Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1871.

THE NEW YEAR.

We trust the readers of the *Provincial Wesleyan* have all enjoyed a "happy new year." There were many reasons for thankfulness to the Giver of all good to be gathered from their past experience, and many sources of happiness within their reach when the new year advanced upon them. Yet probably the more reflecting of the readers of our journal find intermingled at this season with all their more pleasureable thoughts and feelings, sentiments and emotions of a grave and solemn character. With many there must be an anxious desire that the days of the present year may be more wisely and profitably spent than the days of the past one. The thought of the complete uncertainty that overhangs the future must intrude itself on many minds; and that is a thought that ever saddens the hearts which it visits. We weave our plans for future success. We revel in visions of gladness supposed to be on its way to our habitations. We cherish our fond expectations, and discount our coming joy. But—alas! for the buts in the story of our life—but will the expectation be fulfilled? will the waited for happiness keep tryst? will the slow-moving joy ever arrive? will it arrive this year? Who can say?

We take up our burden of life anew at the commencement of another year, and pursue our journey afresh, some with a light and joyous tread, some with listless and indifferent footsteps, some with a heart heavy and weary. When shall we lay it down? where and how? Some of us must lay down our life's load this year. Shall we lay it down gladly? Will the sound of our Master's footsteps coming up the valley of the shadows fall gratefully upon our ears? Will the herald-voice of His messengers bidding us be ready for His approach be music to our souls expectant of His arrival?

To whom among us will the message that cannot linger when sped on its way first come? Will it come while yet the year is young? or when the year is about to die? Will it come in the months of leaves and blossoms or in the months of fruits and harvests? Will it come in the glare of the lightning, in the blast of the tempest, in the rush of the seas or on the wings of the pestilence? Will it come in the blaze and bustle of the midday or in the stillness of the deep and sacred night? Will they whom we best love soothe the passing hour with words of prayer, and close the eyes from which the soul will no longer look out, or shall we be stricken down by hostile hands on some field of blood?

Lord thou knowest all things, and in Thine hands are all the issues from life, and all the avenues to death. The secret is Thine. The message will come from Thee. But come when it may, come how it may, come where it may, let it be sent in pity and love!

The year 1871 will probably be an eventful one in general human history. It will we hope witness the settlement of the great quarrel between Germany and France. If so the character of that settlement will exercise a great influence on the future of the European Continent and indeed on the course of civilization. Yet it is not impossible and alas! not improbable that the Franco-German War may merge in a grand European conflict in which almost every power in the old world will feel compelled to take an active part. We trust and we pray it may turn out otherwise; but it must be confessed that at the moment the European outlook for the year is a forbidding one.

During the year, Italy will be likely to experience much trouble in dealing with the Roman question. Rome will become the capital of the Kingdom of United Italy; but the presence of the Pope at Rome or his absence therefrom will be a continual source of difficulty to the Italian Administration.

Spain during the year may enjoy peace and prosperity under the constitutional sway of its new Sovereign. But it may be plunged in all the horrors of a civil war.

England, it is to be hoped, will continue this year at peace with all the world; and notwithstanding the doubtful tone of certain passages in President Grant's late message to Congress, the prospect of this year's witnessing an amicable settlement of all matters in serious dispute between Britain and the United States may be held to be promising. If the Government of the United States is really anxious to come to a just understanding with the British Government on all subjects in unpleasant discussion between them a peaceful solution of the Alabama and other troubles will certainly be arrived at ere long. The one specially dark cloud hovering along the British horizon is that raised by the partial resuscitation of the Eastern question. This cloud may be dispelled by the action of the approaching Convention of representatives of the European Powers about to deliberate on the demands of Russia regarding the de-neutralization of the Black Sea in London. But it may grow larger and blacker until it overspreads the whole sky and breaks in tempest on half a world. May our Father in Heaven avert such an unspeakable calamity from the many millions it would so distressingly and dreadfully afflict were it to happen.

For our own country, particularly, we may anticipate a year of at least average prosperity, if the threatened general war does not come.

Wars, carnage and international discords are unfavorable to the immediate interests of religion. The bad passions evoked in the strife, the brutalities indulged in by the combatants, the unwholesome excitements caused by watching the movements and and bloody rivalry of hostile armies, are alike detrimental to the influence and progress of religion. Let us pray that God would lessen among men the days of strife and bloodshed, and quickly make wars to cease in all the earth.

J. R. N.

SYDNEY CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—In lieu of original matter and far better I send you a "choice bit" selected from an eminent writer, which we do well to ponder for our mutual profit entitled

ANNEALING CHRISTIANS.

