

Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS: FERVENT IN SPIRIT."

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1857.

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Poetry.

Morning.

MORN is the time to wake—
The eyelids to uncloze—
Spring from the arms of sleep, and break
The fetters of repose:
Walk at the dewy dawn abroad,
And hold sweet fellowship with God.

Morn is the time to pray.
How lovely and how sweet,
To send our earliest thoughts away.
Up to the mercy-seat,
Ambassadors for us to claim
A blessing in our Master's name!

Morn is the time to sing.
How charming 'tis to hear
The mingling notes of nature ring
In the delighted ear,
And with that swelling anthem raise
The soul's fresh matin-song of praise.

Morn is the time to sow
The seeds of heavenly truth,
While balmy breezes softly blow
Upon the sail of youth;
And look to thee, nor look in vain,
Our God, for sunshine and for rain.

Morn is the time to love.
As tendrils of the vine,
The young affections fondly rove,
And seek them where to twine:
Around thyself, in thine embrace,
Lord, let them find their resting place.

Morn is the time to shine,
When skies are clear and blue—
Reflect the rays of light divine,
As morning dew-drops do;
Like early stars, be early bright,
And melt away like them in light.

Morn is the time to think,
While thoughts are fresh and free,
Of life just balanced on the brink
Of dark eternity:
And ask our souls if they are meet
To stand before the judgment seat.

Morn is the time to die,
Just at the dawn of day;
When stars are fading in the sky,
To fade like them away;
But lost in light more brilliant far
Than ever merged the morning star.

Morn is the time to rise—
The resurrection morn!
Up springing to the glorious skies,
On new-found pinions borne,
To meet the Saviour's smile divine—
Be such ecstatic rising mine!

J. L. G.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

New York Correspondence.

NEW YORK, March 9, 1857.

Dear Brother.—Kept at home to-day by indisposition, I take much pleasure in noticing some good tidings of Zion, particularly as my last alluded to the general declension of vital piety.

Quite an interest has been awakened in several of our churches in answer to frequent, fervent prayer. Saints have been revived and refreshed, sinners have been converted, and many have followed the Lord in baptism. The promises of God are ever sure in hearing and answering prayer.

While I desire and pray that the Holy Spirit may be "poured out like the rain and distilled like the dew" on the hearts and consciences of men, continually, and at all seasons, in answer to earnest prayer, (for the Spirit saith "I will be enquired of to do these things for you") yet, I cannot object to the annual or periodical revivals which so regularly occur in many of our churches, since God pleases to bless them in the conversion of sinners.

With many churches these efforts are delayed till winter is past, and genial, buoyant Spring brings along its own share of feeling and enthusiasm, which in the minds of many, especially of the youth, is taken for pure devotion and genuine revival; and in this state they take solemn vows, and unite with the true followers of Christ:—but as Spring departs, and cheering summer comes on, such emotions are

dissipated like the morning dew, and those who shared them are found away in the world, with their backs upon "the kingdom; perhaps seeking pleasure on the water, or in the fields, or groves, or woods, instead of at the prayer-meeting, the Sunday School or the Sanctuary. With solicitude have I watched for many years the effects of these "Special efforts" in our own and other denominations; and while many remain true to their vows, with a consistent life, many more have returned to the vanities of life, more hardened than before. I dare not write on this subject and slight these warning truths.—"It must needs be that offences (or misleadings) will come, but woe be to those by whom they come." If our churches are so engrossed with mammon, that they can make only "annual" efforts, why not make them in autumn (as is rarely the case) before the gay season of winter festivities arrive? then if sinners will be persuaded to relinquish these for the sake of Christ, and their soul's salvation, there is more assurance that they will be brought to Christ, and established in the ways of godliness, bringing forth the fruits thereof, before another Summer, with its cheerful and ever varying changes, shall call them away to engage in other scenes and duties. Will not those who have "tasted that God is gracious," and feel the love of Christ shed abroad in their hearts, carry this matter of "protracted meetings" to a throne of grace and be instructed in future by the solemn teaching and providences which have attended and follow those meetings, and act as the Spirit shall therein dictate. May we pray, not only for periodical but perpetual revivals, the results of which we should find the most blessed and abiding.

