

HILLSBOURG, DEC 12TH, 1868.

Dear Brother,—

The enclosed list of Marriages, you will please publish.

While many are made glad in these happy unions, there are also very many made sad by painful bereavement. The funeral procession presses close upon the receding steps of the bridal party.

By the loss of the Schooner Deering, many of our friends have been deeply afflicted. The Captain a very smart enterprising young man, left many valuable friends deeply afflicted by his unexpected death.

Bro. Caleb Sulis of Smith's Cove lost his companion in the same unfortunate vessel. He seems almost inconsolable in his advanced years at the loss of a valuable companion. Brother John Sulis' eldest son also went down in the deep blue sea to rise no more until the last great day.

Mrs. Craig a young widow and her only child, a lad about 7 years of age also met a watery grave at the same time.

Some of these were members of the church, and others of them we are compelled to entertain a hope for. It is our earnest prayer, that God will help our dear christian friends in this their very great time of need.

The little church at Smith's Cove has been passing through a great cloud of afflictions for the last two years; but I hope these heavy sorrows are nearly ended. I have never known so many deaths in so small a place, in so short a time, as there have been there the last two years. May the Angel of mercy visit them, and make the mourning hearts glad, according to the years wherein they have seen evil.

The news published in the *Christian Messenger* of the accident of the drowning of the two Misses Holmes of Cow Bay, has made me feel sad indeed. They were nieces of mine, their mothers being my sisters. May God help them in this their day of adversity. "Friend after friend departs" says the poet, a truth felt in every quarter and in every family. How good to look above where we hope to meet again, amidst scenes of joy and delight never more to part.

The cause of God is still low among us. But Brother Cox has had a refreshing season in his field of labour, and many have been baptized. I hope the work will extend to us.

The season is passing and the New Year will soon be here. The weather is pretty cold and windy for the season; but a few months will bring us the pleasing Spring.

Yours &c.,
A. MARTELL.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

Enough has been written by various brethren, to convince every reader of the *Christian Messenger*, of the intrinsic worth of your Scripture Catechism. And it will be gratifying for you to know, that we do not fail to appreciate the merits of said Catechism.

I purchased one and have read it with much interest and profit. I am of the opinion it is a work long needed in our denomination as well as in others.

I recommended it to my people and have since been directed to order one hundred copies. I hope we shall soon have occasion to send for more. It seems to me, that every church should do all in its power, to circulate a production of such priceless value. The charge is so trivial, that the poorest need not be in want of one.

I would say to one and all, buy it, for in so doing you will purchase the truth.

Yours truly,
E. C. SPINNEY.

Homeville, C. B., Dec. 9th, 1868.

P. S. It will be pleasing to many of your readers, to know that our Tea-meeting, according to notice, came off with gratifying results. The net proceeds of the Tea were \$141.11—received by donations \$34.00—whole amount \$175.11. This is highly satisfactory, quite beyond our expectations. I am informed that there never was so much realized, at any previous Tea-meeting held on this Island.

All our friends, who so kindly aided us, in many ways, will please accept thanks.

E. C. S.

The number of accessions to Mr. Spurgeon's church last year reached six hundred, or an average of twelve per week. What a marvellous power over men the help of grace is! Many whole conferences of ministers do not win more converts in a year. Let you and I see what we can do.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Yarmouth County.

Dear Brother Selden.—It is a dark and trying time in our churches in Yarmouth Co. As a general thing, darkness covers the land, whilst worldly-mindedness and politics are bringing spiritual death amongst us, so that the ways of Zion do mourn. The Sabbaths are desecrated by some of those professing godliness, who make Repeal or Annexation the topics of their conversation. Yet there are some who feel deeply for the prosperity of God's spiritual heritage, and often in secret at a throne of grace are lifting up their prayer for the remnant that are left. If religion were as earnestly sought-after and as much enquired about as worldly matters, how different would it be with the people of God.—Our churches would be revived, back-sliders reclaimed, and precious souls would be converted and saved from that death to which sinners are exposed, and from the wrath to come.

Whilst we have cause to mourn over Zion, we also have to weep on account of the absence of five young men, all of whom were in the prime of life and from this place, whom we have reason to believe have found a watery grave. They left in the spring, and went to Gloucester, Mass., for the purpose of fishing, and shipped in a schooner called the *Gen. Butler*, which sailed from that port on the 10th of June and have not been heard from since. She intended to make a short trip to Georges and return about the first of July. A short time after that one of the Georges fleet which arrived, reports a vessel's main-mast, painted like the *Gen. Butler's*, and other articles of vessel's outfit afloat on the Bank, and the probability is, that she was run down and sunk. Two of the young men were members of this church, and were baptized by me in the gracious revival which we had in this place two years ago. Their names were as follows: Cerezo W. Campbell, master, leaves a widow and one child. Joseph Hobbs, Waitzel Nickerson, George Oram, Richard Frost, and five others who were strangers to this place. May the Lord bless the mourning friends, and sanctify this visitation of his providence to the salvation of others.

Yours truly,
W. L. PARKER.

