

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 1857.

BAZAARS.

FANCY FAIRS have become the common mode of raising money for religious purposes. If a church is to be built or finished—a parsonage to be erected or repaired—a debt incurred for either of these purposes, or for an educational effort, to be liquidated,—if all else fail, the Bazaar is resorted to, as a sure means of accomplishing the desired object.—Often it is the first suggestion, when even a direct appeal to the religious philanthropy of the people would effect the purpose. There is an attractiveness in the idea itself—there are anticipations connected with the crowd, the display, the publicity given to the art and skill of the donors, the sociability, the fun of the proceedings,—that have an irresistible charm for persons of every age. Every one is flattered with the part he or she performs in the exhibition. The little girl who makes a book mark, and the Miss who achieves an ottoman, the Mamma who provides the pound cake, and the able cuisinier who concocts and superintends the jelly department, are all deeply interested, and we dare say highly flattered at being able to cater for the public taste. Then come the buyers. The congregation, or that section of the community chiefly concerned, are stirred up by the projectors, and stimulate their friends, and as they receive something for their money that is deemed an ample equivalent, they are determined to be satisfied, although many look at their bargains with astonishment, and wonder for what part of their domestic establishment they intended the purchase. The whole affair winds up with the public announcement, that £1,000, £100, £50, or £10, as the case may be, has been realized toward the noble object of erecting a Church, providing a pastor, or building him a house, or raising a salary for a school-master, or any other purpose with which the Almighty may be expected to be pleased.

Although we do not condemn Bazaars altogether, and are glad to chronicle any profit that any of our friends may derive from them, we have always been disposed to agree with the conclusion of some who discountenance them, that it is not the proper mode of collecting money for religious purposes. They sometimes encourage deception and something worse. The Miss who begs a portion of the haberdasher's goods for the Bazaar, and gives them in as her own entire contribution to the cause which it is intended to serve, commits a sin. So do all those concerned in it who take more credit than justly belongs to their exertions. They defraud their neighbor of his due respect, and a light sin of this description is as heinous in the eyes of their Maker, as that which would mark a deeper guilt in human estimation.—The uncheerful giver, who must contribute because it is merely his interest in a worldly point of view—the ostentatious one, who does it to display his superior wealth—the poor, whose pride urges him to go beyond his means in purchasing what he does not need—he who attends and spends his money for a frolic,—all become amenable to the voice of conscience, when they consider that they have been called upon to do a service to Him who notes every motive that actuates to its performance. Of contributors, buyers and sellers, there be few indeed who engage in a fancy fair with a disinterested mind, alive only to the necessity which prompted it; nor yet will the common aphorism of “the end justifying the means,” which is made to apply to many objects of utility that are gained by deceptive practices, when applied to Bazaars, for religious purposes, go far towards their approval.

Something however may be urged in favour of this variety of public amusements, when they are well regulated and governed—when they are made a means of innocent relaxation and enjoyment,—and when the object commending itself to the common judgment, meets with general acceptance. There is no good without its alloy, and it would be idle to expect that however laudable may be the object it will be pursued for that quality alone. Very nearly similar feelings are called into play in whatever manner the good may be prosecuted. Therefore there may be no greater evil in providing means through a Bazaar, than by a collection in a Church. The motives of the givers, in both cases, will be various. In the collection however, the object is likely to be benefited only to the extent of those who are interested—by the Bazaar some are drawn in, who not being interested approve, but a much greater number from curiosity, and some from all those base motives which while they add to the receipts, are not calculated to bring a blessing upon the endeavor.

The invention of Fancy Fairs or Bazaars dates about fifty years since—but the potent right has long since expired. Their adoption as a means by the Church is of very recent date, especially in this Diocese. Occasionally they have materially assisted their objects; but in not a few instances, the proceeds have ill repaid the trouble and the toil of their projectors. Yet there is a growing demand for means, and some mode must be adopted by which they can be procured in greater abundance, and for specified objects, or the interests of the Church will suffer. The personal application for assistance is becoming too frequent, and has very much the air of the tax-gatherer's visits. Collections in Church can be estimated almost to a shilling. Bazaars do not draw as they used to do. Is there nothing now under the Sun—thou why not revert to something that in old times carried with it a blessing? Why not again make trial of a Temple treasury? Suppose a Clergyman visits Halifax to solicit assistance to repair his Church or for any other worthy object, to which the ability of his people is inadequate. Could there be any harm in calling attention to his necessity in St. Paul's, St. George's, or St. Luke's. He might be permitted to do it himself, and to give notice that a Box would be placed at the door, properly labelled, to receive contributions for his relief. The response to his appeal would be a Christian obligation—and who is there that does not believe that as much could be procured in this way, as by his begging from door to door, which some have found it necessary to do. Would not all feel shame to pass that box without making his deposit—the rich man of his abundance, the poor widow her two mites—every one according to ability—not grudgingly nor of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.” So also might such a scheme be reciprocated in all the Parishes, and the funds be collected for all exigencies, in a way that would test the brotherhood of the Church, cement the affection of her members, and be pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

MONETARY.

OUR Banks have ceased to discount, apprehending, we presume, the withdrawal of specie to meet business engagements in the United States, where it is so much in demand. This is a sword that cuts two ways. They are, no doubt, justified in the act, if it is well to keep the country in a stand still state, and they have the power to do so. On the other hand, we can see no justice in depriving individuals, of whose solvency there can be no question, of the means of paying their just debts upon a pressing emergency; nor do we think it very wise in this way to prevent operations which the present state of the money market in the United States, and of all kinds of trade, would make profitable. Perhaps, however, the Banks are themselves engaged in making money out of the commercial and monetary crisis of the Union, and want all their specie to accomplish their own transactions. We trust, however, that if they prevent others from taking advantage of the crisis, they will not go beyond the limits of the Province, which are the legitimate bound of their operations, to take advantage of it themselves, at the expense of the Province.

