

Religious Intelligence.

NEW GERMANY.—Rev. W. E. Hall writes Dec. 27th:—In the Branch Section of this church we are having some very good meetings. I have baptized two, and expect to baptize again the coming Sabbath.

ONTARIO.—Rev. A. Martell, late of Nova Scotia, has accepted a call from the churches of McGillivray and Park Hill, and will (D. V.) enter upon his pastoral duties about the 25th inst.

Rev. J. E. Vining, pastor of the Baptist Church at Scotland, Ontario, writes to the Canadian Baptist that he has "withdrawn from practical connection with the order" of Freemasons; and gives as his reason that "there are men in the order with whom he cannot conscientiously associate fraternally."

THE BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA.—Associational Statistics.—From an inspection of the Minutes of the several associations, including the churches of Ontario and Quebec, we find that during the past year there have been 1292 baptisms, and an aggregate increase of 1835 to the membership of our churches. The aggregate loss by removal, deaths, &c., was 776, making a gain in the year of 959, as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Gain/Loss. Rows include Western, Middlesex & Elgin, Grand River, Brant, Midland, Ottawa, Niagara, Haldimand, Central Canada, Huron, Amherstburg.

There are 163 churches in the Associations that have pastors, and 67 that are pastorless. 111 churches report an increase of members over last year, and 74 have suffered a loss in membership. The total membership of the 229 Associated Churches is 16,154.—Canadian Baptist.

MONTREAL.—The Baptist cause in this city is advancing by the parent church sending out branches. The following is a statement dated Dec. 12th, given in the Canadian Baptist, respecting the St. Catherine Street Church, Russell Hall.

This infant Church, organized 15 months ago, with 12 members, held its Annual Meeting, Dec. 1st.

The year just closed has been marked by steady growth, the membership being 78. The total amount subscribed during the year for all purposes was \$2590.

This Church at its organization adopted the voluntary principle, each member being expected to give according to his or her ability; and a large number of the members present their contributions weekly. The Sunday-school has also steadily increased during the year. The attendance last Sabbath being 455. The seed of Divine truth which has been sown in this vineyard, has sprung up and borne fruit, in the recent conversion of many in our midst. Special services have been continued for three weeks, and resulted in the conversion of many souls, 10 of whom were baptized on Sunday evening, Dec. 11th; 10 more have applied for baptism and fellowship with us. Some of those who are now humbly following Jesus, at the beginning of the Special Meetings, were among the scoffers at religion and at God's people. The spirit of enquiry still prevails, and the Church is united in earnest prayer that many more precious souls may be brought to the feet of Jesus.

The Jesuits have nearly all left Rome. They went so quietly and privately that it was not known when they left. They left alone, or by twos and threes, dressed in citizens' clothes, having previously disposed of the property they held in the city, but with a stipulation that they may re-purchase it at any time at the price paid for it now.

Sir Robert Peel has given to the Baptists at Tamworth a large building for a tabernacle, at a nominal rent, and written a kind letter, which was read at the opening service.

ENCOURAGING.—The different churches of the Maryland Baptist Association report an increase during the year of 600—a number greater than in any other year since the organization of the Association. This increase is chiefly in Baltimore.

UNEXPECTED GENEROSITY.—A wealthy Roman Catholic has offered to give a lot in Roselle, N. J., to the Baptists if they will build a house of worship on it.

During a religious awakening in Mendon, Mich., three candidates were baptized whose ages were seventy-one, seventy-two and seventy-four years respectively. Such cases are of rare occurrence.

Dominion & Foreign News.

TORONTO, Dec. 30.—Mason, who has made a name for himself as informer throughout Canada, commenced legal proceedings to-day against Hon. J. S. MacDonald, Premier of Ontario, for not having the doors of the Parliament house constructed so as to open outwards, according to law. He also brings an action against the Hon. J. H. Cameron, and other representatives of the law society, on account of the same defect in Osgood Hall.

At the Court of General Sessions, on the 28th ult., James Greenwood was sentenced to receive twenty lashes and fifty days' imprisonment for an indecent assault. This will be the first case of whipping under the recent Act of the Legislature.

There was considerable of a fire at Ottawa on Thursday. Several buildings were destroyed. As usual there was no water to extinguish it.

