

News of the Churches.

FROME.—The fortieth (40th) Anniversary of the Sunday School was held on the 23rd ult. The reports were very encouraging. The children were the principal performers on the programme. Besides Revs. Cuthbertson and Bristol, (Meth.), two of the former scholars were present, and gave addresses, viz., J. B. & E. D. Silcox. Proceeds amounted to \$20.00.

THE Rev. J. B. Silcox, in visiting his friends here to take farewell before going to the North-west, found an opportunity of preaching, both at Frome and Shedden, on the 26th Dec. Large congregations assembled. He also gave his popular and powerful lecture on "Grip and Grit" on the Tuesday following.

1st Jan. 1881.

EMBRO.—The annual Tea-meeting of the Church was held on the 22nd ult. About 400 sat down to a very excellent tea, after which addresses were given by Revs. Munro, (Presby.), Bartram, (Meth.), Boyd, (Bapt.), and E. D. Silcox. The choir sang some beautiful anthems. D. Matheson, Esq., was in the chair. Proceeds \$90. Since Mr. Salmon's resignation, the pulpit has been filled by ministers of the denomination.

STOUFFVILLE. The Sunday School Anniversary was held on New Year's Eve. There was a large audience present. Mr. Pagan read the report, in which he stated that the school had never been in such a prosperous state. During the year twelve of the scholars had united with the church, and the average attendance had been larger than any previous year. The Treasurer's Report showed an increase in the finances, over \$100 had been raised by the school. After recitations, singing, &c., by the children, gifts, which were hung on a "Temple Arch," were then distributed to the scholars. Among these was a beautiful "music rack," a present to Rev. E. D. Silcox, by his Bible class. Everything passed off very pleasantly. "Centenary medals" were to have been given away, but did not arrive in time.

LONDON.—At a special meeting of the church and congregation, held on the evening of the 23rd ult., the correspondence between the Committee of Supplies and the Rev. H. D. Hunter was laid before the church. The final letter from Mr. Hunter, accepting the call tendered to him by the church, was received with general expressions of pleasure and satisfaction. Mr. Hunter assumes the duties of his new pastorate on the second Sunday, 1881. Coming as he does, in response to a hearty and unanimous call, Mr. Hunter and his new people may look forward to a pleasant time in their relations to each other.

CHEBOGUE, N. S.—Two years ago the pastor commenced Sabbath afternoon services, twice a month, at Sand Beach, between Chebogue and the town of Yarmouth, that vicinity, though sustaining a Union Sabbath School, not having any preaching services nearer than Yarmouth. Although the inhabitants nearly all belonged to other denominations, congregations gradually increased. No remuneration was asked for by the minister or any of his charge on his behalf; nevertheless, at the end of his first year's services, a donation of \$20 was unostentatiously handed to him on leaving the hall. This year, also, with equal quietness, an envelope containing a note signed by thirty-one persons, and also containing \$30, was presented to him as a token of their appreciation of his labors. The following is a copy of the note:—"Rev. J. Shipperley, Dear Sir: Please accept this small token of esteem from your friends in Sand Beach vicinity, with their kind wishes for your welfare, and the hope of your labours at Union Hall being continued and blessed to all who have listened to you there. And we pray that your earnest endeavours to lead souls to Christ in all parts of your vineyard may be followed by an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Read Titus iii. 5."

The 113th Anniversary of the signing of the Covenant by the Church of Chebogue, was commemorated on the 19th Dec., by the preaching of a sermon by the pastor, from Ps. xlviii. 12-14.

—If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.—Franklin.

Literary Notes.

From the Congregational Publishing Co., Boston, we have received "Protestant Foreign Missions, by Dr. Chrie sh," a volume of 260 pages, neatly bound, giving a bird's eye view of the present Foreign Mission field. We have not had time to read it, but shall do so at once, and present a more extended notice in an early number, hoping that the book will find its way into our churches and stimulate Foreign Mission zeal.

I. D. Funk & Co. are bringing out their Standard Series in an octavo form. So marvellously cheap were their reprints that the quarto form, though somewhat out of ordinary proportion, could not be objected to, but hailed with delight; the octavo is now all that could be wished. The two volumes, giving Christmas stories by Dickens, and illustrated, for twenty-five cents each, noticed last week, are published by this House. They advertise fifty-two such volumes for the year at a subscription price of \$10.00, payable in advance. This House has established its reputation for first-class re-issues and none other.

We have also received this year's number of the "Church Miscellany," issued by the First Congregational Church, Kingston, under the editorship of their pastor, Dr. Jackson. Twenty-eight pages of generally interesting matter each month, and six of local interest. Our churches would do well to find out from Dr. Jackson how to issue such a monthly in their own home circle. There are few churches but would be the gainers by such a monthly miscellany.

