

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 15, 1882.

Mrs. C. H. Spurgeon has just put out another year's report of her Book distribution to ministers of limited incomes. She does not confine her donations to one denomination or to dissenting ministers but gives also to Clergymen of the Church of England and of course receives donations from other denominations:

The volumes distributed, by this Book Fund during 1881 number 7,298, in addition to which 10,517 single sermons were sent out for use in the villages. The recipients were as follows: Baptists 241; Independents, 138; Methodists, 243; Church of England, 144; Presbyterians, 34; Evangelists, 87; and Missionaries, 27. Then besides money, thirteen donors presented 1,741 volumes to the Fund in the course of the year.

Very many people wonder, and not without reason, how, under the circumstances, Mrs. Spurgeon is enabled to carry on a benevolent work for which she is grateful, while she is ever conscious of the Divine goodness which supplies daily strength for daily duties. Though no complaint ever escapes her pen, we occasionally obtain an intimation of what the effort is costing the invalid. "I look back on the past fourteen or fifteen years of my life, and all that time seem to have been passing through a narrow winding valley, where pain and weakness make the walking rough and difficult, and where sometimes the Shadow of Death fell across my very feet." And yet "the Lord's great goodness and mercy" are constantly acknowledged; while the above confession is prefaced by a description of the "open-air concerts day and night," which in spring and summer afford "delightful entertainment" to the occupants of Westwood.

Mrs. Spurgeon delights in parables and similes drawn from Nature. Last year she gave a beautiful passage on imprisoned music, which has been rather extensively quoted; and now, in the preface, a story is told of a thrush that one morning was found cracking a snail's shell on a stone in order to come to the delicacy within. The incident, she writes,

Had a fascination for me, and I pondered over it, thinking there might be a simile there as surely as a snail, if I only knew how to extract it successfully. I went to my husband for help and enlightenment, and after hearing my little story, he laughingly said, "Ah, I have a fellow-feeling with your thrush; for I find texts very difficult to crack some times, and many hard knocks I have to give before I get to the marrow of the word!" I found then, I was to learn a lesson of perseverance in overcoming difficulties, and take the pretty bird's example as a constant persuasive to energy and earnestness in my work.

Mr. Spurgeon's works appear to be especially prized by Churchmen in general; and one clergyman remarked that they "more accurately represent the theology of the Thirty-nine Articles and the Prayer-book than much of the rubbish which is foisted nowadays as Church of England doctrine upon the unhappy congregations."

As an illustration of what is going on in the Established Church take the following curious letter:—

Madam,—Having heard that you kindly assist poor ministers with books, permit me to state that I am an ordained priest of the Church of England, and though prevented by age from holding any permanent curacy, I am engaged, at a stipend of £30 per annum, in two villages, and have to go some distance on Sundays in different directions for morning and evening service. On the second Sunday in Lent this year I was needing a text, when suddenly I remembered the "Three Thens" (Isaiah vi. 1-8 by the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, and gave it as a morning discourse at . . . I was afterwards asked by a district visitor what induced me to select so singular a text, and another hearer said she had never listened to anything like it before while the majority of the people were so pleased that during the nine Sundays I was there the church was full every afternoon. It seemed something new to them. When the rector returned, though so many approved of my ministry, some of the better class complained that the sermons were too long, they thought I was never coming out of the pulpit! In country places fifteen minutes is the limit of time a curate is expected to take in reading his sermon. So now I have abridged many of the discourses, etc.

In the course of about six years Mrs. Spurgeon has distributed over nine thousand pounds' worth of books, reckoning them at the reduced price at which they are supplied.

The heavy snow storms of the past week effected a blockade to travelling, and caused great inconvenience and irregularity in the mails, and all other communication throughout the Province. It appears to have been confined largely to the seaboard of the Province. The snow in the north of New Brunswick and in the Upper Provinces

does not appear to have been at all more than ordinary. The snow drifts in Cumberland County were very heavy. In many places a few miles out of Halifax there were cuttings made through drifts of from twelve to fifteen feet in depth.

The Intercolonial railway trains were put through by Sunday afternoon. One train arrived shortly after the mail train that was but three hours behind its usual time. If there is no further drifting or storms we may now hope to have the roads kept open and free for travelling as usual. The drifts have quite closed the common roads since the storm.

In Halifax city the piles of snow were something marvellous, many of them from ten to fifteen feet high on each side of the street, leaving only a narrow passage in the centre for sleighs, and on the sidewalks for pedestrians.

