

him. These Roman grave-diggers from the Legion of Bassus, are alone upon the ground to contend with them for their prize. Oh, miserable condition of humanity! Why is it that to man have been given passions which he cannot tame, and which sink him below the brute! Why is it that a few ambitious are permitted by the Great Ruler, in the selfish pursuit of their own aggrandizement to scatter in ruin, desolation, and death, whole kingdoms; making misery and destruction the steps by which they mount up to their seats of pride! Oh, gentle doctrine of Christ!—doctrine of love and peace, when shall it be that I and all mankind shall know thy truth, and the world smile with a new happiness under thy life-giving reign?"

Thus was Palmyra laid waste by a savage Roman army. It afterwards recovered itself in a small degree, but was finally destroyed by an equally barbarous army of Saracens in the year 744. Since this time it has fallen into such obscurity, that it was totally unknown to the moderns till visited by Dawkins and Wood. They found the ground covered with heaps of marble pillars, pediments and blocks, partially overgrown with weeds, or choked up with sand which had drifted from the desert. The most conspicuous of the ruined edifices was the Temple of the Sun, standing in a court, more than seven hundred feet square, which was enclosed by a wall. It was adorned on the outside with pilasters, and originally with a double row of interior columns—the temple itself being in the midst of this arena, surrounded by columns fifty feet high. Another magnificent ruin was an open line of lofty pillars stretching three quarters of a mile in length, which must have been the portico of some large public edifice. In the present day, a few poor Syrian families dwell among the ruins.

[The above passages, represented as extracts from Piso's Letters, are specimens of a remarkable production of American talent, as yet only known in this country from the respectful mention of it in the work of Miss Martineau. It is entitled, "Letters of Lucius M. Piso, from Palmyra, to his friend Marcus Curtius at Rome. Now first translated and published. New York. 2 vols. 12mo."]

### The Wesleyan.

HALIFAX, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

The English mail by the packet Magnet arrived on Monday last.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the "Ulster Missionary," published in Belfast, in which we find the following notice of our own work. We have to request an exchange of papers with the same. Ours will be regularly forwarded to them in future.

**CHEAP PERIODICALS—NOVA SCOTIA.**—During the last month, we have received by post, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, &c. numbers of various cheap and interesting periodicals. We have marked several important pieces in them, which we intend publishing here, from time to time, for the benefit of our readers. We are glad to see useful and religious information extending throughout Christendom—a spirit of zeal and devotedness to the cause of God, manifested in the different sections of the church of Christ in our Colonies. The names of three of the peri-

odicals above alluded to are the Colonial Churchman, the Guardian, and the Wesleyan. We beg leave to return thanks to the conductors of those publications for their kindness in transmitting them. Drunkenness is now as it has been for many years past, the reproach of Britain, her soldiers and sailors, and one of the greatest obstacles to the spread of true religion. One would be led to suppose, that there was nothing of the kind in Nova Scotia or Canada, as the papers alluded to are almost silent on the subject. If there be any thing doing, it would be interesting to the friends of temperance and religion, abroad and at home, to hear occasionally, how the cause is progressing.

From English papers by the Packet.

**WESLEYAN CENTENARY.**—After meetings held in London, Newcastle, Sheffield, Hull, Bristol, Birmingham, &c., &c. similar to the meeting in Manchester lately reported, the sum of £111,000 was realized at the close of the year 1838, exceeding the maximum amount which expectation had dared to fix; still the feeling was progressive, and subscriptions too. The meetings were being held in various circuits.

The following is an extract from the Watchman:—

We have great pleasure in announcing to our Country Readers, that the Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society have purchased the noble and extensive Premises in Bishop-gate street, well known as The City of London Tavern, for the purpose of converting such parts of them as may be deemed necessary, to the use of the Society as a Mission-House, instead of that now occupied in Hatton Garden, which has long been found inadequate to the proper transaction of the greatly increased, and still greatly increasing business of the Institution. The other portions of the recent purchase, including especially the noble apartments at the front of the building (one of which is now temporarily occupied as the Captains' Room of Lloyd's), will be made available for various public and commercial purposes; and it is probable that the large Upper Rooms, with which most of our London friends are very familiar as the place in which various Religious Institutions have held their Annual Meetings, will ultimately be used, steadily or occasionally, under such regulations as may, on due consideration, be judged expedient, for the purposes of Christian worship. Thus, what has long been a desideratum, namely, a Wesleyan City Chapel in London, will be substantially secured; and two great objects will be combined on one spot; that of obtaining suitable Mission Premises, and that of providing, on the occasion of the Centenary of Methodism, in a central and public part of the Metropolis, a building which will be monumental in its character and appropriation, and will furnish a conspicuous testimonial of the respect and gratitude of the Wesleyan Body to the memory and services of their illustrious Founder, and of his coadjutors and successors, and of their conscientious and devoted attachment to the cause in which, as one section of the Christian Church, the Methodists, of the present generation are embarked. The price of the whole purchase is £15,000, including some very valuable fixtures; and, considering that the Missionary Object and the Centenary Object will be thus combined in the building, we are sure that it will be considered, not merely cheap in itself, (for of that there are not two opinions,) but eminently so, in reference to its intended appropriation. The site is admirably convenient for purposes of business, and convenient to business-men, being in the very heart of London;—the premises are altogether freehold, and the land tax is redeemed;—and, though extensive alterations must be made, which will require both time and expense, the whole it is hoped, may be completed, and opened for the new and holy services to which the premises are now devoted, in the course of the present Centenary year. We rejoice to learn that the purchase has received the cordial and decided approbation of the General Centenary Sub-Committee in Manchester; and that the same feeling is universally expressed by the subscribers to the Centenary Fund who reside in London. The Committee are much indebted on this occasion to the zeal and judgment of Thomas Farmer, Esq., who has acted for them in this business; and we have pleasure in having their permission to record what we know is their unanimous sentiment.

**LIMIT OF SPEED TO RAILWAYS.**—Dr. Lardner has discovered by experiments lately made on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, that the atmosphere is an opponent to railway speed more formidable than has ever been suspected. At 32 miles per hour the resistance it offers is nearly 82 per cent of all the steam power has to encounter, and it increases in proportion so enormously greater than the speed that there is not the slightest possibility of any such velocity of transit being gained as some (and among them none more ardently than Dr. Lardner himself) have anticipated. It is ascertained that even forty miles an hour cannot be maintained, except at a cost which amounts practically to a prohibition.