

DIGBY.—Dear Editor,—As several have given you accounts of the work of God in this County, I will say nothing about it at present.

But in the midst of our joys we have had reason to mourn the loss of some that have departed to the Spirit Land.

But we do not "mourn as those without hope."

One of the number was F. MANNING DENTON.

His death was triumphant and peaceful. The last words I heard him utter were these: "It is not dying, I will fall asleep in Jesus."

Bro. Denton was born at Digby Neck where he professed religion and was baptized by Rev. J. C. Morse at the age of 17 years. From that time until his death he lived a consistent life.

As a Christian he was earnest and useful, as a school teacher he was successful and much beloved by the pupils. As a husband he was affectionate and kind. He left a beloved wife to mourn her sad bereavement. Their only child a lovely infant of 5 months has since been taken away. May the Lord graciously sustain our sorrowing sister.

I have since had the privilege of baptizing her. Thus the affliction has been accompanied by a blessing. "God does not afflict willingly, or grieve the children of men." In view of those triumphs who would not say, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

The funeral sermon was preached by the writer from 1st Cor. iii.—21, 22, 23., to a large and solemn congregation.—Com. by Rev. D. W. Crandall.

MAYHEW BECKWITH, ESQ.,

Died at his residence in Cornwallis, on April 7th, aged 72 years. Useful, active, and much regretted, his loss is severely felt, not only by a large circle of relatives, but by the whole community. His death creates a vacancy in the church of which he was so long an esteemed and consistent member.

Still amid all his brethren thank God, for the grace given him in life and in death, and desire the more to be also ready.

Mr. Beckwith has occupied a prominent position in the Baptist denomination for a number of years. He was one of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, having been elected to that office in 1861. He represented the township of Cornwallis, and the county of Kings in the Provincial Legislature for about twenty years.—Com. by Rev. S. B. Kempton.

For the Christian Messenger.

SINGING.

Dear Brother,—

I am sorry to see that "Pastor" is in a wrathful mood. He deems me chargeable with "hyper-criticism," speaks of my "crotchets" and my "little idea," and says that I am "perversely critical." As he evidently suspects that I am a member of his congregation, common courtesy might have taught him to avoid such expressions.

That singing is an act of praise is universally admitted. It is a joyous celebration of the perfections of the Great God and of his mighty deeds. The first example on record is the song of Moses and the Israelites on the Asiatic side of the Red Sea. The singers in Solomon's Temple praised the Lord, saying, "For he is good, his mercy endureth for ever." See also the ninety-fifth and five following Psalms. Paul and Silas "prayed, and sang praises unto God" in the dungeon. The heavenly worship is characterized in the same manner,—they "sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."

That the Book of Psalms is a "compilation for public worship" cannot be proved. It is a collection of sacred poetry. One of the Fathers styled it "a complete system of divinity." Many of the Psalms are praiseful odes, and may very properly be sung, as they have been in all ages. Others are records of individual experience, both of the cheerful and of the melancholy kind, and are only fit for private use. Some are national songs, and cannot be adapted to Christian purposes, unless by a spiritualizing process such as Dr. Watts employed. And there are religious and moral essays among them, very edifying to all pious persons. But the Book, as a whole, although as a manual of devotion it is servicable to the Christian at all times, is not a "compilation for public worship."

The Presbyterians confine themselves

pretty much to the psalms in their public worship. I know not with what propriety they can sing the following verses, (Psalm 38) —

"My wounds do stink, and are corrupt; My loins make me to tremble; I am troubled, and much bowed down; All day I mourning go. For a disease that loathsome is So fills my loins with pain. That in my weak and weary flesh No soundness doth remain,"

Or these (Psalm 137) : —

"O daughter, thou of Babylon, Near to destruction: Bless'd shall he be that thee rewards, As thou to us hast done. Yea, happy surely shall he be, Thy tender little ones, Who shall lay hold upon, and them Shall dash upon the stones."

The church meets on the Lord's Day for worship. Unbelievers help to fill the place—and we are glad to see them there—but the worship is the worship of the Church, in which the people of God only can take part "in spirit and in truth." If others join them, it is of their own accord and on their own responsibility. It may be observed, however, that it is every human being's duty to praise God? but no unconverted person can honestly unite in singing hymns expressive of Christian feeling—such as the 469th of the Psalmist, to which I referred in my last.

Yours, &c.

