

The 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, MAY 7, 1856.

WHOLE SERIES
Vol. XX. No. 19.

Poetry.

A few short Years.

A few short years—and then
What changes Time hath wrought;
So strange they seem, we scarce can deem
The world, our life, ourselves are nought
But one long fitful dream.
The clouds that fly
Across the sky,
Waves tossed upon the sea;
Shadows that pass
Before a glass,
Our fitting emblems be.

A few short years—and then
Where'er the hopes that shone
When youth with flowers inwreathed the hours,
And earth had but one music tone
Of joy for us and ours?
The rainbow's hues,
The morning's dews,
The blossoms of a day,
The trembling sheen
On water seen,
More stable are than they.

A few short years—and then
Where is Ambition's pile,
That rose so high against the sky,
O'ershadowing all around the while
With its proud boast might vie?
A shadow's shade,
A card-house made
By children for their play;
The air-blown bells
That folly swells
May vaunt a surer stay.

A few short years—and then
Where is the mighty grief
That wrung the heart with torture's art,
And made it feel that its relief
Time's hand could ne'er impart?
A storm that's burst
And done its worst,
Then left the heavens more clear;
A nightmare dread,
With morning fled,
These sorrows now appear.

A few short years—and then
What of our life remains,
The smiles and tears of other years,
Of passion's joys, of sorrow's pains,
Ambition's hopes and fears?

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The insertion in the Christian Messenger of the following account of a meeting held April 23rd, 1856, in the Baptist Chapel in this town, will greatly oblige many friends in this community.

Most truly yours,
G. S. PARKER.
Liverpool, April 25th, 1856.

"After an interesting missionary discourse delivered by Rev. William Hobbs, the meeting organised by choice of brother Hobbs as Chairman and G. S. Parker as Secretary. The object of the meeting having been stated, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

1. Resolved, That all Christians are under obligation to be Missionaries.
2. That in view of the rich spiritual blessings bestowed upon us of late, we should cherish and exhibit more of the missionary spirit.
3. Resolved, That this county and places adjacent, demand of us increasing attention as an inviting field for Christian effort.
4. That this meeting is rejoiced to learn the contemplated arrangement by which the valuable labors of our dear brother, Rev. W. Hobbs, are likely to be secured as a county missionary, and we do hereby pledge to him our hearty co-operation, our sympathies and our prayers.

These resolves were ably advocated by

brethren W. S. Jacobs, C. Bill, L. Geldert, S. N. Bentley, T. R. Patillo, B. O. DeWolf, and especially by brother C. A. Cook from the United States.

The chairman then presented the subject of forming a "Juvenile Missionary Society," which being approved, our young people adopted with hearty good-will a constitution and by-laws, and selected their officers. The object of the Society is, "to aid in sending the gospel to the destitute, in distributing books, tracts and papers, and in encouraging Sabbath Schools."

The meeting closed by singing with much interest the missionary hymn.

It may be explained that an immediate object with our young people and children in forming said Society, is to assist brother Hobbs, as our county Missionary. His labors having been instrumental in the conversion of many of them, they have readily chosen the plan of operations, and are glad to become his humble assistants in the work of doing good.

It may also be stated in this connexion that the members of this and of the Milton church feel so deeply the importance of securing the services of a faithful missionary in this county and places adjacent, that a subscription is being rapidly completed for the purpose of securing for this office brother William Hobbs, whom we all regard as eminently adapted for the field, and who has become deeply interested in the cause of Christ in this region. Though in opposition to another cherished intention, it is expected that he will accept the proposition, for which we sincerely pray. We bespeak for our brother the co-operation and material aid of our churches and the friends of Christ in this field. The missionary will take collections in aid of the mission. While laboring with churches it is expected that they will defray the entire cost of such labour, and in other places it is expected that contributions will be made according to the ability of the people. Whatever amounts are received in these ways will go to reduce the final payments by those who have guaranteed the missionary's salary. We anticipate the return of brother H. to enter upon his labours about the first of June or earlier. May many souls be gathered into the fold of Christ as the result of this new attempt to promote the Divine glory and the good of man.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Annapolis County.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

I have been sometime waiting to contribute something for the columns of our highly valued Messenger, but the state of Zion has afforded nothing that would be profitable. But the scene has now changed. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for he hath visited his people.

My last letter in the C. M. of Feb. 13 will have given your readers our local situation, and the above may serve to give you an idea of our spiritual circumstances. It was thought that something must be done to induce people to think about their souls, and revive the cause of religion. Accordingly under much discouragement the Rev. W. G. Parker and brother John Plumb were invited to come here on the 10th inst. and commence a series of meetings. In the mean time the people of God united in prayer. They came in the power and spirit of Elijah's God. Other brethren also from the surrounding neighbourhoods came to our help with fervent prayers and sympathies. What was more, the Divine presence was manifested. The ministering brethren commenced preaching, others began to labour, and it was soon apparent that there was deep anxiety of soul for Zion. Pow-