Argyle, Dec. 17th, 1868.

CHESTER.—The following is a P. S. from Rev. I. J. Skinner: The work of the Lord is still progressing in different sections of this Church. Last Lord's day was one of much interest at Chester Basin. Ten professed believers in Christ followed their Lord in Baptism and were received into fellowship with the church.—Six others were baptized previously, making sixteen since I last wrote. More are coming. Some of those added to the church are among our most active and intelligent young men. Thus our hearts are encouraged and our bands strengthened. May many more be brought to embrace the Saviour.

Yours, &c.,
I. J. S.

WALLACE HARBOR.—Rev. Joseph Murray gives us the following gratifying intelligence:

I think you will be pleased to learn that "the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad." We held some special services in Wallace River. God's presence caused our eyes to flow and our hearts to burn within us. Wanderers of long standing returned to the church, and many have been converted to God. I have enjoyed the high privilege of burying fifty-one believers with Christ in Baptism and restoring a number to church fellowship. Others are standing ready to follow Jesus in Baptism. The work has not been confined to any class in particular. Seven or eight husbands with their wives have been received into our number, and the family altar has been erected in the once prayerless homes.

In one instance the father and mother with three of their children have been baptized, and joined the church. Another of the children will shortly follow their steps. The whole church is united in this glorious work. May she always stand as she now does leaning upon the arm of her Beloved.

THE JEWS IN NEW YORK.—The following account of the New Metropolitan Temple in New York, indicates some strange movement amongst the modern Israelites:

"The gorgeous synagogue on Fifth Avenue, built by the Reformed Jews, has been thrown open to public worship. It is undoubtedly the most magnificent building occupied by the Jews

since the Temple on Moriah was destroyed by the Romans. It cost half a million of money and is painted in oil colors from the pavement to the dome. Its walls are all aglow with gold and vermilion. When opened for worship on Sundays, it is literally crowded with the congregation. If one wishes to see the wealth, fashion and beauty of the people of Israel, this is the place to behold it. As a work of art and elegance this temple is worth looking at. To a Christian it has a far higher significance. Till now the Jews have worshipped in synagogues after the old pattern, the men apart and the women apart; the latter in the gallery, the former below. The service of song that marked the synagogue in the time of the Saviour, shrill and discordant, animated the worshippers. In the centre of the audience room a huge platform was built on which stood tables from which the law was read, giving the room the appearance of a huge counting-house. The seats were mere benches running lengthwise of the synagogue and rising one above another. The men worshipped with hats on,—as irreverent a looking congregation as could well be conceived. All this is done away in the new temple. The reading desk occupies the place assigned to the pulpit in a church. Pews, of a modern construction and finish, occupy the body of the house.—Men remove their hats as they enter, which is very unorthodox. An organ of immense power fills one end of the temple. In it is a bank of trumpet stops for gala days. The audience-room is larger than that of any church in the city, and is literally crowded. At quarter to eleven the service commences; then the doors are closed, and no one is allowed to enter until the service is completed. These Reformed Jews are the wealthiest in the city. Their march is onward. Sunday schools will mark the Lord's day.—Changing worship from Saturday to Sunday is already agitated.

THE BIBLE IN RUSSIA.—It is said that several persons, male and female, as voluntary agents are now distributing the Bible from house to house in Russia under very cheering circumstances. The New Testament is gladly received by persons of all classes in society. At one place several of the priests favor the movement, coming almost daily under the shadow of the darkness to ask for copies of the New Testament. A religious library recently established has been furnished with three thousand copies by order of the bishop, and the priests of one town are proposing to hire a colporteur to place a copy in every house.

NEW YORK.—The *Water Street Movement*.—Divested of every sensational element, the Water Street movement is very encouraging. Daily meetings are held at the hour of noon, which are very well attended, and an evening meeting is held, which is very crowded. But, better than all, there is a very quiet religious movement in this locality. It is no uncommon thing for four or five persons to rise daily for prayers. Men and women from the lowest walks in life, from the most abandoned classes, who were generally regarded as hopeless, are found earnestly seeking the Saviour. The building occupied by the mission is used as a temporary refuge for such as have no home, or who desire a new life. It is under the charge of a very efficient Christian woman, who, with her husband, is doing a great work among the lost. There are more signs of a revival in Water Street than there are in Fifth Avenue. Those who labor among the outcasts in New York have reason to take courage from the great success that has crowned their labors.

UNIVERSALISM IN AND AROUND NEW YORK.

—There was a prospect some time since that both of the Universalist societies in Brooklyn would be abandoned. The handsome stone edifice on the Heights has been sold to the Swedenborgians. The pastor of the other society has left for want of a support, and that house advertised for sale. An attempt has now been made to unite the two, so that the cause may be saved. The system, with all its allurements, attracts but little attention in this region. The Universalists have formed many societies in this city the greater number of which have been short lived. Dr. Chaplin's church and that on Bleeker Street are all that amount to anything in the city. Chaplin's congregation are held together by the magnetism of his own eloquence. Besides the two congregations in Brooklyn, which are near their end, it is not known that there is a single society on all Long Island.—*W. & R.*

Dominion and Foreign News.

