

Religious Intelligence.

BIBLE SOCIETY, MISSIONARY, AND SABBATH SCHOOL ADVOCATE

E. McLEOD, Editor.

That God in all things may be glorified

through Jesus Christ.—PETER.

TERMS.—ONE

DOLLAR A YEAR, IN ADVANCE

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ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 1857.

WHOLE NO. 208

The Closing Year.

The closing year! How many reflections it awakens in the thoughtful mind! It calls up the past; it leads us forward to the future.

The fifty-two Sabbaths of this year have dawned upon us, and passed away again. So many opportunities have been given to bear the word of God; so many to enjoy special communion with God and His Saints; so many to refresh the weary soul from its contact with the world, and make it strong with the pure influences of heaven. What is in record which they have borne to heaven?

The days of this year are hastening to their close. What changes have they wrought! Sweet friendships have been formed and broken. Dear family relations have been entered into, and at the death bed they have been broken asunder. The light and music of the home circle has gone. Many a household made glad by the presence of its little ones, has seen them die, one by one, and go down to the cold grave. Their gladness has been turned into desolation. How many hearts which a twelve-month ago gave utterance to their earnest wish of a "Happy New Year" for their loved ones, are now in all the loneliness of grief! Some who were poor then, are poorer now; some who were rich, are richer; but, oh, who can tell the struggles with labor and despair, the hope's disappointment, the anguish of spirit, alike in the cellar of the poor and the mansion of the rich!

How few of us are to-day what we hoped and wished to be a year ago! We have not made the progress that we intended to do. We have not labored nor studied as we proposed. We have not wrestled with our sins as we then purposed. We have not cultivated the mind nor the heart, as we then resolved to do. We have not prayed, nor done for the poor, nor labored for perishing men, as we then resolved. We have not achieved for ourselves the mental and moral eminence at which we aimed, nor made that deep and abiding mark upon the Church and the age that we intended to do. Such a failure of our purposes and plans suggests moderation to our own ambition, charity to the faults of others, and would at the same time rouse us to more vigorous endeavor in every good and noble purpose.

What a mighty procession has been moving toward the grave during all this past year! At the usual estimate, since the first of January, there have been more than THIRTY MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND of the world's population gone down to the grave. Face them in long array, and they will give a moving column of more than thirteen hundred to every mile of the circumference of the globe. What a spectacle, as they move on, tramp, tramp, the "Dead March" giving its funeral notes as they go the silent shades!

The closing year! How it suggests to parents the duty of gathering together in your own home the sounds of innocent enjoyment for your children! Make them happy, for not long may they be sheltered under your roof and near your heart. And more than all, how it impresses upon you the importance of patting with all diligence in training them for God and heaven! They are fast growing out from under your parental training. The days of your opportunity may be very few for death may claim them as its own. Let the closing year remind you of lost opportunities, of careless neglect. Let it summon you to more prayer, more faithful teaching, more ceaseless watching! Christian parents, may you never know such a bitter experience. Sabbath-school teachers, your work is hastening to its close. Your scholars are leaving you for the world and its duties, some for eternity and its dread results. Let the closing year tell you to sow your seed to-day diligently laboriously prayerfully!

Impatient man! Avo! the year is closing upon you. Your sins all yet lie upon your heart. Your days of grace are hastening to a close. This year may be your last. This year your soul may be required of you. This year your life may be given for God. How appropriate and solemn the words of that grand hymn of Bryant:

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale strains of shade, where each
Shall take
His chamber in the silent hills of death,
Trough not, like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to the dungeons; but, sustained
And smothered
By an unflinching trust, approach thy
grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his
couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant
dreams."

How more appropriate still the prayer of the Psalmist: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."
—[Chris. Intelligence.]

BIBLE BURNING.—The Bishop of Exeter has issued a circular recommending all persons in his diocese to burn Protestant Bibles and all books and tracts whatsoever published by Bible Societies, which may be in their hands. He particularly specifies that "Gospel Society," a non-sectarian association, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Correspondence.

