

Maidstone Agricultural College were jointly his alma maters. For ourselves, we felt much gratified that this excellent judge, with a mind so able and vigorous though in his seventy-seventh year, should hear and be so gratified with such a faithful sermon.— London Freeman

For the Christian Messenger.

COLLEGE HINTS.

Dear Business,

At the last meeting of the Convention it was resolved that an immediate effort should be made to raise the College Endowment to £15,000.

It would have been better if the sum named had been £20,000, for a less sum will not meet our wants. An additional Professor is even now necessary, in order to do full justice to all the Departments, and a Professor of Modern Languages ought to be obtained forthwith. When we further take into consideration the outlay for repairs, insurance, &c., it will be evident that the income arising from £20,000 will be absorbed.

Taking for granted the desire of our Denomination that Acadia College shall maintain its character as a first-rate Institution of learning, I present the above statement that all may see the necessity of vigorous and united endeavours to place it on a solid foundation, in a pecuniary point of view. Nor is it to be imagined that such an endeavour will fail. Spreading the payments over a number of years, as in the first Endowment, we are able to accomplish the desired result.

There are some noble examples before us. The Chicago Christian Times says: "We are gratified in being able to state that the subscription of \$100,000 for the building of a Baptist University in this city, has now been completed. This sum has been obtained within the First Baptist church and congregation, including a few of the brethren now connected with the new church in Edina Place. We are informed that additional sums have been also made sure, so that the contribution of Chicago to this enterprise cannot be less than \$150,000." The Baptists at Chicago have done well. The Presbyterians emulate them. I take the following from the Toronto Journal of Education:—

"An association has been formed to establish a University near Chicago, under the charge of the New School Presbyterian Church, and to form an endowment, a tract of land was purchased about twenty-five miles north of Chicago. After describing this the Chicago Democrat goes on to say:— Within the last few days our fellow-citizen, Sylvester Lind, Esq., has given to the trustees of the institution the munificent sum of one hundred thousand dollars. The papers are all passed and the trustees are not to wait for the decease of Mr. Lind before it is available. He has wisely made the donation now, and it is placed at the disposal of the trustees whenever they are ready to use it. We learn, that in consequence of this act, the trustees have determined to call the institution the Lind University. The only condition prescribed by Mr. Lind in making the grant is that \$40,000 shall be used for the endowment of professorships, and the income of \$60,000 shall be perpetually used in preparing young men for the Ministry. The income may be used for the purpose of sustaining worthy young men in any department of the University. The noble act of Mr. Lind makes it proper that we should say a few words in reference to the giver. He is a plain, unassuming citizen, who makes it the great business of life to use the ample fortune which Providence has placed in his hands, for the good of his fellow men. In the spring of 1837 Mr. Lind arrived in this city from Scotland with just two sovereigns in his pocket. Less than twenty years ago this was his entire capital. All his little patrimony in Scotland, with the exception of enough to bear his expenses here, he left to assist in educating his two brothers, who were preparing for the ministry. His industry and integrity have secured for him an ample fortune, and enabled him to give forty thousand dollars toward endowing professorships, and sixty thousand more, the interest of which will educate thirty ministers per year for all coming time."

"Educate thirty ministers per year!" That is a noble investment. Would that some of our brethren would tread in the steps of Sylvester Lind, in proportion to their ability. Many young men, I have reason to believe, are desirous of coming here for instruction, preparatory to entrance on ministerial labours, but are prevented by want of means. If our Union Societies were in general operation, and liberally sus-

tained, this difficulty would be removed. Perhaps I might add, if our churches were suitably impressed with a sense of duty in this respect, candidates for the ministry would be more encouraged, and some of our waste places would be brought under culture.

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Dec. 23, '56.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 31, 1856.

THE Last Day of the Year 1856! The last of one of those fleeting periods of time, of which it shall also be said, this is the last—the closing year of the final consummation of all human things! How deep and awful is the mystery to mortal man, which rests upon whatsoever is connected with the duration of time. Who shall dare, unappalled by the prospect, and unprotected by the panoply of Divine Grace, speculate upon what even a day, much less a year, may bring forth. With ever rapid and resistless course—with ever fluctuating feelings and fortunes, man passes on, from year to year—from youth to age, towards the Goal where all terrestrial thoughts and things must surely perish. It might surely seem as if the imperfection and brevity of our enjoyments here, the number and certainty of the pains and sorrows which beset our hasty journey, should amply suffice, to darken and embitter our best of worldly hopes. Such are the thoughts which the present state of things, as connected with the ceaseless flight of time, might lead us to indulge, were there not a surer and sounder foundation on which to base our future prospects. Empires and Kingdoms, communities and families, "rise and fall, flourish and decay." They occupy our hopes, our fears, our time and our activities, but in one great sense, all "is vanity and vexation of spirit;" when pressed to the mark—when driven to the close brink of time, the all-momentous question comes upon us, in a form that admits of no evasion "are we prepared to meet our God?" This question, reader, it becomes both you and me and all to answer—to answer faithfully and honestly to our own souls—for we alone and not another are concerned in the issue.

