

Obituary Notices.

For the Christian Messenger. JAMES WILLIAM DOWNIE.

Son of Francis and Eliza Downie, died on the 2nd of April, at Harvey, A.C., N.B., in the 36th year of his age. This young man was the subject of early religious impressions, which could not well be concealed from his friends and acquaintances, but being youthful, as in too many instances, these emotions seemed for a time to decline; but in a general revival which took place here in the Spring of 1855, with many others, he found deliverance, and rejoiced in God his Saviour; but on account of some doubts and fears he neglected to come forward and publicly own his faith in Christ, and was not baptized. He mourned over this upon his death bed, (this should be a warning to others not to defer submission to God's commands.) About 6 months before his death consumption seized upon his lungs. A change of climate and all medical skill proved unavailing. Death had marked his victim, and would not be repulsed. The writer had the privilege of visiting him often in his illness,—he was calm and resigned, though at times he expressed some fears; but on April 2nd, he fell asleep in Christ. His end was peaceful and happy. On Sabbath, the 5th inst., his mortal remains were conveyed to the narrow house appointed for all living, followed by a numerous circle of mourning friends; but they mourn not as those who have no hope. A sermon was preached on the solemn occasion from Rev. xiii. 17, to a deeply affected audience. It was a season not soon to be forgotten by those present. The Lord in mercy sustain the sorrowing parents and bereaved brothers and sister, whose social and domestic circle is now broken. There is, however, a day approaching when parted friends shall meet again. Now they rest from their labours and their works do follow them, then they will have the palm of victory, then they will sing the conqueror's song. The Lord sanctify this afflictive providence to the living, and prepare them for death, that they may eventually stand before the Great White Throne in Judgment.—Communicated by Elder Levi H. Marshall. Harvey, N. B., April 8th, 1857.

DEACON JOHN E. MELVIN. The church here has sustained a loss in the death of Mr. John E. Melvin, one of its Deacons, who died March 28th, 1857. He had frequent attacks during the last two or three years of his life, but always recovered it was thought he might rally again and continue with us a little longer. Within a few weeks of his death he began to show symptoms of approaching dissolution, and all began to express their fears respecting his recovery. He conversed very little during his sickness, having partly lost his speech. He entertained hopes of recovering until the 24th, when he gave all up and said to a friend standing by that he was now going to die, and from that time he sank very fast. His body was interred on the 31st, and was followed to the grave by a large concourse of relatives and friends. It is hard to realize that he is no more yet for him we cannot weep, he has exchanged a world of sin and pain for one where sorrow and sighing and death shall be no more known. Yet we mourn the loss of a Brother and member of the community. Notwithstanding all his imperfections the cause of God lay near his heart. At his death he left £50 of his property to be appropriated to the cause of Christ. May all imitate him in so far as he imitated his Saviour.—Com. Chester, April 3rd, 1857.

MR. STEPHEN JOHNSON. Died, at Upper Stewiacke, South Branch, on the 28th Dec., 1856, in the 69th year of his age, Mr. Stephen Johnson, after a lingering illness of three years, during which time he manifested great patience and resignation to the Divine Will. Bro. Johnson was born in Truro, and about sixteen years of age was made the subject of renewing grace, and united with the Presbyterian congregation, when after a number of years of consistent piety he was chosen Deacon, which important office he faithfully discharged. When about 53 years of age he became convinced that he had not obeyed the command of Christ, with reference to baptism, and feeling it his duty to obey God rather than man, he was buried with Christ in baptism, and united with the Upper Stewiacke Church, and continued to adorn his profession. The writer has oftentimes been refreshed and edified with his heavenly conversation. He was truly a man of prayer. It was his privilege in life to see his wife and five children make a public profession of religion in connexion with the Baptist Church. May they be enabled by the grace of God to continue as they have begun to follow in the steps of him who, through faith and patience, now, we humbly trust, inherits the promise.

Religious Intelligence. For the Christian Messenger.

Mission Tour of the Rev. John Shaw in P. E. Island.

