

GENERAL READING

THE SOCIABLE.

(Irreligious Boston Traveller.)

They carried pie to the parson's house
And scattered the floor with crumbs,
And marked the leaves of his choicest books.

They piled his dishes high and thick,
With a lot of unwholesome cake,
While they gobbled the buttered toast and rolls.

They hung around Clyde's classic neck
Their apple parings for sport,
And everyone laughed when a clumsy lout Spilt his tea in the piano-forte.

Next day the parson went down on his knees,
With his wife, but not to pray:
Oh no, 'twas to scrape the grease and dirt From the carpet and stairs away!

"BILLY" DAWSON THE YORKSHIRE FARMER.

REV. J. BERTHAM.

William Dawson was born at Garforth, near Leeds, on March 8th, 1778. In his childhood he went to Harrow, in Yorkshire, and lived there till within four years of his death. His mother was a godly woman and brought up her children in the fear of the Lord.

Mr. Dawson had offers and thoughts of entering the ministry of the Church of England, but after some delay, threw up his lot among the Methodists. It was no half-hearted assent. The whole man was given to the service of the Church of his choice.

William Dawson was a man. He was nearly six feet high, well-built, of good appearance and open countenance. His best attire on Sundays was corduroy or plain velvet breeches, thick solid "top boots."

sun possesses a fulness of light and heat, on purpose to bestow upon those who stand in need of it, without money and without price.

As a preacher Mr. Dawson was remarkably popular and very useful. It was not an hour's pastime to listen to his burning eloquence.

I was informed by a person who heard him preach in Liverpool, that he produced a wonderful impression, by describing a vessel, supposed to be lost, returning in safety.

Want of space forbids our writing about his use of the hymn book in preaching. His fame was national as a platform speaker.

He died at the age of 68 years, and was buried amid weeping multitudes at Barwick.

WHAT THRIFT AND INDUSTRY CAN DO.

The other day we fell upon our representative man. It required no skill to interview him; he gave us at once, in a pleasant ride of a few miles, his entire confidence, and volunteered to open for our interested inspection his whole business life.

"To-day, after dinner," was the characteristic reply; and at it he went. He worked so diligently, not counting the hours, that he made it pay him over a dollar a day.

He was a shoemaker in Lynn during the war. These were the best times. Good workmen were enabled some years to earn large amounts of money.

He carried away from Lynn, with his previous savings, three thousand dollars, to an adjoining town, where he found an opening in a rather and more regular business, when he discovered that the multiplication of machinery was constantly making the position of the workmen in shoe towns more and more precarious.

So my friend, who was both a Christian man and a very pronounced temperance man, whiled away very profitably the half hour taken by our ride from Lynn to the place of his residence.

THE VALUE OF WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS.

It is not an uncommon thing to hear disparaging remarks about the value of written examinations in an educational system. We freely admit that such examinations can be conducted in such a way as to become positively mischievous instead of beneficial.

spelling, it is impossible not to feel regret if not surprise, at the apathy existing on the subject. As specimens of school-boy answering at written and oral examinations the following are worthy of attention.

"Where is Turkey?" "Turkey is the capital of Norfolk." "Where is Turin?" "Turin is the capital of China, the people there lives on birds nests and have long tails."

"What do you know about the patriarch Abraham?" "He was the father of Lot, and had two wives—wan was called Hishmael and t'other Havgur.

"Give the names of the books of the Old Testament?" "Devenshire, Exeter, Littikus, Numbers, Stronomy, Jupiter, Judges, Ruth, &c."

"What is a miracle?" "Den't know." "If you saw the sun shining at midnight what would you call it?" "The moon."

Another boy, giving his impressions in regard to Moses, wrote as follows: "He was an Egeyphin. He lived in a bark maid of bull rusers, and he kep a golden calf, and worship braiken snakes, and he bet nuthin but twales and manne: for forty years.

"What is meant by conscience?" said a schoolmaster to his class. The almost simultaneous reply of half their number was: "A hinward monitor."

"A hinward monitor." An inspector who happened to be present inquired: "And what do you understand by monitor?" To this an intelligent youth exultingly youth answered: "A hironclad."

FAMILY READING.

DEAN STANLEY AND THE CHILDREN.

At a special service for children in Westminster Abbey, Dean Stanley delivered an address to the children:—"Love honest work, love to get knowledge, never be ashamed of saying your prayers morning and evening.

PAY YOUR DEBTS.

