

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. W. H. Rogers.

[We were hoping that the Hon. Provincial Secretary's letter, the week before last, and our remarks upon it, would have concluded this unpleasant matter, and prevented further application from parties concerned to give publicity to their thoughts upon it through our pages. But it is not quite so easily disposed of, it seems. It appears that we have been too liberal for both parties, and have consequently been complained of by each, in turn, for allowing the other to address our readers in reference to the subject.

We are disposed to allow a considerable amount of freedom to parties who wish to write for the public. We think it better to err on the side of a little too much latitude to correspondents, than to suppress what may be thought by them very important to be published, although we ourselves might suppose it altogether unnecessary. Still we are not prepared to allow an unlimited use of our columns for the discussion of matters that are of interest only to a small minority of readers.

We were requested last week to insert a portion of the speech delivered by the Provincial Secretary at Aylesford, which relates to the subject, but were somewhat inclined to excuse ourselves from complying; however, on receiving the following communication from Mr. Rogers, we came to the conclusion, that it would be better to adhere to the practice we have hitherto pursued, and favor both parties, by publishing Mr. R.'s letter and also the extract of the Provincial Secretary's speech; and on doing this to raise the cry, Hold! enough!

Of course each will say again, we were perfectly right to comply with his request, but wrong to insert that from the other. If our readers were fools, it might be necessary to let them see only one side of such matters, and then to tell them what to think on them, but as we always consider ourselves as addressing wise men, we shall allow them to read both the accusation and the defence, and leave them to weigh one against the other, and draw their own conclusions.

Neither, we think now, will have reason to complain that we have come to this conclusion, that it will be better for them, for our readers, and for ourselves, that our pages should be occupied with matters of more general interest.—
Ed. C. M.]

Mr. Editor,

Dear Sir,—I regret having to trouble you again, but there are one or two statements in the Hon. Provincial Secretary's letter published in your last issue that call for reply.

He says that you Mr. Editor saw a document in my handwriting signed by myself denying that I had given the certificate in question, and judging from your remarks I think that he has only shown you part of the paragraph referring to the certificate—the whole paragraph reads as follows:—"That I gave a certificate to Mr. James Ferguson as you state is not true" "but it is true that I gave Mr. Edwin Ferguson some kind of a paper the object of which was to allow him to pass into New Brunswick," "the exact wording of which I do not now recollect." This I give from memory but will be found correct.

The business was transacted with Mr. Edwin Ferguson to whom I gave the certificate as stated and I did not remember when penning the paragraph that James Ferguson's name was used.

The Dr. seems to have forgotten that this certificate story was not the charge "trumped up" against me in the first instance, and that it was not until he failed to substantiate the first charges that the certificate was hunted up and produced with evident satisfaction by the Dr. in lieu of the former charges.

There was nothing wrong in my giving a certificate to allow the goods to pass into New Brunswick—where they were consumed. No duty was paid here or should have been paid here. My improperly wording the certificate does not affect the merits of the case, as it was not used.

With reference to the statement made by a member of the Church at the Eastern Association, having anything to do with my father's withdrawing his amendment is all fudge. The Rev. E. F. Foshey explained the matter to the entire satisfaction of all present and shewed as I did in my last letter, that there was no alteration in my favor, and also that I had nothing to do with the alleged alteration.

As regards my stating that I would not have the Resolution published "as passed by the church for one hundred pounds,"—amounts to just nothing, as they were so published notwithstanding. The Pugwash Church must have been very unfortunate in wording the Resolutions so as to displease both the Dr. and myself so much, so as to cause me to say that I would not have them published for one hundred pounds, and him to rush into your columns and attack the church and everybody connected with the affair for passing and publishing them—but if possible less than nothing,

when it is known, that I spoke of them not as affecting me but of the business of the phraseology as there was no guilt in the matter. I suggested to the clerk that—"Submitted to irregularities" would convey the facts better and be better English—and he agreed with me—Mark, the clerk made no alteration. I saw the Resolutions but for a moment while sitting in my carriage in the street as I had just the night previous returned home, and was then starting on a three month's journey.

