

do them more good than all the unkind words and cross looks you ever gave them.

I often think I have the best husband in the world. He is good and kind to me in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow. We are happier than when we were married nearly twenty years ago. He never scolds me or brings a long catalogue of complaints; but he comes in from his daily labor in good humor, with a smile on his lips and a sweet kiss for me, and says, "Now, Susy dear, you have done enough for to-day, put up your work;" and then he seizes sweet little Nanny with a shower of kisses; and we often sit side by side and chat in the cool evening. What woman in the world would not make such a husband a good wife. — *Am. Mess.*

New Zealand.

A meeting will be held in the Committee Room, Temperance Hall, Halifax, on Monday evening, Dec. 30th, at 7 1/2 o'clock, for the purpose of completing the formation of a company to procure a ship to convey persons to Australia, and New Zealand.

All who wish to join the company or secure a passage are invited to attend.

P. S.—It is proposed to leave about the first of August next.

Christian Messenger

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 18, 1867.

Our Faith.

In anticipation of the New Year, it is customary for some of our contemporaries to make a sort of annual commendation of themselves to their readers and the public. This may be necessary in some cases, but we do not think our readers would thank us for attempting such a task. We abominate flattery and clap-net. We prefer that those for whom we write shall receive, and be able to appreciate, sound, wholesome literary matter such as is suited to build up their mental, moral and spiritual natures, and render them intelligent christians—men and women, who can take the facts that are occurring from day to day and put them together, and form opinions respecting them for themselves such as do not require to have their thinking done for them. This we believe to be the character of a very large proportion of our subscribers. We will not presume to suppose that their being so, is attributable to the fact of their being readers of the *Messenger*; this would be an unpardonable presumption, but we do believe it is the "natural result" of their receiving and holding the truth—the truth as it is in Christ Jesus—a living renovating principle, capable of correcting all the errors, and removing a vast amount of the evils that exist in the world. The possession of this truth gives a symmetry to character which nothing else is capable of accomplishing.

These are eventful times and we must not allow our light to grow dim or be hid, never was it so necessary to distinguish between the genuine and the counterfeit—the precious and the vile. The light of truth is required, and freedom of thought and enquiry encouraged, to do this effectually. New Testament principles are we believe becoming more demanded than ever, to meet the impositions of human authority. Never were greater strides being made on both sides of the Atlantic, by the churches formed on this basis. We must expect them to be assailed, but our confidence was never so strong in their efficiency and we are prepared to defend them.

We will not be guilty of the invidiousness of mentioning one or two names of brethren who will give their aid. We choose a wider field. Not only are we prepared to give the service of the brethren who are usually prepared to give us the benefit of their ability and learning, but we have promises made by which we can assure our readers that during the coming year our pages will be enriched by a lively discussion of the true basis of Christian fellowship, and of the foundation of New Testament churches.

What we have been in the past is known to our patrons. Whether we have fulfilled our mission or no, thus far, we must leave for them to decide. We have sought to be faithful to them and to our Master, but have fallen short of our wishes, and have been restrained only by a regard for safety and prudence, we shall not fail to make use of all the improved facilities in the matter of news, and as it comes to us with lightning speed, we shall exercise all possible care in the preparation of the abundant materials so presented, so as to give a general acquaintance with what is occurring in all parts of the world.

The past we regard as but the starting point for the future, and shall not fail to adopt whatever will be for permanent improvement and real progress.

We are glad to find that notwithstanding the hardness of the times some new names are being sent us. We hope that as the distant parts of the province are being brought nearer to the capital by the extension of railway facilities, we shall find that large additions will be made to our list of intelligent readers, and thus, in connection with other means, the predictions of Holy Spirit may be fulfilled, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Some of our subscribers are already paying up their subscriptions for the ensuing year. This is encouraging. We are hoping soon to hear from others so that the heavy responsibilities pressing on us may be met, and the difficulties arising from tardy payments prevented.

Educational Matters.

In our educational affairs perhaps there is no feature in them so important as the arrangements for the examination of Teachers. An educational system is valuable or otherwise only as it provides for the Teacher being fairly tested in his qualification and his ability to teach. Of course, no machinery will supply what is deficient in the Teacher, but it depends much on the kind of machinery employed, whether it is capable of ascertaining the ability of the teacher, and of giving him credit for what he really knows, and for what he can do.

Much attention has been given to this matter by our provincial Educational department, and we think with much success. The last No. of the *Journal of Education* gives a description of the mode by which the examinations are effected. It is well we think that the public should be acquainted with the working of this feature of the law. They will be better able to appreciate the standing and office of a Teacher to whom they entrust the instruction of their children.

