

HON. MR. BLAKE at Aylmer, Ontario, refused to pledge himself for prohibition, which he said he could not honestly approve of yet.

HOW KHARTOUM FELL.

By the kindness of Sir John Kirk, British Consul-general to Zanzibar, we have received the following copy of a letter from the Mahdi to his Governor-general of Equatorial Africa, giving details of the capture of Khartoum. This letter was sent to Emin Pacha, Turkish Viceroy of Equatorial Africa, as a proof of Gordon's death, and with a demand for Emin's surrender; thence it was forwarded to Sir John Kirk.

The letter is dated 12 Raab, 1302 (April 28, 1885.) It begins—"From the miserable Mahomed Ahmed, who is called El Mahdi, to his miserable Wali, Karamella El Sheikh.—From the poor slave of God, El Madhi Bin Abdullah, to his friend and Governor:—God grant him," etc.

"I present to you many excellent salaams."

Then—"I inform you, my dear friend, that according to the fulfilled promise of God, the city of Khartoum was entered, by the help of God, on the 9th Rabeen El Akhur (January 29, 1885) at daybreak, through helpers of our religion who were ready and jumped over ditches, acting on the command of the Lord, who rules the whole world. It was in a quarter of an hour or less that they came upon the enemies of the Lord, there cutting them off, even from beginning to end of them. Notwithstanding they were strong with their arms of strength, they fled away before the troops of God.

"Though thinking to obtain safety by entering their enclosures and shutting the doors, they were met face to face and hewn with spears until their cries were terrible. They were cut in pieces at once there upon the ground. Then the troops of God fell upon the rest of the people, who had shut their doors, fearing a like fate.

"They were taken up and killed properly. None were left but little children and slaves. But as to the enemy of God, Gordon, though we had warned him and talked kindly to him, that he might return to God, yet he never did so, because his miserable state was fore-ordained by God.

"Because of his foolishness he was removed by God to the place of His wrath, which is a bad place to remain in. The end of this guilty people is that they were cut off, which—thanks be to God—befalls those who are to receive fire as a reward, while light is reserved for those who shall receive heaven as their dwelling-place.

"There were ten persons only who were killed in this holy strife for Khartoum. The rest of our people received neither wound nor hurt. All this happened by the providence of God, and we bow our heads in thanks to God for the help received from him

"May you also do so. Bow your heads to God and thank His holy name."

This letter is sealed by the Mahdi, and was the first information that Emin Pacha had of Gordon's death and the fall of Khartoum.

In fact, it is the first official information England has received of Gordon's death.

OUR OWN CHURCH AND COUNTRY.

NOVA SCOTIA.

PICTOU ACADEMY GOLD MEDAL.—Mayor McLeod has offered a gold medal to be awarded to the student taking the first place in the grading class of the Academy at the terminal examinations in April next. Mayor McLeod has always taken more than a sentimental interest in the Pictou Academy. We trust that this liberal and considerate act of his Worship's will meet with due appreciation on the part of students and the friends of education, and that it may leave behind it enduring marks of good results. As the "Mayor McLeod Gold Medallist of 1887" must be the first among his fellows, we shall in all probability see him later among the first and most honored of our countrymen.

OBITUARY.—We regret to record the early death of MR. GEO. W. BAILLIE, formerly publisher of this paper, the *Standard*, and others. He was a gentleman of energy, education and fine talent, and many friends will long regret his untimely death, and lovingly cherish his memory. St. Andrew's Church and Sabbath School will miss him, and so will his native city and country.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH.—A couple of ladies of the Watervale Section of St. Luke's Church, Salt Springs, recently called at the Manse, and in behalf of the ladies of Watervale Section presented their pastor, the Rev. James Fitzpatrick, with a large web of blankets for the use of the Manse, accompanied by the following address:—

TO THE REV. JAMES FITZPATRICK:

Rev. and Dear Sir:

The ladies of the Watervale Section of your congregation ask your acceptance of this small present at our hands, not so much on a count of its value as a token of our esteem and regard for you as our pastor. We desire to