

daily inquiry meeting, and occasionally gave an exhortation after preaching. His appeals at such times were awfully solemn. A death-like stillness reigned over the crowded vestry, while he pointed the sinner to Christ or cheered the saint in prospect of eternal glory. One occasion we will not soon forget. At the close of a sermon delivered by the writer, in which reference was made to the heavenly world, he arose, and addressed the assembly. He spoke like one who had caught a glimpse of heaven, and enchaind the attention of the people by the most touching and vivid allusions to the better world to which it was ever my privilege to listen. The address was all the more impressive, from the fact that he appeared to speak from the margin of eternity.

In answer to fervent prayer he gradually recovered his strength, and was permitted to welcome to the fellowship of the church, by baptism, thirty-three persons, the most of whom were in the bloom of youth.

Although his health rallied sufficiently for him to resume his pastoral duties, he still remained weak, and we think it probable that a foundation was laid for the disease that ultimately closed his earthly toils. In the fall of 1855 he visited the United States in order to recruit his health. On his return he visited the eastern part of the province, and labored for a while among the destitute churches. He took an active part in the formation of a church at Great Village, Londonderry.

In his absence the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Dr. Hobbs, then of Pugwash, now in Australia. Under his preaching, a great revival occurred. A great many persons joined the church. The work was, doubtless, on the whole, of God, but we fear too much haste was manifested in the admission of persons to the church. As a consequence a painful reaction took place, and the goodness of many passed away like "the morning cloud." Brother Bentley returned home in March, 1856, and found much work before him. The declension sorely tried him. His health was poor, and his spirits became depressed. He came to the conclusion that his work in Liverpool was done, and much to the regret of all his friends he resigned the pastorate in July, 1856.

[To be concluded next week.]

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 16, 1861.

Fire in Halifax!

TWO BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS BURNT!!

FATAL CASUALTIES!!!

Again has our good City been visited with the devouring element, and a large portion of the most important part levelled with the ground.

On Saturday night about 10 o'clock, the alarm of Fire called out the Fire Companies. We hastened to the spot and found the shop in Hare's building, Cheapside, occupied by Mr. J. Garvie, as a Grocery and Liquor Store, one sheet of flame. Although the cold was intense, and the streets covered with snow and ice, yet the engines were soon at work, and a powerful stream of water seemed to have quenched the flames, but the sequel shews that it was but suppressed for a short time, to burst forth again with greater violence and to spread with a rapidity that baffled all the efforts of man to overcome. In about half an hour the whole block called Hare's Building was one mass of livid flame. The efforts now were to preserve the stores of Mr. W. Silver, Dr. Avery and Mr. Stairs on one side, and Morton & Cogswell and Black Brothers & Co. on the other,—across streets of about 60 feet wide,—from taking fire. These efforts were successful on the North side, and although Dr. Avery's Store was several times on fire, it was extinguished so that the fire did not get inside until quite late in the morning, when it was extinguished without doing much damage. On the South, however, the battle which was for some time kept up between the two elements, was no longer doubtful, and the water and its appliances of engines, hose and men, was compelled to retreat. Great confusion now prevailed, arising from the hundreds of citizens standing in the street witnessing the progress of the fire, and others removing goods from the stores all around and beyond the block.

The fire still continued to advance from house to house and from store to store, sending far into the heavens its tongues of flame, apparently laughing at the vain attempts to arrest its destructive course. On and on it went with but little impediment from the streams of water, which vainly sought to obstruct its way, until it had completely consumed the block, and, crossing Prince Street,

it took possession of the *Morning Chronicle* and *British Colonist* offices. Here an opportunity offered for combatting the destruction with some hope of success. The low buildings to the southward were more easily reached with water than any that had yet been taken, and here the firemen took a stand which eventually proved successful, and the fire was confined to those parts already under its control. The parties residing in Bedford Row, southward, had, by this time,—three or four o'clock on Sunday morning,—removed their furniture and effects; the windows had been broken in, and the whole was rendered one scene of frightful desolation and ruin. The loss arising from destruction and thieving, to many of these being, as we suppose, almost equal to that of being actually burned out.

