

For the Christian Messenger.

Extract of a letter from Mr. H. C. Gates, to Rev. C. Tupper, dated,

LYNNFIELD CENTRE, Mass., Jan. 18, '58.

VERY DEAR SIR,

I herewith enclose to you 2 dollars, for the Christian Messenger the present year. The information which the Messenger conveys affords me great pleasure and satisfaction, as it brings to mind reminiscences of the past, as well as the events which are now taking place in Nova Scotia and other parts of the world. The electric wire very frequently conveys news from the United States to Nova Scotia and back again by the Messenger before I have it from any other source. My paper, during the past year, (with but few exceptions) has arrived in 7 days from the time it was printed in Halifax.

My brother-in-law, Robert Marshall, lately lost his youngest child—a daughter, 3 months and 10 days old.—It died Decr. 24th and was buried Dec. 26th. It died at Gloucester, Mass., where he resided, but not wishing to bury it there they brought it to Lynnfield Centre, had the funeral at my house, and buried it in my burying-ground.

"As vernal flowers that scent the morn,
But wither in the rising day;
Thus lovely was this infant's dawn,
Thus swiftly fled her life away."

She died before her infant soul
Had ever burnt with wrong desires,
Had ever spurned at heaven's control,
Or ever quenched its sacred fires."

My brother wishes a notice of his child's death inserted in the Messenger.

I remain, ever yours, &c.,
H. C. GATES.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Hillsburg.

DEAR BROTHER,

On Monday evening, January 4th, the people of my charge, to the number of about one hundred, paid me and my family the annual donation visit; and, as is usual in those social gatherings, tea was prepared by the ladies, who are always ready to every good word and work. The brethren and friends all co-operated on the occasion. At a reasonable hour the meeting was called to order by one of the deacons, and a presentation was made to the amount of £28. Appropriate addresses were given. Singing and prayer concluded the present pleasant donation visit. Thanks to God for all his mercies, and thanks to my brethren and friends for so many tokens of friendship and regard. May the blessing of the Lord rest on the cheerful givers.

Yours, &c.,
OBED PARKER.

Hillsburg, February 3, 1858.

[Brother Parker tells us he has made the above as brief as possible. We think it in this respect quite a model notice. The Visit itself may also be considered not bad as a model visit.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MRS. PHEBE TUFTS.

The subject of this brief notice was the daughter of Arthur and Jemima Scovil, of Horton, N. S., and was born in that place, November 25th, 1777.

In her youthful days she was strongly exercised with reference to her spiritual welfare. She informed me that she laboured a long time under deep distress of mind, after which she was made to rejoice in God her Saviour, and claim him as her friend. In 1801 she was united in marriage to John W. Tufts, late of New Albany, and moved there in the year 1805. They were the first settlers in that place. Having a good constitution she could bear the hardships allotted to her with firmness as well as patience and resignation. At one time she walked on snowshoes to Nictaux, the distance of ten miles, to see her friends. Although living in the wilderness she was not neglectful of the duties of religion. In 1812 she joined the church in that place, then under the pastoral care of the late Rev. T. H. Chipman, being one of the first that was baptized in New Albany, and remained a faithful member of that branch of the church till removed by death, to join the church triumphant above. She was always ready to talk upon the subject of religion, and take part in family worship. At Conference and prayer meetings she was at her post, whenever opportunity would admit. After 70 long years of labour and toil, mingled with happiness and joy, a few weeks' sickness has brought her down to the grave like a shock of corn fully ripe, leaving two sons and three daughters and numerous other friends to mourn their loss.

During her last illness she could rejoice in that religion which had sustained her through life, and longed to pass over Jordan. The evening before her death she was asked by the writer if she was willing to die. Her reply was, "O yes, I want to go where Jesus is." Thus, on the 22nd day of January, 1858, her prayer was answered, and her happy spirit took its flight, we trust, to heaven, where Jesus is.

On the following Monday, after interment, a mourning congregation assembled to hear a solemn address delivered by the Rev. W. G. Parker, from Jeremiah xxviii. 16.—"This year thou shalt die."—Communicated by Gardner Tufts.

MR. JEREMIAH SMITH,

Departed this life, September 18th, 1857, in the 95 year of his age.

