

The Minister's Column.

The Day of Small Things;

OR, MR. JAY'S FIRST SERMON IN BATH.

From a volume entitled, "Pew Pictures of Popular Preachers," the following interesting extract is made. Many important lessons may be learned from it. We would entreat our young friends, as well as our elder brethren, carefully to look at this picture. The "young Jay" here spoken of, was the late popular pastor of Argyle Chapel, well known by the short title of "Mr. Jay, of Bath."

"One Saturday afternoon young Jay received a summons to attend on Mr. Winter in the study. When he entered the sanctum, the old gentleman handed him a note, and said, 'Mr. Jay, the weather is fine, and as you have been hard at work all the week, perhaps you would like a ride to Bath.'

"Young Jay made no objection, and Cornelius Winter produced a note he had just written. 'This note,' he remarked, 'I wish to be conveyed to the Rev. Mr. Argyle Chapel; he lives in the Orange Grove, Bath, not far from his place of worship. Please to hand this to him, and he will give an answer. Remember—you must see him yourself. The Bath coach passes the door of the house in an hour from now; so get ready at once, and here is the amount of the fare.'

"So the student, who had often heard of the great city of Bath, but had never visited it, attired himself in the best clothes which his humble means afforded, jumped on the Bath coach, and, with heart and spirit light, entered the gay city, and speedily made his way to the Orange Grove. The house of the then popular minister of Argyle Chapel was soon found, and, like many thousand other bearers of letters, the young man, 'indifferent to the tidings he conveyed,' knocked at the door, and inquired for the Rev. Mr. Argyle.

"He was at home. Jay was ushered into his study, and delivered the letter from Mr. Winter. Mr. Argyle—deliberately read it, and then calmly folding it, he eyed the young man, and, holding out his hand, said, with the most perfect nonchalance, 'Mr. Jay, you must preach for me to-morrow.'

"Preach, sir!—preach for you sir! to-morrow morning? asked, or rather gasped, the agitated young man. 'Mr. Winter has sent you to me for that very purpose,' observed the old minister; and he added, 'To-morrow I am engaged at Bristol, and I applied to Mr. Winter for a supply—he has sent you. So, as preach you must and shall, it is necessary you should at once make some preparation. I am now about to leave. Here are books at your service, and everything else you can require.'

"Leaving young Jay in a state which many a young minister may imagine, but which I will not venture to describe, and feeling completely 'trapped,' Mr. Argyle courteously bade adieu to his 'supply' for the morrow.

"Left by himself—thrown upon his own energies—the self-reliance of the student was called into action. He knew that he could not 'back out' of the matter; indeed, if he had been inclined to shirk the sermon, and the preparation for it, he would have found any effort to do so abortive; for, on Mr. Argyle's leaving the study, he quietly locked the door, and the young man was a close prisoner: so he remained until the old minister's wife summoned him to the tea-table.

"How he was employed during the interval it is not necessary to inquire. Let us hear how he acquitted himself on the Sunday morning.

"That eventful time came, and Argyle Chapel was filled with the congregation usually assembling there. At the appointed hour of commencing the service, the old clerk entered the desk from which the hymns were 'given out,' looking as though something had marvellously offended him—formal old functionaries of his description are very easily offended indeed. He rose, and dolefully read a rather lively hymn, which the singers in the front pew of the gallery, facing the pulpit, sung to a dismal tune.

"While the aforesaid hymn was being sung, the good folks of Argyle Chapel were not a little surprised to see a young man emerge from the vestry and ascend the pulpits. Some of the old members looked vexed at this, for there were among them not a few of those unreasonable people (the race of whom is not extinct even in these days), who have an idea that if they pay their minister so much per annum, they have an undoubted claim to the whole of his services; and that their pastor has no right whatever to leave his flock, even for the sake of recruiting his health, or for the purpose of resting his mind by preaching one of his old sermons to a fresh congregation. As the stranger took his seat in the pulpit, there were sundry nods and winks, and contemptuous tossings of chins; for 'his youth' was against the 'supply.' How could such a 'babe' furnish food for strong men? That was the question implied, if not asked. Scarcely seeing their old pastor in his pulpit, opened their pew-doors and went out; and the great majority of those who remained behind would have followed such bad examples, had not a feeling of shame restrained them.

