

For the Christian Messenger.
Tabernacle Notes.

On Sunday last we rejoiced in celebrating our Third Anniversary. The Rev. E. M. Saunders preached in the morning, and the pastor as usual in the evening.

Our hearts were made glad with the remembrance of the Lord's goodness to us in the past. Three years since, all things seemed against us. We were without a home, and not a few declared our case hopeless. But we can say, 'Ebenezer,' and are resolved by divine grace to attempt still greater things for God.

We are thankful to all who have in any way aided us to attain our present success, and hope that they will continue to be interested and help us till we make the Tabernacle a little more complete and convenient.

Thanks to brother Francis Webber for 1000 feet of flooring; it should have been acknowledged some time ago.

We are glad to report our chairs all sold. The pastor is therefore relieved from his responsibility, who made enough over and above what was required to pay for Chairs of Welcome to meet the following bills: For gas fixtures, \$21.00; electrotype of new Tabernacle, \$12.00; and also \$5.00 for reading desk.

During the past week members of Bro. Archibald's Bible Class presented him, with a present and an address, which apart from its worth, (judging from the expression of his countenance) will, as an expression of their love and good will, make his future work with and for them doubly pleasant.

It might be interesting for our friends to know that henceforth, at least through the winter months, the Third Baptist Church will hold their Sabbath School during the afternoon, commencing at 2.30. Visitors and new scholars always welcome.

Despite the mildness of the season buds & blossoms need the sympathy and kind attention of subscribers; as a special inducement to obtain this, we offer to send for 25 cts. the paper to any for the next six months.

J. F. AVERY.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Rev. Robt. S. Morton writes: "Acadia College is in ashes! A great calamity! It is pleasing to see with what zeal and promptness the friends of the College have set about rebuilding. I should love to be in a position to aid, but can only express sympathy and wish success. I trust the trial will prove a blessing in the end.

My health continues much the same. I am very nervous this winter, and have quite as much pain as I desire. But 'twill all be over soon. I am happy in anticipation of the heavenly joy.

"A hope so much divine,
May trials well endure."

Mrs. Morton's health is but feeble, and so, with our little daughter, Ellen. "But hitherto the Lord hath helped," and our trust is still in him. We prize the *Christian Messenger* much, and think it improves in real value from year to year. May the good Lord abundantly reward you for sending it to us so many years without pay, and may you have grace and wisdom from above, to enable you still to conduct it in such a manner as that God may be glorified and his cause greatly advanced thereby. And now, wishing for you and yours a truly happy New Year.

I remain, affectionately,
Yours in Christ,
R. S. MORTON.
Millville, Aylesford, Dec. 25th, 1877.

Rev. J. A. McLean writes:—"About twenty-four hours after the burning of Acacia College, the Pastor's Meeting of Hants County met with the Baptist church at Summerville. At the closing session a resolution was passed expressive of sorrow for the loss sustained on the previous night, sympathy with the friends of the College, and a determination to assist in erecting a new building. A collection was taken (without any previous notice) amounting to \$11.50, which were forwarded to Wolfville. As no mention has been made in the *Messenger* of either, I deem it due to the brethren who contributed as well as to myself to ask you to publish this note.

Yours truly,
J. A. McLEAN, Sec'y.
Falmouth, Dec. 24th, 1877.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—The Dominion Cabinet has passed an Order in Council asking the home government to remove all restriction on cattle landed in the United Kingdom.

The *Ottawa Herald* says the members of the Civil Service are ordered hereafter not to take part in the municipal elections.

The distributions to the poor at Ottawa by the national societies was not so great as last year, applicants being much fewer.

A man was burned to death at Brockville, on Saturday, while drunk.

A steamboat ran on the Ottawa River on Christmas Day. Such a circumstance was never known before.

A Winnipeg special says the first railway excursion of the Canada Pacific Railway took place on Wednesday. A party of ladies and gentlemen, guests of Mr. Roan, district engineer, and Mr. Whitehead, contractor, started from St. Boniface station. The track was smooth though entirely unballasted. The train, consisting of two flat cars and a caboose, reached Selkirk, where it took the main line and proceeded two miles, as far as the track is laid.

