

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 28, 1883.

UNREASONABLE MEN.

In addressing the brethren at Thessalonica, Paul had occasion to request their prayers on his behalf that he might be delivered from "unreasonable men." Many a zealous pastor is constrained at times to ask of his friends a similar favor. There are unreasonable men in the church as well as among the ranks of the ungodly; and some of the chief hindrances to the prosperity of Zion arise from this source.

Instead of the word "unreasonable," the margin gives the term absurd as a better rendering, indicating that the apostolic request was for deliverance from absurd men, persons whose whims and nonsense were continually interfering with the plans and efforts of Christian workers. The original Greek word, at opos, means out of place, an expression which well describes the chief characteristic of those men who do not seem to know their proper places and who are therefore disposed to be meddling and troublesome in matters which do not properly come under their jurisdiction.

There are various classes of unreasonable men in almost every community. Some of them are hobby-riders. They have their pet theories and objects which they persistently thrust upon the attention of their brethren, and all who do not show the same interest in these hobbies as is manifested by our unreasonable enthusiasts, are denounced in severe terms. Others love pre-eminence, and refuse to engage in anything good unless they are allowed to take the lead, and to control the proceedings in every philanthropic undertaking.

A peculiar class of "absurd men" is sometimes met with in those who exercise a sort of priestly supervision over ministers as well as churches, and give oracular verdicts as to what is proper and what is improper, even in the minute details of personal appearance or church furnishing. We understand that a very good member of one of our Maritime Baptist churches, declines to listen to ministers who wear moustaches, and denounces this ministerial appendage as being both wicked and vain. To inform him that the Creator is responsible for moustaches, and that Christ and his apostles undoubtedly wore them, is not enough to convince an unreasonable man of the absurdity of his whim.

We have heard of a man who took offence at seeing a bouquet of flowers on a pulpit one Sunday, and who never afterwards made his appearance at that place of worship. It will not surprise us to hear that he has ceased to visit the fields and moorlands for a similar reason. And it does not require a very strong imagination to picture out the course of that good man as he draws near the pearly gates and catching a glimpse of the "never fading flowers," turning away in sad disgust with the old complaint, "Another place of worship with those miserable flowers!"

But a far more dangerous class of men, "out of place," is found in those who have long since forsaken their post in the Christian church, and who now seek to cover their own unfaithfulness by finding fault with their brethren and conjuring up all sorts of complaints against faithful pastors. These unreasonable men do cheap work for the Devil, as they will find when the Master calls them to give an account of their stewardship. At a righteous tribunal they will learn that it would have been to their advantage to have watched their own course of life more closely, and to have given less attention to the notes in the eyes of their brethren.

Readers, let us all pray the good Lord that we may not be unreasonable, that the grace of common sense may be richly possessed by us, and that we may be delivered from the annoyances and opposition of unreasonable men.

The Halifax grain elevator had steam up and its machinery running on Friday morning. It is rumored that grain enough for two or three cargoes will be shortly sent here so as to test the working qualities of the machinery.

OUR INDIAN POPULATION.

The Blue Book issued by the Department of Indian Affairs, under the superintendency of the Right Hon. Sir John A. McDonald, Minister of the Interior, is a pamphlet of about 530 pages. It contains some most interesting information concerning our fellow citizens,—the aborigines of Canada. Let us glance at it.

THE CENSUS OF THE INDIANS in the Dominion in 1882 is as follows: Ontario.....17,126 Quebec.....11,089 Nova Scotia.....2,228 New Brunswick.....1,486 P. E. Island.....312 Manitoba and N. W. Territories.....37,044 British Columbia.....37,450 Rupert's Land.....3,770 Total.....110,505

The returns from Rupert's Land and parts of British Columbia are imperfect, and are little better than an estimate. But the total shows an increase of nearly 3,000 over last year's census. It will surprise many people not only to find such a large Indian population, but also to learn that their number is gradually increasing in all the Provinces. The generally received opinion that "the gentle race" is fast passing away, is, therefore, a popular fiction. In the older Provinces, where statistics have been carefully preserved, the facts show that they are increasing nearly as fast as the general population—irrespective of immigration. We find that in 1871 the census gave only about 12,000 Indians in Ontario, and 1,626 in Nova Scotia. The opposite of this, is, however, proved to be the case with some of the most degraded tribes in the northern parts of British Columbia. The agents report these people as fast decreasing, and unless a vigorous effort is made to reform and improve their condition, whole tribes must soon disappear altogether.

