Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1873

In almost all civilized lands a severe contest is going on between capital and labour—between employers and employes. It is the great contest of the day. No man can foretell its issue. But it would seem that the social future of the nations will in some respects be determined by the character of that issue. Believing this, one cannot but hope and pray that the problem involved may be solved in the best possible manner.

The outlook, however, we regret to say, is far from being a bright and promising one. In England especially, where the conflict has raged perhaps most violently, the prospect is cloudy and threatening. In many branches of employment British artisans have secured a shortening of the hours of labour and an increase of the rate of remuneration. But there is reason to believe that as a general thing this increase of leisure and wages has brought no increase of comfort to the British workman's family, and anything but benefit to himself. The ability to earn more money is not, at least on any large scale, by increased industry, thrift and forethought, turned to good account in making provision for the future. Nor is the time saved from the factory, the workshop, and the mine, generally made available for purposes of mental improvement or wholesome recreation. The same painful tale comes from all parts of the land—that the workman with more time and money on his hand, tarries longer and longer in the gin-shop and the beer-house—and that the tide of drunkenness is rising higher and higher. The Imperial Revenue returns tell a perfectly dreadful story in relation to this matter—reading which good men stand aghast with terror. These returns shew that within the last four years the revenue from strong drink in Britain has increased at the rate of 25 per cent., and that for the fiscal year 1872–3 it will amount to more than £25,000,000 sterling. The revelation is truly frightful to a thoughtful mind

There is no immediate prospect of the staying of this awful deluge. For aught that appears to the contrary, the flood will rise higher and spread wider, and work destruction upon a scale appalling to contemplate. Britain will have to arouse itself in earnest presently, and all good men in it will have to join hands to withstand the ravages of the destroyer. It is distressing beyond measure and disheartening to learn that in such a day as this, and in such a country as England—undoubtedly the most Christian land upon earth—there should be such a terrible visitation of drunkenness among the class into whose hands for good or for ill more and more power is destined to pass. What a work of evangelization remains to be accomplished in all the so-called Christian nations!

It is a question of great practical importance to Methodism everywhere how best to develope the working power of the Church. This question is commanding much attention in England. It is also exciting earnest enquiry in the United States. It ought to be seriously pondered on every Circuit within the bounds of the Conference of Eastern British America. The greatest pains ought to be taken to indoctrinate our people in the belief that every member has a divine vocation to soul-saving work; and the most earnest efforts ought to be made to organize the Church forces, and maintain them in a high state of efficiency for the common cause. This has not been done, is not being done, as it should be. See how scanty a supply of ministerial candidates is forth coming from large districts under our cultivation. Note the feebleness of our local preachers staff. Observe with what difficulty our classes are manned with leaders. Mark the scarcity of earnest, devoted, persevering Sabbath School teachers. Behold how comparatively small is the number of men among us fervent, effectual, mighty in prayer in our social means of grace. What is the meaning of it all? With so much work to be done; with so many that ought to be engaged in it; with so loud a call to action from the Divine Master, why are there so few willing to enter the vineyard? Were this state of things early and completely rectified what grand results would be speedily attained.

Methodism was once distinguished for the heartiness and power of its congregational singing. It ought always and everywhere to be thus distinguished. Is it thus distinguished in Eastern British America? We fear not. In how many of our large congregations is there kept up any semblance of congregational singing? In how many smaller ones does it prevail?

Why cannot our people on this side the Atlantic, like their brethren of the old time on the other, publicly praise God in holy song in blended and glowing accents as with the voice of many waters? What is the difficulty? How is it to be overcome? Who will lead a healthful revolution in this matter, that in its issue will bring back to us something like the glorious congregational singing of Methodism's early days?

J. R. N.

NUMERICAL INCREASE ESSENTIAL TO THE CHURCH'S PROSPERITY.

To some our title may appear to involve a truism. So perhaps it does, but there are times when even axiomatic truths need to be reiterated, and when the plainest and most self-evident principles will bear ample and elaborate discussion. Calling to mind the facts presented by the numerical returns of our own church during the last few years, and considering the comparative infrequency of general and permanent revivals among us, we are convinced that *such* a time is the present, and that a few thoughts relative to the subject indicated by the heading of this paper will not be deemed inappropriate or superfluous.

