

through divine and gracious adoption, and by the spirit and power of Jesus, can rightly address Jehovah, as their Father. And this reality of sonship, comes by being born of God.

For we read, this: "To them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Born of God, then, they, naturally, became his sons; and, of course, had a legitimate right,—aye, a divine right, to call God, Father. And this, specially, because the Spirit of God's eternal Son, was sent into their hearts, as a true resident, who spoke to the Father for them, being their Mediator and High Priest. The Son of God in us the sons of the same God and Father, making us twin-brothers, as it were; only more so. Well did Christ say: "Without me ye can do nothing." As one of the famous Siamese twins could go nowhere, unless the other went, no more can we tread divine paths, except Christ go with us. Blessed Companions! May we prize his holy and helpful fellowship, and be led most sweetly and surely, to a higher trust in our mutual Father, that we may be one in life, one in death, and, finally, one in Heaven.

C. H. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

LETTER FROM MISS NORRIS.

Dr. Cramp has sent us the following extracts from a letter dated March 3rd. "This last month, I have been able to reach the churches on the Tavoy river, and have seen many of the first converts to Christianity from among the Karens. One of them in his youth usually accompanied Kothabee on his preaching excursions, was baptized in Rev. Mr. Boardman's time, among the first Tavoy converts, has been pastor of a church many years, but is now suffering from old age, weakness and disease, and is unable to leave his house at all. His sons, however, are the pillars of the church in their village, and ready to every good work. One of them accompanied me on my way home, spending four days cheerfully to guide me and conduct the elephants. For the people came with three elephants for my use on my way home, though it was quite unnecessary: they seemed so glad to have a white teacher among them again, and the prospect of a good school, that they made my visit a general holiday.

"In another village I found another old man, who had grown gray and infirm in the service of the Master, and was waiting for his summons home. He seldom gets out to chapel now, but came to see me and to talk about the good old times when they first heard of Christ. Very many old men and women, who are conversant with the whole history of Karen missions, and are themselves part of what they narrate, I found, and listened to their reminiscences of former days as one might listen to those who told of the patriarchs and saints of bible times with whom they had been conversant. We have every reason to hope for a good school here this rainy season, and I trust God will bring in sufficient bread and water, and bless both soul and body, heart and mind, preparing a noble harvest hereafter from this seed-sowing.

You will be pleased to hear that a party of Siamese Karens have come all the way here to visit me, and to assure me that they will come and study in the rains, as they promised me in their homes. Pray that they be not hindered.

"Travelling in Tavoy is very easy and pleasant, and the scenery very fine. It is emphatically a country of mountains, and the passage of rapid rivers, quite safe in the dry season, is very exciting to one unaccustomed. Ascending mountains against the torrent is a novel experience to me; the Karens spring into the water, seize the sides of the boats, and carry it on triumphantly; many people lose their lives, however, in the rains, when the streams are swollen and more rapid. The more general mode of travelling is by elephant, and these are very numerous, and so powerful and sagacious that it is very pleasant to watch their proceedings.

"The expenses of my trip to Siam were born in part by missionaries, largely by Karens, and some aid from English residents. The whole was a free-will offering, and will cost the Board nothing."

Heaven will permit no man to secure happiness by crime.

For the Christian Messenger.

FROM ROME, ITALY.

ROME, April 26th, 1873.

Pilgrimages to holy shrines seem to be the last trick resorted to by the clerical party in order to excite the people against the Government. The promoters have not only a political view, but a political object against the laws of the country. The supporters of the Government have rallied to its aid and the following address was issued by the promoters of a liberal movement initiated to counteract the clerical intrigues:

Citizens!—The ultramontane pilgrimage which is intended to be sent to the Sanctuaries of Italy and especially that of Francesco di Assisi in Umbria, has moved to indignation all the liberals of this Province, who have discovered that under the Ægis of religion there is a partially hidden political attempt on our independence, and a malignant conspiracy against the unity of the country.

To avert this danger the citizens of Perugia in consequence of an invitation from the patriots of Fuligno, united in public meeting have unanimously passed the following resolution.

The catholic party of Europe threatens us; it is our duty to fight it; and we feel sure of the victory if the liberals of all Italy will stretch out to us their helping hand to accept the battle. Unite yourselves to us by promoting in your city and surrounding towns public adhesions to our protest, in order that the mob of fanatics, who wish to go about our land with the cry of 'Viva il Papa Re' should understand once and for ever, that they cannot offend with impunity the dignity of a population, that progress cannot be arrested in its glorious march, that history cannot be pushed back, and that the idea of a restoration in Italy are dreams of an infirm spirit.

