

A lady engaged in the zenana work in Calcutta and vicinity says that when she commenced, not one native woman in a thousand knew a letter; now there is scarcely a respectable home where one cannot read. So interested in this work are the women that they often get the boys to teach them, out of school hours.

The Bible, it is said, is freely bought in Japan, and studied in some of the schools. The priests of Yeddo, the capital, are discussing Christianity, and some of them are favorably inclined towards it.

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISITS.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 28th, 1869.

Dear Brother,—

On a certain Monday evening of last month our new home was entered and quietly taken possession of by about one hundred persons, young and old, all with pleasant faces; a very excellent tea provided, a truly pleasant evening spent from time of meeting till parting; during which evening we were favored "with music, good speeches, ending with prayer," and, to us not the least interesting item, was the presentation of about \$130, \$33 in cash. I am certainly a thorough convert to donation visits, made as Yarmouth Church and Congregation make them, and as I hope they are generally made, namely, not as a complement or part of a salary, but as a free-will offering in the shape of a supplement to the stipulated and paid salary. In such conversion my wife has fully participated, and certainly has cause, as well as myself, to appreciate such manifestations of christian liberality and fellowship as we recently received. A remark of one pastor on a similar occasion was to this effect: "My people behaved nobly, but when did they ever do differently?" In just such a manner may I truthfully speak from the way in which we have been treated in Yarmouth from the time of coming among this people until now. I never felt more unworthy, but I trust never more grateful, nor more anxious to "spend and be spent," in the cause of Christ.

Allow me to correct a mistake in your last issue, also Christian Visitor please notice. You and brother Bill, were pleased to refer to me as at present an "Associate" Pastor with bro. Day. Correctly you would have said assistant Pastor. True, one of the first significations of the word assistant according to Worcester unbridged, is associate, as indeed the derivation of the word implies. Yet in the Ecclesiastic sense assistant ordinarily conveys the idea of a subordinate relation; and such a position I have, all things considered, freely accepted for the present year.

Respectfully,  
A. CHIPMAN.

NEW GERMANY, Dec. 28, 1869.

Dear Brother.—As several of our brethren of late have through the Messenger acknowledged the kindness of those who have enriched them by "Donation Visits," I wish also to say I believe the people among whom I am located are in that respect "not a whit behind" other churches.

Last winter the people of New Germany announced a Donation at my house on the 18th. of Feb. The night proved very unpleasant and so not many came. The few who did come gave largely.

Well I was about to acknowledge it publicly through your paper, but found that other friends who were not here the evening named kept dropping in and on going away leaving gifts behind. So I continued to defer giving an account of the visit; and they continued to come. What these donations have amounted to during the year, I am not prepared to say, but in this and in other ways the people have shown us many favors.

But I wish also to acknowledge a like visit which was received on the 15th inst. There is a settlement connected with this Church called the "Branch," where we have a few members that I visit every two months. Prompted by their usual generosity they concluded this fall to make my wife and me a donation. At the appointed time a large company consisting of various religious denominations gathered at the house of Bro. Wm. Wagner Jr. and after spending a very pleasant evening departed leaving us \$47.00 in cash and useful articles; such as a barrel of flour &c.

If the cup of cold water will not lose its reward how large must be the blessedness of such giving.

My prayer is that the richest of Heaven's blessing may rest on that people.

Yours &c.  
WM. E. HALL.

CLEMENTS, Dec. 30th 1869.

Mr. Editor,—

Allow me to thank the numerous friends of my Church and Congregation, who made me a donation on the 16th inst. The evening was very fine, and the Parsonage was filled to its utmost capacity. After partaking of a sumptuous tea prepared by the Ladies, the chair was taken by Deacon John D. Potter, who with some accompanying remarks presented the noble Donation of 135 Dollars. Excellent speeches were made on the occasion by Revs. George Armstrong, Isaiah Wallace, A. Martell, and Deacon Haley of Round Hill.

May God bless the Donors with the richest blessings of Heaven is my prayer.

G. D. Cox.

Dominion and Foreign News.

RED RIVER.—Ottawa, Dec. 29.—There was no telegraphic communication yesterday with Red River. The news to date, briefly summarized, is that the insurgents hold all the forts in the territory. The force in Fort Garry numbers about four hundred.

In a proclamation which the insurgents have issued, they refuse to recognize the authority of Canada, but conclude meanwhile to hold—to quote from the document—ourselves in readiness "to enter into such negotiations with the Canadians as may be favorable to the good government and prosperity of this people."

Capt. Dennis, calling himself Conservator of the peace in and for the North-West, issued a proclamation urging the loyal party to disperse; and calling upon the insurgents to send a deputation to Mr. McDougall. In consequence of this act, he escaped to Pembina with great difficulty, as the insurgents were determined to take his life.