What, let us ask, is the church and what the object of its institution? One very proper answer to this question would be, "a company of faithful persons united on scriptural principles, for the purpose of building each other up in faith and holiness, and promoting the interests of God's kingdom on the earth." Its members have either obtained, or else are earnestly seeking conscious forgiveness through faith in a crucified Saviour, holiness of nature through the renewing influences of the Divine Spirit, and a consequent hope of future immortality and blessedness. Now unless a constant succession of persons answering to this description and bearing these credentials is maintained, the church loses its true character, and must eventually become extinct. As in the kingdom of nature so in the ecclesiastical world, a process of depletion is continually going on, and unless this is counteracted by a corresponding process of replenishment, ruinous indeed must be the result. The stately evergreens which adorn our wintry landscapes would soon present a withered and naked appearance, were it not that a new growth of leaves always forms before the old one disappears, and thus perpetual verdure is maintained. Thus is it with the church—one after another of its members is removed by its great blighter, death; and unless the vacancies thus made are filled by those who have been quickened into spiritual life by Divine Grace, very soon we shall have barrenness for beauty and the goodly trees of the Lord, once so full of life and fruitfulness, shall exhibit their gnarled and naked branches to a scoffing and exultant world.

Even supposing this depleting process was not in constant operation, the regular plenishment of the church would still be necessary as a means of spiritual enlivenment and invigoration. The church which is not continually receiving fresh contributions of energy and life in converts saved by its instrumentality, will inevitably experience a decline in spirituality and vital godliness. The pool fed by no streamlet or spring soon becomes foul and stagnant, and the community of Christians which is not perpetually replenished by the living stream of a numerical increase will soon relapse into utter degeneracy and corruption. Ecclesiastical history plainly shows that whenever the church has ceased aggressive operations, the declension of piety in its membership begun, and that just in proportion to the increase of its numbers by genuine conversions, has its spiritual status been elevated. It is by no means difficult to account for this. Every true conversion affords fresh proof of the power of God's grace and the efficacy of Christ's blood, and thus fortifies and encourages our own faith and love. The ardor and zeal always manifested by the newly saved are contagious, and cannot but stimulate the development of these virtues in ourselves. Thus every worthy accession made to the church of God infuses into its ranks a vitalizing and strengthening element, preserves it from corruption and decline and maintains it in perennial fruitfulness and beauty.

Again, we estimate the prosperity of any institution by the efficiency with which it fulfils its appointed design. Now *the acknowledged mission of the Church is to save souls*, and if this be unaccomplished all its organizations and all its instrumentalities become profitless and void—stripped of all meaning, utility and power. What, though beautiful and costly sanctuaries rise around us in imposing array? What, though sermons rich in evangelical sentiment and glowing with the fire of consecrated eloquence, be preached from their pulpits? What, though crowds of eager listeners and apparently devout worshippers throng their portals and fill their pews? If in connection with these evangelistic appliances and these pleasing symptoms, there are no living stones added to the spiritual Temple, no golden sheaves added to the Master's Garner, then we are forced to own that the church, with all its elaborate frame-work and commendable activity, is a stupendous anomaly, a splendid, melancholy failure. What would be thought of the tree that yielded leaves and blossoms in return for the husbandman's care and culture? What would be thought of the factory, with all its machinery complete and all its hands employed, which never produced one serviceable article, one perfect or useful piece of goods? And what shall be thought of the church, with its external organization unimpaired and its aggressive agencies in full operation, which never effects a single genuine conversion, never gains through its efforts a single trophy to the power of saving grace? Surely He who searcheth the reins and hearts must say concerning such a church, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead!"

If then a succession of godly, Christian men is to be maintained upon the earth, if the Church's vitality and purity are to be conserved and perpetuated, above all, if its sublime vocation to raise and renew a fallen world is to be fulfilled, its numerical increase becomes not merely a *desideratum*, but a grand and superlative necessity.

In a future article we may indeavor to point out at least *one* of the instrumentalities whereby this most important result may be secured. S.

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY.

The question has frequently suggested itself; are our Ministers of to-day as successful, taking into account their superior advantages, as the Ministers of former periods, say thirty or fifty years ago? What is meant by successful is, are they the means of raising the people, intellectually, morally and spiritually? In fine do they build up the Church of God, by bringing in those who have not tasted of the Love of God, and endeavouring to make every one so brought in a holy, happy, useful, intellectual *upright* being;—getting back as far as can be in this world, to what was lost in Adam's?

That there are superior advantages today over times gone by, no one will deny, but that the Ministers then were so very successful, perhaps all will not admit. Yet no doubt many will admit that they were the means of gathering a greater number into the Church.

Another question suggests itself. Do our Ministers use all the advantages they have?

I believer the Methodist Church is better adapted to build up professers and keep them from going back into the world than any other Church in existence, but that it holds an equally high position in the matter of helping the Minister in his studies and keeping him in advance of the people intellectually is questionable.

Yet are there not means that may be employed by almost every Minister to make the Church stronger as well as to help himself to be more successful in coping with the many influences that oppose the advancement of the Church of God?

