seek their lodgings in the city; the rest to abide for the night beneath the roof the Lord's house.

Yours truly,  
J. F. KEMPTON.

Margaree, July 16th, 1867.

**The distribution of Prizes at the Paris Exhibition.**

PARIS, July 2.—At a quarter before two o'clock the cannon at the Invalides announced the Emperor's departure from the Tuilleries, and at two the Imperial household, which had arrived a short time previous, went out to meet his Majesty, who waited a few minutes for the Sultan, who soon appeared accompanied by his nephews and his son and their suite. A short interval of suspense and the group of chamberlains, grand master of ceremonies, preceded by two major domos in black, with heavy silver chains (in mark of their servitude, we suppose), walk in, range themselves, and make a passage for the Emperor, the Sultan and the Empress, who walk in the front. The Emperor bows, the Empress makes one of her graceful courtesies, and the Sultan negligently throws his hand up to his fez, a sort of military salute, minus the precision. Their Majesties wait a second the arrival of their guests, and take their places, the Emperor taking the middle chair, the Sultan that on the right, and the Empress that on the left of the Emperor. Next to the Sultan is the Prince of Wales, then, successively the Prince of Orange, the Prince of Saxony, the Prince Imperial, the Grand Duchess Marie of Prussia, the Duke d'Aoste (Victor Emmanuel's second son, here with his bride), the Princess Mathilde, the Prince Teck, and, immediately behind, the young heir to the throne of Japan, looking precisely as if he had walked off a Japanese teacup and been put through a magnifying process. To the left of the Empress was the Prince Royal of Prussia, the Princess of Saxony, Prince Humbert of Italy, Mehemed Effendi, the heir to the Sultan, the Princess Clotilde, the Duchesse d'Aoste, the Duke of Leuchtenberg, the Prince Napoleon, a little behind the Sultan's son and nephew. The Emperor wore a general's uniform with grand cordon of the Legion of Honour, the Sultan, embroidered frock coat—a sort of gold coat on the breasts, so thick was the embroidery—the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour, red trousers, and the eternal fez. The Prince of Wales was in the scarlet uniform of a general, and all the other Princes, with the exception of Prince Napoleon, wore a military costume. Prince Napoleon wore an embroidered coat, and the broad red ribbon of the Legion of Honour.

The Empress wore a superb toilette of white silk, covered with a silver tissue, and trimmed with white satin. It was so admirable a dress that it seemed to have been woven all of one piece and yet it was a complicated combination,

rather delving description. Her Majesty wore a Spanish decoration across the breast, a long string of pearls over the shoulders, and a necklace of diamonds. The Princess Clotilde's dress of blue silk, trimmed stiffly with three ends of ribbon, bordered with rich lace on the front, looked as if it had been made by a provincial dress-maker.

The Princess Matilde, who, to look well, ought to wear sober tints, was in bright scarlet satin covered with a gold tissue; fortunately her Imperial Highness was very near the Empress, or her dress would have been quite spoiled by the contrast—it reminded one of imitation jewellery—although it doubtless cost quite as much as her Majesty's perfect costume. The Princess of Saxony wore a violet satin dress, trimmed with wide lace flounces, and the Duchesse d'Aoste was in her rich bridal dress of white silk and point lace. The Empress and Princes and all the ladies of the Court were in full ball dress.

As soon as the Emperor and his Court were placed the band struck Rossini's Hymn of Peace—which, without great originality, is a very effective production.

His Majesty delivered his discourse in a clear, distinct voice, and was perfectly heard throughout the building. After the Imperial speech came the distribution of prizes, and of nominations to the various grades of the Legion of Honour. Each group of exhibitors came forward, banners floating, to the foot of the throne, and as each prize was awarded, the recipient mounted the steps and received it from the hands of the Emperor. The Emperor of Russia received a medal which was handed to an officer delegated to receive it. The Emperor Napoleon was awarded a prize for his medal of workingmen's houses; when it was called it was found that His Majesty could not receive the reward from the hand of a subject, but the Prince Imperial, taking a hint (doubtless prepared beforehand), came forward and taking the medal from the hands of Marshal Valliant, presented it to his father who received it, coming from his son, as President of the Imperial Commission.

