

condition of religious life in the city seems to be very poor. The people are nominally Roman Catholics, yet if asked to say from observation what form of religion they adopted, I should say they adopted none. The Portuguese waiters in our hotel did not know why a good Catholic should not take meat on Friday. The people (with few exceptions) appeared to spend the Sabbath at work. Stores were open from morning till night. Pedlars were hawking their wares about the streets, and mechanics were to be seen plying their crafts just as on any other day. Some time ago, exactly when I have not ascertained, a law was passed that no more persons should be allowed to enter the monasteries and nunneries in Portugal—and on the death of the then inmates, the property should pass into the hands of the government. A number of such buildings have since been emptied of their inmates, and passing into the hands of the government have been sold. The remains of one large monastery was sold to the Scotch Free Presbyterian Church mission in the city, and at present an English service is held in its chapel in the morning, and in the afternoon a Portuguese service is conducted by our friend, Rev. Mr. Menerzes. The Bible and Tract Society, under the agency of Rev. Mr. Stewart, also has its rooms here. Schools are held in other rooms during the week, and other parts of the building are let for stores and dwelling houses, while a large part of the building is falling into decay, and a much larger part of it has been destroyed by the earthquake and other causes. A quiet missionary work is being carried on in the city, but there is still room for much more, and unless a great change comes over the people, we can see nothing very bright in the future for Lisbon. At present the death rate is equal to the births. The people are ignorant and superstitious. The electors sell their votes for money, or cast them like craven cowards afraid to assert their rights. The governors hold purchased positions. The government is a mere tool in the hands of a few, and the few are too dull to know their own interests, and too selfish to think of the public good.

Yours sincerely,
W. T. CURRIE.

ST. THOMAS, July 15, 1886.

MR. EDITOR.

Will you allow me to acknowledge through the INDEPENDENT, a box sent to my address with no invoice or letter accompanying, apparently from Toronto, containing some books, magazines and periodical literature, pamphlets, &c., evidently designed to be distributed or used in promoting church or S. school work.

With many thanks to the donors, we will apply them in the best way we can to do good.

I acknowledged in a note to the C. I. some time ago, Ten dollars for St. Thomas church building fund, from an unknown *Friend—Clinton, Ont.* This acknowledgment never appeared, I suppose was lost. I have no other way but through the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT of letting the Clinton friend know that the sum was gratefully received and faithfully applied, coming just when needed and asked for, to complete a payment.

Yours, &c.,
W. H. ALLWORTH.

SELKIRK RANGE, ROCKY MTS., July 3, 1886.

TO THE EDITOR CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR.—A copy of your issue of May 15th, came under my attention yesterday, and I noticed your reference to the work at present going on on the C. P. R. You may be sure that if the Congregationalists, or any other body, were to send out an earnest Missionary, he would be well received. The living is rough and the accommodations not such as Ontario towns and cities afford, and anyone coming must make up his mind to rough it, but he would find some ready to welcome him. There would doubtless be many discouragements, and the sowing would be like casting bread upon the waters. The expense, I doubt not, would be largely met by subscription amongst the men, and by proper representations to Mr. Van Horn a pass might be obtained. The work is only expected to last four or five months, but a good deal of sowing and possibly some reaping might be done in that time.

H.

[We insert this to show how we allow golden opportunities to slip by.—Ed.]

LISTOWEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Editor Canadian Independent.

DEAR SIR.—Will you kindly permit us to call attention, through the INDEPENDENT, to the present position of our church here. There are many who can bear testimony to its faithful adherence to the principles and polity of congregationalism for a long period of years, and also to its efforts through a period of great difficulty to sustain itself. It is one of the oldest churches in the Province. In 1878 a substantial brick church was built at a cost of about \$6000; of this amount \$4000 has been paid and a debt of \$2000 remains. The cost of interest on this amount however is reduced by a small income which we receive from the rental of the old church and parsonage. The building is in great need of renovating and repairs which will cost between \$200 and \$300. We have been trying to accomplish this for two years past but reverses in the circumstances of some, and the removal of others of our members, have made it impossible to do so. We have been com-