

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, March 1, 1851.

THE BEST NEWS.

We think it was SAMMY HICK, who, on being once asked, "What's the best news?" replied—"The best news I know of is, that sinners are converted to God." And so say we. No interests are so important as those of the soul. The repentance of one sinner causes a thrill of joy to swell the bosoms of Angels; and in the conversion of one deathless spirit, THE REDEEMER "sees of the travail of his soul, and is satisfied." That joy, and that satisfaction, are increased, speaking after the manner of men, when multitudes of our fellow-sinners "rend their hearts, and not their garments, and turn unto the Lord their God," and, believing in Christ, are "delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom they have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." The pleasure and delight thus experienced by celestial minds and by the Saviour of mankind, are, in due measure, shared by the members of the Church on earth. On witnessing,—or on receiving reliable testimony of,—the triumphs of the Cross, in subduing the hearts of sinners, and in recovering the rebellious to the allegiance due to the King of Zion, "they joy before God according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil."

"For when the saints lift up their voice, And endless praise to thee is given: For this the hosts above rejoice,— We raise the happiness of heaven."

It is our delightful privilege to-day to communicate through our "Correspondence" this best of all intelligence—the conversion to God of numbers of our fellow-men. The Lord is signally visiting St. JOHN, N. B., with "showers of blessing." His Word has "free course" in that City and is "glorified." They who have sown, and they who have reaped, rejoice together, at witnessing the abundance of the in-gathered and in-gathering fruit. For the importance of the intelligence communicated, we regard the letter of the Rev. R. KNIGHT, which appears on the preceding page, as worth more than its weight in gold, a thousand-fold. The intelligence, also, from CHARLOTTETOWN and AMHERST, is both pleasing and encouraging, and our prayer to God is, that He, who hath thus begun to revive his work, will so strengthen the faith and intensify the zeal of his Ministers and people in those localities, as that they shall be constrained by the love of Christ, to "labour on at his command;" and, whilst impelled by all the holy ardour of unreserved devotedness to the cause of Christ, each shall purpose in his heart—"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth"—that God, with whom is "the residue of the Spirit," will, in answer to their " fervent prayers " repeat, though it may be on a smaller scale, the wondrous scenes of Pentecost, when God, the Spirit, displayed the riches of his converting grace.

"O, 'twas a most auspicious hour, Season of grace and sweet delight, When thou didst come with mighty power, And light of truth divinely bright."

And why, we ask, should not these gracious visitations from on high become more general? Why should not the various sections of the Church universal partake of these "seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord," and happily experience the reviving influence of the Spirit of our God? Is the Lord's arm shortened? Is his ear heavy? Has he ceased to be the answerer of prayer? Is he no longer faithful to his Word, or will he not redeem the promises he has made? Is Christ unable to save? Has he forgotten "his gracious skill, or lost the virtue of his name"? Hear the word of the Lord: "Bring ye all the tithes in the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." But, alas! how few are fervently calling upon his name, and stirring up themselves to lay hold of him? Where? O, where are their zeal, and faith, and importunate pleading? Rather are not many, while culpably neglectful of the appointed means, addressing God in the language of timidity and unbelief—"Look down from heaven, and behold

from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: Where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and and of thy mercies toward us? are they not restrained?" Need we remind any of the unquestionable fact, that "the Spirit of the Lord is not straitened," and if straitened, they are straitened in themselves—that it is presumption to expect a revival of religion, whilst, on the part of the Church, there are apathy, lukewarmness, worldly-mindedness, restraint of prayer, and the prevalence of unbelief? Let there be on the part of the Church universal, a general humbling before God on account of past unfaithfulness, a renewed trust in his recorded promises, a vigorous and persevering use of appointed means, and, not least, a betaking to the omnipotency of earnest, fervent, importunate prayer; and The Head of The Church in Heaven will crown these efforts with that degree of success which shall realize the predictive and partially figurative promise—"As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

GROSS PLAGIARISM.

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

STANZAS.

Soldiers of Christ arise, And put your armour on, Strong in the strength which God supplies, Through His Eternal Son; Strong in the Lord of Hosts, And in His mighty power, Who in the strength of Jesus trusts, Is more than conqueror. Stand then, in His great might, With all His strength endued, And take to arm you for the fight, The armour of your God; That, having all things done, And all your conflicts pass'd; Ye may behold, your victory won, And stand complete at last.

St. Margaret's Bay, 4th Feb'y., 1851.

