

Pastoral Destitution.

Many of our churches are so situated in regard to numbers and financial ability that a constant supply of pastoral labor is quite out of the question.

If the churches fail from any cause to supply themselves with the ministry of the word, the denomination as a whole should take the case in hand.

The reconstruction of our Home Missionary operations some years ago, and the union of the several local boards into one large central board had special reference to this matter;

The same want is felt in all the departments of public life. What enterprise of a political, commercial, or educational character is expected to go forward successfully without superintendence?

Reformatory Question.

The large number of youthful offenders against law and order, presented to the magistrates of St. John, for trial and punishment; and the want of a suitable institution in which such young culprits might be taught better manners and morals, are subjects which have engaged our attention for a considerable length of time.

manageable by the ordinary means which that Church had at command. Nor was this all. It was broadly hinted that this institution, which had taken the tardy philanthropists of the Protestant denominations so much by surprise, aspired to be a Government institution.

We are very glad that this work has been so promptly undertaken by the Papists, and their action in the matter, while others were talking, and talking too, in a very indefinite manner, is a severe admonition to the Protestant portion of the community.

Therefore we do not well to quarrel with the Bishop and the organ of his faith, about the money which according to the policy of the Government of this Province, they will inevitably obtain.

What we say is this—let this question rest on its own merits. It will be settled in due time, and meanwhile let the energy of our philanthropic Christian people grapple with the real question before us, viz. by what means, and in what manner shall a Reformatory be established, which shall reclaim the vagrant youth of New Brunswick?

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If a Police Magistrate were to send a thievish young Protestant to the Papist Reformatory, who cannot force in such an event, the occasion of the bitterest strife; and as to the hope that this institution could be induced to give up a part of the management of its hopeful Catholics, to heretics even by the argument of Provincial grants—those who know the uncompromising spirit of the Papacy will not entertain it for a moment.

But two such institutions would cost a great deal of money! Very true. But not more than they would be worth to the Province. The most valuable possessions of any country are the integrity and the intelligence of its people.

Let every father reflect what is the difference between the heart of his son hardened and blackened by the associations of a prison, in which he has been placed for some slight offence, and that heart, moulded into purity and nobleness by the wise and wholesome discipline of a Reformatory, conducted on true Christian principles.

Let not the expense of such institutions hinder their establishment. The one already begun will do well enough under the care of the Bishop and his money-giving people; and the one which remains to be commenced will be a speedy and complete success if Protestant Christians are equally ready to part with their money for the same excellent purpose.

The fact, therefore, that the Catholic Bishop has commenced a Reformatory for his own erring young people, as a strictly sectarian institution, does not in any way affect the question which we have to consider; and we have endeavored to show this in order to induce those who really desire the establishment of a Reformatory, not to waste their time as they have been doing, in quarrelling with others, or in the Roman Catholic. We have nothing more to do with

that Reformatory than we have with the building of the Nunnery which has lately been erected near the Cathedral. If that class of religionists prefer to take care of their own young offenders, then there is so much less labour and expense remaining to be borne by us.

It becomes our painful duty to record the sudden demise of Deacon Zebulon Estey. He was the subject of bodily infirmation for years, but on Saturday last seemed better than usual. On Sabbath morning he was seized with a violent rush of blood to the head, which destroyed all consciousness, and terminated fatally on Sabbath evening.

Our departed brother professed his faith in Christ and was baptized on the 27th of October, 1824, by Rev. Duncan Dunbar, and united with the German Street church. On the 25th of November, 1838, he was elected to the office of a deacon, and from 1838 to 1840 he was the authorized Treasurer of the church.

The friends and members of the Baptist church at St. Martins met at the Pastor's residence on the 16th Dec., at 6 P. M. The tables were spread with a profusion of luxuries prepared for the occasion with the greatest taste. Everything was suitably arranged; every countenance beamed with pleasure, and all seemed inexpressibly happy.

After the company had been entertained with music, a purse containing \$62 was presented to the Pastor, with an appropriate address. Also \$64 in value of suitable things for the family, amounting to \$126 in all.

DEAR BROTHERS AND FRIENDS—It is with the deepest interest and respect towards you that I receive this token of your liberality and respect for your Pastor. It binds me with a closer tie to the community and friends who have thus expressed their interest and attachment by rendering their Pastor comfortable. His happy effect on the minister is by no means transient; it lightens his heart in the great work God has given him to perform, and fires him with more fervent zeal to labor for the spiritual welfare of those who thus express so tangibly their deep interest for his comfort; while, at the same time, its general tendency is to promote union and sociability amongst the members of the church and community.

