

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the time has now arrived when it is advisable that an effort be made to found an institution upon such a scale as may be adequate to the wants of the Province.

On motion of Joseph Ells, seconded by Robt. Margerson:

Resolved, That this institution be under the patronage and supervision of the Baptist denomination; yet free for all to participate in its privileges.

On motion of David Chipman, seconded by Edward C. Foster:

Resolved, That the site for said institution be on the hill in front of the dwelling house of Abel Parker, Esq.

On motion of Gilford D. Woodworth, Esq., seconded by Joseph Ells:

Resolved, That Rev. William Chipman, Nathan Parker, Esq., Edward Parker, John M. Parker, Edward C. Foster, H. C. Marsters, M.D., Isaiah Shaw, David Chipman, and James C. Morse, be a Finance Committee to devise means whereby the principles of the foregoing resolutions may be carried into effect.

On motion of John M. Parker, seconded by Isaiah Shaw:

Resolved, That the Finance Committee are authorized to appoint a Building Committee as soon as sufficient means are procured to warrant them in so doing.

On motion of Edward C. Foster, seconded by David Chipman:

Resolved, That the friends of education generally be solicited to aid with their donations in erecting said institution.

On motion of James C. Morse, seconded by John Shaw:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be forthwith forwarded for publication.

At the close of the meeting a subscription list was opened, and notwithstanding the small attendance of the meeting, owing to the inclemency of the weather, the sum of £275 was subscribed.

EDWARD C. FOSTER, Secretary.

Papers favourable to the above will oblige by copying.

For the Christian Messenger.

Address to the Rev. James E. Balcom.

LONG ISLAND, Dec. 31, '55.

REVEREND SIR,

In the Autumn of 1851, God in his Providence directed you to this place; and now as you feel it to be your duty to leave us, to pursue a course of study, to enable you more fully to understand God's word—the tie that united us together will be severed, and we must bid farewell to him whom we loved to call our Pastor. For three years you have ministered to us in holy things, rightly dividing the word of truth—giving to each a portion of meat in due season. Many of us may never again be permitted to hear you proclaim the glorious truths of the gospel. It is therefore proper on your departure from among us, that we should express to you the sentiments of our hearts, and commend you to the God of all grace. We pray that your highest expectations may be more than realized in your new sphere of duty.

Dear Sir, when we think of separation, it is painful to us, but we desire to be resigned to the will of God, hoping he will overrule all things to his honor and glory—and that you may after that period has expired, again feel it to be your duty to return and labour with us, as our Pastor. Since you came to this place, you have experienced some of the trials and discouragements of a minister's life, but amid them all you have laboured on, sowing the good seed and watering it with your tears, looking to him who only can give the increase—and we believe those efforts for souls have not been in vain.

Although there have been no very extensive revivals—yet the church for which you have especially laboured, has steadily advanced under your fostering care. Twenty-eight persons have been added to its number during your residence amongst us, and many have become more firmly established in the truth. You have had some seals to your ministry that shall ultimately "shine as stars in your crown of rejoicing." We do cheerfully testify to the zeal, ability and faithfulness with which you have discharged the sacred duties of your office. You have ever been ready to sympathize with the afflicted, and to impart words of encouragement and consolation to the weary and heavy laden.

Through your instrumentality our Sabbath School has attained its efficient state, and we trust the good seed there sown in the youthful

mind, will not be lost. Your christian candor and consistent deportment have merited our esteem. Your obliging and generous manner has won our affections, and we believe by your departure we lose a kind friend, a good citizen, and the labors of a true servant of God. The Long Island Baptist church and congregation are thus deprived of a devoted pastor. This thought fills our hearts with sadness. But we will hope for the best—we believe God will not forsake his people. We shall not soon forget the interest you have ever manifested for our welfare, by assiduously labouring to promote our good—neither time nor distance can lessen our esteem. And now, Dear Sir, we bid you farewell. May the blessing of God continually attend you wherever you go. May you long be permitted to labour on earth in the service of your blessed Master, and may all finally meet in those regions above, where the Great Shepherd himself shall lead us, and where separation shall be unknown.

(Signed)

In behalf of the Church:—Joseph Crocker, Samuel King, Isaiah Thurber, George Thurber, Nathan J. Thurber—Deacons.

