

persevering exertions of his people. The system is generally adopted, and the pastors exhortations and public prayers, look for example and counsel, should first put in practice, and then counsel it, others, and help them to form wise plans to do it practically efficient. Especially should all this work be engaged in any way in raising funds, or collecting for benevolent objects. Every one who is brought to understand the power and efficacy of this system, is bound to spread it among a within the reach of his influence. — *American Record*.

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Parties wishing to be in Saint John for the *Intelligencer*, can do so at the bookstore of Messrs. BARNES & CO., Prince William street.  
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Our Post Office address is Rev. E. McLeod, Fredericton, N. B.

## Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 25, 1863.

## ONE OF MY DAY-DREAMS.

I have just turned up Webster's definition of the word "Hobby," and find the following as his third or figurative meaning: "Any favorite object, to which a person pursues with zeal or delight." I confess to being happily disappointed; for judging of the meaning by its current use, I had expected a definition reflecting upon the Hobby-holder, as possessing more zeal than knowledge, as pushing his preferences too far, and exaggerating their importance. Such seems to be the popular application of the word, and therefore I have avoided it, as a leading to this article, and chosen another, not because day-dreams are quite free from objection, but in the hope that it will arrest the eye and the attention, if it does not suspend the prejudices of a greater number of my readers. I have no objection to characterize what follows as "One of my Hobbies," if the definition of Webster already quoted be regarded as accurate and complete. I will not spend many words in stating what the day-dream or hobby is. It is this: "The holy ambition to aid, with all my heart, and always in the production and appropriate expression of a matured Christianity, which will give Christ the first place in the heart of every disciple, and make the recognition of His image in others the cause of unfeigned joy, without reference to identity of creed or denomination. I am far from supposing that this desire is singular. I incline to the belief that untold thousands groan in secret over the petty jealousies and rivalries of professed Christians, and without ceasing offer the Saviour's prayer, that all who believe on Him may be one. But there are some, I fear, who have very imperfect ideas of what constitutes the oneness of disciples, and are therefore unable to apply themselves with wisdom and vigor to produce and foster it. I will offer a few remarks on this subject.

The oneness of believers is not perfect coincidence of views. Members of the same denomination do not think alike. Members of the same church do not think alike. Members of the same family do not think alike. Absolute accordance of thought is an impossibility. The apostolic exhortation addressed to the brethren at Philippi, in which they are urged to "be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind," cannot mean that they should never differ in opinion. The conclusion of the exhortation may be regarded as explanatory, for the apostle continues: "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves; look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." In other words, "Avoid strife and vanity. Be humble and unselfish. Obtain and keep the mind of Christ." Who does not see that obedience to these precepts would promote love and fellowship, while it would leave the disciples of Christ to reach different conclusions, without being arrayed against one another. We should then have "the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace," without absolute uniformity of sentiment.

The oneness of believers is not the subscription of a common creed. Every one conversant with church history knows that very bitter controversies have been carried on among persons adhering to the same doctrinal standards, and in these controversies expression has been given to views perfectly antagonistic, and this is true in the present day. Indeed the more scrupulous and conscientious persons are, the more carefully they examine that which they subscribe; the unscrupulous may put their hand to anything. All dreams of a common confession of faith, embracing every particular, adopted universally, are empty and vain, not so much because the adoption is improbable, as because it would fail to secure the fellowship of the spirit and the communion of saints. Neither coercion nor persuasion will avail without love and confidence.

The oneness of believers is oneness of heart. It approaches perfection just in proportion to the depth and reality of love to Christ. Tastes and habits may vary, views of duty may not perfectly coincide, but the image of Christ awakens emotions which no external harmony of thought, and habit, and taste can produce. If I am pleased with another, it is in order to inquire the cause of this pleasure. If my heart leaps for joy at the accuracy of the copy of Christ which is exhibited, it is well; but not otherwise, in so far as Christian oneness is concerned. The harmony which is most to be desired is that which relates to Christ. It may be very pleasant to accord in taste and preferences; but such harmony is useless, except as it serves to promote the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. The cultivation of true piety, therefore, is the way to Christian fellowship. What absurdity is it, then, to spend our strength in efforts to secure adhesion to the minutiae of our personal views! How foolish to make no discrimination between the tables of the law and the pins of the tabernacle—between the possession of a holy life and speculations respecting the most appropriate order of religious exercises. How many seem to feel under special obligation to defend every iota of their denominational practice, as if it were of equal importance with the two great commandments of the law—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and soul, and strength, and mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

