

group of about fifty armed Arabs having suddenly come down upon them in a threatening manner till the party had rejoined them. They were then re-embarked without further molestation. Before leaving for the ship the captain was a second time engaged in conversation with the same Arab chief who had talked with him before. As far as could be made out, the next day was a second time engaged in conversation with the same Arab chief who had talked with him before. As far as could be made out, the next day was a second time engaged in conversation with the same Arab chief who had talked with him before. As far as could be made out, the next day was a second time engaged in conversation with the same Arab chief who had talked with him before.

The agitated political waters have not found a level. The Commune is by no means dead. The adherents of the Empire are not in despair. The whole nation thirsts for vengeance on Germany, and longs for the arrival of the hour when it shall triumphantly bring back its lost provinces, and resume its former position as the first military power in the world. Appearances in France do not indicate that that unfortunate country will soon attain the long repose so needful for the resuscitation of its best interests.

In Germany it is evident that there are storms coming. The wise political pilot that guides the counsel of the German ship is making preparation for the worst. The German army is being made a more perfect and powerful instrument of war than it ever proved to be in the late great contest with France. Alliances are being formed and kindly feeling cultivated with adjoining countries having a common interest or a common danger with Germany. The enemy of France and the ambition and jealousy of Russia are being guarded against. Measures are to be taken to grapple with communism as it makes its dangerous appearance among the German workmen; and the gauntlet has apparently been thrown at the feet of ultramontaniam by the German Government.

Austria has much trouble with its heterogeneous population—each class of which desires a distinct government fashioned to suit its own particular taste—and is endeavoring, by cultivating a good understanding with Germany to provide against coming contingencies.

Italy is in a somewhat better condition than for some time past, yet is in fear of the Russian projects of conquest in the Baltic and in the Black Sea, and is, it is said, preparing to set on foot and maintain a vast military establishment.

The minds of men on this Atlantic have not been free from excitement. Happily for the Dominion for some little time past its chief excitement has been connected with a few boat races. In the U. States, there has been a succession of most painful tragedies, and a disclosure of dreadful crimes. Also the labor and capital quarrel has been extending its ramifications day by day in that country, and it bids fair well to assume vast proportions there. It will be a happy day for the employers and the employed in all civilized lands when that long continued conflict shall be brought to a peaceful and satisfactory issue. But we apprehend that day is yet very far off.

Previous to 1865 the subject of Home Missions had been mooted in Conference, but only from this date was it agitated to any extent. The only result at that time was to attach the name of "Home Missions" to the Contingent Fund. In 1866, Dr. Scott, our President from England, recommended the holding of Home Mission Meetings in the several Circuits, and as there was no specific intimation of any direct Home Mission work, the support was only a little in excess of that of the previous year. In 1870 all our Circuits having an income under \$350 annually were classed as "Home Missions," and the receipts of the Home Mission Fund were set apart for their support. Here at length was something for our people to see and ponder. The Ministers threw themselves with confidence and energy into their appeals for our poorer Circuits, and our people did not disappoint them. In a single year the income of the Fund went up from \$1943.40 to \$5509.34. Of this amount \$1175 came in from life-members, contributing each from \$20 to \$200.

The effect has been felt very sensibly throughout the Connexion in these Provinces. According as the income toward Home Missions has advanced, the deficiencies on dependent Circuits, after the distribution of their Grant, has rapidly decreased. Anything under \$150 unprovided for deficiency on all the dependent Circuits was thought very encouraging. This year it has touched the lowest figure known probably since our existence as a Conference—\$123. How is this?

element of civilization, its public mind is in an unpleasant condition of perturbation. In France everything is in a state of fluctuation. Nobody can foretell what a day may bring forth.

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admission to our ranks up to 1869. In the last two years we have received thirty-three candidates, and the President of the Conference is now in treaty for twenty-four others! We are dependant on England for some of these, but the majority are found amongst ourselves.

