

chant, boiling with rage, did walk out of the room, and going to his own office wrote the letter to the directors of the finance company. There was a meeting of the board the next day, at which the managing director was present. The letter was read, and most astonishment was expressed at its contents. Said the chairman— "Is what this letter states true, Mr. —?" "Yes, quite true."

"Well, don't you think that your liberal salary and the liberal commission you receive from the company, is enough for your services, without making a charge like this?"

"No, I don't." I introduced the customer. If you don't like it you know your remedy. Dismiss me. I will go, and you may if you like. The concern won't be affected another moment."

The managing director remained in office, and that he continued the same practice, clear from the fact that some time afterwards he demanded ten thousand pounds for himself, on a loan by the company of a hundred thousand pounds. The demand was rejected and the loan never got. What do you think of this style of financing?

Provincial Wesleyan.

Subscription. Two Dollars per annum, strictly in advance. The figures in connection with the address show the time to which the subscription is made. If the subscriber desires to be made to pay in advance, the amount should be sent to the Treasurer of the Society.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 1867.

Prayer for Colleges.

It has long been customary with the various Churches in the United States to set apart annually a day for united and special prayer on behalf of Colleges, and to a limited extent the Churches of the Province have joined in this object with their fellow Christians of the Republic. But we wish that a more hearty and general interest in this matter were felt among us. It is surely of very great consequence that our Institutions of learning should be under a high religious influence, and should be prospered by the effectual blessing of Heaven. Every thoughtful Christian will readily see the importance of prayer on this behalf, and the desirability of all the churches, where it can conveniently be done, joining on the same day in earnest supplication for the blessing of the Most High upon the various christian colleges of our land. From these will go forth young men who in a few years will take leading positions in the Church, in political life, and in professional and commercial pursuits; and upon the present moulding of their character much will depend as regards the influence they will exert in the various spheres in which they shall be called to serve. We wish that the services of devotion were brought to feel more deeply on this question. We recommend to Methodists not to be unmindful of their duty in this respect, and while they pray for all christian Institutions of learning, especially to remember their own, that God's blessing may largely rest upon Mount Allison College, Academics, and Theological Institution. We are happy to know that these annual services, which have been so long a part of the divine blessing have been experienced recently in an encouraging measure. But there is an urgent necessity that fervent prayer be offered that they may more abundantly be blessed and rendered a blessing. The day appointed for Prayer for Colleges this year is Thursday, the 28th of the present month.

Missionary Anniversary.

This is Missionary week with the Methodist Churches of this city and District. The annual services, paramount to all others, were held on Sabbath last by the Rev. Messrs. Brett, Taylor, and McKewen; and it is scarcely necessary to say that the services rendered by these esteemed brethren on the Sabbath, as well as at the public meetings, were highly appropriate to the occasion, and were not unworthy of the cause which they advocated. The subjects upon which they treated. The great purposes of the Redeemer in regard to our sinful world, and the obligation and privileges of the Church in carrying out those purposes, were faithfully and forcibly presented. In this age of Missionary enterprise every earnest Christian deeply feels the importance of cherishing sympathy with the designs of the Saviour in the evangelization of our race, and the necessity of the greatest possible effort being put forth by every church for the diffusion of the truth, and for the subjugation of the nations of the earth to the sway of the Son of God. In every heart where the love of Christ dwells there will be an intense longing that the world might know the riches of His Grace, and proportionate sacrifice and labor to effect this grand result will be cheerfully rendered.

In Missionary institutions we have evidence of the great value of Christian co-operation, and can clearly see that while little could be done in this cause by isolated, single-handed exertion, great things can be effected for Christ by the united efforts of the combined services of His people. Missionary organization has called into existence the Missionary Anniversary, and it is left to be highly proper there should be special seasons set apart for the furtherance of Missionary work. Such occasions are rendered a blessing in the promotion of Christian zeal, in deepening a sense of indebtedness for privileges enjoyed, in prompting the spirit of prayer for the conversion of the world, and in inducing the concentration of choicest gifts upon the Missionary altar. In all these respects the results of rightly conducted missionary services are of the highest value, in the direct advancement of the Missionary enterprise, and in the reflex benefits of Missionary activity, in the cultivation of personal and social piety, and in preparation for other departments of the work of the Lord. The man on whose heart the flame of Missionary zeal burns most brightly and steadily, will be found ready for any service the Master may see fit to call upon.

