

Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS; FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

NEW SERIES.
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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1856.

WHOLE SERIES
Vol. XX. No. 43.

Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

LINES

Composed on the Death of Miss. Euphemia Marshall, of Annapolis,

BY A FRIEND.

Departed one, we mourn thy loss,
With many a bitter tear;
Thy form which was supremely fair,
No more our hearts shall cheer.

In thee, bright graces radiant shone,
And health adorned thy brow,
But ah! the cruel spoiler came,
And all is blighted now.

No more we hear thy gentle voice,
Thy merry laugh is hushed;
Thy body cold, and lifeless now,
Doth mingle with the dust.

Relentless death hath borne thee hence,
From this delusive life;
And now, thou'rt with thy God above,
Beyond all care and strife.

It was a sad and mournful sight,
To view thy beauteous clay;
When the heart had ceased to beat within,
And life had passed away.

But yet, we will not murmur so,
Afflictions come from God;
And since we too, must follow soon,
Will kiss his chastening rod.

'Twas God's all wise command,
That called her thus away;
And we, like children of our King,
Submit and watch and pray.

Farewell dear friend we'll meet again,
Oh, happiness in store!
We'll meet again in heaven above,
Where parting is no more.
Annapolis, Sept. 27, 1856.

Bible Union.

For the Christian Messenger.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

MORRISANIA, NEW YORK,
September 25, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER SELDEN,

A month or two ago I commenced a letter to you but had to lay it aside for want of leisure.

I desired to express my sincere sympathy for you in your affliction, for be assured, dear brother, your sudden bereavement pierced my heart, and I wept as over my own sorrows, realizing by sad experience the weight of yours;—for when prostrated by ill health, I was called to pass through a similar heavy trial, and when I read of the death of your little son, I remembered the last evening I sat at your hospitable table, and the glad faces that surrounded it, and I thought how happy were you and your companion, and your little son and daughter by your side, with every prospect of blessing your life for long years to come. For wise reasons not now apparent, he has been early called to a better world. This consolation is yours that he is with the Lord, and though he cannot return to you, through grace you may go to him; you will soon realize that it was good to be afflicted, and that you have another tie to bind your heart to heaven.

I thank you for the Minutes of the Association sent me. I find much that is cheering in its earnest reports, and much to mourn over in the sad state of many of your churches; when will they arise and send their light abroad and gather into the Lord's fold the subjects of his love—truly "He is waiting to be gracious."—I like the plain practical views of the "Circular Letter"—if such sentiments dwell in our hearts and were practical in daily life, the songs of Zion would often greet us where now their "harps hang on the willows." I should rejoice to hear of the Church in Granville St. again lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes, that the wandering might find rest in her bosom.

October 3rd.—I have just returned from the 7th Anniversary of the Am. Bible Union, held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd inst., in the 1st Baptist Church,

New York (late Dr. Cone's); I can give you but a very hasty and imperfect report of it; there was a general gathering of men and women from all quarters of the Union in solid phalanx; from Maine to Iowa the ministers, deacons and laymen, honest, faithful and devoted, met together with earnest brow, to fulfil their important duties. They felt that the noble cause they loved was in difficulty and besides the ever vigilant foes without, was wounded in the house of its friends. Ambitious ones would "rule or ruin," others concerted with them, and declared the Union a dead letter, and seemed prepared for any extremes.

The convention assembled at 9 a. m., (having held a prayer meeting the evening previous for divine guidance) the President, Dr. Armitage, in the chair. After the opening exercises Rev. Mr. Clapp, of Conn., offered a resolution limiting members to 10 minutes in debate, only, until all had an opportunity of speaking. I was sorry to see the necessity for it, but it proved a most prudent measure, and to it was owing in a great degree the despatch of important business and the cheering success of the meetings. There were a small number who would have created a party excitement and have consumed the time by opposition, and prevented progress by endeavouring to break down the management and officers of the Board, but they were as a rivulet against Niagara for numbers. After the appointment of some committees and other business the regular meeting was called to order at 10½ a. m., by the President. After prayer and singing the Treasurer read his report. Over \$50,000 have been paid in the past year (not including over \$2000 received by brother Oncken of Germany) \$48,000 expended, leaving \$2,508 in the Treasury. Dr. Everts, of Kentucky made an able speech on the necessity and defence of the revision of the holy scriptures. The President then read an excellent address on the providences and experience of the Bible Union, and said that "tribulation, patience, experience, hope," were the true history of this great work.

