

We are now enabled to state, upon the best authority, that a special commission has been issued for the county Tipperary.

The judges are to be Lord Chief Justice, (Blackburn), the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Judge Moore.

It is not, we believe, finally settled what prisoners are to be put upon their trial at the special commission. Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Meagher will certainly be among the number. Nothing has been as yet determined with regard to Mr. Duffy.

FRANCE.

The sense of security created in the capital, under the mild but firm administration of General Cavagnone, has led the National Assembly, on the question which had been raised therein, as to the necessity of maintaining the siege, to pronounce by a large majority in favour of the continuance of that measure, thus strengthening the hands of the only man who has had the ability and the honesty to form a regime of order out of the most chaotic elements of Revolution; and, at the same time, striking a heavy blow against the machinations of the Abolitionists, who, like wretches on the coast, thrive best amid the weakness, the sufferings, and the ruin of their fellow-men.

General Cavagnone, during the debate, said:—I declare it would be dangerous for the country, for the Republic, and the constitution itself, to remove the state of siege. The continuance of the state of siege, including the power of the absolute suspension of the liberty of the press, was voted by a majority of 520 votes against 140.

On Sunday the review which took place in Paris was favoured with most magnificent weather. Gen. Cavagnone, accompanied by Generals Changarnier, and a brilliant staff, arrived at twelve o'clock at the Champ de Mars, where the legion of the National Guard of Paris, including the artillery, the Garde Mobile, and troops were drawn up in eight lines, extending from the Ecole Militaire to the river. The general passed before the front of each, beginning with the National Guards, who loudly cheered him with cries of "Vive le General Cavagnone!" "Vive la Republique!" He afterwards took his station in front of the Ecole Militaire, and the citizen soldiers and troops filed before him. The concourse of people was immense, and the most perfect order was observed.

Letters from the wine districts describe the vineyards as promising a rich vintage, with a superior quality of wine.

The French army actually on foot amounts according to the declaration of General Lamoriciere, before the committee appointed to examine and report upon the budget for the Ministry of War to 548,000 men. The estimated expense of the War Department for the year is 454,233,224.

M. de Lamartine has published a pamphlet in defence of his conduct while a member of the Provisional Government. It has created the greatest sensation and the first edition was sold "in the course of a quarter of an hour." It is in the form of a letter to the electors of the various constituencies who returned him as their representative in the National Assembly.

After commencing by declaring that "that popularity which had greeted him everywhere without cause, has been withdrawn from him without motive," he proceeds to specify the accusations brought against him at length, and replying to them all in detail. The vindication is esteemed to be triumphant. In taking leave of his numerous constituents, M. Lamartine tells them that every time he shall deposit a ballot in the urn of the National Assembly, in favour of the people, firmness against all factions, for the security of the nation, family, property, conscience, and society, he will say to himself that he is fulfilling their intentions, and that two millions of citizens are voting with him in favour of the Republic.

The many explanations which he has given more than justify the strong confidence which the civilized world repose alike in his patriotism and in his policy. That policy is the only policy which can give stability to the Republic or happiness to France; and, if his countrymen are not judicially blinded, they shall yet see him filling the place, and meriting the designation, of—the Washington of France.

The approaching elections to fill the vacant seats in the Assembly, begin to occupy public attention.

Louis Napoleon has announced himself as a candidate for Assembly in the department of the Seine.

It is said that conferences have been held between the monarchists and modern republican party in the Assembly, which it was expected will lead to a fusion of all in behalf of the Republic.

DENMARK.

The armistice between Germany and Denmark has been repudiated by Frankfurt Central Diet, because the provisional government of Schleswig-Holstein, appointed at the time of the revolution, will not accept the armistice on the conditions proposed by the Federal Diet. This greatly annoys the Prussians, who are the principal sufferers by the continuance of the war. The English papers still continue to hope that nothing will grow out of the event, and that permanent peace will soon be procured.

ITALY.

STATE OF THE INTERVENTION.

