

ticable to continue the Sunday School during the winter months it is an excellent plan to have such a class. The international lessons are thus kept before the Sunday School workers.

BLINDNESS.

We had the melancholy pleasure of meeting our blind friend, Thomas Outhit, Esq. Eyesight is indeed a blessing, and to be deprived hopelessly of it, is a sore trial. We were deeply impressed with the untiring efforts of our blind friend's, dear children, to supply their father's lack of sight. Their many kind, thoughtful, unasked attentions: such as music, reading, leading around, kind words, caresses, &c., were all done in a manner which only well trained children know how to bestow.

Children readers, if you would be loved even by strangers, be kind, especially to the afflicted, for kind words and acts leave a lasting impress on the mind which time cannot erase.

RETURNED NOVA SCOTIANS.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Wood, whose home for many years has been in the far West, have recently returned to their native country, freely acknowledging that with all the Western advantages there is no place like old home.

A WEDDING.

By the Rev. Dr. Robinson, William, son of the late Dr. Hugh McNeal, of Valparaiso, Chili, to Annie Leeland, granddaughter of Felix McNeal, Esq. An old fashioned wedding was kept at the old home of our mother. The bride and groom (of the 4th generation) soon after left for their far off home amid the good wishes of many friends.

MUSICAL.

Raymond, son of Dr. McDonald, farmer, of P. E. Island, late from Boston, is doing good service in this locality, training the young people in this most useful science.

If parents devoted more time and means to the cultivation of this talent in their children, and less to the useless fashions of the day, the results would yield a much more satisfactory harvest.

Nor need the money required to procure musical instruments now be sent out of the country as formerly, as they are manufactured by native Nova Scotians, fully equal in quality and less in price than they can be imported for.

W. J. G.
Melvern Square, Dec. 25th, 1876.

For the Christian Messenger. Centennial Notes.

By W. J. G.
(Continued.)

AGRICULTURAL HALL.

In our estimation this immense building, which is 820 x 540 feet, stands fourth in point of interest, probably with many it would be ranked number two. Thousands of the world's most practical farmers and mechanics spent the larger portion of their spare time in this department, intent on adding to their stock of knowledge by means of the many late improvements and inventions on exhibition, and in operation here.

Whilst admiring these productions, the thoughtful are inclined to ascribe to the wonder working unseen power which moves man's inventive mind to produce the wonders so lavishly displayed.

Of all employments we contend that Agriculture is the most honourable, and well deserves attention. Were our people generally to bestow the same amount of thought and labour on this subject which they do on many other things our country would present a different appearance to-day from what it does.

Farming implements of the latest improvement, such as potato diggers and pickers, seed sowers, flour mills, mowing, thrashing, raking and other similar machines, stump rooters, post-hole diggers, cider mills, meat cutters, apple pearers, &c., &c., were in great variety. Then beside these were placed in contrast the style of a hundred years ago.

Here stood the old plough of our grandfathers' day, old style mouldboard beam, clevis, &c., old vehicles, iron and stone tools and many other curiosities of olden times. The improvements of the past century are very apparent. The display of vegetables and fruit was very good, though showing some signs of decay. The Michigan table showed some fine fruit, yet our Nova Scotia display was not far behind. Without boasting, we feel safe in stat-

ing that in agricultural implements, fruit, and general manufactured goods, Canada compares at least favorably with other countries, and the Canadian visitor has no cause to hang his head as though ashamed of his country for she bids fair to rank high in the rapidly coming future.

Our mines and minerals, agricultural products and manufactories, our rich and abundant fisheries, our ship building facilities, with an inventive enterprising people place us in a favorable position. To develop these resources more fully, and secure a desirable home for our sons and daughters, we need more willingness on the part of our capitalists to aid the enterprising in opening up our mines of wealth. On examining the register in the Canadian Office, we were sorry to find that but few comparatively of our Nova Scotian people had visited the Exhibition. We believe the time and money spent, would have amply paid our farmers and mechanics, and yielded a large interest mentally as well as financially.

HOGS.

We are not very fond of swine, yet were much pleased with the appearance of two fine ones owned by the Hon. L. P. Cooper—the largest 21 months old, weighing 1307 lbs. I wonder if King's County can beat this?

HORTICULTURAL HALL. 383 BY 193 FT.

This also is a finely constructed building, principally glass, and very attractive both in the exterior and interior.

We scarce know how to express our delight and surprise at what greeted our eyes in this "world's flower garden."

