The Record of 1863.

Time is rushing on, bearing upon its bosom unnumbered millions of deathless souls. As this rapid interest. Brethren, as we say farewell to the departtide passes by, its years drop, one after another, into ing year, and stand upon the threshold of 1864, let the great abyss, and are lost in the eternal ages. This very night the echoes of the departing knell of we will be more watchful, more prayerful, more gene 1863 will be heard reverberating through three worlds: heaven, earth and hell; and millions of wealth could not recall or bring back one of its misspent moments. The recording angel as a faithful sentinel at his post has written its history, and registered its deeds as with an iron pen upon the tablets of eternity. and there the inscriptions will appear, as in characters of living light, when the heavens shall be no more. This invisible record has been made amid scenes of individual and social depravity, domestic impiety, commercial chicanery, political corruption and national degeneracy. The seductions, blasphemies, and bacchanalian revelries of the midnight hour have all been seen by him whose eye pierces the thickest darkness, and each dark deed is recorded by the unerring pen. How has the mighty volume of crime enlarged its dimensions during the year now closing. If all the records that have been made by all the police courts on earth were brought together, how ponderous the volume; but it would only be as the little fly leaf, if placed beside the record which God has made.

We greatly fear that those searching eyes of omniscence look upon the world still as "lying in wickedness." Everywhere the signals of apostacy and rebellion are hung out. The demon spirit of fratricidal war is still drenching the American continent with. blood, and all Europe seems standing upon the perilous edge of a tremendous conflict. Idolatry, Mohammedanism, infidelity and a spurious christianity are as vet dominant over large portions of the earth, and the broad way to death is as crowded as ever with impenitent and unbelieving souls. As we contemplate this sad picture, we cannot but ask, is this God's world? Did he send his son to redeem it? Has he promised that he shall have it for his inheritance? O then, why does the vision tarry? How long, O Lord, how long shall thy church wait for thy salvation?

But it is pleasing to know that amid these dark outlines, gleams of religious light are breaking forth as the dawn of morning, and the hosts of the Almighty are preparing to go up and possess the land. The closing year has been marked by the footprints of the God of grace, His word has gone forth with its messages of grace and truth, and tens of thousands have started from the slumber of sin to call upon the name of Jesus for mercy. Christian ministers and churches have been greatly multiplied, and converts have crowded the gates of Zion. England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Italy, Germany, and even Russia, have all shared more or less in the converting power of God's spirit, and from bleeding America, this celestial power has not been withheld. Prayer has gone up from the great battle-field where contending legions are bathed in blood, and Jehovah has answered in the fulness of his abounding mercy, and multitudes have been rescued from the grasp of satan.

shall all do well to betake ourselves to searching Will you bring this matter before your people, and self-examination, and to earnest penitential prayer. What a responsible thing is life at all times, but especially in this age of light and progress. Individuals, society, nations, are thinking, moving, acting unon a fast scale. Changes of the most startling character are of almost daily occurrence. As one marks the wondrous revolutions in the sentiments. aims, and conditions of mankind; and how rapid the passage from one class of ideas to those of an opposite character and tendency, he is ready to ask what is to be the result, and what the end of all this? The world is obviously ripening fast for some mighty unfoldings of the dispensations of Jehovah. How shall we meet them? Another year of valuable life has passed from our grasp, and we are so much nearer our eternal home. Let us be careful to improve the golden moments, as they fly, in securing a preparation for that world where all is immutable and eter-

The Retrospect.

It seems to us appropriate at this juncture of time that we should briefly review the progress of our Baptist churches in this Province, during the year which must soon be numbered amongst the things of the past. We regret to say that the retrospect is by no means flattering. In our Eastern Association we have sixty-four churches; the additions to these by baptism, as reported in the Minutes, are as follows-Buctouche, 6; 2d Cambridge, 2; 1st Coverdale, 26 2d Coverdale, 5; 3d Coverdale, 10; Dorchester, 21 1st Elgin, 4; 1st Hillsboro, 155; 2d Hillsboro, 9 4th Hillsboro, 80; Hopewell, 70; 1st Harvey, 28; Hammondvale, 2; Hampton Ferry, 1; 1st Johnson. 1: 1st Moncton, 2; 2d Moncton, 8; New Canaan, 2: North River. 1: Point Migic, 4: Point DeBute, 1. 1st Sackville, 15; 2d Sackville, 78; 1st Salisbury 47: 2d Salisbury, 2; 1st St. Martins, 2; 1st Spring field, 2; Shediac, 11; 1st Studholm, 17; Upham 12; Wickham, 8; Wellington, 1-total by baptism, 583. Just one half of the churches in the Eastern Association, or thirty-two out of the sixty-four received additions; the remaining thirty-two received none. About one-third of the entire number baptized was added to the three churches of Hillsboro. In the Western Association the report is less favor

