

time Provinces, and the Siamese people to become the subjects for their Mission efforts, there never was a time in the history of that country so auspicious as the present is for doing Mission work there.

There was one passage in the Annual Report of the Board, as presented by Rev. Dr. Cramp at the late Convention, which made a deep impression on my mind. That passage runs thus:—

"Surely, Siam is one of the 'utmost parts of the earth' which have been given to the Saviour for his 'possession,' and 'the time to favor' her, the 'set time,' will undoubtedly come. What if it is come already, and we provincialists are the chosen instruments of God's love and power to convey to the Siamese the knowledge of salvation by the cross of Christ, and of the 'life and immortality' which he has 'brought to light?' What if the divine blessing is about to descend upon that nation by means of our Missionaries, converting worshippers of dumb idols into living temples of the Holy Ghost, and studding Siam with Christian churches? Of such honour we are unworthy; but let us 'have faith in God,' and 'pray without ceasing,' and 'expect great things' to follow the 'labour of love.'"

When I think that the mammoth Missionary Societies, both of England and of America, went, in their early days, through a trying process of experiments before they got settled down to intelligent, substantial and efficient work in Foreign fields, I am not disposed to find fault with what may be termed the experimental epoch in the Foreign Mission efforts of our Provincial brethren. But who is sure that their present movements are not the orderings of the Lord? "What," to re-quote Dr. Cramp's words, "What if it is come already, and we Provincialists are the chosen instruments of God's love and power to convey to the Siamese the knowledge of salvation by the cross of Christ?" I have great confidence in the men who are endeavoring to do the work of management. They are sensible, devout and praying men, engaged in an enterprise in which they may be assured of receiving special divine guidance. And yet they make mistakes, but God will manage even their mistakes so as to promote His cause. A few days ago I was present at a Woman's Missionary Conference, in the Western part of Massachusetts. In that Conference Mrs. Ada C. Chaplain, who wrote "The Story of our Missions," presented a paper abounding with good sense. I begged the use of it for the columns of our Magazine. It will be found in the November issue. From that I quote a paragraph in harmony with the point in hand. Mrs. Chaplain says:

"Now, even admitting that our individual way is wisest, let us remember that it seems to be a part of God's plan that most of his work should be done by people who do not take the best, not even the second or third best way of doing it; and if we rebel against this order of things, we are rebelling against His plan; 2d. That, if we co-operate at all, we must not only co-operate with people who are sinners, and liable to err like ourselves, but with people whose sins and errors lie in directions opposite to our own, which, of course, make them seem to us much greater; and 3d. That, at present, the only possible way we can have of knowing what God has planned to be done is by knowing what is done. Not that he plans the wrong things, the unwise things, any more than he plans our discontented withdrawal; not that we should not do all we can, laboring earnestly and cheerfully to prevent them; but, when they are unpreventable, let us remember, that possibly, after all, it is we who were wrong and unwise. At any rate, God, looking down from above upon his great world-factory, is not confused by the clashing and jarring of its machinery."

I am not done with Siam, and have something to offer for the consideration of my critic, with whom I am not going to quarrel. Both he and I have at heart the same good and great cause. But I must not trespass further on your space at present.

W. S. MCKENZIE.

[We have two or three more letters from Bro. McKenzie on this subject.—Ed.]

For the Christian Messenger.

NICTAUX BAPTIST SABBATH SCHOOL CONCERT.

It was at the close of an enchanting "Indian Summer" day, Oct. 25th, the air mild and serene, all nature and the works thereof attuned to praise, the holy Sabbath, typical of "the day of eternal rest," the sun had retired in splendor to its pacific bed in the far distant west, the golden curtains of evening were closed, and from the "portals of the east," the silver moon came forth adorned in robes of crystal light, ever and anon veiling her face, with gossamer lace woven of pearly dew-drops, like a modest bride, lest he who rules the day, might from his golden chariot cast a

lingering glance at her beautiful form. Such was the evening calm and quiet, that upon the plains of the beautiful Nictaux, gathered the young men and maidens, parents and children, from far and near, a great congregation, to be the partakers of a rich and varied intellectual entertainment, prepared by the members of the Nictaux Baptist Sabbath School and the Bible Class taught by Rev. W. J. Bleakney; all under the efficient Superintendence of Col. B. H. Parker, assisted by Miss Abigail Parker, to whom much is due for the zeal, devotion and practical skill she has exhibited from the inception to the completion of the exhibition. The exercises consisted of vocal and instrumental music, recitations, addresses, &c. The organ used on this occasion was a fine one and the music rendered therefrom by Master David Gates, was in good taste, well executed, and did credit to this young amateur.

