

realizing. He will forsake any purpose, however dear, if much opposition or ridicule is arrayed against it.

If he asserts to day that he has a mind he will doubt it to-morrow, and abandon the idea the third day if he finds it difficult to prove—as he probably will.

Sometimes he is conscious of his debility and despises himself because of it; but oftener wonders why he should be met by all the difficulties, and other people by none. Having been outstripped in the race for knowledge, wealth, or fame, he grumblingly attributes his failure to ill-luck,—his co-temporaries success to special good-fortune, whilst decision of character and steadfastness of purpose are not taken into the account at all.

And, furthermore, he who lacks resolution not only is unlikely to rise higher than he is, but is in danger of falling lower. That same indecision which prevents perseverance in a proposed enterprise, makes him childishly weak before the onslaught of temptation. He who wavers before the tempter is almost surely lost!

Of the multitudes who wear the horrid chain of evil habit, who stagger beneath the weight of accumulated vileness, or wallow in oozy marshes of unrepentable iniquities, not a few have fallen because they could not, or would not resolutely say No! when assailed by temptation. Therefore, he who is destitute of firmness travels in a dangerous, and, generally, a downward path. With such shifting ballast what wonder if he becomes a wreck? What wonder if he is the sport of conflicting forces,—an atom of animate matter to be flattered by specious promises, buffeted by stern realities, and at last disappear from the stage as the death-curtain falls, while few weep, and the multitude forget that he had a part in the great life-drama.

SYMONDS.

Feb. 23rd, 1877.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BLACK ROCK, CORNWALLIS.—Sorrow and Joy.—Dear Editor,—Death has recently been making sad havoc in this interesting locality and has brought heavy grief to several families.

On the 6th of December last Arabella A., second daughter of Andrew and Alice Jane Mahar, departed this life, aged 15 years. She was a great favorite, a lovely singer, and truly converted. Her end was peace. Three days later, John, eldest son of David and Lavinia White, fell asleep in Jesus, aged 21 years. He was a promising young man and his early death has occasioned much sorrow.

On the 27th of Jan. 1877, Johnnie, eldest son of James Doherty, died of Diphtheria, having been ill but a day or two. This dear little fellow seemed to be thoughtful and to realize his position and it is hoped, died in Jesus.

9th of Feb. 1877, Annie, eldest daughter of Capt. William and Eliza Gould, died very suddenly of inflammation, aged fourteen years. She too was a promising girl, and greatly beloved. She gave evidence of resting on the finished work of Christ and died expecting to be with Him. These deaths among our young people, following each other in such quick succession, have caused much seriousness.

When I came up to attend the funeral of the last mentioned, dear little Annie Gould, it seemed to me that I duty should not engage in some special services with a view to the revival of God's work and the salvation of souls. Accordingly I commenced on Monday evening, the 12th of Feb., to hold extra meetings. These services have been crowned with a remarkable blessing. Yesterday I baptized 7 persons and on the Sabbath previous 2. Many men are anxious about their souls and are requesting the prayers of God's people.

This branch of the 2nd Cornwallis Church is greatly reinforced and there is joy in many hearts in view of the gracious doing of Him who is "mighty to save." We continue our meetings here a part of this week.

Yours truly, ISA. WALLACE. March 5th, 1877.

NEW GLASGOW.—Dear Brother Selden, I returned not long ago from a tour, collecting for our vestry in this place, and found the little flock holding on

their way, and sustaining their meetings as during my absence. On my way back a couple of Sabbaths were spent in Londonderry, while my brother came on to New Glasgow by way of exchange. The friends in Debert River were holding meetings every day and the prospect seemed fair for good being done. May the Lord bless that people.

