Obituary Notices.

Death has recently taken from us our valued and much respected sister Mrs. Hannah Stirling, leaving a deeply afflicted family and numerous friends, to mourn her unexpected death.

Nineteen years ago, in the course of a revival of religion in Meander, Mrs. Stirling with many others experienced the pardoning love of God, and united herself with the Methodist Church in this place.

From that period, down to the time of her death she continued "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the word of the Lord;" she was indeed ready to every good word and work; her home was always a welcome home to the Ministers of God, and while devotedly attached to the Church of her choice, she ever cherished christian regards for all who loved the Saviour. The interests of Zion lay near our sister's heart, and she ever was careful according to her means, to support every department of the Church of God. Some years ago, it pleased her heavenly father to suddenly remove by the hand of death her beloved husband, a man of God. Being left with six comparatively helpless children, she with astonishing fortitude and perseverance stood in her providential lot; and most successfully conducted all matters connected with both the spiritual and domestic interests of her family, to a satisfactory issue.

Her removal from earth was painfully sudden; attacked with that always deceptive disease, erysipelas, in but a few hours after danger had been apprehended she calmly fell asleep in Jesus.

The writer was present with her beloved family during her last hours. To the question, have you strong confidence in God, the most prompt and satisfactory answer was given.

It is a matter of great comfort that her elder children are walking in the footsteps of their now sainted mother, and we trust all will follow her as she followed Christ.

Her mortal remains were committed to the sanctuary of the dead beside the sleeping dust of her departed husband, in the presence of a numerous congregation of sorrowing friends, who after the interment listened to a discourse founded upon Revelation 14th Chapt. and 13th verse.

Thus has passed from the Church militant to the Church triumphant Mrs. Hannah Stirling aged 44 years.

JAMES G. HENNIGAR.

Newport, Oct., 21st, 1860.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1860.

In consequence of the official relation which this paper sustains to the Conference of Eastern British America, we require that Obituary, Revival, and other notices addressed to us from any of the Circuits within the bounds of the Connexion, shall pass through the hands of the Superintendent Minister.

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 our correspondents.

Our Ministry.

NO. III.

We are greatly gratified to know that our Conference, keenly alive to the weighty importance of the subject of Ministerial training, have, year after year, been giving to it their grave and careful attention. Nor are we less pleased to perceive that the scheme which the Conference deemed most practicable, under the circumstances of the case, has been so nobly supported by our liberal-hearted people. But though pleased, we are not suprised at this result. The object was most worthy, the necessity most pressing, and the people, justly appealed to, most generous. But the very success of this movement to found a Theological Professorship, requires from us the exercise of great wisdom and deliberation, that our Church may derive therefrom all the advantages of which it stands so much in need. There are now certain questions of an immediately practical character, connected with this matter, which require an early solution. They are, what is the best kind of ministerial training? and what the best mode of securing it? These questions have not as yet, been pronounced upon by Conference; and they are fairly open to general consideration. There is, we fancy, much vague indeterminate thought among us, in relation to them. We believe a full, free discussion of these questions in the columns of this journal would be of signal benefit to both clergy and laity.

What is it that constitutes a well-equipped ministry, piety and a divine call being assumed to exist? We reply, a clear and accurate knowledge of the Redeeming plan as revealed in sacred scripture—a mastery of the historic and scientific truths needful or useful in the defence, the illustration and the enforcement of that plan, and the skill, by pen and tongue, by which that defence, illustration and enforcement may be carried on. Accurate knowledge of the plan of salvation is sound orthodoxy. Now, on this head we need no improvement. Neither antinomianism, nor sacramentarianism nor rationalism, in our pulpits, supersedes the glorious gospel of the Blessed God. There is no uncertainty in the sound of our trumpet ecclesiastical. Its ringing blast is resonant with the voice of a full, free and present salvation through penitential trust in the efficacious merits of a self-sacrificing Christ. Not a landmark has been removed, or is in danger of removal by us that bounded to the view of our fathers the expansive sweep of a pure and powerful gospel. If we may adapt to our use a Napoleonic phrase—we have no orthodox boundaries to revindicate. The empire of our religious beliefs is defined by the everlasting hills which pierce the heavens; by the river of life flowing from beneath the Eternal throne; and by the great oceans of mystery which are trackless to mortal men. In this respect we can expect no conquests—we have lost no territory. We simply demand the *status in quo*.

