

rate to compensate for the risk often works injuriously for both planter and merchant. A change must ere long come, it is hoped, for the benefit of all. The Banks here are strong, paying institutions, and the merchants carry on their business on a sound financial basis;—failures seldom occur. The aggregate business of St. John's with Europe, the West Indies, United States, and South America must be very large and profitable.

DENOMINATIONS.

As to numbers these, I believe, stand about as follows,—Catholic, Episcopalian, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Congregational; the latter two being nearly equal. The Catholics are a large influential body here, their number in the city being about 20,000; they own two churches; one the Cathedral—is an immense building on a very commanding site. With a clerical friend, whom I will hereafter mention, I visited this stately and imposing structure. It is called the church of Saint John the Baptist; and curiously and strangely enough, as it seemed to me, the statue of that Saint over the gate way to the church exhibits him with what is called the baptismal shell in his hand, a wild fancy of an ecclesiastic, put into shape by the artist, but much too late for the Baptist; that shell is clearly apocryphal. Rev. Dr. Power is bishop of the Catholic Diocese of St. John's, and has quite a number of priests under his direction, with one of whom I formed a pleasant acquaintance. The expenditure for the erection and support of the buildings used by this body for ecclesiastical and educational purposes here must be very large. The Episcopalians have two churches also,—the Cathedral, called also the church of Saint John the Baptist, which I also visited with the same friend;—it is a fine building but not yet finished according to the original plan. In the church that formerly occupied the same ground I was accustomed to worship when a boy; and I recollect the old minister, Rev. Mr. Carrington, who preached there at that time. But every thing is changed apparently in the direction of ritualism. Rev. Dr. Jones, the new bishop, is said, however, to be evangelical in his interpretation of doctrines. St. Thomas's, the other church is said to be decidedly evangelical.

The Wesleyans have two churches also and contemplate to erect another without delay. I formed a slight acquaintance with their ministers in the city, and found them earnest and active in their calling. That denomination is the most aggressive on the Colony, and is increasing in numbers and influence. They have an Academy in operation in St. John's and as a body make themselves felt in the politics of the country and in the management of public affairs.

The Congregational Church is the oldest in the city, except perhaps the Episcopal. I recollect it when Rev. Mr. Ward was their minister and they worshipped in what was called the Independent Church, now used as a Temperance Hall. The new edifice in which they worship is large, substantial and comfortable; and the congregation is large, intelligent and liberal in the support of the Cause and interest among them, and in planting and maintaining missions in other parts of the Island. Rev. Thos. Hall is the pastor, which position he has held for the past ten or twelve years; he is highly appreciated and well sustained by his people. On Sabbath the 31st of August I preached twice in his pulpit to a good, intelligent and attentive audience; and on several occasions afterwards had the same privilege with increasing freedom and interest. I had the opportunity of attending the prayer and social meetings among these brethren. I was most kindly received and the gospel I preached, met a warm response. I heard Bro. Hall immediately after his return from Montreal, preach an excellent sermon on Final Permanency of Character.

It is over one hundred years since Congregationalism commenced Christian work in Newfoundland, but never extended operations beyond the capital until Mr. Hall became the pastor; through his representations and efforts and under his directions, missions have been established in several outposts. No denomination need expect to grow unless it prosecute Home Missions zealously and well. The Methodist brethren understand this well;—and it

is high time Baptists and others learned and practised the same. Missionary work carried on in the presence of fierce opposition and appalling difficulties has given the Wesleyans the position and influence they now as a body have in Newfoundland.

The Presbyterians commenced a distinct church organization here, I believe, only about thirty years ago; the members of that denomination in the city had previously, for the most part, worshipped with the Congregational Church. Though these denominations approximate very closely in doctrine and ritual, the brethren of the former thought it best to have a church of their own, and acted accordingly; Rev. Mr. Fraser, of Lunenburg, N. S., was, I think, their first minister. He was an earnest Christian, and a noble, powerful preacher. On his decease Rev. Mr. Harvey succeeded as pastor, and held that position ably and well for several years.

