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On Current Events.

George Kirkpatrick, ex Governor of Ontario, died in Toronto, on Wednesday. He had been in failing health for two or three years. He was still a man, having been born in 1817. He was active in political life for many years, having been a member of the House of Commons for twenty-two years, of which body he was speaker from 1883 to 1887. His last office as Governor was from 1892 to 1895, since which time he had no part in public affairs, owing to poor health. He was a man of fine abilities, and very popular.

General Garibaldi, son of the great Italian Liberator, expresses his sympathy with England in the present war, and adds: "I could not forget on my own account what father often said, namely, that the political, moral, and material intervention of the English nation in Italy could probably never have been accomplished. It is not, perhaps, to remember, also, in times comparatively recent, that the military intervention of England in Italy from a possible catastrophe."

English has begun to be the language of diplomacy. For many generations French language has held the place, and treaties have been written in French. The new commercial treaty between Mexico and China is written in English, which fact, doubtless, marks the beginning of the end of the use of French for such purposes.

The temperance people of Westmorland Co. had a convention on Wednesday last to organize for the better enforcement of the Scott Act. An executive committee representing the various sections of the county was appointed to have general charge of the work, and committees will be formed in the several parishes to co-operate with the executive and Inspector McCall in prosecutions. There is a purpose to push enforcement vigorously.

The Irish members of the British Parliament who have made such distinguished speeches lately, have done more to the Home Rule for Ireland movement than can be undone in many years.

The Quakers of Philadelphia are sending supplies to the Donkshobos in the Northwest. They will, probably, all they are receiving before the winter is ended. They appear to be doing very well, but their first year is necessarily, one of struggle and hardship.

The man Davis who was arrested a short time ago in Boston charged with being one of a gang of counterfeiters who were planning to flood Canada with counterfeit \$2.00 bills, pleaded guilty on Wednesday, and was sentenced to four years in the State Prison.

A bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in Georgia passed the house of representatives, but failed to get a majority in the Senate. The larger part of Georgia is already under prohibition by local option. The whole state will fall into line some day.

An international anti-alcohol congress is to be held in Paris in April next. France is calling the congress, and which for many generations has been held up as an example of the benefits of the free use of light wines, now suffering the penalty of the law of creating in the people an appetite for intoxicants. The curse of alcoholism is on the nation, so much so that the government is moved to make an attempt to discover a remedy. Hence the congress.

The Provincial Board of Education, at its last meeting, ordered that the school day prior to the 24th of May in each year be observed as Emancipation Day. Special exercises of a patriotic nature are to be carried out in the schools. The idea is a good one. Perhaps if more attention is turned, and given to inculcating the spirit of patriotism there may sometime be less of the mean and treasonable spirit which now characterizes a certain class of citizens; or, if not less of it, a readiness to deal strongly with the miserable creatures who are guilty of the crime of treason.

The War and its Incidents.

The last issue of this paper told of a British reverse, wherein General Gatacre's command was led into an ambush and suffered severely. Full particulars of that disaster are not yet given to the public. Yet it would seem that the British loss was not nearly so great as was at first supposed.

But following close upon the heels of Gatacre's check, came the news that General Methuen had fought the hardest and bloodiest battle of the war and had been unable to dislodge the Boers from their impregnable hill entrenchments. This engagement of General Methuen at Magersfontein has been called a defeat. It was a check in as much as the British were not able to move forward after the action, but it was not a defeat since General Methuen did not retire, but retained the same encampment from which his men went out to do battle. In the two previous engagements of General Methuen he had dislodged the Boers and kept on toward Kimberley. This time his advance is checked, but for how long yet remains to be seen. The finest regiments in the service gave up their bravest and best in vain that day at Magersfontein. The 42nd Highlanders who have carved their famous name, the Black Watch, over all the world, suffered the most severely. The bravest annals of the regiment can show nothing more sublime than the heroism of that charge against an unseen foe, who occupied rocky heights in overwhelming numbers.

Heroism was useless. Forty-two officers of this corp fell in the sleet of bullets poured down the sides of those African hills. And of the men, the day after the battle only 160 answered the roll call. The Boer loss was said to be very large. Boer prisoners say that whole companies were completely wiped out.

The hurt feeling that followed the news of this battle was soothed by a report that Buller had relieved Ladysmith and captured thousands of Boers.

But the story proved to be false and the news down was not pleasant. And worse news was still to come. Saturday morning brought the word that Buller too, Buller in whom the reliance of the Empire was placed, had met his reverse. In attempting to force a passage of the Tugela river at Colenso his artillery fell into an ambush and in a moment men and horses were down, and it was necessary to abandon eleven big guns. Three of these were afterwards rescued but the loss is very severe. It would seem at this distance that Col. Long, who commanded the artillery pressed too eagerly forward to get his guns in the best range, and fell into a trap. Too much heroism and too little caution appear to be the faults to be corrected. It is the British dash that laughs at death, which so often has turned a forlorn hope into victory that here proved disastrous.

