

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 16, 1884.

THEN AND NOW.

The remains of slavery still appear in the Southern States. We have received several copies of the Virginia Baptist Companion, a small weekly newspaper. It is we suppose published by the colored people, if not by them it is in their interest, and is said to be "the Official Baptist State organ," for the African Churches we presume. One column of the paper is appropriated to "Their lost friends. Please to find them." It is filled with notices of members of families who were sold and taken away from their homes in the days of slavery. Some of the appeals are most touching, and draw aside the veil and give us a glance at what things used to be done only a few years ago when men and women were held as chattels by their fellow men. Let us be thankful that these iniquities are now only matters of history, but to those who suffered of sad recollections. Here are two or three specimens of sad notices:

My daughter whose former name was Eliza Wilkerson, but has been married and now bears the name of Eliza Waldrip. Mother and Father, Jane Martha and Henry Wilkerson. She formerly belonged to Jas. Richardson, of Louisa Co., Va., and was sold by him to Richmond, about the first year of the war and was carried from there, and sold again to the western parts of Mississippi. Please find her if possible. Address Mrs. Martha Wilkerson Louisa C., H., Va.

PORTSMOUTH, VA., 1883.

I am inquiring for my children who was sold before the war. Their names are Oscar and Maro Williams, who belonged to John Mart Hinton, in Pasquotank Co., N. C., their mistress was named Kitie Hinton and my name was Amelia Hinton—I too belonged to the same people. My husband's name was George Williams who belonged to Bill Williams of the said county. The last I heard from my daughter she was in Charleston, S. C.

If any information can be heard from them please write their mother, AMELIA WILLIAMS, No. 512, South St., Portsmouth Va.

Another one says:—

I was sold when but ten years of age by the child or youngest son of the Austons. My father was named Jesse, mother was named Amy, oldest sister was named Betsy, &c.

We all did belong to the Auston family, near Buckingham C. H., Va. Please find any or all of these if possible.

Another says:—

I was sold from Nansemond Co. from my brother and my daughter who was afterwards sold in Richmond, Alice Kelly, my mother, still lives near Suffolk, Va. If any one knows of the whereabouts of these brothers they will address me at Portsmouth Va., in care this paper. Alice Green.

In another part of the paper is an account of the departure of two missionaries to labor in Africa—Rev. W. W. Colley and wife, and Rev. J. H. Preley and wife. The editor remarks:—

"These sacrificing servants of the Master have been faithfully laboring since their appointment, to raise means for said field of labor.—they have rested day nor night since the adjournment of the Convention, and the result is, that many who had little or no feeling in the arduous work of evangelizing Africa, have been aroused, and will in future do much for this long neglected field."

THE Portland, Maine, Zion's Advocate has made a change in its form, from a four page to an eight page sheet and is otherwise improved and enlarged. We have for many years had the pleasure of reading the Advocate. The pleasant acquaintance formed with its present editor last summer has increased our interest in what was always highly appreciated as one of the most carefully conducted papers on our list of exchanges.

THE Siderial Messenger, January, 1884, conducted by W. W. Payne, director, Carleton College Observatory. The editor has an able paper on the Red Sunsets of the past two or three months. The discussion of siderial matters is full of interest. This magazine takes cognizance of all the changes in the canopy above, whether it be the blue of the day or the black of the night with its bright sparkling gems. The language is almost too technical for the common reader.

A COMPARISON of the Criminal Statistics of Halifax, N. S., and St. John, N. B. The following tables present some curious comparisons, as well as show the facts as gathered from the court documents:

Table with 2 columns: Location (Halifax, St. John, Portland) and Statistics (Population, Abusive language, Assault, etc.)

Table with 2 columns: Occupation (Laborers, Sailors, Soldiers, etc.) and Statistics (Halifax, St. John)

The others before the courts had miscellaneous occupations. Of the 1,244 prisoners charged as above in Halifax, 92 were males and 322 were females. There were 839 single, 356 married, 33 widows and 16 widowers.