Scribner's Monthly is about to do a thing perhaps without precedent in our magazines, namely, reprint a serial story which has already run through six numbers of another American magazine.

The serial of Mrs. Burnett, "A Fair Barbarian," which is announced for the "Mid-winter number," is said to be altogether the brightest and most amusing this popular author has ever written.

It will occupy two or three numbers only of *Scribner's*, the first instalment covering about twenty-three pages. It has been printed already in six numbers of another magazine, with a large circulation, but with an entirely different circle of readers.

Mrs. Burnett has revised her story for its re-appearance in *Scribner*, but has made no material change in it.

St. Nicholas.—The January issue, "the New Year's number," is to hand. Among the contents are several capital things which were crowded out of December. "Bright Eyes," the young Indian girl, makes her first contribution to literature in a charming story of Indian child-life. There is an account of "The Children's Fan Brigade," another of the novel entertainments for children's festivals which have been suggested in the pages of *St. Nicholas*; "Every Boy his own Ice Boat," describing a splendid new sport for all skaters; the first of Mrs. Clara Etskine Clement's "Stories of Art and Artists," which are to be one of the special features of *St. Nicholas* during the coming year; one of Frank R. Stockton's funniest fairy stories, a poem by H. H. Boyesen, pictures grave and gay, continuations of the serials, etc., etc. The issue rivals the Christmas number in good things.

Every person engaged in growing fruits or flowers should take a paper, exclusively devoted to these subjects, as is *Purdy's Fruit Recorder and Cottage Gardener*, a monthly of 16 pages at only \$1 per year, published in that great Flower City and fruit section, Rochester, N. Y., but controlled and edited by A. M. Purdy, of Palmyra, N. Y., a life-long fruit grower and florist, and now having over one hundred acres in fruits, flowers, &c., and editing his paper from a *practical* daily experience, and years of close observation and study. Send to him at Palmyra, N. Y., for a specimen copy. It will speak for itself. Or by sending on the subscription price now \$1.00 you get the full volume for 1881, and either of the following premiums, postpaid, now or next spring, as you may choose: The three last numbers for 1880, or Purdy's 64-page Small Fruit work, or either his beautiful Fruit or Flower piece, 13x16 inches, or three assorted pot grown roses, or ten papers assorted choice flower seeds, or one strong root of the most beautiful, hardy and fragrant Honeysuckle grown—the Haleana, or 25 assorted strawberry plants of the best new sorts grown for your latitude, or 6 assorted hardy raspberry plants, or 6 best hardy blackberries.

A NEW VOLUME.—*Littell's Living Age* enters upon its one hundred and forty-eighth volume in January.

Foreign periodical Literature embraces more thoroughly every year the work of the foremost writers in all departments of literature, science, politics and art; and *The Living Age*, which gives in convenient form the best of this literature, can therefore hardly fail to become of more and more value every year to its readers.

The first weekly number of the new year and new volume—a good one with which to begin a subscription—has the following table of contents:—Village Life in New England, by a Non-resident American, *Conte Sary* Review; The Marshal Duke of Llanha, *Quarterly Review*; Lyme Regis; A Splinter of Petrified History, *Cornhill*; The Photophone, *Spectator*; My Holiday in Jamaica, *Chambers' Journal*; Girl and Grandfather, *Temple Bar*; Sir Alexander Cockburn, *Spectator*; Jewish Success and Failure, *Spectator*; and a variety of select poetry. For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,300 pages a year), the subscription price (\$8) is low; Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

In remarkable efforts to gain new subscribers, many publishers seem entirely to overlook those already on their lists. To add many names to their list of subscribers they offer very great inducements, by which they cheapen the paper to those who do not now subscribe for it, while for every one gained, perhaps one or more old subscribers drop off, and take another paper whose inducements to new subscribers sound equally attractive. These publishers in their struggle after a large subscription list lose at one end what they gain at the other, and at the same time depreciate the price of their paper. The *Montreal Witness* is not one of these. Its special endeavor seems to be to increase the value of the paper, so as to make it a necessity, and any very special inducement to new subscribers is made through their old ones, so that the old subscriber gets equal advantage. The special offer this year is the presentation of the celebrated picture, "Christ Leaving the Pratorium," to every old subscriber to the *Weekly Witness* who sends a new subscription with his own, and the new subscriber gets a copy as well. If the names are sent independently of each other, 25 cents in addition to the price of the paper is charged for the picture, or \$1.35 in all. By such means as these, benefiting both old and new subscribers, the *Weekly Witness* and *Northern Messenger* have enjoyed a constantly increasing subscription list, until, together with the *Daily Witness*, it numbers over one hundred thousand.