We are hopeful that in connection with this Anniversary, the services of the brethren of the denomination and the efficient aid rendered at the meetings by Ministers of other Churches, have been of great advantage to the cause of God, and that the pecuniary results will be found quite equal to those of any previous year. The Methodists of Halifax have long been distinguished for their zeal and liberality in the work of the world's evangelization, and we pray that therein they may yet abound more and more. The amount of the collections taken on the Sabbath and at the public meetings, will be able definitely to report in our next issue.

We may observe that the spiritual tone of the meetings was highly gratifying, as comparing with the solemnity and grandeur of the Missionary enterprise. The resolutions gave evidence of care and thought in their preparation. Each Meeting that the gentlemen who presided, as well as the several Ministers who spoke, deeply felt the importance of the occasion. Indeed we have seldom attended better Missionary Meetings than those with which we have been favored at this Anniversary.

From our English Correspondent.

Severity of the Weather—Sufferings of the Poor—Fatal Accidents on the Sea—Destruction by Fire of an Ancient Church—Injury done to the Trade of the Province—The Working Classes and Religious Worship—Reviews of Religion—Ecclesiastical Affairs in Italy—Intolerance in Rome.

During the past month we have experienced a severity of weather greater than has been known for a considerable time. The thermometer has frequently registered a temperature several degrees below freezing point, and the sharp frost has been accompanied by extremely cold and piercing winds. Heavy snow storms have also occurred, and old people describe the season as one of our "old fashioned winters."

Our canal navigation has been stopped, and monster snow-drifts have, in many places, blocked up our railways. The traffic on turnpike roads has been interrupted, and mail cars and other vehicles have had to literally dig out of the snow. For three or four days in succession all communication between various towns was suspended; and even the telegraph wires were so weighted with snow, that it was impossible to transmit messages except to very short distances.

The interruption to out-door employment caused by this unusually severe weather, together with the extreme cold itself, has occasioned terrible distress among the poorer classes. In the aggregate, hundreds of thousands of laborers have been thrown out of work. In one of our provincial towns, where the population is not more than 4000 inhabitants, while those in receipt of out-door relief numbered about 20,000 daily; and this is a fair example of the state of things generally throughout the country. But for the prompt and generous efforts made to meet this emergency of helpless poverty, there would have been a condition of widespread starvation and suffering frightful to think of. Soup kitchens have been everywhere opened, and bread, meat, blankets, and various articles of clothing, notwithstanding the supplies, the poor have unavoidably had to endure very trying hardships, and in some places cases of hunger-bitten men have entered baker's shops and demanded bread. Generally speaking, however, there has been much self-control and patience. I am happy to be able to add, that within the last few days a favourable change in the weather has taken place. In fact, such is the fickleness of the seasons in the "old country," that a general wind has suddenly given us quite a spring temperature, and people, throwing off their winter wear of clothing, and lowering their fires, are actually complaining that it is now too warm!

The lovers of skating had abundant opportunity of indulging in this favorite exercise, but partly, and indeed generally, owing to the want of due caution, and venturing upon unsafe ice, some disastrous accidents have taken place. One calamity of this kind occurred on the ornamental water in Regent's Park, London, by which a greater number of lives were lost than I ever remember to have heard of by any similar catastrophe. On Tuesday afternoon, the 10th of January, about five hundred persons were on the ice together, when suddenly, with only a few minutes warning, it became loose at the sides and split up into thousands of pieces, precipitating from two to three hundred skaters into the water. Their screams for help, and the frantic cries of those on the banks produced a scene of most appalling description. Those who saw it say they can never forget it, so agonising was the sight of such a number of men, women, and children struggling in the water and sinking one after another where help could not reach them. Suitable means of rescue were unhappily very deficient, and although the most courageous and persevering efforts were made to rescue the drowning people, many perished. More than forty bodies have since been recovered by means of drags, and it is feared that about fifty persons must have lost their lives by this fearful accident.

