

THE FAMILY CASSETT
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THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR. SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEB. 27, 1856.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.
Terms of the Visitor, 7s. 6d., per annum in advance, 10s., if payable by delayed over three months.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
No communication will be inserted without the author's 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 address, or six new subscribers, will get the "Visitor" for one year free of charge.

The Baptist Churches.

NOTES ON THEIR PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE.

A series of articles are being published in the "Examiner" under the above caption. They are evidently the production of a master mind, and of one thoroughly posted in denominational history. So deeply interesting have we been in perusing these papers, that we have been strongly inclined to give them to our readers; but want of room hitherto has prevented. This week we have resolved to give No. XI a place in our editorial column, perfectly assured that it will interest our readers quite as much as any thing that we could say on this or any other subject. The writer says:—
I have, on several occasions, alluded to the fact that we have a mutual loss, as Baptists, by following the examples of other denominations. I would almost seem to be a seceder, that we were unacquainted with our own peculiar sentiments, and that these were an essential part of our difference. I think the point of difference is important, and that our own history is, in the highest degree, honorable to us as a Christian Society. If any man among us does not feel a manly pride in the sentiments which have distinguished us, and in the manner in which we have maintained them, there must exist some thing wrong, either in his head or his heart.
The nature of the difference which distinguishes us from others, is on this wise. It is evident that all disciples of Christ must be essentially the same heart respecting the character of God, the thoughts and character of man, and the way of salvation through the merits and atonement of the Redeemer. But it is evident that, holding these truths, men may adopt upon and understand the truth, so that it becomes more and more operative, until, at last, a church or spiritual and heavenly order, becomes formal, rigid and worldly. Of course, we are to judge of any denomination not merely by what it believes, but also by the contradictory elements which it has associated with its belief, and which, in the long run, are liable to sever it from the simplicity of the truth as it is in Jesus. This, we think, has been a major one of many of our Christian brethren, whose belief, according to their formulae, agrees quite closely with our own.
We, on the other hand, think that, by the grace of God, we have been enabled to exclude from our belief any of those principles which have exerted a deleterious influence on many of our brethren. In a word, as I before have said, we have followed more closely in the steps of the Master, excluding the errors derived from the traditions of the fathers, the decisions of councils, and the enactments of State, and have cleaved more closely to the simple teachings of Christ and his Apostles. We are, in no spirit of arrogance or self-esteem, but in devout thankfulness to the Great Teacher, who we believe has condescended to make known to us the truth more perfectly.
How can you ascribe this more perfect knowledge of the Word of God to yourselves? You have never heard among your professed philosophers, learned philologists, acute logicians, or any of those gigantic intellects to whom we look up as the lights of the advancing ages. I answer, we have arrived at a clearer knowledge of Divine truth, for the very reason that we have had no such guides to follow. Our fathers were, for the most part, plain, unlearned men. Having nowhere else to look, they looked up in humility to the Holy Spirit to teach them the meaning of the Word of God. They had no learned authorities to lead them astray. They mingled in no aristocratic circles, whose ever-varying public sentiment might crush the first boldness of earnest and honest inquiry. As little children, they took up the Word of God, and it to mean just what it said, and willing to practice whatever it taught. Thus they arrived at truth which escaped the notice of the learned and the intellectually mighty.
This is just what we might have expected. The New Testament was given as a revelation, not to the learned or the philosophically wise, but to every one kind of woman. In it, God speaks to every individual of our race, as such, so that that individual was the only being whom it addressed. Such a communication is most evidently made as plain and simple as language could make it. In the New Testament, infinite Wisdom has put forth its power, to render the truth by which we must be saved easy to be read and understood. Such being the nature of the revelation, it is manifest that the best of all interpreters must be a humble and a childlike disposition. The mind which is most thoroughly purified from every desire to exalt itself, and which is of all others, the most likely to discover the truth which the Spirit intended to convey. Such is clearly the teaching of our Saviour on the subject. "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight." I hope I have all due respect for learning, and especially for philological learning. I am not a student, but I have a reverence for the wise and modest men, of the age of Solon, who are, which of them had no deep and thorough understanding of the mind of the Spirit in the New Testament, as John Bunyan? Shut up for twelve years in Bedford Jail, for the testimony of

