

in very rare instances, be distinguished, the one from the other. In nearly all, there is the really unseemly, and to others, on several occasions, the inconveniently expansive, superfluous ribbons and other fripperies, which may, as of course, be expected from a world involved in ungodliness and folly; but which is altogether inconsistent in a Christian professor. But the great evil is that they are directly contrary to the inspired directions, against all such vain and extravagant displays, and against conformity to an irreligious and a corrupt world. Such inconsistent professors, as might be expected, also array their children, of every age, in a similar, or greater profusion of the same fripperies, thereby cherishing and encouraging, the natural vanity and folly of youth, instead of doing their best, by advice and otherwise, to check and restrain those native evil propensities, as the divine commands, as well as right reason, and prudence, require. In many instances, such parents, on their baptismal dedication of their children to the Lord, solemnly promised, and vowed, on their behalf, that they should "renounce the pomps and vanities of this wicked world; and all the sinful lusts of the flesh." Frequently, the subsequent headstrong, and improper conduct of the children, bring upon such parents the deserved chastisement for their so fostering that native youthful vanity and folly, and thus violating their own vows and christian duty. But, then, as in numerous other cases of error and misconduct, regret and sorrow, come too late.

Inconsistency and blame, may, also, justly, be imputed to religious professors of the other sex: for a similar vain display, in, at least, the one instance, of—the gold chain with its accessories so carefully arranged across the breast, as to attract and engage attention. That eminently wise and devoted servant of the Lord, the founder of Methodism—in a discourse, expressly regarding the becoming apparel of religious professors, when enforcing on his people the passages, as to females avoiding the wearing of ornaments of gold, says very properly, that by a parity of reason, the same prohibition, includes the male professors, also. For several reasons, indeed, it may justly, be said, that in making such open and vain exhibitions of gold chains and rings, they are even more culpable than the other sex.

On "Ministers and people" the preacher demands for the former a very high class of qualifications, spiritual and moral. In reference to their temperance, he remarks:—

"There are these further scriptural qualifications, essential for a Christian Minister, that he be,—not give to wine;" that he be "patient," and "temperate." The words, in the original language, which in our version of scripture, are translated,—not given to wine," are, by the learned, explained to mean "not by," or "in company with wine." In analogy and accordance with several other passages of scripture, the words,—not given to wine, evidently mean that he is not to use any kind of intoxicating wine, as a beverage. The words do not relate, merely, to the excessive or even habitual use of wine of that quality, but they contain a full prohibition to any use of it whatever, for the purpose just mentioned. This entire prohibition is made clearly evident, by the following passage, contained in Prov. xxxiii, 31, 32. "Look not thou upon the wine, when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright; at the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." There is, here, no caution or warning, to be guarded, and "put a knife to the throat," as in this same book of Proverbs, with regard to eating in moderation, and to avoid excess; but immediately after the previous description of the afflicting effects of the use of the intoxicating liquor, the express command is given.—"look not thou upon the wine." &c. If he is not even to "look upon" it, surely, he is not to swallow it. This is the very strongest form of expression, that could be used, to signify, that a person should not partake at all, but should turn away, lest, by looking on its tempting appearance, he should be captivated and ensnared, and be induced to drink it."

"To him, most especially, the divine command applies.—"Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." This prohibition, of course, applies to the use of the poisonous drug,—tobacco. This even beyond all others, is a merely sensual, and, properly speaking, disgusting practice; as well as most pernicious, in a variety of forms. It would be well, indeed, if all in the Ministerial office, were innocent of this abominable evil practice. Surely, all both Ministers and members, who are called,—*"Wesleyans,"* should never claim that appellation, while indulging in that sensual practice; which is not only contrary to divine commands; but, also, to the express and still standing rules, of the self-denying, and devoted founder of that branch of the Christian Church.

The profusion of italics on every page, we consider a defect in the typography. Where these are used too freely, instead of giving force, as they are intended, they produce an impression that the writer fails to find ordinary language sufficient to convey his thoughts. The superabundance of points, (commas) too, in many places divide the sentences unnecessarily. We find one of our contemporaries expressing some doubts about the propriety of the publication, on account of the author being a layman. We have no scruples on this score, but think that every Christian should seek to do all the good in his power, both by his pen, the press and his tongue. If he has the ability to preach, and so commend the gospel to his fellowmen, so much the better. We doubt if any person could read these sermons without receiving benefit therefrom.