In the centre stood a large fountain gently throwing fine particles of moisture in every direction on the mammoth house plants, some of which stood higher than our heads. There were beautiful walks, and easy seats in every direction, and the place warm as a summer's day. Of all the spots visited, this really was the most delightful to the eye. We would willingly have lingered for hours or days, to enjoy the enchanting scenery, but pressed our way onward and onward through the crowd.

CANADA LOG HOUSE.

We were interested in this oddly constructed building, tho' but few seemed to be. Possibly when we visited it but few lumbermen were present, or that those engaged in this now unprofitable branch of Canadian industry have sufficient of wood material to occupy their thoughts at home. This log house is designed to show the various kinds of trees which grow in the Dominion and is well represented. The building: It is composed of logs, lumber, shingles, timber, &c., placed together without nails or bolts. Messrs. E. D. Davidson and Sons, of Bridgewater, furnished some fine specimens of the wood of Nova Scotia in logs.

LARGE TREES.

1st. A Canadian white pine 303 feet high, the section on exhibition 38 feet long 8 feet 5 inches in diameter, 664 years growth, containing 7,500 feet lumber, first in this section.

2nd. The great California tree 325 feet high 81 feet round, bark 35 inches, 4000 years old. The section on exhibition had 227 square feet inside floor room, and had ample room for 150 men to stand, and if the white tree had been cut into 1 inch boards, would have made 375,000 feet of lumber. Captain Wade of Bridgewater has a cane made out of the wood, which we purchased for him.

3rd. A small white Oak tree with the horn of a Deer through and through it, this was a great curiosity, probably the Deer had lodged the horn there when the tree was small.

JEDDORE, Dec. 26th, 1876.

Mr. Editor,

A cloud of gloom is hanging over this harbor, caused by the wreck of a large fishing-boat owned by Mr. Ephraim Baker. She left here on Monday, the 18th inst., for Halifax, loaded with fish. The wind being ahead and moderate, the crew thought it best to run back again rather than stay out over night. But when they came within two or three miles of the harbor, the wind breezed up from the S. E. Though late in the afternoon, they now concluded to run for Halifax. As night came on the wind increased, and brought snow with it. In the snow and darkness they ran on Thrum Cap shoal. Mr. E. Baker and F. Gould left the wreck in a small boat, and were lost in the breakers. The remain-

der of the crew—five in number, remained on the wreck until she broke up, when the deck, with them on it drifted ashore. The bodies of the two men drowned, were recovered next day, and taken on board the Schr. Princess, owned by Mr. Enos C. Baker, brother of the deceased, and brought home on Wednesday.

Mr. Ephraim Baker, was in the prime of life, aged 35 years, and an honored member of the Baptist Church in that place. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn the loss of a kind father and loving husband.

He will be greatly missed in the community, as well as in his family and the church. We trust his bereaved partner—also a loved member of the church, will be enabled by faith to pierce the gloom, and behold the bright lining beyond, for oft,

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

With what power and eloquence such events proclaim the words: "Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." I hope the event—sad as it is, may prove beneficial to many of the large number present at his funeral on the 24th inst. But impressions made by such events too often prove "like the morning cloud and the early dew."

Yours &c.,
JAS. MEADOWS.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—A permanent reconciliation has been effected between the Committee of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company and their men. All warrants against leading strikers are to be withdrawn, and all men to be taken back at old rates. This is a complete victory for the strikers.

At Montreal a Mr. Louis Guinette fired two pistol shots at one Francis Guay in a fit of jealousy, inflicting a serious wound. Guinette was arrested but stated that he had taken poison. Antidotes were applied, yet to no purpose, for he died a few minutes after.

Snowy owls have appeared in Montreal and are making havoc with the sparrows. They are supposed to be a sign of approaching bitter weather.

Judge Mondelet was buried on Thursday last.

The liabilities of Muir, Ewan & Co., bankrupts, is about \$300,000.

John Livingstone, accountant, of Montreal, was on Friday committed for trial on a charge of perjury.

The Ontario Legislature was opened on Wednesday last.

At the Metropolitan Bank meeting on Wednesday a statement of the condition of the Bank was submitted. It was stated that exchange bonds would pay assets at 60 cents on the dollar. The offer was not accepted. A committee was appointed to make further investigation.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Solomon Miner a lumberman in York County in going from his home on the 18th ult. to a lumber camp about eight miles distant, was lost in a snow storm, and wandered about for six days without food. He was afraid if he laid down he would have been frozen. His hands, neck and feet are badly frozen, and he will lose his toes.

On Thursday John O'Neill, a half-witted man of 45 years of age, was found frozen to death in a hut off Black River Road near St. John.

