

The *Newry Examiner* supplies the following information with reference to the priests who are implicated in the Bible-burning charge. It is almost superfluous to mention that the *Newry* paper is a fierce champion of the Roman Catholic party.

Father Vladimir Pechine, the Priest charged with burning Protestant Bibles at Kingstown, is a Russian by birth, and a native of Odessa. The other fathers of the same order are also foreigners, with one or two exceptions. Father Buggenans and Vandora are Belgians, Fathers Theunis and Leon are Greeks, Father Bagshaw is an Englishman, and Father Harrison an Irishman, and we believe a native of Dunganon. The Irish house or convent of the order is at Limerick, and if this prosecution were carried out in that city it would require all the troops in Ireland to suppress an insurrection there, such is the reverence in which these priests are held by the people at large. Even at Kingstown things look bad already. Their chapel is open from five o'clock in the morning till nine at night, for the accommodation of the working people, and at every hour of the day is crowded with fervent worshippers. It is rather unlucky that the only member of the order who is a Russian should be the man against whom this prosecution is directed. For it will excite Russian sympathy in the people. On the whole we consider it a most indiscreet prosecution; for it will create a general feeling of indignation throughout Ireland, which will not be allayed for a long time, and perhaps not without unpleasant consequences."

SYDNEY, C. D.

ANOTHER SEVERE GALE OF WIND.—For the past five or six weeks, we have been visited by a succession of gales of wind; but that of Friday, the 7th instant, was probably more destructive than had been any previous one this season. The wind commenced from East North East, about three o'clock in the morning—after fine weather on the previous day, with moderate breezes from West South West—and blew with great violence until Saturday morning. The tide in the Harbor rose to a hitherto unknown height, sweeping away everything in its course, or that unavailingly resisted the approach of the waters now lashed into fury by the appalling violence of the wind. At Fresh Water Creek, much damage was done to the Shipbuilding appliances of Mr. Harrington—the sea breaking a passage over the Bar, on which the Sail Loft and Building are situated, and injuring the western front thereof, and at the same time throwing the whole of it off its level. Much timber and plank was swept out of the Basin, within the Bar, and were strewn along the shore on the Southern margin of the River above the Creek. For particulars of other and more serious damage, we are indebted to our correspondent at North Sydney, whose Letter on the subject we subjoin. But trifling injury was sustained at Main-a-dieu, although the tide there rose unusually high; but, as the wind from the northward prevailed property which would have been damaged by a southerly gale, remained safe.

At Gabarus, the schr. *Elizabeth*, Gillis, master, fully loaded and bound for Halifax, was driven ashore, and became a total wreck—cargo being saved in a damaged state.

At the loading ground, North Bar, the Schooner *Swift*, was slightly damaged, and the steamer *Banshee*, sustained some trifling injury; but the latter vessel was plying on the River, as usual, on Tuesday. There are reports of losses to the Northward of this port, but we await authenticated particulars, before giving publicity to such.

North Sydney, Decr. 8th, 1855.

The storm of Friday night has done much damage to property on our shore. The tide rose to an extraordinary height.—Never within the recollection of the oldest inhabitants did the sea wash over our wharves and roads with such fury. The main Post road in several places is sadly cut up, and piled over with rocks, logs, and sea weed, in singular confusion, and left almost impassable.

The new Store lately erected by Messrs. J. & W. Moore, on the edge of the Bank in front of their Dry Goods Store, was torn down, and so completely swept away that not a vestige is left to mark where it stood, together with about, it is stated, £60 worth of property, which it contained. The Messrs. Moore lost besides, the outside block of their wharf: their loss is supposed to be over £200. But the greatest sufferer amongst us is Mr. Thomas T. Hart who was carrying on the Tanning business, at Sparring's Brook. His tan house and all the leather in Tan, were swept away, and his new dwelling house greatly injured. Himself and family were obliged to take shelter in a neighbour's house, in the dead of night.—Numerous other damages, of less extent, happened to wharves and dwellings along the shore,

which will require time and expense to repair. I have not ascertained what damage had been done to the Shipping.—There is a small vessel ashore at the South side of the Arm, supposed to be wrecked; and Captain McLeod's vessel is ashore at his own place. It is very likely you will have an account of some damage to the Shipping from the Bar.

J. ROBERTSON.

—O. B. News, Dec. 15.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 1855.

CHRISTMAS.

THE exact time of the birth of the Saviour of mankind is not sufficiently indicated by any historical record, so as to make it a matter of absolute certainty that the day we celebrate is the very day of the Nativity. It is enough, however, that this commemoration is well worthy of the Christian's character, and entitled to his high respect and reverence. What is well known respecting it is, that the Incarnation was manifested when peace reigned over the Roman world, and inspired Cæsar Augustus with the idea of general taxation, with the object, probably, of finding means to carry on his vast designs, for the embellishment of the Roman capital; and that this taxation was first made when Cyrenius was Governor of Syria. This systematic taxation brought every man to his own city to be enrolled; and we may in fancy, see the Carpenter Joseph and his wife Mary, poor in earthly wealth, but rich in faith—of more ancient lineage than Cæsar Augustus himself, and conscious of Divine favor, yet shrinking in their proud humility from the world's observation—trudging afoot to Bethlehem, amongst the humblest inhabitants of Judea to obey the behests of the Emperor. For them there was no room in the inn—a circumstance that of itself proves their low estate. We may imagine the poor carpenter, as he bargained for accommodation in the stable, carrying back his knowledge of Judean history over a series of centuries, to the time when his progenitor, the mighty David, reigned supreme over all the land that now denied his descendant the humblest lodging—when Aarah the Jebusite as a king gave unto a king—or when he, the man after God's own heart, made provision for building the temple which Solomon, his son, completed, and which was the glory of the whole earth. Yet do not the Scriptures record that any sentiments beside those befitting his humble condition, filled the mind of Joseph—and glad to find the meanest shelter for the travail of womanhood, Mary brought forth her first born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

