

For the Christian Messenger.
Our Foreign Missions.

The following comparative statement of amounts received from the churches for Foreign Missions during the first six months of the last two year, sending February 10th in each year.

NOVA SCOTIA.		
	1875-76.	1876-77.
Central Association	\$498 82	\$355 20
Eastern "	322 04	418 11
Western "	468 53	331 54
Total	\$1,289 39	\$1,104 85
NEW BRUNSWICK.		
Eastern Association	\$307 63	\$338 24
Western "	253 53	217 44
Total	\$561 16	\$555 68
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.		
	\$128 78	\$237 52

The total sum of contributions for the first six months of last year were \$1979 33, and for the corresponding period of this year, \$1898 05.
W. P. EVERETT,
Sec. F. M. Board.
St. John, N. B., 22 Feb. 1877.

For the Christian Messenger.
New Brunswick Correspondence.

Dear Messenger,—
At this time last year our city was deeply moved by the prevalence of the spirit of religious revival, but just now an almost universal religious apathy seems to prevail in the churches and societies of all denominations.

The winter has so far been characterized by a remarkable development of the social element in congregations. Tea soirees, socials, old-folks concerts, and public readings have been the order of the night, and generally have proved pleasant and enjoyable seasons, as well as financially profitable.

The skating mania which has so widely prevailed during the past three years has greatly abated. Literary lectures and concerts of music have also been less popular than formerly and considerable money was lost in furnishing first class musical entertainments, although the artists came from abroad and were noted for ability.

There seems to be a healthy Temperance revival prevailing throughout our cities and villages. Several of the churches, and notably, the Church of England, have formed temperance societies and hold frequent meetings to arouse their members to a sense of the evil of intemperance.

No doubt the organization of such societies was necessary, and will be productive of good.
It is to be earnestly desired that the discussion of the subject of temperance may lead one of the principal and wealthiest of our church corporations to see the evil and inconsistency of renting their property to be occupied by liquor-dealers and by persons engaged in business still more disreputable, while the church itself is now engaged in a hearty temperance crusade.

It has always seemed strange to many of our citizens that the above named corporation should have bound those who lease their church property not to allow any religious meetings to be held by so-called Dissenters in any of the buildings situated on their land, and yet, at the same time, not attempt to prohibit the opening of liquor saloons and houses of ill-fame upon the sacred territory. For years such dens have existed in the locality, and the rents for them have been gathered into the church coffers.—Proh. pudor!

The ministry of our city has lately received an accession to its ranks in the person of Rev. Mr. Mitchell, late of Montreal, who has just entered, under favorable auspices, into the pastorate of our oldest Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's Kirk.

All the churches of every denomination which attempt to hold regular Sabbath services are now supplied with pastors, except the Brussels St. Baptist Church, which is reported as having given a call to a pastor in your Province, but the invitation it is said will not be accepted. We are hoping that the Great Shepherd will ere long send them an able and faithful pastor.

The other churches are moving on quietly and we trust with some degree of prosperity.

The movement for the Endowment of Acadia College is being privately and efficiently pushed by Capt. George Masters, and we learn that our brother Rev. J. D. Pope will soon give some time and his valuable power of persuasion to the prosecution of this effort.

An energetic and well known deacon in one of our country churches has decided to show his faith by his works,

and in addition to giving several hundred dollars to the endowment fund, is to accompany Bro. Pope when he proceeds to canvass one of the counties adjacent to St. John.

We hear from St. Martin's, where our aged brother Bill is bishop, that the church there, in addition to erecting a new vestry, have resolved to build a new church edifice that shall be worthy of that strong and wealthy body, and afford the church accommodation that is much needed.

Several important churches are still destitute of pastors, among which are the two Sackville churches, St. George, and several others in Charlotte County, Newcastle, Miramachi, and Newcastle. Grand Lake. The secular papers report Sussex as being occupied by Rev. Mr. Burgess from your Province.

Can you not spare us a few able and pious pastors for our destitute churches?
Yours in Christ,
SEEWUS.

St. John, N. B., 24 Feb., 1877.

For the Christian Messenger.
Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society.

During the period from 1829 to 1851, the educational institutions of the Baptists of this Province were sustained by the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society. As the Annual Reports of this Society must contain important portions of the history of Acadia College and Horton Academy it is very desirable that a complete series should be placed in the College Library. Any person who has copies of these Reports published between 1834 and 1843 and who is willing to part with the same, will confer a great favor by sending them to the undersigned for the Library of the College.

