

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1871.  
OLD CATHOLIC MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.

By far the most interesting religious movement of the day is that known as the "Old Catholic" movement in Germany. No one can yet with intelligent confidence predict whereunto this movement will grow. But its development is watched with interest if not with anxiety in many quarters. The "Old Catholics" as they call themselves, are, as the readers of the *Wesleyan* generally know, opposed to the deliveries of the late Ecumenical Council. At present their numbers are chiefly made up of persons belonging to the educated classes among the German Catholics. Their principal leaders are University Professors, chief of whom is the celebrated Dr. Dollinger of Munich. In the month of September last they held a Convention in the Bavarian Capital, which was attended by a large number of delegates from various German towns and cities. The purpose of this Convention was to enable the Catholic Anti-Infidels to define their position and agree upon a policy.

After due deliberation and discussion, the Munich Convention adopted a programme, composed of eight articles, the Convention declared its adherence to the old Catholic faith based on Scripture and tradition, and expressed its determination not to be expelled from the Catholic Church. Taking its stand on the Tridentine Creed the Convention rejected the dogmas proclaimed during the pontificate of the present Pope.

The Convention declared its adherence to the old constitution of the Church which recognized the right of individual Bishops to direct the religious concerns of their own dioceses. It repudiated the claims set up by the Pope as the only divinely appointed exponent of religious authority, and asserted that neither the Pope alone nor the Pope with the consent of Bishops who had sworn unlimited adherence to him had authority to define dogmas, that even General Councils must formulate their decisions in accordance with the original faith of the Church and with Catholic science, and that the Catholic clergy and laity had the right to pass judgment on the character of such decisions.

The Convention declared its aim to be the reform of the Church so as to secure for the Catholic people a regular and constitutional share in the direction of ecclesiastical affairs, and hoped for the arrival of the time when the unity of Christendom would be effected by the union of the Catholic, the Greek, the Oriental, the Russian, and the various Protestant Churches. The Convention deemed it indispensable that the clergy should be more scientifically educated, and that the lower clergy should be protected from the tyranny of their ecclesiastical rulers. The Convention professed the loyalty of its members to the Civil Governments of the countries to which they belonged, and pledged their support to these Governments in their struggle with ultramontanism. The Convention charged that the Jesuits had produced the disastrous condition of things existing in the Church, and that their influence should be put an end to.

The Convention claimed that the "Old Catholics" despite the late decrees of the Vatican, had a right to the secular property of the Church in their possession.

Finally, the Convention, under the circumstances, resolved as follows:—1. "That in all places among the 'old Catholics' where the want is felt, regular parish priests shall be appointed, the question whether there is a want being left to the decision of the local committees.

2. "We claim to have our priests recognized by the secular authorities, as entitled to perform those religious functions on which civil rights are based in accordance with the existing legislation of many States.

3. "The various Governments are to be petitioned to accord us these rights.

4. "Having been placed in the condition in which we find ourselves, every old Catholic is entitled to ask foreign bishops to perform the said functions for him, and when the right moment has come, we shall be justified in procuring a regular episcopal jurisdiction."

Two points relative to these old Catholics appear sufficiently plain. They will never succeed in modelling the Roman Catholic Church to suit themselves, and they are not likely generally to retrace their steps in the course they have taken. The policy of forming distinct congregations supplied by priests in sympathy with them, which they have adopted, is a most important one. How far will they succeed in carrying out that policy? Some things are in their favour.

They will meet with encouragement and support from the various German Governments. That support will to a considerable extent neutralize the secular effect of excommunication. Catholic priests favouring the old Catholic movement and thereby incurring the displeasure of their superiors will not be ejected from their livings in consequence. The state will protect them. On the other hand, the liberal and patriotic element among the German Catholics will naturally look somewhat favourably on the old Catholic struggle. The Ultramontanists in Germany have been and still are the deadly enemies of German unity and liberal Government. The "Old Catholics" are of course in favour of German consolidation, and number many liberals in their ranks. So far then matters wear a propitious aspect for the old Catholic movement. But as yet it wants the fervour and vitality of an intense religious feeling. Is there any chance of its coming under the influence of such a feeling? That is a question that time only can solve. Events, however, move apace in these days. We may, therefore, expect further developments

ere long tending to show what the final issue of this singularly interesting old Catholic movement is likely to prove. Meanwhile every phase of that movement will be eagerly scanned by both friend and foe.  
J. R. N.