After the distribution the music again struck up, and the Emperor, Empress, and the Sultan, followed by the Court, and preceded as before by silver chains and gold sticks, walked down the steps and made the tour of the building on the lower walk, passing in front of each commission. Contrary to Court etiquette in Christian countries, the Sultan failed to offer his arm to the Empress in the promenade. The Turkish Ambassador, full of anxiety for the reputation of his sovereign, rushed down the steps after His Highness and gave him sundry nods and becks and wretched smiles, to induce him to comply with the customs of the French court; but no, the Sultan turned a deaf ear, although the Ambassador returned twice to the charge, and sauntered along regardless of Her Majesty. The Empress was very adroit in appearing not to notice the little *contretemps*, but it was annoying, the Prince of Wales and their Highnesses all offering their arms to the ladies whom they escorted. As the Emperor and Empress passed in front of each tribune, a cry of "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive l'Imperatrice!" "Vive le Prince Imperial!" "Vive le Sultan!" was raised, the Sultan responding rarely with his rather cavalier acknowledgment of the civility. On reaching the American Commission a good hearty hurrah, given three times with a will, welcomed the sovereigns. The English gave hurrahs twice in triplets to the Emperor and Empress, &c., then to the Prince of Wales. On reaching the steps, the Sultan took no note of the Empress, but mounted without seeing that Her Majesty was several steps behind him. Contrary to what has been written of him, I am told that his Turkish Majesty is very sparely endowed with intelligence. He is a very corpulent man, with a small head and diminutive features, and his people are afraid he will die of apoplexy before he can reach his native kingdom—a frightful catastrophe. As soon as the Emperor and Princes reached their places, they turned and made their salutations of adieu, and departed in the same order as they arrived. The scene outside the Exhibition after the departure was a very brilliant one, and crowds were gathered to witness it, making an indescribable scene.—*Correspondent of N. Y. World.*

**General Intelligence.**

**Domestic.**

A man named Sbatford, belonging to Margaree's Bay, was robbed of \$480 in a house on Barrack street on Wednesday night last.

The Swedish man-of-war *Norkopping*, five weeks from Sweden, arrived at this port on Thursday night.

The *John T. Ford*, left this port on Tuesday last, 23rd inst., for France, and was seen by the steamer *Commerce*, going along at about seven miles an hour.

News!—We find the following in the Quebec Chronicle:—"A number of Chinese have settled at Halifax they make good citizens." Where are they?

A GAME FOR THE DOMINION.—Efforts are being made to introduce a new game, as the game of the Dominion—"La Croise." Whilst England has its cricket, and U. States its Base-ball it is said that La Croise is of Indian origin, and adapted to the above purpose. A party of Indians are en route for England, for the purpose of introducing it there.

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Members of the Association will be held (D. V.) at their rooms, 183 Hollis Street, on Saturday evening next, Aug 3rd, at 7 o'clock, to make arrangements for the Convention of Young Men from all parts of the Province, to be held in this city in September.

A full attendance is earnestly requested.

DROWNED.—A man named David Dillon was drowned in the N. W. Arm on Sunday last. He had been swimming, when he suddenly threw up his arms, uttered a shriek and sunk. The body was recovered shortly after.

THE CROPS.—It is said that the hay-crop is quite large, and, unless the rain continues so as to injure what is being cut, will be very abundant. There is less prospect of apples. The weather has not been so favorable as usual for that fruit.

An importation of three head of fine cattle from England, for the Board of Agriculture, was landed on Friday last, from on board the bark *Windsor*.

THE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION will hold its Annual Exhibition in October, at Somerset. At the recent exhibition, (July), at Wolfville, there was quite a collection of last year's apples.

Mr. John G. Bryne exhibited Ribeton Pippins, *Æsopus Spitzenberg*, Keswick Codlins, Nonpareils, Baldwins, and the Willoughby Apple, most of which appeared as plump and fair to the eye as at any time in the year; Mr. Richard Starr, also exhibited Nonpareils and Cooper's Russet, and Dr. Hamilton Nonpareils.

