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Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 20, 1863.

THE VOICE OF GOD;

OR, "BE YE ALSO READY."

A portion of a sermon preached in the Free Baptist Church,
 Fredericton, on last Sabbath afternoon, on the melancholy
 disaster to the Steamer "Sunbury."

TEXT—MAT. XXIV. 44.

"Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye
 think not, the Son of man cometh."
 The melancholy news received yesterday of the
 disaster to the steamer "Sunbury" on Friday evening,
 and the probable loss of several lives, brought
 forcibly to my mind the very solemn admonition of
 the Saviour contained in the text. And as I wit-
 nessed the anxiety and excitement which filled our
 city, as telegram after telegram flashed over the
 wires, it was evident to me that God had spoken to
 us; and I felt that I should not discharge my duty to
 us as a minister of Christ, or be faithful to my con-
 victions, if I did not seize this dispensation of his
 providence, and make use of it to impress your minds,
 and urge upon you the necessity of an immediate
 preparation to meet your Judge. Jehovah does not only
 speak unto us in his word; his providences are his
 voice, and well it is for those who attend to these
 warnings, and despite not his judgments. A brief
 notice of the text will occupy our attention first, after
 which I will refer more particularly to the melancholy
 accident of Friday night.

I now recur to the fatal disaster before alluded to.
 A melancholy accident has transpired; one, which
 exceeds in horror, if not in the number of lives lost,
 any preceding one that ever transpired in this Pro-
 vince. Who ever apprehended any danger on board
 of our river steamers? True, one or two similar ac-
 cidents occurred a few years since, between this City
 and Woodstock, by which also two or three lives
 were sacrificed; but even these disasters did not im-
 press the public mind with any unusual danger in
 Steamboat travelling. Many of us, now present, are
 in the frequent habit of travelling on board our river
 boats, and I can certainly say for myself, that I scarce-
 ly ever apprehended any more danger while on board
 one of them than when sitting in my own residence.
 A feeling of as perfect safety, I believe, was generally
 felt on board these steamers as anywhere else. Such
 was no doubt the feeling experienced by those on
 board the "Sunbury" on Friday evening when start-
 ing on the passage, and up to the dreadful moment
 when the fatal explosion occurred. I am not pre-
 pared to give you, at this time, a narrative of this
 dreadful accident. Those who were present, and
 who were so fortunate as to escape, could scarcely do
 that yet. The fright and excitement, which must
 doubtless have existed at the time, will probably ren-
 der the early narratives of the scene conflicting and
 uncertain. But when calmness is restored, and the
 imagination and memory of those who were present
 become rid of the excitement which the occurrence
 produced, reliable facts will be obtained. The cause
 of the accident we are not informed of, and it would
 be imprudent to hazard a judgment on it. It is pro-
 bable that the Government will investigate the affair,
 and all the facts as far as possible will be elicited.
 So fatal an accident, involving the loss of so many lives,
 will surely not be passed over without a searching in-
 vestigation. I shall not exceed my duty, however, or
 manifest any impudence I trust, in remarking that
 it has been intimated that a very close connection
 existed between the *bar-room* and the explosion! And
 I earnestly pray that whatever investigation of the
 matter takes place, it may be followed by a legal
 prohibition of *bars* on board our river steamers.
 They are both a nuisance and a curse, and from their
 existence on board rivers, I believe, the greatest dan-
 ger in Steamboat travelling.

How forcibly does the suddenness of this accident
 apply the words of our text—"Be ye also ready."
 Unconscious of danger, in the most perfect safety
 security, some had retired to rest, others were in the act
 of doing so, and probably not a thought of danger occur-
 red to a single mind. It is well known that there is a
 class of persons, who, when travelling on board the
 Steamers amuse or gratify themselves at the gaming
 table. Rumor says there were such on board the
 "Sunbury" on Friday night. Sudden as the light-
 ning or an earthquake the fearful explosion takes
 place—the broken boiler is thrown in every direction
 —the timbers of the vessel are shattered by the flying
 metal, and as the sinking Steamer goes down, the
 burning steam above and the waters beneath com-
 plete the work of death which the explosion itself
 had commenced. It is said that not more than three
 minutes elapsed between the bursting of the boiler
 and the sinking of the vessel. What a transition!
 How sudden! Doubtless some passed away uncon-
 scious of the cause of their death. The names of only
 a few of the victims have yet been learned. Some of
 them, however, were well known to us.

