

HOME MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

For the Christian Messenger.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE HOME MISSIONARY BOARD.

Members present:

Hon. J. McCully in the chair.
Brethren D. McN. Parker, M. D., W. L. Evans, Thos. Wesley, Geo. Robins, H. N. Paine and R. N. Beckwith.

Communications received:

From Revs. A. F. Porter, M. A. Bigelow, 1st Horton Church, and Wm. Randall.

Received during the month:

From Nictaux Church for the Gaelic Mission, per Wm. Randall, \$4 00
From Hon. J. McCully, 20 00

Amount of Funds in the Treasury - \$36 71

Liabilities of the Board, about - 230 00

Rev. M. A. Bigelow, appointed a mission of 3 months at Sand Point, New Harbour, and other destitute places in the County of Guysborough.

Missionaries for 3 months or more will please report monthly to the Board.

R. N. BECKWITH,
Sec. H. M. Board.

Halifax, December 2nd, 1861.

Religious Intelligence.

CHURCH PREFERENCE BELONGING TO A BAPTIST.—The Rectory of Oulton, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. H. F. Fell, M.A., formerly minister of Trinity Church, Isington. The benefice is worth \$900 a year, and is in the gift of Sir M. Peto, Bart., M. P. [What will he do with it?]

INDIA.—A remarkable case of conversion is related in a letter from Benares. Ramaiya Baba was originally a Brahmin, and in some districts had come to be regarded as a sort of demigod. A vast number of followers attached themselves to him, in the belief that he had the power of working miracles; bold and straightforward in action, and generous in temper, it is not difficult to understand how his influence was acquired. When he first became known to the missionary, he was living a life awfully wild and profane, for his previous austerities were supposed to have emancipated him from the blame and penalty of ordinary vice, and the crowds worshipped him as an incarnation of God. Still he did not appear at rest in himself. Then for three or four years he was lost sight of. When at length he reappeared, it was to ask an interview of the missionary. "It was a few moments," writes Mr. Smith, "before I could recollect who Ramaiya Baba was, though the name sounded familiar. Well, he came in, and how altered!—no longer the half-intoxicated, wild-looking man that he formerly was, but sad and sorrowful; and with downcast countenance, and with voice scarcely audible, he said that he had come to be instructed in the way of salvation; that he had tried all the ways of the Hindus, and found no satisfaction, and his only hope was that he might find rest and peace in Christianity." Consequently, in September last, after nearly a year's probation, he was baptized with his wife and children. "He was sincere from the first. In becoming a Christian, beside all the honour from men which he has lost, and the obloquy which he has incurred, he has made considerable sacrifices of a pecuniary nature in the large presents and offerings he was constantly receiving, as well as the allowance of a rupee a day, which the Rajah of Benares made him. He hopes that his influence still continues over a large number of his followers, and that many who were his disciples in error will now follow him in the way of truth. And so, through the Divine blessing, it seems likely to be. At a recent visit, the missionaries were privileged to baptize a few of these followers; and though the movement is yet in its infancy, it is hoped it may prove the beginning of greater changes.

CHINA.—We regret to state that in China the British ambassador is adopting a policy strangely at variance with the spirit of Protestant enterprise. Mr. Klockers, of the Baptist mission, having twice obtained a footing within the walls of Peking, has been twice compelled to withdraw by the refusal of Mr. Bruce to grant him protection. French priests are allowed free ingress; but under cover of the treaty the privilege is angrily denied to English Protestant missionaries. Mr. Klockers, while in Peking, found time to visit the Roman Catholic Cathedral. The interior had the usual ornaments of pictures and crucifixes. There are twelve foreign priests in the city and adjacent districts, who boast largely of their numerous converts. From the archimandrite, or head-priest, of the Russian embassy, he learnt that there were about 200 converts attached to the Greek Church, and that there were two churches in the city for their worship. One of them was visited and found to be splendidly adorned. The Rev. Hugh Cowie, who has taken up a position at Chefoo, writes in an encouraging strain respecting the baptism of the first convert in those parts, who by reading the Scriptures became convinced of their truth. Immediately on his conversion he set about communicating the glad tidings to his friends and neighbours; and as the result many have become inquirers, and some true believers. Thus the work continually extends.

MADAGASCAR.—The news from Madagascar is confirmatory of the hopes excited on the accession of King Radama II. to the throne.

