Provincial Wesleyan

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1858.

Communications designed for this paper must be accompanied by the name of the writer in confidence.
We do not undertake to return rejected articles.
We do not assume responsibility for the opinions of correspondents.

A Retrospective Glance.

THE issue of the first number of the *Provincial Wesleyan* for the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Eight naturally suggests to our minds the propriety of tendering to our numerous readers those congratulations and good wishes which are usual at this season. May the year on which they have entered be one to them of temporal prosperity and spiritual progress. 1857 was in many circles a year of mourning, lamentation and woe. We pray that 1858 may be crowned with rejoicing, and crowded with manifestations of God's favor to us as individuals, to our Church, and to our nation.

Looking back upon the year that is now termed *old*, our memory recounts the names, and recalls the forms, of many who were wont to scan the columns of this paper, but whose eyes are now closed in death. They *sleep* in Jesus. They will wake no more until the Archangel's trump shall summon them before the Judgment-seat of Christ. We shall meet them there,—God in His infinite mercy grant to renew for eternity the communion which has now been severed for time. Without our own Connexional bounds, the departed year may be noted for the more than ordinarily numerous deaths of aged and influential persons,—solemn events which strongly impress the vanity of earthly ambition, and make their striking appeal to those of every class in the community, "Be ye also ready!"

Our Province was in the past year the scene of other changes admonitory of the uncertain tenure by which those in high places hold possession. They have been taught that a breath can unmake them as a breath had made. Our duty and our disposition alike lead us away from scenes of political intrigue, and forbid us to sympathize in the successes or failures of political parties. One feature of colonial politics it is however the duty of the religious press to mark; a duty which it cannot fail to discharge without practically abnegating its rightful function as the champion and guardian of evangelical Protestantism, and the unswerving exposer of the Machiavelian machinations of Rome. We must not hesitate then to record that the change of Government in 1857 will ever be conspicuous in the history of this Province as an evidence of the supreme power of the Roman Catholic Church in colonial affairs, superinduced as it was by the concerted and unanimous action of the Roman Catholic members of the legislature. Here is the indication of danger to our free institutions,—not only in their bearing upon our civil liberties but as the conservators of religious rights,—to which the Christian mind of the country should be directed. We defer to the respective predilections of our readers so far as the question, what set of men shall rule, is concerned; but we urge upon them all without distinction, as we are impelled by a sense of duty to do, to be vigilant and unflinching in the exercise of their constitutional powers to prevent Popery from having the ascendancy in the Councils of the country, which, if secured, must inevitably operate to the detriment of our highest interests.

Our province was visited in 1857 by commercial depression. But it was not singular in this respect. Panic thrilled through the world. Houses of proud altitude in Europe and America fell, and the crash caused its vibration to be everywhere felt in the tottering and tumbling of feebler structures of commerce. The crisis, we hope, is past. New life, we trust, will henceforth be infused into the operations of trade. But may our merchants not forget that abiding success is not to be found in extravagant speculation; that a wide extension of business is not always a wise employment of means; and that "Better is little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith."

National disaster marked the year which has passed away. India became the scourge to England. India, so long the hot-bed of luxurious vice, the scene of insult to the Majesty of Heaven, has taught a terrible lesson to the throne of Britain. Through the calamities which have befallen the empire we hear the voice of the Holy and the High, demanding "Will ye mock God?"—A century's disregard of the behests of Heaven has met its stern rebuke. Let it be the part of Christian England now to resolve that India shall have the Gospel, and let us, forming as we do a favored portion of her great empire, be forward to assist in the noble work of promulgating that Gospel, by responding to the utmost of our ability to the appeal of our own Missionary Committee for funds to carry out their design of largely reinforcing the Wesleyan Missions in India. May Eastern British America nobly attest its interest in this cause.

In science and in art the old year had its triumphs, and its failures. The grand exhibition of Art Treasures at Manchester was a noteworthy indication of the civilization and refinement of the age. The willingness with which the owners of rare collections parted with their treasures was a proof of confidence in the public, and desire to contribute to their gratification and improvement, characteristic of no previous period, and which sheds a pleasing lustre on the present. Two great projects refused to invest with the splendor of their completion the dismal year 1857. The launch of the Leviathan, if happily performed, must be numbered in the events of 1858, and the laying of the cable for an Elective Telegraph through the Atlantic is reserved for accomplishment in this new year.

To us as religious journalists one event relieves the dreariness of a year so clouded with depressions and disasters. The session of the Evangelical Alliance at Berlin may be regarded not only as a noble demonstration of the catholicity of Protestantism, but as destined in its results, we hope, to promote efficiently the cause of religious liberty on the continent of Europe, and to subserve the spread of Gospel truth throughout the world.

