

Nov Scotia, and make the 10 set now authorized for the Public Schools. The set consists of six books, well printed, and fully illustrated. The higher numbers contain selections from eminent authors and speakers, among them persons who are or have been in public life in our own Dominion. The latter, indeed, is all modern; and with a vocabulary connected with each lesson, questions appended, rules of punctuation introduced, besides several other valuable aids, the Readers cover a great deal of ground, while they are simple and attractive. They will, doubtless, do good service.

Missionary Notices of the Methodist Church of Canada for January 1877 contain letters from Japan, British Columbia, and the Red River District, also the Memorial from Bermuda to the Central Board, which led to a change in Missionary relation of those Islands more directly with the Mission House. The news in this number is very cheering; but as all our ministers are supposed to read these Notices to their congregations, we need not enlarge.

The New Dominion Monthly for January is quite up to the standard of this excellent Magazine. Its contents embrace chiefly Canadian stories and topics of interest. Published by John Dougall & Son, Montreal.

Ministers on the different Circuits request that subscriptions for the "Wesleyan" not yet paid, shall be sent in to them at once, where it is at all possible, without waiting to be called upon. Please comply. Those who wish to be reported as intending to pay at a future date, will be kind enough also to inform their Minister soon, as our lists must soon be revised.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PORT MULGRAVE AGAIN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Our good people at Port Mulgrave, are not permitting themselves to be altogether discouraged about their church building. Out of the abundance of their poverty, they have raised a further sum towards the building fund. On the evening of the 27th Dec., a Tea Meeting was held, and though the financial results were not all we could have wished, yet they were thankfully received. Unfortunately, as it appeared to be to us, the strait was nearly filled with floating ice, so that persons could not cross from Port Hawkesbury, else the receipts would have been larger; as it was however the sum of thirty one dollars was obtained. The almost total failure of all the fisheries during the entire season last, in this county, has made the cry of hard times here, and, having an adequate cause, so that we consider the effort of our Port Mulgrave friends a noble one. They are expecting to have a bazaar next summer.

J. R. HART.

SYDNEY.

The closing days of '76 were filled with events of more than ordinary interest. On Monday 18th, was held our Missionary Anniversary. Aided by ministerial brethren of other denominations, our staff of speakers was large. The speeches were interesting, and to the point. The audience larger than we have heretofore seen. The results, despite business depression, felt here perhaps more than anywhere in the conference, about equal to last year.

Thursday 21st, was devoted to a Christmas tree, which gave for parsonage purposes, some \$70.

On Sabbath 24th, the new church at the Forks was dedicated, Bro. Astbury preaching the dedication sermon. Years ago, on two different occasions, efforts were made to erect a place of worship in this locality, timber for the frame being placed upon the ground. These efforts were unsuccessful. Now the goal has been reached, and the little sanctuary has been set apart for Divine worship and service. This successful issue has, under the blessing of God, been largely owing to the zeal and care of the family and friends of our brethren Howie.

We are thankful to record many encouraging signs in our work here, and are looking anxiously forward, expecting great things at the hands of our Lord.

J. G. A.

DISTRICT CONVENTION AT WOLFVILLE.

On account of the illness of several of the brethren, and the unpleasantness of the weather, our meetings were very thinly attended, but, as is often the case with

small congregations, our blessing were very great. We felt it good to be there. The special presence of the Master more than made up to us the absence of brethren and friends. How often do we prove the truth of the declaration—"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." The session on Wednesday morning was spent in praise and prayer, and as heart joined with heart in earnest supplication, our united faith prevailed and God made us His presence feel. In the afternoon session, the subject—"How may we most practically respond to the obligations, under which, as Christians, we are placed to promote the revival of religion?" was introduced by the Rev. W. Purvis in a thoughtful address. The discussions of this convention were more general and conversational than at Halifax, and Bro. Purvis was followed by Brethren Hertz, Coffin, Boyd, D. W. Johnson, Elder, and Caldwell, in short and earnest speeches.