Jesus, his soul wrung with anguish by the tears of his starving wife and helpless babes, with no book but the Bible, a ray of light from the throne of God shone down upon the sacred oracles, as he looked upon them, and revealed to him mysteries which the learned could not see, and which he has unfolded to the admiring gaze of all the coming ages. Take another case of a different character. Neander was learned in philosophy, and in the history of the church, beyond any man of his age, perhaps of any age. Take up now his Commentary on John's First Epistle, the best of his works, of this character, with which I am acquainted. The excellency of this exposition is not at all owing to his marvellous learning, but to the childlike and loving temper which placed him in so delightful harmony of spirit with the beloved Apostle. If such be the law of the Divine dispensation, it is not remarkable that truth which was hidden from the wise and prudent, has been revealed unto babes. And that this has been so, would seem to be evident, from the fact that the sentiments which we have maintained for generations, amidst obliquity and contempt, are now admitted to be truths by the profoundest thinkers and the most learned Christian philosophers of the present age, by men of the logical acumen of a Whately, and the philological and historical learning of a Bunsen and a Neander.
ROGER WILLIAMS.

Tea Meeting at Grand Bay.

On Wednesday afternoon we started, in company with a number of friends from the City and Portland, for the Grand Bay. The day was very mild and delightful, and the journey pleasant. We arrived at the Baptist Chapel about half-past five o'clock, and found there a large number of persons, from the immediate neighbourhood and from Carleton and Indiantown, who had spread out the "good things of this life," in rich profusion, and with great taste and elegance, for the enjoyment of all who would come to partake, and thus contribute their mite to the funds required for putting the building in proper repair, for the purpose of raising which the meeting was convened. There was everything about the occasion to render it a happy and joyous one. Old friends and acquaintances, of different denominations, were gathered together in sweet union and harmony, to show their sympathy in the cause, recount the scenes and memories of years gone by, and bless the name of Him whose care had shielded them from the dangers of the past, whose hand had guided them to the enjoyment of the pleasures of the present, and whose love inspires their hopes as they look towards the future. There was the light of gladness in every eye, and the expression of pleasure on every countenance. Each seemed anxious to vie with the other in augmenting the happiness of the hour. After the friends had partaken of the "genuine good cups of tea," and the rich supplies of cake, &c., which had been provided, the Chairman called the meeting to order, and the Choir of the Germain Street Baptist Chapel, who kindly offered their services on the occasion, having taken their Melodeon with them, entertained the company by singing with more than their accustomed sweetness, several beautiful and touching anthems. Then animated addresses were delivered by E. H. Duval, Esq., Rev. J. E. Hill, Rev. D. Nuter, and Mr. McAfee—between each of which an anthem was sung by the Choir. A vote of thanks was presented to the ladies and committee of management, who had so kindly and so beautifully provided for the occasion, and another to the Germain Street Choir. The Rev. Mr. Hill then pronounced the benediction. Those who had come from the city returned in their sleighs (of which there were a large number) across the ice, the moon shining upon them in all her loveliness, and cheering them with the beauty of her beams. All concurred in pronouncing the meeting one of the happiest and best of the kind they had ever attended.
(Signed)
STEPHEN MARCH, Chairman.

We are happy to announce that there were about fifty dollars realized, to be appropriated to the object above named.

Tricentennial Bible Meeting.

