

1874 and 1875.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK.

The commencement of another year furnishes a fit opportunity for review and outlook.

REVIEW.

Political matters belong not to our sphere. Yet the transactions of the past year, both in the mother country and in this Dominion, suggest the propriety of one remark. The frequency of corrupt practices in connection with electoral bodies, sometimes amounting to barefaced bribery, led to the enactment of stringent laws, to be administered by impartial judges. The result is, that men of all political creeds have been brought under the lash of the law, no party being perfectly pure; and there is good reason to hope that henceforth "bribery and corruption" will be so generally held to be infamous that they will be thoroughly stamped out.

The calamities of the last year, by sea and land, have been numerous, among them the famine in India stands out in sad prominence. But it afforded occasion for a display of the blessedness of good government. By the wisdom and energy of our Indian administration the suffering commonly attendant on such a visitation was much alleviated. Food was given to the starving, and remunerative employment was found for all who were able and willing to work, so that the storm passed away without inflicting very serious injury, though not without incurring an immense expenditure for the purchase of the means of relief. As a contrast, let the state of Persia be considered. Two years ago a similar calamity befel that country: but the government adopted no measures for the help of the people. They died by tens of thousands, and a million and half of human lives were at length sacrificed, while Mohammedans looked on, did nothing, and exclaimed, "It is the will of God."

On the ecclesiastical side much that is noteworthy has occurred.

The spread of ritualistic tendencies in England, productive of practices foreign to the nature and design of Christianity, and paving the way for submission to Rome, has been long viewed with anxiety by the friends of Evangelical Protestantism. A seasonable and powerful article in the Contemporary Review, October, entitled "Ritualism and Ritual," and written by the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, set forth the perils incident to the success of the ritualistic policy, particularly in connection with its Romish proclivities. The excitement occasioned by this exposure was still further intensified by the publication of a pamphlet by Mr. Gladstone, entitled "The Vatican Decrees," in which he furnishes proof and illustration of the assertion he had previously made, that no one can become a convert of Rome "without renouncing his moral and mental freedom, and placing his civil loyalty and duty at the mercy of another." Sundry rejoinders have been issued, by Roman Catholic dignitaries and others, in which, while they disavow all disloyalty, they claim for the Pope a superiority over all rulers, and the right to depose any of them when, in his judgment, the said rulers do not govern with wisdom and uprightness. In a recent number of the Dublin Review, a well known Roman Catholic organ, it is stated that "the Pope, in virtue of his ecclesiastical office, has the power of deposing any sovereign whose government he may consider injurious to the spiritual welfare of that country"; and this is declared by Suarez, a famous Jesuit writer, to be "a matter of faith." Periodicals published at Rome, under the very walls of the Vatican, unblushingly affirm that the Pope's "Syllabus," in which he denounces modern civilization, is "a law superior to all other laws." That the maintenance of such views is adverse to the safety of nations will be at once perceived. Protestants are now "forewarned"; it will be their own fault if they are not also "forearmed."

The history of missions during the past year has been greatly encouraging. Not only have numerous accessions to Christian churches blessed the labours of the missionaries, but many native preachers have given themselves to the work of evangelization, (some of whom have become pastors) and with gratifying indications of success. The indirect influence of Christianity is also powerfully felt, in the withdrawal of numbers from idolatrous services, and in the conviction, which is daily acquiring greater force, that heathenism is unworthy of support and must ultimately fall. When

to this is added the establishment of schools, securing the diffusion of useful knowledge among the young, it will be seen that the prospects of the missionary enterprise are full of promise.

There have been remarkable revivals of religion. In Great Britain and Ireland, the efforts of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the American Evangelists, have been extensively blessed. On this continent, and in our own province, many of the churches have experienced a divine quickening, and are now presenting to the world pleasing illustrations of the truth of the Apostolic assertion, that the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation."

