THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR ST. JUHN, N. B., APRIL 16, 1868.

Editorial Correspondence. THE WEATHER

has been very unfavorable since we arrived in Yarmouth. Snow and frost in unusual measure for the season of the year ; occasionally rains, winds, cold and tempestuous, mails all behind time, but we are hoping for a speedy improvement. The farming interest especially require it. PROGRESS

is the order of the day in Yarmouth, progress especially in commerce and in education. How pleasant if we could add progress in vital soul-saving christianity. In 1761, about the time of the settlement of Yarmouth by a few of the hardy sons of Massachusetts, then a British colony, the entire tonnage of the place amounted to one small craft of 25 tons, now Yamouth has 261 vessels, and the tonnage has increased to nearly 80,000. Nearly all these vessels were built in Yarmouth, on the St. Mary's Bay, and on the Atlantic coast extending up as far as Shelburne. Once sent away they seldom return, but go forth upon old ocean's blue wave with canvas spread to whiten every sea, and to perform well their part in carrying. forward the commerce of the world among all nations. They are very largely commanded by enterprising. young men from Yarmouth and its associate districts, who having grown up by the sea coast naturally prefer life upon the " wild waves" to life upon the dry land. These men, as a general rule, have been distinguished for habits of temperatice, sobriety, energy, industry and perseverance in then vocation, and as a legitimate result, many of them have fill only amassed considerable wealth, but have arisen to highly respectable positions in the social scale. Hav? ing retired from the storms, dangers and endurances of a sea-going life, they have erected for themselves and their families magnificent residences in the vicinity of the town, and constitute the leading merchants and bankers of the place.

In the success of these sea captains we see illustrated most impressively the advantages resulting from an early moral and religious training: . Christianity has won noble triumphs in this western section of Nova Scotia. From the days of Henry Alline, the ministry here has partaken largely of a spiritual saving power. The people were taught to value vital godliness, and parents trained their children to exercise a religious conscience. Hence their sons went, forth in life, impressed at least with the convictions. of religious truth, and with the importance and value of a sober industrious life. It is proper therefore that we should regard all this progress in material wealth and in social position as the legitimate outgrowth of christian principle and godly example. May the witnesses for Christ of the present generation be equally faithful to the important trust committed to their care.

YARMOUTH, April 11th, 1868. april v

Evidence S worth with

There is no subject about which men are more wont to entertain loose, inaccurate notions than that of evidence. Churches, as well as other people, may partake of this general indistinctness or inaccuracy of understanding.

In the ordinary process of their discipline, this want of correct knowledge seldom amounts to an impediment in the way of their action, because, for the

nature that it is impossible to account for that currence except on the supposition of guilt. If that concurrence could be accounted for in any other way, then the evidence is not of the nature that could justify a positive verdict. But how exceedingly seldom must it be that the oncurrence of suspicious circumstances can not be terpreted in some other way than on the supposiion of guilt!

We tremble at the recollection of circumstances in our own past life that might easily have been made the occasion of a condemnatory judgment, that, in this loose way of deciding on mere suspicion, might have hopelessly destroyed our reputation.

When many years younger than we are now, and therefore more exposed to suspicion, we had charge as pastor of a christian church. We always felt the force of the injunction, "remember the poor," and our visitations were more frequently in the abodes of the poor than of the affluent. In a city where our lot was cast, the poor often have a single room in a tenement crowded with persons of all characters, good and bad. This room was, of course, their kitchen, sitting-room, and bed-room. Women were necessarily often found alone in them. In visits to the sick, in visits at and after funerals, in visits to the afflicted and to the degraded and fost in character of either sex, circumspection as regards a multitude of suspicious circumstances' seemed almost, if not quite impossible; and in the earnestness that will possess a man's mind if he feels for souls, it would be equally impossible to notice always whether doors, were locked or unlocked, blinds raised or lowered, the parties under the eye, of others or alone. . The levil eye of suspicion, craftily following us, would no doubt have easily found materials out of which to

when lamenting the difficulty of finding sufficient time for such visitations to a dear brother especially remarkable for prudence and discretion, he exhorted us to visit at night. We were not then deterred by the apprehension of the increased opportunity there? by given for suspicion; for the accursed monster had not then, as now, so plainly raised his fiendish head among us. We attempted to visit at night, but ere finally obliged to desist from the want of light the streets at that time, and a delect of sight made impossible to find the places we sought.

