

For the Christian Messenger. Beecher and Baptism.

Mr. Editor,—

You give in the last issue of your paper an account of the sprinkling, by the Rev. H. W. Beecher, in Plymouth Church, N. Y., of "a group of twenty-eight babies." I have been looking over some of his ideas on the subject of Baptism published in his "Life of Jesus, the Christ," and must confess I am puzzled to know how in this matter of sprinkling the babies he has "suited the action to the word." On page 100, of that work I find these words,— "It (Baptism) had only a moral significance. It was an act neither of association nor initiation. It was purely personal, beginning and ending with the individual subject of it. It conferred and professed to confer nothing. It was declaratory of a moral transition. Baptism is that symbolic act by which a man declares, 'I forsake my sins, and rise to a better life.'" And again on page 225, speaking on the same subject, he says,— "It was not an initiation, but the sign of one. It conveyed no moral change, but it was the profession of one. It was an act which required a disclosure of feeling, the manifestation of a purpose, commitment to a vital decision; and so far as by this outward action men could be aided in the struggles of a new life, it was useful,—so, far and no farther." Now I am at a loss to know how to make Mr. Beecher's administration of the ordinance answer to his very clear definition of it. It may be that the solution of the difficulty is to be found in the fact that these were "crowing infants." An infant may doubtless be a "man in embryo," (provided its name is not to be SARAH) and its crowing at the time when it is being sprinkled may certainly be a "disclosure of feeling" and in some sense the "manifestation of a purpose," but how to translate it into,— "I forsake my sins and rise to a better life," puzzles me. Perhaps, as editors are supposed to know everything, you can explain it.

G. A. C.

North Brookfield, July 29, 1880.

[We have no explanation to give to anything said or done by Henry Ward Beecher, and do not expect to find any consistency in any two things he says or does.—Ed. C. M.]

In Memoriam.

ISRAEL HARDING, Esq.,

son of the late Rev. Harris Harding died at Tusket, Yarmouth Co., on Saturday evening, July 17th, 1880, aged 72 years. Bro. Harding was for many years a faithful member of the Baptist Church, and had been for a number of years an able, earnest, and loving Superintendent of the Sunday School. He had long been a leading magistrate, and of late years the custos of the township of Argyle. He was widely known as an intelligent, earnest, and upright gentleman. When he died, the Baptist Church parted with one of her best members and the county of Yarmouth with one of its best citizens. In all his afflictions he was resigned to his Master's will. His trust in his Saviour was beautifully expressed by him while conversing with the writer a few days before he died, in the following words, "I am resting in His love." Thus resting he passed away to be "absent from the body and present with the Lord." His funeral took place in Tusket on the 20 inst., Rev. A. Cohoon of Hebron, Rev. Mr. Sidell (Free Christian Baptist) and Rev. Mr. Sterns (Episcopalian) were present and took part in the services. A sermon was preached by the writer from 2 Cor. iv. 17-18, to a large and attentive congregation. The departed leaves a widow and a large circle of children and grand-children to mourn their loss. Yet they take comfort from the assurance that he for whom they mourn has gone to enjoy that exceeding and eternal weight of glory which is reserved for all the faithful followers of Jesus.—Com. by Rev. P. S. McGregor.

Rev. W. B. Boggs writes from Ongole, April 25. He says that on the previous Sabbath it was his privilege to baptize one hundred and eighty-seven persons, making one thousand two hundred and ninety-five baptized in the Ongole field since January 1. It has for some time been thought desirable that separate churches should be organized in important places, where the number of the disciples would justify the course; and it was also thought that other of the native

preachers beside the seven who had been ordained were worthy of full recognition as ministers of the gospel. Accordingly, on the 14th of April, a Council was convened for the examination of candidates, as a result of which twenty-four of the most experienced and successful preachers were ordained to the gospel ministry. It was an occasion of the deepest interest, and it is hoped will result in still more abundant fruit.

Mr. Boggs reports in the seminary at Ramapatam eighty Ongole students and fifty-seven women studying with their husbands.

