

TRUE TO THE OLD PLEDGE.

What was that pledge? Reader, do you remember? Did it not read thus? "We will not manufacture, buy, sell, or drink intoxicating liquors as a beverage." God saw you when you put your hand upon your heart, and thus solemnly pledged yourself to a life of sobriety. Have you kept it inviolably?

A recent editorial, in the Canadian Baptist, puts this drinking habit in a strong light. The writer says:

There can be no doubt in any intelligent mind, that the drinking usage of society are fraught with the most appalling evils both to the church and to the world. It is now established, by indisputable statistics, that three-fourths of the pauperism, more than five-sixths of the crime, and more than half the lunatics, are directly traceable to intemperance. The late excellent Governor Briggs discovered, as the result of an official investigation, that there were from 1,200 to 1,300 idiots in the State of Massachusetts, and from 1,100 to 1,200 of these were born of intemperate parents. In a report published by a temperance society, just thirty years ago, the following astounding calculation occurs: "If the crimes which are prosecuted annually in the United States are only one-fifth as many in proportion to the population as in the city of New York, they must in thirty years amount to 1,800,000; and 1,000,000 of these, according to judges and jurists, must be laid to the use of ardent spirits." Of the 7,300 murders which have been committed during the thirty years last past, according to the ratio adopted, over 5,000 must be attributed to strong drink.

We do not take the ground—we have never taken the ground—that the use of wine or spirits is wrong in itself; but we do hold that enlightened Christian benevolence requires men to give up the use of what leads so many to ruin. Paul taught, that if wine made his brother to offend, he would drink no wine while the world lasted. If this was the rule of Christian duty for Paul, it should be ours. And if any man has ever been overcome by spirits, he should for ever and ever avoid them. Touch not, taste not, is the only safe rule for him. We must not be told at the present day that the moderate use, by a Christian, of intoxicating drinks is not practically an encouragement for the weak and vicious to drink to excess. The reverse is notoriously true. The moderate offender, in a world like ours, does, by his example, far more mischief than the more abandoned do. And certainly all drunkards are made from moderate drinkers. We have not space to enter more largely into this subject at present, but we make one statement, in conclusion, which we would commend to the consideration of "moderate" drinkers. No Christian man, at the present day, can drink even moderately, of spirits or beer, without lowering himself in the eyes of his brethren—and that, too, the most devout and earnest portion of them! Can they afford this to sacrifice their Christian influence for a mere momentary gratification? Is it right that they should do so?

A WORD OF COMMENDATION.

To the Ministers and Churches of the Baptist Denomination.

DEAR BROTHERS,—We observe in the last number of the Christian Visitor, that its Editor and Proprietor has decided, instead of commencing the new series in a diminutive form at a dollar and a half as at first contemplated, to make it equal in size to the religious papers of other denominations published in this City; and that in doing this he finds it necessary to charge his subscribers Two DOLLARS each per annum.

Permit us to say that this change in the programme meets with our most cordial approval. We feel assured that it, must be the wish of all true hearted Baptists, to have their own paper compare favorably in all respects with those of other religious bodies. Their numbers, intelligence, and position in New Brunswick, cannot be satisfied with anything short of this; and from all that we know of the cost of other papers, we are fully satisfied that an attempt on the part of our Editor to furnish the style of paper demanded, for a dollar and a half, would stamp failure upon the face of it. Let every friend of our denomination, therefore, hand over his Two DOLLARS, and then we may expect to see our denominational organ firmly placed upon a respectable basis. Two Thousand such subscribers are required to ensure satisfactory results. We hope our brethren in City and Country, will lose no time in securing this number. Let us have unity, faith, and action in this matter, and success is certain.

Respectfully yours,

SAMUEL ROBINSON, Pastor of Brussels Street Baptist Church. E. B. DEMILL, Pastor of Leinster Street Baptist Church. E. C. CADY, Pastor of Portland Baptist Church.

PERSONAL TO EVERY READER.

