

For the Christian Messenger.

School-house at Half Island Cove.

Mr. Editor.—

The inhabitants of the school-section at Half Island Cove, after having had a great many obstacles to overcome in procuring a school-house for week-day as well as Sabbath School, had the dire misfortune of having the building completely consumed; some evil disposed person or persons setting fire to it shortly after its erection. The people are not in circumstances to set about building again, and about seventy children, some of them approaching manhood and womanhood, are ignorant of their alphabet and of the simple art of writing, and have no means of instruction.

My object in giving publicity to these facts is to solicit aid in their behalf. I appeal to all who may feel disposed to assist in so laudable an undertaking; I appeal to all who know how to appreciate education and to deplore ignorance; I appeal to all who can and will be benevolent enough to help forward the cause of humanity. I hope my appeal will not be in vain. A little, a small sum from the persons who may read this, would enable the people here to bequeath to their rising posterity a better legacy than gold. Lots of money, now doing no good, might be appropriated to that object. In brief, if a tenth of the money spent in smoke in any of our large cities, for one year, were devoted to the cause now demanding our attention, the house would be built in a short time. Tobacco consumers please send us the price of a month's indulgence in spending money in smoke? Alcohol consumers will you not forego the strange pleasure of becoming intoxicated for a month, and let us have a school-house here? Pardon me if I have spoken too pointedly on this subject. There are others besides these persons who can assist us very liberally if so disposed. And I entertain such hopes in reference to this matter, that I believe my appeal to the honor and better feelings of my fellows will not be in vain, in the interests of our common humanity. Donations will be gratefully received by the undersigned.

WILLIAM MCGREGOR.

Cape Canso, N. S., March 5th, 1878.

In Memoriam.

At Bridgetown, on the 26th Feb. Mr. Samuel T. Neily, aged 59 years. Bro. N. was a man of piety, sterling worth and amiable disposition; and although confined to his house almost entirely during the last three years, he will be very much missed by a host of relatives and friends. He took a deep interest in the church of Christ, the cause of Temperance, and the prosperity of the community. His long-continued sickness was borne with a spirit of calm submission, unbroken confidence, and Christian cheerfulness. "The memory of the just is blessed." J. C.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

FROM THE 2ND ST. MARGARET'S BAY CHURCH.—Dear Editor,—It ever cheers our hearts to learn that the Lord is visiting His people and saving souls, but we have been especially gladdened of late as we have experienced the presence and power of the Master effecting the self same thing for and among us. Of late we have been engaged in special services which have been signally blessed of God. As a Church we are greatly comforted and strengthened. Quite a number have been brought we trust to saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, while many are seriously pondering these things in their hearts. It was my privilege notwithstanding the inclement weather, last Lord's day to go down into the water with and baptize nine happy trusting souls and I expect to lead others forth in this divine rite to-morrow. The opposition is fierce and strong but notwithstanding the false doctrines so deeply embedded and false hopes so largely maintained, in consideration of the Word and Spirit and grace of our God we would claim the ground for Him. For this we would labor and earnestly solicit the sympathies of all who offer fervent effectual prayer.

Yours in the Gospel,

WM. SPENCER.

Ingram River, March 9th, 1878.

It is said that the Baptist congregation in Cape North, Cape Breton, are about to build a meeting house, and to build it under the auspices of the Methodist Conference, and to be deeded to that body. Possibly they may wish afterwards to build another house for themselves.—Con.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

On TUESDAY last week the House of Assembly was in session for two hours with closed doors. What they were doing, whether adjusting some differences between honorable gentlemen, and putting themselves in a proper position to appear in public, or talking about matters too personal to appear in print we know not. The doors were opened about 5 o'clock, and more petitions were presented, some for claims pronounced without foundation, others for claims that were not called in question. These were presented by Messrs. Dr. Campbell, Black, Dickie, Gayton, Weeks, Patterson, and Holmes.

The Eastern Railway Extension and the payment of the laborers was the subject of some discussion, Mr. Holmes said he believed the so-called companies were nothing but myths and the whole thing a swindle. The Provincial Secretary said they were not and Mr. Gregory was their duly authorized agent.

A number of gentlemen from the eastern part of the province took part in the discussion.

On WEDNESDAY after the presenting of Petitions, and several minor bills had been introduced, the Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table the report of the Hospital for the Insane, and the report of the delegation on Maritime Union.

Mr. Longley asked attention to the Financial Returns laid on the table. It appeared that the Hon. Attorney General had received larger sums than his salary.

Hon. Mr. White explained that these sums were in payment for extra services in the two offices he held.

The bill to amend the election law came up for consideration and was referred to the Committee on law amendments.

On THURSDAY after the routine business, Mr. Woodworth asked for the full and complete details of all moneys expended from the Provincial Treasury in connection with the King's County road money investigation.