Rev. J. E. Clough reports an evangelistic tour of two months' duration, in which he visited ninety-eight villages, and saw delegates from about a hundred more. He visited twenty of the village schools, married thirteen couples, and baptized in twenty-eight different places one thousand and sixty-eight persons. He says: "I never had such a hearing by all classes before. In some places, as many as a thousand came out and listened to me attentively for an hour." In several of the villages visited there were some cases of declension, and eighteen were excluded from the churches. In all the other villages there was evidence of the need of more teachers and preachers yet, with the exceptions referred to, as soon as errors were pointed out and explained, the Christians renounced them gladly, and seemed to turn with the whole heart to Jesus. Mr. Clough says: "On the whole, I fully believe that the great mass of converts are living as well as they know how; and after we are able to teach them more fully, and give them pastors, they will become strong men and women in Christ Jesus." In five different villages, the idols, numbering about a hundred, were all given to Mr. Clough. Generally, the Christians and their religion are respected.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—The regatta at Toronto on Wednesday last was pronounced a great success. The contests were watched by fully ten thousand spectators.

It is said that in case Sir John Macdonald should succeed in securing the construction of the Pacific Railway by a company of British capitalists, a fall session of Parliament will be held to ratify the agreement.

A telegram from Washington on Wednesday last gives the number of Canadians who have entered the United States from Canada, by the way of Sarnia during the year ending June 30th, at 77,035.

It is understood that Princess Louise will be absent for three months at least. The Ontario Government have offered \$250 reward for the capture of Heney, the Bear Brook murderer.

UNITED STATES.—A mob, supposed to be from Tennessee, went to the jail in Athens, Alabama, on Saturday night, took out Bailey the wife murderer and hung him.

O. W. Click, a somnambulist, occupying a room with a friend named Philips at Fyvo, Va., got up on Thursday in the night and chopped Philips' head off with an axe. Click was arrested but knew nothing of the occurrence.

As a passenger train on the Housatonic road on Thursday evening was nearing Bedford's station, Connecticut the engine and luggage car were thrown from the track by collision with a young bull, which attempted to cross the track while the train was rounding a curve. The engineer and express messenger were severely injured, and the fireman slightly.

In Webster County, Ga., the wife of W. L. Gunnells gave her nine children and herself morphia. Gunnell on Wednesday, with one son, visited a sick neighbor, and on returning found his wife and nine children apparently dead. Physicians were summoned, but Mrs. Gunnell and three children died. The other six were saved. She left a note saying she did the deed, but gave no reason.

An express train on the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad ran through an open switch at Clark's station, eight miles from Moberly, Mo., on Wednesday morning, and the mail and baggage cars were derailed. Wm. Tolman, the fireman, was killed, and Frank Beaville, the engineer, dangerously scalded.

A special from Laramie City on Thursday says:—"A man named A. C. Angelo was found dead beside the Union Pacific Railroad track. He had been run over by the cars and ended his life by shooting himself through the head. The man is probably St. Aubrey C. Angelo, correspondent of the Liverpool Courier, who was with the Prince Napoleon in Zululand, when the latter was killed."

At Waverly, (Ohio), an excursion train broke through a bridge on Saturday, killing one man and wounding 15 men, and one woman.

General Garfield was at Chataqua on Sunday afternoon at the Y. M. Ch. Association meeting. He occupied a seat on the platform. Fully 10,000 people were present.

ENGLAND.—Mr. Gladstone is convalescent. United States Minister Lowell in London has received instructions from Secretary Everts to express to Her Majesty's Government the great concern of the United States Government at the illness of Mr. Gladstone, and their hopes for his speedy recovery.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday Earl Granville announced that the Viceroy of India had telegraphed that a powerful force, comprising all arms of the service, under command of General Roberts, had been ordered to march to Candahar.

Telegraphic correspondence between the Governor of Newfoundland and the Secretary of the British Admiralty, establishes the identity of the figure head found at sea, as that of the lost training ship Atalanta.

