For the Christian Messenger.

A DAY OF ALMS.

Dear Sir .- 0

I was much pleased in reading of the laudable enterprise of those lady merchants of Parrsborough, and I thought, Mr. Editor, if those Episcopal sisters consecrate their whole time and energies to so good a work, why may not our sBaptist merchants give one day's earnings to the Lord? If we have a prayer week why not have one alms' day; and the whole profits of that day, be devoted to the missionary | the heat became so intense that the cause?

merchants, in the country and city, blaze. From that moment the fire was whether your profits be five cents or completely beyond control The flames one hundred dollars, and lay it down | raced along the mansard roof, in and at the missionaries' feet, on, say Saturday, the fourth of January, if approved (as the gains are greater on that day,) the day preceding the week of prayer, as a New Year's Freewill offering, and may the alms as well as the prayers, come up as a memorial before God. Who will? I will

LYDIA THYATIRA. November 26th.

For the Christian Messenger.

BOSTON CORRESPONDENCE

Boston, Nov. 18th, 1872, 25 Edinboro' Street.

Mr. Editor .-

We have just returned from an extended ramble around and among the smoking desolations which mark the resting place of the architectural beauty and splendor of Boston. And we cannot but compare the present mounds of ashes and crumbling masonry with the long lofty lines of brick, granite and marble, which first flashed out upon our view through the drifting haze of a crimson flushed morning in the early part of August. Then, we thought, as we rode along Devonshire and down Summer streets, so imposing were their lofty decorations, that the roseate-dyed atmosphere threw a sheen and beauty, not their own, around the massive squares on either side. Subsequently, however, many an earnest and lingering gaze in the clearer sunlight of a later hour, served not only to dispel the fancied glamour, but to enhance and strengthen the earlier conceptions of beauty. Pearl and Devonshire and Congress Streets, along their whole lengths presented an unbroken granite facade, five and six stories high, cast in modern styles; with enough diversity in sculpture and ornament, variety, in fluted pillar and spiral column to throw off the gloomy, sombre appearance too common in warehouse blocks, and potent to stamp the lengthened frontage with "beauty's fatal gift."

These edifices the men who built them fondly hoped would survive unharmed the lapse of time and transmit to a later, and perhaps less cultured generation, the energy and taste of their ancestors, and be symbols of the present status of art and social refinement, as the crumbling walls of "lofty Rome" are memorial columns on which are traced for all posterity the outlines of a power and brightness which forever has passed away. The fairest and wealthiest portion of Boston is burned and yet it men will consider, this is but a blessing deeply masked. This portion of the city was planned in the earlier time, when wide streets and its immense business importance were alike unthought of Latterly great inconvenience resulted therefrom. The narrow thoroughfares proving inadequate either for easy commercial transportation, for security, or for displaying the rich Corinthian-like forms of beauty on every hand. But now that the old landmarks are largely disturbed, the City Government, assuming temporary ownership-which is now being sanctioned by legislative enactment-will reparcel the burnt ground as business, convenience, aesthetics and security demand. So that Boston in a few years, with her widened streets, her spacious courts, and still more splendid stretches of masonry will stand in aesthetic interest as well as liverary and historic, the peerless city of America. The fire commenced at 74 o' clock on Saturday evening in the high granite building on the corner of Kingston and Summer streets. Originating in the lower story it quickly ran up the through the topmost windows in great red columns. The firemen soon arrived and turned a tremendous volume of

water upon the burning buildings and

soon brought up.

Yet all were notably powerless to stay the reddened columns in their deadly onset. In fact, the greater the volume of water that was thrown upon the flames the more-widely and rapidly the co-flagration spread. Until one almost fancied it a thing of life, proudly spurning efforts of suppression, or like a frightened charger plunging. more madly beneath the tightened

