

NOTICE.

THOSE of our Subscribers who commence from the beginning of the year and have not yet forwarded their subscriptions, will bear in mind that the time for payments in advance expired with the past month. Some few have probably found the time pass more rapidly than they thought, and have unintentionally omitted to make their payments.

A proper regard to our present and future liabilities, and a desire to avoid the injurious consequences of having a large amount of arrearages on our books, has induced us to make the following offer before sending on accounts:—

Any such subscriber who can get a new subscriber to hand him ten shillings for one year from date, may send us a one pound note—ten shillings for himself, instead of twelve and six pence—and we will send to him and to every such new subscriber a copy of Caird's Sermon preached before the Queen, (48 pages) by return of post. This offer to continue till the end of July.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 16, 1856.

The Eastern Association.

ITS EXTENT.

The district comprised within the boundaries of this Association includes Cumberland, Colchester, and the eastern part of Halifax County, and all the parts of the Province eastward, together with Prince Edward Island. It is by far the largest, and comprehends a greater extent of country than both the Central and Western Associations combined, yet the number of Baptist churches is less than in either, arising partly from the circumstance of the population being more scattered, and partly because other denominations prevail to a greater extent than in them. Still the gathering of ministers and delegates at Amherst, during the past week from the various churches, and the intense interest felt by them in the objects of the Association, shewed that they are an important part of the population. Several had travelled two, three and four hundred miles to be present, and meet their brethren on the occasion. Although the distance was so great, and the obstacles to be overcome to reach the appointed place so numerous, yet when arrived, all appeared to participate in the satisfaction afforded by the warm greeting they received. The good people of Amherst had made such ample arrangements for the reception of all, that no crowding was apparent. Every one appeared determined to enter into the religious enjoyment of the occasion and to make himself quite at home.

ROUTE via WINDSOR AND PARRSBORO.

We cannot give a detailed account of our journey, but only remark that after the delay of "shipping and unshipping" from the railroad and other little incidents which admit of considerable improvement, we arrived at Windsor about 3 o'clock, where we found the Steamer Creole ready to start. The Minas Basin was like a sea of glass, not a ripple disturbed its surface, and not a breath of wind was felt sufficient to carry off the smoke, but where it arose there it hung, until we left it in the distance to approach the opposite shore. In about three hours we came to two immense mounds, rising up probably 150 feet above the surface of the water covered to their summits with various shrubs and trees, and having cottages at several places on their sides. We landed at the pretty village of Partridge Island on the Parrsboro shore, and after climbing an almost perpendicular bluff to enjoy the prospect which there presented itself, we were posted off in a coach and four with a most obliging coachman along the sides of two rivers which drain the Cobequid Mountains, to Amherst, arriving there about 2 o'clock, A. M.

THE MEETINGS.

Saturday.—The usual course of reading the letters from the Churches was pursued on Saturday. These indicated various degrees of prosperity. Several churches from whom no letter had been received for some time, sent letters and delegates. This was the case particularly with the P. E. Island churches. Their expressions of desire again to unite with the churches of the Association were peculiarly pleasing. The addition of new churches too, shewed that "Forward" is the watchword with our brethren in this section of the province.

Lord's Day.—In the morning the Rev. C. Tupper, now we believe the oldest ordained Baptist minister in Nova Scotia, preached from 1 Peter i. 22—"seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth, through the Spirit, unto unfeigned love of the brethren; see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." He proceeded to unfold the passage by remarking, 1. Believers have "purified their souls by obeying the truth." 2. This has been effected "through the Spirit." 3. The result is "unfeigned love of the brethren" and 4. They should therefore "love one another with a pure heart fervently." Having been for many years formerly the pastor of this church, he made allusions to the deep interest he still cherished in their welfare, and the happiness he felt at seeing them walking in the truth.