1 If you wish to receive the reputation of being an honest man, pay your debts. 2 If you would avoid bringing disgrace upon the church of which you are a member pay your debts.

and by night. No Christmas present can be so welcome to any father or mother or friend as the belief that their children are growing up truthful, manly, courageous, courteous, unselfish and religious; and do not think that any of these things are too much for any of you.

BEFORE THEY CALL I WILL ANSWER.

A Dutch preacher one evening held a meeting in a strange city. While he was preaching, and enforcing upon the hearts of his hearers the doctrine of the cross a police-officer came into the room and forbade him to go on.

On arriving, he heard a voice in the house; and as he drew nearer he discovered that a man was praying. Joyful, he hoped that he had found here the home of a brother.

PAY YOUR DEBTS.

1 If you wish to receive the reputation of being an honest man, pay your debts. 2 If you would avoid bringing disgrace upon the church of which you are a member pay your debts.

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No Christmas present welcome to any father or mother as the belief that their growing up truthful, manly, courteous, unselfish and do not think that any of us are too much for any of us.

sight of God and man, pay your debts. 14. Should your debts be ever so old, or should you have taken the benefit of the "bankrupt act," if you have the means, if you have the means, you are not a just man unless you pay your debts.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

FIRST QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B. C. 515. LESSON II. THE DEDICATION; or, A Gift to the Lord. Jan. 12.

EXPLANATORY.

Verse 14. Elders of the Jews. A general term applied to all who possessed the authority of office or the influence of rank. They prospered. 1. "Those who follow the commandment of God and labor in his cause are certain of final success."

15. Finished. The promise of God by Zechariah (Zech. 4, 7), was verified. The hand which had laid the corner-stone twenty years before, now inserted the cap-stone. 6. "He who inspires and directs his workers will crown his work with completeness." Ador. The last month in the ecclesiastical year, from the new moon of March to that of April.

"At every dedication to God there must be a sacrifice, something surrendered by self and given up to the Lord." Bullocks... lambs. The contrast was great between this sacrifice and the countless thousands slain at the dedication of the first temple. (1 Kings 8, 5, 63.) yet perhaps the cost to the people may have been greater, and the service fully as acceptable to the Lord.

19, 20, 21, 22. Passover. The greatest of the Jewish feasts, held in the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, and commemorating the departure from Egypt. Purified. No priest could fulfill the service of killing the passover-lamb unless he were ceremonially clean. Nor could the passover be eaten by any persons who had contracted legal defilement.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. Hag. 2, 9.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Consecration to God.

The next lesson is Neh. 2, 1-8.

APPLES are abundant this year, as everybody knows, and comparatively cheap. It would be well to take advantage of this circumstance and use them plentifully. In ordinary household, if children—those in ordinary health—are allowed free access to the apple barrel, the doctor will be likely to have more leisure and fewer bills to present during the coming winter.

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1879.

Another boundary passed; another stage in Time's journey concluded. What has been its record? Regrets now are useless, except in the sense of genuine repentance. The past has vanished: the future alone is ours. Is there a probability that the close of this year will find us nearer heaven? If that is to be realized we must resolve—

1. To live well. That includes usefulness, prayerfulness, watchfulness.

2. To cultivate self-denial. It is impossible to indulge every passion, or even any passion for twelve months, and come out at the close with a good conscience or a pure heart.

3. To grow in grace. That is the spiritual law. There can be no goodness where there is not growth, and no real growth where there is not goodness.

Wouldst thou live long? The only means are these—
Live Galen's diet, or Hippocrates';
Live to live well; tread in the upright ways,
And rather count thy actions than thy days;
Then thou hadst lived enough amongst us here,
For every day well spent, I count a year.
Live well, and then, how soon soe'er thou die,
Thou art of a. c. to claim eternity.
But he that outlives Nestor, and appears
To have passed the date of gray Methuselah's years,
If he his life to sloth and sin doth give,
I say he only WAS—he did not LIVE.

