

welfare, it is manifestly an imperative duty devolving on all praying persons to offer frequent and earnest prayer for the rich in particular. As this duty is too much neglected, so is also that of admonishing and warning the rich, even by those who deal more faithfully with such as are in the humbler walks of life. 1 Tim. vi. 17-19.

Yours as ever,
C. TUPPER.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Great Fire at St. John, N. B.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

Our city is in emphatically in ruins, and the desolation is almost complete. The whole territory embraced within the limits of the original city, which had for its northerly base, Union St., has been burnt over, with the exception of the area embraced between North side of King St., and Union St., which embraces simply a block; and on the end, towards York Point it is burned up to, and across Union Street. The remainder that has escaped destruction is a small portion between Pitt St. and Courtenay Bay, consisting in all perhaps of between 50 and 100 houses.

Two-thirds of the church buildings are destroyed, and four-fifths of the other public buildings. Hundreds escaped with simply their clothes, and thousands have not saved enough of the most common household articles to set up house-keeping. The desolation is simply extreme, but generally the sufferers possess much composure of spirit. I have seen scarcely half-a-dozen who shed tears over their sad fate, but I have seen scores whose eyes were filled with tears when they read or heard the reports of the generous gifts of sister cities and communities. May God bless our many friends, and preserve them long from such a misfortune as has befallen us.

Our Baptist Churches have all suffered more or less, but very grievous has been the loss of Germain St. and Leinster St. churches. The former lost their church edifice and parsonage, but are insured for \$15,000. The pastor, Bro. Carey and wife were absent from the city. He lost nearly all his furniture and library, but was insured \$2,000, which will probably, nearly, if not quite, cover his loss. Many of the wealthiest members, as well as poorer ones, have lost their houses and places of business, and many of them had no insurance. However their is no doubt they will arise and rebuild ere long. It is their intention to worship at present with Brussel Street Church, and some imagine that they may finally amalgamate. The latter church had recently called Mr. Wilcox, of Concordaroga, N. Y., to the pastorate, but have now telegraphed their inability to sustain him, and Bro. Carey will probably preach to the united congregations until future developments make manifest what is the path of duty.

The Leinster St. Church which has always been so energetic and so liberal in the support of denominational benevolence has received a most serious check. They, too, lost their church and beautiful new parsonage. They had an insurance of \$18,000, with probably some encumbrance still resting on their property, not, however, large. The Pastor, Bro. Pope, saved nearly all his household effects and library. Their membership have generally suffered very severely, but they are plucky and industrious, and I have no doubt will recuperate rapidly.

The Brussel St. Church have their property in a state of preservation, and though undoubtedly York Point suffers myriads of Romanists who have for several years past been settling in the neighborhood of that church, and rendering it a difficult field to cultivate, yet on the other hand many of the Germain St. and Leinster St. people, and a large Protestant element will at least temporarily reside in the vicinity of that church and will no doubt present a large congregation, and be fully adequate to the fruitful resources and ability of Bro. Carey.

The Temple Church had, perhaps fortunately, no building to lose. Their place of worship, the Y. M. C. Association Hall, stands now on the perimeter of the inhabited city, and with its open doors and free seats, may hope for a fair congregation. Some of its members were seriously affected by the conflagration.

The Presbyterians lost two churches, St. Andrews and St. Davids, and the Reformed Presbyterian one church.

On St. David's Church, Dr. Walters, there was an insurance of only \$8,000. The pastor had some insurance on his furniture and library. He informs me that over seventy of his families were burned out.

Rev. Mr. Stavely of the Reformed Church lost nearly everything.

On the Trinity Church (Episcopal) there was an insurance of \$40,000, and \$8,000 on their other property. This includes their spacious school room.

On St. James' Episcopal Church, Lower Cove, there was an insurance of £1000, whether sterling or currency, I know not.

On Centenary Methodist Church, there was an insurance of 15,000 on church, \$1000 on organ and 2,000 on parsonage.

On the Germain St. Methodist Church I cannot learn how much was the insurance, and so of St. Andrew's Church, the Reformed Presbyterian, and Christian or Disciples.

What the future location of these churches that have lost buildings shall be, I think is a matter of doubt. But most of them will probably be rebuilt, and in locations adapted to the wants of the population, as it shall be manifest what portion of the city is to become the seat of residences.

I have already taken up too much of your space, although I should like to have written more, but thought it might be well to confine myself principally to ecclesiastical losses, and the condition of the churches of our own denomination. I fear that the endowment scheme will be seriously checked in our province at present, but God can provide friends to take the place of those who would have contributed.