Let Christians learn a lesson from men of the world. When they associate together for common gain, they subordinate opinions to the object at which they aim. If they differ in political sentiments, and in their views of other subjects, they wisely hold them so far in abeyance, as not to interfere with their prospective interests. They are not foolish enough to array their strength against one another, because they do not coincide in everything. It is enough that they are agreed in the purpose of increasing their wealth, and substantially in the methods to be employed for that object. Ought we not to be at least equally wise? Is it too much to ask that we love the advancement of Christ's kingdom?

him above the increase of our denomination? Is it the former more important than the latter? Does God send his spirit exclusively upon the adherents of one evangelical denomination? If so, which is it? Is there any denomination which can say, "The avowal of our doctrines, and adherence to our peculiar views ensure the richest growth in grace, and unquestioned consecration to God?" Let us pledge ourselves to watch jealously over our own hearts, thoughts, words and conduct, so that Christian confidence and co-operation will be widely and truly promoted. We shall be regarded as loose in our denominational attachments, by all who believe themselves the special favorites of heaven. We shall be accused of leaning, now in one direction, and then in another; and many a doubt will be expressed as to our soundness in the faith; but let us press forward, brethren, and more closely together. "Wisdom is justified of her children." We have much to lament and bewail; but not that we love our fellow disciples too well—not that we give too cordial a grasp to our brethren in the Lord—not that we pray too earnestly that we may be all one.

## THE "CHESAPEAKE" MURDER.

A brief paragraph in our issue last week announced the capture of the steamer "Chesapeake," by a Federal gunboat, at a place called Sombra, about eighteen miles from Halifax. She was subsequently taken into Halifax and delivered up to the authorities there. Whether she will be returned to the owners or otherwise is a question, we understand, for discussion. What international law is, relative to the extraordinary circumstances connected with this affair, we do not pretend to know. But there is one thing we do know, and that is, that no law of nations can abrogate or set aside the law of God. On the morality of the act we wish to speak, and its character in the light of the highest law; and we do not see how any person looking at the whole transaction, with all the allowances possible for the fact that the North and South are in a state of war, can regard the taking of the "Chesapeake" by Britain and her associates, in any other light than piracy and murder. An unarmed vessel and cargo are entrusted to the captain and crew; men take passage in her under the pretence of being peaceable and loyal subjects, and without notice, in the dead hour of the night, succeed in taking forcible possession of the vessel. An officer is shot down, and others are wounded. It is no palliation to say that the man shot resisted the piracy; he had a right to do so, in defence of the property entrusted to him, even to the risk of his life, if he chose. He was only discharging his duty, and his death was murder in the eye of God's law, whether international law proves it so or not. And every man in that murderous gang that seized the "Chesapeake," will be held accountable for that deed of blood at a higher tribunal than any on earth. Had the same act of violation been perpetrated by Federalists on a Southern vessel, the crime would have been the same.

Our reasons for referring to this subject, and expressing our views so definitely, are because the publication of this affair by the press and others, under the pretence of its justification by international law, is calculated to lessen the criminality and horror of such deeds, and to prepare victims and lawless men for the perpetration of similar crimes in times of peace as well as war. Perhaps no war of modern times has been stained with more or greater acts of cold blood, cruelty and murder, than that now existing in the States of America. These deeds will not all be done when the war ceases; a great number of men accustomed to these things will be turned loose upon the country, and will continue to seek employment in the murderous vocations in which they have been trained. To palliate these cold blooded and murderous attacks on peaceable men pursuing their lawful business, and following their lawful callings, is only to lessen the guilt and crime of murder, and make it more an act of daring and skill than of execration and eternal infamy. And hence men accustomed to such deeds in times of war, and taught to believe in their lawfulness, will only have a short distance to descend in the scale of depravity to perpetrate similar ones in times of peace.

