

For the Christian Messenger.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

NORTH SYDNEY, JUNE 12TH, 1869.—*Dear Brother*,—Last Sabbath was another encouraging day here. I was permitted to bury nine happy believers with their Lord in baptism, their ages ranging from the man of more than three score, to the boy of scarcely a dozen years—the seventh who has, out of one family, lately professed conversion and united with the church, interesting particulars of others of the Candidates might be noted, but I forbear. It seemed somewhat remarkable that this baptism should include the oldest, youngest and most to whom I ever administered the ordinance, while the largest number afterwards sat at the Lord's table that I have ever seen here.

Another was received for baptism at the conference, and others whose wish it was then to go forward, were in various ways hindered. Others are still anxious, and we do hope that the gracious work will go on.

At our Concert that evening, two other young brethren expressed a willingness to consecrate themselves to service in the great harvest field. May the number of true laborers be greatly and speedily increased, Matt. ix. 37, 38.

Yours very truly,

T. H. PORTER.

For the Christian Messenger.

OTTAWA CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—

The Session which has now extended itself over eight weeks, is drawing towards a close. It is supposed that Parliament will be prorogued by or before the twentieth of the month. But this at present is by no means certain. Symptoms are apparent, that augur a disposition on the part of the Government to renew an effort to carry their measure in relation to Banks and banking—not perhaps in the exact form submitted, but with some qualification, rendering it slightly less objectionable. The presence here of Mr. King the President of the Bank of Montreal, who put up his appearance again on the 10th inst., is interpreted as favouring some new design on that whole class of Banks not operating under the system which the mammoth institution over which he presides has adopted. A few hours, or days at furthest will decide if these conjectures be, or be not well founded. A vacancy in the Superior Court Bench in Ontario occasioned by the death of Mr. Justice Wilson, has been conferred, it would seem, upon a brother of Hon. Mr. Galt, and since the Government Banking resolutions were last before the Commons. Some people think they are reasons in this, for conjecturing that Mr. Galt's advocacy is now likely to be in favour of the Government policy slightly qualified. I doubt it.

The Newfoundland platform, as agreed upon by the Delegates, still here, and the Government, was adopted by the Commons on the evening of the 10th, after a long debate. The main objections urged by the dissentients, arose out of the clause granting the Province a subsidy of \$150,000 annually, and taking their Crown Lands as Dominion property. These are really worthless, and the disposition on the part of about one third of the Commons, was to hand them back with the subsidy to the Local Government, and the rather, as hitherto they have proved to be a mere bill of expense, their management costing more than the petty revenue derived therefrom. An amendment to that effect, moved by Mr. Wood, Treasurer of Ontario, was defeated on a point of form, and the Resolutions, as submitted by Government, were carried.

Resolutions empowering the Dominion Government to treat with the Government of P. E. Island during the vacation, also passed the Commons.

The Nova Scotia question comes up to-day or to-morrow, and the prospect is, that there will be a sturdy fight and the ground contested inch by inch. Blake has raised the question, or will raise it, that the Parliament of the Dominion has no power to legislate upon the subject. That they cannot amend the act that creates them. And that if they could, the smaller Provinces, or the ministry, would always exist at the mercy of the greater, or the majority. In the hands of an adept like this Equity Lawyer, such an argument will not be easily answered or encountered. But if a majority can be whipped in to sustain the principle of granting the additional subsidy, and of this there would not seem to be reason for much doubt, judging from the pliancy of the supporters of the Administration, the Constitutional question will be overridden, otherwise it will be overcome by a joint Resolution of both Branches, inviting the Imperial Legislature so to amend the B. N. Act, as to carry their wishes. This may eventually be found to be the solution, or something akin to it, if the objection is pressed too irresistibly.