The Toronto Globe of Saturday last, states that Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Alex. Galt, Col. Dennis, Hon. Mr. Pope, Col. Williams, Earl Derby and Sir Garnet Wolseley were entertained last night by the Fish-mongers' Company. The Prime Warden proposed the toast of "The British Colonies." Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper responded.

Eight men were killed in a colliery explosion near Wrexham, Wales, on Wednesday.

FRANCE.—The concession for the preliminary work of the proposed tunnel between England and France, granted in 1875, has been renewed by the French Government for three years.

Work is actually progressing on this tunnel which is to connect France and England. One shaft has been sunk to the stratum in which the tunnel is to be cut, while another is to be sunk and the machinery set in operation. The work is expected to be finished in two or three years.

AUSTRIA.—A telegram from Vienna, on Saturday says the heavy rains of the last five days caused terrible havoc in Silesia. Teplitz, Bohemia, is completely submerged. The damage over a tract of the country is incalculable. A fearful panic prevails in the flooded districts, and a number of casualties have occurred.

RUSSIA.—From St. Petersburg, on Friday we learned that it has been decided to construct ten clippers, five of which will be built under contract with Mr. Baker in the United States, and the remainder in England and Germany.

TURKEY.—An identical note from the Ambassadors, demanding a settlement of the Montenegrin question, has been presented to the Porte.

Secretary Everts at Washington received a despatch on Wednesday last from Constantinople saying that an American missionary named Parsons had been murdered by Turks near that city. The Turkish Government promises reparation.

A despatch from Constantinople on Saturday says details of the murder of Dr. Parsons, American missionary, and his servant Mar Ismid, several days since, show that Dr. Parsons and servant were making a professional tour in the mountains east of Ismid, and encamped the night of the 4th inst. by the roadside, in the vicinity of some three members of a semi-nomadic tribe. Two Muski shepherds who have since been arrested, confessed with cynical composure that they shot two travellers as they slept and robbed them of their money, amounting to less than a pound. As Dr. Parsons did not reach his destination at the expected time, and as his horses were found wandering about the hills, his friends instituted searches, and their bodies were discovered under some bushes near the scene of the murder. The authorities, hearing that a despatch on the subject had been sent to the British Embassy, showed more than usual zeal, and arrested the criminals; but the fact of their being Mahomedans may put obstacles in the way of ordinary judicial proceedings.

GREECE.—England has notified Greece that she withdraws her former request to maintain inactive in consequence of which notice an order for mobilizing the Greek army has been issued.

INDIA.—The London Times has the following from Candahar, dated August 2nd:—"On the morning of July 27th, General Burroughs engaged Ayob Khan's force of 12,000 men and 20 guns, 50 miles beyond Candahar. After four hours severe fighting, General Burroughs was repulsed and forced to retreat to Candahar. The British loss was 20 officers, 400 Europeans and 800 natives, killed and missing, most of the loss occurring in the retreat. Three horse artillery guns were abandoned. Preparations are being made for a siege in Candahar." The foregoing news was brought in by a native messenger from Candahar to, and telegraphed from the Killa Abdulla post, 44 miles on the Candahar side of Quetta.

The Times says: "We may assume that the messengers left Candahar on Saturday. We learn for the first time that General Burroughs was the assailant. As the Afghans do not take prisoners, we fear all the missing may be reckoned killed. The upshot of the story is that out of 2400 men not more than half, some of whom are wounded, followed General Burroughs into Candahar."

The Viceroy of India telegraphs the following report from General St. John, under date Candahar, July 29. "General Burroughs marched from Rushki Nakud on the morning of the 27th, having heard that Ayob Khan's advanced guard occupied the main road. Three miles from the latter place the enemy's cavalry appeared, advancing from the direction of Hyderdub. The