The Rev. Mr. Rowe preached in the afternoon. In the evening Dr. Cramp discoursed from Isaiah xlv. 17—"But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded with delay without end." In explaining the precious promises contained in the text he shewed that Israel symbolized the church, the "everlasting salvation" proceeding altogether from the Divine appointment, and illustrating the marvellous lovingkindness of God—that the salvation itself is comprehensive, so that no man can be considered as saved who is not rescued from the dominion of sin; that it is exclusively the work of God. The Father loving the world and giving his Son to die, the Son voluntarily suffering for sins, the just for the unjust,—the Spirit enlightening, renewing, sanctifying the soul; and that the salvation is everlasting, that is, arranged for in all its parts, and continually going on by the means of grace and by providential dispensations, all of them invested with a saving character, till at length the believer is conveyed to heaven, and finally delivered from all evil. In noticing the results of the accomplishment of the promise, he dwelt upon the happiness of the people of God, who are "not ashamed or confounded," but enjoy peace of conscience through faith in the Saviour,—boldness in his cause while relying on his power and faithfulness,—comfort in all their sorrows, because their highest interests are secured, and hope of a blissful future, to be followed by the glorious triumphs of the heavenly state. Dr. C. congratulated the audience on the fact that these truths have been maintained uninterruptedly by the Denomination from the first meeting of the Association of Baptist churches in these Provinces, at Granville in the year 1800; when the venerable Joseph Dimock preached the introductory Sermon from this same text, down to the present time; and he closed by presenting to view the fulness and freeness of Divine grace, and the admirable adaptation of the gospel to the wants of a sinner.

Three large substantial meeting-houses have been recently built by the Amherst church, at stations within five or six miles. In these as well as in the Temperance Hall, large congregations assembled and sermons were preached by ministers present.

Monday.—The Rev. D. Lawson preached the Introductory Sermon from Isaiah lxii. 1. The discourse shewed much patient research and deep thought, the readiness of utterance and earnestness of the preacher commended his pathetic appeals to all. Reports were presented on the various subjects brought before the Association. These were severally discussed in an honest, independent manner, each speaking out his sentiments as to the said reports and the statements made in them. Among the most prominent which elicited lengthened observation were the following:—**Home Missions.** The want of efficiency in these operations was considered to arise from their being far too transient. The most effectual remedy it was thought would be the permanent appointment of an Agent for collecting of funds, provided a suitable person could be obtained, and more combination of the Boards belonging to the three Associations. **Temperance,** a subject which, at Amherst, just on the borders of New Brunswick, where the cause has been lately so cavalierly treated, excited warm debate. Some brethren from that province were present and denounced the late anti-prohibitory proceedings with much fervour. The Rev. E. Clay, Rev. G. Miles and Rev. C. I.

Burnett spoke with much effect. The Report on Education brought from the Rev. C. Tupper and Dr. Cramp, some explanations with regard to the Endowment Fund of Acadia College. The *Christian Messenger* was made the subject of high eulogium. The confidence and satisfaction expressed in the general management, will afford us much encouragement in our efforts to deserve the position it occupies in the hearts and houses of our brethren. Our most sanguine expectations were more than realized, and we shall do our utmost to raise the standard of excellence at which we aim very high, to meet the generosity of our brethren in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick as well as in Nova Scotia. **Colportage and Baptist Publications** brought out remarks on the great destitution of books in which dependence can be placed, especially in in authentic history of the Baptists and of their principles. A remarkable apathy has existed about information in support of our peculiar views, and whilst such an abundance of facts are easily obtained, and a general indifference and scepticism is becoming prevalent in regard to infant sprinkling, but little effort has been made to introduce popular works bearing on these subjects into our families. We have taken the Bible as our Text-book and have then allowed books with all sorts of errors to come into our houses without attempting to supersede them by literature of a higher and more truthful character. Error leads to sin, and truth to righteousness: we should therefore guard carefully what we allow ourselves and families to read.

The business was brought to a close on Tuesday afternoon about 6 o'clock. The Union Hymn was sung and prayer offered. The whole series of meetings was characterized by the greatest harmony and good feeling, and yet with such an amount of earnest devotedness, that will doubtless be the means of producing even a greater degree of activity during the ensuing year. The delightful opportunity which was given of renewing intercourse with old friends, and of forming acquaintance with others, will be long held in grateful remembrance by ourselves and we believe by many others in the Three Provinces.

Our American Papers, almost without exception, are still filled with the exciting topics of the late outrages in Congress, the disturbed affairs in the New State of Kansas, and the approaching Election of the President. The pith of all these matters may be comprised under a single category—the all-absorbing question of Slavery. Brooks, the ruffian who committed the murderous assault on Mr. Sumner, the Senator from Massachusetts, is said to have been expelled from the House of Representatives. So far it is well, but a crisis of no common nature is impending over the future fortunes of the Great Republic. On the mode of its termination hang destinies the import of which it were difficult to estimate.