Among the samples of smaller and summer Fruits exhibited there were shown by Richard Starr, 4 varieties of cherries. Dr. Hamilton, 4 do. do.

Dr. McLatchy, 3 varieties of Strawberries. Geo. V. Rand, 8 do. and 4 of Cherries. Robert Stewart, Cherries and Currants. Robert W. Starr, do. do.

John G. Bryne, 8 varieties of Cherries.

Early potatoes were exhibited by Dr. Hamilton, and Robert Stewart; several varieties of Peas by Dr. Hamilton and others; Beets by Charles Fritze, Robert Stewart and Dr. Hamilton; Carrots, Kahl Rabbi, and Cabbage by Charles Fitze; Currants by Robert Stewart, and Robert W. Starr; Indian Corn, four feet high, and in blossom, by Dr. Hamilton; Wheat, Rye, and Grapes by Robert Stewart, &c., &c.

THE ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY.—The first sod for this great highway was broken at Paradise, Annapolis County, last week. Notice was given only the evening previous but it soon became spread abroad and at the hour named, about 400 persons assembled near the residence of Avar Longley, Esq. A communication to the *Colonist* states that:—"T. D. Ruggles, Esq., one of the Local Board of Directors, opened the proceedings by stating to the audience in concise and appropriate terms the object for which they were assembled, at the close of which he called upon Mrs. Longley, the wife of A. Longley, Esq., to perform the ceremony of turning the first sod. Mrs. Longley accomplished the part allotted to her in a graceful and becoming manner. Cheers were then given for the Windsor and Annapolis Railway, and for Mrs. Longley. Messrs. Longley, Whitman, and Foster, the Union Candidates, being called upon, addressed the audience in turn, after which short and appropriate speeches were delivered by the Rev. N. Vidito, Rev. G. A. Strong, E. C. Cowling, R. Unjacke, and C. E. DeWolf, Esqrs. One gentleman, all of whose building will be removed to make way for the track, expressed himself in a patriotic manner. He stated that "If he should be offered no remuneration for the loss he will sustain, he would still be strongly in favor of this Railway, knowing the advantages it will confer on his native county." Cheers having been given for Her Majesty the Queen, and for Messrs. Longley, Whitman, and Foster, two of whom have been instrumental in conferring so great a boon upon this County, the crowd dispersed, evidently pleased with the proceedings of the day.

We are sorry to hear that the Potato blight has appeared in Yarmouth county.

The friends of Union in King's County have nominated Hugh L. Dickey, Esq., for the House of Commons; and Thos. W. Harris, Esq., and E. C. Foster, Esq., for the Local Legislature.

BRIDGEWATER.—A public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall on Saturday evening last, to make arrangements for the construction of a steamer to ply between this port and Halifax, touching at intermediate ports. It is proposed to build a boat of about 150 or 200 tons burthen, at a cost of nine or ten thousand dollars; this amount to be raised by shares of twenty dollars each.—*Times.*

WOLFVILLE is making rapid progress and giving signs of shortly becoming a mean city of this part of the Dominion. The erection of a new school house indicates that, although somewhat later than some less favored places in applying the provisions of the School Act, yet that it is the intention of its people to have a school house not less respectable than other places. The frame is just completed. In the immediate neighborhood, the frame of a new Presbyterian Church has been erected, in which the Rev. Mr. Sommerville is expected to officiate.

A SAD CATASTROPHE.—It is a stranger had arrived in this place last Wednesday, the universal sadness of the people's countenances would have informed him that some event of an unusually painful character had occurred and cast a shadow of grief over the whole community. He would soon have learnt its nature. The theme of every tongue was the awful calamity of the previous

evening. Miss Helen Fairbanks, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of a widow lady residing in the town, was burnt to death.

