

have expanded itself into profitable sermons to the people. Some half dozen district prayer-meetings require to be kept up, and he is held to be the only one capable of conducting them. The physical as well as the spiritual wants of the neighborhood (and it may be an extensive one) call for attention, and the minister must superintend that work. He must be a prominent member of all committees. Now it must not be forgotten that the Head of the church expects every man to do his duty, and has endowed every one of his servants with gifts, or entrusted him with opportunities which are to be used and employed for the benefit of the church to which he belongs. The ministry of the word and the care of the souls of the flock, generally, must be undertaken by the pastor, and he is responsible, indirectly to the church, and directly to the church's Lord. But all the members are equally responsible, and no one can be allowed to shirk the responsibility. It is only the working church that is a healthy church. Where every member is daily asking, "What can I do for the welfare of the church?" and cheerfully employing for that purpose the powers which "the great Taskmaster" has bestowed, the church will thrive; but when the chief object is to increase the weight of the burden cast on the pastor's shoulders, disregarding the claims of his study, one result is sure to follow, described in Cowper's well-known words—"the hungry sheep look up and are not fed"; and if they are not fed they will be sickly. In cities and towns religious activity is more likely to prevail than in the country, where the population is often scattered, and travelling sometimes inconvenient, but in all cases the main thing is a right state of the heart, evinced by conscientious regard to the claims of the church. Circumstances, we know, greatly differ. Some members have scarcely any time at their own command, except on the Lord's day, and that day they are inclined to give to rest and enjoyment. They think much of the apostolic injunction, "Let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide, with God." Others have only fragments of time to employ in the Lord's service, which they carefully gather up; and the hours of the day of rest are apportioned, partly to getting good, and partly to doing good—the one in order to the other. These latter are the bones and sinews of the churches. Would that all were like them! Let us all bear in mind that it is a privilege and an honour to labour for the Lord,—that self-denial is as binding a duty in the nineteenth century as in the first,—and that the prosperity of a church is the result of the activities of its individual members. The hive is full of busy workers, and they are always at work.

The Committee close by reminding the Convention of the desirableness of appointing a day which the churches may be recommended to set apart for Special Prayer and Thanksgiving. Respectfully submitted,
J. M. CRAMP, Chairman.

For the Christian Messenger.
Home Mission Collections by J. H. Robbins.

- D. Banks, per Dr. Tupper, 50 cents.
- Collection—Brookville, Hants, \$2.83;
- W. Wilson, 48 cents; Jas. Starret, \$1;
- Mrs. Wm. Glenn, \$1.
- Collection—Summerville, \$3.50; Mrs. S. Langille, 25 cents; J. Masters, \$1.
- Total, Kempt Church, \$10.06.
- Walton collection, \$1.08; F. Parker, \$1; Friend, \$1. Total, \$3.08.
- Lower Rawdon—Home Mission, \$5;
- French Mission, \$2. Total, \$7.
- Maitland—\$4.
- Acadia Iron Mines, \$1.70; New Glasgow, \$3.30; Antigonish, \$6; Mrs. McQuillan, 25 cents.
- Collection—Tracadie, \$2.06; Alex. Bowden, 50 cents; Margaret Bowden, 10 cents. Total Tracadie, \$2.66.
- Collection—Manchester, 60 cents; Guysboro—\$5.54.
- West Bay—\$2.50.
- Little Glace Bay—\$7.50.
- Homeville—\$3.50.
- Cow Bay—\$5.50.
- Sydney—\$6.16.
- North Sydney—\$6.50.
- St. Ann's—Rev. D. McLeod, 50 cents; Mrs. McLeod, 50 cents; Norman McLeod, 20 cents; D. Montgomery, 25 cents; J. McKay, \$1. Total, St Ann's, \$2.45.
- Margaree—collections, \$9.86; M. Mc Lane, \$1; Dr. McLeod, \$1; J. Ingram, \$1; J. F. Burton, \$1; Wm. Ingram, \$1; L. McDonald, \$1; J. Frizzle, \$4; E. T. Carbonell, \$1; Mrs. C. Austin, \$1; M. McDonald, \$1; D. McDonald, 75 cents; J. G. McDonald, 50 cents; Flora McDonald, 25 cents; Alex. McDonald, 25 cents; Rev. R. McDonald, 20 cents; Mrs. R. McDonald, 20 cents; Mrs. Hart, 20 cents; Mrs. Burton, 50 cents. Total, Margaree, \$25.71.
- Mabou—90 cents.
- Port Hawksbury, \$2.97; Peter Paint Junr., \$5.