A firm of lottery swindlers, recently located in St. Thomas, under the style of J. McCarthy & Co., sent thirty thousand circulars through the post office, announcing a grand drawing for twenty-five thousand dollars. The affair having come to the knowledge of the post office inspector he has instructed the postmaster to intercept the circulars and send them to the dead letter office.

Thos. Cole, found in an alleyway at Ottawa, dead, was drunk when he fell asleep and never woke.

The strike on the Lachine canal is practically ended, the majority of the men having yielded.

A procession of Toronto laborers, to the number of about seventy, visited the Mayor and urged upon him the necessity for supplying them with some kind of work, as their families were starving.

The Dominion Parliament will meet about the 7th of February.

The arrival at Ottawa of the new train from Montreal, by the Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa line, was hailed with enthusiasm along the whole route.

The *Canada Gazette* of Saturday last contains the following: The pilotage regulations for the port of Halifax are rescinded and new ones substituted.

The use of smelts for manure is prohibited in the Dominion.

The railway traffic returns are materially increasing, principally in freight and live stock. The Grand Trunk receipts for the week ending 22nd of December, were \$61,018 ahead of the corresponding period last year.

The steamer *Longueuil*, weather permitting was to open navigation at Montreal on New Year's day by pleasure trips.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—It was reported on the 27th that at St. John it was as mild as spring and building was going on as lively as if it were July.

At Moncton on Monday a man named Abner Frazee was struck by the train which left St. John at 5 p. m., about 3 miles east of Penobscus, and was killed almost instantly.

A dangerous occurrence took place on Wednesday night last in the residence of Mr. McCulloch in Leinster Street, St. John, by the bursting of a damaged gas pipe. Several of the family suffered much from the gas that escaped.

Samuel Williams, of Portland, was drawing a cork from a bottle in his shop on Saturday, when it flew out with great force striking him on the right eye, totally destroying the sight.

While walking along Charlotte street on Monday night, John Henry, a stranger in the city, fell and broke one of his legs.

On Christmas morning, James Rodgers, aged 30, fell over Rankin's wharf and was drowned.

On Sunday week a fire was seen coming from a house on Harrison Avenue, Kings Square, St. John. The alarm was given. It was found to be in the upholstery establishment of Mr. George Britain. The fire also took possession of the stores on either side, occupied by Messrs McClure & Smith, and Mr. James Moulson.

The *Globe* estimates the loss by Saturday's fire at \$60,000; insurance less than one-third of this. The disaster throws 200 people out of employment, Valpey's factory alone employed 100.

ENGLAND.—The condition of the health of Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's youngest son, is causing anxiety.

The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce have agreed to memorialize the Government to continue its neutrality in the present war.

In consequence of the proposed reduction of wages to take effect after the holidays, 1000 iron workers at Sheffield have ceased work.

No special preparations are going on at Woolwich Arsenal, except the manufacture of field guns. Only four thousand hands are employed, where the war force is ten thousand.

Stanley, the African explorer, telegraphs that he arrived at Aden on Sunday. His followers were paid off and discharged at Zanzibar.

It is reported from Paris that active diplomatic intercourse is going on between Paris and London with a view to establishing an understanding on the

Eastern Question, and that the chances of the accomplishment of this object are rather favorable.

The *Times*' Vienna despatch says "it is stated from several sides that England, although declining to mediate, has confidentially sounded Russia as to terms on which she would be inclined to make peace, and that the Russian cabinet had been far less reserved than might have been anticipated."

The *Spectator* believes the real meaning of the summons of Parliament is that Beaconsfield desires to encourage the Turks to continue the struggle in the hope of ultimate British assistance, and that the Turks will so interpret it. The *Spectator* thinks England, when it comes to the point, will decline to fight for the Turks, who will at last be compelled to purchase peace by withdrawing to their natural home in Asia.

