

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prayer for Colleges and Answers to Prayer.

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM FORMER STUDENTS AT ACADIA.

DEAR BRETHREN,

On the day of prayer for Colleges we had two meetings here. In the morning, Brother D. Freeman preached: in the afternoon we met for prayer in the Academy Hall. Professor Sawyer presided. During that exercise portions of twelve letters were read, which I had received from ministering brethren who have left the Institution within the last seven years. As they were not written with a view to publication, I should not be justified in giving the names of the writers; but they will not object, I presume, to the insertion of the following extracts in your columns:

1. "I have baptized thirty during the past year. * * I take pleasure in saying that a good degree of union prevails in the Church. Our social meetings are well attended. * * Among recent converts added to the Church, one was a confirmed sceptic, a bitter opposer of religion; but grace has triumphed. Another was a lady who had formerly opposed the Baptists, but the witnessing of a baptism convinced her of the scripturalness of immersion. Another was a convert from Romanism.

"I still feel a deep undying attachment to dear old Acadia, and to its kindred Institution. There in my early boyhood, I found the Saviour. There, I followed Christ in baptism. In one of its rooms I first opened my mouth to confess Christ. There I often renewed my vows to my God and Saviour. There I formed Christian friendships, which I hope to resume in eternity. There, too, I received knowledge and mental discipline, the value of which I feel to this day. Ought I not, then, to love Acadia? Be assured that you have my sympathies and prayers. May multitudes of young men seek there training for usefulness, and for ages yet to come may Acadia survive and flourish, as a centre from which true and refreshing light shall shine forth!"

2. "My field of labour is 16 miles long and 12 1/2 broad. * * I have established three new preaching stations, making eight in all—have baptized 32; the majority of them are between 20 and 40 years of age, and are active, useful members."

3. "I desire to feel truly thankful to Almighty God for the assistance he has vouchsafed to me during the year, and for the blessing which has followed my imperfect labours. It has been my privilege to baptize, during the whole period since I left College, about one hundred persons. The College fills a large place in my affections. * * I trust a spirit of prayer on behalf of Acadia will pervade the whole Denomination, and that hundreds may go forth from her halls to blow the gospel trumpet."

4. "Feeling my own unfitness for the great work, and my unworthiness even to name the name of Christ, I would ask an interest in the prayers of all at your coming meeting who love the Saviour and desire the progress of his cause. And may speedy answers be given to the united supplications of the 24th of February, and abundant blessings descend on all Institutions of learning! May Acadia have her full share, and many be led within her walls to consecrate their lives and talents to the work of telling lost sons of sorrow that Jesus died to save!"

[This brother, who says but little of his labours, occupies an important position, and enjoys the blessing of God on his efforts.]

5. "Besides reading, private study, and incidental labour, I have had to preach from two to seven times a week, attend two prayer-meetings weekly, and three Conferences monthly. I travel over thirty miles from one extremity of my field to the other. * * During 1858 I baptized twenty-seven."

6. "The most delightful associations and reminiscences of the past I enjoy, are in connection with Acadia. All that I am, under God, I owe to Acadia College. * * I have under my care seven preaching stations. * * I preach thirteen times every month, attend three Conferences, three prayer-meetings, and meet a Bible-class three times. During the year 1858 I have had the privilege of baptizing 63 persons."

7. "I have to travel 45 miles in one direction and 20 in another. I have seven regular preaching stations, besides four other places visited occasionally. * * I have distributed a number of religious books, and a great number of tracts, which I trust are doing a good work."

8. "My labour having been expended in so wide a field, I cannot give you results as I might, perhaps, had it been narrower. I preached 169 times, attended 67 prayer and Conference meetings, and made 622 ministerial visits. * * The Lord has in some measure owned the means and given his blessing. There have been increase of religious interest, hopeful conversions and baptisms at almost every point of this extensive field."

9. "I have preached constantly on the Sabbaths, and frequently three or four times during the week, superintended a Sabbath School, and taught a Bible-class. The Lord has graciously blessed my labours and revived his work in this place. Twenty-one have been baptized."

10. "My labours are chiefly confined to preaching; necessarily so, on account of the large extent of my field. I have eight preaching stations. * * The distance between the extremities of the field is about 27 miles. During the year 1858 I have baptized 46 persons."

11. "I preach usually three times on the Sabbath, and about as often during the week. I have travelled and visited extensively, and besides attending prayer and Conference-meetings have conducted a Bible-class. * * Twenty-six have been baptized, four of whom were converted Roman Catholics. * * A large proportion of the converts refer to my ministry as the means, under God, of leading them to Christ. This greatly encourages and humbles me."