He has invited the co-operation of Protestant missionaries in the philanthropic schemes by which he wishes to inaugurate his reign. The London Missionary Society proposes to send out in the ensuing spring a band of missionaries, not less than six in number, suitably qualified for the different departments of labour. It is hoped also that others may be found to accompany them—"one, at least well instructed in surgery and medicine, a second with qualifications for promoting general and Christian education by training native schoolmasters; and a third, practically acquainted with the art of printing."

American and European News.

Latest from the States!

The following despatch was received on Christmas Day:

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The New York Tribune's Washington despatch says—Lord Lyons held another conference with Secretary Seward on Monday. Persons of high authority state that the conference was friendly and satisfactory. A Cabinet meeting will be held to-day when our relations with England will be thoroughly discussed.

The New York Post states that the Cabinet has resolved to release Mason and Slidell, and orders have gone on to ship them at once to Halifax.

Charleston Jail was burned down during the late fire. Col. Corcoran and other prisoners escaped. Corcoran not since heard from.

Kentucky has been admitted into the Confederacy. —Colonist.

The following appeared in the Saturday evening Reporter:

We understand that His Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave has received intelligence by Telegraph that Slidell and Mason and the two Secretaries are to be delivered up to Lord Lyons forthwith.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 9 o'clock.—Washington, Dec. 28.—The *Intelligencer* of this morning publishes correspondence between Secretary Seward and Lord Lyons, by which it appears Mason and Slidell are to be surrendered. This and other peaceful indications show that war with England will not take place.

New York, 28th.—The news that Mason and Slidell are to be given up, gives a firm and buoyant tone to the Stock Market. —Sun.

Some fighting is reported on the lines in front of Washington. It is stated that the Federals were successful, they defeated the Confederates, driving them towards Fairfax Court House, with a loss of 160 killed and wounded.

A new tariff bill, for the purpose of increasing the revenue, has passed both houses of Congress, in which an increase of duty is put upon tea, coffee, and sugar. The duty on tea will henceforth be twenty cents a pound, on coffee five cents, clayed, and two-and-a-half cents brown. This addition, it is presumed, will yield seven or eight millions to the revenue of the government for the present year.

HIGH FREIGHTS.—We learn from the *New Brunswick* that a telegram was received from Boston, stating that freights had advanced at that port to a most fabulous figure, viz:—4s. per barrel for flour to Liverpool.

American vessels cannot receive charters under any circumstances.

THE FRENCH MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.—It is said the bearing of the French Minister at Washington is so haughty, so unconciliating, and so presumptuous, that close observers believe that the object of France is to pick a quarrel with the United States, and give themselves a legal excuse for breaking the blockade. —*London Economist*.

"CRUSHED OUT."—Notwithstanding it was said some weeks ago that the rebellion in Missouri was "crushed out," we are informed that the rebel army, under Gen. Price, recently destroyed rails, tanks, bridges, etc. to a large extent on the North Missouri Railroad.

The French Government are said to be building very costly lines of steamers to run between France, the West Indies, and the U. States.

AMENITIES.—Congress.—Notwithstanding the absence of Southern fire-eaters from the legislative halls at Washington, they still have some fiery spirits who have of late been indulging in the gentlemanly habit of calling each other "blackguard," "liar," and "scoundrel."

The Press.—The compliments the press pass upon each other are not inferior to those of the legislators. Horace Greely, the editor of the *N. Y. Tribune*, favors Bennett of the *N. Y. Herald* with the epithet, "lying old braggart," whilst the latter compliments the former with being "a galvanized squab."

Mr. Seward's prophecy of there being "great news" in the course of ten days, over which the country was to "rejoice," has not yet been fulfilled, except it be concerning the surrender of Mason and Slidell, which we presume he will find rather a bitter pill before long.

JUBILANT.—The *N. Y. Examiner* seeks to keep up the courage of his readers by the following list of favorable indications of "Discouragement at the South."

