

also his thought; in the old man it is shrivelled up, therefore also his mind; in women it has less circumference and weight, therefore their thinking is not equal to man's. Brain-suffering is mental disease. Particular parts of the brain of lower animals have been taken away, therewith also parts of their mental ability, consequently of their soul, as if it were cut off by pieces. Thus what we name thought, soul, spirit is only a function of the brain, just as the gall is a product of the liver &c. The brain sweats out thought, it is the phosphorus in the brain that thinks: "Without phosphorus, no thought." Therefore everything depends upon the condition of the brain consequently upon its nourishment, and generally upon the nourishment of the man. "What the man eats, that is he." "Man is the sum of parents and nurse, of place and time, of sound and light, of food and raiment; his will is the necessary sequence of all these causes, restrained by natural law. . . . Thought is a movement of matter, a transposition of brain material—the conscience also is nothing but a property of matter.

"Sin lies in the unnatural, not in willing to do wickedly," teaches Moleschott. There is really no sin, consequently also no right to punish. "To understand all is to pardon all." All morality is then at an end, and moral instruction transforms itself into a bill of fare.

There are indeed isolated representatives of materialism who reject these last conclusions; men like Virchow and Burmeister believe that they can reconcile moral freedom and accountability with such teaching. Their inconsistency does honor indeed to their heart, but it does not cease to be inconsistency. So long as the acceptance of the supersensuous is regarded as only an aberration of the human mind, every attempt to escape the inconsistency of the materialistic principle must be in vain.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 1, 1880.

THE LATE REV. JAS. STEVENS.

In addition to the brief paragraph last week, we are supplied with a few further items which will be of interest to many of our readers.

Besides Rev. Dr. Crawley, there were several other ministers who took part in the funeral services.—Rev. S. W. DeBlois, Rev. J. Williams, and Rev. George Armstrong. The remains were taken to the Oaks Burying ground at Kentville, and interred beside his son, the late Rev. A. J. Stevens, late pastor at Fredericton, N. B.

When 25 years of age, in 1828, Mr. Stevens united with the first Horton Church, of which Rev. T. S. Harding was then pastor. During an extensive revival the following year, Mr. S. saw it his duty to enter on the work of the gospel ministry, and proceeded on a mission to Prince Edward Island. He preached in several places there, for some months. Having returned and for a while pursued his studies in the Horton Academy, he was ordained as an Evangelist on the 4th of August, 1830. He became pastor of the church at Hopewell, N. B., in 1842, where at present the whole community is largely composed of Baptists, and the church is one of the most flourishing in that province. He remained there between five and six years. He labored in other places for some time, and then became pastor of the church at Falmouth and Hantsport, where an extensive revival took place, and many believed and were baptized.

Reference was made to this period of Mr. Stevens' labors by one of the members of Granville Street Church in the Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evening last. Mr. P. said he had just seen in the *Messenger*, the notice of Mr. Stevens' death, and having had some reminiscences of his own boyhood revived in connection with the labors of that excellent man, he felt constrained to speak of them: Upwards of forty years ago, when he was quite young, he remembered the first time of his seeing Mr. Stevens. There had been a Conference meeting on Saturday afternoon, and his (Mr. P.'s) father and sister had been received by the church for baptism. A second sister too had expressed a wish for baptism, but on account of her youth it was thought better that she should wait a little. The morning was bright and beautiful, and the people gathered together before the time of public worship, some in carriages, some on horseback, and many walking; they gathered by hundreds

about the house of his father in Falmouth, and the voice of praise was heard from almost every room in the house, singing forth the newly found joy which always accompanies a ready obedience to the precepts of the Most High. As the younger sister was still desirous of obeying Christ, and of uniting with the people of God, the church met again, and accepted her for baptism, and the three—father, and two daughters—went with the vast multitude to the baptismal waters; and after giving out and singing the hymn,

"Do we not know that solemn word, That we are buried with the Lord, Baptized into his death, and then Put off the body of our sin?"

Mr. Stevens baptized those three of one household with another person, and there was great joy in that house, and among the friends of the Lord on that day, and impressions were made which will never be lost.

Mr. Stevens subsequently became pastor of the 2nd Horton Church for 12 or 13 years, till 1857, when he removed to Rawdon. Here he remained ten years till October, 1868; when he returned to Horton, and has continued there, preaching occasionally as long as his health and strength would permit. For some years he has been quite feeble.