I visited the churches in Bridgetown, Billtown, Canning, Canard, Wolfville and Windsor, and when their contributions are completed, I will publish the amounts from each. I obtained in cash \$126.11, pledges \$126.00, total \$252.11. In addition to this we will need \$450.00 to finish paying for the contract. And then when this is secured subsequently before another winter say \$250.00 to finish inside walls and ceiling and furnish chairs or seats. We wish the vestry to be completed free from debt, as the little band will have enough to do afterward to support their missionary, and to create a fund for a parsonage. I ought to specify as included in the amount of cash collected the following items, viz.,

- Rev. A. J. Stevens, Newton Theo. Sem. \$ 0.90
Rev. J. A. Durkee, Paradise. 1.00
Maynard Wheelock, Esq., Berwick 1.00
Michael Keeler, Kentville. 1.00
Rev. W. G. Parker, Pine Grove. 1.00
J. L. Bishop, New Canaan. 0.50
Mrs. J. L. Bishop, New Canaan. 0.25
Jas. Stevens, Esq., Brookfield, Col. 1.00
Isaac D. Cook, Acadia Iron Mines. 1.00
Thomas Fletcher, Debert River. 2.00
Also sent to Dea. Olding, New Glasgow.
Rev. A. Chipman, Bedeque, P. E. I. 5.00
H. Cunningham Esq., Guysboro. 10.00
Further contributions will be thankfully received by Michael C. Olding, Esq., New Glasgow, N. S.

Yours &c., D. FREEMAN.

New Glasgow, N. S., March 6, 1877. P. S. I expect to visit Halifax next. D. F.

THE SHELBURNE CO. SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION held a series of very interesting meetings on the 21st and 22nd, ult., in Shelburne Town. Papers were read and discussions followed on subjects bearing upon Sabbath School Work. Both evening meetings were large. The last one was so crowded that many had to go away not being able to get in. It is encouraging to see the interest in this Convention increasing, and to know that good results follow its meetings in enlarged S. Schools. The responsibilities of parents were made quite prominent in the discussions. If they could be aroused to greater fidelity in training their children at home and throwing around them Christian influences, if they gave more sympathy and cooperation to S. S. Teachers and members in their efforts, and if they would come themselves with their children to the S. School, no doubt, through the blessing of God, a new impulse would be given to Sabbath School work, and more blessed results would follow in more numerous conversions among the young.

The next meeting of the Convention is appointed to be held at Port La Tour in November next. M. G. HENRY. Clyde River.

WEYMOUTH, March 9th, 1877.—Dear Brother Selden,—The Lord is granting us some fresh tokens of his favor. Our meetings are largely attended and have been increasing in interest for some weeks past. Last Sabbath I baptized a married couple, a whole household. They had been brought up to the Episcopal Church, and through the study of God's word have become Baptists. Thus the Lord has added another family to his church in this place.

Very truly yours, J. W. BANCROFT.

CHEBOQUE, YARMOUTH CO.—Bro. Rowe is being greatly blessed in his labors at Central Chebogue, Yarmouth Co. He baptized eight last Sabbath, and fifteen the Sabbath before. About thirty have been added to the church since the revival commenced. G. R. D.

MELVERN SQUARE.—Rev. W. E. Hall writes:—Dear Brother,—I baptized 17 believers on Sabbath, the 11th inst. The work still goes on. It is very quiet, but God's "still small voice" is in it.

We have been holding special services for 23 weeks, and though often weary cannot yet think of resting. Pray for us.

The municipal authorities at Ravenna, acting under competent and zealous archaeological guides, are about to raise the whole structure of the more ancient of the two renowned baptisteries of that city. It is in danger of injury by the accretion of soil and weight of surrounding buildings, and is to be lifted bodily up to the level of the modern surface. It is said to date from A. D. 429, and is therefore valuable as a standing monument of the mode of baptism in the fourth and fifth centuries, for the front is a large marble bath ten feet in diameter, and 3 1/2 feet deep, with an outlet for the effluent water, and a marble pulpit attached for the officiating minister to use when addressing the catechumens. A full account of this will be found in Mr. Cote's learned work on the "Archæology of Baptism," p. 176. But the care of the cognoscendi is not so much demanded for the preservation of the structure as of the world-renowned pictures in Mosaic which adorned the interior of the building. These date from about A. D. 430, and display exquisite work and far more reverential treatment of sacred subjects than prevailed in after-times. A full and interesting account of these works of art appeared in the Times of the 30th ult. from the skilled pen of "our own correspondent."