There is quite a general disposition to criticize these generals who have had reverses. The critics are usually men who have no knowledge of military matters. Unthinking men had to light an opinion of the war at the outset. It must be remembered that South Africa is a country most easy of defence; that the Boers occupy all the strong positions; that they know their own country and make use of every natural advantage that even in Natal and Cape Colony there are thousands of Boers ready by treachery to bring destruction to British arms; that for fourteen years the Boer republic, so called, has been preparing for this very war, which when they were fully ready, they forced upon Britain; that there are from eighty to one hundred thousand Boers in the field armed with the most modern equipment and under the command of the best trained officers of Germany and France. Before we criticize our officers, let us recall that we are a long distance from the seat of war, and have neither the information nor the necessary military knowledge to offer a fair criticism. It is fair also to put down this, that these men, Buller, Methuen and Gatacre, have on many a hard fought day gathered the laurels of victory and laid them at the feet of the Empire.

There is no weakness in the world wide Empire. There is the stubborn determination to carry this war to the end. The prestige of the Empire must be maintained. In every hamlet village and town on the island home, mothers will mourn for sons, and wives for husbands, for a great something more than they will ever fully understand, and not only in the home land, but in the greater Britain all around the world there are boys, who only need the opportunity to prove that they too are of the lions' brood, ready to die if need be, for that mysterious love, which we call patriotism. New South Wales has offered a second contingent and it has

been accepted. Canada must not be found wanting. Let a contingent be offered at once.

Monday morning's despatches state that owing to the fact that Lord Buller will find his attention fully occupied in Natal, that General Lord Roberts, the darling of the British army, is appointed commander-in-chief in South Africa with General Kitchener of Khartoum as his chief of staff.

General Roberts has already given the life of his only son in this war. Lieut Roberts was killed at the Tugela river fight, after gallantry so conspicuous that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross. And the hero of Khartoum at 68 years of age goes to fight the battles of the Empire with a heart heavy with a proud grief in the loss of such a son.

POLITICAL NEWS.—Four by-elections for the Provincial Legislature occurred in Ontario on Tuesday of last week. Two were won by the Liberals, and two by the Conservatives—a gain of one seat for the latter.

Besides the six vacant Senatorships, there are it is said, three Ontario Senators in such poor health that they are not likely again to take their seats in the Senate.

Two by-elections were held in P. E. Island last Wednesday. Conservatives were elected in both, one of the defeated candidates being the Attorney General. The Legislature is now evenly divided between the parties. In 1897 the government had the support of about two-thirds of the House. It is intimated that, as neither party can carry on the government of the Province, there may be a general election.

Denominational News.

Chebogue, N. S.—One member, the oldest son of the pastor, was added to the Chebogue church Dec. 10, by baptism.

E. C.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.—The pastor of the Brooklyn, N. S., Free Baptist church acknowledges, with thanks, the friendly visit and donation of Nov. 23rd, made by about fifty members of the church and congregation.

EDWIN CROWELL.

HIBERNIA, Q. Co.—The interest in the meetings at Hibernia continues. On Sunday, the 10th, three believers in Jesus followed Him in baptism. It was a beautiful day, and large congregations gathered at the church and at the water to witness this impressive ordinance. The special services are being continued this week. Others are coming to Jesus, and we expect to have baptism soon again. May the work of the Lord continue, and may Jesus be glorified in the strengthening of the things that remain, in the reclaiming of wanderers and the salvation of the lost. Brethren, pray for us.

W. H. PERRY.

Dec. 12th, '99.

HOME MISSION REPORT.—I suppose that the people are beginning to look for some news concerning our Home Missionary. Rev. G. Swim. Bro. Swim has been at work under the direction of the Board for one month. His first mission was at Upper Gagetown; but, owing to the absence of many of the people in the woods and a very severe snow storm, it was thought best to leave the work there until a later date. We trust his short visit to them was helpful to the interest at that place. He was there five days, preached three times, visited eleven families and collected \$2. He next visited Wilson's Beach, Campo Bello, and was there nearly three weeks. He reports many of the people indifferent. Yet he had large congregations, and a deep interest was manifested on the part of many people. The meetings did not result in any additions to the church, but did result in great good to the church; backsliders have been reclaimed and the spiritual life quickened. In his work there, he preached 17 sermons, attended one conference meeting, administered the Lords Supper once, visited a large number of families, in all of which he had prayer, and he received from the people in support of his mission the sum of \$43.56. He is now in Sunbury Co. for a short time, after which he goes to Beaver Harbour.

L. A. FENWICK.

Oct. S. C. H. M. E. X.

Victoria, Dec. 14, 1899.

MINISTERS.—Rev. Gideon Swim, the missionary of the Home Mission Executive, has been at Campo Bello. He writes that the meetings were very helpful. He is to assist Rev. C. B. Lewis in local meetings at Oroville, and perhaps at other points of the district.

Rev. N. Barnes wishes to send a message of the fact that in P. O. address is Cross Creek, York Co.

Denominational Notices.

HOME MISSION FUND.