It is said in St. John that Mr. Marshall will resign his seat rather than put his friends to the trouble of a contested petition, and that he will immediately appeal to the constituency for re-election.

P. E. ISLAND.—The Marine and Fisheries Department received a despatch on Friday last, that the steamer Northern Light would leave Georgetown that morning, and if possible effect a landing near Pictou and return immediately to Georgetown. It has not been decided whether she will permanently run to Pictou.

It is now supposed that the Northern Light will be unable to break the ice of Charlottetown harbor, and that if communication is kept up with the island it must be between Pictou and Georgetown.

UNITED STATES.—There were heavy falls of snow on Monday and Tuesday. Additional details of the railway disaster at Ashtabula, Ohio, disclose the loss of life to be about one hundred, and upwards of sixty wounded. Several eastern people are among the victims.

The Republican Legislature of Louisiana has been organized by the choice of ex-Gov. Hahn as speaker, Lieut. Governor Antoine presiding. In the Senate no violence occurred. The Democrats met at St. Patrick's hall, the Senate being called to order by Senator Ogden, a holding-over member. The Republican house passed a resolution calling on the President for protection.

Governor Vance, of North Carolina, delivered his inaugural address speaking very pointedly on national affairs.

Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt died at New York, on Thursday last, after an illness of several months. The property in his possession was estimated at a hundred million dollars. A full disposition of his interest in numerous railroad and navigation companies was made before his death, and stocks were consequently not materially affected.

Major, the wife murderer, was executed on Friday at Concord, N. H., declaring his innocence.

ENGLAND.—A terrible gale prevailed on the South East coast of England, the early part of last week destroying a vast amount of property.

Rains and floods in Great Britain increase. The damage is immense.

DENMARK.—A despatch from Copenhagen says nine laborers were killed and thirty injured by a railroad train running off the track. There were 100 laborers on the train. This is the first fatal railroad accident in Denmark.

GERMANY.—The Emperor William has issued a special order forbidding German officers on the active list from entering the Russian army.

A Berlin despatch says Germany has ordered the Imperial Bank to resume the sale of silver for the account of the German Treasury.

TURKEY.—The sitting of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries at Constantinople seems at present to have effected very little in the way of diminishing the probabilities of war in this unfortunate country. The Turks resist the proposals of plenipotentiaries and declare that they cannot discuss certain points of proposals made by the Powers. Their counter-proposals differ completely from the scheme agreed upon by the plenipotentiaries.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Wednesday last said: "We have good reason to believe that the outlook eastward is at least as dark as despatches make it appear. We were not prepared for the thorough going obstinacy of the Turkish attitude."

The *Daily News* leader thinks there is a bare possibility that the Porte may yield, though the prospect is certainly not cheering.

The Turkish official journals are very war-like.

On Thursday it was positively asserted that Austria's representatives at the Conference were instructed to leave Constantinople, if the Porte does not accept the proposals of the Powers.

The *Daily News* despatch from Berlin said for two days the entire diplomatic corps in Constantinople had been preparing to leave the city.

The *Paris Monitor*, in close relation to the French Foreign Office, says: "We regret to state that the disposition of Turkey was not improved in Thursday's sitting, and leaves very little hope of an arrangement by diplomacy. Although the Conference meets again on Monday, if the situation is not modified it may even now be stated that the task of England is ended."

Great indignation is felt by the Greeks at the proposals of the Conference which tends to subordinate the Greeks to the Bulgarians, and sacrifice the Turkish Greek population to the Slaves.

The *Post's* telegram from Berlin states that it is affirmed that negotiations will be carried on elsewhere, if broken off at Constantinople. No Power except Russia is likely to permanently withdraw its Ambassador in the event of failure of the Conference.

The *Standard's* Belgrade despatch says the Serbian Government continues to arm, and demands that the armistice be abrogated, as Serbia cannot bear the prolonged uncertainty.

It is alleged that the Porte intends to address a manifesto to Europe. One report says the paper will take the form of a protest. The plenipotentiaries are endeavoring to dissuade the Porte from giving it that shape.

It is believed the action of the Porte was caused by fear of the fanatical portion of the Turkish population. There were two dangers to be faced—one at home and the other abroad. The Porte decided that the home danger being more immediate it should be met first, therefore, it was decided to preemptorily reject the proposals of the Conference and resist any violation of the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

A Paris special to the *Daily Telegraph*, dated Sunday, says: "The Porte is apparently determined to make no further concessions. The Marquis of Salisbury has engaged a steamer to depart on the 16th."