We may pause here, repeating the good wishes with which we commenced, and earnestly exhorting all who may read these lines to put their trust in God for the year to come, and to discharge with determined fidelity their duties, social, political, and religious.

Religious Services of the New Year.

THE last day of the old year was stormy. Rain descended copiously upon the previously fallen snow, and evening's cold congealed the mass, so that our streets with their smooth icy surface were inviting only to the most adventurous pedestrians. Notwithstanding, however, the unpropitious character of the night, a large number assembled at ten o'clock in the Argyle-street Church to keep their holy vigils for the incoming year. The Reverend JAMES ENGLAND took a leading part in the services of the evening. After the first hymn had been sung, he called upon two lay brethren to engage in prayer. The discourse delivered by the reverend gentleman from the last three words of the tenth verse of the ninetieth psalm, "We fly away," was calculated to stir the hearts of his hearers and awaken in them resolutions fitted to the solemn point of time. The Reverend C. CHURCHILL, A. M., followed with a deeply impressive address, calling up in the most touching manner reminiscences of his connexion with this Circuit twenty years ago, and marking the changes which had taken place in the interval. As twelve o'clock approached, he requested the congregation to kneel in silent prayer. And thus in the *attitude* and *act* of prayer to the God of all our mercies did the first moment of 1858 find a goodly company of His sincere worshippers. May its *spirit* be present with us throughout the year! The Watch-night service was concluded by singing the usual hymn, and prayer by the Rev. R. DUNCAN.

On Sunday afternoon the solemn service of Renewal of the Covenant was held in the Grafton-street Church. When the appropriate extract embodying the Covenant had been read by the Rev. C. Churchill, the whole congregation on bended knee pledged themselves anew to the service of God, and still kneeling sang a part of the 750th hymn.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was then administered. A feeling of due solemnity, we believe, held possession of every heart; and may we not hope that to some at least who have not been wont to mingle with the people of God on such occasions, participation in the services of last Sabbath brought a blessing whose fruit will remain for eternity?

[In fulfilment of the promise conveyed to our readers in last week's issue, we now present them with the following report:]

A Sermon,

ON OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF THE REV. WILLIAM BENNETT, PREACHED AT HALIFAX, N. S., ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27th,

BY THE REV. MATTHEW RICHEY, D. D.

"Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever."—PSALM lxxiii. 24, 25, 26.

THE hallowed tranquility amidst the cares and vicissitudes of life, and in the anticipation of death, so vividly mirrored in this passage, affords a species of evidence which all may appreciate, that the religion of the Bible—essentially the same under every dispensation—is no cunningly devised fable. Those superlatively great and precious promises which it makes to the *ear*, are never broken to the *heart* of its real disciples. Though the writer of the Psalm before us did not enjoy the high privileges of the Gospel, through which, to us, life and immortality have been brought to light, enough both of grace and glory were even then revealed, to enable him to lay hold on the hope set before him, and to register for our learning this precious memorial of the strong consolation he thence derived. The primal elements of vital godliness, and, in them, the constituents of true happiness, are here luminously embodied: supreme love to God—filial trust in His paternal care—communion with Him—intense aspirations after a perfect assimilation to His image—and, to crown and consummate the rest, an assured hope of the eternal fruition of Him in heaven. Who would not covet such a heritage, compared to which wealth and fame are valueless, and sensual pleasure a debasing illusion!

In order justly to appreciate the nature of the happiness that dictated the language of the text, it is necessary to advert to the fact, clearly indicated in the previous verses, that it was not merely the fruit of faith, but the reward of fidelity. A moral tempest had just swept over his soul, obscuring for the time, so to speak, all the orbs of heaven, and threatening to make shipwreck of his faith. Such temptations are not uncommon in the history of God's most faithful servants. *Severe trials* of faith always indeed precede its most *signal triumphs*. Thus it was in the experience of Asaph or David, whichever of them penned this inspired song. In a season of affliction,—when the mind is more than usually susceptible of depressive suggestions,—he had permitted his thoughts to dwell upon the *apparent* incongruities between the providence and the perfections of God, until he began to imagine them to be *real*. Contemplating the ease and elevation of the wicked, in contrast to his own suffering and humiliation, the spirit that was in him, through unwatchfulness, lusted to envy; and the transition from that unhallowed impulse, when not instantly repelled, to sceptical reasonings respecting the moral government of God, was but too natural. The fiery conflict had now reached its crisis; and the issue became every moment more painfully uncertain.—Shall I dishonour God, and offend against the generation of His children, by revoking the vows that bind me forever to His service, and committing myself to infidel theories? or, steadfast in the faith, resist the foe, and, conscious of my helplessness without celestial succour, avail myself of my wonted and never-failing resource,—the Mercy-seat of my covenant-keeping God? were the questions that now pressed for unhesitating practical solution. That solution, happily, is as promptly given: He goes into the sanctuary of God;—his eyes are uplifted to the holy Oracle;—the glory between the cherubim shines forth on the prostrate suppliant;—the moral problems that had so perplexed and agitated him are at once satisfactorily solved; his peace returns; and, instead of the despairing wail of the *victim*, we hear from his lips the exultant strain of the *victor*: "Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

I have selected this passage as furnishing a suitable theme for our meditation on the present solemn occasion; and, I doubt not, all who are acquainted with the protracted Christian life and peaceful end of the venerable Minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has recently finished his course, and in reference to the occasion of whose death this service has been appointed, will readily accord with me in so regarding it.

