

For the Christian Messenger.

College Agency.

DEAR EDITOR,

My last on the College agency was from Guysborough about the 21st of Dec. Since then I have visited St. Mary's, and accompanied Elder Eagles to the extremities of his extensive field, and proceeded to Colchester and Halifax counties. Old notes on scholarships were satisfactorily arranged. New notes were secured amounting to £78, and new subscriptions to £36 2d. The following brethren have consented to act as Local Agents.—Rev. Henry Eagles in St. Mary's, Indian Harbour, and Isaac's Harbour. Jacob S. Layton, Esq., in Upper Stewiacke, and Upper Musquodoboit. Ezekiel Banks, Esq., in Brookfield, Forest Glen, Lower Stewiacke, St. Andrews, and Middle Musquodoboit. Bro. L. J. Walker in Truro. Bro. David Ellis, Junr., in Sackville, Windsor Road. David Thomson, Esq., in Hammond's Plains, and Rev. W. H. Humphrey in Halifax. The sums collected in the above places are as follows.—Principal, £26 10s. 2d.; interest and Professors' salaries, £41 8s. 9d.; expenses, 38s. 1d.; total, £76 3s. 1d.

The field traversed has some interesting features. In Colchester learning, and especially ministerial education is appreciated. In some parts of the province a few individuals may be found who repudiate an educated ministry. Though Paul commands that a bishop should be "not a novice," they insist that he should enter his stupendous work in all his raw-uncultivated state. Though Paul says he should "be able to teach others," they declare that a minister should have no more learning than to be able to read a chapter and a hymn. Deliver me from such people, for they are generally the first to criticise and complain if a preacher is not able to seize and unfold a difficult passage of sacred writ. Happily, however, persons holding this view are becoming scarce. If ever they existed in Upper Stewiacke and Musquodoboit they have already died out. The brethren there believe that ministerial education when consecrated is vastly superior to ministerial ignorance, and that in some positions it is on a growing degree indispensable. Hence the brethren in that little church have subscribed largely to the College, and contemplate doing more. In Brookfield and Lower Stewiacke also, though struggling to maintain the infant cause of truth, the friends have generally subscribed towards a T. H. Porter Scholarship to the amount of £40 10s 0d. This was increased in Hammond's Plains and Sackville to £47 10s., and will doubtless be raised considerably higher by the efforts of the Local Agents there.

I am informed by the Financial Committee that the course of the Agent will now be from Windsor westward through Kings and Annapolis Counties. I hope the friends will be prepared in the present emergency.

I cannot close without noticing the delightful indications of Divine favor, which are here and there apparent from East to West. We see in the Messenger that in Mira, the East of Cape Breton, 25 converts have followed the Saviour; and that in Yarmouth, the extreme West of Nova Scotia, the Lord is revealing his grace. In Hantsport 6 were received for baptism last week. In Berwick backsliders have returned, and 4 converts are admitted for baptism. In Nictau the Lord is working graciously. In Windsor and Truro the churches have for some time been using strenuous exertions for the cause of religion, which is the most genuine revival. In Halifax North church there are tokens of Good. In Granville Street the brethren have decided to make considerable alterations and improvements in the house of the Lord. May this be the precursor of much spiritual good! Surely these simultaneous movements in different parts are no less than the gracious operations of the Omnipotent One. Surely these are indications that the Lord is about to deliver His people from slothfulness, and covetousness, and every besetting sin, and bring them unto the glorious liberty of the Gospel. May the good work continue till the will of God is done on earth as it is done in heaven.

I remain yours in the common cause,
D. FREEMAN.

Berwick, Jan. 29, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Salem Cottage.

On the 19th ult. our much esteemed friends of the church and congregation made us another of those very pleasant and profitable annual visits. A larger number attended than on any former occasion. The Rev. Mr. Murray favoured us with his presence, and added to the entertainment and profit of the evening by giving an appropriate and interesting address. The donation amounted to over £60, for which I beg through the C. M. to express our grateful acknowledgements. May the Lord bless the cheerful giver, and make such expressions of Christian affection aids to mutual usefulness and lasting union.