annot express the gratitude we owe to'a 'kind Proidence that preserved us in the midst of danger. Did you not see such an one," cries somebody, with shrug of the shoulder, and significant leer. " come as substantial proof of evil conduct. Tot Inguarie Now these are things to which all ministers are ... Nor would we have the vigorous abilities, the bread

more or less exposed. They are lost men if once suspicions are to be taken as positive proof or they must cease to do much of their Master's work, We cannot do better than close with a quotation ountenance to that revolting canon of public sentiment on which alone a charge of guilt on mere suspicion' can be sustained, viz. : That every man will act as badly as the circumstances in which he is placed will enable him to do. It will not do. I think. o assume that a man of previous good-even highcharacter is guilty of crime, because at a given period n his history he has, perhaps, indiscreetly placed himself in a position favorable to its commission." It may be well before we close, to observe by way of qualification of the remarks we make here and elsewhere on the liability of churches to err-a liability cometimes perhaps even greater than might happen to other communities -that we by no means forget the special guidance of the Most High, to which all christians are entitled and required to trust. This guidance might, no doubt, be enjoyed as fully by a church as by any private follower of the Lamb. The trouble to be apprehended is, however, that churches too often forget to seek that aid, or do it faithlessly,"

the Messenger'a week or two since, for being "start

led" at the Baptist Polity articles which have lately

belittling business of flinging out invidious innuendos."

And now we are more than ever ashamed and sad,

to find our venerable, learned and esteemed friend-

J. M. C .- descending in the last usue of the Chris-

tian Messenger, to the same style of criticism as that employed by "An Aged Baptist," a style which he

himself well knows cannot be too severely condemned.

Surely, J. M. C. does not need to be admonished of

the fact, that in the circles, in which he is capable of

moving, it is looked upon as most unworthy of a

an author's production, and to criticise the sentiment

down the suspicions of our Baptist body, holds, or means to propagate the idea, that the Bible gives no

astruction on the manner of admission into the

will henceforth be renounced by our brethren.

miles from Halifax. - Christian Messenger.

them.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

nation, they will most likely, on statements from such a respectable source, form their judgment, and act out their judgment thus formed, in a way that will create a vast amount of irreparable mischief. How carefully and candidly, then, should one in J. M. C.'s position, and possessing so much influence, write for the public; and the more so, when the sentiments of another aged and equally influential christian brother, who is, moreover, his colleague, are made topics

for feriticismmiT DS Yes, let us have discussion on the points of Baptist Church Polity. The circumstances of the times call for discussion. But let it be, to quote J, M. C., "carried on in a christian spirit." Thus conducted, we need fear no evil, and it " cannot fail to e instructive." If any of our churches or ministers have gone astray, we may hope with the blessing of the Church, who may proceed to an original investi-Heaven to reclaim them from error. But a depouring gation, if not satisfied with that of the Council. If Heaven to reclaim them from error. But a denouring temper is despicable and destructive. A battle for violory instead, of truth, can excite only regret and corrow among devout christians. This clutching at sentence, straggling out of its connection, and demonthized by the unfriendly criticisms of another denominational organ-this making a man an offender for a word-this shouting " Mad Dog !" to scare people with sensitive nerves, is not the way in which a subject of the gravest importance, and a writer of such merit as one of our editors, should be handled. These little spirts of criticism on, detached clauses ack dignity, and can only create disgust among sober

the not, God has been pleased to an unit Nor is that all ... It does great injustice to one, who for many long years, "through evil and through good report," has stood in the forefront of our Baptist ranks in these Provinces, firmly, fearlessly, and under God, successfully expounding and defending what we hold to be Scriptural principles and practices. If a maply character, if abundant labors in the cause of God, if unselfish devotion to the interests of our denomination, amid obloquy and want, if advanced age, f a masterly wird, still revealing the masculine vigor and healthy tone of manhood's prime, if untarnished noral integrity, if deep-toned plety, if culture and erudition consecrated on the altar of our holy religion, have any claim on our confidence, respect, and admiration, let us pay some respect to that claim. Surely, if he who has been so wantonly assailed by criticism, has anything to say to us on the grave But, as we now think of our peregrinations during , questions relating to the christian religion, we should he attempt to visit at night, how we stumbled some is at least, give him a respectable licaring, and his senimes among the worst dwellings probably in the timents a candid examination. If he ever fights place, and in the worst streets, and how easily a bad against us as a denomination, we shall be sure to tory might have been made out against us, words find him in an open field. There is nothing of the guerilla in his nature. He disdains the ambush, Brethren, don't allow yourselves to be alarmed by any hue and cry over the hetorodoxy (?) of one of our editors. Let him utter his sentiments, for his sentiut of that house ? Don't you know what kind of a , ments are worthy of an atteraoce, if not of admiration ouse it is? Ahl its plain some people are no better and adoption. His eloquent voice and able pen will than they ought to be." His companion sympathi: all too soon be taken from us, for his years on earth zes with the base innuende; it spreads ; they watch scannot be very far extended. Let us prize to the night after night; suspicion increases in strength; "last the generous gift which God bestowed on us as it gains extended currency, until at last it is taken hadenomination in the early days of our struggles and weakness in these Provinces.