How do we account for this sudden increase of Candidates for the sacred work? There have been gracious seasons of revival on some Circuits, but not by any means so much greater than former years as to compare with the proportion of increase in our membership in regard to the reduction of deficiencies and the corresponding ability to support all who may offer, may have something to do with it. And much of the gratifying result may be traced to the prayer of God's servants. But there is another reason which, in the advocacy of Home Missions is of very great importance.

Our Home Mission movement is stirring the hearts of our people. It is touching the souls and consciences of our young men. Our appeals for two or three years in respect to the work of God on the poorer Circuits are producing more than a cash contribution; they are leading our youth to consider themselves as regulated by holy considerations, to consecrate themselves to the highest order of usefulness. And this result will continue in increasing ratio as we give our energies and wealth to this holy cause.

Besides, we may look confidently to our Home Mission Stations for additions to our Ministerial ranks. Experience has long ago proved that the largest number, and many of the most gifted of our Ministers, come from the poorer stations. We know of two Circuits which have of themselves given to the Conference of E. B. A. one seventh of its present Ministerial force. These Circuits have never been self-sustaining until very recently. If they were now receiving largely from the Grant, they were paying most freely in supplying Candidates. We have yet another item of information;—no solitary man of those twenty-four has ever been under discipline! Perhaps the instances cited are extraordinary; but the principle we wish to illustrate remains the same in all its force, namely, the expense of opening and maintaining a man in ecclesiastical enterprise is abundantly remunerative.

Then, in addition to all this, our Home Mission movement is working us up as a Conference to a spirit and position of noble independence. Many, many thanks to our friends beyond the great waters for their support of our work in these Colonies. They will meet their reward. But let not their benevolence engender in us any craven disposition. Pampered children are generally weak and tender. Let us, just as soon as possible, brave our utmost in working and sustaining the cause of God. By attempting much we will develop our own energies and leave more and more at the disposal of our Home Missionary work, which other people would be absorbed in ours. Who would have dared to predict two years ago that we should now have \$5,500 income for Home Missions? We are disposed to venture a prophecy for which some may laugh at us as others have laughed at greater men, that within another decade this cause will be expending on its own Missions the sum of twenty thousand dollars a year.

Now we return to our first consideration. This right arm of the Conference must be worked more systematically and energetically. Let our Home Missions have a Superintendent. Give our people a clear, positive, unmistakable conviction that this enterprise is in judicious and trained hands; that we are organizing, and determined to work by God's blessing every foot of ground placed at our disposal by God and the people. That the numbers now joining our Ministry can only be sustained by bringing our Home Mission Fund to the utmost degree of vigor and activity. Let us have a man who shall stand before the Conference and the Church as himself an embodiment of Home Missions; who shall visit as much of the ground now occupied as possible, and give his attention to the relative claims of new places demanding supply. Let us have him at our great central Home Mission Meetings, to give details and information on the ground to him in discussion, and to follow these Meetings in conjunction with the Superintendants, by direct appeals to our ministerial men. We will answer for the results. Our people are just waiting for something of the kind.

Brethren, friends, now is the time of harvest! Let us reap.

W. N.

members are heavily burdened; and arrivals and numerical increase are followed by an apportionment far beyond their increased financial resources. A proposal for changing the apportionment for the Children's Fund from a numerical to a financial basis has been advocated and might with advantage possibly be adopted. But as we need in this department of our financial economy a change still more fundamental, would not the abandonment of the Children's Fund and the substitution of a fixed salary lead to greater effectiveness and elasticity? The question is surrounded with many difficulties, but possibly these might not be found to be insuperable.

Conversation on the spiritual interests of the several circuits, on methods of work and administration occupied a great part of the afternoon. In some cases where special services had been held, in the last quarter of the year followed by Conference interruption of public and social means of grace—of preaching, prayer meeting and class meeting and necessity of pastoral oversight it was evident that great loss must be sustained. After such suspension the services are deemed cold and chilling in comparison with those special efforts in which the new converts were borne on the full tide of feeling and sympathy.