Opening of Parliament—Pecuniary Preliminaries—Indian News—Exeter Hall Services—J. B. Gough—Liquor Traffic—Commercial Affairs—Dr. Livingston's Book—Marriage Case—Foreign Affairs.

LONDON, Dec. 4th, 1857.

Yesterday the Queen opened Parliament with all the ceremonial which usage has ordained. I went down to Westminster Hall to watch proceedings. The House of Commons assembled a little after one o'clock. The Speaker, in his most superb robes, as befitting the day, went to prayers, which were read by a new chaplain. (The chaplain is changed, but nothing is now said of a change of Speaker.) Lord Palmerston passed into the House while I stood in the lobby. He looks vigorous for his age. Immense crowds lined the way of the royal procession from Buckingham Palace to the New Palace. The numbers increasing to density toward the end of the route. Mounted Life Guardsmen and agile policemen kept the centre of the road free for all honourable and right honourable women, who mustered strong; until at length signs of the Sovereign's approach were unmistakable. An escort of Life Guards and Yeomen in old fashioned gilt dresses and peck fill; were followed by the six horse carriages conveying the Court, and the eight cream colored steeds drawing the royal carriage. A squadron of Life Guards brought up the rear. The Queen was well received, as she always is, but we are not, except when deeply moved, a fawning nation—loving people. On her return I caught a glimpse of her countenance, which, without genuine beauty, is pleasing and impressive. In stature the Queen is short, but her bearing is always regal, and in air as well as heart she is "every inch a Queen." The speech you will get through the usual channels, so that I need not say more than that it is better thought of than such state documents usually are. When read the Queen's elevation conceals their defects; but when read over they never display extraordinary merit. The present speech is more liked because of the tribute of praise and admiration it pays to those who have suffered and served in the Eastern rebellion. There is a touch of nature in this; and it goes warm. Many Peers were black and white with the splendour of the pageant, and I can suppose that even these references to the departed fell from the royal mouth, all tenderly spoken, that they drew forth tears to many an eye. The subsequent debates in both Houses were not notable. Both Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby did their best, which was not very good. The Bank question will be entered upon at once, but the Indian and Reform business will be left for after Christmas. Feasting before lagging is to be the order of the session. Lord Macaulay took the odds and his seal. Mr. Bright delays to take his till February.

Since the House was prorogued several of the members have died—the last of whom is Mr. H. P. P. for Ashton-under-Lyme, President of the Peace Society, and deacon of Rev. S. Martin, of Westminster's church. He was a good man, but no orator, and no prominent person in Parliament. On the temperance subject he did not neglect—rather made friends with the victuallers. The late news from India leaves us all news does, hankering for more.

There is no alarm felt for the safety of Outram and Flavel's forces, yet we will all feel relieved when we learn that the relief of Lucknow has been fully accomplished. Yet the signs of progress, however, are decided. The danger and smoke of battle have rolled from Canpur, and the place lately given up to horrible butchery is now taken up as a place of refuge, a Zaan, to the beleaguered garrison of Lucknow. It is the growing belief that the House of Commons will settle the question of India's future government against the East India Company, and probably the Company will be willing to make a good compromise, and descend from the high tower, especially as the battle has been in their hands for a long time. The Relief Fund is now up to £300,000, and is being wisely administered.

The surface of Church affairs is not smooth. The Privy Council bears today Archbishop Benson's case on the technical point whether proceedings against him were taken too late or not. If it does in the affirmative, the matter drops; if otherwise, the case will be heard on its merits, and the public interest in it will revive. The Peers are rejecting over the check given to Lord Shaftesbury, and now Churchmen in the support of the Exeter Hall service; but they are so vexed that the series of services is continued, only conducted by the visiting Ministers. Last Sunday evening Rev. H. Alcock preached. The attention is unsatisfactory. Poor Mr. Edmond, the incumbent of the parish, stands in fear of personal violence. His fear is purely ill-sorted. He is only an object of curiosity—a sort of ecclesiastical fossil that people want to say they have seen. This is a curiously which brings no pleasure with it. Exeter Hall is now in frequent use. On Monday evening Mr. Gough lectured for the National Temperance League. The prices of admission were six pence and a shilling, yet every seat and corner was crowded before the time of commencing. He was enthusiastically received, and made a great impression. Next night, (last night) he lectured to the Young

Men's Christian Association on Social Responsibility, their responsibility of getting rid of drink and its results being, of course, the burden of his message. These things anger well for the progress temperance, but London is so large that the most monster meeting has no public effect, unless its proceedings are reported.

