

The religious census of Upper Canada, so far as returns are made, is as follows:—Episcopalians, 79,754—Presbyterians, 78,383—Methodists, 61,088—Roman Catholics, 43,029—Baptists, 12,963—No professed religion, 34,706—No returns for, 67,558. Total—403,346.—*Ibid.*

#### CEYLON.

It may be in the recollection of some of our readers that, a considerable time ago, an application was received by the Committee from a large number of the most influential and respectable inhabitants of Ceylon, praying for the appointment of a minister of the Church of Scotland to labour in that island, and transmitting a list of contributions for the erection of a place of worship at Colombo. (See Record, February 1839.) This application was reported to the Government, and was favourably received. A salary was fixed for a minister at Colombo, and the Committee were asked to recommend one. After various inquiries, the Committee have recently named the Rev. John G. Macvicar of Dundee, presently parochial assistant in St. George's Parish, Edinburgh, as an individual eminently fitted for that sphere of labour.—Of the qualifications of Mr. Macvicar it would be unbecoming to say more than this, that while his varied acquirements, fine taste, and accurate and extensive scholarship, as well as his superior talents, cultivated to the highest point, fit him for taking a commanding and influential position in such a station as Ceylon, his piety and zeal give assurance, by the Divine blessing, of eminent usefulness in the ministerial and missionary field of labour which will there be open to him. We trust that this is but the beginning of a more extensive Presbyterian establishment in that quarter of the world.—*Miss. Record.*

The number of meeting-houses belonging to the Society of Friends in the United Kingdom, at the present time is 419; they meet in 236 of these twice on each Sabbath-day for Divine worship; in 141 they assemble only once on that day; and in forty-two of them that once is occasionally omitted. There are 298 out of these 419 congregations destitute of any minister, leaving only 121 supplied by ministers.—There are only 232 ministers in the whole connexion; 151 are women, and eighty-one men.—*London Record.*

The Rev. David N. Sheldon, for some years past in the service of the American Board of Baptist Missions as a Missionary in Paris, arrived in the Packet from Boston, for the purpose of taking charge of the Granville Street Church during the winter. Mr. Sheldon arrived in New York in November, from France, with his family, which he has left in the United States. We sincerely hope his ministry may be blessed, and his visit made abundantly profitable to the church and congregation during his stay in the Province.—*Christian Messenger.*

#### POLITICAL SUMMARY.

Extracts from the President's Message to Congress, have already appeared in most of the Colonial papers. But these relate rather to the Foreign connections, than the Internal condition of that vast Republic. More than one half of the Message, is occupied with a long and melancholy detail of the evils arising from unlimited credit, the suspension of specie payments by the Banks, the derangement of business, and the dependance of the nation upon British credit and capital. The bitterest enemies of Republican Institutions could not wish for a more gloomy picture of their mischievous tendencies, than what has been here drawn by the President of the most enlightened Republic in the world, who declares that not only individuals, but the State Legislatures, have from improper motives supported the Banks even when violating faith with the public; that the value of property, and the prosperity of trade throughout the whole country depend upon a few Banking Institutions in New-York and Philadelphia, and these in their turn depend for their existence upon London, the centre of the credit system; so much so, that the introduction of a New Bank into the most distant of their villages places the whole business of that village within the money power of England.

"The weight which presses," adds the alarmed President, "upon a large portion of the people and States, is an enormous debt, foreign and domestic.—The foreign debt of our States, corporations, and men of business, can scarcely be less than two hundred millions of dollars, requiring ten millions of dollars a year to pay the interest. This sum has to be paid out of the exports of the country, and must of

necessity cut off imports to that extent, or plunge the country more deeply in debt from year to year. It is easy to see that the increase of this foreign debt must augment the annual demand on the exports to pay the interest; and to the same extent diminish the imports; and in proportion to the enlargement of the foreign debt, and the consequent increase of interest must be the decrease of the import trade."

