

For the Christian Messenger.

Prosecution for Blasphemy.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The Rev. Mr. Martin delivered a speech at the meeting of the Synod of the Established Church of Scotland in this Province, in July last, which contains the following sentence:—"I maintain that Mr. Johnston was guilty of a neglect of duty in not prosecuting Archbishop Walsh for blasphemy."

I write now for the purpose of expressing my astonishment that a Christian minister, glorying in the appellation of "Protestant," should advocate prosecution for blasphemy. Is blasphemy punishable by law, according to the New Testament? Has not our Saviour declared that his kingdom is "not of this world?" Did not the Apostle Paul affirm that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal?"

Mr. Martin will probably take refuge in the Mosaic code, and tell us that the law of the Lord, as therein contained, is still binding. Be it so. It will then follow that the blasphemer must be put to death. Such was the enactment. There was no authority given to change or modify the punishment. Are the advocates of prosecution for blasphemy prepared to go that length? If not, they must be content to leave the blasphemer to Him who has said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

The views of Baptists were fully stated by Roger Williams in the 17th century, who maintained that the power of the civil magistrate does not extend to things spiritual, and who founded the colony of Rhode Island on that principle. The colonists engaged to obey the magistrate "in things civil only."

Whatever opinion may be held respecting the language of the late Archbishop's Pastoral (and Protestants can have but one opinion respecting it), if Mr. Johnston had prosecuted him for it, he would have been guilty of violation of principle as a Baptist—as a Protestant—and as a Christian. When I say, "as a Protestant," I refer to the spirit of Protestantism rather than to its public profession. The spirit of Protestantism is "soul-freedom," in its widest extent; in its public profession the theory of Ecclesiastical Establishments has been worked out, in every part of Europe, and persecution is an essential element of that theory, as Baptists have learned by sad experience.

These subjects ought to be better understood. Christianity has been misrepresented—traduced—reviled, because men have studied caricatures rather than the original. The State-church system has manufactured nominal Christians by wholesale, and from their characters and lives, as well as from the tendencies of the system, infidels have derived their illustrations of Christianity. Thus they "speak evil of the things that they understand not," but their misapprehensions must be traced to the corruptions and abuses by which Christianity has been supplanted.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Sept. 2, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I have been much gratified and instructed for some time past by the perusal of the able series of letters, which have appeared in the Messenger, on "Baptist History," signed *Meno*. They contain so many important facts connected with our denomination in times that are past, couched in a familiar and agreeable style, and are so deeply interesting to its members in general, that I should feel much pleased to see the entire series, when completed, published together in a cheap and portable form. I do not know of any greater benefit that could be conferred on the whole Baptist body in these Provinces than such a publication.—I cannot doubt of its meeting with a very extensive sale, and one that would, in some measure, remunerate the learned and able writer, could he be induced to submit it, in the form I suggest, to public patronage.

The Ninth Anniversary of the American Bible Union will be held in the meeting-house of the First Baptist Church, New York, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 6th and 7th, of October, 1858. The Business Meeting will commence at 9 o'clock, A. M., on Wednesday, in the Lecture Room. Public exercises in the Church commence at 10 o'clock.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 8, 1858.

Notes of a visit to St. John, N. B.

(Concluded.)

As many of our readers are familiar with St. John, and as those who are not may be so now with but little difficulty, we will not occupy much of our space with the results of our observation of that city. We were agreeably surprised with the buildings in the business portions. The substantial brick and stone structures indicate that while elegance and ornament are not neglected, the safety of the city and durability of its materials are considered of paramount importance. The solid rocky foundations of the city in many places not only form the surface of the streets, but rise up as a perpendicular wall at the side, residences being erected on the top. This circumstance is a barrier to any thing like grading in the streets. We therefore find them remaining without any efforts being made to secure a uniform level.

The railroad here affords much more accommodation to the citizens than our own to Halifax, from the circumstance of its running into the centre of the city, thus avoiding the annoyance and delay of cabs or omnibuses. The district through which it passes too being highly fertile, renders the ride for pleasure excursions far more attractive than the same distance on the N. S. road.

Passing on to Portland, after a delightful walk of a mile or so, we come to

THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

An object well worthy of a visit. The injury it recently sustained has just been repaired. The rocks on either side point out this spot as peculiarly adapted for such a structure. The various efforts which have previously been made to connect the sides of the river at this place had been unsuccessful. The former bridge also, which was recently nearly destroyed, is now replaced by a permanent and handsome erection. The width has been diminished, but not so as to require new masonry. Its apparent lightness is in striking contrast with its firmness and substantial construction, when closely examined. From the bridge we have some of the most lovely scenery—the river above and neighbourhood of Indian Town—the factories and tall chimneys on either bank, with the rushing foaming waters as they here pass over their shallow bed, whirling far down under your feet, form a picture of great variety and beauty.