In the evening Bro. Boyd, from the Sackville Institutions, now supplying the place of Bro. S. F. Huestis at Windsor, preached a stirring and eloquent sermon from Rom. I. 16:—"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Bro. B. has much of the old Scottish fire and magnetism. The Thursday morning session was spent in a general conversation on entire consecration. In the afternoon the subject—"The claims and penalties of God's law, the divinely appointed means for producing conviction of sin" was introduced by Bro. Parker in an earnest and forcible address, which called forth considerable discussion. This was the most animated session of the convention. Excellent addresses were made by Brethren Hertz, Coffin, McMurray, Elder, and Morrow. As Bro. McMurray was not present at the morning session, he was urged by the brethren to give an address on the subject of Entire Consecration. As we listened to his clear and powerful presentation of the truth, we were led to see clearly that perfect love is the privilege of the Christian, and that the challenged declaration—"Entire Consecration to God, is the price of spiritual peace and power" is really true.

In the evening Bro. Purvis preached a very original and greatly persuasive sermon from 1 Kings XVIII. 12:—"I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth." Bro. Morrow followed with a loving and highly encouraging address to the young men, and Bro. Hertz made an impassioned appeal to all to decide for Christ. Thus ended a convention poorly attended, and yet not soon to be forgotten by those who engaged in its services.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. Lemuel J. Morse, of Berwick, has been missing since 1874, when, it will be remembered, his satchel was found in his room in the International Hotel, Halifax, (where he had been staying a few days), and the impression went forth that he had been robbed and murdered. He is in California, "as well and hearty as ever he was." He tells a story about being kidnapped in Halifax, and taken on board a ship, and after some years of forced service was landed on the shores of California.

The brig Jean, Captain Simpson, of and for Halifax, from Inagua, put into St. Thomas, Jan. 13, with loss of sails. The schooner-Ellie, Capt. O'Brien, from Halifax, for Porto Rico, put into Hamilton, Bermuda, with loss of foremast and sails.

A Board of Trade has been formed in Pictou County. The awards of the jury appointed to appraise the damages to property on the line of the W. C. Railway, from Victoria Bridge to Annapolis, have been published. The total amount is \$21,774.62.

The hull of the schr. Ann Amelia, which went ashore at Lawrenceton on the voyage from P. E. Island to this port, was sold at auction, recently by Mr. E. Lawson, for \$150. Mr. D. H. Pitts was the purchaser. The hull and materials realized \$500.

The Nova Scotia Legislature will open on the 16th of February.

The Pictou Bank has declared a dividend of three per cent. for the half-year.

The Dartmouth Steamboat Company intend removing the men now employed as ticket agents in Halifax and Dartmouth, and replacing them with young ladies.

A very sad accident occurred at Northfield, Q. C., on Tuesday, 2d inst., by which a man by the name of Ringer lost his life. A number of men were getting out timber, and Mr. Ringer had succeeded in cutting through a large tree, but in falling it lodged against one adjoining. He then attempted to cut the second one down, when the tree he had been working at fell, and crushed him to the ground. He lived but a few minutes after he was taken up.

On Saturday evening about six o'clock, a fire broke out in a barn belonging to Mr. W. H. Pomeroy, Wilmoor, and in a short time it was burned to the ground, notwithstanding the efforts made to save it by his neighbors. The fire also communicated to his dwelling house, and other out-buildings which were totally consumed. The horses that were in the barn at the time were rescued. Mr. Pomeroy's loss is over \$800.

The steam-tug G. W. Johnson, Yarmouth, was totally destroyed by fire Jan. 11th. No insurance.

The Digby "Courier" says, Intelligence reached here last week of the heroic rescue of the crew of a sinking schooner, by Mr. James Morrison, mate of the barque Crown

Jewel, and a native of this place. The Crown Jewel sailed from St. John, N. B., and fell in with the schooner Thomas Wings, of Grand Manan, Gulf of Mexico. James Morrison, with a volunteer crew, got out in a boat, and rescued the crew, and the deed was performed under circumstances of danger such as to attract the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury who asks for the names and residence of the rescuing crew, in order that such details may be obtained as will enable the department to recognise the services in a suitable manner. The crew of the lost vessel was landed at Galveston on the 30th of October last.

The Yarmouth "Herald" publishes the Yarmouth shipping list for 1877. The total tonnage amounts to one hundred and forty-two thousand tons, an increase for the year of ten thousand tons. Under contract, or now building, fifteen thousand tons. Lost during 1876, five thousand tons. Sold, six thousand tons.