The Governor's proclamation, published here, is a strictly formal document, recapitulating the respective acts for uniting the territory to Canada. It is stated that Mr. McDougall issued it believing the Government had finally concluded the arrangements for purchasing the territory.

A Government messenger just sent to Pembina. Schultz, and other Canadian sympathizers, at last accounts, were still under surveillance.

The Cabinet still meets at intervals, but not daily during the holidays.

The weather has been remarkably mild. SPECIAL DESPATCH TO EXPRESS.—Ottawa, Dec. 31.—Hon. Mr. McDougall is at St. Pauls, and will probably reach here in a week or ten days.

Vicar-General Thibault and Col. DeSableberry, it is believed have been received at Red River, and hopes are entertained that negotiations with the half breeds will be successful.

The Commissioners have with them, a Proclamation by the Governor General calling upon the insurgents to return to their homes and promising a just consideration of their demands, at the same time asserting the authority of the Dominion Government.

The proclamation is not yet issued, and its publication will probably depend upon the success of the negotiations.

It is said the Dominion Government will do nothing with the Red River territory till next spring.

A Despatch from New York on Thursday, said:—An advertisement is printed calling for guides, soldiers preferred, to go to the Red River republic.

Late advices from the Red River country state that the failure of Col. Dennis, of McDougall's staff, to enlist and arm the Indians, saved the lives of McDougall and his suite. Had a single half breed been killed, every one of the Canadian party would have been murdered.

Montreal.—The money for the purchase of the Red River Territory was transmitted to England by the Montreal Bank in the latter part of November, to Glynn, Mills & Co., London, and has very likely been paid over.

Prince Arthur has returned from a hunting expedition with one moose, one bear, and five deer.

New Brunswick.

The jury men who sat on the trial of John A. Munroe, met together last week, and decided to withdraw their names from the petition they had signed for mercy to be extended to him. They state they were not aware of the petition that it suggests that there are doubts about his guilt. Many other persons in St. John, have also signed the petition under the same misapprehension.

The United States.

A Washington despatch says the public debt will show a decrease of seven and a half millions for December.

Dec. 28.—A later despatch from California says the earthquake on Sunday night was felt throughout Western Nevada. The shocks continued all night.

The Virginia City down train on the Carson road was thrown from the track.

A defalcation of 150,000 dollars has come to light in the Merchants Exchange National Bank in New York.

Dec. 29.—Postmaster General Crosswell is here arranging for the prompt forwarding of foreign mails. Steamship companies have given notice that they will not carry the mails for the sea postage after the reduction of rates, which goes into effect January 1st.

Special despatches state that the Duke of Argyll will specially represent the English Government at Washington in the new attempt to adjust the Alabama Claims.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The Postmaster General has, it is reported, made contracts with the North German Lloyds, and another line of Ocean Steamers for carrying the foreign mails.

The International Ocean Yacht Race between James Gordon Bennett Jr.'s yacht "Dauntless," and Mr. Ashbury's yacht "Cambria," has been definitely arranged by cable, and will be from the old head of Kinsale to Sandy Hook. The yachts to start July 4th, next.

Jan. 3.—There was a severe rain storm and gale on Saturday night and Sunday, which prostrated the telegraph wires in every direction. Severe damage is reported on the Hudson River Railroad, by the breaking up of ice on the river.

The Cuban Junta in New York have issued a circular denying the Spanish assertion that the insurrection is nearly crushed out.

The Public debt statement for December shows the following totals: Reduction in the debt \$4,800,000 currency; balance on hand 12 millions; coin balance 100 millions; certificates 46 millions. Gold closed at 119 1/2.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The President has received the hands of Vincent Colyer what he and Senator Sumner pronounced to be a very important document. It is a long memorial from property holders in Victoria, setting forth the reasons why British Columbia should not be annexed to the Dominion of Canada, and why it should be annexed to the United States. The President is asked to aid the accomplishment of the desired result.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By Atlantic Telegraph.

ENGLAND.—London, Dec. 27.—The Times to-day has an editorial on the Alabama Claims question, charging Mr. Fish, American Minister of State, with arguing that England should apply different principles to America than to any other nation, that England should have let them have arms, and denied them to the rebels; and have legislated, if necessary, against the latter. If the Union army were unable to repress the rebels at home, England was much less able to check them here. War is always a heavy burden to neutrals, and the civil war in America was a particularly grievous calamity to England.

During a performance in Bristol last night there was an alarm among the audience, and in the efforts of the crowd to escape from the building, eighteen persons were killed and many wounded.

The treaty between England and China has been signed by the Chinese Government. Among the important points granted to foreigners is the opening of two new ports to commerce.

