

the Church of Scotland have officiated in conducting divine service at the regular hours on the Lord's Day."

One of the newspaper writers gathers from it that "priestolatry is still a latent danger" among them. We on the other hand, are disposed to hope, that they are beginning to be touched with a sense of that isolation and singularity which distinguishes them, not favourably, from the greatest part of Christendom, and that they are awakening to the superior claims of ancient and Catholic customs and discipline over the adoptions of a recent and turbulent period, adoptions made, not so much for their intrinsic qualities, as for their diametrical opposition to the practices of Rome. We shall watch with curiosity, to see in what direction the next symptom of innovation will show itself; for we do not think all the vigour and promptness of Presbyteries will easily extinguish the disposition thus beginning to be apparent.

MORTALITY FROM CHLOROFORM.—It appears that the mortality in the London hospitals has increased since the introduction of etherization from 21 to 34 per cent., or, to vary the expression, instead of amputation being fatal in a less proportion than one in four of those operated upon, it now proves fatal in one in three. Is not so enormous a sacrifice of life too high a price to be paid for anaesthesia, even granting that this cannot be otherwise obtained with perfect safety? Is life to be held as nothing compared to pain?—*Medical Times & Gazette.*

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, JAN'Y 17, 1857.

IMPORTANT SUIT.

THE case of Mr. H. G. Hill, against the British Government, as represented by the respective officers of the War Department in this command, terminated in the Supreme Court on Thursday night. It arose out of the failure on the part of Mr. Hill to construct a coffer dam at the Ordnance Wharf. The Plaintiff rested his case principally upon the assumption of his being able to prove that in the contract entered into with the defendants, he was misled by representations as to the state of the bottom where the coffer dam was to be built—that upon this assumption he ventured upon a plan of his own with the consent of the Government, for the construction of a coffer dam with one row of piles—but that finding the bottom shallow and the substance of which it was composed permeable to water, it was not sufficiently retentive to support them or to prevent leakage. The defence of the Government was, that Mr. Hill entered into the contract without any reservation as to the state of the bottom, or anything else—but their evidence went also to prove by a series of experiments made by competent officers of the Engineer Department, that there was a good and sufficient retaining bottom or substance to hold piles—and that there was no obstacle at the site to the constructing a coffer dam, if a proper plan had been followed—and that there would have been no difficulty found, had Mr. Hill adopted the Government plan, and carried it out instead of his own.

Hon. J. W. Johnston and G. Smith, Esq. conducted the case for the Plaintiff—The Attorney General and J. W. Ritchie, Esq. on the part of the Government. Hearing the evidence, and the addresses of Council, and the Judge's Charge, (which we understand was strongly in favor of the defendants' plea,) has taken about 23 days.

The Jury after being absent about 6 hours returned a verdict for the plaintiff—Damages £10,696 19 5. It is believed that the suit will not end here—but will be again prosecuted on appeal from the verdict.

The Steamer *America* from England has not yet arrived. The R. M. S. *Niagara* arrived last night from Boston. Our readers will find in another page some interesting extracts, relative to the Ocean Telegraph, and other matters.

Returns of the Parish of St. Margaret, for the year 1856:—Marriages 14, Baptisms 70, Burials 19.

The following statement is rather under than above the amount contributed from the beginning to the end of the year.

Towards the Minister's Salary	£80 0 0
Do. Ch. Society	22 0 0
Clergy Widows and Orphans	2 11 9
For St. Peter's Parsonage	30 0 0
For Parish Church	30 0 0
Rectories in all the Churches	20 0 0
Towards 4 Church Schools	80 0 0
	£264 11 0

A special effort is being made in the Parish to raise £25 more than usual towards the support of a Curate.—*Com.*

We copy the following from the pages of a morning contemporary. We are glad to find that there is at length a chance of real steam accommodation to Halifax—and have no doubt it will be supported by all our merchants, and that the disappointments which they often meet with from the non-delivery of freight, and the anomaly of having to pay as high a rate of passage to Halifax as for the whole voyage to Boston, will at last be obviated:—