Table with 2 columns: Religion (Roman Catholics, Episcopal, Presbyterian, etc.) and Statistics (Halifax, St. John)

Table with 2 columns: Where Born (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ireland, etc.) and Statistics (Halifax, St. John)

Portland might be very properly considered a part of St. John. It is as much a part of that city as Richmond is a part of Halifax. In Portland there were 519 cases before the police court, of which 438 were for drunkenness and consequent crimes. The record then stands as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Cases in Halifax, St. John and Portland, Excess over Halifax

THE great subject of our local politics has been the transfer of the Eastern Extension Railway, from New Glasgow to the Strait of Canso, from the N. S. government to the Dominion government. On Wednesday last Mr. D. Pottinger, Chief Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway, arrived at New Glasgow and met Mr. C. A. Scott, General Manager of the Nova Scotia Railway. Arrangements were made for the immediate transfer.

Mr. Scott issued a circular to the employees of the road, in which he says: GENTLEMEN.—I have to inform you that the Nova Scotia Government has entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada for the sale of the Nova Scotia Railway (lately known as Eastern Extension) to the last named Government, and that pending the ratification of such agreement by legislation, an arrangement has been made whereby the Government of Canada are to be placed in possession. Pending the necessary legislation the road will still be operated in the name of the Government of Nova Scotia, but the management will be in the hands of the officers of the Intercolonial Railway. You will therefore, from this date (9th Jan.), take your instructions from the Intercolonial Railway authorities.

Mr. Pottinger also issued a Circular stating that he assumed the management

on behalf of the Intercolonial authorities as follows:

To the officers and employees of the Nova Scotia Railway: The Nova Scotia Railway will on and after the 9th inst, be operated under the direction of the officials of the Intercolonial Railway. All persons now employed on the Nova Scotia Railway will continue to discharge the same duties as heretofore, and they will be governed by the same rules and regulations and orders as are in force on the N. S. Railway on this date. Time table No. 1 and special rules dated December 10th, 1883 will continue in force. The station and train service will be under the direction of Mr. J. J. Wallace, District Superintendent, Truro.

THE Report of the Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax, 1883 has been placed upon our table. It contains some valuable information respecting the present condition of our Common Schools, and the High School, together with full statistics of attendance, expenditure, &c. The total number of teachers employed in the Common Schools was 98—and the number of pupils on the register was 5,618 being one in six of the entire population. The total amount of expenditure was \$71,981, viz.: \$63,979 for Common Schools and \$8,002 for the High School. The average cost per pupil was \$11.37. To meet the wants of boys who are employed during the day and young men who are unable to attend the day schools, night schools were conducted at four central localities during last winter with good results. Accommodation was also afforded to the Women's Christian Association in the Acadian School for giving instruction to a large class of factory and servant girls during the winter evenings.

The officers of the Board for the present year are Wm. Ackhurst, Esq., chairman; J. R. Wilson, Secretary, and John McKay, supervisor of schools.

THE Week of Prayer services concluded on Saturday afternoon, or perhaps, more properly on Sunday afternoon last, when a meeting of deep interest, was held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall. It was regarded as the best meeting of the whole. Peter Lynch, Esq., occupied the chair, and Rev. J. W. Manning gave the principal address.

AT Dartmouth the Union meetings were held as indicated last week, and on Sunday evening a meeting of half an hour for prayer was held by agreement of the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists, after the other services, in the Baptist Church, Rev. P. Morrison, Presbyterian, presided. It is now for the churches to be looking for the answers to the prayers offered.

Miss E. H. PAYNE recently from Burmah, one of the missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union, formerly a member of G. Anville Street Church, is on a visit to her parents at Bedford. She was in the city last week attending the meetings, and visited the Granville Street Sabbath School on Sunday. She was to be present last evening at the Annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies in Halifax in the North Baptist Church.

Miss Payne has with her a young girl from Burmah, who is to pursue a course of study in America, by way of preparation for the practise of medicine when she returns to Burmah. Miss Payne will spend about two years in visiting the Mission Bands of the Churches in the United States.