A correspondent at Fredericton, writing on the 25th February, instants, says:—I attended a very interesting Meeting of the Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, held here on Thursday evening last in the Temperance Hall, at which His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor presided. His Excellency commenced the meeting with an excellent speech, in which he gave an account of the origin of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He stated that it had been cradled in war; that during the long time that Britain had enjoyed peace, this Society had gone on increasing strength, and now though England is again engaged in war, this Society still increases strength, and flourishes alike in war and peace. His Excellency is a clear and forcible speaker; he closed his interesting remarks by saying that it was pleasant that different denominations could meet upon a common platform to advocate the cause of truth. Yet he trusted, that while himself and others, claimed the right to enjoy their own opinions, he trusted their religion would move them to exercise charity towards the one who differed from them.
Rev. Mr. Sparden then read the Annual Report, which was written in a very interesting style, and contained much valuable information. The Rev. Dr. Brooke, Rev. Mr. McKay, Rev. Mr. Churchil, His Honor Judge Wilnot, the Hon. Mr. Tiller, and the Hon. Mr. Wark, each addressed the meeting in very appropriate speeches.
The Hall was filled early in the evening, and many were not able to gain admittance. No doubt many were present because the Governor was to preside, but whatever motives prompted them to attend they could hardly fail of being benefited. This is a step in the right direction, when His Excellency will aid in efforts of this kind.
The Rev. Wm. Donald, A. M., delivered a lecture before the St. John Young Men's Christian Association, on Thursday evening last. Subject—Principles of Popery to be found not among Romanists only, but also among professed Protestants. The house was crowded to overflowing, and several persons were compelled to go away without gaining admittance.
The next lecture will be delivered by the Rev. A. M. Staveley, A. M. Subject—St. Paul's Travels.

Escape from Peril.

The following letter from the pen of the Rev. John Francis appeared in Memphis Daily Eagle and Enquirer, on the 8th ult., and furnishes a thrilling description of the extreme danger to which our esteemed brother and his fellow passengers were exposed on board the steamer John Simpson, and their marvellous deliverance by the hand of a merciful Providence. Many of our readers will unite with us in offering devout thanksgivings to the Preserver of men for His watchful care over our absent brother, when placed in such a perilous position, and that he still lives to bear the message of mercy to a fallen world. The Editor heads the letter thus:—
The following letter from one of the passengers, narrates a state of things so rare in our Southern water that we cannot forbear giving it entire. The reader might almost fancy himself pursuing some of the hair-breadth escapes of Dr. Kane in the Arctic Zone. Re: d.
STEAMBOAT JOHN SIMPSON, (ice-bound in the Cumberland River, Eight miles above Smithfield), January 31, 1856.

My last communication was written on board the same boat soon after leaving Nashville, on Tuesday, 23d inst., and mailed at Clarksville. The steamer left Nashville with about forty passengers, most of us going to Memphis, where we expected to arrive on the following Saturday. No fears were entertained that our progress would be seriously impeded on the passage. A. J. Davis, Esq., had received a dispatch to the effect that the Cumberland and Ohio rivers were open to the last named city. The John Simpson left Nashville at 3 o'clock p. m., and steamed down the river, effectually crushing the large cakes of ice that floated in the channel. We took in considerable freight and some passengers, at different points. All seemed to go on well, until about twenty-five miles above Smithfield when the boat was brought to a dead halt, the ice having accumulated and completely blocked up the river. Through much exertion, however, the vessel was backed out, and we steamed up the river to Marshall's Landing, a distance of three miles, where we remained until Saturday; but early on that day we discovered that the river was fast, which encouraged us to hope that the ice had gone away, and shortly after all doubt was removed by the appearance of a steamer coming up the river. The steamer got up and just before starting, the U. S. Mail steamer, J. G. Cline also came up, so the captain felt justified in proceeding at once on the voyage. A few miles above Dyersburg, where we remained a few minutes and then continued on our course, crushing large cakes of ice in our progress for about two miles, when we found ourselves completely enveloped, unable to go forward or backward. The whole mass of ice, which we subsequently discovered to be two or three miles in length, soon became stationary and remained so for about an hour, when it again moved on taking us with it for about a mile further and then stopped and remained apparently as immovable as a rock, Saturday night, Sunday and Monday, when the captain commenced making preparations to open a channel for the port of the vessel, by cutting a portion of the ice with saws, and blowing up the other portion with powder. On Tuesday, the ice seeming as firm as ever, the work was commenced and was progressing favorably, there being about thirty men and one of the passengers at work in the middle of the river and nearly a quarter of a mile from the shore, and about three o'clock the captain perceived that the ice began to move bodily. He immediately gave the alarm when all ran to the fore, and providentially escaped being crushed to death or finding a watery grave. The night was mooned and steadily and justly on toward the ice, which the John Simpson in its icy envelopment, with apparent determination on the ice, after a little time the wheels of the steamer began to revolve, backing against the steamer, which then parted fore and aft and broke up in large blocks, from twelve to thirteen feet thick, blocking rocks and mud from the bottom and sides of the river, leaving only one chance for the escape of the boat, which was soon effected in mystery style. The noble steamer bounded forth, amidst the shouts of the men and passengers on board and on the shore. The pilot, after steering her through the ice for some time, rounded her to and brought her to land with bow up stream, when she was safely moored below a point, under the very trees that would probably have been her upper works to atoms had she not been thus extricated. The passengers and men who had escaped to the other side of the river, re-crossed upon the ice a mile below, and returned to the vessel, when all were so enabled to congratulate each other upon their providential deliverance from danger and death.
I must not omit to mention that a deputation waited upon one of our passengers who is a minister of the Gospel, requesting him to conduct religious services on the Sabbath; which was accordingly done—the officers and some of the crew as well as all the passengers attending and paying respectful attention to the word of life.
The passengers throughout, manifested a disposition to promote each other's comfort and happiness, and took in the highest praise of the excellent table, the good accommodations and the gentlemanly conduct of the officers on board the steamer John Simpson.
Yours, as ever,
JOHN FRANCIS.

