

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR FRENCH MISSION—ITS TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS.

In Memoriam.

JOHN GODETT a native of Clare, Digby Co., died Jan. 13, 1873, aged about 70. From early life he had a great desire to see or possess a copy of the Scriptures. This desire was awakened by finding, when a boy, some portions of a Bible in possession of a young friend who was using it at school. This wish remained ungratified until about two years ago, he found a neighbor reading a Bible which he had obtained from our Mission House in Tusket some years before. Subsequently he found in his neighborhood a copy of the New Testament in French, less the first seven chapters of the gospel by Matthew which appears to have been one of a number which a former Priest had distributed among the people in this form. From our Missionary he received an entire copy of the same work. He soon proved himself to be an apt student of the sacred word. He was enfeebled by disease and unable to labor as formerly, which afforded him a special opportunity to peruse this precious book, and being blessed with a retentive memory, and a thirst for religious knowledge much of this word was soon hid in his heart.

Our bro. Normandy was invited to visit his neighborhood, which he did and established a religious service there. On the occasion of his second visit, this man was found among the few to attend, and there told of his love to Christ, and of his newborn hopes. There he voluntarily bowed and led that small assembly in prayer. From reading the New Testament he learned the commands of Christ, and desired to obey in the ordinance of baptism; but from time to time was obliged to defer on account of failing health; this continuing it was not his privilege to enjoy the pleasure and profit of this blessed ordinance.

This change of views speedily provoked the most violent opposition from his friends and neighbors, and he was soon called to suffer persecution for the Cross of Christ. The influence of the Priest and the Sisters of Charity was evoked but plied in vain. All that persuasion and threats could do was tried to induce him to recant and turn again to Romanism. Among those most embittered against him were found the wife of his early days, and the members of his own family, on whom he was now by his age and infirmities dependent for the comforts of life, yet by the grace of God he remained steadfast in the faith, and happy in the love of his Saviour, in whom none ever trusted and were confounded. His last illness was Asthma by which he suffered much, preventing him from attending public worship for about six weeks. At his particular request bro. Normandy was frequently with him to administer the consolations of religion as best he could, amid all the interruptions and abuses that a superstitious ignorance could excite. As he saw his end approaching he was remarkably calm, meeting all his trials and persecutions patiently and kindly. He requested bro. Normandy to give his remains a christian burial.

On Monday, Jan. 13, he bid adieu to all his sufferings, falling asleep to rest with Jesus. But how shall we describe his burial, such a burial we suppose was never before seen in enlightened Nova Scotia. Because of his acceptance of Christ as his only Saviour, and his rejection of the rites and superstitions of Romanism he was denied the right of sepulture with his kindred. For the same reason his family would not allow our Missionary to bury his body, though he offered to do this sad service free of charge to his heirs; but instead, his family assisted by some neighbors enclosed his remains in a rough box, and at an early hour on Tuesday morning, Jan. 14, buried him by the marshy margin of a lake some distance from human habitation, without any religious ceremony whatever. And there his body rests while he enjoys the sweet repose of the believer. Shortly after this burial our Missionary arrived and requested of the family the privilege of disintering the body, and of giving it a christian burial—this was denied until a priest could be consulted.

The question naturally arises: for what lies John Godett in this dishonoured grave? For what is he denied the right of christian burial? What crime has he committed against his family, or Country, or religion? To his family he was ever true. For his children; during their infancy and childhood, he toiled and tenderly cared. In their ripper years he gave them the best ad-

vice at his command, and offered for them the prayer of fervent love. To his country he was law abiding—for no crime does he stand indicted. Is he guilty of a religious misdemeanor? Then it is for reading the word of God and conscientiously believing its teachings, rejoicing in its truths, and accepting for himself the free salvation to sinners. For believing in the Lord Jesus and trying to please him and be like him who was meek and lowly in heart. And is this a crime worthy of such a censure in enlightened Nova Scotia in the County of Digby, so highly favored with religious light, and so well understanding the principles and privileges of religious freedom? This too is done in the name of religion and for the promotion of its tenets? How dark the night that hangs on this people. They are naturally very kind and hospitable to strangers, and affectionate to their kindred. What bitter malign ingredients must inhere in their faith and doctrines to make them so unnaturally brutish. How unfit for the civilized is a religion that tolerates an act so disgraceful to our country and common humanity.