In glass manufactures there is a process called *annealing*. Glass on *suddenly* cooling, acquires great brittleness. A *chill* after the moulding of vase or goblet, would cause the beautiful structure to fly to pieces. A *slight* touch has sometimes crushed the finest specimen to dust. There is a remedy for this tendency in new made glass. By *annealing* or re-heating the ware, to a degree lower than at the first melting, and *gradually* removing it from hot to cooler temperature, the particles are toughened into more reliable affinity, which gradual process in cooling, occupies a thousand-fold more time than the shaping of the articles. *Hasty* cooling will make the glass brittle. There must be *deliberation* in its adjustment to the *new state*.

This may serve as an illustration of the *brittleness* of *new* converts. They will not stand rough handling, a single thoughtless word has ruined many a young Christian. After conversion they must be annealed. They must be trained into strength to resist the ordinary temptations of life. *Conversion* is not enough. By prayer and patience the new convert must be disciplined to daily duty, advanced by careful degrees into Christian work, and come by time and regularity into strength.

And there are some *old* Christians who have never annealed. They may have been converted years ago, but not being needed particularly, being more *ornamental* than useful, they have, like blown, but *unannealed* glass-ware, been on the shelf and hidden. Their names are on the Church register, and that is about their greatest achievement in religion. They are never in *use*. They have become so accustomed to the *shelf* and the *shade*, that you never miss them. They keep in *rear* places and *dark* corners. They have the form of Christianity; they may have tone enough to pray; they may look solemn and behave respectably in their distant *retreats*—may even say "our church," "our minister," "our doctrine." But all the while they have never been annealed. A sudden temptation and their temper flies. Invite them to the prayer-meeting, ask them for missionary money, suggest a few hours' earnest work for Jesus, and snap they go to pieces! They may have been converted, but they were put on the shelf before they were annealed, and they are worthless ware. I have seen so light a thing as a bit of wooden pencil dropped from the hand into an *unnealed* glass goblet on the workmans table, shiver it to atoms. But no matter how long a piece of glass ware has been idle and unnoticed on the shelf, it may still be annealed as easily as a *new* bloom specimen warm from the makers hand (this is encouraging to idlers in the vineyards.) The *two* may pass through the oven, side by side, and emerge together as equals for the test of *use*. And this is what all the churches need—that their chrystally clear and prematurely cold professors should be put into discipline, into exercise, into self-denial, into sacrifice, into endurance for Christ's sake for a season, and *gradually tempered* into practical religious work; and then the Gospel would have power on the minds and the hearts of sinners. Every church ought to have its annealing apparatus and keep it until every *brittle* vessel of the Lord is tempered unto *reasonable* discipleship.

J. V. J.

Dec. 30, 1870.

Circuit Intelligence.

CHRISTMAS AT MARYSVILLE.

This season brings gladness to many hearts. It recalls vividly the scenes of Bethlehem causing every Christian to respond to the glad anthem, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. It is also a period of joyous greetings both in the family and social circle. No wonder all hail and welcome Merry Christmas, day of pleasures and feasts, of gifts and graces. The inhabitants of this tastily arranged and increasingly interesting village, situated on the Nashwaak, about three miles from Fredericton, were, we think, benefited and delighted by the festivities, and the social and religious gatherings of the period.

On Christmas eve we had an exhibition of open hearted charity and good will. Upwards of fifty families in the employ of Alex. Gibson, Esq., were presented on that evening with a substantial gift for their Christmas dinner.

The congregations on the Sabbath were as usual large and attentive. In the morning we invited their attention to the words of the admiring shepherds when just informed of the Saviour's birth, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass." In the evening the Rev. Mr. Beckwith (Baptist minister) preached from the words, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour."

On Monday the friends, under the superintendence of Mrs. Alex. Gibson were engaged in consummating their charitable plans and preparations for an exhibition of increased good feeling and kindliness among all classes. In the evening we saw the fruit of their labor. Mr. Gibson's spacious hall was crowded. The rich and the poor had met together, and were alike surrounded with music, beauty, and luxury. The hall was beautifully festooned with evergreens, and artifical flowers. At the furthest end stood two Christmas trees, their boughs gracefully bending with the gifts of benevolence. Each tree was illumined by the burning of eighteen wax-tapers. The lovely motto, "A merry Christmas to all" painted on tissue paper, lit up by tapers, was placed just above the fruitful tree. On both sides of the trees were seated on an elevated platform, the Children of the Sabbath-School; who poured forth exquisite music that would have done credit to many of our large cities. This entertainment being for the encouragement of the children of the Sabbath-Schools, the exercises of the evening were conducted by the Superintendent, Mr. Rowley, with his usual deliberation. Prayer being offered up the concert and recitations began, which, did space permit, would be well worth describing at length. At the close of the concert the audience was entertained sumptuously with an abundance of good things. Then came "Santa Claus," dressed in his appropriate garments, to distribute the presents, which was no small task the number being about two hundred. Over thirty dollars worth of presents were distributed among the members of the choir. The writer also was kindly remembered, and several very useful articles were presented to him. The distribution being ended all united in singing the National Anthem, after which the benediction was pronounced, and the assembly dismissed.

