

For the Christian Messenger.

ON SWEARING.

My Dear Sir,—

Why does your correspondent assume a disguise? Whether "M. A. H." be lay or clerical, male or female, we cannot tell; nor whether "M. A." stand for Mary Ann, or Michael Angelo. Of course, in any discussion the writing is of more moment than the writer; but among Christian men, surely it is best to be open and unmasked.—However, upon the supposition that "M. A. H." is of the masculine gender, let me pass to his article.

The tone of the letter sounds rather selfish; for, in referring to my opinions, he says, "perhaps I ought to say decisions." Well, if a plain and pointed enunciation of belief be a decision, he is right; but if it signify more than this, he is mistaken.—Further, he calls my "style ex cathedra," my "constructions" are "doubtful," my "notions" are "peculiar," my allusions to other interpretations than my own are "almost contemptuous;" I "demand," I "impute motives," I "curtly insist," and possibly commit other sins which he leaves unmentioned. Now, if I am wrong, and "M. A. H." be right, he has a decided advantage over me, and certainly can afford to "speak the truth in love."

I was somewhat amused at this friend's purpose, which he states is "simply to prevent" your "juvenile readers," and others from adopting my conclusions on the point in question. Are these "juvenile readers" accustomed to adopt, "without consideration," all they read; or "hastily" to "decide" upon every subject presented to their notice? If so, they will appreciate the prompt and earnest efforts of their spiritual guardian. But if they investigate the word of God for themselves, they will be enabled by calm deliberation and the Holy Spirit's guidance, to discern what is unsound and what is unscriptural in all they examine.

In quoting my words, "Some affirm that these passages, have no reference to oaths in courts of justice. What is their authority for the assertion?" "M. A. H." says, in a parenthesis, "I presume he means reason." No; I meant what I said, what is their authority? or, What authority have they for such an assertion?

Your correspondent affirms that oaths are allowed by the "almost unanimous judgment of the Christian Church;" and that an "interpretation" in their favor is "accepted by nearly the entire Christian Church, present and past, learned and unlearned;" and that the opposite interpretation is "entertained almost exclusively by the excellent and eccentric Quakers, a few English Baptists, and Brother Harley." Is this true? In reply, I will not trouble you with merely the names of some, who, though not Quakers, nor English Baptists, yet held the "peculiar notion." Tholuck says, "The opinion of the unlawfulness of all oaths we find very extensively spread abroad in the infancy of the church, and grounded upon our Saviour's saying and the text, James v. 12. The opinion was held by Origen, Irenæus, Chrysostom, Justin Martyr, Clemens Alexandrinus, Cyril of Alexandria, Basil, Theodoret, Isidore of Pelusium, Theophylact, Euthymius, Hilary, and Jerome. Oaths were refused by the Pelagians, Cathari, Albigenses, Waldenses, the Anabaptists, and the Moravians. These are certainly worthy of honorable mention by those who speak of the "small number" who reject the oath as unlawful.

Now, my dear Sir, I do not desire to trespass upon your space by a full discussion of the whole question, for it would thrust out other matter which you would deem of weightier importance. By some other means I shall shew from a Bible standpoint, the unlawfulness of all oaths, give a candid answer to the arguments urged in their behalf, and endeavour to prove that the oath administered in all courts of justice throughout the empire of our beloved Queen, is in its essence very antagonistic to the spirit of the gospel.

Yours, very truly,
TIMOTHY HARLEY.
St. John, N. B., Feb. 18th, 1869.

The Hants County Temperance League will meet at Noel, on Wednesday, the 10th of March, at 10 o'clock, A. M. All Temperance Organizations are requested to send their Delegates duly furnished with credentials.

Those whose subscriptions remain unpaid will please forward the amounts to the Secretary on or before the day of meeting.

It is hoped there will be a full attendance of both Officers and Members.

LUCIUS B. BANCROFT, Sec'y.
Burlington, Feb. 18th, 1869.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 24, 1869.

CHRISTIAN WORK.

