

before it was evident that her end was near at hand. She was kindly visited by the Rev. Mr. Freeman and a pious lady, with whom she conversed much before her death. A short time before her departure being asked if she was willing to die, she calmly replied that there was but one thing that she would wish to live for—that was her poor little children. But the Lord's will be done. She told her husband not to mourn for her, for she felt assured she was going to depart and be with Christ which is far better. In death she literally "fell asleep."

Her remains were brought home and interred in the burial ground of her native place. May her last wishes and prayers for her friends be answered, and may divine grace sustain her bereaved children and friends.

She sleeps in Jesus and is blest,
How kind her slumbers are,
From sufferings and from sins released,
And freed from every snare.

East Port Medway, Dec. 1856.

Z. P. A.

WILLIAM SMITH.

Died, on the 8th December, 1856, of brain complaint, aged 11 years, William, second son of Mr. Samuel Smith, of Liverpool, N. S. He was an amiable child—a favourite of all his acquaintances. For some time previous to his death he gave indications of an enlightened state of mind by the spirit of God, and a good hope through grace. He bore his sickness with patient resignation, and expressed a desire to depart and be with Christ.—*Com. by Rev. B. Scott.*

For the Christian Messenger.

Distressing Shipwrecks on the Western Coast.

Ms. Editor,

It is my painful duty to acquaint you of a very distressing calamity that has recently occurred in this vicinity. On Wednesday, the 3rd inst., the schooner Washington belonging to this harbour, Capt. Joseph Anthony, Master, left this place with his own crew and the crew of the schooner Clements, of which Capt. William H. Anderson was master, bound for Newburyport, U. S., was driven on shore on Long Island at 3 o'clock, a. m., on the following morning, in the gale, and became a total wreck, when the masters of both vessels and two of the men, Jacob Everitt and James Thomas, perished.

In the same storm, schooner Linnet, Captain Jos. Fleet, returning from St. John, was driven on shore in the same gale, a few miles from this harbour, and all on board were lost. The persons on board this vessel, as far as we have been able to ascertain, were the master, John Steel, and two soldiers belonging to H. M. 76th Regt., named Geo. Fillingham and James Alcock. The bodies of those persons who perished in the Washington, and John Steel and Geo. Fillingham who were lost in the Linnet, have been found and buried in this settlement. The Capt. and the other soldier have not yet been found. Those who were lost in the former vessel, who belonged to this place, have, with the exception of James Thomas, left families to mourn their untimely end. Thus in one night have four wives been deprived of their companions, and fifteen helpless children left without the care and protection of a father. That part of this settlement where the deceased who belonged to this place resided, truly presents a sorrowful aspect. Those who were so suddenly hurried into eternity have a large number of relatives. Almost every individual one meets has some outward emblem of the keen sorrow that is felt in the heart.

I have the mournful duty of performing the funeral services of those six persons who, in one week, were borne to the narrow house appointed for all the living; and my heart has often sunk within me at those scenes of grief I have been necessarily called to witness. I do trust that by all "the sadness of countenance" experienced, "the heart will be made better," and we all hear in this deep calamity the words of the Saviour solemnly repeated, "Be ye therefore ready."

Yours very truly,

JAMES SPENCER.

Lower Granville, Dec. 14, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College

The half-yearly examination at Acadia College took place, agreeably to the advertisement, on Wednesday and Thursday in last week. The students were examined on Wednesday in Algebra, Rhetoric, Moral Philosophy, Geometry, Xenophon and Homer; on Thursday, in Calculus, History, Cicero (*De Officiis*), Hebrew, Latin and Geology.

In the Theological Institute, Lectures have

been delivered during the Term on the Evidences of Christianity, Biblical Interpretation, Systematic Theology, and Ecclesiastical History.

A Public Exhibition came off at the Hall on Friday evening, when Orations were delivered in the following order, viz:—

Rural Scenery, as depicted by Virgil.

Brenton Eaton, Cornwallis.

General Williams.

Andrew D. Barss, Wolfville.

Ancient and Modern Ship-building.

