

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 17, 1882.

FOREIGN MISSION MATTERS.

C. F. Clinch, Esq., our respected Treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Board wrote us, with the acknowledgments last week, that "the Treasury is now overdrawn \$300, and we will be compelled next week to sell our last Provincial Debentures to meet the demand for remittances to India to pay missionaries salaries, &c. This announcement will show the friends of the mission how urgent the demand is, and that some special effort should be made to provide the means of meeting these claims upon the churches. We have learned that at the meeting on Wednesday last to consider the question of reinforcing the mission, the finances, &c., after listening to the report of the Committee on ways and means, and a full discussion upon the question of reinforcement, the Board decided to appoint Rev. M. P. King, as one of our Foreign Missionaries, and to send him forth to the home churches, Associations, &c., to arouse our brethren to the necessity for enlarged benevolence in the giving of the gospel to the Telegus.

The following brethren were also appointed to represent Foreign Mission interests on behalf of the Board at the several Associations:

Nova Scotia Eastern: Rev. D. A. Steele.

Nova Scotia Central: Rev. Dr. Bill.

Nova Scotia Western: Rev. Dr. Day.

New Brunswick Southern: Rev. J. March.

New Brunswick Eastern: Rev. G. O. Gates.

New Brunswick Western: Rev. E. Hickson.

Rev. J. E. Hopper, Brethren C. F. Clinch and J. March were appointed delegates to the annual meeting of the American Baptist Missionary Union, at New York, May 30th.

We are not informed as to whether Brother King, who was recently ordained at Hammonds Plains near Halifax, has himself made application for this appointment, but we believe that he has not as yet signified his acceptance. We may mention that Bro. M. P. King is from Chipman, New Brunswick.

Money is needed. The Treasury is open to receive it. The churches have it—men are dying for the want of it. Why is it not forthcoming? Ah! Why? It is not because there is not a good plan for raising money before the churches. Not that. It is not because many are not trying to work the Convention Scheme so-called—not that. It is because the warm hearted generous spirit of missions is lacking. This is the power behind all our schemes. Intuse the spirit of missions where it is not, awaken it where it is dying—and all the money needed will be forthcoming.

IRELAND.

It certainly seems that the Emerald Isle is a doomed land. Even the best conceived plans of her best friends end only in disappointment and sorrow, and the cup of her anguish would seem to be nearly full. History is often repeating itself in Ireland, and the record is one of alternate violence and vindication of law, crime and coercion, murder and martial law, assassination, and absolute power for repression. Each in its turn severely taxing our confidence in the methods of our boasted civilization, and bringing down more distress and calamity upon that unhappy country.

THE PEACE PRESERVATION ACT.

The legacy which the late administration left their successors in Ireland was very deceptive in its appearance. The country was ruled by special legislation. The Peace Preservation Act was in reality very repressive—little less vigorous than military rule, it gave the appearance of tranquillity but under the surface there was still a slumbering volcano. In truth the incoming ministry gave their predecessors too much credit. They imagined that the peace which seemed to prevail was real, and that something had been done to effectually pacify the country. They therefore allowed this obnoxious act to lapse,

relying upon the power of the ordinary law to maintain order. It was soon discovered however that the people of Ireland still suffered hardships sanctioned by law, but which nothing could really justify.

THE LAND ACT.

Mr. Gladstone has ever been a true friend to Ireland, and has always manifested a desire to extend to her all the liberty and home rule which she had shown capacity to use aright. In establishing the church in Ireland he had proved that he could sacrifice personal popularity in England, and place and power for the benefit of the sister isle. Soon after the formation of the present Government they set to work seriously to right the wrongs, by intelligent legislation for Ireland. The Land Bill was hailed by the world as a measure which tapped the root of the difficulty. The long standing grievances of the Irish tenantry from oppressive landlordism was for the first time seriously taken in hand, and the measure was approved by the conscience and judgment of the nation.

