

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—We are informed that since the P. E. I. Association, there have been about seventy baptisms in the island churches.

The late discussion of various religious matters, has cleared away much of the existing darkness. Christian truth is appearing in all its harmony and beauty, and the Spirit is applying the truth to the hearts of the people.

There are now 960 missionaries and ordained native pastors in India, exclusive of Burma and Ceylon. The additions to the churches the past four years have been at the rate of 4,000 a year. There are now 116 lady missionaries connected with different women's societies.

It was stated in the Southern Baptist Convention, at New Orleans, "upon reliable authority, that in the Southern tier of parishes in Louisiana there are one hundred Catholic priests, missionaries among the coloured people." "Since the close of the war they have now over twenty thousand coloured converts to the Catholic faith, a number greater than have been received during the same time into all the Protestant Churches of the State! Outside of New Orleans there is no Protestant mission in Louisiana for the coloured people."

FIVE YEARS OF PRESBYTERIAN GROWTH.—Dr. Hatfield, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian General Assembly, has compiled a summary of the comparative condition of the Presbyterian denomination in the years 1872 and 1877. We take from it the following items:

	1872	1877
Synods.....	35	37
Presbyteries.....	166	175
Ministers.....	4,441	4,810
Churches.....	4,730	5,163
Communicants.....	468,164	557,764
Contributions for		
Congregational		
purposes.....	\$5,012,907	\$6,273,218
Contributions for all		
purposes.....	\$10,086,526	\$8,295,361

During the last five years, therefore, benevolent contributions have dwindled from \$5,000,000 to \$2,000,000 while during the same period contributions for home church expenses have increased in spite of hard times \$1,000,000. Or, in other words, while the membership and home expenses have increased about 20 per cent., benevolent contributions have fallen off about 60 per cent. The worst of it is that Presbyterians are by no means peculiar in this respect. Hard times necessitate economy, and it is a great deal easier to cut down one's gifts than to deny oneself some luxury or pleasure.—*Examiner and Chronicle.*

THE SCOTCH BAPTISTS.—Rev. David Young of Glasgow, speaks of the Baptist growth in Scotland on this wise:

The Baptist cause is making steady progress in Scotland. The church at Lochgilphead, Argyllshire, is in a very healthy condition under the faithful ministrations of our brother, the Rev. Mr. Forbes. During the summer months large crowds attend the ministrations of the Rev. Samuel Crabb, of Rothesay, Butehire. The church at Rothesay has received several accessions by baptism of late. The church of Wisbam, Lanarkshire, has doubled its membership in a year, under the faithful and zealous labors of the Rev. George Whittet. The great number of baptisms in connection with the Baptist church of Wisbam has not escaped the notice of the Reformed Presbyterian minister of Wisbam, who has publicly admitted that Baptist principles are spreading. All prudent Presbyterian ministers think it advisable to maintain silence on the vexed question of baptism. Some of our more outspoken ministers admit that the Baptist side of the question has much in its favor. One parish minister said to one of his parishioners, who belongs to the Baptist denomination, "I believe the Baptists are right. If I had children I should not baptize one of them." "Why," inquired our Baptist sister, "do you sprinkle so many babies?"

"Because," the minister replied, "it pleases the mothers, and does the bairns no ill."

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—The despatch was in error in announcing that the order of Knighthood had been conferred upon Justice Harrison. The only Canadian judges upon whom the honor has been conferred are Justices Richards and Dorion.

The tenth annual meeting of the Canada Medical Association opened in Montreal on Wednesday last. The sessions concluded by a dinner at which among others were present the Right Hon. Dr. Lyon Playfair, of England and Dr. Parker, of Halifax. Dr. Workman of Toronto was elected President of the Association; Dr. Cowie, Halifax, Vice President for Nova Scotia; and Dr. McLaren Vice-President for New Brunswick; Dr. Black, Secretary for Nova Scotia; and Dr. Atherton, Secretary for New Brunswick.

The Horticultural and Agricultural Exhibition which opened on Tuesday, was very fine.

