

Views from Burmah.

Every one may now see what a pagoda, a Christian chapel, or a missionary's house in Burmah, is really like, and how the people look, stereoscopic and cabinet photographs have been prepared by Rev. A. Bunker, and are for sale at the Mission Rooms in Boston. Price 15 cents, each, or \$1.50 per dozen, or for pictures of better workmanship, 20 cents each, and \$2 per dozen. Send orders, or for copies of the list, to Miss M. E. Clarke, Mission Rooms, 28 School St., Boston, Mass.

Week of Prayer.

The Evangelical Alliance have sent another invitation for the week of united and universal prayer at the commencement of year, January 4-11, 1880.

BELOVED CHRISTIAN BRETHREN,—

We have again the happiness of inviting you—beloved followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, to unite in praise for the manifold blessings of the past year, and in supplications for all needful grace for that on which we now enter.

This sacred fellowship, by its annual recurrence, deepens afresh in our hearts the assurance of the essential unity of all believers, notwithstanding the diversity of their countries and language, their forms of worship, and their expressions of religious truth; for at the feet of our ever-blessed Lord, and under those influences of the Holy Spirit which have descended from the Father according to His promise, we have partaken of the same spiritual refreshment, our ranks have been drawn closer together, and we have addressed ourselves to the great work and conflict appointed to us in this world with new faith and courage.

The past year has been marked by great temporal depression in many countries, and has not been free from the desolations and sorrows of war; but the progress of the Gospel, and the growing faith and enterprise of the Church, combine, with inexhaustible promises, to encourage us again to "bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named," assured that "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS ARE SUGGESTED FOR EXHORTATION AND INTERCESSION ON THE SUCCESSIVE DAYS OF MEETING:—

Sunday, January 4th.—Sermons on the "Fullness of Christ's Salvation."

Monday, January 5th.—Thanksgiving for the blessings of the past year, and prayer for their continuance.

Tuesday, January 6th.—Confession of sin, and humiliation before God.

Wednesday, January 7th.—Prayer for the Church of Christ, its ministers, its growth in grace, and its enlargement, and for revivals of religion throughout the country.

Thursday, January 8th.—Prayer for Christian education; for the family, and institutions of learning, for Sunday Schools, and Christian Associations.

Friday, January 9th.—Prayer for Nations, Rulers and people; for peace and religious liberty.

Saturday, January 10th.—Prayer for Home and Foreign Missions; for the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh, and the conversion of the world.

Sunday, January 11th.—Sermons:—"For our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ."—*Phil. iii. 20; 1 Thess. iv. 16, 17.*

The following arrangements have been made for the City of Halifax:—

Sunday, January 4th.—Meeting at 4½ o'clock, conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association.

MORNING MEETINGS will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, beginning on Monday and closing on Saturday, commencing at 9½ o'clock. Evening Meetings will be held as follows, commencing at 7½ o'clock:—

Monday, January 5th.—St. Andrew's (Presbyterian) Church, and North (Baptist) Church.

Tuesday, January 6th.—Granville St. (Baptist) Church, and St. John's (Presbyterian) Church.

Wednesday, January 7th.—In all the Churches.

Thursday, January 8th.—Fort Massey (Presbyterian) Church, and Brunswick St. (Methodist) Church.

Friday, January 9th.—Grafton St. (Methodist) Church, Poplar Grove

(Presbyterian) Church, and Charles St. (Methodist) Church.

Saturday, January 10th.—St. Matthew's (Presbyterian) Church at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Sunday, January 11th.—Meeting at 4½ o'clock, conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association.

COLLECTIONS will be made on Wednesday Morning, in the Hall, and in all the Churches in the evenings in aid of the funds of the Alliance.

S. L. SHANNON, President.
ROBERT MURRAY, Secretary.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Convention Scheme adopted.

Dear Editor,—

In addition to the Churches named in your last issue as pledged to the Convention Scheme, the Truro Church in their usual benevolent way have adopted it. The Pastor, Rev. J. E. Goucher writes as follows:—

"I preached a sermon bearing upon it the Sabbath following the Convention. The next week the Church met and unanimously adopted it. * * * You may, I think, rely upon Three Hundred and fifty dollars from our Church, which will be nearly \$150 in excess of our resident membership."

