

you would, winking to Dundas.—Better here than the coast of Africa, cold tho' it be. Halifax will improve, sir, tho' it has little the appearance of it at present—there's no doubt about that. The people are very kind, but I do not think that they are a very perceptive people. Perceptive, eh? perceptive?—what do you mean by perceptive? I mean, Sir, that they do not look very far ahead. Well, eh, how do you mean by far ahead? I think, Sir, that they should have a good coach-road direct to Point Levi, Quebec. Look at the chart, Sir.—Nova Scotia is but a small Province, though I believe it is about the size of Ireland. What a magnificent Government it would be, Sir, if all the Provinces were united,—the Canadas, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, united in one Government, with the Capital at Halifax. What a harbor, Sir,—open at all seasons of the year,—the very key to America in winter, when the Saint Lawrence is locked up. United!—and what put that into your head? Nothing, Sir, I replied, but a passing thought. Take a glass of wine, said Dundas, his brains are gone a wool gathering, Sir. Unite all the Provinces in one! Why, that's next-door to treason. I suppose you would then unite with brother Jonathan to enjoy for a limited time a sort of false freedom. Brother Jonathan is too large as he is. The time is not very far distant, when, I am afraid, Union will mean separation. No, not at all, I replied. I mean that I would convert the whole into a Royalty, and put a member of our own Royal Family as Lieutenant-General, or Governor-General, or something like it. Well, what next? Nothing, Sir; but make him a sort of present of it for the time being, always subject to the Crown; he could neither make war nor peace. Whew! why man where's your head? said the captain.—Stark mad.—Whoever heard such a doctrine as that? What would become of patronage? Ah! you will never live to see that day. A Union of the Provinces! And yet—well—I don't know—upon my word upon second thought—let me see—it is not so bad an idea after all, Dundas, eh? What do you think of it, do you think there would be a feasibility in the thing? I think it is all nonsense, replied Dundas. But how would you manage—how would you manage, Sir; tell me that, said the captain. Manage, Sir! easily enough. I would, in the first place, make Halifax the seat of Government; the Crown could do that easily enough. I would have a Palace somewhere to the Northward, upon the plan of St. James's and Windsor. The Parliament House should be in Halifax and the Representatives of the people should meet there, as the Irish and Scotch do in London; it is no matter where you make the Laws so long as they are obeyed, and the members from any particular place or locality could have local and private Acts passed there, just as well as at Toronto or Quebec. A Government precisely similar to our own. We are the same people, speak the same language, and we would simply be living under the same Laws in America, that we had been born and lived under in England; and what is to prevent it? True, true, not a bad idea, but that Government you will never see. Well, really, Sir, now that I look at the thing, I do not think it so preposterous. Look at Scotland, look at Ireland, Sir. There was a time,—Aye, Dundas, you are very bright,—there was a time,—but look here,—you see Scotland is Scotland,—but here, man, whew! why, its over the water to Charley. Yes, Sir, it certainly is over the water; but the idea is not a bad one. A good united Government at Halifax, with a Prince as Governor General, or something like it; a House of Lords and Commons, eh,—what a swarm of young Lords would follow, aye, and Ladies too; yes, and the power of creating a new Nobility on the very borders of red hot Republicanism. Why, in the space of about twenty years the Peninsula of Halifax would be completely built up, and the surrounding heights would be clothed with country residences of Peers and Commoners,—Villas, Cottages, and I know not what. They would have to build him a Palace!! Oh, enlarge Government House! throw the whole block into one. Well, let us have a glass of wine,—drink it off, gentlemen; turn up your glasses and put them in the bracket. I cannot afford breakages. The people, that is those in power and those out of power, would never agree to it. Each would have a different plan of his own; views would be different—interests would be different; and then look at Dartmouth covered with the Palaces, Princely Palaces of Peers!! What a magnificent view, what a gorgeous sight entering the harbor! I think it would throw London far in the shade. There is no such a prospect in the Thames. Well, should the people ever come to their