Nothing decisive respecting the Austro-Italian negotiation. Gen. Cavagnone is actively preparing to present the treaty of peace which, with England, he is negotiating. "at the point of the sword." The reply of Austria, though unsatisfactory, does not imply "an absolute refusal" of the mediation. It pleads a prior negotiation, not yet at an end, with Piedmont direct. But Piedmont has accepted the joint mediation of France and England. Besides, the whole Cabinet of Turin protests against the supposition of a private treaty between Sardinia and Austria. Moreover, Piedmont is not entitled to speak in the name of Lombardy and Venice. The plea of Austria, that she is negotiating with Charles Albert, who in this instance is disclaimed, not only by North Italy, but even by the united voice of his own Cabinet, is regarded as a subterfuge, and Austria is called upon to answer categorically, will she or will she not accept the proffered mediation? It is distinctly intimated, that until she thus answers, any hostile attempt against portions of the Italian territory not included in the armistice, is intended to the Austrian army, the English Cabinet having announced the French in protesting against any attack upon Venice.

Since the disasters of the Piedmontese army, all Italy seems to be in a distracted and excited state. At Genoa, Leghorn, and Rome, tumults occurred, which were with difficulty suppressed. The disturbances at Leghorn, had a decidedly deplorable character. A sanguinary collision took place between the national guards, the troops, and the people. A great number of families abandoned the city. A portion of the population exerted itself to effect a compromise, which was resisted by the other. The latest news is that order was restored.

THE ROMAN CHAMBER WAS PROSECUTED TO THE 15TH NOVEMBER.

The Pope has resolved to send a representation to the Congress on the Italian question.

Charles Albert is reported to have written to one of the principal financiers of Paris, declaring that he intends immediately after the armistice, to take the field, and not to quit it until he has achieved the complete liberation of Italy and Venice.

The Pope is at war with his new Ministry on the same point as with the Maniani Cabinet; namely, that of committing foreign affairs to the exclusive care of an ecclesiastic.

AUSTRIA.

Vienna still continues in an unquiet state. A great number of the national guards of Vienna having declared that on no consideration would they again make use of their arms against the workers, in consequence three additional regiments of the line have been ordered into Vienna.

The Government has sent a note to the French consul, justifying, through Gen. Welden, the proceedings of the Austrian Army in the papal States.

GREAT FIRE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

A most destructive fire took place at Constantinople, Aug. 19th, commencing at an oil depot of immense extent. The fire consumed, according to a detailed estimate, about 2500 shops and 500 houses; about 40 of the latter were splendid palaces, belonging to the Shek ul Islam, Moustapha Pasha, Saïd Pasha, Irret Pasha, Hassan Pasha, and others. The general loss is calculated at from £2,000,000 to £4,000,000 sterling, but some have carried it to £5,000,000. We should state that about £2,500,000. To account for this great loss, it must be understood that vast depôts of merchandise were kept there, besides whole bazars of oil, fruit, wax, rice, spices, tallow, coffee, sponges, &c. as well as the establishments of the knife grinders, wholesale grocers, nut sellers, &c. In addition to these must be added 10 khans, 7 mosques, 4 baths, 2 public granaries, 15,000 barrels of rice belonging to the Pasha of Egypt, a government steam mill, and 17 vessels, and among the rest an Austrian and a Russian vessel, &c.

This fire exceeds that of Pera, two months back, not only in the extent but in the value of the property destroyed.

PRUSSIA.

Ministers are uncessing in endeavors to secure a majority for their bill for the prevention of open air meetings. Meantime the central section of the Constituent Assembly have materially altered some of the clauses, and introduced a more liberal spirit into nearly all of them.

The Cholera continues to spread in various parts of Prussia. In Magdeburgh, eleven new cases occurred on the 30th ult. In Stertin, numerous persons have fallen victims to the disease, which is on the increase in Berlin; and which, it is reported, has broken out in Cologne. In St. Petersburg it is on the decrease, but it has made its appearance in the kingdom of Poland. On the 24th, there were 54 new cases in Riga, making altogether 6,256, of which 2,906 terminated fatally. This epidemic has broken out in Stettin, which on former occasions was free from the scourge.

Some liberal laws have been promulgated in the Grand Duchy of Hesse Darmstadt, one of which involves a full recognition of liberty of conscience. It grants to every one free and public exercise of his own form of worship, saving only the laws of the State, public morals, and the rights of the citizens. Differences of creed involve no difference as to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, all disabilities on that score being abolished.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The following is an extract of a letter to one of the editors of the Journal of Commerce, dated—

"NEWFOUNDLAND, June, 1848.

