

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Plain Letters, on a plain subject, to plain folks.

[No. 7.]

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
"The love of money is the root of all evil."

We have seen some of the effects of covetousness on the individual. It is the grave of his body, his soul, his usefulness, his happiness and his memory. It hands over his name to the execration of posterity. How different are the feelings we entertain toward him who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, or him who received the wages of unrighteousness, or him who betrayed his Lord, from those we have towards Joshua who said "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord," or towards the beloved disciple. Ananias who lied to the Holy Ghost and kept back part of the price of the land, appears very differently from those disciples who sold their possessions and laid the money at the apostles feet. The following remarks of the *Religious Intelligencer* though miscellaneous are to the point.

"The love of money brought down cruel stones on the head of Achan, and his wife, and sons, and daughters,—It was within a hair's breadth of driving the angel's sword through Balaam's breast. It turned Gehazi into a leper as white as snow. It set Judas on betraying Jesus, "his own familiar" Lord and Master, the being for whose smile he would now give all the "pieces of silver" in the world!

And what myriads of souls it has ruined since! I recollect a terrible case not many years ago, of a mother murdering her first-born for his purse. He was discharged from the army, together with another, they went home in company to the village. As they approached it, they talked of the surprise which it would be to their relatives, and they concluded to try whether or not they would know them, by introducing themselves as strangers,—travellers who would be glad of a night's lodging, and pay handsomely for it. The mother of the first was completely deceived, and no sooner had he retired to his room, than she determined to get rid of him for his heavily laden purse. She persuaded a negro to strike the fatal blow as he lay asleep, and they buried him, by the light of the moon, in the back yard. In the morning, his comrade came laughing round and asked for Jack, but could hear nothing of him. Then he inquired of the woman if she had a son in the army. She had. "Well," said he, "I can declare that I parted from him at the head of the lane which leads to your cottage, at such an hour yesterday, and he told me that he should not tell you who he was until to-day, to see if you would recognize him; and I am confident he is here somewhere. The wretched woman fainted, and then confessed her crime. She had, in her "love of money," imbrued her hands in the blood of her own son.

When that splendid California steamer, the *Central America*, caught fire and was sinking, the stewardess ran to the cabins of the passengers, and collected all the gold she could. She then tied it in her apron round her waist. A boat was ready to start. In her eagerness to be saved, she sprang from the deck, missed her aim, and went head first into the brine like a cannon-ball, the weight of her ill-gotten booty dragging her down as effectually as a millstone would have done!

A poor apprentice vowed that if ever he got to be rich he would give £50 to some good cause, as a thank-offering to God. He did become rich; but as his banker's account swelled, his heart contracted, and at length he arrived at the conclusion that £50 was altogether too large a sum—quite unnecessary; so he sent off ten guineas to Guy's Hospital. It is a curious fact, that the very next day's post brought him the news of the wreck of one of his ships off the coast of Dover; and, comparing the hours, he read the message as if it were written with mysterious fingers on the office wall. "When you thought to gain forty pounds you lost forty hundred."

"And what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

CHARITY.

Nova Scotia, Dec. 16th, 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Boston.

MR. EDITOR,

Amongst the many improvements which characterize the progress of affairs in this thriving city, that which belongs to Education holds a distinguished rank. By the large majority of the people its importance is suitably appreciated, being regarded as indispensable, not only to the social elevation and refinement of society in general, but to the proper development of the vast resources of the country, and consequent advancement of all departments of useful enterprise. Men, the most talented and influential in the community are devoting their lives and fortunes to the improvement of this grand element of national prosperity, and as the result of their liberal and untiring efforts, it has reached a stage of efficiency which need only to

be seen to be admired. The following extract of a speech delivered by the Hon. Edward Everett at the dedication of a new school-house in North Bennett Street, Boston, on Thursday last, will afford your readers more information respecting the progress of education in this city during the last 50 years, than anything that I could be expected to write. It is as follows:—

Mr. Mayor:—I have cheerfully accepted your invitation to attend the dedication of this noble school-house, and I suppose there are few persons present who have so much reason as I to take an interest in the occasion; or at any rate, that there are few persons present who can take the same interest in it. There can, I take it, be but few persons in the assembly who were pupils of the school under *Master Little* and *Master Tilston*. I ought, perhaps to beg pardon of "Young America" for giving that old-fashioned title to a teacher. At that time the school was kept in a wooden building, of two stories in height, and of moderate dimensions; the reading school in one story, and the writing school in another;—pupils of both sexes attending from April to October;—and boys only in winter. The instructions were rather meagre; in fact there could hardly be said to be any instruction, in the popular sense of the word, the business of the school being limited in the reading school to the use of Webster's Spelling book, the American Preceptor, an Abridgement of Murray's English Grammar, and some very superficial compend—Goldsmith's I believe—of Geography. To write a page in a copy book, and to do a few sums, as it was called, in the elementary rules of arithmetic, was a half a day's work in the writing school. To encourage their pupils, the teachers of those days did not confine themselves to moral suasion as much as now; the rattle and ferule played a pretty active part in illustrating the importance of good behaviour, and studious application to the business of the school.

