

Signs of Declension.

Aversion from reproof marks a state of religious decline. The man cannot bear to have his state depicted, even in the pulpit. He calls the preaching, which searches and detects him, Arminian and legal. "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?" Why should he quarrel with the truth? If that truth is delivered in its just proportions, his quarrel is with God!

Stupidity under chastisement proves a man to be under declension. He is not disposed to ask, "Wherefore dost thou contend with me?" He is kicking against the pricks. He is stricken, but has not grieved. He is chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke.

Such a man, too, has often a high mind. He is unhumiliated—boasting—stout-hearted. He is ready to censure every one but himself.

Unnecessary occupation is another evidence of declension. Some men are unavoidably much engaged in the world. To such men God will give especial grace, if they seek it; and they shall maintain a spirit of devotion even in the bustle and occupation of their affairs. But some men will be rich, and therefore fall into temptation and a snare; they will have shops in different parts of the town; they say they do not feel this affect their religious state; but I cannot believe them; a man is declined from God before he enters on such schemes; a spiritual and devout man will generally find the business in which he is already engaged a sufficient snare.

In short, the symptoms may be this or that, but the disease is a dead palsy. Ephraim!—he hath mixed himself among the people. Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not; yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth it not.—Cecil.

THE PAINTER THREW DOWN HIS PENCIL.—One of the most celebrated Italian artists was employed in painting the last supper of our Lord. One by one he studied the characters of the apostles, and then settled in his own mind, and painted on canvas a form and countenance in which any beholder might see that character expressed. He then applied himself to the character of our Saviour. He studied the attributes of his mind and heart. He sought all the stores of his own inventive fancy for a combination of features and complexion which should express these attributes—the conscious power, the wisdom, the holiness, the love, the mercy, the meekness, the patience, the whole character of the divine Redeemer. He sought long, intensely, but in vain. Every countenance he could imagine, fell evidently far below; and at last he threw down his pencil in despair, declaring that "the face of Christ could not be painted." He did not doubt his own ability to fix distinctly on that canvass any imaginary face; but he had learned that no countenance can express the attributes of the Deity, and that whoever should father his idea of the character of Christ from any visible representation of him must of necessity be misled. Whether he made that application of his discovery or not, he had discovered the truth which is the ground of the commandment forbidding us to worship any image or any likeness of any created thing.

Fredericka Bremer says "the coquette expresses herself by caresses and bold freedom. She is determined to charm, cost what it will; and, passing over the lines of beauty; defying the good and the appropriate, she passes into the world of the senses; and, employing all empty ornaments, she loses successively her power, her charms, the respect of true men, and her own peace of mind; and beauty's holy heaven closes its door against her. An elevated desire to please may pass into coquetry, but do we not see every where in life that the white may become gray, and the gray continually darker, until the color of innocence is entirely obscured by the black? Yet is the white still there, and may lie next the black in stainless purity just as truth may beam brightly beside the darkness of falsehood. There is an innocent and lovely desire of pleasing; would that every woman possessed it, and would despise its caricature."

There is quite a controversy in the Halifax papers, respecting the value of 1000 feet of Gas. The Nova Scotian, after making some calculations on the subject, and comparing the average price charged in the principal towns of England and Scotland, finds that there is a net difference of 10s. 2 1/2d. in favour of the Halifax Gas Company. This difference is very great, and if the calculation of the Nova Scotian be correct, calls loudly for a reduction in price. (The calculation shows that the average price of gas in England and Scotland is equal to 7s. 9 1/2d. of our currency, per 1000 feet; this compared with the price charged by our Gas Company shows a difference of 9s. 8 1/2d. in their favour.) Is this so? If the answer be in the affirmative, are our citizens not imposed upon?—Mail.

Judge Haliburton, of Nova Scotia, has thrown out a suggestion, of much importance, and which is deserving of adoption in this Province. It is his opinion that Jurymen are poorly paid, and that petit Jurors should be paid at the same rate as special Jurors. He suggests that all fines imposed on Jurymen should go to form a fund, to be appropriated to their remuneration. This proposition ought to be agitated in this city, where the time of our business men is so valuable.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

New York, Tuesday, Dec. 7.—4 o'clock, P. M.

The Pony Express, has again arrived at Petersburg, from New Orleans with later intelligence from Mexico.

Accounts have been received from New Orleans up to the 29th ult., from the Brazos to the 20th ult., and from Vera Cruz to the 21st ult. Detachments of American troops, had been operating most successfully against the Guerrillas and also against the Indians in the valley of the Rio Grande.

Gen. Taylor had arrived at Matamoras from Monterey, and was waiting there for a reply to the Government to the application which he had urged to it for leave of absence.

