

For the Christian Messenger.

Melancholy Occurrence at Sydney, C. B.

While reading Bro. Munro's touching account of the late distressing accident at Liverpool, my heart was sad as I thought of the great grief caused by it; but I little thought that the time of our own visitation, in a similar manner, was so near, and that we would so soon be called upon to shed the tear of sympathy, on account of one of the most heart-rending calamities that ever occurred in this community.

On Saturday, 10th inst., Annie and Minnie, daughters of Brother C. H. Harrington, were drowned while bathing in Sydney River, five miles above town, whither they had gone on a little boating excursion with their brothers and Alice Greenwood, a cousin from Halifax.

It was in the afternoon, and the three girls were bathing, while the rest of the little party were at another point. Annie was able to swim, and was at the time trying to teach Minnie, but the current being rapid, and the bank very steep they were swept off into deep water, and drowned before assistance could reach them. As soon as help was obtained their bodies were recovered through the brave efforts of a young man, who though obliged by the great depth of water, and the swiftness of the stream to make several unsuccessful attempts, persevered until he brought them safely to land. But all attempts to restore them proved fruitless. Life was gone.

When the sad tidings reached town, the whole place was thrown into a panic of grief; the cause of which is easily explained. The dear girls were universally esteemed, and none who knew their amiability and worth could fail to love them. Annie would have been seventeen years old in October next, and Minnie, fourteen in November. The grief of the relatives, and those who knew them intimately cannot be described, those who have passed through similar scenes may imagine it.

The extent to which the public feeling was touched might be known, by the great concourse which assembled at the funeral, many of whom were weeping as if the loss were theirs. A discourse was delivered by the writer, founded upon that sublime expression of Job, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

The fact that bereavement is the common lot, makes it no easier to bear such painful, heart-rending afflictions. So much the harder to bear, when we remember that on every hand, homes are being desolated; that no day passes which does not witness the breaking of some heart, and that our grief is but a part of the vast sorrow of the world.

But we do not refer it to chance—we scarcely feel like calling it an accident—the Lord did it, and we trust we shall see in the awakening of the careless, and the increased activity of Christians, a reason for a providence so mysterious and painful. But though we should never be able in this life with our dull perception, to trace out even to a limited extent, the design of this affliction, we feel confident that it was for some wise and gracious purpose; and we will endeavor by faith to say from the heart, "blessed be the name of the Lord," believing that hereafter in the land of vision we will be able from knowledge to utter those words with regard to all the Lord's dealings with us here below.

W. B. BOGGS.

For the Christian Messenger.

A little Girl's opinion of Baptism.

Mary is a little blue eyed girl of nine years. She reads a great deal, and as her mother has always encouraged her in thinking aloud, when they are by themselves, she often gives her opinion on subjects which most children of her age consider quite out of their reach. This trait in little Mary's character was prominently exhibited while she was reading the Sunday Magazine for the present month. Her mother had been for some time occupied in the kitchen, when on returning to the parlor, she found her little daughter with the picture of the baptism of the Eunuch, and the family Bible, both before her. Addressing her mother, she said, "I have been trying to find where we read about Philip baptizing the Eunuch. Is it not in Acts, mother?" Then without waiting for an answer, she continued, "It seems to me that the Eunuch was very silly to go into the water to be baptized that way. It would have been a great deal better if Philip had just dipped that little cup into the water while they both stood on the dry ground. Don't you see the Eunuch does not want to wet his nice dress, for he holds it up just as cousin Julia does hers, when

she is walking in the mud. I want to read the story in the bible, mother." The passage (Acts v. 36-39.) being pointed out to her, she read it and compared it with the picture in the Magazine. Then turning to her mother she said, "Now I know that picture can't be true. The Eunuch was not baptised in that manner, for he would not wet his nice dress when it was just as easy to keep quite dry; nor would he say, 'see here is water,' because you know mother, if that was baptism, wherever he could find water enough to drink he could find enough to be baptised with. I have made up my mind that the people the Bible tells about, baptised just as Mr Freeman does.

SIOLA.

Religious Intelligence.