ZETTES Inquiry Corner, April 14, 1871.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Sir,— The Morning Chronicle of the 13th inst. complains that your digest of the proceedings in the Local Parliament did not state that "the Dominion Government had long ago offered Mr. Wilkins an office, which he refused." I suppose it is hard to please everybody, but you will allow me to put in my complaint too. Your digest contained no reference to Dr. Murray's statements in the House concerning the destruction by the Rev. A. S. Hunt, Superintendent of Education, of the examination papers containing the marks of all the Provincial examiners. This, I think, is a matter of far greater importance than an office for Mr. Wilkins. It knocks the bottom out of half of the educational system, and a new bottom should be put in at once.

TEACHER.

Our readers are well aware that our reports of Parliamentary proceedings necessarily omit much of what is said there by both the friends and the opponents of the government. We should be sorry to impose the task on our readers of wading through all the debates. Indeed it would be as impossible for us as it would be unprofitable to them to give even the amount that is officially reported of what is said in the House of Assembly.—Ed.

Religious Intelligence.

NEW CORNWALL, April 8, 1867.—Dear Brother,—I have been spending a few weeks in New Cornwall. God in mercy has appeared among us. At the Conference to-day eleven persons offered themselves to the Church. They are to be baptized to-morrow. Two school-teachers are among the number. From one family three children have come, making a "household of faith." There is a general stir in the community. Satan is also working. Pray for us. Bro. Achilles has had a mission appointed him from the Western Board. I wish he would come as soon as possible and put it in. We need him. W. M. E. HALL.

DIGBY NECK.—Rev. J. C. Morse writes from SANDY COVE, April 9:—The 1st and 2nd churches at Digby Neck are enjoying a glorious revival of the work of God. I have baptized eleven at Centreville in the first church, and five at Sandy Cove to-day, and the work seems to have just commenced. Thanks to kind brethren in Halifax and elsewhere who handed contributions to Bro. Charles Denten, to help the little band of believers pay the debt on their place of worship in Sandy Cove. May God reward them for their kindness. Two of my dear daughters have been converted since the revival commenced, and have been baptized.

J. C. MORSE.

It matters not what a man loses, if he saves his soul; but if he loses his soul, it matters not what he saves.

It is in our mind and not in our surroundings that we must find our happiness.

HOMEVILLE, C. B.—Rev. E. C. Spinney writes: "Yesterday was a great day at Homeville, eight happy converts were buried with Christ in baptism and received into the fellowship of the Church. Others are anxious. Pray for us."

PROTESTANT WANTS IN FRANCE.—Dr. Pressense proposes to institute an Evangelical faculty in Paris, and thinks of personally appealing to British Christians for help. He says: "I have long cherished the belief that, in the present state of opinion in France, the institution in Paris of a Protestant school of theology and philosophy would prove of the greatest value. Its primary object should undoubtedly be the training of well-instructed evangelical pastors; but I should like alongside of this more special teaching, that an extensive course of apologetics should be provided for a much larger number of students than would be found disposed to pursue strictly religious questions. My idea would be to create in Paris a focus of Christian propaganda which might exercise a vast influence within the scientific sphere."

"FROM GREENLAND'S ICE MOUNTAINS" will hardly be appropriate as one of the lands of heathendom, according to the following statement:—

A Moravian missionary has recently returned from Greenland. His services extended over a period of forty years, and he becomes a superannuate. He testifies to the improvement which has taken place in many respects, during that time, among the Greenlanders, chiefly, it would seem, as the fruit of educational effort in connection with the mission. In all Greenland there is but one station in the neighborhood of which there are heathens. With this exception, all the Greenlanders profess Christianity.

VOLUNTARY STATE PAY IN IRELAND.—The Sustentation Fund of the Irish Presbyterian Church has progressed so satisfactorily that, taken alone with the commutation fund, the committee expect to be in circumstances to be able to pay to all ministers who entered into the general arrangement come to, the sum of £80 on the first year, instead of the old payment of £69 6s 8d. from the Regium Donum. Upwards of £400,000 has been paid as commutation money, and 12 per cent. bonus by the Church Temporalities Commissioners to the treasurer of the General Assembly of the Church.

SUNNYSIDE.

MAHON BAY, April 10.

Dear Brother,— Will you, through the medium of your ever-welcome Messenger, acknowledge two visits paid me recently, one at Mahone Bay and the other at North West. At the first-named place the friends gave me \$26 75, and at the last \$30.40.

