

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Rev. W. Burton.

HANTSPOET, March 14, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER,

I left home about the middle of January. I visited Yarmouth with some of my family, the field of Christian labour where I spent twenty-three years of the best part of my life and Christian efforts. It was extremely pleasing to revisit my old stations and mingle with hundreds of faithful Christian friends, many of whom I had led forth in the ordinances of the Gospel; and to whom I have for so many years successfully preached the gospel of the blessed God. I reached there on Saturday, the day Brother Goucher, commenced a series of meetings in the West Yarmouth Church, and preached for them on the morning of the Lord's-day, and again in the town in the evening, to crowded congregations. During the week I preached in South Yarmouth church, where Bro. Martell is pastor, also with brother Ried's church 'Ohio,' and with brother Stubert's, Third Yarmouth church. The weather being favorable, large gatherings attended at all the places. On Friday I returned to town, where brother Angel labours as successor to brother J. Davis, now removed to N. B. On my return to town I regretted to learn that Miss J. Goudy, whose death you have already noticed, had been called to her eternal reward. She had been ill for some time, but hope began to be entertained that she would recover, but the Father of all wisdom and goodness had however otherwise decreed, and her happy spirit had flown to the mansions of light and joy. On the Lord's-day I was called with bro. A. to attend her funeral, and preached on the occasion from Rev. 15. 3. Subject—The employment of the saints in Heaven. It was affecting to look upon her remains as she lay with her infant babes, one on each arm, who a few days before had been called to the spirit-world. Her funeral was attended by a large assembly of different denominations. Sister G. was a daughter of Mr. N. Coley, of St. Mary's Bay. She made a profession of religion on the first of January, 1843. was baptized by myself with her husband and many others. She maintained a truly christian character, and manifested a sweet christian spirit. Her naturally mild and amiable disposition sanctified by the grace of God, rendered her extremely agreeable to all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. She suffered much in her last sickness, but was much resigned to the will of God—supported by an inward conviction that Christ was her Saviour and friend—and that she had in Heaven a better and an enduring inheritance. She died January 24, 1856, in the 34th year of her age, leaving a husband and several children to mourn her loss. Alas, many and affecting have been the changes since I left, nearly three years ago. The venerable H. Harding has gone up to his heavenly rest, with deacon A. Baker, deacon I. Sanders, Dr. I. Bond, and many more excellent friends of different denominations, who will be much missed in that interesting community. Father Harding will on many accounts be most missed, as he mingled most with the people, and was practically a pastor to the whole community. He was too well known to need any remark from me, but it may be borne with, when it is remembered that for twenty-three years I was his co-pastor in the christian ministry, and had therefore a very general acquaintance with his character and life. As a man he was gentlemanly and polite. As a christian he was faithful and exemplary. As a preacher he was zealous, fervent, and untiring in his master's service to the end of his life. As a pastor he was gentle, affectionate and sympathizing. To the inhabitants of Yarmouth his memory is endeared by the recollection that for nearly sixty years he devoted his best and entire energies at all seasons, for their everlasting good. May the churches there gratefully acknowledge their obligations to God and to him, by an unceasing regard to the personal comfort and happiness of his deeply afflicted widow, who still lives among them.

I observed much improvement in the Town of Yarmouth since I left there. A number of fine houses of the cottage style have been built which are quite an ornament to the place. Also two new places of worship in the north east part of the county doing alike credit to the zeal and good taste of our brethren in the third Yarmouth, and Lake George churches. I was

raise his voice, or direct an instrument in the praises of the sanctuary.*

Congregations and churches are but the gathering of families, the church is supposed to lead its individual members, and single families and christian principle is seldom strong enough to advance against the views and practices of the church. Christian families formerly in their social intercourse, sung a number of hymns and psalms, to their old familiar tunes, and closed their evening with prayer. Now, similar families act differently. Those who sing, consider hymns and their tunes intended for the sanctuary, whilst pleasing airs and sentimental songs belong to the evening sociability. But as organs are considered necessary in churches when funds are to be had to purchase them, so in Christian families where means are sufficient a Piano-forte must be a part of the furniture of the drawing room, the members of the family are expensively instructed to practice its music, and when a christian party is held, the evening is too frequently filled up by light and trifling performances, ending with waltzes, quadrilles, and marches; a piece of sacred music if played is done as a requested favor. Says a recent writer, "what would be thought of Gabriel, striking his golden harp, to the tune of "Jump Jim Crow," or "Oh, Susanna."