Mr. KORTER. Pursuant to an appointment of the Board, I spent three weeks in the month of March, in the vicinity of Charlottetown. Preached at York River, Dog River, West River, Long

Crook and Canoe Cove. Preached as often as I conveniently could. I could not say that I preached to such congregations as Bro. Spurgeon preaches to, but there was good attendance and attentive hearing. Congregations on the increase, and every attempt to preach seemed to put a keener edge on the people in general to hear more. What good has been done through means of preaching, or whether any good has been done, it is not for me to say. The final day will show it. But the kindness, the affection and joy with which I was received: fruits show, deeds speak louder than words,—my Mission was fully sustained among them. A self-sustained Mission so far. Yours as usual, JOHN SHAW. Three Rivers, April 15th, '57.

Extract of Letter from the Rev. W. G. Goucher.

“We have been having an interesting time in the West Yarmouth Church. I have recently baptized 13 there. I am about to resign my pastoral charge of the two Churches, with which I have laboured satisfactorily for the last four years. My health is such that my Physician says I must refrain from preaching this summer or longer.” Hebron, April 11, '57. [We most sincerely sympathize with Brother Goucher in this afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence.—Ed.]

HORTON.—A friend writes on May 2nd, “Five persons were proposed and accepted at our conference to-day. Two of them are students in the college. The baptism is to be to-morrow morning.” At BUTTERNUT RIDGE, the reformation still continues. Perhaps a greater revival of religion, and a more uniting spirit in the labour of love by old and young, has seldom been realized. Last Sabbath, fourteen youths were buried by their beloved pastor, Elder Wallace, in the ordinance of baptism.—Visitor.

AUSTRALIA.—The following extracts from the Australian Correspondent to the London Freeman will be read with interest. “The Missionary ship John Williams, with the Rev. Messrs. Barth and Gordon, and Esau, a Christian native of Raratonga, on board, arrived at Melbourne about the 11th instant, and on the following Sunday, sermons were preached in all the Congregational chapels, on behalf of the London Missionary Society. The next day the annual meeting of the Victoria auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held, the Bishop of Melbourne occupying the chair, surrounded by ministers of all the denominations (except the Baptist), including the Rev. Mr. Howe, a missionary from Tahiti, and the recently arrived brethren above named. One day last week about 3,000 Sabbath-school children were conveyed by railway, to the wharf alongside which the John Williams was moored, and after visiting the ship were regaled with an unlimited supply of lemonade and cake, the delivery of missionary addresses, and the singing of missionary hymns. The John Williams is to sail to-day for Sydney en route to Polynesia.”

“All the denominations are praying for more labourers to enter their vineyards; they are constantly writing to their friends in England, ‘Send us more men;’ and if they, who already enjoy the services of at least some efficient and persevering ministers need help, how much more so must the Baptists, who are nearly destitute in this respect? One thing, however, requires to be most clearly understood—the character and kind of preachers that would alone be acceptable. Anything is good enough for the colony, it has often been said by the kind people ‘of home;’ but this is a mistake, as many have discovered to their cost. Only the best of English manufactures will sell, and only the best of English preachers will succeed. It is not enough for men to mean well and to do their best; however useful such might be in the country villages of England, they are altogether unsuited to the requirements of a colony like Victoria, and if any who conscientiously possess but mediocre abilities entertain the thought of emigrating thither, they are entreated instantly to abandon it, or they will only have themselves to blame if they are ever compelled to betake themselves to the diggings for a livelihood. Right or wrong, people will follow the most talented preachers; and as there are some first-class intellects among the clergy of the other denominations, it is essential that the Baptists should likewise have ministers of superior ability, or they will never succeed in regaining the transient members of their body. Preachers of that intellectual calibre which would enable them to occupy a good position in London would be tolerably certain to succeed in Melbourne, but otherwise it would be doubtful; and in any case not only should a high order of mind be held to be a sine qua non, but this must be accompanied with pure spirituality and the preparation for earnest, continuous labour. I have thought it proper to say thus much, in order, if possible, to avoid the disappointment and discomfort that must follow from a hasty or unwise conception of duty.”