At Quebec on Friday the thermometer was 18 below zero.

CORNWALL, ONT.—A destructive fire occurred on Sunday night at Cornwall. The woollen factory is one mass of ruins.—Loss \$220,000; insurance \$15,300. The manufactory was owned principally in Montreal. Two hundred people have been thrown out of employment by this disaster. The origin of the fire is unknown.—Chronicle.

MANITOBA.—A special dispatch from Winnipeg says the elections were to come off on Friday.

Riel has declined to run for either the House of Commons or the Local Legislature.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

SAD AFFAIR.—On the 19th inst in the parish of Chipman, Queens County, a lad named McLean died from the effects of a blow inflicted by his father, not designedly, but hastily and incautiously while angry at an act of disobedience on the part of the boy. The fatal blow was inflicted with the handle of a pitchfork. The family occupied a respectable position in society, and the father has become almost crazed by the melancholy occurrence, which caused considerable sensation in the community.

WESTMORLAND ELECTION, Mr. Hannington (Confederate) was elected on Monday 26th, in place of the Hon. Judge Botsford.

PERISHED FROM COLD.—A man by the name of George Thomas, who was living in a wretched way in a room by himself in St. John, was found in his apartment lying dead upon the floor on Christmas morning. William Brundage was also found dead upon the floor of his room the same day.

Captain William Tufts, was drowned on Thursday night last, in the vicinity of Merritt's Wharf. He had expressed a presentiment that his death was soon to occur.—Visitor.

UNITED STATES.

The Providence Journal says that Miss Ellen Townsend has tendered to the city of Newport a free gift of a valuable farm, upon which boys who are neglected, or are without the means of support, shall be taken, and be taught how to support themselves by honest labor.

Nilson's concerts in Boston were a greater pecuniary success than in New-York, her six evening and two matinee performances having yielded nearly \$50,000, or about \$6, 000 each. At one matinee the receipts were \$9,000.

The Alta Californian has learned, by a private letter from Washington, that President Grant intends to make a tour of the Pacific States next spring, and adds, "he will be sure of a hearty and enthusiastic reception."

Ole Bull, the distinguished violinist (who is at present paying a brief visit to Boston), is engaged in writing a book entitled "The Soul of the Violin," and hence will not appear in concerts the present season.

The Spottiswood Hotel, Richmond, Va., was burned to the ground on Monday morning, and twelve persons perished in the flames.

Within the past two weeks fourteen Philadelphia firms, manufacturers, commission houses, and jobbers in the shoe trade have suspended. Their united liabilities amounted to \$773,000 and none of them will pay over 50 per cent. These failures have caused much alarm and excitement in that city.

A measure has been submitted to Congress intended to authorize the President to the close United States Ports against British American shipping and also to suspend the bonding of Canadian goods, in the event of Fishing vessels being interfered with by the Canadian authorities.

The United States authorities at Detroit have seized a quantity of Fenian arms and uniforms.

Sir Edward Thornton, the British Minister at Washington, has received \$5,000 for the widows and orphans of the crew of the "Oneida," which was quietly contributed by fifty British subscribers, headed by Earl Shaftesbury, Earl Clarendon, Rothschilds, and given to Sir Edward for distribution. The money will be apportioned at discretion on application by the parties interested.

THE CUBAN REBELLION.—It seems probable that the commencement of the new King of Spain's reign will be marked by the termination of the long protracted rebellion in Cuba. The King is said to have offered the following conditions:

- First.—Emanicipation unconditional and immediate.
Second.—A complete restoration to civil and property rights, including a revival of all confiscations.
Third.—A guarantee of religious freedom, liberty of the press, of meeting and speech.
Fourth.—Equal representation for Cuba in the Cortes as that accorded to other Provinces of Spain.
Fifth.—A colonial autonomy similar to that existing between Great Britain and the British North American Provinces.
Sixth.—The removal by the Home Government of all offensive officials.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

A serious aspect was given to the war from an English point of view during the past week. It appears that the Prussians seized six English trading ships in the River Seine, and sunk them for the purpose of obstructing the navigation of the river. The knowledge of this outrage awakened great indignation in England. Strong remonstrances were given by the press and people generally.