Venor has been far astray, so far as Nova Scotia is concerned. Instead of "snow disappearing in many localities" last week, we had it in greater quantities than has been known for many years.

THE British and American Book and Tract Society held its fourteenth anniversary on Thursday last in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, T. A. Brown, Esq., in the chair. The Secretary, Mr. A. N. Archibald, read the Report, which gives an account of the year's proceedings. It states that since the appointment of the present Secretary was made in July last, he has travelled 3,500 miles in the Provinces, and he reports marked unanimity of opinion as to the value and efficiency of the Society's Home Mission work. It reports \$3401.53 received during the year, as compared with \$2374.55 for 1880. This amount comprises offerings from 1,933 persons, only one large donation of \$200 being included. The staff of Colporteurs employed was smaller than in many previous years. This, coupled with increased donations, has resulted in reducing the debt due by the Colportage account.

The total receipts and expenditures for the year were \$20,761.18. The donations are in advance of those of last year by \$1,026.98. The grants to the needy amount to \$409.83. There have been issued from the Depository grants of tracts and books amounting to \$495; besides thousands of back numbers of Sunday School papers circulated free of charge. More than 175,000 copies of the Scriptures have been circulated by the Society.

Hon. S. L. Shannon spoke of the good done by the Tract Society, and contrasted the great advantages we have now over the past, and moved the adoption of the Report.

Rev. A. Simpson, in seconding the resolution, referred to the economy in the purchase of books effected by this Society.

Dr. Burns, Dr. Hill, Rev. T. Duncan, and Rev. J. F. Avery took part in the proceedings.

The same Officers and Board of Management were re-elected, with a few additional names.

The United Presbyterian Church, and the Church of Scotland, are still uncertain as to the eventual legal possession of the Temporalities Fund belonging to the Church of Scotland. The recent judgment left matters where they were before the passing of the Quebec Act. Neither party legally possesses the money, although it is in the hands, and, we believe, partially expended by the United Presbyterians, and now both are asking parliament for an act by which they may become the legal possessors.

FROM INDIA.—A brief note from Rev. R. Sanford, dated Bimlipatam, Dec. 27, 1881, gives us the following gratifying items:

"Our work is progressing. Mrs. Sanford's health seems much better than it was a few weeks since. The cool weather of November and December has been beneficial. We fear, however, that she will not be able to remain much longer."

"Bro. and Sister Hutchinson have arrived. We were very glad to welcome them on Christmas Eve. They are very well, but their little child is suffering from whooping cough. He seems to be getting along pretty well."

They, after tarrying with us two days, started for Chicacole last evening. I hope they will be greatly prospered in the work before them."

An interesting letter received by the same mail from our brother Hutchinson informs us of their arrival at Chicacole, on Wednesday, the 28th of December, and were joyfully welcomed by Miss Hammond, after a journey of 10,000 miles, and being more than three months since leaving Great Village in Nova Scotia. We shall give the letter in our next.

The English Parliament was opened on Monday of last week.

The Queen in her opening speech expresses her approval of the approaching marriage of Prince Leopold and the Princess Helena, and says, "This will be a happy union. In reference to the relations between Britain and the other European powers she says:—

I continue in relations of cordial harmony with all foreign powers. The treaty for the cession of Thessaly to Greece has now been executed in its main provisions. The transfer of Sovereignty and occupation was effected in a manner honorable to all concerned. In concert with the President of the French Republic, I have given careful attention to affairs of Egypt where existing arrangements have imposed on me special obligations. I will use my influence to maintain rights already established. Plentiful seasons and increase of revenue have enabled my Government in India to resume works of public utility which had been suspended, and devote attention to measures for the further improvement of the condition of the people.

The Convention with the Transvaal has been ratified by the representative assembly, and I have seen no reason to qualify my anticipations of its advantageous working. I have, however, to regret that although hostilities have not been renewed in Basutoland the country still remains unsettled.

My negotiations with France on the subject of a new commercial treaty have not been closed.

The trade of the country, both domestic and foreign, has for some time been improving, and the mildness of the winter has been eminently suited to farming operations. Better prospects are I trust thus opened for classes immediately concerned in agriculture. The condition of Ireland at this time as compared with that which I described at the beginning of last year, shows signs of improvement, and encourages the hope that perseverance in the course you have pursued will be rewarded with the happy results which are so much to be desired. My efforts through the bounty of Providence have been favored by an abundant harvest in that portion of the Kingdom. By the two acts of last session you will be invited to deal with proposals for the establishment, in English and Welsh Counties, of local self government, which has long been enjoyed by towns, together with enlarged powers of administration and with financial changes.

