

The Christian Messenger.

Hallfax, N. S., December 13, 1882.

The Evangelistic Services in the North Baptist Church last week were of more than usual interest.

The meetings are being held in the Tabernacle, Brunswick Street this week.

The congregation in the Academy of Music on Sunday afternoon was immense, every seat occupied and standing room was all filled, and hundreds had to go away who wished to attend.

From the Visitor we learn respecting the Minutes of Associations that the Eastern N. B. Minutes are not printed, and are not authorized to be printed, nor are sufficient funds provided to print them, so we learn.

It appears evident that the plan of the churches being required to raise money specially for the publication of the Minutes, gives a great deal of trouble and occasions much uncertainty with regard to their being published, and results in many of the churches receiving none at all.

The Southern and Western Minutes were mailed at the time when published to the clerk or pastor of every church contributing for their publication.

SIR HUGH ALLAN

Died in Edinburgh, on Saturday morning. His death is a great blow to Montreal, where he usually resided, and for which city he has done so much.

Sir Hugh Allan was born at Saltcoats, a seaport on the Firth of Clyde, in Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 29th of September, 1810, and was therefore a little over seventy-two years of age at the time of his death.

and after various changes in the name of the firm it assumed its present style, Hugh & Andrew Allan. The firm began to build iron screw steamships in 1851, Canadian being launched and making her trial trip in 1853.

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J. E. WELLS, Esq., late professor at Woodstock Baptist College, sends us a copy of the Rapid City Standard, of which he is the Editor and Publisher.

We are glad to learn that the reported illness of Mr. Moody the evangelist was either wholly false or greatly exaggerated.

OBSERVE!

We have sent off a large number of "Dr. Kendall's Treatise on the Horse and his diseases," to those who have sent their subscription for the Christian Messenger for 1883, but we have some of these yet to send, and are doing so as fast as we can get them entered on our books.

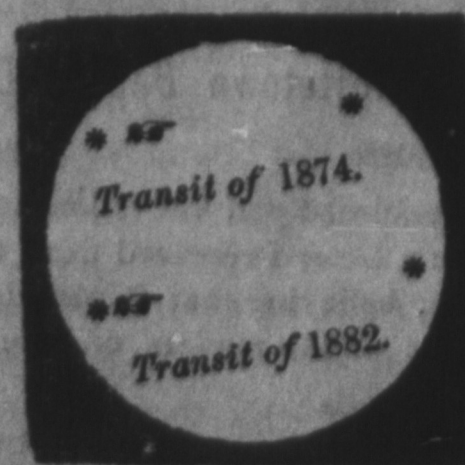
THE TRANSIT OF VENUS.

The astronomers of the world were busy last week making use of the appliances that had been a long time in course of preparation for seeing the planet Venus pass across the sun's disc—or between the earth and the sun in a direct line.

To many it may not be known that Venus has its phases like the new and full moon, and, by means of a good telescope may be seen, either as full or as a crescent or gibbous, at different times of the year.

Venus completes her revolution around the sun in about 224 days. It might therefore be supposed that there would be a transit of the planet across the face of the sun more frequently than once in a hundred years or so, and so there has, for there was one on Dec. 8, 1874, only about eight years ago.

We have, however, tried to make up for the disappointment and have produced as near a resemblance as we could of the transit of last week and the one in 1874, although that was not visible in America, for the help of those of our readers who must have been so much disappointed.



The measuring of the distance of the sun from the earth is one of the objects of taking these observations. It will be sufficient to show the interest taken in this event to mention that the United States Government appointed astronomers to go to eight different stations to take observations of this transit—four in the Southern, and four in the Northern hemisphere.

Cape Town, Africa; Santa Cruz, Patagonia; New Zealand; Santiago, Chili; San Antonio, Tex.; Cedar Keys, Fla.; Fort Selden, N. M.

The British government also had persons appointed in many different places in Africa, South America and West Indies.

By telegrams from many places it appears that they were more favored than we were. At Ottawa, Winnipeg,

Boston, New Haven, Washington, New York, at Portsmouth and other places in England, and in Wales, at Cork, in Ireland; at Durban and Cape Town, in South Africa, good observations were taken.

So we may now expect to be enriched by finding out more correctly how far the earth is from the sun, and we ought to be happy.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Delegations to Ottawa, on this subject, had an interview with members of the government on Thursday last and presented to them the following resolutions:—

"Resolved, That in order the better to prevent disease and preserve human life, it is advisable that the Dominion Government should organize and sustain a uniform system of vital statistics for the Dominion.