Reply.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

The address you have just presented me, expressive of your views and feelings in reference to my labours during the past three years, has stirred the deepest feelings of my soul. I believe the Lord directed me here, and has enabled me to preach the Gospel to you, and for whatever success has attended my labours, to Him belongs all the glory. I am glad I have had the privilege of living and labouring among you. I have ever received the most unbounded kindness from the church and community, and three happier years I never expect to spend with any church on earth.

To resign my charge as Pastor and enter upon the course which lies before me, has cost me a deep struggle and many painful feelings. It is not that I have become weary of your society, or discouraged, in labouring for your special welfare, that I leave you, but from a sense of duty, that I may pursue a course of study, and gain such knowledge as shall enable me to be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." At the time of my entering in amongst you, I was a total stranger to you all, but have since formed many endearing acquaintances that can never be forgotten while memory retains its seat. To you I have preached the gospel, and with you I have mingled in the social circle. For many of you I have prayed and wept, and do yet pray, as for my own soul. Some of you it has been my privilege to baptize and welcome to the church of Christ. With others I have stood by the death bed of loved ones, and mingled my tears with those of weeping friends, whose hearts were smitten with grief. Then, can those social ties ever be severed or forgotten? No, time and distance cannot dissolve those tender associations of the past. I shall not cease to love you, think of you, pray for you, and feel a deep interest in your welfare; and if it is the will of the Lord, shall gladly return again and labour with you; if not, "there remaineth a rest for the people of God," and with many of you, would that I could say, all, I hope to enjoy that rest, where separation, disappointment, and sorrow are unknown.

When I contrast my poor labours with the flattering encomiums you have passed upon them, I feel deeply humbled, and regret that all my efforts have been so imperfect, for after having done my best, I feel I am an unprofitable servant. Wherein you have derived any benefit from my labours as a minister of the gospel, or been comforted by acts of kindness, ascribe to God all the glory, for He has made me what I am.

O! to grace, how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrain'd to be!

I deeply sympathize with you, in the sorrow you manifest at my departure. I am well aware, you expected I was settled with you for life, and so unexpected a separation is harder to be borne, in proportion as it was unexpected: let it teach you the evanescence of all earthly things, and cause you to take a firmer hold on God, who will never disappoint those who put their trust in Him.

And now, dear brethren and friends, I take

my leave, hoping and praying you may be abundantly blessed by God. Support by your prayers and counsels, as well as pecuniary aid, my dear brother, whom I expect to succeed me in the Pastorate, for next to the presence of his God, stands a praying church to a minister in the hour of trial. May he so preach, and you so hear, that the church may be edified and built up, and sinners be converted to God, that finally he who sows, and they who reap may rejoice together.

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

JAMES E. BALCOM.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR BRO. SELDEN,

In assuming the management of the C. M., as successor of the lamented and pious John Ferguson, you have placed yourself in a highly responsible position.

Our much lamented brother possessed intellectual endowments equal to the most gifted who have appeared in our Province; and all his endowments were according to his enlightened judgment consecrated to the service of the Lord, toward the increase and advancement of the Baptist churches of our Province.

Now, as the public mind is progressing in knowledge, from the increased circulation of general intelligence, and from the improvement in schools and institutions of learning, it will be expected that you adequately keep pace with this growing intelligence. You very wisely commence your new series by providing suitable nourishment for youthful minds, with a pledge that the youthful portion of your charge shall not be overlooked. The hope of the church and of the world is in the young. And in the intellectual and moral training of all our youth, you occupy at least the fourth position and in many instances you stand at the head of the fountain of intelligence.

In the first place, parents are the natural guardians of youth, on whom first of all devolves the duty of training up their offspring for usefulness and for heaven. The Pastor next, under God's direction, stands at the head of the youthful class, and guides the doubtful feet in all the dangerous and slippery paths, to take the path of life. The School Teacher has also an important office to perform. If he is wise and good he can leave his impress on many minds as plainly as the seal on melted wax. But to you, Sir, belongs the honor and privilege of assisting the parents, and the teacher, and the pastor, in their respective duties. On you rests the responsibility of cherishing the plant which under your nurturing care will flourish and blossom and at maturity bring forth fruit to perfection.