Yours faithfully,
SEWUS.

St. John, N. B., 23rd June 1877.

P.S.—Rev. G. Armstrong of the Visitor has been stripped of nearly every article of furniture, and saved not a single book. I hope his many friends in Nova Scotia will remember our dear brother in the hour of his visitation.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR BROTHER,—

The lecture, of John B. Gough in Amherst, a few evenings ago, was a strong plea addressed to moderate drinkers in behalf of total abstinence. The Baptist Meeting House was filled with an appreciative audience. But if Mr. Gough returns to the province next fall, as I hope he will, and Meeting Houses are open for him, he should not be screened behind the pulpit, for such is the nature of his oratory, that for his eloquence to be felt in all its force, he should be seen by his audience, down to the soles of his feet, for every part of his frame becomes instinct with the luminous burning thoughts which he pours forth.

Being on my way through North Cumberland, raising funds for the completion of our chapel in New Glasgow, it was to me an unexpected pleasure to hear this great temperance orator once more after having heard him 25 years ago in Boston. Time has wrought its changes on him, as on us all. I was not surprised to see him grown somewhat gray in the service of the good cause. But while his natural force seems not to be abated, he adds to his matchless eloquence the wisdom of experience and the power of Christian faith. For these reasons it is to be hoped that he may yet be spared many years to labor.

But while men wear themselves out in doing good, we rejoice that God's work is progressing and the world is moving onward. For the last few months, visiting different parts of our province, especially these Eastern parts, I have been forcibly struck with the resources for indefinite progress which our country possesses. The broad marshes, the almost ubiquitous coal measures, the extensive salt mines, and the interminable forests of Cumberland, open up before the traveller an idea of the future greatness of this noble county. Spring Hill, about the middle of the county, is a high hill, crowned with a flourishing village, and lifting the traveller up to a view of an almost unbroken forest all around as far as can be seen, while far beneath the base of the hill lie the rich beds of coal, which will give employment and power to our people for ages yet to come.

Passing over the hill northerly you reach the salt springs, which extend for at least ten miles, which will doubtless be a source of wealth. I was told by an aged man living on the premises of the old works, that with a single pan of iron ten feet by four, and twenty inches high he could manufacture six bushels of the best salt in a day. I visited one of the springs and tasted of the brine, salt enough as I should judge, if not to cure, at least to corn beef.

Passing about 12 miles further North, we reached River Philip, and where sixteen years ago we saw two or three farm-houses, now stands a flourishing village, sprung up by the manufacture of Oxford grey woollen, house furniture, and a number of saw mills on the adjacent streams. Here we have an illustration of what a few enterprising men may do for themselves and their country by staying at home, instead of running off to California, chasing after "the baseless fabric of a vision." The Baptists here have a new growing interest, with a bright future, and are presided over by our veteran brother, Rev. Samuel Thomson. Near this resides Rev. E. B. Corey, who is successfully cultivating outlying interests. Here too, is the home of Dr. Howard, an enterprising young physician, whose christian courtesy and kindness quite won our affection.

When I reach New Glasgow I will report more fully. Meanwhile our vestry is going on, and we need about \$180.00 more to secure its completion.

Yours, &c.,
D. FREEMAN.

Oxford, N. S., June 9, 1877.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

PRESTON, HALIFAX COUNTY.—Our colored brethren are unfortunately divided into several parties. The following from the head of one of the branches will be read with interest:

"My Dear Mr. Selden,—I send you a brief report of the grand revival I have had on the last Sabbath, for insertion in our valuable Messenger. It was the grandest day I have had during my long ministry of nearly forty years. It has been the aim of my life to see my brother baptized; and now it has pleased God to open his eyes and shew him the way to righteousness. I baptized on the last Sabbath fifteen persons, including my oldest brother, now 74 years of age and very infirm, taken to the water in a carriage, followed by fourteen others walking in procession, neatly dressed in white. The procession started from my meeting-house myself leading and the Rev. Geo. R. Neal, accompanied by Deacons Crawley, Clayton, Williams and Counsellor Colly for a distance of about half a mile. I never witnessed such order. To the large concourse of persons from Halifax, Dartmouth, and the adjacent surroundings, I explained the necessity of baptism by immersion, to which they listened with decorum and good behaviour, about two hundred persons being present. It was a pleasing duty I had to perform in baptizing my oldest brother. The singing was never better. At the 3 o'clock meeting the assemblage was larger than I expected, the people remaining in the settlement to witness the proceedings. To the sermon preached by myself, the white people listened with marked attention. At the 7 o'clock meeting the house of God was full to excess—both white and colored;—sermon preached by myself, assisted by Rev. Geo. R. Neale and Licentiate James Downing, who spoke with good effect.

