

was proposed to bring the matter up at the next church meeting.

"But," said one of them, "brother Offside, you know will oppose it, and there are always some that will fall in with the opposition. Such things make jars and strifes, even if they do not prevent the object."

"I'll arrange that," said Deacon Brown, a man of good sense, as well as of an abundance of humor. I'll arrange that, and carry it through without opposition, if you will leave it all to me. Only, when we come into the meeting, you must follow me: do as I do."

The meeting came, and at the proper time Deacon Brown arose and said they had been requested to make a collection to aid a certain object (mentioning it), but for his part he thought they had about enough on hand already. They could not give away to everything; they must attend to their own affairs. He thought the church would agree with him on that. Moreover, however good the proposed object was, there were causes that lay nearer to his heart.

He sat down, and Deacon Jones rose and said he could adopt the language of brother Brown; he looked upon the matter in the same light.

Brother Offside was on his feet in a moment. He didn't agree with the brethren. He thought it one of the best and noblest objects they had been called upon to aid. He did not believe in restricting their benevolence to a few objects. Let it be world wide. He thought the church was imperatively called upon to aid this cause—especially just at this time. He was conscientious in it. He was willing to give for it. And, before sitting down, he moved that a collection be made for this object one week from next Sabbath, and the pastor be requested to call especial attention to it in a notice next Sunday, so as to secure as large a collection as possible.

Immediately Deacon Brown seconded the motion, and said he believed brother Offside, on the whole, was right, and he should vote for a collection.

Deacon Jones said he should go with them most heartily. And the vote had no opposition.

Brother Offside seemed nonplussed by the turn things had taken, held down his head, and appeared to be considering how he could flank the movement. But the motion was put before he had time to form an opposition.

I am sorry to say this habit carries its sad influence into the family circle, and is as unlovely there as it is in the church. If Mr. Offside's wife or children propose or desire anything, he is sure to oppose, if not the thing itself, the time or the manner of doing it. Many a sad hour, too, his good and amiable wife has in secret on account of his unreasonable and obstinate opposition to her plans—often in things the most trivial, and of no possible consequence to him. It has been a root of bitterness to his family, springing up into alienations and wretchedness. And yet he does not seem aware of it. He is made unhappy by it, as well as others. The children have come to take the view of the matter which the deacons did, and when they wish to gain a point, propose something in the opposite direction. It skilfully managed, this usually succeeds.

Whether brother Offside will be reformed in this world is very doubtful. The habit is too inveterate, and he is too old to allow of such a hope. How unlovely it makes his piety appear! How it reproaches his religion in the estimation of the world! How unhappy it makes his family! How wretched it makes himself! How it makes the church contentious! How it grieves the Spirit from his own heart, and hinders his growth in grace! How it makes usefulness almost impossible to him! Poor Mr. Offside!

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 1, 1868.

A Happy New Year.

When our present issue meets the eye of our readers the year 1868 will be but an infant of a few hours old. What it may become as it advances to maturity must be left for the development of its coming days, weeks and months. A year now-a-days bears with it what would formerly have been sufficient for a quarter-of-a-century. Not only is this the case in the rapidity of the communication of thought, but with steam, electricity and machinery, the productiveness of human labor is also increased to even a greater extent.

In anticipation of this day, in our last issue, we tendered to our readers the greetings of the season, and wished them "A Happy New Year." We repeat the wish

with all sincerity and earnestness, and trust that each week that we are permitted to hold intercourse together, we may find them in the enjoyment of new elements of happiness. If wealth were essential to this we would desire for them abounding riches, but our own experience and observation shew us more and more clearly that such is not the case. Persons who are in the enjoyment of riches too often become arrogant, haughty and fretful because sufficient deference is not shewn them by those they regard as inferiors, on account of possessing smaller means of self-gratification. There are noble exceptions to this, we are happy to say, with whom wealth and influence are held as talents entrusted by the Master, for use in his service, to such opportunities are afforded on every hand to employ them, and when embraced they yield pleasure, unknown to the worldling. Duties thus become pleasures and service the highest privilege. Talents whether large or small may be made the means of blessing to others and of securing happiness to ourselves.

The old year has passed away into the land of silence and has taken with it all the sorrows, the trials, the mistakes, aye, and the sins of the 365 days of which it was composed. We have now to start afresh in the endeavour to carry out whatever wisdom we may have learned by the experience of the past; and to gird ourselves afresh for conflict with error and evil in its varied forms; and for the new duties which come upon us as the days successively appear. Whilst we know not what a day may bring forth, if we would have the blessings which give true happiness, our attitude must be one of *trust in God*. Not merely must we be assured that what is written of Him is true, but we must go to him in the person of Christ our Redeemer, who possesses all the attributes of wisdom to guide, of righteousness to apportion our lot, of mercy to forgive sin, and of love to bestow whatever is fitted for the promotion of our present and future well-being.