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IN the digest of the letters of the San Francisco Baptist Association, as reported in the Standard, the following paragraphs occur in reference to our valued brother, Rev. John Francis. Many will be glad to hear from him.

Resolved unanimously, That the next Quarterly meeting be held in Springfield, commencing Friday 15th Jan, 1864, at six o'clock P. M.

Resolved, That the ministers, deacons, and clerics of the churches composing this Quarterly meeting, be known as the York County Home Missionary Board.

The following recitations were delivered by the pupils of the Seminary, Fredericton, at the Temperance Hall, on Thursday 17th December.

W. Coulthard and R. Harvey—“Tell and his son.”
Dunst—“Gently sigh the breeze.”
Maria Trudwell—“Mental culture.”
C. Henry Smith and fifteen others—“The Colonists.”
God save the Queen.

The above has just been placed in my hands by our worthy Principal, Dr. Spurden, and I have much pleasure in forwarding it for insertion in the Visitor. The exercises were exceedingly interesting throughout, and such as reflected much credit on all concerned.

The recitations were interspersed with most excellent music by an amateur choir, ably conducted by Mr. E. Perkins of Fredericton. This part of the performance, it is not too much to say, was a rich and rare treat. The pieces were performed with piano forte accompaniment in a masterly manner, which did much credit not only to Mr. Perkins; but his talented associates both male and female.

The Seminary is doing a good work, and doing it well. Recent efforts to pay off the debt have been attended with encouraging results, and it is hoped that a fresh interest will be awakened in behalf of the Institution throughout the Province; and that the next term will open under still more favorable auspices, and with a large accession to the number of pupils.

High School Examination and Entertainment. The usual half-yearly Examination of the Pupils at the above Seminary, took place on Thursday, the 17th inst., in the presence of the parents of the scholars, and of other friends who were interested in the prosperity of the school. Time did not allow the examination of all the classes. The early part of the day was occupied by the Misses Hart in a thorough review of several branches taught in their respective departments.

Large and advanced classes in English Grammar, Geography, English History, Latin, and Algebra, embracing members of both departments, were examined by the Principal in the after part of the day. All present appeared satisfied that both teacher and pupils had been faithful and diligent in their work.

Dr. Spinary and Mrs. Eveleth of this city have both been committed to jail for trial, charged with having destroyed an illegitimate child, of which Mrs. Eveleth is the supposed mother. The case is going through a searching investigation by the proper authorities, and will be decided in a few days.

The Mails for Digby, Annapolis, and adjacent parts of Nova Scotia now close at 2 P. M. every Friday, and are dispatched by the Digby Packet.

SMP-BUILDING IN CANADA.—The number of new buildings being larger, we think, than prospects warrant, and will be in excess of last year.

CHRISTMAS is at hand, and we feel much pleasure in offering again to our numerous readers the compliments of the season. No doubt much happiness will be enjoyed by those who have the means of extending the usual hospitalities to kindred and friends.

The Auxiliary Bible Society of St. John, will hold its Anniversary in the Mechanics' Institute, on Friday evening, Jan. 8th. We hope for a full house and a rich treat.

The Boston Christian Era comes to us this week enlarged, upon better paper, in a new dress, and with the price raised from \$1.50 to \$2.00, in advance. The editor and proprietor has tried hard for years to make his paper pay at \$1.50, but experience has taught him, what we were slow to learn, that nothing less than two columns will pay for a paper.

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Secular Department.

COLONIAL.

The "Visitor's" City Article.

The Chesapeake has been recaptured. It appears that having been disappointed in obtaining coal at several places along the Nova Scotia coast, she was delayed sufficiently long, to enable Federal vessels to come upon her.

On Monday last week, the Federal steamer "Ella and Annie," Lieut. Com. Nichols, arrived at Halifax and coaled at Cunard's wharf. Information being received that the Chesapeake was at La Hare, the Ella and Annie started for that point, and arrived six hours after the Chesapeake had left.

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The Freeman has worked itself into a fever over another transaction of the past week, viz., the searching of the passengers who left St. John by the Boston steamer on Thursday morning.