After the disruption in Scotland a difference of views here led to the establishment of a Free Kirk, and so the Presbyterians had two churches in St. John's; but they did not get along very harmoniously or prosperously, both being weakened by the division. However, affliction and loss have taught them better, though it took time to learn the lesson, reunion and harmony have now been restored. In one year both church edifices were destroyed by fire, and it was in contemplation to rebuild them; but better counsels and feelings prevailed, and the resolution to unite and build one church costing \$40,000, and to work and worship together, was finally adopted. Since my return I learn it has been formally opened for public worship. Rev. Mr. McNeil, formerly of Maitland, N. S., is now the pastor of this church; I had the pleasure of his acquaintance and found him an earnest genial Christian; he is said to be an able preacher and zealous in his work, and is much beloved by his people. During his absence to open a new church at Little Bay, I preached for him twice Sabbath Sept. 7, to large intelligent and attentive congregations, and had reason to believe the discourses were highly appreciated and useful. The services were held in the Athenæum, a very fine new Hall recently erected and well adapted for public speaking. This church and congregation can do financially whatever a large Christian benevolence may inspire and prompt.

It would be well if Baptist Churches came to understand the necessity and advantages of union. It is certainly better for the Denomination to have one strong well-equipped, vigorous church in a town or city than two or possibly three, in a weak inefficient condition, vacillating between hope and fear, life and death, and able to accomplish but little good at home or abroad.

Rev. Mr. Harvey, to whom I am indebted for much fraternal kindness, was pastor of the Free Kirk till the union. Since his retirement from a pastorate he held for about twenty years, he devotes his time to Literary and Scientific pursuits and to Christian work in a less public way, the church and congregation having nobly provided him a comfortable home and ample support for the remainder of his days. Mr. Harvey is doubtless the Patriarch of Presbyterianism in Newfoundland.

Yours truly,
GEORGE ARMSTRONG.
St. John N. B. Feb. 16, 1880.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The marvelous Work of Grace at Freeport.

Dear Editor,—
The Lord is still gloriously manifesting His power to save.
During the past week, day after day and evening after evening the interest and results of the meetings have evidently increased.

On Tuesday morning last we assembled at the residence of bro. W. H. Thurber and after a delightful season of prayer and praise, Bro. T's. eldest daughter, who has been confined to her bed with spinal disease for nearly seven years, was carried to the shore in an arm-chair, borne off in bro. W's. arms and baptized. Long ago she found Jesus precious to her and looked forward to this day with mingled hopes and fears. On Thursday our young sister received the hand of welcome into the church.

She appears to have received physical benefit from her baptism.

But to-day was the best of all the seven. Morning, afternoon and evening our meeting-house—probably the largest Baptist House in the County—was filled almost to its utmost capacity with eager listeners to the word of life. The baptism took place in the afternoon, at 1 1/2 o'clock, as the last peals of the bell died away on the clear, calm air, hundreds gathered on the curving, rising beach in amphitheatrical form with forty-five candidates for the sacred rite standing in the midst. After singing the thrilling hymn:
"Thou hast said, exalted Jesus,
"Take thy cross and follow me;" &c.

Bro. Wallace, at the pastor's request, stepped down the gentle slope, and in the liquid grave solemnly and impressively buried the candidates in the likeness of the Saviour's death. This was the largest baptism ever witnessed here.

At 2 1/2 o'clock Bro. W. preached a forcible sermon on the ordinances, after which the pastor gave the hand of fellowship to forty-eight. Father and son, and brother and sister, and husband and wife stood side by side to receive a hearty welcome into the Church of Christ. The silent tear of joy stole down many cheeks at the sight of partner, or parent, or child over whom so many tears of sorrow had been shed yielding first to God, then to the people of God.

The benediction being pronounced, about two hundred sat at the table to commemorate the death of Christ. Many spectators remained, attracted probably by the symbolical import of the rites, as they came so closely together. It was a scene to cause joy in the presence of the angels of God, and one which will doubtless linger with the members of the church till life's latest breath.

In the evening our hearts again were cheered by many, who up to this service had striven with God, showing a desire to become participators in the blessings of the great salvation. And so the marvelous work goes on and we ascribe to God the praise.

Yours, &c.,
L. M. WEEKS.
Freeport, Feb. 15, 1880.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Feb. 23rd, 1880.—
DEAR SIR,—Knowing that your readers that are always pleased to hear good news from the churches, we report some small progress from Annapolis.

Our social meetings have been growing in interest all winter. We have a few earnest workers in the Master's vineyard.

At our last Conference seven gave satisfactory evidence of a change of heart and were received as candidates for baptism. Four of these were members of the S. School, the others, heads of families. Five of these candidates were baptized in the Annapolis river just as the sun was setting on Sunday evening, in the presence of a very large and orderly assembly of people. These, with one very valuable addition by letter were received into the fellowship of the church, at the close of our service on the same evening. The baptism of the other two was postponed for a few weeks, when it is expected that others who have decided also to become followers of Christ will join them in this beautiful and expressive form of life-consecration to God. We ask the earnest prayers of all the faithful.

