

THE WORLD'S EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—It is proposed to hold the next triennial meeting of the General Conference of this body in New York, in the fall of 1869, when it is expected that a large gathering of the most distinguished representatives of the Christians of all nations will be present.

INQUIRY IN PORTUGAL.—A young English Christian residing at Oporto, began to hold religious meetings in his own house in August, 1866, and in a year the number of attendants increased to 120, in spite of opposition. The Romish priests endeavoured to stop the meetings, and excommunicated those who persisted in attending them. They finally resorted to the civil law, accusing him of reviling the priests and blaspheming the church. He was released on bail offered by two of the most influential English merchants; and ascertaining that by treaty with England, meetings could be held in places built for the purpose, he has erected a chapel there for religious services.

THE WHOLE OR NONE.—The Roman-catholic priests in Holland have warned all parents in their churches not to allow their children to attend the national schools, in which the system of education has been entirely unsectarian since 1857. As the government will make no alteration in it, they are making a vigorous crusade against it.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE FIRST LORD'S DAY OF THE NEW-YEAR IN CHESTER

was made memorable to many, on account of the rather unusual occurrences of that day.

At ten o'clock we find ourselves at the house of Bro. Joseph Corkum, two miles from town. The place is crowded with sympathising relatives and friends. "Sad faces and sadder hearts are there. All seem to partake of the deep solemnity of the occasion.

Before us lie the remains of a beloved daughter who closed her eyes upon all terrestrial things just as the old expiring year was about to be numbered with the past. As she lies in that narrow bed attired for the grave there is a transparent purity in the expression of her countenance that seems to be more angelic than human, as if the happy spirit, when it burst the doors of its "earthly house," had left its joyous impress on the features of that lifeless face, and as if it had said "sleep on precious dust till the voice of God shall awake the dead, and then the grave shall restore its sacred trust and thou shalt come forth a glorious form to meet Him who is the Resurrection as well as the salvation of his people."

An appropriate hymn is sung and a short prayer offered, and then amid stifled sobs and streaming tears the last farewell look is given, and all that remains of the once lovely and amiable young woman closed up to be seen no more in this world.

A long procession is formed and silently moves toward the place of burial where the precious relics are deposited in their long long resting place.

We now turn from the place of the dead and repair to the water side. The scene is changed, Two amiable and intelligent young females having found the Saviour precious, humbly believing in Him "with all their hearts" are seeking a burial with their Lord in baptism. And in the presence of a large assembly they are led forward in the path of obedience and being buried in the likeness of his death are raised in the likeness of his resurrection. Perfect order and deep solemnity prevail, as the people now reassemble in the Meeting-house where the funeral sermon is preached from Rev. 14; 13 selected by the departed just before she died.

After sermon the right hand of fellowship is given and we cannot help feeling with gratitude of heart that while God has taken one of our dear sisters from us He has given us two who give much promise of usefulness.

Deceased above, named Miss Emma Corkum, professed religion and was baptized on the 7th of July last. She adorned her profession. In delicate health then it was apparent that she was destined to an early grave. She sweetly fell asleep in Jesus Dec. 31, 1868 about 9 o'clock, p. m. May the Lord comfort the mourners.

The Missionary Concert in the evening was well attended and was very interesting. Some are waiting for baptism and more are coming.

Yours truly,

I. J. SKINNER.

Chester, Jan. 9th, 1869.

PERSONAL.—Rev. W. H. Porter, writes Jan. 6th:—"Perhaps some of the readers of the Messenger, might be interested to know that my father, Rev. T. H. Porter, has been almost entirely confined to his house, from ill health, all the fall

and winter. The chances of his recovery seem very doubtful.

