

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MRS. ALICE LYONS,

Wife of Mr. David Lyons, of Pleasant Valley, Cornwallis, departed this life on the 21st day of January, 1859. Her death was occasioned by a severe cold, followed by erysipelas, which she survived but sixteen days.

At an early age, she had been the subject of deep impressions, and felt that, as a sinner against God, she needed pardoning mercy; but never obtained satisfactory evidence that her peace was made with God until 1823—some years after her marriage. She was baptized by the late Rev. Edward Manning, and received into the fellowship of the then only Baptist Church in Cornwallis. Subsequently, in 1828, she, with 49 others, were organized into the Second Baptist Church situate in Pleasant Valley, Cornwallis, and continued in connection and christian fellowship with that Church until her demise. During all which time, her amiable disposition, discreet conduct, and christian deportment endeared her to all who became acquainted with her. She was well established in the truths of the Scriptures, both in reference to its precepts, doctrines, and ordinances: hence she was a decided Baptist in principle and practice. With her there was no wavering, no turning aside from the simplicity of the gospel, and her soul fed upon the gospel when fully and faithfully preached,—she never was satisfied with a yea-and-nay gospel. Would to God it were so with all who profess Baptist sentiments.

Mrs. L. was happy in the prospect of death, for her it had no terrors; she was at peace with God and all mankind; her hope rested alone on the merits of Christ's death, and she confided in His divine promises. Till the last she continued in the exercise of her rational senses, and patiently waited until her change came. As she lived, so she died, trusting alone in the finished work of Christ's righteousness, and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus.

As a wife, she was all that could be desired. The law of kindness was in her heart, and she was ever ready to manifest it: consequently she was greatly endeared to her bereaved husband, and the loss to him is incalculable. She possessed very endearing qualities as a social friend,—very many can testify to this, so sincere, unassuming and affectionate. She was very hospitable, and was never more delighted than when surrounded by friends. As a neighbor, she will be greatly missed, as well as by a large circle of mourning relatives. She had no enemies.

Mrs. L. came very near to being an "Israelite indeed in whom there is no guilt."

A sermon, founded on Col. iii. 1-4, was preached by the writer on the last Sabbath of January. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."—Communicated by the Rev. Wm. Chipman.

MRS. ANN FOGGAN,

Died, at Truro, Dec'r. 29th, 1858, in the 73rd year of her age.

The subject of this Memoir was born in Merrigomish, where she lived until May last, when she went to reside with her son in Truro; whence she made her exit.

She was brought up in the Presbyterian faith, and united with that body, in whose communion she continued until about the year 1836, when, by her careful perusal of the Bible, she saw that the practice of baptizing infants was unscriptural, and recognised the Divine authority of believers' baptism. About that time, on profession of her own faith in Jesus, she followed his example and command, in being immersed by his servant, the Rev. Joseph Dimock, who was then on a missionary tour in the eastern part of the Province.

As she professed her love to her Saviour by baptism, so she exemplified the same in showing her esteem for his people, in her lowly sphere she accommodated his missionaries, aided his Church, attended his ordinances, and exemplified a life of devotedness to him. She possessed the confident assurance of having "a building of God eternal in the heavens," for which she patiently waited and earnestly looked until called by her beloved to ascend to her heavenly home. With the Christian Philanthropist, we can say—

"She gave to misery all she had—a tear; She gained from heaven, all she wished—a friend."—Communicated by Alex. Meldrum.

MR. BENJAMIN SANFORD.

Died, very suddenly, at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Henry Boarden, Cornwallis, on the 13th February, 1859, aged 96 years.

In very early life our departed brother enjoyed the ministry of Henry Aline, under which he was brought to a saving knowledge of Christ. He afterwards united with the Baptist Church, and through the course of a long life, continued faithful to his early profession, and enjoyed a large share of his Saviour's presence. His exhortations and prayers ever indicated a mind warmed with Divine love, attached to the Church, and anxious to persuade sinners to be reconciled to God. He was spared to a good old age, and, as a shock of corn fully ripe, has been gathered in.