Passing on over the bridge, we come immediately to the

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

A fine brick-built structure, having a commanding position. Its design and situation are well adapted for the purpose.—The very superior workmanship of the exterior of the building is an evidence of the superior skill of the builders.

An introduction to the excellent Superintendent, Dr. Waddell, is calculated to raise ones appreciation of mankind. His urbanity and gentlemanly deportment render him well adapted to so highly responsible a situation.

On visiting such an institution one would expect to have his ears assailed by the ravings of some out of the 190 unfortunate patients here comfortably provided for, but nothing of the kind is heard, and nothing like restraint to be seen; but for the vacant countenances and the awkward manner in which some of them stand, or sit, about the corridors, one would suppose himself surrounded by rational beings. The men who desire to do so are allowed to engage in outdoor occupations, under the eye of their keeper. The extensive and highly cultivated grounds belonging to the institution supply fine opportunities of gratifying this desire. The majority may therefore be seen out in the garden assisting in the various departments of industry.

The arrangement of the corridors here is somewhat different from our N. S. Asylum. Having the whole range of front windows gives them a cheerfulness which cannot be secured when rooms are on both sides as in ours. This appears a decided advantage in favour of our neighbours. More of compactness too is obtained by the wings turning at right angles, and forming three sides of a square, instead of stretching out in the same direction as the central portion. The latter, however, gives a more imposing front, and better allows for enlargement than the former.

The comfortable chapel, with its neat organ, indicate that attention is paid to the spiritual welfare as well as to the mental and physical maladies of the inmates. There is room for improvement in the furniture and means of warming the building, which, doubtless, will soon be provided for. Arrangements are

made in the building similar to our own for heating by steam, but the apparatus is not yet provided. The mode of treatment adopted appears highly creditable to Dr. Waddell; but little restraint is found necessary.—Insubordination by any patient is visited with a brief confinement in his own apartment—this is usually all that is found necessary. The extreme cleanliness of the place and its inmates was a striking feature.

More delightful scenery than that from the various windows it is hardly possible to imagine.

The continual arrival of steamers at St. John, and their departure to Digby, to Portland, to the Bend, to Fredericton, and to Windsor give the town an air of business and bustle, which is seldom seen in Halifax.

The associations formed with our neighboring city were of the most pleasant description, and what will be long cherished by us, in common with the brethren by whom we were accompanied.

A curious instance of the value of the Atlantic Telegraph occurred during the past week. A message was sent from the Horse Guards to the commanding officer in Halifax, to the effect that letters had been sent out by the Europa, which left Liverpool a day or two previously, ordering the 62nd Regiment, now stationed here, to proceed with all dispatch to India; but that said order was now countermanded (probably in consequence of peace being concluded with China) and that, therefore, they would remain at Halifax till further orders.

Had it not been for this lightning conductor through the ocean depths the order would have produced no small commotion among the red-coats, and the families with whom they have become connected here, whereas, by the next mail they would have been ordered to "right about face," and would have found it not easy to obey the command "as you were," except at considerable loss of labor and cash. Still the cable conveys "peace on earth!"

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS are now arrayed in all their glory and beauty. The military band on Tuesdays and Fridays are an additional attraction. This delightful retreat is now visited by large companies on those occasions. The juvenile visitors have also further inducements in the shape of two swinging cars. These are so arranged that while swinging they remain in a horizontal position and by means of ropes attached to a long pole the persons in the cars may swing themselves.

Dr. Cogswell has also made a commencement of a Museum of native, geological and other specimens for the hall. This will be a great acquisition, and may be very appropriately enlarged so as to shew the native products of the province, valuable relics and curiosities.

The jets of water thrown in different directions from the aquatic figure in the pond give another feature to the variety in these gardens.

We cannot think it expedient to publish a communication we have received, from J. A. D. containing severe strictures on a religious body, with which the writer has formerly been in connection, and referring to domestic characters and circumstances in a manner which we feel assured ought not to appear in a newspaper. We perhaps owe it to our correspondent to avow our opinion, that were we to publish his letter, its tenor would scarcely establish his claim to public sympathy.

We shall not object to insert the communication of "A Young Minister" over his own proper signature; but as it is somewhat of a personal character we cannot take the responsibility of doing so anonymously. We think it a good rule to be observed in anonymous writing to say only what we should be willing publicly to acknowledge.

We have received the Rev. S. T. Rand's report of the speech of Rev. Dr. Parker, delivered at the Convention, but as we could not insert the whole in our present issue, and, therefore, rather than divide it into two parts, we prefer postponing it to next week.