It was alleged by a few brethren that special efforts were almost uniformly followed by declension and loss. Special efforts judiciously put forth have been in many cases signally successful, but they should when possible be held early in the year, and should be followed by faithful pastoral oversight.

The Home Mission meeting in the evening was considered a decided success.

Yarmouth, Sept. 14.

LENNING—Bro. Joseph Gaetz writes, Sept. 11, 1871: "Everything is encouraging here. Our Churches are large and always crowded. Since Conference I have seen scores going from the doors of our church in town because they could not find room within. We have now twenty feet added, with a place for the Choir; which addition will be completed shortly, giving us a church eighty feet long. All we seem to want is more ministerial help. Unless I get it soon I cannot long perform the duties of this charge. Pray secure for us, if possible, one of the first of the young men expected from England."

NEWCASTLE, MIRAMICHI—Bro. Strothard writes, Sept. 12, 1871: "So far as my temporal comfort is concerned, I am in the land of Goshen, all the people being extremely kind. Our congregations are not bad in regard to size, and in the main are very attentive. Of course it is quite inspiring to see a good attentive congregation, yet the end of our ministry is not to gather people together, but to lead them to Christ as the sinner's only Saviour. There seems to be a great lack of spiritual life and energy. . . . Nothing can save us from lifeless formalism except the baptism of fire from on high. I fear I am not so fully alive as God Smith ought to be. I want the zeal of John Smith, who in agony cried, 'give me souls or else I die.' I am resolved by the grace of God to live for souls. I trust yet to be allowed to rejoice before I leave the Circuit in seeing many brought to Christ. That this may be the case, I beseech—your, pray for me that God may fill me with Divine power."

KINGSTON, N. B.—Bro. F. H. Weldon writes, Sept. 13th, 1871: "I think the work of God is prospering on this Circuit, but a general revival is greatly needed. Since coming to this Circuit, two members of the congregation have been, quite suddenly, taken into the spirit world. One a young man of 21 years, having received internal injury by a fall which he survived but a few days in great pain. He had previously lived in neglect of religion but earnestly sought mercy during his illness, and was healed in peace. The funeral occasion was improved from, 'He is therefore also ready.' The other an aged member of the congregation, whose house has for years been the home of the Methodist preachers on this circuit, highly esteemed by all who knew him. Having been from childhood connected with the Episcopal church he was not a recognized member of our body; but in compliance with his desire, I visited him during his short illness, and at his funeral endeavored to improve the occasion. His end was peace. The funerals were largely attended, and I trust these dispensations have already been sanctified to the spiritual benefit of the church and to the community, producing a deeper conviction of the necessity of being in readiness for death."

THE WINDSOR SABBATH SCHOOL EXCURSION.

Some weeks ago the Superintendent and Secretary of the above school suggested a trip to Annapolis in lieu of the annual picnic. The idea was considered so wild—that many in our own Church and in other emphatically condemned the project. Nevertheless a bargain was made with the Manager of the Windsor and Annapolis Railway for a train of eight cars and an engine at a cost of \$200. Extra cars were to be furnished as we required them at \$20 each. The affair was agitated, advertised and canvassed in every proper way. Tickets were sent to different places along the line for sale.

On making an estimate we telegraphed to the Manager of the Railway for fifteen cars; this was on Monday morning. Several intimations had been given previously of our probable activities as to accommodations. On Monday afternoon we learned that an imperative order had reached the Railway department to move 1800 Volunteers on the same day with our excursion. This strained the resources of the Railway to the utmost. After applying for cars to Halifax and spending a day of most feverish anxiety, our S. School officials before named found themselves on Tuesday morning in possession of only thirteen cars. These were filled before they had been ten minutes at the Windsor Station.