The Alliance has brought out a draft of a Permissive Bill for allowing Parish to prohibit the Liquor Traffic in their boundaries. This is to be brought before Parliament, and will give rise to keen discussion. A monthly meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday night, of a powerful description.

Still alcohol is our National curse—the dragon which on St. George can destroy, but the people themselves.

Financial matters are easier, though a class of cranks insist that the crisis is not past. The worst is, however, over, and what-ever failures take place will be the skirts and not the unfolding mantle of commercial disaster. By prodigious exertions the Levant has been made to move, but the launch is not yet unfurled. Everything breaks under the pressure, chains, pipes, and cylinders. That she must succumb is certain, but this other mode of launching preferred when the next month's vessel has been constructed. The expense of these trials is said to be £70,000, but the sum looks fabulous.

There is considerable distress in many parts of the country; a little nothing at Nottingham, whose silk trade is largely dependent on American orders. Manufacturers are generally working short time, and winter prospects are not bright. Yet no feeling of despondency has settled upon the country. Bread is cheap, butchers' meat is less dear, and potatoes would have been abundant if the disease had not reappeared at the last moment at a committed sad havoc.

Dr. Livingston still lingers with us, owing to the fever epidemic at Lisbon. The war by Doctor suffered so severely from fever in Africa, nearly forty times, that he has no desire to renew the acquaintance on this side the ocean—the safe having exceeded everything of the kind since Macaulay's last two volumes.

A case of law will shortly be decided which intimately concerns many English homes—whether a marriage with a deceased wife's sister, celebrated abroad and legal there, is legal in this country? Our law prohibits such marriages, and, therefore, thousands have gone abroad to have the benefit of foreign freedom. The subject is one of deep interest, and it has been generally believed that the legality of such conjugal ties was unquestionable. A case of property, however, has arisen, and the Attorney General has demurred to the conclusion. If the non-legality is affirmed by the judges, the legitimacy of inroads of children will be reversed.

Foreign affairs are not entrancing us. Large meetings have been held in reference to two Englishmen who are in the custody of King Bomba of Naples. A meeting of the Paris Conference about the same time, which does some discussion, particularly in conjunction with a report that the Four Powers have sent a note to the Russian Government demanding the opening of the Black Sea ports. But so is a another European war enters into the heads of any, except of a few who are always on the watch for catastrophes and supernatural events. The late Treaty of Peace was clearly paid well, and it will not be soon broken. Yet with all our business, our Government would be the first to show its fit if any imposition were attempted by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg. Foreigners don't understand this peculiarity in the national character. That character, if fairly considered to the service of the Prince of Peace will bring "glory to God in the highest, and peace and good will to men."

(From our Canada Correspondent.)

ELECTIONS.—FAST-DAY.—EMIGRATION.—SAD CASE.

COBURN, Dec. 4th, 1857.
Mr. Editor:—The one absorbing topic of the day in Canada is the elections. The country has been reminded, its position made as strong as money, parchment, the purchased press, and promises, can make it, and an appeal to the country to return good men and true to the country to return good men and true to the country, affecting the time to say the foremost, foremost. You are all aware of not need say time it respecting the excitement growing out of an election. New Brunswick is almost universal in its abundant opportunities of correcting the errors of its placed popular choice, and knows too well the meaning of an appeal to the people, which our state is in too many cases, but another rattling of the dice-box by political gamblers whose desperate fortunes drive them to the act. And yet who would forego the privilege? To watch the groups of citizens, is sometimes an interesting occupation as they gather together to argue and to speculate about the future. The first hint the writer had that an election was at hand, was his witnessing the earnest manner of a countryman, who with whip in hand was demanding in profane language what difference it made whether a liberal or a Tory was elected so long as he benefited his country. Passing along a little farther my correspondent came upon an appeal to the electors from the late repre-

sentative, and shortly afterwards the official notice of the dissolution of the late House of Assembly. Our political papers are filled with predictions and abuse, with exaggerations and directions about the future. Now is the time of war, and the usual amount of deception and trickery is to be expected. Meanwhile the Lord reigns, and the wrath of man can be made to praise Him, and as much of it as is possible, can be restrained.