Our trust in God need not be for a year, we have not a year at a time to spend, nor have we a week or a day in advance to appropriate. We may lay plans of operation reaching over days, months or years, but we have only the present moment to live, and if we cherish an habitual reliance on Him we shall also live a life of obedience to Him—the only condition which will fully harmonise with entire reliance and trust. Duty and privilege are inseparable. The latter not as a result of the former, because we know that the most perfect are still to regard themselves as unprofitable servants. Happiness obtained in violation of either of these conditions may well be suspected as to its origin.

With this brief homily, then, we enter upon the new year with our respected readers and hope that the days may brighten as we advance, and at the close that we may have to exclaim, on a view of its experience, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness."

Much speculation is going the round of the papers at present, in regard to Reciprocity, both among ourselves and in the neighbouring Republic. It is now pretty generally admitted by our neighbours, that the repeal of the measures authorizing a mutual interchange in trade between the U. S. and these Colonies was a serious mistake, and although inflicting on us a good deal of the injury intended, has been followed by equal, if not greater injury, to themselves. It is in the present day and state of national communities, acknowledged as an axiom, that any two adjoining countries, abounding in the products of nature or of art, must be mutually benefited by an interchange of commodities, hampered by as few restrictions as possible. Indeed the true principle is, we believe, to exact no imports on either side, except such as are absolutely necessary for the purposes of a necessary revenue. Upon such a basis is the system of Free Trade, under which Great Britain is so marvellously prospering at the present moment, established. France and other European nations are largely adopting the same system, and flourishing in proportion to their abandonment of their old and vexatious restrictions on a free and unfettered Commerce. The means of a profitable commercial intercourse between our Colonial Dominion and the United States, and so obvious and so numerous, and must be so evidently beneficial to all parties that one can hardly imagine any thing less than sheer fatuity on one side or the other, that could possibly stand in the way of a just and equitable Treaty being made very shortly.

As Mr. Thornton, the new British Minister, is very shortly expected to fill the place of Sir Frederick Bruce just deceased, we trust that he will be enabled ere long, with the assistance of some of our able statesmen from the Dominion, to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement of this important matter with the Cabinet at Washington.

DEPARTURE OF MISS DEWOLFE FROM BOSTON FOR BURMAH.—After considerable delay from several unforeseen circumstances, we are glad to learn that Miss DeWolfe left Boston in the ship *John Bunyan*, for Rangoon direct. From a relative of hers in Charleston, we learn that with Mrs. Van Meter and two other young ladies on board, they started about ½ past 10 o'clock, on Tuesday the 17th ult. Appropriate services were held on board previous to their departure, of which we shall doubtless soon learn full particulars. The writer adds, "the captain appears to be a fine fellow. Cousin Minnie bore up under it all finely. She was very cheerful and made a favorable impression on the minds of many with whom she became acquainted, and were present to witness the departure."

We know not to what extent the sisters in the churches are taking measures for aiding in this mission work. Here is a fine opportunity for them to devise means and seek to show their love to the Master. They have had no personal visit and appeal from the missionary, as in the case of one of the sterner sex. Yet the call comes with even louder voice from the very weakness of the agency. Their fervent prayers we are assured will be offered for the missionary sister, now on her voyage, and we confidently bespeak an increase of interest in the dissemination of that truth by which alone woman is raised to her proper position in society and in the church of Christ, and by which in every land she may be rendered a partaker of the joys of heaven.

Since the above was in type we have received the following from the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Tupper:

OUR FOREIGN MISSION.

As many of the friends of this Mission have learned with regret, that sister DeWolfe was unexpectedly detained at Boston, it will doubtless be gratifying to them to peruse the following extracts of a letter just received.

Aylesford, Dec. 27, 1867.

C. TUPPER, Sec.

"BOSTON, MASS, DEC. 17, 1867.

"My Dear Brother,—

"I am happy to inform you, that after a tedious delay of two months, Miss DeWolfe, in company with Mrs. Van Meter, Miss Watson, and Miss Higley, sailed to-day in the ship "*John Bunyan*" direct for Rangoon. I think she is well furnished for her voyage, and trust she will reach her destination in safety. . . . The ship is a staunch one, the Captain is a very pleasant man, and there is every prospect that the company will make a pleasant voyage."

Believe me always,

Yours very truly,

J. N. MURDOCK.

Cor. Sec'y.

A letter from a friend a short time since says, "I preached this morning from Revelations 3. 1-5. The first time I preached from the first verse of this chapter was on August 17th, 1815. I know not how I preached then—but I felt solemn in preaching to-day." Upwards of fifty-two years ago. Only a small proportion of those born into this world live as long. Although he has seen more than the allotted threescore and ten years, yet we are thankful to say that his vigor and natural force are not perceptibly abated. May he, like Simeon of old, often have the satisfaction, in these his latter days, of seeing the Lord come to his temple and manifest his saving grace.

The Rev. Mr. Normondy, the missionary to the French Acadians, is in St. John, presenting the claims of that mission to our brethren in New Brunswick. We doubt not he will bring back a good report of the land. The object is worthy of support and sympathy.

NEWTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.—We learn from the *Watchman*, that some important changes will shortly take place in this leading Baptist institution.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Newton Theological Institution, held on the 3rd of Dec., Rev. Samuel L. Caldwell, D. D., of Providence, was unanimously elected Professor of Church History, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Rev. Dr. Pepper.