The deceased had eleven children, some of whom departed before him; he also leaves 85 grand-children, and 75 great-grand-children. May his numerous descendants follow him, as he followed Christ, and finally meet their sainted ancestor in his heavenly home.—Communicated by Rev. A. S. Hunt.

MRS. MARTHA WOODBURY,

The beloved wife of Mr. Isaac Woodbury, of Clements, departed this life on the 26th day of January, in the 60th year of her age.

The departed experienced religion when in her 23rd year; she was baptized by Elder Henry Saunders, and united with the Clements Church, with which she remained a consistent member until her death.

Our dear departed sister was deservedly held in high esteem by all. In life, she could say, 'I know in whom I have believed;' and in death, she said, 'He has not forsaken me.' By her request, her funeral sermon was preached by the writer, from Revelation xiv. 13, to a large and attentive audience.—Com. by Rev. Obed. Parker.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Canada West.

MR. EDITOR,

After having spent over two years in Canada, I feel that it would not be inappropriate to express the pleasure I have, during that time, derived; from the weekly perusal of the Christian Messenger. It comes like a true and tried friend, bearing tidings of the progress of events in my native Province. As I scan its pages, meeting with familiar names, oft times those of old friends, and acquaintances, scenes of the past will rise vividly to mind, causing one to be lost for a time, in agreeable reminiscences.

Previous to coming here, my impressions of Canadian life were rather contracted; being associated principally with the idea of woods and log-houses, but my friends tell me I must go farther out west to have them realised. Lying here in a pleasant quiet little town, surrounded with all the comforts, and enjoying many of the luxuries of life, one can scarcely realise the hardships and privations which the early settlers endured. Being so agreeably disappointed in this country, perhaps, is the reason we like it so well. Instead of finding it, as pitying friends told me I should, an uncivilised almost barbarous land; I have found it so much the reverse, that were it not for the absence of Nova Scotia friends, one might be contented to remain here. However, those opinions respecting this country are not so much to be wondered at, considering that only about twenty years ago Missionaries were sent out here, and for some time supported by a Missionary Society in England. But the people have so far progressed since then as to be able now to support Missionary Societies of their own. This place is principally settled by Scotch, who on the 25th of January celebrated the centenary of Burns, which was the case very generally throughout Canada; enthusiastic demonstrations were made, in honour of this gifted man; whose memory is dear to the hearts of his countrymen, who sing his songs with delight, and revere his name as one of Nature's true Poets.

The weather has been unusually mild this winter, only a few days early in January that were intensely cold; but the want of constant sleighing has been much regretted. It is snowing now, so we may hope soon to see the cutters flying about again, and to hear the merry jingling of the sleigh bells. It seems strange at first to hear the people say "cutter," instead of sleigh, and "buggy," instead of carriage, but one soon becomes accustomed to such trifling differences.

We have heard with surprise that some of our Nova Scotia friends intend emigrating to California and New Zealand. We would be better pleased to learn that they were coming to this their sister province, where there is plenty of room and good prospects for enterprising people, and where we think they would feel more at home, and be better accommodated than in the "land of gold."

It is true, the cry of hard times has resounded dolefully here, as in other parts of the world, during the past year, but now it is happily dying away, and by Spring it will probably have entirely ceased.

Political matters principally engross the public mind. The School question and the Seat of Government question excite much interest.

The Government have been sustained on the latter question by a small majority, and will probably retain their power, although great dissatisfaction is manifested in Upper Canada against the ministry, whose proceedings are regarded at the present time with the most intense interest.

Canada West, Feb. 3, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit.

The Church and other friends made us a Donation, on the 9th inst., to the amount of £26, about £16 of which was in cash. The Rev. W. G. Parker favored us with his presence, and gave a very interesting address. Brethren A. Strong, W. North, and J. M. Rusco also entertained the very large company with interesting speeches.

Yours, &c., JAMES PARKER. Billtown, Feb. 14, '59.