Old Concern of "Christian Messenger."

At the conclusion of the year, the parties interested in the former concern of the Publication of the Christian Messenger find it again necessary, in addition to previous notices to the same effect, to state, that it has become absolutely requisite, in order finally to close the accounts of the concern, which are connected with the settlement of the Estate of our late brother Ferguson, to press the immediate payment of all such accounts as still remain due. We trust this will be promptly attended to by those whom it may concern, as the accounts must now be placed in the hands of the legal agent of Mr. Ferguson's Estate, to be paid under his directions, as heretofore, at the Christian Messenger Office.

To Our Subscribers.

In the good Providence of God we have been permitted to add another volume of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER to its nineteen predecessors. As it is the first of the New Series, and of our management of your religious journal, we may be permitted to make a few remarks on our position. In doing so we will take a glance at the experience of the PAST, that we may correctly ascertain the advantages, responsibilities, and duties of the PRESENT, and rightly estimate our prospects and intentions for the FUTURE.

It has been our aim to bring out on each of the fifty-three Wednesdays of the year now past, such an amount of valuable information as would make our readers fully acquainted with what has been passing in the world, especially with regard to the religious movements of the day. How far we have succeeded in the accomplishment of this object and of affording satisfaction to our patrons, they alone can determine; but if we may be guided in drawing a conclusion on this point, by the kind expressions we are continually receiving of unabated attachment and the increasing interest with which each successive number is looked for, we feel that we have not altogether failed.

Probably no previous year has been so momentous in bringing into operation trains of events which will continue to operate in

future years. We shall be looking forward with still more intense interest to the developments of each month and week of the year, on which we are so soon to enter.

Never before was it so important to have the religious press exerting its power. We live in days when it is not a matter of indifference to any man what his neighbour reads and thinks. No man can say with impunity, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Every Christian man should feel bound to exert all the influence in his power to enlist those around him in the cause of truth and righteousness. Never was there so great a demand for men of intelligence and earnest piety to manage our civil, educational, and religious institutions. Men having intellect and heart to devise, wisdom to guide, and energetic activity to execute, what may be for the good of their fellow men.

We have not been disappointed in the general favour of our brethren, which we anticipated. Our list is considerably increased. In some instances where two united to subscribe for one copy, each one has sent his name; others who were formerly subscribers, but for some cause had discontinued, have again renewed their subscriptions. In some families where sons or daughters have commenced house-keeping themselves; they have sent their names for the C. M., as a necessary part of their household arrangements. Many who have removed to the United States, Canada, and even Australia, have wished to have our weekly visits to inform them of what was passing "at home."

We have to acknowledge our indebtedness to the valued Brother who has continued, as formerly, to assist and to enrich the pages of the C. M. with editorial matter, and to all, we would offer our thanks for their sympathy and aid.

The principles which we hold are set forth by our title. We aim to be "Christian" in all our sentiments, and still do not hesitate to present our distinctive views on all necessary occasions.

THE INDEX of the present volume is given on the last page. It has formerly been printed on a separate sheet after the year had expired, but we were anxious that no delay might be experienced by those who wished to preserve their family paper in volumes. It may serve to show all our readers the principal articles which have come under consideration during the year. We are aware that it is not a perfect table of the entire contents of the volume, but we believe it will be found generally correct.

Our numerous and highly respectable corps of correspondents will perceive that they not only write for the benefit of the passing hour, but that their communications have become a permanent record of events, which may be referred to by their children and children's children. In addition to its having supplied the news for a year, we believe it is a cheaper volume than any ordinary book published.

With regard to the future we promise our readers that nothing shall be wanting on our part to make it as much better than it has been, as a proper regard to our responsibilities and its permanent usefulness shall warrant.

We leave it for our friends to say how much better it shall become. Every reader may consider himself or herself, personally addressed, when we say, Try and send us at least One New Subscriber for the year 1857! and you shall have our warmest thanks, and increase our facilities for making improvements.