Before I allude to any incidents in his history, or attempt a delineation of the more distinctive traits of his character, I purpose to give a condensed illustration of the leading topics comprised in the text.

I.—GOD IS THE OBJECT OF THE SUPREME LOVE OF GOOD MEN, AND THE SOLE FOUNTAIN OF THEIR HAPPINESS.

In the immeasurable realm of being, there is no object entitled to the homage of the heart's devotion,—none adequate to the deep wants and infinite aspirations of the human soul, but the living God. How humiliating then, my brethren, is the thought that our natural state is one of alienation from God, and the prominent moral characteristic of our minds, whilst unrenewed by grace, *enmity against* Him. Thoroughly to convince us of this, that we may feel constrained to acquaint ourselves with God and be at peace, is the first design of the word of truth, as it is likewise the first function of the Holy Spirit. And until this conviction is effectually wrought in the conscience, the whole life, however blameless before men, is marked in the sight of Him who looketh upon the heart, with the revolting impress of practical atheism. Whatever may be the estimate of our character formed by others, we are really *without God in the world* so long as we can not say with emphasis, but without any exaggeration,—*Whom have I in Heaven but thee; and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.* Endeavor, my Brethren, thoroughly to penetrate the import of this remarkable declaration.—Can it be intended to suggest that there is any being, any object, in heaven without powerful attractions to the pure in heart? without legitimate claims to our admiration and love? By no means. We utterly fail to comprehend the spirit of the Psalmist's words, if we attribute to him such an idea. In the just estimation of the spiritually-minded, heaven is full of all that is transcendently excellent and attractive. *There* are the elder members of the great intellectual family, who, when legions of their associates forfeited their thrones, nobly maintained their fidelity to God, and have ever since been doing His commandments, hearkening to the voice of His word.—There also are rejoicing myriads of our own race—the spirits of just men made perfect—increasing in number from the martyrdom of righteous Abel to the present hour. And will it not be an unspeakable privilege,—a dignity far surpassing earth's highest honors, to mingle in such society; to commune with them respecting the glorious perfections of the ever-blessed God as displayed in creation and providence, but preeminently in Redemption: and to unite with them in the ceaseless celebration of his praise? When, in connexion with such elevating views of heaven, we think of its crowns of unfading glory—of its palms of moral triumph—of the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb—and of the tree of life flourishing on either side of that river, covered with perennial fruits and healing foliage; and, when we remember that these sublime representations are but emblems of realities too magnificent for the conception of the loftiest faculties in the present state of existence, is it not a sad proof of the weakness of our faith, and the torpor of our spiritual affections, that our minds are not more occupied with the thoughts of heaven, and the desire to be away from this polluted scene of our sojourn, and in possession of that land of pure and perpetual delight! Yet, were we actually entered there, our vastly enlarged conceptions and worthier appreciation of all the elements of heaven's unimaginable blessedness, would only serve to make the sentiment,—*Whom have I in heaven but Thee?* proportionately impressive and absorbing. For let GOD withhold the manifestations of His glory, and heaven, instead of being the abode of ineffable bliss becomes a scene of desolation;—the song of enraptured seraphim dies on their lips, and the harps of the redeemed are silenced forever;—the coronets of immortality lose their lustre;—the victor's palm withers in his hand;—the river whose streams make glad the city of God flows back to its source;—and the tree of life is transformed into a naked trunk. But the case put thus hypothetically, thank God, can never occur. The apprehension of such a catastrophe will never invade the heavenly Paradise. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever."

