

ominous as indicative of an intention in the fellows to push their honest researches still further on some future occasion. Thefts are on the increase in our city, and murders have not been uncommon among the natives.

But it is a relief to turn from such details, and be able to give you a scrap of good news. A fortnight ago I baptized a young man who is the son of the first man baptized, and makes the fifth member of the Henthadah church. My labours in the zayat are rather encouraging, and the evident Christian growth and expansion of our little band of disciples affords us much comfort. I remember a fellow-student at Newton writing home after he had reached his Mission field, that if he could live to raise up a church of one hundred members, he would feel willing then to depart. I believe he has not yet baptized one of the hardened caste-ridden Assamese. "By faith, and not by sight," is indeed the Missionaries' most appropriate motto.

Ever most sincerely yours,

ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

For the Christian Messenger.

Baptized Households.

Messrs. Editors,

The account given in the New Testament of the baptism of three households, has been frequently urged as an argument in favour of the baptism of infants. At the first view it may appear somewhat plausible. The inconclusiveness, however, of this argument has often been clearly shewn. Besides other convincing considerations, numerous instances have been adduced in which whole families belong to Baptist churches. (See *Baptist Principles Vindicated*, pp. 56-63.)

I deem it proper to present to your readers, a fact bearing on this subject, that comes at this time under my immediate observation. In my own house and the five houses that are nearest to it there are four households composed entirely of persons baptized on a profession of faith in Christ. They are all members of the Baptist Church under my pastoral care. The stubborn fact, that in six houses adjacent to each other there is a greater number of baptized households than is reported in all the Churches of which we have accounts in the New Testament, requires no comment.

Ever yours in Christ,

C. TAPPIN.

Lower Aylesford, Oct. 8, 1856.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 15, 1856.

Mission to Australia.

The Minutes of the Convention have not yet reached us, and we are therefore not aware who compose the Board appointed to manage and direct this movement—as no official information on the subject has been made public, we were not aware that any action would take place, at least until such information should be given to the churches comprising the Convention. A notice however appears in the *Visitor*, though without any signature official or otherwise or reference to any governing body, that Bro. Wallace "has resolved upon" visiting the churches of Nova Scotia during the ensuing week, from Digby to Yarmouth and Liverpool, &c., to present the claims of the Australian Mission, and "the Pastors" are called on "to give publicity to the appointments and aid our esteemed Brother in every possible way in securing the objects of his Mission." We trust we shall be pardoned for suggesting that it would have been more for the advantage of the important work, which our respected brother has undertaken, to have made it known more generally before he commenced operations, so that sufficient time might have been given to "the Pastors" to give it publicity among their people. As it now stands it would seem too much like taking the Nova Scotia Churches by surprise. For ourselves we wish to exercise no other influence than to have the decisions of the Convention properly carried out, both with regard to this and all other objects for which it was formed.

Our Churches, we know, are deeply interested in all the benevolent operations of the Denomination, and if the appeal for Australia came before them in a regular manner they would doubtless engage in it heartily, as a measure upon which the Convention had matured and prayerfully decided; but should the sympathies and support now sought for, be less than may possibly be anticipated, it may very properly be attributed to the manner in which the subject has been introduced, as it cannot

be well expected that an anonymous notice in a New Brunswick Paper should be sufficient to enlist the full co-operation of the Baptists of Nova Scotia. Baptist churches and Pastors, whether in this Province or elsewhere, being subject to no spiritual or editorial dictation, will always be free to exercise their own judgment in this as in every other matter. The Missionary to Australia will require to be sustained, as well as to be sent out thither, and that at Australian rates of expenditure, and it will be well at the outset to act with great prudence and caution, and especially to guard against giving any impression that may injuriously affect it either at its commencement or in future years.

Brother Cyr the Agent of the Grande Ligne Mission, as mentioned in our last, addressed a large and attentive audience at the Temperance Hall, on the 7th inst., on the progress of the Gospel among the Canadian French. He is now journeying westward in fulfilment of his mission, where we hope and believe he will meet with the success which his object merits, and which is so essential to the vital interests of the excellent institutions of Grande Ligne. Our friends who may have the privilege of hearing Bro. Cyr will remember that his native language, in which he of course always thinks, and almost always speaks and writes, is French, and although he speaks excellent English, readily and grammatically, he does not of course do it with the same fluency as in his native tongue. May be on leaving the Province be enabled to render a good account of the liberality of the religious portion of those parts of the country he may have visited, and especially of our Baptist friends in the West.

