

interest for your silver and gold. Eleven persons have professed faith in Christ and have been baptized and added to the church, and a number more stand as candidates for baptism to-morrow; others are deeply affected. To them no earthly remedy is presented; nothing but the "Balm of Gilead," the precious blood of the everlasting covenant is held forth, and the overflowing love of God, manifested in the gospel, is held up as the hiding place for guilty sinners.

Dear Brethren, pray for us, that we being made glad by the additions to our church, it may be a nursery for those who shall be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

Yours affectionately,
MURDOCH ROSS.

Rev. W. Burton, Superintendent of the
Hantsport.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation visit to Elder A. W. Barss.

According to previous arrangement, on Friday the 26th of Dec., 1856, as early as 2 o'clock in the day, persons began to collect at the house of Elder Barss, for the purpose of manifesting their attachment to him and his family by paying them a friendly Donation visit. The number continued to increase until his residence was literally crowded with persons of different denominations and from all parts of his field of labour. Notwithstanding the intense cold of the evening, some came a distance of eight miles. About one hundred and fifty partook of a sumptuous repast provided by the friends; after which a short time was spent in social conversation and singing. At about eight o'clock Brother Jacob Kempton made a short apology for the hurried manner in which the arrangements had been made, and in behalf of the company presented to Elder Barss the donations, accompanied with the following Address.

DEAR BROTHER,

God in his Providence has permitted seven months to pass away since you took up your abode amongst us. We make no doubt but there have been occurrences which have wounded your feelings, and we hope some things have transpired to give you joy. We feel much pleasure in being able to make this social visit to you and your family, and we hope the union existing between us as Pastor and Flock may continue to grow until God in his Providence may separate us. We also hope as you look upon the present company and remember the obstacles of bad roads and extreme cold, that you will take our appearance here to night as a testimonial of the high esteem in which you are held among this people, and be encouraged to labour on. And now Dear Brother in behalf of this company I present you this purse containing six pounds in cash and five pounds worth of useful articles for your family, which we leave with you.

JACOB KEMPTON.

The Rev. Mr. Thorp, Free Baptist Minister, then addressed the company in few words expressive of the deep interest and enjoyment he had taken in the transactions of the evening. After which Elder Barss replied,

DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

Words are too poor to express my feelings on this occasion. They utterly fail to satisfy myself. I may say I love you and shall love you more on account of this token of your regard for me and my family. But that does not meet the demand made on my feelings. When I remember that I have been only seven months sojourning amongst you, and think over the many tokens of respect, and marks of kindness I have received, it moves my heart to its very centre with feelings of gratitude to God the great giver of all our comforts, seeing that He hath moved your hearts to love the Gospel and prize the labours of those who preach it.

Let me assure you that there is not the slightest mark of kindness which any of you have bestowed upon me, but will leave a lasting impression on my mind. Your presence here to-night tells me that the engagement between you and your Minister is something more than a mere matter of mere pounds, shillings and pence. Should the time ever come that myself and family are separated from you, and removed to another field of labour, your kindness will not be forgotten by us.

Whenever I meet with anything like disrespect, or a want of Christian sympathy amongst professors of religion, it wounds my heart. But the remembrance of Christ's sufferings is a balm for every wound received in His cause.

There is one thought which gives me real sorrow—that is, a remembrance of the unconverted part of my congregation. My heart often bleeds for them. O shall I ever be the means of plucking any of them, as brands from the eternal burning; so that

when we have done with giving and receiving, meeting and parting, on earth, I may meet them where congregations never break up, to participate in the joys of Heaven for ever. For this, while my union with you continues, by God's help, I shall labour and pray. I am, dear friends, with deep feelings of gratitude and solemn emotion, yours in the hope of eternal life.

A. W. BARSS.

The Union Hymn was then sung, and Prayer offered by the Rev. Mr. Thorp, after which the company dispersed, all feeling gratified.

ONE INTERESTED.

Caledonia, Jan. 1st, 1857.

Brother Barss informs us that besides the £11 of the donation party—he has received since he came there small presents probably to the amount of £4, besides having most of his fire-wood hauled to the door, free of charge—and all this over and above his stated salary, and adds:

May God reward the donors, and put it in the hearts of others to go and do likewise.

BOOKS LOST.

DEAR BRETHREN,

Several volumes have disappeared from the College Library, and we are of course very desirous of recovering them. It is possible that they were taken out by friends who purposed to restore them after perusal, but having omitted to do so have forgotten them altogether; and the books are consequently lying in unintentional concealment. I may particularly mention the following:—

Foster's Essays, two volumes.
Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, volume sixth.