"We, Newfoundlanders, have passed a most trying winter—hundreds of families have subsisted, during the season, on an allowance of half a pound of corn meal a head, per day. Had it not been for this, we have good grounds for stating, hundreds must have died of starvation.—Numbers, even at this time, are living in a state of the deepest distress and wretchedness—without food, save fish—without necessary clothing—without any means of procuring necessaries—and without credit. Last year we had poor fisheries and almost a total failure of the potato crop, so that not a few families have been destitute, but whole communities—yes, every part of the island has felt the smart. The Government, last fall, did much to meet the exigencies of the winter, but really, after doing what, perhaps, it could, it was a mere trifle, considering the thousands looking to it for relief. It is much to be wished that this summer would prove prosperous, both as regards the fisheries and potatoes, for should it turn out otherwise, we apprehend that Newfoundland, during the subsequent winter, will have to pass through heavier trials, than it has ever yet experienced, since it became a British Colony."

Two meetings have been held at Nauvoo for the expulsion of the remaining Mormons. Great fears are entertained that another war on these unfortunates will be the result.

THE YEAR 1848.—The present year has this singularity, that it is divisible by no fewer than thirty different numbers, viz. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 21, 22, 24, 28, 33, 42, 44, 56, 66, 77, 84, 88, 132, 154, 168, 231, 264, 308, 482, 616, 924. Next year will be the square of 43 while we have not a "square" year since 1764; and the next which will occur will be 87 years after next, viz., in 1936.

AUSTRALIA.—The exports from this flourishing colony continue to increase, and the aggregate now exceeds the whole export from the provinces of North America before the declaration of independence. The principal articles exported are wool, tallow, and copper ore. The quantity of wool exported in 1847 has reached the large amount of twenty-two million pounds, an increase of 35 per cent on the previous year. This wool, which is of superior quality, was invoiced at less than 30 cents per pound. It is produced by the large flocks of fine wool sheep, which live the entire year in natural pastures, and having increased from a few flocks of Merino and Saxony sheep, imported a few years since, to millions, bid fair to supply the civilized world.

LIGHT-HOUSE IN WISCONSIN.—The Light-House at Southport, Wisconsin, has been completed, at a cost of over \$4,000. It is 80 feet in height, and the wall at the base is five feet thick—at the top—outer diameter at back 25 feet. Vessels can be seen 35 miles out from the lantern.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

HAMBURG.

Hamburg, August 12, 1848.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—It is impossible to leave my post at present, when the cry "Come over and help us" meets in every direction, when innumerable engagements fill up my time, and when two of my most valuable fellow-labourers, Kober and Lange, are laid aside. Under such circumstances, will not our more wealthy brethren give us what God requires? I am quite sure we shall somehow or other not be allowed to be brought to confusion before the world. I propose writing an appeal, with an account of our present position, &c., next week, to be inserted in the Baptist and Primitive.

Brother Lange is very ill, and may leave us every day; he is staying his soul on Jesus. Brother Kober also still ill, and unfit for any labour. Krueger a little better; Reichard just returned from a seven weeks' missionary tour into the Hartz mountains, which has been highly interesting. Next week I purpose visiting Schleswig, where we hope soon to have a little church. Two sisters in the Low Countries, where we were immersed here a fortnight ago. We are increasing our labourers as much as possible. I have requested two brethren in Hesse and Baden to come to Hamburg, with a view to have them employed as colporteurs and missionaries. I ought to be constantly from home, as the meeting to a detailed estimate, about 2500 shops and 500 houses; about 40 of the latter were splendid palaces, belonging to the Shek ul Islam, Moustapha Pasha, Saïd Pasha, Irret Pasha, Hassan Pasha, and others. The general loss is calculated at from £2,000,000 to £4,000,000 sterling, but some have carried it to £5,000,000. We should state that about £2,500,000. To account for this great loss, it must be understood that vast depôts of merchandise were kept there, besides whole bazars of oil, fruit, wax, rice, spices, tallow, coffee, sponges, &c. as well as the establishments of the knife grinders, wholesale grocers, nut sellers, &c. In addition to these must be added 10 khans, 7 mosques, 4 baths, 2 public granaries, 15,000 barrels of rice belonging to the Pasha of Egypt, a government steam mill, and 17 vessels, and among the rest an Austrian and a Russian vessel, &c.