REV. I. E. BILL.—Dear Sir:—It affords me great pleasure to learn by the last issue of your valuable paper that you intend to issue your NEW SERIES of the "CHRISTIAN VISITOR" in an enlarged form, and in a style which will compare favorably with the organs of other denominations. Such a paper, I feel assured, is demanded by the progressive spirit of the age, and by the growing numbers, wealth, and intelligence of our Baptist Ministry and Churches. But allow me to say to your readers, each and all, such a paper cannot be published for less than Two DOLLARS per copy. As one practically acquainted with the Press, and with the Publishing Business, for the last thirty years, I unhesitatingly affirm, that an attempt to issue a Paper, such as you contemplate, for ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, must, in the nature of things, result in a ruinous failure to yourself, and disappointment and injury to the denomination which you represent. The past history of the finances of the "VISITOR," is a sufficient confirmation of the truthfulness of this remark.

Let your price, therefore, for the "VISITOR" be Two DOLLARS in advance; and let the size and style of the paper correspond therewith; and no reason

able mind having any just conceptions of the expenses attendant upon such an enterprise, will utter the first word of complaint.

Wishing you great success in your highly respectable undertaking, believe me, dear sir, Yours, respectfully, ROBERT SEARS. St. John, N. B., Nov. 25, 1862.

A VOICE FROM THE COUNTRY.

Some have expressed their fears that our country subscribers would object to the two dollar plan; but we have strong faith in the honor and liberality of our brethren outside of the City as well as in it. We met one of them yesterday, and he expressed himself strongly in favor of the two dollar paper. We feel that we are safe in regarding his testimony as the voice of the country generally. There is too much spirit and heart in the Baptists of this Province to lag behind in the work of improvement.

At Fredericton, the other day, upwards of twenty subscribers were added to our list in a few hours, several of whom expressed themselves strongly in favour of our contemplated enlargement. The "VISITOR" is bound to go ahead upon the self-sustaining principle. This is the only safe course. Read what our ministering brethren and brother Sears say upon the subject. "They speak as unto wise men; judge ye what they say."

DAY OF HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.—As announced last week, the Baptist Convention at Moncton recommended our Churches to observe the first Thursday in December, as a day of humiliation and prayer. We trust the day will be thus sacredly consecrated, and that a rich blessing will be experienced by ministers and people.

Our type for the series still delayed; but invoice received, and we expect it will be here in time for next week's issue.

(For the Christian Visitor.) ACADIA COLLEGE.

MR. EDITOR.—Since the Convention, I have been re-arranging the College notes, and have just completed that necessary work; and when I find nearly three hundred and fifty obligations of this kind still in hand, I feel as if my past efforts at collection had not produced the results anticipated; in fact, after years of toil, and expense of treasurers and agents, we are far from completing the work of Endowment. The Governors feel that the time has arrived when every man whose note is over due must be called upon for payment. In this my opinion coincides with theirs. By their instructions, I shall now vigorously proceed to collect in those obligations, and let no one think his case a hard one, if his debt is treated as any ordinary obligation should be. A reasonable time has been given, and no one need complain if further delay is not afforded. I shall at once proceed to carry out the views of the Governors in this matter; but as it will take me some time to reach by letter and statement three hundred and fifty individuals, I would say to each debtor to the College, through your columns, that we expect them to remit their respective balance, both principal and interest, on or before the end of the present year.

The method of remittance may be these: 1st. Where a Post-office exists that an order can be got on the Post-office, Wolfville, let it be remitted in this shape.

2d. Where this cannot be done, let the money be enclosed to me in a letter, by mail, the odd shillings in postage stamps, and the letter registered.

3d. Where the above is not convenient, let the money be paid to the nearest Baptist minister, who will act as our agent, and forward the money. If parties will remit to the Treasurer in this way, it will save the expense of an agent going through the Province collecting the sums due.

All expense for remittance may be deducted from the sum to be forwarded. In all cases where money is remitted, I immediately acknowledge receipt of it by mail; and when in full for the note enclosed, that also.

I would again urge this notice on the attention of all who are interested therein. J. W. BRASS, Treasurer Acadia College. Wolfville, Nov. 10, 1862.

