

ligious contemporaries, too many of whom, instead of sympathizing with them, caricatured their principles and excited popular fury against their persons.

Yours truly,  
From my Study,  
Dec. 19, 1857.  
MENNO.

For the Christian Messenger.

### Ordination at Digby.

In accordance with invitations given by the Digby and Digby Joggin Churches, inviting ministers to meet with them, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of setting apart brother A. H. Munro to the work of the ministry. Several ministers and brethren assembled at the Digby Joggin Meeting-house, on Wednesday the 9th inst., when a council was organized of members of the following churches, viz:—

*Annapolis and Granville.*—Rev. George Armstrong and Deacon James Messenger.  
*Clements.*—Rev. Aaron Cogswell and brother James Purdy.  
*1st. Hillsburg.*—Rev. Obed Parker; brethren William Dunn and Thomas Miller.  
*2nd Hillsburg.*—Brother Benjamin Hardy.  
*Sissaboo.*—Rev. Charles Randall and Deacon Hankinson.  
*St. Mary's Bay.*—Brethren Uriah Savory, Chas. McNeil and David Saxon.  
*Digby Joggin.*—Brethren Jesse Warn, Samuel T. Bacon, and — Marshall.  
*Digby.*—Dr. Bent, Deacon Quigley, and Edward Marshall, Esq.  
*1st. Digby Neck.*—Rev. J. C. Morse and brother Stephen Nichols.  
*2nd Digby Neck.*—A. M. Gidney.  
*Lower Granville.*—Rev. James Spencer.

Rev. Charles Randall was chosen Moderator, and Rev. James Spencer appointed Clerk.

The candidate for ordination, at the request of the ministering brethren, preached, and gave an interesting discourse from Matt. xxvi. and part of the 39th verse,—"O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me." After which he gave a satisfactory relation of his conversion, call to the ministry, and views of bible doctrine.

The Council having ascertained that the wish was unanimous, that brother Munro should be ordained pastor of both churches, and that ample provision had been made for his support, retired, and unanimously resolved that the ordination should take place on the following day. The weather on Thursday proved very inclement, yet notwithstanding, a large number of people assembled to witness the ceremony.

Brother Cunningham, whose ill health prevented him being out on Wednesday, was able to gratify himself and the people in being present this day, and taking part in the solemn service.

Ordination sermon preached by Rev. Geo. Armstrong from 2 Tim. ii. 15. Questions on Theology asked by Rev. Charles Randall. Ordination prayer made by Rev. Obed Parker. Hand of fellowship given by Rev. Aaron Cogswell. Charge to the Candidate by the late pastor, Rev. R. W. Cunningham. Charge to the Churches by the Rev. James Spencer and concluding prayer by Rev. J. C. Morse.

A Doxology having been sung, the people dispersed, feeling they had witnessed a highly interesting and solemn service.

Brother Munro enters upon his deeply responsible work with encouraging prospects, and we trust that the work of the Lord may prosper in his hands, and that pastor and people may prove a mutual blessing.  
JAMES SPENCER, Clerk.

For the Christian Messenger.

### Acadia Lyceum. College Scholarships, &c.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am glad for one that the spicy article of "A Baptist" in the *Colonist*, has called forth so prompt an explanation, and that the Editor of that paper himself did not deem it improper to make the "amende honorable." I for one can see no impropriety in the selection of Mr. Howe to lecture before the Lyceum—whatever that "dictionary word" means. (What would we care for Colleges if they did not produce some jawbreakers to astonish us ignorant people,) provided he lets religion and politics alone. And I go farther. Reference has been made to the labors of the Agent, good brother Thomson, now in the field, and he complains that he is occasionally assailed by a hailstorm of Politics. Now what harm would it do the College if some of the Baptists who respect Mr. Howe, were to clap their hands in their pockets and raise a "Joseph Howe" Scholarship? What friend of the Institution or of the Baptists would needs be frightened out of his propriety by the jingling of the 80 sovereigns, or the sound of the name? I

cannot say how many political friends Mr. Howe may have among the Baptists, nor do I care a fig,—but I do know that many give him all credit for intellectual power and perseverance, and feel proud of the country that can turn out such men—who can push themselves up by their own efforts—if not from the "very dregs of the people,"—according to the compliment the Lord Mayor is said to have paid the Judge, in his toast—yet from the class of "respectable mechanics." They look upon him and others with the same feelings of honest pride with which they contemplate the big pumpkins and cheeses turned out of the soil of Annapolis, and the monstrous calves and fat cattle they raise in Cornwallis, and I may add—the potatoes. They are the evidence of the richness of our soil and the greatness of our country. They are a stimulus to enterprise, to diligence, to culture, to perseverance.

If possible, I shall attend Mr. Howe's lecture. I will not pay anything towards raising a Scholarship to his honor, but I promise not to quarrel with any one who may choose to do so.