Captain Wiggins, an Englishman, just arrived in London from the Yenisei and Obi Rivers in Siberia, reports that a route is practicable to the North Pole, with an open sea all the way. He also reports an immense commerce into Siberia from China. Captain Wiggins with a schooner of forty tons sailed from the Capital of Siberia to St. Petersburg. Steps will be taken to organize a line of trading steamers and open to the world the timber, grain and mineral resources of Siberia. Seven tons of gold were taken from one mine this year. Wheat equal to that of California is sold at fifteen dollars a ton. Beef is one cent a pound.

There was an anti-Russian demonstration in London on Saturday, during which the rival factions had a free fight, several participants being badly injured.

The war party is increasing in influence and numbers. The Russo-philes are constantly using efforts toward organization of Liberal Associations and passing resolutions, in favor of peace, but the arrogance of Russia towards the suffering Turks is extremely exasperating to the majority of Englishmen, and the general expectation is that we will be brought into war with Russia early in the coming spring. Eighty thousand native troops and 20,000 English regulars have already been ordered to march at short notice from India for Egypt and Turkey.

For some time great stores of provisions and munitions of war have been accumulating at Malta, from which point could be easily drawn supplies needed for an English army at Constantinople, or a fleet to bar the Dardanelles against the Russian ships of war.

FRANCE.—It is probable that on the reassembling of the Chamber of Deputies a motion will be made for the appointment of a committee to enquire whether orders had really been given for a coup d'etat. Radical journals state that the troops at Limoges were supplied with ammunition and two days' rations, and held in readiness to start for Paris.

Much comment has been caused by the decree signed by President MacMahon, cashiering the captain of a regiment of line stationed at Limoges, who, on the 13th inst., when orders were received to prepare to march to Paris, declared he would not obey a coup d'etat.

De Marcere, Minister of the Interior, has ordered Prefects to reinstate all municipal councils dismissed since the 16th of May.

The President of the Council, Dufaure, has ordered proceedings to be commenced in regard to electoral offences, so that offenders cannot plead delay in instituting prosecutions.

SPAIN.—The *Times*' Paris correspondent announces that ex-Queen Isabella of Spain has visited Don Carlos. This fact causes much comment, notwithstanding statements published that the visit was of no political significance.

GREECE.—Demonstrations in favor of war took place on Monday among the soldiers and civilians at Larnia on the frontier. A battery of Krupp guns started for Chalis. War becomes more probable every day.

It is believed that the Cabinet hesitates to adopt any decided policy before the meeting of the British Parliament.

GERMANY.—The Alsace-Lorraine Provincial Committee has passed resolutions expressing a wish that Alsace-Lorraine should receive its own constitution as a Federal State, and have a representative in the Federal Council of the German Empire.

ITALY.—Morretti and Pellegrini were nominated as Cardinals, and some bishops were appointed. The Pope read a short allocution, thanking them for their solicitude concerning his health, and asking them to pray to God to help the Church and preserve, unimpaired, the mind of its head, who was ailing.

TURKEY.—At Rustchuk the snow is over two feet deep. All operations are suspended; 600 soldiers and many beasts perished.

The transport service to bridges crossing the Danube at Sistova and Petroshani are interrupted; no sledges to replace waggons rendered useless by snow.

The Turkish prisoners from Plevna are dying of cold, and that it is impossible to afford them any aid.

The Turks left thousands of sick and wounded in Plevna, starving and unattended. These unfortunates remained in this state three days, and hundreds of them died. Over 10,000 have been already buried, and about 100 corpses come from the hospital daily.

The bodies of those killed in battle lie un-

buried around Plevna. Turkish prisoners encamped among them are starving. Plevna is one vast charnel house, surpassing in horror anything imaginable.

Great distress prevails among the poor of Constantinople. The prices of provisions are rising in consequence of the depreciation of currency. Difficulties are feared if the price of bread rises higher.

The Porte is determined to carry on the war to the last extremity, should the request for mediation fail.