- Cape Canso—\$5; Rev. G. W. Thomas, \$1.
- Crow Harbor—\$1.10; J. Nowlan, 50 cents.
- Isaac's Harbor—Collection \$6.08; Subscriptions, \$14. (I have not the list of names just now at hand). Total, \$20.08.
- St. Mary's—\$2.22.
- Indian Harbor—\$2.42.
- Wine Harbor—\$2; Allen Kenedy, \$1.
- Windsor—collection, \$2; M. Curry, \$1; Mrs. Curry, \$1; A. P. Shand, \$1; I. Dimock, \$1. Total, \$6.
- Grafton—collection, \$1.85.
- Bridgetown—\$6.22. (List of names not yet received.)
- Mrs. Grant, Weymouth, \$1.
- Temple—collection, Yarmouth, \$7.87.
- Ohio—collection, \$10.66.
- Arcadia—\$7.75.
- Chegogin—collection, \$1; Kelley Rose, \$1; Eben Rose, \$1; Stephen Rose, 50 cents. Total, \$3.50.
- Hebron—collection, \$2.81.
- Tusket—collection, \$7.69.
- Argyle—\$3.25.
- Pubnico Head—\$6.81.
- Pubnico—\$1.54.

Some of these churches will make a half yearly collection by using the cards, in others subscriptions have been circulated but not yet received. With pastors of other churches I am corresponding soliciting a half yearly effort. As a rule the month of May just before Association, is not the best time to gather funds. It certainly is better to do it in November or December, then the different Boards have the money for use.

I would just mention that the cards supplied by the Home Missionary Board mention a certain per centage for the different denominational objects. They have not attempted to "fix the proportions for the denomination." Churches wishing cards can have any rate of proportion they wish or strike off part of the objects, or any way to suit themselves; but after a careful comparison of figures and a consideration of all the circumstances, we think the proportions suggested as near just as can be.

Do not look for excuses and loopholes brethren but let us do what we can. If we really cannot do anything then let us conscientiously say so.—It is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

Yours truly,
J. H. ROBBINS.

For the Christian Messenger.
Rev. Mr. Robbins and Home Missions—Rev. Mr. Weeks and Sabbath Schools.

Dear Editor,—
The energetic agent of our "Home Missionary Union" has spent two Sabbaths in connection with the Churches here, doing good service in stimulating the brethren and encouraging them to renewed efforts, such as the important interests in this central locality demand. This good whole-souled Brother seems eminently adapted for the work in which he is engaged.

In his lecture, on Friday evening last, he presented earnestly the claims of the "Union" to our people, by shewing the spiritual destitution, now unhappily prevailing in different parts of the Province. We agree with him that "Home Missions" is the right-hand of Foreign Missions." Let but our people go forth nobly to this "Home Mission" evangelization work, in a proper Christian spirit, and this "seed-sowing" will very soon yield an abundant harvest of "Foreign Mission work."

'Tis a mistaken notion to suppose that if individuals are induced to freely contribute to "Home Missions," there will be a falling off of interest in Foreign Missions and Pastoral support. Quite the contrary would be the result in a large majority of cases. (Though comparing very favourably indeed with other denominations in christian enterprise)—as a whole, are far—very far below the amounts they ought to "return" to the Great Giver of what really belongs to Him.