In a heart whose affections are set on things that are above, no room is left for "evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." Purified from inordinate attachment to the creature, and from the love of the world, which the highest authority has pronounced incompatible with the love of the Father, *there is none upon earth that it desires beside Him.*

And what, my Brethren, is the end of the commandment—what is the scope, the grand design, of the whole law, but this love out of a pure heart, and faith unfeigned? The primal and permanent precept of the Divine code is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." To this high and comprehensive behest the principalities and powers in heavenly places yield delighted obedience; it was written on the heart of our first parents in Paradise: it was proclaimed with a voice of thunder from Sinai; and, now, emblazoned with the softened effulgence of Mount Zion, it constitutes the very basis of Christian morality. Compliance with it is not merely an integral part of our duty; it must essential element of *all* acceptable obedience, since a true regard to God is the principle that gives vitality to moral character. And thus it is that the supremacy of the love of God in the soul, so forcibly expressed by the Psalmist in the text, is truly "the fulfilling of the law." It reveres the authority of God in every intimation of his will. It delights in the contemplation of his character, as the perfection of moral excellence. It is glowingly alive to all the obligations to gratitude imposed by the varied displays of his beneficence, most especially, by his redeeming grace. By a moral predestination of the heart, therefore—if I may so express it—it secures the cheerful, uniform, and unreserved consecration of our whole nature to Him, as alike the *Author* and the *End* of our being.

Now, if "he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him," the soul that is imbued with that holy principle has grasped the Supreme Good. Rejecting the *broken cisterns* of earth, it has come to *the Fountain of living waters.*—In God alone, all experience teaches, are found those high attributes, those infinite resources, requisite to constitute an adequate portion for the human soul. Without a consciousness of reconciliation to Him—a sense of His approbation, which the inward testimony of His Spirit can alone impart,—the conscience can never enjoy the peace that passeth all understanding. Without the Spirit of God, renewing, filling, and ruling the heart, it must ever remain the seat of disorder, depravity, and dissatisfaction. From the depths of our moral being a voice cries out for the living God. Why should we try to stifle it? Why permit the dissipations or engagements of the world to drown it? You *may* repress it to the *end of life*; but, speak out at length it will in *eternity*, yes, and *throughout* eternity, when Mercy herself will have no ear to listen, no tranquilizing response to utter. O that her thrilling expostulations might no longer be addressed to us in vain! "Wherefore do ye spend your money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Responding to this call, the true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has found in Him the proper and satisfying sustenance of the soul,—"the living bread that came down from heaven," of which whosoever partakes "shall never hunger."

—"Thou art the centre of all minds,
Their only point of rest, ETERNAL WORD!
From Thee departing we are lost, and rove
At random, without honour, joy, or peace.
From Thee is all that soothes the life of man;
His high endeavour, and his glad success;
His strength to suffer, and his will to serve.
But O, Thou bounteous Giver of all good!
Thou art of all Thy gifts Thyself the crown.
Give what Thou will, without Thee we are poor;
And with Thee rich, take what Thou wilt away."

[Remainder next week.]

Mr. Francis Johnson.

We are indebted to a friend for the following pleasing item of intelligence. Our Correspondent says:—Many of your readers will doubtless be pleased to learn that the worthy Superintendent of our Sabbath School, connected with the Brunswick Street Church, has been presented by the Officers and Teachers, with a handsomely bound edition of Dr. Adam Clark's Commentary on the Old and New Testament, as a token of their regard, and appreciation of his valuable services as their Superintendent for the last eleven years.

I send you for publication a copy of the address presented on the occasion, and also his reply.

Halifax, Dec. 31st. 1857.

ADDRESS.

RESPECTED SIR,—The Officers and Teachers of the Brunswick St. S. School are desirous on the return of this festive season, to express their gratitude to Almighty God for continuing your useful life, and granting you every spiritual and temporal blessing, enabling you faithfully to discharge the duties of your position, and in blessing the efforts which, under your direction, have been employed to instruct and save the children and youth committed to their care.

They devoutly recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of many of the Scholars, and trust that the blessing of the Lord may continue to rest upon us.

They present for your acceptance, as a token of affectionate esteem for your character, and appreciation of your service in the honourable capacity which you have so many years sustained as their Superintendent, a copy of the Holy Scriptures with the notes and comments of Dr. Adam Clark, earnestly praying that you may derive from it in a large degree, that wisdom and consolation which it is intended to impart, till in heaven you join those "who through faith and patience inherit its promises." Confidently believing that "they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars for ever and ever."

On behalf of the Officers and Teachers,
JOHN STARR, Secretary.

REPLY.

DEAR AND RESPECTED FRIENDS IN CHRIST:—The return of this festive season has added to the usual causes of happiness another cause, one which from its unexpectedness almost bewilders me; for when I think of the gift which you have just presented me, and of its value, of the givers and the relation in which I stand connected with them in the work of the Lord; when I recall the expressions of your feelings of regard and affection for my unworthy self in the address to which I have just listened, and consider how unworthy I am to receive such a token of your esteem, I am lost in a conflict of thought and feeling. I cannot give utterance to the emotions of my heart.

The Holy Scriptures, with the notes and comments of Dr. Adam Clarke, I highly value for their own sake and have long desired to possess them, but doubly shall I prize them for the sake of those from whom they come.

