

In our last number, we noticed the arrival in our city of the Rev. GEORGE SCOTT, Wesleyan Missionary to Sweden. We have now much pleasure in presenting our readers with the following extracts from a communication in the *Toronto Herald*—which furnish, nearly in Mr. SCOTT's own words, an affecting account of the deplorable condition of society in Sweden:—

"Religious toleration is wholly unknown in Sweden, except in the case of foreigners. The Episcopal Lutheran Church is essentially interwoven with the civil government and institutions, and embraces every Swede throughout the kingdom. Every child, without exception, must, within a certain period, be baptized, at a specified age be confirmed, and afterwards receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at least once a year, on pain of forfeiting certain privileges. A Swede apostatizing from the Established Church, is condemned by the law to be banished from the kingdom. No minister of any other (or, strictly speaking, foreign) denomination, is allowed to enrol Swedes as members of his society or church; in fact, the Swedish law knows no religion, and tolerates no church, but one. At the same time, this church, and the nation at large, are fearfully bigoted, and the nation at large, are fearfully bigoted. With orthodox doctrine, and a pure faith, the Swedes are the land, and gross iniquities. The name of God is perpetually blasphemed; the holy sabbath is openly and shamefully desecrated—clergymen themselves setting the example, by frequenting, after divine service, the card-table, the ball-room, and the theatre, wearing the badges of their profession. According to the official government returns, the number of illegitimate children born yearly in Stockholm is to the legitimate in the rates of ONE TO ONE AND THREE-EIGHTHS!—a fearful proof of irreligion and sin. There are a few evangelical and excellent clergymen in Sweden, and some moral oases in this "waste howling wilderness;" but they scarcely bear a comparison with the country at large. With these clergymen and people, Mr. Scott holds occasional personal and epistolary intercourse. As the agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, he has distributed about 150,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures in Sweden; he is the connecting link of the scattered faithful bands; and has proved the means of making them acquainted with each other's existence and operations.

"The position and operations of Mr. Scott in Sweden, under the direction of the Wesleyan Missionary Committee in London, strikingly illustrate and display the genuine spirit of British Wesleyan Methodism. The Committee contributed £500 sterling to the erection of a chapel, and have maintained Mr. Scott in Sweden, without the slightest prospect of any denominational advantage, any addition to Wesleyan membership, or advancement of distinctively and peculiarly Wesleyan interests. And the members and friends of the Methodist Societies in Great Britain, by contributing to the Swedish mission, evince the same elevated and comprehensive liberality. If any Church occupies a truly catholic and anti-sectarian position in the present day, it is the British Wesleyan Body towards Sweden; if any living Christian Minister is labouring from the pure love of immortal souls, and for the simple extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, it is the Rev. GEORGE SCOTT.

"It behoves Christians more fervently and frequently to implore the gracious and plenteous effusion of the Holy Spirit on the Churches of Sweden, and on the various churches and kingdoms of the world, till the stone that was hewn out of the mountain without hands, expands into a mountain, and fills the earth."

While we cheerfully award the meed of praise to the Wesleyan Body, it is but justice to remark, that the members of various other Christian Churches have likewise contributed towards the erection of the place of worship above alluded to.

The Church, which has just come to hand, contains an interesting account of the presentation of a handsome service of plate to the Rev. A. N. BETHUNE, Rector of St. Peter's, Cobourg, and for many years editor of that excellent journal,

*The Church*. The service consists of an elegant massive salver, (with an appropriate inscription,) a tea-pot, coffee-pot, cream-ewer, sugar-basin and tongs, and butter-knife—all of solid silver. The cost of the whole was £120 currency.

THE REV. JAMES DIXON has been elected President of the British Wesleyan Conference for the present year, and the Rev. Dr. HANNAH, Secretary.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

DEAR SIR,—It is a very common error, prevalent amongst those who seek happiness in the vain amusements of this world, that the Christian is incapacitated for the enjoyment of any recreation, however innocent it may be; and charge him with fanaticism because he does not mingle with the giddy throng in the dissipations of the ball-room, the card-table, the theatre, the horse-race, and the numberless sinful indulgences of the day. There is another class of persons, who go to an opposite extreme, and declaim against any indulgence in the most innocent recreations, as inconsistent with the Christian profession. Now, Sir, the safe path lies between those two extremes. That the Christian is possessed of ability to discriminate between innocent and sinful indulgences, must be acknowledged, in the one case. In the other, I would just remark, that religion was never designed to make its possessor gloomy or unsocial; but, on the contrary, I have always observed that the true Christian is the most cheerful member of society, and enjoys the bounties of Providence with a peculiar relish, altogether unknown to the man of the world.

