

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

DEAR SIR:

I hear that the Governors of Acadia College have given notice to the Professors that they will not be responsible for their salaries after the close of the present term.

This procedure is founded on a resolution passed during the sitting of the Convention at Yarmouth in August last, and which was to the following effect, viz:—that if at the end of six months from that time the financial affairs of the College were not so improved as to give rational expectation of a sufficient income, the Governors were to adjust the expenditure to the income actually received.

I have examined the Treasurer's account, as published in the Minutes of the Convention, and find the Endowment Fund (leaving out the money lying dead at West Columbia) is estimated at £7,238. Adding to this the sum of £1200, which I believe may be taken as the amount collected or secured by the Rev. A. D. Thomson since June last, we have a capital of £8,438, which would yield an income of £506. But the sum of £309, which is part of the Endowment Fund, exists only in "notes," a considerable portion of which, there is reason to fear, will prove unproductive. The available annual income cannot be estimated at more than £400. I wish it may be worth as much as that.

Four hundred pounds a year will not support a College. We want three times that amount. The College cannot be adequately and efficiently sustained unless we have an endowment of £20,000.

The Governors were directed by the resolution passed at Yarmouth to adjust the expenditure to the probable income. They have adopted a measure which will stop the whole machinery, whether they have acted wisely or not, I leave for competent persons to determine.

But let us look at the disastrous results which will follow the suspension of the College; for it must of necessity be suspended if the supplies be cut off.

There are twenty-six students in attendance. Six of them expect to graduate in June next. Should the College not be open again in September, twenty students will be scattered abroad. Some will go to other institutions; some, probably, will cease to study, and engage in active life.

Six or eight young men, I understand, are in the Academy, preparing to matriculate for next Term. They, too, will be lost.

Then,—whenever the suspension shall be taken off, the College will have to be commenced anew. Both Professors and Students will have to be found. It will be beginning again, in all respects.

Is this, Sir, to be the result of all our toils, and prayers, and sacrifices? Is our Denomination sunk so low, that Acadia College, endeared to us by so many grateful and precious recollections, will be allowed to drop quietly into death-like slumber? Is it possible that such an act of suicidal madness will be perpetrated by the Baptists of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island? Sir—if they permit this thing to be done, they will show themselves unworthy of that high character for which they have hitherto had credit.

Somebody is to blame here. I know not—ask not—who it is. I will suppose that the Governors have done all they could, and that, with the Yarmouth resolution before their eyes, they have been hard at work ever since the Convention to prevent the necessity of carrying the resolution into effect, and now find themselves, most reluctantly, in a position in which, as they think, there is no other alternative than the course they have adopted. Let that be taken for granted.

But now I ask, Sir, whether the Baptists of these Provinces will endorse the measure? Whether, before proceeding to take such a step, the Board might not have done something more? And whether, even now, they may not do something more, to save us from the overwhelming disgrace which will cover the denomination if the College shall be suspended?

May they not appoint, immediately, another Agent, to traverse New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and rouse up the churches there? Let it not be said that such a man cannot be found. It is a case of life or death. Every minister in the Provinces should hold himself in readiness to leave his charge, if the Board select him for the duty, and spend the next four months in the advocacy of the cause.

May they not, if necessary, mortgage the College premises, spend part of the money in needful repairs, and use the remainder for the

payment of current expenses, looking to the proceeds of the agencies for reimbursement?

Should they not place themselves in communication, immediately, with all the pastors of our churches in these Provinces, urging them to lay the matter before their respective congregations, and to co-operate with the Board in the work of resuscitation?

Is it not desirable so to arrange the financial affairs of the Institution as that some one man, possessing the requisite time and skill, shall have them under his management, and keep all the wheels in motion?

Should not all this be done at once? And will it not be time enough, when the Governors have done all this, and failed, to talk of suspension?

Suspension! To be hung up to public gaze, and laughed at! Will the Baptists endure that?

We shall soon have a notice in the *Messenger*, calling upon us to observe the "day of prayer for Colleges." It is right. We ought to pray. And we must pray more. But we must work more, too, or we shall be reminded of the old fable of Hercules and the wagoner. I hope that every prayer-meeting will be followed by a work-meeting, and that the men of heart and the men of toil will "devise liberal things."

I have written this in haste, and have not time to shorten it. Perhaps you may hear again from

PHLOS.

Feb. 3, 1858.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Encouraging prospects and Revival at Amherst.

[We are much gratified at the reception of the following intelligence from Amherst.—Ed.C.M.]

The Church at Amherst is enjoying a refreshing season from the presence of the Lord under the ministry of Rev. J. E. Balcom, who has labored zealously since he took the pastoral charge of this Church in November last, and lives in the affections of the people.