Dec. 30.—The amount of specie in the vaults of the Bank of England has decreased thirty-seven thousand pounds since December 23.

The receipts of wheat from America are still very heavy. There is great accumulation of wheat both in London and at Liverpool.

The statistical Journal says that there are seventy-four more cargoes now afloat bound to England than at the corresponding period last year.

A Suez letter in the "London News" says work on the Canal has been stopped, but the passage is still hazardous for vessels drawing more than 24 feet.

Jan. 2.—The damage by the recent floods in England and Wales is estimated at five hundred thousand pounds. In some sections the low lands are unfitted for use until the spring.

FRANCE.—Dec. 28.—The regular session of the French Corps Legislatif began to-day; and as was anticipated, the members of the Imperial Cabinet resigned.

The Emperor has written a strong letter to M. Olivier inviting him to name a Ministry disposed and competent to carry into effect the ideas of the Senatus Consultum.

Dec. 30.—The trial of Traupmann for the murder of the Kinck family was continued at Paris yesterday. A number of witnesses were examined. While Traupmann admits his guilt he persists that there were accomplices in the crime, but refuses to give their names.

Dec. 31.—Paris despatches announce that the trial of Traupmann for the murder of the Kinck family, terminated in his conviction, and sentence of death. When the verdict was announced, the prisoner rose and smilingly thanked the court.

Jan. 2.—The composition of the new Cabinet of France was unofficially announced on Saturday last. About half its members were in the former Ministry.

On New Year's Day the Emperor received the Diplomatic Corps, and in answer to the usual address, returned his thanks, and said that the presence of all the foreign Representatives was a proof of the friendly relations existing between their respective Governments and France. He then conversed freely with the chiefs of the various Legations.

SPAIN.—Dec. 30.—The Spanish Minister of Justice, in a recent speech, declared that if the Government cannot find a king they will throw themselves into the arms of a Republic.

ITALY.—Dec. 27.—A considerable reduction of the Italian army is proposed.

Dec. 31.—The infant Princess Christian of Naples, was baptized in Rome yesterday. The Pope being unavoidably absent, Cardinal Antonelli enacted Godfather and the Empress of Austria, Godmother.

The session of the Ecumenical Council yesterday lasted 5 hours. The subject under discussion was "whether philosophy was heterodox."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Dalmatian rebels have laid down their arms.

The Swedish Government has decided that lighthouse dues are not collectable twice in the same month from the same vessel.

Marriages.

At Bedford, N. S., on the 18th inst., by the Rev. John R. Thompson, George E. Vanbuskirk, to Amelia Louisa, youngest daughter of Mr. Joseph Mitchell.

On the 26th inst., by the Rev. James Thomas, Mr. James Smith, to Miss Levinia Simons, both of this city.

At Port-au-Prince, on Tuesday, the 14th of Dec., by the Rev. T. A. Blackadar, Mr. James McLaughlin, to Miss Armenia Carr.

At the Baptist Parsonage, Tremont, Aylesford, by Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D., on the 25th day of December, 1869, Mr. George L. Stronach, to Miss Susan Margeson, daughter of Mr. Silas Margeson, of Tremont, Aylesford.

Nov. 25th, by Rev. Wm. E. Hall, Mr. Samuel Conrad, of the Branch, to Miss Mary Jane Lohns, of Ohio.

By the same, Dec. 11th, Mr. Edmund Winacht, to Miss Sophia Tibert, both of New Germany.

By the same, Dec. 22nd, at New Ross, Patrick E. McCormack, of Dalhousie, to Esther M. Quinlan, daughter of Mr. Thos. Quinlan, of New Ross.

By the same, Dec. 22nd, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. George A. Taylor, of Dalhousie, to Miss Elizabeth A., second daughter of Mr. Henry Brown, of New Ross.

At Mill Village, on the 16th inst., by Rev. J. F. Tooker, C. S. Cole, Esq., to Miss Letitia Johnson.

At Milton, on the 29th inst., by Rev. J. F. Tooker, Miss Margaret A. Ellis, of Mill on, to Mr. Joseph B. Kelley, of Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.

In Windsor, Dec. 3rd, by Rev. D. M. Welton, Mr. Albert Mariot, to Mrs. Elizabeth McPhee, both of Newport.

By the same, Dec. 30th, Mr. Leonard Marsters, of Windsor, to Miss Jessie A. Taylor, of Falmouth.

At the residence of the bride's father, on the 30th, of Dec. 1869, by the Rev. Isa. Wallace, Mr. James Clark, to Mary Emma, only daughter of Mr. John Greenwood, of Grandville, N. S.

At the residence of the bride on the same evening, by the same, Mr. William A. Davis, of Clements, to Miss Catherine Winchester, of Grandville.