You have referred to the prosperity of the work and to the agencies by which God has prospered it, and while you have given me a place which I feel I have very feebly and imperfectly sustained, you have forgotten yourselves; for how could it be otherwise than prosperous with a band of praying teachers devoted to their work (one of whom has this present year been called to receive the reward of her labour of love) with the prayers of God's people for us, and above all with the promised and given help of the Holy Spirit. With yourselves I would devoutly recognize the work of the Holy Spirit. To God belongeth all praise.

In conclusion I would say with the prophet of old, "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and give you peace." May every blessing of the new and better Covenant be yours, and may we all, having this testimony, that we have pleased God, be found at length, with all our dear children, in the Kingdom of his dear Son, to sing "Worthy is the Lamb," &c.

Believe me, dear friends, as ever,
Yours in Christ Jesus,
(Signed,) FRANCIS JOHNSTON.

Newfoundland.

REVIVAL ON THE PERLICAN CIRCUIT.

A letter from the Rev. A. W. Nicholson, dated December 17th, says:—

The Lord has visited us with a gracious outpouring of His Spirit. On my return from the Missionary deputation my mind was directed to Grates Cove as being in need of immediate attention. A series of special services was commenced; and soon this place, which for forty years has not been blessed with any special revivals, was baptized with fire. During the first week our efforts were confined to preaching and constant prayer. The second Sabbath of the meetings will never be forgotten. Those who had grown lukewarm humbled themselves before God, and were blessed. On the following Tuesday night the spirit of conviction, long pent up, burst forth, and a scene ensued which baffles description.—The aisles were crowded with heart-broken penitents, while in several pews strong men stood up striking upon their breasts and crying for mercy. Parents rejoiced over their now humbled children, some of whom at the height of the tempest stepped into liberty by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The strongest voices were drowned in the general outcry. Sentimentalists would have called it *rank enthusiasm*; the world called it madness; but the child of experience would term it *the agonys of condemned consciences*, produced by the wonder-working Spirit of Pentecost.

Brother Phinney of Harbour Grace kindly came to our assistance on Tuesday last. The supply was opportune and providential, as my health was beginning to yield under the press of duties. Never before was witnessed a more striking exemplification of the text, "They have no rest day nor night." Here a man aroused his neighbors by agonising cries. There a woman was overwhelmed by a sense of guilt, until nature was compelled to sink exhausted beneath the load. All this transpiring where such things had never before been witnessed caused terror, and required the prompt attention of experience. Bro. P. is now laboring cheerfully and faithfully among us; his sermon last night from "The harvest is past," &c., was instrumental in leading several to decide for Christ. As nearly as we can estimate, one hundred souls profess to have received pardon during the past fortnight.

The good work is not confined to the Wesleyan body. Our Episcopal brethren have engaged heart and hand with us; and their conduct has met with the hearty approbation of their Minister. "Some may call it enthusiasm," said he, "but heed them not, it is a work that *must* be done." Such language from that quarter may well be considered the harbinger of the good time coming. The consequence is that his people have become holier, and more desirous of cultivating brotherly love toward those who have too long been regarded as "Schismatics."

One word on the results of the blessing. Owing to the absence of our people at the Bay, on the evening appointed for the Missionary Meeting at Grates Cove, it was determined to postpone the taking up of the collection. The 8th of December was accordingly appointed for that purpose, but the opening service of the St. John's new chapel having called away our Ministers on that day I deemed it prudent for many reasons to delay no longer than the 12th. At the close of a sermon preached for the occasion the handsome sum of £30 was contributed to the Mission cause, and £15 to the Ministers. The subscriptions of former years scarcely averaged £10. Thus the people *gave* because they *felt*. We desire to give God all the glory.

Our good Superintendent, Mr. Peach, has been prevented by a multiplicity of duties from sharing in our work. His cordial concurrence is, however, fully manifested by discharging the other important demands of the Circuit.

A. W. NICOLSON.

Grates Cove, Dec. 17th.

Jesuitical Struggles for Power in Belgium.

The little kingdom of Belgium has recently been the theatre of a good deal of political agitation, having its rise in the struggle for power between the ecclesiastical and the temporal rulers, which goes on all over Romish Europe, but nowhere more fiercely than in the kingdom of the Netherlands.

It will be remembered that, some months ago, the Belgian Ministers, who were wholly under the control of Ultramontane influences, introduced a law into the Belgian Chambers to place all the charities of the kingdom under the management of the Jesuits. The measure encountered little opposition in the Chambers, and would probably have been passed into law long ere this, but for the ferment which was raised out of doors. The populace of the principal towns met in tumultuous assemblages to denounce the project, and the excitement gave every indication of leading to still more serious consequences, when King Leopold, acting with his usual prudence, prorogued the session; and the measure consequently fell to the ground.