The performance of the scholars was remarkably fine, and exceedingly interesting as was attested by a crowded and attentive audience for nearly three hours. Perhaps the most impressive portion of the exercises was that manifested in the time, tone, and harmony of the many voices as with clear and distinct vocalization they uttered forth the copious passages from the Bible either literally or paraphrased, at once convincing the vast audience of not only the untiring patience and capabilities of the Superintendent and assistants but of the close attention, ability, and perseverance of the scholars to bring to a successful issue such an exhibition. The selection of "Hymns and Spiritual Songs" was good, oft reminding us that—

"We are going, we are going, to a home beyond the skies,
Where the birds are robed in beauty, and the sunlight never dies,
Where the fount of joy is flowing, in the valley green and fair,
We shall dwell in love together, there will be no parting there."

We would not omit to mention the recitation of the "Good Night" Address by a little girl apparently about six years of age. It was gracefully and prettily spoken with composure and sweetness. At the conclusion of the regular programme the Rev. W. J. Bleakney made a short and very appropriate address, pithily remarking of the tendency of the age to criticize all public performances, but especially preaching, and Sabbath School exercises, and those that were so fortunate as to be present, will not soon forget his caustic words thus "fitly spoken."

The Superintendent then invited bro. L. Bloomfield Page to address the assembly. Bro. P. came forward and remarked that the call upon him was entirely unexpected, but that many of those present knew that it was his rule to "keep his armor on" not knowing when he might be called to "lay it down." He spoke of the pleasure afforded him on this interesting occasion, that the performance would be creditable to any city or town, and not this alone but had no doubt it would be of lasting benefit to all present, and expressing the hope that should this large assembly not meet again on earth, then with that innumerable company—the blood-washed throng, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, they might sit at the marriage supper of the Lamb, Farewell. Bro. M. McGregor then came forward and made a few closing remarks, he said he had been much interested in the exercises, spoke of the excellence of the performance, and that in all particulars he had not seen it excelled in the City of Boston.

Thus closed with the benediction a joyous occasion, that will be an ever green spot in our memory.

ONE OF THE COMPANY.

Religious Intelligence.

COLCHESTER & CUMBERLAND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

TRURO, Oct. 26, 1874.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

The Baptist Pastors and Licentiate of Colchester and Cumberland, met together at Parrsboro during the late session of our Association, and organized themselves into a Conference, to be called the Colchester and Cumberland Baptist Ministerial Conference. The object of this association is, (I quote from the constitution) "to afford an opportunity to confer with each other relative,

- 1st. To the welfare of the cause of Christ in these counties.
2d. To aid and encourage each other in any way that may be deemed necessary.
As for example, by the presentation of Sermons, Essays or papers on Theological or practical subjects, Exegeses or interpre-

tations of Scriptures and the like for criticism by the members present.

3. The edification of the churches and the spiritual welfare of the community where the Conference may be held, by the preaching of the gospel, and such other religious exercises as circumstances may admit." Our first meeting after organization was held at Oxford, a part of Bro. Miles' field, Sept. 15th.

The influence of the meeting was felt to be good. The brethren were made to understand each other's work better, to sympathize in each other's trials, to realize that we stand not alone, but together, in the defence of the gospel in these Counties. The preaching of the word, in our public meetings, was listened to with marked attention.

A special meeting was appointed to be held with the church at DeBert River, on the 20th of this month. Brethren Miles, Bool and the writer, met Bro. Freeman in that interesting part of his field, and held meetings three times a day till the close of the week. God was present by his Spirit to bless the word spoken.

Bro. Miles remained over the Sabbath. The prospects of a blessed revival are exceedingly flattering. I hope you will soon hear good news from Bro. Freeman. We did not intend to parade our meetings in the Messenger. But they are likely to prove such a blessing to ourselves as ministers, and to the churches we represent, we thought our appearing occasionally in your columns, might stimulate other Counties, where practicable, to go and do likewise.

Our next special meeting will be held (D. V.) with the church at River Hebert where Bro. Bool presides, on the 24th of November, preaching at 7 P. M.

J. E. GOUCHER, Sec. of Conference.

YARMOUTH.—A note from Dr. Day last week said "The revival is going on with our various churches with marvellous power. I trust the Lord will bring hundreds to himself this fall in Yarmouth, Hope that you will be greatly blessed in Halifax."

A later message from Dr. Day says:—"I baptized eleven yesterday, Brother Warren baptized ten, and Brother Galaher, seven. The Revival is still progressing."

This makes 28 more received into the Yarmouth churches on Sunday last and gives some indication of the deep work of grace initiated in connection with Mr. Earle's labors in Yarmouth.

PEREAUX, CORNWALLIS.—On last Lord's day, Oct. 25th, two believers in Christ were baptized in Scott's Bay into the Perea church. We hope to welcome others who seem anxiously enquiring.

Yours, &c., D. FREEMAN.

Dominion & Foreign News.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER 4, 1874.

Thanksgiving day was observed in Ontario on Thursday last.

