

this we congratulate the Chairmen and members of the several District meetings: they have evidently been wakeful at their post.

But, if none have been rejected, can all be employed? Are our friends prepared to call into home circuits, or to send to foreign missions, all whom the Lord of the harvest has given? If not, ought not this very token of his favour, this increasing number and advancing character of candidates for the ministry, while it cheers us, and makes us give thanks, to lead us, at the same time, to stir up within us the spirit of zeal and sacrifice, that every workman the Lord may send may be sent into the field.

The increase of our numbers, with the pleasing aspect of our list of Candidates, are tokens, that which we could have none more delightful of God's gracious presence. Let us joyfully take fresh courage, and let every heart pray that out of the youth, who thus give present themselves for holy service, the Lord may make not a few to win many souls as over men have won before.—*Watchman of 11th July.*

British Conference.

The One Hundred and Sixty Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Conference was opened at the Oldham Street Chapel, Manchester, England, on the morning of Wednesday, the 25th of the last month. The number of Ministers in attendance was about 580. During the year it was found that eleven vacancies had occurred in what is called the "Hundred" Ministers, who constitute the legal Conference; three of which were filled up by "nomination," and eight by "seniority."

The Rev. THOMAS JACKSON, the Theological Tutor in the Southern, or Richmond, Branch of our Theological Institution, was elected PRESIDENT of the Conference for the present year; and the Rev. JOHN HANNAH D. D., the Theological Tutor of the Northern, or Didsbury, Branch of the same Institution, SECRETARY.

The Conference intelligence, owing to the fact of the Meeting being opened only on the day on which our last advises date, is necessarily limited to the Reports of the Preparatory Committee, which meet some days before the formal opening of Conference, extracts from the Watchman's account of which appear on a preceding page; and to the elections above mentioned. With the brief and general views of these important and interesting Reports copied into our columns, we must content ourselves for the present; but we may, in this place, give a few items of intelligence respecting our Week-Day and Sabbath-Schools, taken from the Reports themselves.

The number of Week-Day and Infant Schools, taught by trained Teachers recommended by the General Educational Committee is 192; taught by other Teachers 221: total number of Day-Schools, 413. Boys in these schools, 21,593; girls, 12,923; infants, 4,536: total number of scholars 38,968. Total annual cost of the Schools, including teachers' salaries £25,043 7s. 1d.

The number of Sunday Schools is 4,344; an increase of 75 on the last year. Number of scholars, 461,197; increase, 18,301. Number of children attending select Classes, 22,829. Number of Teachers, 83,972;—an increase of 2,192. The number of Teachers in Society out of the total number, 59,643; being an increase of Teachers in Society upon the last year of 2,193. Total annual cost of Sunday-Schools, £26,194 10s.

From this statement we may justly conclude that the British Wesleyans are in earnest in their endeavours to promote the education of youth on sound and christian principles. Much good, temporal and spiritual, under God's blessing, must be the infallible result. May that good be increased an hundred fold!

Great Sympathy-Meeting in London, Eng.

On Monday the 23d ult., an immense meeting was held in the London Tavern for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the HUNGARIANS, who are now nobly contending for their civil and religious liberty against the combined arms of Austria and Russia. The chair was taken by Mr. Alderman Salamons. A considerable number of Members of the Imperial Parliament;

also of Poles, Germans, Hungarians, and other foreigners; were present. Hundreds of persons, it is said, were unable to get admission.

The object of the meeting, was not, the Chairman observed, "for the purpose of upsetting thrones and exciting people against their rulers, but to raise its voice on behalf of an independent nation, which it was attempted to put down by the misrule and the illegality of the power connected with her, and by the barbarous foreign invader."

The means by which the meeting proposed at present to demonstrate its sympathy with Hungary were of a moral nature; by expressing its "detestation and horror" of the cruel and barbarous modes "in which the war now raging in Hungary is prosecuted by the Austrian authorities and generals;" by denouncing "the military intervention of Russia in the affairs of Hungary as wholly unjustifiable in reason and in fact—a violation of the law of nations—the indefensible rights of Hungary—and perilous to the peace, freedom, and the general welfare of Europe;" and by petitioning Parliament "immediately to recognize the independence of Hungary."

