

In 1810 there were nine churches, six pastors, and 714 members.

You will observe that T. S. Harding's name is not in the list. He was at that time at Fredericton, where he spent two years.

Harris Harding's name is also omitted, the church at Yarmouth having withdrawn from the Association in consequence of the change in the matter of communion. The Church at Argyle is not mentioned, for the same reason.

Some remarks on the statistics must be deferred till my next.

Yours truly,
Feb. 2nd 1861. MENNO.

For the Christian Messenger.

English Correspondence.

From our own Correspondent.

THE SEVERITY OF THE WEATHER IN ENGLAND—GREAT SUFFERING IN CONSEQUENCE—THE EFFECTS OF THE AMERICAN QUARRELS ON THE COTTON QUESTION—THE DEMAND FOR FINANCIAL REFORM—ITALY—FRENCH FLEET LEFT GAETA—EUROPEAN COMPLICATIONS.

MR. EDITOR,—

A month of extraordinary cold and snow has now happily given place to a week of warm weather. The effects of such unusual cold, for which our habits ill prepare us, have been very disastrous. The large towns generally and London particularly have suffered. The mass of destitution suddenly brought about by the stoppage of building, operations on canals and amongst the shipping in the rivers, was really appalling. The well-to-do classes were taken by surprise, for after the first week or two of hard frost were borne with fortitude by the thousands of unemployed, a longer continuance of hard weather revealed want and woe far beyond the power of poor law machinery to relieve. The magistrates were besieged with hungry hundreds for alms from the police-court poor's box. As is always the case when distress is made known through the channel of the daily papers contributions flowed in apace all day long. It was one clerk's work to open the letters and register the donations sent for the relief of the indigent. Silver by the fifty pounds at a time was handed to an officer to distribute to the clamorous crowd. Often more benevolence than discretion was displayed. The really destitute are those who would rather hide their misery at home than parade themselves in the streets, these to be befriended must be sought out; but at the police courts the most daring, strong and desperate could easily contrive to reach the foreground and carry off the cream of the gifts. We hear of strong, able-bodied men out of work, banding together to parade the streets, demanding relief, and in the evening meeting at a public house to distribute three to seven shillings each for their day's work. This vividly brings before our minds a great necessity for some comprehensive system of relief in sudden emergencies and for a general practice of exercising forethought and economy in good times. The rich, the frugal, the industrious are grievously taxed by the extravagance and improvidence of the lower classes. A general habit of saving would soon almost empty our workhouses and prisons. I trust philanthropists will look to this. Labor has been abundant and wages very good. Most persons could have saved had they the inclination. There is some reason to anticipate that all our post offices may become savings banks not long hence; this would be a boon to the working classes. We would not forget though, that very great progress is being made in this direction. Penny Savings Banks are established in most towns. Money Clubs take the larger amounts but too often at the dram shop; then Co-operation Stores are rapidly spreading, and are mostly very successful. There is quite a rage too for Trading and Manufacturing Companies in shares of small amount. These all tend in the right direction, to elevate the working classes to a sense of their true dignity. The effects of intense cold have been apparent in the increased mortality of the past month. Some places an increase of 50 per cent above the average has been registered. We have had a large crop of railway accidents involving much loss of life and property. Many of these casualties are attributed to the effects of cold on the iron of the wheels or of the rails. Whether this be due to the contractile force of cold on the metal or by some diminution of cohesiveness between the particles of iron under the influence of a low temperature is yet a question amongst our engineers.

Our prospects.—With an approaching spring and political quiet at home we should rejoice in the prospect of a good year to come, but the gloomy, impenetrable clouds overspreading Europe depress us. We expect the present quiet to be disturbed, and we are unable to divine

the kind of storm that is brewing, nor how far we may be implicated in its ravages. Then over the Atlantic on your continent there roll masses of angry tempest clouds, which to the timid seem to threaten a terrible tornado. Each packet brings us worse tidings than its predecessor—the Slave States growing more and more extravagant and rabid. Measured by the import attached to similar expressions in Europe we might calculate on the United States being soon engaged in a deadly civil war. But we make a fair deduction for American boasting, and to this add as much for Southern bombast, and then take into consideration the absurdly small sum of £80,000 granted by that plucky little State, South Carolina, to make war on the whole Union, we are inclined to take heart and hope that our anticipations of evil in this case, as usual, exceed the reality. We think the slavery quarrel will do immense good. It will let the pro-slavery and anti-slavery parties know their respective strength and make them more modest toward each other. It will enlighten the slaves to know their own power. It will expose the scoundrelism of the whole system and bring it into more general disrepute. It has already stirred the apathy of all classes in England on the Cotton question. Our government, usually so hard to be moved to action is so impressed with the national importance of the Cotton manufacture that it offers its aid to the trade by means of its Consuls abroad, to find out where in the wide world a sufficient supply of cotton can be obtained. It is not likely that America can afford to cease the cultivation of cotton for a single season, and if we obtain even half the usual quantity we can tide over the difficulty quite as well as America can. So many likely places have been named, and so much capital will be raised that we may obtain large supplies in a few years from our own colonies and be independent of American caprice. That seems to be the most legitimate action to destroy the slave trade. Far better to reduce the value of slave labor below the paying point than to spend our money in cruising the Atlantic to catch now and then an odd slaver or two. Manchester has just started a Cotton Company with a capital of £1,000,000 and London advertises one with a capital of £250,000, each having the object of cultivating or buying cotton in our own colonies. Natal on the east coast of Africa and Queensland on the east of Australia are favorably spoken of as suited to produce the useful qualities of cotton at a reasonable price. India could of course supply all our wants in this article but the cost of carriage from the interior is at present too large. This will be remedied by the making of roads and utilizing the rivers.

