Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEM'R, 6, 1861.

In consequence of the official relation which this paper sustains to the Conference of Eastern British America, we require that Obituary, Revival, and other notices addressed to us from any of the Circuits within the bounds of the Connexion, shall pass through the hands of the Superintendent Minister.

Communications designed for this paper must be accompanied by the name of the writer in confidence.

We do not undertake to return rejected articles.

We do not assume responsibility for the opinions of our correspondents.

Missions and Martyrdom.

The somewhat mysterious and very painful succession of trials, to which the South Sea Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia has recently been subjected, is sure to enlist the sympathy as well as awaken the interest of all who pray for the prosperity of Zion. Our readers are aware that, humanly speaking, no field of evangelistic toil is less inviting, or, rather, more repulsive, than that which is found among the savage Islanders of the South Pacific. They are literally isolated from the civilized world, and are, beyond description, degraded, filthy and ferocious. Their wretchedness, however, has irresistibly appealed to true Christian charity, and several denominations in both hemispheres have contributed both means and men to make known among them the gospel of the grace of God. In November of 1845 the Presbyterian Church in this Province virtually entered upon this work by appointing a Missionary and a Catechist to the New Hebrides. They reached their destination in July 1848; and after struggling with the living mass of heathenism around him—and, for two years, alone—the Rev. Mr. Geddie had the happiness of organizing the first Christian Church there, by the Baptism of fifteen natives, in May, 1852.—Since that period, progress and success have signally marked the history of this mission.—Three additional Missionaries were at various times sent as reinforcements, and the work of instruction and of conversion appears to have spread, if not with unexampled, yet with very gratifying celerity. With gratitude the first fruits had been gathered, and from the fields "white unto harvest," a large increase was joyfully anticipated. Ere this result be gained, however, it now seems that the faith of all concerned must be severely tested. An appalling reaction of heathen superstition and violence has lately taken place; and the suspense which must continue until further tidings are received, can scarcely be more tolerable than the news which has recently saddened the hearts of many in this country.

It appears that two persons, ill with measles, had been landed on one of the Islands, from a trading vessel. Their disease was communicated to others, and spread with fearful rapidity, until, it is believed, one-third of the inhabitants of several islands were swept away by it.—Though the missionaries were indefatigable in their attendance upon the sick and dying, and were happily instrumental in saving not a few from death, yet the idolatrous part of the people soon laid the blame of this visitation upon the introduction of God's word and worship, and set themselves to overthrow the suspected religion. They menaced the lives of the missionaries, so that they were compelled to restrain their kind offices, and to entrench themselves at home. A newly finished church and schoolhouse were shortly after given to the flames; and subsequently the life of Mr. Johnson was imperilled by a blow aimed at his head. The stroke was averted, but from that day the hand of the Lord was upon his servant, who, after a few days' illness, was called home to his eternal reward.

The more affecting end of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, by the clubs and tomahawks of infuriated barbarians was, as far as ascertained, the culminating act of this violent persecution, and has been detailed with such particularity in these columns so lately, that a further description of it is unnecessary. An event of this kind, we rejoice to think, is of rare occurrence, but when it does take place, it certainly demands the commiseration of the Church catholic. He who thus falls, is the messenger and martyr of Christianity, rather than of any of its sections, and he is pre-eminently "the glory of Christ," whose example he follows, and for whose body's sake he suffers even unto death. We therefore most heartily sympathize with the relatives of the deceased, and mingle our sorrow with that of the denomination to which they belonged.

But we congratulate them, also. They have been singularly honored. Our Province boasts of its Parker and Weisford, its Williams and Inglis, and it has reason at least to be thankful for such representatives of its heroism, its patience, and its fidelity. But more truly great, more divinely illustrious are the names of those who have fallen in the van of Christianity. KARS and LUCKNOW, ever to be remembered, are not to be put in comparison with TANNA and ERROMANGA. The former are land-marks of patriotism, and are of vast importance to the cause of freedom; the latter are monuments of Christian and Christ-like love, demonstrative of its Divine excellence, and directly tending to subvert that Satanic rule which had inflicted the blow, and is murderous "from the beginning."

Under the all-wise Providence of God, no event is so gloomy as to afford no ground of hope—so bad that it may not be productive of good. The persecutions which befall the servants of the Redeemer, oftentimes turn out rather to the furtherance of the gospel. The modern missionary enterprise as clearly illustrates this principle as the history of the primitive Church. The burning of the Mission premises at Serampore gave a wonderful impetus to the operations of the Baptist Missionary Society; and the sudden death of Dr. Coke on his voyage to Ceylon, though it threatened destruction to our own infant cause in the East, if not to our whole Foreign work, was the occasion of our Missionary Society, with its world-wide influence.

