

amazingly strange that men can be so blind to their eternal interests as to put off "making their peace with God," and as amazingly strange that God has the forbearance to wait for any of us! I think I have never been in any revival of religion where I felt more deeply impressed that Christ was knocking at the door of hearts, and that the Holy Spirit was striving with, and wooing them to "come," than for weeks and months here—All the young converts engage with us in audible prayer on Wednesday and Sabbath evenings, and for some time past, every man, but the one required at the wheel, meets at evening worship.

Trusting that you will not forget to pray for the continuance of like blessings upon our united labors, believe me ever in the bonds of the gospel,

Truly your sister,
MRS. VANMETER.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ontario Correspondence.

I wonder if you Nova Scotians know your own blessings, and are grateful for the broad bit of ocean which ebbs and flows between you and the land of Fensians. You can lie down and sleep in peace. No visions of the glorious "Sunburst" disturb your quiet dreams, nor are you in dread of awaking some fine morning to find that you are now and henceforth *volens volens* under the liberal rule of the newly proclaimed, long promised, "Irish Republic." Of course you have not so much cause for congratulation after all, as your turn will speedily come. It is only a matter of days. That snug little peninsula is much too convenient a naval station for the fleet whose proud mission it is to be to overthrow the British nation, and free the Emerald Isle forever from the tyranny of the Anglo-Saxon, to be long overlooked.

"Are we to have a raid or not?" is a question more easily asked than answered amongst us just now. A little ago we fully expected it. Ample preparations have been and are being made to meet it. There is no doubt that preparations larger and more formidable than those of an previous occasion, have been going on for some time past; on the part of the brotherhood across the lakes. All that will prevent a serious inroad by large bands of misguided wretches and ruffians into our peaceful land, in the course of two or three weeks, will be the action of the U. S. Government. There seems little doubt that that government will act in good faith as soon as any overt action commences, but whether it will then be able to stop the tide with sufficient promptness to save us wholly from the foul deluge, remains to be seen. We hope so. We have no sympathy with many amongst us, who are hoping that they, the Fenians, may be allowed to come, in order that they may meet the reception in store for them. That cannot take place without, in all probability, the loss of valuable lives, and the endangering of much bad blood. And then, whoever may suffer, there is little reason to hope that the really guilty parties will put themselves in the way of punishment. The privilege of shooting down a few dozens or hundreds of the wretched creatures constituting the rank and file of the movement, would be a poor consolation for the slaughter of many or few of Canada's sons. However we await the issue with calmness. Our consciences are clear in respect to Ireland and the Irish. They have no state church of a small minority to support, no oppressive system of land tenure, no laws of primogeniture and entail to complain of in Canada. The rewards of honest industry, of frugality and of talent, are as free to the Hibernian as to the Scot. Would that he knew as well how to obtain them. Above all the Christian's trust is in the Omnipotent. It in any case the Christian is encouraged to invoke the aid of the God of battles, surely those called upon to defend their firesides from the ruthless invasion of such a horde, may confidently do so.

This is the month of religious anniversaries. The meetings of the various bodies of Associated Churches in our own denomination are taking place one after another. It has not been the privilege of your correspondent to attend any of them, but so far as they have yet been heard from the intelligence from the churches seems much more hopeful than that of last year. Many are enabled to report larger or smaller additions to their numbers. Some have been largely blessed. These are, we trust, tokens of increased and increasing spiritual life. May the Spirit be poured out upon us yet more abundantly! There is much need of it.

The Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Episcopal bodies have all held the yearly sessions of their respective Conventions and Synods, in one or the other of our larger cities. The meeting of the Synod

of the Episcopal Church, held in Toronto, last week, rendered itself memorable and perhaps historic, by its deliverance upon the Irish Church question. The phenomena of fossilification therein exhibited were rather startling to those of us who thought we were living in an age and a country in which the broad principles of religious toleration and equality—if those two words are not contradictory—were in the ascendant. That delusion is effectually dispelled, so far at least, as a large number of our Anglican divines are concerned. The somewhat narrow, but clear cut, *uniform*, orthodox, though possibly somewhat narrow opinions of two centuries ago, turn up in a state of excellent preservation. The little upheaval caused by Gladstone's heretical measures has brought them to the surface, little the worse for all the attrition of these long years of bible study and enlarged Christian charity and culture. In reading the debates, one is sometimes irresistibly reminded of some passages in Macaulay's description of the modes of thought and feeling amongst country esquires and clergymen in the times of Charles II. The opinions and convictions imbibed at College, or elsewhere, seem certainly in some cases, at the present day, to be held with a tenacity almost as unyielding and unreasoning. After a long and warm discussion, nearly all upon one side of the question however, in which the "wickedness" of Gladstone and his party was exposed in true Blackwood style, a resolution was almost unanimously passed, expressive of horror and dismay at the proposed act of infidel sacrilege, and appointing a committee to petition Her Most Gracious Majesty, in behalf of the Synod against giving her sanction to the monstrous crime of refusing any longer to compel Roman Catholics and Protestants to support a church in which they do not believe. Nor was this all. Professor Wilson, one of the Staff of the University of Toronto, a man of enlarged views and of some eminence, who was about the only one found bold enough to lift his voice in favor of justice to Ireland, was absolutely hissed in this grave assembly of divines. One of his worst offences was the expression of an opinion, which, to plain minds not trained to the use of orthodox spectacles, seems a simple truism, that "in a country where there is no established church there can be no dissenters." For this and kindred crimes he was snubbed and catechised, and as the *Globe* has it "manned and personned," in a manner which ought certainly to bring him to a proper sense of his presumption. Possibly he may have left the Synod muttering, "The world does move nevertheless!"

