

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 2, 1860.

Revivals of Religions. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

'A converted membership' is the great distinguishing feature of Baptist Churches. The fact of members being received into them by immersion is itself secondary in importance to that of their giving evidence of being 'born again.'

Whilst those churches which do not make piety and a personal acceptance of Christ indispensable prerequisites to church relationship are becoming more assimilated with our own, in this respect, than formerly, it may be well for us to enquire if we are maintaining the principles we profess in all their integrity.

The Church of Christ is to be the Light of the world. The glory of the Church consists in each individual member being united to his Lord and Master and "walking in all the ordinances and commandments of the Lord blameless."

We say not these things to deter any from seeking admission to the Christian Church, but rather to raise their estimate of the privileges and blessings of that position, and inspire a spirit of personal insufficiency and full dependence on Jesus for salvation.

The present aspects of the Temperance Question.

We have been surprised of late to find a sort of death-like silence among our Temperance men on the subject of Temperance legislation. The friends of Rum seem to have taken the field, and hold it in almost undisturbed possession.

more intoxicating beverages. They seemed to forget that the appetite of the inebriate in all its stages is from the lower per centage of alcohol to the higher. It has rarely if ever proceeded in the opposite direction.

The pernicious custom of wine bibbing at the dinner table, and the free indulgence in less intoxicating liquors is the fruitful source whence are derived all the bloated and besotted drunkards.

We expected to have seen in the organ of the Temperance body a word of remonstrance against the anti-prohibition sentiments uttered in the House of Assembly in the late discussion of the duties on Rum, but not a note we believe has been heard, and there being no certain sound from that trumpet, there is no summoning of the temperance forces to the battle.

It is true we have not had the question of Prohibition before our law-makers during the present session of the Legislature, yet some who have hitherto been the loudest declaimers on behalf of prohibition and very giants in the cause have embraced the opportunity given of speaking on the subject, and have said, "if a revenue must be had from rum let us get the most we can from it!"

We must repeat our protest against all such parley with the enemy. Whilst we would urge the adoption of all such measures as may prevent the illicit traffic, we would as far as possible hinder the sale and use of intoxicating liquors and demand legislation in that direction.

For individuals, the only real safety both for themselves and the good influence of their example is to "touch not, taste not, handle not" No man will be the loser by adopting that policy. For communities the same law would apply, as far as it can be brought into operation, that is to say, afford no encouragement to the traffic so as to increase the revenue at the expense of morality, but for the good of the people prevent as much as possible their expending their money for what is worse than nothing in return.

Those who have capital invested in the manufacture and importation of so much misery and ruin will surely perceive, if Temperance men are faithful to their principles, that they can apply their means to more noble purposes, and finding that the fruits of the trade are only evil and that continually, will engage in other businesses and so escape the sad reflection, which sooner or latter, must attend the enormous profits derived from this branch of trade.

Since writing the above, we are glad to learn that Avar Longley, Esq., has brought a Bill into the Assembly for the purpose of rendering the License Law more perfect and effective. In the absence of a Prohibitory enactment, the present law with amendments and additions, such as we learn this bill is intended to supply, is, we conceive, as near an approach as can be expected.

THE ALUMNI SOCIETY, ACADIA COLLEGE.—Large bodies move slowly. When, however, they receive the momentum, they find but little difficulty in keeping up the motion. The enthusiastic commencement of the Society named above, although having its subjects so numerous and widespread seemed to guarantee for it a vigorous and rapid growth.

We need scarcely say that we trust the Circular of the Committee which appeared in our columns a few weeks since, has received attention from all to whom it was addressed.

We know of no associations more pleasant to recall than those formed by students. Impressions, the most gratifying and permanent, are made on the mind when being formed for a life-work. Those who have not the same connection with the College as its former students must feel that in giving their countenance and aid to such a Society as this, they are helping to combine elements in social and religious life, which, when brought together, are calculated for great usefulness in the Church of Christ and in the world.

"Alumnus Scotia," complains that the sketch of Scottish Student Life, which appeared in our last is but a caricature; and forwards a letter which appeared in the Scottish American Journal in reply thereto.

We do not perceive that the latter at all destroys the truth of the former, and is but little more than an effort to shew that the writer in the Cornhill Magazine sought to compare unfavourably the Scottish University with those of Oxford and Cambridge. If the friend who sent us the extract, had favored us with his proper name we might nevertheless have given it insertion in our columns.