We clip the above "Stanzas" from the Church Times of February 21st, as affording one of the most barefaced instances of poetical theft, of which modern times can boast. With a few verbal alterations, which we have italicized, they are verbatim the two first verses of a Hymn composed by Charles Wesley and published in Wesley's "Collection of Hymns, for the use of the people called Methodists," No. 266th, and which has been sung by our people at Margaret's Bay and elsewhere thousands of times! But why has the plagiarist attempted to mend Mr. Wesley's poetry? Would it not be more becoming in him to mend his morals? We hope this merited exposure will assist him in this necessary work of reformation, or, if his habit of literary pilfering be too inveterate for perfect cure, we advise him to have recourse to productions less known than the "Collection of Hymns, for the use of the people called Methodists," if he wish to escape undetected. We copy below the verses of Mr. Wesley, in order that our readers may have ocular demonstration of the truth of our charge, only we take the liberty of italicizing the words which the "St. Margaret's Bay" Poet has presumed to alter:—

"Soldiers of Christ arise, And put your armour on, Strong in the strength which God supplies, Through his eternal Son; Strong in the Lord of Hosts, And in his mighty power, Who in the strength of Jesus trusts, Is more than conqueror. Stand then in his great might, With all his strength endued; But take, to arm you for the fight, The Panoply of God: That having all things done, And all your conflicts pass'd, Ye may overcome through Christ alone, And stand entire at last."

The Treasurers of the Wesleyan Supernumeraries' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following sum viz: Halifax County Circuit, £2 1 5

The General Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in the Nova Scotia District, gratefully acknowledges, as a donation in aid of the General Mission Fund, From "A Hearer" £1 0 0

His Excellency Sir Alexr. Bannerman, Lieut. Governor of P. E. Island, came passenger in the R. M. Steamer Europa.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary did not arrive in the Europa, as had been expected. At the time of the Steamer's sailing, he had not received Earl Grey's decision as to the intentions of the British Government respecting the Railway.—It affords us, says the Chronicle, much satisfaction to learn that the delay has not arisen from any disposition on the part of Earl Grey, to procrastinate, but that it was entirely owing to a press of Parliamentary duties, and the difficulty of getting his colleagues long enough together, to formally record the decision of the Cabinet.

The Rev. Dr. PYE SMITH expired at Guildford on Wednesday, the 5th of February. He was an eminent Nonconformist Minister, and, as a scholar and divine, was principally known by his works on the Socinian and Arian controversies, and on the connection of geology and Scripture. He had only during the past year retired from the Presidency of Homerton College, the oldest among Dissenting Educational Institutions in England.

Tractarianism, it is said, is almost unknown in the Irish Branch of the Established Church. They see too much of the nummeries of Popery in Ireland to be enticed from the Truth by gross or modified forms of popish error.

A correspondent of the Southern Presbyterian says:—"An observing traveller who has just returned from an extended tour through Europe, told me he had heard more profanity in one hour since his return to the United States, than during his whole journey through Europe."

DEATH OF GEN. SANTA ANNA.—We observe by the Centinela del Rio Grande, that a rumor is current of Santa Anna's death. He is said to have fallen a victim to malignant fever at Cartagena.

The Railroad.

We understand that Despatches from the Provincial Delegate to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, were received yesterday via New York. The contents of these will probably transpire in a few days. We understand that private letters were received by some of Mr. Howe's friends, which are in the highest degree encouraging. The English people are now fully awake to the importance of this great work, and prepared in more ways than one, to sustain the views of the Hon. Delegate.—Chronicle of Tuesday last.

Anecdote of John Wesley.

The following anecdote relates to one of Mr. Wesley's early visits into Cornwall, and is worthy of being more generally known:—"I was born," says old Peter Martin, "at Helstone, and baptized on the 12th of May, 1742.—My wife is 94 years old; our united ages amount to 191 years. I have been sexton of this parish, Helstone, 65 years. I remember Mr. Wesley well. I first heard him preach in the street near our market house, 74 years ago. I have also seen him at Redruth, and had an adventure with him while I was ostler at the London inn, then kept by Henry Pembertly. Mr. Wesley came there one day in a carriage driven by his own servant, who being unacquainted with the road further westward than Redruth, he obtained my master's leave for me to drive him to St. Ives.—We set out, and on our arrival at Hayle, we found the sands between that and St. Ives, over which we had to pass, overflowed by the rising tide. On reaching the water's edge I hesitated to proceed, and advised him of the danger of crossing; and a captain of a vessel, seeing us stopping, came up and endeavoured to dissuade us from an undertaking so full of peril, but without effect. Mr. Wesley was resolved to go on: he said he had to preach at St. Ives at a certain hour, and that he must fulfil his appointment; and looking out of the carriage window, he called loudly to me 'Take the sea! take the sea!' In a moment I dashed into the waves, and was quickly involved in a world of waters. The horses were now swimming, and the carriage became overwhelmed with the tide, as the hinder wheels not infrequently merged into the deep pits and hollows in the sands. I struggled hard to maintain my seat in the saddle, while the poor, affrighted animals were snorting and rearing in the most terrific manner, and furiously plunging into the opposing waves. I expected every moment to be swept into eternity, and the only hope I then cherished, was on account of driving so holy a man. At this awful crisis, I heard Mr. Wesley's voice. With difficulty I turned my head towards the carriage, and saw his long, white locks dripping the salt sea down the rugged furrows of his venerable countenance. He was looking calmly forth from the window, undisturbed by the tumultuous war of the surrounding waters, or by the dangers of his perilous situation. He hailed me in a tolerably loud voice, and asked:

