

A Circular has been issued by the Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society, addressed to Christian Ministers throughout Canada, earnestly requesting them to agitate this question, with a view of getting up petitions to the approaching session of Parliament. We wish success may attend the effort.

During the year 1850 eighty-nine foreign vessels were entered at the Port of St. John's, Newfoundland, whose tonnage was 11,950, number of men 855. Exported same year in foreign bottoms from said port, 170,997 quintals Codfish; 577 tons Oil, and 6480 Seal Skins.

Whilst some persons were playing at foot-ball lately in St. John's N. F., the ball was kicked through a window by one of the party, and destroyed the eye of a child whom it unfortunately struck.

The influx of gold into New York, it is said, is rendering silver very scarce.

A great anxiety, it is said, is felt by Frenchmen generally to marry English wives, because females in France were so much under the influence of the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Prince Paskewitch, the Russian governor of Warsaw, has published a circular, addressed to all Roman Catholic Bishops in Poland, requiring them to make it imperative upon the inferior orders of the clergy that the latter shall divulge all political secrets entrusted to them in confession. The effect of this order is to convert the priesthood into a body of spies upon the community to which they minister. It is affirmed that the Court of Rome is a party to this nefarious arrangement.

The R. M. Steamer *Niagara* had been seized at Boston for having landed smuggled goods, principally silks, to the amount of \$5,000. No blame can be attached to the Captain or other officers on board. She arrived here yesterday morning.

It is stated that a line of steamers is about being established to run between San Francisco and China, touching at the Sandwich Islands on the way.

The total amount of Revenue of the sister Province of New Brunswick for the year 1850, is £104,639 9s. 6d., showing an increase of £9,717 2s. 1d. compared with that of 1849.

The Winebago tribe of Indians has been entirely removed from the State of Wisconsin. Military force had to be resorted to in order to effect the removal. Poor Red-men of the forest, what little justice or mercy ye receive from your civilized white brethren!

Over twenty thousand dollars bounty money is to be paid to the crews of Cod-fishermen belonging to Provincetown, during the present week. Think of that!

In the U. S. Senate, Henry Clay has proposed by bill to establish a line of Steamers for transporting negroes to the coast of Africa.

German Missions of the M. E. Church in the Illinois Conference.

Our German missions have gone on steadily increasing in numbers and importance from their commencement. At the Springfield Conference, in 1845, when they first became connected with the Illinois Conference, there were only 646 members reported; 16 preachers received appointments that year, and 4 charges were left to be supplied. There were then but two districts, St. Louis and Quincy. The next year (1846) 1172 members were reported and 9 local preachers; 22 travelling preachers were appointed, and 3 missions left to be supplied. In 1847 they had increased to 1496 members and 14 local preachers; 30 preachers received appointments and 4 charges were left to be supplied. In 1848 there were 2191 members, including probationers, 20 local preachers, 35 travelling preachers, and 4 appointments to be supplied. This year two new districts were formed, Missouri and Wisconsin. In 1849 there were 2561 members, 27 local preachers, 36 travelling preachers and 11 places to be supplied. In 1850, one new district, Iowa was formed, 2892 members were reported; 39 local preachers, (not exhorters—*they* are reported as private members,) and as stated above, 49 travelling preachers and 6 missions left to be supplied. This is an astonishing gain. In five years they have increased more than 97 fold. What other department of our work is affording such an abundant harvest? Nor is the advancement confined to numbers. In supporting the various benevolent enterprises of the church they are making equal, if not more rapid progress. The number of Sunday Schools has increased among them from 9 in 1846 to 35 in 1850; and the number of scholars from 43 in the former year to 1699 in the latter. In 1847 they contributed \$102.40 missionary money, and in 1850, \$577.85. In 1847 their collections for McKendree College were \$1255, and 1850, \$66. The fifth collection from them in 1847 was \$757, and in 1850, \$755.8. And so it has been in all the enterprises of the church.—*Illinois Advocate.*

Sacramento City.