Were I to pronounce these changes which have so evidently taken place among us, wrong or injurious to the spirituality of the church and its families, I fear I should be considered as holding views that have not advanced with the age. So I will not give my opinion. But I have my own thoughts on the subject, and others I presume will enjoy theirs.

HINT.

[*We suppose this statement has reference to what exists in some churches not in Nova Scotia. We are not aware of any of our churches sanctioning such profanity—ED.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Prince Edwards Island.

ST. ELENORS, P. E. I., Feby. 27th, '56.

DEAR SIR—In the Messenger of the 16th of last month—I see a letter from your correspondent in Canada West. Having resided there for three years, and being in connection with the Baptists during that time, I can second what he says. His speaking of such high terms of the Baptists in Nova Scotia—seems to put one in better spirits, and excite one to look forward to better times, especially if the Nova Scotia Board send us over some of the right sort of men. We want in religion, as well as in politics, "the right man in the right place."

Providence having cast my lot on this Island, and being a baptist (known in England as holding the faith and order of Particular, or regular Calvinistic Baptists) I take a part in the success of our Denomination, here, and try to do a little good. Whatever confusion there is in Canada West among us, I am sure it is equalled, if not exceeded here, and the reason is plain,—a departure from the system laid down by the old ministers of Nova Scotia who organised the churches on this Island. I contend for the good old paths and will not alter till I know a better plan. I will not give up our Articles, as a declaration of our faith and practice, the Bible being the rule; for a system, that is never produced, or cannot be subscribed to.

Some of the Ministers from Nova Scotia, and who belonged to the Association, attempted to form a union of all the Baptists on the Island, which I know was not done, although a paper from the Western States affirmed it was, and even had a union been formed, it would be like a live shell (13 inch) explosion would surely follow, and could such an explosion take place, and blow some out of the Association, I for one would be very thankful. I do really believe if one or two ministers of the right stamp came over here, next summer, working well with Brethren Ross and Burnet, much good would be done.

Any ministers who come here belonging to the Association, I will always be pleased to see, and make as comfortable as circumstances will allow, esteeming it a privilege.

As a stranger to you I must apologise for thus troubling you, and intruding on your valuable time. My anxiety for the cause, must plead my excuse.

Now Sir, if the success of our cause in Nova Scotia can be traced, to the way in which

the old ministers organised the churches, and it being followed up to the present time, the course is plain—still keep the old path, and contend for the truth.

On the other hand if our departing from the way the ministers organised the churches on this Island, be the reason of our ill success, confusion, uproar; our course is still plain—viz:—go back and begin again. I contend for Articles—that they be read and assented to by all persons, in joining the Church, the Covenant being read at every church meeting. Should the Rev. A. Martell ever come to this Island, I hope he will favour me with a call.

Mr. Editor I wish you every success in your new position, and do please exert the influences of your paper, for the regular Calvinistic Baptists on P. E. I., and I trust the Association will take us a little more by the hand, and send over some firm men to help us, and put a little life into us.

I am dear sir, respectfully yours,
ALBERT CASSWELL.

For the Christian Messenger

Educational Institutions for Females.

MR. EDITOR,

The Baptists of this Province have proved themselves no churls in the matter of education. With an energy, zeal, and liberality, worthy of the cause, they have addressed themselves to the work. The difficulties to be removed, the opposition to be overcome, were of no ordinary kind; and yet by their persevering efforts they have been to a considerable extent successful. The Pulpit, the Bar, the Legislature, the professions generally, and various callings, have received accessions from the number educated by their liberality, while their institutions, endowed with additional facilities for imparting instruction, still present an invitation, worthy of notice to all those who seek the aid of Academical or Collegiate instruction.

Advancement however is the order of the day. These Institutions must be greatly increased in their facilities for instruction. And others similar to the Academies at Horton and Fredericton must arise at different points, as nurseries for the College, and efficient common schools must be multiplied. A broader deeper impulse must be given to our educational movements; difficulties and opposition may exist, but they are less in themselves, and considered relatively, are far less than those of by gone days. The commendable zeal of other denominations, the want among our own, the general demand for men of intelligence are, among other reasons, sufficient to prompt us to renewed action.

