

as a trade, but as a class. The adverse conditions which have overtaken so many commercial and manufacturing establishments have been assigned to various causes—a civil war in America, which sacrificed the lives of two millions of souls, wasted a thousand millions of money and ruining the South, coupled with an expenditure of twelve hundred millions or nearly 80,000 miles of railway, of which a large portion is in the hands of receivers, are said sufficiently to account for the serious predicament of the chief customer of England and her largest debtor. The Franco-German war, which dissipated in the business of mutual destruction the money and men that might have largely helped her custom by their employment and industry, may also count for not a little in the reckoning. A banking system which in this single year has opened 207 new companies or branches has unduly multiplied paper credit, lent out those vast deposits of all kinds of speculators, which should have been invested only in securities immediately convertible, has illegitimately interfered with her trade and manufactures by disturbing the normal price of commodities, while it has so stimulated the demand for labor as to raise wages to a point that has left no fair share of profit to the employer. Her exports, the index of profits and production, have been reduced to £200,000,000, while her imports, the sign of consumption, and the excess of wages, have increased to £375,000,000. Nor is it unworthy of special note that it is not in the quantity of those exports that the decrement has occurred, but in the value, which is the measure of profits, and consequently that the demand for labor has been sustained at the expense of the employers, as remarkably evinced by the steady diminution during the last four years in the number of paupers seeking relief, the most unfailing indicator of the high condition of the working classes. While the wages, as well as the taxes of her foreign competitors, are greatly below those which have prevailed in this country, their hours and even days of work are practically unrestricted, either by factory acts or the nine-hours movements. Other States, also, are everywhere redressing the balance of adverse trade by diminishing imports. When to these sources of commercial embarrassment has to be added a waste from fermented liquors and tobacco estimated at £153,000,000, and bad harvests, which have exhausted the resources of the farming interest, it has appeared to employers of labor that the time has arrived when the superfluous wages which have been dissipated in unproductive consumption must be retrenched, and when the idle hours which have been unprofitably thrown away, must be reclaimed by industry and profit being redirected to reproductive work. The iron trade has felt the full effect of the prevailing depression. A general movement throughout the country has been initiated for the reduction of wages, and a very prevalent demand has transpired for a resumption of those working hours which were wrested from masters by the nine hours movement. The time which philanthropy hoped would be employed in mental improvement and wholesome rest has too often been perverted to hurtful uses; and London employers especially have seen their trade drawn away to other localities, where the cost of production was less and the efficiency of labor greater. It has been received by a large majority of the members of the Iron Trades Employers' Association, supported by a general agreement among other employers, to give notice in their workshops that the hours of labor shall be increased to the number prevailing before the adoption of the nine hours' limit.

ALPHA.

Tabernacle Notes.

Knowing that many of the readers of the *Christian Messenger* are deeply interested both in our spiritual and financial success we give a synopsis of the Treasurer's Report, to show how the Lord has dealt with us during the past year:

Summary of Treasurer's Report submitted to the church Jan. 13th, 1879:—Total Sabbath collection for six months ending Dec. 31st, 1878, \$622.92; average per Sabbath the last six months, \$23.96;

total Sabbath collection for the year 1877, \$1293.74.

Total moneys received for 1878, as follows:—

Sabbath Collections.....	\$1293 74
Building Fund.....	580 63
Mission Fund.....	57 85
Communion Fund.....	39 73
Total.....	\$1971 95

It was moved and passed, "That the report be adopted, and that we express our sense of gratitude to God." "And that we thank our worthy Treasurer, Bro. J. E. Irish, for this satisfactory and able manner of keeping and presenting the church finances, and also for the donation."

Our hearts were gladdened by the report that the Building Fund was clear of the heavy debt due last year, and moreover a small balance in hand, surely this should increase our faith that in due time we shall be able to finish our basement, a work greatly needed. The other funds also showed a balance.

Seeing no note of expense was made for fencing the lot, we must, as the Treasurer said, "Thank our Brother Eaton for the same!"

We have a few dollars, towards completing our basement and the required \$2000 looks a large sum, but when we review the past, we say, 'Ebenezer,' and resolve to go forward.

We make a special offer, *Buds & Blossoms* for a year, price 75 cents. Send four new names and cash, and we will present you with any book you like, value \$1.00. All new subscribers sending direct will be given "Songs & Solos with music," latest edition.

J. F. AVEY,
248 Gottingen St., Halifax.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

LOWER ECONOMY AND FIVE ISLANDS.—The Lord has not forsaken us, although we have been three months without a pastor. The blessed Master's presence is with us in our prayer-meetings and the Divine Spirit is felt in our meetings. There have been precious souls gathered into this church from the world, particularly during the last two years. To Rev. A. E. Ingram, our late pastor, and the other servants of God that have rendered assistance with him, God has given precious souls for their hire. We still crave an interest in their prayers to God for us.