ARRIVAL OF THE SCREW STEAMER CIRCASSIAN.—This magnificent iron screw steamer, of 2,300 tons burden and 352 horse power, arrived here yesterday from Glasgow, having run from Greenock to the Northwest Light-ship in 19 hours, under steam only, and with a very strong head wind as far as the Mull of Galloway. She has come round to be fitted in cabin department previous to being placed on the Liverpool, St. John, Newfoundland, Halifax, and Portland line, which was opened last August by the *Khersonese*. She belongs, with the last mentioned ship, to Messrs. James Johnson, James Alexander, and Wier, Cochran & Co., of Glasgow; and she was built by Messrs. R. Hickson & Co., of Belfast, under the superintendence of Mr. James Hodgson, of this town. No expense will be spared to make her a most comfortable and effective ship; and with a special view to the comfort of passengers, her dining saloons and sleeping berths will be amidships, in order to avoid the motion and vibration so generally complained of in screw steamers.—*London Post*, 19th.

We find the following Communication in the *Capo Breton News* of January 3.

OPENING OF THE COXBEATH CHAPEL.

"The Episcopal Chapel, at Coxbeath, was opened for Divine Service in the afternoon of Christmas-day. A Sermon for the occasion was preached from Psalm 122, verse 1, 'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord.'—The outside of the Chapel is now completed; and when the ground around it is levelled and enclosed, and several other lesser points attended to, it will be a neat ecclesiastical looking building and ornamental to the place. The interior was very nicely decorated with evergreen—as is usual at this joyful season,—to beautify and adorn the place of the sanctuary." The day was mild and beautiful, and a large congregation was assembled, consisting almost entirely of the inhabitants of the settlement. As they nearly filled the Church, it was thus evident that a place of worship is required there; and that the one erected is not too large. We hope the congregation will now feel encouraged to renew their exertions and unite for the early completion of the inside.

"Besides the praiseworthy contributions of the inhabitants of that neighbourhood, and of the town of Sydney, assistance has been obtained from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in England, and from the Diocesan C. Society of Nova Scotia; and also from kind friends in Halifax; amongst whose names will be found that of one well known upon this Station for generous donations to charitable and religious objects:—

SUBSCRIBERS AT HALIFAX:

Admiral Fanshawe,	£5 0 0
Arthur Woodgate, Esq.,	0 10 0
Miss Cogswell,	1 0 0
James Cogswell, Esq.,	1 0 0
Miss Wallace,	0 12 6
Rev. J. Stannage,	0 12 6
Dr. Cogswell,	1 5 0
T. B. Atkins, Esq.,	0 6 3
Friends,	0 5 7
Rev. Dr. Twining,	0 5 0
A Friend,	0 2 6
Dr. Buskirk,	0 5 0
J. C. Halliburton, Esq.,	0 10 0

"We are yet in want of additional funds to enable us to complete the inside; and should this meet the eye of any who are friendly to our undertaking, we hope it may induce them to add something to our present means of bringing our work to a satisfactory conclusion.

R. J. U."

Sydney, Decr. 30th, 1856.

D. C. S.

W. J. Almon, Esq. M. D. having given to the Diocesan Church Society Five Pounds "to be placed to the credit of that Parish which should raise the largest sum for its permanent endowment during the year 1856." The Secretary requests the Clergy to send to the Society before the 10th of Feb'y next, statements of the amounts raised by their parishes from any source toward their endowment during the past year. Also an account of the manner in which it has been raised and the mode of its investment.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The Secretary begs leave respectfully to remind the Clergy, that the premiums on the W. & O. Certificates cannot be received after the 9th of Feb'y. Halifax, Jan'y 6, 1857.

HALIFAX, Jan'y 9, 1857.

Sir,—

On behalf of the several Insurance Companies whom we represent, we beg to tender to your Excellency and the officers and privates comprising the Garrison of this city, our grateful thanks for the valuable services rendered by them at the recent fire.