We trust, therefore that our brethren of the Presbyterian Church will, so far from being discouraged, become more vigorous and hopeful in the prosecution of their glorious undertaking. Their Missions in the South seas must not be abandoned, but strengthened and enlarged.—Among the ranks of their rising ministry we hope there are many who are emulous to be "baptized for the dead;" and then it may confidently be expected that the liberality and devotion of their churches will prove adequate to their present necessities. The present extremity is also their opportunity, and we believe that strength will be afforded to them according to their day.

The cause of Christian Missions is but one; and while expressing our compassion for the afflictions of others, we may be permitted to remind our readers, both in the Ministry and the Laity, that the wants of the work were never greater than they now are. The Missionary income from these Provinces was considerably deficient last year, and much exertion will be requisite to bring it up during the present year. But that exertion should be gladly made; and we trust that, notwithstanding financial embarrassment, our receipts for this fund may at least amount to an equality with former years.

The "Great Eastern," and her Disasters.

In comparing the products of human ingenuity and power, which the present age has furnished, with those of the past, we should not be justified in saying that the former times are better than these. It is true that we have nothing of which to boast similar to the Pyramids of Egypt, the Palaces of Assyria, or the Temples of Greece, but we have many works equivalent in magnitude, and of immensely more importance than they. Our ancestors in civilization worked for the future, we work for the present. They laboured to secure renown, we, more practical, endeavour to multiply the conveniences and comforts of life, or, more avaricious, to secure a higher interest for our invested capital.

But man has not yet acquired the prerogative of omnipotence, neither has his skill in the arts and sciences enabled him to act independently of the moral Government of God. All this is very clear to a thoughtful mind, though it appears to be ignored by the men of this world, and particularly by the great, the noble, and the wise. They talk and they act as if they were independent of the Supreme; or, at least, as if the laws which he has impressed on the physical universe, were now beyond his own control, and could never be wielded for the punishment of evil-doers, or the praise of them that do well.

To counteract this impression, and to stain the pride of human glory, we find that, sometimes at least, the most stupendous works of man become, without any visible interferance, of any miraculous interposition, gigantic failures. Of the many instances of this kind which are placed on record, there are few more noticeable or instructive, than that which has recently been supplied by the history of the Great Eastern.

A few years ago the world was surprised by the project to build a ship considerably larger than Noah's Ark; whose strength was to be a perfect security from danger, and whose progress in traversing the great deep was to be as swift, as, amidst the fiercest billows, it was to be smooth and pleasant. Of course, with advantages such as these, her passengers would be numerous, and the gain of her proprietors would be great. So it was predicted. The theory was exact, too, as a mathematical demonstration, and its practical realization was therefore confidently expected.

With buoyant hopes, and with indomitable energy the scheme was prosecuted. The great ship at length became a great fact. Yet what are the results to-day but an an aggregate of bitter disappointments. The original company who engaged in the enterprise had to be renewed several times before the vessel went the distance of her own length, and even since that, the bankruptcy of the proprietors has been only averted by large loans and new investments.—Her launching seemed for many weeks to be impracticable, and it was at an almost ruinous expense that it was at last accomplished. And then it appeared as if she would never be finished. But this difficulty was also surmounted, and she was made ready for sea. Her trial trip ended with a most serious and fatal explosion, involving her owners, her builders, the constructors of her machinery, and her officers in almost inextricable confusion and legal disputes. Then came the drowning of her commander, and that before she had left the British coast. The first trip which she made across the Atlantic was signalized by nothing new, except the discovery that she rolled like other vessels at sea, and did not outstrip them in speed. Her visit to New York gave just offence to the authorities of Portland; and her management while in American waters, no less disgusted her numerous visitors. One fair trip to Quebec and back to England she did make; but as if to prove the folly of cherishing even ordinary expectations respecting her, the next voyage was scarcely begun, ere it was broken off by a series of fresh disasters. Caught in a gale which other ships appear to have easily outridden, she suddenly became unmanageable—her sails were torn to shreds, her paddle-wheels twisted and wrenched off, her screw rendered useless, her helm broken, and her hull, with panic stricken crew and passengers, was tossed about at the mercy of boisterous waves. With great difficulty, and after several days' delay, this vaunted LEVIATHAN was so far righted as to be brought back to the nearest harbour on the Irish coast.

We are not of the number who profess to find in every human affliction, the retributive judgment of God. This state of being is confessedly an imperfect one, and we must wait for the light of eternity to discover the reason for many of the losses and sufferings which are here experienced.

But in regard to the tide of calamities which has set in upon this vessel, are we not compelled to think of circumstances in her history which have seemed to demand the rebuke of the Most High?

