

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

SARAH EMLINE DIMOCK

Was called away in the bloom of life. Although amiable in her disposition, she gave no evidence of piety until the early part of 1855, when it appeared that the Holy Spirit was performing a work of conviction on her mind, which was carried on until it produced a thorough change of heart and life.

During her protracted illness, she retained a steadfast confidence in God. When the writer visited her the last time, it was evident that life was fast ebbing away; and although sensible that she was drawing near her end, yet she felt a sweet composure of mind in resting on the Divine promises.

ICHABOD MACOMBER.

On Wednesday, the 27th inst., I was again called to attend the funeral of one of our old neighbours, who had arrived at the 74th year of his age. It was Mr. Ichabod Macomber, son of Captain John and Mrs. Delea Macomber.

Mr. M. pursued the course of this world until about 15 years ago. His companion was brought to the knowledge of the truth, and united with the church. This caused considerable uneasiness in his mind. In a few days the Spirit of truth arrested his mind, and he appeared to be brought to the foot of the cross.

DEACON WILLIAM H. THORP.

Died at Cornwallis, on the 24th ult., William H. Thorp, one of the Deacons of the Canard Baptist Church, in the 42nd year of his age.

By this Providence, a mourning widow and five children are bereft of an endeared husband and parent; an aged parent of an affectionate son; the church of a beloved deacon; and the community at large of a useful and highly esteemed member.

For a number of months the hand of disease rested heavily upon our departed brother, and wasting consumption warned both himself and anxious friends of the painful but certain result. Though aware that with him life was very near its close, yet death had no sting. To die was neither a new or a startling thought to the Lord's servant. In early life he had yielded to the strivings of the Spirit, and embraced Christ as his Saviour, and amid life's conflicts he was enabled, by Divine Grace, to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith he was called.

Cornwallis, March 3rd, 1858.

MRS. ISABEL MARSHALL,

Wife of Mr. Allan Marshall, formerly of Wilmot, died in this city, Feby. 4th, aged 31 years and four months.

Mrs. M. was made a subject of renewing grace at the age of 15 and united with the Baptist Church then under the pastoral care of Rev. R. W. Cunningham. In August, 1845, she removed her relation from the Baptist Church in Wilmot, N. S., to the Green Street Baptist Church in Newburyport, (Mass.) U. S., where she remained a worthy and highly esteemed member till the time of her death.

Mrs. M. was evidently sinking with consumption for three years, yet, through the sustaining grace of God, her sufferings and privations were borne with a remarkable degree of Christian fortitude and patience. She was resigned, peaceful, and calm; and as her departure drew near she said, "There is no sting in death: I dread not its approach. The future looks all glorious." The celestial city seemed full in view, and Jesus was all her theme.

"Triumphant in her closing eye,  
The hope of glory shone;  
Joy breathed in her expiring sigh,  
To think the race was run."

The funeral services were held in the Church where she had been accustomed to worship. An appropriate sermon was preached from Ps. xxxix. 9, to a large and solemn congregation—assembled to pay their testimonial of respect to her memory.—Communicated by her Pastor.

Newburyport, Mass., March 1st, 1858.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The good work at Hantsport.

DEAR BROTHER,

The cause of God in the spirit of the late revival here still prevails, and the force of scriptural truth leads saved souls to obey the commands of the Lord Jesus. The Sabbath before last I baptized one believer in Falmouth, and yesterday I baptized ten more in connection with the Hantsport Church. If my memory is correct as many as 48 have been baptized in the churches of my charge since the revival began.

Yours truly,  
Wm. BURTON.

Hantsport, March 9th, 1858.

BILLTOWN.—Extract of a Letter from Rev. James Parker.—The revival is progressing gloriously in this place. Last Sabbath I baptized eight, making forty since the good work commenced. I expect to baptize again next Sunday. Bro. James A. Moore, of Port George, has been labouring with me for some time past, very much to my satisfaction. The Church and congregation have also been greatly edified by his labours.