Let the press and the people beware how they excuse such murderous acts. Retribution is a part of God's great law of government.

## READ! READ!!

A Presbyterian Minister in New York recently preached a sermon to his people, from which the following is an extract:—

The influence of a Weekly Religious Newspaper in a family is valuable beyond computation; as necessary, in the view of those who are accustomed to take and read it, as their daily bread; enlightening the minds of the religious public, in respect to all religious operations; and, what is better, enlarging their hearts, making them Christians, because they thus learn what the world needs.

And to convince you, my brethren, of the interest I feel in this matter, and of the great importance I attach to the Press as my helper in the ministry, I would pay for and send to every family in this congregation a Weekly Religious Paper, rather than have them be without it. It is worth ten times more than it cost to any man. No head of a family ought to consent for a week to be without it. It will help you in every way. It will make you better Christians. I affirm it that the Christians in every Church of largest views and most firmly established Christian character, and the most ready helpers of the pastor in every good word and work, are those who take and read a Religious Newspaper. Scarcely the extreme poverty should shut it out from your doors. It will help to refine and train and Christianize your children. It will stir and warm your own hearts. It will inevitably and always do good. And, if it does not already spread its cheer around your fireside, I cannot but urge you to let no other week elapse before you enrich yourselves by the possession of so great a treasure. Eminently as the Religious Newspaper Press has been owned and blessed of God, it deserves a large place in every Christian household, in every Christian heart.

For the Religious Intelligencer.

## THE DAY DAWN.

I saw the dawn, the ruddy dawn,  
The east horizon light,  
It climbed the sky—the stars withdrew,—  
It scattered far the night.  
The fiery rays through dusky air,  
Proclaimed the day-knight near;  
A vanguard from his bosom sent,  
As if his way to clear.  
Ere long the glorious sun appeared  
Above the eastern hill;  
The curling vapors quickly fled,  
With all the nightly chill.  
I thought whilst thus the morn appeared,  
O Baptist John of old,  
Through whom the Saviour's twilight shone,  
Where Jordan's waters rolled.  
The Sun of everlasting day,  
Ere long, appeared to view  
To chase the mists of death away,  
And light the world anew.  
The deadly chills of Adam hung  
O'er all his fallen race;  
But Israel's Sun is doomed to shine  
To earth's remotest place.  
Anglo, Nova Scotia, Dec. 24, 1863.

## END OF THE VOLUME.

This number of our paper closes the tenth volume of the *Intelligencer*. With the close of this volume, the subscriptions of a large number of our patrons expire. We trust they will renew at an early day. The trial of *prepayment* has now been fully tested by us, and we think our subscribers generally are well satisfied, that it is the best and most satisfactory way of conducting a newspaper. Those of our subscribers who have not yet complied with our conditions for the last year, will be trusted, at an early day forward us the amount due. We shall be obliged to revise our mailing list in a week or two, and strike off those who are in arrears. It is only by strictly complying with the terms of payment in advance, that we can be enabled to furnish our paper at its present low terms.

PLEASE REMEMBER—ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS A YEAR! Payment in advance.

## FREE BAPTIST CHURCH LECTURES.

The first of the course of Lectures advertised to be delivered in the F. B. Baptist Church at Fredericton, was given by the Rev. Dr. Hurd, on Tuesday evening, to quite a numerous audience. The choir sang pieces of appropriate church music previous to the lecture, and the Rev. Dr. Spurgeon offered prayer. The subject of the lecture was—"The Dignity of Labour." The Doctor very appropriately introduced the subject by stating that exercise or activity was the ordinance of God in everything, and that idleness was neither conducive to prosperity nor happiness. He referred to many of the numerous branches of useful labour that exist, and divided them under two headings; first—the labour of the head; and second—the labour of the hands. He very properly showed that each of these depended on the other, and that to divorce them from each other, would be to destroy both. He dwelt upon the dignity of honest toil, whether of the head or hands, and highly eulogized the man or the land that scorned dependence, and sought to procure his own livelihood by his industry, though it might be in the humblest department of toil, if he was incapable of performing anything nobler. A long list of names were referred to, of those who from the lowest walks in life had arisen by study, application, and industry, to eminence and esteem, and had filled stations of the highest honor in politics, arms, science, law, mechanics, religion, &c. He concluded by urging to diligence and industry, and doing all we do well. The lecture was just such an one as we wanted for the first of the course, and although occupying an hour in its delivery, was listened to throughout with breathless attention. Singing at the close of the lecture, when the audience was dismissed with the Benediction.