In one sense the GREAT EASTERN may be said to be national property, and to be the manifestation of our national spirit. Did we, as a people, not speak of her with pride, and as if by our own power we could set at defiance the storms of the ocean, and say, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?" How nearly then have we resembled the builders of Babel, in presumption; or the haughty monarch who was driven out with the beasts of the field, in pride? We have still ONE to deal with, that, "when He hideth His face who can behold Him, whether it be done against a nation or a man only?" This national discomfiture then, is surely designed to teach us the lesson so often repeated but so little respected—"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches." "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

It has also sometimes been said, that corporate bodies have no conscience. The remark is doubtless based on the observation, that what one man would not attempt to do, on his individual responsibility, he would not scruple to perform, as a member of a joint stock company. Thus it would seem that some persons imagine there is one way in which the great God may be robbed with impunity! Never was a greater mistake. If He will not allow His authority to be defied by any one individual, He certainly will not permit it to be trifled with by any number of persons. "Though hand join in hand the wicked shall not be unpunished."

But the proprietors of the Great Eastern have distinguished themselves as violators of the sanctity of the Lord's Day. In one instance they even went out of their way, yielding to a silly superstition, in setting at nought the holy Sabbath. When, after much delay, the launching of the ship was all but completed, the final few hours' work was purposely postponed from Saturday till Sabbath, in order that the vessel might first enter the water upon a "lucky day." We distinctly remember, too, that her trial trips were partly performed on the day of rest—for which there was not even the shadow of necessity. Our readers, also, can scarcely have forgotten that her visit to this harbor occurred on a Saturday, and so great was the amount of desecration on the following day, arising from her departure just as crowds of worshippers were hastening to their respective churches, that even the secular papers bore their testimony to the evil of such proceedings.

Our wonder, therefore, is not excited by hearing of the disasters which have followed this mammoth ship. Others may possibly resolve them into secondary causes, but we see how, without a miracle, the Divine Ruler "distributeth sorrows in His anger;" and in these works of Providence we hear, not faintly, the echo of his own inspired language, "Be sure your sins will find you out."

Letter from England.

From our own Correspondent.

ENGLAND, Oct. 18th, 1861.

The Imperial and Royal meeting at Compiegne seems to have ended in moonshine. His Majesty of Prussia, who is not overdone with the social element, accepted the hospitalities of his Imperial brother of France, but gave nothing in return, except a sort of grim expression of satisfaction at the character of his reception. The conversations of the two monarchs were, of course, strictly private, and very little has oozed out to form even the nucleus of popular speculation. It is said that the Emperor dwelt long on the subject of Italy, and in glowing colours represented her future, to all of which the King listened with interest, but when the Imperial host ventured to suggest the propriety of a general recognition of the new kingdom by the Powers of Europe, his Majesty made no sign. Prussia professes to see a difficulty in recognizing an Italian kingdom so long as Venice and Rome are absent, in direct contravention of the spirit of that sagacious proverb: "half a loaf is better than none." Other points were mooted, the difficulty between Germany and Denmark, the propriety of a more liberal commercial policy on the part of Prussia, &c., but to each and all of the Emperor's suggestions the King gave respectful audience, but nothing more. Rather mortifying this to his Imperial host, who cannot be even suspected of inviting the King of Prussia to Compiegne from any feeling of friendship. Doubtless the sole object of the meeting was political, so far as the Emperor was concerned, but William of Prussia was not to be caught, being quite as crafty in his way as Napoleon of France. If ever royal Reynards met it was in the chateau of Compiegne.

Foiled in his intrigues, the Emperor was not to be done out of his pleasures, and so all kinds of sports were planned for dissipating the heavy influence of his Prussian guest. A hunt by torchlight, a sanguinary battue, in which three or four hundred head of game were shot by the two monarchs, a gigantic pic-nic in which Napoleon appeared in the costume of Louis XV., and similar amusements distracted the Imperial cares. A medal has been struck off to commemorate the meeting of the two monarchs, and everything has been done to give the thing eclat, but the meeting was a failure, and no attempt will be made to renew it. The ostentatious puffing of the Government organs in France is proof positive of the Emperor's woeful chagrin. By way of compensating for his annoyance, he has invited the King of Holland, and the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia. The latter he will probably find a somewhat tough customer, but the former will prove an easy prey. At the very height of the imperial festivities a terrible accident happened in a distant part of the Empire. During a severe storm of rain the Lalle mine was inundated, and one hundred and seventeen men buried by the waters.

Very splendid preparations are being made for the approaching coronation of the King of Prussia at Konigsburg, the ancient capital of his dominions. There is this serious difference between royal demonstrations on the Continent and in England,—the trium hs of the Queen are the extemporaneous acclamations of her people,—while those of Continental sovereigns are merely artistic. In the one case may be seen the grateful homage of a loving people, in the other a triumph of upholstery. There is not enough of loyal enthusiasm in all Prussia to render the approaching coronation anything much beyond a successful speculation for tailors and decorators. The ex-King of Naples demands his right to send a representative to the ceremony, thus putting his Prussian brother into an awkward fix, out of which it will be most difficult to extricate himself. There is a talk of compromising the matter by receiving an Italian Envoy, who is to bear the name of neither Francis nor Victor Emmanual.