And then, there is another branch of education as yet too limited in all that belongs to it. I mean the education of females. Why should not our daughters be educated as well as our sons? Can any one give a reason? A suitable establishment for this purpose is at the present time greatly needed among the Baptists of this Province. The expense necessary for this has been dreaded. It has been thought that females could not be educated as cheaply as males. This I am happy to say is likely to be proved a mistake. Enquiry has led to a knowledge of "Mount Holyoke Female Seminary," an establishment at South Hadley, Mass., indebted greatly to Miss Mary Lyons for its existence and usefulness, got up for the purpose of affording instruction in the higher branches of education, upon a plan so cheap as to bring that instruction within the reach of those in very limited circumstances. True, the place at first, did not meet with general approval. It was however adopted, and the result shewed the soundness of Miss Lyons' judgement. That plan embraced the idea of reducing the ordinary expense of female education by a division of the domestic work of the establishment among the pupils. These duties were so arranged as to promote rather than retard their studies. By the saving of expense in this manner the cost of education was very moderate.

It cannot be doubted, but that an institution based upon similar principles, would be very desirable for this Province, varied if need be in character to receive pupils in the elementary branches—and I am pleased to say that it is just possible that, the nucleus of such an institution may already exist in Nova Scotia. Nearly two years since three young ladies from Cornwallis left, and have since that pe-

riod been receiving instruction at Mount Holyoke. Through their agency, a graduate of that institution, has been employed, and has opened a school in Berwick, West Cornwallis, upon the plan referred to above, of which a report has already appeared in your paper. This, as it is now situated, is central for many parts of this Province. It would, however, undoubtedly be advisable, in some way, to take the opinion of the denomination, before any place should be decidedly selected for the site of our institution, that was designed for the province. But owing to the difficulty of getting the denomination together, and to avoid delay, (it is presumed), the parties engaged in the present enterprise, thought it better to make the experiment in a quiet way, the result of which, as the report referred to shows, has been very satisfactory. The expenses for board and tuition, will not exceed fifteen pounds per year.

The Associations and Convention having neglected to take any decided action thereon, it is hoped that no exceptions may be taken to the course pursued in the commencement of this undertaking, as it is one of private responsibility.

The time has now come when some more active and extended measures should be taken.

Perhaps the time has arrived when the denomination should come forward and assume the enterprise. Let others judge of this. The following is certain. Ample grounds and buildings are wanted immediately, to accommodate a large number of young ladies, thirsting for information, such as is now obtained at Berwick. A building sufficient to accommodate one hundred pupils, with domestic, and sleeping apartments, halls and recitation rooms is now, it is believed, loudly called for by the increasing demand for female education. The friends of education generally and the Baptists particularly are requested to give this subject a prayerful consideration, and to aid in any way the undertaking. Towards this a commendable commencement has been made by a subscription in Berwick and vicinity, to the amount of about five hundred pounds. This is but the beginning, we hope to hear that Baptists in other places are taking up the subject, and that the time is not far distant when in Nova Scotia there shall be a place of instruction, of the highest class, where our daughters may receive a physical, mental, and moral training, at a rate of expense, within the limits of those, in even humble circumstances.

As the above object has mainly the best interests of females in view, it cannot be deemed unreasonable to suggest, that the ladies by taking an active part therein, will greatly strengthen our hopes, and should they, as is most earnestly desired, take the lead therein, they will give assurance of ultimate success.

I am dear sir, yours truly,

JOHN CHASE.

Wolfville, March 19, '56.

For the Christian Messenger.

Christian Benevolence.

HANTSPOET, March 19.

DEAR BROTHER,

Please insert the enclosed letter in the "Messenger." I have just posted a pound each to brethren Chute and H. Ross and shall forward the two pounds to Brother Oncken thro' Brother J. Chase of Wolfville to the Bible Union. I wish a few more "Travellers to Eternity" would send on similar assistance. Many thanks to the friend who sent this.

Yours truly,

S. T. RAND.

DEAR BROTHER RAND—

I enclose you five pounds, Nova Scotia Cy, which you will be kind enough to dispose of in the following manner:—

Two pounds to Brother Oncken's Mission in Germany; one pound to the Gaelic Mission; one pound to the French Mission; one pound to the Micmac Mission.

Yours truly,

A TRAVELLER TO ETERNITY.

Prince Edward's Island, Feb. 28th, 1856.

THE HEART.—The wisdom of the Creator, says a distinguished anatomist, is in nothing seen more gloriously than in the heart. It was necessary that it should be made capable of working for ever without the cessation of a moment, without the least degree of weariness. It is so made and the power of the Creator in so constructing it, can in nothing be exceeded but by his wisdom.