

The West is full of men who bellow nonsense, and call it preaching. Two years ago, a famous revivalist, of a certain class—a preacher in regular standing in an orthodox Church, said, in a sermon, 'Brethren, there are four degrees in religion. When I was first converted, I could say nothing but 'Bless the Lord!' I heard others around me shouting 'Glory to God;' but I could not say that. I had not got far enough along yet. But I prayed and prayed that God would let me say 'Glory;' and, brethren, he answered my prayer, and I shouted glory with the loudest of them. And then I wanted to shout 'Salvation,' and the Lord blessed me again, and let me say 'Salvation.' And then, brethren, O, how happy I was. But there was another degree yet. I heard some of the old fathers clap their hands, and cry 'Halleluyah!' I could not say 'Halleluyah.' But I prayed to the Lord again, and he taught me to say 'Halleluyah;' and now, brethren, I can shout with any body! I have got clear up to halleluyah and I don't expect to get any higher until I get to heaven.

These are the very words of this Gospel Herald, as taken down at the time by a gentleman who heard him. I mention it only to show the condition of many communities in regard to their knowledge of and experience in spiritual things.

If such are the teachers, what must we expect of the people? When we talk to them about religion, they think of excitement, and shouting 'glory.' When we urge them to become converted, they think we want them to learn to sing, and clap their hands, and be happy! Hence, our preaching must be discriminating. It must deal much in definitions. We must show from the Bible what religion is. We must show the difference between emotion and principle; between feeling good and doing right. We do not need to enter upon controversy with these perverters of the Gospel, but by 'manifestation of the truth, commend ourselves' to the reason and consciences of men. Plain Bible truth, presented earnestly, with familiar illustrations, will always tell. It will pierce through all the prejudices of the people. It will flash through their delusions, like sunlight through a morning mist. The West wants, not philosophy or declamation, but the Word of God; and the preacher who dispenses the most of it in his ministrations, will see the most abundant fruit of his labors.

Diocesan Church Society.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

ON Wednesday evening, the 4th inst., the annual meeting of the Weymouth branch of the Diocesan Church Society was held. The School Room was filled by a large and attentive audience. The Rev. Messrs. Gray and Godfrey, and Mr. W. S. Gray, kindly lent their assistance, one of them coming a distance of 38 miles.

After singing, prayers, and the reading of last year's report, the President set forth the various pious objects of the Society. He also referred to the aid which the Church in this Province had for a long course of years received from the S. P. G., and took the opportunity of reading to the meeting a short but interesting account of the Diocese of Nova Scotia which appeared in the Society's quarterly report for October.

The first Resolution was moved by the Rev. A. Gray, of Digby, and seconded in a few remarks by Alpheus Jones, Esq.

Resolved.—That this meeting feeling thankful for the religious privileges they enjoy, are happy to believe that many of their fellow men, formerly destitute of the means of grace, now hear the glad tidings of salvation through the Missionaries supported by the bounty of the Diocesan Church Society.

We regret that we cannot do justice to the Rev. gentleman's speech. He spoke at some length in an earnest and animated strain, and his remarks appeared to make much impression on all present.

The second Resolution was moved by the Rev. W. M. Godfrey, Rector of St. Clements, and seconded by J. O. Vail, Esq.

Resolved.—That while this meeting rejoices in the advancing prosperity of this Institution, yet owing to the many and pressing applications for aid, it would call upon all members of the Church to increase their contributions to its funds.

The Revd. Mover of the above resolution commended the claims of the Society to the support of members of the Church in a very interesting speech.

The third Resolution, requesting the last year's Committee (with the addition of Dr. Ruggles, and Sterns Jones, Esq.) to continue their services during the ensuing year, was moved by Mr. W. S. Gray, Divinity

Student at Windsor, who made some pertinent remarks, which were well received.

Cerono P. Jones, Esq., Senior Church Warden, in seconding this resolution alluded to the interest which was taken in Church matters in Weymouth, in proof of which he pointed to the repairs and improvements that had been made on the Church, Parsonage, &c.

In the course of the proceedings special notice was taken of the liberal donation of 50 dollars made by Mr. James Jones, formerly of this place, but now residing in Newburgh, N. Y., while on a visit to the place of his nativity last summer. This sum was offered the Church-wardens on the condition that 75 dollars were contributed by the parishioners. A suitable response was soon made to the wishes of the kind donor, and the amount quickly raised. We have thus been enabled to effect repairs and improvements in the church, which were much needed. It is also proper to add that Mr. Jones when handing over his liberal donation, expressed a desire of making another next year, should such a measure of success in business attend him as to justify his doing so. May God incline many a heart to 'go and do likewise,' and may the giver experience in his soul the blessing promised those who 'do good unto Zion.'

The attention of the meeting was next directed to the poor idolaters in heathen lands. It was shown that it was the duty of those whose lot had been cast in more favoured climes to contribute to their relief; and if any individual desired his contribution appropriated to this object the D. C. S. would carry his wish into effect.—An extract was read from a speech lately delivered in Boston, by Bishop Spencer, who had labored with zeal in India, which, while it afforded cause for thankfulness for the blessing that had attended the exertions of holy men, at the same time gave a mournful view of the revolting cruelties and superstitions that prevailed in that benighted land. Christians should show their thankfulness for the great privileges they enjoy, by offering fervent prayer to the Great Head of the Church, that he would be pleased to hasten the period, when lands that are now 'the habitations of cruelty' shall become the inheritance of the Lord Christ, and 'the uttermost parts of the earth his possession.'

A resolution conveying the thanks of the meeting to Mr. James Jones, passed by acclamation. Thanks were also offered to the three gentlemen from Digby and Clements, for their presence and assistance. The favorite Missionary Hymn by the eminent Heber was sung in good style by the effective choir of St. Peter's Church, after which the proceedings of the evening were closed with the benediction.