We insert a communication on our first page from our beloved Brother the Rev. Arthur Crawley. We regret that he has again been troubled with such unpleasant nightly visitors as his letter describes. There is however much reason for gratitude that the lives of himself and family were not more endangered by the pilfering banditti, who in that country add so largely to the perils and anxieties of the Missionary life. We defer offering any comment on the proceedings of the Convention respecting Foreign Missions, or on the action of the Foreign Missionary Board until we have official information concerning the same, as we are not desirous of forestalling by any remarks of ours, those who now have this important matter under their charge; but we would commend the case of Brother Crawley to the prayerful consideration of our readers. Although not dependant on our churches, yet he is more fully identified with the Denomination in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, than any other Missionary to the heathen. The dangers of a life in the "dark places of the earth" may well incite us to pray for his safety as well as for his success in the momentous work of bringing souls to Christ. The difference of opinion which appears to have prevailed at the Convention as to whether our Foreign operations shall be an independent mission; or through the American Society, or by any other means, will we trust not have the effect of diminishing our interest in those nations of the earth who are still sunk in barbarism and idolatry, but that we shall still consider that "the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few," and shall "pray therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

The following we clip from the *Ch. Times* as an extract from the *Literary Churchman* in reference to the young Baptist Preacher, who for two years past has been enchainning the minds of countless thousands in London and many of the most populous cities in Britain. We can call to mind the occasion on which a Preacher, at whose feet we believe Mr. Spurgeon has sat with profit, was styled a "Babbler" by the refined judgment of men of a like spirit with the writer quoted by the *Church Times*. Whatever of buffoonery there may be about Mr. Spurgeon, there is one thing most certain, that he is being made the instrument of converting multitudes from the ways of sin and folly to a saving knowledge of Christ—very many of them, no doubt, from among the populace who hear him so gladly. We suppose there is no doubt that Mr. S. has eccentricities that might be spared, but so had George Whitfield, and so had Rowland Hill, who, notwithstanding, or rather perhaps on account of the signal success which God gave to their ministry, were honoured by fastidious critics with the same appellatives as himself. We would suggest to all who pen or approve of such paragraphs as the

following, that there are other qualifications than those of always speaking with acceptance to "ears polite" required to constitute a true minister of Christ, and from all that we have heard or read of Mr. Spurgeon's ministrations, we believe he possesses such in an eminent degree.

"There is no use denying that the populace has an appetite for grossness both in morals and religion. A preacher at the present time at Exeter Hall, on Sunday evenings, who mingle low buffoonery with high Calvinism, is the 'great attraction' in London. He wants a chapel capable of holding 15,000!"—*Literary Churchman*.

Halifax City Mission.

We have been requested to copy an article on the above Mission from the *Presbyterian Witness*. We would gladly do so but for its length, as it would more than fill two columns. The importance of the work can scarcely be over-estimated. There is abundant room for much more vigorous and extensive operations in the City. The following extracts will give a good general view of the mission.

It is a melancholy fact, only too easily proved, that there are many in this city who are utterly ignorant of the truths of the Gospel, and utterly regardless of the law of God—living here as if there were no hereafter—poor and outcast—in connexion with no Church and apparently beyond the reach of any Church. It was with a view to the amelioration of the spiritual condition of these that the HALIFAX CITY MISSION was formed in the spring of 1852. It was founded on a catholic, evangelical basis; and ministers and laymen belonging to the various Churches of this city united, with the utmost readiness and cordiality, to forward its interests.

The first Missionary, Mr. Gordon, was engaged in May, 1852, and continued to labour in connexion with the Mission for the space of two years. It was with much reluctance that the Committee of this Mission parted with him when he felt it his duty to enter on another sphere of usefulness. Mr. John Steele, Mr. Gordon's successor, showed himself a competent and useful labourer, and was in the Committee's employ for one year. Mr. Morton, the present City Missionary, entered on his duties on the 15th May last, and has ever since laboured zealously and indefatigably.

Mr. Gordon says, "I would call the special attention of the Committee to what has come under my notice of the exceedingly demoralizing influence of houses of ill-fame on the youths of this city. I am sure that many parents are entirely ignorant of the sad facts of the case. I performed the disagreeable task of visiting every house in Barrack Street in the evening; and the result of my visits is to confirm the startling facts brought to light by the midnight visit of Mr. Scott, the Alderman, to one of these dens of iniquity. I have found young lads assembling at these houses at dusk to take the first steps of a course which, no doubt, in most cases, ends in the destruction of the soul. I have distributed in various parts of the city seven thousand Tracts, and seventy copies of the Bible. In six months I visited one thousand families; and in many of these I read the Word of God and spoke of things pertaining to eternal life."

Mr. Morton in his Report dated 4th June says: "I have visited 125 families living in Barrack St., Albermarle St., &c. I have conversed with most of these on spiritual and eternal things. I read the Scriptures and offered up prayer with 70 families—distributed 100 tracts. I have read the Word of God and engaged in prayer on board several vessels. My labours there have been well received. I have been encouraged by deep attention and have frequently seen the falling tear."