THE YOUNG REAPER is the oldest of the Sunday-school periodicals issued by our Baptist Publication Society. It well deserves the large circulation to which it has attained—nearly a quarter of a million copies per month. Dr. Griffith personally edits it. Fine paper, attractive engravings, and first-rate articles, form its attractions. Its price is 12 cents a year for the monthly, and 24 cents for the semi-monthly edition. Any school that has not yet taken it can obtain a full supply for one month, free by applying to the Society, Philadelphia, or its Branches.

The Moncton Transcript tells of a railway employe D. Blue being killed by falling from a snow plough on Saturday week.

Literary.

THE FAMILY OF THE BLACK FOREST: A TALE OF THE PEASANTS' WARS. By the author of OLD BRISTOL. Price, \$1.50. American Baptist Publication Society, 1420 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

It is quite refreshing to find a book published on this side of the Atlantic, giving some account of the stirring times previous to and during the period of the great Reformation, and that too from the stand point of Baptist principles and practices, showing how the leaders viewed those practices. This story opens in 1524. It shows how the Reformers, just delivered from the papal yoke, nevertheless visited with fines, imprisonment, and death the Baptists, who desired not only a Scriptural theology, but also a Scriptural church and ordinances.

This family of the Black Forest dwelt on the banks of the Alb River, and not very far from Waldshut, where Dr. Hubmeier labored with great energy and large success. We are introduced to the family by extracts from the diaries of two of its members, Gretchen and Agatha, who were just coming up to womanhood. An uncle of the young writers also adds recollections of important events in the development of the tale. It was a strange and striking time that is depicted in the diaries of the maidens. Luther, Melancthon, Carlstadt, Zwingli, were living and working; and the Baptists, Hubmeier, Mantz, Reublin, were playing their parts in the efforts made to spread the pure truth of God; the oppression of the nobles and of the monasteries were bearing heavily on the peasants, who first murmured, and finally broke out into open revolt—a revolt which was ruthlessly crushed out after the sacrifice of the lives of a hundred thousand of them.

The author has evidently studied with special care the history of the period, the manners and customs of the times, and the topography of the places spoken of, and has produced a faithful picture of life in that season of upheaval and trial. The style in which it is written is one of the peculiar charms of the work. It is chaste and beautiful, admirably fitting itself to the tale of the family that was to be told by the parties who had the deepest possible interest in the events recorded. We see the progress of the gospel and observe its working in those to whom it comes and who receive it; we learn something of the progress of the Baptists and the heroism of some of the members of the family, who see the truth and faithfully follow the way the Lord points out, even at the greatest personal risk. One of the touching scenes of the work shows what the risks were; it is the examination of Gretchen before the magistrates of Zurich, to which place she had been brought as a prisoner after her baptism at St. Gallen.

The work is issued in very handsome style, with eight beautiful illustrations, several of them views of places mentioned in the tale. There is also a neat map of the Black Forest, that will be useful to many readers.

A PART of the "Mystery" of Dickens' uncompleted novel, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," will be revealed in the February CENTURY by Mrs. Alice Meynell, in describing "How Edwin Drood Was Illustrated." Several of the unpublished studies made by Fields, the artist for the story will accompany the paper.

BIBLICAL LIGHTS AND SIDE LIGHTS.—A Cyclopaedia of ten thousand illustrations, and thirty thousand cross-references. By Rev. Charles E. Little. Royal 8vo, 630 pages. Price \$4.00. Pub. by Funk & Wagnalls New York. Halifax S. F. Huestis 141 Granville Street.

The publisher claims that it is unique in its design. Not only is it wholly unlike every other volume of Biblical quotations, but it also fills a place for which no other book has been prepared, so far as we know. Other books illustrate the Bible. This reverses the order and furnishes illustrations from the Bible for every other book as well as all addresses. The Bible is so applied as to throw the light of its great truths, and the side-lights of interesting incidents, upon a vast number of religious, secular and miscellaneous topics.