Much use is made of this term now-a-days, and sometimes we are led to think without any very definite or clear idea of what constitutes that work. It is supposed by some who have abundant opportunities of speaking to others on religious matters, that those who have fewer facilities do but little of christian work. Too much distinction is often made between the daily toil of Christians and Christian work. Much christian work may be performed by persons who, having their hearts under proper influences, have their head and hands employed from morning to night.

By Sabbath School Teaching, Tract distribution, Visiting the sick and poor, Meetings for prayer, Teaching adults to read and understand the Scriptures, and promoting benevolent institutions, as well as by a thousand other means we may be doing christian work, and what is equivalent to our Lord's reply to the disciples of John the Baptist, when he sent them to enquire if he were the Messiah. Besides all the alleviation of sorrow and suffering, he pronounced this to be the complement of christian work, "the poor have the Gospel preached unto them; and blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me." There are many of the poor of this world who cannot participate systematically in the philanthropic movements of the day, who, nevertheless, honor the Master no less, and perhaps more than some who are so engaged.

At the gathering together of christian brethren for exhortation and prayer we may expect to hear testimony borne of faith in Christ. When each heart is full of gratitude to God and love to Christ, there will be a readiness to bear witness to the power of religion. When this becomes pretty general amongst the christians in any church, it may be expected that the converting power of Divine Grace will be experienced by others, and men will be brought into the church of Jesus Christ. A revival which has the effect of enlarging the number of attentive listeners to the preaching of the gospel, is an indication, and ordinarily a precursor of a revival of a more spiritual character. When this takes place then will there be a readiness to engage in christian work of the highest type—leading men and women, and children, to Christ, and entreating them to rest in him for salvation.

We must not regard such seasons as indicating a greater readiness on the part of God to save sinners than at other times; but when a change takes place in men, and they are in a condition of more readiness to receive the truth, the light breaks in, exposing their sinful state and revealing their need of a Redeemer. Pride is cast down, Christ is exalted in their estimation, and seen to be the only and all-sufficient Saviour. When this feeling prevails there is a revival of religion. Christians are ready to work and rejoice in sympathy with the angels of heaven, even over one sinner that repenteth.

In a few days there will be a new President of the United States. An untried man, and he a soldier, will have more than a monarch's power placed in his hands; and it is not surprising that there should be a little nervous anxiety as to the nature of the changes which may result in the government of that great country. The reticence of General Grant, almost resembles that of Napoleon III. He has not yet even intimated who shall form his Executive Council, nor is it publicly known that he has sought advice from any person or party, as to the course he shall adopt in the Presidency. Some of the statesmen belonging to the party by whom he has been sustained and elevated to the Presidential chair, are complaining of this unprecedented course, and intimate some doubts as to the propriety of his ignoring them in the present aspect of affairs. They probably fear that the new President will not choose all his advisors from one party. From this they may be anticipating trouble. It is possible that General Grant has become acquainted with the corruption and jobbery that has been heretofore practised in parcelling out the offices among the boldest and most forward men of the

dominant party. It is probable that Grant will not make such sweeping changes in the offices of state as some of his predecessors have done on assuming the Presidency. A little more patience is required, and the President must then necessarily declare his policy and develop the course he purposes pursuing, which he has so long kept to himself. This must shortly be given to the people through their representatives in Congress. His Inaugural address will be eagerly looked for.

MONEY.—Dr. Armitage, pastor of the Fifth Avenue church, New York, is preaching a series of sermons on Sabbath evenings to Merchants, on the subject of Money. The first was on "Money as a Power," the second, preached last Sabbath evening, "The Influence of Money in the Formation of Character," and the third, for next Sunday evening, on "The Way to make Money."

Notices, &c.

Received for Foreign Missions.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Amount. Includes entries for Jan. 27, Feb. 1, and Feb. 12, 1869, with amounts ranging from \$5.00 to \$63.75.

Letters Received.