At Falmouth several persons joined the party, and at Hantsport many remained rather than incur risk by overloading the train. The conductor here ordered the engineer not to stop till he reached Kentville. The latter gave it as his opinion that his engine could take three more cars; the danger lay in breaking down those we had on the train.

We had the mortification of seeing a crowd on the platform at Lower Horton and a larger number at Wolfville; but we swept past them with a velocity which seemed almost violent. Those who were thus disappointed will have learned ere this that 'no blame attached to any one.' The proceeds of the excursion will be for the

RAILWAY \$348; for the Sabbath School about \$880.

The foolish project of running an excursion to Annapolis is now about to be repeated. On Tuesday next twenty-two cars are engaged to carry passengers from different points to the further end of the line. On Wednesday an excursion is to go from Lower Horton; and a third party talk of making a return trip from Annapolis to Windsor!

The world laughed at Columbus for talking of discovering a new continent; when Columbus found it the world said it was all easy enough! A. W. N.

THE SHEFFIELD METHODIST SABBATH SCHOOL PIC-NIC ON MONDAY, 11th, appears to have been a very enjoyable affair. The Rev. Robert Wilson who is a special friend of the young people, having suggested that a steamboat excursion would be preferable to the horse and wagon style of doing business. The Antelope was chartered for the occasion. But even in Sheffield there are some very small beings who made special efforts to prevent people going, by representing the boat as a "rotten old thing," and working upon the fears of the timid. Sabbath looked so gloomy that they concluded the gods were favoring them, but Monday morning undeceived them. The day was one of the finest, a godly number ran fall risks and went. Despite the warning of the wisecracks, the boat was well filled up for the occasion, and the gentlemanly conduct of the Captain and crew made every one feel quite at home. The beautiful grounds of Mr. Williams of Gagetown, was the place where the Pic-Nic was held, and with an abundance of good things for the table, vocal and instrumental music, swinging, racing, etc., the affair passed off with great eclat.

As the school needed an organ Mr. Wilson on the way home, at the suggestion of a gentleman present, called the meeting to order and stated the case, when, with a few donations subsequently received, sufficient was obtained to purchase a \$175 organ. All were delighted with the day's proceedings, and with rousing cheers for the Captain and crew, and returning home with the feeling that such occasions were among the sunny spots in our career.

P. S.—In addition to the above, the owner and agent of the boat, Messrs. Glasier and Verner have added \$15 to the organ fund.

THE "OLD CATHOLIC" MOVEMENT AND GERMAN PROTESTANTISM.

This movement daily becomes of more interest and importance. There has been a formal preparatory meeting in Heidelberg, and this month, about the 24th, there is to be held a great gathering at Munich. The leaders of the movement will then determine what steps are to be taken for the future. There is a division of opinion. Are they to be satisfied with merely repudiating the infallibility and its consequences, or are they to introduce important reforms, such as those desired especially by the Austrian section? We hope that the latter course will be pursued, though it is better to proceed with caution than to endanger all faith, in these days of Rationalism, by too rapid movements.

The National Zeitung, at Berlin, contains an article, in which it counsels the "Old Catholics" to become Protestants. The reply of the representatives of the movement is important to notice, as it gives an insight into the chief cause of the present state of Protestantism in Germany. They say that Protestantism is bound up too much with the State; that the Catholic Church is only bound to the Pope and the Episcopate; and that whenever she breaks these bonds she will be entirely free as regards the State. The State has had for three hundred years in its hands the organization of the ecclesiastical elements of Protestantism, and without a great political reform the bondage of the Church cannot be broken.