My father was not at home when the Resolutions passed the church and had not been for five or six months previously nor was there a single relative of mine at the meeting of the church as far as I can learn—and in addition to what I said in my last with reference to the person who drew up the Resolutions, the person who moved them was one of the Dr's. political friends and the person who seconded them was and is a strong and staunch supporter of Dr. Tupper and his Government, which will evidence that my family brought no influence to bear in the matter, and that the church had no political object in view.

They acquitted me honorably as everybody does and did here, except one or two strangely obstinate admirers of the Dr. from whom by the way I presume he gets much of the false information, and who I have met and silenced in every way that one man could honorably meet another, and their course has been looked upon with contempt by all respectable people here ever since.

I wish it understood that I was not dismissed from office, as frequently stated by Dr. Tupper; but resigned, upon being appointed a travelling Agent of the American Bible Union.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ROGERS.

Pugwash, Nov. 19th, 1859.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH OF THE HONBLE. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY AT AYLESFORD.

"I must also correct Mr. Chipman's attempt to make it appear that I volunteered an attack upon Mr. Rogers, especially as Mr. McCully thought fit to discuss that matter more at length than he would have found convenient were he here to-day. The facts are simply these. At Kentville I distinctly stated, my readiness to listen to any observations which any person in opposition to the Government might wish to offer, and challenged contradiction to any statements I might make, declaring my willingness to explain. I denied the Opposition to point out a single instance in which the present Government had removed a man from office, who had conducted himself with ordinary propriety, on account of his political opinions. A voice said—"Mr. Rogers." I replied that Mr. Rogers was removed because he held the office from which Mr. McNab had been unjustly expelled for voting against Mr. Howe.—It was rejoined—"Then why charge him with a crime?" I replied that when Mr. W. H. Rogers, who had formerly been collector at Pugwash, indiscreetly rushed into print, and challenged the Government to show any instance in which any of the family had committed any fault in office, a gentleman at Pugwash forwarded a serious charge of official misconduct which it became imperative on the Government to investigate, and that all I had ever stated with reference to Mr. R. I could prove over his own signature. It was rejoined—"How was it that the Baptist Church of Pugwash passed a resolution clearing him from all blame?" I replied—I can perhaps tell you something about that which you have not heard. I have it from good authority that at the Eastern association, recently held at Pugwash an amendment was moved, reflecting upon Mr. Seiden for having published my letter, touching that matter, when it was stated by a member of the church that he did not vote for the resolution exculpating Mr. Rogers, and could inform them that it was altered after it passed the church, before it was published, and the proposed amendment was withdrawn after that announcement, and a resolution complimentary to the Messenger passed.

Now, gentlemen, so far from attacking Mr. Rogers on the occasion, he was probably the farthest from my thoughts, and as many of you well know, I insisted that any man should have a full opportunity of discussing any of these matters with me, and did answer their queries and interruptions until they decided that not much was to be gained in that way. With respect to Mr. Rogers, I have ever considered his case so palpably conclusive against him that I have taken but little notice of his attempts and those of his friends to gain an unenviable notoriety, and have pressed as lightly upon him as was consistent with my duty to the public. As however, his friend and promoter, Mr. McCully went at length into this matter before some of you, I will bestow a passing notice upon it. Mr. W. H. Rogers was accused of having, when Collector of Colonial duties at Pugwash, allowed over £100 worth of goods excisable at 20 per cent to be irregularly landed without payment of duty, and that he subsequently gave Mr. J. M. Ferguson a false certificate, that a portion of these goods had been "duly entered and duty paid," well knowing at the time that neither had been done. Here gentlemen, is the certificate which I have in the handwriting of W. H. Rogers.

Excise Office, Pugwash, Oct. 9th, 1854.
"Permit J. M. Ferguson to remove from Pugwash to Amherst twenty Baskets of Sugar Candy, the same having been duly entered and duty paid."
W. H. ROGERS, C. C. D.