Mr. Smith came to this country when in his 21st year, in company with what was then called the "new comers," and cast in his lot with the few that preceded him, where, through prudence and industry, he obtained a competency of this world's goods, and, by grace, a good hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Although at the advanced age to which he attained he could talk of his hope of heaven, yet with composure of mind, he could say "I wait with patience until my change shall come." After a few days of sickness he fell asleep in Jesus, leaving one son and one daughter to inherit the blessings of a good name, which is rather to be chosen than great riches.—Com. by Rev. Obed Parker.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, Feb. 9, 1858.

House met at half-past two, P.M.

Hon. Receiver General, by command of His Excellency, laid on the table of the house a number of papers relative to the Mines and Minerals of this province, Inter-Colonial Railway, and Union of the British North American Colonies.

Mines and Minerals.—The papers submitted under this head consist of Despatches and Correspondence which passed between the Executive Government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Delegates on the one hand, and the Imperial Government and the General Mining Association on the other, from the 23rd of April to the 10th of September, 1857, and also the Reports of the Hon. J. W. Johnston, Attorney General, and Adams G. Archibald, Esq., the Commissioners or Delegates appointed on the 16th of June, 1857.

The Mines proposed to be leased to the Association consist of various coal seams in the Island of Cape Breton, County of Pictou, and County of Cumberland.

Inter-Colonial Railway.—Under this head were submitted correspondence and documents which passed between the Governments of Nova Scotia, Canada, and New Brunswick, and the Colonial Secretary.

The Nova Scotia Delegates, in their letter to the Colonial Secretary, fully and fully review the history of the past negotiations on this subject, showing the importance of an inter-Colonial Railway, as a means of protection to the Colonies in case of hostilities with the United States, as a powerful instrument for promoting the union and advancement of the Colonies in time of peace, and as essential to the consolidation of British power in America.

Nova Scotia is not insensible to the position she occupies on the foreground of British America, and asks that her bonds for the expenditure from Halifax to the New Brunswick border shall be guaranteed by the British Government, and the Province be thus enabled to borrow, upon the most favorable conditions, the amount she requires.

The guarantee asked for involves no risk. The Province of Nova Scotia is advancing in material prosperity at a rate which will compare favorably with any part of the Western world. Her taxes are the lowest in the world, and her revenue has always been equal to her requirements; and is rapidly increasing. From 1849 to 1854, with no material alteration in imposts, the revenue doubled in amount.

The population increases at a rate nearly equal to that of the whole United States, and much greater than that of the States immediately contiguous to our border. By the despatch of the Colonial Secretary, of 15th January, 1858, it appears that Her Majesty's advisers are not prepared to apply to Parliament for the required guarantee. Their reasons for declining to take this step are solely of a financial description.

Union of the Colonies.—The Commissioners conclude a brief report on this subject with the following observations:

In the interview which we had with Mr. Labouchere, this question was freely discussed. The Colonial Secretary informed us that Her Majesty's Government had no desire to interfere with the determination to which the Colonies themselves might come on a point so immediately affecting their own interests; and that if they should be of opinion that union would advance their prosperity, the Government would oppose no obstacle to the accomplishment of their wishes. Mr. Labouchere's own opinion, we learnt to be, that while he doubted whether the union of Canada and the Lower Provinces might not embrace too wide a circle for convenience and efficacy, he believed that the union of the Lower Provinces would be highly beneficial, and tend greatly to improve their position, and assist their progress. This declaration of the freedom of the Colonies to decide this important question for themselves seemed to be all that could be desired from the Government, while, as yet neither the Legislature nor the people of Nova Scotia had given an expression of opinion on the subject, and when we had no authority to answer the enquiry of the Colonial Secretary, whether the people of Nova Scotia desired the change.

Hon. Mr. Almon, as Chairman of the Committee on reporting and publishing the debates and proceedings of this House, reported, recommending that the Debates, &c., should be published in the Sun and Recorder newspapers, and that 100 copies of them should be published in pamphlet form; also that Henry Oldright, the reporter, employed last year, should be again engaged on the same terms as heretofore.

