

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 18, 1862.

Our New Series.

It is encouraging to know that the specimen copy of the new series of the Visitor has met with universal approval.

Rev. J. C. Hurd, in a business note of the 15th inst., says: "The new series of the Christian Visitor came to hand all right. I can only say for myself, that I am highly pleased with its appearance."

The Two Dollars.

Some disappointment has been expressed from certain sections of the country in reference to our terms. We have only to say in regard to this, that we have exerted ourselves to the very utmost to keep the price down.

At the Association, it was stated that two thousand subscribers, all paying in advance, would enable us to keep the price at a dollar and a half.

Our brethren, ministers, and churches all must feel that if they would have a paper that shall be a credit to the denomination, they must put it upon a paying basis.

Divide the Sum.

Those who find it inconvenient to pay two dollars in advance for the Visitor, may pay one dollar every six months; and if this be too much, they can pay fifty cents every three months.

The rule should be, the Christian Visitor for every Baptist family in city and country; and let the ministers and agents in their respective districts make such arrangements as will accomplish this result.

Portland List.

Rev. E. C. Cady has entered heartily into the circulation of the new series in Portland and Indiantown, and as the result of his exertions since the specimen copy appeared, he has handed in this week the names of forty-four new subscribers.

A Word to Subscribers.

All who paid a year's subscription for the Visitor in advance, during our visit to the Churches on the DOLLAR AND A HALF scale, will receive it at that rate until their year shall have expired.

Commendations of the Press.

From the Christian Messenger, Halifax, of the 10th inst. The Christian Visitor for 1st January, 1863—a specimen copy—has made its appearance in a new and very much improved dress.

From the Colonial Presbyterian of the 11th inst. We have received the first number of the new issue of the Christian Visitor, edited by the Rev. I. E. Bill, published by Messrs. Barnes & Co.

The Christian Visitor comes to us this week enlarged, and much improved in typographical appearance. Now is the time to subscribe for one of the best papers published in the Province of New Brunswick.

From the Religious Intelligencer of the 15th inst. A specimen number of the new series of the Christian Visitor has been issued from the printing office of Messrs. Barnes & Co.

commence in January. It is the same size as the Intelligencer, on paper of similar quality, and in the usual typographical style of the papers printed by Messrs. Barnes. It is now the sole property of the Rev. I. E. Bill, who will hereafter devote his whole attention to its interests.

Ordination.

We are informed by Rev. G. F. Miles, that Alfred Chipman was ordained to the work of the Christian ministry, at River Philip, on the 26th ult.

Delegates from the following churches were present, viz: Little River, Rev. William Dobson, brethren Levi Johnson, George Thomson, and Thomas Johnson; Great Village, Rev. J. E. Balcom; Amherst, Rev. G. F. Miles, brethren J. M. Layton, Hugh Logan, and Cyrus Black; Sackville, N. B., Rev. T. Todd.

The Council organized at 10 A. M., by the appointment of Rev. G. F. Miles, Moderator, and brother Cyrus Black, Clerk. The candidate related his religious experience, call to the ministry, and views of Bible doctrine; all of which was highly satisfactory, and the Council proceeded with the ordination according to the following order: Sermon by Rev. J. E. Balcom. Text—"Preach the word." Questions, Rev. T. Todd. Ordination prayer, Rev. William Dobson.

The exercises were exceedingly solemn, and deeply impressive. The missionary labors of brother Chipman have been very useful at River Philip. Six persons were baptized by Elder Dobson the Sabbath previous to the ordination. May the good work continue.

Brother Chipman goes to Pictou on a six months' mission, under the auspices of the Nova Scotia Baptist Missionary Board. May success attend his labors in that important field.

Donation Visit.

The Baptist Church and congregation of Amherst met at their parsonage on Tuesday, the 9th instant, where more than one hundred persons sat down to a delicious tea, prepared for the occasion. Deacon Cyrus Black delivered an address to the pastor, Rev. G. F. Miles, to which he made an appropriate reply.

It is said that a certain minister was in the habit of borrowing five dollars from one of his parishioners every Saturday night, and returning it punctually every Monday morning. When asked why he did so, he replied he could always preach better when he had money in his pocket.

We are informed that brother L. H. Marshall has accepted a call from the churches at Pugsaw and Goose River to become their pastor. Our valued brother has done a good work in New Brunswick during his residence in the Province.

Rev. H. Charlton has received a call from the Church at Buttertut Ridge, and has entered upon his work in that place. We hope the work of the Lord will prosper in his hands.