NEW BRUNSWICK & P. E. ISLAND

Messrs William Thompson & Co., of St. John, having been appointed agents for Messrs. J. J. Miller & Co. of Miramichi, are receiving a quantity of their extract of hemlock bark for shipment to London. It is anticipated they will have sufficient to load a couple of vessels of 400 tons in the middle of March. In summer this commodity has been shipped from Miramichi.

When the inward train on the Houlton Branch Railroad, was leaving White Settlement on Saturday evening it came into collision with a sled crossing the track, and James Stewart, aged 21 years was instantly killed, and four of his companions injured more or less.

Mr. Thos. Gill, of Robinson, had ten sheep killed recently by some dogs that broke into the sheep fold at night.

A Kent County, correspondent of "The Watchman" writes:—"There is more doing in lumbering this winter than last. All the logs were sawed up in the summer by all the water mills, except McLeod's, and the carries over in deals and logs about fourteen million feet, but his was the only stock on hand when navigation closed. He is in the woods pretty strong again this winter.

On one occasion last week the Princeton train took two days and one night to force its way through the snow drifts between Calais and Princeton.

Hake are being caught in large numbers through the ice on the Kennebecasis river. Two men who went out yesterday were successful in taking a large box full in a few hours.

New hats have arrived for the men connected with the St. John Fire department. The chief and assistant engineer, as well as the chairman of the Fire Department Committee, are to have hats of white leather, while the others will be black.

Darius Jones, of Tripp Settlement, had a valuable horse killed by a falling tree while loading some logs on his sled in the woods. The accident happened on the 4th inst.

On Tuesday, the 26th ult., as Abraham Young, son of the late Andrew Young, of Lower Montague, P. E. I., was assisting in putting up a yard on board the brigantine "G. W.," some of the ropes gave way, and he was precipitated a distance of 45 feet. In falling, he came in contact with some of the rigging, which somewhat retarded his descent, and thus prevented him from being instantly killed. He is still in a very low condition, but Dr. McLaren, by whom he is attended, has hopes of his recovery.

Mr. Duncan McMillan, in the past fall, ploughed up on his farm, at Woodville, P. E. I., a stone axe resembling those brought from the South Sea Islands.

Ship David G. Flemming, Esson, from Liverpool, Nov. 4th, for Mobile, has been wrecked. The crew were saved. (The D. G. F. was 1467 tons register, and was built at St. John, N. B., in 1864.

The sales of goods made by the Sussex Boot and Shoe Company in 1876 exceeded the sales of 1875 twenty-five thousand dollars.

The Sheila, of St. John, N. B., Mosher, from New York (timber), has arrived in the Surrey Commercial Dock, London, G. B., with loss of a portion of the cargo overboard.

Messrs. Conway & Deen have on exhibition in the Country Market St. John, a hog weighing 302 lbs. It was raised by Mr. Thomas Ryan, of Sussex.

Mr. G. E. Fenerty, Queen's Printer of New Brunswick, has been elected Mayor of Fredericton.

Notwithstanding the dull times, Messrs. S. R. Foster & Sons, the enterprising tannery and nail manufacturers, of St. John, are determined to give steady employment to all their hands during the winter season.

UPPER PROVINCES.

Official assignees are required to make a return of expenses of insolvent estates to the Minister of Agriculture. These returns are published.

Domestic reformatories and asylums in Ontario are handed over to the Local Government of that Province by an Order in Council.

It is stated that the Bank of Montreal loses \$300,000 by the defaulter Barber.

Mr. J. J. City Attorney, Montreal, has been sent to England to argue cases before Her Majesty's Privy Council.

A new pedo-Baptist Church, Emmanuel, and a French Presbyterian Church, Montreal, are to be conducted by Father Chiquery, were opened on Sunday last.

Barber, the Montreal Bank exchequer, pleaded guilty at Toronto, and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

About 15 French immigrants, who claim to have been brought out under false pretences, have left Montreal, for France, aided by the Government and French societies. Fifty more will leave next week.

The twelfth Conventions of the American Dairywomen's Association met at the Ingersoll, Ottawa, on the 9th inst. Delegates were present from all parts of Canada and the United States. Horatio Seymour, of New York, was elected President.

The Manitoba Legislature meets on the 20th inst.

The Montreal "Star" publishes the particulars of the winding up of an insolvent assignee. Twenty per cent. went to the creditors and eighty per cent to costs.

The imports of Montreal for December is one million and sixty-three odd thousand dollars.