"Whether or not young Jay noticed the commotion which his appearance excited, is to us unknown; but when the preliminary portions of the services were gone through, he timidly rose, and as soon as the auditory had settled themselves down into silence, commenced his discourse by giving out his text. It was one singularly appropos to the situation in which he had been placed by Cornelius Winter, or rather to the part which he had played in this trapping transaction. After naming the chapter and verse, he paused for a moment, and then somewhat astonished his hearers by pronouncing, slowly and distinctly, the words he had selected as the groundwork of his discourse. They were selected from the touching narrative of Abraham and Isaac, and from that part of it were the patriarch is represented as about to sacrifice his beloved son. Without, however, referring to the context, young Jay simply read these words—

"And the lad knew nothing of the matter." Great was the effect, so pointedly were the words delivered; and the youthful, nay, the boyish appearance of William Jay, heightened the curiosity of the congregation as to what would come next. They were not left long in doubt, for, with a gravity beyond his years, the young man proceeded to develop his subject and to delight his hearers. There was such an absence of affectation, that

besetting sin of too many ministers in the first stages of their career,—so little (if any) straining after effect, by essaying wild flights of imagination,—that even the grim old clerk relaxed his iron visage, and the ancient members severally looked pleased. As for the young folks, they were positively delighted, and more than one fair girl hinted to her parent the propriety of exercising the duties of hospitality, by asking the promising young preacher to dinner.

"Not very long after Mr. Jay's first sermon at Argyle Chapel, he became pastor of the congregation assembling there, Mr. Argyle's predecessor, having died. And there he remained, a most popular and effective preacher, for more than sixty years.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JUNE 6, 1855.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Terms of the Visitor, 7s. 6d. per annum in advance, 10s., if payment be delayed over three months.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No Communication will be inserted without the author entrusting us with his name in confidence. Unless the opinions expressed by correspondents be editorially endorsed, we shall not consider ourselves responsible for them.

Correspondents are respectfully reminded that short communications, as a general thing, are more acceptable to readers of Newspapers than long ones, and that a legible style of writing will save the printer time, which is always valuable, and secure a correct impression.

All Ministers of the gospel, who will send us the advance, for six new subscribers, will get the "Visitor" for one year free of charge.

As God hath prospered you.

It has long been a custom in our churches to make annual collections for Home Missions. These collections are generally taken up just before the Associations meet and the amounts given are reported in the letters. It not infrequently happens that the subject is not brought up sufficiently early to give time for the work of collecting to be thoroughly done, and hence the sum raised in many cases is comparatively trivial. This year, dear brethren, let us be in time, and let every member of our churches, male and female, know that he or she is expected to do something in the way of pecuniary support to advance the cause for which the Son of God died upon calvary, and over which he now watches with an intensity of interest such as Deity alone can fully comprehend.

Every child of God should enquire in the language of the converted persecutor, "Lord what wouldst thou have me to do?" Many imagine that missionaries are alone responsible for preaching the gospel to those in spiritual destitution; but this is a sad mistake. Every one of the Lord's children is under obligations just as binding to do all in his power for the promotion of christianity as is the most devoted and self-sacrificing missionary of the cross. To each of every class in the kingdom of Christ it is said, "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God with your body and with your spirit which are his." And one way in which we are to glorify him is by making his salvation known to those who are dwelling in ignorance of his love. It is wrong, therefore, for you to argue because you are not called to go out as a missionary, that, therefore, you have nothing to do in this department of Christian effort. Why has God redeemed your precious soul from sin and hell, and made you a Christian? Is it simply that you may escape misery and get safe to heaven at some future period of your existence? Nay, but rather that you may glorify him upon the earth by reflecting the light and glory of that redemption of which you have been made the happy partaker and thus be instrumental in preparing others for that blessed world of felicity. And what more legitimate medium through which to do this than through the agency of Home Missions? Let every member of our churches feel, therefore, that there should be a universal rising up in the Lord's name to embark anew in this heaven-appointed work, that by the combination of talent, of energy, and of self-denying effort this cause may be pushed forward to a glorious consummation.