culture, the eminent services in the twin causes of education and religion, the tipe years and the wealth of experience of J. M. C. in the least degree depreciated. We cannot afford to have these valiant leaders and We cannot do better than close with a quotation from a letter from an estimable brother, from whose admirable communication we have already, in a for-mer number, enriched our columns.

The following letter from Rev. Mr. Armstrong, should have appeared in our last issue, but was mislaid, and not recovered in time.-Ep. For the Christian Visitor.

Granville Street Church and the Council. NO. VI.

CROWELL AND COUNCIL

DEAR VISITOR-Granville Street Church has quoted from *Crowell's* "Manual," to justify its course in rejadging and condemning Dr. Pryor in spite of the Council's decision acquitting him of criminality. Crowell, in his Church Manual, for which Dr. Ripley wrote an introduction, says when speaking of the discipline of a minister when a Council is called : "The investigation before the Council should be thorough, and a full record of all the facts proved should be entered on its minutes, with the names of the witnesses; and a copy should be transmitted to the offence is such as to require his exclusion from church fellowship, they can now proceed without embarrassment, in the same way as with any other member."

This passage does not apply to Dr. P.'s case, but very different one; the doctrine of Crowell, nstead of countenancing, condemns the course purued by the Church.

It is to be regretted that, in her eagerness to gather up support for the course adopted, the Church should have overlooked passages directly opposed to that course, first and last; and seized upon one which only appears to favour her claim by having been presented apart from its connexion, and in for-getiulness, or disregard of the circumstances of the case to which Urowell refers. Had the passages I shall present been observed by the Church, it cannot be supposed that Crowell would have been marshalled in support of a course at variance with the principles he lays down. In order to correct the improper, unwarranted, and almost unaccountable use made of Crowell, to justify the course referred to, and also in order, as far as possible, to remove the impression produced by such use, I will, for the sake of this and other churches, present the views of this author as to what he regards the proper mode of treatment in reference to a minister charged with grave delinquency, and as to the respect due to the decision of Council in such cases. And as Granville Street Church has endorsed the views of *Crowell*, she will of course be the more willing and ready to accept as correct his statements on the points referred to. Crowell says :--- " If a minister is guilty of scandalous sin, the church has power to investigate the facts, and exclude him from fellowship. But this is not all , that the case requires. For although it is plain that if he is unfit to be a church member, he is unworthy to be a minister. Yet, as the agency of the presby tery was called in to invest him with the ministerial office, it is equally necessary to divest him of it. One church may not undo that which properly required the consent and agency of many churches to do; and if a presbytery or Council, composed of pastors and Elders of other churches, is in any sense necessary to ordain a man to the ministerial office, it is neces sary in the same sense, and to the same extent, in order to depose him from it. Other churches, also, and their pastors, have a deep interest in the removal from office of one who has sustained so important a relation to them all, as a public teacher of religion. A fundamental law respecting the conferring of office is, that the same power which makes may unmake. A Council should, therefore, be first called to investigate charges of delinquency against a minister. It is right that every man should be tried by his peers. when charges are brought against him relating to his official character. This sound, general principle is peculiarly applicable to the minister of the gospel nd if he deserves to be deposed from the ministry and expelled from the Church, the former steps should first be taken : and after he is divested of his official character, the Church may proceed without embar-rassment, to his expulsion from fellowship. This and thus the melancholy affair is ended. But su xception to the general rule rarely occurs, if ever. Some persons who object to this view contend that the church to which a minister belongs is the only body by whom he can properly be tried and deposed, or in any way punished if found guilty. This, they suppose, is necessary to the preservation of church dependence. But this is clearly an error; for by the same argument they may prove with equal coneness that each church must ordain its ministers without the agency, or co-operation of other churches, or abandon its independence. The truth is, the calling of a council, or presbytery to investigate charges against a minister has nothing to do with the church's independence, nor with its right of discipline over all its members, the pastor included : be cause the jorisdiction of the council in such cases extends only to the minister's office, not to his churchmembership. A council may depose him from the ministry, but have no right to exclude him from the church