This is not a solitary instance, but on all occasions when the services of the Military have been required, they have always been properly rendered, and, we believe, duly appreciated by the citizens.

We beg leave to enclose a cheque for One Hundred Pounds, as a trifling token of the services rendered, which you will please distribute among the soldiers of the Garrison in such way as you may deem proper.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

CHAS. TWINING,
President of Halifax F. I. C.
W. YOUNG,
Agent of the Alliance Co. of London.
ALB. SCOTT,
Agent for the American Companies.
C. W. DICKSON,
Agent of the Liverpool and London Co.
JAMES TREMAIN,
Chairman of the Equitable F. I. Co.
HUGH HARTSHORN,
Agent of the Royal Ins. Co.

WILLIAM HARR,
For the Phoenix Co. of London.

JAMES LIDDEL,
Secretary and manager of U. F. I. of London.

To His Excellency Major General
SIR GASPARD LE MARCHANT, &c. &c.

REPLY.

Government House, Jan. 10, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Major General to acknowledge your letter of the 9th inst., on behalf of the several Insurance Companies whom you represent, "tendering your thanks to himself, the Officers and Privates composing the Garrison of this city, for the services rendered by them at the recent fire," and enclosing an order for One Hundred Pounds, as a trifling token of your appreciation to the Soldiers, of the services rendered.

The Major General on their behalf desires me to convey to you his thanks for the handsome terms in which you allude to the services of the Garrison, and for the enclosure so liberally placed at his disposal for distribution to the men.

It is very gratifying to the troops to learn that their exertions are so favorably appreciated, that their services in co-operation with the Citizens have been deemed valuable, and particularly at the late conflagration their labors were useful in arresting the progress of the misfortune, and saving the property of her Majesty's subjects.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

WILFORD BRETT.

To Charles Twining, Esq., and the Representatives of the several Insurance Companies established in Nova Scotia.

D. C. S.

Received—	
Dec. 8. Collection at St. Paul's (Oct. 15)	
W. & O.	£5 9 0
" 13. Miss Newton	0 5 0
" 18. Miss Weeks	0 4 5
" 30. Halifax, St. Paul's L. C.	45 18 9
A thank offering (Liverpool) superann. fund	5 0 0

EDWIN GILPIN, Jr., Secy.

The alarm of fire in the City on Friday evening 9th inst., about nine o'clock, was occasioned by the burning of a barn on the Dartmouth side, nearly abreast of George's Island. The Barn was owned by the Widow McNab, and contained six cows, one horse, about 20 tons of Hay, and a great variety of Agricultural implements, all of which were consumed with the Building. The loss will probably exceed £400, on which there is no insurance. The fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary, and a party is suspected. It appears that a certain notorious character, who was tried in the Supreme Court a short time since for robbing a Chertcooker but acquitted for want of evidence, was known to have been prowling about the neighborhood, and shortly before and the time of the fire attempted to extort money both from Mrs. McNab, and the inmates of Mr. Campbell's house. From the former he obtained a small sum, and he took a box from the latter containing as he thought a considerable sum. Young Mr. McNab narrowly escaped being burnt to death in an attempt to rescue the horse from the flames.—*Chron.*

ARREST OF SMALL.—Patrick Caulfield and Garret Cotter, City Constables, succeeded in arresting Thos. Small, yesterday, (Jan. 12) supposed to be the incendiary who set fire to Mrs. McNab's premises, in Dartmouth, on Friday evening last. The above officers were previously sworn in as Special Constables for the County. Small was recognised by Mrs. Campbell as the person who attempted to rob the house during the absence of the male members of the family.—Constables Caulfield and Cotter are very efficient members of the Police corps, and succeeded in bringing in much valuable property stolen at the late disastrous fire.—*Ibid.*

MOUNT UNACKER.—We are authorized to state that the account published by Mr. Howe of the vic-