

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR, Published every THURSDAY, by BARNES & Co., AT THEIR OFFICE, Corner of Prince William and Church Streets, SAINT JOHN, N. B. TERMS:—Cash in Advance. One Copy, for one year, \$2.00 Fifty Copies to one Address, \$1.00 Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

# The Christian Visitor.

THE OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR, Corner of Prince William and Church Streets, SAINT JOHN, N. B. REV. I. E. BILL, Editor and Proprietor. Address all Communications and Business Letters to the Editor, Box 194, St. John, N. B. The Christian Visitor is emphatically a Newspaper for the Family. It furnishes its readers with the latest intelligence, RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR.

"Hold fast the form of sound words."—2d Timothy, i. 13.

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**Eliptic & Side Springs,**  
OF ANY SIZE OR STYLE.  
Wholesale and Retail, at Short Notice!!!  
These Springs are made under his own superintendence by superior workmen, stamped with his own name, and made of best quality English Spring Steel, so that purchasers may rely upon getting a good article.  
In addition to the above, he has on hand about  
**100 SETS SUPERIOR ENGLISH SPRINGS,** which will be sold at a low figure for Cash.  
He would also call the attention of Carriage Makers to his Stock of  
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Long and Short BED AXLES, 1 to 2 inch; Carriage BANES in Brass, and Silver, with open, closed, and screw Fronts;  
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**A Complete Assortment of Malleable Castings,** also,  
**OIL CLOTH, GRASS MATS, TIRE BENDERS,** Coach-makers' VICES, assorted sizes; TOOLS, OF BEST STAMPS.  
These Goods have been laid in to advantage, and can be sold at unusually low prices.  
**BARLOW'S CORNER, NO. 5 KING STREET**  
**C. G. BERRYMAN.**  
St. John, Oct. 20, 1864.

New Series, Vol. III., No. 22. Whole No. 1263.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1865.

Old Series, Vol. XVIII., No. 22.

**THE PHOENIX FIRE OFFICE, LONDON**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1782.  
CAPITAL, £25,000,000  
Insurance effected at the lowest rates.  
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This Establishment has been removed to Charlotte Street, a few doors South of the St. John Hotel. The School at present consists of Male and Female Departments, and comprises the most complete and thorough course of instruction in English, Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education.  
The Furniture and Apparatus are all of the most improved modern style. The School Rooms and premises are inferior to none in the city; the system is Catechetical and Explanatory. Call and see. Aug. 4.

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The Course of Education in this Seminary comprises all the branches necessary for a thorough and accomplished Education. The several departments of the most advanced French are employed.  
Board and instruction in English and French, \$300 per annum.  
Daily Pupils, under ten years, \$8 per term.  
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Extra Branches, Drawing, Painting, and Music, usual prices.  
Payment, in all cases, in advance. Dec. 4.

**THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, 92**  
London-street, London, and Royal Insurance Building, Liverpool.  
Chairman of the London Board.—SAMUEL BAKER, Esq.  
Chairman of the Liverpool Board.—GEO. H. THOMAS, Esq.  
The Royal Insurance Company is one of the largest Offices in the Kingdom.  
At the Annual Meeting held in August 1864, the following highly satisfactory results were shown:  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT.**  
The most gratifying proof of the expansion of the business is exhibited in the following fact—That the increase of the last three years exceeds the entire business of some of the existing and of many of the recently defunct fire insurance companies of this Kingdom.  
The Premiums for the year 1864 were £130,000.  
While the Premiums for the year 1863 were £124,148.  
Showing an actual increase of £5,852, or upwards of 5 per cent. in three years.  
The recent returns of duty made by Government for this latter year (1864) again show the "Royal" as more than maintaining the ratio of its increase as stated in former years. Only one among the London insurance offices exhibits an advance in the extent of its business for the year 1864, while all the others respectively fall far short of the moiety of its advance.