of which Mr. Spurgeon is the head. Their affection tween the Church and Dissenters. Dean Alford, so his care. The reports for the last year are most cheering,

sufficient to make every man who loves his God and making no advances towards the great body of Nonfellow-men rejoice, and to cause the earnest, searching enquiry to be instituted by many ministers and churches where there has been little accomplished in the work of saving souls, 'what maketh us to differ ?' Why has success with them been so abundant, while their printed sermons, and works on divinity, rank, with us there has been no advance? During the in not a few cases, high in our classical theology. past year there have been 3327 added to the churches. In [sacred learning and biblical exposition and criover which students from Spurgeon's College have been pastors, making an average increase of 36 to each. May the Lord grant that the devotion, the faith, and the spirit, which bring forth such fruits, may spread far and wide, until we shall hear like glad tidings from many lands.

Perhaps a glance at the work at the Tabernacle may exhibit some of the grounds of religious prosperity, where it exists in England, and furnish lessons which it would be as well for every christian to commit to memory. There are prayer-meetings held morning and evening every day throughout the year. Besides these, there are mothers' meetings, Bible classes, sabbath-schools, and benevolent societies for the assistance of the poor and the succor of the fallen An Evangelists Association in connection with the and education among Nonconformists is one of the church numbers over 200 members. These engage most wonderful, as it is one of the most satisfactory. in all kinds of labor, some distributing tracts, others phenomena of our time. In estimating, then, the elvisit from house to house, while every Sabbath evening they scatter themselves all over London, and and pray, I submit that we have no right to refuse to inin the dark alleys and at street corners, in rooms and clude-we have no right to overlook-those vast boin halls, among the ignorant, the poor, and the vile, dies of Christians who surround us at home." they tell the simple story of a Saviour's love and are These are noble sentiments, and they have been the ministers of peace to many. In addition to these warmly met by some of the leading Nonconformists. labours, which require time and a devout spirit, the May this interchange of sympathy be attended with works which require large amounts of money are numerous to attest to their generosity. There is an asylum for widows, a school for children, the magnificent orphanage, to accommodate upwards of 300, besides other lesser works, and greater than all the others, the College. During the last year there have been spent £5423 upon these various objects, in addition to the support of two pastors, the incidental expenses of the church, and more private efforts for the poor and the distressed. Two Sabbaths since. Mr. Spurgeon announced that upwards of £700 were required, and told his people that they had better contribute it at once, as he should have a collection every meeting until the amount was raised. The first collection was sufficient. Surely Mr. Spurgeon was right when he says that ' his are the best people that ever a man preached to,' and it his remaining remark, that 'still they are no better than they ought to be,' be true, it must be admitted that many people are not so good as they should be.

But it may be said the church is very large, as it is, numbering over 3,000 members, but they are not of the richer class, a large proportion consisting of the poor. It is doubtful if on an average its members are as well off as those of most churches in N. B. yet they give, one with the another, over £1 10s to the support of the cause of God and humanity, besides their own expences for pastoral labour, &c. If the Baptists in New Brunswick would do the same, of the work at the Tabernacle is both brief and imperfect, yet it affords matter for very serious reflection./ It is commended to the careful perusal and prayerful consideration of the brethren, with the hope that some hints as to the causes of Mr. Spurgeon's marvellous success may be gained and have a practical effect. There are many co-workers with Mr. many christians of New Brunswick receive a reward tible riches for such as are incorruptible and eternal.

for hun is great, but not too extreme, considering that well known by his Greek Testament, and standing to his efforts and provision they almost all owe their high in the respect and esteem of his brethren, in a learning, obtained the preparation needed to fit recent article in the Contemporary Review, shows them for their work, and that their interests are still the inconsistency, of the body to which he belongs. in seeking a union with the Greek and Roman Catho lic Churches, who differ from them so widely, while conformists in their midst, with whom they are so nearly connected in belief, and speaks of the Nonconformists in the following frank and candid terms : "The Church of England has long used their hymns ; ticism, it may be questioned whether their present average attainment be not above our own. If we descend from the leaders to the people, none, I suppose, would presume, in the matter of blameless walking in the commandments of the Lord, to set ourselves above them.