We believe that here the lot of the religious system of Protestant Germany has been clearly pointed out. The mistake made by Luther and his fellow-reformers—the same as was made by the Episcopal party in England—was, in not maintaining the battle of ecclesiastical independence, while contending against the Pope. The Churches in Germany became merely a part of the State machinery, and consequently lost rapidly, in days of trial, the respect of the people. The clergy are now looked upon by a large section of the population as a kind of upper police, and there is no true respect for their office as a spiritual one. This fits the case, we believe, of very much of the Rationalism of Germany. There is no independent Church life; the Church has sunk into a kind of contempt; the clergy, without the support and strength of a numerous Christian laity, are tempted to start all kinds of novelties. It is important to note that in both England and Germany the Erastian Church system has recently produced bitter fruits, though of a somewhat different kind. In England the Church is rapidly becoming broken into fragments. There is no coherence—no strong influence over the people. It is felt by all thinking men, even Churchmen, that it cannot hold together long, as it now exists, but must fall, more gradually or more suddenly, to pieces. In Germany the churches are in many parts almost deserted, and if Christianity is to be revived it must be by agencies of a different kind from those employed at present.

The great mistake of the Reformers in most countries was to allow the Church, when freed from the Pope, to become the slave of the State. This has been the great weakness of Protestantism. The battle of Church independence was fought only by the Puritans of England and by the Presbyterians in Scotland and they alone have preserved the allegiance of the people. The Puritans, guided by a divine power, originated the present religious condition of America, where the people are, on the whole, the most church-going people in the world, while certainly not in the least priest-ridden. In New York the average of church-goers is probably twenty times greater in proportion than in Berlin—three times greater than in London. In Scotland, the nation, as such, has remained true to its religious creed, when multitudes have been falling away everywhere else. It is manifest, therefore, that this principle of spiritual independence is of the highest importance for maintaining the respect for religion and the hearty sympathy of the Christian laity.

Let the Church be ruled by its own representatives, clerical and lay, and it will retain its influence over the people, and be respected by them. Perhaps this movement, if wisely and successfully carried out, will be the means, by the example given of delivering German Protestantism from its bondage, of a national recovery in Germany from the baneful influence of Rationalism first made by the Churches asserting their freedom, and obtaining independent spiritual power.

THE CANADIAN DOMINION.

The colonial policy of the day is a subject deserving of serious consideration, as it has a manifest and increasing tendency to change the relations which originally subsisted between the mother country and her colonial possessions. The original bond of union between the two—that of dependence and subordination on the one hand, and defence, combined with home rule on the other—has been a great measure superseded by the concession of what may, without impropriety, be denominated federal independence on the part of the colonies, subject only to the two vital national questions, feeling and a reciprocity of friendly intercourse. That such a change in the national policy was an experiment which involved no considerable risk, could not be denied, and accordingly it was at first regarded with some degree of suspicion by men not usually of a timid character. The matter, however, after careful consideration was ventured on, at first in our Australasian territory, where the concession of self-government to the colonists has proved advantageous alike to the new settlement and to the old country. Encouraged by the success which has attended this experiment, our rulers have extended it to the vast range of settlements possessed by Great Britain on the continent of North America.

The extension of the principle in this direction was attended with some difficulty, occasioned by the supposed multiplicity and conflict of interest among the parties on whom the advantages of self-government were about to be conferred. Happily, however, by the application of caution and prudence in adjusting differences of opinion and in regulating mutual concessions such a fusion of interests was brought about as to establish a federal union among the whole of the provinces, and to form the foundation of a large and powerful nation bound to the mother country by the ties of national affinity and reciprocal interests. The Canadian Dominion as this federation has been designated, is a connection of great commercial as well as social importance to this country. This will be readily apparent from the statement that it contains an area of 3,049,146 square miles in extent, or nearly half as large as the vast Russian Empire. The soil and products of so immense a territory are necessarily diversified and varied, but on the whole they are valuable as well as numerous. Generally speaking the soil when cleared of the magnificent trees by which it is frequently encumbered proves rich and yields heavy crops. It is prolific in mineral wealth, and the resources of the country are being developed with a rapid and steady progress. The Dominion is thus spoken of by Mr. Charles Marshall, a recent author on the subject:—

The old-settled, contented, industrious French speaking province of Quebec contains more square miles in extent, than the English speaking, energetic province of Ontario, more square miles than Great Britain, and Ireland, New Brunswick has a greater territory than Holland and Belgium combined. Nova Scotia exceeds Switzerland in size. British Columbia surpasses in extent the whole of the North German Confederation, giving in the South German States to boot. The newly added Far West is vaster than all Russia in Europe, counting in, and counting twice over, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Faro and Iceland.