EXPENDITURE FOR INDIANS. The whole amount expended in connection with the Indians in 1882 was as follows: Manitoba and N. W. Territories.....\$1,099,796 90 British Columbia.....40,333 75 Ontario and Quebec.....32,300 00 Nova Scotia.....4,490 65 New Brunswick.....4,498 69 P. E. Island.....1,194 41 Total from consolidated funds.....\$1,183,414 40 Departmental expenses, Ottawa.....22,007 53 Indian Trust funds.....257,277 97 Mounted Police in North-West.....368,456 47 Total.....\$1,831,156 37

This, it will be seen, is nearly half a million dollars more than the previous year's expenditure. A large portion of it is for food for the destitute, seeds, stock, agricultural tools, farm-instructors, wages, clothing, schools, etc., and shows that the Government consider it cheaper and more humane to feed and instruct these "children of the wilds" than to fight and destroy them.

The sums granted to the different Provinces compared with the population show some singular inequalities in the treatment of these poor people. For instance, in the Maritime Provinces the expenditure is: \$6.40 for each Indian in Prince Edward Island; \$3.36 in New Brunswick; but only \$2.25 in Nova Scotia. In every respect, so far as this report discloses the facts, our poor N. S. Micmacs are shown to have about the same proportionately inferior resources, and are certainly in a much more unfortunate and neglected condition than their brethren in the adjoining Provinces. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. Which of our legislators will step forward and see that justice is done to our destitute Micmacs?

THE EDUCATION PROVIDED FOR THEM.

New schools have been established in almost every Province during the year. But the difficulties attendant upon conducting them with success are very great. In some places the reserves are situated so far from white settlements that it is almost impossible to secure the services of good teachers for them. The indifference of parents is a great hindrance. Their heathen priests or medicine men do their utmost to prejudice their minds against the introduction of educational institutions among them, especially those of a religious character. At best the attendance is very irregular, and add to this

the opposing impressions and vicious allurements incident to the daily return of the child from school to, in most cases, uncivilized camp life, and the difficulties in the way of good success in education among these people can be readily understood.

It is a serious question whether the establishment of industrial schools at a distance from the reserves will not be found to be the best policy in the new Provinces. The children can then be entirely separated from their families, and the bad influences of camp life, and be compelled to attend school. In addition to ordinary training they could thus be taught various trades, and be prepared to become effective civilizers on returning to their own people. Such schools have been established in the States, and are found to be very successful.

The Report shows that in the whole Dominion only 3,358 Indian children were on the rolls as having attended school a part of the time in 1882, while the daily average of attendance is only about half that number. This is considerably less than the number reported last year. It is gratifying to find that the agents report a desire evinced in many sections for better school facilities. In some places the little Micmacs are attending the public schools in this Province. There is abundant evidence, however, that their educational status is but in its infancy, and much work must yet be done in this department.

OUR INDIAN POLICY.

The policy inaugurated by the Government of Canada in respect to the Indians may be briefly and fairly claimed to be based upon the dictates of humanity and justice. We believe the Indians have "certain inalienable rights," to the land they occupy. These rights we have purchased from them by treaty obligations, which we are bound to carry out in their integrity.

The terms of the treaties negotiated by Governor Archibald in Manitoba in 1871 were briefly that each Indian family of five persons should receive 160 acres of land selected by themselves and cash \$15 a year, or land and dollars in this proportion, as there were more or less persons in the family. They were to receive animals as a nucleus for stocking their land with certain farming implements. Schools were to be established under certain conditions, and the liquor traffic was to be prohibited within their reserves.

