

For the Christian Messenger.
In Memoriam.

MRS. RUFUS BENT

was the youngest daughter of the late George Starratt, of Wilmet, of blessed memory. At a very early age, while a child on the lap of her mother, listening to words of religious instruction, she became very deeply moved with thoughts of her soul's salvation. To that period in after life she looked back as the commencement of a religious awakening that resulted in her conversion to God. Many years passed before she united with the people of God by a public profession of religion; during which she became the wife of Mr. Rufus Bent, and the mother of a family of children, all of whom bear testimony to her faithfulness in all the relations of the domestic circle.

During a revival of religion, in the early part of the year 1839, she was, with her eldest daughter, now with her Saviour in the spirit world, brought by divine grace to unite with the people of God; from that time, especially, her piety became more manifest, walking in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord; her fidelity to Christ was marked by her love of the truth, attachment to the people of God, and christian deportment.

From early life her respect for the word of God was apparent. The Saviour it reveals excited her highest love and gratitude, while its revelation to her of her innate depravity and sinfulness humbled her in the dust at his feet. Few, if any, held more firmly to the doctrine of death by sin and life by Christ through the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit. Cardinal points with their collateral truths she received in the love of them, on the authority of God. Her christian experience was permeated thereby.

Her attachment to the church of Christ was formed and fed by the truth. She intelligently united with the Baptist Church of Annapolis and Upper Granville, then under the pastoral care of the writer. As a member of the church she partook of its labors, joys, and sorrows. To every good work she was a ready contributor. Here presence was a cheer to its gatherings, whether for work or worship. Her hand and heart were united in effort, her joy was in the success of her labors, and the prosperity of the body. Her attachment was seen in her prayers. Unusual seasons of prayer, and wrestlings with God for the salvation of sinners were not unknown. Even in her last illness her prayer of faith was answered in the conversion of several, among whom were some of her grandchildren.

Her christian deportment, like that of her father, gave her power for good over those committed to her care. Two of her children, with her christian husband, preceded her to the spirit world; those remaining, two sons and two daughters, are honorably filling their places in the church of Christ.

In hospitality her house was truly a home for the weary. The needy shared her benevolence. But more especially the ministers of the Gospel received a hearty reception at her table, many who read these lines as well know as the writer, who, for over forty years, has enjoyed from time to time her hospitality.

Her last days were painful and yet triumphant. Her bodily sufferings were great, at times excruciating. In soul she was filled with comfort. Her doubts and fears were all removed. She looked forward with confidence, and at times manifested a strong desire to depart and be with Christ. Should not this have been expected? Her life foreshadowed it. Among her last words were, "Farewell, farewell, I am going to glory." Naturally timid, she sought help from God, grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and entered into rest on Lord's-day morning last, nearly eighty-two years of age. On the following day her remains were committed to the family grave-yard by the present justly beloved pastor of the church.

July 5th, 1877.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

CHESTER.—Rev. I. J. Skinner writes, June 5th:—"I had the privilege of baptizing one person and welcoming him into the church on the second Lord's day in June. May it be only the beginning."

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—Four million feet of lumber more than corresponding quarter of last year, have been shipped from Ottawa during the past quarter. The high rate of mortality among young children is attributed to lack of food, owing to the hard times.

The health inspector recommends the removal of all slaughter houses from within the city.

The Weights and Measures Department, has begun to seize the scales, weights and measures of parties who neglected to have them stamped after due notice.

A blue beetle is destroying flowering plants in the Eastern Townships.

No more Catholic pilgrimages are to be made on the river without the Bishop's express permission.

The Orangemen on the line of Grand Trunk as far as Brockville will assemble at Montreal on July twelfth. Beyond doubt a crisis of religious animosity is approaching.

A hundred and eighty thousand head of cattle were killed in Montreal last year.

The steamers Elphinstone and Rederwater came into collision at Point au Tremble, just below this city, on Wednesday afternoon; both were sunk. The former was bound inward with iron and the latter outward with corn. Both are large steamers and will be a total loss. Crews saved.