REPORT OF THE HALIFAX CITY MISSION FOR 1861.

The Halifax City Mission is one, and almost the only one, of the agencies employed for direct attack on the empire of Satan in the more degraded parts of our city. The missionary, Mr. Morton, has, we believe, filled that situation from the time the late lamented Rev. G. N. Gordon left it for Erromanga. We learn from the Report before us that he has visited during the past year 1923 families, 636 of which were visits to the infirm and sick, and at 1030 he read the scriptures and offered prayer. 1403 tracts were also distributed. This body has also had in charge the open-air preaching in the city. The expenditure of funds being only £123 0s. 2d., shows the Committee to be working most economically, and deserving of public sympathy and encouragement. Mr. James Farquhar is the Secretary, and S. L. Shannon, Esq., is Treasurer. Besides the ministers of the several denominations, the following gentlemen are members of the committee:—W. S. Stirling, S. H. Black, Charles Robson, Judge Marshall, T. B. Aikins, A. K. Dou'1, P. C. Hill, James Thomson, J. W. Ritchie, R. N. Beckwith, W. Hare, P. Coffin, and T. Wesley.

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BIBLE SOCIETY, shows that 3718 Bibles and Testaments have been put into circulation by this Society, during the past year. £200 have been remitted to the Parent Society—the British and Foreign Bible Society in London. The total income of the year was £650 1s. 6d. of which sum £167 12s. 5d. was from sales at the Depository and by colporteurs.

"The Arctic Empire" is the title of the newspaper issued by Mr. P. S. Hamilton, which appeared on Wednesday last and was well-filled with original and selected matter. Its typographical appearance is excellent. It is proposed to appear semi-weekly. Its political principles are to be in agreement with which those characterized another journal (*the Acadian Recorder*) during the years it was under the editorial management of Mr. H.

Since writing the above, on Saturday last No. 2 made its appearance, and contained a notice that the "Arctic Empire" would not be continued, but that its materials had been transferred to Alpin Grant Esq., proprietor of the *Colonist*.

"The Northern Light," is a small sheet of eight pages, published by J. B. Strong, containing selections from English publications. It proposes to continue every Saturday its issue of "Light literature."

News Summary.

From the Seat of War we hear of no further movements since our last. Movements of any kind, indeed, would seem out of the question at the present, as the roads on both sides the Potomac are reported to be a mere quagmire. As the months of February and March are said to be among the most wet and tempestuous in the Southern States, it is far from probable that any decisive action will take place until Spring has considerably advanced. Nothing has occurred in either Kentucky or Missouri of any moment since the successful affair of the Federal forces in the former State.

Much attention is awakened in Europe by the "Act of Barbarism," as it has been well designated, of stopping up the port of Charleston by sinking the Federal Stone fleet. The British Government made a remonstrance against it as early as the 20th of December, and as France, as well as every other maritime nation, is equally interested in the matter, it is to be hoped that such acts of vandalism will not be repeated. Independent of the general interests of Commerce, which are deeply involved in the matter, Charleston is the principal among the very few harbours of refuge for vessels in distress, along a coast of some eight or nine hundred miles of the Southern seaboard. The permanent obstruction of such a harbour would consequently, during the prevalence of stormy weather on the coast, become the occasion of great suffering and loss of life and property. The financial affairs of the North continue in a most unsatisfactory state. A large part of the war loan has not yet been taken up, while the necessary expenditure of the war continues, and are enormously aggravated, as would appear from the American papers, by numerous instances of fraud and speculation in Army and Navy contracts. The Congress now in Session will be compelled largely to increase the duties as well as to have recourse to measures of direct taxation.

The R. M. Steamer *Niagara* arrived on Sunday evening, with the second January Mail. The London dates are up to the 25th ult. The papers, however, contain little of importance as regards political news.