These terms formed the basis of all subsequent treaties, and it is interesting to observe the measure of success which has been attained in carrying these stipulations into operation. The design appears to be to divide the tribes as much as possible into small bands, and allot to each band a separate reserve, and thus dissolve gradually their tribal cohesion,—to teach their "braves" the industries of civilized life,—to wean them away from the precarious pursuits of hunting, and to depend more upon the labors of their hands and the products of the soil for a living,—to introduce among them various kinds of trades by practical impulse and instruction,—to inspire them with a sense of responsibility through the ownership of private property, until educated and elevated they can be given the privileges of the franchise, and become merged in the body politic as independent and self-relying men, invested with all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

On the 9th of last December "Big Bear," chief of a large body of the Cree Indians, with chiefs "Pie-a-Pot," "Lucky-man," and "The-man-who-took-the-Coat," met the Commissioner at Fort Walsh, and gave in adhesion to the treaty. They were the last chiefs to hold out for "better terms," and when they can be allotted their reserves in the Spring it is felt that an important advance has been made in bringing about a peaceful settlement with these wild tribes of the North-West.

There has been no outbreak or serious feud among the Indians during the past year. There has been some trouble occasioned by horse stealing, and reprisals between different tribes in the North-West,—a vice to which they have long been addicted. Agent Denny, at Fort McLeod, says: "More trouble is caused by the stealing of women from each other than in any other way. This can only be stopped by the giving up the practice of selling their women for horses, as only a few are rich enough to

buy women now, and in consequence most of the young men who have no horses cannot get married, and, therefore, steal from some one rich in women, and as, of course, the old law among them of cutting off a woman's nose for leaving her husband is done away with, the women do about as they like."

THEIR RELIGION, MORALS, ETC.

The religious condition of the aborigines is far from satisfactory. Of the 75,000 Indians in the North-West and British Columbia it can only be said that they are pagans. There are a few hopeful missions stationed among them, but they are only oases in the spiritual wilderness. As fellow-citizens they have strong claims upon us. They present a fine field emphatically our own for missionary labor. Who will go up and possess the land?

Inspector E. McColl, in his report respecting the Indians of the North-West, gives an extended account of their religious customs, etc. He says: "Heathen Indians do not believe in any future punishment. All are admitted to the 'happy hunting grounds' when they die." From this it appears that they are Universalists! "Intermarriages between families bearing the same crest are interdicted, being considered morally improper. The custom followed by the Indian suitor is to make some present to the girl's father, with the object in view stated. If the proposal is favorably received, the young man is invited to his intended father-in-law's tent, and upon his arrival is directed to a particular seat. After smoking and eating, the girl is ordered by her mother to be seated beside him. This command must be obeyed, and constitutes the marriage ceremony."

The following item from the same report is repeated and re-echoed from every agency: "Whiskey traffic is still carried on to an alarming extent among the different bands within this Agency, by professional vagabonds, and the consequent demoralization is shocking to relate." The Indian appears to have no power to control indulgence in these vices of civilization, and, as a result, agents report that in sections where prohibition of intoxicating liquors is not enforced, especially in parts of British Columbia, the race is fast decimating.

As a curious instance of the results of superstition and ignorance Superintendent Powell of Victoria relates that on visiting one of their settlements he observed three small huts outside the village. He found that the women occupying them had been ostracised by the tribe owing to their misfortune in having given birth to twins. "The penalty is, that the mother and infant are subjected to starvation until one of the children dies, and the man who has been the progenitor is not allowed to fish or hunt for four years." Of course he broke up the quarantine much to the joy of the unfortunate and starving sufferers.

Blue Books are proverbially dry reading, but the pamphlet before us is certainly an exception to the rule. It is not merely a compendium of statistics and accounts, but it contains most elaborate reports from officers in charge of the various tribes and bands of Indians, replete with every variety of information respecting their present condition, and also a comprehensive sketch of the country they occupy with its varied resources and capabilities.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

The friends of the Cause of Temperance will be interested in the proceedings of our legislators both at Halifax and Ottawa on this great and important matter. In the House of Commons on Thursday week, Sir John A. Macdonald introduced the subject by moving that the following paragraph of his Excellency's speech at the opening of the session be readable, that is to say:

"I am advised that the judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council delivered last June on the appeal of Russel vs. the Queen goes to show that in order to prevent the unresisted sale of intoxicating liquors, and for that purpose to regulate the granting of shop, saloon and tavern licences, legislation by the Dominion Parliament will be necessary. Your earnest consideration of this subject is desired."