**CITY OF GLASGOW**  
**LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF GLASGOW.**  
Incorporated by Act of Parliament.  
Governor—The Right Honorable the Earl of Glasgow.  
Subscribed Capital £2,000,000  
Annual Revenue £450,000  
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**THE City of Glasgow Life Assurance Company** was established in 1858, by special Act of Parliament. It has now been conducted with much success for 25 years, which is attributable not only to the perfect security which it affords for the due fulfillment of every contract, but likewise to the Company's extensive and influential connections and to the liberality of its dealings.  
The Premiums are equitably graduated. The Profits are distributed with a due regard to the claims of all classes of Policy-holders.  
The last declaration of Bonus was made 20th January, 1864, which is the close of the Company's financial year, when a Bonus at the rate of one and a half per cent. on the sums assured was declared for the past year. In place of the surplus being usually divided, the profits will in future be ascertained and allocated quarterly. Policy-holders participate from the date of their issue, but the Bonus does not vest until they have been five years in existence.  
For further information, and for all other information, apply to the Agents, WILLIAM MACRAE,

**I'LL WATCH FOR THESE.**  
I'll stand among the seraph band,  
Who at the portals wait,  
I'll watch for thee up there,  
Within the pearly gate.  
And, as the ransomed throng  
With palms of victory come,  
And pass the everlasting doors  
To gain their heavenly home,  
I'll mark with eagle eye  
The radiant spirits blest,  
And gladly welcome every saint  
Into the promised rest.

But when thy soul is freed  
From earthly toil and pain,  
And wings its flight to enter in,  
With all the blood-washed train—  
With bounding heart and hand  
I'll sweep my golden lyre,  
And rush to greet and welcome thee  
To heaven's rejoicing choir.  
Then will we sing the song  
With blended voice above,  
The song we used to sing on earth,  
Of Jesus' dying love;

We'll gather round the throne,  
Our best Redeemer's seat,  
And cast the crowns he bought for us,  
Adoring, at His feet.  
And with ten thousand more,  
All purchased with his blood,  
We'll swell the echoing anthem strain  
To Christ, the Lamb of God.  
Then wait and suffer on  
A few more years before,  
Sing yet awhile the songs of earth,  
Though I from earth must go.  
In Heaven I'll wait for thee,  
Whilst thou art toiling here,  
My heart will still be joined to thine,  
I'll watch for thee up there.

From the National Baptist.  
**HINTS TO MINISTERS.**  
APPLICATION OF THE SERMON.

I was the other day much struck with a singular fact, in looking into the "Masterpieces of Pulpit Eloquence," in regard to that wonderful sermon of Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." It was this—only six pages were occupied in the main body of the sermon, while the application filled seven pages! I wonder how many sermons now-a-days would furnish a parallel!

It set me thinking. I looked into the biographical sketch of Edwards, preceding the sermon, and read this: "In vain did any one attempt to escape from falling a prey under his mighty appeal. It was in the application of his subject that he specially excelled. The part of the sermon before this was only preparatory. Here was the stretching out of the arms of the discourse upon the hearts and lives of his audience. It was a kind of moral inquisition, and sinners were put upon argumentative racks, and beneath screws, and with an awful revolution of the great truth in hand, evenly and steadily screwed down and crushed." I recalled, also, something I happened to know as to how Lyman Beecher preached. He, too, spent the first part of his sermon, pretty much, in getting ready. His rods are soon brought forth, and all laid before the people, in plain sight. Now look out! If heretofore there have been any leaves on those rods, let a genuine Yankee school master, he strips them off; and quick those whips are thrust back and forth through the hot embers of his own soul, and then plied with redoubled strokes upon the backs of the offenders! Blow upon blow! and tighter as he glows! He is all stir! He is terribly intent! He gives the sinner no room—presses upon him—narrows his way—hems him in—smiles him harder and harder, and holds not till quivering and breathless he crouches between Sinai and the Cross. Here is power—in the application.

Bishop Burnet says, a sermon, the application whereof makes the auditory look pleased, and sets them all talking with each other, was certainly not rightly spoken, or not rightly heard; it has been fine, and has probably delighted the congregation, rather than done it good; but that sermon that makes every one go away silent, and grave, and hastening to be alone to meditate and pray the matter over in secret, has had a true effect. The conclusion ought to be lively and animating, full of great and beautiful figures, aiming to move the affections, and excite to immediate action. The fire of the preacher should blaze there; he should concentrate the arguments and ideas of his whole sermon into this part, as the rays are collected into the focus of a burning-glass. Every part of the sermon should be brought to bear upon this point, so as to form an irresistible and overwhelming moral force—sweeping away the refuges of lies—blazing with the light of the meridian sun upon the darkness of the spirit—and rousing forth, by the omnipotent energy of truth, its slumbering energies.  
In conversation with an American clergyman, Dr. Chalmers said, a sermon, properly considered, consists of two parts, *exposition* and *application*. The hearers, first of all, must see what is the mind of God in the text, and then, that mind of God is to be used for their reformation. The power does not lie simply in the truth, but in the truth perceived to be of God. When this point seems to have been gained, then the power of preaching is the power of God. Hence, careful exposition, showing beyond all question, what is the mind of God in the text, is the indispensable first thing in every sermon. Without this, the sword of the Spirit is, practically, not there. The first drawn by exposition; and then, let it be wielded with a will.