So much for mere territorial magnitude—the vast range of which abounds in gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal, and lime; it also yields petroleum and other mineral oil in great abundance. Agriculture yields a profitable return for industry. The Canadian Dominion is manifestly destined to be one of the greatest maritime Powers of the world; and within a short time a line of Railway from ocean to ocean across British territory, shorter than the United States Pacific Railway, and much easier of construction, will provide direct communication between Europe and Asia, and form the quickest route to China. The growing prosperity of such a territory is necessarily a matter of deep national concernment, locally considered it is likewise of primary importance. This will be readily apparent from the fact that the sum of £12,893,115 4d was paid in dock rates and dues by the trade of the Dominion with Liverpool in the year ending on 24th of June, 1870, and that it is likewise to be considerably augmented as the general trade of the country increases. In every point of view, then it becomes the interest of the British commercial public to countenance and encourage the rising trade of the newly federated states of the Canadian Dominion.—Liverpool Shipping and Commercial Express.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—At the recent session of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance in Boston, the following statistics, respecting the organization in the British Provinces were presented:—The six Grand Divisions show very little variation, except in number of Divisions, each losing two or more Divisions, except New Brunswick, which has made a gain of two Divisions. Ontario and New Brunswick have increased in number of admissions and each of the others decreased in year 249. The membership has increased in Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec, and decreased in Nova Scotia. The net decrease in membership in the six Grand Divisions is 327.

A STARTLING FACT.—When the subject of Sabbath observance was under consideration in the Presbyterian Synod at St. John, a member from Halifax stated that 25 shops were open on Lower Water Street on the previous Sabbath evening. The statement was startling and hardly creditable. Within the last two months four gentlemen connected with the City Mission undertook to make a careful note of the places they found open for buying and selling on the Lord's Day. The result was that they counted One Hundred and Eighty-two open shops! In a majority of these shops the Lord's Day is kept by an Alderman! Here are facts that cannot but attract the attention of the christian community.—Witness.

OBITUARY.—John T. Compton, Esq., one of the proprietors of the "Evening Express," has passed away from amongst us, after a lingering and painful illness of several months. He was a genial, warm-hearted friend, and scrupulously careful to stand well with the community. He was tenacious of his honor, and both at home and abroad won for himself the esteem and respect of his fellow-men. A sad

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20, 1871.

A week or two ago we remarked on the greatness of the contrast that might be drawn between the events of the summer just ended and of that of 1870. From what we then said, we have nothing to recede. Nevertheless it is evident that, if the occurrences of the seasons recently passed have proved upon the whole of a common-place character, the condition of things generally throughout the civilized world is not satisfactory. Everywhere there seems to be a feeling of unrest and anxiety pervading the public mind. Nothing seems settled. In England much dispute prevails. The public pulse is feverish and irregular. The political current is gliding onward and downward, and none can say whither it flows. The minds of men seem unhealed. Once stable things appear as if breaking away from their moorings. The administration of public affairs is satisfactory to but few. The management of the army and navy is held to be discreditably to the nation. Nobody appears pleased with the existing political condition. With some things move too fast; with others too slow. Some crave for the display of much more pomp and magnificence on the part of the wearer of the crown. Others are clamoring with more than discretion for a republican form of Government. The struggle between labour and capital, heretofore so disastrous in its effects, is far becoming more intense and bitter. Despite the beneficent legislation of recent years, Ireland is still far from being reconciled. Altogether, though Britain is at peace with all the world, is enjoying a large measure of prosperity, is steadily advancing in every