artillery and cavalry engaged them about 9 o'clock in the morning, and shortly afterwards the whole force of the enemy appeared, formed in line of battle, with seven regiments of regulars in the centre, three others in reserve, 2000 in the regulars infantry on the left, and other irregulars and cavalry in reserve and five or six batteries, including one of breech-loaders. The total force was 12,000. Until one o'clock in the afternoon the action was confined to the artillery, which was so well sustained and directed by the enemy that our superior armament failed to compensate for the inferior number of guns. After rifle firing began, our breech loaders told, but the vigorous advance of cavalry against our left, and of the Ghazis along our front, caused the native infantry to fall back in confusion, abandoning two guns. The enemy's pursuit continued to within ten miles of Candahar, but was not vigorous. The cavalry and artillery, with a few infantry, reached the banks of the river Argandale, 40 miles from the fight, at 7 o'clock the next morning, many not having tasted water since the previous morning. Nearly all our ammunition was lost; also, 1,100 rifles and two (?) pounder guns. Our loss is estimated, in killed and missing, as follows: 66th regiment, 400; Grenadiers, 350; Jacobs' rifles, 350; Artillery, 40; Sappers, 24; Cavalry, 60. The Duranes have been expelled from Candahar. Provisions and ammunition are plentiful.

Of 53 officers of General Burrough's force, 21 are killed or missing, 8 wounded and escaped, and 12 arrived at Candahar unhurt. This leaves 12 unaccounted for.

A telegram from Candahar, Aug. 3, says: There are no signs of the enemy. We have demolished all buildings around the city and all Afghans have been expelled. We have 3500 infantry, 1000 cavalry, and 15 guns; heat very great. It is reported that 4,000 Afghans have gathered in the vicinity of Quetta. Gen. Roberts' force has left Cabul.

The Ameer has sent seven hundred ponies for transport service. He also sent a number of prominent men to arrange for our supplies on the Candahar route.

ELECTRICITY.—THOMAS' EXCELSIOR ELECTRIC OIL.—"Worth Ten Times its weight in Gold" pain cannot stay where it is used!

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NOTE.—ELECTRIC—Selected and Electrized. June and July. eow.

Marriages.

At Yarmouth, on the 24th ult., by the Rev. J. Clark, George S Cook, to Sadie E. McKinnon.

At Mahone Bay, on the 28th ult., by the Rev. L. B. Gates, Felix Church, of Chester, teacher, to Miss Ellen Heckman, of Rose Bay, Lunenburg Co.

At Smith's Cove, Digby, July 28th, by the Rev. J. H. Saunders, Mr. J. Wells McGregor (teacher), to Miss Annie L., daughter of Mr. Chas. S. Cossett.

By the same, at the Baptist Parsonage, Digby, July 29th, Mr. Wm. H. Snell, to Miss Margaret A., daughter of Rev. H. Saunders.

At Worcester, Mass., July 20th, by the Rev. S. L. Holman, Elijah L. Hubble, of Utica, New York, to Annie M. Walling, of East Douglas, Mass.

At Dartmouth, on the 4th inst., by the Rev. J. L. Bell, Horace E. Billing, of London, England, son of the late Edward Billing, of Halifax, to Lucy Helen (Nellie), youngest daughter of Thomas L. DeWolf, Esq.

At Stellarton, July 28th, by the Rev. Charles Dunn, Thomas Wilson, to Mrs. Ellen Ramsay, both of Westville.

At Westville, July 29th, by the Rev. Charles Dunn, Alexander Wilson, to Mary McPherson, both of Westville.

Deaths.

At Pleasant River Road, on the 25th July, Mr. David Boliver, son of the late John Boliver, of that place, aged 38 years. He died trusting in Jesus. His death was improved by a sermon preached by Rev. S. March, to a deeply interesting and attentive congregation, from Job xix. 25-28. May the Lord support the sorrowing widow and seven fatherless little ones.