The County Council of Grey have voted \$500 and the Town Council of Clifton \$300, in aid of the St. John sufferers. Contributions still come in from all parts of Western Ontario.

The Ontario Government have decided to establish model schools in counties.

Subscriptions in Montreal for the St. John sufferers amount to about \$12,500.

There was a grand torchlight procession in Montreal on Saturday evening in honor of Sir John A. McDonald. It is said that there were over ten thousand people present, and that the procession was over a mile in length.

The Governor-General returns to Ottawa from the St. Lawrence about the 21st and on the 25th will probably leave for Manitoba.

The outrage by the Zouaves in hauling down a British flag and hoisting the Papal flag, on the steamer between Ottawa and Montreal, continues a matter for general comment. Pilot Myrand and one of the crew named Cousineau, were arrested for disobeying the captain's orders to take down the Papal flag. They say the Zouaves did not take down the flag, but the pilot did at the bow of the boat according to contract. The circumstance intensifies the feeling between parties and great trouble is expected, especially at Montreal on the twelfth of July.

UNITED STATES.—Five persons out of twelve were drowned by the capsizing of a boat at Horn Pond, Woburn, Mass., on Wednesday.

San Francisco collected \$6000 for St. John. A lecture by Rev. Dr. Guard on Monday night added \$1000 more.

ENGLAND.—The P. n-Presbyterian Council opened its session at Edinburgh, on Tuesday of last week, and had a reception at the Museum of Science on Wednesday evening. The Lord Provost proffered welcome to the city. Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, delivered an address; Rev. Dr. Adams, of New York, and others replied. Four thousand were present. The Council, on Friday, agreed on motion of Professor Blackie, of Edinburgh, to hold its next meeting in Philadelphia, in Sept., 1880.

The arrival of the British fleet in Besika Bay is regarded with great dissatisfaction by influential Turks, who consider it simply a sign that England is preparing to seize her share of plunder.

The British Cabinet has officially informed the various cabinets that the fleet was sent to Besika Bay for the protection of British interests and the Christians.

A flotilla of gunboats has been stationed at Port Said to ensure protection to the Suez Canal.

In consequence of remonstrances of England the Porte has sent imperative orders to the commander of the Black Sea fleet to render the Blockade more efficient.

A London special says Earl Derby distinctly informed the Russian ambassador in London (Schouvaloff) that Great Britain will not sanction Russian occupation of Constantinople.

Russian *Golos* (newspaper) says if England violates neutrality, Russia will immediately occupy Egypt and annex Constantinople.

The Emperors of Germany and Austria are to meet at Salisbury? the date is not fixed.

A public meeting for the relief of sufferers by the St. John fire was held at Liverpool in the Town Hall, on the 2nd, under the presidency of the Mayor. The meeting was largely attended by influential citizens, and £14,000 were subscribed.

The London Mansion House fund, for the relief of the sufferers by the St. John fire, now amounts to \$15,500.

The House of Commons sat from four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon to seven o'clock on Wednesday morning, chiefly in Committee of Supply. There were eighteen purely obstructive divisions and several attempts to count out.

John Oldroyd, carpet manufacturer, of Huddersfield, has failed. Liabilities, \$1,350,000.

In the House of Commons, on Monday Sir Stafford Northcote said Minister Layard had informed the Sultan that it might be necessary for English troops to occupy Constantinople.

FRANCE.—The elections take place in September.

The arrest of Senor Zorilla at Paris on Saturday had not been demanded by the Spanish Government. It is stated the proprietors of the hotel in which General Laguerre, ex-Deputy Munes, and Senor Zorilla resided, overheard them discussing the most violent measures against the French Government.

The police at the time seized some arms and papers; the latter are said to indicate a plot against the French and German Governments.

The London *Standard's* Paris correspondent says that a general order issued by President MacMahon on the occasion of a review in the Bois de Boulogne caused a tremendous sensation. Clerical and Bonapartist papers are delighted with it.