It is designed to meet a want which the Concordance cannot supply, because the latter is limited in its references to the Anglo-Saxon words in which the Bible is printed. An examination of the first one hundred topics in Biblical Lights (including five hundred and fifty-seven articles), discloses the fact that fifty-four of these topics are not Biblical words; but such as Ambition, Amusement, etc. And more than four-fifths of all the articles do not contain the typical word, hence the Concordance would not direct one to the quotation as illustrative of the topic under which they appear.

It is comprehensive in its range of topics. Almost every phase of character and vicissitude of life is here illustrated. It has nearly two thousand topics. These relate to religion, philosophy, science, art, social life, and political government. Designed for

religious teachers chiefly, but also for lawyers, statesmen, and public writers.

Sunday-school teachers will discover a vast storehouse of interesting illustrative incidents, with their application clearly suggested by the titles given.

It is timely. Fitting an age which asks for facts, and delights in illustrative methods of communicating the same. Also fitting the modern revival of expository preaching.

Other illustrations become wearisome by repetition. Those from the Bible are fresh forever. They will ever dignify the discourse in which they are reverently used.

JOHN FOSTER: LIFE AND THOUGHTS, by W. W. Everts D. D., published by Funk & Wagnalls, Dey Street, New York.

Those who are not familiar with John Foster's writings have a treat in store when they come to his Essays. He was regarded as one of the most original and suggestive writers of this century. His conceptions dazzle with their splendor, and awe with their majesty, and he has been called "The Modern Shakespeare." He was an intimate friend of the "Silver-tongued" Robert Hall, the most popular preacher of his day, and like him a staunch Baptist.

Few writers of the English language have furnished richer materials for a collection of this kind. The compiler has given us gleanings on a wide variety of vital subjects, and not a paragraph but is worthy of preservation. Those who have Foster's works in full will find this volume to be greatly desirable. These thoughts are numbered and arranged alphabetically under their appropriate topics, while a copious index at the close places these rich treasures of thought, sentiment and aids to literary and spiritual culture at the ready disposal of every reader. They throw light upon almost every theme.

The Biography embraces an estimate of his intellectual, literary and religious character, illustrated from his writings. His thoroughness as a thinker, his deep love and exquisite appreciation of the beauties of nature, and his natural "mother wit," all exerted a positive influence upon the character of his compositions. To these must be added distinctive social and moral traits that gave direction to his public and private life and that reveal themselves in the tone of his writings.

THEOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, by Dr. Gustav Friedrich Oehler. A Revision, &c., by George E. Day, Professor of Hebrew, &c., Yale College. An American edition, published by Funk & Wagnalls, S. F. Huestis, General Agent, 141 Granville Street, Halifax. Royal 8vo, pp. 800. Price \$3.00.

This is a standard work, and is used as a Text Book in Yale, Princeton, New Brunswick, and other Theological Seminaries. This book has given fresh interest to the study of Hebrew in consequence of the many Hebrew passages cited and commented on by Dr. Oehler. The work also covers the whole ground of Israelitish History and Jewish Archaeology, in their intimate connection with Old Testament theology.

THE MARKED FEATURES OF THE WORK ARE: 1. The supernatural and gradual progress of revelation as exhibited in the Old Testament, a subject now so prominent in the face of the skeptical denials of our times. 2. Its wide sweep of thought, embracing the whole field of Israelitish History and theocratic ordinances and sacred institutions of the Jews, and weaving the whole into an organic unity of which the final expression is Christ. 3. The thoroughness which marks the investigation and discussion of every topic. 4. And the positive and generally satisfactory results to which the author arrives.

Joseph T. Duryea, D.D., Boston, says:—

"Oehler represents the best results of the study of 'Progress of Doctrine in the Old Testament,' and prepares the way for the construction of Biblical Theology proper, in the unity of a system founded on theological principles, viz.: the relations of divine self-manifestations, and communications, and operations, throughout the period of the history of revelation, to the ends of revelation."

MY SAINT JOHN, by James Ludlow, published by Funk and Wagnalls, New York.