The Sabbath School is now in a flourishing condition. We have been greatly encouraged during the last three months by the marked progress in this department of the work. Number of officers and teachers, 13; number of scholars, 106; average attendance, 85. A short time since the friends purchased a $150 cabinet organ, which, under the management of Miss Beckwith, governess in Mr. Gibson's family, has added very much to the interest of the school.

On Tuesday evening we held our Home Missionary Meeting. The congregation showed that the people here take, also, a deep interest in the cause of missions. In addition to the Revs. Messrs. Currie, Johnson, and LeLacheur, we were favoured with the presence of Rev. Mr. Beckwith, (B. M.) The several speakers, by their excellent remarks, made the meeting both impressive and instructive.

The collection taken up at this meeting was an excellent one, almost five times the amount of what was collected for our Home Missions on this Circuit last year; and we hope for further additions.

On Wednesday the British Templars held their County Lodge, and in the evening a public Temperance meeting. The hall was again filled with attentive hearers. The speakers of the evening were from the farm and the work-shop, the medical profession and ministerial fraternity; and we hope that their remarks will contribute to the improvement of this already sober people.

We have been also encouraged by the increased attention to religion in this community. God has blessed the ordinary means, and some few have united with us in our class-meetings. We purpose (D.V.) commencing the New Year with special services. May the Lord revive His work is our earnest prayer, and to His name we will ascribe all praise.

J. SELLER.

Marysville, Dec. 29th, 1870.

CHARLOTTETOWN HOME MISSION.

Our friends throughout the Conference will rejoice to hear that the Great Head of the Church is blessing the efforts at Charlottetown to extend the influence of Methodism beyond the limits of our large established congregation in that city. Bro. H. J. Clarke who, coming from England in the autumn, was appointed to labor under the direction of Bro. Milligan, writes to a friend in Halifax, Dec. 24th.—"I am sure you will be glad to hear that God continues to bless our efforts. The Free Presbyterian Church, which was unoccupied, was engaged for our Home Mission services, and I have preached there every Sunday evening for the last eight weeks; and some have been awakened under the word and have cried aloud for mercy. Nearly twenty have been converted. Twenty-two have united in class. Praise the Lord for all His mercies! The friends have wished for a morning service, and so I preached to them last Sabbath morning. Mr. Milligan is to preach there to-morrow evening. I have visited about 150 families and prayed with them all, in addition to visiting the sick almost every day since I have been here. I feel happy in my work."

LUNENBURG CIRCUIT.—I see by the last "Wesleyan" that the Chairman has administered a slight reproof for my apparent negligence; by reporting the favorable results of the Home Missionary meeting on the Lunenburg Circuit. I can say what some of my brethren cannot say—that the Brethren appointed at our Financial District meeting *were in their place at the appointed time*; and preformed the work assigned them in a manner highly creditable to themselves and satisfactory to the interests of the Home Mission Fund. The results of the Home Missionary Meetings on the Lunenburg Circuit are twofold. 1st. We have more than doubled the amount raised last year; and 2nd. Judging from the tone and spirit of our last Quarterly meeting our friends are determined to dig deep a grave into which, at the close of this year, to hurl that dreaded monster "deficiency" with earnest prayers around his grave—that he may never rise again.

On the 26th ult., we held a Tea Meeting on a small scale in Temperance Hall, which brought us the nice little sum of $198. This has wiped the entire debt off the church and left about $80 in the hands of the Trustees for church extension so very much needed. We purpose adding 20 feet.

Reviewing the past few months we have reason to "thank God and take courage." Several have been added to the Church by the use of the ordinary means. Just now we are engaged in special services at Maders Cove. Believers are quickened. Backsliders are arising and returning to their Father's house and to the blessings and satisfying portions of their Father's table, and sinners are crying "What must we do to be saved?" Some of them have already believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and are happy. We are praying for greater things.

J. G.

BRIDGETOWN CIRCUIT.—A short time since a meeting of the pew-holders and friends of our Church in Bridgetown was held in Tupper's Hall, to consider the desirability of erecting a new house in which to worship God. The meeting proved to be an enthusiastic one, and our people unanimously concluded to build. An eligible site has been obtained in the central part of the town, and we purpose in the spring prosecuting the work with vigor, in erecting a brick church, in keeping with the progress of the age.

W. H. H.

[From the Watchman.]

ANOTHER SOP FOR CERBERUS.

