

eternal weight of glory, that we have laid aside tenderly, and which we shall yet look upon as among the sweetest memorials of the past—all the disciplinary experiences of joy and sorrow, of trial and triumph, through which a loving Saviour has led to lasting victory and peace—these are treasures indeed. We may look upon them with unmingled thankfulness. Though all other things fail us, our heavenly treasures at least are secure.—*N. Y. Chron.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 28, 1861.

Creeds.

Formulas of belief, and articles of faith have been adopted by communities of men in all ages. The precise form of these, and the substance of which they have been composed, have been as various as the parties who have adopted them. They have been changed or modified, from time to time, to suit the changes of opinion, as they have been found insufficient to express the views entertained or adopted, by those who have received them. In some cases they have been most minute and elaborate, whilst in others, they have consisted of but a brief summary of the principal doctrines held. Much difference of opinion exists, and much might be said on both sides, as to the propriety of using creeds at all, and amongst those who do not object to them, as to what is the proper place they should occupy, in the estimation of those who embrace them.

But few, amongst the mass of mankind, are accustomed to analyze their religious opinions, and define the theological system they hold,—giving to each truth its proper relative position. When, therefore men become attached to a religious party or denomination, they generally assume that the sentiments held in common by the body, are those most accordant with truth, and take, as their own, that which has been compiled as the creed of the community.

The Holy Scriptures contain no regularly drawn up Articles of Christian Faith, to be made the test of discipleship and standard of doctrine, and yet they supply us with all necessary information respecting the great matters which belong to salvation. The book of revelation like the book of nature, is full of facts and truths, which men, by searching, (John v. 39), may arrange and learn from, according to their capacity and opportunities; and all alike become "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Many passages may be taken as statements of doctrine, and expressions of the principles by which the Church of Christ is established, and to be governed upon earth; and by which it may be discovered who are the proper persons to be its members.

Some Churches have assumed to themselves legislative functions, and have propounded and enacted confessions of Faith, and Ecclesiastical Canons as laws, so as to supplant the Divine Record. They have erected Standards too, by which heresy might be discovered and suppressed, and thus as of old "taught for doctrines the commandments of men" and "rendered the Word of God of none effect through their traditions." How futile these attempts have been may be seen in many religious communities. A notorious illustration of this may be seen in the heterogeneous combination found in the English Church establishment.—All the members of that church, from the highest Puseyite to the lowest Evangelical, and from the infidel and rationalistic authors of "Essays and Reviews" to the orthodox believer,—all alike, use what is supposed to be the most ancient Christian creed extant—commonly called the Apostle's creed.

Creeds have too often been made the instruments of kindling the flames of partizanship, and tearing in pieces the body of Christ; and even of lighting the fires of persecution and martyrdom. When they are set up as models of belief, and pronounced as the embodiment of that which "except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly," they usurp the place which belongs to no human composition, and bring down the contempt of every rational independent man.

Jesus alone is king in Zion, and has enacted all the laws, that are necessary for the purposes of government in his church. See Acts iii. 22. John viii. 36. Colossians i. 13.—The Apostles were entrusted with the power of binding and loosing. Their instructions we have in the epistles under their names.—Their explanations of Christ's laws we take as authoritative. We have no other unerring commentary on the teachings of Christ. The evils which have been wrought by the unscriptural assumptions of corrupt churches, have produced such a feeling of antipathy against compendiums of religious truth, in the minds

of some Christian people, that they have in consequence, chosen to condemn Creeds altogether; and so to contract the limits of their own as to make it consist of but one brief article, viz "The Bible alone and no creed" or something to that effect.—Others having objections to the name "Creed" have chosen what has been equivalent and have called it a "System." Articles of Christian faith so very indefinite and uncertain have, of course, allowed great latitudinarianism; and while they do not really escape the obnoxious principle, they afford a covering for much evasion and prevarication. Like the brief article given by ignorant Roman Catholics rather as an excuse for not knowing what they really do hold,—“I believe what the church believes” they become rather a convenient form of objecting to all better defined statements of Christian truth.

The injury which has in many cases attended the adoption of a Creed, we think, is to be charged rather to such formulas being improperly used, than to the creed itself, and its application to legitimate purposes.

When a creed is a brief and simple epitome of what is certainly taught in Holy Scripture, and used but as a declaration of faith, and expression of sentiment in which a body is united together in Christian fellowship, we believe it to be a wholesome and beneficial provision for all its members; and without entertaining any superstitious feelings with regard to it, as a sacred compilation, we believe it may, by careful examination and study, be made to assist Christians to a consistent and enlightened view of religious truth; and may aid them in imparting what they have learned to others, who otherwise would be living in ignorance and error. Whilst then, we would object to any forced subscription to articles not understood and embraced; and would deprecate using them as a barrier to fellowship with the sincere penitent believer in the Lord Jesus Christ; we would readily apply them to such purposes as would promote union in the churches, and a hearty co-operation of Christians in any benevolent enterprise.

Will there be a resurrection of the Wicked, as well as of Believers in Christ?