But in the departments of Biblical Introduction, Biblical Exegesis, Biblical Criticism, Systematic Theology and Church History, we need large acquisitions. Nor are our necessities much less pressing in the direction of General Literature and Natural Philosophy, taken in its widest acceptation. Equally urgent in behalf of our young men are our demands upon the province of Homilectics—on everything justly relating to the art of preaching, in its matter and form and manner. Now, in order to derive substantial advantage from the sciences of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis it is altogether needful that the student should have a competent knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew tongues, in which, for the most part the Sacred Records were originally written. And for satisfactory progress in Biblical Introduction, Systematic Theology and Church History a thorough knowledge of the Latin language is, if not positively essential, at least, highly desirable. Moreover, as Germany is not merely the great school of rationalism and transcendentalism, but is also the renowned seat of really scientific Theology and criticism, an acquaintance with the speech of that kindred people will unlock to the intelligent student the precious storehouse of the German intellect. To become proficient in all these branches is the privilege only of a few, and even for them it is the achievement of a life-time. The most that can be reasonably insisted on in the commencement of a young Minister's course, is that he should have an intelligent comprehension of these branches in their general outline and relation to each other, and to his work, together with the skill which will enable him to make ready progress in them at his leisure, as the exigencies of his life-work may permit or demand.

Then again, to be able to use the pulpit to high advantage—to be able effectively to wield in the great work of preaching the gospel, the multiform knowledge just referred to, a mind trained in the sciences of Mental Philosophy, Logic and Rhetoric, is an essential requirement. Pondering the facts, a slight degree af reflection will suffice to shew that, after all, our grand necessity on behalf of our young men is an elevated degree of literary and scientific culture.

There are two widely divergent opinions prevailing among modern educationists as to the best method of preparing young men for the learned professions or intellectual pursuits of life. One plausible opinion maintains that education to be the best, for any special pursuit, that deals most directly and professedly with the class of facts immediately bearing upon that pursuit—for example, with mathematics, pure and mixed for engineering, with the various branches of medical science for the medical profession, and with Theology and its cognate sciences for the pulpit. The other opinion holds that all intellectual pursuits, however widely they differ in their aims and results, to a very large extent, require precisely the same kind of preparatory training—that it is an essential pre-requisite to their highly successful study that the mind should first of all be developed, strengthened and skilled—that general mind-power should be raised to as high a degree as practicable before special courses of study bearing directly upon the intended profession be seriously undertaken. We at once avow our entire belief in the soundness of the latter of these two opinions; because it is sustained by the highest authority, the most scientific view of the human mind, the most cogent reasoning, and the evidence of actual fact. We grant the amount of general mental training preparatory to special culture in the art, to the practice of which the life is to be devoted, is conditioned by outward circumstances. We are oft reduced to the position not of choosing the best in the abstract, but the best possible as we happen to be situated. Of two evils it is always wisest to choose the least, if we choose either. Thus it is better to have only a partial mental training than none at all, before specific training for the pulpit be commenced. But to the full extent of our power, we should aim at the most excellent way.

If these positions be rightly taken, the next question that meets us is, what are those courses of study which systematically prosecuted tend most philosophically to develope the powers of the mind? It is of the nature of mind that it cannot be rigorously and steadily exercised upon any class of facts without acquiring some degree of power and skill thereby. But we believe it to be the established conviction of the highest order of cultivated men—a conviction deepened by the testimony of ages—that the study of the learned languages—Greek and Latin, so regularly and philosophic in their structure, and unrivalled in the worth of their golden treasures—of the mathematics, so rigid and exact in their demonstrations—and of the sciences relating to the mind itself, is best adapted to call forth in their fullness and harmony the powers of the intellect. The just study of these strengthens the memory and fortifies the judgment, gives precision to analysis and facility to abstraction, accuracy to reasoning and taste to imagination—in a word, constitutes the man master of his intellectual weapons.

This mastery, this facile use of mental power we need in the candidates for our ministry. It is our immediate and most clamant need. It is not the province of a Theological Chair to develope this power—to conduct this mental training, but to apply this power, when developed, to questions of Theology. It is not the duty of a Theological Professor to instruct his pupils in the knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew tongues. but to direct them in applying their already acquired philological knowledge and skill to the judicious interpretation of the sacred text. Nor is it properly to be reqoired from a Theological Tutor that he should spend his energies in drilling his students in Logic and Rhetoric, but in concentrating the attention of his young logicians and rhetoricians to the best methods of applying their previous training to the glorious work of gospel preaching. Slight the acquisitions of a Theological school, and small their value, if the pupils thereof be not, by previous mental culture, suitably prepared to reap the advantages it offers.

For the Provincial Wesleyan.

A Dream of the Musquodoboit Valley.

An ocean is rolling beneath a sky murky and obscure, through which no sun hath as yet sent his earth-enlightening ray. Bounded on every side by the dull horizon: no sail—no islet—no reef of rocks breaks the monotony of the vast unmeasured deep. If an occasional ripple crests for a moment the broad sea, it is produced by the sudden surge of the leviathan below, or the cetacea inhabiting that dreary but not lifeless waste of waters. Ages roll on! Silently, and uninterruptedly a fine dust falls to the granite bed of that great sea, layer after layer in successive strata, until a floor of continuous pavements is laid; to be afterwards termed a deposit of the sandstone period. No ripple mark characterizes that sandy floor: the ocean above is too calm, too deep to produce a perceptible motion in the placid depths below. Occasionally the exuviæ of cetacea, or a lifeless body of a cephalaspis, or other fish of the red sand-stone class, floats slowly through the depths of unfathomed waters, till, resting on the sandy floor below, it becomes embedded in the successive strata which are slowly formed from above. There it rests; not again to be disturbed till the restless dynasty of man, in an after age, shall shoot above the disinterred fossil fish, broken from its rocky bed—and which is carried away in triumph to deck the museum of an Agassiz or a Miller. This formation now constitutes quarries of arenaceous slate—which for regularity of stratification cannot be surpassed.