A quarterly meeting was commenced on Monday, January 18th, our pastor being assisted for a few days by Elders Foshay, McKeen and Lawson, and on Sunday nine were immersed, others manifest serious impressions, and we are encouraged in hoping that more may be brought into the fold of the Redeemer.

The Church was perhaps never more awake to a sense of its duty, and it may be said of many of its members that they have resumed their first love. Seeing that about a year since there was a large accession to our number, we have abundant reason to praise God for his goodness and wonderful works to us children of men. We are gratified to know that one or two of our young men who were immersed last winter manifest a desire to preach to others that gospel which they have received. The Lord open the gates before them and through him may they prepare the way for his people and make faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion.

Wishing the C. M. the increased circulation which it richly deserves, I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

C. B.

Rev. James Parker, of Billtown, Cornwallis, informs us in a letter dated January 25th, and which we should have inserted last week,

"The revival continues and the prospects are brightening. I baptized five persons yesterday. The tidings of Brother Cunningham's death brought by the last Ch. Messenger were truly painful to me; but God has done it and we must be still. Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? May God sustain the widow and children under their bereavement!"

We learn from another source that three were baptized on the following Lord's-day at the same place.

Extract of a letter from David Rogers, Esq., Pugwash, January 30th.

"We have commenced a series of meetings in our Church a few days ago, and have had very interesting times. The Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Economy, has been assisting us for the last three days. We expect several baptisms to-morrow."

W. Churchill, Esq., writes from Yarmouth in a postscript to a letter dated February 1st, "Elder Angell baptized six persons last Sabbath and five yesterday."

THE NEW YORK BAPTISTS.—It is with pleasure that we contemplate the present state of our denomination in this city. As compared with what it was a few years ago, how much more happy and auspicious! We feel that we have emerged from polar glaciers into the flowery dales of the sunny south. Then all was cold, contentious and comfortless, now it is bland, genial and harmonious. Then we could not well avoid words of detraction, now we have occasion only for deference and kindness.—*N York Chronicle*.

Provincial Parliament.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, Feb. 4, 1858.

At a past 2 o'clock this day His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir J. Gaspard Le Marchant, with a more than usually numerous staff came down to the Council Chamber, for the purpose of opening the third Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of the Province of Nova Scotia.

A large company of beauty and fashion amongst the ladies, and Professional and Military gentlemen and also a considerable number of the "bone and sinew" of society were present to witness the ceremonies.

The splendid new chairs for Honorable gentlemen were all well filled and presented a fine and imposing appearance.

By command the Members of the House of Assembly with their Speaker and Chaplain attended, when His Excellency was pleased to read, evidently with much emotion, the following Speech from the Throne:

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to remove me to another sphere of Executive duty, my official connection with this Province will cease on the arrival of my successor, the Right Honorable the Earl of Mulgrave, who will shortly assume the Government of Nova Scotia.

The history of the age will be forever marked by the unparalleled atrocities of the mutineers in India, and the heroic bravery of all classes of British residents, military and civil, by whose gallantry and endurance, with the blessing of Almighty God, we have every reason to hope the mutiny will be crushed.

To the people of this Province it must be exceedingly gratifying to find conspicuous among the many who have highly distinguished themselves one of their own countrymen.

In conformity with a Resolution which passed the Legislature, with reference to the Mines and Minerals. Delegates proceeded to England, and the Articles of Agreement entered into with the Mining Association, subject to your ratification, will be submitted to you without delay.

You will learn with pleasure that the Railway works have steadily advanced, that nine miles additional on the Trunk Line are now open for traffic, and that the line to Windsor will be ready at an early day.

During the recess the attention of my Government has been directed to the consideration of the great enterprise of an Inter-Colonial Line.—The papers relating thereto will be laid before you for your information.

The alteration made in the Tariff at your last Session, has enabled me to meet the large additional demands for interest on the railway bonds; yet the disturbed condition of Trade which has unhappily prevailed throughout the Commercial world, naturally tend to diminish our resources for the current year; and the increasing burdens connected with our public works render it imperative for the honor and interest of the Country, that you should exercise great caution and economy in making your annual appropriations.

I deeply deplore the distress that the failure of an important branch of the Fisheries has caused to a portion of the hardy and enterprising Fishermen on our coast; yet from the bountiful harvest with which it has graciously pleased Divine Providence to bless us, we may confidently anticipate that the continued prosperity of the Country will not be seriously impaired.

Your increased liberality in providing for Common School Education, has, I am happy to inform you, given a valuable impulse to that essential element in the welfare of the people,—evidenced by an unprecedented increase in the number of Teachers, and in the efforts made by the inhabitants in many districts for their support.