Prayer for Colleges.

We received a note from Dr. Cramp reminding us of the day of special prayer for Colleges; but it came too late for notice last week. Thursday the 28th is the day observed for this purpose by the American Churches, and it has been deemed advisable that the Provinces should observe the same day. As notice has not been given in time to the Churches in the Country, they will not probably meet; but it is in time for the Churches in the City and vicinity, as the Churches in Brussel and Germain-street, are now holding Union Meetings, it will be quite convenient for them to unite their supplications for all Institutions of learning, on Thursday evening in Germain-street, Baptist Chapel. We hope it will be convenient for our brethren in Portland and Carleton either to assemble in their respective Churches, or to meet with us. The object is one of vast magnitude, and ought to excite our deepest sympathies and call forth our most fervent supplications.

Home Missions.

Our indefatigable Missionary, Bro. James Bleakney, informs us that he has been labouring for the last four weeks at Gorham and at the Oronocto, and that prospects are favorable. May God greatly prosper his way!

Progress of Minnesota.

The following extract from the Correspondence of the Examiner, gives us some idea of the spirit of progress, as exhibited in the far west.—Some of our readers have friends in Minnesota, and we publish this extract with special reference to such.
"I will give a few instances that will show the progress of things in Winona, as this is one of the principal points in Southern Minnesota.—One thousand acres are laid out into town lots, which make between three and four thousand lots. At first lots were given away to a limited extent, to those that would build upon them.—After a few houses had been erected, lots began to sell at from \$10 to \$130. Soon it was ascertained that this was beyond all doubt one of those spots assigned by nature for a city, while farmers by thousands came into the back country.—Tradesmen, mechanics, and artisans of all kinds came to town in such numbers, that ninety houses have been built in the last ninety days, and still they cry "more room." Town property has gone up rapidly. A lot across the way from my own house, that one year ago was offered for \$150, and found no purchaser, yesterday was sold for \$3000. This, of course, was for a business lot. An acre of land that one year ago was offered for \$50, was sold for \$900 but a day or two ago. We had supposed that the close of navigation, and the sinking of the thermometer, would reduce the spirit of speculation, and check the real estate operations till Spring, but property is still rising, and larger operations are reported every day. Men of more money and more experience have come on the stage, and new projects for improvement engross the public mind. Great preparations are making for building the coming season. The lowest estimate is, that 300 houses will go up next season. Every mechanic is busy now, notwithstanding the season has been unusually cold. No western town has presented greater evidences of permanent prosperity, and of rapid growth, than our infant city Winona.—The improvements of this town are only in keeping with Southern Minnesota generally. Go where you will in the back country and the sturdy pioneer is hurrying up his improvements with an energy and perseverance that overcomes all obstacles. Men are grasping large farms for themselves and children, and many of their friends that will be here in the Spring."