But lo! a change! after ages of silent deposition, the bed of the ocean is suddenly uplifted; the waters rapidly become shallow: and where cetacea and leviathan had roamed in undisputed lordship, crustacea and molluscs are alone found. These swarm in myriads, until over the sand-beds of that shallow sea, the mausoleums of entombed shell-fish are piled up in reefs higher, by thousands of feet, than the tomb of Cestius or the pyramids of the desert. Millions of years roll on; during which the swarming shell-fish of that old ocean live and die and sink to the bottom, until were formed the vast beds of the sedimentary limestone, which characterize the geological period known as the *Carboniferous*. The geologist need not anticipate the discovery of anything here beyond the memberless forms of crustacea with which this shallow sea abounds. But of these the amount is incalculable—and of such our limestone quarries are almost wholly formed.

Lo! another change! Again the bed of the ocean is uplifted, and the sea-waves recede from those ripple-marked lime rocks constituting its former bed. Those ripple-marks are still beautifully distinct, and may be seen by the shores of the Musquodoboit as presented by the limestone thrown down everywhere. The bed of the former ocean is exposed to the day: its surface becomes covered by a rich vegetation; tall coniferous trees waving in the winds, whilst below springs up the luxuriant fern and calamitæ.—There is a forest where was once a sea. But lo! new changes! The high hills, composed of the buried crustacea of the past ages, are swept by mighty floods, and pour their denudating waters below to the plains, carrying with them rolled pebbles of limestone, vast masses, irregular and detached, of the mountain side, until a great river, pouring onward in its loud-voiced search for the congenial sea, rushes through the valley. This was the origin of the Musquodoboit River.

Let us for a moment forget the present—turn away from the cultivated fields of the river that *is*, and turn our thoughts to the river that *was*, in the old Geologic ages. How great the change! The saurian slumbers in the margin of the shallow places, and avoiding the noisy torrent, finds delightful repose in the muddy pools, that have since become carboniferous strata, and now underlie the fertile meadows we tread on. The hills were higher and more perpendicular than now, and have none of the rounded and cultivated beauty they at present possess. The trees which wave on either bank, in tall, rank growth, are different from those of modern times; whilst the farina of those forests has long since disappeared. Where now flows the gentle river, rolled a great torrent, scooping for itself a passage until it lay bare for its bed the old sand-stone floor, which had been deposited a thousand years ago, by the placid ocean first described. Onward it rolls; but suddenly its course becomes accelerated. Hitherto it had ran and gambolled along the sand stone bed of the valley only; now it suddenly leaps over falls of ten and twenty feet in descent, and, following the great law of our system, which binds all worlds together, it seeks the ocean with a rapidity increasing with every leap. It has met the old azoic formation in its seaward journey, and the ancient earthquake-riven granite, thrust up from below in some great strife of a former period, opens its arms and making a passage for the rejoicing river henceforth walls it in on either side until its waters mingle with those of the present Atlantic, whose bosom it had so earnestly sought and found. The falls are still visible, and well repay the lover of nature as he gazes upon them—

> The iris of many colored hues—
> Or like the tail of the pale giant steed,
> As told in the Apocalypse ——.

still arching over the descending torrent. But the grandeur of the palæozic age hath departed, and the scene is now comparatively tranquil and subdued. Beside the perpendicular granite walls, which flank the river from the falls to the ocean, may be disinterred the skeleton of the Indian warrior, with tomahawk and flint-headed arrow—but all remains of the mausoleums of the departed world beside him have disappeared—every organic form melting before the flame of that great and potent heat which once fused the aqueous rocks into a molten mass, which again being rent asunder by chemical action, constitute that great class recognized by the geologist as *Metamorphic*, and of which granite, quartz, gneiss and mica slate are the chief representatives.