But we hear many saying, "My means are limited, and what I can do is so small that my contribution will not be missed." How much can you give? Perhaps if you were to examine this question upon your knees aside from the chilling influence of a cold-hearted covetousness, you would find that you have more to give than you at first are willing to believe. God's will is that you should give in proportion as he has prospered you, and you will bear in mind, that this prosperity has reference, not simply to the amount of cash in hand as the result of your industry, but it embraces your health, the health of your family, together with all the means at your command of earthly progress. All have been prospered in one way or the other. True there may have been reverses in commerce, and in the general trade of the country, and all, we suppose, are more or less affected by such circumstances; but are we to suffer the springs of benevolence to dry up in our hearts on this account? The greater the sacrifice we make in giving to the Lord's cause, the greater will be the reflex advantages to our own souls.

If you are a christian you will surely have so much of the mind of Christ as to make you feel that it is no hardship for you to obey the Gospel rule, and give as the Lord has prospered you for the purpose of sending the Gospel to those who are ignorant of the great salvation. How can you spend money so advantageously as in this way? Not only will others reap much advantage from your liberality; but you will be greatly benefited in your own soul. He who thoroughly understood this question in the entire range of its influence said, "It is more blessed to give than it is to receive," and who that has ever tasted the luxury of doing good does not believe this to be true? Jesus from his mediatorial seat in heaven is beholding the action of his children in regard to this solemn matter, and if he sees you casting into his treasury only the widow's mite, if you do it with the widow's heart, He will regard it as an act worthy of being mentioned amid the disclosures of the last great day. In the presence of a congregated world the cup of cold water given to a disciple under the influence of a right motive will be no small of its reward. The infinite judge will say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Do you still ask how much you are to give? We

reply, go to the cross and by faith read your duty in the mangled body, in the streaming blood, and in the dying groans of the crucified Saviour. What does the greatest sacrifice that we can possibly make for Christ's cause amount to when compared with the sacrifice which he made for us when he passed through Golgotha and trod the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God alone, and of the people there was none to help? Paul in urging the duty of liberality upon the churches of the saints, uses the cross as his argument, "Ye know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who though he was rich yet for your sakes became poor, that ye through his poverty might be made rich." Let us then study our duty in the light of the cross, and Home Missions will not only be remembered, by us; but we shall rejoice to give to their support as God hath prospered us.

In conclusion it only remains for us to express our sincere hope that the letters to the Associations from the churches this year will report a much larger amount contributed for Home Missions than on any former occasions.

American Baptist Missionary Union.

The recent Anniversary Meeting of the Union which took place in Chicago, was one of more than ordinary interest. It continued for four days in succession, terminating on the evening of the 18th of May. The most important question under discussion was the adjustment of difficulties which had arisen between the Missionaries in the Foreign Field, and the recent deputation, involving also the Executive Committee in Boston. In the course of the proceedings resolutions were introduced by Dr. Cone, of New York, of a conciliatory character. They read thus:—

"Inasmuch as grave differences of opinion exist between missionaries abroad and the executive officers of the Board at home, as to their respective rights and duties, and the best means of conducting our missionary operations; and inasmuch as these differences have seriously affected the confidence of some of our patrons, and entailed our pecuniary resources; and inasmuch as the work of evangelizing the heathen cannot be abandoned, and must not be interrupted, therefore,

1. Resolved That a committee of—be appointed, to whom all these differences and difficulties shall be referred to obtain all possible information, oral or written, from every available source, touching the matters involved, and report thereon to the Board of Managers at their annual meeting in 1856, and that this measure be set forth to the churches at home and the missions abroad, as the nearest approach to a perfect conciliation which at present can be obtained, and as a basis for the persevering aid and liberal co-operation of the friends of missions.

2. That this Union, in confiding as heretofore in its Executive Committee, its officers and missionaries, the ordinary work of the body, with every assurance of united sympathy and co-operation, will take immediate measures for the payment of the existing debt, and for the enlargement of our missionary operations as the Providence of God may direct."

These resolutions after full and free discussion, with some slight modification were adopted as a basis for future proceedings, and the Rev. Mr. Webb was called on to offer thanks to God, for the harmonious action of the body in that which had been the chief cause of alarm.

