

steadily carried out our policy of visiting one or two villages in the morning, and preaching in the bazaar in the afternoon.

After a discussion which followed, I sold about 25 books, of which three or four were New Testaments. Next day the Baboos who had bought the New Testament invited me to a bazaar discussion. Some of them were very rude; indeed one Baboo, who the day before had acted in a most gentlemanly manner, now seemed bent upon insulting me, and reviling the religion which I preached.

These extracts evince how needful it is that those who would win souls to Christ should possess, and constantly exercise, a spirit of Christian meekness; and also how fitly and happily the written word and the preaching of the gospel combine their salutary influence in furthering the Redeemer's cause.

Rev. A. H. Lash, of Palamcottah, relates the case of "a man who came to one of the Catechists, and asked 'if he had that Book which tells of a clever man who went to another by night, and asked him about being born again?'"

It is to be lamented, that in Christian lands there are many cases that bear a strong similarity to these. In some parts of China the native colporteurs have suffered very cruel treatment. It is remarked, however, (p. 181.) "God's Word is being gradually diffused through this vast empire. Among many faithful colporteurs, one, whose name is Wat, is reported as laboring very earnestly by giving personal instruction, as well as circulating the Scriptures."

With reference to the Fiji Islands, it is remarked, "Men whose youth and prime were passed in cannibalism have at advanced periods of life learned to decipher the holy page, and to read God's word with profit. The adults meet during the week and on Sundays for this purpose, and you may then see men and women of every age, some spelling a text with difficulty, and others reading in their turn with ease. One of the greatest Bible readers is the King himself." p. 208.

On page 211, it is said of Madagascar, "The Queen is very anxious to do all she can to benefit her subjects, and many are the copies of the Word of God that have been circulated by her. . . . Shortly after the destruction of the idols, a native teacher was sent to one of the darkest parts of the country. . . . The teacher

was a poor man, without learning, just able to read and write. His chief treasure was his New Testament. He went from house to house in the town where he was stationed: in one house he would read a few verses from his Testament, in another walk to the people in a plain simple way concerning some Scripture truth. In a short time a little congregation was gathered together, and then a chapel erected. Then he persuaded a few of the young people to come and learn to read. These in their turn taught others. A church was formed, and a large congregation gathered together; and the condition of the people in that town and district has improved socially, morally, and spiritually."

The extracts now presented from the Report of The British and Foreign Bible Society for 1874, may suffice to give such persons as have not perused it, some faint idea of the incalculable benefits resulting to multitudes, through the Divine blessing, from the earnest and persevering efforts of that excellent Institution.

For the Christian Messenger.

ANNAPOLIS AND DIGBY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

The brethren met at the Baptist Meeting House, Bridgetown, on the afternoon of Feb. 17th, and the Rev. C. Tupper, D. D., occupied the chair. Bro. Cahoon opened with prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Bro. C. Tupper then read his paper on Ministerial Duty. A paper on Church Discipline was read by Bro. Cahoon, and another on Pulpit Power, by J. Clark. These papers were followed by discussion and criticism, the Rev. T. A. Higgins and Bro. L. Miller taking part in the conversation.

Brethren C. Tupper and J. Clark were requested to forward their papers for publication in the Christian Messenger. It was unanimously agreed that the Conference adjourn sine die. Bro. James Hancock concluded with prayer.

In the evening our venerable Bro. C. Tupper, preached an exceedingly useful and practical sermon on Christian Steadfastness, basing his observations on 1 Thess. ii. 8. The other brethren present followed with suitable remarks.

J. CLARK, Sec'y.

IN MEMORIAM.

DEATH OF A STUDENT.