We all need more of a spirit of self-sacrifice, a more perfect patterning after that wonderful Model left us for our guidance. Money itself is not enough (though this is the oil, making the machinery run smooth and easy); sympathy in words and acts; the cups of "cold water" of kindness, so soothing to the care-worn, heart-burthened sufferer. Little acts of tenderness have often

turned the whole tenor of life of some sad one upward. John B. Gough felt this in the magnetic touch of the hand on his shoulder, as it instantly transmitted to his heart the sympathy of another heart beating for the fallen. This is really Christ-like. Fill the stomach, warm the limbs, then attack the inner nature, and the conquest is easy. The purse is the readiest entrance to the heart. Money is only useful for what it does.

This Home Missionary enterprise is one of great importance; let all lend a helping hand to "rescue the perishing," "raise the fallen," and comfort the sorrowful. Let the lights of Christian consistency and benevolence be turned up that the benighted may see the pure gold of practical piety, and be saved from the impending danger. Surely as much earnestness should be shewn as is evident in worldly enterprises. When this is done, or even attempted, depend upon it the wonderful results will more than astonish us.

Bro. Robbins evidently understands his work; long may he continue it. Rev. Mr. Weeks is also paying a visit to the churches here, which, it is hoped, may result in much good. By its peculiar situation, Bridgewater, is an important central point and should be well occupied. The new railroad now being rapidly constructed will add to its importance. The Sabbath School had quite an interesting concert on Thursday evening last. This branch of christian work is doing much to revolutionize our churches in regard to general mission work.

W. J. G.
Bridgewater, Oct. 29, 1877.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A VISIT TO WEST BAY, CAPE BRETON.—At the request of Sister Annie MacKenzie, a worthy member of the West Bay Baptist Church, but now of the city of Boston, and Bro. Peter Paint, of Hawkesbury, (in liberality another George Davis,) I went and spent a few weeks preaching on the Lord's Day in the Baptist meeting-house at the head of the Bay and during the week on both sides of the Bay, and visiting as often as I possibly and conveniently could, but being then in the heat of their harvest, large congregations could not be expected on week evenings, but were as large as could reasonably be expected and very attentive. But on the Lord's Day congregations were very large and attentive. Some, I was told, came 14 miles to hear the news from Gethsemane, Calvary, Joseph's Tomb and Olivet. I found it was easier to go and visit them than to part with them. I felt something like Paul parting with the Ephesian brethren. My visit was very pleasing to myself, and I think not altogether unpleasant to others. I did not travel a great many miles, or hold a great many meetings, or preach a great many sermons, but I did what I could and did it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men.

My visit was liberally sustained by Sister Annie MacKenzie, Bro. Peter Paint, and the dear brethren at the Bay. They did what they could towards my visit to them. The West Bay and its surroundings are a large Gospel field. The seeds have been sown there, and have been, and are, germinating, and I think I am safe in saying budding, yes, budding. The field is white for harvest. It would be well if the Board could afford, and would send a missionary, an efficient minister, there for two or three months.

Ever yours, &c.,
JOHN SHAW.

MUSQUASH, N. B., Oct. 25, 1877.—Dear Brother,—Notwithstanding I moved over to New Brunswick, I have not lost my interest in the land where the Lord first found me, and blessed me so signally, for many a year in the service of the Master. Here, too, God is blessing the dear people to whom I break the "Bread of Life." Sabbath after Sabbath we are baptizing in some of the sections of the church. Last Lord's day again four persons were baptized at the "Climch Mills." Up to this date, fifty rejoicing souls were added to this little church in Musquash. I am glad to hear of success in the Endowment work. Our little band is at work in the same. C. F. Clinch, Esq., gave \$500, Oscar Hanson, Esq., gave \$200, Gideon Hanson, Esq., gave \$100,

and others, smaller sons. Last evening a few of us went out to a little settlement, where a prayer-meeting was never known to be held, and the Lord went before us, and is blessing the people by inclining them to seek the Lord, work in his vineyard, and be known as His people. The people everywhere are enquiring what they must do to be saved. I never knew such a widespread desire to hear the Gospel as there is now among all classes of people. The conquering word of Jesus is now going forth, and is drawing multitudes to enlist in the Heavenly army. May the dear brethren in Nova Scotia share very largely in the success of the glorious Gospel of the Son of God.
Yours as ever in Christ Jesus,
P. A. SHIELDS.