All know that the student after thoroughly studying his lesson can have it better fixed upon his memory, and be better able to use the knowledge so acquired by having it brought into exercise. Now may it not be so with the minister as well as the student? Will not the interchange of thought tend to bring out latent energy? To come to the point. Cannot almost every minister gather around him, others engaged in like occupations as himself, and persons on his circuit who take an interest in the furtherance of the cause of God, and in intellectual pursuits, and at least once a week discuss various subjects, scientific as well as religious, doing so in a social manner? Thus the minister coming in contact with the leading minds of the community, will in a great measure be better able to judge how to use his arguments in the pulpit to the best advantage, so that he need not be beating the air about something that almost every person requires no argument to make them believe or disbelieve. Again, those discussions, in which the minister will not have it all his own way, as in the pulpit, will bring the powers of mind into play, and make them stronger, in short, will build up the *man*.

And not only will the minister be benefitted. The influence of those discussions will be felt in the community. The leading minds mould the community, and those persons will talk outside of what they have been discussing, which will tend to raise the people intellectually and give them a relish for that which tends to develope the man and not the beast.

The minister certainly should keep the one grand object in view, the salvation of sinners and the building up of the Church of God. But if he can raise the people intellectually, he will have something more to operate upon than merely animal nature. The minister will be better able to expound, and the people better prepared to receive the greatest of all intellectual subjects, that theme that the greatest of all intellects cannot compass, and yet which the weakest can rejoice in, the salvation of man through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Having that subject presented in a forcible manner, and received by intellectual beings the success may be greater than it often is, for the religion of Jesus Christ is a reasonable religion, and not received through feeling alone, but through the exercise of sound judgment. The happiness to be derived from that religion can be increased through a reasonable intellectual knowledge of it.

R. T.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

The death of Lady Beaconsfield—The Bishop of Manchester's charge—The Athanasian Creed and its opponents—Dean Stanley's Appointment—Storms and Floods—The past and future—New year's greetings.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—The death of Lady Beaconsfield, better known as Mrs. Disraeli, wife of the Right Honble. Benjamin Disraeli took place a few days ago, and has attracted an unusual degree of public attention and interest. The deceased lady was widely known as having for a long period of years sustained her distinguished husband by her unfailing trust and unshaken confidence in his ability, at times when help and sympathy were sorely needed. In addition to the ample fortune which she possessed, which must have been of immense service to him before fame and success crowned his ardent struggles, his devoted wife cheered him on, and then lovingly and gracefully shared the honors and dignity to which he had attained. It is well known that the great Conservative leader, freely attributes very much of his undoubted success to his noble wife, and again and again has publicly avowed the obligations under which he was laid and the strong and deep affection that subsisted between them. There was a great disparity in their ages, the wife being the senior by many years, and she has now sunk more under the pressure of protracted years, than from any particular malady. Her elevation to the Peerage of the Realm was an act of love on the part of Mr. Disraeli, who when retiring from the leadership of the Commons, and defeated in office was offered the high honor for himself, but firmly declined, and placed the coronet on the head of his faithful and honored wife. This distinction is possessed by only eleven English ladies who are Peeresses in their own right. The public approbation of the act, and the time it was done, was a striking indication of the general esteem in which Lady Beaconsfield was held.

Dr. Fraser, the Bishop of Manchester, is becoming better known as an earnest worker in his Diocese, and is gradually coming to the front as a trusted and recognized leader of the true Protestant section of the English Church. He has revived the practice of delivering a charge to his clergy in the Cathedral church at Manchester. For seventeen years the practice had been discontinued, and on the present occasion, a very large clerical gathering was convened to listen to a lengthened and valuable admonition. The Bishop insists upon immediate reform in matters of discipline among the clergy—the powers and rights of church patrons—the redistribution of benefices—and the powers of the great Ecclesiastical Courts. Free comments were offered upon recent abortive attempts at legislation upon church matters, such as the occasional sermons Bill and the Burials Bill. The Ritualistic excesses which now so extensively prevail were severely denounced as threatening to cleave the church asunder, and savoring of an abject and almost meaningless superstition. A few kind and even complimentary things were said of the great Wesleyan body, as for instance, "that we were as correct in doctrine as they, and superior in discipline." Evident yearnings were expressed for closer union with us, but no way is suggested, and from all that we know of such overtures, they can be met only with quiet respect.

The Established Church will not abate any of its cherished prerogatives even for union with those who might enable them to battle successfully with the common foe; and thus it will go on until the cry for Disestablishment increases in volume and power, and ultimately prevails.

Internal strifes are constantly occurring in the midst of the English Church; and instead of attempting to conceal the trouble, both parties are eager to rush into print and proclaim to all Christendom the unhappiness which subsists in the very heart of the great national establishment. At a recent meeting of the Church Union, the principal speakers indulged in hard words, biting sarcasms, and unsparing hits at Archbishops, Bishops, and all who venture to propose the slightest alteration in the Athanasian Creed or hint at its disuse. In their view the Prayer Book in its present shape, and the venerable Creed, form keystones in the very temple of truth itself, and proclaim unutterable dangers to the sacred temple, and sad woes to the nation, if aught be altered, amended, or dropped.