The Rev. G. A. Hartley, of Carleton, has kindly consented to give the next Lecture in the course, on Tuesday evening next. He will be followed by the Rev. Dr. Spurgeon, the Rev. Mr. Pitblado, and others whose names will be announced in due time.

## JEWISH DELIVERANCE FROM LONG BONDAGE.

When our Lord predicted, Luke 21: 22-24, concerning the Jewish race that "there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people; and they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled," he intimated, at last, that when the Gentile times are fulfilled, there should be a release of that people from their oppressions, and of Jerusalem from Gentile desolation. At any rate, we live to see a most wonderful change in the condition of that people, as well as a change in the condition of the city and land itself. Has this change any prophetic significance? or is it merely casual? The facts we cannot ignore; their import is a matter for thought and inquiry.

We glean the following particulars in reference to this people from the London Quarterly Journal of Prophecy, for October.

Austria has the largest Jewish population of any State in Europe; and Russia is next in point of numbers. Russia has raised to the rank of nobility several prominent Jewish Bankers, and Baron von Rothschild has been called by the Emperor to the senate of the empire.

In Austria, a large number of Jews have been elected as members of town councils and provincial diets. Upper Austria has sent two Jews to the lower house of Legislature. The Czechs of Bohemia, noted persecutors of the Jews, have now raised them to full equality with Christians.

In Galicia, three Jews have been elected members of the Galician Diet.

In 1861, Dr. Wessely, was appointed ordinary professor in an Austrian university. And Dr. Eisel was appointed extraordinary professor at the university of Vienna.

In Prussia, a Jew, Dr. Veit, was an influential member of the House of Deputies. In the colleges of Prussia, there are five Jews to one Christian scholar.

In Bavaria, an intolerant law against the Jews was unanimously abolished by the three Chambers, and their rights advocated by the Archbishop of Munich, Bishop of Augsburg, and President of the Protestant Consistory.

In England there are five Jewish members of the House of Commons. A Jewish Mayor of Rochester, a Jewish sheriff of Bucks.

In France, M. Fould, an eminent Jewish Banker, is Minister of Finance.

In Italy, there are six Jews members of the National Parliament.

In Poland, the merchants and manufacturers of Warsaw, have adopted by acclamation a resolution abolishing all distinctions between Jews and Christians.

The same change has taken place in Mahomedan as in Christian countries.

These are strange events, and should not pass unheeded by any who are watching the signs of the times. Concerning the condition of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, *The Israelite* Induced published in New York city, says:

A friend residing at the city of the Great King writes: "The city of Jerusalem has changed its features most wonderfully while I sojourn in it, and continues to change for the better almost daily. Here, where formerly it needed centuries to produce the slightest alterations in buildings, as well as in the customs and habits of its miserable inmates, new houses spring up over night like mushrooms, and people begin to strip themselves of their old habits, which they feel have become intolerable. Roving Bedouins around Jerusalem, burglars, assassins, and the heaps of rubbish and filth which infested the city, destined to become once more the glory of all nations, have recently disappeared, since our new Pasha understands perfectly how to manage police affairs. The first thing he did in this line was to proclaim a decree that no person was permitted to appear in the streets without a lantern after nine o'clock at night, and that even those who are provided with a light must be able to give a strict account of their business, in going out at so late an hour; to the patrol, which makes the round through all the streets and lanes. The second was to charge all the inhabitants with the duty of sweeping the streets before their houses, to remove the rubbish to a certain place outside the city, and to sprinkle water to lay down the dust."