THE RECENT EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

We cannot permit the opportunity to pass without some notice of the Annual Convention of the Educational Association of Nova Scotia, which was recently held in Dalhousie College, Halifax. It was our privilege to be present at several of its sessions, and we experienced more than a common pleasure in witnessing the warm interest that is manifestly taken in the educational work of this Province. As we looked upon the members of the teaching profession present, and listened to the eloquent and practical addresses of the several speakers, we were deeply impressed with the conviction, that the free-school system of Nova Scotia is both popular and effective; and that this result is largely owing to the able corps of enthusiastic workers associated in the art and science of teaching. Never did the youth of any previous age enjoy such liberal educational advantages as are brought to our doors to-day. One could not but recall the exclamation of Philip of Macedon, when he said: "I thank the gods that they have given me a son, and that they have given him in times when Aristotle can teach him." But if it be true, as has been said by a high authority, that "what was knowledge in the centuries long since passed is ignorance now,"—of which we have instances in the Ptolemaic system of astronomy reversed by Newton, and Bacon's inductive method of philosophy superseding Aristotle's deductive method—then the fathers and mothers of our own day have far more reason to be thankful for their sons and daughters, now that they are provided with such institutions of learning as are supplied in the free public schools of this Province. It was gratifying to observe, moreover, from the tone of the discussions, that the men and women to whom are entrusted the training and moulding of the mind of our youth, are duly impressed with the true dignity of their work; and this is evidently because they are fully aware of the solemn importance of that work. Their aim was declared to be to put the youthful mind in possession of its individual faculties, to direct them in a wholesome activity, and above all to subordinate the acquisition of learning and culture to the development of character. Their work was felt to be permanent, as well as paramount, like the impress of the medal to which Wordsworth refers in the lines—

"Of the medal faithful to its trust
When temples, columns, towers, are laid in dust."
So the impressions that are made by the teacher upon the plastic mind of youth survive the obliterations of Time and the shocks of change, and stand among the innovations of revolving years, distinct in their individu-

alities, like Cleopatra's Needle amidst the unrest and metamorphoses of modern London.

Mr. Payson, of England, once said something like this: "If God were to place in your hand a diamond and tell you to inscribe upon it some sentence which shall be read in the last day, and shown there as an index of your own mind, what care, what caution would you exercise in the selection!" And that is precisely the work of the teacher. While he is imparting knowledge he is impressing himself more or less upon the character of his pupil. The Convention was fully impressed with this conviction, and hence, the teachers present were urged to a faithful, patient, and conscientious attention to their work. And yet this seemed scarcely necessary; for it was evident to the most casual observer, that the teachers were most enthusiastic in their work. It was stated by several speakers that at the present time the profession was overstocked, and that numbers were knocking at the door asking to be admitted. Now, certainly this state of things cannot arise from the pecuniary emoluments which the position of teacher offers; for it is notorious that the salaries paid to teachers are miserably low. Then how can it be explained on any other ground than that of the inherent essential nobility of the work. It is this that makes our teachers, enthusiasts, and it is their enthusiasm that will ensure their continued and enlarged success. There is nothing like such enthusiasm. Let a man in any enterprise, talk about it, and write about it, and read about it, until people say he is mad, and he is sure to succeed. Reference was made by one of the speakers to the growing interest which the Press is taking in the work of such Conventions as that. The reason is not far to seek. The Press is little more than the echo of public opinion—the reflection of the mind of the people generally. It is frequently said to be the leader of public sentiment, whereas it is often, not the creator of the emotions which surge and sway over society, so much as the white foam that marks the crest of the successive mountain billows. The fact is, there is an intelligent and ardent public sentiment on the subject of education. Our people generally have learned to appreciate their advantages, and the press is very happy to record this hopeful sign in the unfolding life of this Province. We can only refer to the Educational Association of Nova Scotia our hearty sympathy with them in their work; and to each teacher in connection with the Association we would simply say:—

"Loiter not, nor halt
In thy appointed way, and bear in mind
How fleeting and how frail is human life."

THE DOMINANT SYSTEM.

In allusion to an interruption offered by Dr. John Potts to a speaker who, unwarrantably, at the Christian Conference, Toronto, introduced views of a high Calvinistic type, the *Christian Visitor* says:—

His interruption by Dr. Potts we have already characterized as in decidedly bad taste. We would remind those who are at times so exercised about Calvinism, that as a system it dominates the religious thought of the world to-day. The influence of Arminianism has been exceedingly circumscribed.

All this in the face of history! Does not the *Visitor* see that the very reason why Dr. Potts felt justified in protesting, was that Calvinism, by almost universal agreement, is quietly shelved during discussions among members of the different Christian bodies. Is not every man who, in the representative "Conventions" of these times, presumes to utter high Calvinism, rebuked as a disturber of brotherly peace? What is the inference?—That Calvinism "dominates the religious thought of the world to-day"? or that it may be regarded as a system which may be buried without serious loss to humanity?