Among the news of the past week there is one item which may well cause uneasiness to Protestant readers. The publication of Mr. Gladstone's letter, in reply to a memorial from the inhabitants of *Stradbally* (!), marks very distinctly another stage in the progress of Romanist influence. It would appear—nay, the Premier states in so many words, that Her Majesty's Ministers have already committed their Government to undertaking the protection of the dethroned Pope. And, moreover, they have not done this to rescue him from any immediate and urgent danger. So anxious is Mr. Gladstone to convince the Irish Romanists of the importance which the Cabinet attaches to their wishes, that he says: "Indeed, without waiting for the occurrence of actual necessity, they have during the uncertainties of the last few months taken upon themselves to make provision which would have tended to afford any necessary protection to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff." "In other words," says the *Daily News*, "they have sent a frigate to Civita Vecchia to be in readiness to convey the Pope to Malta, in case his Holiness should prefer a residence on that island and the protection of a British garrison to the Vatican and an Italian garrison." There is something truly pitiful in this tone of eager subserviency. *Without waiting* for any actual necessity! The Catholic vote is duly respected.

Nor is this all. While declining, as any English Ministry must of course decline, to interfere in the civil government of Italy, Mr. Gladstone intimates that "Her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice." It is somewhat to be regretted that all this should transpire when Parliament is not sitting. What has been done, and still more, what has been promised, is tantamount to a very formal explicit recognition of the Pope's spiritual authority, and will afford to it very substantial support. We say what has been *promised*, having no doubt that the Premier's words will be understood to imply a promise by a much wider circle than that to which they are originally addressed; and no doubt that they will be construed as a promise, and their fulfilment demanded as such at some future period. It is a day of deep humiliation for our country when a Prime Minister makes such a declaration as this, and in response to a handful of obscure memorialists. But it will be a day of still deeper humiliation, and we sincerely believe of great peril also, for this country when a representative of England shall be found assisting the Catholic Powers to devise means to secure to the Pope what this memorial demands—namely, "the continuance of such a temporal sovereignty as will protect him in the discharge of his spiritual duties, together with an adequate income."

The course now proposed, and in principle (at least) consented to by Mr. Gladstone, is altogether exceptional. Other sovereigns have been dethroned by their subjects, and some of them at a time when they had cordial diplomatic relations with this country. But no attempts have been made to secure for them any other position than that which an adverse fate allotted to them. If they chose to seek an asylum in England, it has always been open to them, and a kindly welcome has usually accompanied it. But the idea of securing to them "an adequate income," or, indeed, of interfering with their future prospects in any way whatever, has never once been entertained. Of course it will be said that the Pope's spiritual influence is considered by many millions of Her Majesty's subjects to be of the greatest importance. Then let those many millions undertake to provide the "adequate maintenance" which appears to them so desirable. It will be an easy task, especially when shared by the other millions of Roman Catholics who are not British subjects, but owe allegiance—*first* to the Pope, and *then*—to the great Catholic Powers. On the very same principles that are now believed to make it expedient to protect, and perhaps to endow the Pope, there are many other millions of Her Majesty's subjects devotedly attached to the Hindu and Mahommedan religions, who may justly put in their claim for recognition by Government, and "adequate support" of spiritual authorities who are to them profoundly sacred. In fact, the principle, if accepted at all, must be applied throughout, and the Government must find resources to assist the "adequate support" of any functionary who is of great spiritual importance in the estimation of a considerable body of Her Majesty's subjects. Why not guarantee the position of the Chairman of the Congregational Union? Why not help to provide for the adequate support of the President of the Methodist Conference? In these days of religious equality and of levelling obnoxious establishments, why in the name of consistency entertain for a moment the idea of a new form of establishment, and endowment? Why, especially, when it is one objectionable to the majority; and even obnoxious in the last degree to a section of the community at least as large as that which it is thus proposed to conciliate, and far more deserving?

For the followers of the Pope are not the most loyal of subjects; nay, in proportion as their spiritual allegiance is fervent, their temporal allegiance is questionable. And they speak out now; they do not mince matters. At St. James's-hall, on Friday, Archbishop Manning publicly congratulated the peer who avows that he is a Catholic first, and then an Englishman. We regard with growing dissatisfaction the lavish and exceptional favour shown to a religion whose votaries are the great disturbing element of this peaceful country, and are half-inclined to say,—better total and complete disestablishment, better that the last rag and vestige of State aid to religion should vanish, than that substantial support should be granted to a system which repays all with an unbroken series of new demands, varied by insults and outrages. Political expediency is never so blind as when it inflicts a contemptuous slight on the Protestantism of England—and Ireland, for happily there is some Protestantism in Ireland yet—in order to conciliate the Jesuits and Ultramontanes who receive their orders from Rome. For those men regard the peace and welfare of England as a trifle compared to the interests of "The Church." When Maynooth was endowed, we were piomised a wonderful improvement in the temper of Irish Popery. A long succession of similar favours has been extended to it on the same pretext of conciliation, and with results which are only too familiar. Until at last army-chaplains, prison-chaplains, work-house-chaplains, and glebe-loans are demanded as rights, and the idea of favours is scouted. Meanwhile the tone of the Irish "National" press is insufferable, and assassinations are still of perpetual occurrence.