The impetus given to education should not be overlooked. A healthy ambition prevails. Improvements in Common Schools are going on continually. Those improvements act on the Academies, which are now becoming equal to the Colleges of the last generation. And the Colleges are rising higher and higher, elevating the standards of admission, increasing the number of Professors, and dividing and subdividing their labours. The small colleges of the first quarter of the century will be the thriving Universities of the last quarter, and the number of those who "separate themselves," that they may "seek and intermeddle with all wisdom" will be increased beyond all present means of calculation. The prophet's prediction will be fulfilled, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Christian union has made considerable advance. Denominations which had been split into parties have reunited. Brethren of various religious bodies have met and mingled sympathies, and enjoyed fellowship with each other, still retaining their conscientious peculiarities, while illustrating, in the fact of their union, the principles and spirit of the Evangelical Alliance.

OUTLOOK.

And now, what is the Outlook? It is ENCOURAGING.

True—the greater part of the world "lieth in wickedness"; God's church being still far in the minority. True—the champions of philosophy, "falsely so-called," because it aims to thrust out God from his own universe, look down with contempt on religious men, and have become "seducing spirits," "bewailing wretched souls" the demon of intemperance slays tens of thousands yearly, and governments look on with indifference, fearing to offend the poison-dealers. True—there is a grand conspiracy among the ultramontanes against freedom, civil and religious. But what of all this? "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." There is a spirit abroad, which by the grace of God will be equal to the emergency. The activities of the church were never better or more wisely employed than they are at present, and the promises of the all-faithful One embrace all contingencies, and invite our full confidence. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" And He is for us: the Lord himself says, "Lo, I am with you always."

THE OUTLOOK IS STIMULATING.

It stimulates thought. Error is stalking about—mischievous, soul-destroying error. How shall it be got rid of? Not by browbeating and anathema: "Bless, and curse not." Let error be checkmated by truth. And let every honest Christian prepare to follow truth's leadings. Nor let it be imagined that truth's utterances can be stereotyped, except in the words of the Holy Book, and even they may be better understood when the originals are more faithfully rendered. The substance is imperishable, while the form may be advantageously changed. "Seize upon truth where'er 'tis found, On heathen or on Christian ground; The flower is fair, where'er it grows. Neglect the prickles, and assume the rose."

It stimulates inquiry. "Am I using my Bible aright? Do I, as I study it, forget all human modes of statement, and only seek, with teachableness and reverence, the meaning of the Lord's words, as recorded or uttered by his prophets and apostles? Are my talents and opportunities employed for the glory of God and the good of my fellow-men? Am I working for Christ every day?" Many other inquiries might be suggested, appropriate to the beginning of a year.

It stimulates effort. The agents of evil are terribly busy. Their father, the devil, will not suffer them to be idle. He himself "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Effort must be met by effort. If he speaks lies, we must take care

that the truth be published. If his servants "compass sea and land" to gain adherents, the servants of the Lord Jesus must be careful to let no occasion of usefulness slip. Let the question be often asked, "What have I done this day for the Master?"

It stimulates prayer. The church will be useful in proportion as she is Christian; and personal Christianity does not consist in the habit of talking orthodoxically, in the measured phraseology of human standards. It is fellowship with Christ, being "risen" with him. It is likeness to Christ. It is being "joined to the Lord"—"of one spirit." It is believing all that Christ has said, personally or by his servants, yielding the heart to the influence of those holy words, and putting all into practice. This is not the higher life, of which some people talk, not very wisely. There is nothing higher than the godliness of the New Testament, which every believer on earth is bound to exemplify. And "all things are possible to him that believeth," and who "prays always, with all prayer and supplication in the spirit." He who asks most of God, and prays "in faith, nothing wavering," will receive most.

Let us resolve, in the strength of the Lord, that we will live the gospel, in all the fullness of its meaning. Let us be true to our resolves—and then the latter end of the year 1875 will be better than the beginning. We shall be a year nearer heaven, and better prepared for it.

J. M. C.

THE PROVINCIAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION assembled in its Annual Session on Tuesday the 29th ult., in the afternoon.

The opening Address by A. H. McKay, Esq., of Pictou Academy, touched on some very important subjects connected with educational work. In the evening Rev. A. S. Hunt, Superintendent of Schools, read an address of a practical nature. It is to be published.

On Wednesday morning, after some time spent in receiving reports from different parts of the province Miss Angwin, M. L. A., Dartmouth school, read an excellent paper on "The Old is Better?" In which she advocated the right of ladies to receive equal privileges of higher education to those granted to gentlemen.