A great mass of criminal law has been passed by the Senate, and sent to the Commons. It is the most ponderous, cumbersome collection of statutory legislation the age probably has produced. The Criminal Laws of the Dominion in force after the 1st of January 1870, will make a volume, little less bulky, than our present Revised Statutes. They are all too, of the Draconian type. Severe, remorseless, and stringent; whipping, imprisonments and hard labour in Jails are among the mildest punishments, and the death penalty has been re-enacted for an offence, for which it has long been abolished both in England and if I mistake not, her Colonies.

Mr. Rose asks Parliament in addition to £300,000, Stg. to pay the Hudsons Bay Company for the North West Territory, an additional £300,000 stg. to organize a Government, and open up the country. Whence, all these enormous sums voted and asked for, are to be obtained, or how they are to be provided for, is a subject creating not a little alarm among thoughtful men of all classes. It seems to be conceded on all sides, that little or nothing additional could be obtained from Customs, even if the tariff was raised, and prospects of large crops, with depressed markets on every side, promise but little relief. Ontario is the "big brother" here and when her markets are glutted, as they now are, the event even of a great crop, which is the present condition of things, does not tend to dissipate doubts, gloom, or misgiving as to the future.

The number of members attendant on Parliament in both Houses is now diminishing rapidly. Hence the alarm among the Bankers and their friends lest the Government should within the last day or so of the Session spring a surprise and carry their obnoxious Banking measure after all.

The weather for several days past has been cool with showers.

Since the foregoing was written, the debate on the N. S. resolutions has come off. It was led up by Rose, Finance Minister. The amendment moved by Blake, member for Durham, that the Dominion Parliament could not amend the Act of Union, backed by McKenzie, Harrison, and others, was met by Cameron, who argued the constitutional point adverse to Blake, and Harrison. Howe spoke on the Government side feebly. His health and vigour seem hardly recovered yet. Tupper followed and then McKenzie opened a raking fire along the ministerial benches, but especially upon the President of the Council, who had propounded the principle that it was competent to the Parliament, to do what ever a majority considered proper and right, irrespective of the Terms of the British North American Act. The debate continued till long after midnight, when the vote was taken, and the Resolution carried by a two thirds majority, very nearly.

The Senate is not in Session to-day. Their tables are quite clear of business. The two speakers continue their weekly dinners, but otherwise "the exhausting festivities" of Ottawa seem about over. Apropos of this, a ludicrous misadventure occurred as is said in connection with their speakerships early in the Session. It so happened it seems that speaker Cauchon of the Senate, had a sharp attack of lumbago or something a kin to it, and the same day Speaker Cockburn of the Commons, was visited with a furious twinge of toothache and neuralgia. Medical aid was resorted to in both cases, and it so eventuated, that the same Doctor was called. Having returned home, he prepared the necessary antidotes, and despatched them in great haste to their respective speakerships—the bottles labelled in a good round hand, "FOR THE SPEAKER," and in smaller and less legible penmanship, "of the Senate," and "of the Commons." The effect on each was electric. The Neuralgia in the jaw of the First Commoner of the Dominion readily vanished on a draft or two imbibed from the portentous phial—and the renal plague in the lumber region of the Senatorial vertebrae, evaporated with the first embrocation, aided by the friction of a stout messenger's hand. Nothing could have been more opportune or effective in each case. The diagnosis was so skilful, and the medicine so powerful.—But what do you suppose his commonership chanced to discover, just as he was pouring out from the bottle the last glass of that specific, that cured Neuralgia so effectually?—Why, that he had drank up nearly all Monsieur Cauchon's embrocation! A breathless messenger coming at the same instant from Jean Baptiste of the Senate, to tell him that only when too late, he, Monsieur Cauchon, discovered that he had used up the last drop of Speaker Cockburn's tooth medicine! The doctor's boy by mistake had delivered the wrong bottles,—or as the lad admitted,

the right bottle to the wrong Speaker, or else the wrong bottle to the right Speaker, or both—he had forgotten which. The Doctor's skill has of course, put him on the right road, the one that leads on to fortune.

OTTAWA.

12th June.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

MR. E. HECTOR MUNROE.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1869.