A. S. HUNT.

Provincial Parliament.

Opening of the Session.

On Thursday last, the 3rd inst., the fourth session of the present Parliament was opened with the usual state ceremonies, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen.

At 4 past 2 P. M., His Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Mulgrave, attended by his Staff, civil and military, entered the Council Chamber, and delivered the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

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

Since the prorogation, communications have been received from the Colonial Office and the Governor-General, on the subject of a Federal Union of the North American Provinces, which will be placed before you at an early day.

I am happy to inform you that your Address to Her Majesty on the Inter Colonial Railway was very graciously received.

The correspondence with the Imperial Government, Canada, and New Brunswick, which induced me to send a Delegation to England, will be submitted, with the Report of the Delegates, for your information.

You will be glad to learn that during the recess the Railways to Windsor and Truro have been completed and opened for traffic, embracing sixty miles more than were previously in operation.

Full Reports of every thing connected with these great Public Works will be placed on the table without delay.

During the past Summer I had the pleasure of visiting several portions of this fine Province, and in order to avail myself of future opportunities to become personally acquainted with those sections of the country I have not already seen.

When in Cape Breton, I visited the St. Peter's Canal, and directed a further examination and report to be made upon that work, which will be laid before you.

The Hospital for the Insane has been so far completed and furnished as to be ready for the reception of patients, a number of whom are now experiencing the benefit of that Institution.

While we have reason to thank Almighty God for an abundant harvest, I regret to learn that some distress has been experienced by a portion of our hardy and industrious population, from a partial failure of the Fisheries.

Although, as was expected, a slight deficiency in the Revenue has resulted from the paralyzed condition of trade everywhere, I am happy to find indications of decided improvement already exhibited in the healthier tone of commercial transactions, both here and abroad, from which we may confidently anticipate an increase in the Revenue of the current year.

The increased liability devolved upon you in connection with the Public Works, renders it imperative that, in making your annual appropriations, due regard should be had to economy, in order that you may preserve unsullied the credit of the Province, upon which your character as a people depends.

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

The accounts for the expenditure of the past, together with the estimates for the present year, will be placed before you.

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

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

Your attention will be invited to several useful measures intended to facilitate the business and promote the interests of the Province, and which will, I doubt not, receive your careful consideration.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 3.

The House of Assembly having returned to their Chamber—

The speech was read by the Hon. the Speaker. After which he announced that having received information of the demise of George W. McLellan, Esq., and Ichabod Dimock Esq., he had authorized the issue of writs for new Elections for the Counties of Colchester and Hants.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table returns shewing that G. W. McLellan and Bennet Smith, Esquires, had been duly returned for said Counties.

The members elect were then sworn in before the Hon. H. Bell and M. B. Almon, members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. W. A. Henry asked leave to introduce a Bill, entitled, An Act to establish a Decimal Currency. Read a first time.

Mr. Ruggles then arose and in a few brief appropriate remarks on the Speech of the Lieutenant Governor, moved the Address in answer to the Speech, which refers in corresponding paragraphs to the several subjects there alluded to, and promises to "make due provision for all our liabilities," and give careful consideration to "the accounts of past expenditures and current estimates," and "bestow our best attention upon such measures as may be brought under our notice during the present session."

Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion.

Hon. William Young said, I presume the usual course will be adopted on this occasion and that the answer to the Address will be allowed to remain on the table until to-morrow; this has been the usage here for many years, and is the more necessary on this occasion, that

we may have time to recover from our astonishment at the brilliant promises disclosed in the speech, and the numerous comprehensive and valuable measures which Her Majesty's Administration have prepared for our deliberation and approval.

Hon. Attorney General said it was in the knowledge of the House that the gentleman who had previously occupied the position of Chairman of the Committee of Supply had been removed during the recess by death. He would suggest, therefore, to the Hon. leader of the opposition that he should nominate some member to supply his place, as it was usual to appoint Chairmen of the Standing Committees from diverse sides of the House.