able. Here we have fifty-one churches, and to these the additions by baptism stand thus-Blackville. Blissfield and Ludlow, 5; Carleton, St. John, 10 Fredericton, 5; Jacksontown, 41; Jacksonville, 9 1st Keswick, 27; 2d Keswick, 9; Middle Simonds 21: Nashwaak, 27; New Jerusalem, 1; Newcastle, Grand Lake, 1; Portland, 8; 1st St. George, 6 Brussels Street, St. John, 5; Germain Street, 7 Leinster Street, 2; Woodstock, 19-total, 209. Out of the fifty-seven churches in the Western Association, only eighteen received additions. Thus, taking the two Associations, numbering 115 churches, fifty reported accessions - sixty-five had no increase How will these sixty-five churches, some of them large and influential, account for this year of spiritnal barrenness and death? Have they maintained to the best of their ability the faithful preaching of the blessed gospel, and the ordinances of Christ, as d unto them? Have they stood forth boldly in defence of the truth as it is in Jesus? Have they jects of vital interest to our ministers and churc unitedly and believingly implored the mercy seat for the "carry and the latter rain?" When a baptized church of the Redeemer passes through a whole year in the hands of every Baptist in the land? be deep gearching of heart, and anxious enquiry, to ascertain the reason why the showers of refreshing have been withheld. Now is a suitable time to ret and turn to him who has promised to heal our

Shall we repeat this. \$667.91 by the one and fifteen Baptist churches of New Bruns-Home and Foreign Missions, for Education, and ministerial, for Sabbath Schools, and for a finisherial fund! everaging a fraction has leading per church! Surely we have indicated a fund! Exercise the whole of the court of of JULE OU MALLE, STOP

inflicting upon themselves or their families the slight-est injury. Nay, they would have been all the richer for so doing. True, this sum does not include the support of our pastors, or the improvement or erec-tion of chapels for the worship of God. But these do not come under the head of benevolence, for both must be regarded as matters of personal comfort and us resolve in the strength of the Lord of hosts that rous, and more useful for the time to come. Are the walls of our Zion broken down? let us go to work and rebuild them. Are the destitute at home and abroad crying to us for the bread of life? let us send to them an ample supply. Are the claims of education making demands upon our benevolence? let us meet them in the spirit of our holy profession. Do we especially need the showers of reviving mercy in our midst? O let us come with a renewed faith to the throne of the heavenly grace and say, "Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold and visit this vine; and the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself."

A Word to our Subscribers.

The time for which mapy of you have paid for the VISITOR closes with the present issue. Some no doubt, are asking-will our paper stop until we renew? The answer is no, we cannot afford to stop it, and you cannot afford to do without it. We take it for granted that you intend to renew at an early date, and therefore we shall send the Visiron to your address as usual. If you do not wish it longer, of course you will so advise us, and then your name will be struck from the list; but we flatter ourselves that your family paper has given you so much satisfaction during the past year that you would as soon think of parting with your dinner when hungry, as of giving it up. You will please remember, however, that the terms are cash in ad-

Revival at Upper Salisbury.

A note from Deacon Joseph Bleakney, informs us that this good work is progressing; difficulties that threatened seriously the peace of the church have been removed, and twenty one have been added by baptism since the revival commenced. These are of various ages, from the man of gray hairs to the child of eleven years. Elder Trimble, the pastor, is instructing the young converts in the doctrines of the gospel, and guiding them in the path of obedience to the Divine will. Our brother adds-"O, how good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! How blessed to be engaged in the work of the Lord!"

To our Ministers and Agents Generally.

The permanent success of the Visitor subscription list depends largely upon you. We have no travelling agent, do not intend to employ one. Our reliance is upon you, dear brethren, who are supposed to feel a deep interest in the circulation of the Visitor, not only as your denominational paper, but as an important agency for the promotion of every good word and work. We trust that you will be careful in every instance to preserve the list from diminution : if any subscriber in your district should wish from As 1864 throws its first rays of light upon us, we any cause, to discontinue, seek to supply his place. an increased number next week, so as to supply new names when you send them. Let there be a simultaneous effort immediately on the reception of this paper, to hasten forward the renewals, and to obtain new subscribers.