News Department.

NEWS OF STEAMSHIP 'SAN FRANCISCO.'—TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY LIVES LOST.—A Telegraph despatch, dated New York Jan. 13, furnishes further particulars of the wreck of *San Francisco*. She was disabled night of 24th ult. Soon after a heavy sea swept her decks and washed 240 passengers overboard, including several officers and a lady. The ship drifted about until Jan. 5, when she was fallen in with by the ship *Three Bells*, from Glasgow, bark *Kilby*, for Boston, and ship *Antarctic*, for Liverpool, in lat 38, long 59, which vessels took off the crew, and all the remaining passengers. The troops were divided among the three vessels. The *Three Bells* arrived at New York Jan. 12.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.—On the morning of 25th the engines stopped, piston rod breaking off, leaving the vessel totally unmanageable, the sea striking her tremendous blows under the guards, and tearing up the planking fore and aft on both sides. At the same time became leaky, when the troops went to work baling. At 9 a. m. 25th, a heavy sea carried away both smoke stacks, all the upper saloon, stove quarter deck and washed over a large number of passengers, besides killing and wounding others. On the 28th spoke *Kilby*, which lay by until 3 p. m. 29th, taking off passengers. After receiving upwards of 100 a gale came on which compelled the *Kilby* to let go the hawser. The gale continued 30th and 31st, and a large number of men were sick and dying. On the morning of Jan. 1, spoke Br ship *Three Bells*, which lay by off and on until the 3rd, when her boat went on board. Same day spoke ship *Antarctic*, from New York for Liverpool. On the 4th both ships began taking off the people, provision, etc, and at sunset 6th had them all on board. Next morning took off the crew and officers, Capt. Watkins being the last man to leave his ship. *Three Bells* brought in 230 souls, *Antarctic* 170, *Kilby*, 100, killed or washed overboard 150, totally 650. *Kilby* was short of provisions, and

had only one cask of water. She had not been heard from. Another report states that the number of troops lost is 160. The troops lost everything, and many were prevented from coming on shore by the want of clothing. The *San Francisco* was scuttled before being abandoned. The ship *Levy Thompson* was reported below with the passengers transferred from the *Antarctic*. The *Napoleon* is said to have picked up provisions and then stood off. A fire near the *Cook's galley* was put out with great difficulty. The pumps gave out shortly after the ship began to leak. A congestive diarrhoea was very destructive among the men, which caused collapse and death in a few hours. Between 65 and 70 died from this disease. The *San Francisco* was overloaded, had a bad list, her engines very inadequate, and could not be propelled more than eight knots an hour. Capt. Watkins went to England in the *Antarctic*. His conduct is highly extolled. *Kilby* took off all the women and children, and it is thought would put into Bermuda. *Three Bells* fell in with the wreck 300 miles South of Sable Island.—*Chronicle*. *Kilby* has arrived at New York.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The Rev. Mr. Cooper, an Episcopalian clergyman, read daily from the Holy Book of life appropriate passages, and offered up prayers for our deliverance. To us those prayers were answered. Those who sank beneath the billows are now at peace with the world. The mighty ocean has taken them to its bosom, and their requiem was sung by the whistling winds of heaven.—*Passenger's Statement*.

The Rev. Mr. Cooper, wife, and four children, were among those taken off the wreck by the *Kilby*.

GRACE CHURCH.—The officers of the Third Artillery, with their families, who were rescued by the bark *Kilby* from the wreck of the *San Francisco*, will meet this morning, 17th, at Grace Church—Dr. Vinton's—at 10½ o'clock, to offer up their united thanksgiving for their safe deliverance from death. They request all their fellow sufferers of the army, as well as citizen passengers, to unite with them in this joyful act of praise and prayer to Almighty God for His abundant and great mercies.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered to all who shall be devoutly disposed to receive it. It is hoped that every officer will be present. The Rev. Mr. Cooper, who was likewise on the wreck, is especially invited to assist.

The appalling loss of life and the terrible suffering of the survivors consequent upon the wreck of the *San Francisco*, formed the chief theme of discussion in Congress and our city Legislature, as well as in public and private circles throughout the country, yesterday. Both branches of Congress have taken steps to testify their high appreciation of the noble conduct of the captains and crews of the ships *Three Bells* and *Antarctic*, and the bark *Kilby*, to whose skill, bravery, and indefatigable exertions, under the most trying and hazardous circumstances, some five hundred human beings are indebted for deliverance from watery graves. The necessary measures have also been adopted to make provision for the losses of the officers and soldiers of the army who were passengers on board the steamer, and to remunerate the commanders and crews of the rescuing vessels for the expense and inconvenience incurred by them in rendering assistance. The Boards of Aldermen and Councilmen are resolved to compliment Captains Creighton, Lowe, and Stouffer, and to invite them to partake of the hospitalities of the city. The merchants of the city are also doing their duty by subscribing towards the purchase of medals, &c., in commemoration of the generous services of these gallant officers, as will be seen by the reports of the meetings at the Exchange and Corn Exchange. We understand that about two thousand dollars have already been subscribed, and that a list of the donors will be published to-morrow.—*New York Herald*, Jan. 17.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Gadsden, our Minister to Mexico, came passenger in the *Texas*, having concluded an important treaty with the Mexican government.

The treaty (Mexico) agrees to give 32,000,000 acres in Mesilla Valley for \$20,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 are to be reserved for paying claims, including the Garay grant, &c.

It is understood that Mr. Sloo pays the Tehuantepec Company \$2,000,000 for the relinquishment of all their rights.

The details confirming the destruction of the Walker expedition to Sonora are received, but nothing later except the reported capture of the *Caroline*.