SECULAR INTELLIGENCE.

ENGLAND.

It will be seen below that England is firm in her adherence to the neutrality policy. In this she acts like herself, wisely and justly. We trust there will be no interference of any kind, until there is good reason to hope that such a course would be attended with peaceful results. An armed intervention in the present excited state of the American mind, would be likely to involve Europe and America in deadly strife.

The Africa was intercepted off Cape Race on Monday. She brings dates to the 16th inst.

The report that France has made a proposal to Russia and England to mediate between the North and South is fully confirmed. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs has issued a circular on the subject, giving elaborate reasons for it. The English and Russian Governments, however, refuse to take any decided step in this direction at present. Earl Russell's reply is dated 18th Nov. It recapitulates the Circular of Drouyn de L'Huys proposing mediation, recognizes humane views and benevolent intentions of the Emperor, observes that concurrence of Russia would be expressly desirable, but up to the present time Russian Government had not agreed to actively cooperate. Although it may support England and France, the question for consideration was whether the end proposed was attainable at the present time. Russell then communicated decision of H. M. Government as follows:—After weighing all the information received from America, Government is led to conclude that there is no ground at the present moment to hope that Federal Government would accept proposal suggested, and a refusal from Washington at the present time would prevent any speedy renewal of offer. Government, therefore, think it will be better to watch carefully progress of opinion in America, and if, as there appears reason to hope, it may be found to have undergone any change, the countries may then avail themselves of such change to offer their friendly counsel with a greater prospect than now exists of its being accepted by the two contending parties. Her Majesty's Government will communicate to the French Government any intelligence they may receive from Washington or Richmond bearing upon this important subject.

The Times editorially observes of Russell's dispatch that his arguments have been anticipated by the public, and this is the best proof of their soundness. Via QUEENSTOWN.—Paris 16th.—The Monitor says the answers of England and Russia are for the adjournment of mediation, to test the interior situation of America. Monitor adds—If our information

is correct, hesitation of England and Russia nearly reaches limit. Recent elections testify progress of peace opinion, which appears likely to command a majority in next Congress.

The Times editorially traces the reverses of the Federal armies in the past to their magnitude, and the consequent difficulty in handling them; and as they promise to be just as unwieldy in the future, it thinks there is nothing to warrant the expectation of more success from the new army which the Federal Government is now preparing.

In another article the Times quotes from certain New York journals what it considers evidence of reaction in America, and says:—

"It is plain that a change is coming over the people of the Northern States. Various things combined give us cause to hope that reason and humanity is dawning again in America, after a long obscurity. It is not only that Gen. McClellan's army is unable to take the field, and that the men of whom it is composed are quarrelling, plundering, and deserting in presence of a victorious enemy—but it is that men dare to speak out and tell us that all this is going on, and that there is little hope of its amendment. Evidently the reaction from the frenzy of the past eighteen months has begun, and we may cherish some hope that the worst is past.

"The army, it was thought, was about to go into winter quarters. The pay of McClellan's army alone is said to be in arrears to the extent of \$50,000,000, and many regiments have not received a cent since the first of June."

The New York correspondent of the Times says the State elections afford unmistakable evidence of the extreme war party being in disfavor, and a strong conservative reaction has set in against Abolitionism, centralization, and the arbitrary action of the President and his Cabinet.

The Nautical Magazine publishes the official report to the Admiralty of the soundings taken in the Atlantic by Her Majesty's ship Porcupine, in June, July, and August last, at the instance of the Atlantic Telegraph Company. The Editor—Captain Beecher, of the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty—thus comments upon the report:—

"The foregoing report sets at rest the imagined difficulties of the precipitous character of the approaches from the sea-bed to the western coast of Ireland, Mr. Hoskyn having found several depths (to which we have affixed an asterisk in his tabulated statement) where the slope has been found by him in some as little as one in six—that of an ordinary shingle beach. A few more soundings to the southward would have been acceptable, but sufficient are obtained on a direct line to show that a cable may be laid there so as to gain the deep bed of the Atlantic by an easy descent." This would be better shown on a large scale, but we have sketched out this section on our chart as conveying an idea of the slope in that latitude, and probably sufficient data will be found in the report for others hereafter. The whole operations of the voyage are highly creditable to Mr. Hoskyn, and his report, as far as it goes, quite satisfactory in regard to a line for a cable."