"In lieu of the comforts which it now brings us, we might have our gigantic banking institutions, and splendid, but, in many instances, profitless railroads and canals, absorbing to a great extent, in interest upon the capital borrowed to construct them, the surplus fruits of national industry for years to come, and securing to posterity no adequate return for the comforts which the labors of their hands might otherwise have secured. It is not by the increase of this debt that relief is to be sought, but in its diminution. Upon this point, there is, I am happy to say, hope before us, not so much in the return of confidence abroad, as in a change of public feeling at home, which prompts our people to pause in their career, and think of the means by which debts are to be paid, before they are contracted."

"Let it be indelibly engraved on our minds that relief is not to be found in expedients. Indebtedness cannot be lessened by borrowing more money, or by changing the form of the debt. The balance of trade is not turned in our favor by creating new demands upon us abroad. Our currency cannot be improved by the creation of new banks, or more issues from those which now exist. Although these devices sometimes appear to give temporary relief, they almost invariably aggravate the evil in the end. It is only by retrenchment and reform, by curtailing public and private expenditures, by paying our debts, and by reforming our banking system, that we are to expect effectual relief, security for the future, and an enduring prosperity."

The Legislature of Newfoundland have passed a law offering a reward of £5 for every skin of a wolf killed in the province, and a society has been formed in St. John's for the especial purpose of destroying wolves.

Jamaica papers have been received at New York, to the 2d December. The Session of the Legislature of the Island opened on the 22d October. The sincerity evinced by the new Governor General Sir C. Metcalfe, is said, to have made him generally respected and regarded, and the work of legislation was going on rapidly and with cordiality, which had long been wanting, between the different branches.

#### LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

*Monday, Jan. 6.*—The thanks of the house were given to the Delegates, Messrs. Young and Huntington, for their services in England.

*Tuesday, Jan. 7.*—A Bill introduced by Mr. McKim to empower two Justices of the peace to try actions for debt and trover, in certain cases, was referred to a Committee. Mr. Huntington moved for a committee to wait on the Lieutenant Governor, to obtain a statement of moneys paid for the last ten years, for damages done to lands through which Roads had been opened, with the names of the parties to whom such moneys were paid.

*Wednesday, Jan. 8.*—The Grand Jury Bill was sent down from the Council agreed to, with a slight amendment. A Committee consisting of Messrs. Howe, Fairbanks, Upham, Forrester, Bell, DeWolf, Holland, Young and Lewis, was appointed, "with a view to establishing a better system of Education, by assessment or otherwise." In the preliminary discussion, the present system was unsparingly reprobated; and, so far as expressed, a pretty general feeling of the necessity of assessment seemed to pervade the House.

A Petition was presented from Lunenburg, stating that the Revd. Mr. Cochran having been appointed by the Trustees of the Academy there, (towards which £50 had been granted by the House of Assembly last Session), to officiate, *pro tempore*, until a competent teacher could be procured, had neglected his duty. The petition was accompanied by a Memorial from the Rev. Donald A. Fraser in support of it. It was moved, and we believe agreed to, that copies of these documents, which were referred to the Education Committee, should be furnished to Mr. Cochran.—Mr. Huntington introduced a Bill for the settlement of a Civil List, and the commutation of the casual and territorial revenues.

*Thursday, Jan. 9.*—A committee consisting of Messrs. Lewis, DeWolf, Waterman, McKim and Holland, was appointed, on motion of Mr. Lewis, "to enquire into the causes and progress of the evils arising from the intemperate use of ardent spirits in the province," with power to send for persons and papers.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor gave his assent to the Grand Jury Bill.

*Friday, Jan. 10.*—Mr. Doyle's Bill for limiting the

duration of the General Assembly to four years passed, and was ordered to be engrossed.