"We have reason to believe that not only the Southern people are tired of this struggle, but that the leaders of the rebellion, by whose arts and for whose behoof it was gotten up, are becoming discouraged. The unflinching devotion of the great resources of the North to the support of the Constitutional Government; the ad-

mirable condition and spirit of our army; our recent naval victories; the substantially effective blockade of the Southern ports; the scarcity there of many articles of comfort and luxury; the want of a regular and trustworthy mail service; the capture of Mason and Slidell! the causes of State dissatisfaction with the tyrannical policy of the autocratic Jeff. Davis; the yearning of tens of thousands of Northern-derived citizens of the South after their old friends; and above all, though suggested and helped by all these, the sober second-thought and genuine loyal feeling of many among the masses of the people of the South, are among the reasons that are ripening this discouragement to an open outbreak. The recent action of loyal citizens in North Carolina, while an indication of the change of feeling there, will also greatly embolden true men in other States." The editor adds,

"It is stated by Mr. Russell, in his last letter to the *London Times*, that not only are the President and Cabinet disposed to receive overtures of peace, but that they are seriously considering an application to European powers for their intervention as arbitrators. The latter statement is doubtless erroneous. Such a course would betray the people, and dishonor God. We have no need of Europe now, any more than ever before. But that the President would listen to such overtures for peace as become repentant and returning prodigals, there is no doubt. They must submit, not to us, but to the Government, which is over us as well as them, and whose authority they have outraged."

THE LATE COL. BAKER.—The *Watchman and Reflector* informs us that the late eloquent Col. Baker was for many years what a Western Methodist paper calls "a Baptist preacher of the Campbellite school." A writer in an Indiana secular journal, speaks of him as a man "wonderfully versed in the Scriptures, and of resistless power in the pulpit."

AHEAD OF TIME.—The operators of the American Telegraph Company, while awaiting the arrival of the Europa at Halifax, on Sunday, the 15th inst., worked direct from Halifax to Washington and vice versa without the slightest difficulty, the operators at these points writing as rapidly and receiving as easily as though they were separated but a few miles. The distance between Halifax and Washington is about 1200 miles, and the news leaving Halifax at 11 o'clock, A. M., was received by the Washington operator at 5 minutes after 10, that being the exact difference of time between the two places. —*Boston Traveller*.

THE SHAKERS AND THE WAR.—The Shakers, as is well known, are opposed to war. An application for contribution for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers by the Relief Association has elicited the following response from those in New York State. They propose to make their donations for the relief of "the sufferings of our common brotherhood," and "not to aid, abet or sustain" war:

"TO THE PUBLIC.—Whereas, a 'Relief Association' of the city of Albany and vicinity have made solicitations to the Shaker Community thereof to aid in the relief of what is understood to be pressing wants of our sick and wounded fellow men the Shakers have contributed a mite sacred to this purpose only.

We are impressed with the belief that propriety directs the giving of charities silently; and for only excuse for appearing before the public on the present occasion, is that our object in making the present donation, though small, may be rightly understood.

As a people, the Shaker Community repudiate war, in all its forms, under any circumstances, believing it to be solely a worldly and un-Christian practice, and therefore, have no sympathy with it, having full confidence in the Christian principle of overcoming evil with good.

And, while we deem loyalty to so good a civil government (with all its faults) as that of the United States of North America, to be the duty of every individual of the nation, we still affirm that, in the presentation of this small donation, our sympathies are impartially humane and Christian, and what is given is for the sole purpose of relieving the sufferings of our common brotherhood of the human family, and not to aid, abet, sustain, or encourage war in any of its departments or in any sense whatever. (Signed by the Trustees.)"

VERY LATEST.

[By Telegraph to News-room and Morning papers.]

THE OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BOSTON DEC. 30th.—The official correspondence relative to the seizure of Slidell and Mason, was published in Washington on Saturday.

The first document is a despatch from Mr. Seward to Minister Adams, dated 3th Nov., in which the *Trent* affair is alluded to. It states that Com. Wilkes acted without instructions, and Mr. Seward trusts that the English Government will consider the subject in a friendly temper, when it may expect the best disposition on the part of the Federal Government.

The next document is a copy of Earl Russell's despatch to Lord Lyons, dated 30th Nov. It details the circumstances of the *Trent* affair, and says it was an affront to the British flag and a violation of international law. Her Majesty's Government was willing to believe the act was committed without authority, and resulted from misunderstanding; trusts the United States Government will of its own accord offer such redress as alone would satisfy them—namely: Liberation of the four prisoners and their delivery to Lord Lyons, that they may again be placed under British protection; with suitable apology for the aggression committed. Should these terms not be offered by Mr. Seward, Lord Lyons will propose them to him.