The policy of the French Government on the Roman question is unchanged after all. Count De Persigny has issued a circular in which he states that the appointment of M. Drouyn De L'Huys to the Cabinet "by no means changes the policy of the Imperial Government." The new Minister of Foreign Affairs, it is added, may effectually secure the solution of that great and difficult question relating to Rome, as he is unfettered by previous negotiations. The Imperial Government will neither sacrifice the Pope to Italy nor Italy to the Pope.

The Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia have arrived at Naples, and were about to proceed to Rome.

King Otto of Greece is stated to have sent a protest to Paris and London against his dethronement.

FRANCE.

The Monitor publishes the following circular of the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed to the diplomatic agents of the Emperor:—

Paris, Oct. 18, 1862.

"Sir,—In taking possession of the post to which the Emperor has deigned to call me, I think it advisable to tell you in a few words in what spirit I have accepted the mission entrusted to me. It would be needless for me to retrace again with you the former acts and measures of the Imperial Government in the Roman question. His Majesty has, however, more distinctly stated his own views in a letter addressed to my predecessor, published in the Monitor of the 25th of September last. That document explains the views of the Emperor in a manner which no comment can effect, and I cannot do better now than refer to it. In all the phases through which the question has passed during the last 18 years, it has been the constant desire of His Majesty to conciliate all interests concerned, and the more complicated they became the more the Emperor has endeavored that his Government should remove all difficulties, without, however, sacrificing in any manner the principles which have always served as a permanent guide to his resolutions. The policy defined with so high and so impartial a reason has not changed. It remains animated by the same sentiments as for the past for two causes, to which it has in an equal measure given proofs of its solicitude. The Roman question touches upon the highest interests of religion and politics; it engenders on every point of the globe scruples most deserving of respect, and, in the examination of the difficulties which surround it, the Government of the Emperor looks upon it as its first duty not to do anything that might resemble hastiness (entrainement), or to deviate from the line of policy it has adopted.

"This is the point of view I have taken when accepting the direction of the Foreign office. I do not think it either necessary or opportune to enter into further explanations. It suffices that I indicate to you briefly the order of ideas from which I propose to draw my own inspirations, to fulfil the intentions of the Emperor. Faithful to the principles which have hitherto guided it, the Government of His Majesty will continue to devote all its efforts to the work of reconciliation which it has undertaken in Italy, working towards it with the full knowledge of the difficulty and greatness of the task, without discouragement, and without impatience.

"I am, &c. Drouyn De Lours."

THE NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

FEDERAL ARMY.

We have nothing special to report from the Seat of War. The telegrams received daily for the last six weeks are filled with expectations of immediate battles on a magnificent scale, but as yet the two great armies are moving with cautious step. Burnside will be likely to share the fate of McClellan soon, if he do not hasten on to Richmond, and crush a power strong enough to make the stoutest heart quail.

General Burnside has discovered that the march to Richmond is just as difficult by way of Fredericksburg as Gordonville. He hoped to get to Hanover Junction—that is some distance beyond Fredericksburg, on the road to Richmond—before General Lee could get his army fairly in motion, or be able to comprehend what the movement meant, or at all events before he could throw a sufficient force before it to dispute its possession. But he (Burnside) has been grievously disappointed. The new plan of the campaign, we are told, was decided upon in Washington on Wednesday night, Nov. 12. On the Friday following, Gen. Lee telegraphed to Fredericksburg that Burnside would be before it on Sunday evening, and to make the necessary preparations. The consequence was that when Burnside's advance reached that city, they found Gen. Longstreet there in force, and instead of simply passing through it with colors flying, they must fight their way against a determined enemy. Gen. Lee also immediately put his army in motion, and it is said that he now holds possession of the road to Richmond from Fredericksburg. Burnside has also discovered that a large army is not very easily moved. The railroad from Aquia Creek, by which he expected to receive his supplies, was almost destroyed, and is not yet in working order, and the bridge across the Rappahannock was completely demolished. These impediments have delayed the grand army, so that the prediction of the Washington Star, uttered on Tuesday, 18th inst., that Burnside would be in Richmond in less than ten days, cannot possibly be fulfilled.