Among those who perished were two children, little
 girls, about the same age, twelve or thirteen years;
 one was the daughter of Mr. Manzer Atherton, of
 Fredericton, and the other a daughter of the Rev. Mr.
 Wilson, of Sheffield. We learn they lay sleeping
 together on a sofa in the cabin. They had been on
 an excursion of pleasure, or a visit to their friends in
 St. John; and in the joyousness and innocence of
 their tender years were returning home—with some
 pleasing stories doubtless to tell of what they had
 seen and heard while absent. But the cruel death
 angel met them in their unconscious slumber, and if
 they awakened at all, it was only to make their death
 more terrible. Deeply do we sympathize with those
 bereaved parents in their grief, and commend them
 to God in this hour of trial. Another who perished
 was a son of Brother R. French. This young man
 had followed the sea for several years, and visited dis-
 tant parts of the globe. He had escaped the dangers
 of the ocean, and the accidents incident to long voy-
 ages, but perished almost within sight of his father's
 residence. How mysterious indeed are God's providences!
 May we not reasonably hope that in the number
 of victims in this disaster there were some
 that were "ready"—some who as they lay down that
 night had breathed a prayer to God, and commended
 themselves to his grace, or, if they had not retired,
 were meditating "in his love"? But with the utmost
 stretch of charity, we are constrained to fear that all
 were not "ready." Death met them unprepared!
 So sudden! What a transition! O how dread-
 ful to die unprepared! Death in its best form—under
 the most favorable circumstances, is solemn and im-
 pressive. Even in the sick chamber, with all that
 love and affection can do for us, there is still some-
 thing in it from which nature shrinks. And even
 the dying Christian sometimes shudders as he enters

the lonely vale. Jesus alone can make death easy,
 and give us the victory over this last foe. But to
 die without Christ—to be met in a moment when we
 least expect it—to be summoned into eternity from
 the bar-room or the gaming table, with no thought
 of the worth of the soul on our mind, or the necessity
 of its preparation to meet God—that is terrible!
 And yet thousands have so died, and probably many
 thousands more will. Does not this then speak to
 us in unmistakable language—"Be ye ready"? It
 may be said that these accidents are only occasional,
 that steamboat explosions are very rare, and should
 not excite our fears. True, another disaster like this
 may not occur on our river during the lifetime of any
 one now present. But are there no other accidents?
 Are there no other forms of sudden death? Scarcely
 a week passes that we do not hear of some one being
 cut off suddenly, who felt himself as safe at the time
 probably as any one of us do to-day. Are there
 not fierce diseases abroad, and who knows how
 soon he may be summoned to an account of his stew-
 arship? "Be ye also ready!" is alike the language
 of Christ, and the voice of God's providence!

But did not perish that were on board that
 steamer? The escape of some of these was almost
 miraculous, and seems like a special interposition of
 divine providence; they were apparently snatched
 from the brink of eternity by God's own hand! What
 an escape! And why were they spared? The wisdom
 of God alone can answer this. But surely they must
 feel gratitude to him! How loudly has he spoken to
 every survivor? "Let him alone a little longer, if
 he bear fruit, well; if not, after that he shall be cut
 down!" is evidently the language of God's merciful
 deliverance to them. May His spirit convey it to
 their hearts.

But, let me ask, has this melancholy occurrence
 no voice to us? Does it not speak to every inhabit-
 ant of this city—of this whole country? "Will the
 lion roar in the forest when he hath no prey? Shall
 a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people be not
 afraid? Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord
 hath not done it?"—(Amos iii. 4.) The lion hath
 roared—the trumpet hath been blown—the Lord hath
 spoken! And not only does this providence urge
 upon us the admonition contained in our text—"Be
 ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not,
 the Son of man cometh!" but it also proclaims that
 God has a controversy with *somebody*. Judgment is
 a part of his strange work. We are aware, however,
 that some will not look at it in this light. Some may
 call it chance, but this is the language of infidelity.
 Chance would ignore the providence of God, and
 debase the Almighty. We deny the existence of such
 a thing as chance. God is the governor of this
 world; and in the marvellous and haphazard mani-
 festations of his providence there is no chance, and
 if we cannot comprehend his ways, it is our duty to
 "BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT HE IS GOD." How often
 does He in wrath take away the innocent in their
 sleep, and the guilty in their guilt. Many a time have the sins of a
 godless parent slain an innocent and beloved child;
 often has the impiety of a husband killed a loving
 wife; and God has often manifested his indignation
 against the sins of a community, by suddenly taking
 away some of its members.