At Pleasant River Road, on the 29th ult., much beloved and deeply lamented, Lavinia, wife of Isaiah Baker, and daughter of the late John Boliver, of the above place, aged 42 years and 1 month. Deceased was one of the most healthful and helpful of the sisters of the above named David Boliver, and was present at her brother's funeral. On the 29th ult. she went out to her husband, who with his daughter and two lads were in the hay field, when suddenly there sprang up a thunder storm with hail, and the party took refuge under a spreading white-birch, near them. There was no thunder heard previously, but suddenly the lightning flashed upon them with fatal effect, striking the wife and mother dead, and smiting the remainder of the party to the earth; the father was stricken with numbness, but soon recovered enough to reach his home, but a few rods distant; the daughter fell down and received some injuries, besides being thoroughly charged with electricity; one of the lads held a fork in his hand, the handle of which had a piece cut out of the top of it, the sole of his shoe was driven almost off, and his foot was scathed with the lightning. The funeral obsequies were attended by a large number of friends and connections of the deceased, and a sermon preached by Rev. S. March in the Congregational Church, Pleasant River Road, from Job ix. 12. From six to seven hundred persons were present. The deceased was a member of the Congregational Church, an active and devoted Christian, a mother to the poor, and a friend to the afflicted. She was the light of the family circle bright and joyous in her disposition, and generally beloved. This sad event has cast a gloom over the community, but like the Psalmist most are ready to exclaim, "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, because thou didst it." May He who has smitten; graciously bind up the broken hearted, sustain the husband and cheer the children and friends of the departed. S. M.

At Scot's Bay, July 29th, James F. Anthony, aged 58 years. His end was peace.

At Somerville, Mass., July 27th, Hannah P. Whitear, relict of the late William Whitear, of Rawdon, aged 77 years.

August 5th, Jane Rosborough, in the 87th year of her age.

At Windsor, on Tuesday, 3rd inst., Fanny, youngest daughter of Frederick Bedford, aged 30 years.

At Windsor, on Wednesday, 4th inst., Mary A., widow of the late J. P. Fellow, Esq., in the 61st year of her age.

At Boston, on 31st July, Roderick McLean, son of the late Charles McLean, of Halifax, aged 20 years.

Of fever, at sea, on 17th July last, on board the schooner Effie Sweet, McConnell, master, on the voyage from St. Jago to Halifax via Boston, Edmund Borge, seaman, a native of Ship Harbor, East Halifax, N. S.

At Pictou, on July 31st, Ellen, daughter of the late Angus McDonald, Cape John, in the 29th year of her age.

Of pneumonia, at Leadville, Colorado, U. S., in his 23rd year, Daniel McKenzie, son of Mr. John McKenzie, Upper Four Mile Brook, P. C. He was carried to his last resting place by his brother, Sinclair, and other friends from Nova Scotia.

At Pictou, 22nd July, Johanna, wife of Wm. Brownrigg, Senr., aged 25 years.

At Tremont, Jan. 7th, Fred Riley, leaving a wife and other friends to mourn his early removal. But death to him had no terror, and he calmly resigned all into the hands of Christ, and rejoiced in the prospect of that rest which remains.

At Melvern Square, June 11th, Wm. Gates, an aged and respected member of the community, and of the church. Though suddenly summoned we trust he was fully prepared.

Also at Melvern Square, July 11th, in the 70th year of his age, Nathaniel Parker, for many years a merchant in the above place. For a few years past his faculties had been much impaired by paralysis, but still the name of Jesus continued to be his delight. While health permitted Brother P. was seldom absent from the House of God, and we doubt not he has gone to "join the church of the first born" in glory.

At Melvern Square, July — Erin Percy, only son of Henry and Phebe Van Buskirk, aged 18 months. Early called from a world of sin by him who has said, "That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father, who is in heaven." Matt. xviii. 10.

"A treasure but removed, A bright bird parted for a clearer day, Yours still, in heaven."

At Maitland, on Monday, August 2nd, Esther, beloved wife of Alexander Roy, and daughter of the late John McDougall, of Douglass, aged 55 years.

At 57 Hollis Street, Julius Scott, aged 3 years, son of Dr. P. Robertson Inches, of Saint John.

On Saturday, 7th inst., Elizabeth, wife of Michael Keating.

At Westville, Pictou Co., Willard W. White, Esq., New Haven, Conn., U. S., Manager Nova Scotia Company's Colliery.

At Dartmouth, August 6th, Eliza, widow of the late George Landsburg, in the 70th year of her age.

At Belmont, Newport, Hants Co., on the morning of Aug. 1st, John Bailey, aged 65 years. He leaves two sons and four daughters to mourn their loss.

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