At Fort Garry, Manitoba, on Friday last Lepine was found guilty of being accessory to the murder of Thomas Scott.

A despatch from Ottawa says the Government are granting special permits to United States vessels to carry lumber from Canadian to American ports, while Canadian vessels are obliged to remain stripped in harbor with crews paid off, for want of freight.

A post-office clerk in Ottawa named Roberge has been sent to the penitentiary for five years for robbing money letters.

A prisoner in the Collingwood lock-up was burned alive in the destruction of that place by fire a few days ago.

A new Civil Service Act will be introduced next session. It will provide for reorganization with complete readjustment of salaries.

The Governor General and Lady Dufferin left Boston for Ottawa, on Monday morning.

A meeting of the representatives of the Lower Provinces was to be held at Ottawa, yesterday, for the purpose of arranging a united system of immigration early in the season. Mr. Jenkins was to be present.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mr. Charles Frost, of Norton, Kings Co., went out hunting on Friday, and was found dead in the woods Saturday evening, with a gunshot wound in his breast. It is supposed that he shot himself accidentally.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday afternoon there occurred one of the saddest and most lamentable accidents that has taken place in St. John for a long time. About a quarter to five o'clock, a horse attached to a light buggy, owned by Mr. McCarthy,

of Landry & McCarthy, started and ran up King street to Charlotte, down which he ran at a frightful pace. He soon got on the sidewalk, scattering the people in all directions, a great many just getting out of his path in time. At the corner of Duke and Charlotte streets, Mrs. Harriet Lee, with her daughter, was standing on the sidewalk conversing with Col. Thurgar, Sr., and his wife. Before they were aware of it the horse was upon them, Miss Lee being struck in the back of the neck by one of the shafts. Mrs. Lee and Col. Thurgar were likewise thrown to the ground. Miss Lee in about five minutes after breathed her last, never having been conscious from the time of the accident.

GAVE THEM THE SLIP.—On Tuesday the Sheriff of Northumberland and his deputy started for St. John, having in custody Thos. Henderson, who was recently sentenced to five years imprisonment in the St. John Penitentiary. Arriving at Painesee they waited the coming of the night train from Halifax; and while they were standing on the platform Henderson slipped his handcuffs and made good his escape.

Mr. Davidson, who resides on Pond street, St. John, set fire to the bed in which he slept by upsetting a lamp which had been left burning on a table close to the bed.—He was badly burned.

UNITED STATES.

The new steamship City of Pekin put into Rio Janeiro on the 19th inst, having lost two blades of her propeller.

The English Earl of Charleville died on the 27th at Castleton, Staten Island, of consumption.

The late gale was very severe on the Lakes, several disasters are already reported, including three schooners ashore laden with wheat from Chicago for Buffalo.

The long delayed notification of Great Britain, as to the position accepted by that Power, for Labrador, under provisions of the Washington Treaty, has been made. The whole of Labrador, outside of the Province of Quebec, is considered part of Newfoundland.

The Pacific mail steamer Costa Rica broke her shaft one hundred miles south of Santiago, in the Pacific Ocean.

There has been a revolution in Lower California. The people rose, killing 13 insurgents, including their leader, thus putting an end to the revolution.

There is a disastrous fire raging at Greencastle, Indiana, and a serious forest fire in Vermillion, Illinois.

The barque "Abby Bacon," was picked up on Oct. 23rd.

Capt. Wm. Lang, his wife and child, and the crew, seven in number, of the schooner "Dauntless," of Halifax, which foundered on the night of the 19th, were four days in a boat, living on half a biscuit each day.

By a fire at Greencastle, Indiana, twenty-five or thirty buildings were burned. Loss \$400,000; a small amount insured.

President Grant has appointed Thanksgiving Day November 26th.

WITHOUT A COUNTRY.—Three men without a country made their appearance at the Custom House. They were skippers, and asked to have the register of their schooner changed so as to hail from Portland. For twenty-one years past they have lived on board their vessel, paying no rates and casting no ballots. They know no home except on the high seas.—Portland Press.

It is a sad and startling story that comes from Western Nebraska. Several thousand people, men women and children, in the heart of the great grain growing region of the country, only eighteen hours travel from the busy City of Chicago, keenly suffering for the very necessities of life, and many actually starving to death, their crops having been destroyed by the terrible grasshopper.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2nd.—Gold 10 1/2; Exchange \$4.84 to \$4.89.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—The officers of the Stock Exchange have discovered that 400 clerks of members have been clandestinely dealing in stocks among themselves for several months. It is probable that all the clerks implicated will be expelled.

An alarming outbreak of typhoid fever has taken place in the town of Larwen-Over, in the County of Lancashire; the reports returned give fifteen hundred as the number of persons stricken down in that town—one-sixteenth of the population.