The news which at present appears to possess the greatest amount of interest in Great Britain, is that obtained from this side the Atlantic, which of course we obtain in advance of the mother country, but the feeling produced there by its reception is matter of moment. The following from the *London Freeman* is, we believe, a pretty fair, though brief epitome of the British sentiment on the present aspect of the United States affairs:—

"Mr. Seward is carrying out his new policy with the happiest consistency. He now anticipates British complaints by voluntary redress. He seems to have a band of "fire-eating" commanders at sea, who are eager to emulate the heroism of the brave Wilkes in their dealings with unarmed British vessels, but he remorselessly applies the principle of his policy, as contained in his despatch, and, as none of the insults just offered to England are essential to the safety of the Union, he rectifies the misdeeds at once. No less than three cases appear in the additional dispatches published in Friday's *Gazette*, in which Mr. Seward volunteered redress. The first was that of the *Eugenie Smith*, out of which two Southern passengers were taken in the same manner as from the *Trent*. The Foreign Secretary writes to Lord Lyons to say that as the case is similar they will be liberated from Fort Lafayette, and allowed to return to Norfolk, in Virginia, by Fort Monroe. The second was a case of wanton assumption and rudeness. A British vessel had been caught attempting to run the blockade; she was brought into New York with the American colours flying above those of England. Had she been the ship of an enemy captured in action this would have been natural. It was, under the circumstances, a mere insult to the Britishers. Mr. Seward did not even wait for official information; he at once ordered, on first hearing of it, that such provocations should not be repeated. The third case was an amusing one. Another British vessel had been captured for breach of blockade. The American commander made the sailors take an oath that they would not again undertake similar employment. Mr. Seward, and again on informal information, rebuked the offender as having done what was inapplicable in the cases of persons not prisoners of war, and released the sailors from their engagement. Had he but acted with like promptitude in the case of the *Trent*, how much expense and ill-blood would have been saved! And, surely, the law of the case, by Mr. Seward's own showing, was clear to him from the first. Is our supposition correct, that English firmness has given him the mastery of his noisy masters, and that, now therefore, he chooses to keep it?

The country has been gratified by learning that Lord Russell has protested as earnestly, perhaps, as the French Government, against the barbarous act of closing for ever, so far as Northern intention is concerned, the noble harbour of Charleston, in South Carolina. The eastern coast of America is very deficient in safe harbours of refuge; Charleston was one of the best, and the act is therefore one of great cruelty to sailors, on a coast which at this time of year is peculiarly liable to very dangerous storms. The motive was one of the deepest selfishness. To ease the task of blockading was perhaps part, utterly unjustifiable as the act would be for such a purpose. The real motive was vindictiveness. It was boasted that the engineer had contrived an arrangement of the sunken vessels which should create permanent sandbanks! Thus, whether the North conquered or not, its ports would engross for the future the Atlantic trade! We remember no instance of any Power at war with another attempting thus to destroy the most valuable commercial gifts of the Creator. When a proposal was made to stop Boulogne harbour, it was a purely military basis of operations, Napoleon threatening us with embarking his army there to invade our shores. The most uncivilised Power never did more than blockade a commercial port. Lord Russell wrote, it appears, to the American Government, as soon as he heard of the proposal; and warned them not only of the cruelty of the scheme, but of its implying "despair of the Union!" since the Government would never destroy cities from which their country was to derive a portion of its riches. It could be done only from revenge and to inflict irremediable injury against an enemy. He also described it, and justly, as "a plot against the commerce of all maritime nations." Lord Russell has written again on hearing of the accomplishment of the atrocious act.

The information from the Federal and Confederate States this week indicates little progress either way. The suspension of specie payments continues, as well it may do, to attract no little attention. To us it seems the most serious event of the war to the North, occurring in such a few months after its commencement; but we have considered the subject elsewhere. Mr. Sumner appears to have made a speech in the Senate proving that the surrender of the Commissioners was an American triumph; it would have been so had they never been treated as prisoners. Preceding speakers had bitterly denounced their liberation. An encounter has taken place between the hostile troops near Port Royal; both sides claim a victory, but the advantage seems to have been with the Federals. According to the Southern papers themselves, the Confederate army of the North is in a deeply demoralized state; drunkenness prevalent, drill neglected, and the service so revolting, that large sums are given to obtain substitutes—from 40l. to 300l. Some suspect that all this is but a ruse to lure McClellan to a premature attack. It is gratifying to notice that the North has condescended to an exchange of prisoners.