A. W. SAWYER.
Wolfville, Feb. 23, 1877.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 28th, 1877.

It must have been somewhat strange on Tuesday last to have the Speaker of the House of Commons at Ottawa—himself a Roman Catholic—read the prayers prepared for the opening of that branch of the Dominion Legislature. It appears that the Committee to whom the subject was referred recommended that the forms of prayer adopted by the Episcopal Church for the Queen, the Royal Family, the United Kingdom, the Dominion Parliament &c., and the Lord's Prayer, be read by the Speaker, in English. Some question arose as to whether they should also be read in French, when the difficulty was removed by the Speaker saying that he could not read in French. It was feared by some that the introduction of these prayers into the opening ceremonies would rather diminish than increase the reverence in the members, but it has not been so thus far. When the Speaker arose from his chair all the members present also stood in a reverential attitude, and he made the sign of the cross before and after the reading.

It is decidedly economical to have the Speaker read the Prayers instead of appointing a Chaplain to attend simply for that service. The example might well be followed in the Local Legislatures—except in the case of persons occupying the chair being notoriously unfit which can hardly be supposed and should never be.

We copy the following paragraph from one of our exchanges, simply substituting the name of our paper for the original. We hope our lady friends will accept the suggestion of a lady correspondent—an earnest Christian worker, says:

"I think that one of the greatest sins of Christian families is failing to supply their children with good Christian papers. I am sure, if every parent, Christian or non-Christian, would properly consider the great and good results that might follow the outlay of two or three dollars, they would subscribe immediately for just such a paper as the Messenger. I am often met with the argument, 'Oh, my children wouldn't read them, if I did.' I ask them how they know. They have never tried them! I know hundreds of families in this city that do not take a Christian paper—families, too, that profess to be Christian; and yet their tables are loaded with secular papers. I have determined to make this a prominent feature in my year's work—insisting on every Christian family subscribing for the Messenger; for I think I can accomplish a greater amount of good in that way than in any other."

THE BLUE GLASS CURE.

Many of our readers have doubtless already seen accounts in the papers of the marvellous effects said to have been produced by the use of blue glass for widows, and letting the light pass in through this instead of the ordinary colorless glass. It has long been known that vegetation is promoted and rendered more fruitful by the use of blue glass in hot-houses. It appears that in 1871 General A. J. Pleasanton of Philadelphia obtained a patent for

"Utilizing the natural light of the sun transmitted through clear glass, and the blue or electric solar rays transmitted through blue, purple or violet colored glass, or its equivalent, in the propagation and growth of plants and animals," and stated that he had discovered "special and specific efficacy in the use of this combination of the caloric rays of the sun and the electric blue light in stimulating the glands of the body, the nervous system generally and the secretive organs of man and animals."

General Pleasanton has since and recently published a book appropriately printed in blue ink, and bound in blue, shewing many most extraordinary cures effected by the use of blue glass.

One of our exchanges gives the following description of the author, and how to use the glass in the curing of disease:

A correspondent writes: At a recent call upon Gen. Pleasanton, I found him a very corpulent and affable old gentleman with snow-white hair and beard. He expressed himself happy to give me all the information in his power about the virtues of blue light. I asked him if he had known of its influence upon animal and vegetable life for any time.

"Yes," he replied, "I've had blue panes in my graperies for more than ten years, and the action of the light upon the plants was really wonderful. Those vines or parts of the vines exposed to the blue rays attained a development wonderfully greater than those influenced solely by the ordinary light. Mr. Buist, a distinguished florist, has been very successful in restoring to healthful vigor numerous plants, apparently dying, by the same plan."

"What is the principle, General?"
"Why, the electro-magnetism developed by the passage of the sun's rays through plain, transparent glass, associated with blue glass, possesses wonderful curative powers."

"What kind of glass do you use?"
"A French glass of dark Mazarine blue. It is colored with cobalt, the ingredients of the glass and metal being fused together."

"What is the method of appliance—say, to a little girl with curvature of the spine? I know of one so afflicted."

"Well, if you want an exceedingly strong light, have a whole sash filled with blue panes, and place it immediately in front of your ordinary sash. Then bare the little girl's back down to her hip, so as to have the spine exposed to the influence of the blue light. Then, when the sun is shining, seat her on a chair, a little way from the window, so as not to be exposed to the draught coming in through the crevices of the window, and let her take a sun-bath of about half an-hour or so. Do that for several days, and if the child desires, give her another bath in the afternoon. Give her no medicine, allow her to eat what agrees with her, and I am confident that the child will be greatly relieved—I hope entirely cured."

