

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N.S., December 27, 1882.

CLOSE OF 1882.

The close of another year draws near. It seems but yesterday it began. The rapid flight of time is a subject so hackneyed that we dare hardly mention it, and yet we must not lose sight of its lessons so appropriate at this season.

The completion of the earth's course around the sun is the most natural of all the divisions of Time. The time it takes, is not easily determined with such exactness as to make no variation in a long series of years.

As we draw near the last day of the Year memory will be busy recalling the events of the past. It is well that we should review from time to time what have been our mercies as well as what our mistakes and our sins have been.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

PREPARE YE THE WAY.

Before our next issue we shall have entered upon the New Year with its untold possibilities and responsibilities. And as the preacher often uses such a time to rivet a truth upon the heart and conscience of his hearers, so the religious newspaper which preaches to thousands in its silent but most effective manner, may also use the time to call attention to some truth which it deems of vital consequence.

No work can be well done without preparation, and of all the work that men have to do, none requires more care than the work of the Lord, either in the church of Christ or in individual souls.

Many people are waiting for God to come and bless them in their homes and in their churches, and they expect He will do it upon all their pride and covetousness, and worldliness, and sin.

criticisms, or what is almost equally bad, hold themselves aloof entirely, because his methods of work are not theirs, or the construction of his sentences are not made according to Lennie's rules.

DEATH OF MR. EWEN LAMONT.

On Wednesday evening last, just before the time of the Prayer Meeting in the Granville Street Church Vestry, Spring Garden Road, Mr. Lamont came in, having spoken in his usual pleasant manner to the Sexton at the door.

The closing meeting of Mr. Chubbuck's labors in our city was held on Friday evening in the North Baptist Church. The house was filled to overflowing.

A METHODIST ON INFANT BAPTISM.

It is somewhat remarkable that while great efforts are being made in some directions to claim that infants are the proper subjects for baptism, Rev. Jos. A. Beet, a popular Methodist minister, —the author of a valuable "Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans," —in his "Commentary on the Epistles to the Corinthians," recently published, fully sustains the Baptist practice on this subject.

That Paul is said to have baptized the three households of Lydia and the gaoler (Acts xvi. 15-33) and Stephanas (Acts xvi. 15-16) on the ground that these three families probably contained infants and that when Paul baptized the household he must have baptized the infants.

We commend this to the serious consideration of Rev. D. D. Currie and Rev. John Lathern.

The leaven of truth is spreading. Seed sown by feeble hands is carried away, takes root, and brings forth fruit in other lands. A teacher in the Granville Street Sabbath School married two or three years since, and removed to Astoria, Oregon.

A LETTER from Mentone to the London Freeman, dated Dec. 4th, says that Mr. Spurgeon was deriving so much benefit from the change and rest that he had decided to remain a week longer than he at first intended.

The same letter depicts the fearful amount and consequences of gambling that prevails at Mentone.

CHESTER is one of our oldest fields of the Baptist ministry, having enjoyed for many years the labors of the Rev. Joseph Dimock of blessed memory, and since then of Rev. S. W. DeBlois, Rev. T. W. Crawley.

Rev. I. J. Skinner and Reverend J. W. Weeks. The church building and the parsonage are finely situated, superior buildings. Bro. Weeks has accepted an invitation to Liverpool, and the Chester church, therefore need a pastor. We understand they would be glad to hear from a minister who would be likely to occupy the field.

Intemperance has been long doing the work of blunting the sensibilities of men and women, especially in England. Even justices of the peace in England seem hardened to the enormity of the crime of giving intoxicating drinks to minors.

On Tuesday, at Stockton, Mary Ann Luce, a little girl between eleven and twelve years of age, was charged with being helplessly drunk on Sunday night. She said she had been sent for some whisky, and a woman would not let her go until she had drunk some of it.

We find in our United States exchanges, notices of the death of Rev. J. M. Harris. Some of his relations, or those who knew him in his earlier days, are among our readers.

He died at Ithaca on Thursday, November 16, in the 70th year of his age. He was born at Cornwallis, in Nova Scotia, in 1813, where he was baptized at the age of 16 or 17 years, and where he fitted himself for college.