But should brother Thomson see this, will he allow me to suggest a "General Havelock" Scholarship. Let us erect a monument to the honor of the Hero of Lucknow, the Christian Warrior, and the Baptist Soldier. Meaning no offence by these suggestions, and hoping they may be taken in good part

I am, dear Sir,  
ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

### Attention!

Any person who may succeed in getting the names of six new subscribers, before the end of the year, with the payment, in advance, may have his own copy free for one year, or, for four new subscribers he may have his own free for six months, or, for two new subscribers he may have his own free for three months.

### Removal.

We beg to inform our Subscribers that we have again removed our office, and are now occupying the new building erected on the site of the one destroyed during the fire on the first of January last, No. 49, Granville Street.

## Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 30, 1857.

With our present number we complete the twenty-first yearly volume of the Christian Messenger. Having attained our majority we feel called upon to address our readers in the language of gratitude and congratulation. Of gratitude, to them, that they have continued to favour us with their countenance and support, and to the God of Providence and Grace that he has enabled us to proceed thus far in our endeavours to extend the knowledge of his truth. Of congratulation, that by the combined efforts of brethren throughout the provinces they have been enabled to complete a period so full of promise in the history of their journal.

Not a few of our present readers are those who have been subscribers to the Messenger from the issue of its first number. For these we have great veneration and respect and only regret that from the limited number of years allotted for man to remain upon the earth, their number must necessarily diminish year by year. Our desire is to continue our weekly visits to them up to their latest days, and contribute our quota towards cheering the remaining years of their lives, until they arrive at the portals of those mansions where these means of communication and enlightenment will be superceded by the effulgence of the glorified state; when we shall no longer know only "in part," but when "we shall know even as we are known." Whilst however the aged must pass away, and death is making inroads day by day on those of every age, we rejoice that instead of the fathers are the children, and many are rising up to fill the places of those who "through faith and patience do now inherit the promises."

To all we would present our most sincere and ardent desires for their happiness and welfare. The season of the year calls for a more than ordinary expression of friendly feeling and genial greeting, we therefore offer our earnest desire that every good gift may be showered down upon our readers of all ages, and that the best blessing of Heaven may enrich them with peace, plenty and enjoyment.

Having this week to make our bow to the retiring year, we wish to meet our friends and take a brief review of the past so as to make a fresh start when we are permitted to welcome the approach of the coming one.

We began the year with a desire for progress, although a severe trial came upon us

at the very commencement, which interfered much with the realization of our hopes, yet we have now, after much inconvenience, been able to reach the point from which we were then driven.

On looking back through the past years of the life-time of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, we were struck with the Prospectus issued at the outset, that it exactly represented the course in which we have been for some years past pursuing. This will be evident by a reference to what was proposed more than twenty-one years ago.

"As respects the general objects of the Paper, it is a fundamental principle with the persons projecting it, that both private happiness and public good require that the Mechanic, the Merchant, the professional man, and the Statesman, should each be an enlightened Christian; and that, in proportion as the world is filled with such, national prosperity will become more extensive and more permanent. To promote such intimate correspondence between Divine truths and human affairs, as a measure of the highest wisdom and truest philanthropy, is proposed therefore as their leading object."

"A sufficient space will be appropriated to furnish their Readers with the current news and politics of the day; but they will always studiously avoid the warmth of political controversy, or indeed entering at much length on any ground of like nature, which is not immediately connected with religious liberty and the rights of conscience. The claims connected with this important branch of our freedom as British subjects, and with our accountability to God as moral agents they will ever feel themselves under the most sacred duty of asserting and supporting with their best ability."

Every unbiassed and unprejudiced mind will be prepared to assent to these principles having been carried out in our conduct of the paper, notwithstanding the efforts of some of our contemporaries to place us in a false position before the public. All who know anything of the history of the Christian Church, are aware that of all Protestants, Baptists are the most intensely Protestant, and that the remark of CHIL-LINGWORTH that "the Bible, the Bible alone is the religion of Protestants" is most fully illustrated in their principles and practices. Whatever other Protestant sects may retain of the great error that the arm of Civil Power may be employed to enforce the decrees of Synodical Councils, Baptists can never be charged with sanctioning such a doctrine. Whilst we cannot allow the State to interfere in matters of religion, we demand for every denomination full protection in the exercise of their civil and religious privileges.

In referring to our present position, we rejoice in the undiminished confidence expressed by the Denomination we are honoured in serving. The annual meetings of the body have shown their appreciation of our efforts to meet their wants as public journalists, by giving unqualified recommendation of the Messenger to every member of our churches and urging them all to become subscribers to their own weekly paper. We say their own, for although the pecuniary responsibility does not rest on the Associations as it once did, yet, it is, to all intents and purposes their own paper, and by their patronage alone can it prosper or even exist. Many of the brethren we know feel this to be the case and are therefore constant and untiring in their efforts to extend its circulation, knowing that by these means they most effectually serve the cause of Christ and his churches.