Onward flows the river; ages of the pre-adamic period roll on, and gradually *another* deposit is formed. On either bank a luxurious growth of calimitæ and fern had thrown their shadows on the eddying waters below, until washed from the soil which gave them birth by yearly *freshets*, they float down the stream, and gradually sinking to the bottom are interred in successive strata of mud, as perfectly as the lost Arab is embedded in the wastes of the desert. Trees, perhaps conifers, had covered the limestone hills where slept the dead and buried generations of the trilobite and unnumbered crustacea—until the verdure equalled that of the present day. Meanwhile, a wondrous catastrophe occurred: the floods of the *drift* period sweep over the whole face of the landscape; here depositing a vast bed of gravel and granite boulders—there levelling the forest, and tearing every shread of covering from the granite foundations of the earth, until the skeleton hills stand forth stripped of vegetation and all remains of animal life. The geologist *knows* that such a flood once swept the earth—and draws not his knowledge from the Bible. That Book of truth merely confirms the fact. The flood retires: and the whole face of the landscape has been altered, but there is no fundamental change perceptible. The old bed of the river remains, and when vegetation again clothes the gravel and limestone hills, the river, as before, receives its yearly deposits of disintegrated limestone, gravel and earth. As these deposits continue, they gradually intrude upon the stream, forming two broad platforms, one on either side of the river, to be afterwards termed "meadow" or "intervale." When fossils of calimitæ are disinterred in after ages by the geologist, it occasions him no surprise to find the remains of land plants resting on a formation purely aqueous.—They had been brought there by the river. He feels that he is no longer gazing on the floor of a former ocean, but on a *fourth* deposit, viz: the bed of the Musquodoboit of a thousand years gone by. Here, then, four different formations have met his eye—each separated by long intervals of time. 1. The stratified arenaceous slate, resting on the fundamental granite.—2. The sedimentary limestone formation, overlaying the slate. 3. The impure limestone,—ripple-marked, and doubtless fossiliferous—forming the margin of the river, and formed by the washing of the hills above for a thousand years. 4. The fine-grained sandstone, forming the bottom of the bed of the old river, and characterized by the presence of fossil calimitæ. We have now arrived at the end of our journey; and have discovered, after two years study of the Musquodoboit valley, the sucessive changes which it has undergone. To recapitulate. There was a time when a dull ocean rolled over every hill and peak now visible. Again the curtain rises, and we gaze on the reefs and rocks formed by mountains of crustacea, until everywhere the monotony of the primeval ocean is broken by the white tops of limestone and coral islands. Look forth again! The scene has been changed, and great green forests skirt the carboniferous shores, until they meet the granite-bounded coast line of the Atlantic—extending from Cape Breton and Scateri onward to Chebucto city. Again we lift the curtain: lo! the fountains of the great deep are broken up—the earth is a second time submerged; and like a crested wave onward rolls the mighty flood, bearing in its mighty surge the ponderous granite boulder, and hauling it to the top of the highest mountain peak as easily as the hand of Ajax could hurl a pebble. The waves roll on—subside; and the dripping earth emerges from its slime. Again look forth! The purple of the hills mingles with the bow of the covenant, assuring the "world's gray fathers" that there shall be no second catastrophe like unto this. It is a bright beautiful day. A broad and rapid river flows over its old channel to the measureless sea.—The banks are covered with vegetation to the water's edge; bright fish flash their sunlit scales ever and again as they career onward, with floating reed and rippling eddy, to the deep;

> And strange, bright birds, with starry wings,
> Bearing the hues of all glorious things,

are darting to and fro amid the overhanging foliage on either side. This was the Musquodoboit as it existed before the canoe of the red man traversed its waters, or the war whoop of the Micmac thrilled the primeval forests with its echo. Look forth again! The scene is changed! Where sloping shores, gradually descending from the hills, had been oozy with mud and slime, and unfit to bear the foot of man, there are strong platforms of concretionary limestone—they have invaded the river, and narrowed its channel, and absorbed its waters. Again look forth! Those platforms are covered with verdure. They give food to man and beast.—The beings who now tread earth's surface are no longer mortal. The dynasty of Adam shall henceforth possess the earth, and witness every successive change; and survive even the *last* change, when again its surface shall be fused by the purging fire.

Having, then, seen the order in which these principal formations—slate, limestone, impure limestone, and sandstone—were deposited, one more difficulty remains, viz: the presence of large granite boulders and metamorphic rock *overlying* the limestone strata, and in no wise pertaining to the locality under remark. To this question the only answer is: these rocks of a separate system were brought to their present position either by the irruption of trap from below, cutting through the fundamental granite, or are the remains of the great drift period—most probably the latter, as already shown.—Some observations may be made on the immense beds of gypsum on the sides of the river—but these remarks shall be reserved for a future paper.

W. M'K.

Response.

"To do good and communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."—xiii. Heb. 16.