SWEDEN.—Hundreds converted to Christ.—The work of God continues to prosper in Sweden and Norway. Mr. Wiberg gives these interesting notices in respect to the triumphant progress of the gospel:

In Skane, south of Sweden, a most remarkable revival has been going on during the last few weeks, through the labors of Bro. Ola Hansson. Hundreds are said to have been converted, and thirty-seven have been added by baptism, to the churches in Skane during the last two months through the labors of this brother. There has also been a remarkable revival during the last few weeks in my native parish, near the town of Hudiksvall, province of Giefteborg. And it is a matter of inexpressible joy to me that among the converts are four of my near relatives, children of my two brothers, and their families. Now the Lord has given me proof that my prayers have been heard and answered. Praised be His holy name for all His infinite mercies! May not these tokens of a revival spirit be the fruits of the united prayers of our brethren in America, for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the mission?

From Norway, too, I received the cheering intelligence through a letter from a Bro. Hübner, dated Krageroe, February 26, that he was going to the town of Arendal to baptize fifteen, and organize a church.

But while the fields are thus whitening for the harvest, there is a deplorable want of laborers both for Sweden and Norway. May the children of the Lord more earnestly pray that He may send more laborers into his harvest.

CHINA.—Thirsting for Happiness.—Mr. Kreyer, of the Ningpo Mission, in the following extract, demonstrates the anxious thirst for happiness which prevails in the human heart, and intimates the importance of communicating to the perishing heathen, the only true method of attaining it:

The Chinese character, which means happiness or blessing, plays quite a part with this people. There is no house that does not contain it in some shape. Here you see it on the ridge of the roof, formed of bricks or tiles; there you see it in gilt lines in another place. There is scarcely a doorway on which you may not read this character, "Foh." Even the articles of furniture, the tables, and the chairs, have it carved in the wood. You cannot eat a meal without seeing it on the enamel of the plates or of the porcelain spoons. The little children wear it on their caps. In short, you can scarcely open your eyes in China without the character "Foh" (happiness) staring you in the face. But this is an empty sound here. Every hut, every wretched hovel, every boat, every abode of the wealthy,—in all of which places you are sure to meet with this inscription, "Foh," no doubt with the idea of a prayer for happiness,—is only an abode of wretchedness. The gospel alone can bring this happiness for which all China seems to be praying, and it is very appropriately called "Foh-ying," the happiness sound. I sometimes feel like declaring to them the "unknown happiness."

WORK OF A MISSIONARY PREACHER.—Mr. Smith, of the Hentbada Mission, gives the following account of the work of a missionary in the new field in which he labors:

My field covers upwards of one thousand square miles, no railroads, no highways, and 1,556 Karen disciples looking to me for care and superintendence. These disciples are scattered over sixty-five little settlements, each settlement to have a native teacher, a primary school for the children of the Christians, and at least half of the support of these assistants and teachers to be secured by me, and passed through my hands. Every difficulty serious enough to suggest a legal settlement must be rehearsed before me (not that I require or desire it), and the teacher's advice, and perhaps help, sought. All this besides the regular routine of a minister's life at home,—preaching on Sundays, visiting the sick, &c.

Caste in India has received a death blow.—Many respectable women in Calcutta, associate and eat with the families of the missionaries, and accompanying their husbands, speak with the missionaries as if they were their mothers or sisters. Hundreds of girls' schools are opened throughout the country, and zenana missions are successfully carried on.

THE PICTURE OF CHRISTMAS EVANS.—The full length picture of Christmas Evans, taken when he was settled over his last charge in Carnarvon, is now the property of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The widow of the Welsh apostle was introduced to the popular preacher during one of his visits to Wales, who finding out that

she was in indifferent circumstances, cheered the closing years of her life by sending her the weekly sum of five shillings out of his own purse. Mrs. Evans at her decease, willed the only valuable gift at her disposal to her benefactor. Few knew how she was supported until after her death.

The Canadian Primitive Methodist Conference has resolved that no person shall hereafter become a member or candidate for the ministry who uses tobacco. Two or three of the present members are in the habit of using it, but no more can come in.

