

over perishing heathens would permit him) to remain content at home. They decided that in consideration of the important work to be done at home, requiring his peculiar talents, he had better remain where he was. This conclusion some of the committee ever after regretted. But brother Wallace has offered himself, and has been accepted as our Missionary to Australia. Here then the two cases are widely different. It, moreover, remains to be proved, that the committee to which Mr. Pearce submitted his case, acted as God would have them act. May it not be quite possible, that some of the difficulties and obstructions the Baptist Missionary met with, would never have existed, or would have been more easily overcome, if Mr. Pearce had been allowed to go where the Spirit of God prompted him to go? May it not be possible, that the heathen world and the Missionary Society feel the sad effects to this day, of preventing Mr. Pearce from going to India? Hence we conclude, that, as brother Wallace's case is different from brother Pearce's, and the action by which the latter was prevented preaching the gospel to the heathen, cannot be proved to have been correct, therefore the treatment of Mr. Pearce cannot be referred to as a precedent, to justify our opposition to brother Wallace's departure to Australia. From this view of the subject, it seems plain to me that the burning fact recorded two years ago, is as significant now as then. — "That we are called upon by the providence of God to establish a mission in Australia." I therefore remind our brethren that this mission is *not* abandoned. It will not be a failure. For although the action of the Convention and Board may be nullified for a time, I thank God it is *but* for a time.

The friends of the Mission are drawing breath and praying over the matter, to give it greater force and vitality at the next Convention.

The opposition that Carey met with, only tended to give the feeling a deeper root in his affections, and a stronger hold on the minds of the denomination. I trust it will be so with the present enterprise.

I referred to a vote of want of confidence in the Board and Convention. I now ask do not those attacks so far reflect upon the judgement and prudence of the body, as to weaken the confidence of the churches, and public generally in all our measures and undertakings?

Supposing, for instance, at our next session we pass earnest resolutions, appealing to our churches for increased aid to our Colleges, or an effort to establish a seminary for female education. But immediately some one "pours out his vials of vinegar" among the friends of those institutions, because the resolution was passed on a rainy night. And another exultingly follows, fermenting the dissensions with strong beer. Would not the public, to some extent, lose confidence in those measures? Would not the wisdom and experience of our acting men, be, to some extent, held up to contempt? But I am exceeding the bounds of one letter. I shall resume the subject at some future time.

Yours, &c., HUGUENOT.
Milton, March 2nd, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Rev. Charles Ives Burnett.

CHARLOTTETOWN, March 16, '57.

DEAR BROTHER SELDEN,

The "Christian Messenger" of March 4 lays on my table, which in itself is expressive of your kind feelings towards me, as the servant of "Him, who went about doing good."

You will please accept of my thanks, for correcting the Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle, respecting myself.

I conceive the mistake arose from having said I moved the 1st Resolution at the general meeting, held in the large Vestry of the Wesleyan Chapel, and I can assure you, you were perfectly right in saying, I was your Agent for the Messenger, and publicly testifying that I am a Baptist. It has been my happiness during a residence of nearly three years, to have formed a happy connection with the ministers of the different Protestant denominations, and a spirit of brotherly kindness continues amongst us to the present time.

In taking up the Bible question, which created so much excitement, I would wish it to be understood, no political feeling prompted me, neither do I consider such to be the motive of action, in the minds of my ministering and lay brethren, who so warmly but kindly advocated "the Truth." With pleasure I inform you, that his Lordship, the Roman Catholic Bishop, has, in a

measure, withdrawn his request, and the Board of Education have authorised the reading of the Scriptures in those schools where it is desired by the parents.

I would feign hope for the peace of society at large, that the matter will terminate favourably—that no aggressive measure will be found on either hand. Far be it from me, as an individual, to pen a line that should bear the impress, that any child, belonging to a Catholic, or any other religious community, should be compelled to learn a system of religious doctrines, disapproved of by its parents.

At the same time, unworthy would I be, of the name of a Christian Minister, if, when movements of an opposite tendency were apparent, and likely to succeed if not vigilantly guarded, I should be found indifferent about the welfare of the Church of Christ—which, as a section, I believe we form no inconsiderable part, in point of numerical strength, throughout the British colonies.

My Bible teaches me to own no man Master, save one, that is Christ,—upon the same principle I would wish to act towards others; that is, no man, neither any body of men, have a right to usurp authority over my conscience, or that of my fellow-beings. "One is your master, (if ye are believers,) even Christ, and all ye are brethren." Happy indeed would it be for the Church, if she had fully acted upon this divine principle.—"Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them." Then the tongue of slander would cease, and mankind, treading in the imitable footsteps of the divine Redeemer, would find, instead of the thorn should come up the myrtle, and it should be for an ensign that should not be cut off. Earth would then be in a great measure restored to its paradisaical state.