R. Thompson, Esq., of Bass River, Colchester Co., writes in behalf of the Portauque and Upper Economy Church. He says "the Portauque branch is organized into a Missionary Society." "The other part has circulated a paper and obtained subscriptions." "We will do what we can." He sends an instalment which is acknowledged below. Will other Churches soon follow these noble examples?

CONVENTION FUNDS RECEIVED.

C. W. Sanders, Esq., Yarmouth. \$5.00
R. Thompson, Esq., for Portauque and Upper Economy Church. 8.00

Total. \$13.00

G. E. DAY.

Yarmouth, Dec. 19, 1879.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 24, 1879.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

The joyous season of Christmas has again come, and with it the re-unions and increased sociabilities return. Members of families from school and College, mingle again in the pleasures of the home circle. The parental roof, now, usually covers a larger number of the "olive branches" than at any other period during the year. The old frivolities and excesses of this season, are, we believe, fast disappearing. The superstition of its being the real anniversary of our Lord's birth, is also pretty generally exploded, and yet the real happiness of the season is not by this means at all diminished. Still, the fact, it brings out so prominently—the coming of Christ—is the prime feature in past history, that is called to mind during the season. God's great Gift to man is a motive for making this a time of gifts between friends, young and old. Little children enter largely into the observance of the occasion, and contribute to the happiness of the family, by being the recipients of favours from their friends. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" is now abundantly illustrated. The poor, too, are the objects of kind attention from those in more comfortable circumstances, even as our Lord emptied himself of riches and became poor that he might make us rich. With these great facts before us, and the songs of the "herald angels" bringing such "good tidings" in their melodious strains we may well celebrate it as a time of heavenly joy and earthly peace. On these themes we might expatiate to almost any extent, but must content ourselves with wishing that we could visit each of our readers and offer them more tangibly, and audibly, to one and all, old and young.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON, with thanks for many kind wishes expressed and felt, and in the highest and best sense of the term,

A Merrie Christmas.

Sunday last will be known as the cold Sunday before Christmas:

At Halifax. 15 below zero.
At St. John, N. B. 20 "
At Fredericton, N. B. 31 "
At Winnipeg, Man. 47 "

Cold enough!

ACADIA COLLEGE AND HORTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY.

The Junior Class in Acadia College gave a public Exhibition at the close of the term on Thursday last. Horton Collegiate Academy and the Acadia Seminary were also under examination.

On Wednesday and Thursday the students of the Academy and Seminary were occupied with written exercises for the purpose of ascertaining their scholarship and standing in their classes. Professor Tufts examined them in Latin. Mr. A. Coldwell in arithmetic, Mr. McVicar in Geography and Grecian History. Miss Graves in Physiology. Miss Whidden in Geometry, and Miss Huguenin in French. Willie Harris and S. H. Cain gave selections in Reading, and Essays were read by Misses Louis Bigelow, Laura Sawyer, Alice Fitch, Lizzie Higgins, and Bertha Starrat.

A highly complimentary Address from upwards of thirty parents of young ladies to Miss Graves, Lady Principal of the Seminary and the other Lady Teachers was the next in order. It was read by Professor Tufts. The Examinations reflected credit on Teachers and Scholars and shewed that a large amount of work had been done during the term.

THE RHETORICAL EXHIBITION of the Junior Class in Acadia College occupied Thursday evening. It was held in the large Assembly Hall in the College Building. A large audience had gathered there to listen to the exercises, and were much gratified with what they heard and saw. The following is the Programme:—

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Crawley.
Pianoforte Solo by Miss Dodge.

Essays:—"Causes Tending to the Extinction of the American Indians" by J. G. A. Belyea, Belyea's Cove, N. B.
"The Comparative Value of Agriculture to Nova Scotia" by John Donaldson, Wolfville.

"Edmund Burke" by Orlando T. Daniels, Lawrencetown.
The Switzer's Call—Chorus.

Essays:—"The Press an Instrument for Good or Evil," by Charles L. Eaton, Halifax.

"Marcus Aurelius, the Stoic," by Edward R. Curry, Windsor.
Solo by C. M. Pyke.

National Legends, by Wm. E. Parker, Halifax.

Oratorical Culture a Desideratum, by Arthur C. Chute, Upper Stewiacke.
Piano Solo by Miss Dodge.

National Anthem.

