

For the Christian Messenger.

## Correspondence.

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## Letter from Yarmouth.

DEAR BRETHREN,

Amongst the multitudes leaving our shores for the land of gold, Yarmouth has probably furnished its proportion; some have returned with their worldly circumstances bettered, others have found a grave where they hoped to have found a fortune, others are still crowding the road to fortune. Anxieties of no ordinary kind are felt by those whose fathers, husbands, and sons are leaving home with all its influences, to encounter the dangers, temptations, and excitements of life in California. The Christian Church is not exempt from these anxieties, especially when the numbers who have made shipwreck of all that is "lovely and of good report" is taken into consideration.—It is not to be wondered at that misgivings should be felt by Christian brethren, when the young men belonging to the Church are leaving it to mingle in the conflict for gold.

The following letter, from one of our young brethren, who, with a number of others from this town, left our shores a few months since, so well depicts the causes of success and failure, as well as the benefits to be derived from seeking the companionship of brethren in that land, that I am induced to send it to you for publication in the pages of the *Christian Messenger*. It may be of great service to many of the members of our churches in all parts of the Province, who, like our young brother, are leaving home and Christian associations for a land of strangers. It may also be of service to pastors and churches, in all cases, to furnish members about to remove with Certificates of Membership.

I may observe here, that our young brother became a member of the Church when quite a lad, and bid fair to occupy a useful position amongst his brethren. I need scarcely say that we feel deeply interested in his welfare, and highly gratified to know that he is enjoying the companionship and fellowship of Christian brethren.

It has been with no ordinary degree of interest, that I have observed the wisdom manifested by you in resisting the late attempts to draw you into the political strife at present going on in this Province. Rest assured, dear brethren, that your course is approved of by the great majority of your readers in this place. May wisdom be granted you in your future course, and I trust you may receive such substantial encouragement, that you may continue to expose error and contend for the truth in love.

Our religious prospects are encouraging. Attention to the word preached, increasing interest in our prayer-meetings, with some enquiring the way to Zion, are among the tokens of good which encourage us to hope, that "times of refreshing" are at hand. Brother Angell is indefatigable in his labours. He and his family have been suffering from the prevailing sickness. Numbers of children have fallen victims to scarlet fever: one entire family of children—Mr. and Mrs. Charles White's—four in number, have been swept away by this terrible disease. The deeply afflicted parents share largely in the sympathies of the public.

A Sunday morning prayer-meeting, in which the various denominations of Christians unite, was commenced yesterday (Sunday) morning, to be held in rotation in the churches in town. This meeting had its origin with the Young Men's Christian Association. I trust it may be productive of good.

Yours, in Christian affection,

SAM'L. BROWN.

Yarmouth, February 1st, 1859.

## Letter from California.

DEAR SISTER,

Had I been told the last time we saw each other, that to-night I would be seated in a snug little room in the city of San Francisco writing to you, I should have regarded the individual making that statement as being a fit subject for an Insane Asylum, so impossible would it have appeared to me, and yet, such is the fact,—here I am, in the first city of California, surrounded by all the comforts one need desire. The reasons for my leaving Yarmouth were the same that have induced many others to leave home and friends for a foreign land, namely, a desire to accumulate wealth, and yet I think I cannot plead guilty to the charge of making money my God. I saw that times would be hard in Yarmouth for some time to come. I hardly knew what I could do this winter to pay my board. The accounts from California were encouraging. A number of my acquaintances had resolved to

try their fortunes here, and I concluded to join them; whether there was wisdom in that resolve, remains to be seen. I have not regretted it yet. Providence so far has smiled upon me. I succeeded in obtaining just such a situation as I wished, which is more than one in a hundred of those who left New York with us can say. Times are rather different here from what many suppose who have never been here. Thousands are flocking here every month from all parts of the world, with the idea that they have only to reach these shores and their fortunes are made. Alas! how many are disappointed! You can read it in their looks before they have been here long. Some who came on in the Steamer with me have been glad to work for their board,—this I know to be a fact. My ideas of California were not altogether incorrect,—indeed, they were in many respects, right.

When I first began to talk about coming here I, of course, found many who tried to convince me, that California would prove my ruin—that my affections would be forever alienated from home and friends—that somehow I would be materially changed, either by the climate, society, or something else. It may be, I shall change in some respects, but I hope for the better. I can easily see where some of those persons got their impressions,—some of their friends have come to California, have joined a class here—and a class, too, who are very numerous, who spend their substance in riotous living; they care for nothing, their motto is "eat, drink, and be merry." Such company as that would soon make a fearful change in the most moral, and it is just the company that a stranger is most likely to fall into. Thanks to the training I received in my early days, I have no desire to mingle in their scenes of frivolity and wickedness, for I know their end will be eternal death. There is another class here, their numbers are but few, when they meet, it is not in revelry nor mirth; true, songs are sometimes heard within their gates, but they are such as angels delight to hear, prayers, too, are often heard, and they are such as reach the throne of the Eternal. In such scenes as these I am often found; and though one gets but little credit here for being serious, or for striving to be a Christian, from the mass, yet there are those who will encourage you and do all in their power to make you happy. I brought with me a Certificate of Membership from the Baptist Church in Yarmouth, and right glad am I that I did, for it has given me a seat in the Baptist Church here; they number about 45 members with a most excellent Pastor. I have formed a pleasing acquaintance with him and most of the members of the Church—many of them already appear like home friends. I have heard the remark since I landed here, that a person, in order to find friends, should belong to the Free Masons, or some other secret society, who are bound to assist its adherents; but I had rather belong to the brotherhood of Christians than to them all, for the tie that binds Christians together is stronger than death, there is a joy connected with their meeting that the world knows not of, and it requires but few moments conversation upon those subjects that interest the Christian—the subject of religion—to create a union of heart, even though the individuals had never met before.—This I have felt more forcibly since my arrival here than ever before in my life.