[The remainder of Bro. Burnett's letter, with an obituary notice of Thomas Desbrisay, Esq., must be deferred till next week.]

For the Christian Messenger.

MR. EDITOR,

In your issue of yesterday, under the head of the "highly important movement," I observe an expression which may, perhaps, be understood as referring to myself. You allude to "One Baptist Minister, at whose residence the Rev. Mr. McGregor called three times."

I do not imagine that the last named gentleman requires my aid as an apologist, nor do I prefer at this time to express an opinion on the course pursued by parties with respect to the general subject of discussion. But the above expression may possibly be viewed as exhibiting me in the character of an informer, or of an assistant in exposing certain plans and doings,—which character I do detest, and do hereby disclaim, and which office of assistant I have not undertaken. I hope always to appreciate, and I would like to reciprocate, the kind fraternal courtesy of the Rev. P. G. McGregor towards me.

I may add, that I was absent at the time of every "call" referred to, and was ignorant of the whole matter till afterwards; and that, as I understood, he was accompanied by a brother minister. I should deeply regret the interposition of any barrier in the way of friendly communication among the promulgators of the peace-loving Gospel of our common Lord and Saviour.

The one, perchance, called for "THREE TIMES."

Halifax, March 18th, 1857.

[WE were very glad to receive the above communication, as it affords us an opportunity of correcting any impression, that may have been given, but which it was not our intention in the slightest degree to convey, by our remarks on the subject to which it refers.]

Whilst we wish at all times to speak out frankly and honestly on those subjects which come under our notice, yet we hope ever to do so without casting injurious reflections on any one, more particularly on those holding the sacred office of the Christian Ministry.

We should be deeply grieved to find that the course we deemed it our duty to take, has had the effect of injuring the feelings of the Rev. Mr. McGregor or any of his people.

We should also be sorry if the expression of our opinion on this matter should interfere with the cordial christian friendship which has so long existed between us. We much regret that the movement was not begun in an open public manner. Any improper use being made of it might then have been checked, and we should have been spared all the trouble of our efforts to ascertain the truth of the statement, that all denominations were united in it.

We learn from the *Witness* of last Saturday, that an association was formed on Monday last by Ministers of the *Congregational* and the three *Presbyterian* bodies. No official announcement is however made, nor is the place stated where the said meeting took place, as however, no use is made of the term "all denominations" we have made no further inquiries.—Ed. C. M.]

Since the above was in type, we find a letter from Rev. Mr. McGregor in the *Morning Chronicle*, in which he refers to the above letter, as having been shewn to him, and then asks, Why all this effort to distort and conceal plain and palpable facts? We have only space at present to add, what all our readers know, that our efforts have been to find out the facts, and make them known. We only received the letter on Thursday last, the day after our last issue. Our readers may be able to understand the whole matter without any further explanation from us.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 25, 1857.

WE have received other well written papers, in reply to "Castigator" of the Provincial Wesleyan, besides the one by C. H. H. in our present number, and although this occupies so much of our space, yet we feel that he is entitled to be heard first, in his own defence. If any of our readers think it too lengthy we may inform them, that it will compare favourably in that, and every other respect, with the so-called "Castigator."

We are rather amused at the miserable attempts occasionally indulged in by some of our contemporaries to disparage the practice of baptism, as we understand it to be taught in the scriptures.

We find the following in the Provincial Wesleyan of the 12th instant, from a correspondent in Boston:—

"TOO COLD TO ADMINISTER THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM.—Our baptist friends have found the weather quite too cold to administer the ordinance of baptism by immersion. In one of the Baptist Churches of this city a few Sabbath's since, it is said, 'Baptism would have been administered had not the recent cold weather frozen up the pipes to their baptistry.' We hope our baptist friends will adopt a mode of baptism by which that important ordinance can be administered in cold weather."

We have to remind our Wesleyan brethren that their "baptist friends" do not consider themselves at liberty to adopt any mode of baptism but the one taught in the New Testament. We have to enquire what the Bible teaches and then to render implicit obedience.

We presume such weather as that referred to would be more likely to interfere with Pedit-baptists than "our baptist friends" in the administration of that ordinance, as the juvenile character of their ordinary recipients would be less able to endure it, as well as the fact that a few drops would be more readily frozen than "much water."

Such statements would not be tolerated by their great founder, John Wesley, if one may judge by his own practice, or his writings; to which reference is made, by C. H. H. in another page.

Our Wesleyan brethren are sometimes so accommodating in respect to this ordinance, as to be willing to perform the rite by either sprinkling, dipping, or pouring, or even to dispense with it altogether, as their people may feel disposed. The consistency of such a course we leave with them to explain. It was not many years since that a minister of that persuasion, a few miles from Windsor, to get over all the scruples of his hearers, actually adopted all three modes on the same occasion. First, he sprinkled some infants in the chapel, he then went down to an adjoining lake and poured water on the heads of two persons, and then immersed one or two others, in each case calling it baptism. We leave it to those who have the Bible in their hands, with the ability to read it, and the use of their common sense, to determine which was most like the original institution, or most significant of an entrance into the Kingdom of Christ.

