

that cross; His whole earthly mission converges there. After the decent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost the only Gospel that was preached was the Gospel of atoning blood. It was the keynote of the mightiest human preacher that ever trod our globe. Whatever else Paul omitted, he never omitted the "faithful saying," that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." When recalling his ministry among the Corinthians, he reminded them that he was determined not to know anything among them save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. In an ecstasy of self-forgetful adoration, he cries out: "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Toward that cross his finger constantly pointed; beside it he loved to linger. And the central theme of the great Apostle has been the central theme of the greatest preachers the world has ever known. No story has such power to move, and melt, and change the hearts of men as the story of the cross. "No mother ever sang it over the pillow of her babe without tenderness; no child ever read it without a throbbing heart; no living man can peruse it with utter indifference and no dying man ever listened to it without emotion. The cross will be remembered when everything else in the history of this earth is forgotten." My dear reader in that solemn hour when you and I stand between two worlds, when we reach that unseen and eternal world, no object in the universe will be of such infinite importance to us as the cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Good old Gilbert Tennent—a preacher once famous in New Jersey—was missed on a certain Sabbath morning, after the close of the church services. His family went in search of him. They found him in a woods near the church, lying on the ground, weeping like a child. They inquired the cause of his emotion. He told them that after preaching on the love of his crucified Saviour, he had gone out into the woods to meditate. He had got such views of the wondrous love of God in sending His Son into the world to die for sinners, that he was completely overwhelmed. The glory of the Cross seemed to smite him down, and to break his very heart, as it had melted the heart of Paul. He saw no one save Jesus only. A clear, distinct look at Jesus is what every sinner also needs to convict him of guilt, and to break him down. The preaching which melts hard hearts is Christ-preaching—cross-preaching—it wounds and it heals; it kills sin, and brings to the penitent soul new life. No other preaching so surely commands the blessing of the Holy Spirit. We ministers should find our highest duty and our holiest delight in simply lifting up the atoning Lamb of God before the eyes of our congregations. And nothing else can touch and fire the true believer like the vision of His crucified Saviour.

This was the favorite theme of my beloved old friend Spurgeon, who was the most successful preacher of our times. In his racy and pungent way, he once said to his divinity students: "When you see a preacher making the Gospel of the Cross small by degrees, and miserably less until there is not enough left to make soup for a sick grasshopper—get you gone! As for me, I believe in the colossal—a need as deep as hell, and a grace as high as heaven. I believe in an infinite God, and an infinite atonement—in an infinite love and mercy—and in an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure, of which the substance and reality is an infinite Christ."

I am also fully persuaded that the most effectual antidote to the current skepticism, is to present the incarnate Son of God and with the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit to press His claims. The crucified Saviour is the only cure for infidelity. Brethren in the ministry! cut that truth as with the pen of a diamond on your heart, and on your sermons. No skeptic can out-general you on that ground. If you can get him there, and hold him there, the cross of Christ may conquer him. Exalt the cross! God has hung the destiny of the race upon it. Other things we may do in the realm of ethics, and on the lines of philanthropic reforms; but our main duty converges into setting that one glorious beacon of salvation, Calvary's cross, before the gaze of every immortal soul.—Brooklyn N. Y.

Business.

We have arranged with Rev. J. B. Daggett to do some work for the INTELLIGENCER in this city and vicinity, in collecting overdue subscriptions and in collecting new subscribers. Subscribers in this vicinity who have owed anything to the INTELLIGENCER, will, we trust, be prepared to pay when he calls.

Mission News and Notes.

—For every two Christians in Japan there are five Buddhist temples, to say nothing of Shinto temples—in all, 263,207 houses for idolatrous worship.

—Human sacrifices—hundreds of victims annually—are still offered in some parts of Africa. Cannibalism exists in several places. Gross superstition prevails almost everywhere.

—When the native converts of India go from home the only piece of luggage they carry is the New Testament; and every night upon the hillside, camping out, they will sit in groups reading the precious volume.

—A Hindu lad eighteen years old was baptized in a mission in India. His father, greatly angered, instituted a lawsuit to regain complete control of his boy, declaring that he was a minor. The unique defense adopted was a medical examination, which proved that the young man had cut all his wisdom teeth, and was therefore certainly more than eighteen years old; and so the court decided.