An effort was made for the payment of the debt and \$25,000 pledged on the spot. Some change has occurred in the Executive Committee, and Rev. William H. Shailer, D. D., of Portland, Me., is chosen Home Secretary in the place of Dr. Bright resigned. The Watchman and Reflector in a leading editorial upon the meeting remarks as follows:—

"The meetings of the Board and of the Union were contemplated with unusual apprehension, and even dread. Matters more complicated and difficult than ever before in our missionary history, called for some adjustment that should no longer permit division, an empty treasury, and a threatening future to draw a cloud over the efforts of the faithful for the salvation of the heathen. New letters and documents from disaffected missionaries had been spread before all. So complex had the whole subject become, that extrication—immediate at least—seemed out of the question. The nearest approach to a settlement lay in the direction of reference and delay. Many would have rejoiced, had it been possible, to have seen the wounds of difficulty healed at once. Very few, however, could see that to be at all attainable, except in name. All felt kindly, all most earnestly wished for peace. But with new documents from abroad, with more forthcoming, and a living presence, it may be, as their exponent—what could be definitively done? Most plainly there was but that middle course of conciliation, which lies in reference and necessary postponement. Time and the more matured exhibitions of Christian temper and love, could alone bring us to a position of deliverance from the past, and a kind starting toward all parties, and reserving judgment—so far as it can ever be reached,—to a fuller hearing and a better understanding of all the matters involved, is the precise line of policy marked out by the Missionary Union, and which received its almost unanimous concurrence."

"The attainment of this result was the great achievement of this anniversary. It was accompanied by a pervading spirit of Christian fraternity and forbearance, and by proofs of love to the cause of Missions, and those embarked in it,—by liberal contributions toward the payment of the debt, and other marks of Christian zeal, which we have seldom seen surpassed. A point has been gained where, if our sky is not all unclouded, we have yet enough of sunlight to go forward confidently and vigorously to establish the work of our own and of our fathers' hands. The purpose was formed, and will be cherished, to lift at once from our shoulders the burden of an embarrassing and dishonoring debt. This will be done. The spirit and pledges as well as resolves of this anniversary, are a guarantee that this mountain will be leveled, and our missionary work move on free and unimpeded as ever. For this let the faithful in Zion not cease to pray and put forth their hands."

We again remind the missionaries of the N. B. M. U. Missionary Board, that a report of their labors for the past year should be forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary with the least possible delay. It is impossible to prepare the Annual Report in time for the Anniversary Meeting to be held with the Association at Butternut Ridge unless this shall be done. The missionaries will be particular and keep their financial statements on a separate piece of paper so that they can be passed over to the Treasurer without inconvenience. By reference to the last number of the Visitor, the missionaries will see just what is wanted. Let there be no delay. The report of Bro. Knight our French missionary is much needed immediately. The brethren will understand that the general report cannot be made from month to month reports which they have sent in from time to time. The Secretary must have a full return for the year.

Our Colporteur, Bro. Blakeney, will please forward his report to the Treasurer of the Colporteur Society, Mr. J. P. Masters.

We have received a letter for publication having reference to the notice which appeared in the Visitor not long since, respecting Mr. Henry Dryden. The object of the communication is to vindicate Mr. Dryden, by stating that he was spoken to improperly, and by this means provoked to do as he did, that the firing of the pistol was unintentional on his part, and that had he intended to shoot the party, he could easily have done so, inasmuch as he was only two or three yards from him. This letter further states that Henry Dryden has been trained to the adoption of Temperance principles, and that he is a young man of moral habits.

We give the above as the substance of what is said in favor of the accused person, and we trust this will be quite as satisfactory to the author as if we had published his letter entire.

WESLEYAN DEPUTATION.

We learn from the Wesleyan, of the 31st instant, that the last English steamer to Halifax, brought out the Rev. Dr. Beecham, who is delegated to this country on an important mission, the object of which is to constitute the Wesleyan Missions in these Lower Provinces into a distinct and independent Conference, holding still an affiliated connexion with the British Conference; but giving them the entire control of their own ecclesiastical affairs, and throwing them upon their own resources for support. The Doctor is spoken of as occupying a high position in the esteem and confidence of his brethren in England, and his reception in Halifax was of the most cordial and flattering character. His plans were formally proposed by him at a meeting, called for the purpose of receiving the deputation, and were cordially approved and adopted, subject to such modification in detail as circumstances may demand.