Hon. Mr. Rudolf thought it was a useless waste

of money to publish the debates in pamphlet form. Hon. Mr. Almon explained. The report was received and adopted.

Public Accounts.—The House of Assembly, by message, informed this House that they had appointed Messrs. Esson, Moses, Brown, White and Archibald to be a Committee to examine the public accounts in connexion with a Committee of this House.

Hon. Messrs. Fairbanks, McCully and Whitman were appointed such Committee from this House, and a message was sent to the House of Assembly by the Clerk to inform them thereof.

Pauper Lunatics.—Hon. Mr. Bell—I wish to bring under the notice of the Government and of this House the condition of pauper lunatics in this Province. The Poor's Asylum is now so crowded that the Commissioners were lately obliged to reject an application for admission from a person of this class. It is necessary that some provision should be made for these unfortunate creatures. I should like to ask the Government when the Lunatic Asylum will be ready for the reception of patients, and what provision can be made for these persons in the meantime.

Hon. Receiver General was not prepared to say when the Asylum would be ready to receive patients, but would make the necessary enquiries.

Hon. President remarked that the individual alluded to by Mr. Bell was a native of Halifax.

Hon. Mr. Almon observed that the case mentioned was only one of many, and that there was a crying necessity that something should be done immediately.

Hon. Receiver General remarked that a very large expenditure would be required to prepare the Asylum for the reception of patients.

ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I observed in His Excellency's Speech an allusion to a contemplated alteration in the constitution of this house. The question is one of deep interest, and I should like to ask the Government whether a bill of that character is to be submitted to this house, and if so, if it will be done at an early day.

Hon. Receiver General.—The question is certainly one of deep interest, but as the measure is likely to be introduced into the other house, I cannot understand why it is necessary that it should be brought forward here at an early day. It may not pass in the lower branch, and, therefore, may not reach this house at all.

Hon. Mr. McCully.—The answer of the hon. Receiver General is hardly satisfactory. As the measure alluded to is promised in the Speech from the Throne, its passage ought not to rest upon casualties. I hope that my honourable friend does not expect that a measure introduced by the Government will be defeated by casualties.

Hon. Receiver General.—The passage of the measure in the other house is quite uncertain. In His Excellency's Speech of last year a School Bill was promised, but not only did it not pass, but it was not even introduced, although it has afforded matter for newspaper discussion, and employment for the idle hours of professional men.

Hon. Mr. McCully.—I should like to see my honourable friend follow the good example of the late Government, not their bad ones. House adjourned until 2 1/2 P. M. on Friday.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Feb. 8, 1858.

House met at 12 o'clock, and sat with closed doors until 1 o'clock.

A conversational debate took place in relation to the Mines and Minerals—as to the relative weight of the chaldron of coals from the different mines of the Province.

Hon. Mr. Young recommended the propriety of the Government furnishing a map of the coal localities.

Hon. Atty. General replied that he should bring before the house the maps furnished to him by the General Mining Association.

The house then proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee appointed to nominate the Standing Committees.

After which the house adjourned until 3 o'clock.

3 o'clock.

Mr. Moses presented a petition from John Patch, and others, of Yarmouth. The petitioner claimed to be the original inventor of the principle of propelling steam-ships by means of the screw.

Hon. Atty. General stated that Mr. Patch had the misfortune of being one of those individuals who had originated a new idea but had not the means of prosecuting it, he doubted not due consideration would be given to his claims—referred to committee on Trade and Manufactures.

Hon. Financial Secretary by command laid on the table of the house:

No. 1.—Returns of the exports and imports of the Province of Nova Scotia for the period ending 30th Sept., 1857.

His present statement only comprehended the period of nine months. He stated that in about a week the returns of the other quarter would be prepared, which would complete the year.

He complained that from the want of sufficient remuneration to the outpost collectors, it was impossible to obtain accurate and regular returns from them.

No. 2.—Abstract of the duties collected for the year ending 31st Dec. 1857.

No. 3.—Comparative statements, exhibiting the increase and decrease of the duties on different articles, for the years 1856 and 1857.

No. 4.—Comparative statement of imports for 1856 and 1857.