We regret that we shall be unable to avail ourselves of the kind invitation received to attend the Anniversary Meetings of the American Bible Union, to be held at New York on the 6th and 7th of October.

Our readers are, we believe, aware that a new line of Atlantic Steamers has been commenced between Valentia Bay, the European terminus of the Great Atlantic Cable on the West Coast of Ireland, and New York, touching at Halifax. The Pa-

cific, one of the line, having put into St. John's, Nfld., her London news, up to the 23rd ult., reached us by Telegraph from thence. She got into Halifax on Sunday, having a number of emigrants as passengers. We believe that almost daily Steamers are now passing between the two great Continents.

The English papers state a report of the abdication of the King of Prussia in favor of his brother, usually styled the Prince of Prussia. We hope before going to press to be able to give the items of late English news expected by our coming Steamer.

The new Canadian Administration seems to have been very shortlived, having, after a few days, resigned their places, finding they had not sufficient force to carry on the Government. The Executive power has therefore gone back to the old hands, with some slight alteration in the distribution of places. The Canadian Parliament, previous to their recent prorogation, passed a series of Resolutions, applying to the Home Government for their assistance in carrying out the Great Inter-Colonial Railway, and for a Union of the British North American Provinces.

It appears that Brigham Young and his Mormon Colony, notwithstanding all their threats and bluster, did not deem it prudent to measure swords with the troops sent against them by the U. S. Government. They have agreed to receive the troops and to admit the persons appointed to the various official trusts by the chief authority.

Temperance.

JUDGE MARSHALL.—The *Abstainer*, of the 1st inst. has a good sketch of the life and character Judge Marshall. It is copied from the *London Temperance Star*. The Judge is highly appreciated by our transatlantic brethren. Long may he live to advocate the good cause.

At the instance of Judge Marshall a new organization was commenced on the 27th ult. It is intended to be a Provincial Association for procuring Legal Prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors as beverages.

There are 39 clubs of Temperance Watchmen in the Province of Nova Scotia. The largest club is at Old Barrs: it contains 100 members.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.—It is with pleasure we now record the institution of Bedford Division, No. 136, at Bedford, Halifax County, on Friday evening, 27th of August.

The Division was opened at 6 o'clock, P. M., in a room kindly granted for that purpose by Mr. James Ward, the worthy president of the Bedford Temperance Society.

Rev. T. H. Porter, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Division, and D. G. W. P. for the County of Halifax, conducted the ceremonies, assisted by Messrs. Shean, D. G. W. P. for the City of Halifax, P. Monaghan, G. S., George Mathison, P. G. W. P., R. M. Barratt, and others from the City Divisions.—Thirteen members were initiated, after which they proceeded to the election of officers.—*Abstainer*.

TEMPERANCE IN THE 100TH REGIMENT.—The Rev Mr Clarke has, while discharging his duties as a minister of the Gospel among the men of the 100th regiment, advocated temperance principles. As the result of Mr Clarke's labors, we have had the pleasure of seeing a list of upwards of one hundred and ten names of individuals of the 100th regiment, who have pledged themselves to total abstinence.—*Quebec Paper*.

General Intelligence.

Foreign and Domestic.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Halifax Aug. 30th, 1858.

APPOINTMENTS.

To be the Judge of the Court of Probate for the County of Halifax—Wm. Sutherland, Esq., in the place of the Honourable Mr. McCully.

To be members of the Board of Commissioners of Schools:—

In the District of Lunenburg—The Rev. Jos. Hart, in place of the Rev. Mr. Bent, removed from the District.

In the District of Chester—The Rev. J. C. Hurd, in place of the Rev. Mr. Crawley, removed from the District.

To be Custos Rotulorum for the District of Shelburn—George H. Deinstadit, in place of Robert Currie, resigned.

To be additional Justices of the Peace for the County of Halifax—Archibald Scott, (Halifax); David Thompson, (Hammond's Plains); Ezroom Boutillier, (Margaret's Bay); Alexander Kelly.

In the County of Pictou—Duncan Robertson—Alex'r's son (Piedmont); James Fitzpatrick, (Fitzpatrick's Mountain); John Ross (Barney's River); Alexander Chisholm, (Bayley's Brook); Alexander McIntosh, (Gulf); William McKenzie (Roger's Hill).

To be Coroners—Dr. William Cook, (Pictou); Dr. Lewis Johnston, (Albion Mines.)

To be Surveyor of Shipping, Seizing Officer, and Warehouse Keeper at Yarmouth—Alexander Hood, in place of Charles Huntington, resigned.