

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Speaking against other Denominations.

Messrs. Editors,

While engaged in visiting families, some years ago, I called on a man who rarely attended public worship. I urged him to improve this divinely appointed means of grace: and remarked, that I would not attempt to dictate to him with what denomination he should meet, but would advise him to go where he might reasonably hope to derive the most spiritual benefit. He replied, that "he would be willing to attend preaching, if he could find any Minister that did not speak against other denominations."

Not being accustomed to deal in hints, I am not very ready to take them. This, however, was so plain, and so evidently personal, that it naturally drew forth the inquiry, "Did you ever hear me speak against other denominations?" "I do not know," said he, "that I ever did; but Mr. L. told me, that he once heard you speak very unfavourably of the state of the heathen." This was undoubtedly correct: but my remarks, far from being against other denominations, in the ordinary acceptation of the terms, were wholly in favour of the heathen, and designed to awaken sympathy on their behalf, and to obtain liberal contributions in order to relieve them from their lamentable state.

Some observations recently came under my notice, in which the writer, wishing to further a mission among others, does really, in my view, speak against the Chinese. He represents them as being so much addicted to deceit, falsehood, and other debasing propensities and practices, that there is no encouragement to send Missionaries among them. This appears to me injudicious. Some classes of people, and some nations, do indeed appear more readily accessible than others; yet none are so deeply sunk into vice or superstition but that grace can elevate them to the rank of sincere and amiable Christians. Nothing should, therefore, ever be said that is adapted to discourage the putting forth of efforts for the conversion and salvation of any of the human race.

With reference to diversities of sentiment existing among different denominations of professed Christians, every Minister has an unquestionable right to advance and maintain what he believes to be truth, and to expose and refute, if he can, what he regards as error. Great care, however, should be taken to "speak the truth," and vindicate it "in love;" and also to state what is considered as erroneous fairly, and to abstain from all asperity in endeavouring to reclaim persons from it, or to guard them against. Especially should the utmost caution be exercised to avoid exciting prejudice, or unkindness of feeling, against any body of people, however pernicious their sentiments may be deemed. Every thing of this kind is calculated to do harm in various ways. It tends to prevent those against whom it is directed from listening either to argument or admonition, and consequently to confirm them in their views. A spirit of bitterness is always injurious to those in whose bosoms it is suffered to rankle. It renders them unhappy, unfits them to serve God, and indisposes them to do good to men, especially to those who, according to their own view of the subject, are peculiarly in need of their commiseration and efforts to promote their spiritual welfare. Infidelity is obviously fostered and extended by the manifestation of an unchristian disposition among the professed followers of Christ.

It is, indeed, impossible to satisfy all parties. While some, as in case noticed, may charge one with severity if, in the mildest terms, he attempt to correct error, to enforce duty, or even to excite compassion for the heathen by exhibiting the sadness of their condition, others will probably stigmatize him as a trimmer or time-server, how faithfully soever he may present the truths and duties of the gospel, if he do rail against any other denomination or body of people. The course, however, proper to be adopted is manifestly that enjoined by the Apostle Paul, and enforced by his example, in imitation of Christ, "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men;" and to "Give none offence," (intentionally or needlessly), "neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God; even," says he, "as I please men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."—(Tit. iii. 2; 1 Cor. x. 32, 33; xi. 1.)

It may be safely affirmed, that, even if the sentiments advanced be correct, every sermon preached, every address delivered, every conversation held, and every book, pamphlet, or communication published, in a harsh and censorious strain, and under the influence of a spirit of malevolence, is injurious to the interests of truth and piety. This can not be consistently controverted. In many cases what has been already done, can not be undone. For the future, however, increased circumspection on this subject may be used—it evidently should be—with reference to the tongue, the pen, the press, and the circulation of books.

Yours, in Gospel bonds,
C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, April 15, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

DEAR SIR,

After perusing the different proposals for the support of Acadia College the one dated March 10th appears to me the best, I therefore feel bound to second that scheme. In doing so, I place myself amongst the second class—for £12 10s. If I had proposed the plan I would have put two classes at the top of his: 50 subscribers at £50=£2,500, and 25 at £100=£2,500, for I am convinced that the above can be paid by that number with less sacrifice than the smaller sums. It is not the means that are wanting but the liberal heart.

In order to carry out the above, an agent must be sent to take subscriptions or carry out any other plans to secure the object. My son of six summers, will be amongst the last class of subscribers. An Agent should not hurry through the country, but travel through the back settlements, and make it his business, if possible, to see every man that is a friend to Acadia, and not have to say afterwards, "Mr. A. was in the field," "Mr. B. was gone to the mill," &c., when, by stopping until dinner or tea time, £5, more or less, might be secured.

Yours, &c.,
ROBERT HIGGINS, 3rd.