We do not refer now to inferences and phrases which remain on debateable ground—which by common consent are allowed to pass current because there is no way of deciding whether they are Calvinistic or Arminian, true or false. We take Calvinism to mean the system, the creed

the doctrines, taught by Calvin, epitomized in the Westminster Confession of Faith, and preached with persistent energy during the century immediately preceding the present. We need not define these doctrines. To mention some of them would be to awaken a feeling which may as well remain quiet, for there are always a few extremists who are prepared to battle for any prejudice. Those doctrines we have heard, in a positive form, years ago. We were witness to their gradual decline, until pulpits which existed apparently for their nourishment, either abandoned them altogether or only brought them forward on great and annual occasions. We claim to have travelled as far, heard as much preaching, and from as great a variety of pulpits, during the last quarter of a century, as either editor of the *Visitor*; and we give it as our deliberate judgment, that, so far from "dominating the religious thought of the world," Calvinism holds a very subordinate place among the churches. Calvinistic preachers are confined principally to the ultra classes—"hardshells" as they have been vulgarly designated. True, Spurgeon does occasionally preach Calvinism; but even Spurgeon, when compared with himself, is seen to have changed in no particular during twenty-two years more than in this. Formerly his sermons were encircled with Calvinism, as shot-laden barrels are hooped with steel. They were labelled in Calvinistic alphabet. It is somewhat different to-day, and we, for one, are willing to accord to Spurgeon the rare compliment of a greatly gifted preacher who excels in usefulness toward the decline of his ministry.

Twenty years of moderate fare have left the most of the descendants of Calvinistic forefathers quite undesirous of highly seasoned food. There was a time when Calvinistic preaching was accountable for the revolt of some of the youth of this country to an extreme of scepticism. Social and domestic argument, as a consequence of such preaching, had its share in producing this result. There was little agreement of opinion among mature hearers who heard Calvinism insisted upon, often with no little warmth, though no special circumstance seemed to demand it. Before a divided court, youthful spectators, naturally enough, turned against both sides of the dispute. Some of them found a medium way; others were slow to accept any system of teaching afterward. The pulpit was wise enough to observe this and profit by it. Where great strength was once employed to build up a creed, it is now used more in the practical, evangelical direction. Formerly, it was a principle of faith that Calvinism was God's honoured means of saving souls; it is different to-day; or if not different, that belief manages to keep itself marvelously under the surface.

But "the influence of Arminianism has been exceedingly circumscribed." Two or three notes of exclamation ought to follow that extract, but we save the type. Where has this writer been spending his days? What have been his text-books in history? To say nothing of Methodism, which professes to hold at least one-third of the "religious thought" of the American world to-day—which stands firmly on most of the islands of any importance in both hemispheres—which numbers the largest of any religious class in the Dominion—which gives a name to several thousands of ministers and local preachers in Great Britain and Ireland—to say nothing of these, what of the Episcopal and Congregational Churches, many of whose most distinguished men hold Arminian views; of the Free Baptists, who are with us in nearly all but immersion, and the tens of thousands of Presbyterians who, when they hear a good Arminian sermon, enjoy it without feeling its doctrinal pulse?

Is this a case of seeing a verdant world through green spectacles?

THE YALE AND BOSTON LECTURES.

Bishop Simpson and Joseph Cook are the principal educators of American thought at this moment. The Bishop, in a course of lectures, is fol-

lowing Beecher, Hall, and Spurgeon in the work of teaching young ministers how their mission may be best accomplished. The great advantage of bringing men who are the acknowledged leaders of their profession before candidates for the sacred office, is that they portray themselves—afford in graphic outline a picture of success and the price that must be paid for it. They cannot avoid furnishing to the world a sort of autobiography, inasmuch as all of life to them has been a study of such principles as they are striving now to illustrate; and where they have succeeded or failed are mainly the points dwelt upon with emphasis before those students. Something there always must be in a successful life which the successful man cannot himself explain; and in preaching, particularly, there is a divine something seen and felt in Simpson's and Spurgeon's addresses for which neither science nor philosophy can furnish a satisfactory definition. But so far as great men can be copied, or greatness secured by striving after it, lectures delivered by the masters must be a chief and most excellent means of help.

Bishop Simpson has delivered his third lecture at Yale, which was taken up mainly with practical suggestions. His style is simple, abounding in illustration, and spiced with quaint humor. Cook has been treating on a burning subject—the Liquor traffic, and drunkenness. These twin topics which have been worn almost threadbare in common addresses, are handled by this great teacher with startling freshness. Statistics he gives with unerring accuracy always;—so much so that criticism has ceased to bark at his heels; but the figures he advances in connection with Boston wine and beer bibbing, have created no little sensation among his hearers. The fact is, we have become so accustomed to hearing stale arguments and illustrations, mingled with bad puns and soulless wit, on this liquor question, that we are asleep, soothed into forgetfulness of its true character, till some strong man comes to disturb our slumbers and show us that it is all awfully real. Giving each a front of twenty feet, and putting them in a line, he estimates for Boston alone eight miles of dram-shops, and these he calls by plain terms, "manufactories of madmen and paupers."