Sir John then moved that the paragraph be referred to a select committee of seventeen members, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to report by bill or otherwise, and that the said committee be composed

of Messrs. Blake, Ross (Middlesex), McCarty, Cameron (North Victoria), Blanchard, Laurier, DeJardins, Casgrain, Hall, Foster (King's County), Richey, Robertson (Shelburne), Brecken, Royal, Baker (Victoria, B. C.) and the mover, and that the rule is to determine, and the selection of members be subject to.

Sir John in reply to a request from Hon. Mr. Blake explained that the motion was brought down with a view of getting the views of the members from the different Provinces, where diverse laws were now on the books.

Mr. Blake said it must have been a great disappointment, even among the hon. gentleman's own supporters, at the brief explanation he had made of his motion. The hon. gentleman says they have not been able to find out the laws of the other provinces, even now, the sixth week of this session. If they have neglected to have informed themselves, as they say they have, of the laws, they were guilty of a great wrong to the people.

Mr. Blake said further if this measure be carried, and the committee brought in a report which suited the hon. gentleman opposite, he would probably present it as his own measure, but if it was unsatisfactory, he would then offer it as a scheme of the Opposition. The government had decided that legislation regarding the liquor interests was necessary, and then began their attempts upon it. They had asked to leave the matter to seventeen members to relieve them of all responsibility. He was opposed to the motion from beginning to end as an unknown precedent and wholly unconstitutional.

Mr. Rykert said the Dominion Government would neglect its duty if it shirked the responsibility of regulating the liquor traffic. They had passed the Scott Act, which never worked satisfactorily and was the cause of great litigation and was highly unsatisfactory to the temperance people themselves. The committee proposed was to assimilate the laws as regards the several Provinces and prepare a liquor law satisfactory to all.

The question was then put, on a division and resulted as follows: Yeas, 111; nays 69. After some debate Sir John Macdonald gave notice that he would on Monday move to substitute the following names for those of the Opposition members who declined to serve: Messrs. Shakespeare, Bowell, Gigault, Landry and Allison. Carried.

The Opposition members who declined were, Messrs. Blake, Ross (of Middlesex), Burpee (of St. John), Laurier, Casgrain and Robertson (of Shelburne).

In the Nova Scotia House of Assembly the Temperance Question was up for consideration in a somewhat different shape. The Hon. Mr. Fielding brought in a Bill to amend the Liquor Licence Bill providing that when a liquor seller had once obtained a majority of the names of the rate payers in his district, in favor of his selling, he should be permitted to continue to hold his license until a majority of the rate payers petitioned against his having his license granted. This bill called forth considerable debate and on its second reading on Thursday was thrown out—only five voting for it.

The Recorder in a courteous allusion to our recent references to Methodist Union, seems to have slightly misapprehended our meaning. We do not dislike the idea of such a Union. On the contrary, we regard the unification of the various Christian denominations as in every way proper and desirable, when such unity is practicable, and especially when it does not involve dangerous and unscriptural compromises.

The Dartmouth Temperance Reform Club has been doing good service in trying to diminish the number of rum-shops. Rum-sellers have had difficulty in getting their petitions signed by the requisite number of ratepayers; only two—W. H. Green and Paul Farrell—had obtained the number when the Committee last met. It is a disreputable business to which no decent man should descend. Even the money made from it is by many regarded as unclean and having a curse upon it.

The Mission of Baptists is of course to preach the Gospel to all the nations. But they have also other important work to do, which seems to devote peculiarly upon them; the distinctive Mission of Baptists is shown as follows by the N. Y. Examiner:—

"To contend for the principle that the Bible is the only and infallible standard of faith and practice;" "to see to it that the Scriptures are faithfully studied and correctly interpreted;" and, lastly, "to insist with undiminished strenuousness upon the principle of unquestioning obedience, not only to the explicit, but to the implicit commands of the Scriptures."