MATERNAL MEETINGS FOR PRAYER.—The first Wednesday of this month was observed, as a concert for prayer by christian mothers, for their children. Such meetings are full of interest and usefulness. We wish there was a female prayer meeting in every church in the whole world, and that it was sustained by the earnest attendance of all praying women. These maternal meetings have been greatly blessed in years past, and we are glad to know that an effort is making to give them increased vigor.—*Toronto Paper.*

How beautifully *expressive* of the spirit of the Gospel!—and how blessedly developed, as in the notice given of a "*Mother's Concert of Prayer*," from the "*New York and Brooklyn Maternal Association*," inviting all mothers in our common Zion—"to join in a Union Meeting" (at *stated* hour.) How significant this of the Savior's own words—"Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, *and it giveth light unto all that are in the house*," v. Matt. 15. The writer of this article, is grateful before the Lord in being able to state—On Wednesday, 3rd inst., at three o'clock, a Union Maternal Prayer Meeting was held in Guysborough, (in compliance with the notice) of the New York and Brooklyn Association—and we humbly trust in spiritual unison with *their object*,—worshipping with them at their stated hour:—We recognise with *solemn impression*, and deep-feeling, the important period in their notice, which expresses—"*The Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit, is our only hope*,"—and perceive in it, the perfect symmetry of the Gospel plan—"work out your own salvation, for it is God that worketh in you," and discern also, the close connexion between obedient Faith and a *fulfilment of the Divine Promise*, as in Ezekiel xxxv. 37—"I will yet be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." Thus involving *Scriptural* and cheering anticipation, of a more abundant outpouring of the Blessed Spirit,—in a hastening on, of the "latter Day Glory."—at the same time, clearly discovering the great *accountability*, and *duty* of the Church, to be found humbly and ardently engaged, in thus *aiding* the coming of Christ's Kingdom." It is a delightful feature of the Church, at the present era, that so many *groups* of praying souls, are to be found in so many different places on the Divine footstool. Towards each *one* of these the writer of this article would breathe the language of the Poet

> "Love us though far in flesh disjoined,
> Ye followers of the Lamb,
> And ever *bear us* on your mind,
> Who think and speak the same.
> You on our minds *we ever bear*,
> Who're to Jesus bow,
> "Stretch out the arms of faith and prayer,
> And lo!—we reach you now."

A.

Guysborough, 19th Oct., 1860.

The Day of Redemption for Italy.

The die is cast and Naples is free. The recent news from Italy has awakened the admiration of the world. The triumphal march of Garibaldi from Reggio to Naples, the flight of the Bourbon King, the entrance of the Liberator into the capital, and his welcome by the liberated people amid a perfect carnival of joy—these things are already familiar to our readers, and have led them to praise Him who is overturning thrones and dynasties, to prepare the way for the reign of the prince of Peace. Francis II. has fled from the dominions which he and his fathers have blighted by their tyranny, and they have been taken possession of by the Washington of Italy, in the name of Victor Emanuel and of Italian unity. By this remarkable revolution, constitutional liberty and civil and religious freedom have gained a foothold and a strength on that classic soil, such as Rome, in her best days, never knew or even dreamed of. And it cannot stop here. Rome, the seat and source of all the tyranny which has crushed Italy for ages, is now circumvented with light. The army which is trying to sustain the dominion of the Pope is doubtless by this time defeated and driven off, and nothing but the presence of the French troops at Rome prevents the pontiff from following the example of his faithful son, the King of Naples, and quitting forever the Vatican and the Quirinal.

By these marvellous movements, civil and religious freedom have secured a position and a prestige far beyond the area of Italy. The sacred rights of man will be more than ever respected beyond the Alps, and constitutional liberty will yet, as the fruit of this great revolution, find a place and a home in every kingdom on the Continent. This glorious event will inaugurate a new era in the history of human progress. The frozen barriers and ice-bergs that have long stood in the way of true advancement are yielding and melting under the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and streams of salvation are beginning to flow over and fertilize regions long desolate, and no human power can congeal and compress these living waters.

There may and probably will be a terrible reaction. There may be complications and collisions brought about by the Catholic powers. Serious difficulties and jealousies may arise among the friends of Italian liberty, in relation to the ways and means of securing the great end at which they all aim. Difficulties also may grow out of the great ignorance and excitability of the people who have just emerged from despotism, and also from the delicate question yet to be solved, with respect to what shall be done with the Pope: whether or no he will remain at Rome, and if so, what shall be the limits of his domain, or if his friends should advise him to leave the Holy See, where he should find a place of refuge? The freedom and unity of all Italy may be put to a severe test—the day of her full redemption may be for a time postponed—but though seas of blood may be shed in the strife, they can never quench, but will rather spread far and wide the light and the new ideas that have entered the Italian peninsula, and roused the people to a consciousness of their real worth and true dignity and strength. However Absolutism and Popery, its chief support and stronghold, may struggle for life and contend for the supremacy, their day is gone. The temporal power of the Papacy is broken. It will soon be said of Papal Rome as it was of old Troy, *Roma fuit*, ROME was. And is it too much to hope that the proud Rome of the Tarquins and of the Cæsars—the city of the Popes will one day become the source and centre of a pure and living Christianity, whence shall go forth heralds of the true cross to every quarter of the globe?

