

time of the Communion Service the Commandments are read by the minister in the ears of the whole congregation. Those who are not provided with Prayer-books—those who cannot read themselves—(and in 1603 the illiterate probably formed a large proportion of the congregation)—hear them read by the minister. But the Church provides by her canons that the Ten Commandments shall be set up on the eastern end of the church or chapel where the people may best (conveniently in the words in the Latin version) see and read them. Not merely I, take it, during divine service, for many of the congregation must be too far removed from the east end to be able to see and read them from their seats, but that they may be reminded at all times, when they go into the Lord's House, of their duties both to God and man, by seeing and reading the Commandments, and by storing them up in their thoughts. That the Commandments, as at present placed in the abbey church of Tewkesbury, may be seen and read from different parts of the choir, is abundantly proved. They may, likewise, be seen and read perhaps best (i. e. conveniently) by the people from behind the same wall or screen, and thence those may conveniently repair to read them who cannot see and read them from the choir."

In conclusion, the Judge said he was of opinion that the churchwardens had committed no ecclesiastical offence whatever, and that, having found the Commandments in the position they are now, "they exercised a sound discretion in not removing them at the mere wish and request of a parishioner, and took a right and proper course in informing Mr. Croome that the tables should remain where they were until the next visitation, when they would act as the ecclesiastical authorities might direct." "It appears," he added, "to the Court that it has a plain duty to perform, and when public officers have been subjected to a criminal charge, which (to say the least) has not been proved, that it ought to dismiss them with their costs." The result of the case (which it may be noted was a criminal one, and would have involved penalties had the decision been the other way) was immediately telegraphed from Gloucester to Tewkesbury, and placarded; the abbey bells were rung, a band of music paraded the streets, and in the evening there was a brilliant display of fireworks.

A statement appears in the daily papers to the effect that Palmer made, before his execution, a virtual confession. The statement is said to be founded on the report of the chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Goodacre, to the magistrates. We are told—

"Early on the morning of the Friday, the day preceding the execution, the chaplain had been conversing with him in a most serious manner, and urging the vital necessity, in his then position, of evincing sincere repentance of the crimes he had committed in this world. The prisoner appeared a good deal affected. He was lying upon the bed in his cell, and he suddenly raised himself up, and, addressing the chaplain, said, 'Then it will not be enough to save my soul to confess to this murder (Cook's), but I must also confess to the murder of my wife and my brother.' The Chaplain, amazed at the observation of the prisoner, inquired of him whether he was to understand that he admitted having committed those crimes. Palmer made no reply, but heaved a deep sigh, thrust his head under the bed-clothes, so as to conceal himself from observation, and burst into a flood of tears. We believe it may be stated, in the most positive manner, that the prisoner made other admissions of a still stronger character, but the authorities of the gaol do not feel justified in allowing them to be made public, without the sanction of the visiting justices."

**AN INTEMPERATE MAN REFORMED.**—At the recent annual meeting of the Temperance League in Glasgow, Scotland, the Rev. W. Reid delivered an eloquent address. He referred to the death of one of their most zealous and devoted agents, Mr. Jas. Sirling. Mr. S. had been, at one time, a man of very intemperate habits, and Mr. Reid stated the following as the manner in which he had been led to reform and become so earnest a labourer:—"While he would be absent on his drinking rambles, his wife was usually employed in reading a chapter to the children. On returning home one night from a drunken revel, his wife was reading the passage—'And he shall not the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.' (Matt. xxv. 28.) On opening the door, he heard one of the children say—'An ill father he on the left hand?' The words sank deep into the father's heart. That night was an awful night for James. Ere the morning dawned, he had resolved never to

drink again. He sought an interview with the minister, and proposed to him the formation of a total abstinence society. He consented; James signed first and eleven followed, some of them for a certain number of years. When asked by the minister how long he had pledged himself for, James firmly replied, 'For ever, sir.' During sixteen years of his life, after his reformation, he visited 406 places, each of these on an average of about ten days, and thus addressed about 4,000 public meetings. During the last four years he had been so infirm that he had to be carried out to the meetings, so that he might with his latest breath advocate the cause which had been the means of doing him so much good.