We subjoin the following extract from the eloquent and heart-stirring speech of John Cassell Esqr., with which we close our notice of this important meeting, the effects of which on the contending parties must be great; on the Hungarians to inspire them with renewed courage in their resistance of oppression; on the Austrians and their Russian allies, to cause them to halt in their tyrannical and sanguinary career:—

"He," Mr. C. "was delighted to see the city of London so nobly coming forward to express its sympathy with that maligned and betrayed people—the Hungarians. As Englishmen they could not suppress those generous emotions that had been awakened, whilst viewing the unequal contest which, for some time, had been raging on the plains of Hungary, and which was now rendered doubly unequal by the whole resources of Russia being united to the disposable forces of Austria, for the inhuman purpose of subjugating a people whose spirit of loyalty, magnanimity, and patriotism, stood unsurpassed in the history of nations. The position of Hungary at present it was almost fearful to contemplate. That nation was surrounded by multiplied hordes of murderous barbarians. The Austrian, the Croat, the Muscovite, and the Cossack, seemed banded together for the purpose of perpetrating an utter annihilation of Hungarian independence (cheers). The whole length of their march was tracked with blood. Fire, rapine, and slaughter were the concomitants of their progress. There was no mercy shown to any class. Youth, age, infancy, and women were alike the victims of their atrocities (great cheering). In such an hour of trial what empire claiming the name of being free could remain quiescent? And where did Hungary look for amidst the veil of her wretchedness and the entombment of her liberties for sympathy? In what direction shall she turn for a recognition of the justness of her cause? To the bombarder of Rome? (No, no, and tremendous cheering.) No! but to England would she turn and look for that generous sympathy which was ever ready to flow for the suffering and oppressed (cheers)."

We are glad to perceive that the Rev. S. D. Rice has arrived in safety in Canada, and with restored health.

The laying of the corner stone of the Industrial School at Muncy, Canada West, we shall take an opportunity of noticing in our next.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

NEW BRUNSWICK

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS—RECIPROCAL FREE TRADE WITH THE WHOLE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

As yet nothing has transpired, in authentic form, as to the recent doings of the Executive Council, or the precise character of their deliberations; but an opinion prevails in quarters generally well-informed, that the question of reciprocal free trade between all the British North American Provinces, and the United States, has assumed an entirely new and favourable aspect, which bids fair to lead to some highly important and most favourable results at no distant day.

The question of an immediate Union of these Provinces has, for some months past, engaged the most serious consideration, of leading men both in the Colonies and in England, and recent events, it is said, are likely to lead to much more speedy action, in this matter, than could have been anticipated.

In connection with these questions, it is reported, that a special meeting of delegates from Canada, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, will take place in a very few days at Halifax; the delegates to consist of two leading members of the Executive Council of each Colony, who will agree upon joint measures for the general good of the Colonies, and settle the best modes of carrying them into speedy effect, in order to give relief as speedily as possible to all those Provincial interests which are suffering under the present depression.—*New Brunswick.*

UNION OF THE PROVINCES.—A despatch has been received by R. Jardine, Esq. from Kingston, stating that the Convention at that place has decided in favour of a federal union of the Provinces. We have yet to learn, however, how this union is to be brought about; but we presume, that it means such a union as has been talked of for some time past, and advocated by some of the Governors of Canada, in order to swamp the influence of the French population in the councils of the country.—*Id.*

FRAYS.—The Carleton Sentinel of the 31st ult. says, the mill situated on Kitchen's Creek, owned by Mr. Thomas Pickard, was totally destroyed by fire on the 24th ult. Some sawed lumber was destroyed. The mill was partly insured. A barn, with hay, sleigh, and some other things, was destroyed by fire, at Jacktown, on the 29th.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

FISHERIES.—It is gratifying to learn, that the accounts from the Fisheries, in every quarter, have, up to the present, more than realized the expectations of the most sanguine among us. Another fortnight of as fine weather as we have had of late, and the Fisheries will, in all probability, have proved twice as prosperous as they were this time last year. From the present promising aspect of this, our staple trade, we have the most cheering anticipations of a revival of good times.—*N. F. Courier.*

LOSS OF THE MAIL STEAMER KESTREL.—By the *Bright Rapid* which arrived at this port, on Monday last, from N. F., we have received the intelligence of the total loss of the Mail Steamer Kestrel, near St. John's, on her passage hence to St. John's N. F. We are happy to say no lives were lost.

We subjoin the account of the occurrence, written by one of the passengers, and published in the N. F. papers.

The Kestrel left Halifax on Thursday the 19th instant, at 12 o'clock, P. M. having, besides the crew, twelve passengers; three of whom were for Sydney, C. B. Owing to the thick fog encountered immediately after leaving the harbour, she did not reach the latter place until the afternoon of Saturday, where, having landed her passengers and mail for the Admiral's ship, (then in port) and taken in coal, she proceeded on her way to this place at 5 P. M. On Saturday night the weather was very heavy, the wind blowing fresh from the S. W. This continued all day on Sunday, the fog growing more dense as the vessel neared the Newfoundland coast. Capt. Meagher was on deck the greater part of the time, exercising the utmost vigilance and keeping up a good look out on the part of the crew. The course steered was one point more off the shore than he had ever allowed in any of his previous voyages, and one which he imagined would take him clear of every danger.