MINISTERIAL VOLUNTEERS FROM ENGLAND.

HALIFAX WELCOME MEETING.

Brunswick St. Wesleyan Church has seldom been the scene of a more interesting and impressive service than that held on the evening of Monday, 23rd inst., to welcome the twelve young men recently arrived from England as candidates for the Wesleyan ministry in connection with the Conference of E. B. A. The appearance in our midst of such a number of men in such a capacity could not fail to attract the attention and awaken the interest of all observers of Methodist operations. Hence it was not surprising that on the occasion the spacious church was filled to repletion with an audience representing the wealth, intelligence and piety of our congregations in this city and vicinity.

A gracious influence appeared to rest on the assembly from the commencement to the close of the service. The opening prayer, offered by our venerable Father-in-Church, led us up at once to the great source of light and power, so that every heart must have felt, "Lo, God is here."

The Rev. H. Pope, Jr., President of the Conference was called to the chair by the Rev. Mr. Rogers, and introduced the proceedings by a few well-timed remarks. He made felicitous allusion to the circumstances that at that very hour a valiant victory was being won in the day by one of our sister Churches, to commend to the prayerful sympathies of God's people, three young Missionaries who were about embarking for the New Hebrides; and he expressed the hope that our good wishes and prayers, unconfined by any narrow lines of sectarian distinction, would be extended to those servants of our common Master.

A short address of an explanatory nature was then delivered by the Ex-President, Rev. Dr. Pickard. He referred to the numerous openings for Methodist evangelization which had recently occurred; the proposal, at first but cautiously entertained, to apply for help to the Parent Conference; the inauguration of a scheme of assistance to attempt bolder measures; the engagement last year of a number of young men from England; the twenty-four vacancies occurring on the Station Sheet this year; and the correspondence authorized by Conference with Revs. Dr. Scott and Mr. Angwin, which resulted in securing the services of the band of men, to whom we were then assembled.

He was followed by the Rev. Thos. Angwin, who was not inappreciated by a subsequent speaker the recruiting sergeant of the party, and who introduced the young men to the meeting. He spoke of his recent visit, the last he expected to make to his native land, and then gave us a rather amusing account of his extended absence in attempting to fulfil the undertaking entrusted to him by the conference officials. He had difficulties to encounter—first in obtaining any encouraging response to his appeals for help, and afterwards in selecting material suitable for his purpose from the vast number of applications he received in answer to a note which he inserted in the *Methodist Recorder*. Had he been a Government agent, these applications could scarcely have been more varied or numerous. At length however he succeeded in making a proper selection. In the meantime Rev. Dr. Scott, and one or two other ministers, had secured several in addition to those enlisted by Mr. A. and, after an interesting farewell service in Liverpool, the company embarked for this country. In conclusion he paid a high tribute to the zeal and godly spirit of the young brethren, and we are sure every heart responded to the pious and fervent ejaculation with which his address closed, "God bless the lads."

Their names were then called over by the President, who in the most graceful and hearty manner bade them welcome on behalf of the Conference, and remarked that Mr. Chalmers' definition of Methodism, "Christianity in Earnest," never had a better illustration than in the circumstances of the present occasion.

Then followed what with many was doubtless the most interesting feature of the proceedings. As a Body we have always attached great importance to sound scriptural religious experience, especially in those who are appointed to minister the Word of Life; and as the congregation on Monday evening was largely Methodist in its character, all must have been gratified with the distinctness and fervor with which several of the candidates when called upon testified to their conversion, their present acceptance with God, and their unflinching determination to consecrate soul and life to the Master's service. There were diversities of detail in their experience, but in one thing all were agreed, "Once I was blind, now I see." If we mistake not, all who spoke referred to the salutary influence of a pious parentage, one having been roused to religious anxiety by the sudden death of his father, a pious Wesleyan minister, another having been led to the class-meeting by his mother.

The value of this most excellent institution was more than once adverted to; one at least referred to it as his spiritual birth-place. The Sabbath School was also named among the instrumentalities employed for their conversion—one brother stating that it was while attending a brother's station in children that he was led to think seriously upon his own condition. Early piety was strikingly illustrated by the statement of another to the effect that he enjoyed a clear sense of his acceptance with God when only six or seven years of age.