General Santa Anna has been attempting to regain the presidency, on the plea that his resignation not having been accepted, he is still the legal and constitutional Executive of Mexico.—Times.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

The New Orleans Delta of Nov. 27th, says: "Gen. Scott has submitted his views in full to the President, and has suggested for the consideration of the Government, three modes of settling our difficulties with Mexico."

1st. To hold the city of Mexico, and the other chief cities of the Republic; to take possession of the mines and public lands, and from them, as well as other sources of revenue, to raise the means of paying the expenses of the war, and at the same time to occupy all the ports and seaboard, and collect the imports on all articles introduced into Mexico from foreign countries, until the expenses of the war are defrayed and an honourable peace is concluded.

2dly. To occupy and hold a certain line, in the manner suggested by General Taylor, Mr. Calhoun and others.

3dly. To occupy the whole country under martial law, until peace is concluded.

GEN. TAYLOR IN NEW ORLEANS—ARRIVAL FROM TEXAS.—The grand reception of Major General Taylor took place in New Orleans on the 3rd inst. It was magnificent and enthusiastic. When he landed the Mayor invited him to become the guest of the city. General Taylor briefly, and appropriately replied. He then proceeded to the Cathedral. Bishop Blane appropriately addressed him; he made a suitable reply.—N. Y. Tribune.

MULTUM IN PARVO.—The New Evening Morning Journal, in a series of comments upon Polk's last Executive Message, describes the character of one portion of that beautiful document in the following summary style:

"The whole discussion in his message, of the inception and progress of the Mexican war, is, according to our principles, wholly and positively false. The statement is false that he pursued a policy of peace—that Mexico provoked the war—that she first invaded our territory—that the first blood was shed on our soil—that the Whigs (for that is what the President means by the word Congress, in this connection) meant to say, war existed by the act of Mexico—that Mexico rejected a proper sort of Commissioner—that the acts and appropriations of Congress, show that Congress intended to take and possess territory—in short nearly every position and assumption taken by the President on this wholesale murdering series of events now in process of transpiring is false. As said before, some of the assumptions are so gross that they seem impudent. What the President needed for his argument, he took; thinking, it would seem, like many another man in a wrong cause, that 'a lie well stuck to is as good as a truth.'"

BRITISH MOVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—We understand that the British Government, under certain pretext, has seized upon San Juan de Nicaragua, a town situated at the mouth of the river Nicaragua, which flows from the lake of that name, into the Atlantic. This town is claimed by the Government of Guatemala, in opposition to the British. It is alleged that this act of the British Government in that quarter of the world may have been precipitated by the possession of the capital of Mexico by the victorious armies of the United States. At all events, the authorities of Guatemala, or Central America, have entered into an interesting correspondence with our Government at Washington, upon this subject, and we have every reason to believe that the American Government is determined to stand firmly upon the ground taken by Mr. Monroe in his Message of 1823, and subsequently reiterated by Mr. Polk, not to permit any European government to make any more colonial settlements upon this continent.—N. Y. Herald.

DEATH OF CHANCELLOR KENT OF NEW YORK.—It is our painful duty, says the New York Express, to announce the death of the venerable Chancellor James Kent, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. This exemplary Jurist was favoured with almost unexampled good health, until within the last year. Less than twelve months since he was one of the pall-bearers of his friend Theodore Dwight, and was as erect and active as a man of fifty. His mind, and great flow of spirits, continued up to the time of his recent illness.—Boston Star.

"I fear," said a country pastor to his flock, "when I told you in my last sermon that philanthropy was the love of our species, you must have understood me to say specie, which may account for the smallness of your contributions! You will prove, I hope in your contribution to-day that you are no longer laboring under the same mistake."

COMMERCIAL.

Saint John Wholesale Prices Current.

Corrected Weekly, by the Chamber of Commerce, for The Albion.

SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY, DEC. 18.	
Anchors, cwt.	30 @ 35
Chain cables, cwt.	25 @ 35
Bacon, fresh, lb.	8 @
Barley, pot, cwt.	20 @ 25
"pearl" (scarce)	30 @ 32 6
Bread, pilot, bbl.	20 @ 22 6
"fine,	21 3 @
"navy,	20 @
"St. John, cwt.	20 @
"pilot,	22 6 @ 25
Beef, mess, } in bond, bbl.	60 @ 65
"prime,	50 @ 55
"fresh, lb.	3 @ 4
Butter, firkin, lb.	10 @ 11
"roll,	1 @
Candles, London sperm, lb.	2 @ 6
"wax, lb.	2 @ 13
"tallow, lb.	10 1/2 @
"American sperm, lb.	1 6 @ 1 9
"wax, lb.	2 3 @
St. John moulds, lb.	8 1/2 @ 9
"dipts, lb.	7 1/2 @ 8
Canvass, No. 1, Gourcock, yd.	18 @ 1 8 1/2
"each No. down, id less.	
"No. 1, Navy,	1 5 @ 1 6
"each No. down, id less.	
"No. 1, Brown, do.	1 @ 1 1/2
Cheese, American, lb.	6 @ 8
Coal, Orrel, & chald.	22 6 @ 25
"Scottish,	15 @ 17 9
"Common English,	17 6 @ 20
Coffee, St. Domingo, lb.	6 @
"Laguayra, and Java, lb.	7 @ 10
"Mocha, lb.	1 3 @
Cordage, tarred, cwt.	55 @ 57 6
"white, Manila, cwt.	62 6 @ 65
Cotton Warp, bundle, grey, } scarce, 4 1/2 @ 4 6	
"Indigo blue, } do.	4 6 @ 5
Copper, bar and bolt, lb.	8 @ 1 1/2
Composition Nails, lb.	1 1/2 @ 1 3/4
Dye-wood, logwood, cwt.	4 6 @ 5 6
Flour, Genesee, bbl.	40 @ 41 3
"Philadelphia,	39 @
Mill, superfine, do.	35 0 @ 36 3/4
"Rye, do.	30 @ 31 3/4
"Corn Meal,	22 6 @ 23 9
"Oatmeal, cwt.	22 6 @ 25
Fish, Herrings, pickled, bbl.	13 9 @ 15
"Gasperaux, do.	16 3 @ 17 6
"Dry Cod, cwt.	13 9 @ 15
"Pollock, & gnd.	7 6 @
"Shad, do.	20 @ 40
Fruit, Raisins, bloom, box.	20 @
"Muscatel, box.	12 @
"Oranges, box.	1 @
Hay, ton,	60 @ 80
Iron, common, cwt.	15 @ 16 6
"refined, cwt.	17 6 @ 20 1/2
"nails, lb.	2 1/2 @ 4
"spikes, cwt.	23 9 @ 26 3
Indigo, lb.	3 @ 6
Lumber, bathwood, cord	9 1/2 @ 20 1/2
"boards, clear, gang sawed, #120	6 @
"merchantable,	50 @
"ship refuse or W. In. g. sawed	5 @ 60
"spruce flooring,	45 @
"scantling,	30 @
"refuse, & M. ft. deal measure, all	25 @
"round, for bright,	90 @
"for dark,	75 @
"staves, ash, 1200 pieces,	80 @
"hardwood,	50 @ 60
Molasses, Claved, gal.	1 5 @ 1 6
"Muscovado, do.	1 7 @ 1 10
Oils, Porpoise, gal.	3 @
"Lard Seal, gal.	3 2 @
"Lined, raw, gal.	3 2 @
"boiled, gal.	3 4 @ 3 6
"Refined Whale, gal.	3 6 @ 3 9
"S. Elephant, gal.	4 @ 4 6
"Lard, gal.	4 @ 4 6
Pork, duty 6s 9d @ 7s 6 bbl.	
"mess, in bond,	90 @
"prime, in bond,	65 @ 70
Potatoes, bush.	4 @
Rice, cwt.	28 9 @ 30
Salt, in store, bush.	10 @
"fine in bags,	5 @ 5 6
Soap, Liverpool, common, lb.	3 1/2 @ 3 3/4
"brown, lb.	5 @
Sugar, bright, cwt. [duty paid]	38 9 @ 40
"loaf, lb.	8 @ 8 1/2
Tar, bbl. (Wilmington)	15 @ 16 3
"coal, bbl.	15 @ 17 6
"pitch,	10 @
Timber, White Pine, no sales.	
Red Pine, do.	7 6 @ 10
Teas, Congo, common, lb.	1 1/4 @ 1 6
"fine, lb.	1 8 @ 2 3
"Fine Souchong, lb.	3 6 @ 5

EXCHANGE.

Sterling Bills—Bank (none to be had.)
Drafts on New York, 30 days.
Boston, do.
Halifax, do.

MARKETS.

HALIFAX MARKETS, DECEMBER 18.
Provisions.—Flour, Am. 38s. Canada 37s. 6d., Rye 31s. 3d.; Cornmeal, 21s. a 22s. 6d.; Oatmeal, 17s. 6d. per cwt.; Bread, Pilot 27s. 6d. Navy No. 1, 25s. No. 2, 22s. 6d. Nova Scotia 27s. 6d. per cwt.; Rice, 21s. a 32s. per cwt.; Pork, prime, No. 8, 60s. a 65s. Cargo 50s. Am. prime in bond 65s.; Beef No. 8, 33s. 9d. a 35s. Cargo 27s. 6d.; Butter 9d. a 9 1/2d.; Potatoes 2s. 6d. per bushel.

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.—Sugar 35s. 6d. a 37s. 6d. duty paid—sales at auction 33s. a 33s. 9d.; Molasses Porto Rico 1s. 7d., Matanzas 1s. 5d. a 1s. 6d.