The ship, after leaving Sydney, averaged about 1-1/2 knots per hour, and every one on board fully expected to be in St. John's early on Monday morning. All went on well till 10-1/2 on Sunday night, when without the slightest previous intimation of danger, the Captain at the time being on deck, and a sharp look-out kept from the fore-castle, the ship, going 10 miles an hour, struck against the rocks, which subsequently proved to be inside of the western head of the much-dreaded bay of St. John's. At first the shock was not violent, owing probably to the obliquity and low-spirited taking the cliff in succession as the vessel ranged ahead. The engine was instantly stopped and backed, and the Engineer, to whom two watch-pipes cannot be given, immediately took all necessary steps for preventing danger from the boilers, by letting off the steam and drawing the fires. No effect being produced by this, as the Packet was under all the Captain ordered the foremast to be cut away. The sea at this time was very heavy, and breakers on every side almost prevented the hope of saving the lives of those on board. Capt. Meagher ordered a boat to be lowered, and into this four passengers jumped, two of them being females, and with two of the crew pushed off from the wreck, with the lead line attached to establish a communication with the vessel, should they be able to effect a landing. This, however, was found impracticable, owing to the tremendous surf running, and after a time they cast loose the line and made out to sea, and next morning, at 8 o'clock, ran the boat on shore on the beach at St. John's, having suffered dreadfully from cold and exhaustion during the night; the females having left the wreck as they came from their beds.

All this time the vessel was beating with terrific violence upon the rocks, and threatened every moment to go to pieces. At length a way of escape was made clear, through the goodness of God. The under providence, the passengers thankfully attributing a handspike into the cleft of a perpendicular rock, and by means of a rope attached climbed up to a place of safety. A hawser was then got on shore, and the passengers and crew drawn up from the wreck which immediately afterwards sunk and fell over. At daylight the horrors of the scene were more clearly revealed: the sea was making a clear breach over the vessel, and several of the oxen, of which there were fourteen on board, besides a horse and several sheep were seen lying dead in the raging waters. The Captain, all this time, was doing every thing in his power, and was with the mate the last to leave the wreck. He succeeded through the exertions of his crew, who by the delay caused by the set, lost everything save the clothes they had on, in saving the Mail bags, which were hauled up by another party at the same moment as the passengers. It is to be hoped that by the authorities here, but that some mark of good will be shown without delay, to these poor shipwrecked men by the benevolent people of Saint John's.

Having been very kindly received by the two families of the Finlay's living at St. John's, several of the passengers passed over land to Trepassay from which a boat was immediately despatched for the conveyance of the people and Mail to this place, where they arrived safely on Monday evening last.

To George Simm, Esq., and his amiable family, the passengers desire this publicly to acknowledge their deep obligation. Many a tempest tossed mariner has in his house found rest in days gone by, and several of the passengers of the Kestrel have reason to be glad that, though without fee or reward, he has not grown weary in being the friend of the suffering and the destitute. They would be wanting in gratitude were they to omit mentioning the kindness also of Mr. Sutton and Mr. Pennell of Trepassay, who did all they could to alleviate the distress of the shipwrecked people.

In drawing this hasty sketch of the late disaster to a close, we cannot forbear mentioning, in the strongest terms, the danger incurred in carrying cattle in the same vessel with the mails. To this cause, in the present instance, is mainly owing the destitute condition of those who landed from the wreck, as the cattle prevented persons pressing forward or aft. The carrying of those animals obliges the packet to go with fewer boats than are requisite. In the present instance the Kestrel had but two, which could not have accommodated above two-thirds of those on board, her best and largest boat being left in Halifax; so that had any casualty happened on the open sea several lives must inevitably have been sacrificed. We trust that this startling fact will not be overlooked by the authorities.

It may not be amiss to add, in conclusion, that several boat-masters in Trepassay stated to the passengers that the tides on the coast had lately been greater than had been known for many years, and that to this cause may be attributed, in a great measure, the disaster which has happened. The passengers had presented an address to Captain Meagher, complimenting him for his conduct on the event. The Newfoundland Times says, that the Steamer was insured for £10,000 sterling. The same paper thus alludes to the probable cause of the wreck.