Thomas Vaughan, St. John, N. B.

The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire.

George G. Sanderson, Yarmouth.

The beneficial effects of the study of Nature.

G. F. Hart, Wolfville.

There was a large attendance. A volunteer Choir gave some excellent singing.—*Com.*

Religious Intelligence.

Amherst.

The beneficial influences which have often followed the meetings of the Associations by a revival of religion in the locality where they have been held, appears not to be confined to the past. Although we cannot mark the connexion between the meeting of the Association at Amherst and the present revival, and probably no very distinct relation can be traced between them, yet there may, nevertheless, be some influence which has remained from that season, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since. The fact that the revival has not been preceded by the use of any very exciting means would lead to this conclusion.

An esteemed friend, in a letter dated 18th inst., when referring to the late additions says:—"Three were baptized last Sunday and six the Sunday previous. More are expected next Sunday. There is not the least apparent excitement but the evident heeding of that 'still small voice.' This, we say, would lead us all the more to recognize it not as the work of yesterday, but as the gathering in of the fruits of labour performed and seed sown perhaps some considerable time since. This may afford encouragement to others who are labouring faithfully but do not yet see the fruits of their labour. Let them not be discouraged but continue their efforts; and prayers for a blessing upon them. Carry forth the seed, although it may be even with weeping, and rest assured that their labours are not in vain in the Lord."

Those who attended the meetings of the Eastern Association and especially those who assisted at the services, cannot fail to take a deep interest in the work at Amherst, and will rejoice in the marks of Divine favour, thus fulfilling the promise that "those who sow and those who reap may rejoice together."

THE FREE-WILL BAPTISTS have in the United States 1,173 churches, 1,107 ministers, and 48,809 church members. The first church was formed in New Hampshire, 1780.

Boston.—Rev. Isaac Westcott, has been preaching for a number of evenings past, in the Bowdoin Square church, assisting the pastor, Rev. Mr. Wines, in a series of meetings. Eight persons—seven young men—received the hand of fellowship at Bowdoin Square last Sabbath.

Germany.—Letters from several German pastors report an encouraging religious interests in their fields of labor, though in many cases its outward manifestation is hindered by bitter persecution on the part of the State authorities. The sisters in several churches, have cheerfully contributed their jewelry to aid the mission treasury in its present embarrassments.

Rangoon.—Messrs. Vinton and Brayton have resigned their connection with the Board, and will probably apply for support to the Board of the Free Mission Society.

Dr. Dawson writes that visitors call daily at the mission-house, from wide and far-distant portions of the province, and also from the capital, who come to inquire about the religion of Jesus Christ and to ask for books.

Siam.—Mr. Ashmore has been compelled to leave his field of labor for a season on account of the failing health of Mrs. Ashmore. They will spend six months at Hongkong, hoping that the change of climate will restore the invalid.

Toungoo.—Mr. Bixby has received cheering intelligence from this important field. Sau Quah has been quite ill, but has again recovered and resumed his work with great success. Eighty more have been baptized, and many in various places are asking for baptism.

Maulmain Theological Seminary.—Forty-eight students are now connected with the Institution under the care of Dr. Wade, and Mr. Bixby suggests the expediency of endowing Professorships, that the labour may not fall on Dr. Wade alone, nor the missionary treasury be burdened with the support of other teachers.

United States.

THE SLAVE INSURRECTION.—The Louisville Journal correspondent of Dec. 9, says there is great excitement at Franklin, Tenn., owing to the projected insurrection among the slaves there. Twenty-four muskets and kegs of powder had been found in the possession of a gang of negroes at Columbia, Tenn. In Perry, Tenn., fifteen negroes had been killed by their owners. The Evansville Journal, of the 9th inst., learns that there was much excitement in the neighborhood of Dover, on the Cumberland River, among the negroes. Many of the ringleaders have been arrested, and eleven hung. One white man, disguised as a negro, had been sentenced to 999 lashes, but died before the penalty was fully inflicted. The whites were arming and organizing for defence. An opinion prevailed that a general uprising would take place among the negroes during the holidays. Escapes of slaves were unusually numerous.