Rev. Edwin Clay, M. D., has removed, with his family, to Pugsaw, where he is devoting himself to his medical profession. Before leaving Carleton, he preached a farewell discourse to the Church and congregation, to whom for several years he was accustomed to address, as their esteemed and successful pastor, the messages of redeeming love.

All monies received for the Visitor, old or new series, during our visit to the Churches, and since, will be acknowledged in our second issue of new series.

At the annual meeting of the Saint John Religious Tract Society, held this 11th day of December, 1862, the following gentlemen were elected office bearers for the ensuing year:

Hon. A. McL. Seely, President; Jas. Paterson, E. L. D., Cor. Secretary; G. W. Whitney, Sec. Secretary; John Fraser, Treasurer; Hon. W. B. Kinnear, Dr. Botford, John Fisher, James Reid, John Boyd, John Wishart, and C. Kirkpatrick, Committee.

The following statement will show the operations of the Society for the last year:

Table with financial data for the Religious Tract Society, including items like 'Balance of cash in Treasurer's hands', 'To balance of sales from Depository', and 'By Bill remitted London Society'.

Subscribers to the Society are entitled to a discount of twenty-five per cent. on purchases. Subscriptions received by the Secretary and Treasurer.

The minds of many are now stirred up in this City to give increased attention to the great business of Sabbath school instruction.

A Convention has just been formed, of which Mr. Kinnear is the President, having a Secretary, and certain rules and bye laws for its guidance. Having attended several of a denominational character, four years ago, in the United States, and being present at the meeting last Tuesday evening, in the Vestry of the Baptist Church in Brussels street, I was enabled to form an opinion of the modus operandi of said Convention.

This short article will not enable me to give all my views on Sabbath school instruction. I may have that opportunity from the pulpit; but these suggestions may be of some service to the good cause.

In connection with the regular weekly lessons and instruction they had in the United States, a monthly meeting on the Lord's day evening, called the Sabbath school concert (not a singing concert), but a meeting of the teachers and scholars, pastor and members, children from other schools, and visitors, all gathered in the body of the place of worship, or in the Vestry. I will here give a programme of the Sabbath school concert, as I conducted them in my Church.

- Programme of Sabbath School Concerts. 1. Introductory, by Choir. 2. Prayer, by Minister. 3. Overture, by Scholars. 4. Recitations of Scripture and lessons—1st class, 2d class, 3d class, 4th class. 5. Piece of music, by Choir. 6. Hymn, by scholars. 7. Recitation of single passages by teachers and scholars. 8. Singing, by scholars. 9. Recitations, by 8th, 6th, 7th, and 8th classes. 10. Singing, by Choir, and Catechetical questions, by the pastor. 11. Addresses, by Superintendent and others. 12. Prayer. 13. Concluding hymn. Not to last more than two hours.

In conclusion, training is the great desideratum at the present day; training, previous to conversion, and training after that period, in order to form harmonious Christian character. It is a well known principle in morals, that the antecedents of our life give a coloring to all our subsequent career.

Dr. Guthrie on the Lancashire Distress. At the meeting held a few days ago in Edinburgh, on behalf of the Lancashire distress, Dr. Guthrie, who was one of the speakers, said, in the course of his remarks:—

I cannot enter into politics on this occasion any more than the other speakers, but I may mention that I happened to see a letter from one who is of the greatest authority connected with America: and in that letter he said he had no hope of seeing a settlement of the American war with anything less than a complete wreck of the whole Republic.

We are not without sin against our brother. We need not throw the blame of slavery on America, as if it belonged to it alone. We have in Africa, India, and Australia, abundance of soil to raise cotton for our own necessities—for the necessities of all Europe.

After anxious weeks of preparation, the two great armies, numbering on both sides nearly half a million of brave men, came together at Fredericksburg in deadly combat. The Federals had succeeded in crossing the river by means of pontoon bridges, under protection of gunboats, and had got possession of the town; but the Confederates had chosen their battle ground, and were fully prepared to meet their assailants.

At an early hour on Thursday the 11th instant, three pontoon bridges were begun across the Rappahannock in front of Fredericksburg. The Confederates permitted the work to proceed till it was half completed, when they opened a brisk musketry fire upon the men engaged upon it, and compelled them to abandon it.

I asked for £700 they gave me three times £700. It was like the echo repeating and repeating itself. As that statement I have made will go forth to the public, I hope the response will be such as the necessity demands. There never was such a necessity. May it turn out that there never has been such a response. (Cheers.) I will just leave the matter with you, after reading a sentence from a letter I received this day from Manchester. My correspondent says: "One of our ministers told me, the other day, that he knew a clerk who had been in a superior position, who gave his children a superior education, whose daughter had been at the boarding school. He was thrown out of employment; but, after trying every means of supporting himself, he had at last laid down saying, I can die, but I cannot beg."