In connection with the general subject of local administration, I have directed a measure to be prepared and submitted to you for the reform of the ancient and distinguished corporation of London, and for extension of the municipal government to the metropolis at large.

I trust that during this session you may be able to consider bills which will be presented to you in relation to the law of entail and educational endowments in Scotland, and to improved means of education in Wales. I commend these and other subjects with confidence to your care, and it is my earnest prayer that your wisdom and energy may, under the blessing of God, prove equal to the varied and increasing needs of this extended empire.

On the recent occasion when the Hon. Mr. Gladstone and his son attended the Metropolitan Tabernacle we learn from London Freeman that Mr. Spurgeon preached from the miracle wrought upon the woman who had an issue of blood twelve years, selecting the words of Mark v. 30—"And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?" The sermon was simple and impressive, the preacher's tone and manner showing unmistakably his own intense earnestness. He commenced by giving his congregation "a view of this wonderful Person," who was charged with a supernatural power, called in Scripture "virtue." The exercise of this virtue was sufficient to prove the Deity of Christ, for though human He was clothed with the Holy Spirit without measure. Next He noticed "the remarkable touch" on the part of the afflicted woman which had been with so miraculous a result. Such a touch might still be made spiritually, but it was a touch of a specific kind. It must be voluntary and intentional. "Who touched me?" formed the telling appeal with which

Mr. Spurgeon concluded. In spite of the presence of the greatest orator of the age, the humorous vein of the preacher made itself known before the sermon was over. Speaking of faith, Mr. Spurgeon remarked that if we could call up some of our great grandfathers they would have to exercise a great deal of trust. On awaking in the morning the old gentleman would probably ask for his flint, steel, and tinder box. Instead of those antiquated implements he would receive a small box containing a number of small sticks, and we should tell him to strike one of them. Then he would call for a lamp, and imagine his surprise at being told that the reeking vapour from the gas-bracket could be lighted and answer his purpose. He would see nothing to light, and yet be told to light it. Though he might be incredulous, the light would come when the match was applied. Similar astonishment would follow his being told that he could be carried fifty miles an hour without horses, and yet all would be true. So with spiritual matters; God's purposes would be unfailingly carried out whether we could understand them or not.

After service Mr. Spurgeon shook hands with the Premier, and they both returned into the vestry. Here the deacons and elders in rotation shook hands with Mr. Gladstone, who offered a kindly word to each. He expressed to Mr. Spurgeon his gratification that he was supported by such a large body of workers.

LORD JUSTICE HOLKER.

In our last issue we referred to the death of the late Lord Justice Lush, of the English Court of Appeal, a distinguished Baptist. We observe that the vacancy thus made in the Bench of Appeal has since been filled by the elevation of Sir John Holker, an eminent jurist, to that position.

Perhaps the most remarkable circumstance in connection with this appointment, is the fact that Lord Holker is a staunch Conservative, having filled the office of Attorney General in the late Lord Beaconsfield's last Cabinet, and has ever since represented the constituency of Preston, and sat in the House of Commons in the cool shades of the Opposition. The rule heretofore in English politics, as with us, has been to regard Judgeships as a part of the loaves and fishes which are distributed as they fall in to distinguished and capable lawyers belonging to the party in power. In this case Mr. Gladstone has risen superior to mere party politics, and has set an excellent precedent, as well as shewn great good sense and much generosity, by thus conferring the Lord Justiceship upon one who is not an adherent of his party or policy. It is in such circumstances that the broad-minded statesman is distinguished from the mere party politician, and it is unfortunate that their occurrence is so rare. We feel assured that the popularity of that great and good man who holds the destiny of the British Empire in his hands, will not be lessened by such actions, for we observe that the leading newspapers upon both sides of politics, speak of this act of the great Liberal leader with unqualified satisfaction.

The friends of the Prairie College at Toronto held a meeting on the 18th ult. respecting the present position of that institution, and a Committee appointed prepared the following resolution:—

We, the undersigned, while expressing our gratification that arrangements have been made for the settlement of all claims which Mr. Davis, the late Vice-President of Prairie College had against that institution, desire also to express our deep regret at the proposal to start an Academy in Rapid City which must necessarily in some degree be a rival to it; and we earnestly request Messrs. Davis and McKee to select some other town as the location of their school, and thus save the Baptist cause in the North-West from the divisions and other evils that must necessarily arise, should they persevere in their effort.