> "As to the share which each have borne in moral and social improvements, I imagine all will allow that they have oftener led us, than they have been led by us. Their united missionary efforts far exceed our own. In schools, in charities, in good works of every kind, they have been our honorable, and not seldom. successful rivals. Considering the amount of discouragement and disparagement which they have had, and still have to undergo, the progress of cultivation ements of that Christendom, for whose union we hope happy results. C. G.

The public would do well to attend Mr. Davies' lecture on "Zuinglius." It is an instructive subject. See advt.

Secular Department.

Foreign and Domestic News. GREAT BRITAIN Nothing has been done in Parliament since our

last, owing to the Easter holidays. It is reported on good authority that Lord Cran-borne has been tendered the office of Governor Gen-eral of Canada, to succeed Lord Monck, and that Lord Mayo, Secretary of State for Ireland, has been offered

he Governor Generalship of India. Lord Fitzgerald, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals in Ireland, is said to be on the point of resigning his office.

The Irish Hierarchy will soon present a petition to the Queen in person against any change in the posiion of the revenues of the E-tablished Uhurch in that part of the United Kingdom. Deeds of violence against persons and property are of daily occurrence in Cork.

The Grand Jury, in London, have brought in bills of indictment against all the prisoners (except O'Neill) who were charged by the Coroner's Jury with com-plicity in the Clerkenwell outrage. The trials have been postponed till the 20th. A London telegram of the 9th says : - All doubts

how many destitute fields might be occupied; how speedily would our Educational institutions be en-dowed; what an impulse would be given to every deexploration has been successful, and that he will soon return to England. A despatch of the 11th says :- The holidays continue till Tuesday. The following therefore are only street prices. Consols 935 @ 935 for money and account. The bullion in the Bank of England has decreased £279,000. Thirty thousand Volunteers were reviewed at Portsmouth on the 14th, an immense crowd being present Spurgeon, who, by their noble generosity, will have a crown, rich in stars, in the kingdom of God. May many christians of New Bruoswick receive a reward sia, increase the number of Queen Victoria's grand as glorious, wisely exchanging uncertain and corrup- children to twelve :- Princess Royal, five, Princess of Wales, three: Princess Alice of Hessee, three: Princess Helena one.

most part, the cases with which they deal are plain and unquestionable.: But when cases of delicacy and difficulty occur, they are as likely to go wrong in judging as other men; on some accounts even more so; for the habit of dealing with cases of discipline may, very probably, beget in them the idea that they are thoroughly competent to judge any case. They continually sit as judges. Must they not necessarily be fitted by experience for any work of the sort?

And yet, they may be by no means thus fitted. This arises from the fact that while under ordinary circumstances, a judgment on facts may be very plain and easy, in extraordinary cases it is likely to be very critical and difficult in its nature, demanding unusual qualifications for the due exercise of the duty.

This becomes plain from a consideration of the nature of evidence, and of the mental habits or influences that, in certain cases, may operate injuriously on the judgment. No subject calls forth more the mental acumen and rare powers of discrimination of the most able and practised judges than a judicious and righteous adjustment of evidence in uncertain cases.

One could hardly find a better example of this difficulty in judging rightly than occurs in relation to that sort of evidence which is of a nature to awaken suspicion, as in cases where there is no direct proof of a fact, but where a concurrence of circumstances seems to increase the probability of its having occurred.

If any one will be at the pains to notice the general habits of mankind in such cases, he will be satisfied that many, if not most men, are inclined, especially with reference to a certain class of statements. to believe on mere suspicion. How many men loudly protest that a thing is so and so, they " are sure of it." when on strict enquiry you find that they have only some reason to suspect it, and in many cases pass over as much or more reason to disbelieve it, in order to grasp at a positive and unfavorable belief.