The Kestrel struck upon the land contiguous to Saint John's, only twenty-nine hours and a half after leaving Sydney; and it is believed the extraordinary incident rendered in this instance, as it has done in many others, all nautical skill and reckoning navailing. It was and is moreover the decided opinion of Capt. MILNE, now one of the Lords of the Admiralty, that attraction and not current, has caused the numerous losses of shipping in the neighbourhood of St. John's; and the fate of the *Harpouner*, the *Coma*, the *Duke*, and many other vessels condemned by most experienced men, leads us to the adoption of his views.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

CONVICTION.—We are glad to see that the male Convicts sentenced last Term, Gilbert, Walsh, and Darrach, are at last set to work in the Streets of Charlottetown, and that this class of persons will be compelled in future to make some return for the heavy expenses to which they have put the Government in their subsistence, trial and condemnation. They were put to work this morning attired in their prison dress.—*Royal Gazette.*

CANADA.

Latest advices state the Cholera to be on the increase in Montreal.—The British League commenced its sittings at Kingston, Canada West, on the 27th ult.; and has continued in Session, having resolved to meet at the same time as the Provincial Parliament.—There was an extensive fire in the Lower town, Quebec, last week, which destroyed property to the value of some £10,000. The fire was the work of an incendiary. On the 21th, at Montreal, a most destructive fire also occurred.—It originated in a Carpenter's workshop. A wide square was destroyed.

The Crops are still spoken of as being very promising.

DOMESTIC.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, August 8, 1848.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor so Council, has been pleased to make the following appointments:

William Walker, to be Chief Inspector of Picked Fish for the County of Pictou. James Primrose, Roderick McKenzie, Alex. P. Ross, James Purvis, Esquires, and Capt. George McKenzie, to be Commissioners for examining and appointing Pilots for the Port of Pictou.

BY R. M. STEAM.

The R. M. Steamer America arrived early on the morning of Tuesday last, 4 days from Liverpool. She brought 700 which were for this city. Abstract of the News below:—

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE CROPS—TRADE.

Since the sailing of the last steamer, steadiness in commercial circles are in limited demand, and prices are on the decline. The Produce market fairly supplied; a moderate business acted; whilst prices, in many instances, are in advance. The accounts from the districts continue satisfactory. After the arrival of the Cambria, to the arrival of the Hibernia, the demand was good. The favourable price for harvesting has caused the decline, consequently the quot Wheat and Flour are rather low, in less request in consequence of the potatoes. Indian Meal is quoted at 6d. per 196 lb. United States black meal in value, and Canadian are quoted at 2s. per qr.

The Manufacturing districts continue to report, and in both Cotton goods a fair business is going forward. The Money market is steady, maintained their value during the week.

CHOLERA.

It would appear that the disease is only prevalent, and a good deal of it on the public prints, which seem to be inquisitorial, and suggestions for the reports are more favourable. The reports are more favourable. The disease continues its fatal course at Plymouth, and along the coast, but the destructive; and at Bristol it sees the energetic proceeding of the sea spreading in Wales, especially at Llanwrthwl, and in the surrounding districts. In Scotland the disease has not been so at the first visitation.

The Parliamentary Intelligence is Mr. Wortley has withdrawn his Motion.

IRELAND.

The prospects of the potato crop are good. Much benefit is expected from the visit of a strict investigation of the Irish Brae has been instituted. It is said the Stamp Office register the new series of the *National*.

INDIA.

An Overland Mail from India. Arrangements are being carried out from the Punjab, and the instructions the new commissioners appear to be adapted to conciliate the Sikhs, who so much by the late change. The Earl and Lord Gough were at Simla State was about being annexed to the British, and all the steps taken to the Government.

CHINA.

The news from China, which is a May from Hong Kong, reports that the late excitement a good deal. The brokers at Canton were subscribers to the East India Company's charter of Macao was still at issue with authorities; a good deal of piracy in the outer waters.

FOREIGN.

The Prussian Government, now suppressed the Baden insurgents, in consequence of the Grand Duke, to incorporate the German portion with Brandenburg and Silesia. Austria surrendered on the 23d July of Prussia entered the place with the elements of mischief against the Hungarian war is being waged with ferocity and vigour.

A great battle is supposed to have taken place between the Hungarian division, on the 17th ult., at Waitzen, and that of the Ban of Croatia, has been driven over the Danube into Symon, in the 3rd division, whilst General Grabbe and Schlieff were at Comorn.

The King of Sardinia, having been called upon by Prince Schwartzkopff, peace in four days, or otherwise threatened, has, it is said, in his district, the President of France to arrange peace with Austria. At the eleven, we learn that the difficulty is the acceptance of the Austrian terms. Venice holds out glorious Hungarians should gain a decisive ally, a new leaf in the history of the world. Whilst writing, we learn Government has received telegraphic news of peace between Piedmont and Austria, having been definitely signed.