Our money market is still under pressure. Discounts stand at 7 per cent. Consols down to 91½. Railway Stock has most of all suffered, having depreciated three times as much as Consols. A part of this reduction is due to the prospect of small dividends by reason of diminished traffic during the cold weather, and the heavy losses by accidents, and part arises from a nervousness for the future. Advantage is taken, by the heavy capitalists, of this general timidity felt by the small capitalists and investing public, to buy largely of Railway Stock, and speculate freely in Cotton. It is not much for an extensive manufacturing concern to lay out £10,000 in storing cotton for several months' consumption, whilst the smaller concerns who can only afford to buy a month's supply, must submit to pay the 10 per cent rise, and repeat that process time after time. In heavy discounts—in large purchases when the market is low—in holding stock when the prices are unfavorable—in making tremendous bargains when small builders and manufacturers are in difficulties—these are some of the ways by which shoals of the small "rising men" are swallowed by their over-rich brethren. Every few years we have a repetition of this process.

Nobody seems to know what our Parliament is to do next session. Financial Reform is more talked of than Representation Reform. Two or three score of our M. P.'s have been lecturing the Prime minister on the necessity of retrenchment, but as we are immediately informed that orders are issued for some more steel-sided ships and steam rams of enormous cost, we need not expect any retraction this year. So long as the state of the country will enable the government to squeeze from it, so long will our expenditure increase. Nothing but national distress will stop the leakage. There are too many participants in national pay sitting amongst our legislators to hope for any thing else. The government has just decided to put a uniform weapon into the hands of the Volunteers at the public expense, and offers to purchase those rifles which the volunteers have provided at their own cost. The force is becoming too numerous and too powerful to have uncontrolled possession, of their

weapons. They must be lodged in armouries except when required for military duties.

Of Foreign news there is little to say. Italy is turbulent, yet quiet. A ten days' armistice has been kept and hostilities again commenced at Gaeta. The French fleet left on the 19th inst. and its place taken by the Sardinian ships under Persano. The gun practice on both sides goes on with small results. We are told that Francis II. will not evacuate. He and his 8,000 troops seem resolved to be buried in the ruins of the place. Garibaldi is yet in his retirement. He still insists on a million of Italians in arms by the spring, but we see no signs of their getting together. On the other hand we find the army of Victor Emanuel has enough to do to keep order in the subjected provinces. The Abruzzi is overrun with rebellious gangs. Insurrection springs up every day or two, and singularly enough, the telegrams repeat every two or three days that all is quiet, that the rising is suppressed, that order is re-established. We begin to discredit the verity of telegrams from Naples as in days past.

The Emperor of Austria has enough on his hands just now, he promises most liberally and performs tardily; the Hungarians are growing very bold in their demands. They declare their want of confidence in the Emperor's promises and treat his proclamation with disdain. Denmark alarmed by the attitude of Prussia in arming itself, and indications are not wanting that the Prussian quarrel with Denmark is approved by France. Should war break out, we may see France and Denmark against Germany and Prussia on the north of the Alps and France and Sardinia against Austria on the south of the Alps. If so how long will Russia and Turkey live neighbourly together? and how long shall we be allowed to enjoy our neutrality?

HASTINGS.

Manchester, Jan. 26th, 1860

For the Christian Messenger.

Hantsport Seminary.

MR. EDITOR,

I observed a brief notice of our Seminary in your last issue. Allow me to add a few facts which will be interesting to you, and to such of your readers as are the real friends of Education.

The inhabitants of Hantsport are enthusiastic in regard to their Institution. An unmistakable proof of this is afforded by the large attendance at the school—now numbering seventy—the great majority of whom belong to the place. The people of Hantsport are deservedly proud of the building—second to none in the province that has been erected for such a purpose. They are no less proud of the staff of Teachers by whom the different departments of the school are conducted, and who with reason, command the entire confidence of the patrons and friends of the Institution.

The course of study in the Seminary is very extensive; the methods pursued are the most approved of the day; the equipments and furniture of the school rooms are all designed and calculated to secure the health, comfort, and successful study of the pupils. Order and diligence reign in the school, whilst out of it the conduct of the pupils is regulated either by the restraints of home or the judicious and highly satisfactory arrangement of the several boarding places connected with the Institution.

