

A meeting was held on Monday evening, in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, for the purpose of organizing a central branch of the Nova Scotia Immigration Society. W. J. Stairs, Esq., president, and Mr. John Irwin acted as secretary. Mr. Pittman explained at considerable length the objects of the Society, which are to aid and encourage, by all fair and legitimate means, such as the publication and free distribution in Europe of pamphlets and circulars, setting forth and truthfully describing the natural and acquired advantages of Nova Scotia as a promising field for immigrants, young industrials and able-bodied domestics, of both sexes, and to assist them in obtaining suitable situations and employment after arrival here.

His Honor the Lieut. Governor, Hon. Mr. Gayton, Prof. Lawson, Mr. H. Oldright, W. S. Fielding, M. P. E., and others spoke in favor of the formation of such a Society.

It was resolved to organize the central board of the Society. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to carry out its objects: Hon. Mr. Gayton, Ald. Macintosh, Ald. Motton, Prof. Lawson, Messrs. B. W. Chipman, James Farquhar, Wm Dunbar, J. R. Lithgow, W. C. Bishop, M. E. Keeffe.

LECTURES AT THE AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH.—Rev. E. J. Grant, of Dartmouth, will lecture in the A. B. Church, Cornwallis Street, on Monday (Christmas) evening, at 8 o'clock. Subject: "Father Taylor, the great Boston Sailor Preacher." Admission 15 cents. The choir (jubilee singers) will sing some of their selections, both before and after the lecture. Proceeds for the church.

REMARKABLE AND TRUE.—Alonzo Howe, of Tweed, was cured of a fever sore of thirty-five years' duration, by six bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters. He had suffered terribly, and tried many remedies in vain. He considers Burdock Blood Bitters a marvellous medicine.

Parliament will meet on February 8th.

A telegram from Ottawa states that the plans of the Vice-regal party have been changed. Instead of coming direct to Ottawa from San Francisco, they will make an extended tour of the United States, visiting all the large cities, especially South, in the hope of benefiting the health of Princess Louise, who is said to be seriously indisposed. The Governor General will not return to Ottawa until the beginning of February in time for the opening of Parliament.

A later telegram says the Princess Louise will shortly go to Bermuda where she will sojourn during the winter. His Excellency will remain in the Southern States till the latter end of the winter, when he will return to Ottawa on Saturday night to spend Christmas at home.

Col. Fournelle, of the United States Army, detailed by Gen. Sherman to accompany the Vice-regal party, states that the request for an escort to accompany the party from California to Texas was made by him to the War Department without solicitation or the knowledge of the Marquis. Col. Fournelle thought the party would enjoy the trip better and feel less nervous in the Indian country if some such precaution was taken.

At the Dorchester N. B. Election court on Monday, Mr. Hannington, one of the sitting members acknowledged corrupt practices by agents without the knowledge of the principals. The counsel of the defeated candidates did the same, and Judge King declared the election void.

The two lights on St. Paul's Island, at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, heretofore exhibited all the year round, will be extinguished each season on 31st December and relit 1st April. If open water should be visible, the lights will be exhibited for the time being.

The Ontario Local Legislature was opened on Wednesday last by Lieutenant Governor Robinson with the usual ceremonies. The opening speech offers congratulations on the services rendered by the work of the Agricultural College and the experimental farm, by the investigation and report of the agricultural commission, and by the other measures which have from time to time been adopted for this purpose by the Legislature.

It states that it is now ascertained that Ontario holds a foremost place when compared with the most favored regions on this continent. A system which besides its other objects provides for annually publishing carefully gathered statistics of the farm, the forest, and the factory, is a valuable agency for exhibiting the growth and capabilities of the Province, and drawing increased immigration and wealth from other lands; that the lumber trade has been in a satisfactory condition during the year. The year's receipts from timber and from Crown lands sale will probably exceed one million dollars. That the Act for protecting the public interest in rivers, streams and creeks has again been disapproved by the Federal Government. The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada as to the present state of the law, renders some legislation indispensable in the interests of the public, the fishermen, and all others whose business requires that they should have the use of our rivers and streams.

It concludes by saying: I rejoice to state that our educational institutions continue efficient and progressive, and that the scientific advantages of the Province keep pace with its rapid material developments.

The Dominion Government has granted one million acres of land alongside Prince Albert settlement, Saskatchewan River, of the Land and Colonization Company of Canada, organized by Rev. A. J. Bray, of Montreal.

