

FOR THE CHURCH TIMES.

## PARISH MEETING IN ST. MARGARET'S BAY.

At a general Parish Meeting held in St. Paul's Church, for the purpose of considering the propriety of erecting a Parsonage-house for the Assistant Minister, in the Lower Ward, it was unanimously resolved, that the Parish Church, which is now in a state of decay, be first thoroughly repaired, and that in the meantime donations and subscriptions may be received for a Parsonage to be built when the other work is completed.

The Rev. J. Stannage promised £50 to each object, out of funds at his disposal obtained in England, so soon as a sufficiency—contributed by the people.

A purse worth £15, chiefly made up of the shillings of the fishermen, was presented to Mr. Stannage as a small token of what they would do if they could to express their gratitude for his exertions in their behalf—and which Mr. S. requested should go towards paying off the arrears due on his salary.

St. Margaret's Bay, Nov. 27, 1854.

## The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1854.

## ADVENT.

It is not easy to realise that we are arrived at the commencement of another ecclesiastical year, and that to-morrow will be the first of those Sundays in Advent which precede another anniversary of the Redeemer's birth. Yet so it is, and time in its swift winged flight has brought us to the period at which the voice of the Church addresses to us her annual call, to prepare for another celebration of the Lord's first visit in great humility, by turning our thoughts to his second coming to judge the quick and dead. It has ever been regarded by the faithful, as a solemn and interesting season,—mingled with holy gladness,—and surely there is much in the present condition of the Church and of the world, to impart more than usual seriousness to the reflecting mind. We have "wars and rumours of wars—nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom—pestilences and earthquakes in divers places"—changes and commotions in progress, of which we in vain endeavour to scan the results. It is to be feared that all this is but "the beginning of sorrows"—the mere entrance upon scenes of greater tribulation—all intended however for the purification of the Church, and the preparation of the Redeemer's way. It behoves us all, if we would lift up our hands as those whose redemption draweth nigh, to lift up our hearts first, in fervent and continual prayer, for grace to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light—remembering, that however distant the "Great Day of the Lord" may seem to be, the closing hour of our own pilgrimage will be to each of us much the same—the sealing up of our souls to the final Judgment.

We would recommend to such of our readers as possess them, to turn to the Advent sermons of the late Rev. W. Cogswell, of St. Paul's, as published in the 1st. vol. of his Sermons—and also in a smaller and separate form. Not a few in this community will remember them as they came from the lips of that gifted and lamented servant of the Lord, while many who heard them are, with himself, in the world of Spirits,—a consideration which should quicken us who "remain and are ready to die," to new vigour and activity in running the race that is set before us.

Our readers will not be surprised after what has recently appeared, to learn that Archdeacon Wilberforce has gone over to Rome. Better so, than remain, eating the bread of the Church, while undermining her walls. The sooner all of the same kidney take their flight the better for the cause of truth, and for the welfare of our Zion. And yet it is a sad reflection that two sons of that noble champion of civil and religious liberty, and eminently pious and devoted ornament of the Church of England, the excellent William Wilberforce, should have thus brought a blot on so fair a name. Of course the most is made, by the other side, of catching such a well-planned bird as an Archdeacon, in their net. But the same Journal that chronicles that conversion announces *per contra* the reception of *contrite* converts from the Roman Catholic Church into a single Parish Church—that of St. Paul's, Bermondsey, already famous for the enrolment of hundreds in the same good way. Indeed it may be safely affirmed, notwithstanding the flourish of trumpets and shouts of victory, which accompany each desertion from our ranks, that for one that leaves us, a hundred join us from the other side.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia will meet this day for the dispatch of business, but too late to en-

ble us to give our readers the opening Speech of his Excellency, in this number. No doubt it will present, as truly it may, a flattering picture of the resources and general prosperity of our Country.—With a largely increased Revenue, a growing and widely extending commerce, productive fisheries, abundant harvest, remunerative labour in all departments of industry, public works of vast importance auspiciously begun, and the blessing of uninterrupted public health within our borders,—the labours of our Legislators certainly commence under most favourable circumstances. It is to be hoped that the demon of party strife may not any more rise up to mar the prospect, but rather, that, weary with past contentions all may henceforth strive together for the public good, and let this the closing scene in the political existence of the present House, be distinguished by greater harmony than those which have preceded it. A new administration will now be on its trial, and it remains to be seen how far it will retain the support of the country. A long session is predicted, and an important one it certainly will be, to the interests of the Province. May all concerned look up to Divine wisdom for direction and blessing upon their endeavours for the public good.

The sympathies and benevolence of the British public, which are never appealed to in vain, have been powerfully aroused in behalf of our brave sick and wounded in the armies and navy of the East. Large sums have been subscribed for their relief. A regularly organised band of female nurses under the superintendance of Mrs. Nightingale, and with the sanction of Government, have proceeded to the scene of action, to cheer the hearts and soothe the sufferings of the brave fellows who have gone forth to fight our battles.

We are pleased to hear that some of our Nova Scotian ladies are sharing heart and hand in this good work. We heard of one, the widow of a field officer, who expressed the noble desire of quitting the comforts of London to be useful in that work of mercy and love. Others too, natives of this city, who are sojourning in the neighbourhood of the scene of bloodshed, are actively engaged in the same way. Nor are the still higher interests of the souls of our countrymen forgotten. It will be seen that additional Chaplains have been provided partly at the expense of Government and partly of the S. P. G. F., some of whom had already proceeded to their destination. They will have indeed to "endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ"—sharing the dangers and privations of those to whom they are going to minister. But thank God there will be no lack of persons ready and willing to go forth under the banners of their Divine Master, to bear the consolations of his Gospel to His suffering members.