Wm. B. Court has published a pamphlet in which he exposes Mr. Chiniquy's evangelistic work among the French

Canadians. He says that only a few of the reported cases of conversion are real, many of the professed converts being at present dissolute in lives and conduct. The *Gazette* which reviews the pamphlet, trusts that there will be a due enquiry into the truth of Court's allegations.

The Presbyterian Board of French Missions deny the allegations of Mr. Court, and asserts that Mr. Chiniquy's mission is prospering most satisfactorily.

The water in the river opposite Montreal is unusually low at present—large rocks and shoals are more visible now than for years past. Buoys have been brought into requisition, some of which have already been placed above and below Victoria bridge for the purpose of guiding navigators, and more are being put in readiness.

The water is lower on Split Rock Rapids of the St. Lawrence than ever before in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

Samuels & Brothers shipped on Tuesday morning 200 fat steers to England, being the last of a lot of 3,584 sent from Montreal alone. They are sending largely from New York and Boston.

The S. S. Memphis took out on Friday 700 splendid sheep, and 120 fat oxen.

The Anglican Synod for the Province of Canada opened to day, principal Whitaker, of Toronto, being appointed Prolocutor. The opening sermon was preached by the Bishop of Fredericton. The Ritualistic party seem to be the strongest. At a meeting of the Synod on Friday it was proposed to hold annual meetings alternately at Montreal, Halifax, Toronto, St. John and London.

The enquiry into the murder of John Regan, farmer, of Lucan, Ont., terminated in Mrs. Regan and her step son, John Hogan, being found guilty of wilful murder. He was poisoned by strychnine.

The Ottawa Agricultural show on Wednesday was attended by several thousand people. The horses, cattle, sheep, and grain were very good, the fine arts were poor, the machinery and carriages were indifferent, but the horticultural display was the best ever seen there. The Fair closed on Thursday. There was a large number of people on the ground.

A man and wife were killed on the Grand Trunk at Newtonville, Ont., on Wednesday last, the train running over their buggy.

Two liquor detectives were attacked by a mob and badly beaten at Brantford on Tuesday of last week.

On Saturday, as Mr. Spriggins, custodian of the Protestant Cemetery, was returning to town with money to pay wages, an unsuccessful attempt was made to rob him. The robbers were disturbed.

A dreadful explosion occurred at the Quebec Rubber works on Monday afternoon. Two men were scalded with burning varnish, one fatally injured. The building was in flames but the fire was put out before any material damage was done.

In some quarters it is still asserted that there will be a Dominion election before the assembling of the House.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Our exchanges inform us that of late there have been swarms of fine mackerel in St. Andrews Bay. In the western parts of the province the oat crop will be less than last year; buckwheat poor and in some cases a failure, wheat very good, potatoes generally good. The work of clearing for farming is going on rapidly in many places.

The work of widening and improving Dock Street, Smyth Street and Canterbury Street, St. John, is provided for by Act of parliament, and Commissioners are appointed to carry out the Act.

In the city of St. John there are now eight double rows of shanties on the barrack green, and the majority of the people who lived under canvas since the fire have roofs to shelter them. Over a hundred families are thus accommodated, and additions are being constantly made to the buildings, which from their manner of construction, is made easy. Three tents remain, and are occupied at the eastern end of Britain street.

Mr. Willard Lawrence, of Sackville, is the owner of a sow which has given birth to thirty-six pigs, in three litters, from the middle of November to the 30th of August.

A valuable vein of silver has been discovered at St. George.

UNITED STATES.—Washington official despatches confirm the report that fifteen hundred Mexican troops have been forwarded to the Rio Grande River to enforce the extradition treaties.

Sir Francis Hincks, addressed the Bankers' Convention at New York on Wednesday last. He gave an account of the financial policy and banking system in Canada and said he thought it desirable that a mutual understanding should be arrived at between Canada and the United States. He thought the former should issue no notes between \$100 and \$50 and small denominations under \$5. The national banks should be satisfied with the circulation of notes of \$500 and upward. The effects of such a plan would be to increase the national bank circulation and thereby the loan power of banks and to give the nation a bank note currency superior to any country in the world.

It is stated that the hay crops of the United States this season will yield a surplus for export variously estimated at from 50,000 to 80,000 bales.