We have just closed another year, making six years with this people. The last year was indeed one of Divine favor. We baptized thirty-six. Sabbath before last we received four members, two by letter and two by baptism. About twenty-five others have professed conversion, and expect to unite with the people of God soon.

Thus the work of the Lord goes forward in my field of labor; yet I intend setting out for Antigonish and Guysboro this week, hoping that similar blessings will follow the preaching of the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours in the work of the Lord, AUGUSTUS SHIELDS.

Dominion & Foreign News.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT was prorogued on Friday last, many of the members had left previously. Several of the Nova Scotia members arrived on Monday per Carlotta.

\$40,000 were voted to indemnify losers by the Red River rebellion. Dr. Schultz made a speech on the Red River business, and blamed the Hudson's Bay Company for not preserving the peace. Efforts were made to bind down the Government to prosecute Scott's murderers, but the resolution was lost. The British Columbia resolutions passed. The great Railway is to be built in ten years.

It is said by the Chronicle telegram that "Lord Lisgar will not return to Canada. His establishment is being broken up. A Canadian statesman of high standing will be appointed in his stead."

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Local Legislature was re-opened on the 5th inst. The Lieutenant Governor in his speech told the newly elected Legislature, respecting a School law, that "other Provinces of the Dominion are far in advance of us in this matter, and that the time has come when the question of Free Schools must be met and disposed of by the Legislature."

The newly constructed government appears to be taking up the business of the country with some vigor and earnestness.

The new School Bill is spoken of as being moulded on the Nova Scotia Act, but somewhat simplified. Opposition to it has commenced in the Upper House. After the presentation of a petition praying for Separate Schools, the Hon. Mr. McInerney gave notice of the following Resolution, for Monday next:—

Whereas, His Excellency, in his speech at the opening of the present session of the Legislature foreshadowed a change in the School Law of this Province.

And Whereas, The proposed School Bill, as at present before the country, does not meet with the approval of a large portion of Her Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects within this Province.

Therefore Resolved, That the public education of the country should be based upon a principle that would remove all coercion of any denomination to contribute for the support of non-sectarian schools.

P. E. ISLAND.

The Railroad resolutions were carried in the Assembly by 27 against 11. The railroad is to be from Cascopeco to Georgetown via Charlottetown, with branches to Souris and Tignish.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The seal fisheries are meeting with much success, a despatch from St. John's, announces the arrival at that port of the steamers Bloodhound 6800 seals, the Osprey with 7,200, the Monticello with 20,000, the Walrus full, and the Eagle with 2,300 this being her second trip.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

FRANCE.—There has been but little change in the telegraphic news respecting France. The army of the Communists still hold Paris, and firing more or less constantly continues. It is expected that the loyal troops concentrating at Versailles are for the purpose of again besieging Paris.—The commune so regard it, and are preparing for a siege. Poor Paris! The infidelity of those who have assumed to rule is appearing in its most hideous forms. The following is the telegram of Tuesday in last week:—

The cry is, "Unless the Germans save us Paris must soon swim in blood." The commune, growing more and more desperate, resorts to fierce excesses. Conciengrie is filled with priests and nuns, arrested on warrants calling them "citizens, styled servants of a person called God." Archbishop Dorbois was stripped naked, bound to a pillar, and scourged for hours by a band of 200 ruffians.

Losses of Nationals on Saturday and Sunday, 220 killed and 435 wounded.—Uermisole, member of Commune, was killed at the outposts.

The cannonade slackened yesterday. The iron-clad flotilla in the Seine is in sight, and an attack is imminent.

The Cafes on the Boulevards were closed on Sunday night by military force.

General McMahon is expected to undertake operations on a great scale.

The Communists are building high barricades in Place De La Concorde, Rue Riviere, Rue Royal, and the Corps Legislatif.—They claim to have 200,000 well drilled men.

A Versailles despatch the following day said: Cannonading about Paris is less frequent to-day, and nothing of importance has transpired.

Thiers has issued another proclamation stating that McMahon, L'Admirault and Cissey have all taken their commands, and that Gen. Vinoy heads the reserves. The army increases every day. Pay no attention to the false reports that the president and Assembly do not agree; only insurgents are perfidious. Irresistible measures are in preparation to end the effusion of blood.

Good citizens are assured that for themselves they have nothing to fear. It is asserted that a strong force of Loyal National Guards, inside Paris, will attack the insurgents simultaneously with the assault by Versailles troops.