Having fulfilled his mission in Halifax, the Doctor came to St. John, to be present at the District Meeting now in progress.

We learn from the Rev. Mr. Henniger, one of the Ministers of this Circuit, that more than thirty ministers are now attending the session, and that cheering intelligence has been reported from various Circuits.—Last Lord's Day, the following pulpits were occupied:—

German Street Wesleyan Church—morning—Rev. J. Snowball; evening—Rev. M. Ritchie, D. D.

Centenary Wesleyan Church—morning—Rev. E. Evans, D. D.; evening—Rev. J. Beecham, D. D.

German Street Baptist Church—morning—Rev. Wm. Tweedy.

Waterloo Street Free Baptist Church—morning—Rev. C. Lockhart.

Wesleyan Church, Carleton—morning—Rev. C. Churchill; evening—Rev. Wm. Allan.

Portland Wesleyan Church—morning—Rev. Wm. Smith; evening—Rev. John Prince.

The Conference Love-feast was held in the German-street church in the afternoon, and the religious services have been seasons of much spiritual good.

The several stations we understand have not yet been fixed for the coming year.

The Central Baptist Association of Nova Scotia, will meet on the 1st Saturday after the 20th of June, which will be the fourth Saturday of the month instead of the third, as stated in our last issue.

Revival Intelligence.

Bro. Aaron Estey, recently from Woodstock, informs us that the work of religious revival is progressing in that section of country in mighty power. The labors of Bro. Todd, pastor of the Church in Woodstock, are abundant, and are attended with the most cheering results. He has baptized about 60 believers since the revival commenced, and there is reason to hope that many more will submit their hearts and lives to the Redeemer. God grant the full realization of this hope for the sake of him who died, that sinners might live!

GRAND BAY.

We visited in connection with other brethren this station, on Sabbath morning last, where we had conference, baptism, preaching, and the Lord's Supper. We were deeply interested in finding there a commodious little chapel, kept in beautiful order, and a highly respectable congregation, who listened with devout attention, and with evident religious sensibility to the ministrations of God's Word. Grand Bay presents to our judgment an inviting field for missionary labor, and we are glad to know that brethren have arranged to preach there as often as every second Sabbath during the summer—may success attend their labors!

KESWICK, May 26, 1855.

Dear Brother Bill,—Doubtless you will be glad to hear of the prosperity of Zion, at Keswick, a place, which, I doubt not, is dear to your memory, and from which you may hope to receive many precious souls, which shall be glorified jewels in your crown of rejoicing. Since I last wrote you, twelve willing converts to the truth, as it is in Jesus, have been led by divine grace, to follow their Lord, into the liquid grave, where they were buried with him in baptism, wherein also they are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God who hath raised him from the dead, Col. 2: 12. I hope to see many more in this place, thus dedicating themselves to God by baptism, which is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter, 3: 21. Bro. Thomas Saunders, has been with us upon every baptismal occasion, to administer the ordinance, Bro. Geo. Sealy, was with us one Sabbath, and baptized with Bro. Saunders. Truly God is with us, and is blessing his weary heritage in this place, and is pouring down fertilizing showers of his grace. We earnestly desire a special interest in your prayers, and in the prayers of all who love the prosperity of the kingdom of Christ. Farewell, I remain yours in the hope of eternal glory.

JAMES WHITE.

NEWCASTLE, Grand Lake, May 28, 1855.

Dear Bro. Bill,—I am requested by the church worshipping at this place to give notice in your Visitor, that our brother, W. A. Troop, a Licentiate from the church at Springfield, at present ministering to us in the gospel has been unanimously elected by the church to the solemn office of ordination, and that we have appointed the third Saturday in June next, at the meeting-house Newcastle, at 4 o'clock, p. m., to commence a series of meetings, such as the ministering brethren who may be present with us, may deem necessary.

I am also requested through your columns to invite ministering and lay brethren to meet with us on the occasion, for which we hope to greet them with cordial salutations.