You will have an important duty to perform in imparting light and knowledge, and seeking the prosperity of our churches. We have the model in the word of God. Your office will be to present that model in all its beauty of design and harmony of proportions to our churches, so that as Moses imitated the pattern shown to him in the Mount, so may our people conform to the defined principles of the Testament. We have now amongst our churches too many jealousies, and discrepancies, and divisions, and irregularities, and apostacies. These vile propensities and excrescences arise from many causes. Ignorance with many is still the friend of vice. The young, without consideration and destitute of a knowledge of the first principles of religion, are often under slight impressions and momentary excitements brought into the church, there to continue as they began, dark, cold and worldly, and there they continue until they die under this fatal delusion, unless providentially by some gross offence they obtain exclusion. The character of such disciples is soon defined by their ignorance of truth, by their coldness and formality, by their worldliness and neglect of religious duties and ordinances. Few of them however, having made such profession, have the moral courage to abjure it. The church having received them without knowledge and without piety, cannot without inconsistency reject them. Thus we have reason to fear our churches, to a great extent, are composed of persons void of piety, of knowledge, and consequently of consistency and utility.

Many other deformities exist, which require to be exposed, corrected, and removed. And

in the improvement of our churches, and in the building of them up in the holy faith, how important the position you occupy!

With best wishes for your success in your arduous employment,

I am dear brother,

A BAPTIST.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dedication of Saint Croix Meeting House, Annapolis.

DEAR BROTHER EDITOR,

The Baptist Meeting House, lately finished in this thriving locality, was opened for divine worship on Wednesday, the 19th of this month. At eleven o'clock the house was filled to its utmost capacity, and after the usual preliminary services were performed, what is usually called the Dedication sermon was preached by Elder N. Viditoe, from 1 Kings viii. 27. The preacher was converted and baptized and began to preach in this place, and the choice made of him to preach on the occasion was happy. The sermon was very appropriate, and contained many reminiscences of the religious history of the first settlers, which gave it additional interest to those who heard it.

Elder J. Ring preached in the evening from 1 Peter i. 25. His fervent piety, his experience, and his venerable age, won the respect and love of the hearers.

On the morning of the 20th, the pews were sold, much to the satisfaction of the Building Committee. The expenses upon the house (£250) are fully met by the sales. This is as it ought to be. Men who take the lead in providing the necessary accommodation for the worship of God, should not be left to bear a disproportionately large burden, while others go free. This is sometimes the case. After the disposal of the pews, Elder George Armstrong preached from Hosea xiv. 1. After each of the sermons, short addresses were delivered by the other ministers present. The house is 30 x 38, and is creditable to the taste of the people and the skill of the architect. The pulpit is no box; it is large enough and low enough, and in other respects in good taste. When I preach I like to be among the people, and not perched on high as though I belonged to another planet.

The singing by the choir was decidedly good, and reflects credit upon their instructor. Singing is a delightful part of worship, when rightly performed. Sometimes in our travels we have heard singing in the house of God which accorded neither with taste, science, nor devotion. No minister can fairly be expected to preach much, nor the hearers to hear well, after such an infliction.

The brethren at Saint Croix are members of the Chute's Cove church, at present without a pastor. The Marshall Cove church is also without a pastor. These are the churches over which our dear bro. Cunningham presided so long with great benefit to the people. These churches need an efficient minister very much, and would pay him well; but in the present scarcity of ministers, it is hard to say where they can get one to suit them. However let them pray and enquire: "The Lord will provide" the means for the edification of his people, though He has made no promise to gratify their tastes, prejudices and unreasonable expectations. At present there is a great lack of ministers in this province, and also in New Brunswick; and almost every religious periodical we see from the United States, and Canada, proclaims a like destitution in those countries. Why is this? Has the Head and King of Zion failed to supply pastors and watchmen to feed and preside over his churches, as well as to call sinners to repentance? By no means. But there has been to a very large extent, we fear, a failure on the part of his people to appreciate his gifts and use them as he has commanded, and therefore they are withdrawn, until perhaps they shall learn to prize a Gospel ministry more than silver and gold. We have great faith in the prayers of God's people, if they would only act in such a way as to correspond with them. The prayer of faith and the action of faith is the thing that is specially needed now in the churches. The things that are wanting would soon be supplied if these were in vigorous exercise. Lean churches make lean ministers, is as true as—lean ministers make lean churches. O, that ministers and churches were what they ought to be! Pardon this digression.

After a few words said by bro. Viditoe in recommendation of the "Christian Messenger," the