

For the Christian Messenger. Letter from Rev. E. N. Harris. Yarmouth, July 27th, 1858.

MR. EDITOR,— Being apprised by letter that a number of your patrons, hundreds of whom are relations of mine, would be pleased to hear from me through your "Messenger," please indulge me with a small space in your very valuable sheet.

It is just thirty three years ago that with my dear mother I was baptized by my Father, (the late Eld. David Harris,) then pastor of the Baptist Church of Lower Granville. Soon after I left for the United States, and remained in New England twenty-four years. The last eight years I have passed in New Brunswick, mainly in St. John, labouring for the special benefit of seamen.

In January last a very kind invitation was extended to me, to become pastor of the Second and West churches of this town, responding to which the Lord has granted tokens of his favor, as a continuous flow of Christian love and salvation testify. Our beloved Angell, of the First Church, having kindly alluded, in a late article of his, to tokens of good among the people of my charge, I shall waive any particular remarks, excepting one family, and several deaths. A Brother B. T. who has recently united with us from the Church of England, has eleven sons and two daughters. Several of these promising sons have been converted to Christ Jesus. Two or three of them follow the sea, and their letters are fraught with interest, not only to their parents, but to all who have the pleasure of reading them. I think an extract from one letter to myself, from the third son, who feels as if he must quit the sea, and all business, for the ministry of salvation, would be perused with delight by your patrons. On his arrival at Gloucester, Mass., from the West Indies, he wrote under date of June 10th, 1858:—

"Dear Pastor,—Since Jesus gave me a perfect cure for the leprosy of sin, I have found perfect peace beneath the shadow of his wing.—But do not think I am without chastisement, far from it. But I love the rod for the smile that follows, and ever woo the storm that I may better know how to value the calm. My soul is cheered on amid the tempest's darkest strife, and by God's help can breast the gloomy waves as fearless as the sea-gull breasts the storm. But in all the fulness of joy I am far from being satisfied, when so many millions are tumbling into hell. Satisfied! how can I be? If I close my mouth my soul in prison groans, and my rising heart upbraids my tongue for idleness, and brands my lips with sloth. To be happy I must continually be reading, exhorting, or praying." (They had service on shipboard every day, and in alluding to it he writes)—"My hearers are hard, but it is to God I look (not to them) for their own good. Rather than turn back to the world to seek happiness again, I would away to the woods and speak to the forest trees of my Saviour's love until they should break forth into singing."

Doubtless you will be pleased to hear, Bro. Editor, that this young man of much praise has quit the sea for the purpose of looking forward to the ministry. The Lord be the guide of his youth, and abundantly qualify him for the great work of gathering precious souls to the Shiloh.

DONATION VISIT TO THE FRENCH MISSIONARY.

Your readers have already been apprised of the arrival of brother M. Normanday and family, (wife and five children,) at the Mission House, Tusket; but I have not seen any account of the Donation Visit on the 9th inst. I believe it originated with the whole souled Sheriff and lady of this town. Forty were in attendance, mainly from Yarmouth, whose contributions amounted to the sum of £29, including some pieces of furniture for the neat and beautiful Mission House. Then the abundant provisions in rich variety; the interchange of thoughts and spiritual songs; the fervent prayer to the God of all grace and missions by brother H. Angell; the touching address of the Missionary, and perhaps I should add a few words from the subscriber, rendered it one of the most delightful days of the season. The future of this infant mission looks hopeful. Let all rally around it and by fervent prayers and alms support it. Since the Donation Visit I have received a letter from the missionary, a few lines of which allow me to subjoin, as it is an epistle of gratitude to all concerned:—

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,—I cannot help returning thanks for your kindness. In leaving my native home, I left many friends; but I find Christians everywhere the same. I thank the Lord for it, who brought me from the depths of idolatry to serve him. I believe he has a people here, and by his help I feel like labouring day and night to bring them unto His Kingdom. Dear friends I wish your prayers that I may be strengthened in the Lord. I remain your brother in Christ.