We refer our readers to the Telegraphic reports, for the additional News received since our last. It is painfully interesting, and quite enough to make us fear that there has been a dreadful sacrifice of valuable life, during the three days of fierce combat between the opposite armies.

Reinforcements are urgently called for, and have on the part of the French, been promptly sent forward. No doubt a large force from England also, has by this time reached the scene of war. It is infinitely to be regretted, that a much larger army had not been sent before, which would probably have saved the lives of thousands of our brave soldiery, and hastened a victorious result. It was a well known saying of the late Duke, that "England should have no little wars"—but should send at once a force more than sufficient for the object in hand. We shall probably have to wait longer than usual for direct and detailed accounts, as it is said there will be no Cinere Steamer next week, in consequence of two being taken up by Government for the conveyance of troops. In all probability the Regiments now in these Colonies will be soon ordered home, and their place supplied by the local Militia.

MISSIONARY.—An interesting letter appears in the last "Morning Chronicle" from the Rev. John Iggiis, Missionary at Anteaum in the New Hebrides, to the Rev. John Sprout of Musquodoboit. The writer speaks most favourably of Mr. and Mrs. Geddie, Missionaries to the same Island from the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, through whose instrumentality a most wonderful and happy change has taken place in the moral and religious character of the inhabitants. "From being the most degraded of heathens they are now a professedly Christian people." In every Christian settlement there is a school house and a teacher—and the whole Christian population attend school. This is more than can be said of Nova Scotia. A new Church was recently

opened, when 1000 natives were present, behaving with perfect decorum. Another is building to hold 700 persons. What is best of all is, that those lately benighted heathens do hear in their own tongue "the wonderful works of God," the Scriptures having been partially translated by the Missionary and printed for them at Sydney. We have noticed this Mission before, in connexion with a visit paid to it by Bishop Selwyn of New Zealand—and founded and conducted as it is by Nova Scotians, whose labours are evidently blessed of God, we cannot but feel peculiarly interested in it, and we sincerely wish God's speed to those who have abandoned kindred and home for the noble object of winning souls from darkness to light, and planting the standard of the Cross in the strongholds of Satan.

In the communication of a "Resident" in our last, the writer alludes to the want of local Church news in this paper, and suggests that the clergy and laity should do something to supply the deficiency. We have over and over again suggested the same thing and implored the help of the numerous pens which are adapted to such a work, but hitherto in vain. Historical sketches of each mission are especially desirable, and would form valuable data for a future history of the Church in Nova Scotia. At the same time that we re-echo the hints of our correspondent, we would plead for brevity. As a general rule, no communication should exceed one column, and in most cases may be profitably condensed within those limits. One advantage of this, and that not a small one, would be to insure the reading of what has thus been moderately put together. We have been obliged to divide the communication of a Resident, and that of Orito.

The new provisional Bishop of New York, Dr. Horatio Potter, was to have been consecrated on the 22d inst., and the sermon to be preached by the Bishop of Montreal.

The Supreme Court has been sitting in this City for the last ten days. There is a full Bench, and we are glad to hear that the Venerable Chief Justice is able to take an active part in the duties of his exalted position. There are unhappily several criminal cases of an aggravated character—three of murder—the trials for which are to commence on next week.

We are sorry to find that Cholera still prevailed at St. John's N. F. at latest dates, carrying off some 30 or 40 persons daily—a fact which should awaken afresh our gratitude to Him, who still preserves us, while so many have fallen, on either hand. It behoves us, however, "not to be high minded but fear"—and while still using all human precautions, to continue also to humble ourselves under His mighty hand—who can soon direct the march of the Destroyer to our hitherto favoured land.

Added to the numerous and distressing disasters by sea, already chronicled in 1854, is a recent one on the coast of New Jersey, whereby the Am. ship *New Era* became a total wreck on the 12th ult. She was from Bremenhaven, with originally 110 souls on board, of whom 39 died at sea, 155 escaped from the wreck, and 216 met a watery grave. The Captain, officers and crew are greatly blamed for leaving the ship, without making due exertions to save the unfortunate passengers. How few think, while putting up the Church's prayer for all persons "travelling by land and by water", what urgent call there is for such intercessions, perhaps at the very moment of their utterance, in some quarter or another of this world of the dead and dying!

A dreadful collision took place in Boston Harbour between the *Canada*, Cunard Steamer, and another called the *Ocean*, in consequence of which the latter was set on fire, and ultimately sunk. There were between one and 200 passengers on board the *Ocean*. It does not seem quite certain how many lives were lost. Three are mentioned in the account, besides several dangerously hurt. The wonder is, considering the frightful confusion and panic which prevailed, that the loss of life was not far greater.

We call attention to an item in this day's paper, detailing a noble instance of self-sacrifice in the cause of humanity, on the part of Dr. Mackenzie, and Dr. Thomson, of the army, after the battle of Alma. The noble deed is finely sung in a poetical contribution to that singular publication *Punch*, and we will give the piece in our next.

## LETTERS RECEIVED.

From Mr. O. Holt—the Books sent by this morning's Coach. From Rev. Mr. Morris, directions will be attended to. From Mr. W. R. Cochran. From Rev. J. S. Smith, from Rev. E. J. Clarke, directions attended to. From Gen. E. Jess, Esq., with order for £2 10s—directions will be attended to—the previous order was received. From Rev. G. Shrove.