Mr. W. then invited attention to the charges he had at a former session preferred against the Hon. W. B. Vail, detailing his views of the history of that investigation, and his expulsion from the House on account of his refusal to apologize. He believed he had now the proof to convict Mr. Vail of having made a deliberate, gross misstatement, and gave notice of motion for the appointment of a committee to enquire into his allegations.

On FRIDAY Mr. N. W. White the new member for Shelburne was introduced and sworn. He was greeted by cheers from the Opposition.

After some reports on law amendments the Western Counties Railway Bill was brought up and warmly discussed. Several of the members complained that although there had been much legislation, yet no work was being done on that road during the past year.

Mr. Holmes did not wish for any more kite-flying and advised the Yarmouth men to look carefully after it.

The election law next came up for debate.

Mr. Thompson expressed the opinion that the bill gave too much power to the Sheriffs. The Opposition members expressed strong condemnation of the measure. It was defended by the Hon. Provincial Secretary and Hon. Attorney General.

On MONDAY Hon. Dr. Farrell introduced a bill providing for the better management of the Hospital for the Insane. It provides that a Board of Public Charity shall be constituted, consisting of the Commissioner of Works and Mines, the Mayor of Halifax and three Commissioners, who shall have under their management the Hospital for the Insane, the Poors' Asylum and the Provincial and City Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner of Works to be Secretary of the Board. Two assistant physicians are to be appointed to the Hospital for the Insane, who shall hold office for two years. Dr. Farrell explained its provisions at some length. The bill was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

A short discussion took place on the Western Counties Railway bill, which was amended by the addition of a clause requiring the renewal of the security.

Mr. Thompson asked the Government to lay on the table information in detail as to the sum paid for interest on moneys borrowed by the Government during the past year.

New Zealand is economising, and has commenced with the Ministry, a bill having been introduced to reduce the salaries of the Ministers.

At Pictou one Jas. Chisholm was arrested on Monday of last week for passing counterfeit \$2 and \$1 notes on the Union Bank of P. E. I. Some \$16 of this money were in circulation.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—On Thursday last a memorandum was read in the House of Commons from the Chief Justice Sir William Young and Judge Desbarres, affirming that the language charged to Mr. Jones respecting the British flag were used by him, and giving further particulars. Mr. Jones in his reply read a paper signed by a number of Halifax gentlemen denying that he used the terms attributed to him, but stating that the report which appeared the next morning in the Chronicle was substantially correct. An angry debate followed in which the utterances of the Colonist respecting Mr. Young (now Sir William Young), were charged on Dr. Tupper by Mr. Jones as an offset to his disloyalty.

In the discussion of the budget and the Duties, unfairness to Nova Scotia was charged on the government on account of the refusal to put a tax on coal &c. Protective duties were demanded by members of the Opposition as offset to United States Legislation.

Sir John McDonald at the close of his speech read the resolution moved by Dr. Tupper in 1876 and 1877, and declared that the policy of the opposition had not changed. The following is the resolution:

"That this House is of opinion that the welfare of Canada requires the adoption of a national policy which, by a judicious readjustment of the tariff, will foster the agricultural, manufacturing, and mining industries of the Dominion; that such a policy will retain in Canada those of our fellow countrymen who are now obliged to expatriate themselves in search of employment denied them at home, and will restore prosperity to our struggling industries now so badly deprived, will prevent Canada being made a slaughter market, will encourage an active inter-provincial trade, and its motive as such?"

The delegation from St. John have had an offer from the Ottawa Government of a loan at five per cent of half a million dollars for Harbor improvements; the purchase of private wharf property being understood as coming under this head, and authorizing the commission to exchange its bonds for city bonds to the amount of half a million as compensation for the corporation's harbor property. The delegates have returned but have not as yet accepted the offer.

A Manitoba despatch says the Pembina branch of the Canada Pacific Railway has been leased by a Canadian firm and guaranteed to be free forever of competition of the Chicago lines.

The new Cabinet at Quebec was sworn in on Thursday. The following are the names:—

H. G. Joly, Premier and Minister of Public Works.

Pierre Baehand, Provincial Treasurer. F. G. Marchand, Provincial Secretary. Francois Langelier, Commissioner of Crown Lands.

D. A. Ross, Attorney General. Alexander Chauveau, Solicitor General. Henry Starnes, President of the Legislative Council.

On Friday Hon. Mr. Laframboise read a statement of the policy of the government remitting the new tax, but otherwise carrying out the obligations of the late Government.

Mr. Angers replied, explaining facts connected with the fall of the late Government.

The Legislature was prorogued on Saturday. Elections expected to follow immediately.

A disturbance occurred at Montreal on the Papineau Road, between two Orangemen and Catholics which resulted in a young man being stabbed in the ribs. Six of the rioters were arrested.