The immigration of Jews from all parts of the globe except America, where they would not leave the flesh-pots is growing fast, and exceeding that of many centuries before. But it is not only the city that becomes the camp-ground of the sons of Israel, but also the country towns and villages, where they are now permitted to purchase real estate, build houses and cultivate fields which had lain desolate since the days of Hadrian, who changed the name of Jerusalem into that of Aelia, and forbade the Jews to approach its walls within a certain distance. You must know that Jewish emigrants of the present day do not come to the Holy Land to die, in order that in the resurrection their bodies need not rot underground from all the ends of the earth until they come under the holy ground, but they come to live upon the soil where their fathers lived, and which they called their home. I spoke to several of the new comers who had purchased some land near Bethlehem, and intend to make a living by the produce of the fertile soil. They say, "The land is ours by promise, by conquest, and by real possession, though we must now thank the stranger that he allows us to acquire a small portion of it at heavy prices." But we hope to live, and to see the whole of our inheritance repossessed by our people, and that every one of Israel "shall sit under his vine and fig-tree in peace."

You see, then, that not only Christians who read their Bible without spiritualizing spectacles, expect the speedy fulfilment of the prophecies concerning the return of Israel to their own land, and the return of Him over whose head Pilate wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews; but Jews also are aroused from the deep lethargy which lay heavily upon them like a nightmare, for many centuries; and they also begin to believe that their gathering again is at hand, and that King Messiah will soon make his appearance, to rule over them, and restore, not only the people of Israel to more than their ancient glory, but also the fertility of the land, which shall now become indeed a land that flows with milk and honey; a land of the vine, fig-tree, pomegranate and olives. In fact, nobody but those who despise the Word of God, can deny that God remembers the land. During the five years of my sojourn in the land of the Jews, the early years of the latter came down as regularly as the days of David and Solomon, and only once the former delayed its coming for a few weeks; but, notwithstanding, we had no need of water for drinking and preparing our food; and when, at last, heaven's gift streamed down upon the thirsty land, everything blossomed almost visibly to the beholder; and in three days our sacred soil outran the best lands in Europe.

May every man think of these things what he pleases. I, for my part, see in it the hand of our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I see in it the signs of the times when He will favor Zion, and gather the remnants of Israel and Judah, and be their God.

## CONTRIBUTORS.

We have great pleasure in stating that the Rev. D. M. GRAHAM, D. D., of Portland, Maine, will, after a week or two, become a regular contributor to our columns. Brother G. was well known to our readers a few years since as our "New York Correspondent." He has travelled extensively, spent a considerable time in Europe, is always well posted in current events, and withal a pious and devoted minister. His contributions we are sure, whether as correspondence or otherwise, will be interesting and acceptable to our readers, and be an important feature of improvement in our next volume.

The excellent articles of the Rev. ARCHIBALD BURNIE, formerly our "Canada Correspondent," now of Yarmouth N. S.; over the initials of "A. B." add much to the excellence of our editorial department. Brother B. is a judicious and vigorous writer, possessing a broad and liberal Christianity, and his articles are always sound and good. He will continue his contributions to our columns. Other writers of intelligence and merit are expected occasionally to contribute to our paper; and we think our next volume will exceed all former ones in interest and value.

Brother J. N. Barnes writes to us from Grand Manan, that the religious interest on that island is at present prosperous, but that sickness and death are very prevalent. Our obituary list this week contains the record of several deaths at Grand Manan.

We received a few days since from a friend in California a bundle of San Francisco Sacramento, and Nevada Territory papers. San Francisco dates are to November 16th.

TEA MEETING.—The Tea Meeting referred to last week, as in contemplation, to be held in the Temperance Hall, Fredericton, came off on Monday evening. It was not very numerous attended. One hundred and fifty or two hundred at most were present. The tea was, as arranged, quite plain, but substantial and good, and all present seemed to enjoy it. After tea, James Johnson, Esq., was called to the chair, and prayer was offered by Dr. Spurgeon, and the Rev. Mr. Rand and several other ministers addressed the meeting. Hon. Mr. Tiley, who was present, also gave an address. The meeting closed by prayer. We have not heard the amount of the proceeds, but we presume quite a little sum was raised, which we believe is to be divided between the Indian Mission and the F. B. Society in St. John. The principal mover in this meeting, and in fact the one by whose Christian charity and perseverance it was carried through, was Mrs. Johnson, whose praiseworthy efforts in Christian benevolence are well known in Fredericton and other places where she has resided.