At the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Young the consideration of that question was postponed until Friday.

House adjourned to 3 o'clock on Friday.

FRIDAY, February 4th, 1859.

House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Ruggles moved the answer to the address after the reading of the first clause.

Mr. Martin I. Wilkins.—Did not wish to offer any formal opposition to the passage of the address, but to put himself right in respect to one or two paragraphs. As regards the second paragraph—it was well known that Her Majesty never returns a direct negative to any address, we are not to infer, therefore, that any change had taken place in the views of Her Majesty's Ministers on that question since the last despatch on the subject. As to the rest of the answer, he would merely observe that he did not give it his acquiescence.

So much for the address—it was necessary to give the House an exposition of his present political position. He was almost born in the Conservative camp, and therefore, it was not likely he would desert it without good reason.

Having followed the standard of Conservatism so long, he would not desert it now, any more than one of Napoleon's Imperial Guard would desert his Eagle. Therefore it was, he remained as he always had been, a staunch conservative.

Parties are too nearly allied for any person of honor to pass from one side to another. There have been cases where large questions are at stake, when a man is bound to do so. As in the case of Sir Robert Peel, who led up for many years the question of protection, until he was convinced that he was in error, when he abandoned the protectionists and joined the free traders. There was an instance in this country on the question of Government railroads, when gentlemen had with honor changed from one side to the other, but there was no such question now dividing parties in this house.

If he deserted his party now and went over to the opposition, he would disgrace himself and this house. He had thought proper lately to throw up his office, for what he considered grave reasons.

It was a great sacrifice, to him, throwing up, as he did, all chance of preferment in his profession. He had a right to demand respect for his motives, however little might be thought of his prudence.

He would not go across the house and join the opposition for the best office they could bestow. In conclusion, he would indulge in a little self-gratulation. The hon. member for Windsor once said he (Mr. W.) was a man that never changed. He considered it the highest compliment he could pay him, and amply made up for all the castigation he had ever received from that gentleman.

On the reading of the second clause of the address—

Hon. Mr. Young announced his intention of moving an amendment. It was necessary to ascertain at once the feeling of the house. The Attorney General last session had challenged the opposition to a direct vote of want of confidence. He would do so now.

This was a most remarkable speech from the throne. He would ask was it a speech of a strong government, or rather was it not in itself an indication of deplorable weakness? Last year the government proposed a single measure. This time not one. This clearly proves that the administration have ceased to command the confidence of the house and country. There was another significant fact. Since the last session two counties have passed upon the government.

Is the verdict of Colchester and Hants to count for nothing. Again, why has not the vacancy in the Council for Kings been filled up? It was a fortunate thing for Mr. Creighton that he did not hold a seat in this house, or he never would have received his appointment. He could well understand the feelings of the late Hon. Solicitor General as expressed in his speech, but that speech cannot remove the impression on the minds of the people. He (Mr. Wilkins) a crown officer, is charged in a minute of Council with an offence which no statesman or gentleman should be guilty of or charged with.

Then again there is the treatment of James R. Forman, who he believed to be an honest and honorable man. He was not only dismissed, but he was pursued with a malignity previously unheard of in this country. He had heard it said that some of these articles had been written by a member of the government, but he trusted for his own sake, that he would rise in his place and deny it. There were other reasons of a public character for a change of government,—for instance, the state of our railroads. It was matter of notoriety that the public have lost confidence in them. The Board, the chief engineer, and the superintendent were all at variance with each other.

Then again, look at the state of our finances; where was the necessity for employing an engineer at £1500 a year, in the place of a competent and honest official, who was unjustly dismissed. Then again, there have been some ex-

traordinary dismissals. It is the first time in this country that a judge has been dismissed for political reasons. The hon. gentleman referred to the dismissal of hon. Mr. McCully, and of the Sheriff of Cumberland—and went on to say that the principles of the opposition were equal rights to all, ascendancy to none. The government were under the control of Catholics. No one would believe that if Mr. Forman had been a Catholic he would have been dismissed.