These testimonies as to personal experience were not more out of the ordinary than their utterances in reference to their call to the ministry. On this point they spoke with becoming clearness and confidence. Strong love for Christ and for souls, mighty drawings of the Spirit, imperative convictions of duty, unmistakable Providential intimations, these were the grace, and if he had, he has conjured up ghosts enough to disquiet its peace for half a century.

We are averse to repeating some of our previous figures, but we have no alternative as it is now our intention to lay our scheme before those interested, in all its details. We propose dividing our Circuits into eight classes as follows:—

This part of the exercises having terminated, the Hon. S. L. Shannon and J. B. Morrow, Esq., were called upon to welcome the Brethren on behalf of the laity. These gentlemen responded in brief but thrilling addresses, in which they assured the Candidates of the pleasure with which their arrival had been greeted, the cordial reception they might expect upon which they might rely. They also made appropriate allusion to the necessity now laid upon us to give increased attention to the Home Mission department of our work, and urged the congregation to exert liberality in supporting this important enterprise.

The exercises were enlivened by the singing of such hymns as, "Glory be to God love," &c., "How beautiful are their feet," &c., in which a large proportion of the vast assembly heartily joined. The meeting closed with prayer by the Rev. Jas. Taylor of Charlotteville.

Various and somewhat diverse reflections are suggested by the circumstances we have just detailed. The necessity imposed upon us of gathering our recruits for the ministry from abroad will appear to many unfortunate, and even humiliating. As we looked upon that noble band of volunteers, we could hardly refrain from asking, "Where are the young men amongst ourselves whose hearts God hath touched? Are there none among them who are willing to consecrate themselves to the sublime work of saving souls?" To account satisfactorily for such a state of things would perhaps be difficult. The flood of emigration, carrying our young men to the neighboring Republic, may be one cause of this dearth of home born laborers; the partial openings offered to youth, taken by commerce and mercenary professions may be another. But beneath these apparent causes may there not be another and a more potent one, viz. such a want of entire consecration on the part of God's people, as either restrains their prayers to the Great Head of the Church for workers in his vineyard, or else neutralizes the efficacy which are sworn to at the expense of personal ease or worldly prospects? If such be the hindrance may God in his mercy help us speedily to remove it.

On the other hand the exigencies giving rise to this extraordinary demand for laborers are evidences of expansion and prosperity. It must not be supposed, however, that the greater part of these young men, are simply designed to fill the places of those removed by death or laid aside by sickness or old age. Fully one half of them are appointed to fill vacancies hitherto unoccupied—some of them on Circuits where the work has grown to such dimensions as to require additional help, some of them as pioneers in fields of labor as yet imperceptibly occupied by the Methodist Evangelist. A single case will illustrate this point. One of the young men just mentioned was appointed to assist a married minister on a Circuit where a few years ago we had no preacher whatever, and to which only four years since a young man was sent for the first time. This is an expressive fact, and others of similar significance might be given. These tokens of the advancement already made, and to prove faithful to the opportunities He is affording us, let us follow the obvious leadings of a gracious Providence, and then our own God shall shield us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

HOME MISSIONS.

The very interesting Reports of Home Mission Stations which we lay before our readers this week, are the only ones, so far, forwarded. The Ministers on other similar fields of labour, who are required by decision of Conference to report quarterly, should send in their information soon to the President of the Conference, or to the address of the Rev. W. Sargent, Halifax, Assistant Secretary of the H. M. Society.

Most encouraging intelligence of H. M. Meetings has reached us from Rev. C. W. Dackrell, who promises to furnish a more learned notice. At River Philip, as we learn by communication from Rev. J. Reed, the receipts of their meetings were over \$50, and at Wallace about \$110! This is most cheering. Will not the Brethren on those Circuits make our readers also partakers of the knowledge connected with this glowing success?—

THE CHILDREN'S FUND.

Mr. Currie should be an authority on the subject of his article in last week's *Wesleyan*, for he sustains the twofold relation of Secretary to the Conference and Secretary to the Children's Fund. But authorities differ, and we are not disposed to allow our case, so far as we are concerned, to go by default.