For some time past the newspapers have been reporting an unusual number of conflagrations in various parts of the country, particularly in the metropolis, including large mills, manufactories, and private dwellings. Some lives have been lost, and there has been great destruction of property. To the long list of casualties of this kind has just been added the burning of one of our most ancient and interesting parish churches, at Croydon, about ten miles from London, and close to the palace of the Archbishop of Canterbury. According to some authorities, this church was founded in the year 1386, by Archbishop Courtney; and a tradition speaks of it as built on the site of a yet older edifice, the date of whose erection stretches back into Saxon times, prior to the Conquest. The church was rich in monuments of our archbishops of Canterbury, some of which were executed with much artistic skill. These have all been destroyed, together with deeds and documents extending from the age of Edward I. to the present time. A strong wind prevailed during the night when the fire took place, driving the flames through the interior with an appalling roar, and the fine old structure soon became a heap of ruins.

A writer in one of our most widely-circulated weekly papers remarked a few days ago, "There is not a thoughtful man in this country who does not look anxiously on the attitude taken by the working classes, and its influence upon the permanent prosperity of the nation." The remark was made in connection with some very temperate and just observations on the injurious action of Trades Unions. Obviously framed at first by the working classes in order to protect what were called the "rights of labour," they have become a power, which is seriously interfering with the relation between the employers and the employed. Some of the regulations which they have adopted are so oppressive to some branches of our manufacturing industry, that masters are contemplating the transfer of their capital to Continental countries, where they are not liable to this vexatious dictation. The artisans themselves are also often the sufferers by the tyranny of their own unions. A remarkable and lamentable case of this kind occurred only a fortnight ago. I believe I mentioned in my last that in consequence of the sickness in the shipbuilding trade on the Thames, some thousands of workmen were in a condition of great suffering. In order, if possible, to mitigate this distress, the directors of a large shipbuilding company at Blackwall, opened negotiations for building some steamers for a foreign company. They found that the terms on which they could obtain the contracts would require them to reduce the wages of the shipwrights from 7s. to 6s. 6d. per day. Even then the company would realize no profit on the work, the object being simply to find employment for the men. With starvation before them, incredible though it seems, the men declined the proposed terms; but, in laying the case before the public on the following day, they were rebuffed by the press. They say, "We have had good reason for believing that most of our men would willingly have accepted our offer, but they are forbidden by their trades unions." It is generally felt that this subject is one of the most important and difficult of our social questions.

Last week a conference was held of representatives of the working classes, ministers of christian churches, and gentlemen interested in the great social and religious controversies of the day. Some of the speakers were said about the shortcomings of Christian ministers, both with respect to their style of preaching and their pastoral work. However the utmost patience and good feeling were displayed, and this free ventilation of thought, and I may add prejudice, will do good. At the same time the objections offered as the hindrance felt by the classes particularly in view, against our religious services, were all themselves really for the most part frivolous. They could not but suggest the prophetic foresight of our Lord in His parable of the "Great Supper," when, speaking of those who refused the invitation, He said, "And they all with one consent began to make excuse." Still, no doubt, various lessons were learned on both sides.

We have from useful persons very cheering accounts of the state of the work of God among us. Several Quarterly Meetings report an increase during the past quarter; while in some Circuits a very blessed revival of religion has taken place. In the Sunderland Circuit we are met with upwards of 4000 inmates; while those in receipt of out-door relief numbered about 20,000 daily; and this is a fair example of the state of things generally throughout the country. But for the prompt and generous efforts made to meet this emergency of helpless poverty, there would have been a condition of widespread starvation and suffering frightful to think of. Soup kitchens have been everywhere opened, and bread, meat, blankets, and various articles of clothing, notwithstanding the supplies, the poor have unavoidably had to endure very trying hardships, and in some places cases of hunger-bitten men have entered baker's shops and demanded bread. Generally speaking, however, there has been much self-control and patience. I am happy to be able to add, that within the last few days a favourable change in the weather has taken place. In fact, such is the fickleness of the seasons in the "old country," that a general wind has suddenly given us quite a spring temperature, and people, throwing off their winter wear of clothing, and lowering their fires, are actually complaining that it is now too warm!