Long life to Simpson and Cook!

THREE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS ON THE CANADIAN RECEPTION.

Naturally enough, the coming of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, and their elevation to office, have called out no little expression of opinion in the adjoining Republic. Some of it has been favourable. We have good friends among our cousins yonder. But there have been strong things said which will provoke harsh replies, and other things which, coming as they do from radical writers, will be a puzzle as to whether they ought to be classed burlesque or nonsense.

Joseph Cook took occasion to point out, in a talk in New York, the immense natural resources of the Dominion, the rapid growth of its population, and the promise of its future. To the class of Americans who desired to annex Canada, he gave some words of counsel, reminding them that annexation means despotism, except when the voice of the people on both sides is in its favor, an expression which is not likely to be heard for some time to come. He concluded with the kindest wishes for the happiness of the "royal lady in her home in the new residency."

Bishop Haven makes the vice-regal reception the subject of an article in a leading New York paper. He regards the display witnessed amongst us as a relic of monarchical times and institutions, which bodes unfavourably for the future of government on this part of the continent. There was, he thinks, a lack of such enthusiasm as would have accompanied the advent of a ruler elected by popular vote. The good Bishop was far away from the scenes of reception and may be excused for inability to appreciate what astonished his fellow citizens who happened to be amongst us at the time.

Dr. Fowler, of the New York *Advocate*, beats Bishop Haven,—an achievement possible to but very few men.

He regards our methods of reception and government as an interference with their habits and constitution. Republicanism he believes is the destiny of this continent. A vice-regency may disturb the tendency of things in that direction. In the event of annexation he would desire Canada to be "free and Republican."

If the United States are a Republic to-day, they certainly were not in the days of Washington and Franklin. "Our perils" says the *Advocate* "are in the natural tendency toward centralization." It is noticeable that the tendency of government in the United States is quite in the direction of party power, which centralizes principally in a few men, and against which agitations are perpetually arising as the only safeguard of the country. The same difficulty we have to contend against; but we have better control of the difficulty than have our neighbors. A Governor-General is nothing to be feared in comparison with a President. He cannot exert the same influence—has not the prerogatives—is free from many of the temptations to selfishness and nepotism and despotism, which surround a President of the United States. We are the real Republic, it by that be meant a people who govern themselves. Instead of blaming us for stimulating any centralizing tendency among Americans, by bringing royalty into their neighborhood, we should be complimented for showing them what natural, easily-adjusted self-government really means.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. GEO. O. FULTON, from the *Wesleyan Office*, will visit St. John, and probably intermediate places, next week in the interests of the paper and Book Room.

Will those whose subscriptions now expire, and who have not been called upon, do us the favor to remit direct? A post office order for \$2 or registration of a letter, costs only two cents.

Mr. Abner Hart, who took charge of the Halifax Industrial School two years ago, is succeeding so well as to obtain great commendation.

The Senate of the Halifax University was in session last week. There was a full attendance. The business was chiefly in relation to prospective examinations.

Blockades of snow have interfered with travel in our own western territory as well as in Great Britain. Thus far there has been no sleighing, and but comparatively mild weather, in the Maritime Provinces.

Students and former residents of Sackville, N.B., will regret to hear that Mr. John Towse, for years Steward in the Male Academy, died suddenly last week. He was 74 years of age, but continued strong and active up to the time of his death. It is supposed he burst a blood-vessel while loading hay.

The clergy of St. Patrick's church are waging an active war against dime novels and trashy literature of that kind. A quantity found in possession of their parishioners was recently burned.

So reads a Quebec despatch. Would it not be well for Protestant clergymen to enquire more closely into the matter of their parochial literature? Who are educating their young people, and with what kind of principles? Do we watch over our young people in this particular as those that must give an account?

A committee of Methodist ministers and laymen has met in London, and after agreeing upon the sums to be asked in connection with the Thanksgiving Fund, issued an able "statement and appeal." Public meetings are now being held to give the appeal effect. There is every prospect of an immense amount of money being raised. Come or go with business the world over. England holds its wealth, and Methodism gets a goodly share. In the London districts alone \$150,000 have been raised.

It was an Annual—not the General Conference which agreed to the provision that no ministers subject to removal was to be eligible for election to the Stationing Committee. We had the impression—for we were not present—that General Conference did adopt, or signify in some way its judgement of, the measure, as but reasonable. It did not. Still the measure commends itself. The provision of such a representative elect in any case

WESLEYAN ALMANAC.