The Pope, in a recent "allocution," draws a sad picture of the world. He denounces everything and everybody. One would judge that his Holiness had "got up" the allocution in the neighbourhood of Billingsgate, and under the special direction of those ladies whose vocabulary of strong terms is proverbial. Lying, murder, robbery, blasphemy, and everything else that is horrible, ride rampant throughout the world. Impious and blasphemous attempts are being made to despoil the Holy See, &c., &c., and away the old gentleman rattles in a tone of the bitterest invective, not without a strong smack of brimstone; and all this because the long downtrodden Italy is awakening to a consciousness of her right to be free! The pamphlet of the Abbe Passaglia, one of the ablest men of Rome, advocating the surrender of the temporal sovereignty of the Pope, has been of course condemned by the congregation of the Index, and it is hinted that nothing would be more grateful to the College of Cardinals than the opportunity of burning the Abbe for heresy. Fortunately for him he lives in the nineteenth century, and not in the sixteenth, or both he and his pamphlet would long since have been ashes. He walks abroad in the city of Rome under the Pope's very nose, and no one dares to molest him. In the midst of all his troubles, his Holiness manages to do a little business for the Church, having just concluded a *concordat* with the Republic of Hayti, by means of which an archbishopric and four bishoprics are created.

Germany is all alive with the notion of building a fleet. In wiser times, the Germans would surely have learned a lesson from the ruinous experience of the arsenals of England and France, and have done without a fleet; but in these warlike times even sober Germany must arm to the teeth, and divide the sovereignty of the seas. The news from Russia is not assuring. During the absence of the Emperor at Sebastopol the students of the St. Petersburg University made a demonstration, which though not precisely revolutionary, is indicative of the growth of a new spirit in the country. Not a very pleasant heritage is that throne which the great autocrat left to his son. The Emperor Alexander is an enlightened sovereign, and a reformer, quite a phenomenon of liberalism in Russia, but his task is most difficult. The very liberties which he is anxious to give must endanger his own rule, as at present constituted, for the whole structure of Russian sovereignty is based upon a pure despotism, and one that involves the idea of the serfdom of the nation. In the first throes of an unused and untutored liberty there will probably be serious disturbances. Poland is at present in a most threatening attitude. Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the land. The tents of the military are fixed in all the thoroughfares of Warsaw. This policy is not likely to succeed. The day has gone by for a reign of terror. Nations *must* be free; and ere long this vexed and trying question of the Polish nationality must have an ultimate settlement. The disturbances of the Montenegrins and Servians are attributed to Russian influence, and it has been rumoured that the cabinet of St. Petersburg is entertaining the idea of an alliance with those clans in their expeditions against the Sultan. But surely the Emperor will not be so mad as to enter upon another campaign against Turkey. He has just returned from Sebastopol, and surely among those shattered ruins, and those myriad graves he has learned wisdom.

The affairs of Mexico are not very promising. Owing to the inability or unwillingness of the Government to protect the lives and property of foreign residents, Spain, France, and England are planning expeditions. Spain flattered by her successes in Morocco, and inspired perhaps by the very name of Mexico, is preparing an armament on a very large scale, and it is said that her expedition is to be perfectly independent of the other powers. From the somewhat mystical exposition which Earl Russell gives of our English policy in the matter, it is difficult to learn the precise intentions of our Government: but it would seem as though the demonstration is to be confined to the ports, and to be rather protective than aggressive. It has been suggested at head quarters that Francis the Second of Naples might possibly find a crown and empire in Mexico. But he has had enough of crowns.

His celestial majesty is dead. It appears he never got over the precipitous flight from Pekin, and has succumbed at a comparatively early age for Chinese Emperors, to the law of mortality. A regency under the Prince of Kong has been proclaimed, and one of the elder sons of the late Emperor is to succeed to the throne. All is perfectly quiet, and the reduction of the British forces at Tien-tsin seems to indicate that our authorities have no fear as to the safety of their representations, or the carrying out of the second treaty. The heartless and cruel Queen of Madagascar, after dying several times in the newspapers, is at last dead in fact. An attempt was made, according to the wishes of the Queen, to transfer the kingdom to a relative, known to favour her policy in the repression of Christianity, but the rightful heir, who is supposed to be a Christian, put an end at once to the possibility of his rival's success by putting him to death. The French, with their usual coolness, are endeavoring to establish a sort of protectorate in the island. What right they have there it would be difficult to learn. All the civilization which Madagascar has, or ever had, has been the result of British interposition, and many devoted Englishmen have fallen victims to their philanthropy. But all danger being over, in walk the French, to have all the glory, and none of the peril.

A most savage attack has been made on the British authorities in Japan, and not, it is feared, without the connivance of the government of the country. The miscreants were bravely repulsed by the handful of Englishmen and guard, many of them being killed, and several more, after the happy fashion of the country, having ripped themselves up. Mr. Laurence Oliphant, the secretary of the Legation, was severely wounded, and is compelled to return to England. The Japanese government are, of course, quite scandalized, but there is a strong suspicion that they had some knowledge of the attack before it was carried into effect.