In spite of all this animadversion, the dignitaries and clergy in large numbers are pressing for some relief to their burdened consciences in the matter of this famous creed, and its condemnatory sentences. From present appearances they will have to wait some time for the realization of their hopes, as there is an unmistakable fear of beginning the work of change and reform, not knowing where it will stop.

Dean Stanley's recent appointment as special preacher at the University of Oxford has been the occasion of another storm, and although his opponents were handsomely beaten at the polls they are sorely troubled at the honor put upon the Dean of Westminster, and some of the very best men the Church possesses regard his promotion to the great University pulpit as a positive misfortune, and a great encouragement to the school of which the brilliant Dean is the foremost man, and which is famous for its unlimited breadth of comprehension and its boundless charity to all creeds or no creeds, so long as they adhere to a National Church, or let it alone.

Dean Goulburn, of Norwich, earnest and truly consecrated to soul-saving work, has felt the recent selection of Dr. Stanley so keenly that he has resigned his own position as a preacher at the University, and refuses to appear in the same pulpit. He has, in an able and temperate letter, informed the public of his step and the reasons which influenced him thereto, and does not spare the Dean or his writings, or the party which has triumphed in his recent appointment.

Again we have to chronicle repeated and most disastrous storms and floods. December leaves a most melancholy record both at home and abroad. Our losses and inconveniences here are trifling in comparison with what has befallen other lands. From France and Italy most painful accounts have reached us, and tell of distressing loss of life, submerged counties, and prodigious sacrifice of valuable property in the midst of a dreary and pinching winter.

This letter closes your correspondent's work for this year of grace; and long before it can appear in your columns, another year with all its untold responsibilities and duties, will have begun, and all its busy industries be in full operation. Thus onward we haste, nor can we stay save to put on grateful and loving record the unfailing goodness, and the almighty love which has crowned another year, and to express an unshaken faith for the untrodden future in Him, who has authorised every one of His own dear children to say, "This God shall be my God for ever and ever, and He will be my guide even unto death."

Accept, dear Mr., for yourself and for all my much esteemed Provincial friends kindliest greetings and best wishes for the coming year.

Yours truly and affectionately,

Dec. 30, 1872. G. B.

Circuit Intelligence.

SACKVILLE, Jan. 10th, 1872.

It would afford my unfeigned pleasure to be able, at the commencement of the year, to record a succession of those events, over which we are assured angels rejoice,—the repentance of sinners and their return to the Shepherd and Bishop of souls. Such events, however, here are of rare occurrence. Some circumstances in relation to the interests of the Circuit, if you consider sufficiently noteworthy you can find a corner for notice of them, in our connexional organ. At our last quarterly meeting of the Circuit, it was determined (though later than recommended by the Conference) to try to introduce the new financial plan. It was thought advisable to get as large a representation of our congregations in Lower and Upper Sackville together, as possible, to lay the plan before them, and urge its adoption; and to secure such a gathering, a social tea meeting was thought of, and by an efficient committee, aided by the ladies, who cheerfully furnished a super-abundance of those things which tempt and satisfy the appetite, this was accomplished. We had, on the evening of New Year's Day, a very pleasant and social gathering; and when the social element had been fostered in this material way, addresses were delivered in explanation and recommendation of the New Plan. Our Circuit Steward, James Dixon, Esq., occupying the chair.

Your correspondent was called away almost as soon as the business part of the meeting commenced, having, for the first time during the present connexional year, a call to the pleasing duty of tying (with the consent of all parties concerned) "One silken knot that binds two loving hearts." Happily for myself, I had served a good apprenticeship, and had considerable practice in such interesting service before coming to the Sackville Circuit or I might be in danger of stumbling over this duty awkwardly from the scanty practice. Our young men are either so cautious and calculating that some of them I fear will be in danger of dying in singularity, or they roam in quest of a help meet for themselves into other pastoral enclosures.

Well, though I was not present to hear the addresses at the social gathering, I learn that they were good and telling; and the new plan is likely to be favorably received, and to some good extent adopted.

During the Week of Prayer, we had some interesting and profitable seasons, and the meetings increased in interest as the week rolled on, and we were led to hope for permanent good.

