

## RELIGIOUS.

## BAPTIST.

The increase in the membership of the Baptist churches of the United States last year was 1 to every 18.

Rev. A. C. Clout, a Nova Scotian, at present pastor of a Baptist church in Illinois, occupied the pulpit of the First Baptist Church last Sunday.

Owing to ill-health, the Rev. J. Clark, of Nictaux, is about to take a trip to England.

Rev. S. W. Porter has received a call from the Baptist church at Parrboro, to become its pastor.

The Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces commenced its meetings on Saturday last, at Charlottetown. A large number of ministers and lay delegates were in attendance. At the conclusion of a very practical address by the retiring president, B. H. Eaton, on "The Duties of Pastors to their Churches," the election of officers was preceded with, Prof. Jones, of Acadia College, being made president. Rev. C. Goodspeed presented the report on the state of the denomination, showing a net gain of 6 churches and 1778 members, the present membership being 44,230. All the Evangelical churches of the city and vicinity were occupied by members of the convention.

## METHODIST.

Arrangements have been made with the Rev. David Savage and his band to hold special services in Halifax and Dartmouth churches next month.

Rev. T. Watson Smith has returned from England greatly improved in health.

A college for women is about to be erected in connection with the Methodist Syracuse University. It will be the handsomest college building in the State of New York.

## CATHOLIC.

Venerable Father Phalen, of St. Louis, the eloquent preacher and orator has been visiting his brother, Consul General Phalen. On Sunday he preached in St. Mary's, and left on Tuesday morning for a trip through Cape Breton.

The site selected for the new St. Agnes church is one of the most beautiful in the city. It stands in a commanding position overlooking the Arm, and at the juncture of two or three roads.

A picnic in aid of the new St. Peter's church, Dartmouth, to Lawlor's Island on Wednesday, was largely attended and the receipts were large.

## PRESBYTERIAN.

The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has a membership of 182,052, being an increase of 917 on the preceding year. The amount contributed for all purposes during 1886 was £237,300. The missionary income was larger last year than ever before, amounting along with contributions for benevolent purposes to £86,300.

Rev. T. H. Murray has accepted the call to the Presbyterian church at Little River, and will be inducted on the 22nd of September.

Rev. John Moore, of the Presbytery of Boston, occupied the pulpit of Chalmers church on Sunday morning last. He is said to be a lecturer of repute, treating subjects of living interest in a popular and attractive style. It is his intention to deliver a number of lectures during his stay in the Province.

The Foreign Mission Committee, Eastern Division, are desirous of obtaining a successor to the Rev. J. K. Wright, of Couva, Trinidad.

In the Southern Presbyterian Church there are 13 Synods; 69 Presbyteries; 1,116 ministers; 2,236 churches; 150,398 communicants; 12,021 Sunday school teachers, and 98,806 scholars. The contributions for all purposes last year amounted to \$1,415,318.

Principal Grant is meeting with great success in his efforts to raise an endowment of \$250,000 for Queen's College, Kingston.

Rev. R. Geerside having offered himself for foreign mission work, the Foreign Mission Board of Ontario and Quebec have decided to send him to the Telegu mission.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Much interest has been evinced in England over the refusal of a clergyman to marry a woman to an unbaptized man, the court holding that the clergyman had no right to raise any such objection.

We understand that the Rev. George Maynard, of Herring Cove, is greatly beloved by his congregation, and that his knowledge of the sea and seafaring ways makes him an authority among his people. The clergyman who resides in a country parish always finds his influence strengthened when he understands something about agriculture, and so Mr. Maynard finds that his service in Her Majesty's Navy was the best preparatory school in which to be trained for his work among a seafaring people.

Mrs. Gregor, the organist of St. Luke's Cathedral, who is one of the most faithful church workers in the diocese, has at length consented to take a Sunday or two off duty. Her place will be filled by Mr. Boyle.