A small pamphlet containing a most pathetic and deeply interesting sketch of life and death in the lowest stratum of New York society. It will be read with intense interest.

Another Tract by the same publishers— IS ROMANISM GOOD ENOUGH FOR ROMANISTS? By Justin D. Fulton, D. D. Price, Single number 6 cts. 50 copies, \$2.50. 100 copies \$4.00.

Dr. Fulton does not believe in mincing matters nor in keeping back what he believes to be the truth. Here is a fair discussion of an important question, Romanists and Protestants might read it with profit.

I've heard cunning old stagers say fools for arguments use wagers.

Home News.

Nova Scotia.

The Halifax County Council was in session on Wednesday last and following days when the Warden and 24 Councillors were present. The Warden presented his address showing the work done during the recess.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:— County Warden—B. W. Chipman. County Clerk and Treasurer—W. H. Wiawley.

County Stipendiary and Clerk of Licences—J. L. Griffin. County Auditors—John E. Albro and D. Henry Starr.

The Treasurer's yearly statement was presented, showing the total expenditure, \$48,514.37, and the receipts \$46,310.64.

The salary of the County Stipendiary was made \$800, instead of \$600. The following are the estimates for the current year as compared with the past year:

Table with 2 columns: Item (Hospital for Insane, County Jail, etc.) and Amount (1883, 1884)

School assessment required by law, 9,545, 9,545. Total, \$38,365, \$38,570.

The County Treasurer reported that in the past year bounties had been paid for killing 49 wild cats and 38 bears in the county of Halifax.

Ayer's Hair Vigor improves the beauty of the hair and promotes its growth. It imparts an attractive appearance, a delightful and lasting perfume. While it stimulates the roots, cleanses the scalp, and adds elegance to luxuriance, its effects are enduring; and thus it proves itself to be the best and cheapest article for toilet use.

The stone breaking by industrious men out of work is being done in the shiels erected for cattle on the Exhibition grounds.

The Antigonish Aurora says there are three Indian schools in Cape Breton, one in Cape Breton Co., one in Victoria, one in Inverness.

Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders will positively prevent all ordinary diseases common to horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and fowl, besides constantly improving them. Beware of the large packs; they are worthless.

A telegram from Annapolis on Saturday gives the sad intelligence that Mrs. Lawrence Delap was found drowned in a water cask. The cask had about seven inches of water in it. Verdict of the jury "found drowned."

Harvey Schofield was killed on Tuesday afternoon in the Berwick steam mill by a board thrown from the saw. The deceased leaves a wife and six children.

At the City Council meeting last week the monthly report of the City Prison showed:

Table with 3 columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows: In custody Nov 30th, 19, 25, 44; Admitted during Dec, 21, 16, 37; Discharged during Dec, 40, 41, 81; In custody Dec 31st, 19, 22, 41.

The Brigetown Monitor says:—Two million bushels of potatoes were raised in King's County last year, for which there is no market.

THE RESERVE BAND OF HOPE gave a pleasing entertainment on Thursday evening in the Basement of the National School building. The juveniles acquitted themselves in good style in songs, duets, choruses, recitations, dialogues and speeches. In the absence of the regular organist Mrs. H. D. Holloway, from sickness, Miss Harris presided at the organ with much efficiency.

We caution our readers to beware of diphtheria, pneumonia, influenza, bronchitis, congestion of the lungs, coughs and colds at this season of the year. Get a bottle of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment and keep it ready for instant use. It may save your life. It has saved thousands.

Mrs. George Jollimore on Friday last about 10 o'clock in the morning took a dose of poison and although discovered and attended by two doctors died about half past seven in the evening. She had a family of seven sons and six daughters. At the Coroner's inquest it was discovered that she had sent a little girl for the poison—Rough on Rats. The jury found a verdict of death from taking rat poison while laboring under a fit of temporary insanity.

Moncton boasts that whilst 7 or 8 years ago there was not a single establishment in the town providing fresh meat oftener than twice a week, now Moncton's meat stores will compare favorably with those of St. John or Halifax.