PORT GEORGE, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY.—"At Port George, a section of Pine Grove Church, the Lord has been reviving his work of late. Last Sabbath was a good day, 7 were added to the Church; 3 by letter; 1 restored; 3 baptized; others seem to be on their way. Prodigals who have wandered long and far, are returning to their Father, and filling his house with joy. May the Week of Prayer, which we are now observing, be memorable in the history of the church and of the world."—*Extracts of letter from Rev. W. H. Porter.*

GUYSBORO Co.—A melancholy occurrence took place at Indian Harbor on Wednesday, the 9th of December. Mrs. Flemming wife of Mr. John Flemming went out of her house between sundown and dark it is supposed to receive her two little boys who had gone to skate on a lake quite near the house. The boys were 11 and 12 years of age. The ice broke and both mother and children were drowned. The bodies of the boys have since been found in the Lake, one the next day and the other a day or two after. The body of Mrs. Flemming has not yet been found though diligent search has been made. Mrs. Flemming was a member in good standing with the Baptist Church at Indian Harbour. This disaster has cast a gloom over the whole community. May the Lord make use of it as a means to awaken the living to a sense of their danger; for true it is, 'there is but a step between us and death.'—*Com. by Rev. Henry Eagles.*

Dominion and Foreign News.

It is expected that the Dominion Parliament will meet about the end of March.

THE WHELAN CASE came up on Monday the 4th before the Court of Error at Toronto, Canada on appeal. The Judges unanimously decided that a Writ of Error was the proper course to bring the prisoner before the Court. Hon. J. H. Cameron made an able and elaborate argument on the side of the prisoner. Messrs. Robinson and Anderson replied for the Crown. Prisoner was remanded till 22nd inst., when a decision will be given.

In Montreal, a few days ago, a small-pox patient in his delirium sprang right through the double windows of the hospital ward, and in an almost state of nudity, ran through the streets, and finally reached Griffintown, where he was taken charge of and brought back to the hospital.

At a meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, held on the 5th inst, the feeling was unanimous in favor of a change in the Act relating to Inspection of Flour, so as to make it agree with the New York system, and thus secure a greater share of Maritime Province trade.

A Special despatch to the St. John, N. B. Journal says that, Four Lieutenant Governors and the whole of the Dominion and Local Cabinets are expected to be present at the Banquet to be given in Montreal to Sir John Young, about the 20th inst.

A man dropped dead in Montreal, while making a New Year's call on the 1st.

In Montreal a skating rink is called a glacierium.

Queen Victoria, on the 10th ult., sent a post-office order for three pounds, as a donation from Her Majesty to the wife of William Law, of No. 7 Germain street, Montreal, to assist her after her confinement of three children at one birth.

Two fine young bears were seen last week playfully disporting in the streets of Ottawa, at two o'clock in the morning. They were chased some distance, but made good their escape.

New Brunswick.

THE MAILS.—The St. John News says the mails between St. John and Digby will be forwarded in future by the steamer *Conqueror*, once every week. The day of departure from St. John will probably be Thursday.

The mails are now assorted on the line of railway whilst in a course of transmission. A vast saving of time which might be adopted to advantage in Nova Scotia.

At a meeting of the Stockholders of the Commercial Bank, of New Brunswick, held in St. John, N. B., a few days ago, it was decided that the winding up of the affairs of the concern must devolve on the Directors.

THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS, Messrs. Brydges, Walsh, and Chandler, have proceeded to the North Shore of New Brunswick, making an examination of the route of the line of Railroad.

MANUFACTURES.—The St. John Journal states that another addition is about being made to the manufactories of that city: a coffee, spice and cream of tartar mill, which is to be driven by steam.

In the AXE FACTORY of Mr. Graves at Milltown, Charlotte County, it is reported that upwards of 390 axes are produced every working day, or an aggregate of nearly 100,000 a year, giving employment regularly to 40 men. The

quantity of iron used amounts to 170 tons a year, and steel 32 tons; the amount of coal consumed will reach nearly 300 tons, whilst the consumption of borax, emery, &c., forms items of some importance.

The United States.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—*Mysterious deaths in Washington.*—There was considerable excitement in Washington to-day, in consequence of two colored men being found dead in their beds at the residence of the French Minister. Large crowds were surrounding the house. Reports were circulated that they were either suffocated or poisoned.

Jan. 8th.—A serious disturbance growing out of resistance to a Sheriff, is reported in Princess Ann County, Virginia. Three negroes were killed yesterday morning, and one soldier mortally wounded. The excitement in the country is very great, and the troops have asked for reinforcements.