Patrons still pour into the Ontario Legislature in favour of Orange incorporation and the abolition of tax exemptions.

The statement of expenditure of the Public Works Department of Ontario, from 1868 to 1876, shows a total of two millions nine hundred and nineteen thousand three hundred and sixty-three dollars.

Three laborers, employed on the Lachine canal, were brought to the Montreal general hospital, one of them with both legs broken, the other two with one leg each broken, and other injuries received by an embankment of earth falling on them.

The Quebec Government has given Sulte & Lajoie, two French Canadian authors, fifty dollars a year for ten years, for the privilege of publishing extracts from their works in Provincial chart books.

D. J. Craig has been appointed assignee to the estate of Bond Bros. & Co. Montreal. A statement was submitted, showing the good assets to be \$150,000 and the liabilities a million, half of which is to Sir Hugh Allan and is partially secured.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The European plenipotentiaries, at a meeting held at the Russian embassy, Constantinople, Jan. 12, decided to make their last communication to the Ottoman delegates on Monday, and demand a categorical reply. The Conference will meet again on Thursday to receive the reply. If the Turks persist in their refusal, all the members of the Conference will quit Constantinople on Friday. It is said the Sultan has resolved, if no agreement is reached, to recommence hostilities against Serbia and Montenegro March 1st.

At the beginning of the week Prince Bismarck sent Baron von Werther a curt despatch, criticizing the extreme slowness of the Conference, declaring the plenipotentiaries had gone too far in concession to the Porte, and that such concession and modifications, in the face of Turkey's delay and resistance, were contrary to the dignity of Europe and impaired the force of its collective system.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" expresses the belief that Germany's action is a fresh indication of Bismarck's desire to see Russia at war and the Russian Empire shaken or destroyed.

The Hungarian General Klapka has inspected the arsenal and stores of Turkey, and certifies that the Turkish Government has 100,000 breech-loaders and accoutrements sufficient for 400,000 men. The Turkish army in Bulgaria is rapidly increasing; 83,000 men from all parts of the Empire have arrived in that province within the last 8 days.

All the correspondents of the London papers consider the failure of the Conference probable. The attitude of the Turks is unyielding.

The Paris "Pays" publishes an article signed "Cassagnac," insolently attacking the Government and prophesying the return of the Prince Imperial to France in three years.

The steamer State of Virginia, from Glasgow, Dec. 22, for New York, is reported off Crookhaven, with her main shaft broken.

The frigate Svetlana, flagship of the Russian squadron, arrived at Hampton Road on Friday, having on board the Grand Duke Alexis and Admiral Bentajoff.

The steamer Montezuma has been burned on the Honduras coast by her Cuban captors, who escaped. The Spaniards on board were saved by a Spanish man-of-war which in pursuit.

Near Alexandria, Va., two sleeping cars on a passenger train were thrown down an embankment by a broken rail. Fifteen passengers were injured.

Another accident occurred in West Virginia, a passenger train jumping down a 45-foot embankment; several persons were badly hurt.

Commodore Vanderbilt's will bequeaths all his wealth to his own family.

A duel was fought in Kent Co., Delaware, last week between James Gordon Bennett and Frederick May. The seconds were Dr. Frederick May, of Baltimore, acting for his cousin, and Howard Robbins, acting for Bennett. There was only one exchange of shots. At first fire May received Bennett's fire in his forearm. Bennett was unhurt.

James Gordon Bennett, who has been concealed on board the "Herald" steam yacht at New York, during the past few days, boarded the steamer City of Richmond, bound for Liverpool, off Sandy Hook.

Dr. Charles Phelps, who accompanied Bennett as surgeon, has been committed to jail for thirty days for refusing to testify before the Grand Jury in relation to the duel.

A SERMON

PREACHED IN BRUNSWICK ST. CHURCH, HALIFAX, DEC. 24, 1876, BY REV. W. PURVIS.

"I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth." 1 Kings, xviii. 12.