A caution, however, may here be in place. Do not desire to render the application effective, may make the sermon too long. We are now living in the seventeenth century; when, as Bishop Burnet says, on a fast day there were six sermons preached without intermission. Philip Hefey used to begin at nine in the morning, and never leave the pulpit until about four in the afternoon, spending all that time in praying and expounding, and singing and preaching, to the admiration of those that heard him. John Howe's method was as follows: he began at nine in the morning, with a prayer of a quarter of an hour, read and expounded Scripture for about three quarters of an hour; the people then sang a quarter of an hour, during which he retired, and took some refreshments; he then went into the pulpit again, preached another hour, prayed an hour, the people then sang a quarter of an hour, and a prayer of a quarter of an hour, concluded the service. This will not do to-day.

too long. As a rule, in my opinion, they should not go much, if any, beyond half an hour. The criticism upon a popular preacher, "He is a finished sermonizer, with a fine imagination and a good deal of genuine pathos, and if he only knew when he got to the right stopping place, would be just the preacher I should like; each time when I heard him I said to myself, 'There, if you would stop right there, you would leave just the impression I want to retain; but he always had some one or two other remarks' which he must make, as he said, to do justice to the subject, and before he was through I was weary; and he is popular with his congregation in every respect but this—he preaches too long sermons."—this criticism, I say, might be applied to a great many preachers.

Therefore, let not the wish to give power to the ending of the sermon, betray one into too great length. An application may be all the more effective for being short. But short or long, let the remark of William Taylor in his "Model Preacher," be borne in mind—"Often when a preacher has driven a nail in a sure place, instead of clinching, and securing well the advantage, he hammers away till he breaks the head off, or splits the board." When one has preached the hearers into a good frame, why keep on till he has preached them out of it?

**BE IMPORTUNATE.**  
I was sitting in my study, engaged in the preparation of a sermon for the coming Sabbath, and had determined to have the time exclusively to myself.  
There was about the house a little mischievous blue-eyed boy, who seemed an enemy to all quiet; for from early light till darkness came, two little hands found baby-work, and feet seemed never tired. Our Willie was a little one then; now he can read, and has two little sisters. But memory has the baby Willie, with dimpled chin and tottering step, and never silent tongue. He could not talk then—only a few little words, but the chatter was continuous. I need describe no further, for many of you have or had just such a boy.  
But I was going to say—I was sitting in my study, busily engaged, when—patter—patter—I heard a pair of little feet. I knew in which direction the toes were turned, and I pressed my lips together and gave a nod, saying, mentally, "I'll not let him in. I thought when I sat down I would not, and I will not." Patter—patter—and somebody said "Papa," just outside the door. I knew who it was, but he must not disturb me.  
"Papa."  
I ran my fingers through my hair, and tried to study.  
"Papa-pa!"  
I heard the latch rattle, and I knew somebody was rising on tiptoe to reach it. I remembered a gold pen I once lost by Willie's hand—broken by sticking it in the table like a scratch all. It did not take me as long to think as it does to write, or you to read it now.  
"Papa-pa-pa!"  
A thought flashed into my heart, not mind, and tears came into my eyes. Quickly I opened the door, and clasping the child in my bosom, I was willing to gratify its simple wants, for I was going to preach on importunate prayer—and there was an illustration. I took it as providential.

Are we not God's "little children?" The kind Apostle John says as much—John iv. 4. Though gray hairs cover our heads, yet little children are we, and we come again with our cares and wants. We seek, we knock, and we say "Our Father!" He may not open until, like Willie, we patiently wait and often cry "Father!" He hears, he smiles, and opens unto us. His strong arms are about us. His hand supports the tottering steps of his little children.  
Though we often do worse than mischievous things, they are forgiven. When we approach our Father,  
"He bows his glorious ear;  
We never plead in vain,  
Yet we must wait till he appear,  
And pray, and pray again."