Onslow, March 15th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

That Puzzle.

FRIEND SELDEN,

I have resolved that *Puzzle*, and remit you a *Note*,—also, I send you herewith *another*. If all it concerns would discover and apply *mine* promptly, it would relieve a difficulty, and be worth at least £5000 in a certain locality.

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Liverpool, March 13th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Bridgetown.

Messrs. Editors,

My people with a few kind friends of other denominations, have laid on me the pleasing duty to record the fourth annual *Donation Visit* made me during my ministry here.

The evening of the 27th of January found my habitation crowded with an unusual number of happy visitors, who came to express their sympathy and good will to me and my family. The company sat down to tea, bountifully furnished and tastefully prepared by the ladies, who did their part to the satisfaction and admiration of every body. This important matter being concluded, Bro. Wm. H. Morse was called to preside over the meeting; and Deacon Wm. H. Chipman presented, with an appropriate and feeling address, the donations of the friends present, consisting of cash and sundries to the value of £35 7s. 3d. By the kindness of friends who could not attend, this sum was subsequently raised to £42 2s. 6d; of which £24 3s. 6d. was cash. The minister responded,

as well as his feelings and ability would allow, to the address from his kind, sympathizing and considerate friends, bearing so substantial an expression of their confidence and regard. We were favoured with excellent speeches from the Rev. Alexr. Romans, A.M., Rev. N. Videto, Rev. W. G. Parker, and other brethren. I never heard better—more solid and edifying speaking—on any similar occasion; and a feeling of solemnity seemed to pervade the meeting. It was, all in all, the best Donation Visit I ever received or witnessed. Prayer having been offered by Bro. Videto, the company separated apparently well pleased and delighted, and it is believed, feeling some of the happiness that arises from active and cheerful benevolence. I feel grateful to my friends for this expression of their kindness and sympathy, to me and my family. Above all I trust I feel thankful to our Heavenly Father, for his abundant mercy in Christ, and for ten thousand blessings day by day. May I be enabled to live and labour more for the honour and glory of Christ, and the salvation of men; and may He reward with his richest spiritual blessings the kind friends who so generously, willingly, and nobly contributed to make me comfortable and useful.

Believe me, yours, truly,
GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

Bridgetown, April 9th, 1858.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, April 19, 1858.

Hon. the Speaker stated that he had received a letter from the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, communicating a resolution passed by that house conveying the thanks of the colony for the assistance rendered by this house to their Delegates on the subject of the settlement of the treaty between Great Britain and the Emperor of the French in relation to the Fisheries of Newfoundland.

At the suggestion of the hon. Atty. General these papers were ordered to be entered on the journals of the house.

The Attorney General asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the act passed in 1857—concerning recovery of railway damages.

The hon. gentleman also asked leave to introduce an act to amend chapter 118 of the Revised Statutes "Of the sale of lands to satisfy judgment debts."

Dr. Webster, from the committee on Indian Affairs, reported, recommending a number of grants.

The report was read and laid on the table. The chairman of the committee also reported a bill to amend chapter 58 of the Revised Statutes of Indians—read a first time.

Mr. Wade from the committee on private bills reported several.

Mr. Archibald moved a resolution for a change of appropriation of road monies for Colchester. Also presented the road scale for that county.

Hon. Attorney General moved that the report of the Commissioners appointed to prepare a new edition of the Revised Statutes be referred to a select committee.

After considerable discussion, the following committee was appointed—Hon. Atty. General, Hon. W. Young, Fuller, McDonald, and Dr. Brown.

The following bills were read a third time: A bill to amend chapter 48 Revised Statutes "Of Townships and Township Officers."

A bill in relation to the Inland Navigation Company.

Hon. Mr. Young moved an additional clause to prevent persons from taking fish by net within 100 yards of the works of the company on the Shubenacadie River.

A bill to amend chapter 42 of Revised Statutes of Clerks of the Peace.

A bill to incorporate the Londonderry Iron Company of Nova Scotia.

A bill to amend the act passed in 1855, relating to public landings.

A bill to establish the boundary lines between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Howe moved a resolution to defer this bill three months, and that in the meantime the Government ascertain how many acres of land previously considered to belong to Nova Scotia, will be cut off by this line; and how many voters who previously voted in Nova Scotia will be disfranchised.

After explanations from Mr. McFarlane, one of the Commissioners, and a long discussion, the house divided on the resolution,

For.—Robertson, Bailey, Parker, Rhynard, Archibald, Locke, McKenzie, Morrison, Geldert, Howe, Young, Webster, Annard, Esson, Wier, Chipman, McDonald,—17.

Against.—Ryder, Ruggles, Martell, Caldwell, Bourneuff, Fuller, Moses, McFarlane, Churchill, Bill, Wade, J. Campbell, Shaw, Brown, Provl. Secretary, McKeagney, Attorney General, Finl. Secretary, Smyth, White, McKinnon, and Robicheau,—22.