“THE TIMES” AMONG THE PROPHETS.—The last prediction the oracle has mentioned is—“Without the interference of the legislature, it is probable that in twenty years church rates will be a matter of history.”

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, April 17. House met at 2 1/2 p. m. and went into committee on Bills.

The Bill to amend the Act concerning taxation of the City of Halifax was taken up. Hon. Mr. McCully remarked that he would like to know to what extent the City Council could at present tax the city.

Hon. Mr. Bell explained that they could assess to the extent of £8000, and that now they wished to have that power extended, so as to enable them to assess the city to the extent of £10,000.

Hon. Mr. McCully—These continued encroachments should be expedient. I do not think we have any great improvements in the city. As sure as this house gives the City Council power to tax the city to the extent of £10,000, the whole amount will be levied upon us. I dare say the city council can expend the ten thousand pounds. These municipal corporations look very well. We are taxed for water, gas, and the general expenses of the city, and now we are to be taxed for the railway. I do not object to the latter tax, for the citizens of Halifax should carry out in good faith any pledge that they have given. Let my hon. friend who introduced this bill, lay on the table of this house a schedule of the services on which they expended £8,000 last year, and tell us why they want this year to increase that amount of taxation by one fourth.

Hon. Mr. Bell.—The hon. and learned gentleman says that the taxes are increased. I admit it; and just in proportion as the city increases the taxation must increase. I cannot understand my hon. friend's logic, clever though he is. I believe this ten thousand pounds is required; and I also believe that the city council are acting in perfect good faith in asking us to give them the power to assess that sum.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks.—The hon. and learned gentleman says that there are taxes for water and gas; I say there are none. The gas company furnish us with light at one half the expense which we would incur if we used candles, and we are not taxed to support that company. What would we do if we had no water company? The establishment of that company has caused a saving to the citizens of Halifax.

Hon. President.—I move that the bill be amended by allowing the amount to which the city council can assess to remain the same as last year. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen who live in the outskirts of the city to talk of taxation as a light matter. We who live in the centre of the city find it very different from what they do. Where I had formerly to pay £40 for taxes, I now have to pay £80.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I second that motion. A long discussion here ensued, on the necessity for the enlarged sum for city purposes.

Hon. Mr. McCully.—The hon. Receiver General thinks it is a reflection on the city council to question the propriety of their assessing the citizens of Halifax to the extent of £10,000. There is no body of people more likely to fall into extravagant practices than these corporations. We heard a lamentable note sounded throughout the country a short time since on account of the expenditure of £200 or £300 at a provincial celebration. Why there was nearly as much display, if not as much expense, in laying the corner-stone of the new market house.

Hon. Mr. Keith.—The hon. gentleman will not find £10 charged for the expense of that ceremony.

Hon. Mr. McCully.—Well I cannot speak positively.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks—I well recollect the two meetings held in this city on the subject of the railway, and presided over by the Mayor of the city. The resolutions authorising the assessment passed unanimously. If the matter were to be discussed again to-morrow, the citizens of Halifax would again pass that resolution rather than be without the railway.

Hon. Mr. McCully.—What I want to know is whether this taxation is to be independent of the road vote.

Hon. Mr. McKeen—I do not see the necessity for this amendment. The city authorities tell us they want as much money, and we undertake to tell them that less will suffice.

Hon. Mr. Bell—I think the object of the amendment is to destroy the bill. The question was taken on the amendment, when there appeared—for the motion, 10; against it, 9.

The clause as so amended, then passed without division.

The second clause was read, which directs that the city council shall assess whatever sum the commissioners of the Paupers' Asylum shall state is required for the use of that institution for the ensuing year, or a less sum if they think proper.

Hon. Mr. Bell moved that the words “or a less sum, if they think proper,” be struck out of the clause, so that the city council may not have the power of reducing the estimate of the commissioners of the poor.

Hon. Receiver General—I support the amendment, because the commissioners are the persons authorized to look after the poor, and they are in a position to judge of the sum required for the asylum. The amendment passed without division.