CAMP MEETINGS.—Camp-meetings have become an institution in the Methodist Church. On Cape Cod, at Martha's Vineyard, at Sing Sing, at Morristown, permanent encampments are built. Land is purchased, buildings put up—in some States laws are passed, giving special protection to these gatherings. The ablest men in the Church attend, preach, and favor these convocations. Boarding-houses are kept for the time, and the control of the meeting is usually in the hands of the presiding elder of the district in which the camp is located. Good order and decorum, earnest preaching and much prayer, seriousness and many conversions, mark these annual camp-meetings. But it is quite worthy of note, that while camp-meetings now are mainly in the hands of Methodists, they did not originate with that sect. The camp meeting originated with the Presbyterians in the South and West. Many years ago, the Presbyterians used to send out preachers to preach and celebrate the communion in the sparse settlements of the South. The meetings were held once a quarter. People came from a great distance to hear the gospel, and came prepared to stay several days. No church could hold the congregation, and so tents were pitched, and thus camp-meetings came into vogue. They originated in the necessities of the South and West.

THE NAME "DUTCH."—For a long time the progressive party in the Dutch Church have labored with great tact to remove the name "Dutch" from their Church. At the last meeting of the High Council of the denomination the change was agreed to. But it has to be ratified by the authorities of the several churches. The Collegiate Church of New York, the great wealthy body in the denomination, have voted against it, and announce their determination to resist it through all the stages it may be carried. The Dutch Church pulpits are largely filled by men who have come over to them from other denominations. Vermilye came from the Congregational, Doryea from the Old School Presbyterian. Rogers began in the Congregational, went into the Presbyterian (both branches we believe), then came to the Dutch. Thomson came over from the Congregational. Clarke went over from the same body. Pierce came from the Congregationalist also. Mr. Eells was called from the New School Presbyterian. Eddy, who holds Dr. Bethune's old pulpit, came from the Edwards pulpit in Northampton. Wilets came from the Methodist, and has gone, after a short sojourn, into the Presbyterian. Hicks came from the Methodist, halting at the Congregational, before he became Dutch. Nearly all these men are new measure men. They are the Young America of the Dutch. They go for modernizing the old body, and begin their work with the new name. But the solid old Dutchmen, the manor born, who from the beginning have resisted all change, and will to the end, stand by the name of the fathers. The battle is a stiff one. No one can tell who will win. The German Reformed Church are also discussing the propriety of striking the word German from their denominational title. The Germans seem to be running a race with the Dutch, to see who shall first assume the title of the Reformed Church, as both bodies intend to appropriate that name, which seems to be about as indefinite as German or Dutch, and quite as likely to be misunderstood.

Two Protestant missionaries, who have traveled from 2,000 to 3,000 miles in the interior of China, report that empire everywhere open to missionary enterprises.

Dominion and Foreign Jews.

New Brunswick.

The steam tannery of James Currie & Son, Upper Gagetown, N. B., together with all its contents, was completely destroyed by fire on Thursday, 15th. There was no insurance.

Fredericton was fired in four different places, widely separated from each other, on Saturday night. Fortunately little damage was done in either case. A reward has been offered for the apprehension of parties concerned in the fire in one of the places.

Quebec.

The transports *Augustina* and *Billon Crest* have arrived in Quebec from the Thames, laden with 70,000 rifles of the Snider Enfield pattern, and ammunition of the Boxer pattern. No. 4, intended for the use of the military and Volunteers in Canada.

The owners of the steamer *Lake St. Peter*, sunk by the steamer *Secret*, have commenced an action against the Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Company for \$20,000.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE occurred at Montreal on the 17th inst., at midnight. It broke out in Middleton's coal oil stores, near the station at Point St. Charles. 12,000 barrels of oil, each containing 40 gallons, were consumed. The

heat caused these to burst, blowing off the roof and the oil spreading around into St. Pierre creek, which passes into and through the city underground. The fire spread with great rapidity over the surface of the water, extending over a space of 800 square yards. At one time there were apprehensions of its being conveyed into the city. The creek was at length dammed and the flames thus checked, after continuing with great violence for seven hours. A terrific volume of flame and smoke arose, being one of the grandest sights ever witnessed. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. It is believed that like the Zion church fire and the fire at Osella timber yards, it was the work of incendiaries, as letters were received by the insurance agents a week ago saying that this store would be destroyed. The loss also was cut.