This sad disaster has carried sorrow and anguish
 into a number of families in different sections of the
 country. It will produce mourning, I might almost
 say, throughout the length and breadth of the land.
 And may we not justly regard it as a rebuke from God
 on account of our sins. Not to those who were the
 victims on that fatal night. True, there might have
 been an utter disregard of God on the part of some
 of these. But when certain told Jesus of the
 Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with
 their sacrifices, he answering said unto them—
 "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above
 all the Galileans, because they suffered
 such things? I tell you, nay; but except ye repent,
 ye shall all likewise perish. Or, those eighteen, upon
 whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think
 ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell
 in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay; but except ye repent,
 ye shall all likewise perish." This sad forget-
 fulness of God, which is apparent almost every-
 where, not only by those who make no pretensions
 to be religious, but by many also who are called
 Christians, is too notorious to be denied. These
 are travelling for pleasure and profit, but few for
 usefulness. Business and amusement seem to absorb
 the public mind, and a furious onwardness in what
 ever promises either profit or pleasure, without any
 apparent regard to the God in whose hands their
 breath is, and whose are all our ways, is the ap-
 parent characteristic of the day. Might it not well be
 supposed, that in some hour when least expected Je-
 hovah would meet us with sore rebuke, and say,
 "Who art thou that darest me—who art thou
 that saith in thy heart, There is no God?"
 Let the public generally think of this solemn oc-
 currence as they may, it is Jehovah's voice; it calls
 us to remembrance of Him; it admonishes us to re-
 pentance and contrition of heart; it is a sudden and
 awful rebuke to the worldliness, indifference, and ir-
 religion which is evidently getting to increase
 among us. It tells us that with all our fancied
 security we are not safe, and it reiterates in loud and
 solemn tones the emphatic language of our text, "Be
 ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not,
 the Son of man cometh."

Deeply do I sympathize with the bereaved. I
 cannot but think of the parents of the two dear little
 girls, whom the death angel met on that dark night.
 One of these (the Rev. Mr. Wilson) only a few months
 since was suddenly deprived of a dear son, just in
 early manhood. The wound scarcely healed, and an-
 other beloved one is taken from the family circle. And
 then there are other parents, and widows, and or-
 phans too. Oh! whose sins have made them so?
 As the tidings of this sad disaster are conveyed through
 the country, may it be accompanied with the Holy
 Spirit's influence. May we all recognize in it the voice
 of God, and seek early and sincere repentance, and
 we can say from the inmost depths of our hearts, "O
 Lord I will praise thee; though thou wast angry with
 me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me."
 A lady, Mrs. G. F. Atherton, and one or two others,
 who were passengers at the time of the disaster, were
 present at our service on Sabbath afternoon.
 The number of lives lost is somewhat less than was
 supposed when this sermon was preached.

KINGSCLEAR.—Brother Babcock is still labouring
 at Kingsclear. Two persons were baptized by him
 last Sabbath.

THE SANDBURY ISLANDS.—Dr. Anderson stated at
 the recent meeting of the American Board that the
 Maine Law was rigidly enforced in the Sandwich
 Islands, it was scarcely possible for the natives to
 obtain intoxicating liquors as a beverage. In regard
 to the decrease of the population of these islands, he
 said the first great reason of it was the disease intro-
 duced by foreign seamen. Intemperance and epidemics
 have also been an occasion of the decrease. The
 population is now 60,000, and some are of the opinion
 that the decrease will go on till it is reduced perhaps
 to 30,000. Of the 60,000 population, 20,000 are
 church members.

KINGS SHALL BE NO MORE FATHERS.—The mission-
 aries of the Church of Scotland to the Jews in
 Abyssinia have been permitted by the King, and with
 the full sanction of the Archbishop, to enter on their
 work. In addressing the missionaries the king said,
 "Not only among the Jews shall ye teach, but also
 among the Mohammedans and the heathen, even
 among all who do not know the Saviour, until dark-
 ness is turned into light." I desire, by instruction,
 to lead all into the knowledge of the truth; but God
 only can do it effectually. In outward matters I will
 support you and be a father to you."