THE nameless Editor of the Chronicle, in his issue of yesterday, supplies his readers with a feast consisting of near two columns of the ashes of our unfortunate fire of 1st of January, 1857. He himself is doubtless living on the fat of the land, and may well make merry by throwing such dust as this in the eyes of his less favoured friends and neighbors.

MORE LIGHT.—Is the discussion of baptism "sectarian jargon?" Hear what Dr. Brewster, a Free Church Minister, writes in the Edinburgh Encyclopedia on the subject:

"Baptism," he says, "in the apostolic age, was performed by immersion.

Many writers of respectability maintain that the Greek verb baptizo, as well as its Hebrew synonyme, sometimes denotes sprinkling, but the various passages to which they appeal will lead every candid mind to a different conclusion. The circumstances recorded concerning the first administration of baptism are likewise incompatible with sprinkling. Had a small quantity of water been sufficient, the inspired historian would never have said that John baptized in the river Jordan and in Enon, because there was much water there.

Queries.

The following questions have been sent us for insertion in our pages. We are not asked to give answers, and therefore submit them for some of our friends, who may have had the subject, under consideration. If they will favor us with their thoughts upon one or more, we shall be happy to lay them before our readers. Others, besides the brother who sends the queries, will, we doubt not, be gratified and instructed.

- 1. Is it right for a Baptist Minister to immerse a candidate for membership into a Pedo-Baptist Society?
2. Is it right to immerse (re-baptize) a believer who has been immersed by an unbaptized Minister, and becoming dissatisfied, wishes to join a Baptist Church?
3. Is it right to retain a member in the Church who will not observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper?
4. Is it right for Christians to have recourse to the law of the land when they cannot otherwise publicly worship undisturbed.

F. C. W.

SHALL THE ASSOCIATIONS MEET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK?—If they do many of the Ministers will have to be absent from their Congregations two Sabbaths instead of one, as at present.

ONE OF THEM.

It affords us pleasure to call attention to the notice, on another page, of a Baptist Sabbath School Convention, to be held at Windsor on the 10th of June. We were not aware, when we expressed our hope that some action would be taken by the committee in charge of the subject, that they had made such progress in the matter.

We trust our brethren will not allow this opportunity of promoting the object of these institutions to pass unheeded, but will as generally as possible, be present, and in cases where they cannot attend that they will communicate the particulars with regard to the number of teachers and Scholars, in time to be brought before the Convention.

News Summary.

We observe in the Canada papers that the Legislature of that Province are once more agitating the question of the great Intercolonial Railway from Halifax to the St. Lawrence, to meet the portion already completed for nearly, we believe, 100 miles below Quebec, and which would open a continuous line of direct Main Trunk Railway from Halifax Harbour to Lake Huron, a distance of upwards of 1200 miles.

We are glad to observe that the new State of Kansas has been admitted into the Union, as a free State, by a large majority in the American Congress.

An Embassy from the Japanese Empire to the American Government at Washington, had arrived at St. Francisco. The Ambassadors and their suite are said to consist of as many as sixty persons. They will no doubt proceed to Panama and New Orleans. The United States Government are making ample provision for their reception.

The weather during the greater part of April has been cold and ungenial, although—owing to the unusually moderate and even warm temperature of the month of March,—the Spring is likely to be a very early one for Nova Scotia. The frost has been long out of the ground, and early farming is going on throughout the country.

Four days later from Europe.

PORTLAND April 23.—The steamship Australasian arrived at 6 this morning. Dates to the 11th.

The French Government has reprimanded the journals accusing England of fomenting insurrection in Spain and Sicily.

Heenan, the pugilist, has been liberated on bail. The fight would probably take place on the 16th, the day named.

The French Imperial Commission was coldly received in Savoy.

The King of Sardinia was about to make an inaugural tour.

The Emperor of Morocco has ratified the peace treaty. The boundary of Centa was amicably settled.

The Grand Duke of Baden supports the independence of the Catholic Church.

The insurrection in Sicily was spreading. Austria answers Thouvenel's note, and objects not to annexation so long as it is a free concession to Piedmont.

MARKETS.—Money tight; Funds closed lower; Consols 94; the Bank has raised the rate of discount 1-2 per cent; Cotton declined; Breadstuffs firm.

Still Later.

Palermo in a state of Siege. Bloody Disturbance in Messina.

Merchant's Exchange, April 26, 1860. The Steamship Africa has arrived at New York, Dates to the 15th inst. Parliamentary recess continued.