Bro. C. set out with some defence of the present scheme—a defence which he abandons before the close of his article, by alluding to "the objectionable peculiarities of the existing rule," and proposing a substitute. His assumption that "A. W. N." regarded the present rule as wanting in simplicity, is based on a misapprehension; he reckons our membership at so much per head. But may principles having the same defects of unjust bearing, are quite as simple as this. Our expression was that any substitute for the present scheme should have the merit of simplicity.

As to the proposed plans of Bro. Gaetz and myself having difficulties as well as that now existing, we can only admit that we never seriously hoped to reach a perfectly harmonious rule of distribution, every cause for question and doubt. The plan having few defects will be doubtless adopted. We venture to affirm, with awe and bated breath, that the scheme of the Secretary of Conference has a few very grave difficulties, one of which is, the relieving of three St. John Circuits to the extent of \$110, and the adding of that amount to St. Andrew's and St. David's and Upham. We are afraid this will be considered very like taxing the Grant to that amount, to the advantage of St. John.

Bro. C. is comforted with the thought that the present plan is at least just to the ministers—they share alike, and obtain their full claims. Will his comfort continue when the popular pastor of Centenary shall be able to inform his Quarterly Meeting that their quota is reduced by \$50, and that amount, (increased by \$10) must be raised by the Quarterly Meeting of Fairville, in addition to their tax of previous years? We have a painful kind of recollection, that in this respect, just struggling to maintain independence, on which at least part of the quota for Children's Fund has to be paid out of the Minister's pocket. That alternative cannot be contemplated by good Bro. C.

It strikes us that of all the plans proposed, Bro. C.'s involves the most change to the disadvantage of the complaining Brethren. He makes no provision for an annual Committee for the correction of prices, and if he had, he has conjured up ghosts enough to disquiet its peace for half a century.

We will suppose that all the Circuits are thus classified, their aggregate receipts will show what per centage is necessary for the Children's Fund. Say that 14 1/2 per cent is required, we have but to ascertain the class of a Circuit in order to know its annual tax. Thus:—

Class.	Receipts.	Tax.
1st	\$1900	\$275.00
2d	1650	232.50
3d	1350	195.75
4th	1100	158.50
5th	900	128.75
6th	650	94.25
7th	500	72.50
8th	300	43.50

We now give the result as applied to the Halifax District. Suppose that \$1650 is the amount required, the tax at 14 1/2 per cent. would be as follows:—

Circuit.	Class.	New Plan.	Old Plan.
Hal. North.	1st	\$275.00	\$315.70
South	2d	195.75	154.16
Hamilton	3d	139.50	139.50
Windsor	6th	94.25	96.50
Horton	"	94.25	114.80
St. George's	7th	72.50	60.66
Falmouth	5th	128.75	62.30
Newport	"	72.50	62.32
Avondale	"	72.50	61.50
Kempt	"	72.50	112.34
Matland	"	72.50	78.72
Mid. Harbor	"	72.50	78.72
Mid. Musq.	"	72.50	65.60
Shubenacadie	"	72.50	74.62
Dartmouth	8th	43.50	31.16
Kenzieville	"	43.50	28.08
Sambro	"	43.50	37.40
Somerset	"	43.50	28.52
Bailey's Bay	"	43.50	53.30

\$1650.25 \$1646.08

There would be but a single difficulty in this District for the Committee to adjust, namely, the case of Halifax South, which by its receipts should raise \$195.75 as compared with \$154.16 under the present plan. It would be for the Com. to say whether it would be ranked in the 4th rather than the 3rd Class when its tax would be \$139.50, or within a fraction of present rate, or whether it should be placed in the 3rd Class, and if the latter, it might be fixed for five years, permitting the committee only to change the class of any Circuits which might seem to deserve a higher or demand a lower one. The per centage would of course vary each year to meet the claims, but the incomes of the different classes would be fixed, thus avoiding all tendency toward showing a reduction of interest. At the end of five years a new adjustment could be made.

The probability is that for five years the per centage would not be increased, as new circuits would be coming in and those now reckoned would keep ascending in the rate of classification. This plan admits of reducing or increasing the tax on any Circuit without interfering with the general principle, one of the most important matters to be considered. It is again repeat, very simple, equitable and the nearest possible approach to the rate by which Circuits have been taxed, while avoiding all excesses of the present system.