Yours, &c.,
BENSON SMITHERS,
Bishop.

June 21, 1877.

LOWER ECONOMY.—Mr. Josiah Soley writes June 18th, "our pastor Rev. E. A. Ingram gave the right hand of fellowship to seven new members on the first sabbath in May. Five of them were baptized the same day at Five Islands. Since then, three more have been baptized, and still there are more enquiring for the way of salvation."

Local News.

APPOINTMENTS.—June 4th, 1877.—Halifax Co.—To be Justice of the Peace,—George H. Madell, of Gay's River.

June 8th 1877.—To be Justices of the Peace,—James Horsfall, of Clements Grove, and John A. Morse, of Carleton's Corner.

CONCERT TOUR.—Pupils of the Institution for the Blind at Halifax, intend giving Concerts in the following places: Charlottetown.....Friday, June 29
Souris.....Saturday, " 30
Mount Stewart.....Monday, July 2
Charlottetown.....Tuesday, " 3
Crapaud.....Wednesday, " 4
Bedouque.....Thursday, " 5

St. John, N. B., in Ashes.

Our sister city has frequently been visited with serious fires, but never to bear any comparison with the one that has fallen upon it during the past week. So sudden and overwhelming a destruction of property as that which occurred on Wednesday last seems hardly possible. The news came to us at first so imperfectly, the telegraph office being one of the victims, that it seemed almost past belief. Many of our readers have learned fuller particulars than we can possibly now give, whilst others will learn first from our columns of this terrible calamity. We may say then that it began south of York Point Slip near where the railway runs to the harbor. A hurricane just then arose from the north west and carried pieces of the fire into the city thus setting fire to many houses. The fire then ran along through Dock Street, and going up the south side of King Street, into Leinster Street, and Germain Street, at the same time passing along Prince William Street, and wrapping the whole in one body of devouring flame, driving the people before it in utter bewilderment, taking in its embrace all the business part of the city with its most costly Churches, its Banks, New Post Office, valued at \$200,000; Hotels, Music Hall, Printing Offices and many lives, and rendering near 20,000 people homeless, depriving them as in an hour of the accumulations of their whole lives, and many of them of thousands of dollars, leaving them with nothing but the clothes in which they stood. It is said that the buildings on an area of two hundred acres of the best parts of the city are consumed.

The following are a few of the particulars:—

The following newspaper offices, with their type, presses and stock, were completely swept away:

- The Freeman.
- The Evening Globe.
- The Daily Telegraph.
- The Daily News.
- The Watchman.
- The Religious Intelligencer.
- The Globe, Telegraph, News, Intelligencer and Watchman had job offices attached.

Our contemporary the Christian Visitor, we presume was the only newspaper that escaped, as we perceive that G. E. Day's Office in which it is printed was saved. We heartily congratulate our contemporary and brother, on the merciful Providence in sparing him from the general destruction.

Messrs. Chubb and Co. lost their large job office, book bindery, etc.; Messrs. McMillan lost their job office, building, etc.

Mr. Knodell lost his job office.

Mr. Roger Hunter lost his job office.

The following are amongst the list of public buildings, etc. burnt:—

- Post Office.
- Bank of New Brunswick.
- City Building.
- Custom House.
- Maritime Bank building, in which were this bank, that of Montreal and Nova Scotia, office of School Trustees, etc.
- Bank of Nova Scotia building.
- Academy of Music, in which was the Knights of Pythias' Hall.
- Victoria Hall.
- Odd Fellows' Hall.
- No. 1 Engine House.
- Orange Hall, King Street.
- Temperance Hall, King Street (east.)
- Dramatic Lyceum.
- Victoria Schoolhouse.
- Temple of Honor Hall, Wiggins' building.
- Barnes' Hotel.
- The Royal Hotel.
- St. John Hotel.
- Acadia Hotel.
- The Brunswick House.
- Bay View Hotel.
- International Hotel.
- Wiggins' Orphan Asylum.

CHURCHES.

- The churches burnt are:—
- Trinity Church, Germain Street.
- St. Andrews' Church, Germain Street.
- Methodist Church, Germain Street.
- Baptist Church, Germain Street.
- Christian Church, Duke Street.
- St. James' Church.
- Leinster Street, Baptist.
- The Centenary.
- St. Phillips.
- Carmarthen Street, Mission (Methodist).
- Pitt Street, Mission Church.
- St. David's Church.
- Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- Sheffield Street Mission House.