John Taylor, senior Apostle of the Mormons, acting as president of the

twelve, has been unanimously sustained in that position. A quorum of the twelve Apostles is the presiding quorum of the authority of the Church.

During a thunder storm on Thursday last Gideon B. Hitchins, with four sons and two daughters, took refuge under a tree, which the lightning struck, killing two sons and one daughter. The father and remaining children were seriously but not fatally hurt.

Seven persons have died of yellow fever at Fernandina, Florida, and there is a terrible panic there and a general exodus. Places on the coast have quarantined every train and vessel from there.

A burglar at St. Elom, Missouri, was pursued into a field by a large number of men and killed three of the latter. He escaped, but will probably be captured and lynched.

Three boys were drowned in East River, by their boat being run down by a ferry boat.

Three laborers were killed at Jersey City by a loaded coal bucket falling on them from a sixth story.

Information has been received that the Alaska Indians are in full rebellion against the United States.

Stanley telegraphs that his trip across Africa has been one of great hardship, involving sufferings and deaths, and thirty-two battles, besides continuous skirmishing with the savages on the whole route.

Francis Pocock, his English companion, died June 3rd, being swept over the falls of a river.

The River Laulaba proves to be the Congo, and has several names in its windings through Africa. Stanley has been since 15th Nov. crossing the African continent, and was three whole days without food.

Two row-boats overturned in New York harbor on Sunday, and five persons were drowned.

The dedication on Monday of the monument on Boston Common, erected to the memory of the soldiers and sailors who fell in the late war, was an occasion of the grandest military and civic display in the history of that city. The procession occupied about four hours in passing a given point.

ENGLAND.—The *Post* announces that the British Admiralty have ordered the construction of 300 torpedo-boats.

FRANCE.—The *Gaulois* says the judicial decision sentencing Gambetta to three months' imprisonment for an outrage deprives him of civil rights for five years. Should, therefore, the judgment be confirmed, he will be compelled to a political retreat which will be a mortal blow to his ambition. The *Gaulois* adds: "Thus the Republican party loses at once its old consul and its young tribune. Will honest Greys be strong enough to replace them both?"

The judgment against Gambetta is based upon his and Maurel's admission before the Judge d'Instruction that the speech was published by his (Gambetta's) orders.

The police have seized five of the principal Republican papers, including *Le Temps*, *La France* and *Le Bien Public*. It is believed that the seizure was made in consequence of the publication of a report of the trial of violent articles. The *Pays*, a Bonapartist organ, was also seized. The Radical journal *L'Ordre* has also been seized by the police.

A terrible conflagration is reported in the town of Dieppe. About a quarter of the town is demolished. Loss thus far £50,000.

It seems certain that the marriage of King Alfonso with the Princess Mercedes, daughter of Duke Montpensier, will be celebrated in January.

TURKEY.—A correspondent before Plevna describes, from personal observation, the attack of Saturday, the 8th, made by a column headed by Skobelloff from the Russian left flank near Lovatz and the Plevna road, against one redoubt on the southern side of Plevna. The Russians drove the Turks from their outlying positions, but as they neared the foot of the slope the Turkish fire became terrible. From the parapet of the redoubt poured forth a steady flame, but the redoubt was hidden in a thick white smoke. The roar of the tremendous fire was simply fearful.

This lasted about 20 minutes when the Russian skirmish line began to withdraw. The Turks then made a sortie from this redoubt, which was repulsed by the Russians.

The *Times*' correspondent describing Tuesday's fighting about the Plevna parapet, estimates the forces engaged at about 57,000 on the Russo-Roumanian side, against 50 to 70,000 Turks. The valor of the Russian troops is the only thing to be praised, as the attack was unskillfully directed, and the waste of life unnecessary. The Turks were very skillfully handled. They must have lost some men in their two sallies, otherwise they were completely covered, and lay close till the moment of assault.

The *Times*' correspondent says the capture of the redoubts converts a bloody repulse into a final and perhaps permanent success. In any case subsequent attacks must be by sap and trench, for the last reserves were engaged on the Russian side. Another account says two hundred thousand troops were engaged in the battle at Plevna. The Czar, Grand Duke and Prince Charles were present directing operations. The Turks are reported to be in a strong position at Guintza.

