

Death of the Oldest Methodist Preacher in the World.

A late number of the N. Y. Christian Advocate contains the following:—Rev. GEORGE HIGHFIELD, of the British Wesleyan Conference, the oldest Methodist preacher in the world, closed his lengthened pilgrimage near Liverpool, on the 9th of Dec. He was called into the ministry by Mr Wesley in 1785, and continued to travel until 1825, when the state of his health compelled him to become a supernumerary; but he still laboured in the pulpit and on pastoral work until his strength entirely failed. During the last four years infirmities grew rapidly upon him; his memory failed so that secular things were nearly obliterated from it, but he could always recall portions of Scripture and hymns which had long been treasured there. The forenoon of the day before he died, he spent alone, and was unusually happy. He was ninety-one years old, and had been in the ministry sixty-seven years."

Methodism in Baltimore.

A correspondent of the St. Louis C. Advocate gives the following statistics of Baltimore Methodism:—The city of Baltimore contains a population of 175,000 souls—50,000 of these wait constantly on the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church—14,000 are communicants, attendants upon class meeting, for this is essential to membership here. To meet the wants of this immense Methodist community, they have erected thirty-six churches, and have stationed, this year, thirty-four travelling preachers; these are assisted by fifty-seven local preachers, who have their appointments regularly assigned them, and are required to do regular duty upon the Sabbath day. By these preachers there are preached every Sabbath eighty-four sermons. Thus, you see, nearly one-third of the entire population of this city look to the Methodist Church for that religious training and correct moral discipline which is essential to their future and eternal happiness.

An interesting ceremony was witnessed on the morning of Easter-Sunday, in the French Protestant Church, of London, St. Martin's-le-Grand—the public recantation of a French Roman Catholic Priest, of the errors, heresies, corruptions, and superstitions of the Church of Rome, and admission into the French Protestant Church.

The Gazette du Midi states that the ex-minister of the Protestant Church, the Rev. Alfred Dayman, of the University of Oxford, has been ordained a Roman Catholic Priest, by the Bishop of Marseilles, and preached in French on Easter-Sunday, at the Church of Notre-Dame-du-Mont, Marseilles.

At a sale of rare editions of the Bible and New Testament, which took place at Edinburgh, a copy of the New Testament entitled "Tyndale's Second Genuine Edition," was knocked down at £116.

Mr. Forbes Stephenson, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, recently deceased, has bequeathed £16,000 to that Corporation, for the promotion of historical research, and antiquarian investigation.

A new and revised edition of the writings of Martin Luther, the German Reformer, is being prepared under the direction of the Rev. O. Gerlach, a distinguished divine at Berlin.

A meeting has been recently held in the Town Hall, Musselburgh, to consider the propriety of erecting a monument to the late Dr. Moir, the "Delta" of Blackwood, in his native place.

The Prussian Ministry instigated by Jesuitical influence, have suppressed the first Free Catholic Congregation of Germany at Breslau, and are proceeding against others.

The Oxford Chronicle states that the Rev. H. J. Coleridge, M. A., Fellow of Oriel College, has signified his intention of joining the Romish Church.

Some remarkable conversions have recently taken place among the French attendants on the Wesleyan ministry, at St. Pierre-les-Calais.

A society has been lately formed at Paris for inquiring into the history and records of French Protestantism.

In the last Annual Report of the French Canadian Missionary Society, it is stated that more than four hundred persons had been delivered from the thralldom of Rome, and brought under the influence of the Word of God, by means of that Society. And of these some eighty or more are regarded as savingly converted.

On Sunday April 25, twenty-four persons renounced the errors of Popery in the Church of St. Paul, Bermondsey, London.

European Intelligence.

BY THE R. M. STEAMER.

The R. M. Steamer Canada arrived at this port on Tuesday night last. The following are the principal items of news:—

GREAT BRITAIN.—The Cotton market maintains former prices. A slight decline in wheat. Indian Corn as last quoted.

The government proposes a new Constitution for New Zealand, but intends at present to make no alteration in Canadian Clergy reserves.—The laws respecting Magnooth College remain.—The Court of Exchequer has decided against Alderman Solomons. None but Christians are to be allowed in the House of Commons. In this case a writ of Error is being prosecuted.

In the House of Commons, a measure, proposing to abolish religious tests in the Scotch Universities, was negatived by a majority of fifteen.

The Halifax and Quebec Railroad was also the subject of some conversation. Secretary Pakington stated, that nothing had taken place between the late Government and the parties who were anxious for the construction of the line that could be construed into a qualified assent. Earl Grey went no further than to say that the Government would be no parties to any such guarantee as that sought for, unless they were satisfied with the line. The subject, however, was now under the notice of Government.