Advices from Calcutta bring the pleasing intelligence that the cholera which has been raging for some time in the interior is subsiding. The British army has lost the equivalent of an entire regiment by this dreadful scourge, and a number of persons, principally Europeans, have fallen victims to the epidemic. A meeting of the most respectable natives has been held to protest against the decision of the Judge in the case of the Rev. Mr. Long, who is returning to England, in order to prosecute an appeal to the Privy Council, on the affair of the "Nil Durpan." The British residents in Calcutta have expressed their warmest sympathy with him, and their repudiation of Government policy in his case.

The departure of Sir George Grey from the Cape has given great alarm to the colonists, especially as there seems to be a possibility of a Caffir incursion. The Cape colonists deserve to be left to themselves. They refuse to contribute anything like an adequate sum toward the maintenance of British troops in the colony, and it is not right that the people of England should be taxed for the protection of private property of colonists. England does not object to help her dependencies and colonies, where they are willing to help themselves, but it is monstrous to expect that so wealthy a colony as that of the Cape should have all the expenses of its defence furnished from the Exchequer of England. If our Government instead of sending out fresh troops to meet the expected emergency at the Cape would first order home a regiment or two now on service, the policy would have a wholesome effect.

From Melbourne we hear of a strike among the "navvies," which has led to some serious riots. The strikers perpetrated several acts of violence—burning down some stables and attempting to upset a railway train. The disturbances between the Europeans and Chinese at the diggings have terminated, and order is restored. The preparations for further military operations in New Zealand are for the present suspended. The arrival of Sir George Grey will probably settle the dispute more creditably and more firmly than an appeal to arms. It is rather unworthy of the dignity and paternity of England to make war upon a parcel of poor savages.

Our Home news is not of a very striking character. The building for the Exhibition of 1862 is rapidly approaching completeness. Critics are divided in their estimate of its beauty. Some pronounce that it will be the ugliest and most unsightly structure in Europe—while others cannot find words to express their admiration of its elegance and grandeur. As in most things, much may be said on both sides. Very ample arrangements have been made for the eating department,—always dear to the heart of John Bull. An enormous space has been allotted to the refreshment of visitors,—no less than 120,000 square feet being appropriated for dining rooms, &c. Five thousand feet are to be devoted to kitchens. The contractors pledge themselves to provide a handsome cold dinner at 2s. per head,—and hot dinners at equally moderate charges. Glasses of filtered or iced water are to be provided gratuitously for all who ask for them,—and the prices of all articles sold are to be exhibited in various parts of the building, printed in English, French, German and Italian. A poetic Frenchman has proposed to arrange the whole catalogue of the Exhibition in rhyme, and feels himself mightly injured because the Commissioners have declined his offer with thanks. Another Frenchman has requested space for the exhibition of a flying machine, and a machine showing the discovery of perputual motion! But even these propositions are insignificant when compared with the proposal of a company of British engineers, of the highest scientific repute, to lay down a tube from Hyde Park corner to the Great Exhibition building, *through which* passengers are to be shot by pneumatic force, in two minutes,—as by a gigantic pea-shooter! But whether these astounding proposals are received or not, all England is looking forward to the Exhibition as a means of reviving trade. Foreign countries are making noble preparations,—and there is every prospect of magnificent success.

Earl Russell has been feted at a banquet by his admirers in Newcastle-on-Tyne. The noble Earl had a most flattering reception,—and gave a very interesting sketch of his political career. As is usual with Cabinet ministers he spoke evasively on all questions affecting our present policy. Some notion of the work of a Foreign Secretary even in vacation time may be gathered from the fact that though his lordship has retired into the country for rest and recreation, a Queen's messenger arrives daily at his seat, carrying despatches which weigh several stones! The Prince of Wales is to be the guest of the Duke of Newcastle this week, and great preparations are being made to do him all honour. Prince Leopold is in very delicate health, and is ordered to the south of France for the winter. The Queen is doing honour to a distinguished lady who for a number of years was her favourite mistress of the Robes. Last night's Gazette announces that Her Majesty has conferred on the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland the dignitaries of Baroness, Viscountess, and Countess of the United Kingdom,—and after her Grace's decease, her second surviving son is to rank as Earl of Cromarty. By such beautiful touches as these our Queen wins the hearts of her subjects.