It having become certain that, after the close of the current seminary year, there will be a vacancy in the Chair of Biblical Literature and Interpretation, it was provided that Rev. Dr. Hovey, now Professor of Christian Theology, shall be transferred to that chair and appointed President of the Institution.

It was also provided that the chair of Christian Theology, when vacated by such transfer, shall be offered to Rev. Ebenezer Dodge, D. D., of Hamilton, N. Y.

Prices, &c.

In reply to a question of a New Subscriber as to remitting his subscription, we would say. If you cannot conveniently get a Post office order, send postage stamp. We prefer the former however.

Colchester Co. Baptist Sabbath School Convention.

The Colchester Co. Baptist Sabbath School Convention will meet at Truro, on Friday the 27th inst., at 6 o'clock, P. M.

T. B. LAYTON, Sec'y.

Letters Received.

Rev. G. E. Day, 3. Hardy. Rev. T. A. Higgins. Rev. Thomas Todd \$2. H. E. S. Maider, 1 sub. Rev. B. Scott, \$2 sub. Jas. Desbriay, Esq., \$6. S. Siley, J. P. Per. Jas. E. Potter, Esq. Rev. Dr. Upper, \$13.15. A. Marshall, Esq., \$4.1 sub.

General Intelligence.

Province of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX ITEMS.

The mail for England per steamship *City of Antwerp*, the first of the Inman steamers leaving this port, will close at the General Post Office this morning at 9 o'clock, subsequent mails by the Inman line will be closed at 9 a. m. on alternate Fridays commencing on the 17th January.

A FINE HORSE OWNED BY Mr. George Currie, fell on the ice near Richmond Depot, on Wednesday last, and broke his leg. He was afterwards shot.

On Thursday evening a cabman named Martin Jordan, while driving along Water street, fell off his cab in a fit, and an express team which was following passed over his head, inflicting severe injuries.

DONATIONS.—His Excellency has sent \$10 to the Sons of Temperance Reading Room and \$8 to the Western Female Benevolent Society.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor will hold a levee at Government House this day at one o'clock.

The gentlemen who form the committee for relieving the destitution along our shores are appealing to the citizens for aid. \$500 were collected in one ward by one of its members.

The Parade presented a lively scene on Friday and Saturday last—a large number of juveniles were enjoying the skating on its smooth icy surface.

DR. CURRIE made a very interesting presentation of gold medals to successful pupils at the close of the term. Rev. Geo. W. Hill, Col. Lowry, Commandant Devereux, and A. M. Uniacke, Esq., made appropriate addresses on the occasion. We regret that we were unable to attend in compliance with Dr. C.'s kind invitation. Dr. Currie stands at the head of his profession in Halifax.

NEWSPAPER FROM.—Slight changes appear to be taking place in our little world of Halifax newspapers. The *Sun* has ceased to shine. After an existence of twenty-four years it closed its life with the past year. The death of Mr. Ritchie is doubtless the ultimate cause of its discontinuance. One of the complaints in its "Valedictory" is that the Local Government has not performed its promise but has refused to give it any share of the public printing, which is to be divided between the three papers supporting the Government. The *Recorder* is to appear as an evening instead of a morning paper. With these changes Halifax will now have a Union paper and an Anti-union paper each morning, and the same each evening.

By an Order of the Council the following are continued as Warehousing Ports in Nova Scotia under New Customs Act, viz:—

Halifax, Annapolis, Antigonish, Arichat, Baddeck, Barrington, Bear River, Bridgetown, Lunenburg, Digby, Kelly's Cove, Guysboro, Bridgewater, Liverpool, Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, Margareville N. Sydney, Pictou, Pt. Gilbert, Hakesbury, Pt. Medway, Pugwash, Ragged Island, St. Ann's, St. Peters, Sydney, Tatamagouche, Wallace, Weymouth, Windsor, Yarmouth.

FIRE WARD.—The following gentlemen have been appointed Fire-wardens for the ensuing year:—Ward—James Pryor, J. B. Smithers, Duncan Grant James Reeves, William Kandick, John McCulloch. 3—James Doggan Edwd. J. Ju, Wm. McDonald. 4—M. Kearney, Jr., Hugh Blackadar, M. J. Power. 5—John Finn John Ead, Peter Hogan. 6—Douglas Story John Blundell, Wm. Nisbet.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—About 4 o'clock on Thursday morning last, fire was discovered in a house on the south corner of Barrack street. Effort was made to subdue the flames, but were effectual only after four houses had been destroyed. A shoemaker named Jones and his wife occupied the room on which the fire originated and had to relate they were both burned to death. It is feared that intoxicating drink had to do with this melancholy affair. Besides the above deaths, a woman named Horn who had been sick and was rescued from one of the burning houses, died about half an hour afterwards from exposure. The houses were let in tenements to poor families and while the flames were consuming their homes it was most distressing to see women and children running about the frozen street with scarcely any clothing upon them but blankets wrapped around their shivering forms. An inquest held on the bodies of the deceased has failed to discover the origin of the fire.