

Before he died he requested the Ten Commandments to be read to him; and when they came to the fifth, he said, 'There, this is what I am punished for.' He then bid his friends good-bye, and desired them to leave him; and when they again visited him, the spirit had winged its flight to him who gave it. It was a solemn and impressive sight. Poor fellow! he had but few to soothe him in his sickness. Board, at Melbourne, is from £4 to £8 per week; flour is £50 per ton, and very scarce; hay £30 per ton; meal 2s. 6d. each, and lodgings, 3s. 6d. a night; potatoes are 2s. 6d. per lb., beef and mutton 6d. per lb., sugar 1s. 6d.; tea 3s.; brandy, 10s. a bottle. Flour, long boots, sheaths and sheath knives would pay well, and also narrow axes, as they have nothing but the old English broad axe. Three, four, or five dollars a day is counted but small wages here. The boatmen make about £20 a day. Carpenters get 30s. a day.

Without exaggeration this is a splendid country, but I expect it will be dreadfully hot in summer. The winter months are considered the most pleasant. Fruit of various descriptions is coming in from Hobart Town and Sydney. Geraniums, aloes, and fuschias are growing in the open air, and are now in flower. The climate here to-day is delightful, and very warm, although it is but the commencement of spring. The nights are chilly, and dew falls copiously. Adelaide is the only safe place for a man of family to go to. Any one coming here with the intention of going to the gold mines should not think of white shirts or black cloth clothing, as they are thrown about the rooms of the hotels, and sold at auction for a mere song.

The gold mines extend for 600 miles in length in the Victoria gold district. Two frigates are expected with troops, to guard the road all the way to the mines. There is no danger of being robbed here, if a person looks out for himself, and keeps sober. Drink and gambling are the bane of thousands. Very few leave the country after getting here. The *Orilla and Delta*, two New Brunswick ships, are anchored alongside of us, waiting for pilots, and crowded with passengers sent out by Government. They are bound to work with the farmers for three years. The 'chaps' from New Brunswick are all well, and in high hopes of realizing a fortune.

Editorial Miscellanea.

ANOTHER WORD FOR THE POOR FISHERMEN.—A few lines upon this subject about Christmas, produced us some seasonable donations, which we duly acknowledged, and some old clothing from two or three friends,—all of which has been expended and distributed, gladdening the hearts, and sustaining the strength of the hungry and the naked—old and young. These poor people seem most reluctant to apply for aid, but sheer necessity compels them. They can expect nothing from their own labor, for two months to come. (If Railroads were commenced it would not be so.) Donations in money, provisions, cast off clothing for men, women, or children, thankfully received and carefully distributed by the Rev. J. C. Cochran, Brunswick St. St. George's.

The steamship *Baltic* from Liverpool, arrived at New York on the 7th inst.

The Flour market is dull—and prices have declined sixpence and ninepence.

Consols declined one-eighth.

Lord Clarendon has succeeded Lord John Russell as principal Secretary of State for Foreign affairs. English news not otherwise important.

There has been a fresh attempt at insurrection in Italy.—*B. N. American.*

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 28, 1853.

SIR,—I believe that the correct answer to the question propounded by your correspondent X, is that the value of the gold in the lump is £38 2 2 sterling.

For let

$x =$ No. of grains of water displaced by gold,
 $y =$ No. of grains of water displaced by quartz,
 then x plus $y = 1968.75$
 and $18x$ plus $2.7y = 10498.75$
 (taking 18 and 2.7 as the respective mean specific gravities of gold and quartz) from which equation we solve

$$x = 338.76634$$

$18x = 6097.79412$ weight of gold in grains, which at £3 sterling an oz. is of the value of £38 2 2 sterling.

Your obed't servant, MILES.

The above solution was received before our paper went to press last week. W. G.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Rev. Mr. Cochran thankfully acknowledges during this week on behalf of destitute persons at Turn's Bay—

From Mr. J. Saffier, with clothing,	£1	0	0
Mr. Justice Bliss,	5	0	0
Hon. M. B. Almon,	5	0	0
Hon. H. H. Cogwell,	1	0	0
Hon. the Ch. Justice and Miss H.	2	5	0
Rev. Mr. Bullock, Senr,	1	0	0
Mrs. Robie,	2	0	0

LEGISLATIVE.