The buildings being occupied as printing offices, lawyers offices, insurance offices, &c., &c., besides merchant's stores, it is difficult to form an estimate of the amount of loss. It must, however, have been very great, probably amounting to two or three hundred thousand pounds.

The turning out of about sixty establishments of one kind and another, must, for some time, greatly interfere with business operations in Halifax.

Sad to relate, by the fall of a chimney, one poor man named Harvey was killed; and by other accidents several persons had their legs broken. Amongst these were Mr. F. Albrow, Hardware merchant; J. Rolls, Charles Carey, sexton of Granville Street Church,—who underwent the painful operation of an amputation on Sunday afternoon. Mr. McNeil, —P. Power and P. Coleman received serious injury. Two quite young men named Major and Morton were badly injured in their heads and their arms. Major died yesterday.

The following is a list of the business firms whose premises have been burnt:

IN HARE'S BUILDING:

†J. Garvie, Grocer.
†J. W. Farquharson, Tailor.
†J. Donohoe, Bookseller.
†Daniel Thom, Liquor dealer.
†W. Wilson, Hatter.
†Lordly & Stimpson, Grocers.
†H. H. Fuller, Hardware.
†D. Walsh, Clothier.
†Thomas Martin, Hairdresser.
†H. Browne, Watchmaker.
†W. Penny, *Morning Journal* Office.
†W. & J. Compton, *Evening Express* Office and Bookbindery.
†W. Cunnebell, *The Casket* Office.
†John Boyes & Son, Bookbinders.

IN HOLLIS STREET:

†Morton & Cogswell, Druggists.
†J. B. Strong, Bookseller and Stationer.
†W. & J. Campbell, Tailors.
†A. F. Pillsbury, American Consul.
†J. M. Margeson, Photographer.
†Bauld & McDonald, Dry Goods.
†N. Silver, Dry Goods.
†Whetmore, Vaux, & McCulloch, Dry Goods.
†A. Harshaw, Furrier.
†E. G. Fuller, American Book Store.
†Geo. Alexander, Dry Goods.
†W. M. Harrington & Co., Grocers.

IN PRINCE STREET:

The Halifax Library, books saved.
†John Pugh, Grocer.
Hon. J. W. Johnston & Sons, Lawyers.
Charles Twining & Son, Lawyers.
J. W. Ritchie, Lawyer.
S. L. Shannon, Lawyer.
†Joseph D. Smith, Photographer.
Irish Volunteer Orderly Room.
†British Colonist Office.
†Stewart's Saloon.
†Morning Chronicle Office.
W. Howe, Lawyer.
Henry Elliott, Architect.
J. H. Liddell.
Geo. Whidden, Insurance Agent.
†Royal Gazette Office.

IN BEDFORD ROW:

†John M. Geldert, Grocer.
W. Townsend, Inspector of Fish.
Sheriff's Office.
†Merchant's Exchange Reading Room.
†John Lithgow, Grocer, loss 5 to £7000.
N.S. Marine Insurance Office and dwelling above.
Excise walter's Office.
Union Marine Insurance Office.
M. H. Richey, Lawyer.
A. Primrose, Lawyer.
R. G. Halliburton, Lawyer.
†Halifax Fire Insurance Office.
Odd Fellow's Hall.
†Black Brothers & Co., Hardware, and
†An unoccupied Store belonging to W. B. Hamilton.

The wind being northward, rendered it difficult at times to get near without danger of suffocation from the smoke and falling timbers. It was most lamentable to witness the drunkenness which prevailed during the night. As the several groceries were being emptied, men and boys took bottles of liquor, knocking off the neck, drank from the bottles their contents. The night being intensely cold, this soon took effect, and in many cases the lives of those who had partaken were in imminent danger until removed by the military. We observed with pleasure when an application by some soldiers to their officer to allow them to drink was made, it was by him resolutely refused. We heard of one man being frozen to death on a wharf, but have not had the report confirmed. Doubtless many will for a good while suffer from the intoxication of the night. Some of whom we might have expected more prudence, under the supposition that spirituous liquors were

†Fully Insured. †Partially Insured. †No Insurance.

necessary at such times to keep out the cold, partook, and afterwards, evidently by their actions, were under the baneful influence of alcohol rather than of their better judgment, so requisite on such occasions.

