

The Bible affords us much authority for the Inquisition as it does for such a Court as that suggested by the *Christian Visitor*. If such a court as that proposed by Brother Bill were instituted, would the churches have entire confidence in its assumed infallibility? And should imagination be so far stretched as to suppose that the proposed court might possibly err in any of its exalted decisions, would not a still higher tribunal of appeal (if such could be found) be required to rectify its possible errors?

My own opinion, Brother Selden, is, that the New Testament is sufficiently explicit in its divinely appointed directions in matters of discipline, to guide churches in the most trying circumstances and difficulties. Human wisdom can never rise higher than the Divine. Depend upon it, the Great Head of the Church has constituted the only reliable tribunal for the discipline of its members. When any body—be he Editor, clergyman, or private christian—presumptuously imagines that his wisdom transcends that which illuminates every page of the Oracles of Truth, he is under that influence which has too often deformed and darkened the practices as well as corrupted the purity, of that which bears the name of Christianity.

I am an old man—and have long been familiar with the workings of our Baptist churches in these Provinces and elsewhere—yet have I never known an instance in which wrong has been done to either Minister or private member in being disciplined according to New Testament direction. Innovations are not always safe.

AN AGED BAPTIST.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

DEBORAH W. TOOKER.

Youngest daughter of Rev. J. B. Norton, was born at Barrington, Shelburne Co., Sept. 26th, 1833. Her brief life was drawn through various scenes. At six years of age she removed, with her parents, to Cornwallis. At fourteen she was born again; and united with the Free Baptist Church at Habitant, Cornwallis. In Dec. 1854 she was married to Mr. James Kinsman, then a merchant at Canning; afterwards a preacher of Christ in the Free Baptist connection. In Feb. 1859 she was left a widow with three children. In Nov. 1861 she became the wife of Rev. J. F. Tooker, who was then a student at Wolfville. In 1863 she joined the Baptist church at North Sydney, C. B. And there, also, buried an infant the same year. Thence she removed to Peregau, Cornwallis; then to Digby; and finally to Port Medway; where she died on the 23rd of Dec. 1867: leaving in all, six children: the youngest an infant of eight days.

By nature; she possessed a vigorous and active mind, strong will, proud spirit, and warm merry heart.

In her christian character and life, the work of grace was clearly manifest. She regarded herself as a sinner, utterly dependent for salvation on the mercy of God through Jesus. Her views of God in Christ as her Saviour were clear, full, happy. Her sentiments, from early life were Calvinistic. They developed and strengthened into fair proportions as she advanced in christian knowledge and experience. Her gifts were of a high order. In prayer; direct, near, glowing. In pious conversation; ready, pleasing, affecting. Her prayers and conversation with the sick and dying were full of glory and of God. Her social meeting addresses were always interesting, frequently unctuous, eloquent. In holy song she excelled. She loved the service of Christ.

As a helper with her husband in the gospel; "her price was above rubies." The chief ambition of her heart was to see him an able minister of the new covenant. For this she labored, living and dying. By her influence he was induced to return to study at Wolfville, when ill health had discouraged him from either books or preaching. By her encouraging counsel, and self-denying effort, he was enabled to remain at the institutions longer than he could otherwise have done. Subsequently, her cheer, fortitude, and steadiness of sentiment, were, in God's hand, of untold value to him. She acted the part of a gentle faithful critic. Lectures, conversation, sermons, prayers, all underwent her faithful revision, with no little wisdom and taste, with a view to improvement. Accustomed from childhood to life in a minister's home, she was peculiarly fitted for that department of her life-work. She toiled faithfully and successfully to make her home an evergreen oasis. Her husband's plaudits, well done.

Of her last sayings, a few only are here quoted. "God is going to take me from you. He will sustain you: and He will take care of my children. This is hard: but it will bring you nearer to God—make you a better preacher."

"You think I am dying? Well, 'As thy days so shall thy strength be.'"

"God has called you to preach his gospel. Never forsake it.—If you cannot preach much,—preach little:—Rich or poor;—applauded or forsaken;—whatever comes;—O preach the blessed gospel of the Son of God."