A Paris correspondent says, referring to MacMahon's order of the day to the troops on Sunday:—"At last we feel that we are ruled by a hand that wields the sword. The chief of the army has appealed to the bayonets, and all must return to their duty."

The French man-of-war *Reineblanche*, belonging to the squadron of evolution, has been accidentally rammed and sunk off Hyeres Island (Mediterranean) by a French iron-clad. No lives lost.

The manager of the *Republique* newspaper gave currency to a report that Cardinal Guillot, Archbishop of Paris, had gone to Rome on a political mission, and was tried for the offence. He has been acquitted.

The municipality of Paris has resolved to petition for law permitting cremation. French crops are reported good, especially in central France, around Blois.

Harvest promises better than for the last sixty years.

ITALY.—The *Liverpool Courier's* London correspondent says a private despatch from Rome states that the ill health of the Pope is aggravated. Dropsy has set in, and an operation was attempted but the weakness of the patient prevented its success.

The Countess Lauritta Lambertina, who asserts she is the natural daughter of the late Cardinal Antonelli, has commenced an action claiming his property, which is estimated at many million francs.

SPAIN.—Senor Zorilla and the other Spaniards who were arrested for plotting against the French and Spanish Governments will be expelled from France.

Inundations in the Province of Murcia, have seriously damaged the railways and drowned 22 persons.

TURKEY.—The *Times's* Bucharest correspondent says that of the eighteen gunboats and monitors which were on the Danube at the commencement of the war, six are in a small bay near Sulina, two have been destroyed, three or four are aground at Matchin, two at Silistria, one at Turtukai, two at Rustchuk, and one at Nikopolis. The latter is reported to be surrounded by torpedoes and is helpless. All on the Danube will fall into the hands of Russia unless destroyed.

The *Daily News's* special from Sistova says that after the departure of the Turks every Turkish house in Sistova was sacked and utterly wrecked by Bulgarian residents.

The Russians estimate their loss in the battle of Tichouragars, June 29th, at 150. The Turks reported them at 2,600 killed and 1,600 wounded.

Despatches to London papers say that the siege of Kars is almost raised in consequence of Turkish successes. Since the affair at Zervin the Turks have sent out scouts in every direction, who brought intelligence that the Russians were retreating both on the road from Loghantic and in the Euphrates valley.

An Erzeroum despatch says it is unlikely, even if the Russians are strongly reinforced, that they can successfully renew the Asiatic campaign this year. A Vienna special also says that ten weeks hence the climate will preclude any effective warfare.

A special from Erzeroum of Thursday evening says both armies remain inactive. The Russians evidently awaiting reinforcements.

A Paris despatch of the 4th says:—"Mukhtar Pasha has advanced close to Kars. The line of the Russians is menaced by Faik Pasha, who advanced to north-west of Bayazid. The environs of Van swarm with hordes from the mountains to harass the retreating Russians. The Cossack cavalry suffered awfully from constant attacks and surprises; three irregular allies of Turks at Bayazid recently captured from Russian invaders fought desperately, and the Turks attacked with the fury of fanaticism and with vigorous shouts of 'Allah.' The Turks secured a large quantity of stores, as Bayazid formed the depot for a considerable portion of the Russian left wing, which was endeavoring to flank the Turkish position."

Private correspondence of Russian officers intercepted by Turkish scouts furnished full accounts of recent disasters by the Russians, and writers indulge in bitter regrets over bad management of their Generals.

The indications are that Russians fought a successful battle at Biela and Tirnova. Supreme efforts will now be made by the Russians on the Danube to make up for reverses in Asia Minor. Tinova is still the scene of fiercely contested battles.

Turks appear to be concentrating in the vicinity of Shumla. The invaders, it is conjectured, intend to push forward to that point, when a battle in the open country is inevitable.

A Sistova despatch says provisions in Rustchuk are failing, and the Turkish authorities are in sore straits.

