

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

Yesterday we visited the house of Rev. James Parker. It is really a house of mourning. A month ago his eldest son Samuel Burpe, was stricken down by the hand of an assassin, in the distant city of New Orleans. To all appearance he had spent his last moments on his knees in prayer. Last Sabbath morning, the 7th Feb., another son Stuart Freeman, aged 15 years, a fine promising lad, a member of the church, and beloved by all who knew him, died at home, having been sick of measles. Yesterday he was followed to the grave by a large concourse of people, among whom was a goodly number of young men and women wearing the badge of the Temperance society, of which the deceased was a worthy member. Much sympathy is felt for Bro. Parker and his family by the people of his charge. The funeral was attended by a number of ministers, brethren Obed Parker, W. G. Parker, E. O. Read, S. B. Kempton, and the writer. A sermon was preached by the last from Ps. xxxix. 9. May the afflicted ones be sustained by the promises of God, and the events be sanctified to the people, among whom their lot is cast. May the youth be enabled to wear the badge of christian discipleship as gladly as they now wear the regalia of temperance.

Yours, &c., D. FREEMAN.

Religious Intelligence.

HALIFAX.—The North Church received an accession of five persons to its membership on Sunday last—one of whom was baptized in the morning of that day.

PARRSBORO.—We are glad to learn of encouraging prospects at Parrsboro. Rev. David McKeen says "We have had some very good meetings at West Brook this winter. Large and attentive congregations. We hope to open our new House of Worship early in the spring. At Parrsboro Village are good congregations and great solemnity."

DEERFIELD, YARMOUTH CO., FEBRUARY 9TH, 1869.—Dear Bro.—As the prosperity of Zion is a subject of interest to you and your numerous readers I hasten to give you an account of the good work to the Lord with us in the two Churches, with which I am connected.

The first week in January we commenced a Week of Prayer at Lake George. The church came up to action, and in faith they went to the Lord, the result was, the Lord, displayed his power in the conversion of souls and the reclaiming of backsliders to their Father's house, and I have had the privilege of leading into the Baptismal waters thirteen in that place.

The church in this place also set apart a week for special religious services, and God was pleased to meet with us, and to do great things for us. We have seen wanderers reclaimed, proud hearts—humbled before God; and the church—"come up out of the wilderness, leaning on her beloved." Twenty-one have followed their Saviour in Baptism and quite a number restored.

To God be all the glory—"for he, has done great things for us whereof we are glad." May the good work spread.

I am dear brother as ever yours in the gospel. JAMES A. STUBBERT.

ST. JOHN N. B.—Revival prospects in Leinster Street are brightening. Meetings every evening this week, are in progress as last week. The pastor is laboring with intense fidelity to the Master, to rouse the people to vigorous action; and the members of the church are girding on anew the gospel armor. As yet, the work seems mainly in the church; but some outside are feeling the Spirit's power. The pastor, Bro. McKenzie, baptized one last Sabbath. May this one be as the first fruits of a rich harvest.

Rev. Mr. Harley baptized one last Sabbath. The congregation at Brussels Street is very large and attentive. May the one convert be speedily multiplied an hundred fold.—Visitor.

AFRICA.—A Baptist Missionary Union has been formed in Liberia, by a convention representing ten churches, "for the evangelization of the heathen within the borders of the Republic and contiguous thereto."

THE CHEROKEE BAPTISTS.—Rev. Dr. Backus, Secretary of the Home Missionary Society, says the Journal and Messenger, has just returned from an extended visit to the Cherokee nation. Before the war the Baptists among this people had thirteen meeting-houses. The war swept these away, and this impoverished people had to struggle with great discouragements, though now the waste places are being repaired. The mission buildings, which were also destroyed, are to be rebuilt at the capital of the nation. Already the Missionary Society has sent on a press which is doing its work. There are seven or eight ordained ministers in this field. One has under his supervision ten young men who

are looking to the ministry, and who are already engaged in the missionary work, and occupy a circuit of about fifty miles. Another of the ministers has from six to eight young men to assist him. Among this people there is a great deal of revival interest just now, and many are turning to the Lord. Dr. Backus preached eight times while in the territory, through an interpreter, and baptized five persons. He preached one sermon before the "Council," on an invitation from the chiefs.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LONDON.—A correspondent of the Times has devoted his Sunday mornings for the past twelve months to visiting the City churches, and he reports the results of his observations. They are curious, and worth some study. There are, it seems, between St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Dunstan's-in-the-East 35 churches, all of which have thus been unofficially inspected. The results are thus told:—"In two the congregations consisted of five persons each, in three others the attendance was under 10 each six others from 10 to 20, in 10 others I found from 20 to 40, and in the remainder the worshippers were from 40 to 90; in only one church did I find 100, but in that case the church was well filled.—This includes the poor women who come for the bread which perishes. Thus in 10 churches the united congregations did not exceed 100 persons, and in 30, employing 30 or more clergymen, as many organists, &c., the gross total of the congregations would not exceed that of one of our West End churches."