MORE THAN ALL OTHERS.—J. Kennedy, of Dixie, calls more of Hagar's Pectoral, al Balsam than any other cough remedy, his wife having been cured of a severe cold by its use; he has since recommended it to his customers. It cures all throat and lung trouble; leading to consumption.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ecclesiastical Slaves.

Pastors laboring in obscure places are often almost choked by strange expressions from their people, indicative of crude ideas of the Christian ministry. Wherever, in heaven or earth, did the idea of "hiring a minister" originate? It is usually a very interesting exercise to dig about the roots of words, and try to find their original meaning. Now the Lord Jesus speaks of a hireling when he says, "The hireling fleeth because he is a hireling." It may be that, years ago, some under shepherd was tempted to fly from the difficulties and dangers to which he was exposed at the fold. Perhaps there was a wolf which previously had been mistaken for a sheep, and, seeing the wolf, the pastor left the sheep and fled. These circumstances, bearing some analogy to the words of Christ, may have given rise to the idea of an hiring shepherd, and hence "hiring" a pastor. This would be the only method of getting the word from the Bible; but the truth is, the Scriptures forbid the use of any but the kindest language in speaking of the ministers of Christ. Every true pastor is sent by a gracious God, and must be supported by the prayers, sympathy, and generous contributions of his people. The minister, it is sometimes said, is stiff and reserved. Well, when he meets neglect he must be that, or do something far worse—frown and scowl. The human heart is a flower, ministers are human, and flowers usually open cheerfully, enough in the sunshine.

Again, some talk of keeping or not "keeping" a Christian pastor, as though the thing spoken of were a horse or a dog. An honored minister, whose sermons have since been read in every quarter of the globe, once heard a member of the church say to him, "I don't think we can keep you another year." The same man had a dog, and when unexpectedly asked if he was going to keep that dog next year, he replied, "Going to keep him, of course I am." The dog cost him as much per annum as he paid in salary to the man of God.

For the Christian Messenger.

Home Missions.

The December meeting of the H. M. Board was held on the 11th. The Treasurer reported receipts of the month \$148.00.

REPORTS RECEIVED. Quarterly reports were read from Brethren McGregor, Munro, Bill, Smith, Coy, Fletcher, Estman, and Edwards.

GRANTS. 1. To the Tobique field, Victoria Co., N. B., \$250.00 for the current year. Rev. C. Henderson, pastor.

2. To the Sydney field, C. B., at the rate of \$100.00 for the current year. A pastor wanted. Correspond with the undersigned, or with Charles R. King, Esq., Clerk of the church.

3. A mission of two months to Carleton, Yarmouth Co. Mr. Ford the missionary designated.

MONEY GREATLY NEEDED. We are in great need of funds, to pay the Quarterage due missionaries. Please remit at once to Treasurer, Rev. J. A. Gordon, Yarmouth.

A. COBURN, Cor. Secy. Yarmouth, Dec. 14th, 1882.

For the Christian Messenger.

As for Peter that the Evangelists said anything of his following on the eventful night of the betrayal. What, no doubt, they intended as a special mark of zeal and devotion has been in our day sadly misconstrued; and Peter, who surely on account of real blemishes, especially the denial, has much to bear, now in our times has the additional burden laid upon him that he "followed afar off." I wonder if there would not have been less sermons preached from this passage, and a less number of inferences deduced, had preachers carefully studied the text in its connection with the attending circumstances? How many of your clerical readers, dear Messengers, have grown eloquent over this supposed misdeed of Peter's? How many a time has

the warning note been sounded, "And Peter followed afar off!" How many, when their hearts have been cold, and they have been negligent about religion, have thought of this a true confession as they have said, "I am so much like Peter when he followed his Lord afar off!" Even in your last valuable issue, in an extract from an exchange, I read "Peter followed afar off before he denied Him." The "afar off" had nothing to do with the denial. I hold that the lessons as usually taught from this passage are not correct. The following "afar off" did not lead to the denial, did not result from a "lack of love" or "loyalty" or from "over-self-confidence," and beside, the act was not recorded as exhibiting anything "blame-worthy" or "censurable" on the part of this disciple.