When the fire burst through the roof high wooden ornaments and window I would say then, come all ye sasnes on all sides began to scorch and out the jutting cornices, through the windows, down the broad stairways, along the wide halls and over the broad flats, enveloping everything in its wild fury, so that in a very short time whole blocks and whole streets were wrapt in curling flames. The fire all the while was spreading in all directions, and threatening the whole city. A slight breeze which was almost imperceptible in the earlier part of the evening was now by the intense heat fanned into a decided current, taking a northerly direction. This saved the southern portion of the city, which else had shared its sister's fate The full force of the flames were now bent northward and eastward, with a tendency to spread westward and cross Washington street. Already it had thrown its serpent-like arms about the noble structures lining its eastern side, and was crumbling them in its burning embraces. But happily Washington street in this part was quite broad and the whole force of the fire department being concentrated there for the moment a tremendous and successful effort was made to stay its westward progress. At times the fire leaped across and clutched the higher buildings, which from their immense height could not be reached with water. But as the fire came down the stories it met a perfect torrent of water, and was quenched. At this point the firemen worked like heroes and fought with a desperation worthy the race from which they sprang, and did the only really important work of the night. For if the fire had crossed Washington street the whole city was doomed, as far as human prescience can determine. To the east the fire held its course with widening fury, and yet men gazed calmly at the prospect there, for at a distance beyond calmly reposed the now crimson waters of the Atlantic, waiting to set bounds to the imperious, man-defying conflagration. It burned to the water's edge, and even damaged shipping lying at the docks. The greatest concern was now manifested for the northern portion of the city, whose granite streets were being trampled down like barley stocks before the tread of the insatiable conqueror A sheet of flame from eighty to ninety rods in width was sweeping toward State street, with a rapidity, utterly beyond the conceptive reach of any one who has been led to regard granite or brick as incombustible agents. Acres of land which a few hours before supported thick Doric walls was now a seething area of flames. Great walls for a time withstood the wasting element but after a little succeeded and tell outwards upon the stony pavement with a sudden crash just audible in the roar and din of the crackling flames. Midnight had passed. The fire had greater mastery than at any time before and every moment increased its fury. Men on all sides began to despair and give up the city to its fate. Although in all quarters the firemen worked with an energy and courage which never faltered nor flagged. Merchants whose stores were removed by hundreds of yards from the nearest burning point emptied their shelves and sent the goods to the surrounding towns.

Charlestown, Cambridge and the Highlands were literally filled with the merchandise of the "Hub." every spot offering security as the Siam Common or Public Gardens were quickly bestrewed with goods and guarding bayonets. The scene at this time was singularly tragic and memorably impressive. Perched on the projeting gable of a dormer window on the Marlboro Hotel, a high building on the West side of Washington street your correspondent beheld an outspread panoramic scene like this. hatchways, spread with lightning rapid- Lining the street below and every ity through each story, and broke avenue of approach as far as the eye could reach were surging thousands flagging energies, if such there be, of watching the demon's frightful havor our Societies, which in those churches

than the horrors of Sedan, or the mad us in this good work. We have re- have less favor for free public schools enthusiasm of the strife at Gravellotte. ceived the pleasing information this for all the people, would prefer to ex-Over the broad acres to the front and week of two more Societies having been | ercise their controlling influence, where left were curling pi lars of sinuous formed and we trust to begin the New fire, now lifting and sweeping, now Year with an increasing list. Above all, tion. The Morning Chronicle of Monbending low, now bounding high in let the prayer-meetings be well susvengeful rivalry, like "vaulting am- tained, each member feeling bound to bition's, trying to o'erleap themselves" | help in keeping up the interest by every Away to the east in quiet contrast, like | means in her power. Do not let us fora sea of crimson blood calmly reposed get that our dear sister Miss Norris the waters of the Atlantic. Above us, has said that she feels strengthened by the whole heavens appeared to blaze the knowledge that prayer is being and smoke, so hot and stifling was the | continually offered up on her behalf atmosphere, so ghastly pale and wierd through the Societies. seemed all beneath. Crashing walls, screaming women, continuous lines of moving merchandise, hourse roaring engines, frantic merchants, bankers with blanched cheeks, spurting streams of water, squads of guarding soldiers, crowds of thieves with chuckling laugh or well feigned sorrow, varying with the nearness of policemen, and enthusiastic bands of firemen cheering each other in their hopeless task, complete the bolder features of the view. At length the sun "rose o'er the city," but could not for a time pierce the mass of clouds which hung like a black veil above the city. The fire was still raging, having worked north a great distance, and the issue was uncertain. Noon arrived and the welcome news "the fire is conquered," flew around. An hour later facts corroborated the report, for although the fire was burning its force was evidently spent. The conflagration had reached the vicinity of State street whose buildings were construct ed at a period when thick massive walls were deemed necessary for durability and safety. These thick and comparatively low walls, roofed with iron were the real means of subduing the conflagration. And from that fact builders should learn a lasting lesson in Architecture. By this statement we would not detract from the beroism and unvielding courage displayed by the Boston fire department and the numerous companies who came to their assistance; for while six story shell-like edifices heavily adorned with wooden ornaments lined the streets, neither the Boston firemen nor any others in the wide world could control such a conflagration when fairly underway. Seventy acres of the finest portion of Boston is in ashes, and numbers of her first merchants as poor as beggars. The ruins are still smoking, and a military guard surrounds the district. Military rule is acknowledged and no one can go over the ruins without presenting a pass .--Washington street is closed for a part of the way, and the other great parallel thoroughfare, Tremont street, is in consequence almost impassable from the dense crowds continually lining it. The citizens are uncomplaining, and bear all destitute of religious instruction than inconveniences and restrictions with portions of countries commonly called wonderful urbanity, considering their heathen. The churches of Christ are ordinary notions of treedom. Crowds doubtless desirous of extending gospel of sightseers are filling the city from all blessings, and are making some efforts quarters of the Union. Everybody fills to supply this need, but it is doubtful his pockets or satchell with tragments | if any of them are doing their utmost of granite and pieces of timber as sou- in this matter. The great want is veners of the memorable event and men of earnest devoted piety able scratches in his common place book a to teach others. It is the church's memorandum like this we suppose, duty we believe to pray for, and "the greatest sight the world ever saw find out these, as well as to conwas its own Hub on fire." A number tribute their dollars towards sustainof curious incidents will form another ing them. The Home Missionary