JANUARY, 1879.

Full Moon, 8 day, 7h. 34m. Morning. Last Quarter, 15 day, 6h. 45m. Morning. New Moon, 22 day, 7h. 37m. Morning. First Quarter, 30 day, 7h. 31m. Morning.

Table with columns for Day of Week, SUN, MOON, and various astronomical data points.

THE TIDES.—Line of high water at Parramore, Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine, 2 hrs and 11 minutes LATER than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N.B., and Portland, Maine, 3 hours and 25 minutes LATER, and at St. John's, Newfoundland 30 minutes EARLIER than at Halifax.

THE YOUNG FOLKS. OUR LITTLE PEOPLE'S CLUB.

"Jack Frost is at those pranks again, young folks," said Mr. Sporter, as he put his jolly red face, within the Club-room.

"A cold in the head what can be said, Uglier, stupid, more ill bred. Even though believing the truth of this couplet, you will be surprised to hear that a soldier with no other ailment than a cold in the head, drew a dagger and begged his comrades to strike him with it to the heart.

"When the soldiers had all been packed into the hold and the load of turf placed over them, the little craft proceeded on its perilous journey. Even more hardships than had been imagined beset them.

with as much noise as possible. Soon the Spanish commander with his workmen came on board to inspect and unload the peat. Then the pump ran a race with the half-drowned cowering and sneezing men below deck.

"When did the soldier wish to be stabbed?" asked Mr. Spinner after the Club had drawn a long breath of satisfaction over this story.

"While they were all crouched in the hold," returned Mr. Sporter, "listening to the voice of the Spaniards on deck."

"Come, come," interrupted Mr. Knouall, "don't feed those children on a diet of horrors. Here is a short story to take away that bad taste."

"I will be a gardener," said Philip when old enough to choose a trade. "It must be pleasant to live among green herbs and sweet-smelling flowers."

THE VALLEY OF DEATH. The following is a probable explanation of the origin of the upas-tree story: "A real valley of death exists in Java; it is termed the Valley of poison, and is filled to a considerable height with carbonic acid gas, which is exhaled from crevices in the ground.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

THE AFGHANISTAN WAR.

Dear Mr. Editor.—At the date of my last letter the command had gone forth, and the dogs of war had again been loosed.

has not been encountered. The crafty Ameer will not yield until he is more thoroughly beaten. The situations upon which he is now falling back, are known to be very formidable.

on the merits and necessity of the war is very much divided. The main body of the Conservatives appear agreed upon the question and urge that it was indispensable for India's safety and England's honor, that Afghanistan be invaded, and the frontier line, once for all, be rectified.

in December, at a most unusual and inconvenient time. The Queen's speech conveyed very little beyond an intimation of the war, and the promise of full information. The whole question will now be fully discussed, and the Government compelled to answer its accusers.

has been the one great thought of our Methodist Brethren in London. It was felt to be desirable that the first grand appeal should be made in London.

CITY ROAD CHAPEL now entirely free of debt was most appropriately selected for the place of meeting. Special sermons were preached on the Sabbath preceding and another on the Monday evening.

will long be remembered as the day when this new and splendid work was fairly inaugurated. Meetings were held forenoon, afternoon, and evening, for prayer, praise, speaking and offering of gifts.

are not in the least revived. The times are indeed hard and gloomy. The year ebbs onwards to its last few days, under discouraging aspects, but yet there need be no real discouragement.

Yours truly, B.

A SAILOR'S DEATH-GRIP.

A sea captain related, at a prayer-meeting in Boston, a thrilling incident in his own experience: "A few years ago," said he, "I was sailing by the Island of Cuba, when the cry ran through the ship, 'Man overboard!' It was impossible to put up the helm of the ship, but I instantly seized a rope and threw it over the ship's stern, crying out to the man to seize it for his life.

God gave, He took, He will restore, He doeth all things well."

God gave to us the good old man Whose pleasant smile it was so cheer to meet; Who walked life's path so gracefully, To-day he sitteth at the Master's feet.

MARIAN SWALLOW.

Died at Wentworth, Dec. 9th, in the 22nd year of her age, Marian, youngest daughter of Wm. Swallow, Esq., and sister of Rev. Charles W. Swallow, A. B.

Miss Swallow, while true to Methodism, was more than a Methodist. To her "the communion of saints" meant a communion of faith, goodness and purity everywhere.

As her feet entered "the swelling flood" her vision of the "sweet fields beyond" grew brighter—"I see the gates, I see them coming for me."

And thus she passed out of our sight to the Father's house, the children's home.