Imperial Parliament.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The session of Parliament was opened on Thursday, the 3rd ult., by the Queen in person. The Lord Chamberlain's office is eagerly besieged, for weeks beforehand, for tickets to witness the spectacle; and the display of female rank, wealth, and beauty, that then takes place, though it would be equally conspicuous under any sovereign, seems peculiarly appropriate under a female reign. The attendance was unusually numerous and splendid. The Lords were fairly pushed from their stools by their wives and daughters, and forms of very plebeian construction were brought into the House and put down in the centre of the floor for their special use, while their well-stuffed lounges were occupied by the lovelier portion of their families. Even the bishops, though bishops are not usually put out of their way, had their space wofully circumscribed; but then it was not the ladies who encroached upon them, but the foreign ambassadors, who appeared in unusual numbers, glittering in gold lace, all except Mr. Dallas, the Minister for the United States, who alone of the gay throng appeared in the ordinary dress of a gentleman, like Lord Castlereagh, who at the Congress of Vienna was distinguished by the absence of decorations. Their numbers, however, could not fail to suggest the reason that had brought them together: and one could not help feeling that in the present critical emergency the words which our Sovereign might utter would, in a few minutes afterwards, be borne on the wings of the lightning to the different capitals of Europe as potential for peace or war. The Lords themselves, who assembled in considerable numbers, appeared in their robes of scarlet and ermine: but I cannot say that they were much improved by their garb. The cloaks all appeared as if they had just been taken out of an old Jew's clothes-shop, and hung about the shoulders of the peers, dusty, soiled, and crumpled, as if they had never been brushed nor folded since the time, twelve months ago, when they were last used. Still, making all allowances for these drawbacks, when the Queen entered the House, a little after two o'clock, surrounded by her great officers of State, and all that was noble and venerable in the land, and all that represented the might of foreign powers, rising reverently to receive her as she took her seat on the throne, the sight was grand and imposing. It was as if the representatives of all the constituent elements of greatness in the nation did homage to her who was in her person the representative of the nation itself—the embodied symbol of all its power, and greatness, and splendour. When the Commons had assembled at the bar, where they were, in their usual helter skelter manner, jostling each other for a good place in that scanty area, some of them apparently more than half inclined to elbow Mr. Speaker himself out of his front place, the Queen proceeded to read the Speech, which, whatever may be its merits as a political or even as a literary composition, is no concern of hers; all she had to do with it was to read it, and that she did with her usual distinct and clear enunciation. The musical quality of the Queen's voice has often been remarked, and as yet it has lost none of its clear bell-like tones. Those readers of the newspaper debates who are accustomed to meet every now and then with the reporter's remark that "the noble lord was inaudible in the gallery," will be surprised to hear that the Queen's voice, raised without effort, and while her Majesty was in a sitting position, was distinctly heard in the farthest corner of that spacious hall—not a word was lost. For the rest, her Majesty was in remarkably good health, looking youthful and radiant; and, if the fact were not so indisputable, few people who saw her on Thursday would credit that she was a grandmother.

The discussions—they cannot be called debates—in both Houses of Parliament on the Address, were remarkable for their unanimity. The great topic was of course the critical state of affairs on the Continent, and on this subject the Prime Minister spoke with a tone of authority to the different foreign powers which must have taken many persons by surprise. Austria, Sardinia, France—he lectured them all round for their misdeeds, with the tone of a man who feels himself superior to them, and finds that he has a right to school them on the propriety of their conduct. Whatever may be thought of the taste of this assumption, in one respect it was very ominous; for the case must be desperate, and peace must be all but hopeless, when the Prime Minister of England thinks it incumbent on him to beseech, to lecture, to urge, almost to threaten, the Emperor of France.