The president, B. SALVATORI.  
Secr. F. VERRACCHI.

The resolution is as follows. The citizens having met in the Minerva theatre immediately on becoming aware that under pretext of religion the clericals of several nations intend to undertake a political pilgrimage to Assisi in order that it should be a demonstration in favour of the temporal dominion of the Pope, they protest against this attempt on the dignity and independence of the Italian people, hereby proclaim that should it take place, and is not prevented by the public authorities, they will oppose by main force, and to this object they make an appeal not only to the other cities of Umbria, but of all Italy in order that all the liberals should concur in the protest to be addressed to Government, and in the means of resistance to adopt in case the pilgrimage should take place the committees of the several societies of Umbria will take means for its necessary resistance.

In a church of Naples a priest has opened an agency for insurance against sudden death; every one going there and paying a few sous receives from the impostor the assurance that he will not be snatched away from this world by sudden death; the subscribers are numerous. The Accidental Death Insurance Companies had better look to their policies now they have so powerful a competition. Thus under multifarious pretext the collection of Peter's Pence is increasing.

The condition of the Pope is not much changed and there is little improvement except in the fever symptoms which are now less frequent. All the doctors are of opinion that he has no lumbago, nor rheumatic affection, but that his illness is caused by humours, for many years gathered in the lower extremities of his body. They think his illness will become chronic, which may keep him a long time in his present condition, unless some sudden complication should arise.

The *Riforma*, a Liberal opposition paper, says that the Commission on the religious Corporations bill has made a mistake in taking politics as their point of departure, this law being merely one of internal order. It is not necessary that this law should go through the influence of international politics; all the States that have abolished the religious Corporations have not been influenced by foreign politics.

The Jesuit priest, Ballerini, who was arrested for his book "Giulio," has been transferred to Florence for trial. As an evidence of the persistent struggle between Church and State, it is asserted from authoritative quarters that at the present moment there are 78 ecclesiastics under process of the law,—29 bishops and 49 of inferior grade—in the Church, in different parts of Italy.

On Sunday a disturbance took place between the opposite political parties designated as liberals and clericals on the Piazza de Gesù.

After the preaching of Father Lombardini three clericals stopped to stare at a group of liberals. This action led to high words, and finally to blows. Signori Polidori, Fornari and Barberi, and another gentleman whose name has not transpired of the liberal party arrested; the clericals, one of whom an Englishman Mr. Arthur Vansittart was wounded on the head took refuge in the palace of the Austrian embassy. The arrested liberals were taken to the station of the Questura in the via di S. Marcello, and at the gate a battalion of soldiers was stationed to prevent the people rescuing the persons arrested. On the part of the clericals two were arrested who declined giving their names. Together with Mr. Vansittart were two nephews of Cardinal Antonelli. It is to be remarked that all the combatants were Romans, and not Italians come to Rome since 20th September, 1870.

Our Italian mission enjoys just now a high degree of prosperity. Last Thursday I baptized two converts; at Civita Vecchia three are waiting for baptism; at Modena, seven, and at Carpi, three. During my late visit to Bari I baptized seven converts, among them a lawyer.

Truly yours,  
W. N. CORE.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 21, 1873.

OUR HOME MISSIONS.

TO EACH BAPTIST CHURCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Beloved Brethren,—

Permit us to invite your attention to the fact that there is to be a Meeting of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union at Bridgetown, on Friday, June 20th 1873, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Constitution of the Union provides "that this Union be composed of the Pastors of the Baptist Churches in the Province and delegates appointed by the Churches—each Church in good standing with its respective Association sending not more than three delegates."

You will see, therefore, that you can send to the Meeting of the Union three delegates besides your Pastor, who is a Member of the Union in his own right.

Matters of great importance are to be brought before the Union at its Annual Meeting in June next. Permit us, therefore, to urge you to send to that Meeting your full number of Delegates, and instruct them to vote for the consolidation of all our Home Missionary organizations into one body, or for the continuance of separate Societies; or, with such modifications and improvements in either case, as may be agreed upon at the Meeting.

J. M. CRAMP,  
President of Union.  
A. C. ROBBINS,  
Chairman of Board.  
G. E. DAY,  
W. H. PORTER,  
Secretaries of Board.

Yarmouth, May 2, 1873.