Imperial Rome was long the mistress of the world, and Papal Rome has for ages ruled the earth with a rod of iron; and is it too much for Christian faith and hope to anticipate that Rome, liberated and evangelized, reformed and Protestant, may hereafter put forth a power for good, surpassing in true glory and grandeur, the mightiest achievements ever accomplished in the proudest days of her imperial or papal dominion? We know that the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, and that where sin has abounded, there will he cause his grace much more to abound and triumph. And though the hopes of the friends of Christ may be yet delayed; we cannot but hope that Italy, crushed for a thousand years, will soon rise from the dust, and be employed by the King of Zion as a polished shaft in his quiver, and as a threshing instrument that shall break in pieces the thrones and the altars of the Man of Sin.

To realize these hopes for Italy we must use the means. The Lord will be inquired of by the house of Israel to do these things for them. The Waldensian Church of our Italian brethren need to be supplied with far more abundant means. They could now use to good advantage, if they had it, fifty thousand dollars, in sustaining schools, colporteurs, and evangelists, in carrying forward the Theological Seminary at Florence, and in sending the Gospel into the new fields which the late revolution has opened in Southern Italy. Are there not hundreds of our friends, whose hearts are moved with sympathy in behalf of that land, so long oppressed by the Man of Sin, in which God is now doing such wonders, who will not only pray for the people of Italy, but will also contribute liberally and promptly, to supply them with the Word of Life and the means of grace while the door is open?—*American and Foreign Christian Union.*

General Intelligence.

Colonial.

Domestic

The *Eastern Chronicle* of the 25th inst., contains the following particulars of the loss of the schr. *Humming Bird* of this port, and a portion of her crew, which has already been briefly noticed in our columns. The state of affairs described by our contemporary as existing at the Light House on Anticosti, demands investigation:—

"On Sunday, 7th Oct. inst., the schr. *Humming Bird* of Halifax, Richard Shellnut, master, from Labrador with herring, was laying-to off the East end of Anticosti, when she was struck by a heavy sea which threw her on her beam ends, and instantly dismasted her. As she righted, the crew got on deck and lashed themselves to the vessel, but in a few hours the master and two of the men died. The schooner being half full of water, the provision on board was of course spoiled. On Wednesday, the gale abating a little, a small raft was made and two of the men went on shore to seek assistance at the lighthouse, near which the wreck remained the whole time. The next day the wind freshened, but had there been a competent person in charge of the lighthouse, the two men remaining on the wreck might have been taken off at once; as it was, no assistance was rendered them until Friday. They were thus six days with neither food nor water—being but half clad, were severely frozen,—and when taken off, were so exhausted that neither could have lived through the day.—A few hours after, the steamer Napoleon III. called at the island and took them to Gaspe. The men lost were, Richard Shellnut, James Callaghan, and Martin Henneberry.

SIGNS OF ENTERPRISE AT HOME.—The Pictou *Standard* says that the corner-stone of a manufactory for coal oil was laid at New Glasgow on Saturday last with Masonic honors. The machinery and apparatus for the factory had arrived from New York. The *Standard* adds:

We hail this movement as a step in the right direction, and an enterprise worthy of every encouragement. It will afford a practical test of the very important question, whether it is better to manufacture for ourselves, in our own country, those articles which we require either for home consumption or exportation, or send them to another country, to be manufactured for us.

ROBBERY OF THE POST OFFICE AT SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON.—A telegraph despatch was received by the Post Master General from the Post Master at Sydney, C. B., stating that his assistant, named Pellett, had left Sydney very suddenly, and that he expected a robbery had been committed. The despatch was sent to the Police Office yesterday morning, and officers Caulfield and Cotter were ordered by the City Marshal to make enquiries about the party, as it was supposed he would make his way to this city. While Cotter was receiving instructions from the City Clerk, he happened to look out of the Police Office window in the direction of the Steamboat wharf, and his attention was attracted to two parties in conversation, one a coaster, the other evidently a stranger in the city. From the description of the thief received by telegram, Cotter at once came to the conclusion that he had got his eye on the man he was about going in pursuit of. The parties soon after separated, and the one upon whom suspicion rested proceeded on board the Dartmouth steamer, was followed by Cotter, who immediately got in conversation with him, arrested him, and took him to the Police Station, where he was searched, and a gold watch and a number of trinkets found in his possession. Cotter immediately after proceeded to his boarding house, where was found two travelling bags belonging to Pellett, which he searched; in one of them he found £37 10s. in notes and gold. In the afternoon the prisoner acknowledged his guilt to the City Marshal, and was taken to gaol. This afternoon he was brought down to the Police Office, when a private investigation took place before the Mayor and the Solicitor General, and handed over to the Crown officers for trial in the Supreme Court.

PICTOU, Oct. 25.—The corner stone of the new Coal Oil Manufactory, which we noticed last week, was laid on Saturday, with masonic honors, by the brethren of the "mystic tie" connected with the Lodges at New Glasgow and the Albion Mines. The Albion Mines band was also in attendance, and after the ceremony had been gone through with, the party were entertained at luncheon by Mr. Patrick, who has hitherto superintended the working of the mine. The retorts and other apparatus arrived here on Monday, by the brig *Forward*, from New York.—*Eastern Chronicle.*

The flag ship *Nile*, after parting from the ships of the Prince's squadron at sea, arrived in this harbor on Thursday afternoon.