The Late Rev. W. H. Burnham. At the time of our Brother Burnham's death it was

expected that Rev. W. A. Corey, an intimate friend of his, would prepare a memoir of his life, and it was so stated in the Visitor, but for some reason he has not done so and therefore Rev. James Herrett has sent us some facts for insertion. These were given in substance in the short notice which appeared in our columns shortly after his death; but they will bear a second reading, and we therefore give them in Bro. Herrett's short and comprehensive style. Speaking of the deceased, he says :- "About two weeks before his death, he preached the funeral sermon of our well-known and much esteemed sister, wife of William Stone; came home, then left to meet an appointment at Caroline Corner, where he was taken very ill. Medical aid was immediately obtained; his brother, who visited him, returned bringing the sad tidings that he could not live long. The father and mother went in all haste, fearing that they would not find their son alive. About twenty miles from home they were told their son was dead; they still went on, and to their joy, found him yet alive. He told them his hope was firm and unshaken in the Son of God. Rev. W. A. Corey visited him several times, and his prospects of heaven grew brighter and brighter. He sent farewell to all his friends. The writer baptized him some six years ago, and he was beloved by all his brethren. God knowing his time would be short on earth, continued to bless him, and give him the favour of the people: put him through the work he had assigned him, then took him hom to the promised reward. He died in the 27th year of his age, and has left a father, mother, brother, and two sisters, and many relatives, to mourn their loss, The funeral was attended by the writer, according to his own request, and he also requested that the "faithful sentinel" should be sung at the grave. The funeral was largely attended, and some nin ministers were present. It was a solemn day, and not soon to be forgotten. Our beloved brother's body was taken back to Salisbury, his birth-place, and laid in the grave near the newly erected meeting house, a JAMES HERRETT Upper Salisbury.

Havelock, Dec. 24, 1868. Our next issue will contain the first of the ised series of able articles, on New Testamen Studies, regarding church organization, government, doctrines, ministry, &c. We want all our subscribe for 1864, to begin with the beginning of these articles. and they will understand and appreciate them. As they proceed questions of grave import will be duly dered and discussed, and the polity of our churches will be examined in the light of the inspired law-book. If we mistake not, the plan propose affords ample scope for remarking fully upon just at this time. Will the brethren most interes strive to place the Visitor, containing these article

It so happens that our subscribers will get fifty-three copies of the Visitor this year instead of fifty-two. This must be put down to our loss, and to their gain. But we very much rather it should be one over, than one short. If it should e our list, we shall after all receive an ample reward for the extra sheet. Perhaps it will have this effect.

Reformatory Question. It is plainly apparent to all who follow up the dis-putes upon the subject, between the Freeman and the Church Witness that the position taken in our former article is the correct one. A reformatory is to established, why then waste time, and stir up useless dissensions by quarrelling with the Papists over what they have done and intend to do in this matter? It is evident that the scheme of the Papists can never be adopted by the Witness nor, on the other hand, is the Witness, likely to propose a measure for which the Bishop will abandon his present enterprise. It is in exceedingly bad taste to complain of the efforts made by Romanists to found a school of reform for their young offenders. It also is very prejudicial to the success of any plan for a Provincial Institution of this kind, to raise such a commotion over a matter which does not really belong to the subject. Let Bishop Sweeney raise the money and build a Reformatory; let all the young malefactors of that Church be gathered into it. Let the Freeman brag over it, and hint at Provincial grants, Success the founding of a Provincial Reformatory go to work in earnest, devising ways and means for the accomplishment of our worthy purpose.

Various schemes have been proposed-one of them is to remove the patients from the Marine Hospital to | School scholars admire books of this stamp. the new Public Hospital, and use the old building thus vacated as a Reformatory. Against this plan there are serious objections. That building is worth more for its present use than for the one proposed Its arrangements are no way suited to the requires of the case, and the necessary alterations would in and saved through the agency of modern Missions. volve a considerable outlay which would be worse. Its sketches are true to life and full of interest. than wasted, for this would be spoiling a decent hospital to make a worthless Reformatory. Such an Institution could never thrive in that locality.

The Witness proposes, as a "cheap" expedier the use of a part of the Alms House for this purpose Such proposition may help to quiet the nerves of those persons who suffer under a chronic fright at the ghosts of long tax-bills, but we presume the Witness has no serious intention of urging such a scheme. The same objection as regards unfitness bears more strongly against this plan than the other; besides, there have been occasions when the whole o that establishment was needed for its own legitimate purpose, and it is quite likely such occasions may appear again. Besides, if it be not a waste of words to combat further such a penny-wise pound-foolish project, the incubus of a pauper establishment fastened upon it would be sufficient to destroy all hope of making the Reformatory answer the ends in view.