There is a report that the movement by way of Fredericksburg is merely a feint, and that the real attack upon Richmond will be made from another direction. President Davis seems to apprehend something of this kind, for he is said to have ordered Jackson to march forthwith to the defence of the city. There is another report that the Federal divisions on the coast are seriously threatened by the Confederates, and that Burnside's movement is simply a diversion. The truth of these reports will be known in a few days.

It was recently reported that ten Missouri citizens had been executed by General McNeil. President Davis has called upon General Holmes to ascertain the truth of the report, and, if it is proved, to demand the surrender of McNeil on pain of the execution of the first ten Federal officers falling into his hands.

The exact position of General Stonewall Jackson is unknown. He is believed to be hovering with his army—40,000 strong—near Manassas Gap and threatening General Sigel, who has fallen back from Gainesville towards Washington. General Stewart was at Warrenton last Thursday, and a squad of Confederate cavalry was on the old Bull Run battle field on the same day. Our readers will see by a glance at the map how near the Confederates are to the Federal capital, and how disastrous a defeat of Burnside's army would now be to the Union cause.

It is almost impossible to comprehend the movements of the belligerent forces in the West. A few days ago the Federals were exulting over the possession of Holly Springs, but we are now told that they have abandoned it again. No statement is given of the reasons which impelled this step backwards. The Confederates have 200,000 men under arms in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The following General Order has been issued respecting the observance of the Sabbath day in the army and navy:—

Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C., Nov. 16, 1862.

"The President, Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, desires and enjoins the observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest; the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors; a becoming deference for the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine will, demand that Sunday labor in the army and navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity. The discipline and character of the National forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperiled by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High. At this time of public distress, adopting the words of Washington, in 1776, 'Men may find enough to do in the services of God and their country, without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality.' The first order issued by the Father of his country after the Declaration of Independence, indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded, and should ever be defended: 'The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and privileges of his country.'

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

As a commentary on this general order, it may be observed that it was written on the Sabbath day, and that it was on the Sabbath day that General Burnside's army commenced its march upon Fredericksburg.

MR. SEWARD TO BISHOP MCILVAINE.

Department of State, Washington, October 29, 1862.

"Right Rev. and Dear Sir.—The copy which you sent me of the Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, has been submitted to the President. He authorizes me to assure you that he receives with the most grateful satisfaction the evidences which that calm, candid, and earnest paper gives of the loyalty of the very extended religious communion over which you preside to the Constitution and Government of the United States. I am further instructed to say that the exposition which the highest ecclesiastical authority of that communion has given in the Pastoral Letter of the intimate connection which exists between fervent patriotism and true Christianity, seems to the President equally reasonable and unanswerable. Earnestly invoking the Divine blessing

equally upon our religious and civil institutions, that they may altogether safely resist the storm of faction, and continue hereafter, as heretofore, to sustain and invigorate each other, and so promote the welfare of mankind, I have the honor to be, Right Reverend and Dear Sir, faithfully yours,

"WILLIAM H. SEWARD."

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

From the London Times.