Another telegram said the Delegates of the party of Reconstruction report that Thiers positively refused to recognise the Belligerents of the Commune, or to enter into any negotiations for a treaty of peace, or even an armistice.

Many shells have been fired into Paris, and have caused great damage. Shells continue to fall, and house property of the value of two million francs has already been destroyed.

Fighting still continues.

The arrival of Gen. Fabrice, German administrator at St. Denis, is, consequent upon receipt of notification from Versailles Government of its intention, to make a serious effort for capture of Paris. The Paris and Orleans railway has not been cut by the insurgents.

On Friday we were informed that there was heavy cannonading during last night, which has growing more violent this morning, Fort Mount Valerien firing heavily. A number of the members of the Commune were personally on the field to encourage the troops.

The British consulate in Paris has warned all Englishmen to leave the city. It is officially announced that the alleged Communist victories are without foundation.

No engagement took place on Tuesday, and on Wednesday there was merely an insurgent fusillade followed by cannonading.

There has been no engagement this morning, and the roads towards Paris are occupied by troops from Versailles.

The delegates from the party of conciliation have returned to Paris. The condition of the terms of peace proposed to them by President Thiers were, that Paris should first lay down arms and then a Municipal franchise would be granted to the city.

A telegram from Versailles on Saturday said: A Bill, giving municipal rights to Paris, has been adopted by the National Assembly. The concentration of Loyal troops continues at Versailles. The Paris Commune is making preparations for a siege.

Thiers has issued a circular stating that the fighting of the last two days has been of an unimportant character.

Chatillon and the southern forts of Paris continue to fire without result.

Our troops are well established in their positions and have repulsed sorties. Our communications are perfect, while those of the insurgents have been destroyed. Gen. Wolf, by a sortie from our lines, has damaged the insurgent preparations for attack upon Asnieres.

The red flag is adopted as the National emblem and all other colors are suppressed.

Forts Issy and Vanvres have been supplied with American mitrailleuse.

Immense quantities of powder, connected by wire with torpedoes, have been laid in many streets. The communists are plundering offices of paper and plate.

The churches have been carefully searched, and all valuables secreted will be converted into coin.

Five hundred thousand people have left since the troubles commenced.

The Germans at Critiel have been reinforced with 18,000 men and are preparing to intervene.

Cannon and musketry firing continued throughout Saturday.

An obstinate struggle is going on at Neuilly where the ground is disputed inch by inch.

The Commune have resolved to continue the defence to the last.

The sale of horseflesh has again been commenced and there are other signs of a scarcity of food in the city.

PARIS, April 16.—The Communists report that Fort Issy repulsed several successive assaults on Friday and Saturday last, with severe losses to the assailants.

Gen. Dombrowski attacked the Government forces at Neuilly yesterday. He claims that he took 4000 prisoners. The engagement continued through the night. Five consecutive attacks upon various points were repulsed with great slaughter. Losses of the Government troops were dreadful.

It has been decided not to demolish the column in the Place Vendome, but to displace the Statue on its apex.

Despatches from Versailles deny that the insurgents took 4000 prisoners yesterday, and declare that no important military events have taken place.

Crowds are demanding passports to leave Paris, now that prices are reduced to half a franc. Hundreds are disappointed. The streets leading from fort Maillor are in ruins.

It is said that Rochefort demands that Vinoy, Gallepel, Favre, Picard and McMahon should be brought chained in couples to Champ Elysees, where the relatives of marshalls killed be permitted to do what they please with them.

AUSTRIA.—The London "Standard" has a despatch from Vienna saying that religious riots have occurred at Odessa. The Jews were dispersed and great devastation was committed. The authorities are powerless.

SPAIN.—Madrid.—The election of the Duke of Montpensier to the Cortes has been decided legal.

WANTED.

A first-Class MALE TEACHER at Freeport, Digby County. J. C. Mc—, Secy. April 19th, 1871. 2in.

At Halifax the Rev. J. Clay, M. D., neke, to Economy March 21st McAulay, G. James Ross, Lomond, to Framboise, G. On Tuesday Annand, Mr. Mrs. Elizabeth At Windsor Rev. Thomas to Miss Jean At Windsor T. Maynard Miss Susan At Sheet Rev. Alfred Tatamagouche John Benoit At St. Ma inst, by the Color Serge Beatrice Ann

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