But successive Ministries pursue the same fatuous course, and vainly attempt to conciliate the most turbulent part of the community by measures which the peaceable and loyal regard as grievous wrongs. Vainly, indeed, for Cerberus growls even as he receives the sop, and his fierce yell begins again ere the last morsel has well been swallowed. Every fresh concession is accepted as merely a sign of weakness, and an encouragement to new and more insolent demands. Listen to the menaces of Friday night. The member for Dungarvan reminded his co-religionists that "Ministers and members of Parliament were squeezeable men, and they must be told that that was one of those cardinal questions which overrode all the ties of party, and that neither on the hustings nor elsewhere would they have any support from Catholic voters unless they pursued the proper course." The Earl of Denbigh *complained* of the tone of Mr. Gladstone's letter to Mr. Dease! He would have liked something in the style of Lord Granville's despatches on the Turkish question. What! are we bound by treaties to guarantee the patrimony of St. Peter? But Sir George Bowyer takes a still more arrogant tone. "Our Government must be taught that they could not neglect the wishes and feelings of seven millions of the people. They must be taught that Ireland would not be trifled with." And this to a Minister who has risked everything for Ireland! After abolishing an Established Church, after limiting—some people would say, seriously curtailing—the rights of property in Ireland, Mr. Gladstone is insolently told he shall be taught that Ireland is not to be *trifled with!* Here is encouragement to labor for the pacification of Ireland. Here is gratitude to a man who for at least two years literally lived for Ireland! Mr. Gladstone may perhaps be reminded of the saying of another famous statesman, "I can easily do enough to lose my friends; I can never do enough to gain my enemies."

We trust it may yet be found that there is a limit to the "squeezeable" quality both of Ministers and members of Parliament. Surely there are some men who will at last stand firm, and resist the ceaseless encroachments of Rome. The Government—and not only this present, but *any* English Administration—will do well to remember that all the support purchased by truckling to Popery is obtained at the cost of alienating men whom it is well worth while *not* to offend. If England is to continue a Protestant country, the time appears to be approaching when the electors must interfere in earnest, must take all these questions out of the hands of Governments, and return to Parliament none but men on whom they can rely to withstand the Jesuit enemies of Great Britain. Otherwise political expediency, the temptations of office, and the Catholic vote will continue to prevail, and England will ere long be governed mainly as Romanists please. And we are beginning to think that if the battle must be fought, it had better be fought without much further delay, before Popery has gained additional vantage-ground for the contest. In one of its forms the question becomes very simple: shall the Romanists be thrown upon the voluntary principle, and made to support their own institutions—Pope and all—for themselves; or shall they be perpetually encouraged to drain the country's exchequer, while they pervert its legislation and vex its tranquility? Of course all this is very narrow, very bigoted, very unfashionable; but England has a history, and its events loudly testify that in the past the influence of Rome has been the great disturbing power. The course which things are now taking is only too likely to secure that in some of its saddest passages our national history shall repeat itself.

NEW-JERSEY METHODIST CONVENTION.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. That, while we offer devout gratitude to God for our unparalleled prosperity as a Church, numerically, and financially, we acknowledge cause for deep humiliation that, with our multiplied advantages, we have accomplished no more for the world's regeneration.

2. That, we look with profound sorrow upon the neglect in too many of our charges of the means of grace, especially class-meetings, love-feasts, and prayer-meetings.

3. That we are unmoved and immoveable in the conviction that it is wrong for members of our Church to indulge in these recreations which do not tend to the glory of God, as dancing, circusses, horse-racing, though connected with agricultural fairs, and such like.

4. That we earnestly exhort our people throughout the two Conferences to an increased consecration of their wealth to the cause of God, and especially at this particular time, to the enterprises at Pennington, at Hackettstown, and Vineland.

5. That a vigorous enforcement of the Discipline, with reference both to the means of grace and a pure Christian morality, is the imperative duty of each preacher in charge; and that we, as ministers and laymen, pledge our earnest support to such enforcement.

6. That both by precept and example we will urge the members of all our Churches to a deeper Christian experience as the surest way of promoting a blameless, active, and useful external piety.

And on EDUCATION the following:

"*Resolved*, 1. That it is the sense of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the State of New-Jersey, now in Convention assembled, that next to the cultivation and practice of piety, it is a Christian duty to promote sound learning.