At present one of our former pastors is supplying us, as the church has not succeeded in getting a pastor to settle among us.

Yours,
CHURCH-MEMBER.

The English company of the New Testament revisers has completed its work, and only awaits suggestions from the American committee.

The Rev. Jack Walkingstick, the Rev. Poor Wolf, and the Rev. Mr. Whirlwind are member of the Cherokee Indian Baptist Association in the Indian Territory.

Rev. Arther Mursell is engaged to take the pastorate of the Canon Street Baptist Church Birmingham, England, and will enter upon his duties early in April.

The bazaar at the Metropolitan Tabernacle held a week or two since realized near £3000.

A Birmingham daily paper states that the vicar of Grimstone and Warton has refused to "church" a woman on the ground, as he alleged, that she had been attending a chapel. The woman referred to is the sister of the church organist, daughter of the parish clerk, and the wife of a man who sings in the parish choir. The same clergyman some months ago refused to bury a Non-conformist.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—On Tuesday of last week at Ottawa the Governor-General and Princess Louise visited the Convent of the congregation of Notre Dame by invitation. The pupils prepared an extensive musical programme, which was carried out admirably. The hall was profusely decorated. An address of welcome was presented, to which His Excellency replied, opening his remarks by expressing gratitude at the enjoyment afforded them in listening to their poems and addresses, both in English and the noble French language. He concluded by complimenting the young ladies upon their excellent music, singing and recitations, and expressed doubt as to whether he would ever hear again a programme in which it would be more difficult to find an imperfection. The Princess spoke some words of encouragement to the ladies.

Princess Louise has signified her willingness to become lady patroness of the Ladies' Protestant Home, Quebec.

Following the example of her Royal Mother who, in cases of triplets being born in her dominions, sends the parents three pounds, Princess Louise has presented Mrs. McNulty, of Montreal, with that amount.

It is rumored that the Prince of Wales is under a pledge to visit his sister during her residence in Canada.

Some time ago the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa Hon. J. H. Pope, sent an experienced agent out to investigate the alleged existence of the rinderpest among the cattle in some parts of the United States. This agent reports that within a circle of ten miles about Washington, pleuro pneumonia exists in its worst form. He had made post mortem examinations on several cases, and had found the disease to be clearly pleuro pneumonia. This is the real rinderpest, and the English Orders in Council devote to slaughter all such cattle and all which came in the same ship. It is gratifying to know that there is no sign of any such disease among Canadian cattle, but the closest precautions will be taken to prevent any infected cattle from crossing the border.

The order prohibiting the importation of American cattle into England has created consternation among cattle exporting firms in Toronto: They have telegraphed instructions to all their agents to at once stop buying, and have given orders to dispose of stock now on hand. The cattle which were seized were part of a cargo of 285 head shipped from Portland by the Dominion steamship Ontario by Messrs. Crawford & Co., of Toronto, and comprised both American and Canadian beasts. As far as ascertained the disease which has caused the English Government to place this embargo on American cattle is confined to a circle around Washington, and the exporters have petitioned the Dominion Government to take immediate steps in the matter and represent affairs in a proper light to the home authorities.

Mr. Dobson, one of the Nova Scotia delegates to the Dominion Board of Trade, is preparing, by the request of the Executive Council, a statement respecting the development of the coal industry in Nova Scotia.

The horses in Napanee, Ont., are suffering very much from a disease similar to the scratches. At first the heels crack, then the limbs swell and ulcers form. One veterinary surgeon reports 250 cases during last week. Four men are suffering from the effects of the poison inoculated while attending the horses—the symptoms in their case being much the same.

The railway tracks out of Montreal were snow bound on Saturday night. A train for Chambly was unable to get through, and the passengers were obliged to remain in the cars all night. All trains arriving on Tuesday were from 8 to 13 hours late coming in.

Alderman Glendenning's estate, it is believed will pay the whole of his liabilities.

A public meeting was held at St. Catherine's, Jan. 29, to give expression to the views enunciated by the projectors of a National Currency League, which has been recently established by parties wishing to induce the government to issue a large amount of paper currency. In their constitution they say it is the duty of the Government to exercise its entire functions for the benefit of its own people, to protect their interests, and by judicious legislation to endeavor to alleviate their wants; an abundance of money creates prosperity; the confidence of the people in the country is the real basis of its securities.

The Rev. J. T. Breese Congregationalist has been arrested and locked up in the cells on a warrant charging him at the instance of T. C. Watkins, dry goods merchant, with obtaining goods under false pretences.