We also desire to put on record our appreciation of the self-denial and enterprise displayed by Dr. Crawford in the establishment of Prairie College, and our hope that he will be sustained in his efforts.

(Signed) William McMaster, T. James Claxton, William Craig, John H. Castle, Thos. L. Davidson, William Stewart.

TAKE NOTICE.—NEW SUBSCRIBERS.—Three copies of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER to one address for Five Dollars; six copies to one address for Ten Dollars; and so on for one year.

The Sugar Refinery is still a matter of much concern with our business men. The serious difficulty into which it has fallen, has greatly depreciated the stock. It is likely by the careful examination being made as to where the leaks have been, that business will shortly be resumed, and the stock will soon rise again.

A new poem by Mr. Tennyson, on "The Charge of the Heavy Brigade," has appeared in the February number of *Macmillan's Magazine*. A real novelty in magazine literature has this year been introduced in *Cassell's Magazine* under the title of the "Family Parliament." The discussions are exciting the liveliest interest, and a new debate we see is to be opened in the next number, on the question, "Are early marriages unthrifty?" The debates are open to all readers of Cassell's magazine.

Home News.

Nova Scotia.

The Coronor's Inquest on the death of Cameron by the railway accident last week, was given on Friday evening as follows:

"That Alex. Allan Cameron came to his death by a collision near Windsor Junction, on Monday, 6th of February, between train No. 13 and Dickson's special, in consequence of a mistake in the receipt of the detention order by the agent at Windsor Junction. We do not believe that Mr. W. A. Harris is guilty of culpable negligence. We would suggest that in future letters should be used instead of figures in telegraphing numbers of trains."

The Grand Jury for Halifax County was drawn on Thursday last, as follows:

George Gregoire, James Gallivan, Henry Hermes, Wm. L. Barnstead, Geo. W. Hart, Ira Etter, Jas. Palmer, John A. Matheson, Abner Brennan, Wm. Roue, H. P. Burton, John Forbes (Dartmouth), S. J. Cohn, J. Cornelius, A. L. Shipp, Wm. H. Nauffs, J. C. Oland (Dartmouth), Maurice Kavanagh, Patrick Dillon, James Hunter, Wm. F. Pickering, Jas. McEwan, Wm. Williams, Joseph Vinecove.

Inverness County has decided to adopt the Scott Act by 960 in favor, and 106 against, giving a majority of 854 votes for prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks. This a highly creditable result of the labor of Temperance men in that county.

A curious accident occurred on the Windsor and Annapolis Railway on Friday week between Berwick and Aylesford. The parallel rod of the engine of the freight train broke in the centre, and delayed the train four hours. Every revolution of the axle would lift the wheel from the track breaking the rod every time it came down, and it tore up and broke 25 rails. Strange to say, the cars ran without a jar and the passengers were not aware that anything unusual had happened.

The snow blockade has been most severely felt on the road between the Strait of Canso and New Glasgow. A snow plough got off the track at Haborau-Bouche. The mails had to be taken from New Glasgow by teams but made very slow progress.

The Halifax Post Office received 151 mail bags on Sunday last. These were 1 C. R., 79, West 25, and from England 47 bags.

We are glad to learn that an arrangement has been completed with the Dominion Government by which the premises rented by the Bank of Montreal are to be occupied by the Government Savings' Bank.

This is not a day sooner than it should be. The holding of that institution where it has been for several years past up the long flight of time alone steps in the New Provincial Building is an infliction on many aged and infirm people who use that institution, that should never have been allowed.

The Dartmouth Town Council have adopted a bill to be submitted to the Legislature, authorizing the Town Council to enter into an agreement with any company furnishing satisfactory guarantees to the town to construct, equip and continuously operate a line of railway from the I. C. Railway to a point on the Eastern shore of the harbor, within the limits of the town, to be approved by the Town Council, for the payment to said company of an annual subsidy not exceeding \$4,000, for any period not exceeding 20 years, no part of the subsidy to be payable until after said railway has been thoroughly completed and fully equipped.

In event of any concessions or property of any kind being received from the Dominion Government in aid of the railway, the Council shall be empowered to dispose of the said properties or concessions to reduce the amount of the subsidy.

On Friday last a colored man named Tolliver and his two sons, who had been in town, undertook to return to their home at, or near Montague. They left their horse for a few moments, and in the blinding storm were unable to find him again. It is probable he perished in the storm.

The wrecked steamer *Moravian* is still standing in the same position at Mud Island. The late storms appear to have had no effect upon her.