Reports from the Commissioners charged with the examination of the Public Works, and Accounts of the Expenditure connected therewith, are in course of preparation, and will be laid on the Table at an early day.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts, together with the Estimates for the current year, will shortly be placed before you.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

A measure will be submitted for your consideration having in view an alteration in the constitution of the Legislative Council, by which the Elective principle may be brought into operation.

Your deliberation will also be invited to other important subjects by which it is hoped the prosperity of the Province may be promoted.

You will require to make increased provision for the completion of that portion of the Hospital for the Insane, now erected, to prepare it for occupation.

The heavy liabilities connected with the indispensable progress of our public works, and the inadequacy of the sum voted for the St. Pe-

ter's Canal, as exhibited by the report of the Engineer, have compelled me reluctantly to suspend further expenditure on that service until the whole question shall be reviewed by the Legislature, when, I doubt not, it will obtain the attention its importance demands.

During the six years in which I have had the honor and the happiness of presiding over the public councils of this colony, I have endeavored to regulate my administration by principles, and to direct it to objects that I believed best adapted to advance the welfare of the people.

Their devoted loyalty to their sovereign, their thorough appreciation of the value of British Institutions, and the intelligence they have evinced in carrying out the representative part of them, have rendered my duties easy and agreeable, and will, I am persuaded, greatly facilitate those that will devolve upon my successor.

Whilst addressing you from this place for the last time, I recall with pleasure and gratitude the unvarying harmony which in every stage of my Government has subsisted between my constitutional advisers and myself, the earnest co-operation which I have experienced from both branches of the Legislature, and the kindly personal feeling which has invariably been shown to me by all classes of the community.

Wherever my future destiny may be cast, I shall always regard with the deepest interest everything that may affect the progress, in material wealth and social happiness, of the inhabitants of Nova Scotia, amongst whom I have spent so many happy years.

All present appeared deeply interested in the address and to sympathize with His Excellency in the reference he made to the anticipated change of his position.

The Representatives of the people then withdrew to the House of Assembly, and His Excellency retired shortly after.

HON. MR. WHITMAN'S APPOINTMENT.

Alfred Whitman, Esq., late representative of the township of Annapolis in the House of Assembly, presented his mandamus, appointing him a member of this House. The oath of allegiance having been administered to him by the Hon. Provincial Secretary, the hon. gentleman took his seat amid the congratulations of hon. members.

REPLY TO ADDRESS.

Hon. President informed the House that His Excellency had opened the Session with a Speech, of which he had obtained a copy. The speech was then read by the Clerk. Hon. Mr. Whitman then moved an answer to the address, which was read a first time. Its further consideration was postponed until to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Tobin introduced a bill for the improvement of the law, the bill was read a first time.

REPORTING AND PUBLISHING DEBATES.

On motion, Hon. Messrs. Almon, McCully, and Fairbanks were appointed a committee on the reporting, &c. The House then adjourned until 2½, p. m., to-morrow.

SATURDAY, Feb. 6.

The Council met at 2, and shortly after proceeded in a body to Government House for the purpose of presenting the address, in which we find the following paragraph respecting an Elective Council:

"To the measure having in view an alteration of the constitution of this House by which the elective principle may be brought into operation, as well as to the other important subjects by which it is hoped the prosperity of the Province may be promoted, shall devote our most careful attention."

And concludes as follows:—"Your Excellency may rest assured that on your departure from this Government you will carry with you the best wishes of all classes for your future happiness and welfare, and that of Lady LeMarchant and every member of your family."

Adjourned to Tuesday 9th.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 4, 1858.

On the return of the Members from the Council Chamber for the purpose of listening to His Excellency's opening Speech the Hon. Speaker read a copy of the Speech to this House.

The hon. the Speaker announced that during the recess he had received the resignations of Alfred Whitman and Stephen Thorne, Esquires, of their seats as members of the House. The Hon. Provincial Secretary laid upon the table the return from the township of Granville.

Mr. T. D. Ruggles having duly attended at the Clerk's Chair, took the usual oaths in the presence of the Hon. Hugh Bell and the Hon. M. B. Almon, Commissioners, and signed the roll.

Mr. Ryder asked leave to present a Bill to regulate the currency. The Bill was read a first time.

Mr. McFarlane said—I rise to move the Address, which I hold in my hand, in answer to His Excellency's Speech. His Excellency has informed us that his term of office is about to expire, and that his Sovereign has been graciously pleased to remove him to another sphere of executive duty; and, Sir, although from the able and impartial manner in which his Excellency has discharged the duties imposed upon him in this Province,—we cannot but regret his loss, yet we may be permitted to congratulate him on the honor conferred by his Sovereign, and trust that in his new sphere