"How beautiful! I never saw it so before.—Saved by grace! Nothing I have done:—Oh no! 'By grace ye are saved—and that not of yourselves—it is the gift of God.' All the

gift of God!" "How good the Lord is—to come to me, so richly—in my last hour."

The final death scene, was one in which, amid songs of joyfulness, heaven begun below. Like Pilgrim, at the city gate, it was hard to return from following.

How beautiful the righteous,
Throughout the path they tread.
But, like the leaves in autumn,
They're fairest when they fade.
Lord, make me truly righteous.
That I may cast around,
Through life, a healthful shadow:
And fair in death be found.

MR. JOHN WESLEY RAY,

In the days of his youth, while residing in Clarence, Wilmot, after a season of deep conviction obtained a joyful hope in Christ, and was baptized by Rev. N. Vidito.

Having removed to Aylesford, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza B. Wheelock, who was a member of the Baptist Church of Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot, which he also joined, and with which he walked in christian fellowship to the close of his life. They had 10 children 3 of whom were removed by death before his departure.

As the writer occupied rooms in brother Ray's house for a year, and was his nearest neighbor for years, their acquaintance was intimate, and it was pleasant. He was evidently a dutiful son, an affectionate husband, a kind father, and a man universally esteemed. One trait in his character may be mentioned as peculiarly worthy of notice and imitation, namely, his constancy of maintaining prayer in his family when the state of his health permitted. While his aged parents resided with him, his mother, who could rarely attend public worship, remarked to the writer that her son's earnest prayers were very consoling and animating to her mind.

About five years ago brother Ray became permanently indisposed. Being an industrious man at times he performed some labor; but his health was never restored. For several months past he had been manifestly declining; and some ten days prior to his decease a profuse discharge of blood from the mouth indicated approaching dissolution. Repetitions of this on the mornings of the 6th and 7th inst., showed his departure to be near at hand. He was calm and submissive to the divine will, but expressed a wish that he might not die by strangulation in one of those turns of bleeding. This desire was granted. A little before his decease he remarked, that his hope was stronger than death. His position being changed according to his request, he said he was quite comfortable, and quietly passed, as we confidently trust, to the mansions of rest, early on the morning of March 9th, 1868, aged 43 years, leaving a sorrowing widow, (who had with great toil and assiduity labored to preserve his life, and to mitigate his sufferings,) and one son, as also aged parents, with numerous other relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

The occasion was improved by the Pastor—assisted by Rev. T. H. Porter, Senr.—in a funeral discourse founded on Ps. lxxviii. 5. "A Father to the fatherless, and a Judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation."—Com. by Rev. C. Tupper.

Lines on the Death of David L. and Norman B. Slocumb, Sons of Jael and Irene Slocumb.

Time flies alas! the year that last has fled,
And rolled its way into the dreamy past,
Has numbered many friends among the dead,
No more on earth to dwell while time shall last.

Some wreaked on beds of languishing and pain,
But friends surrounded, who with care and thou art
New comforts tried, though mayhap tried in vain,
And mothers strove to smooth the restless cot.

Thus David pined, and drooped, and was cut down,
All agents failed to reach the fatal spot;
Disease had seized its victim, but a crown,
And robes of white for him the Saviour wrought.

The other * went without the pale of home,
Far out, upon the ocean's rolling tide,
And then with nought in sight but heaven's dome,
He calmly gathered up his feet, and died.

But when the Spirit calls, who walks the deep,
And bids them rise, who sleep beneath the wave,
True to the Master's call, who vigils keep,
They shall arise, and show his power to save.

And when he gathers jewels for his crown,
And seeketh those who died in Jesus' love;
Then will he gather those whom death cut down,
And seat them safe in mansions built above.

C. L. REED.

Mount Hanley, 15th March, 1868.

* Norman B. Slocumb.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival at Jeddore.