The Essays were well delivered and given with a freedom which shewed that the authors had become quite familiar with the subjects.

Impromptu addresses were given at the close by Professor Higgins, and Rev. S. W. DeBlois, both of whom were in their happiest mood and reproduced the same happy feelings in the audience, especially the students.

The Class Prizes of Twenty Dollars each for the last year have been awarded as follows:—

Junior Class. G. W. Cox, Upper Stewiacke.
Sophomore Class. O. T. Daniels, Lawrencetown, Annapolis Co.
Freshman Class. H. W. Moore, Portland, N. B.

A valuable suggestion to all whom it may concern; Remittances for the *Christian Messenger* are always in demand. Please forward early.

BIBLE LESSONS FOR 1880

FOR ALL READERS.

Our present issue contains the first of the new International Series of Bible Lessons. The series which closed with 1879, has been in course from week to week for the past seven years, and has, during that time produced an amount of careful examination of Holy Scripture, such as was never before known. Whilst the passages given for each Sunday have been detached, there has been a course of reading and study marked out in connection with them, which, if faithfully pursued, must have given to Sunday Scholars as well as to Teachers and Home students a fair general acquaintance with the contents of the Sacred Volume. The glorious consummation of the course in the lessons of the past two or three weeks has led us on to the contemplation of the grand symbolic representations of heavenly blessedness, the remembrance of which, if we have had any adequate conception of the sublime realities they foreshadow, we shall always fondly cherish, and shall in future pursue the way thereto with more alacrity than ever before, because we have already become some-

what acquainted with the blessings to be enjoyed on the way to the better land.

A profitable use of the New Series may be largely aided by a proper commencement and due appreciation of the Text. There were never so many "Helps" to the study of the Scriptures

and especially of the International Series of Lessons as now. It is possible to make too much use of these, so as to over-burden the mind; and so to neglect the text itself, which is the most important part of the lesson. The most voluminous commentaries, are not the most desirable. Neither are the most extended Notes the most valuable. Whatever diverts attention from the Text should be avoided, and what will give the greatest familiarity with the Text of the Lesson and the truths it contains should be chosen. In our summary of the Lessons, with the Home Readings, Notes, Explanations, Parallel Texts, and Questions, we retain all that is most valuable, so as to give, in brief space, only what may be useful and profitable for Teachers, scholars and private study of the subject. We may, we believe, challenge comparison, whether original or selected, in those respects. And we can confidently recommend Teachers and Scholars, and everybody if they have not the *Baptist Teacher*, to make use of our synopsis and their Bibles through the year, and they will have a fair chance of becoming useful, intelligent Christians. Implicit faith in the Word of God is the foundation of all effort to understand what is written. Effort to get light on what may appear dark and difficult with prayer for the Holy Spirit's aid, will be rewarded with a large fund of knowledge in the course of a short time. By this means the man of God may become perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

REPORTS AND COLLECTIONS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY for the year 1878, Volume 1 contains a number of matters in relation to the early history of Nova Scotia. An article from the pen of Rev. Dr. Hill on the history of St. Paul's Church in Halifax, contains a variety of facts which shew the condition of things in Halifax at the different periods to which they refer. It appears that St. Paul's was built in 1750, the frame being brought from Boston. It cost about £1000, and was paid for by the Imperial Government.

Dr. Hill gives some curious incidents in the history of the clerk and organist in 1770, the former being forbidden to leave his usual seat to go into the gallery to sing Anthems, the words and music of which the major part of the congregation do not understand and cannot join in. The organist too by resolution was said to "discover a light mind in the several tunes he played called Voluntaries, to the great offence of the Congregation, and tending to disturb rather than promote true devotion" and for the future he was directed to play the Psalm Tunes in a plain familiar manner without unnecessary Graces."

In the autumn of this year (1763) a petty theft occurred at St. Paul's, the issue of which shows the severity of the laws then in force. The following account of the trial, conviction and punishment of the thief is taken from the record of "His Majesty's Supreme Court, Court of Assize and General Gaol Delivery held at Halifax, for the Province of Nova Scotia, on the 25th day of October, 1763, in the fourth year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord King George the third," viz:—"Our Sovereign Lord the King against John Seymour."

