

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

Mr. Editor.—It being, Mr. Editor, one of the objects of your useful paper to communicate interesting intelligence respecting the institutions of the Church in any of our parishes, I send you the following brief account of our Sunday School Examination, hoping soon to follow it up with a notice of the meeting of our Branch of the Diocesan Church Society. May the Sunday School established here, and nurtured under your faithful superintendence, continue to be blessed from above, and be a fountain of spiritual and moral good to the families connected with it.

Lunenburg, Dec. 21, 1852.

An examination of St. John's Sunday School was held in the School House on Sunday last, in the afternoon, conducted by the Rev. H. L. Owen, Rector, who was assisted therein by the excellent superintendent, H. S. Jost, Esq., and by about twenty Teachers. The Testament Classes were examined in the Church Catechism—the Collects, with questions thereon—passages of Scripture selected from the first volume of the Union Questions, and Psalms and Hymns, the junior classes in Reading and repetition of Hymns. We were favored with a respectable attendance of the parents and friends of the scholars, who expressed themselves much gratified with the attendance, order, and course of instruction. At the close of the day, some small Books were distributed as prizes to twenty of the scholars for exemplary attendance during the last three months, some of them not having been once absent during that period, either morning or afternoon, and none of them more than once in each month. There were one hundred and thirty children present. A very pleasant afternoon was concluded by singing that sweet Hymn, such a favourite with good children, and ending—

There we all shall sing with joy,
And eternally employ
In praising Christ the Lord,
Oh that will be joyful
Joyful joyful, joyful
Oh! that will be joyful!

When we meet to part no more.

The Rector then reminded both teachers and scholars of your last parting text given from that spot, "Be not weary in well doing," and after prayer dismissed the school.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHURCH TIMES.

DEAR SIR.—As I fully concur in the propriety of a word of advice volunteered by you, to your Brethren, recently, I take the liberty of requesting you to notice in an early No. of the *Church Times*, merely as a matter of business, that the Annual Meetings of the Yarmouth and Tusket Auxiliaries of the Diocesan Church Society were held at Yarmouth and Tusket, respectively, on the Evenings of the 1st and 7th inst., that the annual business was transacted, and several hours passed pleasantly and profitably.

The subscriptions already paid in encourage us to hope that there will be no falling off in either Committee. Our Collections will be all made and remitted before the New Year, which will be several weeks in advance of our doings in former years. A detail of our proceedings will be forwarded by the Secretary as soon as possible.

Yours, truly,
M.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DEC. 25, 1852.

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS."

In how many thousands of dwellings will these words resound on this blessed morning, which ushers in the anniversary of the Redeemer's birth. But it is to be feared that the expression is often used, and the wish interchanged, without a due appreciation of its real import.

What makes "a Happy Christmas?" Not merely the abundance of this world's goods—not the well warmed and well furnished house, which defies the fury of the wintry blast,—not the elegant and costly board, groaning under the weight of all the creature comfort and delicacies which money can buy. These may all be present, and yet the real happiness which pertains to the season may not be felt. There may be no regard to the ben-fits conferred, as at this time, on a lost and ruined world! No feeling of thankfulness to "God manifest in the flesh." No sense of our need of the "glad tidings of great joy" which He brought to mankind. No love for Him "who so loved us," as to come down from the shining Courts above, to visit this dark abode of sinful man.

The "Happy Christmas", in the true religious sense of the term, is, when this love is "shed abroad in the heart by the power of the Holy Ghost." When redemption from the slavery of sin into "the glorious liberty of the children of God," is duly felt and acknowledged. When Christ is loved, adored and obeyed. Wheresuch is the case, whether our condition on earth be high or low, in poverty or riches, in sickness or health, glad will the heart be as each anniversary of

the Saviour's Advent returns. However sad and cheerless and depressed may be the outward lot of the believer, the day will still be a happy one which brings home to his heart the joyful truth, that an Almighty friend has come to "comfort all that mourn, and bind up the broken hearted," and "open the kingdom of heaven to all believers."