Dear Brother,—

No doubt many of your readers will be pleased to learn that the Lord has greatly revived his cause in Jeddore. In the early part of the winter it became apparent that mercy was in store for this people. The church became really in earnest. Backsliders were reclaimed, old difficulties disappeared, and the people of God came together with one heart and one soul to

worship God in his Temple. "And the Lord hearkened and heard it." While they were yet speaking he answered, sinners soon began to cry for mercy. Bro. Meadows who was engaged in teaching there at that time, was constrained to give himself wholly to the work of the ministry. And began to hold extra meetings, and truly great have been the results, they have enjoyed a blessed season. One of the old rants remarked a few days ago. This has been the happiest winter of my life. I have witnessed the goodness and power of God as it was never seen here before. The church gave Bro. Meadows a unanimous call to become their pastor and called for his ordination. A notice of which appeared in the *Christian Messenger* a short time since.

Last Sabbath week I was with them by special request and assisted the pastor in baptizing 20 willing converts. It was a day long to be remembered. A large number of people gathered on the east side of the beautiful harbor to witness the administration of this solemn Scriptural ordinance. The meetings through the day, and more especially in the evening, the west side were among the most interesting of my life. The young converts rejoiced with great joy and sometimes cried aloud for mercy. No doubt a number more will soon follow their Lord and Master. Bro. Meadows labors faithfully, and God is blessing him abundantly. The people love him dearly and I am confident he will do much good in that important field.

Yours very truly

A. F. PORTER.

NORTH RIVER, P. E. I.—How cheering to read what God is doing for a few of our little churches in Nova Scotia. Yet it makes us feel sad for our thirsty land. And when we think of how much larger showers are falling all over the United States, O, what an amount of guilt God's people bear, who persist in slumbering. Souls are sinking into endless woe! Arm of the Lord, awake! awake!

After four weeks meetings at Alexandra, Lot 49, we can look back with gratitude, and look forward to future labor with increased faith, by the aid of the rich blessing God was pleased to grant us. Zion has been purged from much of the old leaven of sin, and some have yielded up their wills to Christ: while others are pressing into the kingdom. O, that the minister and people may live holy lives from month to month, then would the Most High bedew us with his saving love, and bring in one by one from the wild sea of sin, to the peaceful harbor of rest in Christ's love.

Rev. J. F. Tooker wrote on the 9th of March: "God is graciously moving on the hearts of the people among us. At Mill Village several wanderers have returned; and souls are being converted. It was my privilege yesterday to immerse one happy follower of Jesus. Our hope is that the favor cloud will yet abide upon us."

WESTPORT.—Our brother H. E. Payson wrote under date, 10th March, 1868.—Dear Sir.—Since I last wrote to you we have had 20—Twenty more added to our church by baptism. Meetings still interesting, hope more are seeking the salvation of their souls. We have abundant reason to bless God and press forward.

[The above should have appeared in our last issue but it was accidentally omitted.—Ed.]

SPRINGFIELD, ANNAPOLIS CO.—Rev. P. F. Murray writes March 19: "I am now spending a few weeks at Springfield. Some indications of good—I have had the pleasure of baptizing six there recently, and expect to baptize again there soon."

Dominion and Foreign News.

It is reported from Ottawa that this season the licenses to American fishermen will be two dollars per ton instead of one.

Business is reported dull throughout the Dominion, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, seem about on a par with Nova Scotia. The opening spring is expected to bring greater activity and more prosperous times.

PARLIAMENTARY.

OTTAWA, March 16th.—In Commons to-day Jones of North Leeds, enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the construction of the Intercolonial Railway while Nova Scotia, through her Legislature, persists in the Repeal of the Union, and if so, whether the Eastern terminus will be fixed at Truro.

Sir John A. MacDonald said it was the intention of the Government to carry out in good faith the agreement before and at the Union between the Province of Canada and the Maritime Provinces. They would proceed with the work and make Truro the Eastern terminus.

Connell argued the necessity of proceeding with Intercolonial, as a matter of good faith with New Brunswick as much as with Nova Scotia.