The steamer *Sardinian* which sailed from Halifax Jan. 28th has caused much anxiety by her non-arrival at Liverpool. The steamer *Celtic* arrived at New York, says she spoke the *Sardinian* Feb. 4th, with disabled rudder, about a thousand miles west of Ireland.

The Entertainment in the Spring Garden Vestry on Thursday evening was quite a success. The young folks acquitted themselves in good style. The excellent readings, recitations, and music was much enjoyed by the large audience present. The Rev. A. MacArthur made a brief address at the close, and dismissed the meeting with the benediction.

The North Baptist young people also on the same evening had a good programme and a good company, and greatly enjoyed the good time given rally. It is very improving to those who employ themselves in preparing for these entertainments. It is excellent training for the young.

Rev. W. L. Currie of the Eastern Passage who has been supplying at St. Lukes previous to the appointment of the new rector, was presented with a handsome watch and appropriate address on his retiring and returning to his parish.

"The Old Life Preserver" is what they call *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment* way up in Maine where it is made. This name is well deserved, for it is the best liniment in the world. It will certainly prevent diphtheria, and will relieve croup and asthma instantly.

EXPLORE THE FRAUD.—Patent medicine vendors are now putting up condition powders in packages as large as a nigger's foot for 25 cents. But they are utterly worthless. One small package of *Sheridan's Condition Powders* is worth a dray load of them.

This is unhappily an age of skepticism, but there is one point upon which persons acquainted with the subject agree, namely, that *Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil* is a medicine which can be relied upon to cure a cough, remove pain, heal sores of various kinds, and benefit any inflamed portion of the body to which it is applied.

C. A. Livingstone, Plattville, Ont., says: "I have much pleasure in recommending *Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil*, from having used it myself, and having sold it for some time. In my own case I will say for it that it is the best preparation I have ever tried for rheumatism."

Mr. D. McGregor, Publishers' Agent, 145 Hollis Street, will supply copies of the *CHRISTIAN MESSENGER*—either edition—to persons leaving their names at his establishment, and will send them to their residences every week if desired.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The well known and reliable firm, Stone & Wellington, Toronto, Ont., have an Agent in this city—soliciting orders for Nursery Stock. Don't fail to secure their new grape *Pockling* ton which is the grape for our climate. Our people will do well to patronize them. Address or inquire J. O. Christie, 137 North St., Halifax.

1 m.

THE HIGHEST AWARD.—That *Puttner's Emulsion* stands to day higher and far ahead of any other compound of the kind, and is acknowledged by the profession to be the most reliable in the treatment of *Wasting, Scrofulous, and Children's Diseases*, and diseases of the Nervous System, where the brain is overworked, and the general system run down for the want of *Phosphorus*, which is the only *Nerve Tonic*.

Jan. 19. 6m.

New Brunswick.

THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT AT ST. JOHN, N. B.—The Baptist ministers of St. John and vicinity had a meeting and passed the following resolution:

Whereas, the St. John Baptist Ministers' Conference has learned that the Canada Temperance Act is to be submitted to the electors of the City and County of St. John, on the 23rd of Feb., and

Whereas, We are strongly in favor of any law which looks to the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors,

Therefore resolved, That this Ministers' Conference declares its strong sympathy with the purpose of the act, and their decided conviction that the adoption and enforcement of the same will promote the interests of the temperance reform, and

Further resolved, That we appeal to all who desire the moral well being of this community, and to Christian men, especially, that they use their votes and influence to carry and enforce the Act.

The Methodist ministers of the City adopted the following:

Resolved, That in view of the conflicting statements concerning the working of the Canada Temperance Act in localities where it is in operation, a circular be sent to prominent residents in those localities asking for information respecting the success or failure of the said Act.

This is wholesome Temperance work, and we wish all success to our sister city in the coming struggle.

New Brunswick has 984 miles of railroad, a greater mileage, in proportion to the population than that of any other province, state or country. There are eleven lines of road in the province, the Intercolonial, 343 miles, is the longest.

A young lad, a son of Mr. Frederick Staples, Nashwanis, York Co., was scalded to death Thursday, by falling into a tub of boiling water. He lived six hours after the accident.

MOUNT ALLISON COLLEGE.—The gratifying announcement is made that the sum of \$50,000 for the College Endowment has been subscribed since the annual meeting of the Board, held in June last, making the entire endowment \$100,000. Of the \$50,000 recently subscribed, four gentlemen, we learn, contributed \$5,000. It is now proposed to proceed at once with the rebuilding of the Academy, and the erection of an additional college building.