The Annual Report was then read by the Corresponding Secretary, showing the progress of the work and the plans and policy of the Board, which were highly satisfactory. We then adjourned at 1 p. m. to the vestry to partake of the hospitalities so amply provided by the ladies. At 2½ p. m. they again assembled. Prayer by Alex. Campbell, D. D. After which we listened to Rev. Mr. Cathcart, of Conn., in a clear and forcible address on "the importance of the revision of the English Scriptures." It was much liked. Next came the adoption of the Annual Report. Dr. Judd strongly opposed it, with objections respecting the Greek Text, which were successfully disposed of by Prof. Morton, reviser. The report of the Investigating Committee concerning the charges of Drs. Maclay and Judd against the Board, was then read by the chairman, Dr. Lynd, of Kentucky; it being a complete refutation of every thing alleged against the Board in their letters and pamphlet, a perfect vindication of their acts, sweeping away every vestige of a charge, leaving nothing on which to hang a doubt. The digest of Dr. Maclay's letter by Dr. Cramp in the Messenger of August 27th, you will find was almost parallel with the report. I can hardly express to you the effect, this verdict of such an able committee had upon the vast assemblage within that large edifice. The hosts of friends from far and near had come with heavy hearts to learn all about this matter, and hear the sentence to be pronounced upon the officers of the Bible Union. They knew something of the imperfections and infirmities of man, and feared that in the various and arduous duties of an untried character with so many new men of diversified views and interests many mistakes might occur to compromise the wisdom of the Board and the great interests of the Union, but as one allegation after another was examined and dispelled they began to breathe deeper and freer and to raise themselves up; and while their cheeks blushed at the wanton assault, scintillations of joy sparkled from eye to eye, and lit up the sea of faces around. They could hardly

suppress their outspoken gratitude to God for this signal vindication of his cause.

The motion to accept, adopt, and publish the report was carried. Dr. Judd objected, saying "they had done the best they could from the information afforded," although he and Dr. Maclay had refused to accept a written invitation of the committee to furnish them any information they possessed. After this several committees were appointed, and the meeting adjourned by prayer at 5½ p. m. Tea was provided by the ladies. At ½ past 6 conference and prayer—a delightful season—every heart was full of love and thanksgiving; not a moment of time was lost till ½ past 7, when the evening session commenced. Prayer by Rev. F. Remington, of Mass. Dr. Lynd then addressed them on the importance of immediate revision, to check infidelity. Dr. Kallock, of Boston, was now to address the Union, but was absent, on account of illness, and Alex. Campbell, D. D., of Virginia, was called upon to speak. He said the Bible was a *Book of facts, not theories*, and that "the Testament was not the last will of a dying man, but the written testimony of our living Lord." His remarks all through were concise and comprehensive. He stopped once or twice but the audience pressed him to "go on." All were highly pleased with his remarks. After prayer the meeting adjourned at 9 p. m.

THURSDAY MORNING.—At 9 o'clock had a profitable season of prayer and praise, which warmed every heart. Regular session at 9½ a. m. A letter from Bro. I. E. Bill was read, stating the cause of his absence, &c. Then Dr. Duffield, of Kentucky, chairman of the Nominating Committee, read their report, presenting the names of the present officers, and a number of Vice-Presidents, which, after some opposition, (Dr. Lillie, late of Montreal, moving the name of Dr. Eaton in lieu of Dr. Armitage, for President,) was adopted almost unanimously. Dr. Armitage thanked them for the honour. He had decided, on account of other duties and cares, to resign, but for some reasons would now accept; and said "that Dr. Maclay, before he resigned, and others had pressed him to accept that position, since which time he had only allowed himself 4 hours for sleep, spent the day in the service of the Union and the evenings in preparing for his pulpit, &c."

Reports of Committees on Obituaries, Arrangements, German, and Spanish Scriptures, were severally presented, debated and adopted. After which adjourned at 1 p. m. At ½ past 2 the session met again. An hour was allowed for conference. Rev. Mr. Fulton, of Stillwater, to whom Dr. Maclay addressed his pamphlet, apologized for his course and apparent opposition before and during this Anniversary, and affirmed his undying devotion to revision and the cause of pure versions. His son, J. N. Fulton, of Ohio, did the same, and saying he loved not Armitage less but Judd more. Dr. Lillie, late of Montreal, also explained his opposition as the result of misunderstanding, deprecated the action of bro. Judd, regretted his rudeness and course towards bro. Armitage, and offered him his hand in reconciliation, which was cordially received.