It is refreshing to see in contrast with the foregoing, the signs of increasing life and growth as manifested in the Synod of the Canada Pres. Church, which has just closed a long session in Montreal. These signs are manifest in the tendency to burst the fetters of man-made restrictions, even those of the Westminster confession or of immemorial usage, and to adopt more fully the simple appeal to the infallible standard. The question of permitting or prohibiting instrumental music in churches, was discussed at length, and with an earnestness which seems surprising to those educated under different influences. The advocates of "immemorial usage" and of utter prohibition entirely failed however, to get their views endorsed by the Synod, and the churches connected with it are left virtually free in this matter. The law prohibiting marriage with a deceased wife's sister as contrary to Scripture, was, after a lengthy debate re-affirmed. Some practical measures were adopted, looking to a general union of all the churches of this body throughout the Dominion.

But I must apologize for the tedious length of this letter, which I regret I have not time to make shorter, and close. The weather in Ontario during Spring and Summer has thus far, been very favorable to the growing crops. There is now every prospect of a most bountiful harvest. Farmers say they have not in a long time seen fields and gardens so promising. We have had some extremely warm weather for June. The smiles of a kind Providence are beaming upon this fair land, and I trust over the whole Dominion. When will men learn to recognize Him more constantly and gratefully?

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Mission at Grand Ligne.

The following letter has been sent to us in lithograph, as we suppose it has also to the United States. It should have been corrected for the churches in the British Provinces. The omission may be overlooked and not allowed to operate disadvantageously. Many of our readers are already much interested in the Grand Ligne Mission.

"The labourers at LaGrande Ligne Mission, Canada East, are compelled to make a special appeal for help at this critical juncture of its affairs."

The Mission has, in common with all the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ sustained what appears to us an irreparable loss in the removal by death of the highly-gifted and singularly devoted Madame Feller, a lady well known to many of our American friends in connection with her frequent visits to the U. States on behalf of the Mission. This loss those only who have known and laboured with her during many long years can fully estimate or understand.

For some years past the health of dear Madame Feller prevented her taking those journeys on behalf of the Mission, which in former years contributed to sustain an interest in its operations, while the labourers at the several stations have always been so constantly employed at their proper work that it was difficult for them to leave their fields. The very numerous and pressing claims made on our friends in the United States arising from the sufferings of the late war have also lessened, and in many cases have entirely absorbed the benefactions bestowed in former years upon the Mission. We feel now in such straits that having cried unto the Lord, we look to those who loved Him—who profess His name, and whom He has made the almoners of His bounty. The gold and the silver are His, and they to whom it is given are but the Stewards of that which he bestows. Christian friends, this Mission is we know dear to many of your hearts, and you will rejoice to know that the Lord continues to smile on the labours of His servants. The past year has been marked with tokens of the Divine blessing, and many precious souls brought from darkness to light. In all the conversations with enquirers, and in the examination of those applying for admission to the churches, the Missionaries have been guarded and careful in the reception of professed converts, yet in the various stations of the Mission twenty-three persons have given satisfactory evidence of a changed heart and life, have been baptized and added to the churches. Since the beginning of this year also, there have been cheering evidences of increased interest and of a spirit of enquiry in many portions of the field.

But while thus encouraged in spiritual prosperity, the material wants of the Mission are now very pressing, so much so that the deepest anxiety is felt regarding the prosecution of the work. We have again and again had to incur liabilities rather than see that work arrested, and the Lord has repeatedly, and in a wonderful way appeared for our help, but now it looks as though we could not go a step farther. "We are pressed on every side." Brethren beloved, we lay this matter before you, beseeching you to take it into your hearts. This is the Lord's work and cause, and you are those who profess to be not your own but His. If you would have us continue this work of faith and love—if Colporteurs and Evangelists now at work faithfully toiling for the Master, and yet having claims of many months standing, for the bread of themselves and their families are not to be withdrawn from the field—if our schools are to be kept open, and the various agencies of the Mission are to be maintained in operation, help timely and liberal will have to be given.