Thankful for the mercies which have been extended to us, in sparing ourselves from such a catastrophe, we extend our sympathy—as we well know how,—to the sufferers, especially to our six contemporaries who have been so suddenly deprived of their offices. Some of these we learn are wholly without insurance or very slightly insured.

But few, we presume, are anything like fully insured, and while the insurance offices will of course be great losers, yet some of the young merchants who have been called to see their hopes vanish and their expectations cut off, will have learned how fleeting and uncertain are all earthly possessions, and how necessary it is to lay up enduring substance in heaven, where neither moth nor rust can corrupt, and where they cannot be touched by such awful calamities.

What on Saturday evening was a row of brilliantly lighted stores, filled with rich, gay goods, is now a heap of smoking, smoldering ruins; and instead of the countenances of active, obliging store-keepers, within plate-glass shop-fronts, we have a regiment of tall, blackened, naked chimneys, with but a very distant prospect of any new handsome structures taking the place of those consumed. Not that those buildings of wood were of much value or highly ornamental to the city, but the parties owning the property will probably hesitate in re-building; and we shall for a good while have to endure the sight of this hideous deformity.

It has been suggested that it would make a fine site for a Terminus of a horse-Railroad, and the Government might now obtain it by valuation for that purpose, at a reasonable rate. This would doubtless be a great convenience to the City and to all parties coming into it from the country, and would therefore probably meet with general acceptance.

A large number of persons were brought up at the Police Court on Monday morning, and fined, for drunkenness and stealing at the fire, from \$2 to \$20.

The Week of Prayer.

We noticed in our last that services had been held in Halifax on the days preceding our day of publication. The meetings in the latter portion of the week were more largely attended than those in the earlier part.

The general gathering in Temperance Hall on Thursday evening was very fully attended. The addresses were mostly of a highly interesting character. A large, crowded, miscellaneous assembly, however, is not calculated, we think, to promote a devotional spirit. All the speakers seemed to enter into the fraternal feelings which dictated the meetings. The gentleman who spoke on prayer for educational institutions, confining his remarks almost exclusively to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, we thought a little singular, and liable to be construed into a want of appreciation of other institutions at home and abroad; also, his utter repudiation of all education, except when connected with religion, we thought calculated to mislead. We have no sympathy with the notion that "Ignorance is bliss." If religion could be communicated by teaching, the theory would be more consistent, but whilst religion is a work of the heart and mind, we think that the education of the mind, and instruction on all subjects is desirable, and a religious education of course most desirable of all; but to say that ignorance is preferable to education without religion, is, we think, open to serious objection, and not in harmony with the spirit of Christianity.

The *New Brunswick Baptist and Christian Visitor*, No. 1, appeared on the 9th inst. Its editorial character is the same as that of its former self, *The Christian Visitor*. Its mechanical execution and general appearance is a decided improvement.

We have a communication from Rev. David Freeman of a later date than that on another page. He was at Cow Bay, C. B., on the 9th inst. As we have not space for it this week, and as it seems desirable that the P. S. should appear without delay, we insert it before the letter. It is as follows:—

"P. S.—We have easterly weather. It has been snowing several days. There is good sleighing, and a prospect of continuance, if rain does not set in.

"I expect in about a fortnight to return to N. S., and visit Guysborough, Canso, Isaac's Harbor, Indian Harbor, St. Mary's, Upper Musquodoboit, &c., but dare not now make definite appointments, owing to the uncertainty of crossing the Strait of Canso in winter."

D. F.

News Summary.