"The grand jury find a true bill of indictment against the prisoner for stealing out of St. Paul's church, feloniously and sacrilegiously, one surplice, of the goods and chattels of the Parishioners of St. Paul's of the value of forty shillings, Oct. 31st, 1763. The prisoner being arraigned, pleaded not guilty, and issue being joined thereupon by the Clerk of the Crown for Our Lord the King, a jury was impanelled and sworn and charged with the prisoner, and having heard the evidence and the prisoner's defence, brought in their verdict that the prisoner is guilty, as laid in the indictment. The prisoner being afterwards called to the bar, and it being demanded of him if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced against him and execution awarded thereon according to law, pleaded the benefit of clergy which was allowed, and the prisoner was burnt in the hand and discharged."

The population of Halifax was at this time very small—remaining at 1300 for a number of years—eight hundred and fifty attending the Church of England, inclusive of two hundred and fifty French and German and two hundred and fifty Roman Catholics whose children were brought up in the communion

of the Church of England. The remaining four hundred and fifty were Protestant dissenters.

THE KEYS OF SECT; or the New Testament, compared with the Sects of Modern Christendom, by Julian M. Stewart, D.D., L. L. D. pp. 413, Lee & Shepard, Boston.

A discussion of such a subject as this, must be colored more or less by the acknowledged sentiments of the writer and the standpoint from which he views the various sects of Christendom. The author examines the question under three parts. 1. The Church of the New Testament. 2. The Transition Church. 3. The Church of Modern Christendom. His conclusion may be gathered in brief from the titles of the last two chapters of part three: 7. "Congregationalism." 8. "The Church of the Future."

He says:—"It will be seen then, that three causes have been essentially concerned in that multiplication of sects, which originated in Great Britain and has been transplanted to all British colonies. The first of these is the persistent claim of the power of the keys in the hands of an ecclesiastical corporation. This comes from the Middle Ages and the corruptions of the early centuries of Christian history. The second of these causes is the growing religious liberty which was the product of the Reformation. The third, is the effort of the national churches of England and Scotland to compel uniformity of faith, and worship, constantly resisted by a longing desire for more perfect reformation and greater spiritual liberty."

"The power of the keys" is an expression in which the writer often indulges, and makes a characteristic of his book. His argument culminates in the view that no body under the control of a hierarchy can permanently continue and extend its influence and power in the world, but that as "Faith in Christ will produce reformation of moral character and purity of life, the multitudes who adopt it will become to a constantly increasing extent a worldwide fraternity closely bound together by a common faith in Jesus Christ, and impelled by that spirit of universal philanthropy which was the characteristic of his whole career, to imitate him in a never ceasing endeavour to save all that was lost. This, this is to be the Church of the Future."

THE BAPTIST YEAR BOOK OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.—Parcels of the Year Book have been sent to all the churches of the Convention according to the number of members as given in the Association Minutes. This we could not do to those churches in New Brunswick who failed to report their membership. If however, the clerks of said churches will please send us the number of their members forthwith, we will forward them copies of the Year Book from the few reserved for that purpose. Address S. Selden, Christian Messenger Office, Halifax, N. S.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN A NEW ENGLAND CHURCH. A centennial discourse delivered in Westhampton, Mass., Sep. 3, 1879, on the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the church in that town; by Dorus Clarke, D. D. Lee and Shepard, Boston, publishers, pp. 60, price 20 cents. This discourse shews some of the means that have been in operation during the past century to keep up the life and activity of the Church. Regular attendance at two services on the Lord's day lies at the foundation. Catechetical instruction of the young by the minister, is by the author deemed one of the most powerful modes of training the young people of a congregation.

"THE BREAKING WAVES DASHED HIGH," by Mrs. Hemans, with designs by L. B. Humphrey, Lee & Shepard, Boston, \$1.50. This is a handsomely illustrated and beautifully bound edition of the "The Pilgrim Fathers" hymn.

Notices.

Rev. A. E. Ingram has removed to Westport, Digby Co., N. S. Correspondents will please take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Hantsport—Mrs. McCulloch. . . . \$17 10
Annapolis—Mrs. S. B. Kempton. . . . 7 00
Amherst—Miss A. Black. 15 00
Percuss—Mrs. J. L. Sandford. . . . 5 00
Cunco—Miss L. S. Whitman. 10 00

M. R. SLEDGE, Treasurer.