In speaking, however, of the narrow range of the studies in our grammar schools at that time I would not be thought to disparage the elemental branches of education. I mean only that, in consequence of the imperfect method and the low standard of instruction in our school at that day, four or five years were devoted to the acquisition of an amount of learning, which with improved methods and teachers of a higher order, could have been acquired in two. These elemental branches themselves,—reading, writing and arithmetic, I consider all important;—worthy even of greater attention and more thoughtful cultivation, than they receive even at present, and capable of being carried to a considerably higher degree of excellence. There is really nothing which we learn in after life, which, philosophically considered, is more important—more wonderful, I will say, than reading. I mean, sir, that there is no single branch of knowledge—nay, not all the branches united—which are taught at academies and colleges, more important, more wonderful than this astonishing operation, by which we cast our eyes over a page of white paper—charged with certain written or printed black marks—and straightway become acquainted with what was done and said in Rome, in Greece, in Palestine, two, three thousand years ago! And yet this is what we do when we learn to read.

Then, sir, besides the mere ability to read, which we all acquire at school, there is the faculty of reading with expression, grace, power—in a word, with effect, which constitutes a most admirable resource for the entertainment and instruction of the fireside, and renders all public occasions and exercises that consist in whole or in part in reading, vastly more agreeable and impressive. To the art of reading, in this acceptance, more attention ought, in my opinion, to be paid in our grammar schools. It is of far greater importance to the majority of those educated in our schools than the art of speaking. The very able report of the School Committee for 1858 contains the strong remark that "No civilized nation, at the present day, is so deficient in agreeable and finished speech as our own;" and I know of no better way in which this defect is to be remedied, than by the skillful training and unremitting practice in reading in our grammar schools.

Nor are the other elemental branches of education, writing and arithmetic, less important than reading. Here I must do an act of justice to an aged instructor in writing, *Master Tileston*, who, if he did not teach else for us certainly laid the foundation for that beautiful old-fashioned hand writing, without flourishes, and sometimes almost equal to copperplate, which I think you do not so often see now-a-

days. Perhaps I am mistaken, sir, I intend no disparagement of the schools of the present day—teachers or pupils—but as far as I can form an opinion from the facts that fall under my own observation, a good many of our young people have got it into their heads that it is a mark of genius to write an illegible hand. For myself, Sir, I shall ever feel grateful to the memory of *Master Tileston*, for having deprived me in early life of all claim to distinction which rests upon writing a hand that nobody can read. As for the importance of arithmetic—the science of numbers—I will only say that while in its higher developments and functions, it enables man, with his limited powers, to sound the mysterious depths of space and time, in its rudimental stages and simpler applications, it is the main-spring of the business of life. A man wants a little arithmetic to go to market for his dinner; and with the help of a little more, promptly and accurately applied, business to the amount of millions is daily transacted in State Street. With these views of the elementary branches of education, you will not think I interded any disparagement of the schools of my younger days, when I said that they taught nothing but a little reading, writing and arithmetic.

Since those days, sir, the system of Boston has vastly improved. It has literally grown with our growth, and strengthened with our strength. In 1800 the population of Boston was 24,937, it is now 165,000. At that time, and till 1804, there were no primary schools, and but seven grammar schools, taught by seven masters and seven ushers. One of those, the Latin School, in which, at the present day, as good an education can be obtained as in half the Colleges in the United States, had at that time but a nominal existence. There are now in the city of Boston—and as I suppose all in prosperous condition—one Latin School, one High School, one Normal School; eighteen Grammar Schools, and two hundred and eighteen Primary Schools. In 1800 the entire town tax in Boston was \$61,489 25, of which \$11,100 85 went to the schools. In 1858 the entire tax assessed in Boston was \$2,140,616 36, and the cost for schools and school-houses the present year is \$460,000 within a few dollars—a larger expenditure, I am inclined to think, in proportion to the number and property in the city, than is raised by taxation in any other city in the world. I rejoice, Sir, that the people of Boston have the means which enables them, and the disposition which inclines them to make this munificent expenditure for objects so worthy. If the rising generation, with these superior opportunities, do not much exceed their fathers, they will be greatly to blame."

The above extract having taken up much more space than I expected, I shall close without any additional remarks.

Truly yours,
J. C. HURD.

Boston, Dec. 1859.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Edward Manning Professorship.