A correspondent of the *Standard* before Plevna telegraphs that at the taking of the Grivila redoubt the Turks neither ran away nor asked quarter. The first Russians who entered thought the redoubt was abandoned. But the garrison had only retired to the case-ments and galleries, where they stood at bay. The fighting was at close quarters, all with the bayonet. The Turks immediately tried to retake the redoubt, and poured a large number of men into the adjacent entrenchments. The Russians bombarded them, but suffered severely from the rifle fire at only 200 yards distance. This attempt to take the redoubt and another one on Wednesday, were repulsed.

A correspondent who was apparently unaware of the recapture of the other redoubts from Gen. Skobelloff, estimates that the Russians to Thursday lost 7000 killed and wounded, and the Roumanians 2000.

A telegram from Constantinople reports that the whole of Sulieman Pasha's army has passed north of the Balkans.

It is said Serbia has postponed declaring war for another week, pending the result of operations at Plevna.

The following is a Turkish official despatch:—"Baker Pasha, advancing northwest from Gorna Soudlir, on Thursday, encountered four battalions of Russian infantry, supported by cavalry, near Karaghatch. Aided by a Circassian detachment Baker Pasha attacked the enemy, who being reinforced by five infantry battalions repulsed the Turks. Later in the day the Turks received cavalry and infantry reinforcements and compelled the enemy to retreat to Vadidzka with heavy loss."

A despatch from Shumla Friday says Osman Pasha has attacked the Russians in great force at Duburk, on the road from Plevna to Sofia, where they had fortified themselves in order to prevent him receiving support. Russians badly beaten and have lost several thousand men, besides nine guns.

It has been ascertained that simultaneously with the Kavarna massacre, the Circassians committed atrocities in eleven villages of Eastern Bulgaria. In Sujux, inhabited by Greeks, 50 houses were burnt and 300 inhabitants massacred. One hundred corpses of women were discovered at Samuela. Those facts were verified by the Consuls.

In consequence of representations of Germany and France the Porte has ordered the rearrest of the five Salonica murderers released from Widdin.

Mr. Layard, the British representative, received a firman from the Sultan, authorizing excavations at Nineveh.

GREECE.—A council of ministers of Greece has, during the last few days, been discussing the Russian Cabinet's proposals for common action for ensuring the protection of the Christians in Turkey, and it may now be considered certain that a definite agreement will be arrived at between Greece and Russia.

ITALY.—A private letter from a distinguished source, from Rome, confirms the report of the failure of the Pope's health, and says that he is not expected to live till November.

RUSSIA.—A Russian official despatch from Poredda, dated Wednesday night, says:—"We cannonaded Plevna from daybreak yesterday until three o'clock in the afternoon, when an assault was made by our troops. By evening three Turkish redoubts had been taken by General Skobelloff. While General Rodionoff was wounded slightly, Adjutant Scilitor, commander of the 17th infantry regiment, and General Dobrowsky, Chief of the third rifle brigade were killed. Six Russian battalions took part in the assault on the Grivila redoubt. We captured two standards and five guns. Our losses in wounded alone exceed 5000. The number of killed is not ascertained."

At day break to-day a vigorous artillery fire recommenced along the whole line. Our troops are in front of the Turkish fortification in the position taken yesterday."

A Russian official bulletin dated Poredda, Sept. 13th, says:—

Yesterday we made no further attacks, but bombarded the Turkish fortifications and the town of Plevna at short range. Towards 4 p. m. the town began to burn, and two explosions were observed within the fortifications. The Turks made little reply to our fire, and directed all their efforts against our left wing, which threatened their rear at that point.

General Skobelloff repulsed five furious attacks but was compelled, in the evening, after the sixth attack, to evacuate fortifications which he had captured on Tuesday.

During Wednesday night our troops entrenched themselves in their positions. From the beginning of the battle 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon six thousand wounded have been brought to the Field Hospital. There have been no collisions at the other points of the theatre of war.

The Rustchuk column is concentrated in a fresh position, half a day's march behind Kara Lom.

Fifty thousand Russians will enter Servia.

