

The Rev. W. Robertson followed with a paper on the condition of

THE SCOTCH CHURCHES. He divided his remarks into the three following heads: those who are without the pale of the Scottish Evangelical Churches, the various denominations into which the Church of Christ in Scotland is divided, and the state of religion in these churches. The paper contained a mass of useful information. He considered the increase of liberality in the Scotch churches to indicate an increase of spiritual life in their various churches. From the reports for the last year of the Established and Free Churches it appeared that while the contributions of the Established Church congregations amounted to about £200,000, those of the Free Churches amounted to £124,779, not including the immense sums collected for the support of their ministers. Including these last, amounting to £248,919, the whole contributions of the Free Church were £368,688, raising the sums collected by these two churches alone to the large amount of £568,698, or upwards of half a million of money. The contributions of the United Presbyterian Church for the year 1866 for missionary and benevolent purposes amounted to £57,132, and its total income for all purposes including the support of its ministers, reached £275,105, raising the contributions of the three churches, exclusive of the national endowment of the Established Church, to the total of £843,803.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Professor Roseau de St. Hilaire, Paris, read a paper on "France, and French Switzerland." He alluded, amid the cheers of the assembly, to the prospects of religious liberty in France, and to the permission which the Emperor of the French had granted for the preaching of the Gospel in connection with the present Exhibition in Paris.

On Tuesday morning the subject before the Conference was Theology. Professor Lange, Bonn, presided, and announced the order of the day's business. Professor Herzog, Erlangen, read a paper upon the Spirit of Criticism, and was followed by M. Eugene Bersier, Paris, who reviewed the principal questions concerning the Life of Jesus. The Rev. T. R. Birks delivered an extempore address upon Scepticism and Theology; and Dr. G. J. Vinke, of Amsterdam, read a paper upon the Authority of the New Testament. What are usually known as "the salutations" then followed; Rev. E. E. Bliss, Constantinople, Count Bernstorff, Rev. Denis Wortmann, America, General Burrows, Canada, Mr. John Finch, London, and Dr. McCosh offering respectively their congratulations. Dr. McCosh read a brilliant paper upon Moral Philosophy in Great Britain in relation to Theology. In the evening Pasteur Fisch, Paris, preached in the French Church, and Mrs. Daniels, of the Aldershot Mission, conducted a religious service in another building in the city.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

In a paper on "Religious Liberty," presented on Thursday, Dr. Steane referred to the pains and penalties inflicted upon the Baptists in the petty Dukedom of Mecklenburg. It appeared that the laws here were most inimical to the slightest measure of religious liberty. Officers presented themselves at the house of Mr. Wigner, the Baptist Missionary residing there, bringing with them a search-warrant. Having made their perquisition, they took away with them a great number of books, the church records and seal, the communion plate, and several letters. The next morning they came again and repeated the search; boxes and cupboards were ransacked, and about a thousand religious tracts, eight Bibles, and a quantity of other books were taken. In the afternoon of the same day Mr. Wigner was cited before the authorities, and told by them that they were acting in what they had done under instructions from the highest quarters; that he and his congregation were not acknowledged by the State, and would not be permitted to celebrate Divine worship, and that he ought to obey the laws, and not act in violation of them. The missionary replied that he had always lived as a good subject, and had honoured the magistrates; that neither he nor his friends had ever spoken or done anything against the Government; that they created no disturbance, but worshipped God peaceably, and that their only wish was to make the Gospel known among their fellow-creatures. He was finally told that there was only one alternate, submission or emigration, and was then dismissed. He was shortly afterwards apprehended and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, every other day on bread and water, for having administered Christian ordinances.