It is a curious fact that out of a ministry of twelve eleven are lawyers. Whether this will add to its efficiency or detract from it depends less, I suppose, upon the profession than upon the character of the men. There is much indiscriminate abuse heaped upon lawyers—their class in the community, and by means below the average standard of honesty. The legal profession does not disqualify those aspiring to legislative responsibilities for such a position, although the prevalence of any one class in undesirable, because it naturally leads to class legislation.

The Fast day seems to have been pretty generally observed throughout Canada. In Montreal notwithstanding the contempt poured upon the observance of the day by the *Times*, the reported organ of Romanism, the Roman Catholic Bishop of that diocese, issued a pastoral exhorting upon all his faithful children the recognition of the day as recommended by Government. The pastoral is a sensible production, thoroughly Protestant in course, but containing nothing offensive to the Government, whose right to recommend is clearly recognized. You may be sure that the day's observance, when decreed by the Bishop, is all very proper in the editor's eyes; but there seems a little modification in the short paragraph announcing a pastoral appointment, and readers are informed that "His Lordship has been pleased to select the same day as that appointed by Royal Proclamation, not of course because he recognizes any the slightest right on the part of the state to interfere in the religious, but because as many members of our Catholic population are employed by Protestants, whose stores, factories, a will be closed through the day, and the business of the day, and by so tending will be delivered from the many dangers to which the laboring classes are often exposed by a day of enforced idleness."

From the Report of the Emigrant Agent at Quebec, recently published, it appears that the immigration into this country the present year is in excess of last year nearly ten thousand persons, the total being, in round numbers, 32,000. Of these more than eleven thousand are English; more than six thousand and Norwegians, while of Germans, Scotch, and Irish, there are upwards of fourteen thousand, pretty equally divided; being less than five thousand of each. The unskilled laborers preponderate, numbering over six thousand; agricultural laborers and farmers, about half as many; mechanics and tradesmen about one third. Not a few of the immigrants came by the steamers, and among these no death is reported. The greatest demand is for female servants: the least for shopmen and clerks. For the former employment is scarce, for the latter it is very precarious. Female servants fitted for their posts command high wages; shopmen and clerks have few opportunities of showing their fitness. Emigrants are recommended to come as early as possible in the Spring.

A sad case, and apparently without remedy, as application for a new trial has been refused, is reported in our papers. Thomas Craig was recently sentenced at the London Assizes to four years imprisonment in the Penitentiary, for forgery, Craig last gallied a promissory note by making it payable to three men instead of two. From the evidence it would appear that he had made this alteration supposing that he was merely correcting a mistake! Is not this sacrificing the spirit of the law to the letter, and refusing to the plea of ignorance its legitimate weight?

Our weather has lost much of its winter breath, and is more in accordance with the former years. But winter is coming with our fall. The harvest is past, the summer is ended. The transition is natural, and the question is pertinent: who among the readers of this journal, are prepared for the winter storm of divine wrath? Happy those who are sheltered by the rock.

Education.

MR. EDITOR:—As there seems to be at present a more than ordinary degree of anxiety respecting the adoption of some regular system of Education among us, and as some are anxious for the introduction of Normal Schools; it may, perhaps, serve some purpose to state a few facts respecting them, the information of such as may not fully comprehend the subject.

The word Normal is derived from the Latin *norma*, which simply implies a law or rule, consequently, when applied to schools, it merely signifies that they are conducted according to some regular rule; from this it will be easily perceived that a Normal School is a very indefinite term, by no means implying by what rule, or upon what system such school is conducted; now, as every school in our time may be supposed to possess some systematic arrangement or rules, either adopted by the teacher at his own option, or prescribed by those who have the power to impose a national system, (sometimes a national grievance) every school in every country in which the order of business

is not entirely left to blind chance, is, according to the general meaning of the term, in some sense, a Normal School!