It is sad to be obliged to think badly of our own common human nature, but this greedy grasping at positive assertion without positive proof, seems to rest often on a preference to believe evil rather than good, especially in cases of character. Let suspicions arise, and more especially let them arise against a professor of religion, and thousands of men eagerly rush to an unfavorable conclusion in preference to a favorable one. "Oh, I know," says one, "he is a guilty man." And then this positive assertion is tickled with a little self-flattery : "I never liked him," such a one will probably say; "I always suspected he was not what he seemed ;" and the incense thus burned in the nostrils of self-approbation and of the personal vanity that claims peculiar discernment, increases the satisfaction with which he settles down in his conviction that he has formed the right judg-

Still, there is in the case no positive, no conclusive evidence: and of course, in the view of a calmer, juster judgment, it is quite plain that this self-satisfied man may be entirely wrong in his belief, and may be inflicting by it a cruel injustice.

"But is it not admitted," some one asks, "that facts may be proved by circumstantial evidence ?" It is admitted, certainly, that facts have been taken as christian scholar, to extract a single sentence from proved by circumstantial evidence, and men on such evidence have paid the last penalty of the law. But an author's production, and to criticise the sentiment of that sentence apart from its context and the lead-ing design of the discussion. Under such a mode of treatment, his own valuable productions could be torn into shreds, and his sentiments held up to unde-served condemnation. J. M. C. cannot believe that the editor, upon whose articles he labors to bring down the served believe that it is also true that not a few of such convictions have inforwards appeared to have rested on ecroneous judgment; and it has become mournfully plain that innocent men have been condemned and executed. But no enlightened English judge would direct a jury to bring in a verdict in a capital case on suspicious most alone, however great may seem to be

the infirmities of age disqualify them for the tug and tumult of conflict, we will still go to their feet and reverently listen to their words of counsel. We may not always adopt their sentiments, but we shall always be pained when obliged to dissent from them-Their names shall be gratefully cherished by ourselves, and the bright record of their lives will have together with the approval of their Lord, the admiration of coming generations, line storin

Letter from Rev. Mr. Cyr. REV. MR. BILL : - I have just returned from France whither I went to preach at the Paris Exhibition, and where the Lord has blessed me more than ever He did before. I found when I arrived there, that in order to get a congregation, we had only to sing ; immediately from tifty to a hundred persons, almetenths of whom were " Catholics." would assemble in the Evangelical Hall. Sometimes over two hundred were there gathered, and it was very common or under delusion and prejudice, and so remain expoto see priests among them, who sat down and listensed to the evils that may assail and greatly injure ed to the preaching of the Gospel. The whole thing was very extraordinary, and I do not hesitate to say that among the wonders of this, the greatest World's One of the editorial writers for the Christian Visi-Exhibition, the evangelical work was the most exfor is displeased with "An Aged Baptist" writing in

appeared in that paper. We may mention, for the gospel was there preached over eight hundred times; purpose of preventing mistake, that the writer of he said communication resides more than a hundred I preached myself 185 times) over 100,000 people (1 preached myself 185 times) over 100,000 people investigate them, composed in part of ministers, heard it; three millions of portions of Scripture were would be obvious to all. If accused of immoralities, The first sentence of the above paragraph contains distributed, with as many tracts of various kinds. mistake, if nothing worse than a mistake. We did which were generally received with gratifude. There were also thousands of copies of New Testaments and formed with greater accuracy and thoroughness, and not say that we were, and were not "displeased with Bibles sold. About 1200 priests accepted or bought with less injury to the cause of morality and religion, a conv of the Protestant version of the Bible! by a council of ministers and elders selected from the "An Aged Baptist" for being startled at the Baptist Polity articles," which are being published in the copy of the Protestant version of the Bible! editorial columns of this paper. We do not question With regard to the results of these extraordinary his liberty to be " startled," whensoever and at whatefforts, eternity alone will tell, but it is gratifying to soever he pleases; nor do we envy him the freedom see already fruits. The last day of our services at | had ? of the pen and the press whenever he may deem it the exhibition, I was invited by an old lady to visit necessary to make a public announcement of his the wife of the door-keeper of the house, where she having been "startled." But we were more than had her apartments. I did so, and although this wo-'displeased ;" we were ashamed and sad over his inman was a catholic. I was so well received that I re- and a full record of all the facts proved should h excusable and disreputable violation of the dictates neated my visits, which seemed to be appreciated. of common honesty in dealing with our editorials on She had been at the exhibition, had heard the gospel the subject of Baptist Church Polity. This, in subpreached and had read some of the tracts. She stance, is what we said in the editorial at which the eemed to place her confidence in Christ. I was sorungracious fling is made. Our contemporary will ry to be out of Paris when she died. I continued to find it quite as easy, and much more conducive to isit the old lady, first mentioned, and she has enfraternal feelings, to avoid misrepresentation when he tirely given up Romanism. She now attends reis calling attention to our editorials. Christian sogularly the Baptist meetings, and contributes very briety and sincerity deserve some consideration from enerously to the support of the Gospel. She says one occupying the responsible position of a denominathat I must go back to Paris and baptize her ! tional editor. We devoutly hope that this little and