Jan. 9th.—Barque "Bride," of London, Jewen, master, was wrecked on the coast of Maine on the night of Jan 1st; sails and rigging saved; hull breaking up. She was bound from St. John to Londonderry.

Jan. 11th.—Steamship "Etna," from Liverpool 23rd Dec., arrived at this port yesterday, having encountered a succession of furious gales during almost the entire passage, and being detained within one thousand miles of New York for several days. The fifth officer and eight seamen were swept overboard by a heavy sea, but all except the fifth officer were saved.

THE ELECTION FRAUDS IN NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—It is stated that the evidence taken by the Congressional committee in the investigation of the election frauds in this city at the late election will, when made public, show an amount of corruption and demoralization of an appalling character. Judge McCann has sworn that 40,000 persons were naturalized in 21 days, and that in his own Court he used to turn out citizens at the rate of two per minute, their examination, cross-examination, and the administration to them of the oath requiring only that exact space.

EARTHQUAKES IN MEXICO.—A severe earthquake occurred in Mexico on the 20th December. The cities of Colima and Manzanilla were badly shaken, and many houses thrown down or cracked and some thirty lives lost. The shock was felt a long distance in the interior. In several places the ground opened, trees were uprooted, and water courses changed, and a general upheaving of the earth.

Gold 1853.
An old Indian hunter says the beavers have increased very rapidly of late upon both branches of Penobscot river. Fifty years ago their skins sold for from \$9 to \$12 each, now they are worth but 75 cents to \$1 each.

Chicago has an institution for the reformation of drunkards, which is in part sustained by a tax on the drinking saloons of the city.

According to the Portland Press there is a man in that city who is impressed with the belief that another deluge is impending, and accordingly has invested all his property, about \$6,000 in building an ark.

A Salt Lake City correspondent says business is very lively there, and that "the Mormon merchants are coining money. Wagon trains arrive almost daily with delayed freight, and much of it is no sooner unloaded and laid on the shelves than it is sold. One merchant, the other day, said he could sell several cases of shoes every day if he had them. Another merchant received a thousand gallons of Kerosene, and in less than two days it was sold. The Mormons are carrying out their recently expressed determination to deal with none but Mormon merchants.

A process has been discovered for manufacturing iron without puddling, which greatly lessens the expense. The discovery has created much excitement at Pittsburg, where it is in practical operation.

HORRIBLE CONFESSION.—In Lafayette, in Sussex County, a Widow White made a confession just previous to her death, on Saturday, which horrified the town. Being a member of the Methodist Church, she sent for some of her fellow members to attend her in her dying hour, and to them she confessed that about seven years ago she poisoned her infant child, and that it died. A year or so afterwards she gave poison to her husband's father and he died. Later still, on return of her husband from the army, she dealt him also fatal poison. The woman had borne a good character. The only reason assigned for her making her dying declaration, was her desire to rid her conscience of this immense load of crime prior to her death. She was perfectly sane up to the time of her decease.

The New York Papers, especially the *Times*, are agitating for the admission of foreign coal in the States market, free of duty. Even the *Tribune*, with all its strong protectionist notions, advises Congress, in revising the tariff, to make coal one of the free articles.

THE DOUBLE-HEADED COLOURED GIRLS AT NEW ORLEANS.—The N. O. *Picayune* gives the following account of this strange natural phenomenon:

We paid a visit on Friday to that most wonderful of nature's freaks, the double-headed colored girl, or perhaps it would be more correct to say two girls in one. For convenience, we shall speak of them in the plural.

They are entirely distinct, as far as mind is concerned, laughing and chatting with each other, and being apparently upon the most intimate terms, and one may have a headache or a cold,

without the other being affected, but any fever, or other serious disease, affects both equally.

Their bodies are separate from the small of the back up, each having a perfectly formed bust and head, two arms, &c.; and each has two legs, but there is only one trunk. Both are remarkably intelligent, reading and writing with ease, while their manners are really refined. In quite a lengthy conversation they did not make a single grammatical error, and their language was unusually select. Upon questioning them as to their education, they replied that they had been carefully taught by their former mistress, Mrs. Smith, in Columbus, North Carolina, in which village they were born.