You are quite at liberty to publish the "manifesto" in English. Your ever affectionate brother,—J. G. OSCEKIN.

To Mr. S. Wilkin, Hampstead.

The Baptist church in this city has drawn up a declaration of its principles and views of the most truth, or "manifesto" on the subject of Christianity; and in reference to which Mr. Oscekin says:—"Brethren Lohner, Schaufeller, and myself have, after much deliberation and prayer, thought it advisable under the present circumstances, to use the manifesto into the world. The world has asher a known nothing of Christianity, but from the distorted form, and the lost lives and spirit in which it appears in state churches; and hence the world rejects all Christianity, as an invention of cunning self-interested priests."

"I have just returned from Pest and Vienna, but have no time at present to give even a sketch of my tour. I can only say that I cannot leave my post at present, to beg for the chapel. The Lord has sent from America 3500 marks, or about £200 sterling, and the remaining 7000 will most come. The whole of Hungary and Austria is open before us. I sent 20,000 tracts, 100,000, and 10,000,000 Hungarian tracts will be printed shortly. In the Silesian mountains, I immersed nine converted Roman Catholics, preached four times at Vienna, and had for six days, every day a service at Pest."

Brother Lange is on the point of death. Brother Kober and Krueger are very ill, so that I must remain here.

Brother Reichard is just returned from a 7 weeks' tour to the Hartz mountains; and from every quarter we are met with the cry, "Come over and help us."

CHAPEL CASE, HAMBURG, (MR. OSCEKIN'S.)

DEAR SIR,—I have long since thought about a letter in the "Primitive" of this month. How desirable it would be that all who are interested in Mr. Oscekin's labours, should understand the nature of his own form of worship, saving only the laws of the State, public morals, and the rights of the citizens. Differences of creed involve no difference as to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, all disabilities on that score being abolished.

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THE CHRISTIANS IN THE WALDEN VALLEYS have been holding a Synod, which sat in protracted deliberation from the first to the fourth of August. The decisions to the Synod had excited much zeal among the people, and its discussions were animated without becoming violent. The Table, which is the Executive Council of the Church, has been renewed. Of the five members composing it, two only were re-elected, and the new appointments appear to have been made on evangelical principles.

FITNESS OF SCRIPTURE EMBLEMS.—Every "saint" reproves the sluggard. Every opening "saint" directs us to God. Every successive wave of the ocean wave has written upon it, "No peace to the wicked." Every pure, flowing "river" reminds him who stands on its banks, that obedience to God will cause his "peace" to be like this.

THE EVANGELICAL PIONEER

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1848

SUMMARY.

It would be observed in the abstract of news by the *Acadia* which was given in our last, that Her Majesty prorogued Parliament in person on the 9th ult. Her speech, of course, consisted in commonplace allusions to the leading topics of the day. After alluding to the successful operation of the act for the prevention of crime and outrage in Ireland, and to the relief of suffering in that unhappy country, the speech continued:

On the other hand, organized Confederacies took advantage of the exciting pressure to excite my suffering subjects to rebellion. Hopes of plunder and confiscation were held out to tempt the distressed; whilst the most visionary prospects were exhibited to the ambitious. In this conjuncture I applied to your loyalty and wisdom for increased power; and strengthened by your prompt concurrence, my Government was enabled to defeat, in a few days, machinations which had been prepared during many months. The energy and decision shown by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in this emergency deserves my warmest approbation.

The act for facilitating the sales of encumbered estates, the amendment of the Scotch system of entails, and measures for the improvement of public health are noticed. It is then stated that diplomatic relations with the Government of France are formally renewed, and that Her Majesty's Government is directing its efforts to the amicable adjustment of differences that have threatened the peace of Europe. The speech concludes with congratulations on the improved prospects of peace, and on the order and loyalty that have been displayed throughout the British dominions.

