

Obituary Notices.

That painful and uncomprehensible disease—Diphtheria—has again visited the village of Arundale, and in its progress lacerated many hearts.

Scarcely had this little boy been laid in his grave before his youngest brother JOHN, aged 2 years, through the same affliction, followed him to the spirit world.

But the angel of death soon again re-visited the Dale, and through the instrumentality of Diphtheria, he laid his hand upon an much respected young friend—Miss LOUISE MOSER.

She was exceedingly kind and affectionate, and was beloved by all who knew her. Her death was a great loss to the church and the world.

J. G. FENNELL.

Arundale, Dec. 20th, 1861.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1862.

In consequence of the official relation which this paper sustains to the Conference of Eastern British America, we require that all notices addressed to us from any of the Circuits within the bounds of the Conference, shall pass through the hands of the corresponding Minister.

1862.

When this sheet reaches the hands of our readers, a new year will have dawned upon the world. The year 1861 has been an eventful year—gradually increasing in absorbing interest to the very hour of its close.

What thrilling excitement has pervaded the public journals during the past few weeks. The shadow of death has fallen on the high places of royalty; an empire wails under the bereavement which has visited our beloved Queen and family—half the civilized world sympathizes with the bereft ones, and hundreds of thousands of loyal Christian hearts from closet, family altar, and sanctuary are lifting up those hearts in earnest prayer for Divine support in this hour of crushing trial for Victoria and her children—may it be abundantly vouchsafed.

The calamity of war has imminently threatened the two great nations of the Anglo-Saxon race—to add to the frightful horrors of a bloody internecine war in the lately united but now sadly divided States of America, would have presented a most painful sight; yet such must have been the case, unless the government of America retract its steps, and with ample apology and full restitution atone in the most marked manner for the unprovoked invasion of the British flag.

The End of the Year, and its Watchnight.

Here again is solemn-voiced December, summing us to look behind, before. Last of the months of another rapid year, it bids us consider months of time never tarry, it is our way.

Very meek and right time in reviewing our course. If its passing does not lose the time which he spends in taking stock; if the mariner does not lose the time which he employs in reckoning his log; so neither does mortal, immortal man, waste the time which he occupies in the careful and penitent examination of his past life, and in ascertaining its bearings on the great hereafter.

Such a review is a most precious privilege, and one which should be used with care and reverence. It is a time when we should be especially attentive to the words of the Lord: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

The blessings of this year: let us recall them, and ponder them with thankfulness. "This crowneth the year with Thy goodness; and Thy paths drop fatness." "Day by day" our loving God has given us "our daily bread." Nor has He deluded us into the mercies of His providence as when a niggard hand.

It may be, however, that to some readers the departing year has been one of prolonged and extreme trouble—a year of feeble health, of blighted hopes, and of bereavement. As it was with Job: "My welfare passed away as a cloud. And now my soul is poured out upon me."

Yet even so, has not the year been one of blessing, of pure, rich blessing? Are not our afflictions themselves among the choicest of our mercies? This, we remember, was the reckoning of St. Paul. (Rom. viii. 18; 2 Cor. iv. 17.) "The sharpest sufferings I endure flow from God's faithful care," so said the Rev. W. Jay, on his deathbed.

Have not others of us this year been born again? This, then, is our first really happy December. We have "obtained mercy." God has raised us "out of the pit of corruption," and has "cast all our sins behind His back." Our hearts have found the true rest. Ought not we to devote the remaining days of our birth year to the delightful and becoming work of praise?

But some require to weep. The review of the year is distressing. For while God to us has been true and faithful, we to Him have been unfaithful and unprofitable. The covenant which we made with Him on the first Sabbath of the year, we have forgotten, and we have broken. Prosperity has made us restive, adversity has soured us; and, alike in prosperity and trouble, we have "restrained prayer before God," and have, in heart, "gone away backward." We have neglected the closet, the Bible, the class-meeting, and for this have paid a heavy penalty in the loss of light and power. If our fellow-pilgrims have gone "from strength to strength," we, on the other hand, have gone from strength to weakness, and to greater weakness still.

What work for repentance have we made this year? How saddening is the review! Yet it can do us no good to cry out; let us try our leanness, if we do not repair to the Restorer of Israel. "I will arise, and go to my Father." "Let us search and try our ways:—let us search our ways, to know what they are; let us try our ways, to know how wrong they are; but let us also 'turn again to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts with our hands unto God in the heavens.'"

Letter from England.

There is no question before the British public to-day but the laboring "difficulty" with America. The financial crisis in France, the case of Italy, the cotton failure, the Educational Minute, the franchise, have all sunk into absolute insignificance in the popular estimation, and nothing is talked of in the clubs, in the markets, on the hustings, by the fireside, but the prospect of a war with the Federal States.

It is very difficult to pass from the American question. All movements seem common-places in comparison. The state of the French finances is not encouraging. M. Fould, who was the Emperor's hope and safe-guard, does not seem to have secured the influence which he expected. But all politics are insignificant in France in comparison with the question which is as popular in France as in England: the American difficulty.

A committee has been appointed to secure, if possible, the general cessation of Sunday excursion trains. Their scheme is good, but their success is problematical. The late house in Edinburgh has led to the death of more than thirty people, most of whom were asleep within the building when it gave way. Crime is fearful on the increase, especially in the manufacturing districts. Great uneasiness is felt because of the increase of murder in the army. Every soldier who is condemned to punishment seems now to select his officer as a mark for vengeance.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has given serious offence in certain circles by his refusal to attend a Prayer meeting held today in Exeter Hall, the object of which is to implore the aid of Heaven in the crisis of our American difficulty. His lordship excuses his non-attendance on the ground that the prayers offered on the occasion would probably be speeches, giving much occasion to cavil and ridicule, but more particularly because the meeting would be misdirected by the bulk of the press, and by the Americans, as though it were a cloak and robe of the Government, and an indication of disunion in the English feeling upon the question.

The most notable fragment of Methodist intelligence for the month is the opening of a Wesleyan Chapel in Canton. The princely legacy of a gentleman to the Chinese mission has enabled our Executive to build this chapel, as well as some seven houses, for ministers' and teachers' residences, and for school purposes. Ministers of all sections of the Church assisted at the dedication of this interesting place of worship.

Dr. Guthrie is to be the moderator of the Free Church of Scotland for the next year.

Letter from the United States. THE WAR. The war moves on slowly. The Fabian policy seems to be the policy of the Government. This may be for the best in the end, though many think that a more active policy would bring the war sooner to a close.

The object now evidently is to transfer the war to the cotton and gulf States. The first naval expedition was an entire success. It entered Port Royal, notwithstanding it was guarded by two strong, well-manned forts, and has taken possession of one of the best harbors on the Southern coast. Situated mid-way between Charleston and Savannah, it places our troops in a position, where, with sufficient force, they can take both of these places. An attempt to do this will doubtless soon be made.

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