

Tartar army, taken Peking the capital, sacked the emperor's summer palace, and intend, it seems, to winter in or near the metropolis. The emperor has fled, so that it may be more difficult to effect a treaty than to conquer the country. Two officers taken prisoners by the Chinese have died from inhuman treatment, and two others, including the Times' correspondent, have not been heard of.

The war in Italy continues, and the late King of Naples is evidently reduced to the last extremity. He still resists in Gaeta, bravely but hopelessly. We wish that we could say that his expulsion is likely to restore peace and happiness to the unfortunate Italians. But a great proportion of the country seems to be in a state of complete anarchy, and placed under martial law. Reaction has taken place in several provinces, and what the end will be no one can tell. The Pope is still in Rome, which the Sardinians appear to be threatening, and will probably soon occupy. Disaffection is spreading in Hungary, and Austria is preparing for the worst. Garibaldi makes no secret of an intended attack upon Venetia in the spring, to meet which 150,000 Austrian troops are already concentrated in that Province.

Matters have assumed a really alarming aspect in the United States. South Carolina has withdrawn from the Union. Several other States are prepared to follow. Arms and munitions of war are being purchased or seized. A military fort has already been destroyed by the Federal troops in order to prevent its falling into the hands of the Secessionists. The excitement in the South is intense, and the falling of a spark will be sufficient to kindle a fearful conflagration. We believe that if a single shot is fired by the troops of the great Republic, it will be the signal for a bloody and merciless civil war. For the North to attempt to coerce the South will be madness, and will lead to an internecine contest which will be a disgrace to modern civilization. If Secession must be, let it, if possible, be peaceful.

The tide of prosperity seems returning to Canada, the excess of customs at the port of Montreal in one month of the present year exceeding the corresponding one of the last by £40,000. The difficulties of the Grand Frank Railway will probably be got over, at least for a time. The increase of traffic on it is enormous, not less than \$19,000 a week, compared with the preceding year.

Times in Nova Scotia are dull and quiet, the complaint being great and general as to the scarcity of money.

A general fast was observed throughout the Province last month in gratitude to Almighty God for the late abundant harvest.

Thursday, the 20th of December, was appointed by the Presbytery of Pictou for the celebration of the Tricentenary of the Reformation. We have not heard how it was observed throughout the country. In St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, a very excellent and appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Herdman to a rather slim audience, considering the strength of the congregation, and we fear it was much the same in other churches. In Halifax the ministers of the three Presbyterian churches were to deliver addresses in Temperance Hall.

Messrs. Cameron, Grant, McGregor and McMillan, were to leave on the 29th ult., and we hope to have welcomed them before our next issue. While we write Pictou harbor is quite open (31st December.)

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1860. YOUNG MEN'S SCHEME.

Oct. Col. St. Andrew's Church, Pictou,	£10 3 0
Col. in St. James' Church, Charlottetown, P. E. I.,	3 5 7
Col. West Branch E. River congregation,	3 2 3
Collection Gairloch congregation,	7 1 3
	£23 12 1

1860. MISSIONARY SERVICES.

Nov., Cash Earltown cong'n,	£8 10 0
Dec., Cape John congregation,	15 8 11
W. B. River John congregation,	10 7 6
E. B. East River congregation,	3 0 0
South River, Antigonish,	4 11 3

£41 17 8

W. GORDON, Treasurer.

Pictou, Decr. 26th, 1860.

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THE RECORD.

We trust that every agent and member of the Church will use every possible exertion to make out large lists for the present year. Much of the prosperity of a Church depends on the manner in which its organ is supported. Our terms 3s. 1½d or 62½ cents per annum, payable in every case in advance. To agents we are willing to allow a commission of say 16 per cent, or for every five subscriptions we will send six copies of the Record.

All communications intended for insertion are to be addressed to the editor, John Costley, Pictou. Those of a business character to Mr. William Jack, Secretary.

The Record will in future be published on the first and third Saturday of each month.