Sacramento City, at which we arrived at noon of the 22th, is situated on the banks of the river, about one hundred and fifty miles from San Francisco. It is built on a broad, level plain, in a much less substantial manner than San Francisco. The frequent fires at the latter place have swept away the slight tenements at first erected, and instead have been built fine, brick buildings. At Sacramento, affairs wear more the appearance of a fair or camp, than of a city. The great overflow of last spring abated much of the confidence felt in the value of property in the city. This flood, occasioned by the rise of the river, covered the country for miles, and was so sudden that many persons were drowned in their beds. In one night the water rose to the height of six or eight feet in the principal street. Buildings were swept away, and immense quantities of goods destroyed. This year a levee is being built, some eight or ten miles long, up and down the banks of the river, but it is very tardily proceeded with, and in my opinion, too slightly built to resist the pressure of a heavy body of water.—*Zion's Herald.*

Site of Paradise, Defined.

Col. Chesney, who commanded an expedition, sent a few years back, by the British Government, to explore the Euphrates, has introduced into his narrative recently published, speculations on the probable site of Paradise, which he believes he has satisfactorily ascertained to be Central Armenia; and "the Land of Eden" is there actually laid down on the index map. He identifies the Halys and Araxas, whose sources exist within a short distance of the Euphrates and Tigris, with the Pison and Gihon of Scripture, while he considers the country within the Halys, as the land of Havilah, and that which borders on the Araxas as the remarkable and much disputed territory of Cush.—*ib.*

Selections for Newspapers.

Most persons think the selection of suitable matter for a newspaper the easiest part of the business. How great an error! It is by all means the most difficult. To look over and over hundreds of exchange papers every day, from which to select enough for one, especially when the question is not what shall, but what shall not be selected, is indeed "no easy task." If every person who reads a newspaper, could have edited it, we should hear less complaints. Not unfrequently is it the case that an editor looks over all his exchanges for something interesting, and can absolutely find nothing. Every paper is dryer than a contribution box; and yet something must be had—his paper must have something in it, and he does the best he can. To an editor who has the least care about what he selects, the writing is the easiest part of his labour. A paper when completed should be one the editor should be willing to read to his wife, his mother, or his daughter; and if he do that, if he gets such a paper, he will find his labour a most difficult one.

Every subscriber thinks the paper is printed for his especial benefit, and if the editor is nothing in it that suits him it must be stopped, it is good for nothing. Some people look over the deaths and marriages, and actually complain of the editors, if but few people in the vicinity have been so unfortunate as to die, or so fortunate as to get married the previous week. An editor should have such things in his paper whether they occur or not. Just as many subscribers as an editor may have, just so many tastes has he to consult. One wants stories and poetry; another abhors all this. The politician wants nothing but politics. One must have something sound. One likes anecdotes, fun and frolic, and a next door neighbour wonders that a man of sense will put such stuff in his paper. Something spicy comes out and the editor is a blackguard. Next comes something argumentative, and the editor is a dull fool. And so between them all, you see the poor fellow gets roughly handled. And yet, to ninety-nine out of a hundred, these things never occur. They never reflect that what does not please them, may please the next man, but they insist that if the paper does not suit them, it is good for nothing.

British in India.

The history of the world furnishes no parallel to the conquest by British arms of that immense region, now forming but a province of our empire. A few English merchants landed on its shore for purposes of commerce, with balance-rod in hand; soon that balance-rod was changed into a sword; speedily that sword was converted into a sceptre; and that sceptre is now the mightiest in Asia. In all this the finger of the God of providence is visible, pointing out our path and his designs. For what purpose have we been permitted to achieve our conquests there? Not merely to increase our national wealth, not to feed our national pride, not to furnish materials for the looms and engines of our factories. As Christians, we instinctively divine the end for which our conquests have been permitted, when we remember the injunction of the Lord, obligatory on his followers in every age and clime,