LAWRENCETOWN, ANnapolis Co.—On last Lord's day, Oct. 21st, three believers in the Lord Jesus were baptized and received the right hand of fellowship into the Lawrencetown and Valley West Church.
G. N. BALLENTINE.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—Three suicides were reported on Friday one a servant girl named McFarlane, employed by the Sergeant-at arms of the House of Commons at Ottawa committed suicide by cutting her throat; another Millie Sullivan, actress, shot herself through the heart on Thursday at Ingersol, Ont., while in a state of temporary insanity; the third a young woman, named Mrs. Curtiss, committed suicide at Peterboro, on Friday, by drowning herself. She leaves a husband and three children.

Newbold, an Ottawa man, was arrested for bigamy at Toronto on Tuesday last. Two wives were present when a third wife appeared to give evidence against him.

A Woman's Temperance Convention was held in Toronto last week.

Mr. Laurier was defeated by Mr. Bourbeau by 31 of a majority.

Mr. Cowan, Sheriff of Missisquoi, while out hunting with his book-keeper, was accidentally shot by the latter and died in two hours.

During a drunken row at Montreal over a case of stolen gin one thief stabbed another. The wounded man is not expected to live.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Machine Shops at Moncton have employed 530 men. Before the late discharges they had over 700. Not over 400 men are required to do the ordinary repairing and a further reduction of men may be looked for. Since July, 1876, over \$275,000 worth of new work has been manufactured at Moncton.—*Chignecto Post*.

At Woodstock, on Sunday week, Thos. Cullin, an old citizen of the place, was found hanging in rather a strange manner. His toes were resting on a small stool and he was in a kneeling position, the rope being fastened to a common spike.

On Thursday last a lad named Murphy, 13 years of age, employed in Rivers' mill, while engaged in oiling a portion of the machinery, was caught by the belt, and, being carried round the rapidly revolving pulley, was so terribly injured externally and internally that there are but little hopes of his recovery.

Mr. John O'Brien, of Bathurst, is sending a cargo of 9000 barrels of potatoes to England, for which he is paying 70 to 80 cents per barrel. There the crop is a failure this season.

Two villains were discovered by the St. John police preparing to fire a barn on the city road.

P. E. ISLAND.—The Charlottetown Examiner reports that a whale was seen in that harbor on Wednesday. He went up the East River, and was seen by those on board the steamer *Heather Belle*, which runs between Mount Stewart and Charlottetown. He was chased by men in boats, wounded by rifle bullets, and nearly ran ashore several times, and eventually captured and towed to Charlottetown where it is to remain on exhibition; the proceeds to be given to the poor of the city. It is 36 feet long, 8 feet deep, and 6 feet thick. The fin on his back stands about 4 feet high.

At Cardigan, recently, a man named Campbell, belonging at Grand River, while in a state of intoxication, quarrelled with two men and finished by stabbing them. One is in a dangerous condition.

THE NORTHERN LIGHT.—The extensive preparations to this boat are now almost complete. A portion of her deck has been turned into a ladies' cabin, and the narrow berths on both sides of her cabin have been replaced by wider and more spacious staterooms. Four heavy beams have been placed immediately over her machinery. Her bow has been coated with iron plates, and the rudder gear replaced by very strong fixings. Her machinery has undergone a thorough repair and testing.—*Charlotte-ton Examiner*.

John Haggart, of Georgetown, P. E. I., is appointed Harbor Master of that port, vice Houlett, deceased.

giving the name of Emanuel Thompson, was naturalized in the Court of Common Pleas by Judge Robinson last week. He emphatically renounced allegiance to any foreign prince or potentate and especially to the ruler of the Celestial Empire.