Turkey is preparing to concede the free passage of the Dardanelles, but meets with opposition from England.

The Cretan insurgents have convoked a national assembly and formed a provisional government.

The Turkish soldiers are deserting because of the increasing cold which caused them, poorly clad as they are, and wanting in provisions, terrible suffering.

Half of the Egyptian contingent, destined to reinforce the Turkish army left Alexandria Dec. 24, it is rumored for Crete. The troops were mostly blacks.

The Porte has issued a proclamation deposing Prince Milan of Serbia.

It is generally believed there that Osman Pasha will be tried by a military court for the slaughter of the wounded after the battle of July 31st, the fight before Greiviza Redoubt, September 11, and several other minor engagements. Discoveries made by the Russians since occupying Plevna, and information gained from Turkish officers, and above all the absence of Russian prisoners, although several hundred were captured during all the engagements, leaves no reasonable doubt that the Turks were guilty of deeds which will render his name forever infamous.

SERBIA.—The Servians on Monday, after eight hours' severe fighting, captured Okpaljuck with three Krupp guns and a large quantity of ammunition and provisions. The Turks lost many in killed and some prisoners.

Prince Wrede, Austrian diplomatic agent, has informed the Serbian Government that Austria decisively protests beforehand against Serbia extending her action, either warlike or revolutionary, to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Serbia has consequently given her formal assurance that the strictest orders have been forwarded to the commander of the Drina corps to refrain from hostilities in direction of Bosnia.

The Servians have attempted to carry Yatre by assault, and have been repulsed with immense loss. They were pursued by the garrison to Yavor, about five miles distant.

RUSSIA.—A grand ovation welcomed the Emperor back to St. Petersburg and the reception bore every evidence of genuine reverence and homage. After visiting the great Kezan Cathedral, which was densely packed and a multitude outside he drove to the Winter Palace amid the wildest cheering of the vast crowd, who thronged the entire road. All day long a multitude cheered before the palace, and soldiers hurrahed at the barracks. The city gleamed with torches until long after midnight.

Total Russian loss by war to Dec. 20 is 80,412 men.

The Czarowich has crossed the line. Russia continues to pay Serbia 1,000,000 roubles monthly.

Agence Russe observes that the English Cabinet are encouraging the Porte to further resistance. By convoking the English Parliament earlier than usual, they will compel the Russians to march on Constantinople, causing the precise result it seeks to avert.

The weather seems to have arrested the Russians onward movement, and it begins to look as though the campaign was over for the year.

A Berlin special to the *Times* says that the Russians are sounding various Mediterranean States as to their disposition relative to opening of the Dardanelle Straits.

The Turkish prisoners en route from Plevna and Russian troops were caught on the march by a snow storm. The snow was over two feet deep. On Sunday the waggons and horses were entirely buried in the snow. Working parties were extricating the train. Forty horses and twenty-nine men found dead. The men had sought shelter in the waggons and were frozen within half a mile of Caroceni.

The *Agence Russe* says that the Porte's request for mediation will be declined, because, according to international law, mediation is only possible when solicited by both belligerents, otherwise mediation will be declined, because, according to international law, mediation is only possible when solicited by both belligerents, otherwise mediation becomes intervention.

Cable specials on Wednesday state: "The Czar has declared his intention to forcibly resist any intervention."

Russia has ordered 1200 Krup field guns.

The sudden drifting of ice on the Danube has torn away the bridge at Ibrail. A Russian steamer is frozen in and unable to approach the bridge. Communication cannot be restored for the present.

The Roumanians will not accompany the Russians across the Balkans. They will garrison Plevna, Nikopolis and Rahova, and co-operate with the Servians against Widdin.

The commanders of Russian advanced corps have received orders to remain on the defensive until reinforced by troops

from the neighborhood of Plevna. It is said that 25,000 men with 70 cannon lately passed Galatz. The Czarowich is expected to command the force destined to advance through the Balkans further East, probably through Trajan's Pass.