It is reported that Mehemet Ali has gone to Lomazondar and a battle is impending to the West of Ezedjuma.

The St. Petersburg police have discovered a Nihilist conspiracy to assassinate the Czar on the battle field.

On Wednesday the interior of Gravitza redoubt was still piled with dead and wounded in a ghastly indistinguishable mass, the fire of the Turks having prevented the approach of surgeons and litter bearers.

According to advices received to Friday, 239 wounded officers and 9,482 men have passed through hospitals since Sept. 7th. The number of killed is about 3000. Total losses about 300 officers and 12,500 men up to the morning of Sept. 14th. Roumania had lost about 60 officers and 3000 men killed and wounded.

INDIA.—The *Times*' Calcutta despatch says the weather reports of the last week are decidedly cheering. The prospect in Punjab is greatly improved. The situation in the north-west Provinces and in Oude is still critical.

CHINA AND JAPAN.—Cholera, but not in a serious form has appeared in the southern provinces of Japan. The National Industrial Exposition was opened in Tokio, Japan, August 21, by the Mikado.

Famine has stricken the provinces of North China, now further afflicted with swarms of locusts. The final battles of the Salsuma-Japan rebellion were fought August 14th and 15th, near Nobuska. The insurgents were totally defeated. Sargo with 350 men broke through the Imperial lines and are now fugitives. The remainder of the insurgent force, several thousand, surrendered in a body. Sargo is hiding in the mountains.

SOUTH AMERICA.—A letter from Latacunza, Ecuador, states that the volcano Cotopaxi, had an eruption in the early part of July, and by the upheaval of water overflowed the streams and swept away several plantations, and drowned at least a thousand people in different places, and two thousand cattle. The whole face of the country for miles around was covered with subsequent showers of ashes, destroying all cereals and plants, and starvation was feared on the 30th July.

Local News.

APPOINTMENTS.—Cumberland Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—Nelson Fillmore, of River Philip.

Halifax Co.—To be Game Commissioners for district No. 4, David W. Archibald, Esq. vice J. H. Balcom, Esq. resigned.

Hants Co.—To be Commissioners of Sewers at Maitland—William Lawrence and Isaac Douglas, Esqs. To be Commissioners of Sewers at Seimah—George Smith and David McD. Faulkner, Esqs.

Queens Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—Jason M. Mack, of Liverpool.

Digby Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—W. H. Sabean, of Duck Pond Settlement.

Guysborough Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—J. J. Sangster, of Coddles Harbor.

Mr. Naylor the Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is doing efficient service, by demanding that the provisions of the law shall be carried out in the transmission of cattle and sheep by railway. We may hope to have more tender-hearted officials and drovers as well as more healthy meat for the city.

On Friday afternoon policeman Miles saw a man named Taylor, who lives in Blower Street, staggering about in a state of intoxication. As the policeman knew the man had, earlier in the day, drawn a large sum of money from the bank, he informed the City Marshal of the circumstances and by his instructions brought him to the station. There it was found that he had about his pockets just one thousand and eighty-three dollars and some odd cents. This is said to be not the first time this policeman has befriended this toper. It speaks well for the policeman's honesty.

THE EMPRESS commences this week to make three trips a week between St. John and Annapolis, going and returning the same day.

A good suggestion is made by one of the papers to have a gas lamp placed at the city slip. It is much needed.

Ladies should not be in too great a hurry to get on board the Dartmouth ferry. On Wednesday evening last, as an elderly lady, wife of one of the employees, tried to do so before the returning passengers were off, she had to step aside, and in doing so went over into the water. She was rescued without difficulty.

An Excursion of Odd Fellows came from New Brunswick to Truro on Thursday last. They seemed greatly to enjoy the day.

On Saturday a young woman fell into the dock of Campbell's wharf and had a narrow escape from being drowned. A young man named John Dillon gallantly rescued her.

A man named Billman, on board H. M. S. Bellerophon on Saturday afternoon fell down one of the hatchways to the deck below and was seriously hurt.

The one hundred and fourth anniversary of the settlement of Pictou was celebrated on Friday last. A grand Scottish gathering and games at Norway House were witnessed by more than two thousand well behaved people from all parts of the country. The day was exceedingly favorable.