We have just held our missionary anniversary on behalf of Foreign missions. On Sabbath, the 12th inst., Rev. C. Stewart, D. D., preached a missionary sermon admirably adapted to fan the flame of missionary zeal in those who were privileged to hear it. On the following evening we held our annual missionary meeting—David Allison, Esq., did us the good service of occupying the chair with his well-known ability and usual urbanity. The brethren of the deputation did their work nobly and efficiently, aided by others both lay gentlemen and ministers. It was a meeting excellent in its tone and spirit. The following evening we held our missionary meeting in Upper Sackville, and the few who gathered on that occasion (we regret that there were so few) listened with profound interest and spiritual advantage to the excellent addresses delivered by brother S. T. Teed and John T. Mellish, Esq.. In the review of the various religious and social services here recorded, we are led to thank God and take courage, and wou d hope, there are yet better days in store for this circuit. What we all most need is the fulfilment of the great promise of the Father to be endued with power from on high. G. B.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF SALISBURY AND ELGIN HOME MISSION CIRCUIT ENDING Dec. 31st 1872.—We are happy in being able to report any prosperity on this Circuit. Our congregations, generally, are very good and attentive to the preaching of the Word, yet many we fear are "hearers only." We trust the Lord will visit us with a gracious out pouring of his Holy Spirit, so that the means we are using may be made a blessing to many souls. Three new members have been received since our arrival here and we believe old ones are more in earnest. We find great difficulty in getting and keeping classes in working order, stormy weather and long distances making it almost impossible for anything like regularity.

We endeavour to become acquainted with our people as far as possible by pastoral visitation, believing this to be a means of doing much good.

We had our Dec. Quarterly Meeting on the 26th ult., which was thinly attended in consequence of the weather, however the reports rendered were very cheering, the subscription papers showing a large increase on any previous year.

A very neat and comfortable Church is being built at Little River, where one was much needed, we hope to have it completed and opened shortly.

We find many kind friends here who seem determined to make their Minister comfortable and happy,—they have this winter provided a new sleigh for circuit use, and intend furnishing a new Buffalo Robe and Rug next year, as the present ones have been in the "*full work*" for some years and become old in the service.

GEO. W. FISHER.

Salisbury Jan. 2, 1873.

NEWPORT DONATION VISIT.—On the Evening of Thursday, 16th inst., a large gathering of friends took place at the Methodist Parsonage, Brooklyn, Hants Co., many of whom came from considerable distances, to present to the Rev John McMurray, now in the third year of his incumbency of that circuit, their expressions of good will and esteem. A sumptuous entertainment, provided by the ladies of the Meander congregation, was served, and the remainder of the Evening was occupied very agreeably in social intercourse, varied by vocal and instrumental music and by addresses. The circuit steward, W. Henry Allison Esq., M. P. P. at the close of a neat and appropriate speech, presented the donation of the company, amounting to nearly $100. A suitable acknowledgement was made by the Pastor, expressive of his deep sense of obligation for this supplementary evidence of regard from a people who had been unvarying and abundant in their kindness during each year of his sojourn among them. The meeting was altogether most pleasant and satisfactory, and will prove of advantage beyond its pecuniary results. A minister whose lot is cast among those so kindly considerate of the comfort of himself and family, may well say, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."—*Com.*

SUMMERSIDE, P. E. I., JAN. 8TH, 1873.—*Tea Meeting, &c.*—On New Year's day we had a public tea and sale of fancy articles. The roads were very bad and thus hindered many persons from visiting us who would have come under other circumstances; nevertheless we did well, for we cleared three hundred dollars, which is to be appropriated for the internal improvement of our church, and I may add this was an effort on the part of the ladies here to whom we shall ever be indebted for their energy and perseverance to improve the accommodation of our church, a full description of which you shall have when it is opened. J. CHARLTON BERRIE.

GUYSBOROUGH.—Our cause is reviving at the Cove and at the Gammon Settlement. A new class is formed at the latter, and at the former the class has been revived and increased. J. V. J.

For the Provincial Wesleyan.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES OF BIBLE LESSONS.

For many years past it has been the practice in most Sabbath schools, to have uniform lessons. On each successive Sabbath a portion of scripture, from the Old or New Testament is announced by the Superintendant as the lesson for the next Sabbath. In some places the excellent practice has been followed of holding a Teachers' Bible Class, in which the lesson for the next Sabbath is carefully studied. So great were the advantages of this system of uniform lessons found to be, that it was extended to whole denominations of Christians, and then to Sunday School Unions. It was then suggested to make the scheme of lessons International, and at the Sunday School Convention, held at Indianapolis last year, a series of lessons was drawn up entitled the international series, in the expectation that it would be generally adopted in the United States and Canada. At the Sunday School Convention held last October in Montreal, a committee representing all the Protestant Churches, decided upon adopting these lessons, so that it is presumed that most if not all the Protestant Sabbath Schools on this continent are studying the same lessons Sabbath by Sabbath.