Mr. Aaron Ross, student of Acadia College, died at his father's house, North East Margaree, C. B., Feb. 7th, in the twenty-second year of his age. Our departed brother came to these institutions about two years ago to enter upon a course of study, at which time, he had no hope in Christ. Under the religious influences which were exerted here, he became deeply impressed with the necessity of a change of heart, and soon found pardon and peace by trusting in Jesus. Upon a relation of his Christian experience he was received by the church, and baptised by the pastor, Rev. S. W. DeBlois. He pursued his studies with vigor and success, ever exhibiting the Christian character and manifesting a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of his fellow students. After a prayerful consideration of the subject, he became convinced that it was his duty to give himself up to the work of the Christian ministry, and after stating the same to the Church, a licence was unanimously granted him to preach the Gospel. Last summer he labored under the direction of the Home Missionary Union, at Melrose, Guysboro County, where he was highly esteemed by the people, and his labors blessed by God. He entered College last September intending to take a full course in order to prepare himself for the great work to which he had been called. Before many weeks had passed, his health began to fail. Symptoms of a dangerous character were manifest; his physician pronounced him unable to continue his studies, and advised him to return home, which he did, hoping in a short time to be able to resume his work. His health, however, had become too seriously impaired to admit of restoration, although receiving the very best of medical treatment. He died on Sabbath evening February 7th, in the possession of a firm hope in his Saviour. This dispensation of Providence by which he has been cut off from a life which promised to be one of great usefulness, seemed to us strange; but we bow submissively to the will of Him who does all things well, feeling the assurance that the loss sustained by his departure is to

him unspeakable gain. Reference was publicly made to the deceased by our respected President, who spoke of him in the highest terms, setting forth many features in his character as worthy of imitation. His gentlemanly deportment and christian virtues endeared him to all his companions, in whose memory his name will long linger. We deeply sympathize with the sorrowing parents, brothers and sisters in this bereavement.

In behalf of the Students, A. J. STEVENS, C. H. MARTELL.

We have also received from Bro. Isaac R. Skinner, a brief notice of the death of Mr. Ross, the above however renders its publication unnecessary.

Religious Intelligence.

A HEARTY WELCOME.

On Wednesday, the 17th inst., just four weeks from our settlement here—our house was filled with friends of all ages and of various denominations from all the sections of our field of labor and a good representation from Berwick. All of the usual enjoyments attending "donation visits" were participated in—"bountiful repast"—"interchange of social greetings"—"speeches interspersed with music" and especially the blessing of liberal giving. While on our past we enjoyed meeting and forming the acquaintances of so many new friends and did not object to receiving between \$90 00 \$100 00 mostly cash, as an expression of sympathy and regard.

Considering the circumstances—the church small—93 members organized only last June, and the shortness of our acquaintance,—we regard this as a noble beginning.

We find this a hopeful field, the church members are "all of one accord" They are "workers in the Lord's vineyard"—our prayer meetings "the pulse of the church" are deeply interesting. We hope for and expect the blessing of the Master.

We certainly feel grateful to God for his abundant blessings and for disposing the hearts of the people so kindly towards us. Brethren pray for us that the "little one may become a thousand and the small one a strong nation."

J. H. ROBBINS.

Dear Bro. Selden,—In a spirit of sincere thankfulness let me state, that since our last mention in the Christian Messenger, three have been received by baptism, and weekly since, converts have offered themselves to the Lord and his people. Our prayer meetings are peculiarly sweet and interesting, the attendance is truly surprising, but best of all the power and spirit of God rests mightily upon our gatherings and we expect a rich harvest of souls. Five are now awaiting baptism.

J. F. AVERY.

Pastor 3rd Baptist Church, Halifax.

SACKVILLE, N. B.—Bro. Selden,—Yesterday I baptised seven into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church, Sackville, N. B. The congregation numbering over eight hundred gave evidence of the interest taken in the ordinance. Deep solemnity pervaded the minds of many, and we are encouraged to hope and pray and wait for the salvation of God.

GEORGE F. MILES.

February 22nd, 1875.

JAMAICA—The total population of this island is 506,154. Of these there are: Baptists.....112,604 Congregationalists..... 8,109 Episcopalians.....184,263 Presbyterians..... 18,933 Wesleyans..... 65,353 Roman Catholics..... 9,483 The remainder are of various sects, Jewish, Christian, and Mahomedan.

The late Rev. Dr. Forbes, one of the Free Church clergymen of Glasgow, has bequeathed £10,000 to evangelical and charitable objects.

Rev. A. B. Earle is expected to pay a short visit to St. John in March.

