

The Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

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WHOLE SERIES
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Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

How to be truly Happy.

Dost thou seek happiness my friend,
Seek it not not here below
For their is nought of earthly life,
Unmixed with care, and woe.

But seek it in that better land
That lies far, far away,
Beyond the sun, beyond the stars,
Where all is one bright day.

There is a calm and peaceful shore,
Where happiness abides;
And but the narrow stream of death,
This land from that divides.

The pure in heart alone are they,
Who can this kingdom share;
For aught that is by sin defiled
Cannot find entrance there.

The contrite and obedient ones,
The Saviour will receive;
Who lowly bend the willing knee,
And on his name believe.

It is the heart that he requires,
A meek and quiet mind,
From every doubting fear set free,
And to his will resigned.

Blessed indeed are those who have
This Saviour for their friend:
His love is great; his promise sure,
His goodness hath no end.

Will thou not give thyself to him
Who in youth's early dawn,
Ere yet the world around thy heart
Its thousand snares hath drawn?

'Tis in our youthful days that he
Invites us all to come,
And should we wait till after years
We may not then find room.

O, may you find the path of life,
And therein take delight,
And God the everlasting One,
Direct your steps aright.

And may your bark securely float
O'er life's uncertain wave;
Until within heaven's pearly gates,
You know His power to save.

ISADORE CLIFFORD.

Stewiacke, June 27.

Denominational.

For the Christian Messenger.

ANOTHER SKETCH:

taken at Sackville, N. B.

BY AN AMATEUR.

Ornamental designs do not always prove to be ornaments. As however pictorial representations are often permitted a place in our houses for the purpose of recalling the object or circumstance represented, rather than for their artistic skill, I will with your permission attempt another subject, which I think worthy of a more correct delineation than I can expect to give it by this very imperfect method.

The occasion which I would exhibit, is one somewhat similar to that of my former attempt, and although not more than twelve miles distant from that scene, and only a week difference in point of time; it is in another province and may be considered as illustrating, not three social institutions, as that was intended to do; but three periods of time PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE, combining all that affords interest to this generation.

Before directing your attention to the principal characters in this picture, I must refer to some of the subjects which make up the back and fore ground, and which sur-

rounds the centre of interest—in which they are as it were a sort of nucleus, to which is attracted so many of the most intelligent part of the community around.

In looking along the road there may be seen tied to the fences on both sides, about one hundred and fifty vehicles of various descriptions, from the well-matched span with chariot or covered carriage, and richly polished light carriage, down to the straight-sided, flat market waggon, but all furnished with horses which no man need be ashamed to drive. Many of them probably worth two hundred dollars.

Let us now pass from the road and step within the large building standing a few feet back, on a gentle eminence of five or six feet. It has three large Gothic windows on each side. We find it filled with upwards of six hundred serious, respectable, persons. Of course the usual variety of colors seen in the rainbow are employed in the dresses of the female portion. There are however sufficient of sombre habiliments to indicate that here there is no exemption from the visitations of bereavement and sorrow. As you pass in from the door the congregation is more and more composed of men, until at last black coats alone and ministerial countenances are seen to fill the more forward seats. The house is a well proportioned handsome Baptist Meeting-house with galleries on three sides. The pulpit is large and low, filling up the space between two Gothic windows at the end.

In front of the pulpit is a space enclosed by a circular rail, within which are seated two persons; one having the burden of near seventy years and the other about eighty-five. It occurred to me that these might aptly illustrate THE PAST. The latter is known as Father Crandall, the last of the "Pioneers of the Baptist Churches" in these Provinces. It must not be supposed that the name indicates that any thing like a superior authority is exercised by him over his brethren in the ministry, but partly from his extensive usefulness in laying the foundation of many churches, and partly from the circumstances that he has a son who has now been many years a laborious and useful minister of the Gospel. The history, character and labours of these remarkable men are so well known, that it is unnecessary to do more than name them, to call up a host of recollections in the minds of many. The memory of these Fathers in the ministry is a rich legacy to the churches which have arisen throughout the country, as the result of their labours. Father Crandall is now living as a connecting link between the past and the present. By reason of his advanced age "the almond tree is flourishing," and the "keepers of the house tremble," and although it may be said, because of his infirmity, these are his "evil days," yet if we may judge from his expressions of confidence in the work of the Redeemer, and the happiness he still feels in his service, the days are not yet come when he has "no pleasure in them." In the course of his address he refers to the past, when this beautiful district was morally as well as literally a wilderness. Fifty-six years since he was ordained the pastor of this people. Those who witnessed that consecration have passed into another world, a host of successors have arisen to fill their places, and carry on the work of subjugating the world to Christ.—When listening to the descriptions given of the state of the country previous to the remarkable reformations spoken of by these veterans, all must recognize the Divine operation, and exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" Truly "the wilderness and the solitary place are made glad for them, and the desert is made to rejoice and blossom as the rose."