We cannot help feeling sometimes that in her case it was a "withheld completion of life." It is so natural to think that possibilities and a disposition for usefulness can find their only expression in this life, but

Behold, we know not any thing. As we think of the countless numbers going up from this earth of ours, redeemed by the blood of Christ, yet unimpaired in the way of salvation, we can conjecture some of the glorious ministries that await the departed in the spirit world.

We are more than ever impressed with the truth that Christianity has to do with facts rather than theories; and one of the most significant of these facts is the sustaining grace God gives his dying children. More convincing far than all the "evidences" we ever read was the simple story of faith and hope in Christ given by our departed sister.

Crowned with the reward of patient waiting and loving service she has entered upon the home-life of heaven, but "being dead she yet speaks," and her words, if rightly interpreted, are these: "The religion of the Lord Jesus is gloriously real and true."

MRS. ANN WALKER. On the 17th of Dec., at Granville, on the Bridgetown Circuit, after a somewhat protracted illness, in the 86th year of her age, Mrs. Ann Walker, who for more than fifty years was a member of the Methodist Church.

For many years she was a class-leader, and, as many can testify, filled this position with efficiency and success. Being a woman of strong convictions, she was decided and conscientious in her adherence to the church of her choice.

Join the blood-bespinked band On the eternal shore,

Seeing her a short time before she died, I said to her—"Well, sister, how is it with you now?" and she said, "I am waiting, just waiting, for the Master to come."

CALEB PARKER.

FLETCHER W. PARKER, of Avonport, the subject of this notice, was one of several young persons who fell victims to the dreadful diphtheria, during its prevalence in that place last Spring.

After eight days of suffering, six of which were spent in prayer and two in praise, he quietly fell asleep in Jesus—aged 17 years.

JANUARY 1st 1879.

FROM THIS DATE THE BUSINESS OF OUR RETAIL DEPARTMENT Will be conducted solely and entirely for CASH.

DAVIDSON & CRICHTON, 155 HOLLIS STREET.

Books for Sale at the Methodist Book Room, Halifax, N.S.

Helps for Teachers.

Table listing various books for sale with prices, including 'WHEDON'S COMMENTARY', 'WESLEY'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT', and 'THE HANDY BOOK FOR BIBLE READERS'.

SPECIAL AIDS TO THE STUDY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LESSONS. THE SELECT NOTES. A Commentary Explanatory, Illustrative, and Practical on the International Topics for 1879.

THE TEACHER'S BIBLE.

The COLLINS'S BIBLE, the same as the American Teachers but lower in price, has been greatly improved during the past year.

Table of contents for 'THE TEACHER'S BIBLE' including sections like 'I. MATERIALS FOR BIBLE LESSONS', 'II. INDEX OF THE PERSONS, PLACES, AND SUBJECTS OF THE BIBLE', and 'III. HISTORICAL EPILOGUE OF THE HOLY BIBLE'.

Table listing prices for different editions of the Bible, including 'POCKET EDITION', 'MEDIUM EDITION', and 'LARGE TYPE EDITION'.

POCKET EDITION: Persian Calf, limp... \$1.25. Paste Grain, Circuit Covers... 1.50. Morocco, Muslin lined, Circuit Covers... 2.00.

PIANOS Magnificent Bran New, 600 dollars. Rosewood Pianos, only 175 dollars. Must be sold. Fine Rosewood Upright Pianos, little used, cost 300 dollars only 125.

BLUMYER MFG CO BELLS. Superior Bells of Copper and Tin. Manufactured in Halifax, N.S.

JOB PRINTING

REPORTS, PAMPHLET Posters, Handbills, Cards, Billheads, Circulars, Custom and Mercantile Blanks.

BUCKEYE BELL FOUNDRY. Superior Bells of Copper and Tin. Manufactured in Halifax, N.S.

MACDONALD & JOHNSON, BARRISTERS. Attorneys-at-Law, Notaries Public, &c. 152 Hollis St., Halifax, N.S.



MILLER, BROTHERS, Middleton, Annapolis Co., N.S., or Charlottetown, P. E. I.

THE AGENCY OF THE CELEBRATED RAYMOND Sewing Machine

being transferred (four months ago) from William Crowe, Halifax, to them, (excepting the County of Halifax). THE RAYMOND MACHINE is too well known to require any puffing; and there have been some important improvements put upon it of late, which render it, by far, the best family machine made.

Wanzer, Champion, Osborne, White, Royal, Howe, &c., &c. SECOND-HAND MACHINES taken in exchange for new ones.