I am happy to state that after a long and dreary winter of spiritual darkness and coldness of heart that a cry has gone up from some sorrowing hearts, and mercy drops have already fallen from on high, some have already manifested themselves on the Lord's side, and we hope the good work will still continue to go on—the several localities of the church appear to be interested in extending the work. Brother Troop is actively engaged in preaching the gospel with a good degree of usefulness, and some are waiting to be conducted by him to the baptismal waters, when he shall be duly set apart to that sacred office.

It would afford us extreme pleasure if you, dear brother, or Father Robinson, or some of the city missionaries could be present with us.

We are happy to hear of your prosperity in the city, as well as for the cheering news of so much good being done in various parts of the world.

Yours in Love,

JAMES BUTLER, Church Clerk.

The work of grace in Biddeford is still in progress. Last Sabbath the pastor, Bro. J. Hubbard, Jr., baptized 17 persons, and others are to be baptized next Sabbath. The meetings are well attended, the vestry being filled to overflowing. We understand that the work of completing the meeting-house is going on as rapidly as circumstances will permit.

There is also, as we learn, some increase of religious interest in Bro. Keely's congregation, in Saco. It is expected that several persons will be baptized next Sabbath.

Bro. Z. Morton, pastor of the church at West Gardiner, sends us the following pleasing intelligence:—"The God of all grace has revived his work in this place, quickened his saints, and converted sinners. We have employed no extra means, except more frequent meetings for prayer. On the 13th I had the delightful privilege of baptizing ten precious souls; others are expected to go forward soon, and others inquiring what they shall do to be saved. We hope in God for a continuance of the blessed work."

We learn that 18 persons were baptized last Sabbath by Rev. Mr. Sykes, pastor of the Central Baptist Church, East Boston.—Zion's Advocate.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

Rev. David Nutter, from Maine, who came to the Provinces to spend a short time in the service of the American Bible Union, has accepted a unanimous call from the Baptist Church in Portland, St. John, to become their pastor, and has entered with much energy and zeal upon the duties of his office. Elder Nutter is well known in these provinces, from the fact that he spent several of the early years of his ministry in this country, and travelled extensively in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia preaching the gospel of the blessed God with distinguished success. He brings with him to the pastorate in Portland the matured experience of a protracted and successful ministry, and already is the work of the Lord prospering in his hands. He has baptized several since he came to Portland. Not only is he cordially received by the church over which he presides, but by the ministers and churches of the City generally. Much good we doubt not will result from this valuable accession to our ministerial strength.

Rev. EDWIN CLAY, who has been absent from us for some time, prosecuting a course of Medical study in the Medical University of New York, has recently returned to St. John, and preached to his former charge in Portland last Sabbath. During the prosecution of his studies in New York he has not laid aside his ministerial office: but has preached the gospel with highly encouraging success. For some time past he has been engaged in an extensive revival of religion in one of the City Churches, and during the progress of the work has baptized upwards of eighty converts to the truth. His health has suffered somewhat from close application to study, and too much exertion in ministerial labour, but he has every reason to hope that rest and the pure air of Prince Edward Island, where he intends spending a few months, will build him up, and re-establish his health. This being done it is expected he will resume his duties as pastor of the Carleton Church.

Rev. CHARLES MACKAY, pastor of the Congregational Church in this city, expects to leave to-day (D.V.), in the packet ship *Lampoon* on a visit to Scotland, his native land. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Mackay, and two children. After spending a short time in Scotland, he will pass over to England, and proceed as far as Paris to witness the great exhibition. He will be absent some five or six months, during which time he will be a regular correspondent to the "Visitor." Many fervent prayers will be offered to the mercy seat for this our esteemed fellow-labourer in the Gospel, that God will mercifully preserve him amid the dangers of the sea and of the land; make his visit one of usefulness to himself, and to those to whom he may be called to minister in holy things, and grant him a safe return to his affectionate flock, and to his numerous friends in this city.

We learn from the "Christian Messenger" that the Rev. James Parker of Brookfield has recently accepted the pastoral charge of the Baptist church in Billtown, Cornwallis, and that the Rev. Abraham Stronach, the former

pastor, has removed to Upper Wilmot, intending, we believe, to devote a considerable portion of his time in Missionary labor. The ministry of Bro. Stronach, in the church over which he presided for so many years, was crowned with the divine blessing, and many were brought to Zion through his instrumentality. We trust his successor, Elder Parker, will be still more eminently successful in building up the Redeemer's Kingdom in his new field of labor. It is impossible for us to speak of Billtown without finding our minds moved with reminiscences of by-gone years.