The Land Act was designed to ameliorate the condition of the tenant and at the same time give the landlords a fair return. It was an attempt to harmonize very conflicting interests and elements, each jealous of the other. The large class of men who act as agents and bailiffs for the landlords hating the Irish intensely and hated by them with equal fierceness, increased the antagonism of both parties. The landlords saw that the rents on estates which had been held in their families for centuries were unpaid, and were reduced by the courts, and their property and lives were in danger. The two years of famine had thrown many of the tenants into arrears, so that they could not pay even the reduced rents. The courts were so overrun with cases that the machinery was clogged, and the awards did not satisfy either party. The popular leaders and the Land League clamored for more relief—raised the cry of no rents, or rents upon their own terms and valuations, and crime and lawlessness were rampant on every hand. The ministry demanded that the Land Act should have a fair trial, and as the Leaguers opposed this at every point—they passed the celebrated

COERCION ACT.

They declared the League an illegal organization and proceeded vigorously to stamp out the movement. They arrested the leaders and all parties suspected of complicity in the "land league" organizing. The effect was disastrous—anarchy and crime seemed to reign supreme in many places. It was impossible to repress the lawlessness; witnesses and juries were alike intimidated and refused to convict parties guilty of the most daring and outrageous offences. The landlords were not only unable to collect their rents, but if they evicted tenants for non-payment, no man dared rent the vacant holdings. The prisons were filled with criminals who could neither be properly tried or released. It was notorious that the coercion policy had failed disastrously, it did not pacify Ireland nor prevent outbreaks of violence—but intensified the hatred of the people and widened the chasm between parties who ought to have been united.

A REVERSAL OF POLICY.

The Government at this juncture decided to reverse their entire Irish policy and proceeded to release most of the "suspects" from prison, and also to inaugurate such measures of relief and conciliation as surprised the world and filled Ireland with joy. Mr. W. E. Forster, not being quite prepared for the change of front, resigned the chief Secretaryship and retired from the Cabinet. His office was filled by the appointment of Lord Frederick Cavendish as his successor. This nobleman was known to have liberal and pacific views upon Irish affairs—he possessed the fullest confidence of Mr. Gladstone and was in many ways well fitted for the position. His appointment was heralded as the beginning of a new era in Irish affairs. He was received in Ireland with demonstrations of rejoicing.

THE TRAGEDY.

But this confidence was misplaced, the dawning of a brighter day for unhappy Ireland was doomed to a sudden

eclipse. The new Secretary arrived in Dublin on Friday, on the following day he assumed the duties of his office, but before the day closed he was struck down by the cruel assassin. The cause of liberty has received a severe, a fatal blow. Already as will be seen in another column repressive measures of the most severe character have been introduced. It is evident that it must be with England strong rule or no rule in Ireland. The outlook is not promising, but is more sorrowful and gloomy than ever for Erin's Green Isle.

However much Ireland has been wronged in the past, it is certain that her people must bring themselves within the bounds and control of the law before they can claim that full justice shall be done them so soon as they themselves will permit it. This atrocious crime if defended or justified is well calculated to shake everybody's confidence in the ability of Irishmen to govern themselves.

THE U. S. BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES.

It has been finally decided to adhere to the arrangement made to hold the great Anniversary meetings of the Missionary and Publication Societies of our brethren in United States, in New York city. These important meetings bring an immense number of persons together, so that it is a difficult task to furnish sufficient accommodation. Among the many important matters to be discussed this year, the "Bible question" will occupy prominence. We shall look forward to their deliberations and decisions with unusual interest.

We have a Circular from Dr. Blackall of New York, giving notice of the facilities afforded to delegates to attend the Baptist Anniversaries to be held there from May 24th to May 31st, inclusive. The railroad companies affording these are in the United States, and we are not aware that any reduction of fares will be made on the Dominion railways, for any who may wish to pay a fraternal visit to the brethren there. The provision for entertainment at hotels and homes will be from 75 cents to \$3.00 a day, according to the style of accommodation. The Tremont House furnishes rooms only, at 50 cents to 75 cents a day for each person.