THE RAILWAY.—Mr. Howe stated on Wednesday that feeling the House was too evenly divided to make it expedient for the Government to proceed with their Railway Bills, he and his colleagues had come to the conclusion, rather than that the Session should close without any Railway measure, to pass Bills incorporating companies for the construction of the Trunk line and Branches. The hon. member went at length into the causes which led to this change of policy, and read from a minute of Council, an outline of the provisions of the measure which had been approved by his friends:

That a Bill should be passed incorporating a Company charged with the construction of the Trunk Line to Amherst, and the Branches to such points as would be satisfactory to a majority of the Legislature.

That the Province shall loan a sum not exceeding £2000 per mile on the Trunk line, and £2000 per mile on the Branches—to form a first charge upon the road.

That the Company so incorporated should give their Bonds in exchange for those of the Province—the interest on which shall be payable half yearly while the Roads are under contract, and after they are completed, with legal remedy for the enforcement of both principal and interest. That the Company shall be formed of leading men of both parties, and without reference to either Sykes or Jackson.

After making this announcement, Mr. Howe proposed the appointment of a Committee to prepare the Bills, which, after some discussion was agreed to. The Attorney General, Messrs. Johnston, Howe, Killam, Hall, Henry, and Wier, are the Committee.—*Chron.*

It is to be hoped that in this new position of the Railway question, nothing further will occur to delay the settlement, on a safe and desirable basis; that all parties will unite in perfecting the measure now being framed in Committee, and thus enable Nova Scotia, after all, to take a simultaneous start with the sister Province, in the great work of internal improvement, so loudly called for on every side.

A variety of important measures are yet untouched by the Legislature, which will require calm and deliberate consideration. Yet time presses so, that it may be feared they will be either dealt with too hastily, or deferred altogether.

Although little has been done in the House during the week, no doubt the Committees have been busily employed.

BEATRICE.—"We have to acknowledge the receipt, thro' Mr. Fuller, of a handsome volume under this title from the pen of Miss Sinclair, author of *Modern Accomplishments*, &c., &c. pp. 384. New York: *De Witt and Davenport*."

"The object of this narrative, says the Preface, is to portray, for the consideration of young girls, now first emerging into Society, the enlightened happiness derived from the religion of England, founded on the Bible, contrasted with the misery arising from the superstition of Italy, founded on the Breviary."—Again, say the publishers, it is a vivid picture of the physical and intellectual jugglery employed by the Jesuits, when intent upon the spiritual capture of an individual, a family, or a community.

"The publication of *BEATRICE* is at the present juncture, both timely and important. * * * It is an antidote to the moral poison which the agent of the Papal Cabinet is now spreading like a baleful pestilence throughout the world. * * * A perusal will satisfy the reader, that in the person of the able authoress, a giant has sprung up, whose brilliant intellect and vigorous energies, are more than a match for the Brazen enemy of Religious freedom."

We feel it would be unnecessary for us to add a word more to these strong commendations, further than to ask our readers to secure the book for themselves. It is particularly recommended to those parents who think their children as safe from error in a Nunnery school as in one conducted on the principles of our Protestant faith—a point on which a lamentable laxity prevails in this community. Whatever may be the professions of non-interference with religious creeds which may be put forth in such quarters, it is contrary to the nature of things, and to the well known spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, to suppose that the influence which belongs to the teachers will not be evinced, silently, or openly, as circumstances may seem to warrant, over the minds of those whose confiding parents may trust them within the walls of a Convent.

A Sermon will be preached in St. George's Church, by the Rector, on Sunday morning next, and a collection made in reference to the Jubilee of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

D. C. S.

RECEIPTS.

The Receipt from Arichat on the 31st January, should have been acknowledged as £7 and not as £5

Chester	£13	0	0
Chester Road	3	0	0

EDWIN GILPIN, JR.

As the 15th Report of the Society is now in the Printer's hands for Publication, the Secretary requests that Subscription lists and further contributions may be forwarded immediately.