FARMERS' HELPS.

The *Montreal Weekly Witness* is a paper that devotes especial attention to the Farmers' needs. The Agricultural Department is edited by W. F. Clarke, Esq., Lindenbank, Guelph, who is widely known as at one time the editor of the *Canada Farmer* and more recently the *Witness* lecturer on agriculture. His editorial articles and "Agricultural Letter Box" are especially attractive. The *Witness* Markets are all perfectly reliable and very full. Hardly less valuable is the veterinary columns conducted by D. McEachran, F. R. C. V. S., Principal of the Montreal Veterinary College, and the Dominion Inspector of live stock. His name stands in the front rank of veterinary surgeons on this continent, and the prompt replies given to correspondents are valuable. A "Poultry Column" has just been added, and promises to be of great assistance to poultry farmers, who are growing in number. In the cities and towns especially the raising of fowls is increasing in popularity. While these departments are of especial value to the farmers, the cultivators of the soil in a smaller way, and the gentlemen and ladies who are fond of gardening, are not neglected. The Legal Department, in which all legal questions are answered by one competent to perform this work, is a valuable assistance to all men of business. And then the paper is full of information of especial interest to the family, even the little children have a column to themselves. An especial feature about this paper is that every department is carefully edited, not thrown together hap-hazard, so that those relying on any information given are not likely to be misled. Every subscriber of the *Montreal Weekly Witness* can tell of special offers whereby old and new subscribers are benefited.

ANIMAL LONGEVITY.

A tortoise, which died in the Bishop of Peterborough's garden in 1821, was more than 220 years of age, and one belonging to Archbishop Laud died from neglect at the age of 128 years. As to fishes, the pike has been said to live for 267 years, and the carp for 200 years. It is highly probable that the gigantic salamander may live for a greatly prolonged period, and frogs and toads are probably long-lived animals, small as is their relative size. A toad has been kept for thirty-six years without showing signs of age, and then died through an accident. Whales have been supposed to live from 300 to 400 years. The life of an elephant is said to extend beyond 100 years, but of this there seems as yet to be no certain evidence. Birds, as creatures at once so active and warm blooded (and thus compressing, as it were, much life into a small period), might be expected to be short-lived. Yet parrots have been known to live for upwards of a century, and pelicans, geese, and crows may exceed the period commonly allotted to man. But however commonly three-score years and ten may be the term of human life, man can certainly both live and retain his intellectual faculties more or less beyond 100 years. Yet a horse is generally old at 30, and is not known ever to have attained twice that age. The life of a sheep is of about 15 years' duration, and that of a dog from 15 to 20, although allied animals are much longer-lived. Thus, the lion called Pompey, which died in the Tower of London in 1760, had lived there for no less than 70 years. Extremely varied, then, is the duration of the life of individual organisms. Not less varied are the relations to time of the lives of races, and of different groups of animals and plants. Species, genera, families, orders, and classes of animals and plants, differ extremely as to their period of duration, some of each of these groups appearing to have been but short-lived compared with other divisions of similar rank.—*Contemporary Review*.

LESSON FROM A CHILD.

I remember hearing of a little girl who went to her Sabbath School, and when she came home her mother asked her what she had done at school, and she, in the simplicity of her little soul, said:—"Oh! dear mother, I am afraid I have done nothing; for you know there was little Mary Curtis, whose baby brother was buried this week, and she was so sorry, and she cried so that I cried with her, and I took her hands in mine and kissed her, but it quite took all the lesson out of my head; and poor Sara Miles, who is always behind with her lessons, had them this morning quite perfect; and she was so happy that although she got more tickets than I did, I was quite glad, too." "My dear," said the happy mother, "you have fulfilled the apostle's injunction; you have wept with those that wept, and rejoiced with those that rejoiced."—*Rev. Patten Hood*.

The death of Rev. M. W. Pinkerton, Nov. 10, on his way to the proposed new mission of the American Board in Umzila's kingdom in Southern Africa, must put back this project for six months at least, even if another leader were ready, as the climate is such that no new expedition would attempt to reach that point again from the Zulu Mission until late next spring. No particulars whatever are yet known of Mr. Pinkerton's death, nor can letters reach here for five weeks at least. Mr. and Mrs. Richards, who sailed in October, would reach the Zulu Mission, probably, about this time. They went out with the expectation of going to the new field next summer, their plan being to study the language of Umzila's kingdom (before leaving the coast) for some months, which is largely the same as that spoken by the Zulus, though some nine hundred miles distant. Mr. Pinkerton was a graduate of Ripon and of Chicago Seminary, and had laboured nearly ten years among the Zulus when he came home to America to make preparations to enter the new field.—*Congregationalist*.