PIANO AND ORGANS

PIANOS IN PRICE FROM - - \$225 to \$1000 ORGANS " " " \$75 to \$400 Instruments guaranteed for five years, and sold on very easy terms.

REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS OF Sewing Machines, promptly attended to by a First-class Machinist. Charges Moderate.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills,

For all the purposes of a Family Physic, and for curing Constipation, Indigestion, Sour Stomach, Breath, Headache, Erysipelas, Rheumatism, Eruptions and Skin Diseases, Gout, Gravel, Dropsy, Tumors, Worms, Neuralgia, and a Disinfectant for Purifying the Blood.

AYER'S PILLS have been known for more than a quarter of a century, and have obtained a world-wide reputation for their virtues. They correct diseased action in the several assimilative organs of the body, and are so composed that obstructions within their range can rarely withstand or evade them.

Dr. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass., Practical and Analytical Chemists, SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE. BROWN & WEBB, Agents, Halifax.

TEMPERANCE.

HAVE COURAGE TO SAY NO.

[The following selection was made by a devoted mother, and placed away to be given to her son upon his entrance into business. A few days previously to his leaving school for that purpose she suddenly passed away, and this was found as described. In the hope that the advice and warning herein contained will be heeded by all who read it, the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons, affectionately present it.]

You're starting to-day on life's journey Along on the highway of life; You'll meet with a thousand temptations, Each city with evils is rife.

The bright rudy wine may be offered, No matter how tempting it be, From poison that stings like an adder, My boy, have courage to flee.

The Syren's sweet song may allure you; Beware of her cunning and art; Whenever you see her approaching, Be guarded and haste to depart.

In courage alone lies your safety, When you the long journey begin, And trust in a heavenly father, Will keep you unspotted from sin.

THE LUST OF THE CUP.

BY THE REV. J. T. HARGRAVE.

The temperance reform indicates the approach of the millennium. Then Satan shall be fastened—another Prometheus—to an eternal rocky exil.

All approaches toward that consummation, devoutly to be wished, are upon the line of an uncompromising warfare against the lusts of the flesh.

Why does this reform make such tardy movements? It is because the enemy we combat is subtle and strong. The "weak things of the world" are to grapple the "things that are mighty."

Holiness and sin are definite. Hell is a place where the sewerage of life is drained. Heaven, where the bloom of purity seeks the sun.

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when the colors of the enemy strike to us, and we "bruise" the "head" of this most bellish serpent, and lust dies for an eternal burial.

The people of London spend yearly in alcoholic liquors not less than fifteen millions sterling. The sum is probably more. This is £1,250,000 a calendar month, £287,000 a week, and £41,000 a day.

EXPOSITION OF 1876. — Wandering through the United States section of this truly wonderful Exhibition, hypernormal and over-displayed as the most of it is, I came upon an elegant glass case, whose modesty was the more conspicuous from its neighbors' finery, surmounted by the motto Dignis Præmia and displaying, in neat packages, the medical preparations of the house of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

I was aware of the world-wide reputation of this eminent firm, for the character and quality of their goods, and remember well their agents in London, Messrs. Newberry, in St. Paul's Church-yard. Having a leisure hour, I determined to examine the contents of this case, myself, and I was surprised to see the delicate perfection to which they have brought their household remedies.

DIPHTHERIA has for a long time been very prevalent, and very fatal. Its fatality seems to be greatly owing to neglecting what is supposed to be an ordinary cold or sore throat until its has progressed to its stages, and then when medical aid is procured it has too often been found to be too late.

JOYFUL NEWS FOR THE AFFLICTED. PORT GEORGE, ANnapolis Co., N.S., June 12th, 1878. Messrs. C. Gates, Son & Co.—Gentlemen In the Autumn of 1877, my little boy, about two years old, was in very ill health on account of worms, which destroyed his appetite, and made him peevish and poor.

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his feet, and pay-ardent homage

before she died, sister, how is it she said, "I am for the Master to she uttered the when the end do but die. fully ripe," she arning house on e truly said, she el." She lived a and died in pos-nspeakable and

ALB PARKER. PARKER, et of this notice, persons who fell iphtheria, during ace last Spring, and filial respect in his character d intelligent, he classes and aged. ed him to begin ret prayer; but stricken by dis-arnest the pearl of the counsels of r. Coffin, his pas-ads, he soon saw, accepted it, and of God now filled ses of the Lord The fear of death rdent longing to

With earnest ve to assuage, the spect of this re-oy having fall-ly a few days p solitude he-ivation of his un-former compan of religion was s in Avonport; tetcher had been attendant; but a of the new life, ce more in the he might declare el had done for

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