MICHAEL NORMANDAY, To Rev. E. N. Harris."

ASLEEP IN JESUS.—Mrs. EDITH, relic of Bro. Stephen BUTLER, of Hebron, slept in Jesus June 18th, aged 67 years, after a lingering illness, which she bore with Christian patience. She was baptized about 50 years ago, by the Patriarch Harding. Brother B. appears to be ripe for glory, and is waiting to be called up. The family though settled in life deeply feel the loss of so good a mother. SISTER BUTLER selected the text for her funeral sermon, Psalm lx. 20.—"The days of thy mourning shall be ended." She was a member of the Baptist Church in Ohio.

Brother BENJAMIN PITMAN, of the Second Church, Hebron, retired to rest as usual on the night of the 26th of June, and the next morning was found a corpse. Brother P. was a good man, whose faith in God was strong and hope of immortality sure.

July 25th.—CAPT. EDWARD R. WYMAN was called to his reward after a month's illness. A few weeks ago he was taken from his vessel and brought home with a broken limb. Summer complaint set in and it has terminated his life. He too was a member of the church at Hebron. Beloved by all, and has left a large family to mourn their loss. Was not this article now much longer than was intended, more would be said of the unblemished reputation and the good report given of Capt. W. by those who have been accustomed to sail with him. His last mate told me last week that he had been several voyages with him, and for every blessing the Captain delighted in expressions of gratitude; and what is very remarkable, that amid all the storms and trials incident to a ship-master's life, he never heard him use a wicked word. "The memory of the just is blessed."

EDWARD N. HARRIS.

For the Christian Messenger.

College Agency in Halifax.

LETTER FROM REV. A. D. THOMSON.

DEAR BROTHER,

I left Halifax yesterday, in the morning train, and arrived in Windsor about 10 o'clock, A. M.

My success in the city of Halifax was thought by some to be all that I had a right to expect, and such persons, I believe, suppose me to be hard to please. I confess that I feel a deep anxiety for the welfare of the Institution. From what I see and learn in my travels, I am satisfied that the Denomination united have ample means to spare to set our seat of learning above the reach of want.

Our esteemed friend and brother Dr. D. McN. Parker was the first to give his hearty approval to my appeal, and headed the list with £50, to which he intends to add fifty more at a no distant period. I was entertained in this gentleman's family for near ten days courteously, as also by another of like occupation in my stay at Truro. I refer to our old ally the venerated Dr. Lynds. Next in order was Mr. J. Gabriel, son of sister Gabriel of Falmouth. We have reason to hope that this will grow in time to one hundred. S. N. Binney, Esq., handed us £25; Mr. Moir, £5; and while others have done virtuously, our real friend Mr. E. Shiels has exceeded them all, for no less a sum than £100 would measure his benevolence to the hill of Science at Wolfville. Few persons could have believed that I would have obtained the largest subscription in the poor house. Such, however, is the fact. All honor upon the donor. May his children and successors reap the fruit thereof. Let those of us who dwell among our own people, and are independent, reflect. Brother Wm. Ackhurst, £5, on demand, Mr. George S. Yates became responsible for £25, paying interest in advance; Jas. Johnson, Esq., £12 10s.; a few smaller sums, one from sister widow McNab, make up the total at the city in my stay at this time.

Brother Freeman took hold with me in good earnest, and rendered all possible aid. Brother Martell piloted me one day. Several have promised to give our appeal a favorable consideration, and my successor, I conclude, will benefit thereby.

Respectfully yours,

A. D. THOMSON.

Windsor, July 18th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Bridgewater "persecution."

MESSENGERS EDITORS,

In your paper of July 14th I observe an editorial in which are reviewed several extracts from a letter published in the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record of the Free Church of Nova Scotia, by the Rev. Howard D. Steele, of Bridgewater.