CANNING AND BERWICK CIRCUITS.

We are so confident of its merits, that we unhesitatingly present the scheme for thorough consideration. A. W. N.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARIES.

The period has again arrived for the celebration of those festive services in our churches, called "missionary meetings." We are glad for their recurrence, even though they impose upon us much additional labour. Ministers are always in better trim for their specific work, after a series of successful missionary meetings.

They are the most unselfish meetings held in the churches. At Canning, on Tuesday the 16th, the first meeting, if not the best was held. Foreign missions were nobly advocated by the Rev. J. Hogg (Presbyterian) and the Rev. J. Prince of Berwick. The former spoke, as he always does with great life, energy and wisdom. The latter in his quiet unobtrusive manner, gave utterance to many beautiful thoughts, and touching anecdotes, delivered in language chaste and dignified, not only impressive, but riveting the earnest attention of the audience. The congregation was larger than usual, some having been attracted by the Tea meeting in behalf of the cadets of temperance, which was held on the same evening, an earlier hour, in company with Bro. Prince, the writer, after a delightful drive of twenty miles, through a very interesting portion of the valley of Cornwallis, found himself snugly ensconced in the beautiful residence of Bro. E. Foster, whose inmates are so agreeable, and intelligent as to make a visitor forget home, and resolve upon another visit as soon as possible. In the evening, though not the most favourable, a goodly number gathered together in the commodious church to enjoy the missionary meeting. Nor were they disappointed. The singing pleased the lovers of music, while the speeches evidently gratified and profited all. Bro. Tweedy of Aylesford led off in good style, followed by a few thrilling remarks by Bro. F. H. W. Peckles. The meeting was then addressed, in his usual earnest and practical manner, by the Rev. Wm. Sommerville. As might have been expected the errors and incon-

tenancies of Christians were unsparingly denounced. His well chosen words, and appropriate illustrations, were evidently the result of mature thought, and adapted to do good to the hearers. He was followed by Bro. Hanna of Annapolis, who made a most excellent speech. There was time for but a few remarks from G. O. H., who never disturbs a meeting by a lengthy speech.

The proceeds were in advance of last year. The next meeting was at Harborville, on the shore, a small place, but a large meeting. Not only did the few Methodists gather there but the Baptists also, who evidently had the majority. One of their number filled the chair, and very pleasantly manifested his good will toward the missionary enterprise. It was an enthusiastic meeting. The speeches were remarkably pertinent and joyous, which with the singing of the children and others rendered it quite a jubilant occasion. A large advance on last year's subscriptions was realized. Your readers will not be surprised that the meeting was largely attended, when informed there were twelve persons from one household. That family left none at home, nor even the baby.

Grafton, on Friday evening was the next appointment. But 'ere the approach of night, we strolled ourselves of the privilege of a carriage ride, to Wolfville, to witness the "Fruit Growers Exhibition," and the Wesleyan Bazaar. After regaling eyes, ears and mouth, we rapidly found our way back to Berwick, and thence to Grafton, just in time for the meeting, which was very small owing to the rain and wind. It was however a very successful animated meeting. The subscriptions were larger than at any meeting in proportion to the number present. None were sorry that they came through the rain. It was good to be there. The writer especially rejoices in the progress of Methodism in those places mentioned in this communication, when he contrasts the condition of our cause at present with its state when he labored on some portions of the field twenty-one years ago. G. O. H.

PORT LATOURE.

Our little Circuit quietly pursues its course. There seems to be nothing to disturb its serenity but the winds and the waves. These, however, are a constant source of terror to all our people, and well they may be, as they often prove so destructive of property and life. The gale of the 12th which did so much damage in Halifax, swept with fearful violence all along this coast, and was felt very severely here. Fortunately He who controls the wrathful elements did not suffer them long to rage. Our oldest inhabitants say they never knew the wind to blow more heavily. Trees, barns and houses were levelled in all directions, whilst the shore was strewn with boats and vessels.

When the gale came up the fishermen made for the shore as quickly as possible, but one boat with three men did not return that night, and all hopes of ever seeing them again were given up. There was great lamentation, you may be sure, among the parents, wives, brothers and sisters of the missing ones, and a gloom was cast over the entire neighborhood. Thank God, they were quite safe, however. Not being able to make their own harbor, they were beached the gale, beached their boat on Cape Sable Island, and reached the shore in safety.