In the afternoon a paper was read by J. B. Calkin, M. A., Principal of Normal School, Truro, another by C. J. Major, of Morris Street School, Halifax—"Our Girls, and how we teach them." Then an address by H. Condon, Inspector of Schools, Halifax—"The Public Schools of Boston."

And another address by M. H. Richey, Esq., of Halifax.

On Thursday again after routine business, Mr. J. T. Mellish, M. A., Principal of the Albro Street School, Halifax, read a paper entitled "Thoroughness of Educational training, a necessity of our country."

In the afternoon the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

- President—J. A. MacCabe, Truro. Vice Presidents—J. MacLaughlin, Halifax; W. D. McKenzie, Amherst. Council—A. McN. Patterson, J. B. Calkin, Bishop, H. Condon, A. H. McKay, Burbridge, J. Jack, C. J. Major, J. S. Hutton, Dimock, J. Little, F. W. George, A. McKay.

On Thursday evening Rev. G. W. Hill gave the closing address which was one of deep interest.

THE BAPTIST YEAR BOOK for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, 1874, is just received.

It contains the Minutes of the Baptist Convention of these Provinces, and various condensed information concerning our Educational Institutions, Foreign Missions, &c. &c., comprised in a pamphlet of 76 pages. It is got up in good style and on the cover is a convenient Denominational Calendar for 1875. We congratulate the Secretary on the success of his lot, and the printers Barnes & Co., St. John, N. B., on the neatness of their work.

WAS IT BAPTISM?

There appears some doubt whether the ecclesiastical head of the Church of England has ever regularly received the rite of Infant Baptism.

Zion's Advocate says: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primate of England, was never baptized it seems. The facts as presented in the English papers are these:

"Dr. Tait was born in Scotland, of Presbyterian parents, who cared little about baptism. When he was an infant he was at one time very ill, and was supposed to be dying, and he says that at this

VOLUNTARY TITHES.—Tithing has, for several years, been practised by many of the native Christians connected with the American Mission among the Marathas. In this way a number of the churches, especially in the Ahmednuggur District, have been able to raise about one-half of the salaries of their respective pastors, looking to the Mission to supply the remainder in the shape of a grant-in-aid. The Church in Sholapore, however, in connection with the same Mission, has begun to support its pastor entirely. A "call" was last year extended to a young man to assume the pastorate, the Church members offered the total amount of their tithes, be it less or more, for his support. This is, we believe, the first instance in Western India, in which a native Church has assumed the whole burden of its pastor's salary.

EDUCATION IN JAPAN.—A report recently published by Mr. Watson, her Majesty's Secretary of Legation at Yedo, proves that, at least in the matter of education, the Japanese are carrying out to the full their contemplated reform. In the year 1872 an Act was passed by which the country was mapped out into seven educational circuits. Since that time 1,799 private schools and 3,430 public schools have been established at which 388,463 boys and 109,637 girls attend. Add to this number the 50,000 students who are receiving instruction in the higher schools, and we have a total of 480,000 young Japanese, or one in sixty-eight of the entire population, who have already taken advantage of the system prescribed by the Government. At Yedo the educational establishments now actually in operation are the "Dai Gakko," or university, the "Go Gakko," or school for instruction in foreign languages, the "Shi Ham Gakko," or normal school for the instruction of Japanese teachers, besides a principal female school and several preparatory schools. The education given at all Government schools and colleges is entirely secular, "so far as it is consistent with the fundamental tenets of the Shinto faith," and, having due regard to the proselytizing zeal of Europeans, it is ordered that no Christian divine is to be admitted to the rank of teacher.

HOME MISSION.

FROM REV. D. FREEMAN HOME MISSIONARY AGENT.