Home and Foreign News.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 21, 1875

In the House of Commons at Ottawa last week in reply to a question from Hon. Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Mr. McKenzie said it was the intention of the Government to remove the rocks in the River Miramichi, to improve navigation, this year.

Hon. Mr. Cartwright said it was not the intention of the Government to abolish stamps on promissory notes, except for small amounts.

Mr. Goudge of Hants asked if the Government intended, during the year, to erect a Light House on Isle Haute, in the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. McKenzie replied it was. Mr. Salver asked whether the Government had made, or intended to make, an effort to effect an arrangement with the United States Government for the establishing of interchange of the money order system with the United States. The Post Master General said arrangements had been effected and would come into operation the first of July next.

Hon. Mr. McKenzie stated that the remaining part of the census returns were in the printer's hands, and would be published immediately.

On Tuesday Mr. Cartwright, Minister of Finance, commenced his budget speech. He briefly reviewed the financial position, comparing it with that of previous years, and advised the necessity of pursuing such a policy as would enable the Dominion to command the confidence of the English stock market, so that the Government could borrow on the most advantageous terms. It was always of interest to watch the effect of a tariff; but its exact effect could only be known after a time. The total receipts from all sources were \$24,000,000, an increase over the previous year of \$3,400,000. The expenditure was \$23,361,000, or about \$424,000 over the preceding year. The increase is attributed to the admission of Prince Edward Island, \$600,000; maintenance of Government railways, \$900,000; assumption of the Provincial debt of New Brunswick, and subsidy, \$850,000, and various other items.

Dr. Tupper proceeded to criticize the statement and speech of Hon. Mr. Cartwright, which he did at length.

On Thursday Mr. Dymond (of North York, Ont.) moved for a return of the commitments for trial for capital offences committed since July, 1867, and full statistical information, with a view to the introduction of a bill for abolishing capital punishment.

Mr. McIntyre (of Kings, P. E. I.) moved for copies of the contract for running steamers between ports in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

After considerable discussion, which was taken part in by the Maritime Province members, the motion was carried.

On Friday Hon. Mr. Geoffrion introduced a bill to amend the act for the inspection of Gas and Metres.

Hon. Mr. Fournier introduced the Insolvent Bill, in which farmers, graziers, common laborers and workmen for hire are excepted from the operation of the act, as not being traders. A debtor shall be insolvent if he calls a meeting of his creditors for compounding, if he absconds, &c. If the debtor ceases to meet his liabilities, any creditor to whom he owes over \$200 may demand an assignment. Any debtor denying such liabilities may file a disclaimer within five days with the Judge of the court having jurisdiction. Should he neglect to do so, his estate will be liable to liquidation. The Governor in Council shall appoint an assignee for each county, on security being given for \$2000, and \$6000 when the population exceeds 100,000. Partnerships will be dissolved by one of the partners becoming insolvent in other business. Assignees are allowed 5 per cent. commission. The majority of creditors can discharge the debtor at a full meeting. The judge may refuse to ratify the discharge if the estate will not realize 33 per cent. Private property of shareholders will not be liable to seizure. The act comes into operation on the first of September next. The act has 149 paragraphs, and it will cause a long debate, being regarded as of the utmost importance.

The House in Committee of supply passed several items, among them an item for the printing and binding of the Statutes. The members for Halifax said they could not be had, and suggested that in future they be stereotyped, and extra editions thrown off as required.

On the item for salaries and cost and expense of the Statistical Office at Halifax, Dr. Tupper complained of the superannuation of a most faithful and efficient officer, who, he said had been superseded by a clerk inferior, intellectually and physically, and the salaries of the officers of the department raised.

Hon. Mr. McKenzie said the officer in question, Mr. Costley, had been superannuated at his own request. After recess the House passed all the items except that of Public Works, among those passed were \$100,000 loan, to the Menonites; transport of Menonites \$70,000; \$50,000 for pension to the veterans of 1812, and \$40,000 for the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.

It was expected that the New Brunswick school question would come before the House of Commons on Monday.

Sir John A. McDonald's election is again to be petitioned against.