Mr. Stevens was held in high esteem as a man of integrity and unblemished reputation, and he will be long remembered by many to whom he brought the word of eternal life.

AN ENQUIRY.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Will any of your readers be kind enough to answer this question, What is a unanimous vote of a church?

Would the following case be considered one? If a church of between eighty and a hundred members is called together to settle an important question, (say the choosing of a pastor) and only a quarter of the members are present, and of these a third refuse to vote, can this honestly be called unanimous? CHURCH MEMBER.

If a meeting is duly called and a portion of the members do not attend, and none of those who do attend offer objection to the action of the meeting, it is to be supposed that all acquiesce in the proceedings, and the said vote may be properly regarded as a unanimous one.

Such an important step as the one named however, should be taken only after mature consideration, and ascertaining the views of the members, with a probability of a general and hearty concurrence in the vote; by that means harmony in the church, and the mutual co-operation of the members will be secured.

The Baptist Union of Canada recently formed in Toronto, is reported in the *N. Y. Examiner & Chronicle* as having succeeded in embracing "only churches of Ontario and Quebec and Saint Jermain Street Church, St. John, N. B., which sent pastor Carey as its representative." We have carefully watched the proceedings of the Union, and cannot find from anything which appears in thereports in the Canadian papers, any warrant for such a statement, as that respecting St. John. The fact of Mr. Carey being present at the Union was what might be expected, seeing that he had been in Ontario spending his vacation; but that the Germain Street Church of St. John, N. B., of which he is the honored and respected pastor, is to be reckoned among the churches of the Union, contributing to its funds, &c., would, we should suppose, be preceded by some action in relation to the Convention of the Maritime Provinces, of which that church is an important member. We apprehend from the inaccuracy in the name, that the statement is made by some person not much acquainted with the churches in these provinces, and their operations.

The Halifax Institution for the Blind has warm friends in many places. We are pleased to find that a concert is to be given to the Charlottetown people, the proceeds to be devoted to the aid of a library for this benevolent institution. Miss Palmer is named as engaged in this good work. It is said that all the musical talent of the city will be engaged on this occasion. Success to their efforts!

Our Railway Time Tables it will be observed, are changed this week in several particulars, and corrected for the Winter Arrangement.

We regret to learn that our venerable friend and brother, Rev. Dr. Tupper is again very ill—confined to his bed.

RESIGNATION OF REV. W. F. ARMSTRONG.

At the meeting of the Foreign Missionary Board, held in St. John, N. B., on Wednesday, 10th of November, the following note, we have learned, was received from Rev. W. F. Armstrong:—

To THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, &c.

Dear Brethren,—I am not willing to return to India to labor under the policy and spirit manifested by you, I therefore beg to lay my resignation on your table.

Yours in Christ,
W. F. ARMSTRONG.
St. John, N. B., Nov. 17th, 1880.

We understand that the Board has accepted the resignation of our brother Armstrong, and that he is no longer the missionary of our body.

We should have much preferred to have received a communication from the Secretary, with some further details of the action taken by the Board. We think it is due to our readers that they should have some official information on a matter in which they are so much concerned.

We might offer many suggestions under the circumstances, but refrain at present, as we would prefer first to have some further information on the matter from the Board. Upon the members will rest grave responsibilities. They will need all the sympathy and support of the brethren. We hope to continue to render this, hearty and true, as in the past.

THE GOVERNORS OF ACADIA COLLEGE

were in session two days last week at Wolfville from 9 in the morning till late at night. Members were in attendance from various parts, all the way from Halifax and Fredericton, N. B. Active steps were taken to supply the Science Professorship which will become vacant early in the Spring.

There is a condition of earnest work prevailing among the students giving great satisfaction to the faculty and governors.

There is also an encouraging state of religious feeling, which is pretty general, so that at the students' Weekly Prayer-meeting upwards of a hundred were in attendance. The fervency and ready address amongst those present shewed that deep interest is felt by the students in each others welfare, and there is promise of much good.

The new Vice-Principal of the Academy Mr. Armstrong, is doing well in his management of the House, in which are 34 of the Academy students besides the large number of resident College Students.

The Acadia Seminary has 48 students, of whom 23 are Boarders.

The matters of Agency and the Endowment occupied a large share of the attention of the Governors, and steps were taken, we understand, to resume the effort, as suddenly suspended by the great fire, at an early day. Of these however our readers will be shortly apprized, so soon as the arrangements are more complete.