The four gentlemen who accepted office on the recent change in the government, are amongst their constituencies. Wednesday last was the day appointed for the Nominations to take place. The candidates then named were as follows,—at Annapolis, the Hon. Mr. Johnston is opposed by Mr. Whitman. In Cumberland Mr. Fullerton opposes Hon. Dr. Tupper. In Guysboro' the Hon. Mr. Marshall has to contend with Mr. Heffernan. At Pictou, the Hon. Solicitor General Wilkins, has Mr. Davis opposing his return.—The polling takes place this day, at each of those places.

We could only give the conjectures each party make with regard to the prospects of their own friends being returned. More or less hopes of certain success are usually stated on such occasions, and even defeat is often shown afterwards to be a measure of success. The present is no exception to the former rule, and probably will not be of the

latter. We shall however be able, of course, to announce the result in our next issue. Whatever that may be, we hope the united wisdom of our great men may be given in earnest, for the remainder of the session, to the business of legislation, and the development of the resources of the province.

The little kingdom of Greece, which behaved so badly during the late war, persisting whenever occasion offered in harassing her Turkish neighbour by her marauding robber bands, and constantly manifesting her strong sympathies with Russia, has of late so far changed her policy as to justify the withdrawal of a considerable force of the Allies (French and English) from that country. The constitution of Greece is nominally a free one, but her King, a shoot of the Bavarian stock, is in fact despotic, which the superstitious and corrupt character of his people willingly tolerates. The high hopes once entertained of the regeneration of Greece, on its release from the Ottoman yoke, has miserably disappointed the world at large, as there is no country in Europe where there is less freedom, virtue, or progress.

There is no circumstance connected with the state of the United Kingdom, which affords cause of greater satisfaction than the present improving state of Ireland, both in her moral and material interests. A vast improvement is, yearly taking place in her internal resources both agricultural and commercial, and her long season of famine and prostration has been lately followed by fruitful seasons, and renewed industry among all classes of the people. This state of things is in a large measure to be attributed to the sale and distribution of the numerous Encumbered Estates, great and small, for the purpose of paying off debts, some of which have been accumulating, we suppose, for a century or more. It has induced a large influx of intelligent and industrious emigrants from England and Scotland, who are beginning to develop the vast resources of this rich portion of the British Empire, while large numbers either as purchasers or of the labouring classes, of the most enterprising and intelligent among the agricultural population, are supplying the losses occasioned by the immense emigration which has taken place within a few years past.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

S. L. Shannon, Esq., delivered a highly interesting lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association, on Tuesday last week. Subject, "Cowper and Byron,—a contrast." The audience was numerous, and shewed their high appreciation of the lecture.

James Thompson, Esq., is to lecture this evening at the Mechanics' Institute.

The adjourned meeting of the Temperance Hall Company was held on Monday evening. A dividend of 4 per cent to the original Shareholders, and 6 per cent to the preferential, was declared. The following persons were elected Directors for the present year:—G. G. Gray, W. L. Bell, R. H. Wetmore, M. McIlreath, A. J. Ritchie, and W. Ackhurst. A resolution introduced to procure an Organ for the Hall, was lost.

DREADFUL RAILROAD ACCIDENT IN CANADA. SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE.—Hamilton, C. W., March 12th.—Another of those fearful accidents which human forethought appears inadequate to the task of preventing, took place this evening, near this City. The train from Toronto which is due at 5.45 had scarcely touched the swing bridge over the desjardine canal, when it gave way, and the whole train was precipitated into the water, falling a distance of 40 feet. The Engine Tender and Baggage-Cars were all completely buried in the water; the forward passenger car in descending was turned upside down, leaving but little of it above the water; the forward end of the last passenger car rested upon either the engine or passenger car, and falling back upon the wall supporting the Bridge, remained in an upright position. Immediate assistance was rendered from the different shops and persons engaged on the works; all that were in the last car were taken out mostly wounded, and we are sorry to say, too many dead; a hole was cut in the bottom of the car which lay across the canal, and the bodies taken from it as soon as possible.—But this could not be otherwise than a slow operation when it was considered, how cold the water is at this season of the year, and that the depth was sufficient to hide an engine tender and baggage cars from view.

Mr. Mair, the traffic superintendent was on board, but fortunately was in such a position at the time as allowed him to jump on terra firma as the car took the leap into the frightful abyss where so many of his fellow passengers were hurried into the presence of their Maker. Mr. John C. Henderson, we are sorry to say, was among the killed. Mr. Barrett, conductor on the train, escaped without injury; the express messenger post office clerk, and conductor, escaped from the baggage-car when submerged in the water, by climbing to the top.