And here we must say, there seems to be a misapprehension on the part of many persons interested in the project, as to what sort of an Institution a Reformatory should be. Its name carries with it a certain vague idea of a place in which bad boys may be reformed, but judging from all the views presented by the press, the young offenders are to be reformed by punishment. Jails and houses of correction, as it would seem, are the basis of the prevailing ideas concerning the proposed Institution. This is not surprising, as we in these Provinces have no models after which to build, and no means of punishing offenders, young or old, except by inflictions and penalties which generally harden instead of reforming

It is well understood by all skilful teachers that respect of the pupil, does more harm than good. severe penalty hanging over the head of a boy may deter him from a certain act of wickedness, but it can never referm him, while a judicious restraint joined with a healthy, moral and social influence may make an honest man of him in due time. Now, any scheme which proposes punishment as the leading idea of a Reformatory is useless, because based on false philosophy. All sense of disgrace, which is the inevitable attendant of punishment as administered in any penal Institution whatever, must be removed as widely as possible from a Reformatorysince it is by cultivating, not destroying the selfrespect of its pupils, that their reform must be

Something radically different from our Penitentiary. or jails, is required; for it is easy to see that if a place of confinement and punishment be provided for young offenders, bearing the most remote resemblance to a prison, many of the associations connected goodness was as the morning cloud, and as the early dew it passeth away. O that the Lord would again with prison life will inevitably attach themselves to it, and whatever be its intended effect, the real effect will be to provoke resistance, and degrade the moral sense of the inmates, and by a certain and rapid process the Institution itself would be reduced to the despicable position of a preparatory school from which young rogues could graduate broken spirited. disgraced and suspected, soon perhaps to require the sterner discipline of a grown people's prison.

Such an Institution might be made out of an old Hospital in a close and dirty part of St. John, or set up among the squalid and sickening scenes of the Alms House; but the Reformatory we require, must e away from the thousand evil influences of city life, and away from scenes of wretchedness and rime. Its locality should be in the country, in some inviting spot; all its associations should those of a well disciplined school and family; all its rules and penalties, as near the antipodes of a prison as it may be possible to make them. There must be plenty of outdoor exercise and employment; plenty of readable books, plenty of kind words and pleasant smiles, prizes for good behaviour, and an inexorable, though not tyrannical authority over the whole, The instructors and governors (they must not be either in name or in fact, wardens, keepers, or turnkeys), should be chosen as one would choose a teacher in any other boarding academy for boys. They need School, nor be very well versed in Latin or Hebrew but they must know human nature, especially boy human nature; know how to govern without getting angry every half day; be able to preserve discipline with the smallest possible amount of knocks and blows. Above all these must be a healthy religious officence exerted, such an influence as any good true hearted Christian man would exert, who was fond of the pupils under his charge, and had not suffered the milk of human kindness in his nature to be soured

Again. Let the idea of a local institution merely for the city and county of St. John be at once abandoned. There are other cities and towns in New Brunswick, which would be glad to avail themselves of such an Institution, and it is much che and far better to have one first class Reform School than half a dozen small ones; and we say, by all means let it be a Provincial Institution, established by provincial money, and under the centrol of a board rectors appointed by the Provincial Parliams hand, but before it is all spent in futile attempt do some great thing, let the Reformatory que the earliest practicable moment, and its claims urged heartily by such members for this county as will lend their hands and hearts to the work. There will doubtless be found members enough to pass any reasonable ball on the subject. The opposition likely

Government, this will serve to show us the fact : he our shrewd and gentlemanly Railway member ought to be able to engineer the scheme, and doubtless would do it successfully, if the matter were placed in his hands. Doubtless the agents of the Romish Reformatory would demand that a share of the public money be granted for their benefit. Very well : let them have it if they will place the Institution under the management of a committee appointed by the Provincial Parliament; otherwise they have no claim whatever in this connection, and though they may be entitled to a grant as a sectarian school, that has nothing to do with the Provincial Reformatory.

Having thus endeavored to clear away some of the clouds which have enveloped this subject, we will in our next article give a full description of a Reform School in successful operation, such an one as on a smaller scale would meet the wants of New Brunswick in every respect.

Literature.

Carter & Brothers, of New York, have placed three levely books upon our table, one is entitled to them-and let us on the other hand, who favor Claude the Colporteur; another, The Sale of Crumnie: and the third. The Two Brothers, or the Two Paths. These books furnish scenes and sketches which are well suited to all ages, but especially to the young. Bible classes and advanced Sabbath

> Woman and her Saviour in Persia, from the house of Gould & Lincoln, Boston, contrasts in a lucid style the fearfully degraded condition of woman in Persia, without the redeeming influences of the Gospel, and the same woman purified, emancipated,

> The Farmer Boy, and how he became Comman der in Chief, is the title of a new book published by Walker & Wise, 245 Washington Street, Boston This is an entertaining and instructive volume of some 320 pages. It brings out some of the most impressive scenes in the life of George Washington and sketches in a lively style some of the most startling occurrences of his most eventful life. Every young man should read this de lightful book.