HERBERT AT HOME.—San Francisco, Nov. 5.—Philip Herbert leaves to-day for Washington. On Monday he challenged Thos. S. King, editor of the *Evening Bulletin*, for articles commenting upon the murder of Keating, which challenge King returned, with a contemptuous message. On Tuesday, Herbert stood on Montgomery street all day with a bluejean, awaiting a worded attack King. The latter, however, brushed past Herbert at five o'clock, on his way to dinner, in company with two friends, without any hostile demonstration on the part of our Congressman. Had Herbert assailed King, he would have adorned a lamp post in ten minutes thereafter.—*California paper.*

WASHINGTON.—The President sent a message to the House on Monday, covering despatches from Gen. Geary relative to Kansas affairs. The Governor reports that he has kept an hourly record of his executive action since he entered upon his duties. Peace is permanently established in the Territory.—A band of robbers still remains in the south part of the Territory, not exceeding seven, for whose arrest rewards are offered. The regular settlers have agreed to leave all contested questions to be determined at the ballot-box.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The gas works were burned this morning, together with two adjoining dwellings. James Sullivan perished in the flames.

CUBA.—Our dates from Havana by the Empire City are to the 9th inst. We are glad to learn by this arrival that the sugar crop, which is now about to be taken off, promises to be a very large one, and some decline had taken place in the price in making contracts for the coming delivery.

[From the Washington Correspondent of the N. Y. Chronicle.]

We can give but a bird's-eye view of the scenes which have passed here since the opening of Congress. The political furnace is now in full blast, and the number present to feed the fire at the opening was unusually large.

No President ever played the agreeable in the saloons of the White House to better purpose than our present incumbent, and none ever made a stranger figure in matters of legislation. Marcy has done honor to himself and his country in his foreign diplomacy. His plea for the exemption of private property at sea from the assaults of belligerents, except so far as it shall be contraband of war, has lately met a cordial response from Russia; and it is thought that France and England will follow suit, and thus that this beneficent provision will speedily find place among the laws of nations. When private property comes to be thus secure from the ravages of war, on the sea and on the land, may we not hope that public property, also that life, and towns and ships, and all that goes to make up the aggregate of human life and human possessions will come under the same rule, that national disputes will be settled by arbitration and that the "nations shall learn war no more." Apart from this great feature of the present administration, where is its chapel, where is its crown? The President seems conscious of its defects, and hence the special pleading of his Message to prep it up. This is conceded to be, by all candid men, the most extraordinary document that ever came from the White House.

Grave debates sprang up in the Senate on the receipt of the Message. Some applauded and others condemned, and there was a reshuffle of the electioneering arguments about slavery, free-soil, democracy and republicanism, in which Mr. Mason, of Va., said that the people of the South had been brought to believe that the preservation of slavery rested with them alone, and that if Fremont had been elected the Union would have been immediately dissolved; and, in reply, Mr. Wilson, of Mass. denied that his party had any design of interfering with slavery in the states, though he and other republican members declared it as their fixed purpose to prevent its extension into territory now free. We give this as a specimen of the general tone of the debate on this subject in both houses. The belligerents were calm and respectful, though decided.

Rev. Mr. Hill Baptist minister of N. York is chaplain of the Senate.

A NEW TERRITORY by the name of Arisonia, being a part of the Gadsden purchase from Mexico, is endeavouring to inaugurate itself into the House in the person of A. P. Cook, who has arrived here as its representative, and is knocking at the door of the Congress. He reports a population of this hitherto nameless region of Arisonia, of 10,000 to 15,000 persons and that it will make a State as large as Pennsylvania.

Various rumours are afloat, and among others, a project for the extension of the Canadian reciprocity treaty to the British West Indies.

The capitol will undoubtedly be, when finished, one of the most magnificent architectural struc-

tures in the world. Every thing about it is finished in the most beautiful style of art without regard to expense.