Having accepted the appointment made by the Board, I expect to enter upon the agency for the Home Missionary Union, as soon as necessary arrangements can be made for leaving the field where I have been laboring. I hope to be ready by the end of the first week in January. This Society has a great work upon its hands, and if sustained by the members of the churches, its importance will soon appear, not only in the salvation of souls, but in multiplying our resources for promoting the kingdom of Christ in the world. If we are not called upon now to make special efforts to originate new mission fields at home, we are certainly called on to occupy those who have already been opened to us, so that mission grounds may be christialized into congeries of churches, and those destitute feeble churches may be nursed so as to grow up into a state of independence and helpfulness. Our first great need is men to occupy our destitute fields. We need to pray the Lord of the harvest "to send forth laborers." We need to encourage the promising gifts of the youthful members of the churches. Having secured the men and located them in our destitute fields we need the assistance of the stronger churches to supplement what may be required for their permanent support. Or if those young brethren require culture to fit them for their work, that they be encouraged to avail themselves at least of the instruction in the theological department of Acadia College. For this, if for no other reason, our recently appointed teacher in that department, Rev. D. M. Welton, should be sustained.

I have not yet decided at what point first to enter the field. Cumberland and Colechester have been spoken of as needing attention. I shall be glad to hear from any brethren in those counties, especially from the ministering brethren there, and to receive any hints that may be of service to the Board and to myself.

The funds of the Society also are in a low state, and should be replenished to enable the Board to fulfil their obligations. In order to this it is probable that at an early date I may visit

some of the larger churches and solicit aid. But if each church will establish systematic contributions for the Home Mission it will save the time of the agent, encourage the managers, and gladden the heart of many a poor brother toiling in destitute fields.

Yours truly,

D. FREEMAN.

Canning, Dec. 30, 1874.

P. S.—Though under the direction of the Board, we shall be glad to receive suggestions from any brother as to the promotion of our work.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., JANUARY 6, 1875.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

We have now fairly entered upon another period of this world's history. The earth we inhabit has taken a new departure in its series of revolutions around its great centre point, the sun—our source of light and heat. Having completed its 1874th journey since the birth of our Lord, it commences its 1875th with all the millions of inhabitants upon its surface, hurrying on at a rate of which few of us can form any conception.

For convenience we divide time into cycles which we call years, and which are the really natural division of the "fragment of eternity," which belongs to this our world, and which we call Time. It will, ere very long, come to an end. The portion allotted to each individual will certainly soon reach its appointed limit.

Whilst permitted to live upon this earth it is our high privilege to have opportunities of helping each other in preparation for the boundless period beyond, to which all are destined. This we may do by commending Jesus Christ and his salvation to our fellow-men. If heaven is ours we may be comparatively indifferent as to how many of these briefer fragments of time, which we call years, are allotted to us; but finding our happiness in seeking the well-being of others we may rejoice in anticipation of future blessedness in the bright world above.

So again we commence the year wishing to all our readers a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity.—Isaiah xlix. 18.

On Monday evening a very interesting baptismal service was held in connection with the Gerrish Hall Baptist Congregation. A request had been made for the use of the Baptistery of Granville Street Church, which was readily granted. Rev. J. F. Avery there baptized ten persons, four of them—three young men and one young woman—were inmates of the Blind Asylum, some of these were of Baptist parentage, but had read the scriptures for themselves. It was most affecting to see them going so joyfully, led by the hand, to this act of obedience to their Lord and Saviour. Shut out from the light of day, they had received light from heaven and rejoiced in believing that Christ had given them the light of life.

PRAYER.

It is at all times a proper exercise for mortal man dependent on the God of Heaven to be calling on Him for help and blessing. The Christian must always be in the spirit of prayer, if not in the attitude of supplication. Whatever other habit he may have contracted he is no follower of Christ if he has not a habit of looking up to his Heavenly Father for daily support and direction.

In some respects all weeks are alike, and prayer is as proper for one as for another, but the first week of the New Year has now, for several years past, been specially consecrated by Christian people for this purpose, and they have come together for prayer and intercession in larger numbers. Blessings have descended on churches and families; and each year has renewed the desire for the observance of the Week of Prayer. Whilst we write ten thousand hearts are engaged in intense devotion and uniting their petitions at the throne of grace. We trust that answers may descend speedily, and in larger measure.

Rev. Dr. Day writes: "Please acknowledge the receipt by us of \$25.00 from Truro Baptist Church, per Wm. Cummings, Esq., for our Professors Salary, and \$10.00 from Ellershouse Baptist Church, for Home Missions; per Rev. J. H. Robbins.