Secular Department.

ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL.

The Prince of Wales is to be married in April. Great preparations are being made for the event. The Princess Alexandra has returned to Copenhagen. She is greatly admired in England, both for the beauty of her person and the sweetness of her disposition.

Italy.—The King has returned from his excursion into Central Italy. It is superfluous to say that he was everywhere very well received, and that he spoke here and there with that appearance of good faith, that naïveté, and that conviction of the great destiny of Italy which he always displays. He personally sees neither difficulties nor diplomacy, and would, if he might, cut every knot with the sword.

At the present moment an immense activity prevails in the arsenals. The navy is progressing admirably. Twelve new vessels of all kinds and dimensions are in course of construction here and abroad. At Millwall, for instance, a war steamer of 2000 tons, on Cole's system, is being built.

An extraordinary suit was recently brought in one of the English Courts, showing that English papers have been bought up to advocate the interests of France. The suit is an action brought by Mr. Sergeant Glover, formerly proprietor of the Morning Chronicle, against Count Persigny and M. Billaut, both of whom have filled the office of Minister of the Interior in France, while the Count was for a time the French Ambassador at the Court of St. James.

THE SEAT OF WAR.

The fearful details are as yet withheld; but as the telegraphic power bears the sad tidings from city to city, and from village to village, all over this mighty continent, what lamentation and woe will fill the land. Fathers and mothers weeping for their sons, and wives for their husbands, and refusing to be comforted, because they are not. Thou God of love, comfort their stricken hearts, and save the nation that thou hast so greatly blessed, from this murderous strife.

The telegrams received in City, furnish the following particulars: At an early hour on Thursday the 11th instant, three pontoon bridges were begun across the Rappahannock in front of Fredericksburg. The Confederates permitted the work to proceed till it was half completed, when they opened a brisk musketry fire upon the men engaged upon it, and compelled them to abandon it.

The Confederates attacked the Confederates in their entrenchments. Three times they are said to have advanced, and as often to have been repulsed. They suffered terribly from the concentrated fire of the Confederate batteries, and finally retired, exhausted, defeated. On Sunday nothing appears to have been done on either side; but on Monday the whole army, or rather what remained of it, retreated across the river, and now actually occupies its original position in and around Falmouth.

proceeded with and completed, and the army moved across. On Friday at noon, Burnside's whole force was concentrated in Fredericksburg—the passage of the river not being disputed by the Confederate artillery at all. At two o'clock, however, all their guns posted on the first ridge of hills opened fire upon the city, but the only effect reported is the destruction it caused to the buildings which remained standing.

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The House of Representatives at Washington has adopted a resolution, by a vote of 78 to 51, endorsing President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The Federals have gained an important victory in Arkansas; but they seem to be losing ground again in Tennessee. Nashville is seriously threatened.

Extracts from the letter of a British officer travelling through the greater part of the States. He says: "I have lately returned from a month's cruise through the 'Disunited States,' having been through thirteen States, saw the sun rise on the Western prairies, sailed down the muddy waters of the muddy Mississippi, and traversed the far-famed plantations of Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri, mingled with hosts of armed men, saw the awful effects of a bloody war, and finished up by spending a couple of days in Washington, the so-called 'City of Magnificent Distances.'"

The splendid army of the Potomac, styled the Grand Army, has dwindled down from 350,000 to 50,000 men, the rest being made up of raw recruits. Death and disease have played almost unheard of havoc; and despite the rascally lying of the Government, the people at last are beginning to be convinced, by what they see with their own eyes, that this war is destroying rapidly their young men, blinding their towns with cripples, leaving widows and orphans by tens of thousands, and threatening the nation with a national bankruptcy.

According to the statements of Governor Buckingham's Message to the Connecticut Legislature, the draft has proved a great failure in that State. Of the 1,912 men drafted in the different towns, only 7 principals and 143 substitutes have been mustered into the service of the United States. Of the remainder, 81 deserted after reporting at camp, 624 had been exempted by surgeons and selectmen, 166 were unaccounted for on the 10th inst., 10 had previously volunteered, and 84 were not subjects of militia duty.

The Confederate steamer Alabama has captured and destroyed three more Northern vessels, with valuable cargoes. She has also eluded the U. S. frigates San Jacinto, which chased her at anchor proceeded with and completed, and the army moved across. On Friday at noon, Burnside's whole force was concentrated in Fredericksburg—the passage of the river not being disputed by the Confederate artillery at all.