She made me acquainted with several persons g whom is a countess, who, I trust, has found Curist a precious Saviour. I felt it a great privilege to kneel down with this noble lady and plead with her t a throne of grace the merits of the Redeemer. She ays now that she places all, all her confidence in lesus, and finds peace. She has given me her rosary s's pledge that she has found Him who is invoked sithout such instruments

There are many other facts of interest that I have ot space to give. The above will suffice. I trust, to ad some of your readers to pray that the good seed, o profusely scattered last summer, may take root nd bear much fruit to the glory of our blessed God. Yours in Christ, Rutland, Vt. April 8th, 1868. NARCISSE CYR.

Revival at Sachville.

DEAR VISITOR-The good work still progre esterday eighteen were buried with Christ in bapsm, 14 mains and 4 females. "The Lord reigneth,

Much injury to religion might be prevented by strictly adhering to this rule, the propriety of which is so obvious. Whatever charges are made against a minister, they lie, first, against his ministerial character. The first question, therefore, is, whether he has forfeited that character. The proper authority to settle this question is the same that invested him. with office.

If the church proceeds first to exclude him from fellowsbip, he is still a regularly authorized teacher of religion. This office he holds not in virtue of being a church-member, but in addition to it. As he may traordinary. I can give you a very imperfect idea of these ef-forts in these hasty lines. I will merely say that the him relate to official improprieties, or irregularities, or to doctrinal errors, the necessity of a council to it must be remembered that the charge is to be proved before he is condemned. Does not every one see that the investigation of such a charge could be perchurches than by a single church ? Is it any surrendering or infringement of church independence to delay church disciplinary action till such investigation be

> And is if not unwarrantable haste for any church to expel a minister from membership before the judg nent of such a council has been obtained. The i vestigation before such a council should be thorough entered on its minutes, with the names of the witnesses, and a copy should be transmitted to the church, who may proceed to an original investigation, if not satisfied with that of the council. If the of-fence is such as to require his exclusion from fellowship, they can now proceed without embarrassment in the same way as with any other member. (Se Crowell's Church Members' Manual, pages 253-256) Orowell adds: "In receiving charges against a mi-mister, great caution should be used. 'Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses,' is a scriptural rule. As a minister is presumed to have stronger motives and greater advanta-tages for maintaining purity of character than other christians, it is reasonable that *stronger* evidence of misconduct should be required. His office, too, ex-poses him peculiarly to malice and calumny, and the poses him peculiarly to malice and calumny, and the prosperity of religion depends so much on the repu-tation of its ministers that the church ought to guard their characters with scrupulous care and receive charges against them with caution." p. 256. Deferring observations and other extracts till next week, I leave the above to the consideration of your readers. Respectfully yours.

EORGE ARMSTRONG. Bridgetown, March 28th, 1868.

London Correspondence.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT SPURGEON'S TABERNACLE. Once a year the students who have gone forth from purgeon's College, and settled in the ministry, ga-her together from their pastorates in England, Ireland, and Scotland, and spend a week with their brethren the are still in attendance at the institution. It is a ost pleasant, and inspiriting season. Old friend-

PROGRESS. While the passage of reform bills indicate the progressive spirit which is animating the politicians of