Rev. James Tozer writes us from Boiestown, February 18th, 1856:—"I am still labouring to cultivate this large and destitute field, but with little apparent success; still we have some encouraging prospects of good being done. Our meetings are generally well attended, and when the weather is fine, and the travelling good, our congregation is considerable, but our meetings have been very much interrupted by stormy Sabbaths and bad travelling, still we are doing what we can, and feel much pleasure in it.
Is there no one to go to St. Francis? Brother Porter's letter in the last "Visitor" giving a description of that interesting temple, is calculated to awaken the sympathies and arouse the feelings of every Christian that has a soul. We feel certain some one of our Brethren will be ready to say, "here am I, send me."

I am doing what I can for your very welcome Visitor, whose weekly visits are received with great satisfaction and delight, by all who are favoured with them, and were it not for the very great scarcity of money at present in this place, the number would be very much increased, and the little accompanying Casket, so admirably adapted to instruct and gratify the youth, add much to its popularity. You have our whole-hearted sympathy, and prayers to God that you may be supported, and prosper in your praiseworthy, yet arduous work."

The Rev. W. G. Parker, of Niataux, N. S., says:—
We have been holding meetings at Salem Hall, near Wilnot Springs; prospects are encouraging—old souls revived and sinners deeply impressed. We are anticipating additions to the Church."

Rev. Wm. Hobbs, who has been labouring for some time at Liverpool, N. S., writes us on the 13th ult.—
"Three weeks ago we commenced some extra services, viz.,—Praying every evening, and meetings during the afternoons. The Church is beginning to wake up, and some profess conversion. Strange that we need such a repetition to arouse us from our lethargy; but so it is. What the result will be we know not. The meetings are becoming more and more interesting."

May the good work proceed, and sinners be brought to Jesus!

Revival at Hillsborough.

It will be seen by reference to the letters from Brethren Marshall and Hughes, which appear on our first page, that the gracious work of revival at Hillsborough is still in progress, and that great good is being effected. God grant a continuance of this season of spiritual refreshing both to ministers and people!

Prohibition.

As Petitions are being extensively signed in favor of a repeal of the Prohibitory Liquor Law, would it not be well for the friends of the Law to send in Petitions also? It is suitable efforts were put forth we are satisfied that a large majority of signatures could be obtained in favor of the Law. Such a move would do good. The enemy is only wounded, he still lives. Temperance men be up and doing.

Hopeful.

We are informed on reliable authority that Mr. Walsh who was so violently assailed by McCarron, and whose case was considered hopeless, is convalescent, and that his medical advisers now deem it possible that he may recover; but speak of him as being still in a most precarious state.

The Fire in Sheffield Street.

In our last issue we stated that we were informed that all the houses destroyed by the recent fire in the above street, belonged to Mr. Crookford. We have since been told by Mr. Crookford that only two of the houses were owned by him.

Johnston, Weshadamoak Lake.

February, 23d, 1856.
Dear Brother,—We are enjoying a glorious revival of religion in this place. Four were baptized yesterday, and five more were received by the church to-day for baptism to-morrow. The meeting to-day was one of remarkable interest. I never witnessed a greater display of God's mercy than was experienced in the meeting to-day. The gracious influence of the Holy Spirit was powerfully felt by the people of God, and many were pricked in their hearts. I trust the blessed work is only fairly commenced. Our congregations are increasing. I came to this place last Saturday accompanied by Brother Springer. We have held meetings every day since, with much encouragement. Surely the Lord has been with us. We were joined on Thursday by Elder Keirstead.

The church here has been for many years under the pastoral care of Elder Thorn. Last fall Brother T. tendered his resignation, and the church has since that time been destitute of pastoral labour. I doubt not that brother Thorn will rejoice in seeing the church in connection with which he has long laboured now abundantly revived.