When called upon by the Government, Mr. Rogers denied that he had ever given this certificate, and he admitted subsequently, in a letter signed by himself that the goods therein referred to with about £100 worth more had been landed and disposed of under his cognizance

without the duty for which they were liable being collected or charged. It will thus be seen that I have never made any charge against Mr. Rogers, that I am not now prepared to prove by his own signature—and yet he and his guide Mr. McCully, who has his own ends to serve at Rogers' expense, parade him as a martyr to my malevolence. They have challenged this discussion, and on their shoulders must rest the result.

I have in my possession the certificates of several respectable persons, that they had paid duties into the hands of Mr. Rogers, of whom he made no return to the Government. A friend in Halifax also handed me a letter from one of the most influential gentlemen in Pugwash, who attended the meeting in that place when Mr. Rogers attempted to justify his conduct, and in which he says—"Rogers admitted that he did wrong in reference to the candy matter, but excused himself by pleading ignorance in official duties. He acknowledged that he gave the false receipt to Ferguson, but said Ferguson promised not to show it after he got the candy clear." "Rogers acknowledged having seized two pedlars, with £300 worth of goods, and allowed them to go clear, by punishing them, as he said, by fining them five pounds, which he coolly admitted he put in his own pocket, and afterwards bestowed in a charitable way, making no entry or returns."

The resolution which his relatives and friends obtained from the Baptist Church was so unpalatable that Rogers said in the presence of one of the members of the Church, that he would not have it published without alteration for a hundred pounds! And it appears he found somebody pliable enough to make the necessary alteration before it was sent to the Messenger. Now, gentlemen, I think you will agree with me, that the opposition are sadly in want of martyrs when they have to manufacture one out of such material as W. H. Rogers. There is some excuse for him, I admit. He was in a very bad school, and belongs to a party who seem to imagine that any appropriation of the public funds is legitimate which advances their interests individually or collectively; and I have no doubt that they consider his pickings smaller than the desert of so active and unscrupulous a partizan. The attempt on the part of Mr. Rogers to justify or excuse himself to the government entirely failed, as he acted throughout in defiance of the regulations of the department and became a party to an extensive fraud upon the revenue. Any officer, however friendly to the government, guilty of such conduct, would be instantly expelled. That Mr. Rogers was quite conscious of his inability to defend his misconduct, is evident from what took place during the recent election in Cumberland. After the candidates had addressed a large meeting at Pugwash, Mr. W. H. Rogers came forward to speak, but was met by a storm of hisses. I immediately demanded that he should be heard—said that it had been necessary to charge Mr. Rogers in the legislature with gross dereliction of duty when a public officer, and that he was, as an elector, entitled to be heard in his own defence, which I, especially desired, as I had the proof under my hand to establish everything I had said. Mr. Rogers was then allowed to speak, when to the amusement of the audience, he said that he did not wish to attack Dr. Tupper, but to call Mr. McFarlane (who had left the platform) to account, for saying that the Conservative merchants were not willing to expose their invoices to him, as he was, when Collector, a clerk in a trading establishment. Mr. Rogers was very valiant until he found I had his own correspondence ready to produce, when like Bob Acres his courage suddenly oozed out of his finger ends.

I must apologise, gentlemen, for having indulged that individual so much, in his desire to obtain notoriety, and hope that he and his patron Mr. McCully will now be satisfied."

*Mr. Rogers attested his returns that quarter as follows:—"I, W. H. Rogers, Collector of Colonial Duties for the District of Pugwash, do swear that the above amount is a correct statement of all the articles imported within the above district, and entered in the office of which I am Collector.—W. H. ROGERS, Collector."

For the Christian Messenger.

The Mic-Mac Mission in Charlottetown.

DEAR BROTHER,

Benjamin Christmas has just paid us a flying visit, in regard to which, for the sake of the good cause with which he is identified, I forward you a few lines.