Probably no year in which this journal has been in existence has been so remarkable or so full of striking events as the one now drawing to a close. Whilst on the one hand we have seen rebellion and atrocity rising up in almost overwhelming masses in the distant possessions of our Empire, yet on the other there are grounds for hoping that these startling and alarming outbreaks and daring instances of opposition to the laws of God and man, may be the precursors of a vast amount of destruction to the kingdom of Satan and of enlargement to the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Various changes of a political and commercial nature have taken place in our own province during the year. On the former we feel indisposed to speak, further than to hope that whatever differences of opinion may exist on matters of human government and personal preference, there may be no countenance given to what would produce disunion and unpleasant feeling amongst brethren, but that party strife may be softened by the genial influence of christian love and mutual forbearance. Give the fullest amount of liberty to the expression of individual opinion on minor matters, but let the great principles of christianity restrain every unholy and acrimonious feeling.

Changes have occurred in the body whose interests we represent. Several of its members in different parts of the world

have been brought more prominently forward than heretofore, and the views held by us are being better understood than formerly. One of the most important movements in this province is the formation of the Home Missionary Society. When this organization shall be fully developed we trust it may become one full of interest, and be the means of sending the gospel to various of the more destitute districts.

Our columns too give evidence of changes which have taken place in some of the churches, the removal and settlement of pastors, the additions of members and the calling away of others, to the rest above, all convey lessons to the reflecting mind and teach us that here we have no abiding place. Some families have during the year experienced reverses which have produced deep sorrow and irreparable losses. Our list of Obituaries give a portion of these, and will be preserved as precious memorials of those who have departed in the faith of the blessed Redeemer.

The connection which has of late existed in the editorial management of the paper, having thus far received the confidence of the brethren, we trust it may have nothing to interfere with its harmonious continuance; until the great casualty which severs all the ties of earthly existence shall dissolve the bonds which unite us in this highly important labour.

We must not close our remarks on the past year without offering a few appropriate reflections on its progress which its events so naturally suggest; thoughts which, however often repeated, lose none of their vast importance in view of the interests with which they are connected. If at the close of each returning day we are called on to consider its flight, and the obligations it has entailed upon us, much more should the lapse of so long a succession of days urge upon us the most solemn thoughts, as regards the past, the present, and the future.

The history of the past year is replete with the most momentous considerations. Great and stirring events have shaken the nations, among which our own has borne a conspicuous part. Like many of the dispensations of the Most High, much is involved in mystery beyond the weak intellect of man to fathom. We cannot doubt, however, that mercy as well as judgment is mixed in the cup, nor is it possible to resist the sanguine hope that the calamitous events that have transpired in our Indian Empire will but usher in a new and enlightened policy which will be the dawn of freedom and evangelization to the hundreds of millions of semi-barbarous nations who occupy the great eastern hemisphere. The great business of Christian Missions, although seriously interrupted by the Indian Mutiny, has nevertheless gone on in every other field with encouraging tokens of success. It is a remarkable feature in our unhappy rupture with China that all the great centres of missionary effort have been hitherto left in peace and security, and the gospel has been extending and taking root in the hearts of many. As regards the future hopes and happiness of the world at large, we believe all other considerations sink into comparative insignificance with the success of Christian Missions; for this alone can raise the character of man above the ruins of his fallen nature and restore him once more to the image of his Maker.

On the disciple of the Redeemer the coming year cannot fail to impress the necessity of reviewing his past life, and reflecting on the duties and responsibilities that await him, while he yet lingers in this scene of trial. May all who profess to love the Saviour, be enabled to walk worthy of their profession till called to the higher and more glorious inheritance in the Kingdom of their Father.

We noticed a few weeks since the efforts which are being made in Great Britain to bring the thousands of labouring people under the sound of the gospel. Large numbers not accustomed to attend places of worship come to hear lectures by Christian ministers, in which they bring before them the great truths of religion. It is somewhat amusing to see the titles given to some of these lectures. The following are a few specimens:—"Smiles and Tears," "Fireside Pictures," "Little Red Ridinghood," "Five shillings and costs," "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," "Manliness," "Ghosts," "Freedom," "I'm as good as my neighbour." In some cases the hearers are invited to ask questions at the close, and by that means the great objections which are entertained by them are brought out and answered, a spirit of enquiry is awakened and in many cases much good effected. In England, where so much is done by way of public meetings, and where freedom of speech is so highly valued, we can but rejoice at any means which may set the people to thinking; believing, as we do, that the cause of truth and righteousness must be advanced by free enquiry.