

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, JUNE 7, 1848.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Few if any Ministers in the Province but find frequent occasion to complain, that numbers of professing christians with whom they have to do, are criminally neglecting the Lord's Supper. In some places this indisposition affects the whole Church, so that they have dispensed for one, two and three years with its observance.

The design of the Lord's Supper and the purposes it subserves are such, that no real christian understanding them will allow himself to be deprived the privilege nor dare neglect the duty. Our own comfort and progress in the divine life, the honour of the Saviour as King over his people, and Legislator for his Church, the harmony and co-operation of the members as a body are all intimately connected with the regular and proper observance of the ordinances.

Steadily the Lord has not wearied us by the number or expensiveness of the ordinances—on the other hand they are so few, so simple, so easily observed that to neglect them indicates a lamentable want of loyalty to the King of Kings.

"The Lord knoweth our frame," and suiting his provisions to our infirmities makes an appeal through our senses by his ordinances to support our faith and strengthen our hope. If our faith were perfect and our hearts not prone to unbelief, we perhaps might dispense with the ordinances, but in our present condition they are indispensable, to omit them when so necessary and then complain; as many do, of a want of religious enjoyment and even make that want a plea for continued neglect is inconsistent and absurd. A man may as well refuse to eat and sit down and complain of faintness, and then make his faintness an excuse for not eating. The ordinances of the Lord's house are sanctuary provisions, intended to prevent or remove spiritual declension. Our necessity gave occasion for them and should prompt us to their diligent use.

The influence upon the world is decidedly bad when Christians live in open disobedience to Christ's precepts, especially when they withhold the proof and demonstration of fundamental doctrines, as is the case with the matter in consideration.

The great doctrine of justification has been a theme for controversy from the earliest period. Men love to establish a righteousness of their own as a ground of hope, and the last thing to acknowledge is the absolute and entire dependence upon the office of Christ.

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper keeps the fact before the world that Christ died to atone for sins, the just for the unjust, and Paul's conclusion will force itself upon considerate minds. "For if righteousness came by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." Here is a conclusive argument against every scheme of justification which would supersede the vicarious atonement of Christ. Thus the Lord's Supper is committed to the attention and observance of the Church to be a perpetual monument commemorating the most important fact in the Christian system.

What christian will assume the responsibility of suppressing such a testimony. Opening thereby a door for the inroads of the most dangerous heresies to corrupt the doctrines of Christ? The Lord's Supper was instituted when the opposition of his foes had attained such a maturity, that Christ could no longer pursue his earthly ministry, when priests and rulers and rabble were uniting in the cry "away with him, crucify him." Then it was that Christ instituted the means for perpetuating his remembrance and cementing the bonds which should attach his disciples to each other. Then said He—"This do in remembrance of me." We have indeed come to a strange pass when his professed disciples take up the cry of those who crucified their master, so far as their influence extends, and by their contempt of his authority, their neglect of his ordinances, and their indifference to his doctrines, say "away with him."

What have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? We cannot brethren to give this matter a careful consideration, and see if their neglect on these and similar matters pertaining to the observance of the Lord's House, will not account for much of the deplorable declension which has so generally prevailed.

We have desired very much, to see a suitable

reply to the query proposed in one of our early numbers to the following effect:

Does the mere fact of associating together, and being pronounced by a Council a Church of Christ, make any body of men a Church of Christ, if they neglect the ordinances and discipline which Christ has appointed? Will not our Correspondent S. present our readers with his views on this question?

It was our happiness on Monday of last week, in company with Rev. J. Farquharson, to attend the Quarterly Meeting at Norton. The unfavourable state of the weather prevented a large attendance, though a very respectable number were at the Meeting, and the occasion was one of considerable interest. Three sermons were preached, each of which was followed by remarks from brethren present; there was also a morning prayer meeting on Tuesday. Meeting the deputation of the Union Board, it was gratifying to learn from them that the churches receive them kindly and respond liberally, considering the pressure of the times. We understood from them that there was an interesting state of things at St. Martins; many will rejoice at a revival in that large and important field.

Whilst at Norton, we took occasion to call on Mr. Richard Crabb, at his father's house, where he lays very low in decline. Mr. Crabb has become, during the past year, quite extensively known in the Province as the Colporteur adopted by the Association at its last Session in Jacksontown; his health was then feeble, but what strength he had he sincerely dedicated to the work, which he prosecuted steadily and faithfully till he could do no more, and it still lays very near his heart; but a higher and nobler service doubtless awaits him, for the prosecution of which a health and vigor will be given, such as will never fail—this honor have all His saints.