If this more aged of the two already introduced in my sketch may be considered as the bond between the past and the present of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick: he who becomes the next speaker on the present occasion may well represent the past generation of staunch English Baptist preachers. He will be known by many as the father of "Reminiscences," and has probably laboured more extensively throughout these provinces, about thirty years ago, than any other living man. He is still possessed of much of his early vigour and energy, and although he might now find it somewhat more exhausting to preach for two or three hours at a time than formerly, yet he is still able to deeply interest an audience for as long as most of our modern preachers. Without anything peculiar in his enunciation, there is a plain blunt earnestness in all his remarks, which characterises native Englishmen, and sufficient in his mode of thought and expression to indicate that he hails from the northern portion of "the old country." The preponderance of Saxon words in his sentences gives him great facility of expression and adds point and force to his thoughts, which enables the listener to follow him without effort. I must not forget, however, that this is to be merely a picture, and not a full description of each subject, or I might make it a large volume, instead of a sketch. Mr N. is rather below the average height, quite erect, with a broad full face, and a sufficient expansion of the chest to indicate that he has passed through no small amount of bodily exertion. He appears still capable of many years of active service in his Master's cause. Father Crandall can still sound the trumpet of the Gospel, and give a distinct, connected, and certain sound, but Mr Nutter attacks the powers of darkness, and gives them many a vigorous, deadly thrust, and is capable of doing battle valiantly for the Lord of Hosts. Allow me then to designate these as fair specimens of those who live amongst us now, but are more thoroughly associated with THE PAST.

I must increase very considerably the number of figures in my picture to exhibit fairly THE PRESENT, as there are so many here who are actively engaged in the service on full pay in this glorious army under the Great Captain. Perhaps the pastor of the Sackville Church may be taken, as well as any other one, as a sample of those who are to act, and are acting, on the present generation, and making their mark on the world around them. He is a fine specimen of a fully developed human organization, especially in his vocal powers. He is truly a "Boanerges," and would do and say more in a given time than most men in a similar position. He has five or six large meeting houses in which he officiates, and besides these five or six other preaching stations where he regularly labours. His name may be considered highly appropriate for the pastor of such a district. When the church extends so far in several directions it is appropriate that the minister should consist of Miles. Notwithstanding his attention is diffused over so extensive a district, and although blessed with such a massive, stentorian voice that one would conceive him to be a veritable "son of thunder," when uttering his fierce denunciations against evil-doers, yet when personally approaching towards him he is all gentleness, and but little escapes his attentive consideration.—Like his Divine master, he would find out the bruised reed, and bind it up; and with the same breath which would at times be used to make the strong man tremble, he would soften down to the sweetest accents so as to raise "the smoking flax" to the cheerful brightness of a "flame" of Christian love.

We can only bring out a few of those who stand around him, as equally deserving a place here to illustrate THE PRESENT.—Amongst those who strike me most forcibly are the pastors of the churches in Salisbury, Harvey, Saint Martin's, Pugwash, Moncton, Springfield, Newcastle, Carleton, Halifax, and Guysborough, together with the President of the Theological Institution, Acadia College; the Principal of the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton, and the conductors of the Denominational Press in the two provinces.—I might fill up this part of the picture by giving much fuller details, but lest I should be punished for doing so, by having an intimation from you, that it is too large to be used as an ornament for your pages, I will let this suffice for the part that is to illustrate THE PRESENT.

I will now only trouble your readers to look at one other personage in this assembly, and perhaps he may not so fully represent the position I assign him, as the former parts do theirs, yet I think on reflection he may be seen to carry out the design, so as to render it comparatively complete.

A tall young man of somewhat dark complexion rises to address the assembly. He has a head of hair not quite equal to that of Absalom, but sufficiently luxuriant to supply a good back-ground to a finely formed face, and a forehead capable of taking in an enlarged view of men and things, as they are now and as they may be in the future. He is deeply impressed with the necessities of the churches, and the want of more labourers in the vineyard of the Lord. He is making an appeal on behalf of the coming generation of ministers of the gospel, and is desirous that there shall be some means provided, by which young men may be assisted in their efforts for improvement, so as to become workmen that need not to be ashamed when they enter upon this momentous work.—His appeal comes with much force, as it is evident he speaks from a heart deeply moved by what he would impress on his hearers. His evangelical piety may mark him as appropriately named Isaiah, and although the pastor of two churches on the shores of the Grand Lake, his warm interest in the extension of the kingdom of Christ, has led him to be present during the past year, at the formation of five new churches in different parts of the province. I think then I may, without fear of objection, designate him, as personifying THE FUTURE, as he is evidently well adapted to act on the rising churches, the rising ministry, and the rising generation.

With this I will draw to a close my very imperfect sketch of these three periods; not supposing that it might not more fully exhibit the scene, by a further delineation, so as to bring out each figure in more bolder relief. I cannot tell if the readers of the Christian Messenger who were there, will recognize it as a faithful picture, or will consider it as a disfigurement instead of an ornament. Whether they do so or not you will at least give me credit for making the attempt to preserve from oblivion a scene which may at some future period have some historic interest. If on examination, any professional gentleman should discover the numerous deficiencies, and would add a few touches of his more experienced pencil, I assure you, Mr Editor, he would confer a favor which I would not be the last to acknowledge and appreciate.

LONG PRAYERS.—Speaking against long prayers, Elder Knapp says:—"When Peter was endeavouring to walk on the water to meet his Master, and was about sinking, had his supplication been as long as the introduction to some of our modern prayers, before he got half through, he would have been fifty feet under water."