I suppose mother informed you why I did not come down to your place before leaving Yarmouth; but the time between my deciding to go and our departure was so short, that it took the whole to get things straight. I regretted after leaving that I had not called upon you; but two years will soon glide away, and then I shall be home again. If my health should continue good, I will be able to accumulate something—say a few hundreds, and then I think I shall return contented, and none the worse for a little travel. I begin to long to hear from home, it has been nearly three months since I left, and I suppose it will be another month before I get letters. No more at present. My love to all enquiring friends.

I remain,

Your affectionate brother,

JAMES.

San Francisco, Decr. 4th, 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Letter from Mr. J. A. Davidson.

MR. EDITOR, AND DEAR BROTHER,

Since writing you from Hantsport, we have had well-attended meetings, for the promotion of the principles of Total Abstinence, at Brookline, Wolfville, Lower Horton, Canaan, Canning, Billtown, Berwick, and Upper Aylesford. The people treat me with great respect, and listen with much attention. While the

Master had no place to lay His head, I have lack of nothing, unless it be gratitude for the constant stream of love that God has poured into my soul ever since I experienced the peace spoken of in St. John xiv., and felt that I had indeed passed from death unto life, and knew it, because I loved the brethren and all mankind. Blessed be God, I continue to feel a love to Him, my fellow believers of whatever name, and my fellow men who are where I was before I experienced the quickening power of the grace spoken of in Ephesians ii., and I am anxious to obey the directions given me in 1st Peter iv., and in 2nd Peter i., and though for some years of my life I was at times under the influence of intoxicating liquors for weeks and months, yet intemperance was only the development of that natural depravity, that fallen nature that, in common with mankind, I possessed.—See Romans v., and Isaiah i., and from which none are delivered, unless through CHRIST JESUS, by means of the grace alluded to already. While my depravity manifested itself in love of pleasure—as sin is too often called, and in love of the company of the gay and graceless, among whom I became one mighty to drink wine and mingle strong drink, in the face of, and in defiance of all that we read in Proverbs xx. and xxiii., Isaiah v., Habakuk ii., Romans xiv., and other portions of the Word of God, and while I suffered the loss of all things except the soul, before grace saved me, let no man think himself safe because he is leading a moral life, and is abstaining from gross vices, for the Great God who looks at the heart and motives, tells us all in St. John iii. that we must be born again, and let all those who are striving to cry, "peace! peace!" when God has not yet spoken peace to their souls, take care that while they are astonished at the depths of depravity that I was permitted to run into, that they do not lose sight of their own hearts, and their need of the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. It is not myself I am anxious to preach, but by showing what sin and negligence caused me to suffer, I hope to be the instrument of preventing others suffering themselves to be duped and deluded as I was, by false systems, practices, doctrines and teachings. I beseech all who are strangers to the love spoken of in 1 John iv. to never rest until they feel that CHRIST is in them formed the hope of life eternal. He invites all to come to Him and be saved, and He accepted me when I came to Him, and I delight to make this fact public.

I regret very much that I made such a great mistake, in stating the cost of the liquors imported by a professor of the religion of Jesus in your city. But as the case is one of fact and not of fancy or fiction, the mistake has nothing to do with the morality of the matter. I had no desire to distort, and never do so intentionally, but what I look at is the principle of the thing. In view of what the Bible says, and what the Lord Jesus says, and what the statistics of the Poor-house, the Mad-house, the Jail, Police Office, and Criminal Calendar, tells us is the fruit of the liquor traffic, I ask any candid man or woman is it consistent for a professed follower of Jesus Christ to import forty-five shillings' worth even, instead of "£45,000" worth, of Rum, to deal it out again as a common beverage to the poor creatures destitute of the Comforter referred to in St. John xiv. and xv. chapters, who in Rum seek a comfort, though the Bible tells us that they who do such things cannot inherit the kingdom of God! So long as the Church tolerates the traffic, what is the use of a poor brand plucked from the burning, like myself, expecting people to be warned by my fearful statements, and my appeals to the conscience, and my quotations from the Bible! I hope Christians will have grace to see how glaring the inconsistency of the traffic is with their professions, and forever abandon a business and a custom that brings so much dishonor on the sacred name of Religion, especially the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a most gracious out-pouring of the Holy Spirit at Berwick Baptist Church at present. For some time past a revival of no ordinary nature has been going on there. A revival has also been commenced here; also at some other sections in this line of country. I like revivals when they are the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of men,—when wicked men are made new creatures, God does the work, and all the work, and such revivals I love. I hope they may become much more numerous in your noble Province, and in our world. If all men were converted to God, and all filled with the love of God and love of each other, we would soon see the last of the accursed liquor traffic. None of us can shake off our responsibility to God, and we will, if His children through evil as well as good report, continue to witness for Jesus Christ. I pray God to bless you, brother, and my many brethren in Nova Scotia, for all your kindnesses to one so unworthy as I feel myself to be.