Parliament was then prorogued to Nov. 2.—Much has been said of the exceedingly small amount of legislation which has resulted from the labours of a prolonged session. A little reflection will satisfy any impartial man that this forms no just ground of charge against either the ministry or the Parliament. We need only recall the agitating events of the period during which it has been in session, to perceive that it was not a time in which legislative progress was to be expected. When trames and constitutions have been tumbling on every hand; when intestine commotions were every day threatening our own institutions; when an important portion of the empire was ripe for revolt, and when even within the precincts of Parliament, disaffection was uttering its threatening voice, was it to be expected that the ministry should sit down calmly to digest laws and great reforms, or that the House of Commons should address itself to grave deliberation on matters of policy and right. They must have been either more or less than men if they could do so, and they would have contradicted all human experience if they had attempted it. The lawless for reform may rest assured that all progressive legislation must be suspended, and all measures of true and permanent relief delayed until the wild and reckless appeal to violence is completely hushed. In the circumstances, the government has accomplished all that we had a right to expect when they steered the vessel safely through such a storm. We must give them a clear sky and a calm sea when we demand that they address themselves to repair and improve.

It will be observed with pain in this day's reports that the quiet in Ireland has been but short-lived. There is no doubt that this is a riot for the sake of plunder, and not an insurrection for any political object. The character of the agitation which has been maintained in that country for many months, the sentiments that have been imbibed, the passions and prejudices that have been provoked, could not fail to destroy, in the minds of untold masses, all sense of the sanctity of order, property and life. There is little wonder then that the first pressure of want should urge them on to violence and crime. It is a most painful omen of the fat rate. That extensive destitution must prevail is only too apparent; to this, pestilence may add its horrors, and to what deeds such a people may be goaded by accumulating sufferings it is sad and fearful to anticipate. The purposed insurrection has indeed proved—shall we say—a pitiable failure; but the influence of such an agitation is not exhausted.

From all that we can gather by a perusal of the agricultural reports from England and Scotland, the grain crops will prove considerably beneath an average, though the deficiency will not be so great as was at one time apprehended.—The turnip crop is very abundant. Good hopes are entertained that the potato crop may not be extensively affected, but the date of these reports is too early to warrant a confident opinion.

The state of Europe is such as to excite continued anxiety. In Paris an outbreak is hourly expected. The partisans of the various pretenders are plotting and counterplotting; while the monarchists of every grade are only biding their time for a desperate, and probably a last onset against social order and the rights of property. Cavagnone, who is of necessity sustained by all who have anything to lose, stands between them and their victim, and attempts have been made to remove this obstacle by assassination. It is gratifying to see Lamartine prepared with a complete and high-minded vindication of his course, though the light in which he stands forth only throws into deeper shade the state of society and the condition of the country, by which his integrity and patriotism have been sacrificed.

As to the rest of Europe there is little that is more encouraging. Its great capitals are almost equally agitated by the discontents of oppressed but unprincipled masses. Vienna and Berlin tremble on the verge of anarchy. Prussia and Denmark will be still further embroiled. The attempts of Austria to maintain her footing in Italy will not be abandoned, and straws thrown up show in what direction the wind blows, trifling incidents are occurring to show what will probably be the disposition of the powers in the event of a general war. The Emperor of Russia has given an incontestible proof of the strength of his sympathy with

Austria in the struggle. He has conferred upon Marshal Radetzky the highest military decoration of his empire; an expression of approval which, at this time, will by no means favour the proffered mediation of England and France.

Austria, encouraged by such an assurance of sympathy, will rise in her demands. The two mediating countries may, in course of the negotiations become fairly committed to the claims of Italy. And when hostilities are renewed, as there is too much reason to fear they will be, they may find it difficult to avoid an active participation. The first troops they find upon the scene of conflict will be the signal of a general muster, and every nation of Europe will hasten to take its place.

THE UNITED STATES is absorbed by the loose political contest for the Chief Magistracy. The writing on all sides is of so unscrupulous a party-character, that at this distance it is impossible to arrive at any conclusion regarding the issue. It is evident that liberty principles are making themselves extensively felt. Southern papers express a conviction that should the election of President go to the House, the "Free-Soil" party will be successful. It may be proper to explain that by the constitution of the United States, if no candidate for the office of President has a majority of all the votes in the electoral college, an election of a President is made by the House of Representatives, who must choose from the three candidates having the greatest number of votes.