May such joys as these predominate over all others at this festive season. While, in the bosom of our families, we enjoy the pleasures, which, at this time especially, these domestic sanctuaries for earthly ills are wont to give, let our "chief joy" be centered in that glorious One "in whom all the families of the earth are blessed."

"WHO CAN STAND BEFORE HIS COLD?"

AFTER a continuance of unusually mild weather, stern winter has shown himself at last, in his real character, and in his train he brings many an hour of pinching suffering to the poor of our land. While those among us, who are in easy circumstances, have all needful appliances at hand, to meet the severities and inconveniences of this trying season,—how many hearties are scantily supplied with the means of warmth—on how many pallets, thinly covered, are the limbs of young and old shivering the long, long night through—on how many does the piercing morning dawn with nothing to satisfy the cravings of hunger—or quiet the cries of the half-clad little ones, in the numerous cellars and garrets of our City. Let not these suffering members of that "One Body" to which we all belong, be forgotten, as we sit by our cheerful fires, and are gathered thrice a day, around our well covered boards. "The poor ye have always with ye, and whatsoever ye will, ye can do them good," said He, "who for our sakes became poor that we might be made rich." At this season, when we are about to renew in joy and comfort the memory of His first visit, let us, in token of our thankfulness, "send portions to those for whom nothing is provided." Now is the time to replenish the Aims-treasuries of our Parishes, and to supply those "Sisters of mercy" in fact, if not in name, whose District visits are so useful and so cheering to the poor, with abundant means to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, refresh and sustain the sick." No better Almoners can be found than these District Visitors. May their labour of love be lightened by the ready contributions of the rich. And may all realize the truth of the Lord's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ORDINATION.—On Sunday, 19th inst., in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, the Reverend Messrs. Dunn, Ambrose, Stuart, and Haber Ballow, were admitted to the order of Priests by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and Mr. Yewens, Catechist and Lay Reader of the Colonial Church Society, was ordained Deacon. Sermon by Rev. Dr. McCawley, President of King's College, Windsor.

THE GLADSTONE BILL, seems to meet with little favour among our New Brunswick Churches.—"We'll have none of it," seems to be the general cry. St. John leads the way—Woodstock, Shediac, Gagetown, Sussex Vale, Moreton, &c., are said to have followed on the same side. Right or wrong, they have got the start of us, certainly. Nearly a page of the last *Church Witness* is filled with reports of meetings, &c. on the subject.

R. M. S. NIAGARA.

The R. M. Steamship *Niagara*, arrived on Thursday evening from Boston. The news is not of a very important nature. Extracts from the latest advices from various parts of the American continent, will be found below:—

The mail steamer *Cherokee*, Captain Rodney Baxter, arrived at New York on Sunday evening, from New Orleans, by the way of Havana, "with Purser Smith on board." She was five days and two hours from Havana.

The *Cherokee* was permitted to hold full communication with the shore, and land and receive the mails and passengers. No questions were asked respecting former difficulties.

The city of Havana was said to be healthy. The Spanish war steamer *Isabel* was to have left Havana on the 14th inst. for the island of St. Domingo, with Mr. Mariano Torriente on board, sent as special agent, by general Canedo, to watch the movements of the filibustero schemes which, it was said, are about to be organized somewhere near Samana.

Four thousand Spanish troops and two more Generals were expected soon to arrive at Havana, and, if we are to judge from the extensive preparations which were being made, and the activity going on in the forts

placing guns, &c., &c., the Cuban authorities were under much alarm for fear of invasion from the States.