Lightning struck a barn, house and tree at London, Ont. The windows were broken and the children prostrated for a time.

Jesse McConnel, a brakeman of the Canada Southern Railway, fell between the cars. The train passed over him before he was found. Another train went over him, mangling the body beyond recognition.

Miss McCoy, of Meriton, got drunk, was locked up in her neighbor's house, but broke out during the night and was found dead in a field the morning.

At Newbury a boiler in Robertson's mill exploded with such violence as to shake the earth for miles, shattering the mill and machinery to fragments. Alexander King and George Harris were buried in the ruins. King died soon after. Harris badly mangled is improving.

W. M. Blackwood and others, of Tatamagouche, Colchester, and Alex. Steel and others, Cumberland, petition the Government to cancel the lease given Hon. Alex. McFarlane, of certain oyster beds and mud-flats near Tatamagouche. Navigation is open on the lakes.

On Wednesday last in the Ontario Assembly the Opposition formulated their indictment of the Government. After an acrimonious debate a square party vote was taken in a full house of 73 members of 46 to 27. Government minority 19.

On Wednesday ten of the striking Welland canal laborers were arrested at Port Colborne, on a charge of intimidation and interfering with men at work; eight were convicted and sentenced to jail, two for 60 days and the rest for 30 days. Ten men were also arrested at Humberstone.

Fifty laborers marched from Allanburg to Section 20, and stopped the teamsters from filling and dumping the scrapers.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Capt. Towse, of the brig Octacilius, which arrived at St. John on Tuesday last, reports having passed on Saturday last, 2nd inst., off Petit Manan, about 300 yards from the outside ledge, a sunken vessel of about 250 tons, apparently a brig.

At Newcastle a case of small pox appeared last week; a young man named Byrne being the victim who is said to have contracted the disease by wearing a costume at Moncton.

UNITED STATES.—A telegram from Little Rock, Arkansas says about one hundred and fifty buildings were destroyed at Hot Springs by a conflagration on Tuesday. It is estimated that a thousand people are homeless. Loss estimated at \$300,000; insurance \$25,000. Comparatively few hotels were burned.

The steamer City of Chester was burned at the elevator at Memphis, on Thursday last. Her boilers exploded about 3 o'clock in the morning, jarring the whole city. The mail agent and barber were lost; all others were rescued. The cargo was a large one and is lost. The boat was valued at \$20,000.

An Wednesday at Powell's Bend, Maryland, a trestle platform, used in building the iron bridge on the Cumberland Valley Railroad, gave way, throwing thirteen workmen fifty-five feet into the river. Three were fatally and others seriously hurt.

CENTRAL AMERICA.—Twenty-six buildings were burned at Panama on Thursday last. The hotel was saved.

CUBA.—It is officially reported at Havana that the number of insurgents and their families who surrendered from Feb. 28th to March 5th is 230. The prominent chiefs, Maximo Gomez, Benito and Rodriguez have embarked for Jamaica, and Salvador, Cisneros, Marquis of Lanta Lucia for Europe.

Cubans at New York solemnly protest against the recent surrender in Cuba, and glorify those there who have not surrendered.

ENGLAND.—Sir Stafford Northcote has announced that England has accepted the invitation of Austria to attend the conference in Berlin.

Lord Lyons, English ambassador at Paris is selected to act as plenipotentiary.

In the House of Commons, Gathorne Hardy stated that the estimates had been framed on a strictly peace footing, as would be the case whatever apprehensions were entertained. All preparations against the contingency of a despatch of an expeditionary force are included under the six millions voted.

Some of the finest militia regiments have placed their services absolutely at the Government's disposal. The Government, deeming it desirable to revive autumn manoeuvres, intended this year to assemble near Salisbury 36,000 men ready for foreign service. He trusted that the army might not be called upon for active service, but he felt confident if it should it would not be found deficient. The House passed a vote fixing the strength of the army at 135,452 men.

A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian telegraphs that Lord Beaconsfield is strongly opposed to the annexation of Egypt.

The English Government have taken measures to establish direct telegraphic communication with Besika Bay via Alexandria.

Mayfair states that Baroness Burdett Coutts has made arrangements for securing a lease of Drury Lane theatre, and means to conduct the establishment on a scale with which no other State-supported theatre in Paris or elsewhere may vie. The manager will probably be Henry Irvin, of Berlin.

The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England, Lord Carnarvon presiding, unanimously passed a resolution refusing to recognize as a Freemason any person interested in a lodge where the belief in God is denied or ignored. This refers to the action of the Grand Orient of France, which recently eliminated an article expressing belief in God from its ritual.

A colliery explosion occurred on Friday last, near Glasgow. Twelve miners were rescued, leaving seventeen in the pit, but it is not expected they will be alive when reached.