The British Vice Consul at Rouen presented to the Prussian Commander a formal protest against such an act of spoliation committed upon British subjects.

On Thursday we learned that Earl Granville had received a despatch from the Prussian Government apologizing for the outrage on English vessels in the Seine, and stating that pecuniary indemnity will be given if demanded, and announcing that the military commander guilty of the outrage had been court-martialed and dismissed from the service.

This is, of course, satisfactory thus far, and will prevent any further expression of hostile feeling on the part of Great Britain.

The bombardment of Paris opened on Tuesday at sunrise. It continued throughout the whole day and was directed at Fort Avron. The largest mortars were used, and an immense number of huge shells were thrown into the fort from the Saxon batteries. The fort replied all day long.

The Prussian 12th corps has occupied Mont Avron, after one day's bombardment. The French in their retreat left behind their dead and many gun-carriages, and rifles.

It is officially stated that Paris is provisioned until the last of April.

General Bourbaki has been charged with the duty of re-occupying Paris. He has accumulated immense stores of provisions of all kinds which are under safe keeping. He will endeavor to unite his forces with those of General Chanzy. The joint armies are then to make a vigorous attempt to force their way through the German investing lines into Paris. Such, according to the "Times" correspondent, is the programme prepared by the French authorities for the relief of Paris. The same correspondent says that Gen. Paladine's reserves may fairly be attributed to the fact that the politicians were induced by Gambetti to interfere with Paladine's plans and thus thwart his action.

The London "Times" correspondent, writing from Tours, reports that the total number of the forces composing the various

armies of France amounts to 750,000 soldiers.

The French Vice Consul in the Island of Jersey has ordered all French refugees to report at Army head quarters for service in France immediately. All who fail to comply to be considered deserters.

It is reported that a scheme to assassinate the King and Von Moltke has been discovered.

The headings of Mount Ceniz Tunnel were joined on Monday, Dec. 26th.

Hurrahs were exchanged through the dividing wall rock for the first time at 4.15 on Christmas afternoon.

The intensely cold weather causes fearful mortality among the German wounded.

Nearly all the occupants of fifty-six carriages filled with soldiers, wounded at the assault on Belfort, on the 21st, were frozen to death before the train reached Chatenou.

Another unsuccessful assault has been made on the fortifications of Belfort, in which the German besiegers lost 1400 killed and wounded.

The Germans captured and sunk another English collier at Rouen.

News from Paris to 24th says that shells have been thrown into the north part of the city from the neighborhood of Strains, at a range of 7000 yards.

ENGLAND.—Earl Granville has received unofficial despatch from French Government declaring its determination not to send delegates to the Peace conference in London, unless the British Government shall first recognize the Republic. A despatch of a similar tone has been sent to each of the other powers.

The Conference has been indefinitely postponed as the absence of one of the signers of the treaty of Paris would render the meeting useless.

The Turkish Government has urged upon the Powers, its objections to discussion of all questions affecting the Danubian principalities, in the London Conference.

A statue to Smith O'Brien, the Irish Patriot, was unveiled in Dublin on Monday, in the presence of an immense assembly. Everything passed off quietly.

The Fenian Convicts were discharged from Portland Prison on Friday last.

John Walter, Jr., son of the chief editor of the London "Times," broke through the ice whilst skating and was drowned.

London, Dec. 31.—The British Government has ordered that no more fishermen shall be seized by Canadian authorities, and has ordered an agent to proceed to Washington to settle the difficulty!

Later dispatches say that the conference on the Black Sea question is only postponed a few days. Bismark allows Favé to attend the conference.

SPAIN.—An unsuccessful attempt has been made in Madrid to assassinate Gen. Prim.

The new King of Spain proposes, among his first public acts, to restore one-half of the "Crown Estates," worth about \$30,000,000, to the Treasury, which needs it very much. The remaining half would seem to be a very good sort of a royal fortune.

The conspiracy at Madrid has been found to be a very deep one, implicating a great many persons, and there are fears that the same attempt may be made against the new King.

Madrid, Dec. 31.—General Prim died at 9 o'clock last night. His death has produced a profound sensation of grief, and everywhere great indignation is manifested against his assassins.

The Republican militia of Madrid has been disbanded.