The entire line of Israel's kings was formed of unworthy, godless characters. Many of the kings of Judah were noble, God fearing men; but the kings of Israel were, without an exception, worthless and vile. And of the whole series none was more than Ahab. He did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him. A more contemptible man is seldom met with in the annals of civilized government. King John of England and Ahab, king of Israel, were rulers whose memories will be held up to execration, so long as men have minds to judge and hearts to feel. Ahab's wickedness brought upon his country a drought which continued with unbroken severity for three years and six months. Driven to extremities the unhappy monarch ordered the land to be thoroughly searched for water and pasture; he himself taking one route, and Obadiah, the governor of his house, another. And, forasmuch as this drought and famine had been predicted by Elijah the Tishbite, no effort was spared to discover and apprehend that man of God. Into all the neighboring states and kingdoms did Ahab send to find the prophet; and each chieftain was made to swear that he knew not his

retreat. Imagine, then, the surprise of Obadiah, on meeting the stern, mysterious Tishbite face to face. In his surprise and fear he fell to the ground, confusedly exclaiming, Art-thou-my-lord, Elijah, the man of God answered, "I am, go, tell thy lord, behold, Elijah is here." And he said, "What have I sinned that thou shouldst deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?" Reminding Elijah of the efforts Ahab had made to arrest him, and of the probability of the Spirit of the Lord now carrying him away, (see verses 10-12,) he refused to return, adding the plea, "I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth."

1. It is said of this good man (verse 3) that he "feared the Lord greatly." Now, no man under Ahab's rule, and occupying so prominent and influential a position as governor of the royal household, could fear the Lord greatly without greatly risking both his office and his life. No man at such a time and in such a position could fear the Lord greatly with any degree of ease or safety. He needed a rare combination of prudence and principle who could, at such a time, both fear God and honor the king. It required an enlightened mind and a tender conscience to determine in those days what things should be rendered to Caesar, and what should be rendered to God. The steward of such a man as Ahab could not fear the Lord greatly without having often to act in direct opposition to the will of his royal master. Himself the son of an usurper, Ahab took to him for wife the daughter of an usurper, a woman more fit to be companion to Satan than wife to an Israelitish king. What Ahab lacked to make him complete in wickedness was fully made up in the character of Jezebel. When these two heads and these two hearts in counsel met, woe to the man that stood in the way! See what the sacred historian says of them, "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." Now Obadiah knew his master and mistress well; he was fully aware of the risk he ran in opposing or frustrating their designs; he knew they were persons with whom he could not trifle. Why! the king was so peevish and cruel that he would not hesitate to take the head of his own steward, should he unwittingly befool him by saying, "Elijah is here." Some time after this did he not throw himself upon the bed and take pet of his dinner, like a sulky child, because Naboth the Jezreelite refused to sell him his vineyard to make a kitchen garden of? And, at the instigation of his wicked wife, did he not, in the most cold-blooded manner possible, murder that innocent man? A ruler that could do things like these might well be feared. Then, think of his queen—Solomon, (than whom few had a more extensive experience in such matters) among his many "findings," said: "And I find more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands." (Eccles. vii. 26.) Now, such a woman was Jezebel, queen of Israel. More bitter than death, more cruel than the grave. At the mention of her name Elijah trembled; at the outbreak of her anger he fled for his life. Elijah, whose voice like a trumpet rang through the land, calling the apostate nation back to its God—Elijah, who, in stern and solitary grandeur, stood on Mount Carmel, and, in the presence of the king and all the people, challenged, single-handed, the entire priesthood of Baal—no sooner hears of Jezebel's rage and Jezebel's vow, than he flees into the wilderness and prays God that he may die! Were we severe in calling her "more bitter than death: more cruel than the grave." When the Son of God, in His revelation to His servant John, described the Church of Rome and the abominations thereof, as though anxious to give it the strongest and most significant title possible, styled it, "that woman Jezebel;" a term indicative of the deepest wickedness. Yet Obadiah feared God more than he feared his queen, fiendish woman though she was. Risking his reputation, his office, and his life, he put himself between her rage and the Lord's prophets: biding an hundred of them in caves, and feeding them with bread and water. Brave, god-fearing man! As we look at him on his face before Elijah, stuttering out his disjointed question, it is hard to say which is the greater man of the two: the humble but brave governor, with his herd of starving horses: or the mighty but impulsive prophet who had the power to say: "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." Among the saviours of his nation; among the nursing fathers of the persecuted Church; among the defenders of the true faith, Obadiah, governor of Ahab's house is not the least worthy. In the list of Hebrew worthies who, in dark and troublous times, "endured as seeing him who is invisible," this man's name holds no mean place.