Great Britain, and the agitation of the education question affords hope of a brighter future for the lower classes, and a grand advance in the social condition of the nation, it is pleasing to observe that the religious world is not behind in this respect, but that there are many signs which indicate that the reign of intolerance and exclusiveness is drawing to a close, and that the time is fast approaching when all denominations will be on an equality with respect to government and or official patronage. The first step towards such a desirable result has already been taken. On the 11th inst., Mr. Gladstone's bill, for the abolition of compulsory church rates, was passed through committee, and so another relic of tyranny and root of bitterness has, it is to be hoped, been eradicated. Some, who probably regret the good old days of Charles II., and like to have the spending of the money of others, look gloomy, and heave a deep sigh for the departing glories of church tyranny, but generally it seems to give extreme gratification even among the members of the Establishment. This good beginning has been followed up by the

leader of the liberal party by the declaration that the Irish church must be dis-established. He has introduced resolutions to this effect into Parliament, and it is thought that with the decision still postponed he will contest the approaching election, and make it the test question betweeen the Liberal and Conservative parties. Petitions are already being signed on both sides, and it is evident that high churchmen will make a desperate struggle before Abyssinian expedition, show that spite of bad roads they suffer a measure to pass which is so nearly allied to the question of the total severance of Church and State.

Again, efforts are being made to throw open the Universities to all denominations equally. At present no man can be a graduate unless he sign the thirty-nine articles, and none but those who conform can gain any of the honors, or be a head-fellow, tutor, or chaplain. The proposal to throw open the gate to all has considerably alarmed the advocates of intolerance and exclusiveness, and been the occasion of a petition of forty-two Oxford divines to the Archbishop of Canterbury that he should resist " certain proposals in Parliament involving organic changes in the constitution of the college and university." They wax quite pathetic over the matter. " The battle," they say, " is for christian faith and christian morals ; it is for our very life. On behalf of our Church and our country, on behalf of the souls of the young of this hitherto christian nation, we solemnly, as in the pre-

christian brethren everywhere, to strive with us to, maintain in our university and our colleges the principles of christian education which have been handed down to us through so many centuries, and which, if once destroyed, it will be impossible to restore." Whatever may be thought of the remainder of this paragraph, none will be disposed to doubt the truth

FRANCE.

A Paris despatch of the 11th says :-Effect of new rmy bill and other extraordinary measures has been to create great excitement and uneasiness. The mur-murings of discontent was so loud and unmistakable that the semi official press found it necessary to at-tempt to dispel uneasiness. Papers of Paris for the

tempt to disper uneasiness. Papers of Paris for the last few days have constant articles calculated to allay public excitement. They pronounce vast pre-parations for war the best pledge of peace. Another Paris telegram of the 12th says:-The Moniteur to-day, published an official report made to the Emperor by the Minister Pinard, in which an account is given of the military changes made since the bill for the reorganization of the army has gone into operation, and of effect they have had on the country. The Minister states that all the reforms introduced into the Guarde Mobile, in accordance with the provisions of the bill, are now completed, and he asserts that these changes have been received with popular applause almost everywhere throughout the Empire. He contradicts reports of dissatisfaction and de-clares that the new Army Law is sustained and defended by the patriotism of the French people, who thus give new proof of their confidence in the Emperor. The bullion in the bank of France has decreased

19,000,000 francs.

ABYSSINIA. A telegram from London, of the 10th April, says that the war office has received later despatches from the British Expedition in Africa, operating for relief of English captives. Gen. Napier, commander British forces, had reached lat. 21. Abyssinian King Theo-dore was at Magdala ready for siege. His forces con-sisted of about five thousand men and twenty-six large guns. Gen. Napier has completed plans for general a s ult on works. Despatches from Gen, Napier in command of the

British forces are steadily advancing towards Magdala. Meanwhile there is every evidence of intention King Meanwhile there is every evidence of intention King Abyssinia to offer serious resistance. Gen. Napier in his latest despatch, March 17th, says our advance will reach Lake Astangi to-morrow, the rear with the artillery and supply trains, is three days march behind. The country is mountainous and very diffi-cult for the artillery and trains. King Theodorus is near Magdala, where he intends to make a stand. Letters from the captives say they are well. The health of the troops is good. The effective force un-der Gen. Napier now advancing on Magdala numbers 8,000 men.

Try Fally in

sence of Almighty God, implore your Grace, and our followed, that a large American naval fleet was sailing and steaming here with all haste."

Charles Dickens gave his farewell reading in Bo on, on the evening of the 8th, to an immense an

The trial of Jefferson Davis has been further post-poned until the 2d May, Judge Curtis, one of the President's counsel, open-ed the defence in the trial before the Senate, on the 9th instant.

of its concluding sentence : like every other illiberal and anjust thing, when the advancing spirit of the The steamer Sea Bird was burned, on Lake B