Mr. Groen Van Prinsterer, the Dutch statesman and historian, in a speech which

was received with great enthusiasm, alluded to the position of Holland in past times as a place of refuge for the persecuted, as the home of the Gospel, and of the standard of the House of Orange. He asked all to unite in praying for Holland, that she might be able to shake off the yoke which at present compelled the Church to endure blasphemy on condition that blasphemy tolerated the Gospel. The tendency of things at present was to introduce morality, independent of religion, into the national schools. He then spoke of the prevailing ideas of nationalities. What was the bond of these nationalities? It was the possession of a common language; as if in a family where infidelity and vice were rampant, there could be unity, because all spoke the same language and dwelt under the same roof. In this way there would only be numerous individualities, a concourse of atoms. There would be a number of sheep led by shepherds who would allow them to feed in the green pastures of vice and infidelity only that they might lead them the more easily to carnage. He concluded by calling upon all to encourage and promote the Christian nationality. The future was the Lord's but all should be found helpers of the truth, (Cheers.)

CHRISTIAN WORK IN ASSYRIA.

The Rev. Dr. Graham, of Bonn, addressed the assembly upon Christian work in Assyria, with which country he was well acquainted. He had been five years a missionary in the East, and he had the privilege of founding the Irish Presbyterian Mission there for the evangelization of the Jews. Since his name had been mentioned in connection with the East he might bring forward a question that was interesting to Christian women. It was his experience as an old traveller in various countries that in proportion as Christianity was promoted the character of women was elevated amongst men. In Damascus the Mohammedans had a particular form of religion. They denied the incarnation, redemption, and remission of sins, but with them woman was a slave. All that the Mohammedan required was a *quid pro quo*, a fair face for so much money, and that was all. Then the Jew might be looked at in the East. Among the Jews woman had a certain amount of liberty, and they would converse with a certain retired modesty. Why? Because amongst them the idea of the incarnation pervaded their Scriptures. If the visitor went into a Roman Catholic house in Damascus he would find that women had a higher stand still; but when we came to a Protestant country, there woman took her true place as the equal companion of man. This was very natural, for the old tradition was that the sin, the fall, came through her.

"Great are my obligations to the so-called Passesites, they made me a Baptist. They alone believe their own fiction." So wrote an excellent lady, a true "Lady Bountiful," of her neighborhood, whose letters have been recently published in England.

This we believe to be the effect of error in the minds of many persons. It awakens enquiry, which leads to a perception of the truth; and there is a force in truth which often enables its possessor to break through all the prejudices of education, interest, and family relationships, and come forth into the light and liberty and joy of gospel freedom. She says further respecting her experience:

"Christ bade us do two things, I hold both to be means of grace: earnest prayer is a means of grace also; but none of the three are means of regeneration, of being born again. 'Behold he prayeth' was the first effect of Paul's new birth, his conversion, as it is often called; the second was, he was baptized; and then he 'partook of the Lord's Supper.' I have no doubt that you have long 'been born of God,' perhaps neither of us could say when, but you are so. You have often obeyed one command of our Lord, in taking the Lord's Supper,—did you not find it a means of grace? have you not often felt happy at the time, and sometimes afterwards? Was it not then a 'means of grace?' If Christ bade you do two very little things for His sake, and you do but one, can you expect to be as happy as if you did both? As to immersion in his name, how often have you been immersed for health and pleasure. To vulgar, dirty folks it is a great cross, but not to us. It would not make you a child of God, but being a child of God it will make you a happier one.—Baptist Noel surely only meant that it would not make a Christian, not that there is not a great grace given because of the obedience. I know there is; so do all whom I have been baptized—peace follows, and temptations seem to have less power."

THE DOMINION IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.—In proroguing Parliament on the 22nd ult., Her Majesty used the following language in her "Speech," in reference to the British American provinces:

"I have concluded a postal convention with the United States of America, whereby the rate of postage between the two countries will be

diminished by one-half, and further arrangements are in progress for increasing the intercourse between this country and the continent of North America.

The Act for the union of the British North American provinces is the final accomplishment of a scheme long contemplated, whereby those colonies, now combined in one dominion, may be expected not only to gain additional strength for the purposes of defence against external aggression, but may be united among themselves by fresh ties of mutual interest and attached to the mother country by the only bonds which can effectually secure such important dependencies—those of loyalty to the Crown and attachment to British connection."

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

The Elections.