That is the place where we first tasted the sweets of pardoned sin—there, in that beautiful lake, the waters of which were clear as crystal, the now glorified Edward Manning buried us with Christ in baptism, there we first began to talk of Jesus and him crucified to perishing sinners, there to this day are to be found some of the fruits of our early ministry, and there those who watched over us in the days of helpless infancy, and in riper years with parental tenderness and love, now slumber side by side in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection from the dead at the last day. As we thus ponder the past we cannot but lift our hearts in humble gratitude, and at the same time earnestly implore the divine unction for our valued Bro. Parker, that in his new and inviting field of labor he may reap a rich and glorious harvest of precious souls.

We learn from a brother in the ministry residing in Providence that the revival in that city is going forward with great energy, and with most hopeful results. The work is extending into the evangelical churches throughout the city, and promises to be shared to a larger degree than has been experienced for many years.

It is pleasing to add that the revival in East Boston, to which reference was made some weeks ago, progresses with very encouraging promise. The pastor of the Central Square church, Rev. J. N. Sykes, baptized eighteen persons last Sunday afternoon, the baptistry in their new house of worship being used for the first time on this occasion. It was a day that will be long remembered.—Watchman and Reflector.

The "Christian Messenger" informs us that Brother David Freeman, a graduate of Acadia College, has accepted a unanimous call from the Baptist Church, in Granville-street, Halifax, N. S., and that his ordination to the pastoral office of that Church is to take place immediately. After Mr. Freeman graduated at "Acadia" he spent some time in the Newton Theological Seminary. It is pleasing to know that some at least of our young brethren who go to the United States for the purpose of perfecting their studies, return to the Provinces again to devote their talents and acquisitions to the present and future well being of the people of their native land. The position which our young brother is called to fill is one of commanding influence and responsibility. May such a measure of the divine influence be imparted to him as shall fully qualify him for his station.

General Intelligence.

Latest European News.

THE WAR.

It will be seen by the extracts which we give below that the siege at Sebastopol is progressing, to all appearance, to a speedy and successful issue. The Allies have driven the Russians from several of their strong holds, and all attempts to repulse them and drive them back has been found abortive. The besieged fight with desperate energy, but in every engagement they lose ground, and the besiegers consequently increase in strength and in moral courage. It is probable that the Russian army are by this time outnumbered by the Allied forces, who are in a healthy condition, and thirsting for victory. The final struggle at Sebastopol will be short; but awfully severe and bloody. One's blood chills in his veins at the thought of that terrible hour.

FURTHER NEWS BY THE PACIFIC.

Negotiations between Austria and the Western Powers remained unchanged, but between Prussia and Austria are more intimate.

Russia notifies the German State Governments that the Czar will only hold the two first guarantees on condition of the perfect neutrality of Germany.

France and England have presented an ultimatum, which Sweden seems inclined to reject.

The French Exhibition was opened. The ceremony was rather dull.

SECOND DESPATCH.

THE WAR.

The siege of Sebastopol makes but little, if any, progress, though latest dates by mail are to April 30, and by telegraph, so far as published, to 12th May.

Gen. Canrobert had reviewed the entire French army, and assured them he would soon enter Sebastopol, either by the door or window.

Symptoms have transpired of extended operations being about to commence on the part of the allies.

A force of 15,000 Turks, French and English, hastily embarked on board the available ships near Sebastopol, and stood away in the direction of the Sea of Azof; they returned in a day or two after, and as hastily disembarked.

Omar Pasha and his troops were making all speed to esconce themselves again in Eupatoria.

The combat on the night of the 24th, between the Russians and the French, was a desperate affair. The Russians attempted to dig new rifle pits, and the French partially prevented them; 200 French were placed hors d' combat. The French managed to push their sap considerably forward, and mounted several new guns.

A despatch of May 1st says the advances are approaching surely, though slowly.

A despatch from Lord Raglan, on the same day, says the Russians had constructed a new battery on the left of the Mamelon, and there was every appearance of the establishment of a very large camp on the plateau above the Belbeck on the north side, extending towards Mackenzie's Farm.