All letters, telegrams, &c., should be addressed "Care First Baptist Church, Park Avenue and 39th Street, N. Y."

BISMARCK AND THE VATICAN.

The whirlwind of time produces some wonderful changes. One of the most suggestive turns in national affairs in Europe is the recent alteration in the relations existing between Germany and the Roman Hierarchy. It will be remembered that some seven years ago Pope Pius IX. attempted to meddle with ecclesiastical affairs in the German Empire—and received a severe rebuff for his interference. Emperor Wilhelm informed the august Pontiff that he intended to be Pope himself in Germany. The rupture was open and complete,—diplomatic relations were completely severed. The celebrated Falk legislation or "May laws" were enacted, by which Catholics in Prussia were placed under political disabilities, and certain Roman Catholic Bishops were deprived of their ecclesiastical authority and even imprisoned for disobedience to these severe ecclesiastical and educational enactments. This action and policy of the Government was generally applauded.

Pope Leo XIII. has been wiser in his generation than his predecessor. He has done what he could consistently to remove the irritation between his numerous followers in Germany and the Government, and so bided his time. That time arrived at last. The cast iron policy of Bismarck, the conqueror of France, has been growing more and more irksome to the long-suffering and liberal minded Germans, until the late elections disclosed the fact that the so called arbitrator of Europe was well nigh beaten upon his own ground. He was rudely awakened to find that the Roman Catholic party—the Ultramontanes, held the balance of power in the Parliament, and without their aid his power and authority must terminate. This is the reason why we find the great Chancellor approaching the Roman Pontiff with overtures of peace. Pope Leo knew his power and he has

made use of the opportunity to bring about a reconciliation. The obnoxious "May laws," so called have been repealed—the Pope's authority has been recognized, diplomatic relations have been resumed between the two powers, and the German government is again enabled to control affairs in that country. It has been said that "consistency is a virtue which is the boast of fools." If this be true, Prince Bismarck may congratulate himself that he will not be charged with folly.

The result of all this will doubtless be very great. We will no doubt hear nothing more for a time at least of the Pope's intention to leave his comfortable quarters in the Vatican. It is another illustration of the complications which arise from mixing up affairs of church and state. When will legislators learn the wisdom of attending to matters within their own province, and leaving religion to take care of itself.

DECLINE OF INFANT BAPTISM.

The Christian at Work, a Pedobaptist paper, published at New York, says on the 11th inst. "Infant baptism practice does not show any better results as investigation is pursued. We have already recorded instances of no infant baptism in pedobaptist churches in this city. Now comes Philadelphia, and in that city three Presbyterian churches with an aggregate membership of 979, shew not a single infant baptism in the year, and there are other churches that make a like showing." This, considering the source from which it comes is very suggestive, and fully bears out the statements made in the Baptist Quarterly Review, to which we referred a few weeks ago that the practice is fast dying out in the United States.

An important movement has recently been inaugurated by the Baptists of New York, for the purpose of amalgamating the Bible work of the body, with the Baptist Publication Society, with more promise of success than the efforts on this behalf heretofore put forth. The New York Examiner—one of our best exchanges—has taken the matter up very warmly and at great length. The Boston Watchman is not so favorable to the change. The large sum of money it costs to work the American and Foreign Bible Society—the present Baptist organization of the United States, for the supply of Bibles—would certainly seem to be a good reason for the proposed change. The matter will be fully discussed and probably decided during the approaching anniversaries at New York.

VENNOR'S prognostications for May have certainly been far from correct this month—that is, in this eastern province of the Dominion—for the first week of the month he says:—

May will probably enter cold and unsettled, with cold rains and sleet and snow falls in sections of Province of Quebec, Northern New York State, and at some western points about 2nd and 3rd, followed by warmer weather generally between the 4th and 7th days

For the second week:— Probable change again to cool and unsettled weather between 7th and 10th of month. After 10th generally fair and warm weather, with periods of sultriness and storms which it would be foolish to attempt to fix to date.