PROGRESS IN KANSAS IN TEN YEARS.—When I came to Kansas, a little more than ten years ago, we found one hundred and twenty Baptists in our churches of whites and nearly as many in the Indian organization. Now, more than seven thousand Baptists have been gathered; then, there was one Association, now five. O what wonders has Christ wrought and what wonders we ought to accomplish in His name in this Commonwealth.

C. A. BATEMAN, Miss'y.

Macedonian.

FACTS AS TO CALIFORNIA.—Rev. C. A. Buckbee says: There are only about fifty Baptist churches and of these about twenty-three have regular weekly Sabbath services. Not more than ten sustain pastors who are fully devoted to pastoral work. The total membership in all the churches does not exceed 2,500. Three churches in New York have a larger membership than can be found in all the Baptist churches in California. The great want in that State is earnest, able preachers. A man who cannot succeed at the East, can do no good on the Pacific coast. The door is wide open for religious effort. Nearly 80,000 Chinamen are there, and every month the steamer brings another thousand. Hundreds are returning to their homes in China, who ought to learn something of Jesus before they go. They are generally intelligent, and willing to read God's Word. We ought to have a good missionary laboring among them. We are sinning in this matter. The thousands in California who speak also the Spanish language, grasp eagerly Spanish Bibles and Testaments. Men of different nationalities, in all parts of the land, receive joyfully the Word of the Lord, and thrilling incidents were given where infidel miners and others heard with joy the gospel.

ENCOURAGEMENT AMONG BURMANS.—A letter from Henthada, dated Sept. 18, brings the following cheering intelligence:

There is an encouraging state of things among the heathen Burmans of Henthada. Our hearts have been gladdened and our faith surprised by five most interesting conversions since July, and hearing of many cases of earnest inquiry among the people, who have been preached to a great many years; but hitherto have listened with utter indifference to the "glad tidings of great joy." It is evidently the work of the Holy Spirit. We have reason to feel greatly encouraged and strengthened. Just at this time, when the workers are so few, we are inclined to be cast down; but God shows us that He can work by few as well as by many.

SWEDEN.—One of the preachers in Sweden gives the following cheering account of his labors and successes:

I preached in two parishes for three weeks, two, three, and even four times a day. At a place called Johannesberg, four were awakened and brought to believe in Christ. At another place eight were awakened, of whom four professed to have sound peace in believing before I left. Immense masses of people gathered to hear the word. At almost every meeting there was an unusual degree of weeping and prayer. About twenty professed to have found peace in believing during these three weeks I stayed in Tjellmo.—Some of the greatest drunkards and swearers became humble as lambs, and everywhere in the houses there were heard prayers and singing.—The same was the case in the parish of Hellestad. Everywhere sinners were awakened and were brought to peace in believing."

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE, a young Scotch nobleman has recently come of age and into an annual income of £300,000, or \$1,500,000 in gold, from his beautiful estates in Scotland, and from extensive coal mines in South Wales. The event was celebrated by imposing and joyful fetes in both countries. He had been brought up a Presbyterian, but has since gone over to the Roman Catholic Church. It is now stated that he is on the point of being admitted to the Roman Catholic priesthood.

A Ritualistic publisher advertises a little work on The Sin of the Day, which sin is shown to be communion in the afternoon, or after partaking of a meal

Dominion and Foreign News.

Grant and Elliott, of Brantford, Ont., have been awarded the contract for third section (New Brunswick), of 26 miles, at \$12,000 per mile. Railway contractors here express surprise at the low rates of tenders.

OTTAWA, Feb. 9.—A freight train going east for the Grand Trunk Railway, ran off the track at Shannonville, this morning. Two of the employes were killed, and one car was badly smashed. The accident was caused by a broken axle.

EXECUTION OF WHELAN.