A despatch from Constantinople says that since the 16th of June the Russians have been defeated five times. It is believed they lost 10,000 on June 30th. Their wounded fill 800 waggons.

The garrison of Kars made a sortie on Monday and re-opened communication with Mukhtar Pasha. The siege of Kars must be raised, if it has not already been, as the investing army must go to the relief of the left wing, otherwise the latter will be destroyed. Russian officers suffered severely, and five of high rank were killed.

The *Times's* correspondent at Sewin telegraphs that in a battle of the 29th ult., the Russians retired after enormous losses. Turks buried 1000 Russians. The Turkish losses are below 500.

A Pera special reports the Porte has intimated it expects the English Cabinet will explain to the signatories of the Treaty of Paris the object of a fleet being sent to Besika Bay.

A special, dated Pera, says Suleiman Pasha is coming here immediately from Montenegro, having completed his share in the campaign there. The troops are also leaving.

The Porte officially denies that Turkish Generals issued orders to give no quarter to Roumanian soldiers.

The advance of the Russians across the Danube seems to have aroused the official world in Constantinople. All available troops, including the Imperial Guards, have been ordered to the seat of war.

The Turkish war office reports that the Czar has formally proclaimed the independence of Bulgaria.

A Shumla despatch says in a battle of fifteen hours' duration between Ashak-mail and Bula, the Russians were defeated with great slaughter, retreating precipitately towards Sistova.

The English fleet has arrived at Besika Bay. An erroneous rumor prevailed that the ships would go to Constantinople. Admiral Hornsby, was, however, expected at Constantinople.

A large force of Roumanian troops attempted to cross the Danube at Widin, but were repulsed by the Turks, with several thousand of their rifles destroyed.

The military situation now appears as follows: The Turks changed front and faced to westward since the Russian entrance into Bulgaria. The Russians' left flank rests on the Danube, facing the Turkish line from Rustchuk to Shumla. A general battle is expected, unless the Turks fall back to the Balkans or the Russians mask the whole quadrilateral and turn it by passing the Balkans.

Redif Pasha telegraphs from Shumla, Friday:—"Russians attempted, near Baba Redoubt, after 5 hours march from Silistria, to disembark troops with artillery, by crossing the Danube on 20 rafts towed by 3 steamers. The Turks bombarded the rafts, which precipitately turned back. One large raft with troops and stores was sunk. The tugs were damaged."

Upwards of two hundred women and children have already been killed by the bombardment of Rustchuk.

The Russians re-commenced the bombardment of Kars, and are forming an entrenched camp on the eastern side of the city.

Twenty thousand newly arrived Russian troops are reported to be marching from Jassy to Malatzand.

SERBIA.—A telegram from Kragujevatz says:—"The Skuptschina opened on the 3rd. Prince Milan's speech opened the session, and was very guarded."

The *Times's* Belgrade correspondent says:—"It is reported that the Skuptschina will declare the independence of Serbia."

GERMANY.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The Russian ambassador had a long conference with Prince Bismarck. One of the secretaries of the embassy left for Bucharest with a special report for Prince Gortschakoff and the Czar. The opinion is growing here that diplomats are trying to fix conditions on which peace negotiations will eventually be conducted."

General Grant arrived at Brussels on Friday last. He is travelling incognito.

RUSSIA.—It is stated that all news correspondents are ordered to leave Russian headquarters. 120,000 Russians who have crossed Danube at Sistova, include 20,000 cavalry and 250 cannon. About 80,000 more Russians are concentrated between Simniza and Fummagurelli. The army which crossed at Sistova has been divided into three bodies, the principal of which is marching on Rustchuk, and other two towards Balkans and Mikopolis respectively.

General Ignatieff has arrived at headquarters of Grand Duke Nicholas at Sistova.

Only 30 per cent. of the Russian navy is reported as seaworthy.

INDIA.—A despatch to the *Times* from Calcutta says accounts from the Bombay famine districts are daily growing better. Rain is plentiful, and sowing of crops is beginning.