Warm to hot about 12th and 13th with strong winds. Bush-fires likely in many sections.

For the third week:— A general week of fine summer-like weather, with the usual periods of sultriness and storm in a May month.

Indications of a change towards the 21st.

Pretty hot weather up to 19th, with frequent storms of thunder and lightning.

For the fourth week:— Cooler and unsettled weather, with high winds generally; cool to cold rains and backward signs. Stormy weather in western sections probable about 25th and 26th. Warm and sultry weather with strong winds through remainder of month. Smoky weather. Altogether a very changeable month with great range of temperature from frost-line to full summer heat.

For the last three days:— Warmer and more unsettled weather in most sections up to close of month. There is just a possibility of the cool and unsettled term occurring at the close of May instead of between the 21st and 28th, as given here; but I am inclined to place greater faith in the latter view.

NEW-SUBSCRIBERS from this date by sending on ONE DOLLAR, shall have the Christian Messenger to the end of the year 1882. Will our readers kindly speak to their friends and neighbours on this matter, and by that means do a good work to them and their families.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

The Morgan Park Seminary—the Baptist Theological Institution at Chicago, Ill., has added to its regular three years course of study—a post graduate course for students who desire to spend an additional year in study. This instruction is given by the members of the Faculty, and while it is similar in thoroughness to that of any year in the regular course, it provides for an advance in scholarship, and will, in addition, encourage the pursuit of independent investigation in the lines of Theological studies. Supplementary education of this character has been to some extent provided hitherto at Princeton and Andover, but this is the first Baptist institution to take this step in advance. Three men are pursuing this course this year, and it is confidently expected that another year many more will be able to avail themselves of it with advantage. The demand of the age is that our ministers should be the best educated men in any of the so-called "professions," and any movement that looks towards completer facilities for their education is to be welcomed.

A NEW REVISED VERSION.

From our American exchanges we learn that the A. and F. Bible Society are about issuing a new version of the New Testament. It is to be a sort of compilation of the Kings James version—the Bible Union version—the late Anglo American Revision—and the preferences of the American Committee of the same, altered, amended and edited by Rev. Saml. Williams. We have never before heard of Mr. Williams and do not know his qualifications for such work. We seriously question the propriety of having another version of the Scriptures, especially such a jumble as this one seems likely to be forced upon us by even a Baptist Bible Society. This matter will require explanation when Rev. Mr. Boothby, the agent of this Society again visits our churches.

News of the World.

There have been several arrests of persons supposed to have been connected with the assassination of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke at Dublin last week. Efforts have been made to trace the murderers, but thus far without any satisfactory results.

The British Government will offer a reward of ten thousand pounds for information given within three months, which will lead to the conviction of the murderers, and a reward of a thousand pounds for private information. The Government will also grant a free pardon and extend the special protection of the Crown in any part of the Queen's Dominion to any persons, other than the principals in the crime, who may give the information required.

Lord Cavendish was buried at Chatsworth, on Thursday last. The order of the funeral procession was as follows:—Horse; Duke of Devonshire walking alone; the Marquis of Hartington, Lord Edward Cavendish, Mr. Gladstone, Earl Granville, the Speaker of the House of Commons, members of the Cabinet and 300 members of Parliament walking four abreast. An immense crowd was present, the number being estimated as high as 30,000. Many persons were visibly affected. The coffin was carried by a number of tenants of the Duke of Devonshire. After the coffin had been lowered into the grave many flowers were thrown upon it.

It is the opinion of many that O'Donovan Rossa's agents are the murderers. His speeches would lead very naturally to such conclusion.

The authorities in Ireland are sanguine of capturing the murderers.

Lord Trevelyan, the new Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Lady Spencer arrived at Dublin on Friday. The former was warmly cheered by the populace. Lord Spencer at the last moment decided to remain in Ireland instead of attending the funeral of Lord Frederick Cavendish.

The appointment of Geo. Otto Trevelyan as Chief Secretary for Ireland is favorably received by the Irish party. Trevelyan holds advanced opinions. It is believed he sympathizes with the popular party in Ireland.