THE REV. E. M. SAUNDERS AND REV. E. M. KIRSTEAD

are appointed to the very important office of visitors to the whole of the Institutions, and commenced their work of examination of the Seminary, Academy and College, and the Courses of Study and time employed at each of them, in each of the Institutions. Their report will be made in the coming Spring.

Our Lockport correspondent writes under date of Nov. 26:—

"We are working with mingled hope and fear. Our pastor's health has improved. Bro. Richan baptized one person into our fellowship on the 14th ult. A W. M. A. Society has been organized with 38 members. This number will be increased to 40. The church has resolved to try to raise \$200. (\$2 per member) for the Convention Scheme this year. Business depression is much felt; just now there is promise of better times." He adds:

"Despite objections that have been and may be urged, the suggestions of Rev. E. M. Saunders concerning ordination are regarded as forceful and timely. If they are adopted by the Associations next year, there will be reason for rejoicing over the outcome of recent and former troubles. Your recent editorial and the publication of the transactions of the Foreign Missionary Board is also opportune.

At the present juncture Foreign Mission interests will be jeopardized unless the fullest possible information is disseminated. Some of the supporters of Missions are discouraged, others in

the dark. The offspring of such discouragement and ignorance are not generally supporters of Foreign Mission work."

WHAT MADE SPURGEON WHAT HE IS!—While Divine Grace produces men for the Church of Christ, yet Providence employs certain means and instrumentalities to accomplish the work. One of these is related in the *Life of Richard Knill*, published by the London Religions Tract Society:

In a visit to Mr. Spurgeon's grandfather, Mr. Knill was walking in the garden with the great preacher, then a serious and thoughtful boy of ten. He was much struck with the lad, and turning aside into an arbour formed by an old yew-tree, he placed his hands upon his head and invoked the Divine blessing upon him, saying at the close that he believed he would live to love Jesus Christ, and preach His Gospel to the largest congregation in the world. He lived to hear of the large assemblies at Exeter Hall and the Surrey Music Hall, and to know that the youthful preacher, already famous, was the young boy of whose future he had prophesied. Mr. Spurgeon himself says that he believed the prophecy, and considers that the encouragement it gave was no small factor, so far as human agency was concerned, in realising its fulfilment.

Our Yarmouth brethren are resolved, as always, to set a good example to their brethren in other places, and not be behind in presenting the claims of the Benevolent objects of the Denomination to their people. The *Yarmouth Herald* of last week has the following: MISSIONARY MEETING.

A very enthusiastic and successful Missionary Meeting was held on Monday evening in the First Baptist Church. The meeting was called in the interest of the Financial Scheme adopted by the Baptist Convention. The pastor of the Church presided and explained the object of the meeting. The choir of the Church in full force furnished very excellent music. Interesting and eloquent addresses were delivered by Rev. A. Cohoon on Home Missions, Rev. A. McGregor on Foreign Missions, Rev. John Clark on Ministerial Aid and Relief, and Rev. P. S. McGregor on our Educational Institutions. Revs. A. H. Lavers and H. N. Parry who were advertised to speak, were unavoidably absent. A subscription paper was passed among the audience at the close of the service and a collection was taken. The amount thus secured reached the very respectable sum of \$467.86.

DARTMOUTH.—Rev. E. J. Grant, having accepted the pastorate of the Baptist Church here, a special Installation Service will be held to-morrow, Thursday evening. Several ministers are expected to be present and take part in the services, and a general invitation is given to friends to attend on the occasion.

The *New York Industrial Monthly* in its summary of Canada Manufactures says: "The manufacturing industry of Canada exhibits considerable activity, especially in Ontario. The success of the National Policy has been decided in the manufacture of cotton goods, agricultural and other machinery, hardware, sugar, and many other branches. The Canada Cotton Manufacturing Company, of Cornwall, Ont., makes an exhibit which can hardly be surpassed by the most successful in the United States.

The large manufacturing industries of Hamilton are nearly all in successful operation, including the silver-plated-ware branch of the Meriden Britannia Company's Works. The Hamilton Fruit Canning Company, intend to operate largely in the business of canning all kinds of fruits, also tomatoes, peas, beans, and sweet corn. About 300 hands will be employed, mostly young women and boys.