'What is thy name, driver?' 'Peter, sir.'

'Peter, fear not, thou shalt not sink.' With vigorous spurring and whipping, I again urged on the flagging horses, and at last got safely over; but it was a miracle, as I shall always say. We continued our way, and reached St. Ives without further hindrance. We were both very wet, of course. Mr. Wesley's first care after his arrival, was to see me comfortably lodged at the tavern; he procured me warm clothing, a good fire and excellent refreshment. Neither were the horses forgotten by him. Totally unmindful of himself, he proceeded, wet as he was, to the chapel, and preached according to his appointment."

Missions.

The receipts into the Treasury of the American Board of Foreign Missions, for the last five months, have been \$92,044. For the same time last year, they were \$91,532. At present, there are 85 missionary churches connected with the Board, and there have been, during the past year, 1967 admissions by profession. This is a greater number than has been admitted in any one of the last six years. In the Presbyterian missions among the Choctaws, there have been 182 additions during the same time. Letters just received from Ceylon, speak of an extensive revival which was going on in the Batticotta Seminary.—Zion's Herald.

Peace Cause in the United States Senate.

Mr. Foote, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom has been referred memorials in favour of adopting some substitute for war as a settlement of national difficulties, reported in the United States Senate, a resolution declaring as the opinion of the Senate, that, in all future treaties, by the United States, provisions should be made for settling difficulties with foreign nations by arbitration, before resorting to war. The report was laid over, but we trust, to be resumed and thoroughly discussed. It certainly proposes nothing that the most fastidious on "points of national honour" can object to.—Jb.

Lines by Jenny Lind.

The Rev. Dr. Cox has sent the following lines to a newspaper for publication, having copied them himself, by permission from the Album of a gentleman at Washington. They were written and signed by the distinguished Songstress, and as Dr. C. judges "from the marks, general and special," are "doubtless original."

In vain I seek for rest In all created good; It leaves me still unrest, And makes me cry for God. And sure at rest I cannot be, Until my heart finds rest in thee.

Provincial Parliament.

(Chiefly from the City Papers.)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Feb'y. 13th.

GUT OF CANSO.

Mr. Henry read a Resolution, purporting to protect our fisheries by closing the Gut of Canso against foreign vessels. After considerable discussion on the legality of such an act, a Committee was appointed to consider the subject.—Messrs. Henry, Killam, Hall, Harrington, and Marshall.

FRIDAY, Feb'y. 14th.

RETURNS, &c.

Hon. Attorney General, by command, laid on the table the returns of the line of Telegraph between Truro and Pictou; and copies of correspondence between the American Consul and the Executive on the subject of Light Duty on American Steamers. Hon. Attorney General, by command, laid on the table copies of communications from Her Majesty's government on the subject of Elective Councils. Hon. J. W. Johnston asked whether the Government had any objection to furnish copies of the despatches which they were answers?

CONSUL'S FEES.

The Hon. Speaker laid before the house a letter he had received from Mr. Elliott, Vice Consul at Boston—asserting that the statements made in the debate, on the subject of Consul's Fees, were incorrect; that the fee for all vessels over 80 tons was \$3 30—and \$2 on all vessels under 80 tons—the reduction having been made at his (Mr. Elliott's) request, in favour of Nova Scotia vessels, most of which were under that tonnage—that \$1 was charged on all seamen shipped, &c.; that the whole income of the Consulate at Boston was not more than half of £4,000 or £5,000, (the amount stated in the debate,) and that he had sent a return to the Home Government of every vessel that had arrived at that port, on which fees were collected and the amount; and that he would have sent a copy thereof to the Legislature of Nova Scotia, had he supposed the information was wanted. Mr. Whitman said that the letter had not contradicted