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From our Canadian Correspondent.
To the Editor of the Provincial Wesleyan:

MY DEAR SIR,—Unless your correspondent makes haste, he will not be able to get a letter ready to you during this month, but, as you at least, know that the Methodist cause is always to be found in the front rank, we feel sure that we shall have your forbearance. The past month has been an unusually busy season, and we are now in the midst of winter, and we are, for what with Temperance Meetings, Missionary Meetings, Tea Meetings, Protracted Meetings, we are not likely to transgress one of the "Twelve Rules of a Helper," which commands us, "Never to be unemployed." It is never triflingly employed. Though it must be admitted, that in some of the meetings in which we are called to take part, there is occasionally some amount of "trifling," and is almost next to impossible that in a goodly number of the meetings held at the present day, there is more or less of this. We remember a gentleman once saying at a public meeting, that a platform speaker might be thus designated, "one who talks half an hour, keeps the people in good humour, then sits down, having said nothing." I suppose he meant, "nothing to purpose." We charitably hope that the gentleman in question was hardly just to the platform, in thus speaking, though it must be admitted, that the tendency of much of the speaking of the present day, would justify such a severe criticism. We do not wonder that an aged Minister once designated Tea Meetings "necessary evils." To do without them, seems to be impossible, yet to conduct them as they are now, is an injury to the piety of the Church, requires an amount of self-control, and is a source of great grief, if they could be dispensed with altogether, but until we have a

return to the mode of giving, which obtained in the days of the Apostles, when, as God had pleased, there was a common purse, as we do not, for the demands upon the treasury of the Lord are so numerous, that fresh schemes have, year after year, to be adopted, in order that the machinery may be kept in working order.

Owing in a great measure, to the improved state of Canada, the Missionary Meetings of the season are so far, a great financial success; there was a numerous season of some of those which attended in the country districts, worthy of note, and that was, the almost entire absence of aged people. In several meetings, we observed, the majority of the congregations were made up of young people. Of course, we are glad to see the young, for they are "the hope of the Church," but why should we also have the aged, and more especially the aged who are so numerous in the country districts, at which our meetings are held, is intensely cold, which may, in part account for the juvenile character of our congregations; but, surely when our venerable sires can go out in the coldest days when municipal and other duties call at their presence, we have a right to expect that they should be equally zealous at the festivals of the Church.

The subsequent Missionary Secretary, L. Taylor, D. D., is not only visiting some of our cities and towns at the Missionary Anniversaries, but is also attending one meeting in each country circuit, for the purpose of infusing a greater interest in our Missionary work. His labours are herculean. Five meetings per week, and one sermon on the Sabbath, and, though both of these are a heavy burden, he will seem to be able to require no ordinary amount of stamina, that he may endure. Doubtless, in a few years, should his valuable life be spared, he will be able to report the Missionary Society free from its pecuniary embarrassment. More to be said.

Two more Ministers have finished their course since we last addressed you, and though both of them comparatively young, their deaths are lamented by a numerous circle of friends. Rev. D. H. Elsworth, and R. Shaw, are the honoured brethren to whom we allude. The former had been about 15 years in the ministry, and was a laborious and successful preacher. The latter was a graduate of our noble University, and had only been about 6 years in the work. He was a young man of promise. We are having a large mortality of persons, who were deeply distressed and penitent, obtained a clear sense of God's pardoning mercy. The account adds, "Some of those who are now brought in were recently drunkards and careless persons; but most of them are the beloved children of our own people; whole families are now rejoicing together." In the Banff Circuit in Scotland, there has been a wonderful work, and an angelic atmosphere among the people, and a mighty power with the word. Old and young were seen bowed down together in broken-hearted penitence. One of place was told, "The worst drunkards in the village are sitting at the feet of Jesus. The publican was among the first to confess his sins. He has pulled down his sign, smashed his glasses among the rocks, and given the largest room in his house for a young man's prayer-meeting."