To day will decide a most important question in the affairs of this province. The simultaneous polling in every district makes it altogether uncertain what will be the result of the elections until this day is past. Much of speculation must necessarily exist in every locality, as well as among all parties, as to who are to be the rulers for the next four years, and what shape the Dominion representation from Nova Scotia will assume. We do not apprehend that there will be any violence attempted, although the discussion between the parties has been pretty fierce for the past few days.

The candidates were nominated in the various counties on Wednesday last. In some few places there was no opposition and the candidates were declared elected. The accounts given by the different parties as to the reception given by the people to the persons nominated, vary greatly, and the proportion on the side of the contestants respectively, can scarcely be learned by the party representations.

The nominations for the County of Halifax were conducted with much propriety and decorum. There were of course some noisy fellows—as there are in all such large gatherings of the populace—who occasionally interrupted the speakers, but generally there were others disposed to make fun of the occasion, and so no angry feelings were allowed to gain any ascendancy, or to disturb the harmony and good feeling prevailing. The following is the order in which the several speakers appeared on the hustings, and spoke more or less on the points at issue between the two parties.

Matthew H. Richey, Esq., proposed, and Mr. Croucher seconded, the nomination of JOHN TOBIN, Esq., (Union) for the Dominion Parliament. John W. Young, Esq., proposed, and D. Farrell, Esq., seconded, the nomination of PATRICK POWER, Esq., (Anti) for the Dominion Parliament.

J. T. Twining, Esq., proposed, and T. E. Kenney, Esq., seconded the nomination of the Hon. S. L. SHANNON, (Union), for the Dominion.

William Anderson, Esq., proposed, and James Butler, Esq., seconded the nomination of ALFRED JONES, Esq., (Anti), for the Dominion. J. S. McLean, Esq., proposed, and Aldermen Cullen, seconded the nomination of the Hon. P. C. HILL, (Union), for the Local Legislature.

N. Russell, Esq., proposed, and John Meagher, Esq., seconded the nomination of HENRY BALCAN, Esq., (Anti), for the Local Legislature. John Doull, Esq., proposed, and Alderman Starr, seconded the nomination of STEPHEN TOBIN, Esq., (Union), for the Local Legislature. W. J. Stairs, Esq., proposed, and W. Christian, Esq., seconded the nomination of JAMES COCHRAN, Esq., (Anti), for the Local Legislature.

Mr. Charles Sprott, proposed, and Mr. Griffin, seconded the nomination of GEORGE MCLEOD, Esq., (Union), for the Local Legislature.

Mr. James Duggan, proposed, and W. E. Brice, Esq., seconded the nomination of JEREMIAH NORTHUP, Esq., (Anti), for the Local Legislature.

After the nomination there were some brief addresses in connection with the usual formalities of demanding a poll, and all dispersed early in the afternoon, to labor and wait for the auspicious day, when the opposing hosts would be marshalled forth for each to show the other how their predictions of victory were to be realized, and how the other would be sent cowering to the wall.

S. S. PRO NIO.—The Granville Street Sabbath School had a delightful excursion in the Dartmouth steamer on Friday last. On starting at 10 o'clock, a. m. they went up the harbor around the magnificent British man-of-war *Royal Alfred* and the French admiral's ship, and the monitor *Onondaga*. These were saluted and salutes were received from them in return. Two of the teachers—Alderman Atkburst and Mr. R. M. King played on their cornets several national airs—French and English—as they neared these representatives of the two great nations. The day was all that could be desired, and the scenery around the harbor and up the North-West Arm was most charming, softened by the echo of the rich musical notes on board.

On arriving at the wharf at the head of the Arm, the precious cargo soon debarked and proceeded to the grounds of J. L. Whytal, Esq.—The long stream of humanity stretching from the steamboat and winding along the road,

now hid by clumps of trees and then appearing in the distance presented a moving picture not soon to be forgotten. On the grounds were provisions enough to supply a small army. These were soon attacked and then again at dinner time. After some time spent in youthful recreation and another cargo of parents and friends had arrived from the city, the whole company were invited to make a visit to Downs' Gardens where the children, young and old, were greatly interested with his birds, beasts, fishes and reptiles. On returning thence the call was again sounded, and the well-filled tables were again soon cleared.