It has been common to record as tokens of the Divine favour the gracious exercise of a religious influence upon Institutions of Learning. If the conversion to God of the pupils of a school is a proof of Divine approbation, then may the Hantsport Seminary be regarded as thus blessed, for already, in the very infancy of the Institution, have a number been hopelessly renewed in the spirit of their minds, and led to seek an interest in Christ. The Seminary was founded in faith and prayer, and dedicated to the service of God, and there seem already gracious evidences that the offering was accepted.

A FRIEND OF EDUCATION.

Hantsport, Jan. 29th, 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 13, 1861.

Our Foreign Mission.

THE Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Board, Rev. Dr. Tupper, has forwarded us a letter, just received from Rev. A. A. R. Crawley in Burmah. The following extracts will interest our readers:

Henthada, Oct. 1st, 1860.

"My Dear Dr. Tupper:—Your note from Windsor, August 15th, together with the Draft for £80 8s. 9d. stg., has been received. I have just now barely more than time to acknowledge it, with many thanks.

You will, before this, have received my financial report, including a statement of the probable wants of the current year. Of the amount just received—£102 5s. 6d.—£27 5s. belong to the female school. So if my hopes are fulfilled,

of getting for assistants,—alone £100 stg., to say nothing of travelling—you will see that a considerable sum will still be needed."

"The most noteworthy thing in connexion with our mission just now, is the novel fact, that from two villages, situated widely apart, deputations have come in, asking that a native preacher might be stationed with them to explain the Scriptures to them! This is an almost unheard of event, for there is not a single Christian in either of these villages. We hope it is an indication of good things to come. In much haste.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY."

The fact contained in the latter paragraph is not a little remarkable. It is, we believe, not unprecedented, but it shows that a spirit of earnest enquiry is awakened in these hitherto dark places of the earth. We trust their appeal will not be in vain, but that soon this wilderness may be made to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Mission to the French Acadians.

We had a brief visit last week from the Rev. M. Normandy. We regret that it was not longer, or that we were not apprised beforehand, so as to make arrangements and advertise services for the city in behalf of the Mission. Mr. M. arrived late on Saturday night, in the midst of a pitiless storm. He preached at Granville Street Church on Lord's Day, and held a public meeting at the North Church on Monday evening. Many good people in Halifax hardly know that such a thing is in existence as a mission to the French Acadians. The presence of Mr. Normandy in the capital would have been a favorable opportunity of informing them. The falsehood circulated by interested parties concerning Baptists, have in this mission a standing refutation. Because men call themselves Roman Catholics or Protestants, they are not deemed by us beyond the reach of the truth as it is in Jesus. We have no maledictions for them; we would not deprive them of their civil rights; but if they have not received the Gospel it is our desire to carry it to them and present to them the Word of God in all its fullness and simplicity.

We understand that one of the speakers at the Protestant Alliance meeting in Halifax on Tuesday last made some remarks upon this mission and told the audience that whilst they (the P. A.) had not sent so much as a bible to the Roman Catholics, the Baptists had a permanent mission to the Acadians. And we learn from the *Witness* that a collection was taken on that occasion in aid of this mission. This may be taken as a favorable indication. May they abound yet more and more in such good works! The friends of the French Mission, we doubt not, will feel a deeper interest in the work after this opportunity of seeing and hearing the Missionary. We are not informed of the amount of contributions received, but suppose we shall shortly hear from the Treasurer.

Prayer for Colleges and Seminaries of learning.

We deferred some remarks on this subject, brought to the attention of our readers by Dr. Cramp's note in our last issue, intending to take it up this week. But as our space is so limited, we very readily give it up to a note just come to hand from Rev. David Freeman:

DEAR BROTHER.—From lecturing every evening and travelling by day from place to place I have no time to write a letter now. But I would say that I hope the churches will observe the last Thursday in the present month, as the day of prayer for colleges and seminaries of learning, inasmuch as we have now two seminaries in this province and three in New Brunswick besides those in Horton containing in all upwards of five hundred youth of both sexes, many of whom are probably unconverted, and who are soon to occupy permanent places in society, either for good or evil. Surely the conversion of these, and the blessing of God generally to rest upon all such institutions is an object worthy of our most earnest prayers. I would also suggest that those churches who cannot make quarterly collections for the salary of the Theological Professor, might about the time of the day of prayer for the institutions of learning, take a single collection and forward it to head quarters for that worthy object. All must be grieved at the loss of our brethren in Canada, but the Lord reigns!

Yours, &c.,
D. FREEMAN.

St. Mary's Cross Roads, Feb. 6th, 1861.

The Institutions to which our brother refers, we presume, are the Paradise Female Seminary, under Mrs. C. W. Morse; and the Hantsport Ladies' Seminary, under C. D. Randall, Esq. A communication respecting the latter will be found in another column. In New Brunswick are those of J. W. Hartt, Esq., in St. John; and the Baptist Seminary, Male and Female, at Fredericton. We commend the subject to the attention of our