The Rev. J. Macnaught, incumbent of St. Chrysostom's Church, Liverpool, has resigned his cure, and become a lay-member of the establishment. His rationalistic views have long given him an unenviable notoriety, and have at last driven him to abandon his preferments in the Church. He appeared last Sunday as a private member of the congregation to which he has long ministered as a pastor. The excitement occasioned by the "Essays and Reviews" has somewhat sobered down,—though proceedings against some of the writers are pending. Among the newest dogmas of the day the most startling are those broached by a Scotch Presbyterian clergyman, who has been cited before the Presbytery. The reverend gentleman teaches that the real body of Christ may be seen now,—that prayer is ineffectual unless accompanied by particular attitudes,—that the proper posture during prayer is lying on the back,—that a christian can be discovered from his physiognomy,—that children cannot be saved,—that none ought to pray but the converted. He has conducted revival meetings until three o'clock in the morning,—running about the church and gesticulating wildly,—laughing loudly, and urging the people to jump and dance on the pews, as David danced before the ark. His converts imitate the braying of a donkey, and bolt about in the churches and houses, to the confounding of order and the ruin of crockery! The rev. gentleman seems riper for a strait-jacket, than for the solemn judgment of an ecclesiastical court.

The autumnal meetings of the Congregational Union have been held during the week at Birmingham. The President,—or begging his pardon, the Chairman for the year is the Rev. J. G. Miall, of Bradford. In connection with the session some strange meetings have been held, and strange things said;—among others, that all the principles of Congregationalism resolve themselves into Anti-State Churchism! In other words the function, the prime function of one religious body is to destroy another! As the 24th of next August is the two hundredth anniversary of the expulsion of 2000 ministers from their churches for refusing to comply with the act of uniformity established by the second Parliament of Charles II., the Congregational union have resolved to commemorate the event by sermons, meetings, pamphlets, collections, and the building of a hundred chapels!

The new Educational Code is creating increasing excitement in the country. Yielding to the pressure, the President of the Council has suspended the operation of the new minute until the 1st of April,—a rather unfortunate date for the beginning of a new scheme. A most vigorous resistance to the measure will be made at the opening of the Parliament,—and in the meanwhile local Committees are waiting upon borough representatives, and so preparing for the battle.

Mr. Spurgeon is coming out in a new line,—and devotving his Tabernacle to somewhat novel uses. A few weeks ago he gave a facetious lecture on the Gorilla in this building which was only recently opened as the House of God. On the table from which the rev. gentleman preaches, (for he has no pulpit) was exhibited a monster stuffed specimen of the gorilla, brought over by du Chaillu. Amid peals of laughter Mr. Spurgeon described the habits, &c. of this forbidding animal, occasionally spicing his remarks with passages of Scripture:—for example, looking steadily at the dead specimen he said: Betwixt me and you there is a great gulf fixed,—and so on. The lecture was so decided a success that Mr. Spurgeon determined to try again, and so announced to lecture last Friday evening, on "Shrews,—and how to tame them." Several illustrations of shrews were given from Xantippe to Mrs. Wesley. Copious extracts were read from Shakespeare's well-known play,—and the audience was tickled by anecdotes gathered by the reverend lecturer in his immediate circle. The whole performance was highly amusing,—and the Tabernacle rang with applause. And this is Mr. Spurgeon's view of the mission of the minister, and the sacredness of the Sanctuary in the nineteenth century! How can he expect to convince with his word on the Sunday the people whom he convulses with his pseudo-wit on the Friday? Such performances may make men infidel, but never win them to the Faith.

The new number of the London Review is unusually good. An article on Robertson, of Brighton, is very fine. It is attributed to the pen of the talented Classical Tutor of Didsbury College. The first volume of Dr. Bunting's sermons is announced to appear on the 30th of this month. It will have a large sale. A correspondent in the Watchman proposes the establishment in Methodism of something analogous to the Congregational Lecture,—in order to supply our people with some standard of Theological literature. Mr. Mason's list contains no novelty beyond the volume of sermons by Dr. Bunting. Our connexion has suffered a loss of no ordinary character in the death of the Rev. Theophilus Pearson, of Hull,—a young man of great ability and promise. He was appointed to the Hull West Circuit by the last Conference,—and had been but a few weeks on his new station, when he was seized with *peritonitis*, and died in great agony, but in triumphant confidence. A loving and beautiful tribute to his memory, from the pen of Mr. Punshon, appeared in the Methodist Recorder of last week. Mr. Punshon has prepared a lecture on "Macaulay," which is announced in the new series of the young men's Christian association, of London.

At a recent meeting of a provincial branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, one of the Secretaries of the Parent Society announced that since the commencement of the Society's operations five millions sterling had been spent, and forty million copies of God's Word had been distributed in one hundred and sixty languages. These copies, if ranged in a library, would cover six hundred miles of shelves, and weigh seventeen thousand tons. Thirty-one thousand copies of the Scriptures were distributed last year in Italy,—and no less than thirteen thousand copies were distributed among the lowest population of London by the Bible Women.

From the telegrams of this morning we learn that William the First of Pruasia solemnly crowned himself King in the city of Konigsburg yesterday. The ceremony was conducted with gorgeous pomp,—and the upholstery element was largely displayed. On Thursday His Majesty summoned the members of the Diet,—and treated them to a pompous speech, in which the theory of the Divine and inviolable right of Kings played a prominent part. "The rulers of Prussia," he said, "receive their crown from God." And so they do,—but not in such sense as to render all their doings infallible. There was very little either in the ceremony or the speech-making to warrant the hope that the new rule will be liberal and enlightened.