The last mentioned volume cannot be replaced, as it belongs to a set, and separate volumes are not to be had. We receive the work from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington; Acadia College being on the list of Institutions to which their publications are from time to time gratuitously transmitted. Should the missing volume not be restored, ours will be a broken set.

You will oblige me by inserting this note in the *Christian Messenger*. I sincerely hope that it will lead to the restoration of our books.

Yours truly,

J. M. CHAMP.

Acadia College, Jan. 10, 1857.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 21, 1857.

Eighteen Hundred and Fifty Seven.

PROGRESS is the great mark of distinction between the present and the past, especially as regards the means of communication, both internal and international. Whatever advancement is made in any one year that is past, whether it be in the arts and sciences, in facilities of travel, by land or water, in postal arrangements, in the general spread of intelligence, or in the efforts of the Christian Church to make known the truths of the Gospel, we have reason to believe that the progress to be made during the year 1857, will far surpass that of any of its predecessors. Projects have been formed, and an anxiety amongst intelligent men has been manifest of late years to strike out bold paths of invention and enterprise. Tests have been applied and efforts made to discover imperfections in what have been subjects of doubt, but we have now come to a period when nothing but practical results will satisfy.

One of the most stupendous applications of scientific discovery to the purposes of commerce and international communication, is now in the course of preparation, and will in all probability be carried into operation in a few months, so as to unite the continents of Europe and America by an Electric Sub-marine Telegraph. The cable itself is a subject of no small curiosity, but the fact of its resting on the bed of the ocean beneath all the storms and disasters on its surface, and being the medium of thought for the millions of the human race on either side, surrounds it with reflections which would almost inspire feelings of mystery and superstition.

The following description of its construction, will enable our readers to form a pretty correct idea of this conjunction which is to unite the old and new worlds, and bind the branches of the Anglo-Saxon race on either side the Atlantic into one family.

It is three-fourths of an inch in diameter. In the centre are seven small copper wires, twisted upon themselves, and the whole insulated by a

thick covering of gutta serena. Eighteen strands of slender iron wire, each strand composed of seven threads loosely twisted upon themselves, constitute the outer covering. The weight of the whole is eighteen cwt. to the mile, and its strength such that it will bear in water over six miles of its own length, if suspended vertically. The flexibility of the cable is such as to make it almost as manageable as a small hemp line. Its selection was the result of months of experiment and trial—hundreds of specimens having been made, comprising every variety of form and size and structure, before this particular one was agreed upon.

The distance between the point on the Western coast of Ireland, at which the line is to commence, to St. John's in Newfoundland, where it is to terminate, is 1,900 miles, but the length of cable to be furnished by the contractors is 2,500 miles, which is designed to meet the additional demand for cable that may be created by the inequalities in the depth of the ocean along the line of its route.

The contract for its manufacture has been given to Messrs. Kuper, Glass & Co., of London, who have agreed to have it completed on or before the 31st of May next. A certain amount of cable is to be delivered every week, and the process of storing it in coils on board the steamers that are to bear it forth, is expected to commence in February, so that it may all be ready for its departure so soon as its manufacture is completed. Should these arrangements be carried into successful execution, it is the expectation of the Directors that the telegraphic communication between Europe and America may be commenced before the end of June.

The charges which have been agreed upon are said to be four shillings sterling, or one dollar a word from London to the United States. This charge is distributed among the general divisions of the line as follows:—From London to Cork, in Ireland, sixpence, from Cork to Newfoundland, two shillings and sixpence; from Newfoundland to the American Continent one shilling.

The British Government, it is said, has guaranteed an annual payment of £14,000 in consideration of the use it may make of the Telegraph—this annual allowance to continue till the revenues of the Company shall reach six per cent. on the capital stock, when it shall be reduced to £10,000. If, however, the official dispatches of the Government, when charged according to the established rate of tolls, shall exceed £14,000, the excess shall be paid to the Company.

This then is one of the magnificent undertakings which 1857, will in all probability see accomplished and will render it a memorable year.

With these extraordinary developments of science, we should look for something commensurate which will affect the political, moral and religious condition of the world.

One fact in the relations of the two great English nations—Great Britain and the United States, has given a somewhat brighter prospect than appeared at the commencement of the past year. The presentation by the United States to her Britannic Majesty, of the lost ship "Resolute," abandoned in the Arctic Ice during the search for Sir John Franklin, and the graceful acceptance of the same by Queen Victoria in person, surrounded by her family, may be considered an omen for good in our future relations, and one which will remind us of our common brotherhood, and of the inconsistency of any other position, than that of amity and friendship. The officers and crew who manned the "Resolute" are to be conveyed home by a steamer of the Royal Navy.