Yours truly,
T. A. HIGGINS.

BROOKFIELD, COL. Co.—A member of this church writes Feb. 27th: "Our Pastor has commenced holding special services with the church here. He has been waiting for indications of more earnest feeling on the part of the members. Last Saturday at our Conference the increased attendance led him to hope the time had come to ask for special blessings."

According to the "Catholic Directory for 1880" (published "Permissu Superiorum," and edited by Rev. Canon Johnson, secretary of Cardinal Manning), the number of Catholic priests in England, Wales, and Scotland is at the present time 2,211; a year ago they amounted to 2,175, and two years ago to 2,157. Thus, since the end of 1877 their number has only increased by 54. It is curious that 17 1/2 per cent. of the peasage should be Roman Catholics, this is far above the average with any other class of the population. By the way, Truth takes

note of the fact that notwithstanding all the tall-talk about the latter, "Non-conformity is increasing far more rapidly than Catholicism. Fifteen years ago, in the metropolis, there were sittings for but 39,000 Nonconformists, now there are 122,000. They are now building 30 chapels, with sittings for 1,000 each, and have money in hand for 20 more, each with the same number of sittings." Only think of a "Society" journal having to state that!—Baptist.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—On Tuesday in the House of Commons Sir John Macdonald, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, moved a formal address to the Governor General respecting the vote for Irish relief.

On Wednesday in reply to Mr. Robertson, (Shelburne,) Mr. Pope said it was the intention to accept tenders, submitted to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, for the erection of the harbor light upon the Spit, at Sand Point, Shelburne harbor, the building to be commenced and completed during the coming season.

In reply to Mr. Kaulbach, Mr. Pope said it was the intention to provide a breakwater at Cherry Point, Petite Riviere, County of Lunenburg, and proceed with the work the coming summer.

The House was in Committee on Wednesday on the Insolvency Bill.

It was argued that the bill should not go into operation until after the close of the session, in order that the Legislatures of the Maritime Provinces could modify their laws to meet the danger and risk of a sudden repeal.

The bill finally passed. It was ordered for a third reading on Friday.

The embargo on Canadian cattle entering the States from Canada would be removed on March 1st.

The political position is being presented at Ottawa in the form of a play under the name "H. M. S. Parliament."

On Thursday the Princess Louise was still confined to her bed from the effects of the late accident. It is said that the injuries from which she is suffering are of a more serious character than was at first reported.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Legislative Buildings at Fredericton were burned on Wednesday night. The fire commenced in the Library. A rush was made on the Library and all the books were soon removed from the shelves and carried to the Provincial Secretary's Office, and as the water had commenced to come through the ceiling, everything possible in the Library, including the glass front of the bookcases were carried out. It is feared that some very valuable books that were kept in the committee room have been destroyed, as it was in that room the fire was first discovered. A great number had however, been injured. The Library is insured for \$15,000, divided as follows:—Commercial Union, \$7,000; North British and Mercantile, \$4,000, and Western \$4,000. The building was insured for \$4,000 in the Queen, and the Law Library for \$2,000.

The wing of the main building was completely destroyed and the main building itself very much damaged. It is supposed that the fire originated through some defect in the stove-pipe.

The House of Assembly met in a class room of the Normal School at Fredericton on Thursday. Immediately after the Speaker took the chair a message was received summoning the members to the Legislative Council, which sat in the Exhibition room. On arriving there the members were informed by the President of the Council that it was the pleasure of His Honor the Lieut. Governor that the House stand prorogued until Tuesday, 9th March.

UNITED STATES.—Labor troubles and strikes are commencing in the great centres in the United States, Socialist leaders are operating on them. Large processions have been formed to intimidate employers in San Francisco. Mayor Kallock is charged with falling into the ways of speech and action of the working men.

Eighteen hundred Irish emigrants arrived in New York on Friday last. The receipt of wheat at Chicago during the past year have been the largest by four million bushels, and corn one million and a quarter greater than previous years. Other business has increased proportionately.

At Utica N. Y. on Wednesday the Republican Convention assembled on Wednesday, and adopted resolutions favoring the nomination of General Grant. In the Convention there was a strong sentiment opposed thereto, but not sufficiently strong to prevent its passage.