> The same House sends us another attractive book having for its title page, Spectacles for Young Eyes. Among other matters of interest it gives us a chapter on the burning of Moscow, and another on the Crimean War. When the youthful reader opens this book and examines its contents, he will be very likely to feel too much interested to lay it by until he has devoured the whole.

> The American Tract Society are publishing new works of great value almost continuously. They are peculiarly happy in their Sabbath School books. The Little Sea Bird: Kelly Knash; and Amy's New Home are amongst their recent publications. They are charming little books.

From the British Messenger. Religious Intelligence.

LONDON. The need of fresh showers of the reviving Spirit is eginning to be intensely realized by earnest Christians in London. It is felt that there has been a decline in the spiritual life of believers, and that the church has lost in large measure the fervor and holy importunity which gave power to prayer, and which listinguished a not distant past. Not long since, in the hearing of the writer, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, addressing a vast audience, used the following lan-May I not say that we have had the like crowning mercy shown to this, our highly favored land, in the revivals which a few years were so plentiful among us, and which a few years were so plentiful among us, and which even now hover over our heads? The Spirit of the Lord suddenly fell upon many a city and village: where the gospel had been preached with dull and heavy tones, suddenly the minister began to glow—the cords which bound his tongue were snapped, and like a scraph full of heavenly fire, he began to tell of the love of Jesus. Souls were noved as the trees of the wood are moved in the wind; spirits long dead in sin's tremendous sepulchre woke up at the quickening breath; they stood on their feet a great army—they praised the Lord. Other towns and other villages received the pentecostal shower, and we had hoped—O that our hopes had been realized—that all England would have been filled with the same divine enthusiasm, and that the effects woul have continued with us."

. To a great extent the revival has departed, and many of oue churches are as stolid and cold as ever. Back to their old beds of slumber-downward again to Laedicean lukewarmness-have they stolen. Their crown the year with his goodness, and send us revivals from the right hand of the Most High."

Other complaints are heard, especially with regard to London. Thus the Wesleyan Recorder, referring to the recent close of "another Methodistic year says :- "We believe there is dwelling on the lin and going upwards from the heart, of preachers and of people, the earnest prayer, 'Lord revive thy work.'
The results of the past year are felt on all sides to be eminently humiliating and unsatisfactory. The small increase 4448 members, although on the one hand its value cannot be estimated, yet, considering our circumstances, and the extent of our agency, is felt on the other hand to be very shortcoming.

The writer has recently visited the chief scene that Ulster revival and "year of grace," the tidings brought back from which told so powerfully in the autumn and winter of 1859 in rousing London Chris tians to increased holiness of faith, stronger faith in the power of the Divine Spirit as a present blessing ready to descend, and consequent heaven-opening supplication. He is thankful to say that the fruit of the awakening largely remain, in a higher stan-dard of self consecration among Christians, greater separation from the world, greatly increased liberality to the cause of Christ, and in earnest evangelistic effort on the part of members of the church in the instruction of the ignorant, and endeavors to save the outcast population. Nevertheless, it is felt that here also there has been declension, even on the part of those who are by the most sober-minded ministers believed to have truly passed from death unto life smid the memorable scenes of three years ago. amid the memorable scenes of three years ago. I feel it a solemn duty in this the closing paper for 1868, to refer to the felt necessities of the present hour in London as well as out of it. Oh that all the readers of the Messenger who "belong to Christ," would celebrate the close of this year, and the beginning of next year, with such a concert of prayer, accompanied by penitential confession of personal as well as of public sins, and wrestling urgency for such an enlarged blessing to be poured out, as should usiler in another era of glorious life and progress in our own land and all over the world.

usiler in another era of glorious life and progress in our own land, and all over the world.

"A night of prayer" has been held at Shaftesbury Hall, Aldersgate Street, City, at which Mr. Richard Weaver gave an address. A considerable number of Christian men were assembled, nearly, if not all of them, for several years past foremost in labor for the perishing in London, and especially in the eastern districts of Whitechapel, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, and Stepney. There is a peculiar solemnity at such meetings—renewed for several years past—when