Never did I enjoy the delights of Christian society to such a degree, as on the 6th of this month, on what was termed a "Temperance Pleasure Excursion" from Quebec to Crane Island, in the steamer *St. George*. The day was delightful, and although there were upwards of three hundred people on board, yet, owing to the excellent arrangements of the Quebec Young Men's Total Abstinence Society, and the cordial co-operation of the whole party, the trip was rendered pleasant and gratifying, and entirely free from that levity which the Christian is bound to discountenance. It appeared to be the wish of every one to contribute as much as possible to the comfort of his neighbour; and, although all the company were not professors of religion, yet no interruption was offered to the pious and profitable conversation which was kept up amongst the little groups of "the excellent of the earth," scattered here and there over the vessel.

The delightful scenery on each side the river afforded much enjoyment to all, but especially to the pious mind, leading it involuntarily "from nature up to nature's God." It afforded me much pleasure to observe that the Christian practice of imploring the divine blessing was duly observed preparatory to partaking of the refreshments provided. Another excellent arrangement of the managing committee was the general distribution of a number of the most interesting tracts, which afforded much gratification. On arriving at Crane Island, we landed by small boats, and enjoyed ourselves for nearly three hours. We left the island about five o'clock, and, with the tide, arrived safely in Quebec—the whole party apparently well pleased with the manner in which the day had been spent.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

Quebec, August 12. ONE OF THE PARTY.

\* \* Those friends to whom the two first numbers of the CHRISTIAN MIRROR have been forwarded, as specimens, and who may intend becoming subscribers, will much oblige us by sending in their names as speedily as possible. As the MIRROR is published at the very low price of Six Shillings per annum, postage free, a large number of names will be required in order to defray expenses. Subscription lists and specimens of the work will be found at the different book-stores in Montreal, and at the Bible Depository, Fabrique Street, Quebec. For list of Agents, see last page.

THE Acting Treasurer of the Society for Propagating the Gospel among Destitute Settlers, has great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of £35 5s 5d, being the amount collected in Christ Church on Sunday, the 15th instant, after a sermon preached by the Rev. Wm. BETHUNE, A.M., of Ormstown, Beauharnois County.

The hay crop, in the neighbourhood of this city, has generally been well got in, and is a very plentiful crop. The fly, we are sorry to learn, has been making sad havoc with the small patches of wheat sowed in the district.—*Messenger*.

## SUMMARY OF NEWS.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

By the arrival of the *Unicorn* at Quebec, Liverpool dates have been received to the 4th, and London to the 3d instant.

An interesting speech from Sir Robert Peel is published, but he does not give any definite ideas upon the line of policy to be pursued by him when in power. "He will not prescribe," he says, "for the ills of the nation, while he is excluded from administering the remedies."

The writs for the new Parliament were returnable on the 19th inst. It was supposed to be probable that the Royal Speech would be delivered on the 24th.

SIR GEORGE MURRAY'S OPINION ON THE CORN LAWS.—"I have (says he,) always been the advocate of a moderate fixed duty. I am the advocate of that duty being fixed at eight shillings. I have no objection to going lower, if it can be effected; but I wish, in the first instance, to make that step—the only step which we can at present make. The present law, no one supports it. It is universally condemned."

Fine weather now is only wanted "to bless England with as abundant a harvest as man could wish." The same is said of France, by several Paris journals.

Trade is not improved.

The Queen's war steamer *Growler*, 1500 tons burden, was launched at Chatham, on the 20th, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators.

The Municipal District Bill has passed the House of Assembly, (Canada,) after one of the keenest struggles yet encountered.

McLEOD.—McLeod's trial was to take place at Ulica on the 19th instant. It was apprehended that a demonstration would be made in the event of his acquittal. Several pieces of cannon have been stolen from the public arsenals.

ROMOURED RUPTURE WITH ENGLAND.—We hear from Washington that Mr. Fox has received instructions recently, to demand of Mr. Webster the immediate release of McLeod, before his trial next month, or in default, to demand his passports, which he will receive.

The overland mail from India informs us that Commodore Bremer left Calcutta on the 26th of May, in the Queen steamer, and it was expected that the whole fleet would reach Canton by the beginning of July. The whole of the 55th had proceeded to China. The Camerons and the 41st were to follow. The steamers had been fitted up with cannonades for river service.

GREAT UNDERTAKING.—The ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is to be commenced forthwith in good earnest.

### THE SLAVE TRADE.

The following is a specimen of the tender mercies exhibited toward the slave population of the neighbouring States:—

"A negro named Lyttleton has been sentenced at New Orleans, to receive seventy-five lashes upon his bare back, and to wear an iron collar with three prongs around his neck, for three months, for striking a white man!"

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT IN CUBA.—A memorial from some of the principal inhabitants of the city of Havana, proprietors of agricultural estates, has been presented to the Captain General of the island, praying him to take prompt and effectual measures for the suppression of the slave trade.