An informal meeting has been held at the Mayor's office to discuss the Reformatory question. Several schemes have been proposed, but the most singular one we have heard of, is to use one ward of the new Hospital as a House of Correction, just as if a near proximity to small pox and fever patients would be beneficial in its effects on the minds of the young rascals.

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE has been appointed Governor-General of India.

It is stated that after the receipt of the reply of Earl Russell touching the Congress, the Emperor Napoleon addressed a letter to Queen Victoria, which letter will be published.

The French semi-official journals have become louder. One of them declares that the Congress has put an end to all hopes of peace.

M. Louis Blanc, the London correspondent of the Paris Temps, points out that although public opinion in England is against the Congress, there is not the slightest ill feeling against France.

The Paris Patrie proposes to give the particulars of the replies of the various Powers to the Institution to the Congress. It says the replies of the States of secondary rank are all affirmative, and vary only in the terms in which they are expressed.

The Journal says that the man with the pistol who attempted to arrest Wade, who it was supposed shot the 2nd Engineer, was dressed in plain clothes; made no sign of authority; showed no warrant, nor declared that he possessed one; called on no one to aid in the arrest in the Queen's name; but simply rushed down the wharf calling out—"stop that boat! stop that boat!"

All seem to feel that grave questions between the two Governments are likely to arise out of this affair, and certainly the position of our Government is a trying and delicate one. We have no reason to doubt, however, but that while endeavoring to do justice, and act with impartiality towards all parties concerned they will still maintain unblemished the honor of the British flag, and stoop to no position of which, in after years they might have reason to feel ashamed.

The Editor of the Morning News had an interview yesterday with Lieut. Braine, who it will be remembered, stayed some time in this city, previous to the capture of the Chesapeake. This gentleman states that he holds a commission from the Confederate Government, and "contends that her capture by the crew under his command was justifiable, and that her recapture by a Federal gunboat in a British port was illegal and wholly indefensible."

Our acknowledgments are due to the obliging express of Mr. Hanford, for late Boston papers.

The Canada Government has determined to establish two military schools—one at Toronto and the other at Quebec—for the purpose of enabling officers of militia, or candidates for commissions or promotions in the militia, to perfect themselves in a knowledge of their military duties, drill and discipline.

ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL.

We have English dates to the 5th inst. Trade in England is in a most flourishing condition. The Times says—

We are doing more business in 1863 than we did in 1861, though in that year the death of cotton was scarcely felt. The American War had broken out, but the exportation of cotton had been pressed forward so actively in the early part of the year that our receipts from the United States were very large indeed.

The Officers and Students now resident, will greatly rejoice to be allowed to greet in the old Academic Homestead, on the approaching interesting occasion, a very large company of the now so widely scattered sons of the Institution.

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In other branches of trade the increase has lately been extraordinary. Linnæ and woolen manufactures have been stimulated, no doubt, by the comparative scarcity of cotton goods, and there are certain classes of exports in which the activity of business may be easily traced to the operations of war in America, and the apprehensions of war in Europe.

The number of new buildings being larger, we think, than prospects warrant, and will be in excess of last year.

Some difficulty has arisen at Halifax in relation to the capture of three men by the Federals at the time the "Chesapeake" was taken. They were, for a time, secured by the Federal officer, but an explanation was demanded, and he resolved to give them up. The Reporter thus describes the surrender—

Accordingly at the time named as above the U. S. Consul, the High Sheriff of the county of Halifax, His Honor the Provincial Secretary, and quite a number of others, official and otherwise, attended at the Queen's Wharf for the purpose of giving effect to the liberation. Shortly after a boat from the Am. ship brought the prisoners to the slip where they were landed, the three being heavily handcuffed on each side.

Prussia says, replies in very friendly terms, expressing, however, the belief that a Congress of ministers would be preferable to a Congress of Sovereigns. In mentioning the transfer of 1815, Prussia states that certain articles have been violated, but that, their basis must remain unchanged.

The Memorial Diplomatique gives the substance of the Austrian reply. The Cabinet of Vienna particularly desired to know what part of the treaty of Vienna of 1815 the French Government considered defective, and what it desired to be done to make the Austrian Government fully recognize and deplore the state of weakness which certain different parts of the continent had, and fears that the remedy would be worse than the evil itself, if it were necessary to make Europe pass through a fresh reformation. The question is now more to preserve than to give peace to Europe.