R. M. Davison, T. H. Patton, Esq., \$5. W. M. Sleep, 50 cents. A. McDonald, 1 sub.—S. Brown, Esq. Rev. J. Murray. Rev. Dr. Tupper, J. W. Johnson, \$1. Rev. Jas. Reid, X. Z. Chipman, Esq. A. Atkinson, E. F. Freeman, \$4. A. E. Durland, W. J. Gates, \$5. J. F. Masters, Esq., \$4.20. J. P. Nowlan, 1 sub. J. S. Witter, Esq., \$4. W. H. Gough, T. H. Vidito, 1 sub. W. H. Belcher.

AFFECTIONS OF THE CHEST AND THROAT.—Persons afflicted, however slightly, with any weakness of the Chest or Throat, involving either the Larynx, Trachea, Bronchial Tubes, or the Lungs themselves, should on the first symptom, commence with FELLOWS' COMPOUND SYRUP, as by its use diseases of those organs (even Consumption in its primary stage) are speedily cured and more alarming symptoms prevented. This we are enabled to state most positively.

The Blood is restored to purity and health; the Nerves and Muscles are strengthened, while tuberculous or consumptive deposit is retarded. The extraordinary effect of this preparation is due to its power of imparting the vital principle to all constitutions impaired by wasting or debilitating maladies. It is acceptable to the palate, and suitable for all ages and all constitutions. Sold by Apothecaries. Price \$1.50 per bottle, or 6 for \$7.50. On the receipt of \$7.50 the proprietor will forward 6 to any part of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, Free. JAMES I. FELLOWS, Chemist, St. John, N. B.

General Intelligence.

Province of Nova Scotia.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Halifax, N. S., 16th Feb. 1869.

APPOINTMENTS:

Colchester Co.—To be Commissioner of Sewers for the Marsh in the Lower Village of Truro, John Kent, in the place of Wm. McNutt, resigned.

Cumberland Co.—To be a Coroner,—Benj. S. Seaman. To be a Commissioner for taking Affidavits in the Supreme Court,—J. Z. Bliss.

To be a Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court,—Job Seaman.

Halifax Co.—To be Justices of the Peace—James Duggan, Edwd. Bowers, Jr., (Portuguese Cove.) William Munro, Frederick Hubley, Neil McLean, and Thomas Mahar.

To be Master in the Supreme Court—Henry C. D. Twining, in the place of Charles Twining, deceased.

Cape Breton Co.—To be Justices of the Peace—Michael McLellan, of Big Pond, and Donald McDougall of Grand Mira.

Victoria Co.—To be Justices of the Peace—Roderick McRae, Samuel C. Campbell, Donald McLean, and Donald McQuarry.

Digby Co.—To be Commissioners of Schools for the District of Digby—Rev. P. J. Filleul, Charles Budd, R. S. Fitz-Randolph, A. B. Holdsworth, and Calvin Raymond. District of Clare—Rev. J. J. Quinan.

AN INTERESTING RELIC.—Dr. Almon of this city has in his possession a Communion Service of Silver, the plate of which is dated 1776, and the cup 1663. It is supposed to have belonged to a parish in the North of Scotland, but the name of the Parish is worn off by age. It was brought to this country by a Rev. Mr. Aitkens of the Episcopal Church. Dr. Almon obtained it as "old silver."—Dr. Almon has also in his possession the lock of one of the gates of Louisbourg, recently discovered in the course of excavations in that old French stronghold.—Witness.

A young man named Edward Power, had his leg broken at Bedford on Monday, by a kick from another named Casey. Dr. Garvie set the limb.—Citizen.

ORANGE CONVENTION.—The Orangemen of Nova Scotia held their Annual Convention last week in their Hall, Bedford Row. The attendance of delegates was large. Resolutions were passed denouncing Separate Schools and commending Temperance, Sobriety, and due respect for the laws of God and of the country.

HEALTH OF THE CITY.—The City Medical Officer reports that no new cases of small-pox have occurred. The Sanitary Committee have therefore resolved to dispense with the services of the physician engaged to assist the City Medical Officer in vaccinating the poor.—Chronicle.

OUR LOCAL PARLIAMENT.—By a proclamation in Wednesday's Gazette the legislature of this Province has been further prorogued to the 4th day of March, but not then to meet for despatch of business.