But this sad circumstance suggests more pleasing reflections. We here find after many days some of our bread cast upon the waters through the instrumentality of our French Mission. That Bible which our departed brother found at his neighbor's house has been silently but surely doing its work, and this man's conversion is but a part of its fruit. Others are reading and learning of the Way of life. It prepared a preaching station for bro. Normandy, and others are listening to the gospel from his lips and reflecting. Surely God's word shall not return to Him void, it shall accomplish that which He pleases, and prosper in the thing whereto He sends it. The harvest of truth is in the mass—a brighter day dawns on this people. Our mission, though apparently slow in its progress, is not by any means a failure. From the low grave of our departed brother comes up to encourage us, a record of its triumph.

In the record of this circumstance we have in dim outline some of the trials of our Missionary. Surely he has a claim upon the sympathy and support of our churches. Clare, Jan. 22 1873. J. H. S.

For the Christian Messenger.

MRS. SARAH REACH,

relict of the late Mr. John Reagh, of Upper Wilnot, was called home on the 18th of Jan. 1874, at the age of 87 years. Our justly esteemed sister was graciously led in early life to trust in Jesus, and to own His name. During about 70 years she was a member of a Baptist Church; and it is pleasing to be able to state, from personal acquaintance and satisfactory testimony, that she was, as all should be, an every day Christian. While entertaining humiliating views of herself, no one acquainted with her could question the sincerity and efficacy of her faith. Her kind attentions were not limited to her family, but were cheerfully extended to the needy and afflicted around her, and to strangers that come within the reach of her hospitality. While residing at Margareville, and the nearest place of public worship was in Nietaux, her ardent attachment to the cause and people of God was often evinced by her walking thither—a distance of about 10 miles—to attend conference, and the ministry of her worthy Pastor, Rev. T. H. Chipman. So long as she could fill her place in the house of God, she gladly did so.

Sister Reagh was not only heretofore of her beloved husband 37 years before her decease, but 8 of her children preceded her to the grave. She had however, consoling hope in their death. Her numerous descendants are stated to have been—including those deceased—13 children, 97 grandchildren, 107 great grandchildren, 5 great-grand-children—together 222. Having lived to an unusual age, our dear sister gradually declined till at length she quietly fell asleep in Jesus, to be with Him. At the time of her burial a discourse was delivered by the writer from that appropriate text, Rev. xiv. 13. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, &c.—C. M. by Rev. C. Tuiper.

The Italian Government is going very strongly against the policy of the Church of Rome. It has confiscated the bulk of the conventual property in Rome. It has now enacted that no religious instruction be given in public schools. This step by step the separation between Church and State is becoming distinct and irreparable.

Religious Intelligence.

LUNENBURG.—Rev. Z. Morton writes from Mahone Bay, Jany. 27th, 1873—Dear Brother,—Enclosed please find five dollars for the Home Mission, collected at the Ministerial Conference held in New Cornwall on the 21st inst., (viz. actually collected \$4.25, and I make it up.) We had a spirited, and I think profitable conference, excellent sermons each evening of Monday and Tuesday, from Bro. March and Bro. Skinner.

Yours in fraternal sympathy, Z. MORTON.

NEWPORT.—Rev. D. McDonald writes, Jan. 30. h, from Acadia College: The Lord is still smiling upon His people at Newport. I had the privilege of baptizing eleven happy converts on the 16th, three of the number are heads of families; six promising young men and two young women. Thus the Lord is not only saving precious souls; but adding to His church such as shall take the places of those who have "borne the burden and heat of the day," and soon shall exchange labor in the church militant for rest in the church triumphant.