But, according to common usage, the term Normal School has hitherto been restricted to a more limited significance, and applied to the training (or qualification) of teachers for the more efficient discharge of the important duties which devolve upon them as instructors of youth.

This seems to be the primary object of Normal Schools, according to the generally received acceptance of the term in those countries in which they have been adopted, and if we credit the statement of a late popular writer on education, that "the teacher makes the school;" it is of paramount importance that Establishments for the training of teachers, if adopted at all, should be of the most approved kind.

It is, in my opinion, a safe course to adopt a tried system, and to endeavor to form one; as it requires much care and a great deal of experience to mature a system of national education approaching to anything like perfection; in countries in which the subject has received the most attention, the Normal Academies consist of two departments, the "Teacher's Seminary," and the "Model School;" the former consists of a staff of Professors, selected, not only for their attainments in general scholarship, but with particular regard to their ability to impart instruction in an easy and agreeable manner, as well as, for experience in the art of teaching; the possession of knowledge and the ability to impart it to others, are two very different things! The latter usually consists of from 200 to 300 pupils, classed and taught by experienced teachers, well acquainted with the system under which they teach; such a Model School exhibits in its different departments, the most approved methods of teaching; and thither the trainees and their Professors repair, at stated intervals, to study the practical working of the system; over the whole there is generally a Superintendent, whose duty it is, to see that not only the different departments of the Model School are conducted according to the general system, but that the Professors act in accordance therewith; and discussing and demonstrating the principles of the system, in their own department.

There may be, and there certainly is considerable difference in Normal Schools, as well as in the systems themselves, the number of Professors, the accommodation, and general management; but, wherever they are established, the object in all is the same, viz., the qualifying of teachers for the performance of their arduous duties as instructors of youth.

Of all the countries in the world, in which education has been made a subject of national importance, there is perhaps no system of Education so nearly approaching to perfection as the Prussian; that great national system comprises in one comprehensive grasp all educational establishments, within the nation, from the infant school to the University, as ascending in easy gradations, like the steps of a ladder from the lowest to the highest; nor is any one permitted to teach at all without studying the great national system, or at least, that part of it which includes the grade in which he intends to work.

Many other countries, however, have systems less or more approaching to perfection, e.g., Canada, Ireland, Scotland, some districts of England, the United States of America, and though more recently established, Nova Scotia has perhaps the best Normal Academy of any country above named, especially for a new country like Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick, it is a compound of the Canadian, American (U.S.) and Scotch systems, it has ample accommodation, is handsomely endowed, and comprises a very extensive course of liberal education, this may perhaps be more easily understood by saying, that it includes Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Mental Philosophy, Animal Physiology, Mineralogy, and other branches of science, comprehended under the terms, Physics and Metaphysics, in addition to the branches comprehended in our common School Law, and that it professes to impart instruction, not merely by what may be termed the usual method, i.e., by lectures, explanations, questions and answers; and expects a more efficient system in a ratio of at least two to one! It ranks the art of teaching among the learned professions, and (I think justly) provides amply for the support of teacher.

Such a system, if adopted in this Province, would create the deserving teacher to the position he should occupy, and would assist the services of the intelligent youth of our Province, who now, from the odium attached to term Schoolmaster as well as from the inadequate remuneration awarded to him, usually emigrate, or engage in other more creditable and lucrative employments or professions.

The introduction of this system would oblige our first class teachers to study the additional sciences (or sink to a lower grade) and from my personal acquaintance with very many of them, I have no doubt they would, with few exceptions, qualify themselves, where a sufficient inducement offered, I do not fear to state that there is as much talent among the New Brunswick teachers, as a body, as there is among the same class of men in Nova Scotia. I would instance as a proof of this statement that the only Academic diploma yet obtained in the Nova Scotia

Normal School, was obtained by a New Brunswick Teacher! We know too, that there are some more of that stamp here!

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
SAMUEL D. MILLER.