**THE CREDIT SYSTEM.**  
We hear complaints of hard times from all quarters, and appearances are not very encouraging for the future. The poor harvest of 1864, and the low price of produce, have rendered it difficult to meet liabilities as they mature. Failures are becoming more frequent as the season advances; and were it not that there has been no unnatural inflation in business, there would be a financial crisis, and a vast amount of suffering before harvest.  
Without dwelling upon the outside causes of depression, we would once more advert to that great incubus which crushes Canadian prosperity—the credit system. So long as the customers of our retail merchants require six, twelve, or twenty-four months' credit, as at present, so long must the credit prevail through all the ramifications of business; and its prevalence is as injurious to the customer as to the merchant.  
While the score is running up, to be paid in six or twelve months hence, the customer does not feel the pressure of the increasing bill. New clothing, new implements, new stock, &c., are purchased with little hesitation; whereas, if the money had to be paid out day by day, as the purchases are made, many things would be dispensed with, making a very decided difference in the aggregate expenditure of each year. Again, the price of goods purchased on credit must be proportionately higher than for cash, in order to compensate the merchant for lying out of his money. Many merchants are willing to take off a discount of 10 per cent. for cash; this the credit customer loses. In other words, if your credit purchases amount to \$500 in the course of the year, you might, by adhering to the cash system, dispense with \$100 worth, and by paying cash, effect a saving of 10 per cent. on the balance, thus saving \$100 for rainy days.  
This is a word of changes and reverses, and it is unwise to depend upon the contingency of a coming harvest, or future employment, or future business, to enable you to meet debts, often unnecessarily incurred.  
"Owe no man anything," is a maxim divinely inspired. Would that it had the serious consideration of all who habitually purchase on credit. It is hard to become foreclosed, but the comfort and peace afforded by it make a worthy goal for the efforts of all.  
If your furniture begins to look shabby, varnish it, and buy no more until you have money to spare to pay for it. And so with everything else. Pride will whisper, "You must make as good an appearance as your neighbors!" The good appearance is the consciousness of right ownership, what you use will afford, will be a better reward than the mere gratification of a pride, purchased at the price of independence.

**OUR PROHIBITORY LAW.**  
Rev. W. M. Thayer has furnished for our columns the following condensed summary of evidence recently elicited at the State House on the working of the Prohibitory Liquor Law. The evidence was given under oath:

Mr. Marston, Attorney for Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes and Nantucket counties, testified that the law was generally enforced throughout his district—that he would except only two or three towns—that there was much less drinking now than there was before the law was enacted—and that he did not know of any substitute for the Prohibitory Law that could be adopted.

Hon. A. Huntington, of Salem, an eminent practitioner in our courts for forty years, said that the law was at first generally enforced in his district, with the exception of three or four large towns and cities; that for three or four years past the courts had evaded the Prohibitory Law, by bringing the cases under the Nuisance Act, which has a slight penalty at the discretion of the courts; that if the Legislature would change the penalties of the Nuisance Act, and make them to conform to those of the Prohibitory Law, there would be no trouble in Essex County.

Hon. Israel Andrews, of Danvers, a trial justice, whose district embraces several towns of Essex County, confirmed the evidence of Mr. Huntington. He said that intoxicating drinks are not sold in the towns within his jurisdiction; that the temperance sentiment would not tolerate the traffic.

Hon. P. Emory Aldrich, of Worcester, district attorney, and mayor of the city in 1861, said that the law was generally enforced in his district, better in some portions than in others; that he completely executed it when he was mayor, seizing liquors and carrying them through the streets with as much quietness as so many barrels of flour could have been carried; that he found no difficulty in getting convictions, seldom trying a case without convicting the parties; and that the law can be executed in every town and city of the Commonwealth, if public officers will do their duty.

Judge Crosby, of Lowell, said that at two or three different periods, the Prohibitory Law had been enforced in that city; that Mayor Huntington made a serious impression upon the traffic in strong drink.

Rev. Mr. Wood, city Missionary of Lowell, confirmed the above statement, and added other valuable evidence. In short, his testimony was like that of his report, which was published at the time. In that report he said, "I have made particular inquiries in the neighborhood of streets where there has been the most tipping, and all through the streets themselves, whether there is any difference. The answer is but one—'O, yes, very great. One can sleep nights. There is more peace and comfort.' Keeling, quarrelling and fighting are comparatively rare. Houses are in better order, more cleanly. Personal appearance is improved. Children are better fed and cared for, and see a new day of happiness. Debts are better paid, and rents, and store bills, I ask the grocers. They answer with a smiling face. The good effects of the law are felt through all the businesses of the city except one."  
Mr. Morse, district attorney for Middlesex, said that the law was generally enforced in his county, with the exception of the city. He enumerated several towns in which the traffic is suppressed.