We have been favoured with the valuable services of Bro. A. D. Thompson for a short time, while prosecuting his Agency in behalf of Acadia. His preaching and exhortations will not soon be forgotten by the people.

Extract of letter from Rev. D. McKeen:—

"Yesterday we had a good day: a large and attentive congregation, with some indications of the presence of the Lord. Three willing converts were baptized. We hope to baptize others soon in different sections of the church. Maecan, March 1, '58."

Prince Edward Island.

DEAR BROTHER,

The Christian Messenger is a welcome visitor to our friends in this station. The present Commercial crisis presses very heavily upon many of our respectable merchants, and different classes of the community feel it to be a trying time. When the sun has sunk from our view in the western sky, when the busy hum of mortals has ceased upon the ear, and the shades of night have drawn their curtains around our dwellings, frequently have the valuable letters of Menno and the lucid and truthful statements of your London Correspondent given an impulse to the mind, for which I want words to express.

With deep interest and feeling I have watched the removal of one beloved brother after another from the sphere of action which have occurred during the past year. I have been led to ask myself the question,—Who are to fill their places? and from whom shall our destitute churches hear the "glad tidings of salvation?" Who, indeed, is sufficient for these things? A voice is heard in the past, and speaks in tones not to be misunderstood, respecting the future, "God is our refuge and strength."

Since August last I have been enabled, with the ability God has given me, to break the bread of life. Our congregations have considerably increased, and at times I entertain the hope that God, in his goodness, will make me a blessing to the gospel.

I enclose £3, Nova Scotia currency, which please credit as below, with the name of one new subscriber. Brethren, pray for us.

Yours truly,  
CHARLES IVES BURNETT.

North River, Feb'y. 25th, 1858.

The Great Religious Awakening in New York.

Extract of letter from New York:—

"We should not know how to live without your valuable paper, it always brings us so much of interest from our own loved native land. We are rejoiced to learn that revivals are in progress in Nova Scotia as well as here. The Lord has come by his Spirit to thousands in this city, and such times were never seen here before. Prayer meetings, in the most busy part of the city, are thronged at noon day, business men of all classes are there and mingle together in prayer and praise. Yesterday was a precious day in many of the churches, numbers were baptized, and are rejoicing in God. May the good work go on and increase until all the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. New York, March 8th, 1858."

In confirmation of the above we find that the extraordinary state of things in New York is exciting the attention of not only the religious press, but even those papers hitherto considered hostile to evangelical truth refer to it in terms of the greatest respect. The New York Tribune, of March 1st, devotes six closely printed columns to a detailed account of the meetings which have been held and the classes of persons attending them.

We are indebted to Mr. T. H. Rand for a copy of the above paper. We would gladly transfer much on the subject to our pages.

The following extracts will give our readers some idea of the extent of this remarkable movement:—

"The exchange newspapers, both religious and secular, that come to us from all quarters, speak of an unwonted revival of religious feeling in their vicinity, and in the country far and near around them. Everywhere men are crowding to religious meetings, and the spirit with which the crowds are impressed, and which incites them to so general an attention to religion and religious services, seems to be animating the whole land. One church breaks out into a revival, and in a few weeks the next in the village, or the town, or the city, follows the example, until the whole district is awakened and aroused. In some instances the enthusiasm seems to have spread from place to place with all the rapidity of a fire on a prairie.

"A similar religious feeling has not been known in this city for twenty-five years. About twenty-five years ago a revival of great power, which excited the sympathy and cooperation of great numbers of persons, both church members and others, occurred in New York, though its extent and results were far less remarkable than those which have been already witnessed in the present instance. Public religious meetings were then held in unusual places, and at unusual hours, and were throngingly attended, but we believe that a mid-day prayer meeting, held in the centre of the business circles of the city, and sustained largely by the most prominent business men, is a novelty that was not then known. In fact, if the idea of such a meeting had been proposed six months ago, with any probability that it would soon be attended to such an extent as to require three rooms for the divided and overflowing audience, it would have been regarded as hardly less than preposterous."