One of the most significant events, whether viewed politically, religiously, or socially, has recently occurred in the Kingdom of Italy. This is the suppression of religious houses throughout the entire dominions of Victor Emmanuel. On the 1st of January all the monastic and conventual establishments were closed, with the exception of a few devoted to literary pursuits, and a few allowed to remain during the lifetime of the present occupants. The monks were ordered to receive a pension from the State; but monastic orders, with a few unimportant exceptions, are as thoroughly abolished as they were in our own country by Henry VIII, only the thing has been done in a far better manner. It is difficult to appreciate well the marvellous character of this great event; for only a few years ago, Italy was a country where monks, friars, priests and nuns swarmed on all sides, and seemed to hold their own with a most determined grasp. Besides this, the Government is about to submit to the Parliament a scheme for the sale of the whole of the Church property, which, it is calculated, will realise about 1000 million lire. Of this sum 600 million lire is to be paid into the Government exchequer to aid in meeting State liabilities, and the remainder is to be invested in Government Funds for ecclesiastical purposes. What will be the result of this? It is difficult to say. In the metropolis of the Roman Catholic world are revealing the unchangeable tyranny and intolerance of the Romish See. For the last six years a Presbyterian service has been conducted in Rome during the six months when foreigners travel through the city, by an eminent minister of the Free Church of Scotland. The Pope has ordered the service to be discontinued, and has informed Mr. Lewis, the minister, that by continuing his services he has put himself in the power of the Inquisition both for arrest and imprisonment! Cardinal Antonelli has also hinted that the American Protestant service also be prohibited. His Holiness has moreover forbidden the continuance of the Greek service in the palace of the Roman Legation, and a vigorous crusade is going on in order to purge the "holy city" of all heretical and schismatical worship. One is curious to know what the Protestant countries of Europe, and orthodox Russia, and sensitive America will say to all this.

February 1st, 1867.

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subjects extending over a wide field. The very important, but, too frequently neglected study of English Reading had manifestly received considerable attention, and the same may be said respecting the cognate subject of English Grammar. We ought perhaps also distinctly to refer to the classes in Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Ethics which exhibited the marks of successful industry.

ACADEMY, MALE DEPARTMENT.

However much we may regret the sad accident which has deprived us of the Male Academy, we are thankful that the work accustomed to be conducted in it is not suspended. The students of this Department now occupy, in part, the College Hall, and enjoy important facilities for the prosecution of their studies. Tuesday, the 12th of the present month, was taken up with the usual English which embraced, besides the usual English branches, Virgil, Xenophon's Anabasis, Natural Philosophy, Metaphysics, &c., &c.

THESE WERE CLOSED IN LINGLEY HALL, ON Wednesday, the 13th inst., commencing at 9 a. m. The following is the Programme:

I. Reading Psalm 103, singing the 74th Hymn, and Prayer. II. Declarations by Academy Students. 1. "Napoleon," by A. Wilson. 2. "The Federal Union," by A. W. Boardman. 3. "Phrenology," by E. Nash. 4. "Trust," by E. Nash. 5. "Immunology," by F. J. Hall. 6. "Dialogue," by A. W. Boardman. 7. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 8. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 9. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 10. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 11. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 12. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 13. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 14. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 15. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 16. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 17. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 18. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 19. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 20. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 21. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 22. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 23. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 24. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 25. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 26. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 27. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 28. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 29. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 30. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 31. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 32. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 33. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 34. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 35. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 36. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 37. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 38. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 39. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 40. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 41. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 42. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 43. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 44. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 45. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 46. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 47. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 48. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 49. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 50. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 51. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 52. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 53. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 54. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 55. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 56. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 57. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 58. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 59. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 60. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 61. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 62. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 63. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 64. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 65. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 66. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 67. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 68. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 69. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 70. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 71. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 72. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 73. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 74. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 75. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 76. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 77. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 78. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 79. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 80. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 81. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 82. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 83. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 84. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 85. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 86. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 87. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 88. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 89. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 90. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 91. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 92. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 93. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 94. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 95. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 96. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 97. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 98. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 99. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman. 100. "The Servant," by A. W. Boardman.

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