At the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society for the season, held last week, it was stated that a letter from Mr. Bunney, Mozambique, dated March, reports that Dr. Livingston had arrived safely at Iete, a Portuguese station on the Zambezi; a confirmation of this is anxiously expected by the Society. The secretary read a letter from Capt. Stokes, R. N., communicating the opinion of Capt. Richards on the expediency of despatching at once a vessel in search of the relics of the *Erebus* and *Terror*, and a memorial to Lord Palmerston on the same subject, was read by Sir Roderick Murchison. Impressed with the belief that the *Erebus* and *Terror*, or their remains, are still frozen up at no great distance from the spot whence the relics of Sir John Franklin and his crew were obtained by Mr. Rae, the memorialists urge the desirableness of sending out an expedition to "satisfy the honor of our country, and clear up a mystery that has excited the sympathy of the civilized world." Although most persons have arrived at the conclusion that there can be no survivors of Franklin's expedition, yet it seems "there are eminent men in our own country, and in America, who hold a contrary opinion."

A yeomanry regiment in the north, recently on permanent duty, were going through their movements, when a private not suiting his sergeant, the latter bawled out, "Private Jackson, if you don't pay more attention, I shall report you." The private rejoined, "Ay, do it if thou dar'st, and aw'll raise the' thy rent." The effect may be imagined.—*Carlisle Journal*.

**GENEROSITY IN HUMBLE LIFE.**—During the present week a circumstance, arising from the death of an old inhabitant of Stoke Bishop, has been the subject of much interesting conversation in that neighbourhood. It appears that an old man named George Watts, who was formerly a day labourer in that parish having, by dint of his own honest exertions, raised himself in the social scale, had amassed sufficient funds as a potato dealer, to purchase several cottages, some situated in Stoke Bishop, others in the neighbouring parish of Westbury, and the remainder on Durdham Down. Latterly Watts had retired from business, and lived on the income arising from the rent of his houses. Punctually every Monday the old man called on his tenants to receive his rent, and was always respected by them as a kind and considerate landlord. On Tuesday last he died, leaving neither "kith nor kin," and upon opening his will it was found that each tenant had his own little cottage left to him as a legacy from his landlord—a legacy, which we need not add was exceedingly welcome, and occasioned much joyful surprise to the fortunate recipients.—*Bristol Mirror*.

## Provincial.

PROVONTIS, ASPEC BAY, July 1856.

SIR,—The work of laying a Telegraph Cable between Newfoundland and Cape Breton having been successfully accomplished in the short space of fifteen hours, I feel it due to the public interested in the momentous question of uniting the two continents by the Electric Telegraph, to give some account through your columns of its progress.

Perhaps you are aware that Messrs. Kuper & Co. accepted the responsibility of laying the Cable for the Telegraph Company, and early in June had secured the services of the *Protondis*, an efficient screw steamer of eighty horse power, for that purpose. The whole direction of the service was very properly confided to Mr. Canning, who had been on the ground two years before, and whose ability and energy, joined with great equalness and generosity of temper, make him a general favorite, and pointed him out as eminently fitted to carry out this, and the still greater work of spanning the Atlantic Ocean.