In January, 1861, the Americans had 41 vessels of all rates in commission. There are now 256 men-of-war carrying the Federal flag, so that the navy has been multiplied six-fold in less than two years. This, however, though denoting a wonderful effort on the part of the nation, is not a very extraordinary result, when the circumstances are reviewed. On the same conditions we could send a thousand cruisers to sea even in a shorter time. The fact is, as we have before taken occasion to remark, that the Americans were driven out of their old tactics by the sharp pressure of instant necessity. Instead of concentrating their energies and their expenditure on one or two monstrous specimens of their respective classes, they pressed at once into their service every floating vessel that could be found. River steamers, ferry-boats, mail-packets, merchantmen, and coasters were all bought up, hastily armed, and sent to sea under the pennant. The result, of course, was an astonishing increase of the national marine, and, as it happened, an efficient one, too. The Federals were fighting against an enemy who had no navy at all; and, consequently, any fleet was good enough for the purpose. A really effective squadron might have made short work of these makeshifts, but the Confederates had no squadron of any kind, and so the extemporized fleet of the Northerners succeeded in keeping the sea, and blockading the helpless ports of the helpless South. Although, however, the Federals acted with this judicious decision upon the spur of the moment, they lost no time in putting some better work in train. They accepted very promptly the conclusions of European Governments respecting iron-clad vessels, and ordered a good many ships on the new model. At the present moment they have between 25 and 30 of these vessels actually afloat, and no fewer than 87 building. Yet even here we must not delude ourselves with the belief that the iron-clad steamer of the Federal Navy List represents anything like such vessels as are now included in our own squadron at Lisbon. The same urgency in the demand, and the same peculiarity in the contemplated service, have been at work here also to affect the efficiency of the ships turned out. We know by experience what is required for such constructions as these; and when we bear that even improved and powerful models are launched in a few months, and for £80,000 a piece, we can form a very good idea of their general quality.

With these qualifications, however, the new Federal navy may certainly be regarded as a remarkable creation. That very Government which, a few months ago, had but 40 men-of-war afloat, has now a blockading squadron of 51 vessels in the South Atlantic, and another of 43 in the North Atlantic. It has a third squadron of 57 ships in the West Gulf, and a fourth of 81 ships in the East Gulf. Beside these, there is a flotilla in the Potomac numbering 24 vessels; and another in the Mississippi, comprising 20. The chief portion of the navy, it will thus be seen, is employed on home service in the prosecution of the civil war, but foreign stations are not entirely neglected. The Pacific squadron has five ships; that in the Mediterranean as many more. On the East India there are two vessels; in the West Indies—it is significantly added "at present"—there are six. Three of these constitute the little squadron under the command of Commodore Wilkes at Bermuda, and we can learn from the list before us their dimensions and armaments. The Wachusett, carrying the Commodore's flag, is a screw steam sloop of 1,032 tons burden and nine guns—apparently much such a vessel as the Tuscarora, with which we made acquaintance in our own waters last Spring. The Sonoma and Tioga, described in the reports from Bermuda as "gunboats," are paddle-wheel steamers, mounting six guns each, one being of 955 and the other of 819 tons burden. From other documents in our possession we gather that all three ships have been built under the immediate superintendence of the Federal Navy Department, since the commencement of the war.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

The Richmond and Charleston papers continue to utter warnings against placing any reliance in the rumours that the European Powers will interfere in their behalf. They state "that military success and proofs of our power constitute the rough but real road to recognition, independence, and peace."

As an evidence of the faith and stability which the Southern people have in government securities, the Richmond Dispatch states that a day or two ago a Georgian went into the Treasury Department and purchased the nice little sum of one million dollars of eight per cent. bonds.

The Confederate troops are in great need of blankets and clothing and earnest appeals are addressed to the people to come forward and supply them.

(From the London Times of the 4th November.)

We to-day lay before our readers a letter from the Confederate capital, which we have reason to hope will be the opening of a regular correspondence. The extraordinary interest taken by all classes of Englishmen in the American War has long created a desire to have authentic information, and to be independent of the ignorant and partial statements of the Northern Press. Everything that has been published as coming from the South has been read with avidity. The one or two English travellers who, in the out break of the war, have visited the Confederate States have found their narratives the most popular reading of the day. Every one feels that this struggle is the most remarkable event in our time. Since the first French Revolution, nothing to be compared with it in tragic interest has been before the world. Even the wars of the great Napoleon, though they more nearly affected ourselves, hardly equalled the American conflict in the qualities that excite surprise and admiration. The great number of troops engaged, the inordinate proportion that these bear to the population that furnishes them, the vindictive perseverance of the one side, the brevity and divisions of the other,