Hon. J. Merriam, of Westminster testified that no open traffic was allowed in the North-east Worcester District.

Luther Hill, Esq., trial justice of Spencer, said that there was no rumelling in the towns of his jurisdiction; that there was no difficulty in enforcing the law, if public officers would do their duty.

Ex-Lieut.-Gov. Trask, of Springfield, said that he enforced the law effectually when he was mayor of the city, and he could do it again. Ex-Mayor Harris, of the same city, testified that he enforced the law, although he was not a friend of it; and that his efforts were partially successful, and would have been wholly so if the courts had not been a farce.

Mayor Merrill, of Cambridge, said that the law had not been enforced as well as it might be; that he should try to apply it more thoroughly; and we learn that he is doing so with success. In reply to the question whether a license law would not restrain the traffic, he said, "Perhaps a license law might be framed that would do it, but my conscience will not let me recommend such a law. A license law is wrong in principle; the Prohibitory Law is right in principle."

John Sanger, of Boston, said that there was no difficulty in enforcing the law when he administered it as judge in the county; that the Prohibitory Law is a perfect statute, and works well where public opinion sustains it; that in Boston the masses drink and oppose the law, so that there never has been a conviction under it in the city.  
Evidence was introduced from other large towns, as Natick and Milford, showing that the law has been enforced at times, and that just now special efforts are making in this direction with much success.

Such, adds Mr. Thayer, is a brief view of the testimony presented before the Committee in favor of the Prohibitory Law. Other persons appeared who said "the law cannot be enforced," that is, in their opinion; but it was quite apparent that they did not wish to have it enforced. Two of them, ex-Mayor Hosford, of Lowell, and ex-Mayor Alexander, of Springfield, said that they did not try to enforce it. They had sworn, with uplifted hands, to execute the law, and yet asserted that they did not try. How much value can be set upon the testimony of men so regardless of an oath, we leave for the reader to determine. Antitemperance men can be found in every community who say that the law can't be enforced. Yet, with one or two exceptions, the witnesses, when asked if the law can be enforced, replied in the affirmative. Even the Chief of Police of Boston said, "I will not say that the law is not enforced—the law is disregarded by the courts." Rev. Mr. Clark himself, who is leading off our enemies to secure a license law, said that "the law was enforced at Chelmsford and a few surrounding towns for a time, and that it might be enforced now but for the influence of Lowell." Not one of the objections were brought against the law itself. The objections were against the officers of the law. Some said, "The Grand Jury quash all indictments." Others said, "The judges won't agree, because rumblers or their sympathizers are found among them." Others said that the attorneys "evaded the law by putting cases on file." Several testified that attorneys "make out indictments under the Nuisance Act, and thus evade the Prohibitory Law." Many said, "Temperance men won't do their duty and enforce the law." These were the reasons urged for a license law. But not one of them applied to the law itself, all, with the exception of the Grand Jury, evaded the law.

The amount of evidence introduced exposing the corruption of courts and the faithlessness of public officers was astonishing. But why attack the law for the delinquencies of the officers appointed to execute it? If jurors, attorneys, and other civil officers connive to embarrass the law that punishes theft, would not the results be the same? Let us be consistent and remove this class of officers, and retain the law.

The effort at the State House to break down our Prohibitory Law has proved a vindication of it, and the attempt to re-enact a license law has turned out a signal failure. Now let the friends of temperance awake, and make the year 1865 a memorable one for the enforcement of the law. At the same time make prominent and foremost the moral features of the work. Moral suasion for the intemperate and the multitude who desire to advance the cause of temperance, and legal suasion for the unprincipled trafficker in strong drink.