The House of Assembly transmitted seventeen resolutions granting monies. The principal of these were a grant of £540 15s. 6d. for rebuilding the bridge over Misquash River; and a grant of £100 to the widow of the late John H. Crosskill, lately one of the reporters of the House of Assembly.

Hon. Receiver General, by command of his

Excellency, laid on the table of the house copies of correspondence relative to the railway expenditure.

Hon. Mr. McCully asked the members of government to obtain from the city council a return of the amount of monies expended on the roads, streets, and bridges of the city of Halifax for the last three years, showing the amount for each year respectively, and the sources whence such sums have been received.

Hon. Rec. General stated that he would endeavour to obtain such return.

MONDAY, April 20. Hon. Mr. McCully made some observations on the resolution authorising the appointment of a commission to examine the public accounts. He considered the resolution entirely novel and unprecedented.

Hon. Mr. Pincus presented a petition from the Rev. R. F. Uniacko, against the Church of England Bill.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON BILLS. The bill to incorporate the Union Iron Mining Company of North America was then taken up, and several clauses were read.

The bill to alter and amend the act concerning the city of Halifax was again taken up, and the third clause read.

The 13th clause defines what shall be included under the term personal estate, and which includes in such definition goods kept in the Queen's or any public or private warehouse, and all ships and vessels or shares in ships or vessels, owned by persons residing in the city, whether such ships or vessels be at home or abroad at the time of assessment.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I object to a portion of the clause. I think it would be reasonable to tax ships sailing out of this port; but I do not think it is fair to tax ships owned here which are sailing between other ports.

Hon. Mr. Bell thought that if a vessel was earning money anywhere her owner should be taxed.

Hon. Messrs. Fairbanks and Tobin, thought there would be a difficulty in taxing any property abroad.

Hon. Mr. McCully would be satisfied with the adoption of either principle—the taxation of all absent property, or none.

After a lengthened debate the question was put, when there appeared for the amendment 10, against 5.

The remaining clauses were then discussed as far as the 17th, and passed without division.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, April 24. House met at eleven o'clock, and resolved itself into a committee on bills, and passed several.

SATURDAY, April 25. Six bills were read a third time, and ordered to be sent to the Council for concurrence.

On the third reading of the bill to enable the Inland Navigation Company to negotiate a further loan,— Mr. Whitman moved that the bill be deferred for three months.

Mr. Young explained that all they sought was to be enabled to borrow £6000 to complete the works, and so increase the value of the provincial security.

Hon. Solicitor General would not vote for this amendment if he thought the effect would be to embarrass the company.

Hon. Attorney General could see no objection to the bill. On division, there appeared for the motion, 6, against it, 31.

The House went into Committee of Supply and passed a number of usual grants.

Mr. Chambers moved that the £50 to the Colonial Church and School Society be struck off. Mr. Tobin had no wish to oppose this grant, but if the system of making special grants for such purposes was pursued, he would, at another session, move for special grants for some other institutions.

Mr. Wier explained the nature of the school. Mr. McDonald could not see how a special grant could be given to this school and refused to any other equally efficient.

For the grant, 16; against, 25. A number of grants passed without discussion. A grant of £1019 and upwards passed for public printing—£300 less than last year. The resolution to grant £100 to aid in the publication of a work on emigration passed in the affirmative on division.

MONDAY, April 27. Mr. Henry reported from a committee relative to deaf, dumb and insane persons. The committee recommended a grant in aid of the deaf and dumb school, Halifax. He also reported from a committee concerning a new revision of the laws, and submitted a resolution for carrying out such revision.

Mr. Young considered that the commission proposed should not alter a line of the statutes, but supply omissions, cancel repealed clauses, and make better arrangement, by means of index, &c.

Mr. McLellan spoke of the comparatively recent revision, and of the additional expense and change now contemplated.

Mr. Killam thought that a supplement to the present volume would be sufficient.

Hon. At. General approved of the suggestion made by the member for Yarmouth. Mr. Archibald urged the publication of a complete volume and suggested certain alterations that should be attended to by the commission.

Mr. McLellan urged that the new volume