"Is it necessary to have an entire sash of blue panes?"
"Oh, no. Generally half a dozen panes are sufficient. But then the patient must move as the sun moves."

A professional gardener in Massachusetts, (near Boston), who had been trying for some time to protect his young plants from minute insects which fed upon them, after numerous experiments, all of which failed, succeeded with the blue ray.

He made a small triangular frame, covered it with blue gauze, prepared the ground and sowed the seed, covering a portion of the ground with the frame and gauze, leaving the other part exposed to the attacks of the insects. The plants outside the frame were all eaten as soon as they germinated; those under it escaped entirely, and great vigor was imparted to the vitality of these branches, which were filled with the fruit, while other branches which did not receive the light from the blue and violet panes were small and without fruit.

The early vegetables used in the General's family are for the most part started in pots under blue and plain glass, then transplanted into proper soil, and are ready for use several weeks in advance of the market. Gen. Pleasanton's explanation of the phenomenon is that the sunlight negatively electrified in passing through the meshes of the blue gauze, which is positively electrified, excites an electro-magnetic current sufficiently strong to destroy the feeble vitality of the eggs or of the insects themselves, which are in the soil with the seed, leaving the seed to germinate rapidly under its influence.

A lady residing in Philadelphia also informed the General that, having some choice plants in pots in her sitting

room which were drooping, she threw over them a common blue gauze veil, such as ladies wear, and exposed them to the sunlight, and in a short time they were fully restored to health and vigor.

The General also gives some remarkable cases in which the power of the associated blue and sunlight was manifested in the cure of HUMAN DISEASE.

In the latter part of August, 1871, he visited a physician in Philadelphia whom he knew, and found him in great distress because he feared that he was about to lose his wife, who was suffering from disorders which had baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians. She had great pains in her head and neck, and in the lower part of her back, could not sleep, and was rapidly wasting away. The General asked why he did not try blue glass, and the Doctor said that wives would frequently reject the advice of husbands, while they would accept it if offered by any one else. If Gen. Pleasanton would advise her to use it he thought it not unlikely that she would accept. The General called upon her, found her looking very miserable, greatly emaciated, and her voice feeble. He asked her why she didn't try blue glass, and she replied that she had tried so many things, and had had many doctors, that she was out of conceit of all remedies. Finally, however, she consented to try it the next day. Six days after the physician wrote to Gen. Pleasanton that since his wife had been under the blue glass the hair on her head had begun to grow, not merely longer, but in places which were bald new hair was coming out thick. Two days subsequently the General called on the Doctor to see how the experiment succeeded. His wife entered, and being asked how the treatment answered, said it was doing her the greatest possible good.

Dr. S. N. Beckwith, wrote a letter to Gen. Pleasanton on the subject, in which he says that he introduced an equal number of clear and blue glass into the sash, and then his wife exposed to the action of the associated lights those portions of her person where she had neuralgia. In three minutes the pains were greatly subdued, and in ten minutes almost entirely ceased for the time being, whether in the head, feet, or spine. With each application of the sun and blue light bath, relief was immediately given.

During the autumn of 1871, one of Gen. Pleasanton's sons, about 22 years of age, a very vigorous, muscular young man, had a severe attack of rheumatism of the sciatic nerve in his left hip and thigh from which he had been unable to obtain any relief. He tried the associated sun and blue light on his neck, spine and hip. In three weeks every symptom of the disorder disappeared and he has had no return of it since.

A distinguished surgeon of Philadelphia has expressed to the author the opinion that the vitalizing influence of these associated colors would probably be found to eradicate scrofula and the terrible diseases which have produced it from the human system; and it is not impossible that tubercular consumption of the lungs may be arrested in its progress by the same treatment.

The Scientific American calls in question the correctness of General Pleasanton's theory and endeavours to account for the recorded facts by other means than the blue-glass theory. It says:

"With reference to the theories of electricity, etc., advanced by General Pleasanton to account for his phenomena, their absurdity is so complete that we shall waste no time over them. The important question in the matter, and the only one in which the public is interested, is whether or not blue glass is capable of producing all or any of the results imputed to its use. The absorption of carbonic acid by plants, and its evolution by animals, we hardly need add, are prime essentials to the growth and health of each. The notion that light possesses a magnetizing power on steel was upset by Niepce de St. Victor in 1861. After removing every source of error, he found it impossible to make one sewing needle, solarized for a very long time under the rays of light concentrated by a strong lens, attract another suspended by a hair, whether the light was white or colored by being made to pass through a violet colored glass."