SEVENTH DISTRICT MEETING.

DEAR BROTHER McLEOD.—Knowing that there is
 always an especial interest felt in the infant, or
 youngest member in the family, I presume our breth-
 ren of the older and more experienced Districts will
 be anxious to know how the *seventh* or youngest
 member of our Denominational District family pros-
 peres. I will have pleasure in giving them and others
 of your interested readers some account of its recent
 annual meeting, and matters in connexion with our
 visit thereto.

It was hoped that you and Bro. W. Downey, would
 be able to join us in St. John, as we set out en route
 for Grand Manan. In this however, we were
 disappointed. Our company from the city was
 not very large, but proved very agreeable. It con-
 sisted of Elder Parsons, who came from Woodstock
 on purpose to attend this meeting, Bro. B. J. Under-
 hill, Bro. W. Peters and wife, Miss Granger—a lady
 friend of mine from New York—and myself. We
 left here in the beautiful steamer *New England* at
 8 o'clock A. M. on Thursday the 5th inst., and after
 a pleasant passage of four hours were safely landed at
 Eastport. Here we were met by our good brethren
 Elder Taylor, and L. Wilson, who came to welcome
 us on our way, and were prepared to take us to Cam-
 pobbello. After dinner we were joined by Elder John-
 ston and some others, who were soon with us in a
 skiff boat, beautifully gliding through the rolling,
 dancing white capped waves towards Campobbello.

Less than an hour we were safely across the water, and
 soon found our way to a very excellent and comfort-
 able home in the family of Bro. Wilson. Sister
 Wilson, with her usual pleasantness and kindhearted-
 ness, made us feel that we were "at home" just as
 you (Bro. McLeod) and I felt when there last year.
 During the afternoon it became very windy and
 rough, so that we did not attempt to go any farther
 that day, and even feared we would not be able to
 reach Grand Manan the next day. But feeling that
 him whom we serve, and whose cause we were seek-
 ing to advance, is God of the sea, and can control the
 storm, and ever holds the winds in His fist, we were
 very passive. The word was soon circulated that
 there would be meeting that evening; quite a large
 congregation gathered at the meeting-house, and
 Bro. Parsons for the first time preached the Gospel
 on that island. After committing ourselves anew to
 the care of our covenant-keeping God, we retired,
 not knowing how the wind and weather would be in
 the morning. Much to our satisfaction however, at
 an early hour "while it was yet dark," I heard a
 well known voice at my room crying out, "Brother
 Hartley, fair wind this morning, we will have a nice
 run to-day." In a short time we were through
 with breakfast and family prayers, and began to col-
 lect on the wharf where was lying a nice vessel—the
Italian! I think, all ready to receive us. Our company
 by this time had increased to more than thirty.
 Some of our number had never before been in a sail-
 ing vessel, and scarcely knew how they would like it.
 With our gallant captain Bro. Tinker, and other
 good hands in charge, we felt quite safe, and were
 soon on our way to the island of our destination.
 Owing to a heavy roll in the sea from the storm of the
 previous evening, a few of our passengers were
 sea sick. In a little more than three hours after we
 got under way, we passed the Northern Head Light-house
 —distance 20 miles; and in a very little time we were
 in the harbour, and many of us for the first time "placed
 foot" upon Grand Manan. Here we were met and
 had a hearty welcome by our noble Bro. Barnes, and
 a number of strangers. Homes were soon provided
 for us, and we felt a strong desire that as we were now
 to mingle with strangers, God would make our visit
 a blessing to His cause on the Island. That evening
 we met at the meeting-house for the public worship
 of the former and the intelligent appearance of the latter,
 exceeded our expectations. Your correspondence
 for the first time endeavoured to preach the
 word of life on that island.