In the present divided state of public opinion this is by no means unlikely to be the result of the contest, though we should scarcely be prepared to see the House elect a Free-Soil candidate. The supposition, however, shows how strongly the movement is felt throughout the Union.

PROVINCIAL.—Men's minds are turned towards the probable course of legislation in the next session of the Provincial Parliament. Much is confidently expected of the present ministry and their supporters, and if rumour speaks correctly of the important measures which they are maturing, that expectation will not be disappointed. The quarter from which greatest danger is to be feared is the people. The general apathy and inaction of the people does not do justice to their leaders; and it will not be surprising if the activity of parties interested in the perpetuation of abuses should prevail against proposed reforms. It is to be remembered that the ministry is not placed in a position merely to begin and without trammel or hindrance proceed with the creation of new and free institutions. They find the ground cumbered with the legislation of other days; all their movements are impeded by the prejudices and prepossessions of an influential portion of society; and every attempt to improve or reform will be met by the interest of some class who derive some selfish benefit from the abuse which it is proposed to correct. As a general rule, it may be considered as settled that no government will proceed faster and farther in reforms than they are led—were about to say—driven, by the firm declaration of public opinion. Nay, they cannot proceed, except as they are sustained by such declarations.

The danger is, that in such a country as this the bulk of the people will find too strong an attraction towards the advancement of their own private interests, to give an earnest consideration to the common interest. In the outset also, the pressure of abuses and of partial legislation is not severely felt as interfering with these private interests, and the consequence is, that although men know there is a wrong, they are apt to be careless about its removal. There is a lesson to be read in the whole affairs of the world at this day, which should not be lost upon us. By slow and imperceptible steps the encroachments of power have been permitted, until the interests and the rights of the multitude have been sacrificed to the aggrandizement of a few. And when the pressure of grievances makes a necessity of resistance, it becomes apparent that the recovery of rights and the reformation of abuses can only be attempted at the hazard of rupturing the entire framework of society.

With us, needed reforms may be easily secured now. The only danger is that the slightly felt pressure of the evil will scarcely arouse us to the slight effort that is needed. One thing is evident, the will of the people of Canada can in the present time most effectually reach its public institutions and affairs. With all the boasted freedom of republic and democratic states, there is not a State in the American Union in which the people can, with more directness or efficiency act upon its affairs and interests. It will be a lasting shame and wickedness, if through mere indolence or mistaken selfishness, we fail to secure for ourselves, and for coming generations, the public advantages which are thus at our command.

It will be more the fault of our supineness than of High Church arrogance if King's College continues under the control of a dominant sect; if the large portion of public property known as Clergy Reserves continue to be used to nourish the political and religious nuisance, an establishment church or state churches; or if ministers of religion continue to be required to give an account of religious services to the civil power.—Religion and patriotism equally demand that we cast off all sloth, and address ourselves to these questions with the earnestness of men who do not require the tithe-proctor and the tax-collector to scourge them to their duty.

There are two or three topics which urgently demand the attention of the people and to which we observe the press is giving a due prominence. In particular, we would point to the post-office, the navigation laws, and our commercial relations with the United States. In the first, there is needed a reduction of postage and the establishment of a uniform rate on letters to all parts of the provinces; a reduction of the charge on newspapers. And we may suggest, that since the improvement of newspapers is a matter that affects the interest of the post-office department, it might be good policy as well as just to encourage this interest by carrying exchange papers free of charge. The prosperity of the province is more extensively involved in the repeal of the navigation laws than the government at home

can easily be made to perceive, while an influential class is interested in perverting the truth.—Canada must speak out boldly and intelligently on this subject. The establishment of reciprocal free-trade between this Province and the United States needs only that we should do our part of the work.

The navigation of the lakes has been interrupted by violent gales; we have not heard of any wrecks or disasters in consequence, but, on Monday and Tuesday, the steamers on lake Ontario were detained in port. The attendance at the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition has probably been affected by the unpropitious weather. The Propeller Earl Cadwallar, is, we believe, grounded below Port Stanley; her passengers were brought up by the *Commerce*.