In the House, resolutions declaring that all suggestion to re-open the African slave trade would subject the United States to the execration of all civilized and Christian people, and that it is inexpedient, unwise and contrary to the settled policy of the United States to repeal the laws prohibiting the African slave trade, were adopted, under the previous question—the first, by a vote of 152 yeas to 75 nays, and the last with but eight dissenting votes.

It is reported that the entire British fleet at Jamaica had been ordered to hold itself in readiness to proceed to the Gulf of Mexico, for the purpose of blockading the Mexican ports.

During the storm on Wednesday a flock of wild ducks flying over Troy, N. Y., became loaded with sleet and several of them fell to the ground and were caught, their wings being so frozen that they could not use them.

MEXICO.—Contradictory reports have been received in regard to the progress of the revolution in Mexico. The latest report is by a despatch from New Orleans which states that V. naurri, after all expectations, has succumbed to the Government, and agreed to obedience.

Fire in Montreal.

The Episcopal Cathedral of Montreal—one of the finest structures in America was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday the 10th inst.

At about midnight the city was startled by the cry of "fire." This, we believe, was first raised by a man who observed the fire breaking out at one of the windows of the Cathedral.

At one time, the fire seemed to be subdued within the body of the church, a circumstance which may be accounted for by the peculiar construction of the building, which enabled it to steal unperceived from the place where it was first discovered, to the roof. Between the plaster in the interior of the church and the stone walls, there was a framework of wood and an open space of about 8-12 inches. This space acted as a species of flue for the conveyance of the fire, by means of the wood work, to the roof, as we have said, unperceived until it had obtained such headway, as to render hope of subduing it quite out of the question, or even to afford time to remove anything of value from the church, except the painting over the communion table, which was a copy of Leonardo de Vinci's celebrated picture of the Last Supper.

Jets of fire began to show themselves in various places on the roof, burning embers here and there slowly fell from it, as sparks of fire sometimes fall from a rocket—bright circles of flame appeared on the tops of the Corinthian columns, twining among the leaves of their capitals—making it evident the old church had little time to stand—that its hours were numbered.

The flames had done their stealthy part thoroughly well, and we had hardly reached the door, after a few minutes' gazing on the impressive scene before us, when the roof fell down with a tremendous crash, and buried everything in the church in one common ruin.

By this time the fire had made its way to the belfry, where it raged with fearful fury. The crowd which had gathered outside now became breathless with excitement; for it was evident the steeple could not long stand. Which way will it fall? was the natural question or thought of all. This steeple, it may be stated, was built of wood, covered with tin. The flames as they burst through the belfry windows, hurled the blinds into the street, of the surrounding buildings, with much force. Fiercely and after a noisy fashion did the flames do their work. They went rearing up the steeple, devouring all in their way. The old clock riveted many an eye. On it went in the midst of the tumult around—tick, tick, tick, till the fire—fellow-laborer with time in his work of destruction—reached it not its own fate was come; its own hours were numbered.

The night was beautifully fine. The moon shone out clearly and brightly, making the night nearly as light as day. The snow was white beneath, the sky and the stars as well as the moon were bright above—so bright and so clear, that the flames scarce made any reflection—added nothing to the lightness. The red, lurid flames threw out a cloud of black smoke, which contrasted strangely with the silvery light of the moon. The firemen paused and rested on their brakes; for it was idleness now to attempt to control the monster which had possession of the steeple, whose fall was momentarily looked for by the strained eyes of those around. It tottered for awhile, swayed to and fro, and at last toppled over and fell, a huge mass of fire, with a tremendous crash, prone upon the adjoining building, crushing through the roof with its ponderous bulk.

The clock struck for the last time at two o'clock: at twenty minutes past two the hands ceased to move and fell helplessly to a ponderous position. It was twenty minutes more ere the steeple fell, the molten lead and other metal pouring down in the meantime in such volumes as to render it impossible to remain in its vicinity except at the hazard of men's lives.

There can be no doubt that it had taken fire from the stove or flues attached, and had been smouldering for some time between the ceiling and the walls.

The Registers, Records, and Diocesan Library, are all safe.

The insurance was £17,500.