

traditionary statements respecting the flood. I shall not, however, take these for certain, till I have more knowledge of their language.— They are found dwelling among the reed all round the Lake, and on the banks of all the rivers to the north.

With the periodical flow of the rivers great shoals of fish descend. The people could give no reason for the rise of the water, further than that a Chief, who lives in a part of the country to the north, called Mazzekiva, kills a man annually and throws his body into the stream, after which the water begins to flow. When will they know Him who was slain, that whosoever will, might drink of the water of life freely!

The principal disease reported to prevail at certain seasons appears, from the account of the symptoms the natives give, to be pneumonia, and not fever. When the wind rises to an ordinary breeze, such immense clouds of dust arise from numerous dried out lakes, called salt-pans, that the whole atmosphere becomes quite yellow, and one cannot distinguish objects more than two miles off. It causes irritation in the eyes, and, as wind prevails almost constantly at certain seasons, this impalpable powder may act as it does among the grinders in Sheffield. We observed cough among them, a complaint almost unknown at Kolobeng.— Musquitoes swarm in summer, and the Banyan and Palmyra give in some parts an Indian cast to the scenery. Who will go in to possess this goodly land in the name of Him whose right it is to reign!

CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1850.

USE THE PEN AND PRAY FOR THE PEN.

Familiar as we considered ourselves with the subject, every day gives us a stronger sense of the vast agency of the Press for good or for evil to mankind. Christians and Christian Ministers should study this subject; not simply to concede the point when the press is spoken of as a powerful agent; but they should search the subject in its different aspects.— Wherein lays its power over the living voice in creating and sustaining public opinion, in teaching and educating society? Facts bearing upon this subject are multiplying, and, if duly considered, would we think stir the religious community to increasing exertion till the question was decided for at least one generation, what character the press should bear, and what kind of influence it should exert.— Those who would make it an engine of evil have one very considerable advantage in their favor in the excitability of men's passions, and in the corrupt fancies and desires which would welcome unwholesome reading rather than good. But, again, those who would make the press minister to intellectual and moral, or to religious progress have this in their favour, that the strong and persevering religious sympathy of good men, that will exhibit itself in liberality and exertion, is on their side.— When this subject is fully appreciated by Christians, there will be no such thing in business as successful competition on the part of the former with the latter. The wealth of good men, the mental resources of good men, and the cheerful service of good men in every desirable form will be laid upon this altar, and devoted to the noble work. Corrupt men are selfish men; they write for money, they publish for money, and all the agents employed in such a service will have an equally ignoble aim. Good men will write to do good, and make free will offerings of what they may contribute to advance morality and religion.— Philanthropic individuals will exert themselves cheerfully and to a great extent gratuitously for the same object; and taking advantage of the power of combination, they will concentrate their force as in the National Bible Societies and Tract Societies, and thus by the service of gratuitous talent and by work made almost gratuitous through the generous contributions of christians, how shall selfish authors or unscrupulous and irreligious editors and publishers compete with them? It would be utterly impossible. All that is wanting is a proper sense of the vast consequences resulting from the proper use and controul of the press, to make it in England, and in the United States the property and agency of the Church. When we say the Church we do not use the word in a sectarian sense, nor in the most common sense; but we mean by it good men, the religious of whatever denomination, the philanthropic, such as will hold themselves

ready to serve their generation with their talents and their substance: and who are therefore entitled fully by so disinterested a regard for what is good to the confidence of society and the use of so vast an influence. "And gave him to be the head over all things to the church." Precious thought, that in the Divine economy this agency is given to Christ; as the church gets possession it will not be by usurpation, as the mind of the world and its general condition becomes suited to the exercise of this agency it will as inevitably as any other fact in providence pass to the controul under Christ of the Church. Education is Christ's, the press is Christ's, and all that is requisite for its efficient use is Christ's. And he must be but little acquainted with what is transpiring in the world who cannot see in the concentrated energy of the great religious institutions of Christendom that the Church in the name of its head is taking possession of this mighty power—it is giving the word of God a free course to be glorified; men are running to and fro with the treasures of wholesome religious truth and knowledge is increased.

Want of space arrests us in the midst of what we have to remark on this interesting subject and we must defer some practical conclusions to another paper.

