

**THE TELOOOO MISSION** has suffered a sad disaster. The corresponding Secretary writes from the Missionary Rooms, Boston:

"The city of Nellore is half-ruined by a flood, and our Mission Compound has met with serious disaster. Mr. Downie writes under date of October 28th:

"A fearful flood has swept away a large portion of Nellore. There is great suffering among our people. Our Compound was under water three days. Four native houses were carried off—all we had save one, which is badly damaged. Our chapel is standing, but as it was under water, that is, its foundations, we fear it may have to come down. At any rate it is badly injured. The Bungalow (mission house) we think is not seriously injured, although it, too, was surrounded with water three days. It will cost from two to three thousand rupees (\$1000 to \$1500) to repair our Compound and buildings, independent of the chapel, which I think must come down."

In another communication he writes:

The monsoon broke on Wednesday, Oct. 21st, and it rained heavily for some five days. On Sunday the banks of the river gave way, and a flood of water poured into the town. On Monday the great tank west of the town, which waters the south and west, burst its bound; and fears were entertained that the whole city would be swept away. Sunday morning, soon after the flood commenced, the houses in the adjoining pottah or village began to fall, and the Christians, with their families and goods, came into the Compound for shelter. They were settled as comfortably as possible, but as the waters continued to rise, one after another our native houses became untenable, and soon the chapel and Bungalow were the only safe places of shelter left. We threw open the west end of the Bungalow and led and sheltered between fifty and sixty people, mostly women and children, for nearly three days.

The Mission Compound has been badly damaged. We have lost all our native houses, save one, the head preacher's, and that is unsafe to live in. The chapel foundations, badly damaged by white ants, have been so injured by the wash of the water outside, that we fear it will have to come down.

**Religious Intelligence.**

**RECENT PERSECUTIONS AGAINST THE BAPTISTS IN RUSSIA.**

**GERMAN BAPTISTS IN RUSSIA.**

About two months ago the "Association of Baptist Churches in Southern Russia" met at Neustadt. Over 1,500 persons attended the preaching, and several hundred communicants partook of the Lord's Supper. It was a great time for the infant churches there. The *Ispravnik*, or chief officer of the district was present at all the meetings, manifested the liveliest interest in the reception of members, baptism, love-feast and all other proceedings, asked questions in order correctly to understand everything, and conversed very kindly with the delegate from the Prussian Association, Rev. H. Bernicke, of Koenigsberg, the oldest and most prominent of the pastors who were present. He afterwards sent to St. Petersburg a report of the whole very favorable to the Baptists.

This shows, that in the Russian Government and its officials there is no inherent hostility against the Baptists and their principles. Still it must be taken into account that all the meetings at Neustadt were conducted in the German language. Though the excellent Russian preacher, Iwan Raboshakha, and some other Russians were present, the vast majority of those assembled were Germans, who formerly had been either Lutherans or Menonites, and who had become Baptists within the last few years. Why should the Russian Government oppose this change?

**RUSSIAN BAPTISTS.**

Totally different, in the eyes of Russian officials, is the case of Baptists of the Russian nationality and language, who heretofore have been members of the Greek Church. These the priesthood looks upon not only as apostates from the "holy orthodox Church," but as its most dangerous and pernicious enemies. No wonder, therefore, that while the German Baptists are tolerated, the Russian Baptists through the powerful influence of the Greek priesthood, continue to be persecuted both by the civil officers and by the rabble.

Last spring the joyful news went through the religious press that the prisoners arrested for conscience' sake in Southern Russia had been liberated. This was indeed the case with a majority of them, but not with all. Moreover, new arrests have since been made. And what is worse, the most stringent measures have been taken by the authorities to prevent all meetings of the Russian Baptists, a large military force occupying all the villages in which they live. They are known as

**Stundists only**—i. e., as people who hold prayer-meetings, from the German word *stunde*—i. e., hour (of prayer).

As I have recently received letters from three brethren in different places in Southern Russia, all of them reliable men, I deem it my duty to communicate to the Christian public the contents of these letters.

**SEVERITY OF THEIR PERSECUTIONS.**

The first of my correspondents states that to the prisoners in Kiew and vicinity a messenger was sent from their brethren in another part of the country. By the good hand of God he succeeded in coming unobserved near the village where they live. With great caution he made inquiry for the Stundists, and soon found one of them, who led him to the others. He saw several women whose husbands are still in prison, being thrown into the most dismal dungeons, where only murderers are kept, and to which nobody has access. One of the prisoners has recently died, remaining a cadaver to the end; his wife had just returned from his funeral.

The place where the messenger met these brethren and sisters was in a forest, for there only could they be safe from constables and spies. They wept for joy as he told them that he was sent to them by their fellow-believers. They imagined nobody knew of or cared for them. So, when they learned that others at many different places, even in distant countries, prayed for them, they felt greatly strengthened. They valued this sympathy higher than the money which the messenger carried to them. One sister, when she received aid, wept bitterly, saying, "Would God that my poor husband, in his prison, could get some of it!" But this is impossible.