LOSS OF LIFE.

The following persons are a few of those who have lost their lives in the fire:—

- Benjamin Williams, Germain Street.
- Harold Gilbert, near Victoria Hotel.
- William McNeill, of James Adams & Co.'s establishment.

Garret Cotter, of Mr. James S. May's establishment.

Two men, whose names are unknown, are reported run over and killed.

Hugh McGovern, of Straight Shore. The body of an unknown man was found on Prince William Street, at four o'clock on Thursday morning.

James Kemp and Thomas Holmes of Lower Cove, while carrying goods from Reed's Point to a vessel in the harbor were drowned by the upsetting of a boat. Kemp leaves a wife and child. Mrs. Reed (T. M. Reed's mother) and the two Misses Clark, (Mr. Reed's aunts) are believed to have perished in the flames of their houses at Lower Cove.

Mrs. Wm. Coholan, who has lived in John McSweeney's house, Symth street, is missing, and is certainly lost.

The body of an unknown woman was taken out of the ruins in Drury Lane this morning.

Our brethren of Germain Street and Leinster Street have lost their beautiful Houses of Worship, with the parsonages adjoining, and we presume that as the people themselves lived in those neighbourhoods, their elegant and hospitable homes are also now one blackened mass of smoking ruins. It seems that the supply of water soon failed, and it was impossible to put forth any effort to stay the progress of the devouring element. It therefore rushed on from street to street, till it stretched from side to side of the peninsula, from the Harbour to Courtenay Bay, about a mile each way, taking King's Square, Queen's Square, and sweeping before it the homes of rich and poor, and putting all on one common level of poverty, and suffering. The sick and dying and dead were removed from place to place as they were followed by the fire.

Adding to the confusion, many were in the streets having lost their friends—families became separated, and thousands were wandering in the streets all night, or sleeping in some place in the open air. Mothers with young infants were exposed to all the terrible sufferings of a high wind, with smoke and sparks flying about them in every direction. One woman and her new born child, born in the midst of the panic, were found dead in the street, one of the saddest scenes of this horrible tragedy.

As soon as the news reached our city a Public meeting was called, and on the following day (Thursday) our merchants and the citizens generally, put together their hundreds of dollars, until \$10,000 were subscribed before the close of the meeting. Telegrams came on, telling us that ten thousand people were starving in the streets. Arrangements were soon made, and a special train started with bread and other provisions. Arrangements were made for an immediate application to the citizens for contributions of money and clothing of which there was great need, amongst those who had lost all they had.

Hon. Dr. Parker moved that a Committee to represent each ward be appointed to receive contributions.

The Chairman for the Wards were appointed as follows:—

- Ward 1—W. H. Neal.
- Ward 2—Wm. H. Hart.
- Ward 3—William Ackhurst.
- Ward 4—H. H. Fuller.
- Ward 5—(1st section) Chas. F. DeWolf, (2nd section) R. W. Fraser.
- Ward 6—Douglas M. Story.

The following gentlemen were appointed Executive Committee:—His Worship the Mayor, Hon. W. J. Stairs, Hon. Dr. Parker, Hon. L. G. Power, D. Cronan, Esq., T. A. Ritchie, Esq., A. G. Jones, Esq.

It is gratifying to learn that neighboring and more distant towns and cities have taken up the matter of sending help and are doing it right nobly as far as Montreal and even Chicago. Bangor and Portland sent on immense supplies of food.

The only churches that now remain in St. John are the R. C. Cathedral, St. John's, Rev. Mr. Bennett's Church, Brussel and Exmouth Street Baptist and Methodist, Waterloo Street Free Baptist, and St. Mary's.

The only printing paper offices that escaped were T. J. Kanes, Germain Street, and G. W. Day's Charlotte St.

The Admiral at this station has forwarded the steamship Argus with tents and quantities of stores to supply food and help.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Purchasing and Forwarding Committee:—W. Ackhurst (chairman), Aldermen M. J. Power, Smith, and Forsyth, and J. S. Maclean.

It has been estimated that the losses will amount to twenty millions of dollars, whilst the insurance upon the property will not amount to more than six millions.

The St. John fire has had the effect of developing some of the most noble traits of humanity as well as some of the worst features of human nature. One of the latter was the evident design on the part of some of the roughest characters to kindle up fires, and extend the destruction beyond where it had already gone: While the great fire was raging on the north of the city, and the centre was safe, three men were found deliberately building a fire on the floor, and ransacking drawers in the kitchen of a residence near the Centenary Church. In the confusion they escaped. Four others are under arrest for incendiarism; one of