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." For this the opportunities are now more favourable than at any former period. The British Government in India no longer lends its sanction to idolatry. British functionaries no longer, as formerly, furnish the appliances for idol worship; and in a few more months the last shred and vestige of our former connection with idolatry will have disappeared for ever. Edmund Burke once remarked that we had dug no canals in India, established no schools, built no bridges, erected no churches and no hospitals; that all other conquerors had left traces of their occupancy in the territories which they conquered, but were we to leave India to-morrow, it would be impossible to discover whether the country had not been occupied solely by orang-outangs and tigers. All this is now reversed. India has her churches, schools, canals, roads, bridges; for many of which, especially for her school system, she is chiefly indebted to one whose name will be ever dear to her inhabitants, Lord William Bentinck. The atrocious law of inheritance which so long prevailed, by which any native embracing Christianity forfeited all claim to his parental property, has this very year been abrogated; and now, the statute which regulates the descent of property for a hundred and fifty millions of people, extending from Cape Comorin in the south, to the awful defiles of Afghanistan in the north, may be found, not in a score of folio volumes, but inscribed in a single sentence, and capable of being comprised in half a nutshell. We are in danger of going to one or other of two extremes; of making either too much or too little of what has been done for India. As Christians, we are in danger of over-estimating, in our enthusiasm, the amount of good that has been effected. There are in India 150 Missionaries—era Missionary to every million of its inhabitants; about the proportion of two to all the inhabitants of this metropolis. We might as soon expect to illuminate all London with the lamps in Exeter-hall, as expect to evangelise India with such an instrumentality. On the other hand, it must not be conceded that much good has not been effected. A correspondent of a daily journal lately stated, that during a long residence in India, he had never known a single creditable convert to Christianity. Putting testimony against testimony, he (Dr. Duff) would venture to assert that there was no English Protestant Missionary in India who could not exhibit some sound converts to the Christian faith, and many could point to thousands. The Rev. Doctor concluded with an eloquent and powerful appeal to the young men of England, to improve the sacred deposit which has been committed to their care, by employing their influence to promote the evangelisation of our Indian Empire.—*Dr. Duff at the Young Men's Christian Association, London.*

A Crocodile Story.

We had some talk the other day with one of the very few survivors of the Egyptian expedition under Sir Ralph Abercromby, who has lived to obtain the Egyptian medal 59 years after it was earned. When the brigade under Sir David Baird was marching up the eastern bank of the Nile, towards Cairo, a number of stragglers fell behind, unable from fatigue to keep up with the main body. A rear-guard was consequently detached to protect the stragglers and keep them together. One of them, a Highlander, however, became so exhausted that his comrades were obliged to leave him to his fate. He had not been long alone when he saw a large crocodile waddling towards him, with a very portentous aspect. Poor Donald eyed the monster as it approached him with feelings of intense alarm; and although almost unable to walk, he mustered up his little remaining strength, and abided the onslaught of the enemy. As the unwieldy brute was slewing himself astride on its back, and kept his seat. He at once drew his bayonet, (for he had parted with his musket,) and every time the animal turned round its head to bite him he pricked it severely behind its fore leg, or wherever he could make the steel penetrate.—How long the contest continued Donald could not well tell, but he thought it an age. When the rear-guard reached head quarters, the general, on being informed that Donald had been left behind, immediately dispatched a corporal's guard to bring him in. On coming up to Donald, there he was still astride of his Bucephalus, which was by this time nearly exhausted with the wounds inflicted by the bayonet. The musket soon accomplished what the bayonet had begun, and Donald was brought into the camp little the worse for his extraordinary encounter, and was ever after known in the regiment as the Crocodile Dragon.—*North British Mail.*

Meteorolite.

A correspondent of the *Illustrated London News* describes the following phenomenon; observed by him on the 27th ult, at Painswick, Gloucestershire:—An electric cloud, driving before the wind, and from which several flashes of light had proceeded, on passing over the spire of the church was suddenly and vividly illuminated, and immediately discharged a brilliant meteorolite of considerable size,

emitting a delicately rosy purple light, descending from the cloud to the point of the spire with a noise like the rushing of a rocket on leaving the earth, and which was distinctly heard at a considerable distance above the crashing thunder which accompanied the discharge. On reaching the spire the ball exploded, scattering its fragments in an arborescent form, which gradually became extinguished as they descended towards the earth. Shortly after this the storm ceased, and in less than half an hour it had become calm, the sky clear of clouds, and a fine *aurora borealis* appeared in the north-west.—These electrical phenomena, known commonly by the name of "Fire Balls," are not of unfrequent occurrence. The instance we have just given is only remarkable from the gradual manner in which the storm appears to have subsided when the electric equilibrium was restored.