—It is almost impossible to make Hindu converts understand that money they receive from the missionaries as a loan must be repaid. For example, a large number of native farmers recently abandoned their village for a place some miles distant, and said that they were doing it because the missionaries had taken the lands away from them. The fact of the case was that in a time of great distress the missionaries had advanced money to these farmers, receiving their land as security; and when the farmers became able to repay the loan they had refused to do it, whereupon the missionaries hastily asserted their rights in a court of law.

—The priests of Heathen religions are often selfish and cruel. The Brahman priests of India of whom the common people stand in such awe, are well illustrated by the accounts which are given of their conduct during the present time of famine and plague. They are playing upon the fears and religious susceptibilities of the people, and enormous sums of money are spent in these days in sacrifices and offerings to them. Miss Millard, of Bombay, writes: "Through the credulity of the people the priests are reaping rich harvest these days. The 'Bouray' Gazette of December 30th contains the following: 'Pundit Swaroopdas writes to us from Shikarpur, 'I undertake to free Bombay of its plague if goat flesh, fish, and liquor is supplied to me for sacrificial purposes in quantities sufficient to equal, approximately, a day's consumption in Bombay. We further condition that no slaughter of larger animals (meaning of course, cows) should take place on the day the sacrifice is offered. I am ready to leave for Bombay on intimation. I require neither remuneration nor travelling expenses.' No doubt hundreds will be deceived by this man to whom they will give everything he asks." It would be difficult to regard this as anything but an exceptional case were it not in exact accord with the whole history of the Brahman priesthood. They are haughty, selfish, and mercenary. Despising the common people, they do not hesitate to profit by the woes of others.

Home Religious News.

—The Jews of St. John will celebrate the feast of the Passover April 17-24.

—Rev. Thos. Marshall, President of the N. B. and P. E. I. Methodist Conference, is going to England in a few days. His health is not good.

—The Presbyterians of the Maritime Provinces are making an earnest effort to increase their Augmentation fund so as to make the mission salary \$750 and mance. It is a most worthy undertaking.

—Last Sunday was "Children's Day" in the Methodist church in this city. Rev. A. S. Ladd, of Calais, was the preacher, and the services of the day are reported as very interesting.

—Rev. C. Paisley, writing in the 'Wesleyan,' gives the following figures concerning the salaries of Methodist ministers: In Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, P. E. Island and New Brunswick, about 210 ordained ministers are engaged in circuit work. Of this number there are two only who received in 1896, so much as \$1400, only one who received \$1300, thirteen who received \$1000, eighty six who received a minimum of \$650 while the rest received amounts varying between \$400 and \$600, a free house being provided in all cases. Very many of these ministers and especially of those of them who receive the smaller named salaries, have to keep a horse, carriage, sleigh and outfit to do the work of their circuits.

—At the Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting Wednesday, the treasurer reported having received for the

Indian famine fund \$1,900. Miss Mabel Archibald, teacher of modern languages at Denison College, St. Catharines, was accepted, and will be sent to the foreign field. Miss Wright for several years in India is returning in poor health.

The annual report of the Seamen's Mission Society, St. John, just issued shows good work done. It is the work carried on so well for several years by Miss Hutchinson. When she found it necessary to give up the present society, of which Mr. H. C. Tilley, is President, took it up. The mission is non-sectarian and evangelical. The receipts last year were \$2351, and the expenditures \$2310. Such a work deserves the hearty support of Christian people.

Denominational News.

FREDERICTON.—Rev. Mr. Stoerger occupied the pulpit last Sabbath, in the absence of the pastor. The pastor's health is improved, and he expects to return to work in a few days.

ST. JOHN.—At the close of the service in the Waterloo St. church on Sabbath morning last, the pastor administered baptism to three candidates. The meetings have been most interesting. Others are coming to the Lord.

FROM REV. J. NOBLE.—I got home last evening from Stanley. I was there five days, had four meetings, and another appointment that did not get circulated. The people were glad to see me again. The cause is very low. I visited some old friends, going and coming; had a fine drive going, good roads and fine weather; but coming back it was the reverse, snow drifts and bare ground, but I got through and home once more, by the Lord's good care.

J. NOBLE.

FROM REV. D. LONG.—I am glad to learn that the Master is blessing a number of the brethren in special work, and that sinners are being converted. I began to hold meetings at Apohaqui, but was taken sick; I hope to continue later. There has been a great deal of sickness on Millstream in the form of Lagrippe. The religious services are well attended. We are sowing the seed, and praying for the harvest.