"In New England, and particularly in Connecticut and Massachusetts, the number of conversions are unprecedented, and the present revival is said to exceed even the "Great Awakening," in the time of Jonathan Edwards, in the extent, if not in the fervor of its work. It is said that there are several towns in New England in which not a single adult person can be found who has not been converted, and become a member of a church!

"In the West and South while the increase of religious interest is shared by all denominations, this revival is free from the scenes of unnatural and even supernatural excitement which have sometimes characterized religious awakenings in the newly settled portions of our country. On the contrary, the present revival, as it is manifested both at the East and West, is marked with great sobriety, and a commendable freedom from undue excess. It gives evidence of a well-regulated enthusiasm rather than a wild excitement, and as such has better promise of salutary effects than any previous revival that has ever passed over the country."

"It is of course impossible to give accurately, or even to estimate approximately the actual number of conversions which may be set down as the results of such a work. All such results are expressed, to some minds, somewhat repulsively by mere figures. The actual increase of religion in a community is not to be measured by statistics. It is not unlikely that there have actually occurred, in a single week, all parts of the country, taken together, as many as fifty thousand conversions. This statement, surprising as it may seem, is amply borne out by the facts.

"The 'Great Revival' is now the absorbing topic even for ordinary conversation in this city. Notices of meetings for prayer and other religious exercises have been publicly placarded in many of the places where hand-bills are usually posted. In many counting-rooms, and stores, similar printed advertisements have been hung up, calling the attention of business men and others to the devotional convocations. In addition to these, tracts have been distributed in the cars, in the omnibuses, and in the ferry boats, calling the attention of the chance reader to the subject of religion, quoting passages from the Scriptures, and giving notices of the meetings. Some tracts have been dropped on the pavements of the streets, for passers-by to pick up—so that 'he who runs may read.'

"The attendance on the Sabbath at the churches is unusually large, and the prevalent feeling extends among Sunday schools as well. Many of these schools have, within a very recent period, doubled, and, in some instances, tripled their membership; many conversions have occurred among the young people who attend them as scholars.

"Many clergymen of the city exult, and many prominent laymen, including merchants and gentlemen in the legal and medical professions, are seen there every day—as they ought to be seen—side by side with the mechanic and the day laborer, and even the street beggar. Drymen drive up their carts to the church, and hitching their horses outside, go in with the crowd; and 'fine ladies' who sometimes have Christian hearts, in spite of unchristian fashions, drive down from 'up town' in their fine carriages, also step in and mingle with the same multitude. The exercises consist about equally of prayers, remarks, and singing. Of course it is impracticable for so many to take part in the speaking or the audible praying, but they all join in the singing with great zeal and emphasis. It is not unfrequent, during the continuance of the meeting, to see a crowd of persons collected in the streets in front of the church to listen to the spirit-stirring hymns that are sung inside.

The Examiner remarks in connection with this subject and its summary of revivals:—

"Our list of conversions reported from all denominations, since the last publication in THE EXAMINER, three weeks ago, had reached the number of over 17,000, when we were constrained by its excessive bulk to discontinue further additions, save from our own denomination, and to abridge the list already prepared, by cutting out the Methodist portion (as the next largest), entirely. Had this not been done, we should doubtless have

had a summary of not far from 20,000, filling nearly two columns of our paper. This would make at least forty thousand conversions specified in the correspondence and exchanges of THE EXAMINER, in two months. The list, as abridged, gives nearly eleven thousand."

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 8, 1858.

Debate on the Elective Legislative Council bill.

The hon. Mr. Howe addressed the house; after which the hon. Attorney General said he would consent to forego his closing speech, for the purpose of having an immediate division.