Navigation is now open between Poughkeepsie and New York.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.—A cyclone and tidal wave at Fiji Islands caused a serious loss of life and devastation of property and produce. A Queensland steamer was obliged to batten her hatches, and of one hundred natives on board fifty died.

ENGLAND.—The Duke of Edinburgh went to Windsor last week to leave his children with the Queen, while he goes to Russia to bring the Duchess home. The Post believes that the Queen contemplates going to Germany in the spring to visit the tomb of the Princess Alice.

Cardinal Newman is suffering from a fall, by which one of his ribs was broken, but he is progressing as favorably as can be expected. The Cardinal is seventy-nine.

A large tenant right meeting near Portdown, county Armagh, on Wednesday was attacked by three thousand Orangemen who stormed the platform and dispersed the meeting. The tenant righters were outnumbered; 20 persons were seriously injured. The Orange party considered the meeting of a seditious character.

GERMANY.—Emigration from Germany to the United States has recommenced on an appreciable scale.

TURKEY.—A despatch from Constantinople announces a letter from Col Synge saying brigands demand fifteen thousand pounds for the release of himself and wife.

A Greek has been arrested at Constantino for having in his possession an "infernal machine." He claims to be an English subject. He first admitted and then retracted that he contemplated an attack on the Sultan and asserted that the machine was bought by his brother, who was consequently arrested.

RUSSIA.—At St. Petersburg the Government have decided to increase the number of house porters, who will be instructed to be ready to guard against emergencies, especially on the anniversary of the Czar's accession to the throne.

A sense of insecurity is observable in every direction, there is great fear that something will happen before the anniversary of the Emperor's accession.

In view of possible explosions, the police have ordered the citizens to be provided constantly with a sufficient supply of water for two days. The Nihilists have issued proclamations threatening to set fire to the capital on the 3rd of March.

The woman Vera Sassulitch, a famous Nihilist agent, has been arrested in the apartments of an officer of the marine, whose wife had assisted in concealing her.

St. Petersburg is in something very much like the panic which the recent explosion produced. Warnings have been sent from Berlin that on the 2nd of March it is intended to blow up three of the principal streets of St. Petersburg.

INDIA.—The India Budget shows a surplus of £119,000 for 1879 80 and the estimate for 1881 shows a surplus of £417,000. The above results are reached after paying for ordinary revenues all the charges on account of the famine, Afghanistan war and frontier railway. The war expenditure in 1879 80 was £3,216,000. The total net war expenditure to the end of 1881, including 1879 80, is estimated at £5,750,000. The rate of exchange for the ensuing year is estimated at 1s. 8d. per rupee.

Fighting was renewed at Herat between the Cabul and Herat regiments, and the former was completely defeated.

AFRICA.—The King of Abyssinia has left Debra Tabor, which is in revolt, to collect the army at Tshega. Complete anarchy prevails in Abyssinia.

News.

AT THE TABERNACLE, Brunswick St., (North) on Thursday March the 4th at 8 o'clock the Tabernacle Singing Association will give a concert. The price of tickets being only 10 cents, it is hoped and expected that there will be a large attendance so that some substantial encouragement may be given to them in their effort to clear the balance still to be met by quarterly payments for the organ.

The Women's Temperance Union Tea meeting held in the Baptist Vestry, Spring Garden Road, on Thursday last was a grand success, socially and financially.

John Y. Paysant, Esq., delivered an able lecture a week or two since before the Church of England Institute on "Religious Uneasiness," combating the dangerous errors that have appeared from time to time, calling in question the Divine authority of the Scriptures and Christianity, and shewing that no fear need be entertained concerning the ultimate triumph of truth. The lecture was repeated last week before the Y. M. C. Association and was well received.

A company proposes to drain Lake Ainsley, C. B., and reclaim eighteen square miles of good land, by cutting a canal into the Margaree river. The work would cost, it is estimated, about \$200,000, and could be completed, in two years.

The Truro Guardian says that Messrs. C. N. Cummings, A. A. Hill and others are preparing to ship a cargo of Colchester cattle to the English market.

A very interesting lecture on "The Railway as a Tide Mark in Civilization" was delivered on Friday evening before the Acadia Athenæum at Wolfville by Rev. D. Mcrae, St. John, N. B. The lecturer gave a large number of highly interesting facts in connection with the history of the railroad shewing that it had been the great means of bringing mankind into greater unity. Like the press in combining the mind of humanity so the railway had been the means of bringing men into one common brotherhood.