EXCISE AND CUSTOMS.—The following figures from the Public accounts show the amount collected in each province of the Dominion and the expenses of collection:

Table with columns: Province, Duties, Expenses, Collection. Rows include Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia, P. E. Island.

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NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Provincial Legislature was opened on Thursday last. Mr. Wedderburn was elected Speaker of the Assembly. The opening speech of Lieutenant Governor Tilley referred to the harvest of the past year as most abundant, trade and commerce as a whole satisfactory.

He said the appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, involving the question of the constitutionality of the Common Schools Acts, was heard and determined in July last, and a decision rendered affirming the constitutionality of those Acts.

He had every reason to believe that just consideration would be given to the unsettled claims of the Province upon the Dominion, and a final settlement had at an early day.

The operation of the Free Grants Act has so far fully justified the very liberal provisions thereby made for actual settlers.

The death of Mr. Coram, M. P. P. for St. John renders an election for a successor necessary. Mr. Elder editor of the Telegraph has been requested to offer, and there is some probability that he will do so.

The snow has rendered the roads in many places impassable. A man who had got off the track between Coalgine and Buctouche, found it impossible to gain the road and killed his horse with an axe to put an end to his suffering, as he knew he must perish in a short time.

The boot and shoe factory at Musquash was destroyed by fire on the 5th inst.

A Revival in connection with the Wesleyan Church, Chatham, has been in progress for three or four weeks.

GREAT FIRE IN PORTLAND.—On Friday last a fire broke out in the house of Mr. James Crockett in Main Street, near Fort Howe, Portland. The fire brigade were soon on hand and used every exertion to stay the progress of the flames but without success, until they had totally destroyed seventeen buildings, and badly damaged three others most of which were dwellings. The origin of the fire is supposed to have been that Mrs. Crockett, who is insane, set the place in which she and her husband lived, on fire. She was taken to the Asylum after the fire broke out. Another report says that the fire was caused by a red-hot stove standing against some of the wood-work of a room. Some of the buildings were partially insured.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

SOME MUTTON.—A fine carcass of mutton weighing 112½ lbs and three inches thick in the side, was on exhibition at Charlottetown market last week.

Several Island built and owned vessels have made extraordinary quick trips across the Atlantic.

UNITED STATES.

The Senate convenes on March 5 by proclamation of President Grant.

Notwithstanding the change of weather last week there was no change in the condition of New York and other harbors.

The propeller E. A. Woodward, of New York, which had been drifting in the Sound for several days, sank on Thursday night. The crew have probably perished.

The imperilled Cape Cod fishermen represent their case as desperate, ten or twelve schrs. not having yet received succor. About fifty fishing vessels were frozen fast off Gloucester.

A passenger train on the Pan Handle road at Mungo Junction, Ohio, was wrecked on Friday, and afterwards partly burned, with all the baggage of the Station and Express Company. Few persons were injured.

Peter Fisher's mills, house and Woolen Factory at Wingham, Ont., were burned on Tuesday. Loss \$30,000. A fire at Lindsey caused a loss of \$400,000 also.

A hurricane swept over Chausigne-Elment, Avoules Parish, last week destroying a church and many buildings, and killing two persons.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—The election in Tipperary, resulted in the choice of John Mitchell, the candidate of the Irish nationalists. The House of Commons has declared him ineligible to a seat in that body, on the ground that he is a convicted felon.

A sensation was caused in the House of Commons by a motion for copies of the certificate of the trial and conviction of John Mitchell in 1848; of the official notification of his escape, and proclamation offering a reward for his apprehension, &c. The motion was carried by 174 to 13.

Disraeli gave notice that he would move next Thursday a resolution declaring that as John Mitchell had been adjudged guilty of felony and sentenced to transportation, and as he has neither endured the penalty nor received pardon, he is incapable of election to the House of Commons, and that a fresh writ of election be ordered for Tipperary County, Ireland.

It is reported that John Mitchell will refuse to take the oath of allegiance; also, that other than Home Rule members of Parliament will refuse to support him, because the policy he proposes is different from theirs. At a public meeting after the election for Tipperary, a resolution was adopted declaring that in the event of