SEMINARY RECEPTIONS.—The Temperance Hall in Fredericton was literally crammed on Thursday evening last week, to hear the recitations of the scholars of the Baptist Seminary. The hall of the Seminary has been found too small for several years for the accommodation of the visitors on these occasions. The recitations were under the direction of the Principal, Dr. Spurgeon, assisted by Dr. Hurd. A number of the ladies acquitted themselves well. The programme, recited by Mr. Zebulon McKenzie of Nepesin, was admirably done, and reflected much credit on both the speaker and his teacher. Two original essays, written by young ladies, were read by Dr. S. The music on the occasion, was pronounced by judges fully equal, if not superior to any ever before heard in the Hall. It was under the direction of Mr. Eli Perkins, assisted by Messrs. Cruden, J. Richards, and Charles Weeks; and by Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Eliza Atherton, Miss Yerra, Miss Currier, and Miss Lugin. Miss Currier and Miss Atherton presided in turn at the Pianoforte.

ANTICIPATING THE END.—A very general impression prevails among Mohammedans that great changes are soon to take place, by which Christianity will triumph over and supersede their religion. A missionary of the Church of England at Nazareth, writes, "Most remarkable is the general feeling of the Mohammedans that the end of the world is near, and that the day of the antichrist; the belief that the time will be long distant when the Sultan will be obliged to retire to Egypt, and when the Christians will even enter Mecca. Rev. Dr. Perkins, the veteran missionary to the Near East, in a recent lecture stated that he was visited by one of the highest nobles of the country, who alluded to the changes and commotions in the world, and very thoughtfully added, 'Do you know what these things mean? I do. Jesus Christ is about to come.'

POWER OF FORGIVENESS.—Since the expulsion of Otto from the throne of Greece, a little more than a year ago, some parts of this little kingdom have been agitated by violent feuds. In the little village of Pyrgos, in Laconia, the inhabitants were divided into two contending parties, each seeking to destroy the other. Murders were frequent. At last one of the principal citizens received a mortal wound from one of the opposite faction. Before he died he sent the murderer to come and receive his forgiveness. The latter, after considerable opposition on the part of his friends, who feared some foul play, complied with the request. The dying man received him kindly, embraced him, expressed his full forgiveness, and almost immediately expired. This Christian act, when it became known through the village, made such an impression upon the hearts of the opposing parties that they came together, mutually exchanged forgiveness, and with deep emotion united in celebrating the triumph of the power of forgiveness. Since that time Pyrgos has been one of the most quiet villages in the kingdom.—*German Paper*.

## NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chesapeake.—Great excitement.—President's Message.—Weather.—John B. Gough, &c.

The despatches received here on Tuesday announcing the capture of the "Chesapeake" by a gang of desperadoes created intense excitement, and each additional item of news in regard to the matter is eagerly read and discussed by the public. This morning's papers contain some particulars from the "Evening Globe" showing how, and by whom, the plot was matured, also, plans in regard to the future disposal of the vessel and cargo. In fact take up what paper you will, the first thing to attract attention is "Full particulars of the Plot." "St. John N. B. the Headquarters," &c. The good city of St. John is getting well advertised, and is bound to "shine" in the pages of the history of the war, and many persons who, one week ago did not know of such a place have, by enquiry, searching on their maps, and scratching of heads, discovered that such a city does exist, and furthermore, they are convinced that said city is second only to Nassau. As a seceder rendezvous, of course the murderers and villains must be citizens of that place in the employ of Southern agents, and the term Englishman is applied indiscriminately to all who give aid and comfort to the "Rebels." It is quite impossible for many of these wretches to think that New York could have ever contained such "renegades." There are some who do believe that "New York is full of traitors" and the *Tribune* intimates that the fifth avenue Hotel is the general rendezvous for such, and it now advocates the enforcement of the passport system as the only means to prevent frequent repetitions of the "Chesapeake Plot." All the armed vessels at the disposal of the General Government, from Eastport to Washington, have been ordered to sea in search of the Pirates. Volunteers of all grades in the navy have come forward "to do and die" in this particular cause, and all are anxious to gain that glory which apparently awaits them. If the daring seventeen do succeed in securing their prize the deed must certainly be ranked as the most daring and wonderful in the history of the Rebellion.