It seemed almost as though the dead had come to life when they reached their homes on Friday afternoon. There had been great loss of property and life upon the sea. A Yarmouth vessel sank off Cape Island, near where the "Hungarian" was wrecked, and all hands were lost. The men were seen for some time clinging to the masts and rigging, but the ruthless waves soon swept them away. A wrecked barque was towed into Shelburne a day or two after the gale, without a soul on board, and each succeeding day brings us additional intelligence of disaster and death.

All these things are calculated to teach the most important lessons. May God help us to learn them! Many among us are "without God, and having no hope in the world," but we are pointing them to the Saviour, and praying and looking for many conversions during the year. Our *Terraviva* is progressing. We gave a couple of "Readings" this week on its behalf, which resulted in nearly \$19. We intend to have a house that shall be a credit to the Connexion. Yours very truly, R. B. Mack. Oct. 20th, 1871.

REPORTS FROM HOME MISSION CIRCUITS.

From Rev. G. B. Giles, *Dyhy Neck*, we have the following:— We have many things in the summer months detrimental to spiritual prosperity. Our men are engaged in fishing, and week evening services seem to be impracticable. We have had our class meetings on the Sabbath to give all an opportunity of attending. Since the good work which God blessed us with in the spring, we have had many drawbacks, 3 of our principal families have removed to other Circuits and the States. Since District Meetings we have lost 17 members by removals. This is discouraging, but thank God they were converted before they left. And as scores are still left who are not converted, our daily prayer is that they may be saved. Far from being satisfied with the success and increase of last year, we want every eye, every soul to feel the love that fills our hearts. O! for a richer baptism of fire. Our congregations are rich with religious interest seems increasing. Our class meetings are special seasons of good and union. Last week I visited Brier Island. In order to reach this place we travelled 12 miles through Long Island, where we have no society or preaching place. The inhabitants of this Island are nearly 1200. Those on Brier Island nearly 800. The only preaching there 2000 people have, is what I give them once a month. And this is all the service they expect this winter. Our congregations last week were very large, many were obliged to leave, the Church not being large enough to hold all who flocked to hear the word of life. Here the fields are already white unto the har-

vest, waiting for the sickle to be thrust in. O! that the Lord of the harvest would send some one to labour on this field!

The following is from Rev. Geo. M. Barratt, Hantsport: In accordance with a rule of last Conference, I send you the following short but true statement of the religious and financial condition of this mission. Our congregations continue to grow, and often a blessed religious feeling is manifested in our midst. Since the last Conference we have experienced some refreshing seasons, both in our preaching and class and prayer meetings. One of our Sabbath Schools is enjoying a good measure of prosperity at present.

Our financial prospects are quite encouraging also. During the last two years our friends at Hantsport have paid off more than half the debt against their Church. A goodly number of the pews have been either sold or rented; and they are adopting means to improve the Church. Neither do they forget their minister, for last year their contributions to his support were some 50 per cent. in advance of all previous years. I feel thankful that our friends in Falmouth are greatly reducing their Church debt also; and matters there are assuming a more cheering aspect. Our Home Missionary Meeting there was quite a success.

Our good sisters in Hantsport have during the last two years, by their Sewing Circle, 2 Bazaars and Tea Meeting, and the aid of other friends, raised some \$230 to aid in better furnishing the Minister's residence, improving the Church, sitting up a vestry, &c. But we want more heartfelt religion in our midst—more of the soul converting and quickening power of the Holy Ghost in our meetings! O! for a shower of heavenly influences!

Bro. A. F. Weldon writes:— The Review of the past quarter affords some ground to hope that its labor has not been wholly in vain in the Lord. The Congregations have been good and marked serenity has pervaded the minds of the hearers. In endeavoring to further the work of God by visiting from house to house, I have ever been favored with a kind reception which has rendered the work a pleasing task. Endeavors to promote the class and prayer meetings have not been wholly fruitless, although a stronger attachment to these means of grace is yet much needed in parts of the Circuit, and some at least I believe are praying with increasing earnestness for the revival of God's work.