We should be glad to refer to the probabilities of great movements being made during the year for the amelioration of the moral and religious condition of the world in general, and of this province in particular. We are fully confident that the scrutiny which every doctrine or practice of the religious world is now subjected to, will bring out more and more fully, those truths of the Gospel we cherish. We have more to fear from apathy than from free examination; and whatever promotes enquiry we consider auxiliary to the spread of truth and righteousness.

The influence of the Religious Press was never so necessary as now. This may be considered the distributor of the blessings of religious combination. Whilst the Missionary and the Pastor are essential for introducing the Gospel and holding together those who are brought to accept of its blessings, the Press combines these separate communities, and is the common bond in carrying forward their benevolent and god-like enterprises.

Christians are awaking more fully to this fact, and we doubt not this year will witness a far wider extension of our religious periodicals than any previous year.

The Home Missionary question brought out so well with the beginning of the year, may be expected to receive a degree of enlightened attention in this Province not hitherto given to it. A movement will we trust be put into operation during the year, which will make it as memorable for the triumphs of Christian benevolence, as for the application of scientific discovery.

The communication in another page from the Rev. Mr. Goucher in behalf of the French Mission, demands the serious consideration of our churches and people. The strong claims this Mission possesses upon our justice and our sympathies have been often enforced in our pages, and are well stated in our esteemed brother's letter.

It is a work no doubt of slow growth and patient and laborious character, but thus far it has not been without fruits, and under the liberal support of its friends, we have every reason to hope for far greater results than can yet be seen. Its operations, as yet confined almost to a single district, already require to be enlarged, so as to embrace other portions of the province, as yet wholly without any evangelical aid.

Looking at the numbers and wealth of the Baptists of Nova Scotia we are fully convinced that they are well able to sustain every branch of their Domestic Missionary operations with vigour and efficiency, as well as to spare a handsome amount to any branch of Foreign labour, which may be found really deserving their support, and truly bearing the character of a foreign object. As regards the matter under immediate consideration, we fully agree with brother Goucher, that obtaining a person well qualified to act as a Colporter, would be one of the most effectual means to strengthen the hands of our Missionary, and give effect to what has been already done in this important and interesting mission.

The "Fourth Estate" has been singularly unfortunate thus far during the year. In the first place the fire on New Year's Day turned out three printing offices—the Colonist, the Presbyterian Witness and ourselves, besides the steam-press of Kirk & Co. During the past week an accident occurred to the Sun Steam-press rendering it useless for a time. Several papers were depending on this, for their press work until the former was repaired. By this accident the Provincial Wesleyan was thrown behind, and others were driven to the use of the hand-press instead of steam. On Wednesday last, Mr. Jas. Bowes—one of the oldest printers in Halifax was accidentally injured by his horse starting suddenly and tearing off one of his fingers whilst entangled in the harness.

We are pleased to see one of our Exchanges reach us in a new and improved form. The *Baptist Memorial*, for many years past published in Richmond, Va., has assumed the title of the *Baptist Family Magazine*, and will hereafter be issued from Philadelphia. This Periodical, which is a well conducted publication, comes out monthly, and is principally intended for circulation in the Southern and middle States. It contains among other interesting matter, numerous summary notices of whatever is occurring connected with the progress of our own Denomination, in all parts of the world, and cannot fail we think to realize the wishes of its conductors.

A movement is said to be on foot in the United States to endeavour to concentrate the operations of Theological Seminaries by the formation of one great central Institution, sufficiently endowed and constituted to meet the wants of the whole Union. There are now said to be ten different institutions of the kind scattered over the area of the Union, but many of them too weak and ill-endowed to supply the needed instruction. Whether the present plan will ever be realized, or if so, whether it will meet the difficulties to which it will be incident, we cannot pretend to say. The feeling of the day is, to carry instruction of whatever kind, as far as possible, to every man's door. The present is a move in the contrary direction.

Hasard's P. E. Gazette comes to us with a new head and face and much improved in its general features. We congratulate its new proprietors on the very respectable appearance it presents, and doubt not that efforts at improvement will meet with encouragement and increased patronage.

We perceive by a contemporary that the name omitted in the communication headed "Melvern Square, Wilmot," is given John Outhit, Esq., which we presume is correct. We were not quite sure, and thought better to put no name than the wrong one.

We have published a few extra copies of the last and present week's issue of the *CHRISTIAN MESSENGER*, and shall be happy to forward them to those new subscribers who wish to commence with the year