Since then, the popular indignation has not been allayed; for at the recent municipal elections, the clerical candidates have everywhere been defeated, and liberal candidates, those averse to placing the State below the Church, have been returned. This has taken place in all the large towns, such as Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, and others. It is true that these elections are municipal only, and not parliamentary; still, the Ministers rightly interpreted them as so decisive a manifestation of popular feeling hostile to their measure, that they have resigned office.

This struggle is one of great interest, not only on the account of Belgium, but because the strife in that kingdom is but a picture in miniature of what is going on, with more or less violence, and with varying degrees of success, in every European State.—*Corr. of Phil. Christian Observer.*

General Intelligence.

Colonial.

Domestic.

THE WINDSOR RAILROAD.—The *Avon Herald* of Dec. 31, learns from a reliable source, that the Railroad will not be regularly opened, for passenger and other traffic, for some days. We understand that the part of the line is in excellent order, and that the completion of the ballasting, and the removal of the locomotives and carriages employed in ballasting, are the chief, if not the only impediments to regular travelling between Halifax and Windsor. We may, therefore, now speak of this work, as another of the long-talked of changes which has been accomplished. When column after column was given by newspapers to the project, some years ago, how fanciful and vague seemed the speculation, and how distant any probability of its realization. Now, the trial-trip has been made, and the celebration of the commencement of regular traveling on the line is expected to take place a few days hence!—*Sun.*

MELANCHOLY CASUALTY.—On the day before Christmas, a number of young men left Lower Granville to go to Digby in a sail boat, for Christmas supplies. They arrived safely, made their purchases, and between the hours of 4 and 5 o'clock embarked to return home. Sad to relate they never reached it—all found watery graves. It is not known how the accident occurred, or even what mishap took place to cause it. The boat has been found at some distance from Digby, and a cap and hat have been found on the Clements Shore, nearly opposite that part of Granville where they resided, and identified as belonging to two of the parties. It is supposed however the boat capsized, as the wind was blowing a gale from the N. W. at the time. Their names as near as we can get information, were as follows: James, John—two Johnsons—sons of Zebulon and James; Reynolds Merritt; William Fleet, Senr.; ——— Covert; ——— Harris; and ——— ———, late mate of the Steamer Experiment.—*Western News.*

An alarm of fire on Sunday morning at 3 o'clock proceeded from a house in City Street, which was attempted to be set on fire by placing a barrel of shavings in the front porch. A second attempt was made to effect the diabolical object in the rear of the same premises, some time later in the morning of the same day.—*Chron.*

DESTRUCTION OF THE SCHOONER LIVERPOOL BY FIRE.—BARRINGTON, 4th Jan. 1858.—Schooner Liverpool, Captain Kendrick, just from Boston, with a full cargo of flour, sugar, and merchandise, while lying at Robertson's wharf, last night took fire and burned to the water's edge. Supposed loss ten thousand dollars. No Insurance.

New Brunswick.

RAILWAY PROGRESS.—Tenders were received last week, by the Railway Commissioners, for the construction of twenty four miles of Railway, from Groom's Bridge, near Hampton Ferry, to Sussex Vale; and for seventeen miles of Railway from the Bend towards St. John. The portion from Groom's Bridge to the Valley, is divided into three sections of eight miles each; the first of these, from Groome's Bridge to Norton, has been taken by Messrs. Blakie & Henderson of Nova Scotia, contractors on the Halifax and Windsor Railway. The next section of eight miles, in Norton and Studholm, had been taken up by Mr. Dillon P. Myers of the United States, the contractors near Lawlor's Lake. The third section of eight miles, in Studholm and Sussex has been taken up by Mr. Thomas King, of the well known firm of King Brothers, mail contractors.

At the other end of the line, the first ten miles from the Bend to Nixon's, have been taken by Messrs. McBean & McDonald of Nova Scotia, late contractors on the Halifax and Windsor line;—the next section of seven miles, from Nixon's along the Petticodiac into Salisbury, has been taken by Messrs Thomas and Charles Walker of Quebec, who at present are executing portions of the railway at either end.

The sections of railway now let, are to be completed by the several contractors in September, 1859, at which time, if the work is faithfully performed, we may expect to visit the beautiful vale of Sussex by Railway from this city. The only part of the line from St. John to Shediac, not yet under contract, is from Sussex Vale (at or near Sheck's to Salisbury, a distance of about thirty miles, which, if all goes well, may be put under contract first year. Then, to meet the Railway through Nova Scotia from Halifax, a section of twenty miles only will be required from Shediac to the boundary at Baie Verte. If Nova Scotia makes equal railway progress with New Brunswick in the next two years, we may expect to pass by Railway from this City to Halifax in 1860.—*NBkr.*