GEOLOGY OF NOVA SCOTIA.—Geological Society of London—Jany 19—Sir C. Lyell, V. P. in the chair.—The following communication was read:—

'Notice of the Discovery of Reptilian Remains and a Land Shell in an upright Fossil Tree in the Coal of Nova Scotia,' by Sir C. Lyell and J. W. Dawson, Esq.—Notes on these Reptilian Remains, by Prof. Wyman and Prof. Owen.—In September last Sir C. Lyell and Mr. Dawson revisited the strata of the coal formation at the South Joggins, Nova Scotia, with a view of ascertaining what may have been the particular circumstances which favour the preservation of so many fossil trees, at so many different levels, in an erect position (such a position being a rare and very exceptional fact in the coal strata of North America generally). They were also desirous of obtaining additional evidence with regard to the relation of the *Stigmuria* as a root to the *Sigillaria*;—and also directed special attention to the difference of the deposits enveloping the upright trees, and those that fill the trunks themselves. In examining the stony contents of these fossil trees, the remains of plants, such as *Ferns*, *Flabellaria*, *Sigillaria*, *Calamites*, and *Stigmuria*, were met with; and in one of the trees were found, near the base of the trunk, several small bones intermingled with fragments of carbonized wood. The whole were embedded in a dark-colored stony matrix, in breaking up which, besides the bones, was found a small shell, referable to the well known group of land shells, *Pupa* and *Clausilia*; the osseous remains consist of the bones of the head and extremities, jaw, teeth, vertebra, and dermal plates of one or more small reptiles. These have been examined by Prof. J. Wyman, of Harvard University, and Prof. Owen, who pronounce them to have belonged to a Batrachian reptile allied to the *Menobranchius* and *Menopoma* at present inhabiting the rivers and lakes of North America. These eminent comparative anatomists also point out that the fossil reptiles bear some interesting relations to the *Labyrinthodont* type of reptiles.—*Athenaeum*.

VALENTINE'S DAY.—It is a pity that the name of this day was not blotted from the Calendar, and then perhaps there would be an end to the absurd and foolish and even wicked tricks which are annually perpetrated by those who are alike destitute of good manners and good sense, and scatter their fooleries around.—For the special edification of all such, we cut the following from an exchange, shewing that the custom has a heathenish origin:—

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The fourteenth of February was originally observed as a festival in honour of St. Valentine, a martyr in the reign of the Emperor Claudius. It was the custom in ancient Rome during the month of February, to celebrate feasts in honour of the heathen deities, Pan, the God of Shepherds, and Juno, the Goddess of Marriage. At these festivals, among other ceremonies, the names of young women were put into a box, from which they were drawn by the young men, and she was to be the Valentine of him who drew her name. The Pastors of the early Christian Church, however, desirous to abolish Pagan superstitions, substituted the names of particular Saints, for those of women, and the person drawing the name of one of these Saints, was expected to imitate his peculiar virtues, and look up to him as his patron and example in the trials of life. As these feasts commenced on the fourteenth of February, that day was named St. Valentine's, which continues to be observed by the youth of the present day, though in a somewhat different manner from that enjoyed by the early church. In proof of this it has been stated, that two hundred thousand letters beyond the usual daily average, annually pass through the Post Office in London, on St. Valentine's Day.—*Montreal Snow Drop*.

We beg to call attention to the advertisement of Mrs. Hatchford's Seminary in another column. The reputation of this Institution is already so well established—its benefits have been so widely experienced—the testimony to the kindness and competency of the Teachers is so general—that it stands in no need of our introduction to public notice. We have not had the pleasure of personally witnessing the merits of the establishment, for when we last visited that beautiful section of our country, neither Mrs. Hatchford's school nor the Sackville Academy were in being. But we have been fully assured from unquestionable private sources in both Provinces, as well as from the testimony of competent minds in the Legislature, that this flourishing school is in every way worthy of support. We will add, moreover, that the two principal Ladies in the Institution, are communicants of the Church, which will not diminish the confidence of Parents, of whatever denomination they may be.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.—The Quarterly Missionary Lecture of St. Paul's Local Committee, D. C. S., will be delivered on Wednesday Evening next, (the 16th inst.), in St. Paul's Church, by the Rev. W. Bullock. A Collection will be taken after the Service in aid of the Funds of the D. C. S.

W. GOSSET.

Sec'y., St. Paul's Local Committee, D. C. S.

A complimentary address was lately presented to D. A. C. G. Lane, on his departure from Sydney en route for Van Dieman's Land, to which he returned a suitable reply.

The Address was numerously signed by the Magistrates and other principal inhabitants of the place.

DARTMOUTH.—We omitted to notice in our last, that the Church in that place was opened for Evening Service on Sunday week, when the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, preached to a crowded congregation.