It will probably be delayed until the Hants election is decided.

TEMPORARY HOME FOR YOUNG WOMEN.—There was a meeting on Wednesday afternoon in the basement of Brunswick-street Wesleyan Chapel for the purpose of completing arrangements in connection with establishing a temporary home for young women of good character. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. The following gentlemen were appointed as Directors:—Honbles. M. B. Almon and J. H. Anderson, and Rev. P. G. McGregor, Twelve ladies were also appointed as a committee. A desirable house has been rented at the upper end of Lockman-street, and the services of a matron secured. The Home will be ready for occupancy on the 1st of March next. If properly managed this may be made a highly valuable institution.

SOCIABILITY.—On Friday last, a number of the members and lady visitors of the Chebucto and Athenæum Divisions of the Sons of Temperance, embarked on four large teams and drove up to Richmond, to make a kindly call on the brothers of the Richmond Division.

COAL BY RAILWAY.—We are burning some of the coal recently advertised in our columns, at \$3.90 per ton, and find it a very superior article—retaining its heat for a long time. It has less of bitumen than the Sydney, and gives off less smoke and flame. With a good draft its heating power appears almost equal to Anthracite. It will be a great advantage to Halifax, to be able to obtain an unlimited supply of this fuel, at short notice, at all seasons of the year, and at low rates.

HALIFAX DISPENSARY.—At a meeting of the Directors of the Halifax Dispensary on the 19th inst., for the election of Visiting Physicians for the current year, Dr. Rigby was re-elected Visiting Physician for the district north of Jacobstreet. Dr. Farrel was elected for the central district between Jacob and Sackville-streets, and Dr. Woodill for the south district from Sackville to Point Pleasant. The Directors acknowledge with thanks the donation of forty dollars to the funds of the Institution from the Charitable Irish Society.

VIOLATION OF THE INLAND REVENUE ACT.—Messrs. Keith & McLean's brewing establishment on Lower Water Street, known as the "Caledonia Brewery," was, on Wednesday evening, taken possession of by the Inland Revenue authorities, for violation of the Inland Revenue Act, a whiskey still, and a considerable quantity of its product having been found on the premises. The establishment is now in charge of the Revenue officers.—Chr.

HANDEL'S SACRED ORATORIO, THE MESSIAH, will be performed on Monday evening, March 1st, at the Temperance Hall, by the Halifax Philharmonic Society, with a Chorus and Orchestra numbering upwards of one hundred performers. The Orchestra will be composed of Members of the Society and part of the String Band of H. M. 30th Regt, with the kind permission of Col. Pakenham and the Officers. Conductor, Mr. Arnold Doane, R. A. M. 1st Violin, Mr. E. C. Saffery.

This is the first opportunity that a Halifax audience has had of hearing an Oratorio of the great Masters of Musical Composition, and we doubt not it will be largely attended and highly appreciated.

WENTWORTH.—Deau Sir,—You notice in the Messenger some weeks since the scarcity of snow birds in your County. It is not so in this place. Any amount of them are to be seen. We have had very mild weather here with the exception of a few days. Since the 15th of this month it has been thawing by the rays of the sun. The air is very balmy, different from any February I have ever witnessed since my remembrance.—But the thickness of the ice on the Lakes is not to be attributed altogether to the severity of the winter. In 1868 we had frequent thaws, and the water mingling with the snow and freezing on the top, increased the thickness faster than when freezing only at the bottom.

Yours, &c.,
J. H. N. HIGGINS.

Feb. 19, 1869.

HANTS COUNTY.—We are supplied with telegrams from day to day of political meetings held in different parts of this county. The statements of the respective partizans are of course to the effect that their own man is sure to win, whilst the opposing party has not a ghost of a chance. Mr. Goudge appears to be undecided, even if elected to represent the county whether he will make an appearance in the House of Commons, until he is instructed to do so by those who vote for him.

The political papers are burdened morning and evening with the coming election in this county. It is asserted by some of the papers that it is not the intention of Mr. Goudge to go the poll.