Ths bright hopes which were entertained for Turkey, arising out of the supposed economy and good sense of the new Sultan are doomed to be disappointed. The heavy blow which it was supposed he had given to the institution of polygamy by the breaking up of the harem turns out to be moonshine. His Majesty has no intention of departing from the habits of a good mussulman,—and is organizing a domestic establishment on a scale as large and ruinous as that which brought his brother to the verge of bankruptcy. Nearly thirteen hundred women are entertained within the walls of the Palace! So much for the regeneration of Turkey!

The state of trade in England is very discouraging. Last night's Gazette contains a list of forty-nine bankruptcies.

General Intelligence.

Colonial.

Domestic.

DESPERATE AFFAIR!—*One Policeman supposed Killed! Another Wounded!!*—Last night about six o'clock, Police Officers Gardiner and Fraser proceeded on board the schr. "Shooting Star," of Gloucester, to arrest the Captain, Frederick Lane for debt. The captain hid himself away The crew got the vessel under weigh, and attack the policemen with knives. Gardiner fell from a stab, exclaiming, "I am killed—Lord have mercy on me." Fraser, after receiving several stabs, succeeded in jumping into the boat and cutting it adrift managed to get ashore.—Word was at once sent to Fort George to prevent the schooner passing out of the harbour, and His Worship the Mayor having personally applied to the Admiral for a steamer, the "Nimble" was immediately got ready.

LATER.—When His Worship the Mayor returned to his office it was ascertained that the Captain, seeing that Gardiner was dead, run the vessel ashore near the Lumber Yard. The Marshall, with some assistance, secured the Captain and crew, and two female friends of the Captain's. They are all in custody. The schr. shortly after floated off, and was brought up to the Queen's wharf by Custom House Officer Kerr.

Much credit is due to the Admiral for the promptness shewn in forwarding the wishes of the Civic authorities.

Gardiner, it appears on examination, was stabbed to the heart; there are two terrible gashes in his body. The corpse now awaits the Coroner's inquest at the Hospital.

By this sad occurrence a widow and large family are left to mourn their great bereavement and the city an active officer.—*Sun.*

Mr. Light, the engineer of the E. and N. A. Railway in New Brunswick, embarked for England, in the *Arabia*, on Friday morning. We are informed that he has spent three months of last summer in examining the country through which the New Brunswick portion of the Halifax and Quebec Railway is to pass. We also learn that Mr. Wightman has traversed a large portion of the route in his various surveying expeditions during the last twenty years. Messrs Light and Wightman have been busy, during the last fortnight, in arranging their information into a form for use. This will be a great advantage to the parties concerned in the selection of route, and in the estimate of cost.

THE YARMOUTH GOLD DIGGINGS.—Since the publication of our last number, there has been considerable prospecting going on at Foote's Cove and the vicinity. We have heard of one nugget, the size of a pea being found; and have conversed with several gentlemen, who are sanguine enough to believe that, with the aid of proper means and appliances, gold can be obtained not only in paying, but in profitable quantities. At all events, it is their intention to fairly test during the ensuing Spring, the productiveness or non-productiveness of the Yarmouth gold-washings.—*Yarmouth Tribune, Oct. 29*

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,—*Halifax, Oct. 26th*, 1861—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following appointments:

In the County of Lunenburg: James Dowling to be Clerk of the Crown and Prothonotary of the Supreme Court, in place of Henry Ernest, deceased. Rev. T. J. Skinner to be one of the Commissioners of Schools for the Eastern District, in place of Rev. J. C. Hunt, who has removed.

In the County of Kings: To be Justices of the Peace—Oliver Lockhart, Edward C. Foster, George Dodge. Joseph R. Hea, D. C. L., to be one of the Commissioners of Schools.

In the County of Hants: Rev. Henry Pope, Jr., to be one of the Commissioners of Schools for the Western District.

In the County of Cumberland: The Rev. Jas. Christie to be one of the Commissioners of Schools.

In the County of Sydney: To be Justices of the Peace—Michael Crispo, Peter Gerroir, Lucien Doiron, Alexander Chisholm.

In the County of Shelburne:—To be members of the Board of Commissioners of Schools for the Western District—the Rev. James Buckley, (in place of the Rev. Robert Duncan, removed,)—The Rev. Hugh McMillan, and Samuel Snow, Esq.

In the County of Victoria:—To be Justices of the Peace—Thomas A. McKeen, Angus McAuley, Neil McAskill.

In the County of Richmond:—To be Commissioners for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.—John Fulier, Isaac LeVisconte, John Frehill.

In the County of Inverness: Donald McLean McDonald, to be a Justice of the Peace.