AFRICA.—The steamer *Volta* arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday, reports: It was rumored that the King of Dahomey, after paying the indemnity to the British Government, determined to make a human sacrifice of 500 of his men to Fetich.

Local News.

SAD RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A young lady named Isabella McLellan, school teacher at Polly Mountain, met with an accident at Polly Lake Station on Sunday morning last. She was standing on the side of the track watching the shunting of the morning freight train. The train had been shunted on to a siding and the engine was running on the main track. While watching the engine she inadvertently placed her right foot on the rail on which the train was running and it passed over her foot, crushing it so badly that amputation just below the knee was found necessary. Miss McLellan, we understand, is only 18 years of age and is much liked. This sad accident is deeply regretted. It was no fault of those in charge of the train.—*Citizen*.

YARMOUTH.—Morice, the author of the incendiary fires, whose conviction was secured by the services of a Boston detective, has been sentenced by Judge James to fourteen years in the Penitentiary. The sentence, though heavy, is generally approved by the public.

CONCERT TOUR.—Pupils of the Institution for the Blind at Halifax, intend giving Concerts in the following places:

Chatham.....	Friday,	July 13
Douglastown.....	Saturday,	" 14
Bathurst.....	Monday,	" 16
Dalhousie.....	Tuesday,	" 17
Campbellton.....	Wednesday,	" 18
Newcastle.....	Thursday,	" 19

STREET-SWEEPING is now being done in Halifax by a machine drawn by two horses. It sweeps all the dirt ridges along on each side of the street which may then be taken up and carted away. The streets around the Post office used as the market place are of late left on Saturday evenings in a very filthy state, whereas a couple of men employed for an hour or two on Saturday evenings would make them decent and creditable. Being close to the Board of Works Office makes it all the more strange that it should be so neglected.

The assessed value of real and personal property in the city of Halifax this year is \$16,196,042. The value in 1876 was \$16,424,036, shewing a decrease of \$227,994.

A young man named Morton shot himself in the left arm on Saturday afternoon, while drawing a charge from a revolver. The bone was broken and the services of a surgeon had to be procured.

On Saturday evening a little boy was playing with some companions in front of Moir's foundry, in Hurd's Land, when a heavy boiler which was being moved fell on his feet. Two of his toes were so badly crushed that amputation will be necessary.

Mr. Alexander Duncan, agent of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, arrived in this city last week by the Circassian from England. On Saturday the hydrants and hose were tested in his presence. Without the aid of an engine, water in full volumes was thrown by the hose to the top of the large buildings at the corners of Prince and Hollis Streets. Mr. Duncan pronounced the experiment satisfactory.

THE HALIFAX CHOIR under the direction of Arnold Doane, Esq., gave an excellent Concert on Thursday evening in Temperance Hall. May-day was the principal subject of the pieces, Mrs. Humphrey Allen of Boston, rendered efficient assistance, and sung several solos in capital style. The choir comprises a large number of fine voices, who are under very superior training.

J. SCOTT HURTON, Esq., will please accept our thanks for an invitation to the examination of the pupils in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. Since the origin of the institution 185 pupils have been admitted to it, of whom 129 belonged to Nova Scotia, 36 came from New Brunswick, 13 from Prince Edward Island, and 7 from Newfoundland. Of former pupils 14 are deceased, 18 are married. The offspring of these unions, so far as is known, with one exception, do not share the infirmity of their parents. Most of the former pupils are doing well and earning a respectable living in various occupations.

The attendance for the session of 1876-7 has been 27 males and 13 females, making a total of 40. The general health has been good. Only four deaths have occurred during the twenty years of the Institution's existence. There is a class of four who are instructed in articulation; one young man in this class has been practiced in speaking during this session and recites part of his lesson orally.

DARTMOUTH is aspiring to a steam fire engine. The Church of England people are asking the Town Council to select a site for a public cemetery—the church burying-ground being nearly full.