

For the Christian Messenger.

**"Baptism Extraordinary."**

MR. EDITOR,

In the *Christian Messenger* of the 4th inst. I read an account of the baptism of a lady in connection with a pedobaptist church; the service being performed by the Rev. I. E. Bill, of St. John, N. B., in his own meeting-house. As a conservator of the truth, you very appropriately styled it "Baptism Extraordinary."

I do not think that the array of circumstances on that occasion—a crowded congregation, and eloquent discourses by other persons—could for a moment justify the act, for all these things might exist on less important occasions. They have not the weight of a feather in opposition to the bible.

I think that the Rev. gentleman exceeds his commission. Let us read it,—Matthew xxviii. 19, 20: "Go ye therefore and TEACH all nations, BAPTIZING them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: TEACHING them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." This command is first to make disciples to Christianity (matheteusate); secondly to baptize them; and thirdly to teach them in all the doctrinal and practical truths of Christianity (didaskontes). So we read in Acts ii. 42, that "they (those who had been baptized) continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine, (Didake ton apostolon) and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers."

Admitting that the person above alluded to had become a true disciple before baptism, she is not observing the third requisition, which Paul made of the Corinthians to "keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you."—1 Cor. xi. 2; and in this case the administrator of baptism is responsible. He performed the rite, knowing that the candidate did not intend to submit to the third part of the commission. A metropolitan bishop should be the last to set aside any gospel rule. Mr. Bill, to be consistent, is henceforth bound to baptize indiscriminately into all the various churches, be their creed what it may, provided the candidates profess to be disciples of Christ. He has drifted away from the landmark, and who knows that we shall not next hear of his baptizing Papists and Universalists, and sending them "on their way rejoicing," to unite in these societies?

Your in the truth,

CENSOR.

Halifax, April 14, 1850.

For the Christian Messenger.

**Acadia College Museum.**

DEAR BROTHER,

Mr. J. R. Willis, Principal of the National School, Halifax, has presented to our Museum a valuable collection of the Shells of Nova Scotia, duly catalogued and arranged. This donation is highly prized. A similar collection, I am informed, was presented by Mr. Willis, some time ago, to King's College.

I avail myself of this opportunity to remind our friends that donations for the Museum will be thankfully received. Contributions of Natural History, in its various branches, will be especially acceptable.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, April 10, 1860.

**Christian Messenger.**

HALIFAX, APRIL 18, 1860.

**The Prince is coming!**

Yes, the Prince is coming; and a thousand hearts are looking forward to his appearance as an occasion on which they may furbish up all the loyalty they possess, and lay it at his feet with the same true devotion which they feel for his Royal Mother.

Each company of the Volunteer Corps is gathering in recruits, and sparing no pains in their drill, so that they may make no *faux pas* when they present themselves before the eyes of this Royal Soldier. Animated by the prospect of a brilliant exhibition before the notabilities who will accompany the heir apparent to the throne of the British Empire, the style of uniform is a matter of no small importance. No trifling amount of labour is being set in motion to render this army of civilians an effective and powerful arm of defence for "the land of the Mayflower." The more devoted will feel well repaid for the sacrifice of a few hours a week in drill, if they receive a word of commendation from their commanding officer. Doubtless a word from the Prince, of his high appreciation of the manly bearing and skill in performing their various evolutions, will be an ample reward for whatever expenditure of labour and means found necessary to accomplish that object. If the anticipated arrival were a stand-

ing army of the Emperor Napoleon, instead of a company of British Noblemen, the martial spirit of the Volunteers would be subjected to a somewhat different test, and probably some of the military prowess, all glorious in the Drawing-room and on parade, would leak out from some of these "defenders of our hearths and homes." We mean no disparagement of the fine body of men found in the Halifax Companies. We doubt if more courageous hearts or a better display of protectors of British Sovereignty could be found in any part of Britain or her dependencies, than will be brought together in Halifax to welcome His Royal Highness to the shores of the American continent.

The commotion on this occasion will not only be among the Volunteers and the Regulars, but the whole of the citizens will be on the *qui vive* also for the arrival of the Prince. What a stir will be made by way of preparation for the appearance of the distinguished strangers. No news so important for the pages of the periodical press to chronicle. The expenditure of a few thousands of pounds in erecting triumphal arches, purchasing splendid banners and filling them with loyal devices and mottoes, in letters of gold; in providing for public dinners and illuminations; in painting up the houses, and whitewashing the old delapidated buildings which stand as relics of a former generation; will not be thought extravagant. All this, and much more will be deemed well repaid if royalty but allow its shadow to fall on our streets, and itself to look in upon them for a few minutes as a mark of special favor.