Bro. Judd also relaxed his tone, and we hoped he, too, would make the "amende honorable," but he does not compromise, yet he maintains the principles of revision to be above associations, or men, or even character or life itself. All united in bearing Dr. Maclay frequently to a throne of grace, that he might have the Spirit's presence and blessing with all holy consolation in his last declining years, and at last in a ripe, old age be received into his Saviour's arms with the plaudit, "Well done good and faithful servant," "enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." As I wrote you last February, Father Maclay's health and strength since his return from Europe last fall, and I found his memory also failing, and thus amidst his many infirmities, his mind has been improperly influenced by others, so let all clothe his late acts with charity, and pray that his few remaining days may be blest to himself and the world.

But I return from this digression to the meeting which, after a full discussion of

several minor matters, adjourned at 5½ p. m.

At ½ past 6, we found ourselves again enjoying a delightful conference, every heart swelling with gratitude to God who had thus far sustained his cause against so many enemies, and brought them almost in sight of the promised land; all regretted when this happy meeting closed for the evening session at 7½, to listen to an address from Dr. Bell, on "the Harmony of all the Scriptures." It was a long, logical, rapid, and able discourse, but tiring to the audience, after the more delightful, "Harmony of all the believers" in the conference which we all wished had been continued. Our great men sometimes make such mistakes by an improper appreciation of circumstances, and the spirit and atmosphere of hearts and minds around them.

Resolutions of thanks were then passed to the reporters and the press—also to the ladies for their excellent hospitalities—and the Convention adjourned after prayer with unbounded good feeling and the delegates and friends lingered around to the to say farewell.

This Anniversary is among the most memorable and significant of them all both for its fears and its fruits—considering the times and the year that is past, its prosperity is unparalleled. Our prospects and our hopes are brighter than ever, and we now confidently look forward to an early and righteous completion of the glorious work. But we shall have less reason for pride than praise and more need of grace now to keep us humble than when we had most to fear; for although "our hearts burned within us by the way," and we are singing our deliverance on the banks of the Red Sea, yet, like the Israelites, we have a toilsome road, for we are not yet arrived at the Canaan of Promise, and trials and persecutions still await us.

There were several events of deep interest during this Anniversary. Many who were long halting boldly avowed their advocacy, and subscribed to its funds. One old man got up and apologized for presuming to speak before such an assembly of the great and learned, and exhorted them to greater love and union. In course of his remarks he said, "I am but a poor herdsman from the wilds of Pennsylvania. My father took me there when a boy, 7 miles from any living being, where I have spent my life; but God has been gracious to my soul and he has prospered me so as to enable me to save a little. I heard of this Bible Union and I came to see for myself what is going on, and I propose to give all I can spare to this great work of getting a pure Bible. First I want you to let me become a Life-Director and I will pay you \$100 before I go. Next, my companion here, who came all the way with me, I want to make her a Life-Member, (\$30). I have also two daughters at home, put them down as Life-Members. Now if there are 20 or 25 poor ministers whose heart and soul is in the work, who will pay \$5 each, I will pay the other \$25 to make them Life-Members; if they are not here I will find them when I go home, and send you their names. I have about \$600 to spare, and you shall have it all, and so their 'll be no doubt about it. I'll get a lawyer and have it all fixed, that you may know I mean what I tell you." This good old brother's name was "Edsalls," and I give you as near as I can what he said. Are there not some good "Edsalls" in Nova Scotia who will "go and do likewise?" What Christian brother or sister will enrol themselves among the thousands of co-labourers of this glorious Bible Union, and enclose the first installment of \$5 or \$10 as a Life-Member or Life-Director. We are the Stewards of His bounty, let us all show our gratitude by our continual contributions to His cause.

Praying for the prosperity of you all, I remain yours in the faith of a pure Gospel,
S. H. HARRINGTON.

We celebrate nobler obsequies to those we love, by drying the tears of others, than by shedding our own; and the fairest funeral wreath we can hang on their tomb is not so fair as a fruit-offering of good deeds.