Newfoundland.

The principal subject for thought and conversation among the people at this season of the year is, of course, the fisheries, and it is gratifying to be able to state that they still continue good. Codfish is being taken freely on many parts of the coast, while but few localities are doing badly. The *Fawn*, having His Excellency the Governor on board, returned from the Labrador a few days since. She brought very favorable accounts from that quarter.

LATEST FROM UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—Advices from the Isthmus contain the following:—There were flattering accounts from the Barbaco mines. One hundred and thirty-two pounds of gold had been taken out in three weeks, and forwarded to Europe. American mining in the interior of Canca had been very successful. A battle had occurred at Rio Hache between the adherents of Mosquera and the Columbian Government, but which was without result, except the destruction of the town, for neither acknowledge being beat, and each hold their position. About 200 were killed and wounded.

AUGUST 22.—The cable between Key West and Havana was successfully spliced on Sunday last, and is working well. The movements of the telegraphic party between here and Key West are unknown.

AUG. 23.—Hayti advices to the 3rd inst. state that the partisans of the late Government are busy plotting against Salnave and his administration. Several arrests of influential parties have been made. Geirard's expenditures are reported by a committee of investigation to have been startling. The allowance for his personal comforts alone having reached \$24,000 in one year. The Government troops had whipped the brigands in the North Eastern district very badly, and some of them had taken refuge in San Domingo. A Chamber of Commerce had been formed for Port au Prince, and was about to enter upon its duties.

AUG. 24.—The Fenian Convention held its session with closed doors, and the members are under a stringent oath of secrecy as to the proceedings. Mr. Collins, of Boston, has presided. Delegates are present from St. Louis, Cincinnati, Boston, Portland, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other places, to the number of about two hundred. Some movement this fall, if appearances are not deceptive, is being organized, but nothing definite or reliable has yet been made public.

PORK versus SAND.—A Pork dealer named E. White was arrested in Milwaukee on the 6th inst., for the slight irregularity of substituting sand for pork in some extensive sales, whereby he is reported to have made \$20,000. He was arrested while returning from a picnic. He doubtless needed all the recreation and mental diversion he could get.

A REMARKABLE GROWTH.—A correspondent of the *Tribune* writes August 2d that six weeks previously he stood on a hill overlooking the site of Julesburg and beheld four wooden houses, one adobe cabin, and a tent. Now there are over 1200 houses of all sizes, and the population is 3000. This is a rank growth, only exceeded by the almost inconceivable strides of vice and immorality; for we are informed that of these twelve hundred houses, nine hundred are drinking and gambling saloons of the most intemperate character. The city, if it may be so termed, is beyond the pale of law, civil or moral. Quarrels are settled by the knife and the gun, and a fancied insult calls for blood. Justice (?) is administered by a Vigilance Committee. The city stands about seven feet above the Platte river. To procure water the citizens started an artesian well, which they have already sunk to the depth of 225 feet, and though only two miles from the river they have not as yet succeeded in finding any. They propose sinking it 400 feet. At present water costs \$1.25 a barrel.

SUSPENSION OF SECRETARY STANTON.—President Johnson has suspended Mr. Stanton from the office of Secretary of War, and ordered General Grant to discharge its duties for the present. The Secretary yields under protest, and the country thus loses the services of one of the most eminently able and high minded statesmen ever connected with the Government. But who can measure the folly of which President Johnson is capable?—*Examiner*.

Mr. Dolby, the Agent of Charles Dickens, came to America in the last mail steamer from England, to make arrangements for a visit of the great novelist, who purposes giving a series of readings from his popular stories, on this side of the Atlantic. His readings in Great Britain and France have produced an impression during the last ten years never before equalled by any similar literary public efforts.