Her Majesty's Government have given notice of their intention to discontinue the expenditure on account of the Signal Station at Halifax after the 1st January, 1858. As, however, it may be expedient to keep up the establishment for the purposes of the mercantile community and Custom House authorities, the Officer commanding the Forces is directed to place himself in communication with the Provincial Government on the subject, so that arrangements may be made in time, if thought necessary, for defraying the expense from colonial funds, as is done in most other British Colonies.

This is the principal Government station on this side the Atlantic—the head quarters of the army and navy—a station which, in all matters relating to telegraphs and signals, the Home Government if wise, will see to, that there may be efficiency and proper system preserved. The merchant signals amount to nothing more than good practice for the signal operators—and the same expense that now attends the telegraph station will have to be incurred in the future as at the present, unless it is abolished altogether, than which nothing would be more unwise. The only actual loss that the Government sustain by the facility afforded, is the wear and tear of the signal halyards, and of a few balls and crosses—perhaps £10 a year would cover the whole—and to compensate this the merchants and others reciprocate the obligation in a variety of ways, not the least being the good fellowship between them and the government officials.—But the telegraph information is, beyond all cost of

great importance to the trade of the country, and it would perhaps be better that the mercantile community should shake themselves free of unnecessary obligation, and have a separate establishment. A station on McNab's Island, and one on some high building in the City, would afford them greater facilities than they now enjoy, and they would be their own masters, and we dare say that, properly regulated, such an establishment would be profitable. The subject is worthy their attention, although the difficulty raised by the Government at this time of day, is one that seems to be peculiarly moan.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH.

THERE are a number of Churchmen at Bridgewater, LeClavo, who have long been desirous to erect a place of worship. They had nearly succeeded in raising a frame, when to exorcise their faith, a violent storm prostrated their labors. Undismayed, they began anew, and have again reared a sacred edifice, which is now nearly finished, but on which there is a debt that must be liquidated, or the Building Committee who have made themselves liable, in the hope that God would move the hearts of some who are able, to assist their endeavors, will be likely to suffer from a legal process to compel its payment. In this hope they have called upon their fellow Churchmen in Halifax to assist them, and have deputed Mr. HENRY ALMON, son of the Hon. M. B. Almon, who has been residing among them, and assisting in religious ministrations, to solicit subscriptions for their relief. This would be a case for the “Treasury,” suggested at the close of our leading article; but as that scheme is not yet matured, we do trust that our people will take the state of the Bridgewater Church into their serious consideration, and relieve their present necessity with that cordiality which they bring to the performance of many a good work. It is pleasing to see a young man like Mr. Almon thus early devoting himself to a spiritual duty; and we hope that he will meet with nothing to discourage him at the very outset of his career. It is good to witness on the part of the people of Bridgewater so persevering an endeavour. It deserves a response that shall relieve their minds from apprehension of delay in the completion of their Church—and we trust their appeal will be answered with the blessing they have sought to obtain, and that though they have sown in tears, they may yet reap in joy.

FIRE!—About half-past one this morning, another fire took place on the premises of the Hon. W. A. Black. It originated in a barn full of hay—but soon spread to the large stables adjoining, which were consumed. The utmost exertions were made that circumstances admitted of, to stay the progress of the flames, but a high wind and scarcity of water, materially hastened the above consummation. Two valuable cows perished. Fortunately the wind was about southwest, or the mansion would have been destroyed. The general impression is that the fire was the work of an incendiary. It is only about three or four weeks since, that a fire broke out on the same property, which was happily got under with partial damage, and it is singular as confirmatory of the incendiarism, that a watch has ever since been kept on the premises until last night. The sailors of the *Indus* and the soldiers of the garrison worked like Trojans at the engines and about the house, to subdue the flames.

The Decimal Currency system comes into operation in Canada on the 1st January next, for all Government and Banking business. Of course merchants, traders, and others, will find it for their interest as well as convenience to keep their accounts after that period in dollars and cents.—*Chronicle.*

LATEST NEWS FROM INDIA.

The American Steamer *Atlantic* arrived at New York: English dates to the 30th of September.

News from India two weeks later.

Delhi dates to 12th August. The place was still held by the mutineers. European reinforcements were arriving. A general assault was expected to be made on the 20th. Gen. Havelock, after severe fighting, had reached Lucknow, but, in consequence of inadequacy of force, retired to Cawnpore.

The garrisons at Lucknow and Agra were reported as still holding the places, but precariously situated.

Admiral Seymour has declared Canton under blockade.

STILL LATER.

American Steamer *Vanderbilt*, from Havre and Southampton, arrived at New York on Thursday, Liverpool dates to 2nd inst.

General Havelock defeated rebels near Cawnpore on 16th August. The Cholera had broken out there. Lucknow was all safe on 18th.

The news from China is unfavorable—the Emperor has rejected the overtures of peace offered to him.

Breadstuffs dull, all qualities slightly declined.

Sugar market dull,—Tea market quiet, sales limited.

Consols 90 1/4.

New York, Oct. 15.—All the Banks of the United States have stopped specie payments.—Financial prospects have improved. Only one City Bank has closed. The others are legally sustained.

The steamer from California has arrived—she brings a million and a quarter of specie.