By the caving in of the Goldring phosphate mine at Templeton on Thursday last one man was killed.

Two hundred farmers, with stock and implements, leave here next March for Manitoba.

In consequence of the strictness with which the Dunkin Act is carried out in the County of York, and the prosecutions to which they have been subject, hotel keepers at Newmarket have closed their hotels to the public, and entered into a bond not to re-open them until the 1st of May, or until a bye-law repealing the obnoxious measure has been passed.

A meeting of merchants and others opposed to the continuance of the Insolvent Act was held at Montreal on Friday last. After a number of addresses had been given a resolution favoring its repeal or suspension was carried almost unanimously.

It is rumored that the Government intends to recall nearly all the Emigration agents of the Dominion in Great Britain and Ireland, and in future rely on printing and advertising for the bringing of immigrants to this country.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The trial of Annie Parker, under a charge of perjury in the case of the Osborne trial is going on at Moncton. She has no counsel but cross-examines the witnesses herself.

Mr. Daniel McKenzie, who was probably the oldest person in New Brunswick, if not in the Dominion, died in St. John last week. He was 105 years of age. Mr. McKenzie in his youth was a soldier,

and saw some hard service while fighting under the British flag early in the present century. By his death another of the small band of Waterloo veterans is removed. Mr. McKenzie came to America many years ago, and resided for a long time in the town of Portland. He enjoyed a pension from the British Government.

A man named John Morris of South Bay was killed on the railway between Fairville and South Bay on Monday night of last week.

At Bathurst on Wednesday last a lad from St. John, about thirteen years of age, who had been staying at the hotel there for the past few days, handed over to D. H. Eaton, who travels for James McCready & Co., the sum of \$1,550. From what Eaton had heard he believed the lad had not got the money honestly, and he telegraphed to parties in St. John for particulars.

The miserable Osborne trial for the murder of McCarthy has involved the county of Westmoreland in a bill of costs, amounting to \$9449.99. The County Council are trying to make it a provincial charge, and throw it upon the Local Government.

A cash box containing debentures, bank book and mining stock, &c., valued at \$100,000, stolen from Turnbull & Co. of St. John Dec. 11th, has at last turned up through the agency of a private detective, who on Saturday obtained possession of all the stolen papers, though it is said no clue as to the identity or whereabouts of the thief has been obtained.

UNITED STATES.—A prairie fire near Deadwood city burned several ranches and 500 tons of hay. Several houses in Deadwood Gulch were unroofed and others damaged by a tornado on the same day.

The prolonged strike of Norton Iron Works miners terminated on Monday, by the miners resuming work. A large number of turbulent miners gathered at the works, threatening trouble. The employees of Prince's furnace demand an advance of five cents per ton. By this movement several hundred men are thrown out of employment.

A Cincinnati special reports a disastrous storm at Juka, Miss. Six persons are reported killed and great damage done to property.

Three brothers named Harlan, Frederick and Arthur Heinrich, was drowned in the Ohio river on Sunday by the overturning of a skiff.

SOUTH AMERICA.—A Rio Janeiro letter of the 5th inst. says accounts from the north east provinces continue to be of increasing famine and of decimation of the population by small-pox, one thousand a day dying at Ceara. In Rio Janeiro the general health is improving, but cases of sporadic yellow fever have become very frequent. The weather has been very hot.

ENGLAND.—The *Telegraph* announces, in semi-official form, that the British Parliament will be re-opened without a speech from the Throne.

It is estimated that one-seventh of the looms and spindles in Blackburn are stopped, and from 4,000 to 5,000 operatives are idle and destitute. No public relief fund has been started, because of diminished means of all classes.

Thirteen hundred colliers at Merthyr and Laberdare have struck work.

7,000 miners are idle in the county of Durham. The depression has not been equalled since the great strike of 1844.

Four hundred "locked out" agricultural laborers left Kent for Australia on Wednesday last.

The trial of the directors of the city of Glasgow Bank on charges of fraud, theft and embezzlement, resulted in the conviction of Lewis Potter, of the Glasgow shipping firm of Potter, Wilson & Co., and of Robert Sumner Stronach, manager of the bank. Other directors were found guilty of uttering false abstracts of balance sheets. The High Court of Justice passed sentence upon them on Saturday. Robert Sumner Stronach and Lewis Potter, convicted of fraud, theft and embezzlement, sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. Five other Directors, convicted of uttering false abstracts of balance sheets, sentenced to 8 months' imprisonment. The presiding judge, in passing the judgment of the Court said they considered the circumstance that the prisoners had not falsified accounts for their own personal benefit but in a mistaken idea that it was for the public good.

Engineers and dock men's strike has begun at Liverpool and Birkenhead, where over 2000 went out on Friday morning.