TEMPERANCE.—The Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance commenced its annual session yesterday, in the Temperance Hall. After the transaction of the ordinary business the office bearers for the ensuing year were appointed:

A Longley, Esq., M. P. P. of Annapolis, was elected G. W. P.; and D. Johnson, Esq., of Sydney, C. B., G. W. A. The other officers are—P. Monaghan, Halifax, G. S.; Robt. Boak, senior, Halifax, G. T.; W. H. Porter, Wolfville, G. Chaplain; H. A. Taylor, Halifax, G. C.; and B. S. Seaman, Wallace, G. S.

The Quarterly Sessions were appointed to be held at the places and on the days named below:

January Session—Lunenburg, on the fourth Tuesday of that month, at 10 o'clock A. M.

April Session—Paradise or Bridgetown, Annapolis Cy., as may be hereafter decided. Date not fixed.

July Session—New Glasgow, third Wednesday of that month, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Annual Session—Halifax, last Wednesday of October.

We are glad to learn from the reports of the G. W. P. and S. that the cause is progressing in almost every section of the Province.

A public meeting will be held to-morrow (Friday) evening, when several talented and influential men of the order are to address the audience.

A crazy woman who had escaped from the Poor House, attempted to drown herself by jumping from the slip near the Ferry Landing, on Thursday evening, between 6 and 7 o'clock. A fishing boat which was passing at the time rescued her before she had accomplished her purpose.—*Journal.*

A quack Indian Herb Doctor was tried at Amherst last week before Chief Justice Young, who sentenced him to two years in Penitentiary, with hard labor, and to pay a fine of £100.—*Ib.*

CENSUS.—The *Chronicle* of this morning states that measures are in course of preparation by the Government for taking a new census. It is now nine years since the last census was taken, it is very advisable that we had as soon as possible some correct statistics of our population, wealth, &c.

A man named Hugh McDonald, of Tatamagouche, was drowned in Wallace Harbor, on the night of Saturday, the 6th inst. He was attempting to go on board the schr. Olive Branch when the accident happened. His body has not been recovered. In the event of its being found, the party discovering it will confer a favor by giving information to Roderick McDonald, Tatamagouche.

The steamship *Lady Head* left this port for Quebec on Monday evening, on her last trip for the season. This fine boat has now been on the route during the three past summers, and in that time has done her work in such a way as to command the entire confidence and satisfaction of the travelling public.—Captain Davison, besides being an old and experienced pilot, thoroughly acquainted with the coast, has the happy *knack* of making his passengers feel at home and comfortable on board his ship, in which he has been ably seconded by his obliging and gentlemanly Steward, Mr. Lord. We are glad to learn that there is every probability of a larger and more commodious boat being placed upon the route next year.—*Pictou Paper.*

The meeting referred to in the following Circular will be held this evening:

REVEREND SIR,—The Daily Union Prayer Meeting having been now continued, by the blessing of God until near the close of its first year, the Committee propose to hold an Anniversary Prayer Meeting in Temperance Hall on the evening of Wednesday 31st October, inst., at half-past seven o'clock, P. M.

The prayer meeting being confined to no denomination, but supported by members of all the evangelical churches in this city, the Committee are anxious that the various congregations should be represented by their respective pastors on that occasion; and beg respectfully that you will be present and take a seat on the platform, and also that you will announce the meeting to your congregation.

Your obt. servant,

T. A. S. DEWOLF *President.*

ALEX. JAMES, *one of the Secretaries.*

Halifax, October 24th, 1860.

New Brunswick.

The St. John, N. B. *News* says that the proprietors of the English and Canadian Ocean Steamers have made a proposition to the New Brunswick government, to connect with St. John once a week the whole year through, for a Provincial subsidy of £5,000 per annum, in consideration of which they will carry the New Brunswick Mails. They propose to run in connection with their Atlantic steamers, a branch line from Montreal to Shediac in the summer season, for the convenience of freight, passengers, mails; and in the winter months to run from Portland to St. John.

The *News* adds:—"The freight and travelling that would necessarily pass over our road would greatly add to the revenue, to say nothing of the advantage and convenience of being brought witnin direct weekly communication with England. The amount asked is certainly moderate, while the expected benefits cannot be too highly estimated."

NEW STEAMER FOR THE SAINT JOHN AND PORTLAND ROUTE.—The Steamer *New Brunswick*, lately launched at New York, made a very successful trial trip at that port, and was to leave for Portland last Thursday. She is very substantially built, and adapted for the roughest sea weather.