Feb. 11.—The morning was dull, accompanied with drifting snow from the East. The country people began to arrive at an early hour, and set about securing good positions to see the scaffold and hear the last words of Whelan, who was to be there executed. Up to 9 o'clock there were about three hundred people on the east side of the jail. By 10.30 the crowd had increased to seven or eight hundred, but all was quiet and orderly. At 10 o'clock the prison physician reported Whelan in good nerve and that no agitation or flurry was noticeable in him. A short time after the Sheriff announced that everything was in readiness for the execution. At 11 o'clock Whelan was pinioned, and accompanied by the Sheriff and three priests, who led him from prison, looking very pale and excited, but he moved along with a firm step, and mounted the stairway to the scaffold, responding, as he walked, distinctly to the prayers of the priests; after the paternoster had been repeated he said, "I beg pardon for any offences I may have committed; I forgive all parties who have injured me, and ask forgiveness from any one I may have injured. God save Ireland, and God save my soul." The executioner then fitted the white cap, and drew it over his face, adjusted the rope, and in a few moments the drop fell, and Whelan was suspended by the neck for 4 minutes, suffering intensely, and then breathed no more. The execution took place at 11.35 o'clock, a. m., precisely. It is rumored that Whelan left a written paper in the custody of the Sheriff, which has not yet been made public.

FEB. 15.—The Intercolonial Commissioners intend advertising three (3) new sections to let, one each in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, continued from sections already let. Plans specifications, &c., open for inspection at all the Railway offices after the fifth March, and tenders must be sent in by the 20th March.

MONTREAL, Feb. 12.—Messrs. Worthington, of Toronto, have been awarded contracts for first section (Quebec) of 20 miles Intercolonial Railway, at \$9,485 per mile; second section (Quebec) of 20 miles, at \$14,450 per mile; and fourth section (Nova Scotia) of 24 miles, at \$11,000 per mile.

Whelan's body was buried within the precincts of the jail this afternoon.

FEB. 14.—A despatch from Ottawa, last evening, says it was seriously expected during the day that an organization had been formed for the purpose of rescuing Whelan's body, which is still in possession of the authorities. Active preparations were made to meet any outbreak. It is rumored that several seizures of arms have been made to-day.

FEB. 15.—The official Gazette just published, contains an order establishing Schools for military instruction at Halifax and St. John. Arrangements have been made to connect them with the Regiments of the Line stationed at those places.

PROVINCIAL NOTES in Circulation on the 3rd February are as follows: Payable at Montreal, \$2,874,013; Toronto, \$714,992; Halifax, \$318,000. Specie held at Montreal, \$450,000; Toronto, \$450,000; Halifax, \$63,500.

MONTREAL.—A clerk in a wholesale warehouse in Montreal was locked up in his office the other night, and nearly frozen to death. The Star says, the howling through the iron shutters had a dismal and terrifying effect and nervous system of the trembling prisoner began to be affected. At last a heavy and slow footstep was heard outside. Was it a policeman? Yes. To reach the door and shout through it was but the work of a moment. The policeman halted. "Who are you, and what are you doing there at this time of night," asked the guardian of the peace. The trembling clerk explained. "Then pull up the lower bolt and pull down the upper one and shove the door." The clerk rushed into the arms of the officer. "I arrest you for robbery," cried the policeman, rattling his baton. The affrighted prisoner again explained. "Ah, none of that," cried the policeman; "you must come with me;" and to the Central station did they go, where a full explanation being made to the satisfaction of the Sergeant in charge, the cold and hungry clerk was dismissed to get his supper.

NEW MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISE.—A new business is about being developed in the village of Kemptville, Ont., viz: that of preserving eggs by compressing them so as to render them fit for use at any time, however remote, and in any part of the world. This is done by extracting all the water from the egg, and compressing the remainder into a dry cake, of granulated form. After being manufactured into that shape, it is estimated that 100 dozen eggs can be packed in the space of one cubic foot. Kemptville has been selected for carrying on the Company's operations, on account of its being a great centre for the production of eggs—which are shipped every season in large quantities from there to Montreal. The buildings are now about completed, and all the requisite machinery is on the ground ready to be fitted up for the various purposes of the company, who expect to be in full operation in the spring; their working capital is \$60,000.