Dear Editor,—

A week ago to-day I attended the funeral of our young brother E. H. Munroe,—Son of E. F. Munroe, Esq.,—he was 23 years of age. He was thus early called to his rest!

How mysterious are the ways of the Lord! Our young brother looked forward to the christian ministry, as his life's work—this was his chosen work: For this he had sought preparation in his Collegiate course—his heart was led to this, to which he believed the Lord had called him. He had just entered, or was about entering on it, when sickness interrupted. And in one short year from the day he graduated, we saw him placed in the narrow grave. "O Lord I know that the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

Work here was the intention of our brother and the expectation of others. But the Master had another sphere for him to occupy.

That which is dark and mysterious, we must submissively wait to understand hereafter.

Shortly after his graduation he was taken ill—thought he must rest a while, and then soon, the better equipped, he would, life-long, preach "Jesus" and salvation by him to his fellow men. The discipline that prevented him at once entering on the work seemed perfectly mysterious at first.

Soon the relieving thought came, with its salutary lesson—"My Heavenly Father sees I need this discipline to fit me for his service. I am not yet fitted for the work. Welcome then the trial—only let it prepare me for the great work!"

Such were the thought, and reasonings of this young servant of the Lord. A few more weeks pass—"How long O Lord ere I shall enter on my work?" And by the disease the Lord answered, Not in my vine-yard here, is your work, "Come up hither." And he bowed assent. And as he arrived at the river, "Peaceful," he exclaimed and passed over.

The Grandfather, Rev. James Munroe died at Chester with his head leaning on my hand. A faithful witness of the truth. The Grandmother and her sister, I saw together, "laid in an upper chamber" and placed, side by side in one grave. Two sisters I saw pass away one very suddenly; and one by whose bed side I had frequently sat, and knelt, to point her to the coming rest, and ask for her the sustaining, and sanctifying grace of God. And to listen to her simple statement of the hope on which alone she rested for present and final salvation. Then I saw trustfully and peacefully, our young brother going down to the vale of death, to meet on its other side, with the "shining ones" who had preceded him.

Though parents parted with him at the grave, as with those who went before him, they have not to mourn for the departed ones as those who die without hope. Another son found his burial in the deep green sea—but all are within the dominion of Him, to whom the sea is to give up the dead that are therein.

Such is the experience of our friends who have just parted through this repeated trial. But as we left the grave of our brother, gloom, was not the feeling, but the joy of hope. How blessed is the christian's portion!

The funeral services were introduced by the Rev. S. Thompson's giving out a hymn and after singing and reading the scripture, Rev. T. Blackadar offered prayer.

The writer delivered an address, founded on the words of the Prophet—Jer. x. 23. Rev. Dr. McCulloch followed in a very impressive and affectionate address. Well prepared indeed was he to sympathize and counsel. He had lately passed through a similar fiery ordeal. His only son, after a very short illness, far away from the parental home, but still among friends, ended his young, but life's journey—not however until the evidence of a gracious change, had rejoiced the friends who anxiously watched his closing scene. What joyous news to be conveyed to parent hearts? Well might he say, to those whom he sought to comfort—"It is not a time to weep, but rather to rejoice."

At the grave, a hymn was sung and a prayer offered by brother Morrow. The Lord's ways are not as ours—let us pray the Lord of the harvest, to send others into his vine-yard.

Yours truly,

D. W. C. DIMOCK.

Dominion and Foreign News.

The House of Commons was counted out and adjourned at 7:45 p. m., on Monday the 14th inst. It is said this is the first occasion of this kind that has occurred since 1861.

The Committee of the House for the investigation of the charges against Judge Lafontaine of Ottawa, whilst Crown Land Agent, and since as County Judge, made their report on the 15th. It is generally allowed that the evidence is so strong that dismissal will follow. If so he will petition to be heard by the House. Failing in that he will appeal to Her Majesty and the Privy Council.

On the 16th, the Bill to incorporate the Merchants' Bank of Halifax passed a final stage. Mr. Rose moved the second reading of the Bill respecting Nova Scotia.