At 10 o'clock, A. M., the next day, our District
 Meeting began. Here many strangers
 mingled their prayers and praises to God. A large
 number spoke in the meeting, and all we believe felt
 that God had been with His people, and crowned us
 with an especial token of His approbation. The com-
 munion of our strange brethren were clear, intelli-
 gent and spiritual. We shall long remember that
 meeting. Our hearts were full, and with Peter we
 felt to exclaim, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."
 A large number came together again in the afternoon
 to hear the reports of the writer, Chairman. The
 elders present were J. S. Barnes, the resident minis-
 ter, A. Taylor, and J. M. Malloch, Campobbello, J. T.
 Parsons, Woodstock, J. Welch, Carleton County, J.
 S. Johnston, Deer Island, G. A. Hartley, Carleton,
 and Wm. Galley, Newcastle. This District embraces
 six Churches and two branch Churches, with a mem-
 bership of 250 and twenty-five. These Churches
 have seven Sabbath Schools, numbering
 four hundred and fifty-eight scholars and seventy-
 nine teachers, beside one Union School. The reports
 from the Churches were very good indeed. Nearly
 all had had enjoyed some revival and accessions dur-
 ing the year. I was much pleased with the spirit
 and the hopeful expressions of the Delegates. Several
 brethren spoke on the state of the cause, especial-
 ly on the work and blessings of the Sabbath School.
 This meeting seemed highly satisfactory, and I think
 made a good impression upon the minds of all present.
 In the evening, Brother Parsons preached an excel-
 lent sermon to a large audience. We think the Sab-
 bath will never be forgotten by many, both residents
 and strangers. The meetings were largely attended
 and the blessing of God rested upon our efforts to
 preach His Gospel. In the morning I preached from
 Matt. 13 chap. last clause of 23 verse, "Who then
 can be saved?" In the afternoon Bro. Taylor from
 Numbers 23 chap. last 23 verse, "Be sure your
 way will find you out." In the evening Bro. Par-
 sons from Psalm 119 chap. 134 verse, "Thou art
 my hiding place and thy shield, I hope in thy word."
 In the evening Bro. Malloch also preached at Wood-
 stock's Cove, about four miles down the island, and at
 Seal Cove, about twelve miles down, at which
 place Bro. Johnson preached in the morning.

Monday morning we met for the transaction of
 business, and spent the whole day in one of the most
 agreeable business sessions I have ever attended.
 The subject of missions, in which such deep interest
 was taken at the time of our organization last year,
 was discussed and urgently recommended. Over \$150
 were pledged in the meeting, about one third of
 which, including a balance from last year, was paid
 into the treasurer's hands in cash. I certainly think
 we are taking the lead of the older Districts in the
 missionary work. The resolution passed in the
 Fourth District meeting, recommending General Con-
 ference to discontinue District Meetings was intro-
 duced, and the matter discussed, when it was decided
 that on account of the great benefit these churches
 had derived from these meetings, we could not think
 of co-operating in recommending such a change, but
 thought a change in the manner of representing our
 churches in General Conference might be made, and
 the local business of the Districts transacted in the
 District meetings as now. Elder Johnston of the
 "Christian Band" made a proposal of union with our
 Denomination, when a vote recommending him to
 General Conference was passed, similar to the action
 taken in Elder Babcock's case last year. Elder John-
 ston now lives and labors in Deer Island, and as far

as I can ascertain is in harmony with us in doctrine
 and church polity. Of other business attended to, I
 need not here speak. All was done with open doors,
 and a large number of brethren sat with us through
 the whole session. Delegates appointed to attend
 General Conference are Brethren W. B. McLaughlin
 and L. Wilson; substitutes M. T. Brewer and D. N.
 Clark. The next District meeting is to be held with
 the church in St. John the fourth Saturday in Oct.
 1864.

Thus we closed the second meeting of the seventh
 District. Our brethren on the Island, in consequence
 of their isolated position had but little knowledge of
 the denomination, or our manner of doing busi-
 ness, but as we closed our meetings there was an
 expression of universal satisfaction and of increased
 denominational attachment. All seemed highly
 pleased.

Monday evening, Elder Johnston preached at
 Northern Head, and Elder Parsons at Woodstock's
 Cove. Tuesday being stormy, and a head wind,
 we remained that day, and held another meeting in
 the evening, when the writer again addressed the people.
 Great praise is due the people, especially to our es-
 teemed brother and sister Barnes for the manner in
 which the strangers were provided for, and every
 thing conducted. The most of our party from the
 City made our homes with Brother Barnes and bro-
 ther Green—both live in one house. Brother B. is
 certainly doing a great work on the Island. He
 is as well as his estimable wife, are highly respected by
 the people throughout. There are now three new
 meeting houses in course of completion, and will all
 be finished in a few months—all owned by our people.