12. "My ministerial life during the year 1858 has been, on the whole, pleasurable to myself, and, as I trust, not without profit to others. The numbers and graces of the Church have been multiplied. Twenty-seven have been added by baptism, and fourteen by letter. * * Our Sabbath School has doubled in membership. * * Our Auxiliary Home Missionary Society is in a flourishing condition. We hope this year to raise £15 or £20 for this object. * * I have an interesting Bible-class, numbering from thirty to fifty. * * I think I become more and more attached to the work of preaching Christ. I think I daily gain fresh views of the magnitude and glory of this work. God grant that I may be more and more completely offered on the altar of devotion to Christ and his cause."

The friends of Acadia College will peruse these extracts with great satisfaction. They will be particularly gratified by the statements of the labours of our brethren. These College men have become hard workers in their respective fields. They will praise God, also, for the measure of success afforded. During the year 1858, twelve ministers, who received instruction in this College, baptized on profession of faith three hundred and eighty-one persons. What cause for thankfulness!

I take this opportunity to state that twenty-three students have been in attendance this year. Three of them, however, have discontinued their studies for the present, on account of indisposition. Although no successor to Professor Stuart has been yet appointed, the duties of the Mathematical Department of tuition are efficiently discharged by our two Tutors, Mr. Henry Vaughan, B.A., and Mr. R. L. Weatherbe, B.A. A class is preparing for graduation in June.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, March 19, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Our Institutions of Learning.

There are at Acadia twenty-two students entered for the full course. The Professors and Tutors are deservedly esteemed. They are entirely devoted to their duties, and discharge them with ability, if a student may be allowed to judge. We can assure any who are looking this way, that here they may find a delightful home, faithful instructors, and ample room for the development of all their intellectual powers.

Another Professor is much needed; but we must make the best of circumstances, with the hope that ere long an improved state of the finances will warrant the additional expense. We hope that the Baptists of these Provinces will discharge promptly their duty, and place their institution on a footing to compete with any other of the kind, not merely with regard to the character of the instruction given; but with respect to the number of its Professors. This is absolutely necessary to render it fully efficient and attractive. God has given them the means. If they will only make united effort, success is certain.

We cannot avoid the impression that many of the Baptists of these Provinces do not love their Institutions of learning as they ought. A noble few have, however, shown themselves worthy of

their trust. Were it not for these tried ones we might well despair of success. To them we look in the present emergency with confidence, assured that Acadia is still the object of their anxious solicitude. Their past efforts in its behalf have not been in vain,—the world is better for their labour of love. Not only our sister Provinces and the neighboring Republic, but distant India has been blessed through their exertions.—Burmans, with pious gratitude, acknowledge the gift.

In considering the past, we are encouraged to hope for the future. Now to retreat would be disgraceful—a lasting stigma upon the denomination; nay, more, by such a course, we would deeply wound the cause of Christ: that which should lie nearest our hearts, and for which we should be prepared to make the greatest sacrifices.

The Academy is efficiently conducted, and offers advantages equal, if not superior, to any other in the Province. It is the aim of the Principal, and of those connected with him, to make it in every respect what it ought to be. In these efforts they should be sustained. Is there not danger that, in our anxiety for the College, we may neglect the interests of the Academy? This would be very unwise, since the welfare of the former depends upon the success of the latter. We are happy to state that the Agent is doing a good work, in getting students for this department.

An excellent apparatus has recently been procured for the use of the Academy, at the cost of three hundred dollars. This is a valuable addition, and will contribute much to the efficiency of the school.

We desire not to prescribe for others, but we are assured that many, unwisely, place their sons at schools of an inferior grade, whose only recommendation is their cheapness (?), or else because, perhaps, a little more convenient, at Academies under the direction of those who are hostile to the sentiments and polity of Baptist churches. We should be zealous for the Truth, and beware of lending our influence in sustaining error. We should manifest a preference for our own, and become its patrons, even when attended by some inconvenience. In this respect, as in some others, we fear that we are less consistent with our professed principles, than our brethren of other denominations.

Members of churches should encourage their young men of promise to seek a course of mental training by proffering their sympathy and aid. Let Pastors, too, perform their duty in this matter. Their is much buried talent that ought to be employed for Christ.

Our religious prospects are somewhat encouraging. Earnest prayers are ascending for the quickening influences of the Spirit.

The exercises of Feb. 24, "the day of prayer for Colleges," were deeply interesting and impressive. It cannot be soon forgotten. By letters from a limited number of pastors, who have recently studied here, extracts of which were read, it appeared that twelve, during the past year, had baptized three hundred and eighty-one, in all, making nearly thirty-two for each. Here we have indubitable evidence that a course of mental training does not disqualify one for the active duties of life, or prevent his success when thus engaged.