The International Committee, of course, provides no exposition or helps for the teachers. This is left to each denomination of Christians. The reason of this is obvious. Each denomination has its own mode of presenting truth. Many of the denominational papers, in the United States and in this Dominion devote a column or two to the discussion of the lesson for the following Sabbath, whilst nearly all the Sabbath school papers do the same. Amongst all the helps published for the Sabbath school teachers, we have found, however, after careful examination, none superior to the Sabbath School Journal and Berean Leaves, published by Nelson and Philips, New York, under the able Editorship of J. H. Vincent. "There the Superintendents and teachers will find notes, questions, illustrations, blackboard and slate diagrams, directions for conducting Sunday-school concerts, Berean lesson Review, Berean drills in Sacred Geography, &c." The journal will cost about sixty cents a year including postage, and the Berean leaves which should accompany it, for the use of the children, cost about six cents a year. We commend the Journal and Leaves heartily to our Methodist schools. Every teacher should have a copy of the Journal as it will greatly facilitate his labours and render his teaching systematic.

The International series of lessons is designed to extend over a period of seven years, during which time all the more important passages of the Holy Scriptures will have been examined. The whole will then form a system of instruction, which may, and ought to be repeated to the new scholars who enter our schools, and the Journal issued during that time will form a repository of thoughts, expositions, illustrations, &c., just as valuable in succeeding years as it will be in those years during which the series of lessons proceeds. We hope that every school will use the International Series of Lessons, and that every Methodist S. S. Teacher will avail himself of this valuable help, 'The S. S. Journal,' &c.

W. C. BROWN.

Miscellaneous.

ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS ON THE YEAR 1872.

The *Times* says that during the year 1872 peace has not been disturbed in any part of the civilized world, and at home, notwithstanding rapid fluctuations in the value of money and grave economical symptoms, commercial activity has not been seriously checked. The imports and exports have exceeded in value the amounts of all previous years, though the quantities of goods have not increased in the same proportion. The estimates of the public revenue have, during eight months of the financial year, been largely exceeded; and it is already certain that the Budget of 1873 will exhibit a consiberable surplus. The oscillations of the money market have been due to causes over which English capitalists and traders could exercise no control. The numerous strikes which have occurred during the year, although there may be no novelty in their causes or circumstances, have produced general anxiety by the formidable nature of their possible results, and by the extension of the system to classes which had hitherto abstained from combination. The extraordinary rainfall which has now lasted for seven months has been a grave drawback to the general prosperity. The electrical disturbances, indicated by a constant succession of thunderstorms, began towards the latter part of a cold and backward spring; and they have continued to the present time. In the month of June there were heavy floods in many parts of the country, and the harvest was deficient both in quantity and quality. The consequent loss will be greatly aggravated by the unprecedented wetness of the autumn, which has rendered it impossible to sow wheat except in the lighter soils. Between bad weather and labourers' unions, farmers have not enjoyed a cheerful year. On the other hand, the autumn has been healthy. Since the close of the session economical interests have preponderated over political excitement. The occasional elections which have occurred have attracted attention rather to the operation of the new system of secret voting than to their effect on the balance of parties. Some of the results of the legislation of last session are thus far satisfactory. Colonial affairs have contributed but little to the history of the year. One of the most eminent among retired Indian civilians has lately been sent by the Foreign office on a mission to Zanzibar for the purpose of discouraging or suppressing the slave trade in the north-eastern parts of Africa. Two questions of higher importance and greater urgency have taxed to the utmost the diplomatic ability of the Foreign Secretary and the Government. Notwithstanding many drawbacks it is well that a new commercial treaty with France has been negotiated, and that pending disputes with the United States have been settled by the awards of Geneva and Berlin.

The *Daily News* observes that the year has no great legacy of marvel to bequeath to history. It has been almost barren of great events, as happy years in a nation's life must usually be. It will not occupy a prominent place in the annals of the times, nor be greatly marked in the transactions of which year by year the almanacks perpetuate the record. But, like a prosperous though undistinguished citizen, whose plodding life has been spent in successful business, the year leaves some substantial gains to posterity. In political and social matters it has been a year of quiet, steady progress. Its chief political work consisted in picking up the dropped threads of last year's legislation, and rubbing off the old scores of spendthrift predecessors. The dropped threads have been taken up successfully; and only one or two of the bundle of legislative problems it inherited remain over for solution.

The *Standard* thinks that by statesmen, not only in England and America, but throughout Christendom, the year now closing will be remembered as the year of the Geneva arbitration. Politicians, demagogues, and election managers at home will—until 1880, at all events—know it as the year of the Ballot Act. These are the two great acheivements of the Ministry; to these they owe their retention of office, of which at this time last year, nay, so late as April to May, there seemed but slight probability, and on the strength of these their supporters claim for them the confidence and gratitude of the country.