Rec'd from
Treas. Board of Manager, \$ 27.00
From General Conference, 200.00
Half Coll. Miss. Meeting, 6.55
J. W. CLARKE,
Treasurer.

Woodstock,
Dec. 14, 1899.

SECRETARIAL FUND.

Rec'd from
Colonel Vince, \$25.00
J. W. CLARKE,
Treasurer.

Woodstock,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

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Marriages.

CRAFT SAUNDERSON.—On the 12th inst., at the minister's residence, Carleton, by Rev. G. A. Bartley, D. D., Henry W. Craft and Miss Katie Maud Saunderson, both of St. John, West.

BROWN-BEVERIDGE.—At Fort Fairfield, Me., by Rev. M. Colpitts, Murdoch M. Brown, of Sisson Ridge, V. Co., and Miss Jessie Beveridge, formerly of Edinburgh, Scotland.

CORCORAN-BELYEA.—On Dec. 13th, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. David Patterson, John E. Corcoran to Hannah M. Belyea, daughter of Charles L. Belyea, all of Johnston, Queens Co.

MARSHALL EARLE.—At the Free Baptist parsonage, St. John, N. B., on Dec. 7th, by Rev. David Long, William Marshall, of Bellisle Bay, K. Co., to Myrtle Earle, of Kingston, K. C.

Deaths.

BROWN.—At Arthurette, V. Co., on the 8th Nov., John A., infant son of George E. and Araxinta Brown, aged 3 months. "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

E. C.

SCHRIEVER.—On the 13th inst. John R. Schriever of Southampton, York Co., aged 24 years. The deceased was an excellent young man, a devoted Christian and a loyal member of the Free Baptist church. His father, mother and two brothers survive him, and with other relatives deeply mourn. Our late brother rests in peace with God. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. W. Clarke.

MACINTYRE.—On Dec. 8th, William MacIntyre, a member of the Free Baptist church at Onabog, leaving a sorrowing widow and a large number of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. Funeral services by the writer.

W. H. PERRY.

CRAWFORD.—At Mill Settlement, Sun. Co., Dec. 3rd, Elizabeth R. Crawford, aged 20 years. She leaves a husband, eight children, three brothers and three sisters to mourn their loss. May the God of all grace sustain them.

O. N. M.

SMITH.—At St. George, N. B., Dec. 6th, Josiah Smith, aged 34, of Sanford, N. S. Prother Smith was a member of the Sanford Free Baptist church, and in his death his brethren are sensible of a great loss. His parents, brothers and sisters, and three little children are deeply afflicted. Bro. Smith had been ashore from the vessel in which he sailed, with Capt. Shaw, and returning in the night, fell over the wharf and was instantly killed. The burial took place at Sanford on the 11th inst., the pastor being assisted by Rev. J. K. West and Rev. Mr. Hillyard.

E. CROWELL.

CORNING.—The rest of God came to Aithia (Aithia) Corning, dearly loved wife of bro. Adolphus Corning, on Tuesday evening Nov. 14th, after a fortnight of severe pain. Such agony at times so great that no opiates could still it; and such bravery to meet it! Unselfish in her sickness, thinking to the last of every one, her mother heart yearned for the children so early left, for the presence of her absent newborn son, she prayed to be spared a



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little longer, if it were God's will, to see him; the wifely heart tried to comfort her beloved grief-stricken husband, who left nothing untried to keep her with us. An operation for appendicitis was performed, but the faithful attendant found it too late, blood poisoning having set in. She roused herself from stupor to urge on all especially her friends to urge on all God, and to meet an unbroken family circle in Heaven. She took her dear baby girl, over and over she taught her to say "Mama is going to heaven" in response to her question, "Where is mama going?" she said, "Yes, I shall soon sing 'Host of the angels.' She heard beautiful music and strained her ears to listen. The word she saw written in beautiful letters was 'kindness,' and it can truly be said that was the keynote of our sister's life. Well did Ruskin say, 'Wherever a true wife comes home is always around her. The stars may be over her head the glow-worm at her feet, but home is where she is; and for a noble woman it stretches far around her—better than houses ceiled with cedar or painted with vermilion, shedding its quiet light for those who else are homeless. This is a woman's true place and power. Many young people will bear testimony to the home feeling experienced in her cheerful home and society. The church has lost a faithful worker, the pastor and his wife a warm true friend, society generally a favorite. The sweet voice has left, our choir to join 'the choir invisible.' The death angel 'Azrael' is a great tester

of character. She was not found wanting. A strong brave loving unselfish soul went out to God from among us, and the whole community mourns. The summer seemed so sudden and she was so busy, but 'Thou hast all seasons for thy own, O Death.' Rather let us think, 'The Lord came at noonday and looked in the tired eyes.' In the words of the children's hymn, she went 'home at evening and found it morning there.' A tearful congregation listened to the sermon preached from the words, 'Be ye also ready,' by her pastor, Rev. Edwin Crowell. Rev. Messrs. West and Wilson (Baptist) assisted in the services.

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