MINERAL RESOURCES OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY.—Several of our cotemporaries have noticed that the copper mine on the property of the Hon. J. J. Robinson, at Welchpool, Campo Bello, is now being worked successfully. The ore is reported to be of a superior quality, and abundant; it is also asserted that the speculation will prove remunerative to those engaged in it. Specimens of iron ore and coal have also been discoved on Campo Bello, and the adjacent Islands. In the Parish of St. George, we understand that some years ago silver ore was discovered in the vicinity of Red Rock, from which some small articles were manufactured, but either owing to the lack of raw material or want of capital nothing further was done. At Mascareen in the same Parish, and at the Old Woman's Oven in St. Patrick, large quantities of copper ore have been sold to the Americans who shipped them to the United States. Since Dr. Gesner's geological survey of this county, it has been well known that the County of Charlotte abounds in mineral resources, which only require capital, skill and energy to develope them. We trust the day is at hand when capitalists will be induced to invest their money in working these mines, and that the investment will prove remunerative to all concerned. We look forward with confidence for brighter days for the County of Charlotte;—the Railway although in its incipient stage of traffic, has convinced every unprejudiced person what may confidently be expected when it is opened to Woodstock, and the incalculable benefit it will be not only to its shareholders, but to this County.—*Standard.*

THE HON. JUDGE WILMOT delivered a most interesting and eloquent Lecture on the Ruins of Nineveh, in the Temperance Hall, on Wednesday evening. The learned and honourable Lecturer illustrated his subject by a large number of diagrams, printed from the originals as discovered by Dr. Layard in his excavations, and all confirmatory of the scenes described in Holy Writ, and the fulfilment of the prophecies. The audience, though select, was by no means a small one; but taking into account the unrivalled eloquence of the Judge, and the benevolent object for which this Lecture was intended, we supposed the house would have proved too small for the occasion.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

A GREAT MAN FALLEN.—We have been grieved to learn from authentic sources that Philip S White, the well known Temperance advocate, has fallen a victim to the intoxicating cup. It appears that in early life he was the victim of intemperance, but he listened to the voice of warning, rose in the strength of his manhood and shivered in atoms the manacles which bound him. Having experienced the happy fruits of his reformation he went forth with a manly heart and eloquent tongue to dissuade others to escape the drunkard's doom. For years he devoted his time principally to the progress of this great reform. He travelled extensively in the United States, north and south, and in British America, and wherever he went he was hailed as a noble champion of the cause he had espoused. His whole bearing was gentlemanly and dignified, his voice was like a well-toned instrument, and his addresses abounded in argument, anecdote, and appeals adapted to convince, amuse, and at the same time to stir the conscience to action. He had filled in turn nearly every seat of honor and of trust in the gift of the Sons of Temperance from the Subordinate Division to the National organization. But notwithstanding all this he has fallen from his elevated position, and returned to his cups "like the dog to his own vomit, or the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."—*Chris. Visitor.*

P. E. Island.

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN CHARLOTTETOWN.—A fire occurred in Charlottetown, on Tuesday, 22d Decr., which destroyed a great deal of property. It commenced in a building, situate in Water Street, belonging to Mr James Peters, and used for several years past as a blacksmith's shop. The fire must have commenced early in the morning, and the building was almost consumed at breakfast time.

There is spread to a new dwelling house occupied by Mr. Samuel Bur, and further on Mr. George F. C. Lowden's Warehouse, a dwelling house formerly occupied by Dr. Conroy, Mr Cobb's sail loft, Mr R. Longworth's dwelling house, and Mr. Lowden's tobacco factory—all of which buildings were destroyed. The *Protestant* from which we glean these particulars does not give an estimate of the probable loss or whether any part is covered by insurance.—*East Ch.*

Canada.

THE CANADIAN ELECTIONS.—Late Canadian papers are devoted almost exclusively to the elections which are now going on in that Province. Several of these have come off, and some of them with curious results. Six members of the Cabinet have been elected, embracing the two Attornies General; the Solicitors General, east and west; the new Commissioner of Crown Lands, Sicotte; and the President of the Board of Works. Mr. Spence, Post Master General, has been defeated by a large majority, the result of anti-Catholic feeling in the western section of the Province. Attorney General Cartier, defeated at Montreal, has been returned by a small majority, for Verchères. George Brown, the leader of the Protestant party, notwithstanding the almost superhuman exertions of Priests and Ministerialists, has been elected for two places, at the head of the poll in both instances—for the North Riding of Oxford, and the City of Toronto. But the most singular of all the returns is that of the City of Montreal, which has elected Solicitor General Ross, Mr. Dorion, the leader of the Rouge party, and Mr. T. D'Arcy McGee, of "felon flag" notoriety.—*Chronicle.*

The elections have been the one exciting topic of discourse, hardly intermitted even by the coming of the Christmas holidays. That for this city closed on Tuesday night. Mr. Rose, the Solicitor General, and Messrs. Dorion and McGee, opposition, were returned. Mr. McGee's return will probably be contested. The polling was more quiet than was expected. There was a little disturbance once or twice, but no serious affrays. Throughout the Province the elections are either closed or going on. So far the ministry have a decided majority.