Northern Head is a pretty place. The Southern
 end of the island is rougher and not so thickly set-
 tled. On the lower end of the island our esteemed
 brother McLaughlin lives. We spent Sabbath night
 in his very pleasant family, and was much pleased to
 find him so comfortably situated. Brother McL.
 is the keeper of the Gannet Rock Light, and with his
 family live out on the rock—nine miles from land.
 He came to his home on the land to spend a day or
 two during the time of the meetings.

Grand Manan is about twenty miles in length. It
 is settled on one side only. There are about a dozen
 small islands lying just beside it, all inhabited. The
 population including these is between 1700 and 1800.
 Fishing is their principal business, but there is much
 more farming than I supposed there was. Much of
 the land is good.

We spent a part of the day (Tuesday) visiting the
 Northern Head Light-house, kept by Mr. Kent.
 We found Mr. Kent very obliging and gentlemanly,
 and were much pleased with the neatness and general
 appearance of the light house and its lights.

Wednesday we bade our friends on Grand Manan
 farewell, and started again in our noble little vessel
 for Campobbello. The wind blew hard, and we soon
 made our passage. Some of our company were quite
 alarmed when we were rushing through the angry
 waves with the starboard side of our vessel at times
 under the water, and an occasional wave breaking
 over the larboard. In a short time, however, we
 were again comfortably seated by brother Wilson's
 friends in Campobbello. We had meetings there that
 evening and the next.

Without lengthening my already too lengthy con-
 munication any farther, I will close by just saying,
 we came to Eastport on Friday morning and then
 took the steamer and had a pleasant passage home—
 reaching our own homes at an early hour in the
 evening, and finding all well, with Samuel of old
 to erect our Ebenezer and exclaim "Hitherto hath
 the Lord helped us."

Yours, in the Gospel,

G. A. HARTLEY.

Carleton, Nov. 17, 1863.

Correspondence.

YARMOUTH CORRESPONDENCE.

SECLUSION—Making the best of it.

Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Nov. 10, 1863.

DEAR BROTHER McLEOD.—Really this day of Friday
 separates us Yarmouth people from the more kindly
 and sunny portion of Eastern British America more widely
 than I supposed. "Beginning to complain already,"
 eh? I fancy some one saying (it is not fancy,
 either: for one day it is, in substance)—"What
 will you do when, for three weeks at a time, we have
 no mail from Saint John?" "Read my Bible more,"
 I suppose, was, and is, my reply; only I am not
 complaining. I mean only to observe, that mail com-
 munication once a week, as was our experience last
 week, puts us a long way from commercial and pub-
 lishing centres, and from our friends, too. If they
 choose to live in any of these places. In these days
 of distance is appropriately measured, not by miles, but
 by the time it takes to pass between any two places,
 and the frequency or rarity of communication. Shut
 out from writing news, I must select topics whose in-
 terest does not depend upon the rapidity with which
 they go forth to the reading public. I would think
 subject already introduced, and see if I cannot find
 some comfort in being so far away.

The first advantage which occurs to me, is—the
saving of time. In Canada, we often had four or
 five mails daily; and when I expected a letter from
 any one—and we expect in vain very often, you
 know—I find it hard to resist the disposition to go
 to the office after each mail's arrival; and if I did
 resist, my mind persisted in going, countless times,
 so that for the sake of economising time, I have often
 followed my mind, and, of course, returned disap-
 pointed. Now, on Tuesday and Friday mornings I
 sit at home, and until last week, my visit was not
 in vain. If I drop in at other times, it is because I
 have not yet rid myself of old habits, and because
 the Halifax mail, which is nearly daily, occasionally
 brings me something from the West, circuitous as
 the route is. With all the advantages of mails two
 or three times a day, there is the disadvantage of loss
 of time. Now that the telegraph brings us news of
 greatest moment, we do not really need so frequent
 mail communications.

Another advantage—*greater composure in the
 performance of duty*. The present is the age of ac-
 tion; formerly, men were more contemplative. There
 may be too much activity, or rather, we may feel
 hurried by many things, and in the end, we may
 be a good deal more satisfied with the result, which is
 the result of frequent contact with passing events, is
 not for our health. Communion with the outer world
 is good; but it should not be incessant. We ought
 sometimes to commune with our own hearts, and be
 sure that we can detect already a tendency to go
 more deliberately about any work, which does not
 lessen the amount accomplished, I am very sure, but
 adds to the satisfaction of doing it, there but less
 to our easy the thought from that more im-
 mediately demands attention.