For the Christian Messenger.

O THE WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES IN NOVA SCOTIA AND P. E. ISLAND.

In a communication lately received | hear from time to time. from Miss Norris, she mentions the Burmah. She says :

to know that we have started Women's there is none as to the need of work Mission Aid Societies in Burmah: Our being done. There ought to be no sisters here are to send female teachers to Sam as they are needed, and purpose to send one of the school-girls as my assistant now. They incorporate this with their usual weekly female prayer-meeting, bringing their pice every week, and asking God's blessing to rest on tueir efforts in

We have started our Society here, and in some neighbouring churches; but at the Pastor's meeting a month hence, we hope to be able to create an interest in the movement which shall make it a part of the machinery in every church. With Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Societies in my old home, and the bussein band of sisters here, it God indeed he ars prayer, then must something be accomplished '

Bassein, Sept. 25th, 1872

This cheering news will tend to strengthen the faith, and rouse the

at the command of the department was lines of a picture more grandly awful with their few advantages are before party interests to serve, and who, perhaps

M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y C. Board.

INDIAN HARBOR, ST. MARGARETS BAY. November, 25th, 1872.

Dear Mrs. Selden .-

I have the pleasure to inform you, that by the aid of the "Circular" received by one our members, we have succeeded in forming a " Woman's Missionary Aid Society."

We met and organized our Society, September 12th, with a membership of ten, and have increased until we now number fourteen. As our first offering we send \$3,50.

We not only feel it a duty, but a privilege to assist in sending the glad news of a Saviour to the poor and ignorant. God grant the time may come when all those who sit in heathen darkness, shall hear the joyful tidings of salvation.

NANCY COVEY, Sec'y.

SUMMERVILLE, Nov. 28th, 1872.

Dear Mrs. Selden,-

It is with pleasure I inform you of the organization of a Woman's Baptist Missionary Aid Society, at Summerville, Hants Co.

ing, but our number has since been in creased to fourteen.

There was an increased interest shown at our second meeting, and carnest prayers were offered for our dear sisters who are laboring in foreign lands.

We will forward our contributions in a short time. The date of organization is Nov. 21st, 1872.

President, -Mrs. Benjamin Sandford. Vice President, -- Mrs. Geo, Weathers. Treasurer, - Mrs. Samuel Caldwell. Secretary, - Miss Sarah E. Marsters. Yours respectfully, SARAH E. MARSTERS:

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., November 27, 1872.

HOME MISSIONS,

Whilst we are using efforts to carry the gospel to distant lands, we are in great danger of forgetting that our own province presents a most inviting field for missionary labor. Many parts of the land are scarcely less Boards of the Province are constantly being appealed to from places where there are open doors for laborers, but they are unable to meet those appeals, and send out Missionaries to supply the necessity which exists. The communications on another page may be taken as specimens of what we

Whilst there may be discussion gratifying fact that Women's Mission | amongst the brethren as to what is the Aid Societies have been established in most desirable mode of working, or as to the time of forming a union of "My sisters at home may be interested all the province under one Board, suspension or holding back, but should be a continuance of well doing in sending forth the Word of Life; and the way for the Union being eventually formed will in due time appear.