Cardinal Cullen and the entire Catholic episcopals have issued pastoral letters denouncing the address of Tyndall at Belfast before the British Association as a revival of Paganism.

The European wheat market has an upward tendency.

SPAIN.—It is reported that Don Alfonso and his wife Donna Bianca have returned from his wife to France.

It is denied that the Spanish Government intends summarily shooting the Carlist chiefs.

A French Legitimist Deputy, De Temple, has joined the forces of Don Carlos in Spain.

The Times Spanish despatch anticipated an attack on Irion by Carlists last week. Don Carlos is expected to direct operations, and troops and artillery are concentrating around his headquarters at Vera.

Gen. Lazerna has resumed the command of the Republican Army in the north of Spain, which is to be reinforced.

TURKEY.—The Daily News says Prussia, and Germany also notified the Porte that they intend to make commercial convention with Danubian Principalities.

The Turkish Commission at Padgoritz, in Albania, has ordered the arrest of a number of persons implicated in the recent murder of Montenegrins.

The Governor of Syria has been ordered to suppress all Protestant schools in his province.

FRANCE.—The people of Paris will soon present to Queen Victoria an illuminated address, thanking England for her manifestations of sympathy at the conclusion of the siege of Paris.

A Paris despatch says that information has been received that Russia is convinced that she will in the course of three or four years, be engaged in a desperate struggle with Germany. Bismarck is determined to demand the restoration of German provinces of Russia. Moltke has already his spies in these provinces, and it is said the proposed organization of the new Landsturm has been decided upon, in view of these possible events.

GERMANY.—The trial of Kullman who attempted Bismarck's life was finished in Berlin on Friday last. Most of the testimony introduced was in relation to his sanity or insanity; and it was in evidence that his maternal grandfather committed suicide, his mother died deranged, and his father was a habitual drunkard. He was, however, found guilty, as charged in the indictment, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment and ten years' suspension of civil rights.

Von Arnim was released at noon on Wednesday last on sixty thousand dollars bail. His trial will begin within two weeks.

The evening session of the German Reichstag was opened in Berlin by the Emperor William in person. The speech from the throne, among other things, enumerates comprehensive measures to bring about uniformity in the judicial procedure.

The deputies from Lorraine will take their seats immediately upon the opening of the Reichstag.

Emperor William has replied to the Pope's last letter, and says, "Germany has done all in her power to live at peace with the Church of Rome;" but that he is bound to protect the State against the violent attacks and conspiracies of the clergy.

ITALY.—A meeting of the directors of several Italian newspapers was held in Rome on the 28th to devise means for the relief of Garibaldi. It is proposed to raise \$10,000 and present it to him as a national gift offering.

The first horse-car railroad company has been organized in Genoa.

EAST INDIES.—Col. Mowbray Thompson, the defender of Cawnpore, fails to identify the alleged Nana Sahib, though he says there is a likeness.

Cotton crops in the Presidency of Bombay are in a magnificent condition, and promise the largest yield ever recorded. It is a fortnight in advance of 1873.

SOUTH AMERICA.—The Congress of the Argentine Confederation has declared the Republic in a state of seige, and voted the money necessary to enable the Government to crush the insurrection.

The President says he can immediately muster and arm 20,000 men.

Advices from Venezuela state that the Provinces of Coro and Barcelona have risen in revolution against President Guzman Blanco.

The Argentine insurgents have cut the La Plata telegraph cable.

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS.—The King of the Sandwich Islands is considering the entire reconstruction of the Cabinet.

Sir Hercules Robinson has established a provisional government in the Fiji Islands. The annual revenue is estimated at \$123,000.

News of the Week.

The Annual meeting of the Halifax and Dartmouth Sabbath School Association was held on Tuesday evening, in Chalmers' Church, J. S. MacLean, Esq., in the chair. The proceedings were of a highly interesting and pleasing character. The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Association for the ensuing year:—

- President—E. D. King.
Vice President—M. M. Lindsay.
Secretary & Treasurer—W. B. McNatt.
Committee—S. L. Shannon, J. F. L. Parsons, Joseph Bell, C. Robson, W. Roche, Jr., J. Farquhar, D. Blackwood.

The CUSTOM RECEIPTS in this city during the month of October were:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount.
1874.....\$127,517.77
1873.....105,810.54
Increase.....21,747.23

POLITICS and POLITICIANS are at present somewhat enigmatical. A coalition of parties is talked about, and then again denied. Certain men are said to have been approached, and then that is contradicted; and so things are in a state of glorious uncertainty and all seem in expectation of something turning up. The Reporter gives the following:—ON DIT.—That the Hon. W. A. Henry has been offered the Atty-Generalship in the reconstructed government, Mr. Wyde, M. P. P. for Guysboro, to be made a Legislative Councillor in order to make room for Mr. Henry. The anticipated general election this fall is now, it seems, only "one of the possibilities" of the autumns.