Hear what the Apostle PAUL says:—

"But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: and have hope towards God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."—Acts xxiv. 14, 15.

Listen also to the words of JOHN—the beloved apostle:—

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [hades, the unseen world,] delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works."—REV. xx. 12, 13.

Now hearken to what JESUS himself has said:—

"Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Here is the testimony of three competent witnesses. Let none trifle with captious objectors to this doctrine, but rejoice in having a full revelation of the way to escape from "the wrath to come."

We are glad to find some of our New York Exchanges conscious of the weakness to which we referred a week or two since,—the contemptible spirit of self-laudation and bragadocio which has characterised so many of the prominent points of that people. The *Examiner* of August 1st, says:—

"Under the shadow of disaster, we may humble ourselves, and consider what the lesson is that God would teach us.

One lesson is so patent, that surely he who runs may read it. Has no one heard with foreboding the almost universal boasting of the North? It is of no consequence that the South has been equally arrogant—that is no business of ours at present. We have indulged a heathenish pride in the superiority of our troops, our exceeding numbers, and our greater resources. It is true that we have observed the forms of religious acknowledgement. The name of God has been upon many lips; our regiments have been commended to Him; His blessing has been invoked upon our cause. But it has been with a spirit of assurance, with a secret reliance upon material means, and an unhumane insisting upon our own righteousness. We have rather claimed than asked God's blessing."

News Summary.

Our latest London dates, by the English Mail, is up to the 10th inst.

Public news is not important. Parliament was prorogued after a long Session, during which not a great deal has been done. Austria is still in difficulty with her Hungarian subjects, who refuse to pay their taxes, unless re-instated in their former Constitutional rights, of which they were deprived by the despotic power of the Government in 1848.

Russia is also involved in trouble with her subjects, and insurrections are said to have broken out in several parts of the Empire. The chief cause of the disorders is the opposition of interests between the newly emancipated Serfs and their former owners—the great Proprietors and Nobles. A conspiracy is also stated to have been discovered among some of the principal of the aristocracy, to destroy the Emperor and the Royal family.

Lord Elgin is appointed Governor General of India, to succeed Lord Canning. He is considered as highly qualified for the office, no doubt the most difficult one to fulfil, next to the Premiership, under the British Crown.

As regards American affairs, the tide of success seems still to run with the Southern Confederacy. The news of the loss of two battles by the Federalists in Missouri, is confirmed. In the first, Gen. Lyons, commanding the Northern forces, was killed, and it is said, two or three hundred men, and numbers made prisoners, with the loss of several guns. The loss of the Confederates was also severe. The other was the defeat of Col. Siegel with a considerable body of men, killed, wounded, or prisoners. The Southern forces were commanded by an officer who distinguished himself in the Mexican war, familiarly styled Ben. McCulloch. The Confederate Army are said to be gradually advancing on Washington, which it is thought is in danger of an immediate attack. Great numbers of troops from the North are hastening towards the Capital. The blockade of the Southern Ports is far from an efficient one, as a very considerable trade is still going on, which the blockading squadron are apparently unable to prevent. One million dollars a day is said to be the expenditure of the North,—a proportionate amount is doubtless expended by the South.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

PIC NICS.—There have been several of these pleasant gatherings during the past week. The largest of the season was the one for the children attending the Catholic Sunday Schools in this City, which was held at the N. W. Arm, on Tuesday the 30th Inst., where upwards of 2600 children were gathered and spent a pleasant day.

On Wednesday the North British and Caledonian Club proceeded to Bedford, to engage in their various National Games, and enjoy the day; and on Thursday and Friday, the Presbyterian and Universalist Sabbath Schools, held their usual pleasant annual Pic Nics.

BURGLARY.—Last Friday Night, the Store of Messrs. Albro and Co. was broken into. As there was but little money left on the premises, the robbers probably helped themselves to the goods. Where were the Watchmen?

P. S. Hamilton Esq., has retired from the toils and responsibilities of Editorial life in connection with the "*Acadian Recorder*."

SMALL POX.—There were but three cases reported as remaining in the Hospital on Saturday last, so we may hope that this loathsome disease will soon have entirely quitted our usually healthy city.

DEAF AND DUMB.—We are glad to find that Mr. Hutton and his pupils are meeting with great kindness and assistance in their journeys, in this and the neighbouring province.

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.—We are glad to find that one Halifax merchant has had enterprise enough to risk a vessel and cargo, to run the sham blockade of the Southern States coast; and that he has succeeded. Mr. S. F. Barss recently despatched the Schooner *Beverly* to Wilmington, North Carolina, with a cargo of fish; and that vessel returned to this port, on Thursday last, with a cargo of naval stores. Of course, the profit on the trip must be very large. Many of our merchants, if they had been wide awake to their own interests, might already have made small fortunes through the extraordinary opportunities for successful speculation which this war has afforded them.—*Recorder*.

ARRIVAL OF THE SECOND STEAM FIRE ENGINE.—The second Fire Engine ordered by the city, arrived on Tuesday in the bark *Halifax*, and was landed in the afternoon. A quantity of hose came with it. It is somewhat larger than the first and is named the "Albert."—*Id.*

EARLY FROST.—Last week there was a slight frost in the out-settlements, which, so far as we know, did little injury to vegetation; but yesterday morning there was quite a frost in this locality, which we learn, has done mischief to buckwheat, beans, pumpkins, squashes, &c.