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—On Wednesday in the House of Commons the Act to prevent gambling on Railways was read a second time.

Mr. Bunster moved to have British Columbia granted a separate tariff. Mr. Cartwright said such a motion could not be considered seriously and the motion dropped.

In the debate on Sir John A. Macdonald's amendment to the tariff Mr. Wood moved an amendment to the amendment that inasmuch as it has been deemed necessary to raise an additional revenue, it is the opinion of this House that the interests of the country would be better served by imposing additional duties on such goods and wares as may not be produced in Canada, affording increased protection while securing the additional revenue required.

Sir John accepted Mr. Wood's amendment, and hoped this may also be supported by manufacturers.

Mr. Vail, in presenting a return regarding pensioners of 1812-15, stated that he had received a very large number of petitions, but from whom he was not aware, signed by a great number of persons, praying that amounts equal to sums granted by the British Government to pensioners be given to pensioners of 1812-15. He took this opportunity of saying that it was quite impossible to appropriate for this purpose a larger sum than fifty thousand dollars, which had been voted by Parliament. The Chronicle's despatch on Friday says, Mr. A. G. Jones, (Halifax), has written a memorial to the Government, praying for the continuance of the subsidy to the fortnightly steamships. It is signed by all the Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick members as well as the Nova Scotians.

On Friday Col. Skinner, M. P., fell in the lobby of the House of Commons and broke his leg. He is doing well.

On Monday Cape Breton matters and interests were largely before the House of Commons and a number of orders in relation to public works in Nova Scotia were carried.

A report has been received at Ottawa that the Niagara suspension bridge has been condemned and the trains are forbidden to pass over.

A Company has formed in Ottawa, with a capital of \$25,000,000, to purchase the controlling interests in the Chaudiere lumbering establishments. The Company is composed principally of English capitalists.

More Indians are being ill-used at Oka. Diphtheria is very bad in some parts of Montreal.

According to the speech of the new mayor of Montreal, drunkenness is largely on the decrease.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The subject of Municipal county incorporations was before the House of Assembly on Thursday last. The Attorney General, in introducing the bill for making it compulsory, expounded the different systems of Local Government adopted in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and held that the municipalities in Ontario, New Brunswick, etc., had worked well. It proposes to make the Municipal Council of the county of St. John to consist of twenty-four Councillors, the Mayor to be Warden and presiding officer. The parishes of Simonds, Lancaster and St. Martin's shall each have three Councillors, the town of Portland three, and the city of St. John ten, being the nine Aldermen and the Mayor of the city. The bill, if passed, is to go into operation on the first of May next. The bill was well received in the House.

The estimates are all passed but the supplementary, and they will not excite much discussion.

St. John has again been visited by a terribly destructive fire. On Thursday night about 10 o'clock fire was discovered in the lower flat of the dry goods stores on Prince William Street occupied by M. C. Barbour and John H. Golden on the first floor and Steeves Brothers in the upper. The flooring was cut away, and, as it was supposed, the fire extinguished, and some of the

engines were sent away. But about half an hour later the flames burst out with redoubled fury and the whole building was soon one mass of flame.

In the rear of Messrs. I. & E. Burpee's building one of the iron shutters on an upper story was off, and through the window the devouring flames poured in a destructive stream. In a few moments the building, the lower part of which was occupied by Messrs. Kerr & Thorne, was entirely filled with fire, and it was seen that this fine edifice was doomed to destruction.