ITALY.—Victor Emmanuel entered Rome on Saturday and met with an enthusiastic reception. The day before King Amadeus reached Carthagenia.

News of the Week.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION AT PICTOU.

The Provincial Teachers' Association assembled in their Annual Convention on Tuesday evening Dec. 27th. A good number of Teachers were present at the first session.

Rev. Dr. Bayne occupied the chair whilst J. B. Calkin, Esq., the President gave his Inaugural Address; which was full of valuable information and suggestions for Teachers.

The time was afterwards occupied by reports on the state of Schools in the several localities from which Inspectors and others had come. The names of the speakers were Messrs. Condon, Millar, McNaughton, McGillivray, Upham, Parsons, Cameron, Phinney, and McDonald.

The second session was held on Wednesday morning, "Music in Schools" was the principal subject before the meeting. Mr. Condon of Yarmouth showed the mode by which this subject had been introduced.

Professor Gates has given much time and attention to it gratuitously, and has succeeded in awakening much interest among the teachers and schools of Yarmouth on this important subject. He has proved that it is practicable for Teachers to combine music with school-work. We regret that Mr. G. has not received encouragement from the Superintendent and Council to perform similar labors in the other counties of the province.

The Managing Committee's Report was read by Mr. Hollies and unanimously received and approved.

Mr. Parsons presented the Report of the Forrester Memorial Committee, and stated that T. H. Rand, Esq., had contributed \$50, and Governor Archibald \$10, towards this fund.

Mr. Millar moved the following resolution:—

"Whereas this Association has learned with surprise and deep regret, that it has been denied the right hitherto regarded as common to all classes of British subjects of laying its views before the House of Assembly by petition.

Therefore Resolved, that this Association sustain the action of its Executive Committee in the matter of petition intrusted to their care at its last meeting.

And Resolved, that this Association claims and hereby maintains the right of setting forth its views on Educational matters by petition."

This was seconded and discussed at some length, but was lost by a vote of 10 against 8. The rest of the members of the Association declined to vote.

The Superintendent and a number of teachers, Catholic and Protestant, who have never before attended the Association were present through the greater part of the sessions. Heretofore, we believe, the Superintendent has attended only on invitation of the Association.

The third Session on Wednesday afternoon was largely occupied in discussing the right of Teachers to petition the Legislature. The principal speakers were Messrs. Condon, McDonald, (Teacher), McDonald, (Inspector), Millar, Bayne, McNaughton, Grieve and Hollies. No action was taken.

The fourth Session on Wednesday evening was opened by prayer by Rev. Dr. Bayne. It had been announced that T. H. Rand, Esq., late Superintendent of Schools, would give an Address, and a large company assembled, filling the hall to its utmost capacity.

Before commencing his address he referred to his late visit to Ireland and Scotland, and gave some graphic sketches of the beauties of those countries. He described his visit to the Training Schools of these countries, and then proceeded to the subject of his address—"Teaching and Inspection." He said Nova Scotia had done nobly during the past six years in making provision for her schools. The cost of school-houses and salaries had been great, but it had been cheerfully provided, and they now stood as an eloquent expression of the determination to move forward in the good work of education. He shewed that thoroughly trained and well qualified teachers were essential; that variety of knowledge, kindness, energy and a strong love for the work must exist in the efficient teacher. He laid down two fundamental principles as necessary to a successful system of education:

- 1st. That none but well qualified Teachers should be permitted to teach.
2nd. That Teaching should afford sufficient pecuniary reward to remunerate the devoted teacher, so that he might make it his life-work.

In presenting and illustrating these two points he shewed that a uniformity of classification of Teachers, according to their qualification must exist to gain the confidence of the public, and that the school law must be applied uniformly and without partiality. He referred to the provision recently made by a Minute of Council to give licenses without passing the regular examination, as unjust to the Provincial Normal School. Other Educational Institutions and other Normal School licenses would under it be of more value than those from the N. S. Normal School. He thought those who had sanctioned that Minute could not have seen how it would operate on our own Normal School, and believed it would be found necessary to undo what had been done.

He shewed a plan by which teachers might have more permanent provision made for them when advanced in life. They should receive fair remuneration for their labor, and then on certain conditions they might have what would be equivalent to