Mr. Seward in reply, after stating that Captain Wilkes acted upon his own suggestions of duty without any directions or instructions from his Government, discusses the question at great length, says it was simply an inadvertency, consisting in a departure by a naval officer—free from wrongful motive—from a rule uncertainly established. For this error the British Govern-

ment had a right to expect the same reparation that we, as an independent State, should expect from Great Britain or any friendly nation;—says if the safety of the Union required the detention of captured persons, it would be the right and duty of the Government to detain them; but that the effectual check given to insurrection as well the comparative unimportance of the captured persons, happily forbid him from resorting to that defence. Mr. Seward concludes as follows:—"The four persons in question are now held in military custody at Fort Warren, Massachusetts. They will be cheerfully liberated. Your Lordship will please name a time and place for receiving them."

Lord Lyons acknowledges receipt of Mr. Seward's Despatch. He says he will confer personally on arrangements to be made for delivering the prisoners to him.

Copy of despatch from Thouvenel, Foreign Minister of France, to Merquier, French Minister at Washington, also published. Thouvenel urges that neutral flag, from one neutral port to another neutral port, covers persons and merchandise.

BANKS SUSPEND SPECIE PAYMENTS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The Banks, late on Saturday night, decided to suspend specie payments this morning by vote of 25 to 15.

Washington despatches state that the manner in which Mason and Slidell are to be given up has been left to Lord Lyons, who will doubtless have it done in a manner least offensive to this Government. It is reported that they will sail per steamer *America*, which will call at Boston for them.

A gentleman from Richmond reports that rebels have great confidence that they would defeat Union troops, and that it is impossible for them to be conquered. They declare that rather than come again into the Union, the South would become a Province of England.

Our prisoners are suffering and many died for lack of medicine. Not an ounce of quinine to be found in Richmond, and little medicine of any kind.

Banks of New York, Philadelphia and Boston suspend specie payments to-day.

Reports from seat of war unimportant.

Latest from Europe!

DR. RUSSELL The Times CORRESPONDENT, ON THE OUTRAGE.

While it must be still matter of opinion what the Americans will do, we must confess we looked with more than usual interest for the statements and opinions of "The Times" correspondent. He is at Washington, he knows Americans now quite well, he is fair-minded towards them, though, of course, with a national leaning; and most important of all, he is not an anonymous correspondent—his reports from the Crimea and from India have given him a European fame and proportionate responsibility—and, therefore, we should think him to be of all men the one with whom we should like an hour's conversation on things at Washington just now. We have his written opinions instead; and well he knows that all these opinions, if incorrect and unfair, will be, as others have been, read in three or four weeks also in America, and criticised without mercy.

No opinion will be read with greater pain than one very deliberately given after remarking that arbitration might possibly save us from a quasi civil bellum, though it would be hardly creditable for an ancient people like us to submit to it,—a view we think wholly wrong. But Dr. Russell adds:—"I will say more, and I say it with sorrow. In the present temper of the American people no concession can avert serious complications very long, or the surrender of all the boasted privileges of the *Civilis Romanus*." Again, two days before he heard of the outrage, he wrote:—"The American journalists are insatiable in their desire to be insulted; they are ever on the look out for some pretence to shout out that their flag has been affronted, or that England has been doing something or other not neutral; and it drives them to desperation to see that all our statements insist on being neutral, in spite of provocation or annoyance." This temper he illustrates by examples. Singularly enough, his information leads him to conclude that the South is not much better than the North in this respect for he says:—"The most recent letters from New Orleans state that great irritation prevails among the populace against British subjects, because her Majesty's Government has not recognised the Confederate States or forced the blockade; and it is urgently demanded that a man-of-war be sent to protect the lives and property of the subjects of the Crown. These apprehensions may not be well founded but it could not do any harm to let the Union Jack be seen in the Mississippi now and then. At this moment there are three British sailors lying in jail in this city for no offence except that they are men of colour."

The exultation at the captures is no more than might be expected. "They are now," Dr. Russell says, "in Fort Warren, and the whole country rings with joy at the news that enemies so skilful, so energetic, so accomplished, should by this unexpected stroke of daring be placed in the power of the United States when it seemed that their mission must inevitably have prospered. But they have ceased to be rebels. Their forms expand in their dungeon. Instead of being the disloyal citizens of the rebellious provinces of the United States, which they were when they entered the British packet they are the recognised ambassadors of a beligerent and independent nationality!"

The first exultation over, graver questions began to suggest themselves, answered according to the temper of the men who asked them. It was