Taken as a whole, the work of the Committee was a real, although a moderate improvement. It was hailed with gratification by multitudes who longed for the pure word of God.—But the fear that it might lead to something more radical, and thus trench upon the privileges of denominations represented in the Society, aroused opposition. It was reported that, in a conversation between two of the most learned members of the Committee, Dr. Robinson objected to the word "Easter," as having no authority in the Greek, and Dr. Turner, the Episcopal scholar and divine, expressed the opinion that the Episcopal Church would never consent to have it changed. Eventually, "Passover" was put in the margin. Leading Episcopalians and Presbyterians raised an alarm. They feared the least innovation. Touch the Bible, they said, and the Church is in danger. Controversy and agitation followed; and at a subsequent meeting of the Society, the whole work was undone, and the old faults and errors restored in the plates, and consequently in every subsequent edition.—The Committee on Versions sent in a written protest, and all resigned their positions.

Such facts leave no room for hope in respect to Bible Societies—like the British and Foreign, and the American. Among their numerous supporters, representing various denominations, a sufficient number of objectors can always be found to paralyze any attempt to improve the English version, and they can always plead the original object of the organizations, and appeal to conservative prejudice.

The Government of Great Britain is least of all likely to undertake or authorize a work which, if thoroughly and faithfully executed, could not fail to undermine the pretensions and weaken the supremacy of the Church of England; and, if imperfectly done, would provoke the opposition of the learned and the pious of all denominations. Numerous defects have been pointed out in the Common Version, during a period of two hundred and fifty years, and numerous appeals have been made in favor of its improvement, but there is no more prospect of its being performed by "regal authority," or the union of evangelical denominations in Great Britain or America, than there was two centuries ago. Those who anticipate such a solution of a difficult problem must be but slightly acquainted with the numerous doctrinal and denominational questions that are unavoidably affected by a faithful rendering of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures into English. The constitutions, the history, the established customs, and the vested property and pecuniary interests of the two largest and most powerful benevolent societies that ever existed, the prejudices of education, and the possession of Bibles and Testaments not revised, array the great body of the religious public against it. To wait for the radical and almost universal change that must take place, before the accomplishment of such an object, is to postpone the work for many generations, if not forever.

WM. H. WYCKOFF, Corresponding Secretary.

DONATIONS.

CLEMENTS.—The kind, and considerate people of my charge have again expressed their kind regards, and sympathy to me by making me a noble Donation on the 19th of January. Although the evening was somewhat cold, 250 persons met at the parsonage. After enjoying a sumptuous tea, and listening to warm speeches delivered by our Dear Brother Wallace, and the chairman, Deacon James E. Potter, they retired to their homes with much happiness, leaving us in all 150 Dollars, 67 of which was in cash. May God bless the Donors in the prayer of their pastor.

G. D. COX.

PORT MEDWAY.—I wish to acknowledge, gratefully, the thoughtful kindness of my church and congregation, and the community in Port Medway, to myself and family. On the evening of the 29th ult., after the usual good cheer connected with the "Donation," a large and happy assembly retired from the parsonage leaving us gladdened and enriched by their generosity to the amount of \$75.00; twenty dollars of which were cash. Rev. Mr. Hughes of Milton favored us with his presence and with the speech of the evening.

It is proper to remark, moreover, that the hearty liberality of these kind people cannot be fairly represented by the notice of their yearly donation. Apart from my salary their bounty flourishes in perpetual showers of substantial gifts; acceptable, well pleasing unto God.

J. F. TOOKER.

PORT WILLIAMS, Feb. 9, 1869.—Mr. Editor.—It has become customary to publish Donation Visits given by churches to their Pastors. The church at Hampton and Wilmot Mountain, are not behind in the same good object.

Early in the afternoon of Jan. 26th, sleighs were seen driving up to my residence, laden with benevolent and happy ones, which, except at short intervals, continued till night-fall.

It was pleasing to witness the Christian and friendly greetings in their efforts to make their minister happy in spirit, and well to do in body.

All seemed cheerful, conscious of doing a good act from a pure motive. After tea was served, a purse containing \$82.37 in cash, besides substantial articles amounting to \$23.00, making in all \$105.37, was presented, as the willing offering of a generous people. Good speeches were given by Bro. U. Johnson, Rev. W. G. Parker, N. Vidito, and P. F. Murray, and Brother C. Graves. May He that watereth the earth, and holdeth the winds in his fists, give temporal blessings to the husbandman and mariner, and more especially enrich them with all spiritual gifts, is the prayer of their unworthy Pastor, J. M. PARKER.