Unduly detained at Pictou, in consequence of an accident which had befallen the Westmoreland, he came upon us last Lord's Day a little before our morning worship. A programme was soon constructed for him, however; in fulfilling which he was with us in the afternoon and evening of the Sabbath, on Monday evening at the Bible Christian Meeting house, on Tuesday evening at the Scottish Free Kirk, and on Wednesday evening at the Scottish National Kirk. Twice he preached, and thrice he lectured. He is much improved since he was with us in the summer of last year. He attracted great attention during his visit. All classes, in large numbers, increasing to the last, gathered to hear him.

But better than this, our brother's visit served to deepen the interest felt in his mission in our city. Himself is a precious evidence of its success. His wife is another. He told

us, too, of the increasing attention which his red-brethren pay to Christian instruction—of their incipient unbelief in Romanism, and their consequent preparedness to receive Gospel truths. He developed also certain plans which had been resolved for the future in regard to the Christian education for the Indians. Like the Great Eastern, the Micmac mind has at last begun to move; and by and by it will move to purpose. The Lord prosper the good work a thousand-fold!

Benjamin took with him substantial proof, if not very ample, of our good will. A hope was expressed that he would visit us annually, accompanied with a warm desire that brother Rand might, on some future occasion, and the sooner the better, come with him.

I must not forget to tell you that, on the Wednesday morning, introduced by a note from Capt. Orlebar, Benjamin had an interview with His Excellency the Governor; who conversed with him for some time, and with much apparent interest, in regard to his history, and his work.

During his stay here he went as much among his Indian brethren as he could. Some of them came to hear him; and before he left he had set on foot an arrangement for the removal of a brother of his, with his family, to the neighbourhood of his own home at Truro.

I just add, that last night we commenced our lecture season in connection with our Young Men's Christian Association. The Governor and his lady were with us. Our Temperance Hall was well filled. We have opened well; and, by the blessing of God, anticipate a prosperous winter campaign.

Your fellow-labourer,

J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, Nov. 18th, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prayer.

What is it? It is the breath of God in man. No soul ever prayed unless led by the Holy Spirit to Jesus, through whom alone we have access to the Almighty Jehovah.

O what scene so sublime. Do not angels gaze and wonder. A finite worm holding communion with the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords! Approaching him unveiled before whom even Cherubim and Seraphim hide their faces with their wings. While they cry, "Holy, holy holy, Lord God Almighty!"

Should not feelings of awful solemnity fill our souls when we approach a Being so great? No room for mirth or trifling now, for God is present. That God who has all power both in heaven and in earth. He was once an offended Judge; but now glory be to the love of our blessed Intercessor, he writes his name, "Our Father." We no longer fear and quake at his presence, because he has manifested his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, he gave his only begotten son to be a ransom for us. O the love of God! truly it is higher than the heights above; and deeper than the depths beneath. We cannot fear, for "perfect love casteth out fear."

These hours of drawing near unto God are the happiest we are permitted to spend on earth,—when placing both our hands in those of Jesus, we are led by him to the blood-bought Mercy-seat. Angels stoop from their lofty seats and gaze with joy; and wonder at that love that could forgive such unworthy beings. It is here we find a compassionate friend, one ready to bear all our griefs, and teaches us how to cast our burden on him, for "he careth for us." Here too we bring the sin-sick and heavy-laden soul; ever finding relief: for Christ displays himself to those bowed at the Mercy-seat as he does not unto the world. He applies the all-atoning blood and our wounds are healed, our sins washed away, and we "made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."

Here we feel ourselves above the world. How small it looks, after gazing through Christ, the door, into the upper sanctuary, and viewing our possessions there.

Oh! how sweet and exalted is the privilege of prayer! What a wonder all do not enjoy it. That any can pass days, months or even years without bending their knees to acknowledge one favor from God.

O that men would consider! Could they but for five minutes enjoy the blessings received at the Mercy-seat—did they but know the power of prayer, they would be found oftener there.
M. B.

Some one blamed Dr. Marsh for changing his mind. "Well," said he, "that is the difference between a man and a jackass; the jackass can't change his mind, and a man can—it's a human privilege."