In each place appointed for the examinations, there is a deputy-examiner who supplies printed questions to the Teachers who present themselves for examination, and sees that they are answered in writing during the allotted time. These papers are forwarded by the deputy to the Education Office, and thence to the four provincial examiners. These are the Rev. James Ross, D. D., Rev. Thomas J. Daly, Rev. J. M. Healey, D. D., and Prof. D. F. Higgins, M. A. Each of these gentlemen has the papers in his own department sent to him. From the examiners, they come back again to the Education Office; and now the papers belonging to each candidate, having been separated in order to go to the proper examiner, are to be brought together in order to come at the results. By a very simple contrivance, this is done without labour (which, with the present inadequate departmental staff, is of the first importance) and so done that neither the examiner in placing his estimate upon a paper, nor the departmental officer in applying the rules for arriving at the decision in reference to the candidate's success or failure, is aware of the name of the candidate.

The mode of determining the success or failure of a candidate is as follows: the examiners, taking 100 as the highest possible mark on any branch, use the numbers between 100 and 0 to express the various degrees of excellence.

If the average of the marks obtained by a candidate falls below 50, he fails to pass examination for the class of license sought; in which case, if his average exceeds 40, he receives a license one grade lower than that applied for; if between 40 and 30, two grades lower; if below 30, no license is issued. Those obtaining the grade applied for, have the average of their marks written on the margin of their license.

A modification of the above rule is made in favour of a good speller. No one who mis-spells more than six ordinary English words is admitted to the rank of first class.

The following are the results of the recent examination. The whole number examined was 382 of which number 105 obtained the license applied for; 106 license one grade lower, and 24 two grades lower than the one applied for, while 147 failed to obtain a license of any grade. Whole number of licenses issued 285.

By the mode pursued are secured, thoroughness, uniformity, and strict impartiality; so that while the law grants the same allowance to teachers of the same class wherever they may be employed, it also demands that those who hold certificates of a certain class, shall be as nearly as possible alike in qualifications.

The perfecting of this plan must have cost

no small amount of thought. It demands that each of the parties occupied in carrying it out shall promptly attend to the duties required of him. But its results are worth all the labor and trouble bestowed.

We have been requested to notice the Annual Convention of the Teachers' Provincial Association as follows:

TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

The opening of the Annual Convention will take place in the City of Halifax, on Tuesday, December 31st, at 3 P. M.

Notice of subjects to be brought before the Association must be given to the Committee on or before Saturday, December 28th.

Members travelling by rail can obtain a free pass, provided they have paid the annual subscription of \$1.

Passes may be obtained from the Superintendent of Education, Dr. Forrester, the Inspector of Halifax, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis, and also from the Secretary of the Committee.

J. HOLLIS, Secy of Committee.

Addresses or Papers are expected from Professor McLeod, King's College; Professor McDonald, Dalhousie College; Professor Higgins, Acadia College; Mr. Mellish, of Amherst Academy; the Superintendent of Education; and other gentlemen.

The *INMAN LINE OF STEAMERS* by which we are heretofore to receive our mails from Europe are described as amongst the finest in the world. The following are their names with that of their commanders:

- City of Paris, Captain Kennedy;
- City of Antwerp, Murehouse;
- City of London, Brooks;
- City of Baltimore, Leitch;
- City of Boston, Roskell;
- City of New York, Tibbitts;
- City of Washington, Halcrow;
- City of Cork, Phillips;
- City of Havana, Bridgeman.

The rates of passage from Halifax will be to Queenstown or Liverpool 1st cabin, £18; 2nd cabin, £15; and to New York—1st cabin, £4; 2nd cabin, £2.

The agents for the Line will be Messrs. J. & B. Seston, Collins Wharf, Halifax, and Wm. Inman, Tower Buildings, Liverpool.

The *City of Paris* recently made the quickest passage ever known across the Atlantic. She ran from Queenstown to Sandy Hook in seven days, twenty-three hours and four minutes, which is four hours shorter than the quickest passage ever made by the Cunard steamer *Scotia*.

These steamships will proceed from Halifax to New York instead of Boston. This will change the current of trade and travel somewhat.

The Dominion government appear to have shown considerable vigor in applying the new Tariff and Excise Law, so as to prevent any parties from taking advantage of the changes it makes. The making of it applicable on the very day the enactment became law, and employing all the telegraph lines for informing the officials in all parts of the country rendered it almost impossible for any to make money by speculations on its passing.

The Lecture by Rev. F. H. Almon last week, on "Christianity the true basis of Social Reform," was one calculated to be very useful. Mr. A. called attention to several of the sources of crime and sorrow, and invited his audience to exertion for their removal and destruction. As a zealous christian philanthropist Mr. F. stands second to none in our city. He is now seeking to carry out practically one part of his lecture by the establishment of houses for the reception of fallen women who desire to return to a life of virtue and industry. This is almost the solemn hope of christian effort, but surely there are gospel appliances capable of reaching the subjects it would rescue from misery and death.