COLPORTAGE.

It must be apparent to every one who has taken any interest in the religious condition of this province, that some more aggressive measures are demanded for its thorough evangelization than are furnished by the ordinary efforts of what is denominated a stated ministry. The regular assemblies of Christian congregations in their several places of worship, and the proclamation of the tidings of peace are means of grace whose importance cannot be over-estimated.—But if these sum up the activities of the churches it is certain that a very large portion of our population might as well be living in a heathen land, so far as the advocacy of the claims of the gospel are concerned. There is a large portion of every community whom these means do not reach and there is among our extending settlements a large number who cannot, if they would, reach these means. There are to be met with, here and there, professing Christians who satisfy themselves that when they have contributed to the erection of a chapel and the support of a minister within their own locality, they have done their share of the work of evangelization. There are a few more who, in addition to this, will make an occasional grudging contribution towards some denominational effort, or some home mission society. And there are many more who seem to satisfy themselves with throwing upon ministers and the agents of home mission societies, the whole responsibility of seeking the advancement of the truth. We do not at present address any such, we turn to those who in sincerity desire the salvation of souls; who not only acknowledge their individual responsibility, but whose whole hearts are bent upon carrying the message of salvation to every creature, and who will not sit down at ease while there are in our land and alleys, our log-cabins and distant settlements, numbers who never hear the name of Jesus save in the blasphemy of tavern brawl.

To such we would speak a word or two on behalf of our proposed system of colportage.—And do you ask what it is? The original significance of the word *colporteur* is about equivalent to that of our word *pedlar*. In its appropriated sense it is the designation of a class of humble and devoted men, who, without the allotment of any official dignity or any pecuniary remuneration, go forth to carry from house to house the word of life. In France and Switzerland, whence the term is derived, it was applied to men who in spite of the restrictions of papal bigotry, took a pack of bibles and testaments on their backs, and went through the rural and mountainous regions, selling a bible where they could, or making a gift of it where they could not, and persuading the benighted peasantry that in these scriptures they would find the word of life.

The plan has been extensively adopted in the United States by the American Tract Society, and by the American Baptist Publication Society, and in both cases with most distinguished success. These societies exercise great care in the selection of men of suitable qualifications, none but men of the right spirit are likely to offer themselves. They assign them a small salary and give them a sufficient stock of books and tracts. These books are generally Bibles and Testaments, Baxter's Call to the Unconverted, Allene's Alarm, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, and other works of a similar character. A field of certain limits is assigned to each, and he receives a discretionary power to make a donation of a testament or other book where the circumstances demand it. The colporteur, entering his field, goes from house to house with his bundle, and finds no difficulty when offering such works for sale, in ascertaining the religious character of the inmates. Generally speaking he has an opportunity of speaking directly and closely with every individual. Here he must combat the objections of infidelity—there he must endeavour to overcome the superstitions and prejudices of the papist. Again, he must endeavour to arouse the indifferent, to seek to reclaim the vicious and degraded. Not infrequently he must endeavour to persuade the backslider to come home to his Father; and now and then he will discover with joyous surprise, some of God's hidden ones in solitude keeping up the light of truth in souls that pant for Christian society and the light of the gospel. In the evenings, and on the Lord's days he will convene the inhabitants of a little neighbourhood at some school-house or central dwelling, and endeavour to open up to them the treasures of divine grace. In situations where there are scattered believers he can encourage them to meet together; to establish Sunday-schools, and otherwise seek mutual edification and the promotion of the gospel.

It will be perceived, without much illustration, how well adapted such an instrumentality is to such a country as this. It lays hold upon those who neglect the truth, it extends the truth to those who are beyond the reach of ordinary means. It breaks in upon the worldliness and settled indifference which so alarmingly prevail, and knocks not only at the door of every family, but at the heart of every individual. It does not merely deliver a passing and verbal message, but leaves behind the printed advocate, whereby that message may be enforced during a winter evening or a lonely sabbath. It breaks up the ground for the regular preacher, and lays the foundation of worshipping assemblies.

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