"2. That, excepting the agency of the Divine Word and Spirit, we regard sanctified education as the greatest power in the diffusion of Christianity.

"3. That it is more and more imperative on Christians to be the zealous advocates of sanctified learning.

"4. That it is the duty of Protestant Christianity to make use of every honorable means to promote the course of sound learning.

"5. That, true to Methodistic origin, we will, with increased zeal, give ourselves to the work of promoting education, as a means of spreading Scripture volumes over all lands.

"6. That this Convention calls earnestly upon the Methodist ministry of the State to make greater effort to awaken in the minds of our people a deeper interest in the subject of education, both by private conversations and by preaching on the subject, as the Discipline enjoins.

"7. That it is the duty of Methodist parents, though they can do it only at the sacrifice of everything down to the plainest comforts of life, to give their children a thorough education — to educate their daughters as well as their sons—discarding the abominable doctrine that mothers do not need the highest style of education. To do this, parents are called upon to have family libraries, so as to awaken a love of learning in the minds of their children, even in early childhood—to send them to high-schools and seminaries and colleges, and to do this, if need be, at an expense so heavy as to render it impracticable to leave them legacies of houses, or lands, or money; for the children who go out from us with good health and piety and learning need no other fortune: with those qualifications, they will make their own fortune.

"8. That our colleagues and seminaries ought at once to throw down those barriers that have stood for ages, against the admission of females to the high grades of intellectual culture and scholarship.

"9. That we deem it of vital importance that the strictest care be had that the faculties of all our literary institutions be men and women of sound theological views and deep piety—that no excellence in a teacher in other respects can make amends for a lack of those qualifications.

"10. That we deem it very important that the Methodist youth of our State be earnestly advised in all cases to seek their education in Methodist seminaries and Methodist colleges. * * * *

"13. That it is the sense of this Convention, and that we will invariably advise that the young men among us seeking a preparation for the ministry pursue an academic training, including a collegiate course, whenever this is at all practicable.

"14. That the time has come when the Methodist Church in this State should provide more liberally for the education of young men in their preparation for the ministry.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE WAR INDEMNITY.

Various guesses have been made of the probable amount of the indemnity which the Prussian Government will exact from France should peace now be made—estimates varying in amount between thirty and two hundred millions. It is perhaps premature to discuss the question, which will depend so much on the duration of the war itself, and the inducements of another sort which may be offered to Germany to make peace; but it will be interesting at least to see what sort of calculations are current in Germany. Two papers are before us—one by Professor F. von Holtzendorff in the *Spener'schs Zitung*, and the other by Dr. George Hirth—which throw some light on the matter. According to the former the indemnity should comprise: 1. The amount of the war loans of the German allies. 2. Compensation for the families of soldiers killed, and for invalided soldiers. 3. Reimbursement of the prizes made at sea, and of the damages caused by capture. 4. Compensation for damage to private property; for example, by the bombardment of Saarbruck and Kehl, and expulsion of German subjects from France. 5. The payment of fines for offences committed by French on German subjects in war, such as the robbery and plunder of German subjects on French territory; and 6. The expenses of the commons in consequence of the war—quartering, support of the Landwehr and reserve men called out, &c. These are pretty comprehensive heads for war indemnity, but they are nothing to those of Dr. Hirth, who puts his calculation in an arithmetical form and in French money, that Frenchmen may see what it comes to. It is as follows:—

I.—Cost of the Military movements:—		
1. Moblisation and transport of troops, arming fortresses, and the like,	£4,000,000	
2. Purchase of horses,	4,000,000	
3. Keep and pay of troops, forage, and the like, average 40 thalers per man per month, for 6 months,	36,000,000	
4. Munitions and the like,	2,800,000	
5. Extraordinary Marine and coast defences,	1,000,000	
6. Maintenance & transport of French wounded and prisoners, 100,000 men, at 20 thalers monthly,	1,800,000	
		£50,000,000
II.—Direct Losses:—		
1. Loss of labor of 700,000 men for half a year, at 200 thalers, per head,	10,400,000	
2. Loss of 10,000 men killed and completely invalided, estimated annual value of whose labour is 2,000,000 thalers, capitalized at 4 per cent,	7,600,000	
3. Pensions for invalids and widows, &c., yearly two million thalers, capitalized at 4 per cent.,	7,600,000	
4. Injuries by the blockade bombardment, &c.,	20,000,000	
5. Indemnity of German territory occupied by troops—the Palatinate, Baden, Rhine Provinces, &c.,	1,600,000	
6. Indemnity of Germans expelled from France,	2,000,000	
		49,200,000
III.—Indirect Losses:—		
1. Damage to trade establishments,	4,000,000	
2. Loss of national income,	38,000,000	
3. Depreciation of national property,	48,000,000	
		90,000,000
IV.—War indemnity for the reconquered provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, especially Strasbourg,		8,000,000
Total,		£197,200,000