From brother Burpe's letter, which we copy from the Christian Messenger, it will be seen that a very special favour has been granted us, as appears when we consider that the dear brother whose health was impaired in the same field, and who with his afflicted companion were seeking a restoration of health by a return in the same ship to their native land, has been taken. Rev. Cyrus Barker, whose decease has thus occurred, left the United States in October, 1839. He with his wife were originally designated to labor among the Nagas, but on their arrival at Jaipur they concluded to engage in labors for the Assamese, which commenced May 14, 1840. After spending a year in Jaipur to study the language, making frequent excursions into the country, he selected Sibsagar as a place of residence, then a flourishing post of the East India Company, on a branch of the Brahmaputra. Upon the arrival of other missionaries of the same Board to this station, Mr. Barker sought a new location in a more central part of Assam, and finally located himself at Gowahatti, the most important town in the Province, and the residence of that admirable christian man whom we have before mentioned in this paper as liberally aiding the American Baptist Missionaries, Major Jenkins, an English resident officer. In regard to this station, Dr. Gammel in his excellent History of American Baptist Missions remarks:

"Scattered among the Assamese population, especially in the district of Gowahatti, are multitudes of Brahmins, whose fanatical devotion to their own superstitions has often occasioned violent opposition to the mission.— It has also occasionally encountered the more subtle and secret hostility of a few English missionaries who are scattered throughout the Province, preaching the dogmas of the "Tractarian" party of the English Church. The Commissioners, however, and the principal officers connected with the service have continued to give it their hearty support, and every year of its progress has opened with brighter prospects, and been crowned with more encouraging results."

Here with his Church and Schools in teaching, translating and preaching, the health of the missionary has failed and when seeking to renew it has been called to his rest and his crown. Many such cases have occurred within the last few years, and where are the new recruits to take the place of those thus spent? We have a hope that the numerous and extensive revivals now in progress may set before the Churches the labourers for the Home and the Foreign Field, which have been so earnestly prayed for by those who for a few years past have been considering the wants of the world, and have witnessed the inadequate supply of men and means to meet them. The Lord we trust is now shewing his omnipotence and the vastness of his resources when truly enquired of by his people to help and bless them.

We have received from Mr. McMillan the publisher a copy of Rev. Mr. Cooney's Lecture on the Rise and Progress of Christianity as an Evidence of its Divine Nature; also, a copy of Rev. Mr. Lawson's, on The Inconsistencies of Professing Christians no argument against the truth of Christianity. They are both very creditable productions; especially

is this the case with regard to the latter.— There is a perspicuity of style, a freshness and force of expression, and a unity of aim in the argument which has gratified us exceedingly. From the beginning to the close of the discourse the author argues directly and closely, and keeps himself and the reader to the subject: We think no person can read the discourse carefully without profit. These discourses as they are issued are for sale at the Colporteur Depository. Price 2d. each, except Rev. Mr. Irvine's, which is very lengthy, price 3d. We recommend our ministering brethren and others ordering books to send for them as they are valuable, sold for one third or one quarter the cost, the expense of printing being chiefly paid by collections at the time of delivering.

Brother Joseph Blakeney has sent us a kind letter this week but since it was written the greater part as he will see by our last paper was communicated by other brethren. Some extracts we gather however which are new as follows:

"A gracious work has been experienced in the northern part of Salisbury commonly called the Upper Settlement on the North River under the labors of brethren Robert and Isaiah McLeod, and Robert Dobson, who are of the order of Free Baptists. I had not the pleasure of being present but from the best information we believe the Holy Spirit has blest their labors and 26 or 28 have been baptised, and a church has been organised in that place by the above named brethren and the great work continues to spread."

After giving an account of the labours of brethren Newcomb, Crandal, and others at Salisbury, where 20 were baptised, ranging from 16 to 50 years of age, he proceeds.

"Since the above two more have related to the church what the Lord has done for them in bringing them out of darkness, who have been received and baptised. One of these was an elderly sister who from her youth was a member of the Church of England. She was first awakened under the labours of our departed brother Elder Peter Crandal nearly forty years since, soon after this while walking in the fields under so great sense of sin as to fear every step she might sink into hell, the Lord Jesus revealed his office work to her and she found peace and joy inexpressible. What is very singular she has had a desire ever since to be buried with Christ in baptism but has not before felt able to take up the cross. Two more have been received and are to be baptised on the coming Sabbath. The work of God which has been solemn and powerful is yet going on, so that our neighborhood is more blest than I ever expected to see. Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me praise His holy name. Respectfully and truly yours, JOSEPH BLAKENEY, Salisbury, April 19th, 1850.