On New Year's evening, 1870, by the same, at Parker's Cove, Grandville Mountain, Mr. William W. Mussels, of Lower Grandville, to Miss Ellen Halliday, of the former place.

At the Pine Grove, Baptist Meeting-house on the 29th of Dec. by the Rev. W. H. Porter, Mr. Thomas B. Reagh, of Phinney Mountain, to Miss Ada, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Miller of Mount Hanley.

At the same place, and time, by the Rev. C. Tupper, Mr. N. T. Baker, of Aylesford, to Miss Sarah daughter of the late Mr. Isaac Reagh, of Phinney Mountain.

At Farmington, Dec. 30th, 1869, by the Rev. W. H. Parker, Mr. Johnson Tupper, to Miss Margaret, daughter of Mr. Francis Casady, both of Aylesford.

Deaths.

On the 23rd inst., at Dartmouth, Mr. Robert Tunnes, aged 74 years.

On the 27th inst., George Jones, in the 49th year of his age.

On the 27th inst., at Portuguese Cove, Mrs. Susan Munroe, aged 92 years.

At the Provincial and City Hospital Dec. 27th, James Walters, aged 23 years.

At the Poors' Asylum, Dec. 27th, Jno. Collins, (colored), aged 55 years.

At Chester, on the 27th inst., Ann Elizabeth, the beloved wife of George Richardson, Esq., and eldest daughter of the Lot Church, Esq., M. P. P., in the 68th year of her age.

At Fergusons Cove, on 29th inst., Alice the beloved wife of Mr. Richard Stone, in the 39th year of her age.

At Londonderry, Dec. 12th, Captain William Spencer, aged 73 years. It was my privilege to visit bro. S. on several occasions which he was confined to his room, and I found him perfectly resigned to the will of his Heavenly Father. His sickness was long and tedious, but he endured his sufferings like a christian man.

It was sweet and refreshing to converse with him upon the subject of religion. He always made me feel while talking with him, that I was in the presence of a man who loved and feared God. The ground of his hope was upon the atonement Jesus made—and he had great confidence in the promises of God. His family has sustained a great loss—so has the church. He has gone to join the blood-washed family above—

Who would not wish to die like those Whom God's own Spirit designs to bless, To sink into that soft repose, Then wake to perfect happiness.

Com. by Rev. T. A. Blackadar.

At Milton, Liverpool, on the 14th of Oct. 1869, Mrs. Lucy Morton, aged 82 years. She was brought into saving acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ in early life, under the ministry of Father Ambley, but did not make a public profession of religion until some years later, during the pastorate of Rev. S. T. Rand in Liverpool, by whom she was baptized.

She maintained a consistent christian walk, manifested a lively and self-sacrificing interest in the cause of Christ, and gave attendance at the services of the church with unusual constancy. Her death was preceded by a tedious and painful illness, during the earlier stages of which she evinced a tenacious clinging to life, but as the disease progressed and death seemed inevitable and near, she longed for departure, and that not so much to be rid of suffering as to be "present with the Lord." When near her end she was asked by a friend if she enjoyed the presence of Christ and his supporting grace, and answered by repeating with sensibility a fervor the lines, "How can I sink with such a prop, "As my eternal God?" &c.

In the absence of a pastor, the services of her funeral were conducted by Rev. J. Parker.—Com.

On the 9th, Dec. 1869, of consumption, after a lingering illness, Sarah, beloved wife of Dea. James Fleet, of Lower Grandville, aged 69 years, leaving to mourn her decease, but not without hope, a husband and an only son in very feeble health and an only daughter. May heaven graciously comfort the bereaved.

At Nictaux, on the 15th of December, of heart disease Mr. Edward Pierce, aged 26 years. Mr. Pierce had seemed unusually well, had eaten a hearty breakfast that morning, went in the forenoon to look for sheep, and calling at a neighbor's house, sat down for a few moments, when he fell from his chair and immediately expired.

He had experienced religion some years since, and united with the Wesleyan class, was a consistent and amiable young man, and leaves a widow, and many relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

At Gates' Mountain, on the 19th, Dec. after a lingering illness, borne with christian patience, Mrs. Harris Ward, aged 70 years. Absent from the body, with her, is doubtless, to be present with the Lord.

At Brooklyn, Wilmet, on the 26th of Dec., Mary Eliza, eldest daughter of Mr. David Randolf, aged 29 years. For several years she had been a consistent and esteemed member of the Baptist church. She leaves a large family circle, never before broken by death, to mourn their loss, but to rejoice in the assurance of her gain. The funeral took place on the 29th, at the Pine Grove, attended by the Pastor, Rev. W. H. Porter, Rev. C. Tupper, and Bro. W. Armstrong, Licentiate. After which the scene was changed, and two youthful couples presented themselves for marriage.