The Home Missionary Meetings were attended with success. The amount raised will be considerably in advance of the past. The visit of the Rev. Mr. Currie was most gratifying to the Circuit, and his excellent speeches on behalf of the cause were listened to with great attention and delight. Rev. C. W. Dockrill, Masquodoboit Circuit writes:— During the past Quarter the usual Sabbath and week-night services have been held upon this Circuit. Owing to ill health I have not been able to attend pastoral visitation as I ought and would otherwise have done. But I have been very weak and often unfit for duty. I have filled my appointments, but those of one Sabbath, preaching often in much weakness, and requiring the rest of the week to rally my strength. But though nearly as strong as before now, I am feeling nearly as strong as before now. Last Sabbath week I had to walk seven miles to my appointment, and always in going to this place I am very much exposed, the road is so bad, and to this I attribute my illness. Our services are largely attended, and we are not without tokens of good. One person was received during the quarter on trial for membership. Our Sabbath schools are maintaining their usual efficiency. Our people are looking for and expecting the richer baptism from on high.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

These are the topics suggested by the Evangelical Alliance as suitable for exhortation and prayer on the successive days appointed for united prayer, during the week beginning the 7th January 1872:— Sunday January 7.—SERMONS: Subject: The faith once delivered to the saints, a universal and everlasting bond of union in the Christian Church. The duty of its defence and extension binding on all believers. Monday Jan. 8.—THANKSGIVING: God's "unspeakable gift"; for mercies personal and relative; for national mercies; for maintenance and restoration of peace, and for preservation from famine and other national calamities; for mercies to the Christian Church; for the progress of Christ's Kingdom and the usefulness of the Christian Ministry. Tuesday Jan. 9.—HUMILIATION: For personal and national sins, weakness of faith, disobedience and worldliness in the Church, acknowledgements of Divine judgments, confession of unfaithfulness, and prayer for the revival of religion as in past times. Wednesday Jan. 10.—PRAYER (important): For families; for the sons and daughters of Christian parents at home and in other lands; also for those at school, in colleges and universities; and for all entering upon commercial or professional duties; for the increase of spiritual life in those who profess Christ; for the conversion of the unconverted; and for the sanctifying of affliction both to parents and children. Thursday Jan. 11.—PRAYER (intercessory): For kings and all in authority; for nations especially those recently visited with the calamities of war; for the prevalence of peace in the councils of statesmen; for righteousness, harmony, and goodwill among all classes; for the spread of sound knowledge, and for God's blessing upon special efforts to resist the progress of infidelity, superstition, intemperance, and other kinds of immorality. Friday Jan. 12.—PRAYER (intercessory): For the Christian Church; for bishops, presbyters, pastors, and missionaries; for translators of the Holy Scriptures into various tongues; for office bearers, and for committees, societies, and authors engaged in Christian work. Saturday Jan. 13.—PRAYER: For a larger outpouring of the Holy Spirit; for the increase of Christian love and holy zeal, and the union of believers in prayer and effort of God's glory. Sunday Jan. 14.—SERMONS: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." (Mat. vi. 10.)

ZION CHURCH.—The investigation into the cause of the fire by which Zion Church was destroyed closed yesterday at noon, without throwing any light upon the subject. The parties who were first on the scene all expressed themselves clearly that it originated on the platform at the north east corner, but by what means the fire was started was enveloped in mystery.—*Mor. News*.

General Intelligence.

SERIOUS ROBBERIES have been committed of late in connection with the Post Office. Money letters have been stolen and other letters interfered with whose bulk might indicate they contained money. At last the thief emboldened by long impunity stole a package of money sent from Chatham, N. B., to the Branch of the Bank of Montreal in this city. Mr. Dewe was sent from Ottawa to look after Post Office matters in Nova Scotia, and to search into these robberies. Very careful investigation led him to the conviction that the thieving was perpetrated in Halifax, and that a Mr. Campbell, one of the clerks in the Department, was the guilty party. Mr. C. was in receipt of \$900 a year, but lived in a style that would require a good deal more than that. He coveted his thefts so cleverly that no one suspected him till Mr. Dewe investigated the matter, and even then no positive evidence could be produced. Accordingly Mr. D. promised him that if he would make confession and restitution to the extent of his power he would not be prosecuted by the Government. Campbell then confessed. He had taken the Montreal Bank money and others, he then assigned his property to the P. O. Department. He was about to leave for the United States, but was arrested at the request of Mr. Jones, of the Bank of Montreal. It seems that Campbell confessed his thefts to a Policeman who was in charge of his premises, and this evidence can be used against him in a criminal prosecution. We are glad that the thief has been detected. It is of the utmost importance that the Post Office should be made absolutely safe. This can and should be done. Guilty ones should be duly punished, and men of doubtful integrity should be got rid of.—*Pres. Wit.*