Our last English Mail, bringing London dates to the 29th of Dec., also announces the welcome confirmation of the rumoured peace with China. The Treaty between the Chinese Emperor and Lord Elgin and Baron Gros, the English and French Plenipotentiaries, was ratified on the 24th of October. The chief points of the Treaty are an apology from the Emperor for the treacherous attack last year of the Taku Forts on the Allied fleets in the Peiho.—A large indemnity of some millions sterling to be paid forthwith to the Allied Powers. A stipulation for the residence hereafter of their Ambassadors at Peking, and for freedom of Commerce and religion. These important advantages were not obtained however until the Allied Armies had gained full possession of Peking, a Capital containing some two millions of souls. Most of the prisoners taken by the Chinese had been restored after threats of bombarding the City. One of them, Captain Brabazon of the Artillery had been cruelly put to death and Mr. Bowlby, the Agent of the London Times, and some French officers and several soldiers of both Armies had died from their sufferings under the brutal treatment of the Chinese. Lord Elgin on behalf of their bereaved families enforced the payment of one hundred thousand pounds. The British Soldiers having in retaliation for their death set fire to and destroyed the Emperors Summer Palace, the most costly and magnificent of the Buildings of Peking. The Emperors who had fled into Tartary was about returning to his Capital, to view and reflect on the fruits of his treachery and folly in breaking the Treaty of Tien-tsin concluded with Lord Elgin two years since.

The Ex-King of Naples still held out at Gaeta, which continued to be besieged by the Sardinians. It was evident however that he must soon abandon a hopeless contest, and he will probably retire to Spain, where his relatives who occupy the throne will afford him a refuge.

Austria is making large concessions, in the way of free institutions to her Hungarian and other subjects. She finds that nothing short of this measure can stay the tide of revolution which is threatening her, if indeed it be not now too late to retrace her ill-judged steps.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

APPOINTMENTS.—Robert H. Beckwith to be Justice of the Peace in the County of Kings.

Robert Lindsay, Daniel Waterman, James Zwicker, Robert Dawson, Elias Deliver, and John Smith, to be Justices of the Peace for Lunenburg County.

James H. Cook, John Minard and Charles H. Whitman, to be Justices of the Peace in Queen's County.

W. V. Andrews to be Corner for Lunenburg. Hugh Mephee to be Collector of Colonial Duties at Antigonish.

The Honorable W. B. Phipps, second son of the Earl of Mulgrave, proceeds, we understand, in the Steamer which leaves to-morrow evening to England, in order that he may present himself as a candidate for a Naval Cadetship at the examination.—*Church Record* 9th.

From the time her Majesty's steamer Hero left England to her return to Plymouth Sound 54 men deserted, mostly at Quebec, from leave; two were drowned, one died, three obtained their discharge, and one exchanged into another ship.—*Recorder*.

HALIFAX MECHANIC'S LIBRARY.—We have to acknowledge the receipt, at the hands of Mr. Wilson, the very obliging librarian, of a Catalogue of this useful Library. The facilities for obtaining a supply of reading is now-a-days so great, that no one need be uninformed on any subject on which he desires information. With the abundance of books presenting themselves for perusal, a judicious friend to recommend to young people the best on certain subjects, and also those of a miscellaneous character, is very desirable.

A number of cab-drivers were fined on Friday last at the Police court for not having lamps on their carriages and sleighs.

We regret to learn that the lady of N. West Esq., was run over, and much injured on Friday last, near Victoria Terrace, Hollis Street by a horse which had been incautiously left standing on the side-walk.—*Sun*.

The residence of Mrs. Catherine Power, on Commercial street, Yarmouth, was totally destroyed said to have been caused by some defective heating apparatus.

It is announced that the news station of the Associated Press, at Cape Race, will be closed for the season on the 15th January, and will reopen about the middle of April.

Extract of a letter from TRURO:—"Our winter, particularly mild and with plenty of snow, is quietly passing away. The Court, with little excitement, just closed its session,—refused to grant licenses. The rum-sellers were quite satisfied, supposing that, as usual, they could get a clerk of the license of their own choosing, but the good friends of Temperance on both sides of politics seemed determined to disappoint them, and fortunately one was appointed who is a Temperance man, and who, by his industry and proper attention to business, commands the respect even of the rum-seller himself. We hope, in the moment of danger, he will exhibit a little of the "Havelock." I was sorry to see the new appointments voting on the liquor side."