Meanest of earth's mean ones in the eyes of the occupants of the loudly chambers of the inn, were the family in the stable. Yet what reeked they of the world's contumely. Mary pondering in her heart the advent of the incarnate God, could well dispense with the pomp and pageantry of the world's witness of a great occasion. Visions of human redemption gave to her bosom that peace which the world could not give. She appears to have had a just conception of His glorious mission, long before the prophetic voice of old Simeon made known to her that "a sword should pierce her own soul, and the secrets of many hearts might be revealed," and in the suffering for sin of the Son of God, of her son, she saw no maternal cause of exultant joy. As the painful events connected with His sojourn upon earth crowded upon her, she ever pondered them in her heart as so many tokens of the fulfilment of all that prophets and righteous men had foretold concerning the Messiah, esteeming herself as the instrument, only too highly honored, in the hands of the Lord. The world expected not such a Messiah as this—the Jews did not realize in this Son of David, the splendid imagery of Isaiah. Could this be He of whom it was said—that His name should be called—"Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace?"

But there is music in the fields of Bethlehem. The morning stars sing together and all the sons of God are shouting for joy. Heaven opens upon the astonished gaze of the humble shepherds who are keeping watch over their flocks by night—the angel of the Lord comes upon them, and the glory of the Lord shines round about them, and they are sore afraid. Christian, what would you have given for one half hour of that divine melody, the foretaste of the hymns around the Throne—of the song of the redeemed—that accompanied the proclamation to earth of a Saviour, and filled the courts of heaven with loud swelling chorus, in honor of the advent of the King of Glory? Happy shepherds, to whom, and not to the great and noble of the earth, was vouch-

safed the first news of the welcome day which many prophets and righteous men had longed to see with earthly eyes, and longed in vain.

And this anniversary is our Christmas. It is a day to be remembered in our generations for ever. It is the one festival of the Church that gladdens the hearts of all, high and low, rich and poor. In appointed seasons, she mourns the death of the Saviour, and celebrates His rising, she rejoices at the birth of Immanuel, and makes it her New Year's celebration. Nor while England's Churches raise their spires throughout the land, and her Ministers dispense her spiritual blessings, will the observance of Christmas be aught else than one of her holiest Festivals—a time of anticipated pleasure for the young of her flock—of sober enjoyment for the aged—a time when her friends feel towards each other a warmer affection—and the hearts of all enlarge with human sympathies and constrain the tongue to give expressive utterance to the words of the Psalmist—"Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless His holy Name! Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits!"

Since February last, we have endeavoured to supply to a number of subscribers the *Illustrated London News*—and have used every exertion to do so satisfactorily—but we cannot so far overcome the ignorance of the London Agent, from whom these papers are ordered, altho' repeatedly instructed, as to cause him to send them for the intervening period between the sailing of the steamers, addressed by the Cunard steamers to Halifax only. The consequence is, that in most instances the earliest date being sent via United States line, has reached us here upon one or two occasions a day before, but generally a day or two, sometimes a week after the latest date is received direct by the R. M. Steamship. As we have hesitated under these circumstances, to order any more papers, altho' solicited to do so by a number of persons, until we can secure a more sensible agent in London, we recommend all our friends to try Messrs. Morton & Cogswell, druggists, who we believe to be men of strict integrity, and who profess to be able to furnish them punctually. We shall give further notice when our own arrangements are satisfactory to ourselves—Messrs. Morton & Cogswell can also supply the *News of the World* and other periodicals, at the cheapest rate. The apothecaries having taken to vending news, it will soon be a drug in the market.

NATIONAL SCHOOL.—The Annual Examination of the National School, previous to the Christmas Holidays, was held on Wednesday last. The room was decorated in old English style, with boughs of evergreen, and displayed altho' the taste of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the scholars. The Lord Bishop, the Ven. the Archdeacon, Revd. W. Bullock, Hugo Reid, Esq., Principal of the Seminary in Dalhousie College, J. S. Thompson, Esq., School Commissioner, and a number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the Institution, were present—The Rev. W. Bullock examined the School, and the Bishop expressed himself highly pleased with the progress of the pupils. We understand also, that Mr. Reid, who has had much experience of schools, having visited largely the schools in England and Scotland, gave the National School the praise of being one of the most efficiently conducted that he had ever seen. Amidst all this course of usefulness we regret to say that the National School is not half so well supported as it ought to be by the denomination under whose auspices it was established, and to which it belongs. The building is in a bad state of repair, and the Teacher's salary in arrears, although he is one of the best in the Province. We trust that no further word of exhortation will be required, when the next appeal is made to them, to induce Churchmen to wipe away this reproach. Altho' we have said nothing about the Girls School in the above remarks, they will apply equally to that examination, and to the other circumstances plainly hinted at.

The R. M. Steamship *Asia* arrived on Tuesday last. A summary of her news, which is not important will be found in our columns. There is nothing new from the seat of war. The papers are chiefly taken up with the reception in England of the King of Sardinia on his visit to Queen Victoria, which has been in all respects worthy of our nation, and appears to have been highly pleasing to her noble ally.

The R. M. Steamship from Boston for England arrived yesterday morning. Despatches from Washington affirm that the British Government had declined giving any further explanation with reference to the questions which have recently formed the subject of discussion between the representatives of