There was a rumour at Havana that one of the English steamers had just captured a slaver.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 3 1852.—The terrible epidemic which has for some time prevailed in this city continues to develop itself with all the symptoms of "cholera morbus." It has at length spread among the plantations, where its ravages have been truly frightful. The sugar and coffee estates, especially the former, have lost more than one half of their laborers. Whole districts of the tobacco "Vegas" have been abandoned by the "Vegueros." The sufferings of the poor white and colored population have been very great, entire families having been swept off by this cruel disease, in many instances it is feared, without any assistance whatever. Until within a day or two, no one could be got to bury the dead, which were left exposed, putrifying in the sun, piled in heaps at the "Campo Santo." The excitement, produced by the late severe shock of earthquake seemed to stay for a time the progress of the fearful malady, only to break out with renewed violence. It is computed that not less than 3,000 persons have been carried off by the disease in this city alone, and that, too, within the short time of five or six weeks; the mortality even now not less than seventy or eighty a day, and there are many whose deaths have not been given into the Registrar. I learn that it has been equally fatal in its progress on the north coast of this province; how it will end, God only knows. The loss of life and capital is already too great for this division of the Island ever to be able to recover its former brilliant position. Added to all this, a terrible earthquake on the 20th August last, almost laid the city in ruins. Slighter shocks have been felt here ever since, but at 3 a.m., of the 26th ult., we were all awakened from our beds by a shock greater than any we had hitherto experienced. The beds and other furniture were turned in opposite directions, and I can only describe it as a combination of all kinds of movements. The consternation was general. People rushed out of their falling houses, most of them half naked. Indeed the scene, was the most appalling I ever witnessed. The dead and dying, victims of the prevailing pest, hastily brought in to the streets on the couches of past & present suffering, the glimmering of torches hither and thither, and the people lying in every direction from the crashing houses, presented one of the most fearful pictures ever witnessed. Fortunately, the oscillations of the earth were of sufficiently long duration previous to the final tremendous shake, that the people had time sufficient to escape from the falling ruins, and therefore we have, as on the occasion of the 20th August, few fatal accidents from this cause to record.

LIBERIA.

The "New York Agricultural Association," under the direction of Abraham Caldwell, Esq., is in a flourishing condition. This settlement, which was commenced in March, is in a beautiful locality on the northern banks of the St. Paul's, about two miles from the town of Millsburgh. The government granted six hundred acres of land to this Association, which has been staked off into ten acre lots—nine acres are planted in capades and other vegetables—six houses have been built, and four others are nearly completed, giving comfortable accommodation to eight families.

The barque *Ralph Cross*, Capt. Seales, from Baltimore, arrived in the Monrovia roadstead on the 13th of June, with 153 immigrants, destined for Grand Bassa. She had several American Missionaries on board, who were to join the Episcopal Mission in Liberia. The receipt of an invoice of Merchandise, amounting to \$3,349, from the American Colonization Society to the Government of Liberia, is gratefully acknowledged. Of this amount \$5,000 is appropriated to assist in defraying the expenses of the late military expedition, and the remainder to paying for territory.

The *Ralph Cross* was subsequently wrecked on Cape Palmas. We have received no particulars of the loss. On account of her non-arrival at Baltimore, as was expected, the Maryland colonization society have chartered the Barque *Joseph Maxwell*, which will leave Baltimore for Wilmington, N. C., to take on board 150 emigrants. Of these, 31 are from South Carolina, and the rest from North Carolina. They are generally composed of families, and nearly one half of them were children. All are free except 12, who were manumitted. The great proportion of them are the friends and acquaintances of Hooper, a colonist originally from North Carolina, who, after a residence in Monrovia, returned and made such representations as to induce the present emigration. They are to be located on the St. Paul's river, about fourteen miles in the interior, back from Monrovia. The bark *Shirley*, will also leave Baltimore in about two weeks, with fifty emigrants from Maryland, and the bark *Linda Stewart* will leave Norfolk about the same time with 200 emigrants, about fifty of whom are from North Carolina and the rest from Virginia.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

CANADA.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES AT HAND.—The rumor of Mr. Hincks being on the point of retiring from the political arena, has been again revived, and is this time very generally believed correct. It is stated that the Hon. Inspector General will be at once appointed managing director of the Grand Trunk Railways, with an allowance of some two thousand per annum. The withdrawal of Mr. Hincks from the Administration, will undoubtedly be followed by a reconstruction of the Cabinet.