Government declines to take possession of the newly discovered Guano Islands of Lobos. The refusal excites a great deal of irritation among shippers and agriculturists.—The Crystal Palace was to be pulled down on the 1st inst., the anniversary of its opening.—British ship of war, Herald was fitting out for an exploring expedition to the South Seas.—A line of Electric Telegraph is almost completed between Galway and Dublin, to connect with the submarine line to England.—A copper mine of ore has been discovered somewhere on the coast of Africa. Parties in Liverpool are fitting out an expedition to work it.—The M. S. journals, and papers of the late Thomas Moore, are in preparation for publication, and will be edited by Lord John Russell.

Great excitement was produced at the Royal Military College, Chelsea, in consequence of the discovery on Friday (April 23.) that the eagle which was captured by the 87th Fusiliers from the French at the battle of Barrosa, was stolen from the chapel of that establishment. The offender had not been discovered.

The ship Brilliant had arrived in the Downs from Australia with two and a half tons of gold, valued at £217,000. She reports that the ship Statesman was to sail in February with 80,000 ounces of gold. Twenty-one vessels with emigrants from the adjacent colonies were entering the harbour of Port Philip when the Brilliant sailed.

A gentleman in Dublin has received a letter from his brother-in-law, an assistant surgeon in the British Navy, written from Hobart Town, bearing date the 18th of last January, which states that Meagher had escaped, and that the government officials had searched his house in vain. He had fled beyond capture and pursuit.

INDIA.—The Burmese expedition, under General Godwin, had set sail, and was expected to arrive at Moulmain on the 4th of April. There was already a considerable naval force there, and Admiral Arsto was on his way with a vessel of war and another steam-boat. The 38th Bengal N. I. had refused to embark for Burmah. The 5th Madras L. I. had been substituted.

A second expedition of 2,500 men under Sir C. Campbell marched against the mountain Crubes to the north of Peshawar, on the 11th of March. On the 20th they repulsed an attack upon them by the enemy after a conflict of three hours. Sir Collin had demanded additional forces.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Skirmishes were continually occurring between the troops and the Caffres. The British are represented as having captured immense droves of cattle and killed hundreds of the enemy. We should be glad to hear of an end to the war.

FRANCE.—It is stated that a camp of exercise of 60,000 men is to be formed at Campaigne, to be commanded by the President in person.—The customs returns for the last quarter show favourably for the productiveness of every branch of industry.—The government had received

despatches from Brazil, stating that the French troops in that quarter had embarked for France.—The arrangements for establishing a crystal palace in Paris, are going on with alacrity. Extensive preparations are also being made for a grand fete on the 10th of May.—The prefects of police are ordered not to send any more military exiles to Belgium, but to send them to England or Spain.—The French budget shows a deficiency of 400,000 francs.

SPAIN.—By a royal decree, all sentences of fine or imprisonment for offences against the press laws are annulled, and all pending prosecutions ordered to be abandoned. This act of the sovereign has given general satisfaction.

GERMANY.—The second son of the deceased Duke of Baden had taken on himself the Government in consequence of the sickness and idiocy of his elder brother.—The Cologne Gazette publishes a decree that the members of the Upper Chamber are henceforth to be nominees of the Crown.

BERLIN, April 25.—The English embassy at this court is about to undergo a greater change than has taken place here for years. All the secretaries of legation, Messrs. Howard, Logther and Manley, who had been at Berlin for many years, are about to leave their posts, and to occupy the same position in other courts.

ITALY.—Pinnelli, President of the Piedmontese Chamber of Deputies, died on the 28th of April.—The Piedmontese Chambers have rejected the terms offered by the Pope, as to the ultimatum on which he would again receive Piedmont into his favour. Consequently the quarrel widens.—A powder magazine blew up at Turin on the 26th, and killed 200 persons.—The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia is to visit the Pope on the 7th of May.—Letters from Rome mention that the Italian question is again to become of interest, in consequence of complications that have arisen between France and the Pope.

SWITZERLAND.—The Executive Council of Berne have invoked the Grand Council of the Canton to meet on the 10th inst., for the discussion of reformatory measures, and to negotiate with the other states of the republic for a reduction of the army.

DOMESTIC.

A correspondent of the Eastern Chronicle, writing from Strait of Canso, May 3, says that about fifty sail of vessels had arrived there bound to the Northward, which were unable to get further on account of the ice. Several of those were American, Nova Scotian and New Brunswick fishermen, bound to Magdalen Islands and Bay St. George.

The Temperance Demonstration on Tuesday last came off well, and was highly creditable to Oriental Division. The day being fine the procession was large and respectable. The meeting in the evening, which was one of the largest we have seen in this place for some years, was ably addressed by the Rev. Mr. Herdman, and J. W. Dawson, Esq.—Eastern Chronicle.