The *Daily Telegraph* remarks that Mr. Gladstone's Government has just completed the fourth and entered on the fifth year of its official existence, and shows no sign of decay. From the outset it has pursued a policy of active legislation directed against time-worn abuses, and has redeemed the promises which preceded and accompanied its origin. The closing year added notable triumphs to a list which rivals that of the reformed Parliaments forty years ago. Unbroken success is not the attribute of anything human, nor is it possible to avoid error or escape defect. Looking on the years which preceded the last, we see that the amount of effective work performed by Liberal agencies has been augmented during the past twelve months, and that the ground for confidence in the future is as firm as ever. Much has been done, but more remains to do. The State finances are flourishing beyond example; education is striking its roots deep and wide; the army has entered on a path which, if followed, must lead to great results; the navy is strong and well manned; trade questions have been put in a fair way towards settlement; sanitary reform has made some progress; and the ballot has enabled every man to vote according to his conscience. Liberal principles have been distinctively and triumphantly upheld in home and international policy. But the field of labour is as broad as ever, for we have not only to maintain what has been won; we have to extend the margin of accomplished facts.

The London *Watchman* gives this as the "conclusion" of a long article entitled the "closing year":—

The prospects of the future can scarcely be considered bright even by the most sanguine observers of events; to many, indeed, they appear to be altogether the reverse. Very powerful elements of discord are at work upon society. Socialism in various forms and degrees of intensity, too often associated with infidelity, is acting far and wide as a disintegrating force. Popery, struggling in this land for ascendency, and in other lands fighting hard to regain its diminished influence or to check the progress of freedom, is an ever-present source of peril. The pent-up forces of popular passion which lie around us ready for explosion manifested themselves during the summer in an alarming manner in the city of Belfast. Looking over Europe and beyond it, costly and truly formidable national armaments are becoming universal. Whatever good intentions may be professed, and may at present exist, no reign of continuous and assured peace seems to be really anticipated. On the contrary, to use the words of the Professor of Moral Philosophy at Cambridge, the nations compliment one another, and distrust one another. The long continuance of very unfavourrable weather both in the United Kingdom and in not a few parts of the Continent, is calculated to give some reason for anxiety lest a season of scarcity, and perhaps of sickness, should follow. Far and wide, a gloom seems to overspread the horizon, a sense of oppression and impending danger to pervade the air. The signs of the times are indeed gloomy. But the mission of the Church of Christ remains the same in sunshine and in storm. Both in the insidious dangers of prosperity, and in the rougher perils of adversity, men need above everything the religion which she is charged to maintain through all the ages, and to extend over the whole world. And if she be faithful to that sacred trust, all else may—we see—be left in humility, in confidence, and in hope, to her glorified Head.

General Intelligence.

GOOD NEWS FROM ENGLAND.—The general news from England is good. Money is low at the Bank of England, about 1½ per cent, and from 1 4 to 1-2 per cent lower in open market. The revenue is buoyant and exports large. Wool brings high prices and knowing ones yarding some of our staples in that line. But the brightest items received by last mail relate to ships.

We recently remarked that we expected the unusual destruction of shipping property, the particulars of which have been pretty fully chronicled in our columns, would be likely very soon to cause an increased demand for our wooden ships, more particularly as iron is so high. Already we have tangible evidence of the fact. A shipping house here, largely identified with the commerce of the port, had a letter from their Liverpool correspondent, dated the 2nd inst., from which we are permitted to make an extract. The writer says:—"Owing to the unprecedented severe losses of shipping this fall, prices have materially advanced, and good serviceable ships, of all sizes, and about any age, *are now worth fully a pound per ton more than they were two months ago.* New eight year ships uncoppered would bring £10 (sterling) per ton in the present condition of the market." The same correspondent states that freighting business in almost all directions, shows signs of activity, and that shipowners expect to see another good year. Our readers in all the cities and towns of the Maritime Provinces, who own more shipping, in proportion to their numbers, than any people in the world, and who are likely to increase rather than decrease their tonnage, will be pleased to hear such good news from England. No doubt Bank Presidents and Directors will make a note of the fact and smile benignantly on their ship-owning customers.—*St. John Telegraph.*

It will be rembered that Robert Barclay, implicated in the sad affair terminating in the death of Wm. End, Esq., is now in gaol awaiting his trial, and that James Meahan is now a fugitive from justice, a reward of $1000 being offered for his apprehension. There are many facts connected with that tragedy which, although known to some, are not yet made public, for such is the state of lawlessness prevailing in that vicinity, that it is unsafe at present to expose witnesses to the merciless scoundrels who infest the town of Bathurst. A gentleman who interested himself openly, in order to bring the guilty parties to justice, found the following threatening letter in the key hole of his front door a few days ago:

"Beware of false accuser of wat your savin about that innocent man J. M., R. B. You have 1000 $ reward offered for their apprehencion. I have threats from other men J. S., B. W. like W. M. W. You are looking for the supposed man but if he is taken he will be resqued by a club no more from your dam foe Charley hely find me out it you can. Beware of the days of yore in the year '98."