Hon. Solicitor General, from the committee of conference, reported an address to her Majesty, on the subject of the recent marriage of the Princess Royal. Unanimously agreed to.

The Divisions on the Bill as given in our editorial last week then took place.

TUESDAY, March 9.

Several Post Office Petitions were presented.

A message from the Legislative Council. The Clerk announced that the Council had agreed to the Bill on the subject of the Mines and Minerals.

Hon. Provincial Secretary by command laid on the table a return of the extra claims of contractors on the railroad, together with the reports of Messrs. Laurie and Foreman thereon.

Mr. Henry reported in part from the Post Office Committee, signed by six out of seven of the committee in favour of Mr. King's proposal to run a steamer between St. John and Windsor, and St. John and Digby, twice a week, for the sum of £1000 a year for four years, from this Province and a like sum from New Brunswick.

The committee also recommended the sum of £25 to be granted yearly to the steamer Experiment, to carry the mails between Annapolis and Digby, in connection with Mr. King's steamer.

Mr. McLellan thought the time (four years) was too long.

Mr. Shaw believed that both the inhabitants of Yarmouth and Annapolis would be opposed to this arrangement.

Hon. Atty. General also spoke of the objections on the part of the Annapolis people to this recommendation of the Post Office Committee. It was feared that the small Steamer Experiment would not answer the wants of that county.

Mr. Annand remarked.—The committee were convinced that the small steamer "Experiment" was sufficient to accommodate the Annapolis people; if it turned out otherwise, the house would probably provide for that service.

Hon. Mr. Young said.—There may be great weight in what the member for Annapolis said, as to the difficulty of transshipping cattle to St. John by a small steamer, but we must look at the interests of the whole province.

Mr. Shaw thought this arrangement should not be agreed to until a drawbridge be made over Bear River, to make the mail route to Digby perfect.

Mr. Moses did not think a boat suitable for the Bay service would do for the River service. He had understood that the Messrs. Hatheway, of St. John, had intended to run a fine boat, called the Emperor, across the Bay.

Mr. Shaw thought that the two routes from Windsor and Annapolis should be kept separate.

Hon. Prov. Secy. enquired whether the proposal of Messrs. Hatheway of St. John had been before the committee.

Mr. Henry.—It had; but no distinct proposal as to terms had been made by those gentlemen. It was merely an offer to run a steamer. It was felt necessary to decide at once.

Hon. Atty. Gen. thought that great care would be required in preparing the contract with Mr. King, as he had not performed the service of steam communication across the Bay, nor had he conducted his coach line to Annapolis in a way calculated to advance the interests of the public. He would suggest that a portion of the proposed grant of £1000 recommended by the committee should be given for the Annapolis route, in consideration of the decreased amount of service which would then be required from Mr. King. He was sorry that it should be thought necessary to provide for this service at the expense of the interests of a large portion of the people of Annapolis.

Mr. Henry.—Mr. King's first proposition was to run the boat three times a week to Windsor, which would take up the whole time of the boat. Under their contract, the Messrs. King will be obliged, if necessary at any time, to run three trips weekly to Windsor for £500 extra.

Mr. Shaw.—I object to the Report inasmuch as it binds us for four years.

The Report was then agreed to.

Hon. Atty. General called the attention of the house to the Elective Legislative Council Bill, on which the house divided last evening, and stated that it was not considered expedient to press a measure passed by so small a majority. He therefore proposed a resolution affirming the principle of the Bill, and recommending that the Bill be deferred until it had been printed and circulated through the Province.

Mr. Wade seconded the resolution.

Hon. Atty. Gen. also gave notice that in consequence of the time which had been occupied in debating the Mines and Minerals bill, and the Elective Legislative Council bill, and this being the fifth week of the Session and much business before the house, he would not press the bill for the Equalization of the Representation this Session. He would move that the bill be printed and circulated. 1000 copies ordered to be printed.