Brethren pray; for we know that when God inclines the heart to pray, He also inclines that heart to give.

On behalf of the Missionaries and Committee of La Grande Ligne Mission.

LOUIS ROUSSY, Sec'y.
JOHN ALEXANDER, President.

June, 1868.

P. S.—As we have no Agent at present visiting the U. States, our friends will much oblige by remitting their contributions to Rev. Louis Roussy, Grande Ligne, Canada East.

The Rev. L. A. Dunn, of Fairfax, Vermont has kindly sent the following testimonials:

"We the undersigned believing that the Grande Ligne Mission has been signally owned and blessed by the Great Head of the Church, and is an instrumentality of much good, cheerfully and heartily endorse the above appeal of the Committee and earnestly hope that the Mission will receive immediate and generous aid from our American Churches."

A. D. GILLETTE, D. D., Washington, D. C.
S. D. PHILIPS, D. D., Newhaven, Conn.
ROBERT TURNBULL, D. D., Hartford, Conn.
JAMES UPHAM, D. D., Boston, Mass.
REV. L. A. DUNN, Fairfax, Vermont.
HON. J. M. HOTCHKISS, do. do.
DEA. ELIAS BELLUS, do. do.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

Maine Baptist Missionary Convention, held its anniversary on June 16, 17, 18, in Maine Street, Brunswick. A devotional meeting of great interest was held in the Church on Monday evening—delegates and

friends who were present at this meeting, enjoyed a rich blessing which was a fitting preparation for the services that followed. During the sessions of the Convention, we had animated discussions and spirited speeches, full of information on Missions at home and abroad—Education, Publications, Sabbath Schools, Young Men's Christian Associations, Temperance, &c. The Reports from the various Associations, comprised within the bounds of the State were very favourable. Revivals have been enjoyed. Several church edifices have been repaired and remodelled, and new ones in course of erection, that will be ornaments as well as useful buildings in their respective localities. Debts have been removed. Several parsonages are being provided. Total receipts of the Missionary Convention for the year including funded property, \$6797.91. This sum does not include monies paid into Baptist Societies outside of our State, such as the Bible, Freedmen's Theological Institute, and Kindred Institutions.

The Maine Baptist Education Society also held their anniversary on Tuesday afternoon, when the Rev. J. Ricker, of Augusta City, preached the sermon on the Characteristics of a Godly Ministry. It was a timely sermon. We need such able presentation of truth to the consciences of ministers. Able speeches were delivered by the President of Colby University, Rev. Dr. Bachus and others. Several students were aided during the past year. On Tuesday evening the Convention Sermon was preached by Rev. N. J. Wheeler of Skowhegan. The topic, the Duty of Baptists, based on the words in 1 Corinthians xvi. 13, 14: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men; be strong—let all your things be done with charity." The sermon was one of unusual power. The large audience was profoundly attentive as the ministers moved on from point to point. One very intelligent lady I overheard, saying, "It was worth the long journey I have come to attend this Convention." Our meetings were very unanimous and loving in their expressions. Early morning prayer meetings were very interesting and profitable—and other meetings for devotion during the day, seemed to be very impressive. It was admitted again by aged ministers that they never attended a more harmonious Convention. Why did we enjoy such meetings? Because the Master was present in answer to many prayers offered by God's people on the Sabbath evening preceding the Convention meetings. We need more devotion in our meetings—if we had it, Brethren, would be more united and in honor preferring one another.

A. MINISTER.

For the Christian Messenger.

NEW YORK, June 22nd, 1868.

Dear Editor,—

I addressed you from Portland last. We have now been two days at New York, studying the mysteries, and admiring the grandeur and beauty of this great Metropolitan city.

Our party divided at Portland, some proceeding by the "Grand Trunk" direct, while others, of whom I had the good fortune to be one, took the more circuitous route by Boston, New York, and Niagara Falls.

Our passage by Rail to Boston, lay by what is called the "Upper Route," intersecting the flourishing cities of Dover, Haverhill and Lawrence, and revealing to the traveller about eighty miles of the most fertile country, studded the whole distance with towns, villages, and country seats, and unsurpassed for beauty and thrift by any on this Continent. The City of Haverhill, thirty-three miles from Boston, carries on a very extensive shoe-making business, and near the Railway Depot, where we paused for a few minutes, I noticed many large factories employed in this trade, while a few miles further on, near the City of Lawrence, brick cotton mills are prominent, lining the right bank of the "Merrimack," without intermission for nearly half a mile.

Our sojourn at Portland was only two hours, and gave little or no opportunity for inspecting the city; and we fared little better at Boston, where we arrived on the same day, and almost immediately proceeded onward to New York.

The travelling expenses between Boston and New York are merely nominal, considering the distance between the two great cities, and the elegant accommodations afforded. The passage by rail is about fifty miles, before taking the Steamer—a veritable floating palace, "down the sound," and yet the competition is so brisk, and