They are now fifteen years old, and more than ordinarily bright for girls of their age, having had the advantage of foreign travel. They both sing very sweetly, one having a soprano and the other a contralto voice, and we have rarely heard two voices that blend so perfectly in a duett.—Among other accomplishments is that of dancing, and the manner in which they manage to execute a waltz is truly wonderful. When standing at ease, the left foot of one, and the right foot of the other do not lie flat upon the floor, but rest upon their toes. In walking, however, they step with all their feet alike, though they can hold up two feet, and walk with perfect ease with the other two.

In speaking of them as one, they are called Millie Christie; but in addressing them separately, one applies the distinctive appellation—she on the left being Millie, and she on the right Christie—though Christie, in addressing her other half calls her 'Sister.' There is a striking resemblance between their faces, and the conformation of their heads is much the same, Christie being perhaps a shade brighter than her sister, and rather more talkative.

Before seeing these strange girls we had fancied that we would experience a feeling of repulsion, but the first glance at their bright, cheerful faces dispelled that idea effectually.

CUBA.—Proclamation of Gen. Dulce.—Havana Jan. 7.—Last night by order of the Government all statutes of Queen Isabella, and other symbols of the late dynasty were removed from the squares and public buildings. General Dulce issued his anxiously awaited proclamation to the Cubans. He says:—"I will brave every danger, and accept every responsibility for your welfare. The revolution has swept away the Bourbon dynasty, tearing up by the roots a plant so poisonous that it putrefies the air we breathe; to the citizen shall be returned his rights and to man his dignity. You will receive all the reforms you require. Cubans and Spaniards are all brothers. From this day Cuba will be considered a Province of Spain, freedom of the press, the rights of meeting in public, and the representation in the National Cortes. The fundamental principles of true liberty are guaranteed to you." General Dulce concludes as follows: "Cubans and Spaniards, speaking in the name of our mother Spain, I adjure you to forget the past, hope for the future, and establish union and fraternity."

Jan. 8.—The proclamation of Captain-General Dulce is favorably received by the majority of the people, but is disliked by the extremists of both the Spanish and Cuban parties. It is rumored that an interview will soon take place between Gen. Dulce and prominent revolutionists in Havana. Should the meeting be successful it would tend materially to the restoration of peace on the island.

Emancipation of the Slaves.—It is asserted that the revolutionary chiefs have concluded to issue a proclamation making all slaves free, and fixing a day after which they shall receive pay for their labor, and they propose to carry this resolution into immediate effect.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By Atlantic Telegraph.

ENGLAND, LONDON, Jan. 4th.—*Southerners returning.*—In view of President Johnson's Amnesty Proclamation of the 15th of December, Jefferson Davis, John Slidell, James M. Mason, A. Dudley Mason, and other ex-rebels are preparing to return to the United States.

The press of London generally approve of the treaty between China and England, recently concluded by Lord Clarendon and Mr. Burlingame.

Mr. Burlingame and the other members of the Chinese company, have arrived in Paris.

7th.—The feeling among the Tenantry in some parts of Ireland is very bitter against the landholders, and many cases of agrarian violence are reported.

Jan. 9th.—Thirty-nine more of the missing passengers and crew of the steamer "Hibernia," which was lost at sea in December, have been rescued.

Plymouth, Jan. 3rd.—A vessel put in here to-day which reports that the British ship *Southern Empire*, Capt. Dunlap, foundered at sea in a heavy gale on the 3rd inst. The captain and every one of the crew were lost. The *Southern Empire* sailed from New Orleans on the 13th of November for Liverpool, laden with cotton, at which port she was owned.

THE EASTERN QUESTION

still remains the European difficulty. It does not appear by the telegrams what the proposed conference will have before them: A despatch from Athens on the 4th Inst., states that the Turkish Admiral Hobart Pasha, has formally demanded the surrender of the Greek steamer "Exosis." The despatch adds that war is considered inevitable at Athens.

On the 5th it was asserted that Russia urges a meeting of the Conference, now that Crete is