The important questions of the Union of the Colonies and the Inter-colonial Railroad requires a strong government to deal with them as they deserve. As to the question of the delegation, he agreed with the late hon. Solicitor General that parliament should have passed upon it first, and he also thought if such had been done a different choice of delegates would have been made.

The Honble. Gentleman after some further remarks moved the following amendment:—

"But in view of this and other questions of the largest magnitude, which will come before Parliament for their deliberation during the present Session, and of the policy of the recent delegation, we deem it due to your Excellency respectfully to declare that the constitutional advisers of your Excellency do not possess the confidence of this house, nor of the people we represent, and that a change in the administration has become indispensable, for the vigorous and faithful prosecution of the public works and business of the Province."

Which was seconded by the Hon. Mr. Howe.

The Hon. Attorney General assured the Hon. Gentleman that he had no desire to shut out discussion on this subject. Last session for a particular reason viz:—the approaching departure of the Lieut. Governor it was necessary. That was no precedent for the present occasion. They had now the opportunity for free and fair discussion but he hoped that no protracted and unnecessary debate would ensue, but that they would have some regard for the interests of the country. This discussion was rather premature, for as regards every topic touched on by the hon. gentleman they were not in a position to enter, as the papers referring to them: were not before the house. There was only one assertion the hon. gentleman had made to which he would refer, and that was the weakness of the government. Where was the proof? He did not like to dispel the pleasing illusions of the hon. gentleman, or to shatter his fond hopes; but he would assure him that while he entertained that delusion, he (the Atty. General) held just the opposite opinion, and felt convinced more and more every day that the government was growing in the confidence of the country. The hon. leader of the opposition had based his opinion of the weakness of the government on the fact of two constituencies having returned members in opposition; but the government are no weaker or the opposition any stronger by this, as they but take the place of two others on the same side of politics. As to the vacancy not having been filled up in the Legislative Council for King's County, there being no pressing necessity for it, it was thought unnecessary on the eve of a general election, to put any county to the expense of an election by elevating one of its members to that Branch. He (the hon. Attorney General) would not at present refer to the resignation of the Sol. General, but would wait until the matter came more properly before the house. In reply to the eulogy passed upon Mr. Forman, he would say that he considered him a man who, by his want of skill and knowledge of his profession, had entailed incalculable injury on the province. As to the strictures which had been published upon him, they had been called forth by his conduct and the action of his own friends. He (Mr. Forman) had published a letter containing charges against the government so false and unfounded as to stamp his character forever in the opinion of every honest man.

As regards the question of the Railway, the papers not yet having been laid before the house, he thought its discussion premature. The Hon. Attorney General referred to the action of the Liberal press in endeavouring to destroy the confidence of the people in the public works of the country, and said he would abstain from vindicating the dismissals made by the government until the papers relating to them had been brought down.

The Hon. Atty. General touched upon the other points of hon. Mr. Young's address, and in reference to the policy indicated by the opposition towards the Catholics, enquired how they intended to curtail the power of that religious body without proscribing them. Referring to the great question of the Inter-colonial Railroad, the hon. gentleman remarked upon the necessity for discussing it irrespective of local or party politics, and defended the action of the government in the delegation and the choice of delegates; and concluded by asserting that until all the papers, in connection with the various topics touched upon by the hon. leader of the opposition, had been laid on the table, this debate was premature.

Hon. Mr. Howe had not now, nor ever had, any confidence in the government. The opposition did not expect to pass the amendment, but it was their duty to state the reasons why they had no confidence in the present administration. He had no wish to proscribe the Catholics, but he would not submit to be ruled by a small band of Catholics members in the house, any more than he had submitted to the rule of the old Council of twelve. He did not wish unnecessarily to offend the Catholic members of the house, but he knew the influence which worked upon them. It was not because of anything in the speech, or out of it, he supported the motion before the house, but because of the influences to which he had alluded. He hoped to see the day when the Protestants of the country would be able, (not to proscribe the Catholics,) but, to do justice to themselves.