occupied with other duties, yet to the glory of God and to the encouragement of all kindred efforts, "the specific results" are thus summed up:—"The comnittee conclude that, 1. Many souls have been converted to God. 2. Christians have been lovingly associated, and have kept together from the very first. The association has been altogether unsectarian, as oclievers of various denominations are united together in prayer, in love, in communion, in service, and in work for their one Lord and Master. 3. Zeal and steady devotedness have witnessed that many have not believed in vain; they have proved by their love to their fellow-sinners, that they have themselves un derstood the love of Jesus. 4. The sovereign care and power of God have been manifested over whole work, not only in the good accomplished, but in restraining or correcting many evils which might reasonably have been looked for. This, in the absence of pastoral care, has been a merciful interposition, Often has the Lord both manifested evil and taken discipline into His own hands in ways we have not seen before." To all this it is added, in that spirit of christian simplicity, truthfulness, and honesty which marks this blessed movement, "Some few who appeared hopeful, or, indeed, converted, have turned aside. Some few have backslidden," Alas! where aside. Some few have backslidden." Alas! where is there any region of similar labor where "some few" have not "backslidden" and turned aside, even

while yet fruit remains most gladdening? The need and the popularity of such special services as are thus carried on in the east of London, are strikingly brought out in a letter from a member of committee, who had been accompanied on the after-noon of the Lord's-day, by "a gentleman of position and discernment." The narrator says, "I took him to the open-air service, and to the in-door services. Though all was so rough as compared with what he had been accustomed to, he was greatly pleasedthe style of preaching just what it should be: the earnestness of the prayer-meeting within, and the evident love and desire for souls, satisfied him that this was the work of God. We entered two churches, and were led to contrast the small numbers within, and the listlessness of the people, with the earnestness and numbers, who in their week-day clothes, and with unwashed and unshaven faces stood listening with the most intense pleasure to the converted fancier and others who spoke in the streets.

The colleges in London, which specially aim at educating and preparing young men for the Christian ministry, are now open for the winter session. Let prayer be made for them also without ceasing. The college connected with the tabernacle at Newington, and entirely supported by the contributions of Mr. Spurgeon and his people, together with occasiona gifts from friends at a distance, has, at the present time, 120 students, of whom upwards of 60 are specially designed for the ministry. With able belpers and instructors in classics, Hebrew, and science, and with his younger brother, now a pastor in the me tropolis, Mr. Spurgeon is gradually sending forth effective preachers. Two of them have lately settled as pastors in the metropolis, and others will speedily follow. The young men every Lord's-day are engaged in active labours to do good, and "the common people" hear them "gladly." And now, dear reader, let me close this paper with

one or two questions suggested by the departing year. 1. Art thou truly in Christ? If so, art thou living, giving, working, praying, as becomes a Christ-like man or woman? Oh, work, while it is day; the night cometh, and souls are perishing at thy side 2. Art thou still Christless? Does consciencetruthful consciousness, compel thee to reply, "Yes? Then, be entreated, ere the year is out, and now, as thou readest this, to the cry for mercy through Him who is mighty to save. To ask thee to work for Christ till thou hast come to Christ, and trusted in his work for sinners-that were vain. To thee, therefore comes now the message—may the Holy Spirit give it effectual entrance: "This is the work of God, that YE BELIEVE IN HIM WHOM HE HATH SENT."

The Week of Prayer.

We are glad to see that we are to have our weel of prayer in St. John as usual. The Sabbath Schoo Teachers' Association is moving in this direction.

REV. I. E. BILL-Dear Sir :- Will you please state in the next issue of your paper that, in compliance with the invitation of the Evangelical Alliance, Union Prayer Meetings will be held in Smith's Building, Prince Wm. Street, under the auspices of the Sabbath School Teachers' Association, for one week, beginning on Monday next, the 4th January, at 12 o'clock, noon, and to continue for one hour each day to the end of the week. Programme the same as issued by the Alliance. Yours faithfully,

W. WELSH, Secretary. We sincerely hope that this arrangement will hav the hearty support of the ministers and churches of the city, and that we shall all have a blessed season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The programme appeared in the Visitor some weeks ago.

Sad Catastrophe.

SUDDEN DEATH OF CAPTAIN JAS. H. LYONS -It be mes our melancholy duty to record the unexpecte death of Captain James H. Lyons, master of the ship Empress, belonging to the Messrs. Wright, of this city. This fearful event took place about half-past seven, p. m. on Tuesday evening the 29th last. The tide was low and Captain Lyons attempted to descend the ladder from the Lawton wharf, to the ship. His foot or hand, or both slipped and he fell, passir down between the wharf and vessel, until he struc on the fender with sufficient force to destroy life. One two men were on the deck, at the foot of the ladder and saw him fall. They hastered to his rescue immediately, but life was extinct, Doctors Bayard and Humphrey were soon in attendance, but human skill was powerless. The immortal spirit had ascended

was powerless. The immortal spirit had ascended to God who gave it. Captain Lyons has left a beloved wife, three sons, two daughters, and many relatives and friends to deplore this sad bereavement. We tender to them all our deepest christian sympathy. The Empress was ready for sea, and was to leave on Wednesday morning. The captain had mailed a letter to his wife just before this melancholy event took place, informing her of his intention to leave in the morning. The same mail will take her letters, communicating the sad intelligence of his death. Such communicating the same mail will take her letters, communicating the sad intelligence of his death. Such is the uncertainty encompassing earthly hopes and prospects, Captain Lyons was very highly esteemed by his employers, for his sobriety, integrity, and sound judgment. His life was such as to give reason to hope that he was prepared for this sudden change. How impressive the admonition addressed change. How impressive the to us all, "Be ye also ready."