senses, they will have a Prince if they can get one; Lords and Commons. I can fancy, entering the harbor, the splendid carriages in four, and vehicles of every description driving in all directions, and a splendid passage-boat, capable of taking over a dozen carriages and four,—one leaving each side every ten minutes. Yes, and they might have another further up the harbor. Certainly, certainly, said the captain, there is not the slightest doubt but that a vast amount of wealth would flow into Halifax from all parts of the world, should such a happy event, I say, take place. The Halifax people should foster the idea, should it ever be broached to them, and never rest until they had it completed. There is no other form of Government suited to a generous Englishman, let them talk and chatter and spout about it as much as they please,—and no doubt they will have writers enough, with all sorts of schemes and plans, and objections by the thousand, in the most plausible forms; and I should not be surprised that should ever such an opportunity present itself, they would fritter it away in petty, miserable, political and personal squabbles; each man, each party for itself, should the whole fabric tumble down. I believe forty-shilling-freeholders are electors of their House of Assembly; some of them, I dare say, can hardly write their own names. This must be altered, should the happy event ever take place. What a happy day that will be for the English in America; it will create a new era,—there will eventually be an Empire; and what an era for an Empire!

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
December 5, 1864. A. L.

Religious Intelligence.

Letter from Rev. A. D. Thomson.

Dear Messenger.

Please convey the good tidings that ten more since last writing you have put on Christ by publicly professing him before many witnesses; and that too, by going down into the water, and being buried in the likeness of his death, coming up out of the water, and going on the good way rejoicing in his great salvation. Oh Sirs we have joyful times here just now, and our prayer is that these happy days may long be continued. Yesterday we observed our denominational day of Humiliation and Prayer. Singularly enough our Governor in Council had appointed the same day for Thanksgiving &c. We had it altogether; spiritually speaking, the Bridegroom was with us, and our meeting turned to a joyful thanksgiving, parents rejoicing that their children were converted in answer to prayer, and many youths thanking God for their own salvation, and that of others, nearly three hours were thus occupied in the high praises of our blessed God, none thinking the time long. The work is gradual, and progressive, we have baptized eight sabbaths successively—the whole number twenty-three and the prospect still favorable. Affectionate remembrances to all the Nova Scotia Brethren, and friends among whom I have gone pleading the claims of "the child of providence;" I love her still, but my work is pleasanter now.

Yours &c.,
ADAM D. THOMSON.

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.—The annual meetings of this Association were recently held at Edinburgh. The first meeting was exclusively devotional. The annual business meeting was attended by a considerable number of the members of the Association: reports being presented as to the finances and work of the Association, and points connected with the further development of its usefulness discussed. This meeting was followed by a public conference, when "The external and internal impediments to the progress of the Baptist denomination in Scotland," were the subjects of a lively and interesting discussion. From the members attending the meeting, the reports presented, and the spirit of goodwill and helpfulness which pervaded the meetings, they were felt to augur well for the future of our denomination in Scotland. After an excellent repast provided by the hospitality of the Edinburgh brethren, a public meeting was held in the evening, under the presidency of the Rev. Jonathan Watson. An appropriate address from the venerable chairman opened the meeting, which was afterwards addressed, by the Rev. Dr. Paterson, of Glasgow, on "The rights of conscience," and by the Rev. Mr. Davis, of Aberdeen, on "The Christian in his social intercourse with the world." On the whole, the proceedings must have proved not only of great interest, but highly useful in encouraging all present in the efforts to advance those principles of our Church polity and those views of Scripture truth which are specially needed in the lethargic ecclesiasticism which characterises the northern part of the kingdom.—*Freeman.*

MR. SPURGEON ON BAPTISMAL REGENERATION.—The sermon preached by Mr. Spurgeon in June last on this subject has excited an amount of public attention unparalleled. When first it appeared many persons were anxious that it might have a circulation of 20,000, which is really not much short of the regular weekly circulation. Those persons began to effect the object they desired to see accomplished by giving away some fifty, some 100, and not a few 500 copies each, so that the demand had soon reached 50,000 copies. One lady offered to be at the cost of sending a copy to every clergyman in England. By such means the sale of that sermon had reached 100,000 copies in four or five weeks. Still the demand continued, and was immensely augmented by the numerous pamphlets which appeared almost daily either in opposition to, or in defence of the original sermon. These pamphlets, varying in price from one shilling each to one penny, now number more than fourscore. The original sermon has reached a sale of no less than one hundred and eighty thousand copies!—*Wesleyan Times.*