The effect of anticipated war on the Canadians was most gratifying. Irish and French, Catholics and Orangemen, held meetings, and

earnestly supported the volunteer movement. The Catholic Bishop of Montreal actually offered his own palace, and all secular buildings belonging to their body, as barracks for the soldiers! Never were the Americans more mistaken than in imagining that they should find sympathisers in Canada; our Queen herself could hardly have expected such loyalty from such diverse classes.

Our Legislature will meet to-morrow at 2 o'clock "for the despatch of business." The presence, in the city, of honorable gentlemen from the country during the past day or two, leads us to suppose that the command to assemble for this purpose will be pretty generally attended to.

The Volunteer Band will be in attendance on the occasion, and we presume our citizen-soldiers will form the guard of honor.

Of course we are unable to furnish our readers with the Speech which will be read from the Throne. As, however, that does not now profess to make known the measures intended to be submitted to the Legislature for adoption, but is a matter of form; our readers would not perhaps set a very high estimate on a perusal of it, as indicating the course to be pursued in Parliament. The bereavement of our beloved Sovereign, the International Exhibition, the disastrous war in the once United States, and the threatening aspect lately presented to us from the same quarter, and the Railroad delegation will probably supply materials for paragraphs. Temperance and the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, might also be included, but we have not much expectation that they will. We shall, however, be able next week to give our readers "all the particulars."

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIC-MAC MISSIONARY SOCIETY was held in Chalmers' Church on Tuesday the 4th. J. W. Ritchie Esq. occupied the chair. The Rev. Mr. McGregor read the report which indicated the progress made in the work of translation and instruction, in overcoming the prejudices of the Indians, and in many of them being able to read the Scriptures translated by the missionary. Addresses were given by the Revs. Messrs. McKnight, Rand and Brewster.—The whole case of Ben Christmas and his defection was brought forward, and hopes expressed of his yet being restored from the depths to which he has fallen. Deep sorrow was expressed for him by each speaker, but no inclination shown to relax efforts because the hopes entertained had been disappointed in this one case. The attendance at the meeting was large and very attentive.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.—Dr. Gesner has published a work on this subject, addressed to the Geological Society of London. Lengthy extracts have been copied into several of our papers.

Digby.—We were shown several specimens of quartz containing gold from the Marshall-town Diggings near Digby. They certainly indicate that there is some of the precious metal which needs only the miner and his pick to obtain.

PROVINCIAL MUSEUM.—The Commissioners for the International Exhibition have appointed a Committee consisting of His Worship the Mayor, Dr. Tupper and Mr. Morrow, to confer with the government respecting the preservation of the objects of Natural History now in their hands and the formation of a permanent Museum for the benefit of the Province at large.

We learn that a seam of coal superior quality has been struck on the Fraser mine. It is said to be eight feet thick. A line of railway has also been surveyed from this mine to the mouth of the Middle River.—*Sun*.

A bag of gold said to be valued at over £50, and a number of fine specimens of gold-bearing quartz, have been brought from Tangier, by Mr. A. E. Stayer.

Among the articles on freight per *Europa* for England, on Friday last, where two boxes containing Gold in bars, and in dust, and gold-bearing quartz, valued at \$6,297.

A course of lectures in aid of the Volunteer Band will be delivered in Temperance Hall during the present winter. The first of the series, on "Self Defence" is to be by His Worship the Mayor on Wednesday evening next.

A collection of 100 varieties of flower seeds have been furnished to the Commissioners for the International Exhibition by H. Harris and J. Mackay.

Eddy, the man charged with the murder of the mulatto woman, called "Indian Mary," at Tangier, was brought to this city on Wednesday night, last and lodged in jail.

We learn from the *Colonist* that the Government have decided to obtain a thorough Mineralogical survey of the Province by Sir William Logan.

A young man named Thomas Foley, while skating on Steel's Pond one night last week, was struck in the head with a large stone, which fractured his skull. His life is despaired of.—*Col*.