Mr. Holton moved the amendment of which he had given notice, and took the ground that the Union Act was a contract between all the Provinces, and could not be changed without the consent of all the contracting parties.

Hon. Mr. Rose stated that the Government had decided to postpone the banking resolutions till next session. With reference to existing Bank charters, the conclusion at which the Government had arrived was this: Charters generally expired on 1st of June 1870, and continued then till the end of next session of Parliament, but some four or five charters expired in the month of January, 1870, and the Government proposed to extend these charters to the first of June, 1870, and thence to continue till end of next session of Parliament, so as to put all bank charters precisely on the same footing. In the meantime there would be another session of Parliament, when the Government would again bring before the House the consideration of these resolutions.

Insolvency Act and several other bills read third time and passed.

June 17.—Mr. Holton's amendment to the Nova Scotia resolutions was lost.—Yeas, 52; nays, 97; all the Nova Scotia members voting nay. The House divided on second reading—yeas, 97; nays 52. In committee, Mr. Blake moved that this payment shall be in full of future demands upon Canada by Nova Scotia. Carried—the Government assenting.

Mr. Mills moved that the bill do not take effect till ratified by the Imperial Parliament—lost.

On third reading, Mr. Killam moved that the bill be re-committed to strike out Mr. Blake's amendment. Yeas 7, nays 127. Yeas, Messrs. Cameron, Chipman, Forbes, Killam, Levisconte, MacFarlane, and Power. Bill then read a third time and passed.

Mr. Holton called attention to Mr. Mouselle's statement in the English House of Commons, that the Imperial Government had under consideration uses of the Intercolonial loan by Canadian Government.

Mr. Rose said the Government had \$9,600,000 in the hands of their bankers, for the Railway.

June 23.—Mr. McLellan, member for Colchester, has been appointed Senator and has accepted. It is understood that he will also accept a seat on the Railway Commission after the close of the session.

Hon. A. G. Archibald is expected to be a Government candidate for the vacant seat in the Commons.

June 19.—In the House of Commons, the estimates were under consideration yesterday. Appropriations voted for purchase Hudson's Bay Territory, and for opening communication, three hundred thousand pounds each.

An attempt was made to increase the salaries of employees, but was defeated.

The Canada Presbyterian Synod in session at Hamilton, leaves the constitutionality of the organ question as it existed before the late discussions, and expects sessions and congregations to conform to the order until it shall be modified or altered in due course.

June 21.—In the Commons on Saturday night Mr. Rose's interest resolutions were defeated. The motion to go into committee on them was carried 56 to 55; but when in committee a motion to rise without reporting was carried amidst cheers 55 to 53.

In committee of supply Mr. Levisconte moved that the item of six hundred dollars for purchase of Pomkot Island be not concurred in—lost 21 to 62.

STATUE OF THE QUEEN FOR MONTREAL.—This colossal statue was cast on the 16th ult., at the foundry of Messrs. Holbrook & Co., Chelsea. The figure, which is 10 ft. in height, was designed by Mr. Marshall Wood, and is an admirable representation of Her Majesty, who stands in an erect and commanding position, crowned and clothed in a classic manner, a wreath of oak leaves and acorns being held in one hand. The statue has been cast in Florentine bronze metal, which consists of forty-five parts copper, fifty parts fine yellow brass, four parts tin, and one part antimony. This mixture produces a yellow metal having a rosy tint, and which is capable of taking a brilliant polish. One part of the mould gave some trouble, and that was the wreath, which from its intricate foliage entailed considerable complication. Skill and perseverance, however, overcame all difficulties, and enabled the statue to be in once piece—a point of great importance in this class of casting.—*The Engineer.*

The United States.

A TERRIBLE STORY.—News of a sad and almost unparalleled tragedy reaches us from Fish River Lakes in the northern part of the State of Maine. On one of these lakes was a lumber-camp in which were thirteen men. One Saturday night, almost three weeks ago the "boss" of the camp left for the settlements, leaving behind him provisions to last the men for several days, but giving them instructions to come out on the