MONTREAL.—We find in the Canadian Baptist, a notice of the 4th Annual Festival of the Russell Hall Baptist Sabbath School. The Hall was crowded with scholars, teachers and friends; the opening hymn and prayer were offered by the pastor of the church, Rev. J. Donovan, and the superintendent, Mr. T. James Claxton, addressed the audience, giving an interesting account of the school.

During the year the average attendance of teachers and scholars has been 413; the average for the past few weeks 536. Largest attendance 586. There are 53 Teachers and officers and frequently every one is present at the school.

The contributions from the school for the year amount to \$625 15, which sum has been appropriated to various objects, viz. the Baptist Home Mission, \$50; the Canadian Sunday School Union, \$30; the School Library, \$103; for the support of one of the late teachers who is studying for the ministry, \$100; for Indian missionary Braham \$150; the Telougoo Mission \$28; an outfit for one of Miss Macpherson's little girls \$25.

15,000 papers distributed to the scholars have been returned and sent to country schools, where they have been gratefully received.

After Mr. Claxton's address, an excellently varied programme, consisting of recitations, songs, piano solos, and an original dialogue, was proceeded with. A magic lantern delighted the children, and Cruickshank's celebrated "Bottle" showed the terrible consequences of the "first glass."

EUPHEMIA.—We learn with pleasure from Pastor W. Haviland that during the revival in Euphemia; 48 persons have been baptized on a profession of their faith. The meetings continued for eight weeks, and were of great interest.

REV. J. C. HURD, M. D., has, we learn, received and accepted a call to the Cedar Street Baptist Church in Buffalo, N. Y. The Bradford Expositor says: "His genial smiles, vigorous sermons and hearty social qualities will not soon be forgotten by the people of this place."

THE CONFESSORIAL IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—We learn that at the recent decanal meeting at Southampton only two Protestant clergymen spoke against the introduction of the Confessional, the result being that five only voted against and about thirty for the proposition. To the people of Southampton we would say, "Beware! before it is too late."—The Rock.

Thirty-five years ago there were fourteen Baptist churches in Philadelphia, with about three thousand members; now there are forty-eight churches, with about fifteen thousand members. They maintain fifty-seven Sabbath schools, of sixteen thousand scholars. These churches contributed last year for local expenses and religious objects, \$200,000. The brethren are actively engaged in establishing Sabbath schools and prayer-meetings in destitute neighborhoods, which may result in new churches in the future.

Rev. J. Albert Wirth has just closed a six years' pastorate at Nevada City, California, and accepted the pastoral care of the Baptist church of Oregon City, Oregon. Ten years ago Bro. Wirth was a sailor in the Pacific Squadron, on board the flag-ship in which Rev. J. Stockbridge was chaplain. He got his discharge at San Francisco for the purpose of preparing for the ministry, and studied in that city, mainly under the direction of Rev. H. A. Sawtelle, if there are any more such sailors we hope they will lay aside their marine-spikes, and come on shore and preach the Gospel.

Father Benedict, in a private note, says: My Donatist History is now ready for the press. In matter, which is generally new and will be to English readers, it is equal to one-half of Cramp's Baptist History. Most of it it has been dug out of old Latin writings."

ROME.—We have a communication from Rev. Mr. Van Meter, giving the particulars in reference to the closing of his schools in Rome. He has addressed a letter to the Minister of Public Instruction, giving the history of his operations; informing him that he came to Rome to work for the children, and to have nothing to do with politics; that after careful inquiry he was assured that his work now would be as free there as in America, and that during the first month the names of 536 children had been registered by their parents for admission as regular pupils. He says that if he has omitted anything to meet the requirements of the government he will promptly and cheerfully correct the error, and hopes that he may be permitted to re-open his school in Borgo Vecchio, near St. Peter's Church. The legal supervisor of the province declares that "the act of closing his school was unjustifiable," and it has been denounced in the Chamber of Deputies as an outrage caused by the cardinals and Jesuits. As far as we can judge, it seems to be a question of red tape. We hope that when needed formalities are complied with, he may be able to resume his work.—Christian Weekly.