Sworn bluid Orengemen look at that.

Here follow certain cabalistic characters supposed to represent a coffin.

B. W. End.

the hell town man.

Here follow the same cabalistic characters again.

The importance to be attached to this document is this, that Mr. End was threatened in a similar manner a few days before his death, and there is every reason to believe that the threat was put in execution. Although unintelligible to us the party by whom it was received understands every word of it and is well on his guard.

When Barclay comes up for trial the public require at the hands of the goverment a searching investigation into the whole affair. Nothing else will satisfy.—*Fredericton Rep.*

FROM NEWFOUNDLAND.—The mail steamer *Tiger* arrived on Tuesday from St. John's N. F., bringing papers of late date, but they contain little intelligence of interest or importance. A vessel with a case of small pox on board arrived at Carbonear recently from Montreal. The patient and another of the crew died of the disease on board the vessel, but the captain escaped contagion. St. John's papers report the loss of the schr. *Magnolia*, commanded by Capt. W. J. Percy, and owned by Mr. J. N. Finley. The *Magnolia* was bound from Sydney to St. John's coal laden, and on the night of Sunday, 22nd ult., went ashore at Chance Bay, Fermeuse. Unhappily, the loss of the vessel was attended with the loss of nearly all her crew, the Capt. and four seamen having been washed overboard and drowned. The mate, Mr. Albert Percy, a brother of the Captain, was washed on shore in a half-drowned condition, and was not discovered for some hours, and then restored to life and consciousness only after great difficulty, and hours of almost hopeless effort. The vessel and cargo are a total wreck.

KILLED BY A TREE.—We regret to learn that Mr. Hector McLeod, of Campbell Settlement, King's County, was killed on Friday last at a "chopping frolic," by a falling tree. The tree it appears was cut by a boy, and fell in a direction quite unexpected by the boy and by three others who were dangerously near. Two escaped unhurt, but Mr. McLeod was struck in the back of the neck and almost instantly killed. The deceased was about fifty years old and leaves a wife and family.—*St. John Telegraph.*

THE DROWNING OF GEORGE JAMESON—FURTHER PARTICULARS.—On Monday of last week George Jameson, a young man twenty seven years of age, was drowned off Hatheways Head, western side of Deer Island. He had just returned from setting his nets, and after landing a man he had with him in the boat, he put her about to go a short distance further, when a squall struck her, the sheet being fast. She immediately upset, and he was lost. His body was found next day by dragging in the vicinity of the place where the boat was upset.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—*Pro. Secretary's Office, Halifax, 17th January, 1873.*—His Honor the Lieut. Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following appointments:

To be a member of the Executive Council—Daniel Macdonald, Esq., in the place of Hon. Wm. Garvie, deceased.

To be Commissioner of Public Works and Mines—Hon. Daniel Macdonald, in the place of Hon. Wm. Garvie deceased.—*Royal Gazette Extra.*

NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS. The *Royal Gazette* of Wednesday contains the following appointments:—

Theophilus Desbrisay, Esq., to be Clerk of the County Court of the County of Gloucester, in the room of William End Esquire, deceased.

George S. Grimmer, Esquire, to be Clerk of the Circuit for the County of Charlotte, in the room of Lewis A. Mills, Esq. resigned.

A HARD VOYAGE.—The brigantine *Three Sisters* sailed hence for Cow Bay on the 6th ultimo, and returned to this port on Monday afternoon, after being forty five days out without having made the port of her destination or any other. She has met with a succession of severe gales that have driven and kept her from the coast, and most of her crew are badly frozen.

A NOVA SCOTIA MATE MURDERED AT SEA—Capt. Geo. A. Coonan, of the barque Emma F. Secor, of St. John, N. B., writes from Buenos Ayres, under date 27th November, 1872 that on the passage from Montreal to Monte Video, Sept. 30th, Howard L. Croscup, of Granville, N. S. mate of the vessel, was stabbed in the leg above the knee by one of the crew, severing an artery, and died from loss of blood on the 13th Oct. The prisoner (with two of the crew as witnesses) has been sent to England for trial.

We commend to our legal friends everywhere the example of Judge Hoadley who, at a recent meeting of the Cincinnati Bar Association, made a motion that in the future no liquors were to be furnished on such occasions. He said, "We have too many wrecks along the coast for us to be holding out false religion which she is charged to maintain through all the ages, and to extend over the whole world. And if she be faithful to that sacred trust, all else may—we see—be left in humility, in confidence, and in hope, to her glorified Head."