

of evening were falling, the train steamed into Truro station, the children heartily singing "Auld lang syne" and "God save the Queen." Much regret was felt, by the Sabbath School of St. Paul's Church at least, that the scholars of St. Columba's did not meet them on the grounds as well as those of Mr. McKinnon's school, the intercourse with whom was nevertheless very much enjoyed.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, N. B.—The pic-nic which was to have taken place on Wednesday last, but was postponed till fine weather, came off yesterday on Partridge Island. The first boat left Reed's Point at 10 A.M., and took about 250 children and teachers, and a few friends. By the kindness of Capt. Tapley, the whole party were carried around the island and landed very easily and pleasantly at about half-past ten. The boat again left the floats at 12, and took out at least 250 more, consisting of the parents and friends of the scholars; and again at 3 o'clock not less than 400 people left the city for the island, making in all about 1,000. The weather was exceedingly fine, the water smooth, and the breeze light and refreshing. At 12 o'clock the teachers supplied an ample luncheon for upwards of 250 children. A number of foot races were run and sharply contested by the boys, to whom prizes were given. The archery was very successful. The ladies' prize (a handsome card basket) was won by Miss Grierdon. The gentlemen's prize (a valuable opera glass) was carried off by Mr. A. Dodge. The *General* returned twice to the city deeply laden with the well satisfied excursionists. The best thanks of the committee and teachers of the Sabbath School are due, and we are requested to express them, especially to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, whose house was thrown open, and a general welcome given to all interested in the success of the pic-nic. To the Mayor and Dr. Harding, who kindly granted permission to use the island, the thanks of the committee are also tendered. The different families on the island contributed in a great way to the success of the pic-nic.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THE absorbing subject during the last month has been the war in Europe. Information comes to us in daily telegrams, which are both heterogeneous and contradictory. The grains of truth have to be sifted out of a mass of chaff. The Prussian army has driven the French past their second line of defence, and is now within a hundred miles of Paris. The carnage of one month's fighting is so awful that one trembles to put it upon paper. The beautiful plains and vine-clad hills of France are a ghastly sepulchre. Both sides have suffered, but Prussia has the consolation of victory. It is awful to contemplate such destruction of human life for nothing but the gratification of a few ambitious plotters. Spurgeon says: "They should be allowed to fight it out themselves, and that he would be willing to hold their coats;" and he is not far wrong. Yet the people are also to blame. National jealousy should never be fanned by the organs of public opinion. All men are brothers in nature and in interest. Such is the teaching of scripture and common sense. The god of this world blinds them to the voice of affection and truth, and they are rewarded by hecatombs of slain, oceans of tears, and miseries that can be felt but not portrayed.

There is no sign of intervention on the part of other Powers. The time has not come; for France still burns for the fight. The war prematurely arrested now would only burst forth afresh in a short time. The passions of two great nations are on fire. Such heat is more easily awakened than allayed. Both France and its dynasty appear to better advantage now than three weeks ago. Our interest in the matter is very pressing and important. Our government has pledged itself to maintain the neutrality of Belgium, and that must