Two of the converts speak of having been blessed in connection with brother Edward's labours when he visited this place last fall. His labours here were greatly blessed, and he is much beloved by the people in the land.
As anticipated in my last letter to you, I hope to see arrangements made for permanently supplying the shores of this beautiful lake with the preaching of the gospel before I leave. I will probably remain here until Tuesday next, and then leave for St. John via Springfield. I have been happily detained here longer than I expected. My recent visit to the Grand Lake was to me deeply interesting. I have not time to state particulars. The church at New Castle gave me £15 10s in cash and pledges, for Home Missions, and at Salmon River £3 10s were given. Salmon River, including Salmon Creek and Speraux, presents an inviting field of labour for a faithful minister. Had a pleasant visit to Scotch Town, where I held several meetings with encouraging success. Scotch Town and the surrounding settlements might be incorporated into a mission, a field with a prospect of doing good. While in Canning a few days ago arrangements were made for supplying the church there with regular preaching. Brother Emerson has accepted a call from the Canning Church to labour there in connection with Murgerville. I feel assured that the Divine blessing will attend this arrangement. Elder Fitch is pastor of the new church in Gagetown.
I am not insensible to the teaching afforded contained in your last Visitor from St. Francis. May the Lord guide us in our endeavors to supply that interesting field with the Word of Life!
Yours affectionately,
ISA. WALLACE.

Horton Academy, Feb. 18, 1856.

Dear Brother,—I beg to say that the Visitor and its monthly companion, the neat little Casket are indeed welcome on the "College Hill" and especially in my family. You have my most cordial good wishes for success in your valuable labours.
The Academy is enjoying a high degree of prosperity. The class of young men preparing to matriculate next summer is quite large. I sincerely sympathize with my dear brother Robinson in his sad bereavement.
Dr. Cramp will probably soon remove to the "Hill," for a time at least. The Governors, and the Executive Committee are to meet to-morrow, and matters in relation to his home will then be decided.
Yours affectionately,
J. W. HARTT.

Temperance Meeting in Elgin, A. C.

Dear Editor,—We had a very interesting meeting last evening at the Baptist Meeting House in this place; it being the time appointed for the tenth Annual meeting of the Elgin T. A. Society, the attendance was unusually large.—The Chair was occupied by the President, John S. Colpitts, Esq., J. P. Several very animating and warm-hearted addresses were made by gentlemen present. The tenth Annual Report of the Society, was read by its author, Mr. M. D. Robinson, showing the whole number of members to be 110. The Report gave a very decided expression in favor of Prohibition, and it was received with acclamations by all present.
The officers for the ensuing year are Mr. Wm. P. Robinson, President; J. S. Colpitts, Esq., Vice President; and Mr. R. D. Robinson, Recording Secretary; and Mr. G. W. G. Corresponding Secretary, and a Committee of seven members.
The inhabitants of this parish, are nearly, if not quite all in favor of Prohibition. In fact there never was such an outrageous and unamiable establishment as a "Grog Shop" in this parish, and we earnestly hope there never will be one.
Yours, &c.
VALTIO.

Public Meeting.

A public meeting was held near the mouth of Pennyc, in the Parish of St. Mary's on the 23d inst, for the purpose of sustaining the Prohibitory Liquor Law; believing it to be conducive to the interest and prosperity of our Province.
The following resolution was brought forward by the Rev. J. Gutter, and seconded by the Rev. G. Seely.
Resolved,—That we give our candid support to the present Prohibitory Law, and desire that it may have a fair and honest trial.
After very able speeches by the Rev. Messrs. Gutter, Seely, Murgie, and others the resolution passed unanimously.
C. L. GOODFREED, Chairman.
J. A. MANKE, Secretary.
(Intelligence please copy.)

Temperance Meeting at Macnaquack.

A public meeting was held in the Baptist meeting house at Macnaquack, on Thursday evening, the 21st February. A goodly number met on the occasion. The meeting was duly organized by the appointment of Mr. Joshua Currier

Chairman, and Mr. B. Jewett, Secretary. Meeting opened by singing, and prayer by the Rev. Mr. Seely, who delivered an interesting Lecture on Temperance and the Prohibitory Law. Several gentlemen followed with very appropriate remarks. After which, on motion of Z. B. Esley seconded by Joseph H. Dykenan.
Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the Prohibitory Liquor Law deserves a fair and impartial trial by the Province, therefore it is hoped that it will be sustained.
The question then was fairly put, and the vote was unanimous.
On motion of N. Currie, seconded by Messrs Dykenan,
Resolved, That a vote of thanks be given to the Rev. Mr. Seely for his able address on the present occasion.
After due respect paid to the Chairman for his services, the meeting was closed by singing the Doxology.
B. JEWETT, Secretary.