INDIA.—A Calcutta despatch says the expenditures in helping the sufferers by the famine have reached nine and a quarter million pounds sterling.

Local News.

Mr. Doane's efforts to establish the People's Singing Association have been highly successful—the membership having reached 120. They meet in Association Hall on Friday nights.

A grand Musical Festival is talked of.

The Dartmouth Lakes have offered attractions to skaters during the past week. On Christmas day, besides skating ladies and gentlemen, there were two or three ice-boats sailing about on the ice. There was just a slight covering of snow, which helped the runners of the boat, and, with a good breeze, the speed they made rendered the scene quite exciting and one of no ordinary interest.

The Dartmouth Town Council have taken steps towards the purchase of the Humphrey property connecting the Lamont and Topsail Lakes.

Messrs. Harris and Warner are to paint the names of the streets on the lamps, at 30 cents per lamp.

The draft of a bye-law to impose a tax of \$50 on commercial travellers and pedlers was read, adopted and ordered to be sent to the Governor-in-Council.

With regard to the International Coal Mine, Cape Breton, it is stated that it cost \$200,000 and will be leased for \$200,000 a year.

The American barque 'Jane Wright,' leaving Liverpool 3rd inst., for St. John, N. B., returned, leaky, her pumps being choked. It is thought the cargo was damaged.

There was a heavy seizure of rum and tobacco on Saturday in Lower Argyle by Mr. Hood, the Collector of Yarmouth. The reports are conflicting, but several thousand dollars worth is supposed to be secured and is being forwarded to Yarmouth.

A telegram from Amherst says the burning of the home of Albert Gould, at Salem, on Christmas eve, is supposed to have been the work of an enemy. Gould's son, a lad of 12 or 14 years, died to-day from the effect of his burns. Mr. Gould was badly burned about the head, and his wife also was badly burned, and only became rational the next day.

The *Eastern Chronicle* now tells of two immense hogs, brought into Picton last week by Malcom Sillars, both under 16 months old, one of which weighed 640 lbs, and the other 632 lbs.

New York is getting its insurance done at very reasonable rates. The *Bulletin* says a prominent Boston Company has this week taken brick dwelling house risks at 50 cents for five years, and others in proportion.

The Chinese gentleman, Wang Kein Shoon, who came here a week or so ago, has gone to Bermuda to join the flagship 'Bellerophon.'

The *Yarmouth Herald* tells of robberies at Milton and Tusket. The former was on Christmas eve. Whilst Mr. John Beular, proprietor of the corn mill at Milton, was at tea; the office in one of his buildings was burglarized, the desk pried open, and \$300, mostly in silver coin, purloined therefrom. A sum of nearly \$1,000 in the bottom of the desk escaped the notice of the burglar and was left undisturbed.

One night in the early part of last week the store of Mr. Smith Harding, Tusket, was broken into by prying the front door open with a crowbar. About \$2 in cash and \$5 worth of under clothing were stolen.

Tatmagouche has also been attacked. The store of James Semple, Jr., was broken into on Tuesday night and a quantity of cash, about fifty-five dollars, stolen. The thief effected an entrance through a window in the lower part of the store.

A short time since a young man named Layton, employed by Messrs. Churchill, in their steam mill at Hantsport, got caught between the hoisting drum and the rope when engaged in ballasting the new ship. He was carried round the drum five times, the rope winding about his head and neck. When got clear it was thought that he was dead, but he is now in a fair way of recovery.

A YOUNG MOOSE.—Mrs. Jane Williams, of Queen's County, seems determined to keep up the reputation she has won as a "mighty huntress" being especially expert in capturing moose. A fine young specimen of these animals, caught recently by Mrs. Williams was in this city last week, and forwarded by the steamer Bermuda, to Mr. Rathford Stuyvesant, New York, owner of the well-known yacht *Palmer*, which visits our city every summer.

A little girl about four years of age daughter of Mr. William Sheffrow was found drowned in a well between her father's and her aunt's residences on Saturday last.