The appointment of the Rev. Foster Almon as curate of St. Paul's, and of the Rev. Mr. LeMoine as rector of St. Marks, meets with general approval in the respective congregations. Mr. Almon is a churchman of the Evangelical School, but his sincerity and devotion to duty have won him the respect of all his brethren.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## THE BELLS.

Ring out oh joyful bells,  
Your song of thankful praise;  
For many a drooping heart,  
Your melody may raise.

Sweetly chime the bells,  
Over the quiet sea,  
In the calm of the sunset glow,  
Oh! what could sweeter be.

Merrily chime the bells,  
On the perfumed summer air,  
Over the valleys and hills,  
Waking sweet echoes there.

Softly chime the bells,  
And drowsily hum the bees,  
The sun sinks to his rest,  
Behind the tall fir trees.

The bells have ceased to ring,  
But still we faintly hear  
The echo of their chime,  
As it falls on the listening ear.

COLLEEN BAWN.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## BRICKS ON BRICKS.

In your last issue I noticed an article quoted from the Windsor *Tribune*, to which I would like to add a word. The *Tribune* men are evidently not a brickmaker. Three years ago stack brick were worth \$9 per 1000 in Halifax, to-day \$7 is considered by builders a good round price to pay. One of the largest and oldest brick yards on the I. C. R. line has been closed all summer, and not one of them is working to its full capacity. As for Avonport yards and brick, the former are working under very easy sail in spite of the acknowledged great superiority of the latter article. Mr. Walton has burned between 300 and 400,000, and with shortened days and a smaller gang, he may just possibly burn the remaining 2,700,000, but the chances are rather against it, as is quite evident. Mr. Shaw could quite easily double his output, as he has done in past years, but a limited market forbids. If these things indicate a "hum" in the business, the less of it we have the better; a little more would starve out the trade. Ten years ago, just after the St. John fire, brickmakers along this line had completed preparations to supply the St. John markets, but the beautiful foresight and kindly concern of our then highly Liberal Government, throw the duty of American brick, and in a very short time 20 millions of surplus bricks closed the St. John markets, ruining both builders and all N. S. brickmakers together. The result is, brick making is considered the last resort of a broken down manufacturer, and not much is attempted west of Avonport. The great trouble is, the country is not building of brick; in spite of high lumber, builders prefer it for no other reason apparently than that it has been used all along. Another drawback to brickmakers on this line is the unfair discrimination against the W. & A. R. at Halifax, by which our cars are charged \$1 and \$2 more per car for shunting than those of the I. C. R. Freight being excessive is bad enough, but when this additional burden is added it just about cleans profits up.

We have plenty of brick, Mr. Editor, but we don't claim the "hum" part at all, and, unless public opinion as to material changes much within a few years, do not expect to claim it.

BRICKS.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## WOODEN BRIDGES.

SIR,—I am informed that there still remain two (2) wooden bridges on the line of the Intercolonial railway.

I take leave to suggest that the most earnest representations should be made to the Government at Ottawa to have these bridges converted without delay to iron ones.

There may be confusion and mystery connected with certain railway disorganizations, but in this case we have a clear principle, of which we know beforehand the effects in action. We want no repetitions of the Chatsworth horror in Canada.

The United States Government is said to be troubled with a plethora of means. That money could surely be put to no better use than in making iron and steel railway bridges universal in those States.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Quebec, 15th August, 1887.

CANADIAN.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## PUBLIC RAILWAY ORGANIZATION.—THE TRUE REMEDY FOR A GREAT PUBLIC EVIL.

What will be considered the most unaccountable phenomenon in connection with the late fearful Railway catastrophe at Chatsworth, Illinois, by any person of common sense, who shall have given the needful reflection to the subject, is, that the tremendous shock sustained by the hearts and feelings of the people generally by the dreadful sacrifice of lives and appalling repetitions of the sight or the recital of wounds and maimings, and crushed extremities of valued fellow-citizens, or dear friends of both sexes and all ages; and the thought of the broken hearts and lives of near connections that must be the result in the immediate future; that this acute, bitter and tremendous blow to the general heart and conscience has led to no universal