We would respectfully request attention of the brethren to the above notice, and hope there may be immediate action taken in accordance therewith. Bridgetown is perhaps as suitable a place as could be chosen for such a gathering, taking into account the existence of the railways eastward, and the absence of such facilities of travelling westward. We do not despair of cordial agreement between the brethren East, West, and Central on this very important matter, either in combined co-operation in Home mission work or by friendly action under existing organizations for a time. Ultimately at any rate we doubt not there will be a provincial arrangement for carrying on such co-operative Missionary labors on behalf of the Baptist Churches of the three Associations.

SAD DISASTER AT THE DRUMMOND COLLIERIES WESTVILLE, PICTOU COUNTY.

We have to record one of the most fatal and distressing calamities that ever occurred in connection with mining operations in Nova Scotia. It appears that about one o'clock on Tuesday of last week an explosion took place without sufficient warning to allow those who were down in the mine to escape, the result of which was that between seventy and eighty men met with their

death by suffocation or by the fire which followed immediately on the explosion. From the telegrams to the daily papers we gather some of the leading facts.

At the time the manager of the works, Mr. James Dunn, the overman, Mr. Richardson, and between forty and one hundred men and boys were in the mine. There is a down-cast air shaft about three hundred yards from the slope, or entrance to the mine, and cries were heard at the bottom of this shaft. Ropes and men were immediately procured, and with their assistance four men were rescued, but before any more could be taken out the fire had reached the shaft, and another fearful explosion took place, cutting off all hopes of saving any more lives from this point. Four men, who had volunteered to descend this shaft to assist their fellow workmen, were in the act of doing so, and were blown up when the explosion occurred.

Meanwhile the fire raged fiercely in the mine, volumes of dense smoke and flame issuing from the slopes and airshafts, rendering it impossible to make any further effort to reach those within. Soon after the occurrence of the calamity became known in the locality many persons gathered at the mouth of the pit, and the scene of wives lamenting their husbands and children, and sisters weeping with sorrow for the loss of their brothers, was heartrending.

It is affirmed that to a great extent this shocking calamity is, indirectly, the result of the late strike of the miners, the stoppage of the works having caused an extraordinary accumulation of gas in the mine, thus rendering the explosion more extensive and terrific than it otherwise might have been. The difficulty with the men on strike had just been settled, and they had returned to work on the morning of the day on which the disaster occurred.

The following is a list of married men who have left wives and families: James Dunn, Esq., Philip Dunn, John Dunn, Thos. Glenwright, Joseph Richardson, John Bounee, George Burnley, John Emery, John Thos. lott, Robert Dunbar, John McPherson, John Dickie, James Ramsey, David McNeil, Hugh Gillis, Jno. Campbell, Daniel Hall, Henry Truman, John McNeil, Colin Chisholm, Hugh McGilvery, Hugh McDonald, Abram Gay, Angus Smith and Alexander Elms.

The names of the single men who have lost their lives are as follows:—Kenneth Cameron, Archibald Cameron, Wm. Elliott, Owen McLeod, John Sinclair, Jas. Cummings, Timothy Howatt, John McRitchie, Alex. Parves, jr, John McElvie, jr, Duncan McKae, John Fraser, Taylor, Duncan Holliday, Danl. McDonald, John McDonald, 1st; Jno. McDonald, 2nd; Nichol. O'Brien, Duncan McDonald, Mathew Doyle, Edward Jones, Mathew Manning, and Donald Shaw.

These are all the names yet positively ascertained of those killed. The number will probably reach seventy five.

The wounded are John Burnett and Geo. Stewart, fatally; and J. Dunston, Patrick O'Brien, Wm. Bell, and Chisholm, almost certain to recover.

Since the explosion none have come up alive. Of four men who volunteered to go down the shaft, shortly before the second explosion, there were killed, Edward Burns and Abram Guy instantly, and John Dunn, who died after lingering for some sixteen hours. The name of the fourth man was Glenwright.

The fire was extinguished on Thursday afternoon, by water being poured down the shaft, and by stopping up the openings with earth.

The Reporter's Special Commissioner, in describing the neighbourhood, said it is heart-rending to pass through the square of building were the families of the lost miners reside. The window blinds are all down. A stillness, as of death, reigns over the place. There is no merry laugh to be heard. The prattle of the little ones is hushed. There is nothing but weeping and wailing. The poor widows of the men whose charred remains are far down in the burning sepulchre, mourn incessantly and piteously, bemoaning the loss of those who have been so suddenly snatched from them and their families. As you pass close to their saddened homes you hear them sobbing and crying as though their hearts were breaking.