As a preacher of the word, he was spiritual, Biblical and eloquent. His knowledge of the Scriptures was profound. Rarely has it been our pleasure to listen to a man who was more pervaded by the spirit and letter of the gospel than he was.

He was twice married. A widow in Ithaca, and an only daughter in Ithaca, survive to mourn their loss. The funeral was held in the Baptist church at Ithaca, Sunday Nov. 19th.

Since the above was in type we have received a notice from Rev. S. B. Kempton containing a number of the facts above mentioned concerning the departed Rev. J. Masters Harris. Our brother states that Mr. H. was the son of the late John Harris Esq., of Cornwallis.

Baptists have of late years greatly increased in numbers in Sweden. Until about forty years ago the people of that country, were filled with superstition and altogether priest-ridden.

THE BAPTISTS IN SWEDEN.

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A severe persecution very soon broke out against them. Rev. Mr. Svenson writes:—An old member often told me that they were frequently in danger of their lives when they met to worship God.

After this the Baptist cause found other centres in the land. Stockholm especially became the centre of the work. Pastor Wiberg, with three other brethren, carried the work on there.

Precisely ten years and a month after Mr. Nilson's banishment, a few friends came together to organize themselves into a church of Christ. United as they were, with the first love in their hearts, they prayed earnestly that God would stand by His people, and give strength and prosperity to His church.

Persecution was not even now withheld. The little church had a great difficulty in obtaining a place for worship. Captain Schroder procured a piece of ground and built a private house, to which he added a hall for worship that would seat about 200 persons.

After some years faithful working the little hall was too small, and it became necessary to rent the large one in which the church worships at the present time. The church was for several years small in numbers, on account of the hardness of the field and the difficulties which had to be overcome.

We are glad to learn of the safe arrival at Maulmain, on November 7th, of Rev. Wm. George and family, and Rev. E. W. Kelly and wife.

A FACT WORTH MENTIONING.—Mrs. Ira Mulholland, of Oakville, was cured of dyspepsia and oft occurring bilious headache, by the use of Burdock Blood Bitters, the great blood purifying system regulating tonic, and matchless liver regulator.

Headache is one of those distressing complaints that depends upon nervous irritation, bad circulation, or a disordered state of the stomach, liver, bowels, &c.

Review of Books.

FUNK & WAGNALLS, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York, have sent us several new publications, just issued from their press:

1. A COMPEND OF BAPTISM, by William Hamilton, D. D. 12 mo., cloth, price 75 cents, pp. 233.

The aim and object of this work is to show "that affusion is, at least as classical and scriptural a mode of Baptism as immersion and that infants are entitled to it as their biblical right."

We accept his illustration, but with the change of Walking instead of "Locomotion" and would say: It is as proper to speak of the act of Baptism as the act of Walking.

Next we have No. 73 of the Standard Series: NEW TESTAMENT HELPS for any version of edition, Edited by Rev. W. F. Crafts, price 20 cents.

These 69 pages contain a mass of information in fine close print that might well fill 250 pages.

No. 74. OPIUM; England's coercive policy and its disastrous results in China and India. The spread of Opium Smuggling in America by John Liggins. Price 10 cents.

A valuable handbook on the opium question. In it are presented the most important facts, and the testimonies of the most eminent authorities, on the present vast extent of the opium traffic, more hurtful and ruinous than alcohol.

No. 76. THE LERSON IN THE CLOSET FOR 1883. By Charles F. Deems, D. D. Price 30 cents.

A series of articles by Dr. Deems attracted such attention, that the Dr. has prepared a similar series for the First Six months of 1883.

THE GOSPEL BY MARK IN PROSODYC SPELLING. By G. W. K. Price 15 cents.

Issued to illustrate the reform in spelling as suggested by an able advocate of this movement. Whatever improvement may be required in our English spelling to bring it more nearly to correspond with the pronunciation, we do not perceive that it is at all accomplished in this book.

THE CHILD'S GUIDE TO HEAVEN; OR, STORIES FOR CHILDREN. By Rev. E. Payson Hammond, the Children's Evangelist. Price, in paper, 10 cents; cloth, 40 cents.