In his Report for the month of July, Mr. Morton says: "I have visited 150 families—and in most of these I have read the Word of God, offered up prayer, and conversed freely on personal religion. I have distributed 270 tracts." In August he says: "During this month I have visited 188 families—distributed 184 tracts." In the month of September the City Missionary visited 166 families and distributed 230 tracts.

In July last a SEAMEN'S BETHEL was opened in connexion with the City Mission—the Trustees of the Argyle Street Chapel, (Wesleyan,) having kindly permitted that building to be used for the object. The Missionary holds service in the Bethel every Sabbath afternoon at three o'clock.

The Committee will shortly have to appeal to the public for funds to sustain the Mission for the coming year.

By order of the Committee,
ROBERT MURRAY, Secretary.

Temperance Matters.

Our readers will perceive by the advertisement in another column, that the first number of the Abstinence, a Temperance monthly publication, is to appear on the 15th inst. The necessity of a Temperance periodical must be evident to all. The various organizations should rally round this paper, and give it their cordial support.

The Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance will meet in Annual session at Halifax on the 22nd inst. What action will be taken we cannot of course predict. The necessity for the Prohibitory Law is greater than ever. The disturbances and murders, and other crimes committed during the past year, in Halifax under the influence of Rum have probably been more numerous than in any preceding year since the Temperance reform began, and call loud-

ly for some legal protection. We hope the Delegates will come with plans matured, and determination to take up the matter with earnestness.

The Hon. Neal Dow, says, with reference to the repeal of the law in Maine, that "the repeal of the law was a drawing back of the battering-ram for a stronger and more effectual attack."

Whilst we aim at legal prohibition we must not give up the work of moral suasion, both are necessary. The latter must be made to produce a sufficient amount of moral force to enact and enforce the former. Much work is to be done before we can dispense with lectures, tracts, handbills and newspapers.

Good service is being done in the City, although in a quiet way, by public meetings every Friday evening, in the Division Room. Numbers are induced to take the pledge on these occasions. No difficulty is found in bringing evidence against Rum and convicting it of a long catalogue of crimes, which would have banished it long ago, but for the cruel self-interest of those engaged in the traffic.

Our London dates by the last steamer came down to the 27th ult. The English Papers are fairly crammed with the various accounts of the Coronation of the Emperor of Russia, Alexander II., which took place at Moscow, the ancient Capital of the Empire, on the 7th of September. We will not enlarge upon this great national pageant, in which the Representatives of the Powers lately engaged in deadly strife, were brought together in peaceful if not friendly contact. For a description of the ceremonies, we must refer our readers to the graphic "Memoranda" of our London Correspondent on another page. There is evidently a greater want of cordiality in the Russian Autocrat and his ministers, towards the British than the French Ambassadors, who at present represent their respective nations at his Court. This is well accounted for by the fact that a considerable British Squadron is just now at the mouth of the Danube, for the purpose of inducing Russia to relinquish to Turkey her possession of the Isle of Serpents, about the surrender of which there seems to have been some ambiguity in the Treaty of Paris. France and England, after several fruitless remonstrances with the infuriated King of Naples, in regard to his cruel and despotic conduct towards his subjects, by which he is evidently endangering the peace of all Italy, have withdrawn their ministers from his Court, and sent a strong squadron of ships of war upon the Coasts of Naples, to protect the rights of their own subjects, and no doubt to overawe the weak and ill-advised monarch into better behaviour. On his part he is making great preparations as if for resistance, although there is small probability of his persevering in so insane a measure, even if actual war should grow out of present circumstances.

Lord Hardinge, the late Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, and among England's most distinguished warriors is just dead. He was among the few survivors of the great Peninsular war.

The "Wordy War" on the coming Presidential Election appears to be waxing hotter and hotter as the period of actual contest (in November) approaches. Nearly, if not all the Northern Elections for State Officers which have lately taken place, have returned Republicans and Supporters of Freedom, who, there seems little doubt, will have a majority of votes over his opponents—whether sufficient to return him as President is another question.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

The Halifax Water Company, having intimated to the "takers" that 50 per cent will be added to the charges hitherto made, from the 1st of November ensuing.

A notification has also been sent to the City Council that the company will make an advance of at least 100 per cent upon the present rates.

This caused much discussion and not a little dissatisfaction. The Aldermen among whom were several Shareholders, spoke strongly in condemnation of the demand, and some recommended either resisting or the establishing of new works under the control of the Council.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.—A Coroner's Jury sat yesterday, over the body of a seaman, named Charles Marley, Captain of the Fore-top of H. M. S. Brilliant, 20, who died suddenly in a room in the house occupied by Mrs. Kennedy, near the North Fish Market, supposed to have been poisoned by drinking Yankee Rum. A post mortem examination of the deceased was held by Dr. J. R. DeWolf, when it did not