The Moncton, N. B., Sugar Refinery Company advertises for clean flour barrels, and for the delivery of 1,000 cords of wood to be used in the manufacture of barrels in the factory being erected in connection with the refinery. The Sugar Refinery at Halifax, N. S., is not yet completed.

The Beet Sugar Company of the Province of Quebec have begun their operations with a large force of men. The stonework is to be over 300 feet long by 80 feet wide, and four stories high. The brick work will be begun early in the spring.

The organization of the Pioneer Beet Sugar Company of Coaticook, P. Q., has been completed, and contracts are now making with the farmers in that vicinity, who have this year given the culture of this root a trial. It is believed that \$1,200 per year distributed to farmers in this way, will induce them to use extra exertions in attending to the crops.

There is great activity in the Canadian lumber districts this season. The demand for lumbermen is so great, that many inexperienced men are employed.

St. NICHOLAS for December will be a surprise to its young readers. Special effort has been made to glorify the Christmas season, and 35,000 extra copies (making an edition of 105,000) are being published to meet the anticipated orders from Santa Claus. The new decoration for the cover will be wintry and spirited. Among the greatly varied and profusely illustrated contents will be an operetta for young people called "The Land of Nod," in which six little sleepy-heads visit the marvellous place and see many wonders. A new feature of St. NICHOLAS will be begun. It is a "Treasure-box of Literature," whose value and purpose are indicated by the first contents, which will be reprints of Nathaniel Hawthorne's fantasy "David Swan," and Thackeray's poem, "King Canute." Both are to be illustrated.

The November number of the PREACHER AND HOMILETIC MONTHLY has a number of excellent articles such as: "What is God?" by Chas. F. Deems, D. D.; "L. L. D. Christ and the Pharisees," by Canon Farrar; "The True Pulpit and the True Pew," by Joseph R. Kerr, D. D.; "Theological Systems—Their Necessity, Advantages and Defects," by Prof. John Cairns, D. D.; "Trusting God," by Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D. Some of the Main Characteristics of the European and American Pulpits of the Day," by Rev. David Winters; "Preachers Exchanging views," "Helpful Data in Current Literature," etc. I. K. Funk & Co., 10 and 12 Day St., New York.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE FOR 1881.

In 1881 *The Living Age* enters upon its thirty-eighth year of continuous publication, and it steadily increases in value with its years. Its frequent issue and well-filled pages render it a satisfactorily fresh and complete compilation of an indispensable current literature—a literature which grows richer and more abundant every year in the work of the most eminent writers upon all topics of interest. In no other way can so much of the best of this literature be obtained so conveniently and cheaply as through the columns of this standard weekly magazine. It supplies the place of many magazines, reviews and papers, and alone enables the reader at a small expenditure of time and money, to keep well abreast with the best thought and literature of the day. The prospectus is worthy the attention of all who are selecting their periodicals for the new year. Reduced clubbing rates with other periodicals are given; and to new subscribers remitting now for the year 1881, the intervening numbers are sent *Gratis*. Littell & Co Boston, are the publishers.

OUR LITTLE ONES, Vol. I, No. 2, December, published by the Russell Publishing Company, 149 Tremont Street, Boston, \$1.50 a year.

A very nicely got up monthly for children, from the nursery upwards, in pictures, prose and verse.

OLD BRISTOL: a story of the Early English Baptists by L. M. N., Philadelphia, American Baptist Publication Society, pp. 351.

The stirring times of Cromwell are full of interest for Nonconformists. Baptists were much concerned in the results of the contests going on in England at that time. Many histories of those times are still unwritten, and many never will be written. Things were then said and done which it would not have been safe to commit to writing. The leading events of the nation are well known, but the details are now becoming better known, as there is more freedom of enquiry than formerly. This book is a very successful effort to give the historical facts of the period a narrative form, and to put in "a story" what may be supposed was real in a good many cases, in those times of political and religious contention.

PELOUBET'S SELECT NOTES ON THE INTERNATIONAL LESSONS FOR 1881. Boston, published by W. A. Wilde & Co., 25 Broomfield Street, pp. 247.

Of the many books provided containing explanatory notes, illustrations and suggestions for Teachers, on these lessons perhaps there is none equal to this. It is equivalent to a whole library on the subjects of the several lessons, and the careful study of the portions from week to week, and other passages to which they refer, for a year or two must make a teacher or member of a Bible