PROPOSED NEW VERSION OF THE PSALMS.—A committee of the United Presbyterian Assembly, New York, has offered a premium of from five to twenty thousand dollars for the best new version of the Book of Psalms; and contributions are solicited from the Church generally, in aid of this fund. The premium is not to be paid until the new version has been adopted by the Church!

American and Foreign News.

LATEST FROM THE STATES.

[From Telegrams to Associated Press.]

TUESDAY, Dec. 6th.—About 60 Southerners were arrested in New York yesterday by order of Gen. Dix. Several of them were subsequently discharged; others held for examination.

Richmond Enquirer editorially says referring to late incendiary attempts in New York, "we are very glad to see that all our Southern refugees are required to register their names; if Gen. Dix will hang them he will do service to our cause. A set of cowardly sneaks who deserted their country are not above burning Hotels. We hope Gen. Dix will hang every mother's son of them."

THURSDAY, Evening Dec. 8th.—The Richmond Despatch says it is now believed that Sherman's objective point is Darien, and he has massed his forces to march there. This is near the mouth of the Altamaha, 50 miles south of Savannah. The Savannah News says Sherman continues floundering, afraid to advance and unable to retreat.

FRIDAY, Dec. 9th.—Some correspondence is published in which Lord Warrcliffe appeals, through Gen. Adams, for permission to expend £1,700 British gold, contributed by a fair in London, for Confederate prisoners, held by Federals. Sec. Seward refuses the application.

Steamer Armstrong, 6300 tons, with 450 bales cotton, was captured trying to run the blockade. Gold 242.

Evening.—Richmond papers of the 6th state that Sherman is marching steadily toward the coast, it was thought he designed reaching at, or in the vicinity of Savannah.

The Augusta, (Ga.) Constitutionalist says he will reach Savannah about the 9th inst.

SATURDAY, Dec. 10th.—Richmond papers continue to predict a speedy attack on that city by Grant.

A heavy snow storm and gale on Lake Erie yesterday, causing considerable damage.

Evening.—The Rebel Senate, on the 6th, defeated the resolution introduced on the recommendation of Jeff. Davis, that certain officers, exempt under the State laws, shall be forced into the rebel army.

A Resolution was passed by South Carolina House of Representatives, fiercely denouncing the proposition to make soldiers of slaves and free them.

On Wednesday last Sherman was reported within six miles of Savannah.

MONDAY, Evening, Dec. 12.—Richmond papers of the 9th state that a force from Grant's army was proceeding towards Weldon. Also that a heavy column of artillery, infantry and cavalry left the front of Petersburg on Tuesday last, and were reported on Wednesday morning at Proctor's Mills, 20 miles south of Petersburg.

The Charleston papers of the 6th state that Sherman was at Station No. 6 on the 5th inst. 60 miles from Savannah. He was marching in the direction of Savannah.

Gold 233.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

GERMANY.

The Danish Government issued proclamations on Thursday the 17th ult., releasing the inhabitants of Slesvig-Holstein from their oath of allegiance, bidding those inhabitants farewell, and calling upon the Danes to preserve their hope in the future.

AUSTRIA AND MEXICO.

A translation of the official text of the often mentioned compact between the Emperor of Austria on the one hand, and his brother, the Archduke Maximilian—now Emperor of Mexico—on the other, is published in the English papers.

JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND AUSTRALIA.

The anticipatory telegram from Japan, by way of Suez, confirms the terms proposed by the allied forces to the Prince Nagato, and accepted by him. The Straits of Simonosaki will be opened, the forts will not be rebuilt, and the expenses of the expedition will be paid.