The bill then passed.

Hon. Finl. Secretary, from the committee on public printing, reported partially, which was received, and such portions as recommended a grant was referred to the committee of Supply.

Mr. Killam, from the committee on Navigation Securities, reported at great length.

TUESDAY, April 20.

Dr. Brown from the committee on the Hants County Road Scale reported. The report was received and laid on the table.

Hon. Provl. Secretary, by command, laid on the table copies of the correspondence between the government and the Railway Commissioners, and other papers relating to the opening of the Windsor line at the close of the last year. The papers were read and referred to the Railway Committee.

Mr. Wier enquired of the government how the railway works were progressing—how many men are employed on them, and how soon the road to Windsor and Truro would be opened. He also wished to know whether the government intended to extend the line to Pictou.

Hon. Provl. Secretary replied that if the hon. gentleman would put his questions in writing he would answer them.

Mr. Wier agreed to do so.

Hon. Mr. Howe moved the following resolution:

"Whereas christianity is the only true basis upon which a sound system of education can safely repose.

Resolved, That no school within this Province shall be entitled to aid from the public funds until it shall have been made to appear that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are daily read therein."

The hon. gentleman addressed the House.

A message from the Legislative Council announced that the Council had agreed to the following bills:

A bill to define the lines of certain Townships in the County of Lunenburg.

A bill to authorize the placing of a draw in the Lower Cornwallis Bridge.

A bill to alter certain polling districts in Cumberland.

Also a resolution relating to the Inland Navigation Company, without amendment.

Also a bill to amend an act relating to River Fisheries with amendments, which amendments were agreed to by the House.

The debate was resumed.

The Hon. Atty. General addressed the House, and moved an amendment as follows:

Resolved, That this House records its respect and veneration for the Holy Scriptures, and its desire to facilitate and encourage their use in all the Schools of the Province—This important object is essentially in the power of the people under the existing Common School system, and the House believes that the use of the Bible in our Schools is at present very general and is steadily increasing, and the Revd. Dr. Forrester, the Superintendent of Education, in his recent report, has declared in relation to this subject that it is "well and wisely provided for in the present Educational arrangements of the Province"—and this House is of opinion that to interfere by special and coercive legislation would retard the object which it is the professed design of the resolution before the House to advance.

The House divided, when there appeared—for the amendment, 28; against it, 18.

For.—Bill, Sol. General, Martell, Caldwell, Brown, McKeagney, McLearn, Killam, White, Tobin, Churchill, C. Campbell, Moses, Ruggles, McFarlane, Henry, Ryder, J. Campbell, Shaw, Fin. Secretary, Atty. General, Provl. Secretary, McKinnon, Robicheau, Smyth, Fuller, Wade, Bourneuff,—28.

Against.—Rhynard, Bailey, Parker, Munro, McKenzie, Morrison, Young, Geldert, Annard, Howe, Chambers, Webster, Esson, Wier, Locke, McDonald, Chipman, and Robertson,—18.

Several bills were read a second time and committed.

Mr. Wier from the committee on the two bills referred to, then relating to the city of Halifax reported the bills with amendments.

The report was laid on the table.

The road scale for Victoria was presented.

The House in committee on bills—Mr. Ryder in the chair.

Several bills passed.

A bill introduced by the hon. the Speaker to authorize the members of the County of Guysborough to borrow £1,000 to finish the New Eastern Road from Manchester to the Gut of Canso, caused some debate and finally passed the committee.

The House resumed and read the bills passed in Committee.

Dr. Brown moved that the bill relating to the settlement and support of the poor be referred to a select committee of Messrs. Archibald, Henry, Brown.

Hon. Atty. General from the law committee reported a bill relating to certain public lands in the Town of Lunenburg.

The committee passed no opinion upon it.

WEDNESDAY, April 21.

The house in committee on bills.

A message from the Legislative Council announced that the Council had agreed to the following bills: A Bill to regulate the office of Inspector of Mines. A Bill to amend chapter 49, revised statutes, Of county assessments. A Bill to establish a more equal and just system of assessment, without amendments. Also a Bill to amend the act to extend the elective franchise; and the Bill relating to the licenses for sale of intoxicating liquors, with amendments.

The bill to amend the act relating to assessment for railway damages was discussed.

Hon. Mr. Howe moved an additional clause, to meet the case of Mr. Burgess, of Windsor, the whole of whose property has been taken for railway purposes. The clause authorises the government to advance to Mr. Burgess one half of the amount appraised by the Jury, to be returned by the county of Hants, provided upon investigation the government think him entitled to relief.

The hon. gentleman explained the peculiar circumstances of the case. After some further discussion the house divided—for the amendment 11; against it 19.