Six o'clock came but too soon, and all reluctantly wended their way to the wharf to embark, and again we steamed for home. The exuberance of pleasure felt called forth alternately vocal and instrumental music, as we glided over the glassy surface of the water towards the city. All were safely landed about 3 past 7, having had a most delightful day.

An incident somewhat marred the pleasure of the day—one of the children by a fall, sustained injury to one of her arms. We are glad to learn she is recovering.

PUBLIC TEA MEETING HELD AT CLEMENTS, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY.—A Committee of colored ladies held a Public Tea Meeting at Clements, in Greenland School Section, on Tuesday, the 20th inst., at 3 o'clock p. m. The meeting was generously patronized by benevolent friends from various Sections, especially from Bear River. There were between two and three hundred persons present,—among whom were four clergymen, and two members of Parliament. The proceeds are to be appropriated towards finishing the inside of their Meeting House. The money received amounted to \$73.43½, which will enable the Building Committee to fit up their House for the approaching Association to be held the last Sabbath in September. The Committees seem highly pleased with the result of the Tea Meeting, and they express much gratitude to all who patronized it. They cannot express their feelings of gratitude to such as did so generously and kindly assist in getting up their tea Meeting.

In behalf of the Committee,

ONE PRESENT.

ANOTHER FORTUNE.—The enormous estate of the late Thos. V. Church, located in Wales G. B., and valued at several millions pound sterling and about which several meetings were held in the U. S., after investigation, has resulted in the claimants failing to establish their right as heirs; and that now two other families by the name of Morse and Troop, or lately of Granville, in Nova Scotia, descendants of his two sisters, and by documentary evidence are now endeavoring to establish their claim to this immense property, which is at present in the power and disposition of the Court of Chancery.—St. John News.

The iron ship *Rosengath*, Capt. Auld, came into port, on Sunday last, 24 days from Glasgow.

PICTOU.—On Tuesday night last week, the captain of a schooner lying in Pictou Harbor, fell overboard, and was drowned.—His body was recovered on Wednesday.

EDUCATIONAL.—The four male Departments of the New Brunswick Street Free School, were opened on Monday last. The rooms for the Female Departments are not yet ready.

WINDSOR.—Elsan the pedestrian ran five miles in thirty minutes at Windsor, on Thursday last.

CUMBERLAND CO.—The *Amherst Gazette* says that the buildings in connection with the Salt Works at Spring Hill were burned on the night of the 6th inst.

ANNAPOLIS CO.—The *Free Press* of the 12th say: We had the first white frost of the season this morning.

THE RAILWAY.—The editor of the *Visitor* says: "As we passed through the valley of Annapolis, King's, and Hants the other day, we were pleased to observe the progress making at different points in the construction of the Railway from Windsor to Annapolis."

Last week, Mr. Arod McNayr of Inglisville trapped two huge bears in one day.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Nichol, an aged widow, of Bear River, was found dead in her bed yesterday morning at the residence of Mr. T. W. Chesley, her brother. She had been slightly indisposed for a day or two.

FLOUR.—A telegram from Montreal on Saturday says flour was selling at \$7.50 and upwards.

A NOVA SCOTIAN ABROAD.—Mr. Arnold Doane, of Barrington, N. S., has just finished a course of three years at the Royal Academy of Music, with honour to himself and country. Mr. Doane particularly excels in Musical Composition, some of which has been brought out at the Academy's Concerts with flattering success. He has good prospects to remain in London and follow his profession; but he intends returning to his native land, and give his own people the benefit of his talents. May he meet with that success which the sacrifices he has made to secure a thorough Musical Education deserve.

C. E. GATES.

London, August 27th 1867.

DENTAL NOTICE.—We are requested to give notice that Dr. Mackey will be in Wolfville, Sept. 27th, and remain two weeks. His whereabouts can be ascertained by enquiring of G. V. Rand, at the Post Office. He will be in Windsor, Oct. 14th, and remain ten days. Rooms at the Clifton House.

CODSWELL & MACKAY,

111 Hollis St., Halifax.

Sept. 18.