Winter has fairly set it, and the sleighing commenced in earnest. The ice bridge is not yet formed but with the present cold weather it must soon be so. But for the excitement of the elections, the city would be very dull, and the holidays much more quiet than usual. The Grand Trunk ferry-boat made her last trip to Longueuil on Christmas day.—*Montreal Gaz.*

United States.

GENEAL WALKER, of filibustering fame, was arrested by Commodore Paulding, of the United States Navy, on Nicaraguan territory, and sent under arrest to New York. A copy of general instructions had been sent to the Commodore, in reference to United States authorities preventing such expeditions as that engaged in by Walker. The Commodore arrested the offender accordingly, and sent him to his superiors. The arrest however was made on the territory of a foreign power, as such was liable to objection and reprimand, and such, it appears, have taken place.—Nicaragua, however, makes no complaint, and is not likely to do so,—and the action of the General Government is described by some United States papers, as materially, though perhaps indirectly, favouring Walker's plans. The expectation is that he will be promptly acquitted, and that proceedings will tend to extend his notoriety, and to encourage other adventurers to follow his lawless flag. The question is causing a great deal of interest and excitement.

More troubles were expected concerning the Kansas election and its results.

The New York *Times*, Dec. 29th says:—Commodore Paulding's action in the arrest of Walker is disavowed by the Government at Washington, and it is believed that he will immediately be tried by court-martial for violation of his instructions.

General Walker yesterday surrendered himself to U. S. Marshal Rynders, in accordance with the terms of his parole, delivering a letter from Commodore Paulding, assigning him to the Marshal's custody. It was agreed between General Walker and the Marshal that they should together visit Washington, and have an interview with the Secretary of State.

The *American Traveller* says:—The slave trade on the coast of Africa appears to be still extensively carried on. Barque William G. Lewis arrived at Norfolk 21st, in charge of U. S. Naval officers, she having been seized in the Congo river. Brig Windward was also captured and sent home. Barque Clara B. Williams and an American schooner had also been seized by a British steamer. Many slavers are reported on the coast. Twelve had recently been captured.

The English Mail.

BY STEAMSHIP NIAGARA.

The arrival of the Steamship "Niagara" last Friday morning put us in possession of English papers to the 19th ult.

Great Britain.

Parliament had adjourned for the Christmas holidays, having been only eight days in session. The BILL OF INDEMNITY for violation of the Bank Charter Act, passed through all its stages without a division. A committee on the motion of Sir De Lacy Evans, has been agreed to, the duty of which will be to inquire into the conduct of the authorities in declining to send part of the troops for India by the Overland route, and also in preferring sailing vessels to screw steamers for the embarkation of a large portion of the Army which went round by the Cape.

The HAVELOCK Pension Bill is postponed in consequence of the pecuniary generosity of Parliament outstripping the suggestions of Government. It was proposed to give General Havelock a pension of £1000 for his own life, but the House of Commons are ready to grant it for two lives. "Captain Havelock, the son of Sir Henry, has been fighting at his father's side through the innumerable battles that have taken place between Cawnpore and Lucknow."

Lord Shaftesbury has introduced a bill to extend the Act for securing the liberty of Religious Worship; to prevent the recurrence of such cases as the recent exhibition of services at Exeter Hall.

The marriage of the Princess Royal is to be celebrated at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on the 25th of January.

A marriage is said to be on the tapis between the Prince of Orange and the Princess Alice.—Accounts from the Hague of the 7th state that Lieut. Gen. Baron van Omphal has been entrusted with a mission to the Court of St. James's for the special purpose of formally asking Queen Victoria for the hand of her second daughter. The Prince is in his 18th year, and the Princess Alice in her 15th.

At a Court of Directors of the Hon. East India Company, held on Wednesday Dec. 2, it was resolved to grant to Major-General Sir Archdale Wilson, K C B., an annuity of £1,000, and to Lady Neil, widow of the late Brigadier-General Neill, and to Mrs Nicholson, mother of the late Brigadier General Nicholson, special pensions of £500 per annum.

France.

The Emperor has made a grant of one million of francs for the purpose of relieving the distress prevailing among the unemployed at Lyons and other manufacturing towns. The *Moniteur* of Saturday contains a report from M. Billault, the Minister of the Interior, in which he says that, in spite of all the prudence observed by the persons engaged in commerce in France, and all the solicitude of the Government, several branches of industry have, in the present commercial and monetary crisis, been compelled either to stop their manufacture or to diminish the hours of work. As, at the approach of winter, many workmen