As the fire progressed in the Burpee building, two explosions took place from the powder stored in the upper story of the building. At the same time thousands of cartridges went off, and for five or six minutes their explosion resembled the sound of a regiment of soldiers firing a feu de joie. At 1.45 a terrible sound fell on the ears of the assembled multitude, and fell with a deeper horror on the ears of those whose lives were then put in peril. Most people thought it was an explosion, and still affirm that an explosion preceded it. However that may be, at the same moment, the southern wall of the Ennis and Gardner building fell through the roof and side of the building of Messrs. Watts & Turner, and the northern wall of the Burpee building fell through that of Messrs. Board & Venning. Quite a number of people were in both the buildings that were thus rudely invaded. On the roof of Watts & Turner's building, some twenty firemen and others were gathered, and in the building itself were fifteen or twenty others, one of them being Mr. E. D. Watts himself.

The fire was not subdued till five o'clock on Friday morning when it had destroyed the stores of W. C. Barbour, J. H. Golding, Beard and Venning, Watts and Turner, (dry goods), Steeves Brothers, (wholesale dealers), Kerr & Thorne, fancy goods and J. & F. Burpee & Co., hardware.

Five bodies have been taken from the ruins of the buildings, Mr. E. D. Watts, Mr. LeBaron Akerly, Mr. Samuel Lister, George Budd, and Daniel Comboy. Mr. Budd was a book-keeper, and formerly lived in Halifax with his parents. It was supposed that two other bodies were buried in the ruins, and men were working on Friday endeavouring to find them. Water was being poured on the ruins all day. The following is given as the amounts insured in the several offices named:

Table with 2 columns: Office Name and Amount Insured. Includes Imperial (\$28,000), Liverpool and London and Globe (21,000), Queen (21,000), North British and Mercantile (9,000), Guardian (8,600), Commercial (9,000), Royal (16,600), Etina (21,000), National (6,000), Lancashire (20,000), Provincial (4,000), Phoenix (2,000), Total (\$166,200).

The loss of course is very much greater.

On Thursday of last week Alexander McMurtry was arrested in St. John for obtaining \$1,000 under false pretences from Mrs. Caroline Cassidy, in 1875. Her husband was one of the passengers in the ill-fated City of Boston. When the money was obtained from her she was told by McMurtry that he had \$4,000 worth of goods. He was admitted to bail.

On Friday evening a panic occurred in the Roman Catholic Cathedral at St. John during the services of the "Forty Hours' Devotion." One of the pinnacles on the tower was blown over by the wind, and falling on the roof, went crushing through and into the church. Fortunately no persons were standing underneath, and nobody was hurt. The people were assured by the Bishop from the altar that there was no danger, and order was quickly restored.

UNITED STATES.—President Hayes on Wednesday last sent to the Senate for confirmation the names of the following members of his Cabinet.

William M. Evarts, New York, Secretary of State.

John Sherman, Ohio, Secretary of the Treasury.

Geo. W. McCrary, Iowa, Secretary of War.

Richard M. Thompson, Indiana, Secretary of the Navy.

Charles Devens, Massachusetts, Attorney-General.

David McKay, Tennessee, Postmaster-General.

Carl Schurz, Missouri, Secretary of the Interior.

The Senate on Wednesday, 35 to 29, tabled the credentials of Kellogg, elected to the Senate by the Packard Legislature of Louisiana.

The position of President Hayes in both Louisiana and South Carolina is conceded to be one of great embarrassment. He will have to waive his convictions of right towards the Republicans of Louisiana and South Carolina rather than support by Federal bayonets State Governments too weak to stand alone.

There was a violent storm of wind and rain at Boston on Thursday and Friday. Several buildings were unroofed and trees overthrown by the gale. The velocity of wind at Boston was "seventy-eight miles an hour—the highest since the establishment of the service signal.

Cliffin, Allen & Co., Simon Gilgory, and other merchants in St. Louis, were burned out on Sunday the 4th, loss nearly half a million dollars.

A large building, No. 5 Bond Street, occupied principally by manufacturers of watches and jewelry, was burned on Tuesday night. Three firemen were injured, the loss is placed at over a million and a half of dollars.