RUSSIA.—Russia, it is said, intends, after the final rupture of negotiations, to ask the Powers for authorization to enforce the proposals of the Conference in their name.

Russian papers are greatly exasperated at what they term the pusillanimity of Germany and Austria.

Nine hundred Russian volunteers are about to return to Russia, being unwilling to fight longer under the Serbian banner.

The *Times* correspondent at Paris, discussing various rumors concerning the condition of the Russian army, says the truth is the army continues to be organized with great rapidity. Men are neither so unhealthy nor so discouraged as has been represented, and will be perfectly ready to take the field in two months, provided a capable General is placed at

their head. The real complaint is of the Grand Duke Nicholas' inefficiency. The Russian Government has ordered 150 railway carriages for the transportation of the sick and wounded.

SPAIN.—A hurricane in Spain blew down a railway station at Irun, and the building was set on fire by the stove. Miles of woods on the mountains are burning, and whole herds of cattle, and hamlets, are destroyed. The military are actively engaged in arresting the conflagration.

Local News.

Halifax harbor is quite free from ice, while several of the United States ports have been closed, at Baltimore the port was all last week "completely ice-bound, no vessels having cleared from there for a week." The tugs, which charge usually twenty-five dollars for taking out vessels, were charging five hundred dollars.

Notwithstanding the storm on Sunday the train with the English mails from Montreal arrived here about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The receipts from fines, fees and licenses at the City Clerk's Office, last year, 1876, amounted to \$7,745.30, against 1875 of \$9,487.85. If this indicates a smaller amount of crime and drunkenness, we may well be encouraged that some progress has been made by the inculcation of temperance principles.

At a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, on Friday afternoon, it was announced that Professor Pratt, the horse educator, had given to the Society \$55, the proceeds of a performance. His name was placed at the head of the list of Honorary Members. It is believed that already this Society has done great good by its restraining persons from illusing their horses on the streets.

Professor Pratt purposes visiting some of the Western towns for the purpose of teaching his method of managing refractory horses.

The congregation of Fort Massey Presbyterian church on Wednesday evening presented Rev. Dr. Burns, with a purse of \$360 as a New Year's gift, in token of their esteem.

On Thursday night, the schooner Ringleader, from New York, while beating up the harbor, fouled the brig Halifax, lying in the stream, bound for Cienfuegos. The Halifax had her jib-boom carried away.

Professor Baldwin's exposure of the tricks of the Spiritualists seems to have given great satisfaction to those who were present. Temperance Hall was crowded by a highly intelligent audience.

Archibald's coach from the Eastern shore upset near Porter's Lake on Thursday, but fortunately no serious damage was done. A woman had her arm slightly hurt.

Dynamite explosions are becoming far too common. F. D. Corbett and Co., the agents of the British Dynamite Co., say in a letter to the morning papers: Since the introduction of dynamite into this Province thirty-five tons have been used in the mines and quarries, and there is not an instance on record where an accident has occurred in using it, when the printed instructions of the Company have been strictly observed.

The New Academy of Music was to be opened last evening and this evening by Grand Musical Concerts. Celebrated Musicians have been brought on for the purpose by the Halifax Musical Union. It would be well if this building could be kept from amusements less innocent than these.

THE HOSPITAL AND POOR'S ASYLUM.—The following are the Commissioners of the Hospital and Poor's Asylum for the year 1877:—

- R. S. Black, M. D., Chairman.
William Dunbar, Vice-Chairman.
January—Hon. E. McN. Parker.
February—P. Power.
March—J. B. Duffus.
April—R. S. Black, M. D.
May—W. D. Harrington.
June—William Dunbar.
July—Sir Edward Kenny.
August—William Esson.
September—Henry Pryor.
October—Alderman Graham.
November—The Mayor.
December—Alderman Nisbet.

The Halifax and Acadia Fire Insurance Offices have declared a half-yearly dividend of 7 1/2 per cent., equal to 15 per cent. per annum. Not bad profits.

The steamer Perrit, hence for New York, on the 1st inst., met with the terrific gale the next day, which carried away her smoke stack. She returned and ran into Shelburne harbor under sail on the 3rd, and came on to Halifax for repairs on the following day, and arrived on Sunday.

The failure is announced of Chipman, Stone, & Co., of New York, and Yokohama, Japan, one of the largest firms in the Japan trade. Liabilities are variously estimated from 250,000 to \$500,000. The junior partner in the firm was a young Nova Scotian, Mr. Holmas Chipman, of Cornwallis, whose many friends at home will regret to hear that he has sustained a reverse of fortune.—*Chron.*