Such is the German arithmetic, total being nearly £200,000,000, or about five milliards of francs. Of course it is open to the obvious remark that much of the calculation includes what in law would be called remote damage, such as juries sometimes give compensation for in Railway accidents against the opinion of the judges, while there are heads of indemnity for which there are hardly any good materials to make a computation. The estimate of the loss of individual incomes, for instance, is based upon the returns of the English Income-tax, from which it is inferred that the national income of England is £430,000,000, giving an average of 95 thalers per head, so that an average of 65 thalers per head for Germany would not be under the mark—a computation which is not only a guess, but contains the curious error that the returns under our income tax include the whole national income. Still, if losing nations were made to pay to the utmost farthing for the wars they are involved in, the total figure would probably not be far wrong, though the details could be more accurately worked out. As if the war costs Germany £200,000,000 what must have been the losses of France?—*Economist.*

DEATH OF REV. ALBERT BARNES.

Rev. Albert Barnes, one of the most able, widely known, and highly esteemed ministers of the Presbyterian Church, died suddenly in Philadelphia on Saturday last, aged 72 years. He left his home in that city on Saturday afternoon in excellent health and in fine spirits to make a pastoral visit. On the way he was seized with some serious difficulty, and only succeeded with his daughter's assistance in reaching his destination. Upon entering the house he seated himself beside his daughter, and, before any one else entered the room, his head dropped on his chair and he fell to the floor lifeless.

Mr. Barnes leaves a national reputation. As a biblical commentator and theological writer he had few equals. The circulation of his "Notes on the New Testament" is said to have reached a million volumes. His "Life of St. Paul" and "Evidences of Christianity" have also had an extensive circulation. Mr. Barnes was a native of Rome, New York, and alumnus of Hamilton College of 1820, and of Princeton College of 1824. His first pastorate was in Morristown, New Jersey. In 1839 he was called to the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, over which Church he presided until recently, when age compelled him to relinquish the burdens of the active pastorate.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.—The meetings in Halifax throughout the week have been very well attended, and many of them were occasions of great interest. The closing meeting of the series was held in Temperance Hall on Sabbath afternoon. The hall was filled to overflowing, and many persons were unable to obtain admission. His Hon. Dr. Parker presided.

General Intelligence.

The Christmas Tree at Wolfville came off as advertized on Saturday evening last. A respectable number were convened on the occasion, and a very nice tea was served, the proceeds of which is to be appropriated to the Wesleyan S. S. School Library. A Christmas Tree contained some nice fancy articles, the most of which sold readily. Excellent speeches were delivered by Rev's S. E. Huestis and A. D. Morton, and A. McN. Patterson, Esq., of Acacia Villa Seminary. During the evening, Mr. Alfred Rounstell, in behalf of the congregation, presented the Rev. Mr. Huestis with an Easy Chair as a small token of the esteem in which he is held by them.—*Kentville Star Dec. 29.*

FELLOWS' COMPOUND SYRUP OF HYPOPHOSPHITES is the only preparation known which gives prompt and permanent relief in Disease of the Lungs and Bronchial tubes. It restores the secretion to their healthy condition, allays inflammation of the mucus membrane, and is the most certain remedy for Debilitating Maladies. Full directions accompany each bottle.

Sold by Apothecaries. Price $1.50 per bottle, or six for $7.50.

THE NEW SHERIFF.—Joseph Bell, Esq., of this city has been appointed Sheriff of the County of Halifax, in the place of J. J. Sawyer, Esq., who lately resigned; and the appointment seems to be a remarkable satisfactory one to all parties.

FIRE AT GREENWICH.—On the night of the 5th inst., the house of Miss Sophia Bishop, Greenwich, was burnt to the ground. The wind was blowing hard at the time. Origin of the fire not known.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Wednesday last, as Conductor Ryan, of the Nova Scotia Railway, was stepping from the platform at Albion Mines aboard his train, he missed his footing, slipped, and fell, but succeeded in catching hold of the iron guard rail on the platform, as the cars moved off in which position he was dragged for several hundred yards, until he regained the steps.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—The W. & A. R. have got a snow plough which works admirably. While passing the Falmouth Station the other day at a great speed, Mr. Armstrong, the station agent, who was standing on the platform was struck with a body of snow and knocked backwards against the building and was very seriously injured.—*Windsor Mail.*

LOST AT SEA.—Lorenzo Ring, of Westport, N. S., a seaman on board the bark *Albert*, was lost overboard on Dec. 21st, while the vessel was on the passage from Liverpool to New York.