It is stated that the steamer "Albion" has been chartered to take Stanley and a party to Zanzibar, for an exploring expedition in Africa.

The ship T. & E. Kenney, of Halifax, from New York for London, foundered on her passage. All the crew except four were saved.

FRANCE.—France has passed through a crisis that may be regarded as a small but peaceful revolution. At the Wednesday morning Cabinet Council meeting President MacMahon signed the decree making changes in the magistracy, but when the question was raised of making changes in great military commands, he said he could not assent to such resolutions and must decline to disorganize the army. He would leave the responsibility for such steps to others. With these words the Marshal

quitted the hall of Council. This statement everywhere produced the greatest excitement. Groups of the Left appeared determined to impeach the Ministry of the 16th May.

On Thursday afternoon on the assembling of the Deputies, Versailles, M. Grevy read a letter from General MacMahon, announcing his resignation, amidst profound silence. He then read the articles of the constitution applicable to the situation.

At a meeting of the bureau of the Left M. Gambetta proposed M. Grevy for President of the Republic, which was unanimously approved.

Subsequently, in the joint session of the Senate and Deputies M. Grevy was elected President of France for seven years. The vote was 536 for Grevy to 99 for General Chanzy.

On the following day Gambetta was elected President of the Chamber of Deputies by 314 votes out of 405.

It is still uncertain whether Dufaure, the President of Council, will retain office.

It is the general opinion of Deputies on the Left that the present Cabinet should remain in office. Gambetta expressed this opinion very decidedly in the lobbies, but it is reported that Dufaure announces his intention of retiring to private life.

In the evening the Ministers congratulated President Grevy on his election and collectively tendered their resignations. M. Grevy expressed a hope that they would continue in office at least provisionally.

On the same evening MacMahon visited and congratulated M. Grevy. The interview was most courteous. The ex-President announced his intention of going to Grasse the next day where he would remain some time.

The *Standard's* Berlin despatch represents that there is no confidence felt there in Grevy's competence to maintain his authority.

The *Times' Paris* despatch says that at a Cabinet Council on Thursday morning, the Ministers offered to resign if President MacMahon thought he could come to a compromise with the Chamber. MacMahon replied with some emotion, that he deemed such a step useless.

The tone of the President's letter of resignation seems to meet general approval.

The voting in Congress for President was secret. The only incidents were the applauding of Victor Hugo and others by the Left as they advanced to the tribunal, and hooting at Caragnon, Braylie, Baffet and other unpopular members of the Right. Simon and Rouher were comparatively unnoticed. There was a frenzy of enthusiasm when the figures were announced, the members of the Left and the public in the galleries rising in a body and repeatedly shouting "Vive la Republique."

The return of the Chambers to Paris, reorganization of the Council of State, passage of Education Laws, and other Republican reforms will be peacefully effected.

President Grevy has entrusted M. Waddington with the task of forming a new Cabinet. The *Liberte* states that M. Dufaure, in the letter in which he informed Grevy of his resolution to retire, pointed to this advanced age and political views, and urged that his withdrawal would facilitate a solution of the numerous pending questions.

The French Ambassadors at St. Petersburg and Vienna have resigned or are about to do so.

The winner of the £5,000 prize in the Exposition lottery is a journeyman currier of Paris; the winner of the second prize of £4,000 is a tobacco vendor, and the fourth prize, £2,000, was won by a clerk in an insurance office, both in Paris.

A despatch from Paris says passports are no longer required by Frenchmen leaving for the United States.

The Privy Council has received telegraphic reports from British Consul in the United States replying to inquiries as to what extent pleuro-pneumonia exists among the cattle there. The replies say a milder type of disease obtained in various parts of the United States, but not malignant or infectious.

GERMANY.—An Imperial decree has been issued summoning the German Parliament to meet 12th February.

In the Lower House of the Prussian Diet Herr Windhorst, an Ultramontane, made a motion for restoring the three articles of the constitution concerning the relations of church and state, which were annulled by the ecclesiastical laws. Professor Algidi introduced a counter motion that the House should pass to the order of the day, and it was adopted, the Ultramontane, Polish and Conservative deputies only opposing it.

The *Provincial Correspondence* maintains the pressing importance of the Parliamentary discipline bill.

In a debate in the lower House of the Diet on the relations of church and State Herr Gniest pointed out that the restoration of the article to the Constitution would merely interrupt pending negotiations with the Pope.

The commission to deliberate upon protective measures against the plague resolved to ask the Government to send a commissioner to Russia, and recommends the same measures as did the Vienna Conference against the importation of Russian goods.

It is reported that the Imperial Chancellor still clings tenaciously to the to-

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