THE HALIFAX BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS is provided with chairman in the person of Jas. Thomson Esq., but still persists in keeping so much honor may be soon restored its doors closed, and not allowing press reporters to its sittings. Many of the so remarkably adapted. citizens feel that a paid body of public officers having the expenditure of such large sums of their money should do their business openly and above board. | ted States, which his friends desired to and not in a corner. There may be place upon him, Horace Greely has nothing wrong. The gentlemen com- been called away from this mortal life, posing the Board may be, and we be- to the eternal world. How fleeting lieve are, honorable men, and many of are all things here below, just before with anxious up turned faces. While where none now exist it will act, we them would prefer that there should the time when the votes of the people blackening every available roof were trust, as an incentive, at that it may be the fullest publicity given to their were to determine who they desired to

it would be less under public observaday last says :-

Five-sixths of the business transacted by the Board consists of routine details that are of no interest to the public. Besides, there are many matters brought before the Board the publibation of which would do more harm than good to our schools, Nevertheless, we think the Board would do well to make their meetings public, not because there is much done that the public would care to learn, but because a refusal to admit the press reporters would be regarded by many persons as an evidence that there was something wrong.

This may perhaps be regarded as an indication that the Board intend opening their doors. We hope it is so, as we think it will be for the benefit of the educational interests of the city.

It would we believe be far better if the Commissioners of Schools were all elected by the rate payers; say half the number to go out each year, and be eligible for re-election, perhaps the chairman might be appointed by the government. The process of election would be very simple-on the 1st of October there would in that case be three boxes for ballots in each Ward of the city, -instead of two as at present; one for Mayor, one for Aldermen and one for School Trustees. This would more nearly assimilate the School arrangements of the city with those of the country districts, for which we are now fully prepared. We hope There were only seven at the first meet- soon to see an alteration of the law to provide for such change.

> The Church of England Missionary Societies have appealed to their brethren for a day of special prayer, to be held on Friday, Dec. 20th for an increase of Missionaries, Bi-hop Binney publishes an Address in the Church Chronicle, recommending the observance of it to his clergy, and suggests if possible the holding of daily prayers through that week. He will also publish this week in the same organ a few prayers for the occasion.

> "ANGEL"-IC .- The Bangor Whig and Courier understands that Superintendent Angel of the E. & N. A. Railway, h s sent to all the employees of the road a form of pledge for them to sign, whereby they agree to abstain trom using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and the u-e of profane or ungentlemanly language. Accompanying the blank pledge is a circular informing the employees that this step is taken in consequence of frequent complaints at the office, and requesting those declining to sign, to give notice of their intentions, that their places may be filled by others.

DEGREES - A writer G. O. H. from Canning to the Provincial Wesleyan is pleased to poke a little fun at his brethren who are fortunate enough to wear literary honors. He says:

Our youthful Bro, Weddall was very happy in his remarks. Among the good things he attered in his pleasing style, he told an ancedote, which I regard as too good to be passed over in silence. Two uneducated lads recently saw affixed to a Preacher's name the words A. M., and being very anxious to know what they signified enquired in vain of each other. At last said one, ' Is it a Methodist minister?" "Yes," was the reply, "Then it means After Money, for the Methodists are great fellows to get money from the people."

"MR. Spurgeon is seriously ill," is a telegram received on Saturday last, which will awaken deep interest in thousands of hearts, and call forth earnest prayer that he may speedily recover, and be still spared to the Church and the world. The remarkable success which has attended his ministrations may lead some to suppose that his presence is at essential to the further progress of the work, which has attained such wondrous proportions. We know that our Divine Master has all resources in his hands, and can work by whatever means or agents he chooses to employ, still we would pray that the servant on whom he has placed to the sphere of labor to which he is

Instead of the greatness and high earthly honor, as President of the Unisurrounding blocks, while every agency other thousands memorizing the out- not be said that the sisters in Burmah, proceedings; but others who have have for their chief magistrate for the of wid 1811, When menced and wo He can worked as part He su throug In 184 and ha life, a and m in the pears ease, from tial ca haps, deathinflam

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