I remain, yours, in the Lord Jesus Christ,

JAMES A. DAVIDSON.

Upper Aylesford, Feb. 5, 1859.

## Obituary Notice.

MRS. HANNAH PARKER.

The subject of this notice, whose maiden name was Hannah Morse, was born in Annapolis County, June 19th, 1780. On the 2nd day of June, 1801, she was united in marriage with Mr. Allen Parker. They resided for a number of years on Canaan Mountain; whence they removed to Aylesford, and thence to Cornwallis not long before her decease. This took place on the 29th ult., in the 79th year of her age. They had 13 children. Of these 2 died in infancy, 2 at mature age, and 9 are still living. All these, save one, are members of Baptist churches. One of them, (Rev. Willard G. Parker,) is an ordained Minister, and two are licensed Preachers. Our departed sister has also left 54 grand children, and 6 great grandchildren.

Our bereaved brother has been called to mourn the loss of a careful, prudent, and affectionate wife, and the children that of an attentive, kind, and loving mother. They, however, with other relations and friends, are cheered by the assurance, that the sufferings endured in her protracted illness being ended, her ransomed spirit has entered the mansions of endless joy.

There is abundant reason to believe that she became a subject of grace in the days of her childhood. As she could not ascertain the time of her conversion, she was greatly afflicted with distressing doubts during a great part of her life. In the summer of the year 1853, she obtained sufficient confidence to go forward in the ordinance of baptism, and to become a member of the Baptist church of Aylesford. Sister Parker was ardently attached to the ministers of the gospel, and all the pious, and took evident delight in their society, and in waiting upon them. She was esteemed by them as a truly pious woman. Still serious fears with reference to her state continued to depress and disquiet her mind. It is pleasing, however, to be enabled to add, that in her last sickness, especially near the close of life, she evidently obtained more confidence and consolation. She repeatedly expressed a desire to "go and be with Jesus."

At the request of the family her funeral was attended, and a sermon preached, by the writer, who had enjoyed a pleasing acquaintance with her; and who had often endeavoured to encourage her to trust in the gracious Redeemer. Four other ministers, besides her sons, gave their attendance at her burial. A large number of relatives, connexions, and friends assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to one justly held in high esteem.—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

## Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, February 4th, 1859.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Continuation of Hon. Mr. Howe's Speech.

Sir, I have been absent from the Province during the past summer; I have looked at the public proceedings as a man looks through a telescope—and perhaps may not fully appreciate all that has transpired. If it be true that the British flag was lowered, and the public offices closed in honor of a person who, for six years never paid any respect to the Queen's Representative, who, when that flag was sore beset, gave it no support—whose organ rejoiced in its humiliation—whose house was shrouded in darkness when it waved over Sebastopol—then, indeed, we have reached a depth of humiliation sadly to be deplored. I desire to see all sects, all denominations, all classes in my country, treated with the consideration to which they are fairly entitled. I desire to see representative institutions fairly worked, by and for the benefit of all; but I do not desire to see a comparatively insignificant minority of the population so banded and wedded as to peril the interests and outrage the feelings of the great majority.

The first paragraph of the speech alludes to a union of the Provinces, and about six months ago we were told that delegates had gone to England to arrange that great question. I smiled when I saw the announcement. Those who arranged the union of the United States did so deliberately, in the very heart of those States. The question caused solemn and protracted debate among the able men from all parts of the continent, to consider every point proposed. When these Provinces are confederated their great interests must not be transferred to London, but will be discussed here, in the heart of British America, where they are understood, and where sufficient skill exists for their wise adjustment. For the consideration of this question, however, we will be better prepared when the papers are submitted, and the particulars are understood.

Concerning the Inter-colonial Railway, we are told that with reference to that important project the delegation was chiefly required. I am aware how delicate are the duties of persons so placed, and I suppose they went on an errand which they considered of useful character—and that they discharged their duty to the best of their ability; but whether they were the best representatives of the country, I do not now express an opinion. They would find greater fools in London than themselves.

As to the speech—Senor Blitz, when he came forward to bring a lot of live rabbits out of a box, was in the habit of saying, "here is one little box, and nothing in it;" so I say, here is one small speech, and nothing in it. I do not believe that the gentlemen opposite have the leisure or the capacity to prepare any very grand measures; at all events, they have not announced them. As regards the subject of Temperance,