Nearly all these good people are very poor, and live by the labor of their hands. They suffer in various ways from the injustice and oppression of their persecutors. The priests forbid people to give them work, or to pay them full wages. The magistrates for various alleged offences fine them and seize their property. One brother for conducting a meeting, had from two to three hundred roubles worth taken from him. Still, amidst all these persecutions the number of converts has greatly increased.

At Kiew, six brethren and two sisters are still in prison, who have been there over two years. The *Golownaya palata* (high court) had sentenced them only to half a year's imprisonment, the *Procuror* (Prosecutor) thought this insufficient, and appealed to the Senate and the Ministry for a prolongation of the arrest. Now the poor prisoners were constantly told: "No answer has yet come from St. Petersburg!" and thus they have been lying in prison over two years. They are kept in a dungeon designed only for such murderers as show themselves untractable.

"A brother by the name of Baladan, who has been recently dismissed from prison, has been subjected to still greater severity. He was one of the leaders in the religious revival; for this offence he was thrown into a cell just large enough to permit him to lie down, and rest with his feet drawn up; but this was made impossible by chains on his hands and feet, a large iron ring around his body, and a smaller one around his neck, both being connected by an iron bar. His hands being fastened to the ceiling, he had to stand erect for twenty-four hours. This cruel chastisement was inflicted on him about ten times. He has been in prison two years and a half, at Odessa, Tarashtcha and Kiew. His eyesight and hearing have been permanently injured by the cruel treatment he has received.

"As has been intimated already, those brethren mainly were arrested who knew the Scriptures, and where most earnest in exhorting others to flee from the wrath to come, and for this had been indicted by the priests. Of the imprisoned brethren, those only after some time were dismissed who were not accused of having spoken against image worship.

"The Stundists who are not imprisoned are by no means exempt from sufferings. At Kosiakowska, in the district of Tarashtcha, on the first day of Whitsuntide, the *Starosta* (squire) of the village went into the meeting of the brethren, and told them the *Ispravnik* of district had authorized him to whip them. So six brethren, and six sisters were taken out of the meeting, tied to a wind-mill near the tavern, and beaten with canes, the brethren on their bare backs. They received from forty-eight to fifty stripes, the sisters from twenty-five to thirty, both until the blood flowed. In addition to this terrible cruelty

the brethren were fined, but a Jewish lawyer got them free from the fine, for which act of kindness they had to pay him a fee of thirty roubles.

**POPULAR VIOLENCE.**

"The magistrates showing so great enmity, it is no wonder that all wicked people, who hate godliness, feel encouraged to commit all sorts of outrages against the Stundists. Their doors are broken open, their windows and domestic utensils are dashed to pieces, their persons are shamefully maltreated, some of the rabble riding on their necks or backs, others tearing their hair, etc.

"On the 11th and 12th of August the *Metropolitan* (bishop) visited them, in order to 'entangle them in their talk' before the people. But they gave him so pointed answers from the Word of God, that the bystanders were astonished. If time did permit, some of their answers might be stated. Suffice it to say that they know the New Testament thoroughly, and always quote chapter and verse of any important passage.

"These Stundists in the vicinity of Kiew are not yet baptized. But nearly all hold Baptist sentiments, and look upon Baptists as their brethren."

A. RAUSCHENBUSH.  
—N. Y. Examiner & Chronicle

**CHELSEA.**—Rev. H. Achilles writes Dec. 27th, 1874.—"I spent last Sabbath in Chelsea, baptized one. Our Conference on Saturday was one of great interest, God was in our midst and that to bless. There have been several hopeful conversions there of late and others are anxious. Pray for us that the work of God may go on till all shall know the Lord."

**BERWICK.**—Rev. Isa. Wallace writes:—I have recently baptized 17 at Gould Settlement, one of our preaching stations and a good religious interest is still manifest.

**NEW BRUNSWICK.**

We are glad to hear of signs of revival in New Brunswick. From Moncton, Rev. J. Edwards writes the *Visitor* that the indications of a work of grace at Lute's Mountain, and also at Peticodiac, are encouraging.

Rev. G. Beckwith writing from Coverdale on the 28th ult., says:

"The Lord is pouring out His Holy Spirit upon the First Coverdale Baptist Church, and upon the community also.—Backsliders are returning home, and the faithful rejoice. It was my happy privilege on the 20th inst., to baptize six willing converts, and yesterday, assisted by Elder S. Smith, I baptized four more. Besides these eight wanderers have been restored, making eighteen added to the church. An encouraging fact is that people are coming in numbers from a distance to hear the gospel of the grace of God. Brethren, pray for us.