March 20.—Sir John A. MacDonald yesterday laid before Parliament a copy of the minute on the subject of Dr. Tupper's mission to England. It is as follows:—

"On a memorandum dated 12th March 1868, from the Hon. the Minister for Justice, stating that having had under consideration the action of the Local Legislature of Nova Scotia in sending to England a deputation for the purpose of pressing upon Her Majesty's Government the necessity of repealing the Union Act so far as Nova Scotia is concerned, he recommended that some competent person be sent to England for the purpose of affording, when required, to His Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies, full information on the various grounds for such Repeal that may be submitted by the Nova Scotia delegation. The Committee concur in the recommendation submitted by the Minister of Justice, and advise that the competent person be authorized to proceed to England for the purpose mentioned."

March 21.—Sir John A. MacDonald stated in reply to Mr. Holton, that Col. Gray's appointment as Arbitrator, would not disqualify him from holding his seat in the Commons.

The whole of yesterday till midnight, the Commons discussed the Kamouraski election; the case has been referred to election Committee. No new writs to issue till after investigation. The opposition moved an amendment which was lost on the following division, yeas, forty: nays, seventy-seven. Coffin, Power, Ray and Savory voted yeas, Campbell, McKeagney, nay.

Tilley and Howland both absent from the House through sickness.

We understand that the Members of the House of Commons have all left for Ottawa with the exception of Messrs Carmichael, Killam and Chipman. The latter has been detained by sickness.

Quebec.

EXPORTATION OF SILVER.—Since the movement for the exportation of silver there has been \$160,000 sent away from Montreal.

Mayor Workman entered upon his duties on the 10th inst. The revenue of the city of Montreal for 1867 was seven millions of dollars.

Mr. David A. Ogden, of Montreal, had a very narrow escape of poisoning himself, a few mornings since, by accidentally taking a large dose of sulphate of zinc in mistake for Seidlitz powder.

MONTREAL, March 17.—Capitalists have made a formal proposition to the Government to build the Intercolonial Railway for \$8,000,000.

Rumors of dissension in Cabinet are rife. It is said another Nova Scotian will be offered a seat in the Government, a step towards conciliating Nova Scotia.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By Atlantic Telegraph.

ENGLAND.—London March 16th.—Mr Hunt, states in the House of Commons, that the total expenses of the British expedition in Abyssinia, up to date, were less than £4,000,000 pounds sterling.

March 17th.—A serious political riot occurred in the Island of Madina on the 5th inst. The mob attacked one of the candidates for Portuguese Cortes. The military were called out and fired upon the people.

Thompson and Mullaney have been tried and convicted at Manchester, charged with being accessories to murder of Police Sergeant Brett, were to-day sentenced to be hanged.

March 18.—The whole plan for church, land and educational reforms in Ireland will go over to the next Parliament.

Late date from Abyssinia reports that Gen. Napier was about to make a sudden dash on the enemy's forces near Magdala, in the hope of being able to free the captives.

It is reported that the Papal Government has rejected the overtures of the Emperor Napoleon for the pacification of Italy.

March 21.—The latest advices from Shanghai state that the civil war in Japan has resulted in the defeat of the Tycoon, who after a disastrous battle with the combined forces of the Damios, fled to Jeddo. The Government of Meiko had addressed a note to the Foreign Ministers in Japan, in which it pledges itself to the faithful observance of the Treaties which have been concluded. A telegram from Shanghai, in anticipation of the Overland Mail says, all foreigners had left Hogo or Osea, in Japan. It was reported that a vessel of war, said to be either French or American, had been fired upon by the Japanese.

The French troops in the city of Rome have been reduced to a single brigade.

March 22.—A despatch from Cork states that Capt. McKay has been sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor for twelve years.

IRELAND.—Cork, March 20.—The jury in the case of Capt. McKay have brought in a verdict of guilty of treason. The sentence has been deferred by the Court.

A FARM, WHO WANTS ONE?

SITUATED in New Germany, in the County of Lunenburg; containing 210 acres, or more.

The above farm is one of the most finely situated in the place and has the handsomest front. About 40 acres are cleared; 8 of which are now in burnt-land. The remainder is all that can be desired, having hard-wood, spruce, pine, poles, and meadow-land.

On it is a new BARN, a good well of water, and a young orchard.

The whole will be sold greatly under value, as the subscriber wishes to leave the Province.

WM. R. BARSS.

Feb. 17, 1868.

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