

RELIGIOUS.

PRESBYTERIAN.

At a special meeting of the Foreign Mission committee, held last week at Truro, the proposal to send a fourth missionary with the Rev. Mr. Annand to the New Hebrides, was fully discussed. On account of the vote being a tie, no steps will be taken in the matter until June next.

The Rev. Dr. Hutchison, of Banchory, is to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Established Church in Scotland, while the well known Principal Rainy will fill the same position in the Free Church.

A Presbyterian church was opened at Tatamagouche Mountain on the 19th inst.

The Synods of New York and Pennsylvania contributed last year over a quarter of million dollars for Home Missions.

On Thursday last, the Rev. A. Falconer was inducted into the pastorate of Prince Street Church, Pictou.

The Pulpit of Greenock Church, St. Andrew's, N. B., built of solid mahogany, relieved with panels of birds-eye maple, cost over £500 sterling. The church is a grand old edifice, finished inside with birds-eye maple and mahogany. Rev. Archibald Gunn is now pastor of the St. Andrew's, N. B., congregation. The sermon preached by Mr. Gunn on the 62nd anniversary of the church, is about to be published at the urgent request of the congregation.

The Presbyterians of Canada have commemorated their centennial this year by building a manse. The pastor and family moved into it last week. It is situated near to the church and in addition to being very comfortable and commodious it has also a very handsome appearance. The contractor was D. A. Munro of Wolfville. The house, barn, and land attached cost in all \$2,350. There will be a debt of \$1000 on it for a short time.

BAPTIST.

The Rev. Mr. Boggs, missionary from the Baptist Church of the Maritime Provinces, expects to leave Boston in a few days for India.

Last Sunday was appointed by the Baptist convention as the time for taking a special collection on behalf of Toronto Baptist college.

The Year Book of the F. C. Baptists of New Brunswick has just been published. There are 151 churches; 46 ordained ministers; and four licentiates. 115 of the churches reported a membership of 9,666. \$236.00 was contributed to Home Missions, and \$774 to Foreign Missions. There are 97 Sabbath schools in connection with the denomination, with a membership of 5,708.

There are now 161 German Baptist churches in the United States and Canada, with a membership of 13,000. The number of missionaries in connection with those churches are fifty-five.

The Baptists of England have 3,654 churches and chapels, and a membership of 315,940. The number of Sunday schools is reported at 72,000. In 1821 the church membership was only 42,000. There are 1900 ministers connected with the denomination.

METHODIST.

The Missions connected with the Methodist church in the United States employ 2,508 missionaries and 2,397 assistants in the Home field, and 116 missionaries and 72 assistants in the Foreign field. The latter received for the current year \$140,536, and Home missions \$381,000.

As already intimated, the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States collected last year within a few thousand dollars of a million for missions. Chaplain McCabe, the Secretary of the Missionary Society, has decided upon a new plan for this year. There are to be fifty thousand million-dollar leagues among the Methodist children, each league to contain at least five members. The children will be supplied with subscription cards. It is expected that by this plan a large amount will be collected.

There are fifty three ordained Methodist ministers in New York city.

Bishop Taylor, of the M. E. Church in the United States has already established seven stations, in which there are 53 missionaries, and hopes this year to establish many more.

CATHOLIC.

In the mining town of Leadville, Col., there is said to be a congregation of 4,500 Catholics, and 600 children in the parish schools.

From the single Catholic newspaper that existed in Germany before the Kulturkampf, the Catholic press there has increased to over one hundred newspapers.

A dispatch from San Francisco says that Mgr. Capel, in view of stories that were published recently reflecting upon his personal character, threatens to take steps for obtaining legal redress. The reverend gentleman proposes to institute libel suits against the *World*, the *Times*, the *Star*, and other papers in the city of New York.

The claims of the Knights of Labor to Papal recognition, are being discussed before the sacred congregation in Rome.

Anent the appointment of Mr. Matthews as Home Secretary in Salisbury's Cabinet, the *Rock* says: "We deplore Lord Salisbury's appointment of a Popish Home Secretary as a well-nigh suicidal policy." Happily in this "Canada of ours," no such narrow-minded sentiments disgrace the columns of any journal worthy of the name, concerning the rights and liberties of her Majesty's Catholic subjects. Our grand confederation can in this respect compete with, if not excel, any country on this earth.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]
THE TIDE OF TIME.