Another advantage occurs to me—I read with
 greater interest and profit. I am not disturbed by
 the multiplicity of things to be read. I have no daily
 paper to bother me with its rumors, and no news-
 paper to read, which I have to read, and I take up my
 books with relish, and begin to comprehend how
 people used to be happy and intelligent without news-
 papers—blessings though they be. It is not reading,
 but thinking, which gives us most vigor; just as it
 is not eating, but digesting, which imparts strength.
 I do not believe that books are more suggestive than
 newspapers, if we would use the latter properly.
 But we read our newspapers too fast; and as they
 glance at so many topics, the rapid reading neutralizes
 the good effects. Where the weekly paper gives us
 our news, I fancy we reach more accurately the truth
 concerning current events, and are not compelled to
 displace so many erroneous conceptions, as when we
 pore morning and evening over the daily paper. Of
 course, with a mail once or twice a week, a daily is
 a nuisance. And, by the way, I may as well say now,
 as at any other time, that I regard a weekly paper
 made up from a daily, as most unsatisfactory. It
 would require that a great part of the additional mat-
 ter be re-written, to make it approach the true weekly
 newspaper. The daily paper is for the day, to a
 large extent; the true weekly is more deliberate.
 The former is inspired very much by the excitement

of the hour; the latter sifts its topics, and what it
 rejects, is rarely to be regretted by the reader. The
 daily cries out for brevity. We have no time for
 what is lengthily—a very serious mistake, in my
 opinion. Neither the short nor the long is the true
 rule. Give us variety. See where the rage for brevity
 is driving us in regard to religious services. If Christ
 gives us a short prayer as a model, He set us the ex-
 ample of praying all night long. It is well Paul
 lived centuries ago. If he were with us, and should
 continue his speech, until midnight, and some Eastern
 chris should go to sleep, and meet with the accident
 which befell the young man at Troas, more than one
 newspaper would have an editorial charging the
 Apostle with gross impropriety, and with the guilt
 of murder, should he talk until the break of day. I
 shudder to think of the consequences, and therefore
 conclude my musings for the present. A. B.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

The Election—The Russian Ball—Treason—Emancipation
 Document—Henry Ward Beecher.

New York, Nov. 9th, 1863.

The elections in this State have resulted in a Re-
 publican and Union Democratic victory. They have
 elected almost all of their candidates with a majority
 of about eighteen thousand votes, being a gain of
 twenty-three thousand over last year, when Governor
 Seymour was elected. The July riots, and other
 events of more recent date, have shown the character
 and conduct of Governor Seymour and his friends in
 their true light; and the people have arisen in their
 might, and administered a rebuke at the ballot boxes,
 which can not be mistaken or easily forgotten. The
 Governor was so much interested in the matter that
 he stumped the County for the Copperhead interest.
 The whole canvass by the opposition was a want of
 confidence motion in Lincoln and his Cabinet, and
 the President has great cause to congratulate himself,
 seeing that every State which has held its election,
 thus far has endorsed his policy by large majorities.

Barnum has gained a world-wide notoriety for his
 baby shows, but the flunkies of New York have out-
 Barnumed Barnum. On last Thursday evening, the
 Academy of Music was turned into a grand exhibi-
 tion room, where all funkyness appeared with their
 wives and daughters, got up regardless of expense.
 "This Ball in honor of the Russians," so called, can
 be considered nothing else but an exhibition on a
 grand scale, where doting parents and ambitious
 mamma's might present their marriageable daughters
 to the "gallant representatives" of "Our noble ally."
 Doubtless many fond hopes and numberless prayers
 were made, mentally, by these loving parents, that
 the evening's entertainment would not only tend to
 cement the bond of political friendship between
 America and Russia, but would also result in mat-
 rimonial alliances, in which each particular devoted
 wished to figure as a father or mother-in-law to one
 of the Barbarians of the North. How far their
 designs have been accomplished they only can tell.

Madame Remour announces that the young
 ladies did not find Admiral Lavovski so susceptible to
 their charms and beauty as was Japanese Tommy,
 and the Admiral was consequently less admired by
 them than the said Tommy, with the almond eyes,
 yellow complexion, and "great, big loving heart."