The minute details of her construction are as follows:—Length on deck, from fore-part to stem to after-part of stern-post, above the spar-deck, 224 feet; breadth of beam at midship section, above the main wales (molded,) 30 feet 8 inches; depth of hold, 12 feet; depth of hold to spar-deck, 12 feet 3 inches; draft of water at load line, 6 feet 6 inches; area of immersed section, at this draft, 180 square feet; tonnage, 815 tons.

A Fire broke out on Brussels street yesterday morning, between 6 and 7 o'clock, in a house owned and occupied by William Cashman. The fire was first discovered by Charles Nevins, William Gilbreath, and Owen McKenzie. The houses destroyed were owned by A. H. Fagan, H Brookins, John Wilson, and Wm. Cashman. A house owned by Cashman situated in the rear was also destroyed, occupied by Ellen Long. After the fire was subdued a serious disturbance occurred between the fireman and others. An investigation of this matter will take place at the Police office to day.—*Newbrunswicker, Oct* 22.

ABUNDANT WHEAT CROP IN THE VALLEY OF THE AROOSTOOK.—The Aroostook *Times* of the 19th inst. says:—

"From all sections of the country we hear of abundant crops of wheat, larger than have been known for many years previous. Indeed we think the quantity raised almost sufficient to supply the country. This speaks well for Aroostook, for any community of farmers is bound to prosper that can raise their own bread. We are informed that the crop was unusually good in the town of Amity this season. Some farmers are threshing and find the yield large. Among them are Messrs. Cole & Davis who obtained 51 bushels, machine measure, for 2 acres of sowing, Another, Mr. Chas. Clarke, had 84 bushels for 3½ of sowing. Such crops are worthy of note."

We see no reason why we should not have an equally favorable account from the British side of the line in that neighbourhood. We fear however, that the New Brunswickers there are too much engaged in lumbering and stream-driving to pay much attention to their crops.—*Newbrunswicker.*

The earthquake felt on the 11th inst. through New Brunswick and the New England States, were even more distinctly felt in portions of Canada. In Quebec the oscillations of the ground was so severe as to violently shake buildings, knocking down the ceiling and opening the jointing of wood work. The shock was also distinctly felt by vessels in the river; and it is said that the light house on L'Islet has been partially fractured by it.

Canada.

The Governor-General, Sir Edmund Head, left Quebec on the 12th inst. *en route* for England, Sir W. F. Williams being on the same day sworn in as Administrator of the Government during His Excellency's absence. The Toronto *Leader* says that the absence of the Governor-General is not expected to be protracted more than two months. We believe we are correct in stating that important business of a private nature requires Sir Edmund's presence in England. Report has it that Sir Edmund is said to be trustee of an estate, the administration of which requires his temporary presence in England. The return of His Excellency before Christmas may be confidently relied upon.

A portion of the wreck of the R. M. Steamer Canadian, has been lately taken into Quebec.

Miss Catherine E. Beecher, sister of Henry Ward Beecher, is said to have become an Episcopalian.

The steamer Cambria, formerly belonging to the Cunard line, has been purchased by the agents of Garibaldi for £9,000.

The English Mail for Western Canada was near being destroyed on Wednesday week. The mail was very large, the bags were piled up to the ceiling of the mail car, in which the mail conductor was sorting the way mails. One of the bags rolled over on the stove, and before the conductor noticed it, it was on fire. After much exertion the fire was subdued, but the man in the cars had his hands much burned.

THE GRAND TRUNK OF CANADA.—It is stated that a very serious complication is expected to arise out of the present difficulties of the Company. The Montreal *Advertiser* is "credibly informed that some of the American creditors are about to seize and trustee that portion of the line in the United States, the effect of which proceeding will be to cut off the section from the Province line to Portland, and to enable the trustees to dictate their own terms for traffic. As the object of the trustees will be to make as much as possible out of this section, we may expect very high rates for passengers and freight, should the threat be put into execution." This is an evidence of the folly of making the Ocean connection through a foreign country.

The Montreal Commercial Advertiser says it is rumored that the Honble. John Rose has been offered by the Hudson's Bay Company the important post of Governor of the territories covered by its charter vacant by the death of Sir George Simpson.

MAGDALEN ISLANDS.—The herring fishery at Labrador has proved an entire failure.—Only one vessel among the many fitted out from these Islands, has made a load; the others have only averaged about thirty barrels each. The late disastrous gale seems to have been but slightly felt there, and no accident whatever is reported.—*E. Chronicle.*

Newfoundland.

The R. M. S. *Ospray* arrived yesterday morning from St. John's, N. F., via Sydney, she left St. John's on Wednesday last.

The *Express* of the 23rd, says that after two months of moist weather, with frequent heavy rains, which did much damage to the fish, and almost totally destroyed the potatoe crop, the weather had set in dry and cool with the new moon. The delivery of fish is proceeding rapidly from boats, but we regret to report unfavorably of the catch, which will be the shortest for many years.

The Legislature is to meet on the 3rd of Dec., seven weeks earlier than usual—the "state of parties" is said to be the cause of thus early calling Parliament together.

United States.

TH