A large band of Mexican raiders are reported depreeding thirty miles west of San Antonio, Texas. The stage driver between Fort Stockton and El Paso is reported killed. Rangers are organizing for defence.

It is stated that the Secretary of the Treasury instructed Custom officials to prevent the landing of Russian hides, the disease having broken out among the cattle in Southern Russia, from which thousands died and are dying.

CUBA.—A Spanish column near Hलगum, commanded by Colonel Mozovjevo, captured the President of the Cuban Republic, Thomas Esdra, and the Secretary of the Cuban Chambers.

The Havana official *Gazette* prints a decree that rebels submitting to the authorities within four months will have their confiscated property returned to them.

It is believed that the capture of the President and other leaders of the Cuban insurgents recently reported, will be the immediate precursor of the collapse of the insurrection.

ENGLAND.—The Bolton masters have given the assurance required by the operatives. The strike is thus terminated after a duration of two months, and loss of nearly \$500,000 in wages.

The Staffordshire colliers have decided to strike by a majority of 500.

American masons in London have telegraphed home on Friday last that the strike there had ended and no more men should be sent over.

The Imperial Parliament is further prorogued to Dec. 19th.

The Bank of New Caledonia has failed. It had a note circulation of a million and a half francs. European debts amount to two million francs.

\$31,000 stg. in gold on Saturday from Australia from Australia, India and China.

FRANCE.—*Le Moniteur* said on the 23rd:—"At the close of this morning's Council President MacMahon plainly informed the Council and M. Fourton that his idea of Ministerial changes could not be entertained at the present moment."

The tribunal of Marenes has sentenced Deputy Mestreau to a month's imprisonment and 200 francs fine for insulting President MacMahon and his Ministers.

Le Moniteur declares that the President has at no time contemplated to resort to a plebiscite.

Gambetta made a speech in Nievre in support of Republican candidates. Throughout his speech he avoided all allusion to MacMahon. In a speech at Chateau Chignon he violently denounced the government's electoral manoeuvres, declaring that but for fraud and robbery 400 Republicans would have been returned. He made a bitter attack on the Empire and Bonapartists, but spoke in a very conciliatory tone of other parties, and predicted an eventual alliance between them and the Republicans, when present passions had time to cool. He exhorted his hearers to have confidence in the majority, which would know how to make the authority of France prevail without exceeding the bounds of legality.

A proposition has been made with the knowledge of some members of the Cabinet, to Count Chambord, with the view of placing him on the throne of France, but he refused all such proposals.

GERMANY.—A deficit of 15 million marks is anticipated in the German exchequer.

The Lower House of Prussian Diet on Friday last discussed subjects of furloughs granted Prince Bismarck, and offered to Count Von Enlenburg, Dr. Fretenthal, Minister of Agriculture, and Herr Camphainer, Minister of Finance, declared the ministry adhered to their policy of internal reform, and were ready to resign if the House considered them no longer equal to their duties. The debate was adjourned.

It is reported that Von Enlenburg declines the furlough offered him, and insists on the acceptance of his resignation.

The debate in the Prussian Diet was concluded on Saturday by the rejection of the vote of censure of the Government proposed by the Progressionists and Centre, relative to neglect of internal reforms and insufficient responsibility of ministers.

SPAIN.—It is announced that a ministerial circular will shortly be issued, stating that the spirit of the constitution avers a large and comprehensive toleration of dissenting religions.

In consequence of Spanish successes in Cuba it is believed in ministerial circles that Campos will return to Spain in February. Ex-Queen Isabella will go to Paris in November, returning to Madrid early next year.

The marriage of King Alfonso of Spain to Princess Mercedes will take place on the 23rd January next.

ITALY.—The King of Italy has bestowed a special gold medal on Stanley. The General of the Jesuits, by the Pope's Order, has expelled from the Society Father Cruci, editor of the *Ostia Cattolica*, who, both as a sacred