The sober, wholesome age of plain, heart-felt, practical christianity is passing into one of continual excitement; and professing christians seem to live only for pleasure and the present, instead of usefulness and heaven. Noted days are devoted to them to civil and military displays and amusements; their winters to festivities and carnivals, and in summer, excitement and change only succeed each other, till the whole heart of this nation is lapsing rapidly into infidelity, and the church of Christ with its moral power declining, leaving its high behests to chase luxurious Mammon. Where may we look for a remedy but in the gospel, the Word of God; and who shall proclaim it when the "Watchmen on the walls," and the more private christian, professing to be redeemed by the same precious blood, alike forsake their master, and "run also with them to the same excess of riot."—'Tis an absorbing theme!

A painful occurrence has taken place in our midst. Dr. Samuel B. Phillips, a prominent physician, a kind husband, a deacon and trustee of the church, and an active and humble christian, about 3 p. m. on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., was found dead on his bed!

CHINA.

There is a report by the Persia of the total destruction of Canton by the British—it is received here by many with satisfaction; on the grounds that the barriers and barbarisms of China have already existed too long, and that it is the duty of enlightened nations to open that country to the "rest of mankind," and to send the gospel through all her wide domains. It is supposed that the present rebellion and internal strife will compel her to accede more readily this time to "outside Barbarians." Tea has already risen in this market. A ship has just arrived, the value of whose cargo has, by her long delay, been enhanced some \$40,000.

POLITICAL.

Our new President's inaugural has been delivered, and gives pretty general satisfaction, save in its pro-slavery leanings;—but when I remember how we were inflated with the fine promises of Mr. Franklin Pierce 4 years ago, and how they were all reversed, I put no more faith in inaugurals. Mr. Buchanan has also announced at last, after many changes, the names of his cabinet—all strongly partizan, but tolerably

acceptable. The Attorney General (Judge Black, of Philadelphia,) is a man of fine abilities, a friend of the Bible Union, and a Baptist.

Our present peaceful relations with England will be confirmed, and we may hope, through Napier's assistance, for 4 years of comparative quiet.

Lord Napier, (British Minister to the United States) arrived in the Persia, and is welcomed, and well spoken of by the press generally. He is said to bear the title of "Baronet of Nova Scotia," and though his mission be not approved by the London Times,—he has had much experience in diplomacy, and will no doubt be highly acceptable at Washington.

THE WEATHER.

In February we had two weeks of uncommonly warm weather, and some days pedestrians hugged the shady side of the street, the thermometer ranging from 60° to 70° in the shade. It then became suddenly cold, and has been very changeable since, causing many colds and much consequent sickness. Our own family has shared the fate of others. To-day the snow falls fast, and there is the appearance of a young winter. There are serious apprehensions that the late warm weather which started the buds will ruin the fruit, in many quarters, the coming season. At present, fruit and vegetables, as well as other provisions, are very high in this market; bread-stuffs have declined. The Spring trade is opening, and there are prospects of a brisk business—rents are advancing—the country is prospering, and the coming year is one of much promise.

With best wishes and kind regards to all our friends,

I am, yours faithfully,
S. H. HARRINGTON.

P. S.—Our venerable and beloved brother, Deacon Wm. Colgate, "whose praise is in all the churches," lies very low, and is daily sinking; there is little hope of his recovery.

Tuesday morning, March 10th.—The weather is bitter cold. Wind, North West.
S. H. H.

For the Christian Messenger.

Australian Mission.

MR. EDITOR,

In resuming the subject of the Australian Mission, I am not to be understood as undervaluing Domestic Missions, or any other evangelical institution. As far as I can understand my own motives and feelings, I am actuated by a sincere desire to promote the cause and glory of our Redeemer, in that important section of the globe, not at the expense of other organizations; but by a reflex influence, our home interests may receive more substantial aid.