The tide of time is a wondrous tide,
It is swift and sure and strong,
It bears us all on its bosom broad,
It deepens the burden or lightens the road,
As it bears us swiftly along.

In childhood's hour no cares we knew,
Life was a sweet, bright dream;
The future a field of unknown bliss,
Whose radiant pathway we could not miss,
As we glided down the stream.

But as older we grew the tide swifter ran,
And we found that the bye gone years
Were but memories left, as spots of light
In a clouded life that was never bright,
Faded hopes to water with tears.

And ever and over the tide swift runs
On its course to the unknown sea,
It bears weary hearts to the silent grave,
Their souls to the hands of Him who gave
From sorrow and care to set free.

So tide of time with your wondrous sweep,
Roll on and on forever,
Till time itself shall be no more,
Its current lost on Eternity's shore,
Forever and forever.

New Brunswick.

HECTOR.

A STRANGE APPARITION.

To the Editor of the Critic:

Sir,—Your remarks on the "New Sixth Sense" in a former issue of *The Critic* bring before us for the moment a very interesting subject, and one from which, as time goes on, we may expect now and startling discoveries.

The question as to what forms the most reasonable belief in the theories of visions and other spiritualistic phenomena before us in the present day is asked with eagerness on all sides.

We all know that modern society presents to us many instances of delusion and imposture in the phenomena in question, yet there are few men, I venture to assert, who will care to deny that there are actual and very frequent occurrences of a most mysterious nature, which it is impossible to believe to be the result of fraud or imposture.

The following particulars of a singular apparition, seen by two officers who resided in this city some years ago, were related to me recently by a friend of mine in England, and form an instance of the many like occurrences of which we believe no natural explanation can be given at the present time.

During the winter of 18— a detachment of the 33rd regiment of infantry was stationed at Sydney, in Cape Breton. For sometime Col. G— and three other officers were quartered together, occupying four small rooms at one end of the barracks. Two rooms were on each floor. They were slightly built and simply furnished, and allowed of no possible hiding places.

It might as well be here related that the troops had been ice-bound for some time, and the ships expected from England had not been able to get in, so that provisions were scarce and the troops had run short of wine and spirits of every description.

One evening, after an early dinner, Col. G— and another officer were in an upper room looking over some maps and plans of the surrounding country, Col. W— and Gen. S— (afterwards Sir John), being occupied downstairs. Suddenly Col. G— heard the exclamation: "Good Heavens! my brother Jack!" from the room below, which led him to run down at once. Here he found Gen. S— looking about in an alarmed manner, and Col. W—, who had called out the words, searching the inner room. "Oh! then," he said, as he entered, "the ice has broken up and Jack W— has come out to see his brother." "I do not know," replied Gen. S—, "but a gentleman just came in and looked earnestly at W— and then went in there," pointing to the room where Col. W—, who now appeared, had been searching fruitlessly. Col. W— was much agitated; and repeated the same story. "It was my brother Jack," he said, "but he was dressed in very strange clothes, and carried a hunting whip in his hand."

One of the party then ran out to the sentinel, who was stationed below, commanding the only approach to the barracks, but he had not seen anyone pass, and was sure no one had gone up unseen by him. These facts were noted down at the time, and nothing further transpired to explain the apparition.

After some weeks had elapsed the ice broke up and the ships arrived from England. The first news received was by Col. W—, telling him of the death of his brother Jack, who had been killed in the hunting field; and among the supplies received were clothes made in the same fashion as those worn by the figure seen and noted at the time as being so peculiar.

Years passed away. One day Gen. S—, who had been much impressed by the whole affair, was walking through Bond St., London, with Col. G—, when he suddenly stopped and said: "There, G—, is the man I saw in Cape Breton."

"I never did doubt your statement," replied the Col., "but this confirms it. That man was always called Jack W—'s double. He dressed like him and copied his effect in every way."

Doubtless many of your readers could supplement this narrative with many similar stories, for the truth of which they would be willing to vouch. Though not a believer in ghosts, I cannot help thinking that there are many occurrences which are quite as incapable of being explained away as the one here related.

A. J. W.