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional sums to the Edward Manning Professorship.

David Thomas Senr,	\$1.00
Nancy Thomas,	1.00
John P. Lyons,	1.00
Margaret Lyons,	1.00
Anne Lyons,	1.00
Abigail Burden,	1.00
Isaac Marsters,	1.00
David H. Clarke,	1.00
Jane R. Burden,	1.00
Geo. Whitfield Burden,	1.00
James Hales,	1.00
J. M. Margeson,	1.00
Wm. H. Harris,	1.00
Master Leverett Harris,	1.00
Whitney T. Harris,	1.00
Joseph Lyons,	0.50
Daniel Sanford,	1.00
Freedom D. Damon,	1.00
Aaron Thorpe Senr,	1.00
Mrs. Aaron Thorpe,	1.00
David Palmeter,	1.00
Mary Loomer,	1.00
Frances Huntley,	1.00
Leander Eaton,	1.00
J. E. Lockwood,	1.00
Hannah Frail,	1.00
Mrs. C. Barnaby,	1.00
Mrs. Albert Beckwith,	1.00

The district of Canar will raise about two dollars for each church member, and probably more. This presents a prospect of raising the amount required with ease, provided the churches will take up the matter with any degree of spirit. One dollar from each church member and one dollar from as many more who are not members, making all due allowance for

failures, will easily accomplish the object. But as some members may be too poor to give this amount, the deficiency may be supplied by those who are wealthier. Persons wishing to do so may subscribe whole or part scholarships towards the fund. I have already received two notes of hand for twenty dollars and three hundred dollars respectively which will be acknowledged in the Convention Report for next year. Will the churches and deacons, and ministers, and the friends of the institution, embark in the project with becoming energy? Please forward all donations, to Mayhew Beckwith Esq, Upper Dyke Village, Cornwallis.

Yours in the good work of the Lord,
D. FREEMAN.
Billtown, Jan. 9th, 1860.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ministerial Labors in 1859.

MESSRS EDITORS,—

Having been spared to see the commencement of the year 1860—the 66th new year's day of my natural life, and, as I trust, the 45th anniversary of the beginning of my spiritual life,—I deem it right to take a retrospective view of my feeble and imperfect labors during the year past. The publication of this review may perhaps be interesting to the numerous friends with whom I have formed a pleasing acquaintance in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, in years gone by, but whose faces I can not reasonably expect to see again in the flesh. It may possibly be of some use to young men entering the ministry; to whom I would recommend the keeping of minutes of their labors, as obviously useful.

When the term of my service as one of the Governors of Acadia College closed, in August last, in consequence of my age and infirmities, together with the distance of my residence from Wolfville, I deemed it proper to decline being put in nomination for re-election. I am still ready to do all in my power for the benefit of our valuable institutions of learning; but in some instances my health has been injured by performing journeys during inclement weather, and in others I had been unable to meet with my brethren in the winter season.

I desire to be thankful, however, that I have been enabled to attend to my direct ministerial duties through the past year with such constancy, that I am not aware of having failed to fulfil a single appointment when any people assembled for worship.

It may be proper to remark, that in the following amount of meetings attended—more numerous than usual by reason of an extensive revival—those of a benevolent and moral kind, at which the divine blessing was invoked, are included; and in reference to family visits, those only are reckoned in which prayer was offered, almost invariably accompanied with the reading of the Scriptures, and usually with explanatory remarks and admonitions. My travelling has been principally on my circuit; but it embraces also journeys abroad.

My Minutes shew that in the year 1859 I travelled about 2877 miles, preached 159 times, (including 24 funeral sermons,) delivered 5 lectures on Temperance, attended 61 Conferences, and 141 prayer and other meetings—altogether 366—made 580 family visits, and baptized 130 persons, (Brother Stronach baptized 15 of the 145 who were added by baptism to the church with which we labor.)

As considerable changes had taken place with reference to the numbers and particular residences of the members of this Church, I have found it necessary to make out a new list of the 545 names, and to arrange them according to the different sections in which Conference meetings are held. On the last day of the year I completed the reading of these names at Conference in the several sections. On this, as on former occasions, in addition to pastoral visitation, brethren have been appointed to visit all such members as have been absent from Conference for six months, if no sufficient reason for their absence be known, and to make report to the Church.

Besides the performance of pastoral services, it has devolved on me to discharge the duties of Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Board. This office has made it incumbent on me, in addition to recording the transactions of the Board, and conducting the correspondence, to prepare two Reports for the press, namely, one for the Western Association, and another for the Convention. With these the communications which I have written for publication in the *Christian Messenger* would probably fill about 70 pages of a 12 mo. volume.

Defective and limited as these labors have been, it is not to be expected that they can be long continued. I would therefore as one th