In the Commons there was a little more variety. All parties there were indeed united in deprecating the chance of a war; but Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell expressed more sympathy for the cause of the Italians than either Lord Derby or his colleagues in the House of Commons ventured to do. Mr. Disraeli's speech indeed was unusually feeble. Mr. Disraeli's present position as leader of the House is very trying to any man, and is sure to bring out his vulnerable points. So long as he was in opposition and could choose his own time to speak, he could always prepare himself, and would thus acquit himself brilliantly, but now he must be ready to speak at a minute's notice on every subject. His great defect is that versatility of debating power which would enable him to do so with advantage. One passage in Lord Palmerston's speech on this same subject excited a good deal of amusement. He was dealing in a little of what the Americans call bunkum, about a Reform Bill not shaking the loyalty of the people, which he was quite sure it would not; for the people of England saw that no Government was as free as theirs, whether the Government was despotic or whether it came from below—at the same time giving

emphasis to the word by stamping vigorously on the floor. The House, ever on the alert for a blunder, burst out a laughing, when the noble lord, feeling a little put out, made matters worse by explaining that, by a government which came from below, he meant a Republic; though the place from which the Republic was in his eyes supposed to come, was left as mysterious, or rather as stripped of mystery, as ever.—London Freeman.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, February 28, 1859.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins moved that his railway resolution be taken up for discussion.

Hon. Attorney General had no objection, but as the debate on the resolution of the hon. member for Inverness on Mr. McLean's petition had not yet been finished, he thought it better to wait until that gentleman was present.

In the meantime the following bill was read a second time—

An Act to amend the Act to constitute the District of Argyle a separate District.

Hon. Mr. Young agreed to postpone the consideration of his resolution for the present.

Mr. Wilkins then addressed the house in support of his resolution for the extension of the railroad to Pictou.

He was followed by hon. Financial Secretary, hon. Mr. Howe, hon. Mr. Young, hon. Provincial Secretary, hon. Attorney General, Mr. Wier, hon. Mr. Henry.

Then the debate adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1859.

Mr. Esso asked special leave to present petitions from Messrs. Walker & Company and Messrs. Sutherland & Sons, on the subject of Land-damages.

Mr. Wier presented a petition from the inhabitants of Margaret's Bay, against the Representation Bill now before the House.

Mr. Wier, Mr. Annand, and Mr. Parker presented petitions against the Representation Bill introduced at the last Session.

The hon. Speaker, at the suggestion of the hon. Attorney General, called over the list of Committees and enquired what progress they had made.

A number of Private Bills were read a second time, and referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. Mr. Young moved that a committee be appointed on the subject of Assessment in the City of Halifax.

Mr. McFarlane asked leave to introduce an Act to amend the act relating to assessments for Fire Engines.

Mr. Archibald asked leave to introduce a bill to authorize the sale of the old Presbyterian church at Gay's River.

Also, a bill to enable Charles Dickson, Archibald, and Moses Salter to obtain letters patent—read a first time.

After a long discussion as to whether the adjourned debate on Mr. McLean's petition should be resumed, Hon. Attorney General moved the second reading of the Representation Bill,—being the order of the day.

The hon. gentleman then addressed the House for the remainder of the day.

We give the following summary of the Bill from the hon. mover's speech, as reported in the Colonist—

In England, those who vote for townships or boroughs do not vote for the county representatives.

In the counties here which have township representation the most glaring inequality exists. Is not this an evil which demands remedy?

A simple presentation of the facts as they exist, and the alterations proposed, will be the best answer to the misrepresentations to which this bill has been subjected. Take the census of 1851 as the basis, and it will relatively be nearly correct:

Table with 5 columns: COUNTIES, POPULATION BY CENSUS, 1851, REPRESENTATIONS BY BILL 1858, REPRESENTATIONS BY BILL 1859. Rows include Halifax, Pictou, Cape Breton, Inverness, Lunenburg, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Annapolis, Kings, Sydney, Yarmouth, Digby, Guysborough, Shelburne, Richmond, Victoria, and Queens.

By the Bill of 1858—two counties had 5 members each, viz., Halifax and Pictou; and these counties were divided into two electoral divisions, one sending 3, and the other 2 members.

Eleven counties, varying from a population of from 17,000 to 12,000 had each 3 members; and five counties had each 2 members, their population being under 11,000.

All were county representatives, except Halifax and Pictou, which were to send district members.

By the Bill of 1859—five counties send over 3 members, viz., Halifax, 5, and Pictou, Colchester, Hants, and Kings, each 4. These five counties are divided into electoral divisions. Inverness sends three members instead of two. The inequality of elective privilege among the electors in their respective counties is done away