A couple of extraordinary human curiosities are now on exhibition at Boston, U. S. They consist of a boy and girl of an almost extinct race of Central America. The boy is 32 inches in height, and weighs 16 lbs., and in the opinion of eminent medical authority is about 10 years old. The girl is 28 inches in height, weighs 14 lbs., and is believed to be about 8 years of age. Their heads are not larger than a new-born infant's. They are said to belong to the surviving remnant of an ancient order of priesthood, called "Kaanah," which by constant intermarriage within their own caste, has dwindled down to a few individuals, diminutive in stature and imbecile in intellect.

Summary of News.

FROM ENGLISH PAPERS.

The Duke of Wellington, it is said, refuses further to guarantee the safety of Great Britain from invasion, unless an additional force of fifty thousand men be added to our present military establishment; a partial enrolment of the militia being one of the sources of the increase which his Grace proposes, and a strong reinforcement of the troops quartered in the sister kingdom being one of the immediate objects contemplated.

BARON ROLFE.—The Queen has directed letters patent to be issued, conferring upon the Right Hon. Sir R. M. Rolfe the dignity of a Baron of the United Kingdom, by the title of Baron Cranworth of Cranworth, in the county of Norfolk.

NEW STEAM MARINE BILL.—Captain Denham, R. N., F. R. S., is engaged with the legal authorities in drawing up a bill, to be brought before Parliament next session, for the better regulation of the steam marine navy.

The Hudson's Bay Company have issued a prospectus for the colonization of Vancouver's Island. They propose to make grants of land, in portions of not less than twenty acres each, at £1 per acre. They say the climate of the island resembles that of England, but is milder, and the soil, so far as cultivation has extended, has been proved to be well adapted to the production of wheat and other crops grown in this country.

REVISION OF THE PRAYER BOOK.—A report has gained currency in respectable and well-informed quarters, that a revision of the Book of Common Prayer by non-ecclesiastical hands is in progress. Besides the Premier, another name is mentioned in connection with the project.—*John Bull.*

The replies from the throne plainly manifest a cordial sympathy on the part, both of the Sovereign and her advisers, with the spirit of the legal addresses which had been carried to the foot of the throne, and distinctly announce Her Majesty's attachment to the Protestant faith, and to the Protestant constitution, as such, and her reliance on the devotion of her faithful Protestant subjects to assist her to preserve both the one in its purity, and the other in its integrity.

Arrangements have been made for Cape of Good Hope mail screw steamers, which are to leave Plymouth on the 15th of every month, to call at Madras and Sierra Leone on their passage to the Cape, and they will doubtless take mails for those immediate ports of call.

The Maharajah Goolab Singh has sent articles to Lahore to the value of £10,000, as a gift to the Great Exhibition of 1851, and many of the petty Indian chieftains around have followed his example.

Orders have been received by the Pope's Nuncio, not to countenance the passports of any Italians coming from England.

The Belgian Minister of Finance has presented a bill to the Chambers for authorising the Government to withdraw from circulation the gold coins of ten and twenty-five francs value, and to enact that all foreign gold shall cease to be a legal tender in Belgium.

An apprehended depreciation in the value of gold has induced the French ministry to propose to the assembly the making of a law that shall enact that silver only, and not gold equally with silver, shall constitute a legal tender. This is a proof that the produce of gold from California is beginning to flow into Europe, and that against its anticipated consequences the French are determined to be prepared. In the face of this undoubted fact, however, prices have not risen, as prophesied. A sovereign or a twenty-five franc piece will buy more now than it would ten years ago, before California gold dust was thought of. There is no question that our immensely increased population requires an increased supply of gold for endless uses.