The hon. gentleman explained that the increase of the revenue, was about £21,000. He warned the members, however, to beware that

they were not misled by this apparent surplus, as the increased expenditure of the country, consequent upon the railroad, would require all the available resources of the Province, and he therefore recommended additional economy in the grants for the public service;—the Road grant would have to be reduced to at least one half.

No. 5.—Comparative statement of light duties.

The foregoing papers were referred to committee on Public Accounts.

Hon. Mr. Young regretted to hear from these accounts that it was proposed to reduce the Road Grant, which would have a serious effect upon the interests of the country.

Hon. Fin. Secy. explained that the financial affairs of the country were not in a very bad condition, but that the fact of having to pay £50,000 a year interest on the Railroad, out of a revenue of 150,000, was sufficient of itself to induce economy. No one could regret more than he did, the reduction of the Road Grant—but the Government could not be held responsible for the loss of the revenue, and he trusted that both sides of the house would discuss this question (of the revenue) without reference to party feelings, but with a desire to sustain the credit of the Province.

Mr. Parker understood the increase of Tariff last year would provide for the additional expenditure of the Railroad.

Hon. Attorney General thought these remarks premature, until the reports and papers on the subject of the Railroad and other public works were before the house.

Mr. Tobin asked leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registry of warrants to confess judgments, and of conveyances of personal property.

Messrs. Esson and Archibald spoke in its favor—and the latter alluded to the necessity for the adoption of a bankrupt law.

Hon. Attorney General concurred, and recommended that a committee be appointed to consider the propriety of introducing a bankrupt law.

Hon. Mr. Young considered that the question was a most difficult one to deal with. In the United States and in New Brunswick the bankrupt law had to be abandoned. It was doubted whether one could be devised for this country.

Hon. Mr. Howe thought that the Crown officers should be a standing committee on this subject.

The hon. Attorney General, in the course of some remarks on this subject, intimated that some improvement in the insolvent debtor law would be proposed, which would probably remedy some of the present defects. He concluded by moving that a committee be appointed to consider any proposed change in the laws on this subject.

Hon. Mr. Young asked for information from the Government on the following points:

Returns from the Executive Government required as follows:

- 1st. Of the time and circumstances of the appointments of the Hon. Mr. Whitman and the Hon. Mr. Dickey to the Legislative Council.
- 2nd. Of the time and mode of the recent appointment to office of James McKeagney, Esq., as Inspector of Mines. James R. Mosse, Esq., as Superintendent of the working department of the Provincial Railways, and Mr. William Condon to a post in the Board of Works, with all papers, documents, and correspondence in relation to such appointments respectively, and to the emoluments and salaries thereof, and the authority therefor.
- 3rd. Of the names of all other Public Officers appointed by the present administration with the emoluments or salaries attached to their several offices, and the authority therefor.
- 4th. Of the number of Justices of the Peace who have been so appointed, distinguishing the different Counties.
- 5th. Of the names and offices of the Public Officers (inclusive of Justices of the Peace, if any) who have been dismissed or superseded by the present Administration, with the charges against such officers or other grounds for their dismissal, and the correspondence, and papers in relation to each individual case.

Mr. Locke enquired from the Government whether it was their intention to appoint Registrars of Shipping in all parts of the Province.

Hon. Financial Secretary said that the sum granted for the payment of that service was not sufficient for the number required by the Province.

Mr. Esson enquired whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce any measure for the Equalization of the representation of the Province, as, if they did not, he should introduce a bill relating to the representation of the County of Halifax.

The hon. Attorney General replied—the Government intended to bring in a measure on that subject.

Hon. J. Campbell asked leave to introduce a Bill to amend the act relating to Incorporation of the Wesleyan bodies of Nova Scotia, also several petitions for various objects.

House adjourned until Tuesday, 8 o'clock.

TUESDAY Feb. 9.

House met at 3 o'clock.

Petitions for various objects were presented by several members.

Mr. Esson presented a petition from the inhabitants of Lake Porter and Three Fathom Harbour, and Chezencook for aid for a canal to open up sea communication with Lake Porter.

Hon. Atty. General asked leave to introduce a Bill on the subject of a Bankrupt Law, which he would ask to be referred to a special Committee.

Hon. Mr. Howe called the attention of the house and the government to a letter which he