It does not appear that the Saviour expected any of His disciples to follow Him on this occasion. Said he, "Let these go their way." We learn that after Peter in defence of his Lord had so valiantly drawn his sword, and had learned that swords were not there needed in common with the rest, he was for the moment filled with fear or something of that nature, for we read "All forsook him and fled." But to the praise of Peter, the Evangelists record that he "followed afar off, even into the palace of the High Priest." John, who seems to have been in company with Peter, and who followed, and no doubt as "afar off," as he says, "Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple." If our modern expounders of the Scriptures would only now and again bring in this "another disciple" with Peter, and let him share the blame, one would not mind so much. But for this "another disciple"—John—who has no words but those of commendation. Or, if instead of censuring Peter for following "afar off," they would say something in a fault-finding way with these disciples who did not follow at all, only "forsook him and fled," one might bear it, but no, for these not a word, while Peter, following lovingly and faithfully, is held up as a "fruitful warning." This course, to my mind, is unfair, unchristian. It looks as if these expounders have a grudge against Simon Peter, and here they think they have a sore spot, and they will probe him well.

I am of opinion that the men who recorded the expression heading this article did so as being a praiseworthy act on the part of Peter, and for one, I do not wish to compare myself to him when I am on the background, with my heart cold and with but little or no zeal for my Master. Peter's following "afar off," though it was a loyal and loving act, worthy to be imitated by the best of us to-day. Such an act of heroic devotion must have been pleasing to the suffering Son of God. I hope these hints will not be lost on those who, when wishing to handle Peter roughly, or to find a fitting illustration of "fearful backsliding," have been wont to fly to this text. And I also hope the dear brethren and sisters in the conference and prayer meetings, will cease to compare themselves with Peter, when he "followed afar off," unless, like Peter, they have courageous hearts to dare and do, and are loving tenderly and loyally as well.

In Memoriam.

MRS. PARNEL ALLINE.

At the residence of her daughter, Somerset, Cornwallis, N. S., on Dec. 10th, 1882, Parnel Alline, aged 90 years, relict of the late Joseph Alline, Esq. Mrs. Alline was a member of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church, St. John, N. B., for more than 60 years, and lived a most consistent, devoted, Christian life. Deeply interested in the Church of God it was a pleasure for her to help forward its interests, and she was a true Christian Saviour. The Bible was her delight, she spent much of her time in reading its sacred pages, dwelling upon its promises, and cheering her heart with the hope of eternal life.

Her naturally amiable disposition, meliorated by the discipline of life, and sweetened by the grace of the Lord Jesus, made her a lovable companion, a choice friend, and very pleasant to all who knew her. She was led to the Saviour under the preaching of a colored minister named Puch. Ripe fruits of Christian virtue adorned her character; she believed in an experimental religion, and to her God's Providences were all good.

"Good when he gives, supremely good, Nor less when he denies; 'E'en crosses from his sovereign hand, Are blessings in disguise."

She lived with an husband who safely trusted her 56 years; was the mother of 9 children, 4 of whom survive her; of all of them she could say, "born again." Her real worth cannot be told; her life was brighter than gold. Her children, grand children, and great grand children, to whom she spoke and for whom she prayed, rise up to call her blessed. Appropriate funeral services on the day of her burial were conducted by Rev. J. C. Bleakney, who chose as his text 1 Tim. 1:12.—Cox. by Rev. J. T. Eaton. Paradise, Dec. 10, 1882.

WANTED.

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THE CENTURY

For 1882-83.

The twelfth year of this magazine—the first under the new name, and the most successful in its history, closed with the October number. The circulation has shown a large gain over that of the preceding season, and THE CENTURY begins its thirteenth year with an edition of

140,000 Copies.

The following are the leading features:

A NEW NOVEL BY W. D. HOWELLS, to succeed this author's "Modern Instance," it will be an international story, entitled "A Sea Change."

LIFE IN THE THIRTEEN COLONIES, BY EDWARD EGLESTON—the leading historical feature of the year; to consist of a number of papers on such topics as "The Beginning of a Nation," "Social Life in the Colonies," etc., the whole forming a complete history of early life in the United States. Special attention will be paid to accuracy of illustrations.

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THE CHRISTIAN LEAGUE OF CONNECTICUT, by the Rev. Washington Gladden. An account of practical cooperation in Christendom, showing how a league was formed in a small town in Connecticut, what kinds of work it attempted, and how it spread throughout the whole State.

"RUDDER GRANGE ABROAD," by Frank R. Stockton, a continuation of the droll "Rudder Grange" stories, the scene being now in Europe.

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Nov. 1.