THE MONKERS are manifesting great missionary activity and are making preparations for the propagation of their doctrines in Europe, and in various parts of the United States, and also for the formation of colonies in California and Mexico. It is supposed that this is because that under the influence of the institutions of the United States, they are expecting to have to retreat further from the regions of law and order.

We are sorry to find that Rev. S. T. Rand's word of caution respecting Ben. Christmas was not without occasion. His conduct in Annapolis has again disappointed our hopes.

Henry Ward Beecher is not likely to increase his usefulness as a christian minister by his labors as a novelist. His "Norwood" is being nightly performed at the New York Theatre. The advertisements of the performance are adorned with his name and that as giving "permission" to the drama. On the dramatic writing for his permission, Mr. Beecher replied that the copyright was Mr.

Bonner's, but he should "interpose no objection." This has of course delighted the theatre-going public, but has grieved a large number of the New York christian people.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Since the decided failure of Garibaldi in Rome, in consequence of the intervention of the French Emperor, there is little in the affairs of Europe to call forth much interest.

The Italians seem deeply disgusted and vexed at the rescue by the French of the temporal domains of the Pope, and thus strengthening the barrier to civilization and confirming the priestly thraldom which overlies a large portion of Italy. Louis Napoleon, who is viewed by the ultramontane church party in France, has been again agitating for a conference of the European Powers to deliberate on the Italian question, but the declarations of his ministers on his foreign policy, appears to denote that his own mind is made up on the subject. It is by no means probable that all of the other powers will accede to the proposal of a Conference. England at once declined, until it should be understood what was the basis on which such deliberations should be founded. It is most certain, however, that the world has not heard the last of the Italian question.

The executions at Manchester have occasioned much perturbation among the Fenians, both in England and Ireland. The government have interferred by Proclamation to forbid any public demonstrations in the way of steam funerals or otherwise, in memory of the misguided men who have been sacrificed to the demands of justice.

The diabolical attempt to blow up the prison in which Col. Burke was confined is another indication of the fiendish malignity of the Fenians, and is producing great excitement in London.

The First Session of the New Dominion Parliament at Ottawa, is about over, and most of the highly important questions that called for immediate legislation, have been disposed of, so far as could be done within so brief a period. The adjustment of the New Tariff is published. There is considerable difference as respects Nova Scotia; some duties being fixed higher, and many imports declared free, especially such as concern the shipbuilding interest. A fifteen ad valorem duty instead of a ten is passed. It is said that there will be an advance of about two and a half per cent on the whole, upon our former Tariff. This, however, is not more than would probably have been obliged to be increased, had there been no Union, in order to pay interest upon our additional Railroad loans. All Railroad matters are now taken off the several Provinces, and transferred to the General Government of the Dominion. A great amount of important business has been got through in Parliament during the short session, and we are glad to remark with a much greater amount of unanimity and good feeling among all parties, than was by many anticipated. The Postal, Currency and Fisheries questions were also brought forward and measures adopted for their adjustment and promotion. We must defer observations on these important matters to a future number. The great question of the admission of other colonies into the Union, was also discussed, and resolutions adopted; as also that of the Hudson's Bay monopoly and the North western Territory. The adjourned session will, it is said, take place in Feb.

Our favorite Line of Guard Steamers, the Harbinger of the numerous lines that now weekly cross the broad Atlantic, are to cease carrying the Mails after the beginning of the year. The mails are then to be conveyed from Liverpool, via Queenstown, to New York (instead of Boston) touching at Halifax, by the *Inman Line's* Liverpool concern, said to bear a high character for accommodation, safety and despatch. We are sorry to part with our old friends the Guards. They have done their work admirably for twenty seven years, and have gained high repute, and become first favorites on both sides of the Atlantic.

Notices, &c.

The people of Middleton and vicinity purpose having an ENTERTAINMENT at the Pine Grove Baptist Meeting-house, on January the 1st, 1868, commencing at 6 o'clock, P. M.

ORDER of EXAMINERS.
 Re-entrants (No fee) on various subjects by the following Gentlemen:
 Education.—Rev. George Armstrong, A. M.
 Music.—Rev. James Robertson, L.L.D., and Ingile Phinney, Esq.
 Early Consecration.—Revs. Isaiah Wallace, A. M., and Wm. H. Porter.
 Interspersed with appropriate Music, Vocal and Instrumental.
 Admission free 37 1/2 cents.
 Funds to be appropriated toward procuring an Organ for the above named house.