I am pleased that the amount asked for by the General Conference has been raised, and that a part of the debt has been paid, and hope in the near future to see an effort made to pay our share of the balance. I believe all who have contributed feel better for so doing.

On Wednesday evening the Lower Millstream Sabbath School held its annual meeting; reports were read by the Secretary and Librarian, which were encouraging, especially as to the regular attendance of teachers and scholars during the past year. The following officers were appointed for the next year: W. G. McLeod, Superintendent; W. D. Fenwick, Asst. Supt.; L. C. Musgrove, secretary; Geo. W. McLeod, Librarian; teachers W. D. Fenwick, C. W. Weyman, J. E. Good, Mrs. M. F. McLeod, Mrs. J. P. McAuley, Mrs. C. W. Weyman, and Mrs. W. G. McLeod.

The collection taken for the India Relief Fund amounted to fifty dollars. W. G. McLeod has been appointed deacon in place of deacon Edward McLeod, deceased.

D. LONG.

FROM REV. W. H. PERRY.—I trust that good was done in the services at Grand Harbour. I can only leave it with God. I have closed the special services, and resumed my regular work, which includes five prayer meetings each week, three preaching services each Sunday, and three conference meetings each month, besides funeral services and other extra calls. This work, with the driving necessary to get to the appointments, over three thousand miles per year, keeps me quite busy. I have much enjoyed the Denominational News department this year; so many of the ministers have received donations, and they have written such nice letters about them that they have been helpful, not only to those who received the donations but to all who have read the INTELLIGENCER. All Free Baptists should read it. I am sorry that so many do not read it. They would be better Christians and consequently better Free Baptists, if they read their denominational paper. I am sure that Thaddeus' letters alone were well worth the price of the paper. Then there is Rev. Joseph Noble, whose travels are reported in the INTELLIGENCER. His letters are so hopeful, so full of interest that a stranger would readily think him a young man. Then, the Free Baptists who do not read the INTELLIGENCER miss my letters too. Of course pure modesty prevents me saying how much they miss. I hope they will all pay for the paper, and then read it.

W. H. PERRY.

April 5th.

CENTRAL SOUTHAMPTON.—The hearts of the people of this place have been made glad by the Pentecostal showers which have fallen upon them during the past few weeks. Heart

have been gladdened, homes have been blessed, and sinners have been reclaimed and brought into the fold of Christ. The church has been made to rejoice and exclaim in the language of the sweet singer of Israel, in the 29th Psalm, "The Lord will give strength unto his people: the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Grand and lofty thoughts should fill us in singing this Psalm, and should also teach us to pay homage to the God of Israel.

The sweet singer never uttered a greater truth, than when he said, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." We rejoice that the people have been led to realize the truth of this text—"The Lord will give strength unto his people." On how much we need this strength in the Christian warfare. Without it we can do nothing—our arms are too short our swords are too dull to cope successfully with the enemy. But sustained by his strong arm, we can face the solid ranks of the enemy, and with renewed vigor put the hosts of sin to flight.

We rejoice that in the last few weeks many volunteers have enlisted to do battle against the enemy. Three weeks ago we commenced special services at this place, also at first, but in a few days was reinforced by Rev. W. J. Halse, from St. John, whose work was very successful. Brother Halse proved to be a very earnest worker and we believe would make a very successful evangelist, and we also believe that many of the pastors who are trying to do all the work themselves would be greatly helped by the assistance of such an ardent and successful evangelical worker as our brother from St. John. Our labours were crowned with great success. The church was in a comparatively low state spiritually, but has been wonderfully revived. Many backsliders were reclaimed, Christians benefited, and we are happy to say that about 25 persons were led to pay homage to their God. Twenty-two have followed their Lord in baptism, nineteen of which have united with the church at this place. The candidates ranged from 10 to 60 years; fathers, mothers and children, alike heeding the glad tidings of joy and enlisting in God's service.

Brother Halse left for home yesterday morning, but we are still continuing the meetings. Our hearts were gladdened last evening in the fact that too young men gave their hearts to God. The meetings will be continued during the remainder of this week, and we expect recruits to the ranks of those who have already followed their Lord in the ordinance of baptism. We can truly say that our hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved. Brethren, pray for us.

C. T. COMBS.

April 9th, 1897.

Acknowledgements.

FROM REV. D. LONG.—Very unexpectedly we were visited, recently, at the parsonage by a number of friends. After spending a pleasant evening, before saying good night, they presented us with a purse of \$45 as an evidence of their good will. For this and many other tokens of their liberality we express our gratitude.