While I fully endorse the sentiments contained in your very appropriate observations in connection therewith, yet, as some of those extracts contain statements derogatory to the Christian and even moral character of most of the leading Baptists in Bridgewater, it would seem as though

they required some further notice by those more immediately concerned. With your permission, therefore, I will offer a few remarks, upon the following, which appears in Mr. Steele's letter:

"I could not convey to you the amount of petty annoyance practiced, and the contemptible shifts resorted to, by most of the leading Baptists here, in order to disunite us, by throwing in the fire-brand of disaffection between Pastor and people."

On what the rev. gentleman bases these extraordinary remarks we are utterly unable to determine, nor has he taken any pains to inform us. Whether any petty disturbance between him and his neighbours has moved him to "dip his pen in gall" and write such "bitter things" we will not say; but one thing appears evident, namely, that his remarks are not very strongly fortified by truth, or very highly adorned with Christian courtesy. That "disaffection" between himself and his people has existed, appears from his own statement; but that "most of the leading Baptists in Bridgewater" have been in any way accessory to such a state of things is, to say the least, a glaring misrepresentation. The greater probability is, that the disunion he complains of has been the result of the occasional eruptions of the smoldering embers of strife in his own breast, rather than of "fire-brands" thrown in from any other quarter. Were we, however, to treat his statements according to their weight and worth among those to whom the facts are known, we should pass them over with silent indifference; but as they may be read by many who are entire strangers to us, we feel that justice to ourselves and the cause we love calls upon us to set the matter right before the public at large.

Again Mr. Steele proceeds:—"But it is a matter of thankfulness that God has overruled for good all those pitiful attempts to build up a hateful Sectarianism, and thus give a well-merited rebuke to a most bitter spirit of persecution."

Now, if the promulgation of the truths of Christianity as taught in the New Testament be an "attempt to build up a hateful sectarianism," then we cheerfully plead guilty to the charge, and shall be quite content to continue to "build," earnestly praying Almighty God to give success to our efforts, and, moreover, we regard the gracious outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us as a Church, which we have enjoyed in connection with those efforts, not as a "well-merited rebuke," but as an unmerited favour, for which we have abundant reasons to be thankful.

But our friend, Mr. Steele, has gone abroad to look for Sectarianism when he might have found it nearer home. He says, in his first paragraph:—"The friends of our Zion will naturally desire to learn of the progress of Presbyterianism in different quarters, &c."

Now, we suppose that by the phrase "Our Zion" he means Presbyterian Zion and by Presbyterianism, he means Christianity. If so, and we think every candid reader will give the same interpretation, where we ask can a brighter specimen of sectarianism be found than the above paragraph contains? We leave the reader to determine.

Again Mr. Steele writes:—"The diffusion of Miller's work on 'Presbyterianism and infant Baptism' has done good service, and ought to be more widely circulated throughout the entire bounds of our church."

Doubtless the work above referred to has done "good service" to the cause of "Presbyterianism," which, of course, is the object for which it was published. But we are acquainted with an excellent work on "Christianity and Believer's Baptism" entitled, *The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, which is doing more service for the cause of truth than all other books in the world; and we should rejoice in its circulation "throughout the entire bounds" of our world. It has made more proselytes to Baptist views than all the efforts of those hated Baptists who are so stigmatized by our Rev. friend.

And, moreover, even among those "whole households," which have been (according to Mr. Steele,) "admitted into the visible church," without their knowledge or consent. There are many who, when they have arrived at mature years, capable of reading, thinking and acting for themselves, have been led by the perusal of that work to embrace the truth and receive baptism on profession of their own faith in Christ and on their own responsibility. That such instances are frequently occurring is a fact that cannot be denied.

With no desire to stir up strife or invade the territory of other denominations, but merely to act on the defensive, allow me to subscribe myself

ONE OF THE LEADING BAPTISTS. Bridgewater, July 29th, 1858.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,

Dr. Tupper I see after vainly doing his best elsewhere to ruin my reputation, has entered the columns of your paper with the hope I suppose of prejudicing your readers against me with thousands of whom I am personally acquainted.