A short Patent Sermon. Old Lorenzo Dow was a sensible reformer. He said to have shown his peculiar good sense, at one time, by preaching the following excellent words in behalf of the printing fraternity:

Perhaps it may not be amiss to remind you of the printer in my discourse. He is in a very disagree-able situation. He trusts everybody, he knows not whom. His money is scattered everywhere, and he scarcely knows where to look for it. His paper, his ink, his type, his journeymen, his labor, &c., must be punctually paid for. You, Mr. —, and you, Mr. —, and a hundred others I could name have taken his paper; and you, and your children, and you neighbors, have been improved by it. If you mis one paper, you think hard of the printer—you woul rather go without your best meal than be deprived on the printer—you would be the printer—you would b your paper. Have you ever complied with the terms of your subscription? Have you ever taken pains to furnish the printer with his paper? Have you paid him for his type, his press, and his hand's work? If you have not, go and pay off. He needs the money. Lorenzo must have known more of a newspe

ublisher's trials than most people do, or he wou ever have put forth such truths as those .- Christian

A letter just received from Rev. A. D. Thom on, informs us that he has been suffering much recently from an attack of lumbago; but he l e able to resume his agency for the payment of the Seminary debt by the time sleighing gets good. We hope and pray that his expectations will be realized, and that success will crown his efforts in the good

ingement, viz. In Germain Street, on New Year's evo

HOT Secular Department. AHT

COLONIAL

The "Visitor's" City Article. A large and intelligent audience, filling the Mechaics' Institute in every part, swamp, galleries and all, greeted the appearance of the Rev. J. C. Fletcher, the lecturer, who had been announced for last Monday evening. His subject, "Brazil and the Brazilians" was very pleasantly and instructively presented. and the audience showed how much they were delighted by giving the closest attention through the entire evening. The lecture occupied an hour and a half, and took a somewhat rambling style from the fact that the lecturer was obliged, as he said, " to cram three lectures into one." After several personal anecdotes, by way of introduction, showing how erroneous our first impressions of foreign countries are likely to be, the speaker proceeded to business in earnest:

Eight years after the discovery of America by Columbus, Vincent Yaner Pinzon discovered South America, landing on the coast of Brazil near the mouth of the great river Amazon. This man was one of three brothers, who had taken a deep interest in the great enterprise of Columbus, and who held a in Spain, in Dec. 1499. He supposed that the country he had discovered was India beyond the Ganges, and he took formal possession of it in the name of the King of Spain. Three months after this, Pedro Alonzo De Cabral, a skilful navigator, who had been sent out by the King of Portugal with an expedition of thirteen ships, and 1200 fighting men, besides a number of Franciscan monks as missionaries, on hi way to the East Indies, touched at Brazil and took possession of the country in the name of the King of ortugal. This occurred in May, A. D. 1500. Troubles of course arose from these two rival claims, which were settled by Pope Borgia. South America was divided between the two kingdoms, and Brazil

became Portugese America.

This vast country is 2500 miles wide from its east. ern to its western extremity, and has a sea coast of more than 3000 miles. The great river Amazon, 180 miles wide at its mouth, is navigable for 2000 miles through Brazilian territory, and for a thousand more before it enters that country. The temperature of Brazil in the coldest parts is like that of the central part of the Gulf States, Alabama and Mississippi, while its great elevation above the level of the ser renders the climate for the most part, exceedingly healthy and delightful. All the most delicious trop cal fruits grow here in perfection, and the most val uable kinds of wood for ornamental purposes, are so abundant as to be used for the commonest purposes. The lecturer spake of visiting a farm, where the outhouses had beams of rosewood, and even the pig-pen was made of the same valuable material. On the banks of the Amazon he had gathered specimens of three hundred different kinds of wood, all susceptible of the highest polish.