DAVID LONG.

FROM REV. H. A. BONNELL.—Our friends from Westfield, Oak Point and Hamilton Mountain visited our home on Dec. 29 for the purpose of a donation. After spending a very pleasant evening they left us in goods and money, \$35.00 better for their coming. We wish to express our sincere thanks; and may God's blessing attend them.

H. A. BONNELL.

POLITICAL NEWS.—Writs for new elections to the House of Commons have been issued for McDonald and Winnipeg, the two vacant Manitoba constituencies, and for West Prince, P. E. I. Nominations the 20th and polling the 27th.

In the Champlain, Quebec, election Mr. Marcotte, Conservative, was elected Tuesday, majority about 200.

J. E. P. Prendergast, the Roman Catholic representative in the Manitoba Legislature who announced his acceptance of the school settlement and then resigned his seat for St. Boniface, has been appointed a Judge.

On Thursday, in Yarmouth, Jos. W. Wyman and A. A. Pothier were nominated for the Local Legislature by the Conservatives.

When the House of Commons adjourns on Wednesday of this week, it will stand adjourned to Tuesday of next week.

Last Friday the Senate adjourned for a fortnight. They take it easy.

MRS. PORTER.—The death of Mrs. Porter, widow of the late Rev. J. I. Porter for so many years a leading minister of the Nova Scotia Free Baptist Conference, will be heard with regret by many friends. A quiet, unassuming woman, she was the faithful help meet of her husband in all his labour, and a tender and self-sacrificing mother. Her children have the sympathy of the many who knew and loved their now sainted parents.

PERSONAL.—Prof. Davidson, of the U. N. B., has had the degree of Ph. D. conferred on him by Edinburgh University.

PENS.—We have received a box of the Business pens, made for and used in St. John Business College. A box, containing a gross, may be had for \$1.00 by address S. Kerr & Son, St. John.

Parliament.

MONDAY.—Mr. Blair declined to give Mr. Foster any information respecting the proposed grant to the Grand Trunk of a quarter of a million for the improvement of Victoria bridge, Montreal, claiming that the negotiations were not yet concluded.

Sir Charles Tupper asked if the government could not see its way clear to postpone the franchise bill, which was not an immediate necessity, and take up the tariff, which was a pressing matter.

Mr. Davies replied that the government was getting the tariff ready as fast as the ministers could do it. As to the franchise bill, the second reading would be moved tomorrow.

TUESDAY.—The house sat for less than an hour today and did no business.

WEDNESDAY.—Mr. Casey moved the second reading of an act the object of which is to compel railways to carry passengers' bicycles at ordinary baggage free of charge.

Mr. Foster moved the adjournment in order to bring before the House a statement made by the president of the Grand Trunk Railway in London that the government of Canada had agreed to such terms with the company as would enable it to reconstruct and double track Victoria bridge without costing anything to the company.

Mr. Blair said that negotiations were proceeding but were not completed and until they were he was not in a position to lay the facts before Parliament.

Sir Charles Tupper accused the government of having allowed important information to be given to outside parties which was denied to Parliament. He attacked the finance minister for having stated the policy of the government regarding the coal duties to enable the Nova Scotia elections to take place before the fiscal policy of this government was made known.

Mr. Fielding replied at length and declared that the whole history of dealings of the Conservative party with the coal question was one of duplicity and doubtful dealing.

A debate took place on the second reading of a bill to prohibit the employment of aliens under contract, and to prohibit citizens of a foreign country working during the day in Canada and residing in a foreign country at night.

The bill was referred to a special committee.

THURSDAY.—Replying to Mr. Gillies to-day Mr. Fielding said the recent report of his Montreal remarks to the coal men was correct. He said the coal duty must be considered as part of the general tariff policy of Canada and not by itself alone.

The afternoon was devoted to Charlton's Sunday bill, which deals with Sunday newspapers and Sunday trains and got a second reading; and Mr. McLennan's bill providing for reduced return fare with second class as well as first class tickets.

Premier Laurier did not approve of Mr. McLennan's programme for compelling railways to reduce the price of return tickets or to issue return tickets to all.

The estimates, brought down today, are the first instalments of the proposed expenditure for the next fiscal year. How much is left for the supplementaries cannot yet be known, but the house is now asked to appropriate \$38,111,663 for the current expenditure.

