

poorer Pastors of the Baptist body in Britain. The Baptists in this Province publish the appeal; while the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces is grappling with the same question. Happily we have much reason to complain as far as our Church in this Province is concerned. But must not forget that much of the satisfactory state of matters in our own case is due to the generosity of the Parent Church. The time has now arrived when we should aim at three things, first, to dispense as far as possible with the aid of the Colonial Committee, so long enjoyed; and second, to avoid the disagreeable state of matters experienced in other Churches.

The notice in last No. regarding the Lay Association has brought out the fact that in several Congregations the Association is in operation, although no statement of the quarterly collection appears in the pages of the *Record*. The absence of such statements sometimes causes dissatisfaction. We have informed Congregations and Treasurers that they will be gladly published when forwarded to Mr. W. G. Pender, Pictou, The General Treasurer only publishes his own account. Each Congregational Treasurer should forward to the *Record* a correct quarterly statement.

We have no very aged Ministers within the bounds of our Synod at present, but we have some venerable office-bearers in the leadership. The Hon. Mr. Holmes has been upwards of 50 years an office-bearer in the Church. He is still hale and hearty, and in all likelihood, at present at his post as one of our Legislators, as he was lately in his place as Representative Elder at the Pictou Synod.

The state of matters in Cape Breton still holds forth an occasional arrow from the quiver of the Ministers of the other Presbyterian Synod. The Rev. John Stewart in closing an article on that island describes the Ministers and adherents of the Established Church of Scotland as "maintaining their nominal constitution by the employment of such unworthy agencies as have been practised at Middleburg and elsewhere," without saying and indeed without knowing exactly where the blame lies. We have no hesitation in characterizing the state of matters so often and so painfully alluded to as a disgrace to our common Christianity and our common Presbyterianism, or perhaps we should rather say, a proof of our common fallen nature.

A more pleasing view of our common Christianity is afforded by the fact that the Presbyterian Churches of Halifax have for some years co-operating in the City Mission field. Some changes have recently

been made in the arrangements. Mr. Grier-son has been handed over to the Industrial School Committee, and it is expected that St. Matthew's, Poplar Grove, and Chalmers' Churches, will soon place a new Missionary in the field. St. Andrew's is also expected to lend a helping hand in this much-needed mission.

In connection with the City Mission, there are also other agents supported by other Churches. St. Paul's has a Missionary, and the young men of Poplar Grove Church support a "Bible Woman."

We have received a copy of the Report for 1866 of the "Halifax Young Men's Christian Association." They have also published a notice calling the attention of Ministers, Parents and Guardians to the important services rendered by the "Stranger's Committee" to young men going to the City. They invite strangers to visit their comfortable Reading-room, Hollis St., opposite the Province Building, and we can speak from experience of the courteous and affable manner of the Secretary, Mr. Theakston, who has charge of the Rooms.

A sad death occurred in one of the pits at the Albion Mines on the 4th ult. A young married man, a Mr. Harvey, ventured into a part of the pit charged with choke damp, and fell a victim to the fatal gas. He was connected with the Rev. Mr. Philip's Congregation. R. M'C.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THE question of Reform still occupies the greatest prominence in British Home-politics. It was intended that it should be based upon a £6 rental in towns and a £20 rental in counties. Now it appears that the Conservative leaders, in their desire to retain office, will grant household suffrage, the only pleasant features about which will be that it will take the reform trade out of the hands of the Whigs, Gladstone, Bright, Russell & Co. The doze is so liberal that even Lord Russell sickens at it. Three Conservative members of the Cabinet have resigned. General Peel by his consistent Toryism has the respect of all parties—more especially since his retention of office for two or three days longer would have entitled him to his pension of £2,000 a year—the usual boon granted to those who have held one of the leading Cabinet offices for a certain time. Fenianism has enjoyed its fervently desired outbreak. The movement was simultaneous, contemptible and readily suppressed. The ultimate issue will be the strengthening of the three kingdoms by directing public attention to every Irish grievance. The Lord Chancellorship and the chairs in Dublin university have lately