Referring to the brutal ravings of O'Donovan Rossa, the Standard asks very seriously whether there is not a duty resting on the executive of the United States and a corresponding one on the British Government with respect to the future.

Mr. Gladstone has written to the Mayor of Cork, acknowledging resolutions passed at a meeting of the citizens on Sunday. In a letter he says: "It is my firm belief that there will be but one common sentiment throughout the three kingdoms concerning the terrible assassinations, and that Ireland particularly, throughout her length and breadth, will demonstrate how far she is from the slightest touch of moral complicity in so black a deed."

At a public meeting in Cork, on Wednesday, nearly £600 were subscribed for the apprehension of the murderers. The entire subscriptions will probably reach over £1,000.

Mr. Gladstone, in a published statement, announces that he has received a flood of communications from every part of the kingdom expressive of horror and indignation at the crime. He says it is only just to state that there were none more remarkable for fervor and sincerity than a large number from all parts of Ireland.

Placards appeared in Dublin on Thursday announcing the formation of a society for the restoration of Legislative independence. They contain hostile references to the Castle officials.

The following is the synopsis of the Bill introduced into and passed by a vote of 327 to 22, by the British House of Commons for the R-pression of crime in Ireland.

The bill provides, in places where ordinary law is not observed, special tribunals consisting of three judges, to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, to try cases without a jury. The judgment of the court must be unanimous. An appeal can be made to the Supreme Court, the judgment of the latter to be given by a majority of judges. The Supreme Court may diminish, but cannot increase, the severity of sentences. Parliament will be asked to provide special remuneration for special judges. The bill also gives power to search for secret apparatus of murder, such as arms, threatening letters, etc.; power to enter houses by day or night under warrant of the Lord Lieutenant; power to arrest persons prowling about at night and unable to give an account of themselves, who are to be dealt with summarily; power to arrest strangers, as crimes are generally committed by foreign emissaries, the hospitality of England not being for such persons as the agents of O'Donovan Rossa; and power to remove foreigners considered dangerous to peace. The Government therefore, intend to revive the Alien Act. Secret societies are to be treated summarily, and membership thereof will constitute an offence under this Act. Cases of aggravated assault are to be dealt with in a summary manner. Power is given to repress intimidation and unlawful meetings, the latter to be dealt with summarily. New-papers containing seditious and inflammatory matter are to be suppressed, and proprietors required to enter into recognizances not to repeat offences. Justices can compel the attendance of witnesses about to abscond. The Lord Lieutenant can appoint additional police where necessary, at the cost of the districts concerned. Compensation for murder and outrage will be required of the districts where they occur. Outrages are to be dealt with summarily by courts to consist of two stipendiary magistrates.

Sir W. Harcourt admitted that this bill was extraordinary, but he declared it necessary to meet the extraordinary circumstances. He concluded by stating that this measure would shortly be followed by one dealing with arrears of rent.

The minority of 22 was composed entirely of Home Rulers.

It is reported that Mr. Gladstone will shortly resign the Chancellorship of the Exchequer.

A caissier with a lighted fuse, was found on Friday night suspended from the railing in front of the Mansion House, London. It is believed to be filled with gunpowder.

Provincial papers publish rumors that Sir W. V. Harcourt, Home Secretary, has received letters from Fenians threatening his life.

Victor Hugo presided at a banquet in Paris, on Wednesday last, given by French railway employes, in honor of engine driver Griscl, who was lately decorated with the legion of honor for saving the lives of a number of passengers. Eighteen hundred persons were present, including Gambetta and many Senators and Deputies.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has approved of the Treaty of Commerce with France.

In the Senate, Madrid, on Tuesday last, the treaty of commerce with France was adopted by a vote of 143 to 78. The royal sanction has since been given to the Treaty.

Information has just been received of a terrible explosion of fire damp in Plato Mine, at Bochum, Westphalia. The bodies of 56 victims were recovered up to Wednesday.