A BAPTISM CASE IN SCOTLAND.—The following taken from a letter published in the Scotsman of the 9th inst. shows that something near akin to the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration is being held by some Scotch Presbyterians. Mr. Donald Macnaughton, a merchant of Fort William writes: "Lately I had occasion to wait on my minister, the Rev. Charles Stewart, of Free Church, Fort William, to request of him baptism for my first-born. I was severely examined on the Shorter Catechism and, so far as I could make out, gave very satisfactory answers, till this power was hurled at me, 'Do you promise to hold worship in your family morning and evening hereafter?' I tried to evade the question as much as possible, holding forth I was very often called from home, that it was impossible for me, but all was of no use whatever. The question was again asked more firmly than before, and seeing that I must yield, I asked him if he would consider it honest of me to promise what he and I knew perfectly well I could never accomplish. That was of no consequence; I must conform to the rules of the Church. Then again, 'Do you promise &c., &c.?' 'No,' was my answer. 'Then I will not baptize your child,' was the return. 'Very good,' and I left. Does it not appear to you, Mr. Editor, rather strange that the church to which I, and my father before me, have subscribed towards sustenance now refuses to do anything in return, except as I have shown above, endeavour to make me lie.

SUGGESTIVE.—The New York Herald, owned and edited by a Roman Catholic, gives the following strange statistics. In New York in the last three years there were 141 murders:—

Forty murders in 1870; sixteen Irish, ten Germans, ten Americans, three English and one Norwegian. Forty-five murders in 1871: twenty-three Irish, nine Americans, four English, four Germans, one Italian and one Swiss. Fifty-six murders in 1872: twenty Irish, nineteen Americans, eight Germans, three English, two Swedes, one Italian and one French. Five more murders in 1871 than in 1870; eleven more murders in 1872 than in 1871—an increase of sixteen murders in two years!"

Here, out of a hundred and forty-one capital offences, we find that fifty-nine are chargeable to persons of Irish birth. In other words, while German crime is 15 per cent, and American crime 29 per cent, Irish crime is 43 per cent, or the exact equivalent of both the others combined.

It is noteworthy that there is not a Scotchman in the crowd. Let us hear no more then of the foolish old cry against Education as increasing the number of criminals.—Witness.

Dominion & Foreign News.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEB. 5, 1873.

The Dominion Parliament will meet for the despatch of business on Wednesday, the fifth of March.

CANADA PACIFIC RAILROAD.—The Board of Provisional Directors are thirteen:

Five for Ontario—John Walker, Esq., London; Walter Shanley, Prescott; Fred. Cumberland, Esq., Toronto; Donald McInnes, Esq., Hamilton; Sanford Fleming, Esq., C. E. Ottawa.

Four for Quebec—Sir Hugh Allan, Montreal; J. B. Beaudry, Esq., Montreal; Hon. J. C. Baubien, Quebec; Robt. N. Hall, Barrister, Sherbrooke.

One for Nova Scotia—Hon. A. G. Archibald, Halifax.

One for New Brunswick—E. R. Burpee, Esq.

One for Manitoba—W. McDermott, Merchant, Winnipeg.

One for British Columbia—J. S. Helmiken, Esq., and one of the British Columbia Delegates who settled terms of Union with the Dominion.

Ten Millions of Stock has been subscribed. The Company thus formed have it understood, offered to build the road under terms which is also understood are satisfactory to the Government, and the Charter will be issued on the return of His Excellency the Governor General to Ottawa.

Stock Books are to be opened, as previously announced, in each of the provinces. President of Provisional Board, Sir Hugh Allan; Vice-President, John Walker, Esq.

The Board of Directors will meet at Ottawa on Friday next, and next month a deputation, composed of Sir Hugh Allan, Major Walker, Hon. A. G. Archibald, and Hon. Mr. Abbott, will leave for England.