Rev. G. F. Miles on the 28th ult., says:—"Your prayer in part for Sackville has been answered. God is faithful. At the Conference (First Church) Saturday last, two willing souls for the first time in public, declared what God had done for them, and amid tears of joy and exclamations of gratitude, were received for baptism and membership by those who have been looking and praying for a revival of pure and undefiled religion.

The dedication of the new Baptist chapel at Hillsborough, took place on Sabbath the 4th inst. Sermons were preached by brethren Todd, Hughes, and E. C. Cory.

**BAPTIST CHURCHES IN PHILADELPHIA.**—The Baptists seem to thrive in the city of Brotherly Love. In 1809 there was only one Baptist to every 299 of the population while in 1874 there is one to every 44! In 1800 the population was 81,000 and there were three Baptist churches with a total membership of 271. Now the population is 720,000, there are 51 Baptist churches and a membership of 16,507.—The *Boston Christian Era* adds, we hope our Philadelphia brethren will bear their honors meekly.

The Baptist Churches of Boston are experiencing revival influences at Tremont Temple the congregations are very large, and new inquirers are weekly presenting themselves.

Our brethren in the United States have various methods of obtaining the services of ministers, as for instance the following from one of our Boston exchanges:—

The First Baptist Church at Greenpoint, L. I., are anxious to obtain the services of Rev. D. Henry Miller, D. D., as their pastor.

Rev. Dr. Hiscox, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has received a call to the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. He is to be the editor of the *Outlook*, in the place of Dr. Fulton, who is going on a lecturing tour in Tennessee and other southern States.

Rev. Joshua Wood, pastor at North Granville, N. Y., writes that the church there is enjoying a revival season. Sixteen have been baptized, and the interest continues.

Rev. A. B. EARLE was to conduct a Ministers' Revival Institute at Leavenworth, Kansas for four days in the first week of the New Year. After which he intended to hold a series of Union meetings in that city. He had just concluded a ten days' meeting with the reformed Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches of Mott Haven and North New York, preaching twenty-two sermons. The religious interest was deep and continuous.

IN CANTON, N. Y., a powerful work of grace is in progress, and the pastor has within a few weeks baptized 85 hopeful converts. The whole city seems to be profoundly moved. Says a correspondent, "I have never seen a city where more infidelity abounded than was the case in Canton. There were hundreds of young men who were living without hope, scores of them boasting in their infidelity; but God's spirit has convinced vast numbers of them of sin, and many have believed in Christ, and now rejoice in his love and labor."

**ORDINATION OF DEACONS.**—The *Baptist Weekly*, speaking of the service at the ordination of deacons in one of the Brooklyn churches, says:

The service was according to a printed form; the congregation reciting the passage from 1 Tim. iii. 8, concerning the deacons; the officers elect professing their willingness to accept the office, and the church pledging themselves to receive and recognize them. The pastor then addressed each of the brethren chosen: "Take thou authority from Gethsemane Baptist Church to execute the office of a deacon in this church of God; committed unto thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—Amen." Each brother, as his name was called, knelt down and prayer was offered, with the laying on of hands. The church then participated in the observance of the Lord's Supper.

**Home and Foreign News.**

**HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 13, 1875.**

A large quantity of American oil was seized on Saturday the 2nd inst., by the Collector of Inland Revenue at Ottawa. Oil should be tested to 110 degrees of heat without explosion, and a large quantity of American oil which explodes at 86 degrees of heat has been introduced in the Dominion, enabling Yankee traders to undersell the Canada producers.

The Postmaster General at Ottawa has issued a circular to the effect that on and after the 1st February the postage rates to be charged in Canada, on mail matter of all kinds except closed parcels, patterns, and samples posted for the United States, will be the same as if addressed to any part of Canada. These rates must be fully prepaid, or they will not be forwarded.

The registration charge on letters to the United States will continue to be five cents prepaid by postage stamp.

Letters from the United States to Canada will be subject to like regulations.

The "Canada Gazette" contains a proclamation calling Parliament for dispatch of business on the 8th February.

A fire occurred on Monday morning at Montreal. Two men were burned to death. Thermometer 5 below zero.

**NEW BRUNSWICK.**

THE LUMBER TRADE OF ST. JOHN has increased during 1874 nearly fifteen million feet over that of 1873. There were last year 415 cargoes shipped to Europe with 212,685,000 feet of deals, &c. Besides this 56,249,000 feet were shipped to other ports not in Europe. These cargoes have all commanded good prices. St. John is now sending out more deals than all the Baltic ports combined, and far more than any other port in America.

Mr. Jas. Hale, Superintendent of the Money Order Branch of the St. John Post Office, died last week after a long illness of disease of the lungs. He had been in the postal service about 20 years.