Brother Farquharson, whose communication will be seen in this paper, had an opportunity of presenting the cause of Bible translation and Bible distribution before those who were in attendance.—This is a cause in which our denomination cannot fail to be interested, and which demands their special attention. Several of our Eastern versions are pronounced, even by those who will not assist in their dissemination, as the most exact and complete in the language; and it is the entireness and faithfulness of the translation which forbids their co-operation. Mr. Farquharson left last evening for Nova Scotia, where, we doubt not, he will be cordially received; and we wish him the greatest success, wherever he may have the privilege of addressing our brethren in the Provinces. The seat of the Executive Board is New York, but the field of its operation is the world, and the society draws no lines of restriction so far as its means will allow, but is ready to assist in the publishing and circulation of the Word of God, fully and faithfully translated, let it be by whom it may. The late Dr. Yates and his brethren at Calcutta, Mr. Sutton, of Orissa, and Mr. Crocker, of Germany, have each made it their chief dependence, and have received as liberal contributions as though they had been its own selected and special agents. Mr. Burpe must depend upon it to supply his scholars and congregations, and for general distribution; we therefore cordially and confidently commend the agency of Mr. Farquharson as having special claims upon our brethren, in responding to which they will assist to fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord, and disseminate that Book, for the text book and guide of mankind, from which we derive our sentiments, and by the authority and support of which alone we can expect successfully to propagate them when darkness and error abound.

The severe rain detained us over our allotted time, but the communications of other brethren will compensate the absence of editorial matter in the last week's paper, which failed by our detention.—It is really worth while to flee from the dust of the city, and enjoy such a refreshing air and beautiful scenery as the country presents at this season, and few pleasanter excursions could be had than to Hampton, Norton, and along the Kennecobasis.

Our subscribers at Indiantown, will find their papers hereafter at the store of Mr. Joice, Indiantown. The papers for Canning, will be sent from this date by Steamer, on Thursdays, to the care of Mr. John Currie.

The Admiral arrived yesterday P. M., in 27 hours from Boston, we are indebted to Mr. Speare for papers announcing important intelligence.

The new steamer Senator, for the St. John route reached Boston from New York on Saturday last. The Treaty of Peace between the United States and Mexico was confirmed as will be seen.

We would remind the Churches of a hint which we believe was favourably received some time since, in regard to their minutes, that their appropriation of minute monies, if need be, be made conditional. There is no reason why the minutes should not be ready for delivery in two weeks, at the farthest, from the time the Clerk's manuscript reaches the printer. They would then be read with interest. We would suggest one thing more, to save both time and expense, that the minutes of the associations be not cumbered with such lengthy reports of the several Treasurers, but that such matters being more legitimately the concerns of the convention, if published, be published in the convention minutes, when the Financial affairs of both Provinces may be seen together.

We have not been able recently to meet the demand for Sabbath School Libraries so immediately as we could have wished. We have received by steamer yesterday a large supply of the large and small libraries; also the cheap editions of Baxter's Call, James' Anxious Enquirer, Question Books, &c. &c. It has been most gratifying to receive so many orders.

We will now forward at once the order received from Bro. Harris from Jacksontown.

We have received a large supply of small Sabbath School Hymn Books, containing 58 Hymns well adapted for all the Scholars. They can be had for 2s. per doz. also the bound books of upwards of 500 Hymns for Sabbath School Social Meetings &c. 6s. per doz.

E. D. VERY.

For Colporteur Com.

ARRIVAL OF EMIGRANTS.—The ship Star, Capt. Baldwin, from New Ross, arrived on the Ballast ground on Sunday last, with 383 passengers emigrants from Earl Fitzwilliams' estate. We regret to learn that ten of the passengers died previous to the arrival of the vessel, and that there are twenty-six now lying sick from Ship fever, the invalids are to be landed on Hospital Island, where they will continue to receive medical attendance. We understand that James Boyd, Esq. has been directed by His Excellency to take charge of these passengers, as Emigration Officer. We learn since the above was written, that one more of the passengers has died—and ten more are added to the sick list.—*St Andrews Standard.*

RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY WITH MEXICO. *New York, June 4.*—A dispatch from Macon, Ga, dated June 3d, says, the Treaty of Peace was ratified by the Chamber of Deputies on the 17th of May, by a vote of 51 to 35. The Senate would undoubtedly concur.

POSTSCRIPT.—The Bearer of Dispatches from Mr. Sevier, arrived at Washington, reported that he confirmed the ratification.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.—*Washington, June 4.*—On Saturday the Oregon bill was discussed. Mr. Foote offered an amendment that he thought would obviate the objections made on the part of the South, to the 12th section.

Mr. Bright accepted the amendment. Mr. Westcott spoke in opposition to the amendment, as ineffectual and of a deceptive character.

Mr. Foote replied. Mr. Underwood addressed the Senate in favor of leaving the people of Oregon free to act on the question of Slavery themselves, and offered an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Dayton inquired if the Senator from Kentucky admitted that Congress had the right to exclude slavery from the territory of Oregon.

Mr. Underwood admitted that Congress had such power while Oregon remained a territory. He hoped the whole subject would be left to the people of the territory.

Mr. Baldwin of Conn. followed. After he had concluded.

Mr. Badger suggested an amendment, inserting in the 12th section the words, "but shall not be subject to the 6th article of the compact contained in the ordinance of 1787."

Mr. Foote accepted the amendment. Without taking the question the subject was passed over.