We are happy to learn that a pleasing religious interest is springing up at Eastport, and that several have indulged a hope of having passed from death unto life. At Calais, also, we understand that some thirty have been converted. We hope that in both places there may be great ingatherings to cheer the Churches and their faithful Pastors. Remembering the happy seasons we have witnessed in both places we could chronicle revivals in no place with more unfeigned satisfaction.

Amongst other periodicals forwarded by brother Francis was a new weekly journal of 24 octavo pages entitled "Household Words," to be conducted by Mr. Charles Dickens, price 2d., stamped copies 3d. Mr. Dickens professes to aim at displacing such writers as he terms "panderers to the basest passions of the lowest natures, whose existence is a national reproach." We would hope from the tenor of the articles in this first number that its influence may be healthful upon morals, and a help in the great work of social reform in Great Britain to which so many eminent men are now devoted.

AGRICULTURAL.—We have received from the Publishers, Kingman, Cross & Co., New York, Nos. 1 and 2 of the second volume of "The Working Farmer," a monthly publication devoted to the interests of Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Gardening, &c.— This periodical is conducted by Professor J. J. Mages and is a most valuable periodical for the Farmer of New Brunswick. It contains 24 pages of 3 columns each, and each column as we find by measurement, four-fifths the

amount of one of ours. It furnishes a good variety on strictly practical subjects for the Farmer, and each copy contains over thirty articles. Price of the Periodical 5s. per annum. American postage to line 1 1/2d. each, and from the line to any part of New Brunswick one penny, whole cost to subscribers in this Province receiving it by mail 7s. 6d., and the reading of any one number of it we will guarantee will be worth the year's subscription to any farmer. A number have given us their names upon seeing it. We will forward the names and money for as many as wish without fee, for the sake of what good it may do subscribers. They will receive no names without pay. American Postage must also be advanced to the Publishers that they may be able to mail it.

STEAMERS.

Mr. Whitney's steamers:—The Commodore and Fairy Queen are doing their own great credit this spring by their speedy passages, which have ranged from 22 to 24 hours from this port to Portland, Me. We learn they are soon to run two trips a week.

The little steamer S. B. Wheeler, was in port again this week, and left for Eastport and Belfast, which we understand is to be her route for the season. Those having business on the Penobscot River, or wishing to go to Thomaston and vicinity, will find expedition and good care and fare in this nice little boat.

The campaign on the River has opened for the season. The Reindeer was in readiness to improve the first chance, and left Indian Town for Fredericton, Tuesday, at 10 A. M. The St. John was off for her first trip up river yesterday morning. We shall be exceedingly glad to see the activity and bustle of the river business once more, after so long and dull a winter.

It was reported in town some weeks since, and again by the Morning News of Wednesday, that the steamer John F. Secor, was to connect us with Eastport and Windsor, N. S. this season. Business or no business we shall at this rate have facilities for travelling the coming season.

Fire in Portland.

About one o'clock on Wednesday last a fire broke out in the house belonging to Mr. John Weeks in Portland, which in a short time communicated to the adjoining house, belonging to John Pollok, Esq., and thence to two houses owned by Mr. Connelly, all of which were consumed. A very strong wind was blowing at the time which involved a large neighborhood in imminent danger. The Methodist Chapel was saved with great difficulty, being on fire several times. The Engine Companies deserve the greatest credit for the energy displayed and the strenuous exertions put forth to stop the progress of the conflagration. It is reported that there was no insurance on the buildings destroyed. The fire originated from a spark from a chimney opposite and spread with great rapidity.

We shall be glad to copy the Report of the Ladies' Temperance Society next week. We did not see it, and our attention was called to it this week after our matter was all arranged for this paper. We regard this Society as holding a responsible position in this City, both doing and able to do a large amount of good.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Rev. W. L. Hopkins, with remittance; Rev. D. Crandal, do.; Mr. Isaiah Wallace, do. do.; Mr. Joseph Blakeney, do. do.; Rev. E. A. Crawley, Rev. G. F. Miles.

Correspondence.

The following extracts are from a private letter of brother Francis, by the *Hibernia*, its excellent sentiments however we take the liberty of making public. We have since received the letter announcing the pleasing intelligence that brother Burpe and family are now on their way to this port, and probably ten days on their passage, so that by a continuance of the kind favor of Providence, by which they were brought safely to England, their friends here may hope to see them during the present month. If brother Burpe's health will permit him to be present at the meetings of the Associations of the two Provinces, we may reasonably hope it would effect much good.

Liverpool, April 5, 1850.

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—My esteemed colleague will proceed from London to Manchester, on the 15th inst. I intend going to Wales,