

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1835.

THE CLOSING YEAR.—We write upon an interesting day, the last of the year of grace 1835. At such a time a host of serious reflections crowd into the mind, but a few of which we have left ourselves room to express,—and these have nothing of novelty to commend them to the notice of the reader. It has been a year chequered with the usual variety of trouble and of joy, like all which have preceded, and all which are to follow it. It has brought its days of sorrow, need, sickness, and adversity, to some,—and to others it has given those of a brighter hue unclouded by these shadows which have darkened the dwellings of their neighbours—And thus has it realized the poet's comparison of life to

— a peevish April day—

A little sun, a little rain—

And night sweeps along the plain.

Let it be remembered, however, that whatever may have been the character of the days that are past, they have been the gift of God, for the due improvement of which an account is to be given at his bar, on a fast approaching day. Swiftly as the hours and days have passed away, they have not gone without a tale of deep importance to us all, which they will tell before the Judge of quick and dead, bearing witness for or against us at that solemn hour when the "Lord will come to bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of all hearts." Hence the wisdom and the necessity for all who have been mercifully spared the opportunity, to look back upon the stage of their journey now accomplished, and carefully examine whether it has been in the narrow path that leadeth unto life—to mourn over the many instances which conscience will bring to mind, of errings and strayings from that path of holiness—and to judge ourselves that we be not judged of the Lord. This is the season evidently suggesting solemn enquiries as to the progress we have each made in the great work given us to do.—Blessed as we have been with abundant means of working out our salvation, how important to ascertain whether they are effectual in making our calling and election sure. Whether, as we are so much nearer the end of our mortal course, we are nearer likewise to the kingdom of God, and "the inheritance of the saints in light." Whether, if the grave had closed over us, as it has over so many of our friends and acquaintances, our portion would now have been among the redeemed of the Lord. Let us "enter into our closets, and shut the door" against the cares, the pleasures, and the frivolities of a perishing world, and commune for a while with our own hearts, and be still, while we put to them enquiries like these, in order to arrive at a true estimate of our present condition, and our hopes for immortality. And as before these lines meet the eyes of most of our readers, a New Year will have commenced its uncertain course, let us each resolve to make it the beginning of a new and better life, more devoted to God, and more profitable to the soul, than the past.—Old things, old habits of sin, and carelessness, should pass away, and all things become new. In order to which let it never be forgotten that, as "we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves" so must we earnestly seek the help that cometh from God only, who alone can create the clean heart and renew the right spirit within the fallen soul of man.

To the conscientious minister of Christ, especially this season, will suggest the solemn enquiry, whether he is fulfilling the ministry he has received, as one that must give account. He will anxiously scrutinize the years of that ministry which have ended, in order to discover how far he has obeyed the command to "labour in season and

out of season," in advancing his Master's cause, and promoting the salvation of his flock. The departure of every soul that has been committed to his charge, will to him be an occasion of searching with deep anxiety into the manner in which he is feeding the sheep of Christ, warning the sinner, awakening the careless, comforting the feeble-minded, supporting the weak, and in short, giving himself wholly to the great work of bringing souls to the fold of their Redeemer. And while the review of the past must humble the most active servant of that Redeemer to the very dust, for his deficiencies, let the future find us redoubling our zeal in his blessed cause. As "Messengers sent to prepare his way before Him, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just"—O how much remains to be done! How sin, and carelessness, and that practical atheism which consists in 'living without God,' abound on every side! How boldly and firmly are the world, the flesh, and the devil, still arrayed against the spiritual dominion of the Lord's Christ! Let those who have sworn to fight his battles, not shrink from the contest. Let them be girded with that armour, which fervent and constant prayer to the Spirit will give. Let them declare unto men the whole counsel of God. Let them preach Jesus Christ in all his offices, and in all his love, accompanied by yearning desires for the salvation of their people. And then, whether this coming year shall close their earthly ministry or not, a merciful Lord will bless them and own them for good and faithful servants,—and His work will prosper in their hands.—In fine, let the resolve of the psalmist be that of every one calling himself a believer in the Saviour, while reviewing the mercies which have marked his past years—

"Therefore my life's remaining years
Which God to me shall lend,
Will I in praises to his name
And in his service spend."

NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Agreeably to notice, there was a public examination of this School, on the 23d instant, which was attended by several of the gentlemen of the town and parents of the children, though not by as many as we should have liked to see on such an interesting occasion.—The scholars were examined in the use of the Globes, Geography, English Grammar, Arithmetic, Reading, &c. and evinced a thorough acquaintance with all they had learned, and an amount of useful knowledge, highly creditable to the institution and to Mr. W. M. B. Lawson, who has, for the last two years and upwards, been the teacher. The order and discipline of the school are such as may be expected where the excellent Madras System is zealously and ably pursued. Upon the whole, we think that in no school in the province, has more sound, practical instruction been given, than in this, as well under its present Master as under his valuable predecessor, Mr. Maxwell, now in charge of the Central School at Halifax. If the good people of the metropolis know how to appreciate the advantages of that institution, they will not suffer it to languish, as we hear it does, for want of pecuniary support, since that derived from the Society in England has been withdrawn.

WINDSOR—We are informed that it has been determined to erect a new Church in this attractive village, and that subscriptions have already been entered into, to a considerable amount. There can be no doubt of the necessity of the undertaking, nor of the benefit that may be expected from the regular ministrations there of one who has the interests of the church and the good of souls deeply at heart. And we sincerely hope that those who have undertaken the management will go on zealously with the work, and be enabled to erect a church adequate to the wants, and creditable to the character of the place.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—In our first number, we alluded to the existence of these useful institutions in this province many years ago. Since writing that article, we observed the following in an old file of the Weekly Chronicle, published by the late Mr. Minns at Halifax, under date 8th Feb. 1794 :—"On Sunday morning next the 10th inst. a Charity Sermon will be preached at St. Paul's Church, and a Collection made for the benefit of the Sunday Schools in this town. The great number of children from time to time instructed in the principles of christianity, and preserved from the infection of vice and profanation of the Lord's Day under this benevolent institution, are the best proofs of its utility.

N. B. A Hymn adapted to the occasion will be sung."

We hear from Windsor, that two young women in that vicinity while attempting last week to reach a neighbour's house, perished from extreme cold.

State of the Thermometer at Lunenburg.

December	18—16	December	25—42
	19—17		26—44
	20—30		27—42
	21—44		28—24
	22—25		29—26
	23—24		30—31
	24—25		31—30

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We thank our friends for their help, but at the same time take the liberty of reminding them that our pages are small, and that it will not be fair to give to each more than a column and a half, or two at the most.—They will also save our compositors much time, and some puzzling doubts, if they will be pleased to write in a style perfectly legible.

Letters received since our last from—Rev Mr. Robertson, Bridgetown; Rev Dr. Jacob, King's College, Fredericton, N. B.; Rev J. Stannage, St Margaret's Bay; Rev J. Shreve, Chester; Rev J. Moody, Liverpool; Rev F. Uniacke, Halifax.

MARRIED.

At Mahone Bay, on the 19th instant, by the Rev J. C. Cochran, Mr. Benjamin Mader to Miss Eliza Kedy.

At South on the 24th. Mr. John Richardt, to Miss C. Fader.

At Chester, by the Rev. J. Shreve, A. M. on the 24th inst. Mr Edward Snair, to Miss Mary Graves. Same day, Mr Francis Hiltz, to Miss Jane Corkum. On the 29th, Mr Jacob Stevens, to Miss Mary Morash. In the evening, Mr Samuel Boutellier, to Miss Catharine Hutt, all of the parish of St Stephen's, Chester.

At Cold Spring, (L. I.) U. S. on the 17th ultimo, Rev S. Seabury to Amelia, daughter of William Jones, Esq.

DIED.

In this town, on the 19th inst, Mr Joseph Harrison, after a long and painful illness.

At Mahone Bay, on the 23d inst. Mr John Wm Kedy, sen. aged 66 years.

At Halifax, on Sunday last, in the 82d year of his age, John Howe, sen. Esq.—for half a century, we believe, connected with the Press in this province, and much respected as an upright and useful member of society.

Same day, Mr Isaac Mansfield, in the 84th year of his age.

At the same place, Leander, son of the Rev C. W. Weeks. On the 23d inst. Mr John W. Madden, aged 37 years, of his Majesty's Customs.

DROWNED—by falling through the ice, on Christmas evening, John Myra, of South—Also, on the 24th, at Port Medway, two young men named Mouser, who while skating fell in, and before assistance could be rendered, perished—'In the midst of life we are in death.'