H. M. Steamer *Driver*, is reported totally lost off Cuba—crew saved.

ADMIRAL MILNE.—Sir Alex. Milne has been promoted, from Rear Admiral of the Blue, to Rear Admiral of the White.

A VESSEL SEIZED AT NEWPORT.—The schr. *Adelso* of St. John, N. B., and bound from Wilmington, N. C. to Halifax, with a cargo of naval stores, put into Newport yesterday in stress of weather, and was seized by the revenue officers for having run the blockade. The cutter *Henrietta* anchored alongside, and placed a part of her crew aboard the *Adelso*. It is said the British schooner *Beverly* came out of Wilmington at the same time. The brig *Sarah Starr*, which has been seized, left on the same day.—*Providence Journal*.

NAVAL.—The following ships of war are now lying in this harbour:—British—"Nile," "St. George," "Nimble," "Diadem," "Spitful," and "Steady"; French—"Bellone," "Foudre," "Catinet," and "Renaudin." Several others, both British and French are daily expected.

Within 48 hours, from Wednesday morning to Friday morning last, seven steamers entered this harbor from sea, viz: the "Canada," "Diadem," "Neptune," "Renaudin," "Steady," "Europa," and "Eastern State."—*Rec.*

GENEROUS BEQUEST.—We are informed that the late Charles Inglis, Esq., eldest son of the late Bishop of N. S., has bequeathed all his valuable estate of Clermont, in Aylesford, N. S., together with his Library, to the Governors of Kings' College, Windsor, where he received his education.

The bakery lately established at Tangier, we learn, consumes four barrels of flour per day.

METEOR.—The Pictou Standard says that a singular phenomenon was visible in the sky on Wednesday last, consisting of a colored halo round the sun, another white one having the zenith for its centre, and its circumference passed through the sun. This latter circle was intersected in a point towards the Northwest by a number of segments of circles, the extremities of which gradually vanished. The meteor continued visible for an hour. It was no doubt caused by the moist condition of the atmosphere—the colored circle being formed by the refracted light of the sun, and the others, reflections. A similar phenomenon, we believe, has been witnessed in parts of New Brunswick and Canada.

POTATOES.—We are sorry to learn from our Exchanges that the blight has already to a very large extent affected the potatoes in several parts of the Province. The same report reached us from various localities in this county.—*Miramichi Gleaner*.

ARMY WORM.—We hear that the "Army Worm" is committing great depredations in Musquodoboit. The wheat is cleared from the field as if mown down by the scythe. The farmers are busily engaged in endeavouring to secure what may be saved of their crops, before they are completely destroyed by the ravages of this most rapacious insect.

BEARS.—We learn from persons residing in the back settlements, that Bears are very numerous, and have carried away a number of sheep, from different individuals residing there. Mr. Martin Glynn informs us that he had four sheep taken from his premises during last week, and about dusk a few evenings ago he noticed a bear emerging from his barn yard, walking erect, hugging a good sized fat calf, in a very affectionate and loving manner. He at once went to the rescue, and after considerable trouble, succeeded in recovering the calf from the clutches of master bruin, who decamped to the woods, supperless.—*Miramichi Gleaner*.

A COINCIDENCE.—J. B. Gough and S. M. Hewlett, the two popular Temperance Speakers, were both born in England—were both actors upon the stage—both dissipated—both rescued from the slough of despair at the same time—both same age—have both buried the companion of their first choice—are both good singers, and both are now filling the land with their eloquent appeals for suffering humanity.—God bless and speed them both.—*New York Observer*.

The Bridgetown Register says that the price of wheat and flour will be lower than usual this year, owing to the partial closing of the Southern market and the good crops in England.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Mrs. Blauvelt, wife of Mr. Abram Blauvelt, of Tusket, died suddenly on board the Eastern State yesterday afternoon. We understand that Mrs. B., in company with her husband, had been on a visit to the United States for the benefit of her health, and on the passage appeared as well as she had been for some time. The steamer on coming up the harbour grounded on the flats, and whilst the passengers were getting ready to be conveyed ashore in boats, Mrs. B. suddenly became ill, was assisted to a chair, and immediately expired.—*Yar. Her.*

SAD ACCIDENT.—On Monday morning last, Mr. Oliver Comeau, of St. Mary's Bay, by mistake, shot his son, a lad about 10 years of age. It seems the boy, unobserved by any of the family, had climbed a tree, near the house, to a robin's nest, when a younger brother, supposing the rustling among the leaves and the affrighted movements and notes of the parent birds were caused by a hawk which had been hovering about for some days, ran to the house and called his father to shoot the hawk, which he said was in the tree. Mr. Comeau immediately took his gun and fired into the part of the tree indicated; but no hawk falling, he ascended the tree where he beheld the distressing spectacle of the corpse of his son. A dense fog prevailed at the time.—*Id.*