In the County of Halifax: Joel Corbet and Alexander Merson to be Commissioners of Sewers for Gay's River.

We were much pleased yesterday on viewing some very beautiful articles of jewelry, manufactured by Mr. Cornelius, Jeweller, of this city, from Nova Scotia Gold. One of these formed a necklace, having three circles, each one having for its centre a handsome stone, and on the outer edges a row of pearls. Mr. C. has also a number of Nova Scotia pearls, and several very choice stones, found in this province. Henceforward we need not send abroad for handsome articles in the Jewelry line. We have the gold, the precious stones, and the mechanics to properly shape these into attractive forms.

A box of gold and gold-bearing quartz, of great value, was sent to England by the steamer last night, for the International Exhibition.

At a meeting of the City Council on Tuesday the following appointments were made:—

Board of Health.—Ward 1: S. A. White, A. Jones. Ward 2: Dr. Gilpin, John Braine. Ward 3: Thomas Martin, Dr. Flowers. Ward 4: Joseph Northup, Thomas Durney. Ward 5: John Naylor, Capt. Joseph Darby. Ward 6: G. R. Anderson, M. G. Black.

Health Wardens.—Ward 1: John Sinclair, John Hannan, James Black, Timothy Mullane. Ward 2: Thos. Sullivan, Richard Curry, Roderick Fraser, William Kandick. Ward 3: John Brander, Jas Butler, Thomas Huggins, Andrew Hunter. Ward 4: John Shaffer, Senr., Alex. Robertson, Wm. Newcombe, Robert Woodill. Ward 6: Joseph Bell, M. G. Black, Jos Belcher. A. Mackinlay, Jr.—*Chron.*

The steamer *Emperor* will, for the remainder of the season, leave Windsor for St. John on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and Digby on Mondays and Thursdays. See advertisement.

Canada.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN TORONTO.—The Wesleyan Methodist Church, on Elm St. three houses and a large quantity of property were destroyed by fire at Toronto on Sunday morning, 20th Oct. The fire originated in the dwelling of Mr. G. J. Beardmore, at the corner of Terauly and Elm streets. Fragments of burning wood and shingles communicated fire to the roof of the church and in a few moments the entire building was enveloped in flames and with its contents was destroyed. The fire had meanwhile communicated with the house belonging to the trustees of the church, and occupied by Rev. Mr. Elliott, and Rev Mr. Dorey, but the greater portion of the furniture and a number of books in the libraries of both gentleman were rescued. The buildings completely destroyed were the large rough cast house occupied by Mr. Beardmore, the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the parsonage adjoining. The two last named buildings, as also the furniture in the parsonage, belonged to the trustees of the church and were insured to the extent of $10,400 in the Royal and British American Insurance Companies offices. There was however, a heavy debt on the church, which will not be covered by the amount of insurance. Rev. Mr. Elliott and Rev. Mr. Dorey had their personal effects and libraries insured. The house tenanted by Mr. Beardmore belonged to the March estate, and it is stated that the policy of insurance was allowed to expire a short time ago. The building was valuable from $3,500 to $4,000. Mr. Beardmore succeeded in saving the greater portion of his valuable furniture—the remainder is amply covered by insurance in the "Royal." He also lost a valuable horse, carriage, sleigh and a quantity of harness. The total amount of property destroyed could not be worth less than $25,000.

DEPARTURE OF SIR EDMUND HEAD.—Yesterday afternoon, a little after 4 o'clock, His Excellency Sir Edmund Head left Quebec, *en route* for England. The streets from the Parliament Buildings to the Grand Trunk wharf were lined with troops on either side, who presented arms as the cortege passed between them. In the carriage with Sir Edmund were, Lord Monck, Colonels Irvine and Duchesnay, Provincial Aides-de-Camp, and Capt. Retallack, of his personal staff, the principal military officers of the garrison following on horseback. Arrived on the wharf, Sir Edmund Head bade adieu to those gentleman of his acquaintance who were present, and as he stepped on board the ferry-boat a salute was fired by the Royal Artillery while the band of the 60th Rifles played "God Save the Queen." Previous to his departure, valedictory addresses were presented to his Excellency by the Mayor and City Councillors and by the Magistrates of the district of Quebec, to which he replied in suitable terms. Thus, after a chequered administration of seven years, Sir Edmund Head has passed away from among us, and his office is filled by another. That he was unpopular as a Governor General, no one can deny. Indeed the utter absence of anything like demonstration on the part of our citizens, as he passed, through the streets on his departure, was proof positive of the fact, so far as Quebec is concerned. Still we could not help thinking yesterday as we contrasted his pale, thoughtful visage with the beaming, open countenance of Lord Monck, that the severe domestic affliction Sir Edmund experienced in the loss of his son, must have had a blighting influence upon his spirits, and might account, in great measure, for that repulsiveness of manner which he was accused of. Doubtless many would yesterday bestow that sympathy upon the sorrow sircken parent which they could not manifest tow