News of the World.

The slight injury noticed last week received by the Queen caused some anxiety for a day or two afterwards. Bulletins were issued. On Wednesday the crowd surrounding the bulletin was so great that those in the rear could not make it out, and a demand for a reader was made. A strong voiced man mounted a pile of paving stones and cried out the intelligence. When the man motioned to make his first utterance, the entire crowd, which was almost exclusively composed of working men, uncovered and was still. The bulletin produced a most evident depression. The bulletin announced that the knee upon which Her Majesty fell when she slipped upon the stairs had become greatly swollen, and that every effort was being made to confine the swelling.

On Friday the Marquis of Lorne received the following authentic news concerning the Queen: "Her Majesty is suffering from the effects of a slight sprain of the knee and will soon be well."

A vacancy in the House of Commons has been caused by the resignation of John Dillon.

It is rumored that two barrels of powder have been found in the vicinity of large gasometers at King's Cross, London.

At Birkenhead a large employer discharged all his Irish workmen, declaring he would no longer disgrace himself by paying people who foster an as-a-situation.

At a special meeting of the Charity Organizing Society to promote emigration a letter from Sir Alexander Galt, high commissioner for Canada, was read. The writer said the Canadian Government would not sanction emigration to Canada of habitual paupers; she was willing to absorb destitute boys and girls in reasonable numbers, to provide a periodical inspection of them and a record of their disposal.

John Bright, in his address as rector of the Glasgow University, said American independence, the French revolution and the English reform bill had transferred power from monarchs and statesmen to the people. With regard to Ireland, he said if the treaty of Limerick had been fulfilled and freedom of religion granted, the sad history of that country might never have been recorded. India was the great problem of the future.

France is not yet free from her political troubles. On Monday of last week a motion was made in the House of Deputies for granting amnesty to political press offenders. The minister of the Interior opposed it as untimely, and it was rejected by 399 to 83. The Chambers adjourned for a month.

The Czar has received letters threatening him with death unless he pardons the imprisoned nihilists.

Two dynamite depots have been discovered at St. Petersburg. Forty persons were arrested on the 19th. The week's arrests number two hundred, including pupils of military schools and railway officials. Bismarck has granted 20,000 marks to assist German firms in competing at the colonial exhibition to be held at Amsterdam. He will introduce a motion for an increase of duties on Spanish goods 50 per cent.

The eruption of Mount Etna is increasing in violence, and several villages are in danger of being overwhelmed by lava. Residents of the threatened places are fleeing, assisted by troops. Prince Louise is expected to arrive at Ottawa next week.

Several localities at the foot of Mount Ararat have been destroyed by a snow slide. It is stated that 150 people have been killed and 100 injured.

A despatch from California last week said that in consequence of the small amount of rain fears were entertained for the wheat and barley crops. The fruit and grape crops promise an abundant yield.

A REMARKABLE FACT.—It is a remarkable fact W. A. Edgers, of Frankville, who was so far gone with liver and kidney complaint that his life was despaired of, was cured with four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters. At one day he lay a fortnight without an operation of the bowels.

DECLINE OF MAN.—Nervous, Weakness, Dyspepsia, Impotence, Sexual Debility, cured by "Wells' Health Renewer." \$1.

Three years ago St. Julian, the great California trotter, was unknown; the same may be said of Kendall's Spaven Cure. Now both have a world wide reputation. Why? Because they both have merit. One is a great trotter, the other is the most successful remedy ever discovered to be used on man or beast. Read advertisement.

A PRAISEWORTHY OBJECT.—"None name it but to praise." This is true of that unsurpassed remedy, "Hagyard's Yellow Oil." It cures pain and inflammation, whether from sprain, burn, bruise, or frost bite, lame back, rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat, croup, deafness, and is for internal and external use.

KIDNEY DISKASE.—Pain, Irritation, Retention, Incontinence, Deposits, Gravel, &c., cured by "Euchupaisa." \$1.