The advices from New Zealand show that another campaign will be necessary to finish the war. Peace has been restored throughout the Waikato district and along the east coast, but the Maories in the Taramaki district are still defiant.

The Australian papers contain accounts of a grand quarrel which has occurred between the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales. The Sydney authorities claim jurisdiction over the River Murray, and they have recently established a custom-house on its banks to levy duties upon all goods entering the river. The Victorian authorities have sent a party of police to the Murray to resist the attempt, and when the mail left affairs had reached such a crisis that an hour might bring news of the outbreak of a miniature war between the two colonies. The Melbourne papers congratulate themselves that the Australian colonies have no standing armies, and that they have still a mother country to appeal to when they quarrel among themselves.

A fresh attempt is being made to move the Imperial Government on the transportation question. Numerous petitions against the continuance of the system have been prepared, and the colonial authorities are taking active measures to give England a taste of what she is making the Australian colonies suffer. They are arresting the worst specimens of the liberated convicts with the view of shipping them off to the "places whence they came," and they expect soon to have a goodly batch to set loose on the shores of England.

FRANCE.

THE FLORIDA.—The *Patrie* says that Earl Russell intends to invite the European Powers to join in a protest against the illegal capture of the *Florida* at Bahia. The Emperor Napoleon, however, it is said, has not waited to consult any other Power, but has already sent out despatches to the French representative at Washington, protesting in strong terms against the outrageous act of the commander of the *Wachusett*, and calling on the Federal Government to release the *Florida* and those captured on board her, and to give the Brazilian Government full satisfaction. Should the Washington Government decline to make this reparation, Federal men-of-war will be debarred putting into French ports.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE LAST WORDS OF MULLER, THE MURDERER OF MR. BRIGGS.—Dr. Cappel has addressed a letter to the editor of the *Hermann*, in which he says:—

The last words exchanged between him and me on the scaffold are as follows:—

"Question.—Muller, in a few minutes you will stand before your God; I ask you again, and for the last time, are you guilty or innocent? (Muller, in wenigen Augenblicken stehen Sie vor Gott; ich frage Sie nochmals und zum letzten Male, Sind Sie schuldig oder unschuldig?)

"Answer.—I am innocent. (Ich bin unschuldig?)

"Question.—You are innocent? (Sie sind unschuldig?)

"Answer.—God knows what I have done. (Gott weiss was ich gethan habe.)

"Question.—God knows what you have done?—does He also know if you have committed this crime? (Gott weiss was Sie gethan haben; weiss er auch dass Sie dies Verbrechen gethan haben?)

"Answer.—Yes, I have done it. (Ja, ich habe es gethan.)

"An hour and a half before his execution Muller had declared himself innocent. I then told him that I would not press him further, but that my last words to him would be, 'Are you guilty or innocent?' With an earnest and pensive look he remained one or two minutes silent, standing before me. He then suddenly cried out, with tears in his eyes and throwing his arms round my neck, 'Do not leave me, remain with me to the last.' I judge by this that he had determined to make a confession. That this resolution was formed only at the last moment is quite in keeping with the firmness of his strange character, which kept steadily to a denial of the crime with friend and enemy until the very last glimmering of hope had disappeared; and really, his uniform quietude, and his mild and seemingly open disposition, were enough to enlist the sympathy of anyone, to disarm distrust, and to deceive completely even the most experienced judges of human nature. The persistency of Muller in his denial was probably owing to his strong love of life, and his seeming frankness partly explains itself by the supposition—of which I am fully convinced—that no murder had been intended, but that the robbery led to the death of the victim.

COURT-MARTIAL OF A SON OF THE LATE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—On Thursday last, Lord Albert S. Pelham Clinton, the third and youngest son of the late Duke of Newcastle, and midshipman in the navy, was tried by court-martial at Portsmouth on two charges of desertion. The prisoner pleaded guilty to the first charge, and admitted the facts contained in the second, but alleged in defence that there were extenuating circumstances. The court, however, did not consider the defence satisfactory, and considering the charges admitted and proved, sentenced his lordship to be dismissed from her Majesty's service.