GUNS FOR CANADA.—A late English paper says:—The Canadian Government being left to its own resources, has ordered of Sir William Armstrong a number of 9 pounder field guns of 8 wt., precisely similar to those which have recently been manufactured in the Royal Gun Factory, Woolwich, and supplied to the Royal Artillery. The Canadian guns are being constructed at the Riswick Factory, and are to be finished speedily.

The Court House at Quebec was completely destroyed by fire on Sunday, entailing the loss of all the records of the Province since its formation, together with the title deeds and important legal documents. The fire at one time threatened the Anglican Cathedral, but was confined to the Court House.

THE RELIGION OF THE DOMINION EMPLOYEES.—The Blue Book recently issued for the purpose of exhibiting the nationality, creeds, &c., of the Government employes furnishes the following statistics:—

Table with 2 columns: Religion and Count. Roman Catholics: 1302; Presbyterians: 494; Baptists: 174; Unitarian and Liberal Christian: 2; Hebrews: 1; Brothers in Christ: 1; Christian, no sect: 1; Christian Disciples: 5; Disciples in Christ: 6; Millenites: 1; Second Adventists: 1; Catholic Apostolic Church: 1; Chr. stadiaphan: 1; Pres. Church of Maritime Provinces: 4; Independents: 1; Society of Friends: 1; New Testament: 4; Episcopals: 973; Methodists: 20; Congregationalists: 10; Universalists: 4; Sweeaborians: 2; Christian Brothers: 1; Westrians: 1; Romanists: 1; No creed: 2; Lutherans: 3; The Bible: 1; Quakers: 1; Toronto Brethren: 3; Cave answers: 2; Reformed Presbyterians: 1; Anglicans: 11; Tene's of Plymouth Brethren: 1; Free Methodist: 1.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The N. B. Legislature is to meet for the despatch of business on the 27th inst.

The convict Gribbens, who lately effected his escape from Penitentiary at St. John, was arrested this week while attempting to get on a railway train for the United States.

On Wednesday afternoon a young man named John Wales, arrested for drunkenness, cut his throat in one of the cells of the Police Station at Portland, St. John. At last accounts his condition was critical.

St. John papers report that Mr. Lewis H. Kidd, carriage builder, of that city, has been missing since Friday of last week. All his effects, including his best clothes, remain at the hotel at which he boarded, and no apparent reason exists for his absconding.

It is reported that gold has been discovered at Uxtonia, Albert Co.

A LARGE FIRE occurred at St. John on Tuesday last, about 8 o'clock in the morning. It appears to have commenced in the Chemical Laboratory of James L. Fellows, Esq., manufacturer of the Hypophosphites Compound, and spread to the adjacent stores occupied by W. Lee, Hardware Dealer, Lordy & Co., Furniture Manufacturers, Misses Sharp, Milliners, and the Agency of Howe Sewing Machines. We learn that Mr. Fellows had \$1000 insurance on his stock, and Messrs. Lordy & Co.'s losses, which are not heavy, are fully covered. The principal part of the property was owned by Hon. Judge Peters, of P. E. Island, and the balance belonged to the estate of the late Mr. Leavitt. We have not learned that the houses were insured.

The directors of the Academy of Music, St. John, expect to extricate that building from its financial difficulties by giving "four grand gift concerts" in May. A \$5 ticket entitles the holder to admission to the concert and to a chance of drawing a \$30,000 prize!

UNITED STATES.

New York, Feb. 3, p. m.—Gold 13 1/2. Sight exchange 104. Money 7 per cent.

In the contested will case of the late Horace Greeley, testimony was introduced showing that Mr. Greeley was out of his mind for several days before his death.

The reputation of Vice President Colfax for truth and veracity is being seriously damaged by the Credit Mobilier investigation.

The trial of Tweed resulted in a disagreement of the Jury. Nine were for acquittal and three for conviction. There is to be an effort made to give him a new trial.

The Massachusetts Legislature has voted to prohibit the selling of beer.

In Forsyth County, Georgia, on the 25th, one citizen was killed and two U. S. Marshals wounded, in a fight with violators of the Revenue Laws.