In my former communication I noticed some of the objections to the Mission and I trust removed them;—in the present I shall refer to a few more, and try to free it from the aspersions thrown upon it. The impression, has been made from various causes, that this Mission is a hasty movement, and that like other fast men and measures, will soon be consigned over to oblivion. I am at a loss to know, how such a sentiment can be cherished, by any one acquainted with the actions of the Convention, the last two or three sessions. At its sittings in St. John, over two years ago, the subject was brought forward, and fully discussed on a very fine morning when every one was aware of it, and after mature deliberation it was resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention, the time had come, in the providence of God, when the Baptists of these provinces, were called upon to establish a mission in Australia. (I believe it had been a subject of private discussion a year or two before.) An Australian Missionary Board was forthwith appointed for the purpose of carrying forward the enterprise, by securing a missionary, and attending to other duties involved. Nothing, however, was done the ensuing year, further than the opening of a correspondence, with different brethren, upon the subject. At the next meeting of the Convention in

Liverpool, no further action was taken, because no missionary had offered, and none had been secured. But in Portland last September, brother I. Wallace offered himself to the Board as a Missionary to Australia, and after mature deliberation, it seems, was accepted. This action of the Board was endorsed by the Convention. Some say by a small majority, on a rainy night. Well, what of that? If brethren are disposed to absent themselves from a meeting of the Convention, because it happens to rain a little, they should not be allowed to nullify the action of the body, by irony and sarcasm:—thus making the Mission, as far as their influence goes, unpopular. Now it appears to me, that three or four years prayerful consideration of this mission, and its adoption by the whole body, as far as the action of the Convention is concerned, for two years, and the existence of a Board, for the specific object of carrying it forward, must make it plain to every one, that it is not a precipitate, nor inconsiderate action.

With this view of the subject, did it not become the leader of the opposition, to obtain a vote of want of confidence in the Board and Convention, before italicising paragraphs, intended to destroy or weaken confidence in the Missionary? Another ground of complaint is, the hasty manner bro. Wallace performed his agency in this Province. I here admit that it would have been better if he had taken more time, although he would have increased the expense. But a want of attention to mere formality should not lead to the opposition of abandonment of the mission. It has again been stated as an objection, that the leading men of the denomination are not in favour of it. If the views of our leading men are not expressed in the public actions of the denomination, I am at a loss to know where they are expressed! If they don't lead in the actings of the body how can they be leading men? unless it be leaders of a faction. Then is the action of the leading men, in the resolutions of the Convention, to be made unpopular, because two of the junior ministers, asperse with articles, from the peculiar character of which they themselves saw the propriety of adopting the anonymous names of "Vinegar," and "Strong Beer"? I trust not: and sincerely hope it will soon revive, and raise superior to those temporary interruptions.

I do regret that bro. Wallace has for the time being abandoned the project; but I am pleased to know that another suitable missionary can be obtained to accompany him another season. Thus God is overruling this momentary suspension for good. Yes, this mission is like a fire shut up in the bones of many, soon to burst forth with greater warmth and strength.

When William Carey, (the model missionary,) before the eccentric John Ryland, proposed this question for ministerial discussion,—"*Have the Churches of Christ done all they ought to have done for the heathen nations?*" he met a severe rebuke, and was requested to sit down, and let God convert the heathen when he pleased, which he could do without his aid." When he (bro. Cary) subsequently represented his views to Messrs. Fuller, Sutcliff and Cox, (all great men) they approved of what he said, but made objections on the ground of so much being needed to be done at home. The objection they had to Cary going abroad was the same as is now made to bro. Wallace; but the sequel proved them in an error; and such I trust will be the case with the Australian Mission.

Your correspondent from Onslow, whose modest and courteous communications are always appreciated by myself and others, has not done this subject justice, by referring to the case of the devoted and truly excellent Samuel Pearce, as similar to that of bro. Wallace just now. Mr. Pearce desired very much to go as a missionary to the heathen, but never directly offered himself for that object. He stated his desires and anxieties to the committee, and requested them to deliberate, and give him their advice. If they thought he should go to the heathen he would most gladly do so, but if not he was willing as far as his yearning