We can proceed further and even show that violet light is in some respects hurtful to plants. Cailletet, for example, says in 1868 that "light which was passed through a solution of iodine in carbonic disulphide prevents decomposition altogether." Baudrimont says that "no colored light permits vegetables to go through all the phases of their evolutions. Violet-colored light is positively injurious to plants; they absolutely require white light." This scientist instituted the most elaborate experiments on the subject, ranging over 11 years, from 1850 to 1861; and the result of all his labor may be summed up in the simple statement that no illumination which human ingenuity can devise is so well adapted for promoting natural processes as the pure white light provided by the Creator.

Reduced to its simplest terms, the necessary conclusion is that the violet glass acts purely as a shade for decreasing the intensity of the solar light. And in the simple fact that it does so serve as a shade lies the sole virtue (if any there be) of the glass. In 1856, Dr. Daubeny made experiments on the germination of seeds, and in his report is this suggestive sentence: "In a south aspect,

indeed, light which had passed through the ammonia sulphate of copper (blue solution) and even darkness itself, seemed more favorable than the whole of the spectrum; but this law did not seem to extend to the case of seeds placed in a northern aspect where the total amount of light was less considerable."

Personally we have no experience in this matter, but notwithstanding the argument of the Scientific American, we have it from one of the most successful grape-growers in Halifax that panes of blue glass in a hot-house are highly promotive of the growth and fruitage of vines.

Doubtless, in vegetable chemistry, different colors have various effects, one causing changes and combinations in substances differing very much from those in others, and each having its own peculiar results. The same may doubtless operate on the living tissue more particularly when the sun bathes the skin of the person or part affected through these media and pours its life-giving beams through the color best adapted to operate on the diseased tissue. It is evident that Science has vast depths as yet unexplored.

THE GREAT SEAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

A grave question arose last week in the Supreme Court on a matter of precedence in the Queen's Counsel. J. N. Ritchie, Esq., Q. C., holding Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Canada, dated Dec. 26, 1872, subsequently received similar letters under the Provincial Seal of May 30th, 1876, but he declined to hold the latter seeing that it did not give him a standing equal to his former appointment. After correspondence it appears that Mr. Ritchie applied to the Supreme Court and obtained an order calling on all the late appointed Q. C.'s to shew cause why their Letter's Patent should not be set aside and the old order re-established. Amongst the fifteen or twenty objections to the new Letters was this one, that the great seal which had been used in these letters and all other public documents and appointments since Confederation was not the one sent by Her Majesty for the purpose, but the old one which should have been cancelled and returned on receipt of the new one, whereas the new seal handsomely executed in silver when received had been put aside, but never used. Some of the papers are arguing that all appointments licenses and deeds having said seal attached are consequently null and void. The Chief Justice decided that no seal but the new one could now be recognized.

A question now arises whether either the Local Legislature or the Dominion Parliament have the power to legalize Acts done by this seal in the Queen's name. It would seem that nothing less than an Act of the Imperial Parliament will be sufficient to render valid the documents sealed by the old seal. The Judges are to-day to decide what should be done to rectify this very serious difficulty.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WEEK.

- Feb. 26. Death of Dr. Geddes, an eminent biblical critic... 1802
- " 27. Death of Martin Bucer, Reformer... 1551
- " " Death of John Evelyn... 1706
- " 28. Death of Rev. E. Bickersteth... 1850
- " 29. Martyrdom of Patrick Hamilton... 1507
- March 1. Victoria Cross first granted 1857
- " 2. Death of the great John Wesley... 1791
- " 3. Death of George Herbert. 1633

THE ENGLISH MAILS.—The Railway trains with the English mails hence to Montreal continue to make good time. The last week's mail train over the Intercolonial made an average running time of thirty miles an hour.

The Legal profession is very carefully guarded in England. The Incorporated Law Society recently shut its doors against an articulated clerk named Joyce because they had reason to believe that the business in which he was engaged while serving his articles was for his own profit and advantage.

Our readers will observe the article on our first page on "Our Denomination." It is No. 1 of a Series which, we believe, will be read with interest and carefully examined as setting forth what we receive and hold.

"THE PIONEER" is a small paper issued by the Universalists of Halifax. It contains their Confession of Faith; a sermon from Rev. O. Weston defending the name adopted by them, "Church of the Redeemer;" and an obituary notice of the late N. L. West.