At an early hour on Monday morning last week, the house and store of P. Nowlan, Derby, was destroyed with all its contents. Several of the inmates were almost smothered before they could be rescued. Only a few articles were saved.

The fines collected in the Newcastle Police Court between the 21st and 29th of December, amount to one hundred dollars. Prisoner snatching, says the *Advocate*, is a profitable business.

The New Brunswick Legislature will meet on Thursday, February 8th.

John Jersey, aged eighty-two years, an aged gardener in the employ of Adam Ferguson, of the Athol House, Campbelltown, was burned to death on Friday evening last.

**CHATHAM.**—The house of Anthony Gratton, on the Tabusintac road, occupied by its owner, with seven children and a female servant, was burned down about two o'clock on last Thursday morning. Several of the occupants narrowly escaped with their lives, and one child, a little boy six years, was burned to death; the house dog, refused to leave its little master, and his charred bones were found with those of the child.

A telegram from Musquash on Saturday night says: Bright. "William Nash," of 124 tons, Charlton master, from Cornwall, N. S., with a cargo of potatoes and

lumber, went ashore at Little Dipper Harbor, early on Friday morning. The vessel took fire three hours after the crew left her. Vessel and cargo a total loss. Vessel not insured.

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.**

Tremendous snow storms have blocked up the government railway here since the 28th December. Every possible effort has been made to clear the track, but in vain. The snow and ice block up the cuttings to the height of 13 to 15 feet. Strong gangs of men and engines are constantly employed to make communication between Charlottetown and Summerside, but to no purpose. Several engines are frozen up, and the snow ploughs are practically useless. The Superintendent has announced the closing of the road for the present.

**UNITED STATES.**

In the United States Senate a long and bitter discussion took place on Louisiana affairs.

The Civil Rights Bill suffered a temporary defeat in the House, owing to the successful filibustering of the Democrats.

The financial bill passed the House at Washington on Thursday.

The resolution requesting the President to state the exact condition of affairs in Louisiana passed in the Senate after a long discussion.

A large fire took place at Orangeburg on Tuesday, destroying most of the business portion of the town. The loss amounts to \$200,000, with little insurance.

The loss by the burning of a tobacco warehouse in Baltimore on Thursday night, was \$350,000, \$250,000 of which is on stock. Insurance on the building \$85,000, on stock \$150,000.

Thirteen buildings were burned in Honesdale, Pa., on Thursday. Twenty-two business firms were burned out. Loss \$100,000. Insurance \$85,000.

A telegram from New York on Saturday evening says:—In Chicago to-day the thermometer has registered twenty degrees below zero.

Great snow storms with intense cold are reported from Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and St. Louis, with the thermometer at about nine degrees below zero.

A collision on the railroad between Washington and Baltimore occurred on Thursday night. The postal and express car "New York" was destroyed by fire with all its contents. Thomas Fayman, postal clerk, was burned to death. Mails for New York and New England were consumed, and even the contents of the express safe were reduced to ashes; also about \$700,000 of National Bank notes.

On Saturday last severe snow storms prevailed over the northern portions of the United States, accompanied by high wind and mercury below zero.

The Beecher trial is exciting the deepest interest in New York. Mr. Morris, counsel for Tilton, occupied Monday with the opening address.

New York, Jan. 11th.—Gold 124, Exchange unchanged.

**LATEST FROM EUROPE.**

**ENGLAND.**—Correspondence is in progress between the Governments of England and the United States in relation to some territory in British North America which England claims, but which was never formally annexed to her dominions.

Eight lives were lost by the fire damp explosion at Rotherham.

Judgment has been rendered in the Ecclesiastical Court, removing Bishop Martin from his See.

Saturday last being the second anniversary of the death of Napoleon, a large number of well known French Imperialists congregated at Chislehurst, the residence of the ex-Empress.

The steamer "Kathleen Mary," from Odessa for Falmouth, was lost at sea on the 23rd ult. Her passengers were drowned.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**—Advices from Cape Town, December 16th report terrific storm and disastrous floods prevailed throughout the country. Many vessels were wrecked and immense damage done to property.

**FRANCE.**—Alfonso sailed from Marseilles—having a fleet of three iron clads—for Barcelona on Friday.

It is stated that the basis of a new French Ministry has been settled. The Dukes de Broglie and de Cases and M. Delaunay will be chief members.

Since the recent governmental revolution in Spain, the supporters of the Prince Imperial have been less secret in their movements, and the feeling in favor of Bonapartism is increasing in France.

President McMahon has informed the Council of Ministers that he declines to accept their resignation until he has succeeded in framing a Cabinet out of the majority of the Assembly.

The "Bien Public" says the proposal in favor of dissolution of Assembly is signed by all sections of the Left.

**GERMANY.**—The Imperial Bank of Berlin is to offer an increased price for gold in view of a prospective resumption of specie payments in America.

The *Times* despatch from Berlin says