It was in evidence before the committee that moral means have been neglected since the enactment of the law, and that execrable apathy, on the part of the friends of temperance, has existed since the war began. From this time let every temperance man resolve to do his duty.—*Watchman and Reflector.*

## RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR MISCELLANY.

**RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS OF BRITISH AMERICA.**—The aggregate population of the two Canadas, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Labrador, which provinces are expected to be for the present embraced in the new confederation, is, according to the last census, 3,295,706. Of these, the Roman Catholic number is 1,465,979; the Church of England, 516,642; Presbyterians, 498,644; Methodists, 457,957; Baptists, 192,539; Lutherans, 29,651; Congregationalists, 18,104. It will be seen from these figures that the Roman Catholics constitute a much larger percentage of the aggregate population than in the United States; for, while in our country they are only about one-seventh of the aggregate population, they are in British America more than two-fifths, and nearly three times as numerous as the largest of any other religious bodies.—*Am. paper.*

**CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN ENGLAND.**—The Monmouthshire Baptist Association, in a petition to Parliament says—"It appears from the statistics of the religious bodies, published by authority on the 30th of March, 1851, there were 2,971,258 attendants at the most numerous service of the Established Church in England and Wales, and 3,110,782 Protestant Dissenters, 249,389 Roman Catholics, and 24,793 of other bodies, making a majority of more than 413,000 attendants unconnected with the Church of England.

The Jewish community in the city of Jerusalem are deploring the death of Abdallah, an eminent Rabbi, who lived there in retirement, and who was a great benefactor to the poor. He was a native of Bagdad, and died at the patriarchal age of one hundred years.

A congregation of native Christians in Travancore, Southern India, taken from the lower castes and barely able to provide the necessities of life, have raised in the last two years and a half the sum of \$1,440 for benevolent uses, besides \$1,050 in weekly subscriptions to build a chapel. The field of the Travancore mission is ninety miles in length, and thirty in breadth, having only eight European laborers. The mission numbers 229 congregations, and 450 native assistants; 4,620 members, 7,726 pupils in schools, and a nominally Christian population of 21,142.

L'Abbe Gaillon, who formerly resided in Montreal, has just completed, in Paris, a History of Canada, on which he has been engaged 27 years. It is in five volumes, two of which, at least, have already been printed in magnificent style.

The ladies are going in for clubs. Poor dears, how little they think how they are "putting their little toes into it" by trying to place themselves on a club-footing.—*Punch.*

An exchange paper says that the late President's grandfather, also named Abraham, was murdered by Indians, in 1784, while at work on his farm near Kentucky river. He left three sons, the eldest of whom, Thomas, was the father of the late President. Thomas married in 1806 Miss Nancy Hanks, a native of Virginia, and settled in Hardens county, where the late President was born on the 12th February, 1808.

A French lady recently died at Versailles, aged 107. When she was 65 she had her life insured, and was to receive \$800 annually as long as she lived, by paying \$600 term. She received some \$34,000 from the company. Wonder if the directors of that company walked among the mourners.

The Bridgetown, N. S. *Free Press* says in a recent issue, that "within two or three weeks there has been much done in fruit tree planting in this part of the Province. Every nursery within reach has been exhausted; and thousands of trees have been imported from New England and planted in our superior soil, to be warmed by our climate into richly remunerative productiveness. No place, perhaps, on our globe is more congenial to the growth of apples, pears, plums and cherries, than is our own beautiful valley. No where is the fruit in size, in appearance, and in flavor, finer than that which weighs down the branches of our orchards in autumn."

The imports at the seven cities of Canada, for the three months' ending March last, only amounted in value to \$4,435,190, showing a decline in the value of imports compared to the same period last year amounting to \$3,660,324, or nearly one hundred per cent., and a falling off in duty of nearly half a million.

**CHINA.**—"In Pekin," says the *Spirit of Missions*, "a wide door is opened for the preaching of the gospel. Six missionaries have taken up their abode in that city during the past year, three places of residence have been purchased for the location of missions, two schools have been opened, and two chapels rented, all without opposition from the government. The people of the place are willing to hear, free from prejudice to a great degree, and what is remarkable in China, women form a considerable part of the audience."

The vicissitudes of a sailor's life are painfully exhibited in the recent returns to the English Board of Trade. Of forty-seven thousand seamen whose names are recorded during the twelve years ending 1864, no less than twenty thousand died from drowning, and more than two thousand from accidents of various kinds.  
In six years "Peter's Pence" amounts to eight and a half millions of dollars.  
The N. Y. *Post* shows that ice-dollars there

For forty years before the Indian mutiny in 1857, a Baptist missionary preached in Delhi without a single conversion. Now there are four churches, 130 members, and 400 nominal Christians, and crowds gather around the missionary wherever he preaches.