Those who have not yet sent on their payments, will oblige us by doing so as early as possible, either privately or through one of our esteemed agents. Having sent on fifty-three numbers to all who began the year, we think it not unreasonable that we should receive the payment forthwith. Those who paid in advance at the beginning of the year, will oblige us by continuing the good practice. We have large obligations to meet, having to make cash payments for wages and paper, and shall be obliged by early attention to this particular, so as to relieve us from embarrassment and loss.

Hoping that Heaven's best blessing may rest upon our READERS and FRIENDS, (and foes, if we have them), we tender to all the compliments of the season, and wish them a Happy New Year, and remain,

Most respectfully, THE PUBLISHER.

Meeting House at Prestop.

It may be remembered that the Meeting House belonging to the Preston Baptist Church was burned to the ground some time since, supposed to be the work of an incendiary. They are desirous of rebuilding it, and have requested us to forward an

appeal to the Central Domestic Missionary Board. Thinking that it would be more likely to be read by all its members and by others as well, we have copied it into our columns. They say:—

"We have got the timber and are going to build on the same ground, but not on the same spot. It is a great difficulty to have our little chapel burnt down. We lay it before you hoping that you will consider into our distress, as we are not able to do as our desire is, for lack of money. We would be thankful if you would lay our case before the Board, if through the help of the Lord they will consider our case and help us."

"Our subscribers are, Henry Cain, 20s.; Gabriel Hall, 15s.; General Saunders, 20s.; Peter Downey, 12s. 6d.; Hasy Growth, 30s.; George Carvery, 10s.; James Carvery, 20s.; George Smith, 12s. 6d.; William Smith, 12s. 6d.; David Saunders, 10s.; William Carvery, 10s.; William Hopkins, 7s."

We shall be happy to receive and forward any subscriptions to assist these poor people in rebuilding their little Sanctuary.

OUR last English Mails, in the Steamer Canada, were unexpectedly delayed. They were despatched in the America, which sailed on the 5th inst., with a number of passengers, but fell in with a severe gale of wind three days after, on the coast of Ireland. After having her decks swept and considerable injury sustained, with several of her crew disabled, she was compelled to put back to Liverpool. The news received is of some interest. The Conference of Ambassadors is again to meet at Paris, to review or complete some of the points not finally adjusted at their first sittings. It seems to be thought that whatever these deliberations may end in, it will be to give Russia a more advantageous position than she held at the conclusion of the war. It is understood that the re-opening of any part of the negotiations is very unwillingly acceded to on the part of England.

A troubled state of things still prevails in Italy. The King of Naples has been attacked, some say shot at, in the streets. It seems uncertain whether or no he has been wounded. Sicily appears to be in much ferment and partial insurrections have broken out here and there through the island, but have thus far been suppressed.

Some misunderstanding has arisen between our Government in India and the Shah of Persia in consequence of the Persians having attacked and taken possession of Herat, a large fortified city on the confines of Afghanistan, and an expedition of 5000 men is about being sent from Bombay up the Gulf of Persia to watch the proceedings of that Power. In the mean time the Russian Cabinet is said to be cultivating friendly intercourse with the Shah, and pushing forward numerous armies to the Northern and Eastern borders of Persia. It is very evident that Russia is affording ample evidence that she is in no wise abating her aggressive and encroaching policy.

It is said the Transatlantic Telegraph will be in operation in July next. The utmost activity is being used to complete the wires so as to have them laid down from Galway to Newfoundland during the month of June. There seems little doubt but that within a very brief space of time, a similar communication will be opened between India and Europe, with some slight intervals of Steamboat lines.

We think we have before referred to an Ecclesiastical case in England which has of late excited great public interest. We allude to the prosecution of Dr. Denison Arch-Deacon of Bath before the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury for the use and encouragement of Popish ceremonies and doctrines in his ministrations. After a long course of proceedings and elaborate legal pleadings he was not long since, by the Decree of the Arch-Bishop, deprived of his Ecclesiastical rank and perfections to the great discomfiture of the Puseyite and Tractarian portion of the Church Clergy. We see by the latest accounts that his right to appeal to a superior Court has been held inadmissible.

Our readers will find some appropriate and interesting remarks in this week's article from our London Correspondent, both as regards the state of political and religious matters in Europe, at the present juncture.

THE latter part of the Telegraphic Despatch on Monday, is an ominous paragraph of news, with which to close up the year, especially when we find Russia sympathizing so fully with Persia, and some doubt as to the good faith of our French Alliance. We shall be anxiously looking for further