Congress is now fairly to work, the President's Message having been read to that august body on Wednesday. It is unnecessary for me to allude to the contents of the Message as you will probably receive it in full before this reaches you. It has been published and spread broadcast over the whole land to be eagerly devoured by the whole nation to whom it is of immediate interest. But there are many portions of it which are of very great interest to all who have any desire for the extermination of Slavery. President Lincoln's reference to his future policy in regard to slavery and his proclamation of January last, and results therefrom, deserve particular attention, and I doubt not, that all who read it will be impressed with his candour, honesty and sincerity, and also feel that his author deserves to be re-elected to serve as President for the next term (and I believe he will be), that he may finish the work he has already begun.

Winter has commenced in earnest, the lakes in and around New York are sufficiently frozen to enable the citizens to indulge in their favorite winter amusements—skating. It commenced snowing this afternoon, and there is now every prospect of a heavy fall, which is far preferable to the storms of dust and gravel which have been sweeping through the streets during the past week.

John B. Gough is lecturing in Brooklyn, and Jersey City, and crowded houses meet him on every occasion.

The Coroner's Jury in the case of the explosion of the "Isaac Newton" on the Hudson River have rendered a verdict exonerating all connected with the boat from blame, and compliments the Captain and officers for many conduct during the time of danger. New York, Dec. 11, 1863.

## THE NEWS.

DECEMBER 25, 1863.

## THE SEASON.

Christmas falls this year on the day of our publication. Our paper will go to press on Thursday evening. We tender to our readers the compliments of the season, and desire on their part, and on our own, many happy returns of it.

The Auxiliary Bible Society of St. John, will hold its Anniversary in the Mechanics Institute, on Friday evening, Jan. 8th.

The steamer for Boston has left this port on her last trip until next spring. It is probable she will resume her trips at the earliest possible period; probably about the first of March.

The mail for Nova Scotia is also off her routes. The mail for N. S. will close during the winter at the St. John Post Office, at 2 o'clock on Fridays, and will be conveyed to Digby by Packet. The *Intelligencer* will be despatched to subscribers in Nova Scotia on the same day it is published.

THE "CHESAPEAKE".—It was said by one of the officers of the *Edna* and *Annie* that the engineer of the *Chesapeake*, who was on board when the latter steamer was seized by the party of Confederates, asserts that the second engineer was shot down in cold blood while passing into the engine room, and if this be true, it is to be regretted that the murderer has escaped.

The matter respecting the disposal of the *Chesapeake* is now under the consideration of the Government. The Captain of the *Daughter* being senior to the Capt. of the *Edna* and *Annie* has formally handed the vessel over to the authorities, and expressed his readiness and willingness to abide by their decision, and stated that he had no desire to violate the law, or in any way outstep the bounds of legality. We understand that it is the intention of the Executive to retain possession of the steamer for the present, and in the meantime report to the war department the case to the home Government and apply for full instructions with reference to the subject.

Brain and party are yet at large. Persons here, on behalf of the Federal authorities, applied to the government this week for a warrant for the arrest of Brain, and upon the evidence offered, one was granted on Wednesday, and on Thursday two city constables, Hutt and Power, and one county officer, Monteith, proceeded to Sombra with the object of taking the bold individual into custody. Soon after their arrival they saw Brain and his party, twelve in all, who had been apprized of the arrival of the police, kept in a body and fearfully walked about the place, displaying their revolvers in sight of the constables, and as if to intimidate them occasionally, indulged in the sport of firing a few shots in the air. The party is represented as being a desperate set of men, and as they were well armed and wore a defiant air, the police were apprehensive that if they attempted to make the arrest there would be bloodshed, and so they abandoned the project and returned to the city. Yesterday there were several of Brain's men in the city, and the police had a conversation with some of them, and they declared that had the constable proceeded to make the arrest at Sombra, they would not have afforded protection to their leader, but would have allowed the officers to take him. It is suspected that Brain is in this city, or was here yesterday, and a look out is being kept for him.—*Halifax Chronicle*.

The Halifax Presbyterianians.