"Resolved, That as immediate action is necessary, the Federal Government be invited to initiate at once a system of vital statistics where organized local Boards of Health are established, so that statistical information may be utilized by these bodies;

"Resolved, That as Provincial legislative action is necessary, it is suggested to the Federal Government that it communicate with and secure the co-operation of the Provincial Governments to pass such legislation as will harmonize with and obtain the object of the preceding resolutions;

"Resolved, That it is desirable that a central bureau of Vital Statistics be established, and if found to be within the province of the Federal Government a comprehensive system of health returns;

"Resolved, That inasmuch as it appears by the British North America Act matters of public health are regulated by the Local Governments, this delegation has not included it with the subject of vital statistics, nevertheless they are of opinion that it would have been better had it been placed under the direction of the Federal Government, and beg to suggest that an effort be made to obtain an amendment to the Constitution in that direction.

Sir Charles Tupper expressed himself favorable to the views of the delegates, and said he thought the Government would do even more than promised, as the subject was a very important one to the country.

It is rumored that the Government will order an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars for the purpose of forming a Bureau of Health for the collection of Vital Statistics.

CHURCHES without settled pastors are often designated "vacant churches." This is hardly a correct definition, but it is not infrequent that it is the precursor of their becoming vacant churches, if allowed long to remain pastorless.

OUR English exchanges give a fuller account than the telegrams report of the Queen reviewing the troops from Egypt at St. James's Park, and awarding to them medals in commemoration of the Egyptian campaign.

The moral condition of Egypt, is in as much need of improvement as the political. The condition of the people is such that it will need all the effort Britain can make for a good while to come, and all the influence she can exert to raise the people to a condition of self-government and to an appreciation of the relief they may now obtain from their oppressors.

professedly Christian Nation, with Mahomedanism, and we may hope that the superstition in which the land is enveloped will be gradually dispersed and light be made to shine upon the thick darkness and open up the way for gospel teaching.

The London Freeman speaks out in tones, which, if it could but get the ear of the British Government would speedily effect a change in—

It is credibly reported that no less than 40,000 slaves annually cross from the Soudan into Egypt proper for Egypt and Turkey in Asia, while Mr. Forster tells us, forty years ago the number was only from 20,000 to 30,000.

The horrors of their transportation are almost equal in cruelty to those of the "middle passage" in the worst days of the slave trade, whilst the slaughter of the aged and decrepid, weeded out of the general mass of captives, is a tale of infamy scarcely tolerable to relate.

A novel committee for the erection of a mission church has been formed at Northampton. It consists of 300 working men. It is to be called St. Crispin's, in consideration of the trade of the majority of the committeemen.

Several incidents respecting the lost steamer 'Cedar Grove' have been brought to light since our last. An investigation has been held before Capt. Scott. The general facts regarding the loss of the ship as first given are corroborated, no blame seems to attach to any parties concerned.

The following statement respecting the faithful master of the ship, Captain Fritz, will be read with interest. We copy it from our St. John contemporary the Visitor.

For more than forty years Captain Fritz has followed the sea and seen all kinds of weather, storms and dangers. During all this long term of service, most of it as master, he never lost a man, a vessel, or made a claim for insurance.

Rev. C. H. SPURGEON is again at Mentone, in the south of France, seeking by a few weeks of rest, and the change to a warmer climate to regain health and vigour to enable him to pursue his multitudinous labors.

The French are using great efforts to get back possession of what they formerly held on the Island of Madagascar. It will be seen by an article on another page how this is viewed from an English standpoint.

PUSEYISM is not dead, although its author, Dr. Pusey has passed away. A meeting of his admirers was held last month, for the purpose of promoting the proposed memorial of him.

Arrangements have been made by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury to illuminate their cathedral with the electric light during the winter months.

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Captain Fritz was a pew holder in the Brunel St. Baptist Church from its organization in 1850, and while several of his family are professors he never made a public and formal profession of religion, but he filled his place in the house of God regularly, and manifested that respect for worship which often caused his pastor to say that he had no more devout and intelligent listener to the preaching of the Word than he.

The body of Capt. Fritz was recovered on Wednesday morning in the hold of the ship. Divers have been unable to work much at the ship in consequence of the heavy sea and dense fog.

We have received from the North West Territory copies of the Prince Albert Times and Saskatchewan Review, a new weekly paper started, Nov. 1, under the editorial management of Mr. Fitzgerald Cochrane, formerly of Halifax, who some time since removed to the North West.