Twelve hundred emigrants arrived in one steamer at New York recently.

Henry Wilson said in New York recently that he had no faith in the loyalty of the South or its love for the Union. When he was in Charleston the other day he saw but one Union man. They admit that they are defeated, but unsubdued.

The cemetery at Richmond is said to contain sixty thousand new graves.

Two paupers who escaped from the county poor house in the oil regions of Pennsylvania, made \$100,000 each, operating in oil lands, before the overseers of the poor caught them.

It is rumored in Washington that President Johnson has intimated to Mr. Stanton, that after the trials he had better seek repose, and that Montgomery Blair will be Secretary of War.

The latest reports of the changes in the U. S. Cabinet state that Hon. Charles F. Adams is to succeed Secretary Seward; that Senator Sumner is to be Minister to the Court of St. James; that Preston King will succeed Secretary Welles, and that Mr. Stanton goes out certain. The successor named by gossip for the latter gentleman is General Butler.

Gen. W. H. F. Lee, late of the Confederate Army, is at present on his plantation near the White House. Every house on the place having been consumed by fire, he is at present residing in a tent, and quietly engaged in the culture of his farm. A few old negroes, formerly belonging to the family, and several soldiers who were attached to the General's command, are assisting in working the farm.

Four missionaries from England have recently arrived in Melbourne, whose purpose it is to establish a new mission in the interior of the continent of Australia.

The telegraph from London to Calcutta is completed, and its opening is formally announced; telegrams now pass regularly between the two cities. A message from Kurachee, in India, reached England in eight hours and a half.

After the steamer Melville, which foundered at sea, Jan. 8, 1865, had sunk, the passengers, being provided with life-preservers, remained floating for some time. It is said that in this terrible situation, being near one another, they held a prayer meeting in the wintry sea, till one by one they perished.

The number of English missionaries on the Fiji Islands has never exceeded twelve. Thirty years since the people were cannibals; now 67,000 of them have embraced Christianity as their religion, and more than 13,000 are worthy church members. They have 871 schools, with 34,999 scholars, and 1,476 teachers.

A farmer at Bridgeport, Conn., is about to set a mile and a half of living fence of white willow. He claims that it will, within two years, keep out swine, sheep and poultry.

Over eight thousand steam engines are now employed in pumping oil in Pennsylvania; and Oil City, which, four years ago, contained one hundred inhabitants, has now a population of about ten thousand.

Petroleum has come to be king. His oil majesty has dethroned cotton. The wells of Pennsylvania alone yielded a revenue in 1864 of \$50,000,000, overtopping the revenue from coal and iron combined.

To be married by Spurgeon is now the rage in London.

General Halleck, Federal commander at Richmond, has issued an order directing that all intending bridegrooms must take the oath of allegiance to the United States, as well as to their "better halves" before certificates will be issued.

The great sensation in the Empire City at present, is the Rev. Dr. Bellows, who, Sunday after Sunday, is uttering thundering philippics against the reigning luxury and extravagance in ladies' dress. The fair ones of Gotham flock to him by hundreds, and listen complacently while he denounces "catarrh" curls, small bonnets, hoop skirts, and dragging trains; but they have not the slightest intention of abating the excess in their apparel.

**ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.**—This Seminary has at present an endowment fund, which amounts to \$350,000. The public buildings, five professors' houses, lands, libraries, &c., are valued at \$300,000. The Library Fund is \$30,000. The Beneficiary Funds \$60,000. Total amount of present endowment \$630,000. The foundations of a new library building, and of a new chapel, are laid, requiring \$50,000. For increase of salaries, of beneficiary fund, a sixth professor, lecturerships, fellowships, salary of librarian, will be needed \$120,000. Making a grand total of \$800,000.

It is officially announced that the debt of the United States will be \$3,000,000,000 on the 1st July next, that is nearly a hundred dollars per head of the entire population—North and South.  
A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—The following advertisement appears in a contemporary—"To be let, the good room, situated 26, New Market-place, now held by the Confederate Association.—Apply, &c."—*Manchester Examiner.*  
Twenty-six States have declared in favour of emancipation, so only one more is required to abolish slavery constitutionally in all the States and Territories of the United States.  
The Rev. Dr. Manning, formerly Professor at Andover, of Chichester, has been appointed to succeed the late Cardinal Wiseman in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster. In making this appointment the Pope is said to have passed over the nominations of the