He seems very much astonished, that the Baptist Church at Pugwash, should, appear in my defence, but let me say to him, that they are not only ready to reaffirm, all that they have said but to give me a much stronger certificate of character if need be. Moreover the Resolutions passed by the church were drawn up by a member of that body who has always voted for the Dr. And further a public meeting held in the Temperance Hall on the 24th of April, after having heard my explanations passed almost unanimously the following Resolution which was moved by brother W. F. Catten Esq., who is well known to your readers, and is one of the most respectable and influential Baptists, in this County. "Resolved, that this meeting having heard the explanations made this evening by W. H. Rogers, Esq., deem them perfectly satisfactory, and believe him innocent of all charges against his moral or religious character." I suppose the Dr. also felt astonished that in a meeting of some 400 hundred persons, that about 200 of his supporters should have voted for the above resolution most enthusiastically, and as I repelled each charge cheered me lustily, and that too after hearing all that could be said against me by his two representatives, Ed. Pineo and H. G. Bennett armed with the Dr's. celebrated speech.

And I here invite the Dr. to meet me before the people of the Province, or of this county, wherever he chooses, and I will discuss the matter with him and they will invariably pass such resolutions with regard to it as the Baptist church at Pugwash and the meeting at Temperance Hall did.

The Dr. says—"When charged by the Government with having given the certificate Mr. Rogers denied it." This statement is at variance with truth. Here is what I said—"That I gave a certificate to J. M. Ferguson, as you say is not true, but it is true that I gave Mr. Edwin Ferguson some kind of a paper to carry him safely into N. B., the exact wording of which I do not recollect, but that any evil was done or intended by it—either on the part of Mr. Ferguson or myself at the time—I do most positively deny. Any further explanations on this point are perhaps unnecessary just now, however. I happened to have a good witness present when it was given, and I am not afraid to let that part of the matter go before the public or elsewhere." And the facts are just in accordance with the above extract. I gave the certificate to Edwin Ferguson and thought at the time I wrote the above that it was written in his name, as I had not seen it for more than three years; but I recollected distinctly for what purpose it was given. Both of the Fergusons were concerned in the affair, and it is but little consequence which of them got it. No person ever heard me deny having given it, nor have I in the above extract, which contains all I ever wrote the Government about it. The intention of the certificate was as stated above, but it never was used for any purpose, only to try to ruin my reputation.—And this I proved upon oath before the House of Assembly last winter. Surely, then, there was no harm intended; and I now call upon the Dr. to prove that any harm was done to the Revenue of this or any other Province by it. But it may be asked why was the certificate worded as it is? To that I reply that it was done hurriedly, thoughtlessly, and, like the Dr. in the Provincial Secretary's Office, I was not fully posted in the details of the department, and consequently like him made a blunder. But if a man is to be hung for that, he and I would be swinging on the gallows long since.

He says too—"These goods form part of £100 worth, allowed by him to be landed, as he admits, for his brother-in-law, without duty being paid, and contrary to the law, which he had sworn to observe."

Here again the Dr. is either regardless of truth or is profoundly ignorant of the workings of the Excise Department. He can take which horn of the dilemma he chooses, either will be found a rather uncomfortable position for a Provincial Secretary. Revenue Officers are not sworn to observe any laws, neither was I. There are continually cases arising where it is indispensable to evade the letter of the law, in order to facilitate trade and for the more effectual collection of the Revenue. Consequently the Board of Revenue with the Excise Officers have the whole charge of the laws free of any oath. The security the Government have against these Officers

is their bo... swear to th... before a jus... In this ca... and £7 or... been, had... with your... readers nee... no more th... under simi... being cens... ought, if... what I did... Then ag... I cannot re... meanness—... ers deem r... proceed fr... Surely so r... pains to in... ere attempt... guiltless it... But I ask... Dr. Charle... Nova Scoti... violation of... facts—or... his chance... humble bu... knows bet... cent of the... of his own... told him so... while doing... It will all... day.