

Buxton is acknowledged to be by all who have visited it. We lately spent a few days at Buxton, and can bear testimony to the efficiency with which every department connected with the Mission is carried on. We preached on Sabbath to a large congregation, numbering about 200, and after service took charge of Mr. King's Bible Class for adults, which is well attended, and appears to be very useful to those attending it. We spent the greater part of a day in visiting the school which has been efficiently taught during the past year, by Mr. McSweeney, and part of another day in going through the settlement. The indications of progress, physical, intellectual, and moral are very marked. Indeed, we regard it as a model establishment, and shall be very much disappointed if we are not enabled as a Church to sustain the work so auspiciously begun amongst the much wronged sons and daughters of the African race. At the close of the exercises on Sabbath, we announced a visit from Dr. Burns, who was to preach on the Friday following. This announcement seemed to give great satisfaction to not a few of the settlers; who retained a pleasing remembrance of a former visit on the occasion of the opening of their church about fifteen months ago.

PUBLIC MEASURES.

A Bill has been introduced by George Brown, Esq., for the purpose of putting an end to all Sabbath labour in connexion with the Post Office Department. It provides that no Post Office in this Province shall be opened on Sabbath, nor any letter, paper, &c., be delivered on that day. It provides that no mail shall be made up or despatched on the Sabbath, and that any mail which shall not have reached its destination by the Sabbath, shall be stopped at the first of the following places which it shall reach, viz., Chatham, London, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, and Riviere du Loup.

Several bills have also been introduced for the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating drinks, and a hope is generally entertained that some enactment of the nature of the Maine Law will be adopted this Session. We trust this hope will not lead to inaction and indifference. Let the friends of temperance rally, let ministers, sessions, and congregations send up numerous signed Petitions, and thus strengthen the hands of those who are fighting the battle in the legislative halls. Both these measures to which we have referred, are most important. Let the friends of the Sabbath, and the friends of Temperance (and the two are most intimately connected with one another) be up and doing. Ministers will bear in mind that the Synod has petitioned in both these matters, and farther has recommended to all congregations to do so likewise. Nothing leads to so much vice, immorality, and crime, as the prevalence of intemperance, which is fostered and increased by the system of licensing taverns and shops for the sale of the maddening cup.

The Ministry have intimated their purpose to introduce a Bill for the Secularization of the Clergy Reserves. At the time when we write,

the details of the ministerial measure are not very well known. Some suspicions exist that the work will not be done so thoroughly as would be desirable. We trust the whole structure may be swept away, so that the very name as well as the reality of the Clergy Reserves may pass away. There must be no compromise, no bargaining with ecclesiastical bodies. Unless the settlement be thorough and complete, and the Reserves for ever disposed of for the good of the community, which can only be done by secularization, it would be better not to interfere at all. We are in hopes, however, that they will be effectually dealt with, and that thus a long-continued source of irritation and strife will be for ever removed.

UNION AMONG PRESBYTERIANS.

There is at the present time a great and apparently a growing desire for a closer union among the various branches of the Presbyterian body. The matter has been taken up in England. In Australia it has been also taken up, and there is the prospect of the three great Presbyterian bodies soon being incorporated. Every true Christian, and every honest Presbyterian must heartily wish for a consummation so desirable and important. Our readers are aware that the subject has engaged the attention of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church and of our own Synod. The result has not hitherto been very encouraging, but still we have hope that eventually misunderstandings may be cleared up, and differences reconciled, and an honourable and stable union formed. Having such a hope, we regret that anything should be published which might tend to produce keenness of feeling and make the difference which keeps the Churches apart still wider. In the October number of the *Canadian United Presbyterian Magazine*, we find a communication which in our humble opinion would have been better to have been omitted. The Editor considers it necessary to make a sort of apology for the article, admitting that parts of it may appear to be characterized by a degree of asperity, but accounting for it by referring it to the vexation of a warm heart. We do not at present enter into a consideration of the communication itself, believing, as we do, that it would have been by far more rational for the two committees to meet and discuss the matter, than to take it up and discuss it with asperity and acrimony in the pages of a religious magazine.

Were we to reply to the communication in the spirit in which it is written, we feel convinced that we should be aggravating the differences at present existing between the two Churches, which we should be very unwilling to do. The writer of the communication alluded to, distinctly states, that he was never sanguine on the subject of union with our Church, and does not regard it as desirable now. Hence it is not to be wondered at that he should write in a tone calculated to increase rather than remove animosity.

While we cannot but regret the publication of the communication referred to, we agree with

the Editor of the *Canadian U. P. Magazine*, in earnestly hoping and praying that soon we may see, in the result of our efforts towards union a blessed fulfilment, in part, of the prayer of Him who continually intercedes with the Father that His people may all be one.

COLPORTAGE.

Most of our readers will have learned from the newspapers that several meetings have lately been held in Toronto, and some other places, with the view of establishing a system of Colportage in connexion with the Upper Canada Tract Society. The importance of a work of this kind cannot be over-estimated. There are many settlements in the interior of the country where the means of grace are but scantily, if at all enjoyed, and where reading matter is scarcely to be found, or if to be found, is of the most unprofitable and injurious kind. The Colporteur visiting such settlements brings to their very doors interesting and useful literature, which may tell powerfully both on the present and coming generations. We are fully of opinion that it is high time for the churches to arise and equip themselves for the accomplishment of a work so great and important. At the same time differences of opinion may exist as to the best way of attempting it; whether it should be done by churches, or by the association of individuals connected with the various branches of the Christian church. In this latter case there is a danger that important and vital doctrines may be compromised, and a spirit of latitudinarianism produced, and that violence may be done to truth by the attempt to steer clear of the peculiar views of churches or individual Christians. It is well known that by a large Tract Society on this continent there has been, to some extent, tampering with publications which it has issued, and a desire to soften down what might be thought calculated to be offensive to certain individuals. Now this we think wrong, and fitted to produce indifference to the truth. We rejoice that through the agency of the Society to which we have referred, so many valuable evangelical books have been published and circulated. We hope, too, that much good may be done by the effort now being made by a Society formed in the Province. But we confess that at the present time we are of opinion that the whole matter of Colportage, a matter of immense importance in the present circumstances of our country, requires to be still more fully considered by the church, with the view of adopting and carrying out with vigour what may appear to be the best and most desirable plan.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

We beg leave to remind the Ministers of our Church, that according to the regulations adopted by the Synod in 1852, the annual rate of £2, payable by each minister wishing to participate in the benefits of the Fund, should be paid to the Treasurer on or before the first of November. Although the great majority of the ministers are contributors to the Fund, still there are several