If I mistake not, eighty-three miles of cable were placed on board the *Protondis*, and in due time Mr. Canning and his staff of operators and workmen arrived at Sydney, C. B., where he embarked and fitted the drums for playing out the cable, and completing with co., sailed on the 5th July for Aspec Bay and Cape Ray. By the direction of the Admiralty, soundings across the Strait between Cape Ray

and Cape North had been taken by Commander Orlebar and Shortland, in the *Columbia* a few weeks previously, and a chart of the soundings was given Mr. Canning, by Commander Orlebar on his arrival at Sydney. The *Protondis* reached Cape Ray cove on Tuesday afternoon at half-past two, P. M. the foggy weather and easterly wind of the two previous days having prevented her making out the land. The surveying tender *Ariel*, Commander Orlebar was lying at anchor in the cove, and, according to previous arrangement he gave his aid in landing the cable, and afterwards embarked in the *Protondis*, and assisted in piloting her across to Aspec Bay. Some attempts had been made to secure the services of the fishermen, but for some unexplained cause, although a promise was given, none came to assist, and the steamer's boats were forced to undertake the duty of landing the end of the cable. This was only difficult on account of the surf running so very high, but by a judicious arrangement of Mr. Canning, a manilla rope of 500 fathoms was first laid out from the stern of the *Protondis* to the shore, when the long boat and whale-boat, having each some cable coiled in them, were hauled on shore by the rope paying out cable from the long boat until close in to the surf, when, on a given signal, the rope being cut in two, the whale boat holding on was dragged through the surf by a party on shore, whilst the long boat, being fast to the other part, was hauled on board. The cable was made fast by noon, and tested by operators; and all being found correct, and the gentleman in charge of the station having been landed, the anchor was weighed; and at a quarter past two, P. M., the *Protondis* steamed off to sea, paying out the cable. There was a long southerly swell, but the surface of the sea was unruffled, whilst a clear sky, a light westerly air, and high, steady barometer, gave us fair promise for the voyage. At first the rate of going hardly exceeded two knots—then it was increased to three, and at the end of the second hour a speed of six knots was attained, and continued until it became dark. At 10 some little delay was experienced in commencing the paying out of that part of the cable in the after part of the hold, but after that everything went on smoothly, until at twenty minutes past five the following morning, the *Protondis* came to an anchor off the Telegraph station, Aspec Bay. The distance across is 64 geographical and 74 statute miles, and the depth for 80 miles of that distance was over 200 fathoms—the deepest, 265 fathoms. The bottom was fine sand in the shoaler water, and black mud in the deeper. Nobody could have witnessed the progress of that work without the conviction, that in such hands the spanning of the Atlantic Ocean would be a safe undertaking. Mr. Canning never left the deck, he was ably seconded by the ship's officers, and by his own men, who behaved admirably, and attended to all parts of their work unflinchingly, whether in the hold or at the breaks. I ought to mention that the *Victoria* steamer, with Mr. Osborne on board, en route from Aspec Bay, joined us at 4, P. M., and kept company with the *Protondis*. For some hours after nightfall the *Victoria* signalled their satisfaction at the progress of the work, by firing rockets and blue lights.

The morning opened with light rain, which continued till about noon, but the work of getting the end of the cable on shore had to be done, and all hands setting to work, by 2, P. M., the end was on shore; and being tested by Mr. Eddy, one of the directors of the Telegraph Company, was found in excellent working order, and communications were freely transmitted from shore to shore.

The two steamers will remain a day or two at Aspec Bay, whence proceeding to Northumberland Straits, the *Protondis* will lay down another length of ten miles cable, communicating Prince Edward Island with the main, after the completion of which work you will probably hear again from us. It is felt, however, by all engaged, that the great work of the season is accomplished, and there is a slight feeling of disappointment, that there are no more difficulties to be encountered, and dangers to be overcome. In conclusion, I must not omit to say, that the rain did not prevent a very hearty expression of satisfaction at the successful termination of the work. Guns were fired from the steamers, and hearty hurrahs were given by all hands, whilst the hospitality of the worthy contractor was freely extended to all employed.

Let me hope, sir, that the enterprising spirit of this Telegraph Company will be infectious, and that the grand effort the Company still contemplate will meet with such favor from the Governments of the two great countries, that losing sight of the vexatious questions agitating the South, they may together bend their energies to connect England and America by the triple cord of electricity, free trade, and righteousness.—*Correspondent. Mon. Chron.*