

Mr. Clarke read a letter from the Colonial Secretary, to the effect that coloured persons enjoyed equally with whites, all civil, social and political rights. He also read letters from the Lieut. Governor, the Bishop of Columbia, and the Rector of Victoria, expressive of sympathy and of respect for the firmness with which he had preferred loss to the sacrifice of christian principle.

At the close of Mr. Clarke's statement, a lengthened discussion took place. This debate was adjourned. On the same afternoon, however, immediately after this adjournment it was resolved, "That in consideration of our beloved brother's loss, by shipwreck, of his library and other valuable effects, we recommend that the donors of the contributions towards the church erected by him and his people in Victoria, present the amounts to the Rev. W. F. Clarke, towards repairing his loss." The discussion on the British Columbian question, was resumed on Monday, when the resolutions before the Union were referred to a committee to report at a subsequent session. The committee reported on Tuesday morning, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously, "That this Union regards the setting apart of a 'negro corner' in a place of worship as incompatible with the just and equal spirit of Christianity: that the Rev. W. F. Clarke, when a demand to that effect was made on him, did right to set his face against it: that in so doing he deserved the support of all his brethren; and, therefore, whilst we are fully persuaded the committee of the Colonial Missionary Society sincerely hold, as they have before and since avowed, the principle herein asserted, we do deeply lament that they did not, in reply to the appeal made to them in the matter, give a distinct and emphatic utterance to the said principle, and that whether through misunderstanding between Mr. Clarke and them, or through indiscretion on the part of either or both, the present unhappy result has attended the action of both parties in the matter of the British Columbian Mission."

#### EXCURSION TO VICTORIA BRIDGE.

It was a happy thought of the generous friends in Montreal, to make arrangements with the Grand Trunk for a special train, to convey the Congregational Union through the Victoria Bridge, to St. Lambert station, affording time for the inspection of that eighth wonder of the world. It was a vast relief from the active business of the Union, to relax amid the pleasures of such an excursion, to examine this wonderful structure, and to survey the glories of the magnificent scenery, embracing views of the surrounding country, the mighty St. Lawrence, and the goodly city of Montreal. For ourselves we confess to have felt an unusual degree of gratification and enjoyment. The happiness of all—the kindness shown on the part of the officials of the railway—the urbanity and christian courtesy of our brethren in Montreal—prepared for good impressions. Nor were we disappointed. Conceive of a work of which the following are some of the particulars:

First stone No. 1 Pier laid 20th July, 1854.

First passenger train passed 17th December, 1859.

Total length of Bridge, 9184 feet lineal.

Number of spans 25; 24 of 242 feet; one of 330 feet.

Height from surface of water to underside of centre tube 60 feet.

Height from bed of river to top of centre tube 108 feet.

Greatest depth of water 22 feet.

General rapidity of current 7 miles an hour.

Cubic feet of masonry 3,000,000.

Cubic feet of timber, in temporary work, 2,250,000.