

workmen in cities, and ship building and mining communities, yet food is plentiful and cheap. Our barns and cellars are well filled, and there is reason to think that matters will not be much worse than they are at present.

One lesson the country is learning from the "hard times" is that of economy. People are trying to get along without buying as many articles as formerly. There is less attempt at display; articles of mere ornament are at a discount. The largest jewelry establishment in the Dominion has become bankrupt, showing that people are not able to buy as formerly.

Farming as a profession is looking up, and men are recognizing the blessedness of the primeval law, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Honest toil is what man was ordained to. Short roads to riches are found to be the longest after all. They are best off to-day who have lived within their means. Pay as you go, is becoming the order of the day. They sleep soundest who act on this principle. Horace Greeley used to say to all youths who applied to him for assistance, "young man go West, go West,"—meaning to farm on the fertile prairies. To-day that seems to be the best advice our philosophers can give us. Return to the land, cultivate the ground as your fathers did before you, and never mind waiting for offices from a paternal government to give you an easy living.

In Scotland the failure of the city of Glasgow Bank has cast a gloom over the country. The directors squandered five million pounds of other people's money in unwise speculations, and now they are afforded an opportunity to administer over it in prison; as several of them have been convicted of fraud.

In church matters there is much activity in carrying on the ordinary christian work of the church,—the best kind of activity. The reports of the various religious societies for the past year are most interesting.

The Bible societies report that thousands of copies of the Scriptures have been given to the Russian Soldiers warring in Turkey, so that the Gospel will thus reach the homes of thousands in the empire of the Czar.

Most of the Russian soldiers can read. In the long and dreary winter in that country little time can be spent in outdoor drill. Soldiers have thus much leisure time. It is said that the present emperor has encouraged the teaching of reading and other branches of learning amongst his troops, and now light is breaking in among them. Returning home from the Turkish campaign, many, if not most of them with a copy of the Holy scriptures in their possession, the Gospel will thus penetrate to nearly every village and hamlet from Finland to China.

In Turkey matters political are in a state of chaos. The ancient system of governing a country by pashas and satraps has seemingly reached its end.

In the meantime anarchy prevails in many districts, and the sufferings of thousands of quiet going well disposed people we in this western world cannot even imagine.

England has taken possession of Cyprus. It is reported that some wealthy Jews are negotiating for the purchase of Palestine, but to this report we do not attach much importance.

Much heartfelt sorrow has been expressed at the untimely death of the Princess Alice, from that terrible disease diphtheria. The Prince of Wales attended either funeral though forbidden to do so by the Queen's cabinet, from fear of infection. It is reported that His Royal Highness still they might make what arrangements they chose in the event of his death, but gone he would. The late princess waited on him most assiduously during his illness from fever, some years ago, and he was greatly attached to her.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

To the Editor of the Monthly Record.

I observe an article on Instrumental Music in churches in the December number of the RECORD, said to be forwarded (not written) by a worshipper in St. Andrews, Pictou. When I wrote before I asked any of these objecting to the introduction of the Organ into our Church to come forward and give their own objections, (not another's) and likewise substantiate those from Scripture; but from man, as man is only a fallible creature.