FISH.—Dry fish, 13s. a 13s. 9d. per qt.; Mackerel, No. 1, 33s. 6d., No. 2, 21s. 3d. a 22s.; No. 3, 17s. 6d. a 18s. 6d.; Herrings, No. 1, 14 a 15s.

LUMBER, &c.—Pine Boards, 50s. a 55s. per M.; Spruce Boards, 40s.; Hemlock, 25s. a 27s. 6d.; Staves, Oak, 40s., Ash, 37s. 6d.

OILS.—Cod 1s. 6d.; Dog 1s. 5d.; Pale Seal 2s. 9d. a 2s. 10d.

PROVISIONS.—Oats, 2s. 6d. a 2s. 7d.; Hay, 7s.

BOSTON, Dec. 13.—Flour—Genesee, common brands, is quick at \$6.38; Ohio and Michigan, \$6.18; a \$6.25, cash.

Grain.—Sales of yellow flat at 81 a 83c; round yellow at 82c; white and western mixed, 77 a 78c. Northern oats, 55c; Eastern do, 52c cash.

Cotton.—Sales in lots to spinners as wanted for immediate use, without change in prices.

Provisions.—Prime Pork is selling to the trade at \$11; Mess, \$14, and superior quality \$14.50 a \$15; Clear \$18 per bbl. Lard, in kegs 10c; do. in bbls. 8 1/2 a 9c per lb. 4 mos.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—Flour—Fancy and choice brands are selling at \$6.62 a \$7. Wheat is dull. Corn is selling for 75c. in store; a parcel of new Corn sold at 68c, and another parcel to arrive, at 70c.

Sugar.—a quantity of New Orleans new crop sold at auction at 4 a 4 1/2c per lb.

NOTICES.

We promised in our last a more extended obituary of Dea. Thomas Pettingill for this week, but as his funeral sermon has been deferred till next Sabbath evening, when it will be delivered by his Pastor, Rev. S. Robinson, at his meeting house, the obituary will be deferred another week. It was gratifying to witness the great concourse who attended the funeral exercises, and followed the remains of this devoted disciple of Christ to their resting-place.

A course of religious meetings for the evening of the present week are in progress at the Vestry of the 1st Baptist Church of this city. We were present on Monday evening, and found it good to be there. The recent Providences of God, by which several of the most diligent members of that Church have been called home, present a loud call to those who remain; it appears to be so considered by many of them, and it is to be hoped they may be blessed in connection with the sanctuary privileges with which they are so richly favoured, in reviving the work of God. The season of Monday evening promised much good, which we hope to see realized there, and participated in by all the churches in this vicinity, where a revival is so much needed, to call into exercise the gifts and graces of Christians, and for the conversion of the multitudes who are living without hope, and amongst whom death is making so frequent ravages. "O Lord, revive thy work!"

We are happy to learn that Bro. Todd's acceptable services at the new Chapel, corner of Pitt and Morris streets, attract a good congregation. Seats are all free, and Ministers and strangers will be welcome hearers. Regular hours of public worship, 3 o'clock, P. M., and half-past 7 in the evening.

HYMENIAL.

On the 19th inst., by the Rev. Robert Irvine, John, second son of John Hunter, Esq., M. D., formerly of Litterkenny, Ireland, to Louisa, eldest daughter of the late Lionel Anderson, Esq., of this city.

At Yarmouth, on the 2nd instant, by the Rev. J. T. Moody, Mr. George Hughes, of St. John, N. B., to Mrs. D. Halstead, of Yarmouth, N. S.

On Thursday evening, by the Rev. Samuel Robinson, Mr. Thomas Clark, of this city, to Miss Hannah, eldest daughter of Mr. William Wilson, of the Parish of Lancaster.

Same evening, by the same, Mr. Richard Stackhouse, to Miss Adelaide Eliza Armstrong, cloth of the parish of Portland.

OBITUARY.

On Friday afternoon, of Indian Town, Mary, relict of the late Mr. Robert Robertson, sen., aged 56 years.

At New York, on Thursday morning, 9th inst., after a lingering illness, Charlotte Mary, wife of George W. Potter, formerly of this City, aged 40 years.

On Tuesday evening, after a lingering illness, Mr. Henry McCollough, in the 53rd year of his age, a native of Cook's Town, in the County of Tyrone, Ireland.

At Springfield, Babine, on Saturday last, aged 27 years, Mrs. Sarah A. Jones, wife of Mr. Asa Jones, of that place, leaving a husband and three children to lament their bereavement.

At Edinburgh, on the 4th November last, deeply lamented, Alexander George Brunswick Boyle, Student of Medicine, second son of Alexander Boyle, Esquire, M. D. of this city, Surgeon to Her Majesty's Forces.

At Dumfries, County of York, on the 1st inst., Elizabeth, wife of Turney Whitehead, Esq., aged 60 years.