GUYSBOROUGH ELECTION.—Mr. Wylde was elected to the Local Legislature a few days since, receiving 212 votes more than his principal opponent, Mr. Tory.

THE "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER" begins the new year on a sheet enlarged to the size of the *Provincial Wesleyan*, and it is improved in appearance in other respects also.

SABBATH-BREAKING—SUNDAY TRAIN.—The steamer *Emperor* did not cross over to Annapolis until Sunday last. The passengers were conveyed to Kentville by an express the same day, which enabled them to take the Monday morning through train to Halifax.

THE SHIPPING OF YARMOUTH.—The Yarmouth *Herald* of the 5th inst. contains its annual list of the shipping owned in the county. The following is an abstract:—

2 Steamers,	522	tons.
34 Ships,	30,379	"
88 Barques,	48,816	"
10 Brigs,	2,870	"
21 Brigantines,	2,962	"
107 Schooners,	5,119	"
262 Vessels, measuring,	90,668	"

Increase during the past year, 4 vessels, 8,521 tons.

During the year there were lost 14 vessels, aggregating 2,505 tons; sold 9 vessels, 2052 tons; condemned 1 vessel, 710 tons. There are now building, or under contract, 24 vessels, the probable tonnage of which is put down at 17,400.

Joseph Bell, Esq., has been appointed High Sheriff of the County of Halifax, in place of J. J. Sawyer, Esq., resigned. This appointment meets with cordial and universal approval. We do not know how the Government could have made a better selection. Mr. Bell enjoys the fullest confidence of all parties, and he will no doubt fill the important office to which he has been appointed, with credit to himself and with advantage to the community. We wish him a long and happy tenure of office. —*Presbyterian Witness.*

E. N. Sharp & Co., have purchased from E. M. McDonald, Esq., the *Citizen* newspaper, which journal made its appearance under the new proprietary on Wednesday morning. Grant & Co. have become proprietors of the Pictou *Standard.*—*Ib.*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—Yesterday afternoon the Chamber of Commerce held a large meeting representing the business community very fully. Communications of much ability were read from John Boyd and Alex. Wright, Esqs., regarding the proposed Bay Verte Canal. Three delegates were elected to attend the Dominion Board of Trade to be held at Ottawa on the 18th inst. They were the Hon. J. Robertson, James Domville, and John Boyd, Esqs. Power was given them to discuss any question coming before that Board but more especially to urge the repeal of duties on Coal and Breadstuffs, and also for an equalization of the currency. The Council meets to-day.—*St. John News.*

SNOW STORM.—The snow of Thursday last fell to the depth of nearly three feet. Such a heavy fall at the commencement of the season is most unusual. The first regular train to Amherst due at that place on Thursday at 5.45, was blocked by snow in Humphrey's cutting, and did not reach there till the next afternoon. —*Chignecto Post.*

OBITUARY.—Our readers will notice with regret in our obituary the death of Miss Allison, the only daughter of the founder of Mount Allison Educational Institutions. Miss Allison had been in a delicate state of health for some years. It was hoped that a sojourn abroad in a milder climate, made not long since, had in some degree restored her; but in August last she caught a severe cold, from which she never recovered. She was the possessor of unusual mental qualities and amiability of character, and her early death will be widely deplored.—*Ib.*

Quite a tragical event occurred at Montague Bridge last Wedaesday night. It appears that two men by the name of John Annear and Daniel McDearmid, who have not been sober for some time past, set fire to two Indian Camps, and killed one of the Indians named Louis Nicholas. A Coroner's inquest is being held over the body, the result of which we shall know in due time. The men have been arrested and committed to King's County Jail, to await trial at the ensueing term of the Supreme Court.—*Argus.*

Mr. Fletcher has called on us to say, that he has just learned that recent facts do not warrant the strong language in the above, which was sent him by a reliable correspondent.—*Ed. Isl.*

We regret to announce the loss by fire of the Barn and all its contents of David Douglass, Esq., Stanhope, on Friday night last. Shortly after the family retired, the barn was discovered on fire, but efforts to extinguish the flames proved unavailable. Besides the barn—which was a new one, Mr. Douglass lost 1 horse, 13 head of cattle, waggons, oats, wheat, in fact all the building contained, except two horses. The loss to Mr. Douglass cannot be much short of £4,00. Cause of the fire unknown.—*Argus.*

The construction of the Bay Verte Canal is exciting much interest in the Province of New Brunswick and there appears the greatest probability of its being constructed. The doubts which existed as to the practicability of obtaining water at the summit level have been solved, and meetings are now being held in the County of Westmoreland with the attention of the administration. The work is one of very great importance, and we hope will receive the earnest consideration of the Government.—*Montreal Gazette.*