After preaching at one of my outstations on Tuesday evening, I walked home in the brilliant moonlight which gave to common objects an almost unearthly beauty. About eleven o'clock, just as we were retiring to rest, we were startled by a piercing shriek of "Fire," quickly followed by another. We rushed to the door. The street was illuminated by a fiercer light than the moonbeams. We thought the front of Mrs. Fairbanks' house was in flames. Seizing my coat I ran down the street putting it on. As I approached the spot I saw that the front of the house was free from flames. Without stopping, I was hurrying to the rear, and had just reached the corner of the house, when something fell headlong at my feet. I never knew before, and God grant I may never experience again, the horror I felt when I discovered that the blackened form that lay there was that of a female, burnt thus by the flames, whose glare I had seen. The smouldering fire about her was soon extinguished, her person tenderly carried into the house, and medical aid immediately procured. Alas, she was beyond all human skill. After lingering for 13 hours, in agony no pen could describe, death gave her a welcome release. It was my privilege to kneel a few moments by her bedside to commend her to God's mercy, to speak to her of Jesus, and receive her assurance that her trust was in him.

The precise cause of this terrible occurrence will never be known. All that can be ascertained, is, that the unfortunate young lady, went into the hall to extinguish the lamp. Whether it exploded or upset, pouring its flaming contents upon her head, cannot be decided. In a moment she rushed to her mother's room enveloped in flames that entirely concealed her person. Mrs. Fairbanks tried to smother the fire with a water-proof overcoat, and in so doing set herself on fire; but her daughter tore herself from her and rushed into the street. A young man happened to be passing the house at the moment of the accident. He heard the lamp fall, saw the blaze in the hall and ran to the door. It was fastened, but in an instant opened, and a whirling mass of flames rushed past him. It was Miss Fairbanks followed by her mother, the flames about whose person he succeeded in extinguishing, and then ran for water to throw upon the other burning figure. Another person who saw Miss Fairbanks as she rushed out of the house says, that the flames about her reached at least ten feet above her head. It is thought by many that the poor girl's object was to throw herself into the adjacent water, to put out the fire that was consuming her. Being exhausted, feeling perhaps that all was over, her next impulse was to return to the house, and then she fell loosing for a moment her consciousness which speedily returned, and never left her till she died. A fact it would be well for some to remember, for they are apt to speak and act in connection with such occurrences as if the sufferer before them, were oblivious of every thing, and could not be affected by any indiscretion on their part.

There is but one mitigating feature in connection with this painful event. No one is to blame for it. Neither the young lady herself nor any one else. It is God's providence. One of those things in which the Almighty dispenser of events says to us:—"Be still and know that I am God." One which puts to a severe test, our faith in him, and ability to believe that, "He doeth all things well," even this, sad and mysterious as it is. Has it, no solemn lessons to teach us? An hour before she met her fearful disaster, Miss Fairbanks was conversing with a lady friend of her plans and pleasures yet to be realized. But two minutes before she fell, for the whole catastrophe did not occupy a longer time, she was the very impersonation of joyous youthful life. Surely "in the midst of life we are in death." If youth, beauty, and accomplishments may thus vanish in a moment, what are they worth? Not enough, let the young, the fair, the gay, believe it, not enough to make them neglect the imperishable riches of Christ. Every one here testifies to the amiability of Miss Fairbanks, and mourns her fate as if it were a personal calamity. There is no doubt that while she partook of the common frailties of fallen human nature, compared with many, she was innocence itself; yet they are spared and she has perished. Is universalism true? Then they are Heaven's favourites, and this pure unoffending girl, the victim of its fearful retribution. Who would not be staggered, horrified at such a conclusion. Thank God it need not in our minds make darker this sad event. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every one whom he receiveth." If that faith I heard from the lips of the dying girl were genuine, in her helpless agony, if never before, she came to Jesus, then to-day, in a sinless and tearless world, she is praising God not only for the grace that redeemed her, but for the flames that snatched her away from this world of grief and sin.

A. H. MUNRO.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

EXCITING SCENE.—On Friday a scene of a most exciting nature occurred at the Zoological gardens, Regent's Park. It appears that a countryman, while looking at the bears, accidentally, dropped his hat into the pit and to recover it, had the foolhardiness to descend to the pit. As soon as he got to the bottom he was seized by one of the bears, and immediately two others came from their cage and also seized him, and began dragging him towards it. Some sticks were thrown to him by the excited lookers on, but fortunately one of the keepers went to the man's assistance, and succeeded in setting him free.—*London paper.*