The audience were treated to some pleasant de tions of luscious fruits, among which was the Jackaplural Juckass, which he said reminded him of pumpkin growing on a tree. He then alluded to that well known story in verse, of the Infidel who found fault with a tiny acorn growing on a huge oak, and large pumpkin on a slender vine, saying he would have the acorn on the vine, and the pumpkin on the tree; but while he was lying under the oak, looking scornfully at the acorns, one of them dropped and struck him plump in the eye, and the poor foolish fellow, screaming with pain, acknowledged himself glad that the tree didn't bear pumpkins instead of acorns, else his brains would have been dashed out. and a speedy end put to his grumbling.

The commerce of Brazil is somewhat restricted by

high duties, and, strange to say, there is not a single

direct steam communication between Brazil and any part of North America. If you wish to visit Rio Janeiro, you must go all the way round by Lisbon and the Cape de Verde Islands, or take passage on slow sailing ship. She will probably have a cargo of ice, apples, and codfish, which the lecturer humor-ously set forth as the principal articles which were sent to Brazil from Boston, while nearly all the trade in manufactured articles was in the hands of Europosed upon navigation on the coast and rivers of Brazil, but the coast has been thrown open for fretrade, and the great Amazon will soon be p trade, and the great Amazon will soon be placed on the free list. The lecturer showed how great advan-tages would be derived by the United States and the Provinces by establishing a line of steamships be-tween Rio Janeiro and some North American port. tween Rio Janeiro and some North American port. The exports of Brazil are large—not less than twenty five million dollars worth of coffee being sent from Rio in three months. The bay of Rio Janeiro is wonderfully beautiful, and its harbour the finest in the world. The entrance to the bay is between two high mountain peaks, which are visible for a long distance at sea and the navigation and the large at sea and the large at sea and the large at sea and the large at large listance at sea, and the navigator can easily find h way into the harbor without a pilot, and almost with out a chart. The entrance is a mile wide, the water out a chart. The entrance is a mile wide, the water deep, and the shore bold and precipitous; and the harbour itself is a hundred miles in circumference, free from shoals and rocks, and surrounded by mountains whose sides are covered with the richest vegetation, and on whose very summits wave the feathery palm trees. Rio Janeiro, a city of 400,000 inhabitants, the capital of the Brazilian Empire, is built tants, the capital of the Brazilian Empire, is built over a large tract of country, and contains within its limits seven lofty hills (real hills, not molecules, like the traditional seven hills of Rome), which, with large open squares, furnish breathing places for the city, and along the shore, in one locality near the city, is a beautiful sandy beach where the people at the proper season may be seen in crowds enjoying their bath in the bright blue waters of the bay. The city is brilliantly lighted with gas, and is abundantly supplied with water, brought in aqueduets from the sides of the neighboring mountains—a hydrant being placed at every street corner. The city has been notorious for the filthiness of its streets, and the strong odors which saluted the olfactories of a stranger were described by the lecturer as equal in density to our St. John fog; but an English company is now at work sewering the city, and it will soon be one of the cleanest in the world. Several large daily newspapers are sewering the city, and it will soon be one of the clear est in the world. Several large daily newspapers at published in Rio Janeiro, some of them nearly large as the London Times, containing well writte commercial articles, &c., &c., and printed in the mobeautiful manner. The Municipal regulations of the city are in some respects excellent models. For it stance—you walk along one of the principal street and see an omnibus, drawn by four stout mules, any you read on the sides of the vehicle "fourteen pensons;" this signifies the omnibus is licensed to carronly fourteen persons at once, and there is no growing and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing, as in most city coaciling and packing and squeezing. than the number it is licensed to carry, the dry fined and his employers also. You chance to an omnibus in which sits a gentleman, who is feet stranger: he lifts his hat and salutes you w an omnious in which sits a gentleman, who fect stranger: he lifts his hat and salutes you bow and a "good day." Another presently he salutes you both in the same polite many so, on with every new comer, and when you I carriage, the whole company will bow to you wish you good-day, or give you "God speed," tuguese or French. This will serve to illustrate however imperfect the morals of Brazilians, the ners are exceedingly polite. The speaker welled through various parts of the empire, as on two instances was he inhuspitably treated, believed that any person who would be courted careful, might travel through city and country out fear of molestation.

One of the peculiar institutions of Rio is cart. Then comes a man driving a cow to to fis customers—jubilate! no vater in the Not too fast my dear sir. See that large which the driver carries; it has a wide bottom very narrow top. Now he stops and looks him to see if any one is watching him—O

very narrow top. Now he stops and look him to see if any one is watching him.—clear. So he goes stealthily up to one of drants at the corner of a narrow lane, les cow in one street, while he, just round the turns the cock and lets a quantity of the perform the bills into his can. He then walks ly whistling or singing in the most innoc imaginable, to the house of a lady, who has