During a panic caused by the hysterical fit of a woman in the St. Xavier Catholic Church, New York, several persons were trampled to death and many injured.

Joe Coburn the notorious pugilist, has been sentenced to ten years in the states prison for attempting to shoot an officer.

The most violent snowstorm of the season prevailed at St. Louis and vicinity on Thursday with heavy rain and high wind.

William McMurtry, the Inspecting Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Company at Winnipeg, was accidentally choked to death on Wednesday while eating.

The disputants of Commodore Vanderbilt's will allege unsound mind or memory, and that the execution of the will was procured by fraud and circumvention by Wm. H. Vanderbilt and other persons unknown.

Horatio N. Messenger, aged 76, a respectable farmer of Norfolk, Mass., was strangled to death in his bed, on Friday night, by burglars who escaped.

An incendiary fire destroyed \$150,000 worth of property at Newberry, South Carolina.

A fire at Danover, Ill., destroyed \$150,000 worth of property.

The Bateman House, Kansas City, Pa., was burned early on Monday morning, and six persons were burned to death, including the landlord, wife and four children.

LaPage, convicted of murdering Miss Langmaid at New Hampshire, is sentenced to execution a year hence.

ENGLAND.—A list of reforms proposed by the Conference, and accepted by Turkey, has been received by the Ottoman Ambassador in London. They include admission of Non-Mussulman subjects to military schools; sanction liberty of public worship; all litigation upon religious matters to come under the jurisdiction of the patriarchates; remission of taxes due to January, 1877, in the provinces that have suffered; maintenance of right to property already acquired in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Pacific solution of the Presidential contest gives great firmness to American securities in England and on the Continent.

There was a colliery explosion near Swansea, England on Thursday; 16 dead bodies have been recovered, and many others remain in the pit.

The Times says an association has been formed in Edinburgh for the purpose of purchasing and slaughtering cattle and other stock from the United States and Canada, and also purchasing farm and dairy produce for sale in Edinburgh and other parts of Great Britain. It is intended to dispense with middlemen.

The foot and mouth disease has appeared in Shotwell, Warwickshire, and Grimsbury, Northamptonshire.

President Hayes' inaugural was printed here in full. The Times says the greater part of it is of a character that may be well received by men of all parties. The Daily News says it is but fair to remark that as far as they go, the principles which President Hayes enunciates are excellent. The Telegraph says Mr. Hayes' comment on the election ordeal which put such a severe strain on the Constitution are such as become a President who, from the moment he takes the oath of office should belong to all parties.

TURKEY.—The English press is nearly unanimous in disapproving Ignatieff's mission, which assumes to commit the Powers to agree to prospective coercion. "If Turkey fails to carry out the reforms within a limited time," the Times leader says, "nothing Ignateff or any one else can bring from St. Petersburg, can place political rights and duties in a new light, or change the main relations of European powers."

The Turkish minister authoritatively contradicts rumors regarding the health and private life of the Sultan.

According to an official statement of the Serbian War Minister, the Serbians lost 8,000 killed and 20,000 wounded during the late war.

Letters from the Turkish provinces report a great slackening of the promised reforms. The Christian population are everywhere molested, especially in Armenia. The Armenian patriarch finding the representations to the Porte of no avail, has tendered his resignation.

The Times' belgrade correspondent learns of immense armaments in the interior of Russia. One million men will be in arms by the 16th March.

ITALY.—The long contemplated works for the improvement of the Tiber at Rome were commenced on Tuesday.

RUSSIA.—Russia has requested an answer to her circular of January 31st. Gortschakoff says: "If the signatory powers to the Conference remain inactive, Russia will consider that they renounce insisting upon the obligations of Turkey and Turkish rights. Russia will accordingly declare the treaty of Paris null and void as affecting herself, and reserving to herself the right of independent action."

The Russian telegraphic agency declares the responsibility for war between Turkey and Russia would rest with the British Cabinet, whose contradiction, defiance and tenacity will have precipitated it.