Had the Chesapeake been captured in accordance with the laws of war and the usage of civilized nations, and had her captors been properly commissioned, they might safely seek shelter in our harbours, no one would venture to capture them or their ship. Their sudden desertion of the ship in British waters is a proof of guilt. They seem to admit by this running away that they have been guilty of piracy. The vessel having been brought into this port and left in our hands, and our authorities there is no room to complain of the conduct of the American man-of-war. Indeed they could not be said to have captured the *Chesapeake*—they only brought her in here when she was abandoned by her practical crew. Should the pirates be captured in this Province they will no doubt be given up to the United States authorities, under the Treaty.

## The following is from the Colonial Presbyterian of Thursday:

Another complication is reported. It is stated in the Halifax papers that a portion of the crew of the "Chesapeake" were put in irons by the Federal Captors, and this fact concealed by the officer of the "Decatur." This was an extraordinary proceeding in British waters! "This condition of affairs," says the *News* of yesterday, "was brought to light by the exertions of a prominent citizen. Explanations were asked, and the admission made, that the men were on board. A formal demand for their restoration to the Provincial authorities was then made by His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government; and the American ships in port were notified that they would not be permitted to leave until it was complied with. This, we believe, was at length agreed to, and 1 p. m. was named as the hour when they would be surrendered." The subsequent proceedings are thus described by the *Reporter*:—

Accordingly at the time named as above the U. S. Consol, the High Sheriff of the county of Halifax, His Honor the Provincial Secretary, and quite a number of others, official and otherwise, attended at the Queen's Wharf for the purpose of giving effect to the liberation. Shortly after a boat from the *Ans* ship brought the prisoners to the ship, where they were landed, the three being heavily handcuffed and coming ashore. The reading of certain documents by the Consul was followed by releasing the prisoners. Immediately upon this announcement being made, officer Hutt of the city police force, attempted to arrest one of the men, said to be the party who occasioned the death of the engineer of the *Chesapeake*, when by some chance or other a boat was at hand—let us suppose it was accidental—when the man rushed down into the water and got into sail, and the police force, by the police force, were rescued pushed off and was soon out of sight. The whole fracas occurred in less than time than we have written it, and every person present appeared to be astonished at the result. And this ends the first act of the drama.

As to the late proceedings in connection with the affair, we can only say that a gross outrage and violation of international law has been committed by the Federal officers in seizing a number of men in a British port and confining them in irons while they studiously concealed the knowledge of the fact from the authorities here; and we venture to risk the opinion that the Federal Government at Washington will not hesitate to condemn their conduct.

The *Journal* says that the man with the pistol who attempted arrest, and who it was supposed was the 2nd Engineer, was dressed in civilian costume, no sign of authority; showed no warrant, nor declared that he possessed one; called on no one to aid in the arrest in the Queen's name; but simply rushed down the wharf calling out—"stop that boat! stop that boat!" In the account of the affair, the *Journal* winds up as follows:

All seem to feel that grave questions between the two governments are likely to arise out of this affair, and certainly the position of our government is trying and delicate one. We have no reason to doubt, however, but that while endeavoring to do justice, and act with impartiality towards all parties concerned they will still maintain unblemished the honor of the British flag, and stoop to no position of which in after years they might have reason to feel ashamed.

CHARLOTTE LECTURES.—On the evening of Wednesday, the 23rd inst., a course of lectures will be delivered by John Boyd, Esq., in the vestry of the Baptist Church in Carleton, at the usual hour. He is to be followed by the Hon. J. H. Gray, Rev. James Bennett, and other popular lecturers. The proceeds of the course, after payment of expenses, are intended to aid in the erection of the new Sabbath School in connection with Rev. James Baird's Church. Handsome donations, in money and work, have already been promised towards this object.—*Press*.

The Rev. J. C. FLETCHER, distinguished as an author, traveler, missionary, lecturer, and one of the most aggressive of men, is to deliver a course of lectures at the Mechanics Institute. Few of our readers have ever heard a lecturer possessed of greater stores of information, or who can communicate it in a more attractive manner.—*Id.*

We regret to learn that the fine ship *Pennacook*, built by Mr. James Nevins, and who was a Liverpool house, was among the vessels lost in the recent