FRIDAY.—The first motion this session in condemnation of the ministry was proposed by Mr. Foster, in amendment to the second reading of the Franchise bill. He protested against the introduction of the least important part of the government programme, while the one measure for which the country was waiting was postponed. The ministers themselves had declared the most important measure for which the country was waiting was the tariff. The Monetary Times and other financial journals were publishing instances of the financial and industrial failure through tariff uncertainty. One session has passed without anything being done, and now after three weeks it was passed over in favor of measures which would be idle on the statute books for three years. There were no reasons why the franchise bill should now be taken up. The business demanded the tariff.

Mr. Foster spoke at considerable length, and moved that the consideration of the franchise be deferred until the tariff bill has been disposed of by this house.

Marriages.

STAIRS.—At Woodstock, on the 6th April, by Rev. C. T. Phillips, Ervine W. Stairs and Estella M. Fox, both of Thompson's Vale, York Co.

SUNDER-FOVER.—At the Free Church of Scotland, Calcutta, on the 1st, March, 1897, by the Rev. D. Reid E. L. Suncer, Capt. C. E. Suncer, of the Indian Medical Service, Fampore, Bengal, to Clara I. Boyer, of Woodstock, N. B.

Deaths.

PORTER.—Mrs J. I. Porter died at Barrington N. S. on March 23rd. The deceased was the widow of the late Rev. J. I. Porter. On February 26th her arm was broken by the upsetting of a sleigh. The shock seemed to impair her health, but it was thought she would in time recover. Her death was sudden and unexpected, due to heart failure, caused perhaps by internal injuries received at the time of the accident. She loved her Saviour, and was strongly attached to the denomination to which the life of her husband was devoted, sharing with him the joys and trials of the Christian ministry.

MCKENZIE.—At Centerville C. Co., April 2nd, after a long illness, Samuel A. McKenzie, aged 59 years. When a young man he professed faith in Christ and united with the Free Baptist church, of which he remained a member until death. The deceased was a brother of the late Rev. John McKenzie. As the end approached he was blessedly conscious that a loving father had kept him, had been his support, his hope and joy during all his journey. In death he was calm and triumphant. By his removal the community has lost a strong advocate of the temperance cause, and a good man, his acquaint-

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ances a true friend, and his family an affectionate husband and father. Five children and a widow are left to mourn their loss.

KENT.—At Seal Cove Grand Manan, April the 4th, of hasty consumption, Walter Kent, aged 24 years, son of Oliver Kent of Gannet Rock Light. He died at the home of his brother, Lester Kent, where every thing that could be done was done for his comfort. Funeral services by the writer.

W. H. PERRY.

BROWN.—In Blaine, Me., of consumption of the bowels, Mrs. Florence Brown, wife of Bruce Brown and daughter of Mr. A. D. King. She was a great sufferer, but through it all she had great peace in her "saviour," whom she had loved and served for the greater part of her life. She was a member of the Free Baptist Church in Blaine, and had taught a class in the Sabbath School as long as she could attend. She will be much missed by all. Her funeral was at the Free Baptist church in Blaine, which was filled. The W. C. T. U. marched in body with the mourners. The funeral was attended by Rev. G. G. Haynes. Text I. 23.8.

SETTLETON.—At Lancaster St. John Co. after a tedious sickness, Frank Bettinson, aged 31 years. Three months before his father died very suddenly. Mrs. Bettinson whose maiden name was Oram, is crushed under this double bereavement. May the Lord support her.

GOSLINE.—Deacon Hugh J. Gosline, entered his final rest, at the home of his son-in-law Rev. H. A. Bonnell, at Brown's Flat, Gr. ewich, K. Co., on the 3rd April, at the advanced age of 82 years. Bro. Gosline, was senior deacon of the Corn Hill Free Baptist church, but for several years has lived with his son, Hartley, in Carleton. I am full he went to visit and spend the winter with his daughter; while there he took ill, and, after one week's confinement to his room, peacefully passed to the saints rest. The Carleton church highly appreciated him and greatly enjoyed his humble spiritual exercises in the social services. He was a godly spirited brother. As like attracts like, he longed for and enjoyed godly associations, frequently saying "I am a companion of them that fear the Lord." He enjoyed having old and well known truths reduced to practice in his experience. One of his favorite texts was, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint." The remains were brought to Carleton and buried from his sons home, in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Services conducted by the writer.

G. A. H.

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