*Saturday, Jan. 11.*—Mr. Morton introduced a Judiciary Bill. A Petition was presented from the Medical Practitioners and other inhabitants of Halifax, praying aid in the erection of a Public Hospital. Mr. McKim's Bill to enable Justices of the Peace to try causes of trespass and trover was agreed to, with an amendment; also a Bill to divide the Township of Douglas, and establish its boundaries; and a Bill to establish the limits of the Township of Rawdon. A Bill to reduce the expenses of Suits at Law and Judgment by Confession, was referred to Messrs. Archibald, Fairbanks and Young.

*Monday, Jan. 13.*—Mr. Morton's Judiciary Bill was deferred till this day three months. Mr. Young introduced a Bill for abolishing the Inferior Courts.

#### ST. PAUL'S DISTRICT VISITING SOCIETY.

A Society has lately been formed in this Parish, for the instruction of the poor in the principles of the Christian Religion, and at the same time promoting their temporal comfort and happiness. The Society is composed of the Rector of the Parish as President, of the Honourable the Chief Justice, and the Curate of the Parish, Vice Presidents, of a Committee of seven or eight gentlemen, and of such visitors as may be from time to time appointed, all being members of the Church of England. The Parish has been divided into districts, each of which is placed under the charge of one or more visitors, who are furnished with Loan Tracts, and are expected to seize and improve every opportunity which may be afforded to them, for advancing the best interests of the poor and ignorant, by pressing upon them the duty of attending upon the public worship of God, of sending their children to Sunday Schools, and whenever possible, to day schools, of assembling their families for morning and evening worship, and above all, of devoting some portions of every day to private prayer and meditation upon the word of God. The object this society has in view is excellent and praise-worthy, the field of its labour is sufficiently ample and too much neglected, and every institution of this nature, which is intended to promote the glory of God and the happiness of man, has our best wishes for its prosperity and usefulness.

*Society for the Encouragement of Trade and Manufactures.*—The Annual Meeting of this Society was held on Friday at the Exchange Coffee House, the Hon. Michael Tobin in the chair. The Report, an able document, presenting an account of the proceedings of the Society, was read by the Secretary, David Allison, Esq. and adopted.

The following Gentlemen were chosen a Committee for the ensuing year.—

S. Binney, D. Allison, Joseph Howe, Michael Tobin, junr, G. P. Lawson, W. A. Black, J. L. Starr, M. B. Almon, Thos. Williamson, Daniel Starr, Thos. R. Grassie, J. C. Allison, T. C. Kinnear, J. G. A. Creighton, and E. Cunard, junr. Esquires.

*BANK STOCK.*—On Saturday, agreeably to notice previously given, the sale of 500 shares in the Stock of the Bank of Nova-Scotia, took place at the Bank. The whole were disposed of at an advance upon the par price of the shares, which shews the very favourable opinion entertained by the public of the Stock of this Institution.—*Journal.*

*TEMPERANCE.*—A Society was formed at Truro, on the 20th ult. under the name of the Colchester "Temperance Society," and Rules framed for its government, "to which upwards of fifty of the most respectable inhabitants of the County subscribed their names." The following gentlemen were unanimously elected office bearers.

George R. Grassie, Esq. *President*; Doctor Lynds, and Mr. Robert C. Blair, *Vice Presidents*; Doctor Carritt, A. G. Archibald, Esq. Mr. John Dunlap, Mr. R. O. Christie, Mr. Charles Tucker, Mr. John D. Christie, Mr. Charles Blanchard, *Committee of Management*; Mr. William Dill, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

#### To Correspondents

We beg to return our best thanks to the Rev. H. McKenzie, of Wallace, for his letter, received last week, transmitting the names of Five additional subscribers; also to Angus Sutherland, Esq. of Roger's Hill, Pictou, for a favour of the same description; and to express our hope that our Agents and Friends in other quarters, will not relax in their exertions.

We have been compelled to postpone the publication of several important articles, but shall endeavour to find room for them in our next.

#### PASSENGERS.

In the Acadian for Boston—Mrs. Pridham and family; Mr. Lambier and brother; Miss Curavan; Messrs. Smithers, Jacobs, J. Donaldson, and 3 in the steerage.

For the Remainder of Halifax Head See page 238.