THE BAY STEAMERS.—Neither the *Empress* nor the *City of St. John* will discontinue their trips on the Bay of Fundy on the 11th November as was anticipated after the report and recommendation of the Ottawa Board of Inspectors. Since the report was made, correspondence between the owners and the Department has taken place, and as might be expected, the latter has shown a disposition to act favorably to the interests of both owners and the travelling public as possible. The contract of the *Empress* will be extended to the pleasure of the Department, and in view of the fact that her owners are out of view of the purchase of a more suitable winter boat which they will put on as soon as obtained. After the 11th November the *City of St. John* will run under a coast wise certificate over her present route from the border ports to the head of the Bay. The fact that Messrs. Small & Hatheway had taken steps to obtain a first-class side-wheel steamer in England for the Bay service, before the action of the Department was made known, shows that they were, themselves, alive to the necessity of providing a staunch and able boat to take the *Empress* place in winter. Those who have been caught in the middle of the Bay in a snow storm can fully appreciate the safety indicated by the late action of the Commissioners.—*St. John Telegraph*.

Mr. W. D. Baucker has brought from Chicago a curious memorial of the great fire. Among the ruins of the Western News Company's establishments, where an immense stock of periodicals and books was reduced to ashes, there was found a single leaf of a quarto Bible, charred around the edges. It contained the first chapter of the lamentations of Jeremiah, which opens with the following words: "How doth the city sit solitary that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations and princess among the provinces; how is she become tributary! She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks; among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her." And this was the only fragment of literature saved from the News Company's great depot.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—The session of the Grand Division was brought to a close on Thursday evening. The quarterly session will be held at Middle Sackville in January, at Pictou in April, and Lockport in October. The Grand Division voted in favor of an independent National division for the British Provinces. The following are the officers for the ensuing year: G. W. P. — Rev. G. O. Huels, Cornwallis; G. W. P. — Edward J. St. John, G. S. — Patrick Moughan, Halifax; T. H. A. Taylor, Halifax; G. Chap. — Mr. Dr. Camp, Wolfville; G. C. — Thomas Hutchings, Halifax; O. S. — Rupert Fulton, Sackville.

A new swindle, just introduced by American sharpers, is mentioned by the *Brantford Expositor*, as likely to have a good run for a time. A good looking stranger calls at a private residence, and enquires if the family have a sewing machine. If answered in the affirmative, and the style of the machine is mentioned, the visitor mentions that he is agent of the manufacturer, and has been sent to see that their machines are working satisfactorily. The lady recollects that her machine does not work properly, and mentions the fact to the "agent," who proceeds to make repairs. Presently he starts up, saying, "I have broken some piece of your machine, which I shall be obliged to send to the manufacturer. It will come back as good as new, so you will gain in the end." The lady assents, the machine goes to the manufacturer, the "agent" disappears, but never reappears.—*City N.*

The Fenian prisoners captured by the American troops during the late raid, have been set at liberty, on the ground that they had not committed any overt act to warrant their arrest upon American soil, and that their arrest on British soil, by American troops was illegal. It is only what might have been expected.—*City N.*

Counterfeiters of the New Canadian fifty cent coin are in circulation in St. John. They can only be detected by their light weight, and imperfect lettering. The Academy Bazaar at Sackville, on Tuesday, was a highly successful affair. The large gymnasium connected with the Female Academy was devoted to fancy games and refreshments, which were all tastefully displayed; and an excellent supper was served in the spacious dining-hall. The grounds were illumined by a brilliant pyrotechnic display in the evening. The Bazaar was continued on Wednesday.—*Am. Gaze. tea.*

Mr. Livingstone has retired from the *St. John Telegraph and Journal* on account of ill health. This very much