Messrs. Longworth, Nelson, and others of Charlottetown, passengers from England by the brig Fulton, left their vessel in the Strait of Canso, and arrived here this morning. They bring intelligence that the bark Aurora, from Boston for this port, was forced ashore by the ice, near Pompket harbour; and the brig Manilla, O'Brien, from Halifax for Quebec, with West India produce, was cut through and sunk at Ship Harbour. Serious fears were entertained that all the vessels in the straits would be more or less injured. The steamer Rose has not yet made her appearance, and the Gulf appears to be filled, as far as the eye can reach, with immense bodies of ice.—lb.

Launched on Tuesday last, at River John, the brigantine "John Dufus," 232 tons, built and owned by Mr. James Kitchen, and yesterday, at the same place, the brig "Australian," 272 tons, built and owned by Mr. John Mockler—both very fine and faithfully built vessels.—lb.

The ship Cleone, late of Yarmouth, has been purchased by E. Maxwell, of New Bedford, as a whaler, for \$15,200.

COLONIAL.

New Brunswick.

The Hon. Mr. Chandler, Delegate from this Province on business connected with the Railroad, arrived at Liverpool on the 13th of April, in the steam ship Niagara, from Halifax. Parliament at that time being adjourned on account of the Easter holidays, and his coadjutor, Mr. Hincks, being absent in Ireland on a visit to his friends, Mr. Chandler immediately proceeded to join Mr. Hincks in Ireland, whence it is stated

they would proceed to London in company, on the re-assembling of Parliament.—St. John, N. E. Observer, 4th.

NEW MAYOR.—At a special meeting of the Common Council this morning, in accordance with the Charter, William O. Smith, Esq., Alderman of Queen's Ward, was elected by a majority of the Board to be Mayor of this City for the ensuing year. We understand that the Common Council, previous to the election of Mayor, passed a Resolution in favour of reducing the salary attached to the office from £400 to £300 per annum.—lb.

The City Assessors are now about making up the assessments for the coming year, and it is stated that the amount required to be raised will be about fifty per cent more than in 1851! May a prosperous summer business cheer the citizens to meet with alacrity this large accession to the sums annually required of them in the shape of taxes.—lb.

The steamer Creole, having during the winter been put in thorough order, and received new boilers, left yesterday for Boston, and is intended to run regularly between the two ports during the season, touching at Eastport and Portland. Mr. True, her former attentive and obliging Clerk, is again at his post. Mr. George Thomas is the agent in this City.—lb.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock last night, a fire broke out in the valuable Steam Mills in Charlottetown, belonging to the Hon. John Robertson, which were entirely consumed, together with a large quantity of lumber and several out-buildings. We learn that the Mills were insured. The loss, however, must be heavy, especially at this season of the year.—We sincerely regret to state that Charles Johnston, Esq., High Sheriff of this City and County, unfortunately got his leg broke on this occasion, by catching it in some deals.—Nbr. Gth.

Mr. Till, proprietor of the New Brunswicker, is spoken of as a candidate for Queen's Ward, in place of Alderman Smith.

Colonel Freeman Murray, of the 72nd Regt, the Courier says, will administer the government of N. B., during the absence of Sir Edmund Head.

The Rev. James Porter, of Sheffield, N. B., has been appointed Provincial Superintendent of Schools for the Province of New Brunswick.

Five square rigged vessels from Europe, and a schooner from Quebec, says the Miramichi Gleaner, arrived at that port on the 8th inst.

Canada.

The Ship Albion, Captain Barclay, arrived at Quebec on the 15th of April, being earlier in the season than any arrival at that port for the past 100 years.

The Toronto Globe, under the head of "Crime in this City," says:—"the number of offenders for the year 1851, showed a total of 1565. Males 1061. Females 504. Of these there were, by countries, Irish—609 males, 352 females. English—195 males, and 58 females. Scots—108 males and 18 females."

An order in Council has been issued, on the application of the Montreal Harbour Commissioners, to the effect that on the opening of the navigation, a tonnage duty of sixpence currency, per ton register, of all vessels drawing ten feet water or upwards and passing through lake St. Peter, be imposed, on each time of passing.

The Quebec Morning Chronicle, of the 29th of April, received this morning, has the following paragraphs respecting the railway prospects:—

"The impression is gaining ground that Mr. Hincks will not be able to obtain the contemplated aid for a railway to Halifax, far less for a line to Hamilton.

"Mr. Hincks was to leave England on the 8th May."

Prince Edward Island.

A public meeting, presided over by the Lieut. Governor, was held in Charlottetown, 4th inst., for the purpose of taking into consideration certain communications of a highly important character, relative to the establishment of a Telegraph Line connecting Newfoundland with the American Continent. A letter received from Mr. Gisborne announces his preference of the East Point of the Island instead of Cape North, for extending the sub-marine cable, and enquiring whether the local government would feel inclined to afford the company aid, pecuniary or otherwise, after the work is accomplished. The Government had previously given a favourable answer, and the proceedings of the meeting confirmed it. A Horticultural Society was formed at Charlottetown, 23rd ult., T. A. Haviland, Esq., President.