BRITISH JUSTICE.—Mr. Robert Billamy, a magistrate of the county of Durham, having been found guilty of a corrupt act in discharging magisterial functions, was brought up to receive the sentence of the Court. That sentence was a fine of £200, and imprisonment for twelve months. He was convicted on a charge of having extorted two sums of £1, from two men, who were brought before him on an accusation of having poached on his own land. We should be very glad to know that in any part of the United States of America, a County Judge could be fined \$1,000 and imprisoned a year if guilty of a corrupt act. It speaks well for the public sentiment in England generally, and in Durham, particularly, that a corrupt magistrate can be thus summarily punished. We should like to see the same justice here.—N. Y. Observer.

The Methodist, as a denomination, appear to be making a new war upon the habit of using tobacco. We learn one of the Methodist journals that large and influential Conferences have determined to disown and order a no candidate for the ministry who is not willing to forego the use of tobacco as a personal indulgence. A new University has been endowed also in one of the Western States, with the proviso in its by-laws, that no Professor shall be entitled to any of the avails of the endowment, who is addicted to the use of tobacco. It is well suggested that the money spent uselessly for this filthy weed, would advantage the world.

A London correspondent of the Presbyterian, furnishes the following paragraph uttered by Mr. Sturgeon on the question of curing for premonitions:—Your horses won't work except you feed them. Feed your ministers as you do your horses, before you find fault with their idleness in the pulpit. He that preaches the Gospel is entitled to live by the Gospel. It is true also that if the Church will not properly support the minister, he is entitled to support himself by his labor. Thus Paul was a tent-maker, for his labor. But this would be a bad plan, both for ministers and their customers, to say nothing of their flocks. Be very sure the minister's tent will be poor, unsalubrious. He is not the man to suit the market. Keep him out of the line if you value his character. It needs all his attention to be a good preacher. If you try him in both lines it will prove a failure in both. You would not have Sir Colin Mackenzie, the commander of the British army in India, to open a shop in Calcutta.—I would be a strange sight to see one of our dragoons before Lucknow, or Delhi taking charge of an Apple stall. There is pertinency in this. We have no objection to the preacher's nursing the baby occasionally, but if he is kept at the work all the time, his sermons will be suitable only for babes. A man who is to excel in any thing must have the chance of giving him a whole year to it.

THE MURDERED MISSIONARIES.—The following is a list of the missionaries known to have been killed since the commencement of the mutiny in India:—

Rev. W. H. Haycock, Cawnpore; Propag. Soc.
Rev. H. Cockery, do.
Rev. J. E. Freeman, Patna; Am. Pres. Mis.
Rev. D. E. Campbell, do.
Rev. A. O. Johnson, do.
Rev. R. Macmillan, do.
Rev. T. Mackay, Delhi; Bap. Mis. Soc.
Rev. A. R. Hubbard, do.
Rev. D. Sanders, do.
Rev. R. Hunter, Seelate; Scotch Kirk.
Rev. J. Macmillan; Shahjehpore; A. Mis.
[Clergy.]

Ladies and children killed:—Mrs. Haycock, Mrs. Cockery, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Campbell, with two children; M. E. Johnson, Mrs. Macmillan, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Thompson, of Delhi, widow of the Rev. J. Thompson, Miss Thompson, Miss Grace Thompson. The Mission property destroyed is estimated at the value of £70,000. Of this heavy loss by far the greater portion falls upon the English Church Missionary Society, and the American Presbyterian Mission. The former loses £22,000, and the latter £26,000.

VOLCANIC EREPTION.—An interesting account of the eruptions of the volcano Amoo, in one of the Sanqui Islands, near Borneo, was furnished by the Dutch Resident at Manado. There were two separate eruptions; one on the 2d March, and the other on the 17th. The emission of lava, stones and ash, was so great as to obscure the sun, and produce total darkness. A violent hurricane and lightning accompanied the eruptions. A whole village was destroyed, beside an immense amount of growing rice. Nearly three thousand persons were killed.

HEADACHE.—Two teaspoonfuls of finely powdered charcoal, drank in half a tumbler of water, will, in less than fifteen minutes, relieve the sick headache, when caused, as in most cases it is, by a superabundance of acid on the stomach.