Mr. Hale has the floor on Monday.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The N. Y. Commercial publishes an extract from "Africa's Luminary," a paper printed at Monrovia, Africa, which encourages the belief that the slave trade on the coast of Africa is in a waning condition. The Luminary says the business of the slave traders is curtailed and unprofitable on that part of the coast. They buy slaves as usual, and are, to some extent, furnished with merchandise by some peddling merchant vessels, but the difficulty is to ship them; they succeed in this sometimes, but so many of their vessels are picked up by the English and American men-of-war, that the business is rendered very unprofitable.

A petition is circulating in Ohio, for the removal of the seat of the National Government U. S. from Washington to Cincinnati.

MAY MEETINGS IN LONDON.

SAILORS' HOME AND DESTITUTE SAILORS' ASYLUM. The annual meeting of these institutions was held at the Hanover-square Rooms on the 6th inst. Admiral Bowles, M. P., took the chair. The receipts for the year of the Sailors' Home, including annual subscriptions (£456 18), balance at last audit (£688 14 1), and various contributions from local associations were £7076 19 1, leaving a balance in the hands of the bankers of £671 10. The accounts of the Destitute Sailors' Asylum show a total receipt of £737 10 3, leaving a balance in hand of £185 14 7. The reports, on the motion of the Bishop of Norwich, who made an appeal on behalf of the institutions, were unanimously adopted.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

The 44th annual meeting of this society was held on the 3rd inst., at Exeter Hall. The secretary read the report of the society's proceedings during the past year.—From that document it appeared that the entire receipts of the year ending March, 1848, were £90,146. The total sum applicable to the purposes of the society was £43,956. The receipts for bibles and testaments amounted to £46,188, the issues of the society for the year amounting to 1,124,067, viz., from depositories at home, 837,361; from depots abroad 286,706. The total issues of the society now amount to 20,865,837. The expenditure during the past year has £105,042, being £14,896 beyond the receipts. The liabilities of the society now extends to £41,800. The meeting was addressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of St. Asaph, Lord Morpeth, Sir Digby Mackworth, Rev. H. Stowel, &c.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

On the 5th inst., the annual meeting of this society was held at Exeter-hall; Thomas Farmer, Esq., presided, and remarked that during the past year the society had issued 2,200,000 of tracts and books. During the year 235 new works had been printed, of which 17,543,509 copies had been issued. The total issue of the society had amounted to 46,000,000 of copies of books and tracts, printed in 100 different languages and dialects. The total sums received in subscriptions and donations during the year had been £5846 14, showing that the receipts for the benevolent portion of the society were only £282 18 less than last year. The total grants made during the year amounted to £3188, being £2118 beyond the gratuitous receipts for the year, which sum had been defrayed out of the business operations of the society after paying all the expenses of that department. The sales during the year amounted to £45,897, making the total receipts £58,736.

SHIPWRECKED FISHERMEN AND MARINERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The ninth anniversary of this society was celebrated by a dinner at the London Tavern, Bishop-gate street, on the 6th inst. The Hon. H. Lambton presided. Lieut. Lean, the secretary, read the society's report for the past year, by which it appeared, that since the last annual statement, 142 widows, 316 orphans, and 49 aged parents have been relieved, and 2551 shipwrecked persons boarded, lodged, clothed, (when necessary,) and conveyed to their homes; 380 of whom, being members, were supplied according to the scale, with money to help to restore their clothes; and a proof of the growing usefulness of the charity, the item of relief over the statement of last year has been increased upwards of £400, and over the statement for 1845 upwards of £1700, including the value of the free transit granted by the several railway and steam packet companies, to shipwrecked persons forwarded by the society. The total income of the institution during the past year amounted to £6,324 14s 3d; leaving a balance in hand, after payment of the year's outlay, of £1133 17s 6d. The report being cordially approved of and unanimously adopted.

BRITISH MISSIONS.

The Home Missionary Society, the Colonial Missionary Society, and the Irish Evangelical Society—supported by the Congregationalists—have, within the last twelve months, been united under the general title of the British Mission. The first annual meeting of the amalgamated societies was held on the 9th inst. at Exeter Hall; Mr. Alderman Challis presided. Mr. Ashton read the report of the Home Missionary Society. The income of the year amounted to £657 2 2 the expenditure had been £730 16 4; leaving a balance of £739 13 9 against the Society. The Rev. Thomas James read the report of the Irish Evangelical Society. During the late famine, £9465 7 3, had been received by the society, and distributed in money, food, and clothing, without distinction of party, political or religious. During the past year the income amounted to £3233 12 5; the disbursements to £3,662 3 4; leaving a deficiency of £427 10 11. The Rev. Algernon Wells read the report of the Colonial Missionary Society. It was very satisfactory, and showed that increased funds could not fail to produce increased usefulness. The reports were adopted, and several reverend gentlemen having addressed the meeting, the proceedings terminated.—*Willmer & Smith's European Times.*

MURDER OF MORMONS.—*St. Louis, May 29.*

By an arrival at the city of St. Louis, from Salt Lake, we learn that the Indians had made an attack upon the Mormons, and murdered a number of their men, women and children. An express was immediately despatched for assistance. There is no cause assigned for this diabolical outrage.