It sometimes happens that things which are really of most interest to us, interest us little. Such is the case as regards the process of public events on this side of the Atlantic as compared with the other. A great controversy is now going on in our near neighbourhood in the issue of which it is quite impossible but that we ourselves, but more especially our posterity, must be deeply implicated—the question of Negro Slavery, now in the course of solution.

The just understanding and right working of constitutional liberty and individual freedom, as it affects this whole continent, are deeply involved in the success of the parties now struggling in the American Congress. If the Southern policy prevail, and one after another of the States of the great Federation is to be brought under the condition of Slave-holding States, it is useless to shut our eyes to the inevitable consequence that every correct sentiment and all just value of freedom is at an end, and the contagion is sooner or later to affect the whole of Northern America. A change from our own mode of government as Colonies, blended as we are with the rest of North-America in sameness of blood, of laws, and of language, is as nothing in relative importance in comparison with the different views of freedom which exist between the North and the South. No one imagines that we are forever to retain our Colonial connection with Great Britain, however sincere our present attachment to

such union. The very nature of things would seem to forbid it much beyond the present generation. Our connection as one great American family is, however, destined to a much longer continuance and one that must almost of necessity be perpetual. Such being the case, it is almost of as much moment to ourselves as to New York or Massachusetts, whether the curse of Slavery is to have a limited or a progressive existence—whether our thirty millions of blood relatives are to have their civil and domestic relations mixed up with this deleterious ingredient, which must ere long corrupt and destroy every thing worth retaining in the glorious system of rational and manly freedom inherited from the land of our common ancestors. If the whole United States are to become properly Slave States, and the danger of such a consummation is just now far from being merely imaginary, it is not the parallel latitude of Forty-five, or the St. Lawrence, or the broad Lakes of Canada that can arrest the plague, and say "hitherto shalt thou come, and no further." The reign of ignorance and brute force and barbarism, will again have been begun, and thick, palpable, moral, intellectual and religious darkness will once more commence its reign. For ourselves we feel that we have a common cause with the freemen of the North, in which we have very little, if indeed any, less interest themselves.

We are glad to see that the Canadian Legislature have settled their differences for the present, by the Lower House sending up a new Supply Bill without the obnoxious item of £50,000 for the Public Buildings in Quebec, to which the Upper House have agreed, and the Governor General has closed the Session.

The welcome news of the probable adjustment of serious differences with the United States, leaves us without much that is of present interest from Europe. A very pleasing evidence of the good state of national feeling between England and France is that large contributions are being made in the former country to relieve the heavy sufferings of a very large population in the South of France from inundations caused by the continued rains. The Queen, the Lord Mayor and City of London take the lead in this timely work of benevolence.

Telegraph Despatch.

Merchants' Reading Room, July 12th, 1856.

The R. M. S. Africa, arrived at New York on Friday, 11th inst., with Liverpool dates to the 28th June.

Cotton market firm at previous quotations.

Breadstuffs, prices unchanged, market inactive.

Provision market unchanged in every respect.

Consols for Money 95 to 95 1-8.

No Political news of any interest.

THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH CABLE.

Jesse Hoyt, Esq., chief operator of the Electric Telegraph Company, under date of July 11, 1856, has communicated the subjoined intelligence to the Merchant's Exchange Rooms in this city:

A Submarine Telegraph Cable having been successfully laid across the Strait of Canoe. Telegraphic communication with Sydney, and other Cape Breton Offices is again established.

SYDNEY, C. B. July 5th.—The brig Ellen, returned yesterday from the Gulf, having succeeded in securing about 20 miles of the old submerged cable—the remainder is hopelessly lost. The brig broke loose in the heavy blow of Tuesday night.

Notices of Books.

The following new Numbers of Publications, just received by E. G. Fuller, Esq., at the American Book Store, maintain their well earned reputation for contributing to public instruction and amusement, and will no doubt obtain their share of general patronage.

The July Number, Vol. XIII. No. 40, of DICKENS'S HOUSEHOLD WORDS. Its contents, 24 in number, possess their usual interest.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for July contains several interesting articles that will well repay perusal, and is ornamented with its usual neat illustrations.

GRAHAM'S ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE for July.

June No. of BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE. This old and well-established Periodical seems to lose nothing of its value in the character of the present number.

THE STANDARD SPELLER, By Epes Sargent, just published in Boston, and containing exercises for Oral and Silent Spelling, is also on sale by Mr. Fuller. It is intended to embody the latest improvements in Spelling.