Much of late has been very properly said and written concerning Female Education. It is well the people are waking up to a sense of its importance. It is wise to found Colleges for our young men,—but we have been very unjust in making so little provision for Female Education. He who seeks to remedy this defect, by establishing and properly conducting a school for young ladies, deserves to be called a public benefactor. Wolfville, in this respect, now offers superior advantages.

OMEGA.

Wolfville, March 1st, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

The French Mission.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am now in Canard, Cornwallis, pursuing my agency for the French Mission, and feel encouraged in my work. A more particular account of which I shall forward so soon as time will allow. I feel the necessity of having my appointments sent before me, so that my brethren may be prepared to aid with as little delay as possible. From this place I shall venture to send forward an arrangement for a few weeks. I trust our dear brethren who have ever had a warm feeling for the cause of God among my French brethren will, by the prayers and recommendation prepare the people to meet with willing minds this pressing claim. God willing, I expect to be in Hantsport and Falmouth on Lord's-day, April 3rd; and on Wednesday the 6th, I expect to visit my brethren in Windsor.

From Windsor I expect to visit Newport and, if possible, Rawdon, on Lord's-day, April 10th. I shall spend the week immediately following between the last named places and Halifax, and shall be in Halifax on Lord's-day the 17th. I expect to spend part of the following week in the City, and at the end of the week shall visit Truro, and spend with the Truro brethren Lord's day the 24th. From Halifax my other appointments shall be announced.

May the Lord dispose the hearts of his dear children to respond to this pressing call.

W. NORMANDY, French Missionary.
March 22nd, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

FLORA ANN HULBERT,

Of Antigonish, departed this life March 7th, 1859, in the 37th year of her age. In very early life she was the subject of serious impressions. Almost as soon as she could talk she manifested an earnest desire to hear the gospel, and learn of Jesus. Her parents were often astonished to find in one so young such a deep sense of her sins, and a constant desire to be a child of God.

Without the simple forms of prayer, usually taught to children of her age, or the requisitions of her pious mother, she was often heard in her own childish language to pray that God would convert her soul, and save her brothers and sisters among whom she was as a monitor, ever exerting a salutary influence. When not yet 8 years old, she became much alarmed about herself. So keen was her sense of sin and its fearful consequences, and the necessity of a change of heart, which she was sensible could never be effected by human agency, that on one occasion, when brother Whidden visited the family she sprang to meet him, and with her eyes filled with tears, she cried, "Oh, Mr. Whidden, I am going to hell: I am lost: I am such a sinner: Oh, what shall I do?" He directed her to Christ, assuring her that He was willing to receive and able to save her if she would but go to Him, believing, which she immediately did, and soon found that peace which she enjoyed to the end of her pilgrimage.

When nine years of age, she was baptized by the late Rev. Joseph Dimock, and maintained a consistent walk with the Baptist Church in Antigonish, until her death. As she lived, so she died,—trusting in Jesus.

Her end was peace. Without pain, without fear, she fell asleep in Jesus. I frequently visited her during her last sickness, and witnessed abundant evidence of her unshaken confidence in the God of her salvation.

At first she seemed to dread the death struggle, though not afraid to meet her Judge; "for," said she, "when I look for my sins, they are all gone." She has left a widowed mother, four brothers, two sisters, and a large circle of friends to mourn their loss. But they sorrow not without hope. Her funeral sermon was preached by the writer to an attentive audience, from 2 Cor. v. 8.—"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."—Com. by Rev. A. F. Porter.

Antigonish, March 15, 1859.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival in Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot.

[Continued.]

MESSRS EDITORS,—

My second notice of this work of grace was forwarded from Melvern Square on the 28th ult. On that day we commenced our series of meetings there. As it had been in some of the other sections, the weather was at first boisterous, and the roads were obstructed. After a few days, however, these obstacles were removed, and the congregations became larger, and the attention more serious.

Brother Obed Parker assisted us in a few meetings; and Brother Normandy, the French Missionary, preached several times with us. Not only was he very cordially received, and a cheerful response given to his call for aid, but his earnest labours among our people for the good of souls were highly appreciated.

As in other localities, so here also believers have been quickened, backsliders reclaimed, and sinners hopefully converted to God. Daily family prayer is now maintained in a large proportion of the houses in Melvern Square.

This gracious work, like that in the United States, is remarkable for the cordiality with which persons of different denominations unite in efforts for its promotion. In our meetings may be seen and heard those of the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian persuasions, engaging harmoniously in prayer, praise, and exhortation. This delightful prevalence of general Christian union, without any sacrifice of principle, is manifestly conducive to the furtherance of the interests of vital piety.

Another very pleasing feature in this revival, which extends to many adjacent places, is its salutary influence in favor of the cause of Tem-