erful sermons were preached, mighty prayers were offered, until Saturday 12th, when they had to return to spend the Sabbath with their own people. On the following Tuesday, they returned to us with others, and it appeared as if the ministers especially, came with a fresh anointing from the Almighty. The word came with power. The holy spirit made it effectual in the heart of the king's enemies. Sinners felt it like a "sharp two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, of the joints and marrow, and it became a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The 16th of April, will be long remembered by many in this place. It appeared as if the power of the Holy Spirit filled the place wherein we were sitting—and a large number were saying "what must we do." Since that time it has been like a pentecostal season. Some we trust have found peace in believing, backsliders have returned with lamentation and tears. In all this the people rejoice. There is a great work to be done yet. More backsliders away from their father's house and heavy laden sinners to be brought into the fold of Christ. Our ministering brethren and friends have returned again to their families and flocks for a time, and left us with all the responsibility of this state of things upon us. Brethren pray for us. The Rev. N. Vidtoe came, providentially, yesterday afternoon and preached with much of the Divine blessing, and again this morning held forth the word of life. Many thanks to all the brethren and sisters who came from other settlements. May they carry the sacred fire with them, and thus may the good work spread and fill the land. We rejoice in the mercy of God manifested in Liverpool and other places.

Yours &c., JOHN WHITMAN.
Beal's Mountain, Annapolis,
April 18th, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

REVISION.

DEAR BRETHREN,

In reference to the supposed "interpolation of the translators" in Mark xv. 3, allow me to furnish some additional information.

The Greek words answering to the English, as found in our translation, "But he answered nothing," occur in twelve manuscripts, and in the later Syriac, Coptic and Armenian versions. This is Griesbach's statement, in his critical edition of the Greek Testament. But the manuscripts are all of comparatively modern date, none of them being older than the tenth century.

Beza's edition of the Greek Testament, published in 1598, was made use of by the divines who prepared our authorised version. Consequently, the clause in question must have been found in it, as well as in other editions. In preparing the early editions of the Greek Testament but few manuscripts were consulted, and not always the same, so that variations appear in many passages.

The clause adverted to—"but he answered nothing"—is found in the Geneva French, in Diodati's Italian, in the Portuguese and in Martin's French. It is not in the Italian of Martini, in Scio Spanish, nor in the English versions by Wicliffe, Tyndale or Cranmer. Griesbach has omitted it, because it wants the authority of the oldest and best manuscripts. But the fact which it records is stated by Matthew, so that nothing is lost.

The Elzevir edition of the Greek Testament, published in 1624, has been regarded as the "received text," to which our ordinary editions are conformed. But it was not issued till thirteen years after the publication of the Authorised Version. Before

that time the printed editions differed from each other, because different manuscripts were used in preparing them; since then, there has been general uniformity.

A competent and final revision of the Greek Text is highly desirable. Dr. Treguelles of England is engaged in this important work, and it is hoped will shortly present it to the public.

Yours truly,
J. M. CRAMP.
Acadia College, April 26, 1856.

Temperance.

For the Christian Messenger.

MR. EDITOR;

Notwithstanding the earnest solicitations of upwards of 36,000 of the friends of temperance, asking the legislature to enact a Law to prohibit the importation and traffic in Intoxicating Liquor, we are again informed that their petitions are disregarded, and the petitioners treated with contempt, upon the pretence that the country was not prepared for such a law, thus leaving the advocates of Intemperance to triumph in their own shame. Now why is it that this portion of the most respectable part of the community are so treated. Is it because the enactment of such a law would, as the Hon. Attorney General said, "deprive us of £24,000 a year of revenue?" Would that compensate for the evil to the country, caused by the traffic in intoxicating drinks. If the revenue be, as reported, £24,000 a year, what is the aggregate of expence upon our province for that poisonous evil? If one-fifth of the cost of the liquor be for revenue it amounts to £120,000, but this is a low calculation when we consider the quantity smuggled, sold and drunk without any advantage to the province chest. But is it not a curse to the place wherever sold, and robbing the country of its wealth and giving in return nothing but misery and crime.

I would urge upon those who have asked for a Prohibitory Liquor Law still to stand firm to the cause of Temperance, and if the legislature continues to refuse prohibition of the poison, let us have a principle above self-interest or partyism. Let our motto be "touch not, taste not, handle not."

The Hon. Attorney General said "the Law of God did not prohibit the use of wine." I would ask does the Law of God encourage Intemperance? I answer No,—but the Legislature of this Province does, and that for the sum of £24,000 a year. With facts like these before us, ought not every lover of peace, of social and domestic happiness, to unite against the monster Intemperance, which is sweeping over some parts of this province like a mighty deluge. Who are murdering Fathers and Mothers, are not Rum-sellers? are they not robbing the children of food, of raiment, of friends and comfortable homes? are they not causing the tears to run down the cheeks of many a broken-hearted mother? are they not spreading moral evil throughout our land? O, when will the monster Intemperance be banished from our midst! When will it cease to fill the country with its victims of wretchedness and misery? Is it not sending its degraded victims to prison and to untimely graves, and souls to perdition?

I would appeal to our churches, to the friends and well-wishes of our youth, for the sake of the church of God, and for the peace and prosperity of the Country, for it is still true that wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Very truly yours,
J.
Digby County, April 11th, 1856.