General Intelligence.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The arrival of the "Atlantic" at New York, on the morning of the 23rd ult., gives us European dates to the 9th inst. The peace prospects, as they relate to Europe, are favourable, but great excitement in reference to war with the United States. Report says, that Buchanan, the American Minister, in London, had demanded his passports. It seems impossible that two nations, related as England and the United States are,—by blood, by language, by commerce, by religion, should meet each other in bloody and deadly combat; but none can tell what the mysterious book of Providence may yet unfold. The Christian people of both nations should commit the cause to Him who judges righteously and who has the hearts of all men in his hands, beseeching Him, in believing prayer, that He will arrest a calamity so fearful as that of war between two of the most enlightened and Christian nations upon the earth.
Arrival of the Aetna.
HALIFAX, Feb. 22.
Steamer "Aetna," from Havre for New York, put in here, short of coal, at six this evening,—had very rough weather,—brought Paris and Havre dates to the 5th inst., but no English papers, and no news of the Steamer "Pacific."
Contents of French papers unimportant.
The Presse publishes names of negotiators about to assemble at Paris Conference. They are, for France, Walewski and Bourguenay; England, Clarendon and Cowley; Austria, Buol and Hubers; Turkey, Ali Pacha and Mahemet Djim Bey; Sardinia, Dazoglio; Russia, Orloff and Brunow.
It is still current at Paris, that Prussia will not be permitted to participate. Prince Gortschnakoff, when signing the protocol at Vienna, formally accepting Austrian propositions, demanded that Prussia should be invited to take part in the Conference. Count Buol supported the demand, but M. Bourguenay and Lord Seymour has asked to refer it to their respective governments. The acceptance, by Russia, of peace propositions, had caused the greatest astonishment in Turkey, on the 19th it had not yet reached the allied generals, owing to the submarine cable in the Black Sea being broken.
Some disturbances had been created by the Bashli Basouks at Shumla.
It was reported that a serious military conspiracy at Madrid, with ramifications through the north of Spain—particulars not given.
Not a particle of any kind of English news can get nothing definite as to Havre markets, but breadstuffs declining.
Confidence in favourable result of Peace Conference daily increasing.

Arrival of the Atlantic.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE
The "Atlantic" arrived at New York on Saturday, 23rd.
Strong westerly gales prevailed for the last ten days. She was, for three days, in large fields of ice.
Nothing of the "Pacific."
The preliminary protocol was signed first at Vienna by the representatives of France, England, Turkey, Russia, and Austria, agreeing to open Conference at Paris within three weeks.
An armistice on land only agreed upon until the end of March.
There was great excitement relative to war with the United States. The reports of difficulties between Clarendon and Buchanan are repeated. It is rumored that Buchanan demanded his passports; reported that England and France jointly sent envoys to Brazil, relative to Central American affairs.
STILL LATER
The "Asia" arrived at New York on Sunday morning. She brings European dates to the 9th. There is little important news to add to that brought by the Atlantic.
It is reported that Sir H. Bulwer intimated that he would like to act as mediator between the British Government and Buchanan,—it is said to be the desire of Palmerston.
Nothing important from the Crimea.
LIVERPOOL.—Breadstuffs rather depressed, Western, 35s.
CONSOLS.—Weak, closing 94 to 91 1/2
SHIP NEWS.—Arrived, Harriet Cann, Clyde 6th; Kate, Deal, 7th; Laconia, Clyde, 3rd; Pilgrim, at Laulash, 3rd, in distress, bound to Liverpool.

From late English Papers.

QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The tone of the Queen's speech is unexpected. With respect to the propositions for peace, made through Austria and accepted by Russia, her Majesty speaks in hopeful terms; but she adds that the naval and military preparations for a continuance of the war will not in the slightest degree be relaxed until the terms have been satisfactorily settled. This is the most cheering statement in the