An inquest was held on the body of Mr. John Dunn, and others who were killed. The evidence taken gives the particulars from those who escaped, and others who had duties in relation to the works. It is very remarkable that the man McLeod, who was the unintentional cause of the explosion escaped comparatively uninjured.

The testimony of Andrew McLeod and his brother Robert, will give a pretty clear idea of how the terrible calamity occurred:

Andrew McLeod, brother of Robt. testified that he was in the bord cutting coal, when

the fire took place. Always worked in this place with a safety lamp. Never found much gas in the bord. Always used powder. After firing two shots, and subsequently a third shot he discovered that the bord was on fire. Endeavored to put it out by ordinary means, wet bags, &c, but after working for over quarter of an hour, and finding that the fire was gaining on them, they called for assistance, and two men came. He was exhausted and fainting, and made for the slope. All of them went out to the landing shutting the door behind them. Joe Richardson then came down and directed the men the way to get at the fire; but he soon returned and gave directions for all the men and horses to come out. Witness continued; Then started for the opening, and had scarcely reached the mouth of the slope when the mine exploded, throwing him out on the bank. There were some men behind him, and one ahead of him. He met Mr. Dunn, the manager, going down on a "rake."

Robt. McLeod, testified that he was at work at the bottom of number two level on the south side. When he went into the bord he found only six inches of gas, and that on the high side the mine was as clear as usual. He fired two shots, but neither caught. At a quarter to twelve he fired the lower bench, but it did not blow well. He tried to dislodge the coal, but did not succeed. Was obliged to retire fifteen minutes after in consequence of the coal catching fire. After getting fresh air he endeavored to return but could not get into the bord. They met Joe Richardson, who said he would go in the lodgements way; he went after him, and could see that the fire had caught the laticing. Orders were given to start the pumps, but the smoke was then increasing. Richardson then sent him out after Mr. Dunn, the manager, who came down on the return rake that conveyed up a number of the boys. Richardson then told him to call all the men that were inside, as it was a lost cause. He then went up the slope. When within two hundred feet of the opening the blast caught us. When he felt it coming, he threw himself down and held on to the rail and succeeded in getting out with the assistance of a man whom he did not know. One of the men ahead of him was his brother, who was lost. On being questioned by the inspector, witness said he always tried the face of the bord before firing a shot; had frequently seen the gas catch from a full shot, but once only from the bench. Never had a shot operated in the same way before, as the one which caused the fire did. Richardson told him one morning powder should not be used; but he told him he would not work in his bord, Richardson then gave him permission to use the powder. Had he had two or three more men when the fire occurred he could have put it out. Had been required to stop using powder in his place two months ago, in consequence of low level having been fired the day before. In this level the gas would accumulate rapidly, if the ventilation was disturbed, so as to fill it in a few minutes. Before he left the bord the first time the smoke was backing down, which would interfere with the ventilation.

The following is the verdict of the jury:—

"That John Dunn came to his death on the 13th day of May inst., from an explosion of gas in the Drummond Colliery, caused by derangement of the ventilation of the mine, arising from a fire in Robert McLeod's bord. The jury consider that care was exhibited in the management of the mine; but express regret that powder was permitted to be used in the bord worked by the said Robert McLeod."

RELIEF MEETING.

On Saturday morning a meeting was held in the chamber of commerce in Halifax to give expressions of sympathy and aid to the sufferers.

Hon. R. Boak was called to the chair, and W. B. McNutt appointed secretary. John S. McLean, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Daniel Cronan, and passed unanimously:

"Resolved, That this meeting having heard of the terrible disaster at the Drummond Colliery, on the 13th inst., desires to express its deep sympathy with the widows, orphans and other relatives of those who were destroyed; and its appreciation of the gallantry of the Manager who entered the pit when informed that it was on fire, and of the four men who volunteered to descend the air shaft to endeavor to save their comrades, and who perished while engaged in the noble work."

Hon. Jas. McDonald, moved the second resolution; which was seconded by Peter Ross and also passed unanimously.

"Resolved, That a subscription list be opened for the relief of the bereaved families, the proceeds to be forwarded to the local committee for distribution, and that ward collectors be appointed to collect and receive subscriptions."

It was then moved by George P. Mitchell, and seconded by John Doull, That the following gentlemen be a committee to carry out the above resolutions: Hon. S. L. Shannon, Hon. Robt. Boak, Hon. James McDonald, John Doull, and the Secretary; and that J. S. Maclean, be appointed Treasurer of the fund.

A considerable sum—upwards of \$2000—was subscribed by those present before the meeting adjourned.