At the peace demonstration in Hyde Park, London, on Sunday, Bradlaugh and Herbert made speeches, and proposed resolutions in favor of peace, which passed immediately. Bradlaugh was afterwards cudgelled and fled in a cab.

A Paris special to the Standard says Prince Bismarck recently stated he would himself propose at the Congress English occupation of Egypt, Germany guaranteeing non intervention of France.

A despatch from Cape Town on Sunday says a severe engagement was fought last week in which the Kaffirs were completely defeated and lost many killed.

The steamship Kaffir struck a rock at Cape Point and was wrecked. Five of the crew were drowned and the mails lost.

FRANCE.—A correspondent of the Times says that it seems certain France would readily consent to England's obtaining complete security in regard to the Suez Canal, but would do her ut-

most to dissuade England from occupying Egypt. France desires joint action with England respecting Egypt.

GERMANY.—Germany has accepted the proposition for a Congress. Austria, Russia, Turkey and Italy will also accept. Bismarck's health is, hardly good enough to allow him to preside at the Congress.

The National Liberals persistently refuse to take office unless the taxes are voted annually by the Reichstag.

The Standard's Berlin despatch states that some officials of the Prussian Ministry of Finance will go to Washington to study the tobacco taxation system of the United States.

RUSSIA.—The Sultan sent the following telegram to the Emperor:—"Constantinople—on the occasion of the anniversary of your Majesty's accession to the throne, I offer my congratulations with the desire of renewing our friendly relations."

The Emperor in reply telegraphed as follows:—"I thank your Majesty for congratulations which I received simultaneously with news of the signature of peace. I perceive in this coincidence a presage of good and lasting relations between us."

It is understood the Czar, during the negotiations at St Petersburg, will considerably reduce the indemnity and probably grant some further modifications.

The visit of the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Sultan has been abandoned for the present.

At the Russian headquarters it is stated that when the British fleet passed the Dardanelles peremptory orders came from St. Petersburg to march into Constantinople, but the Grand Duke Nicholas disobeyed the command, and only moved forward in the direction of Constantinople, sending at the same time to St. Petersburg a statement of his reason for his course.

The Russians are actively constructing entrenchments from Kadiko to Sharkoi on the Sea of Marmora. They have now about 18,000 men with cannon on these lines which confront the Turkish lines across the neck of Gallipoli peninsula.

TURKEY.—A despatch from Constantinople, March 5th, says the treaty bears the title "Preliminaries of Peace," and contains twenty nine articles. The opening articles relate to Montenegro, Servia and Bulgaria. The indemnity is fixed at 1,410,000,000 rbls., but 1,100,000,000 are covered by territorial cessions. Nothing is fixed concerning terms and period of payment of 310,000,000 roubles. There is no mention of the Egyptian or Bulgarian tributes or of the cession of the Turkish fleet. Servia includes Simniza, Novidazar and Vranza. Montenegro includes Antivari, Spriz, Podgoritz and Niesics. All Bulgarian forts are to be razed and the Turkish troops withdrawn. A military road is to be established for the Ottoman posts and telegraph and the passage of troops which, however, must not make any considerable halt while passing through the country. Mussulmans may return to Bulgaria. Any property of Mussulmans who have not returned, which they leave undisposed of, may be sold after two years for the benefit of the widows and orphans' fund. The navigation of the Straits is declared free for merchant vessels during peace or war. The Russian army of occupation will preserve its communications both through Roumania and the Black Sea. No mention is made of Greece or Crete. Batoum, Ardahan, Kars and Bayazid are ceded to Russia.

Erzeroum and Trebizonde are not mentioned except that the Russians may embark at Trebizonde on their return home.

It is stated that General Ignatieff visited Constantinople in military uniform on Tuesday.

A report is current that the Russian troops have already commenced a southward movement.

ITALY.—King Humbert opened the Italian Parliament on Thursday. In the speech from the throne he said we shall consolidate and render fruitful the great work of Italian unity to which its glorious founder devoted his life.

The King refers to the Holy See as follows:—"Pope Pius IX., after governing the Church for 32 years, has descended to the tomb regretted and venerated. The rites of electing his successor have been performed in perfect freedom and without disturbing the tranquility of the State, peace of conscience or independence of the ministers of religion. By maintaining our institutions and reconciling respect for religion with determined defence to State laws and principles of civilization we prove how great are the fruits of liberty. We are confident that in our hands Italy will not fall from her exalted position."

The Swiss guard of the Vatican on Wednesday demanded three months' pay usual on the death of a Pope. Upon refusal they loaded their muskets and brandished their halberds, but were quieted by concessions.

The Ministers have failed to agree with the discordant Parliamentary groups. The Government is likely to be defeated on the election of President for Deputies. The result will probably be a dissolution of the Chamber and a new general election.

The Pope, on receiving 54 parish priests, recommend them to preach