TORONTO.—In the House of Legislature on the 16th the Treasurer delivered his financial statement. It shows that the gross revenue of the Province of Ontario during the past fiscal year was \$2,659,561, and the expenditure \$2,116,086 leaving a surplus of \$543,475.

The city of Montreal, we are informed, through its bankers and traders have upwards of \$500,000 invested in Nova Scotia Gold Mining Stock.

The Legislature of Quebec is to meet on the 20th of January.

A Convention of Reformers, at Centre Wellington, unanimously nominated the Hon. George Brown as their Candidate for the vacant seat in the Dominion Parliament.

IMPORTANT DECISION ON BILL STAMPS.—The *Montreal Gazette* says that Judge Kingsmill decided at the last sitting of Division Court. Walkerton, that notes for sums under \$25 did not require a stamp. There has been some doubt as to the meaning of the Act in regard to notes of this description.

There are but 20 ships building at Quebec this winter. Few workmen are engaged, and general regret is expressed at the decline of this once all important branch of industry.

Mr. Eisvail, correspondent of the *Stockholm Daily News*, is at present in Canada. We understand that he has been instructed by the Swedish government to acquire a knowledge of this country—its climate, laws and resources—with a view of encouraging emigration, and developing the commercial relations of the two countries.

MONTREAL, Dec. 21st, 1868.—Judgment was given in Whelan's case, at Toronto, at noon today. Chief Justice Richards and Judge Wilson sustained previous judgment. Judge Morrison was in favour of appeal. Whelan was then returned to the custody of the Sheriff of Ottawa, and will be executed on Tuesday, the 29th inst. Great excitement and a feeling of relief exists at the result.

The *Intercolonial Railway*.—The Intercolonial Railway Commission has decided that the following sections of the Intercolonial should be advertised as open for contracts on the 11th January next, the tenders to be receivable up to 8th of February.

In the Province of Quebec, from River du Loup Eastward, twenty-six miles.

In New Brunswick, from Restigouche to Dalhousie, twenty-six miles.

In Nova Scotia, from Amherst to River Phillip, twenty-four miles.

Mr. Chandler left on Saturday for New Brunswick, and the other Commissioners will proceed to the Maritime Provinces in a few days.

New Brunswick.

FREDERICTON.—There appear to be some of the Sons of Belial in this forest city. The *Head Quarters* says: "There seems to be a party of rowdies prowling about town, determined on raising a fire this cold weather, and the utmost vigilance will be required to prevent some serious disaster. Three cases of barn burning have taken place since Saturday; in two, the strong presumption is, that they were set on fire; in the third case, it is absolutely known that it was the work of an incendiary. In this case the incendiaries were seen making off after accomplishing their object, but succeeded in escaping capture or detection by identification.

EDUCATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—The *Fredericton Head Quarters* concludes a very favorable notice of a public examination of the Provincial University as follows:

"It is earnestly to be wished that the state of primary education in the Province were such as not only to furnish a larger number of students, but also to enable the University authorities to insist upon a higher standard of attainment on entrance."

The St. John Savings Bank has increased its business largely, owing, we presume, to recent events having shaken people's faith in other institutions.

Mr. Scovill's liabilities are said to be about \$371,000. It is said that many merchants received back the notes of hand which they had given him for Exchange, that will be protested.

The train from Shediac to St. John, on the 11th inst., brought among its freight, ten tons of frozen smelt, en route to the New York market. They came from Richibucto, and the exporter believes that if the market for these fish continues, that he will realize a fortune out of his trade.

A lot of 200,000 feet of boards are at present in the course of being planed, edge turned and grooved, by Messrs. Fairbanks & Co., of St. John, for shipment to Valparaiso. This is the first lot of the kind which has ever been sent from St. John. Formerly they all went in the rough.

MAJOR ROBINSON, of St. John, charged with assisting to rescue Scovill, the defaulting banker from custody of the Sheriff, was acquitted by the Circuit Court of that City and County.

ONE DOLLAR NOTES.—The Bank of New Brunswick is issuing very large numbers of one dollar notes, which are greatly in demand, as such small denominations obviate the necessity of using silver in making change in some transactions.

We shall be glad to receive some of them in Halifax.

The St. John, *Freeman* says that the value of real estate in that city has declined about twenty-five per cent within the past eighteen months.

A GROWING TRADE.—Within the last two or three months Messrs. William Parks & Son have sent one hundred bales of Cotton yarn (used for warps) to Nova Scotia. These bales were of the weight of ten tons and cost about thirty cents a pound. The trade continues brisk, and but for the Nova Scotia market the New Brunswick Cotton Mills could not be fully employed.—*St. John Journal*.

The United States.

CONGRESS.—On the 7th Inst., Mr. Morrill, of Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution declaring that Mr. Reverdy Johnson's conduct as Minister to England is prejudicial to the interests and dignity of the nation, and requesting his recall. A debate ensued, and, after a long discussion, the motion was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.