Those of the rural population, able to come to the metropolis on the occasion to witness or participate in the celebrations, will be thought fortunate. When they return they will take back to their homes accounts of the glorious doings in the capital, which will supply no small amount of amusement to their wondering children for years to come.

All along the line of His Royal Highness's progress will be welcomes, and addresses, and public gatherings, almost innumerable. The coming of the Prince of Wales to America will be hailed with unbounded demonstrations of joy. It will be announced by the huzzas of thousands, increased by the roar of artillery and reverberated from hill-top to valley, for hundreds of miles from one end of British America to another. The enthusiasm will be caught up by our American cousins, delighted to show their regard for, and attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

These and a thousand other things will be the concomitants of this royal visit to these Provinces and the United States.

But while we are looking for the eldest son of our earthly Sovereign, and are making such preparations for meeting him, some casualty may yet arise to disappoint all parties concerned; there is One higher than the kings of the earth, for whose visit we should be much more anxious to prepare. The King of kings has sent forth his ambassadors to announce that His Son is coming in an hour when we think not. More certain is he to fulfil the promise of his coming. The Volunteers in his army are watching and looking for his appearing. They are seeking for recruits, and anxious to gather in all the subjects of King Immanuel, under the Captain of their salvation, in preparation for the final review. Whilst there may be many of those who present themselves before the Prince of Wales who will be passed by unnoticed, not so will it be, however, when they appear before the Prince of Peace.

The Uniform which covers the frail forms of our volunteers may enclose hearts of very different characters—one may be a very demon of wickedness, whilst others may be obedient children of the Most High: the flimsy material may conceal this from human eyes—but when all pass before the King's Son on the great day of exhibition, then will be revealed the true character of the Soldiers of the Cross,—if they have enlisted under His banner, and have fought the good fight, they will surely receive from his lips the commendation,—"Well done!" in comparison with which the highest adulation of the Princes of this world are as nothing, and would be despised by the humblest of his followers.

The stirring and commotion on the occasion of the future king of England coming to our shores, will at best be but the passing pageant of an hour, and may possibly lead some to dissipation, yielding but little satisfaction to the reflecting mind, however free it may be from what is really objectionable. The proceedings of the Great Visitation will, however, introduce to the highest joys of an enduring character, and put all his followers into possession of permanent mansions of heavenly magnificence.

We might draw a lesson from this also, for the different corps of volunteers—the Churches, to prepare for visits of Jesus, their Prince

and Saviour. It might be asked, are they being drilled to obey His commands and walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, blameless? Have they the Sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—in their possession, bright and sharp, ready for use on every proper occasion? Are the sentinels waiting for his appearing, or are they sleeping at their posts? There is need for each man to enquire whether he is willing to have "this man to reign over him," and settle it without delay; so that on His arrival he may have only to fall into his place in the great host and be taken in to the Supper of the Lamb, and so be ever with the Lord.

**Granville Street Sabbath School Society.**

THE public Anniversary meeting of this Society was held on Monday, the 9th inst., in Granville Street Chapel. The President, Rev. W. H. Humphrey, occupied the chair. After the singing of an appropriate hymn, the Rev. Mr. Miller engaged in prayer.

The Secretary's Report was read, which, in addition to other matters of interest, stated that besides the ordinary Sabbath School, there are about 35 attending three Bible classes, and that from these two persons had been recently received into the church.

The following Resolutions were moved seconded and adopted:

*Resolved*, That highly important advantages are afforded by the Sabbath School to the family.

*Resolved*, That the Church consider the Sabbath School, one of its most valuable auxiliaries and agencies in the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

*Resolved*, That in its various Social and Civil bearings, the Sabbath School is highly conducive to the welfare of the State.

*Resolved*, That Sabbath Schools cannot largely prosper without the continued sympathy and co-operation of parents.

*Resolved*, That success in the Sabbath School vitally depends upon the piety and faithfulness, efficiency and tact of Teachers and Superintendents.

The Speakers on the occasion were Rev. Messrs. McLearn and Munro; the Honorable J. W. Johnston, Dr. Parker, Avard Longley, Esq., W. Ackhurst, S. Selden, and J. McVene. We should be glad to lay before our readers a fair report of the speeches delivered on this occasion, but must content ourselves with only a brief notice.

The Hon. Mr. Johnston, in moving the 3rd Resolution, referred to the pleasing remembrances this meeting called up of his former connection with this Sabbath School, as its superintendent. All his experience showed him how important were these institutions. The religious instruction of the young could not be supplied so effectually by any other means. It was impossible for religious truth to be taught in Day schools, so as to remove the necessity for the labours of the Sabbath School Teacher. The close application of Christian truth necessary to benefit the youthful heart and mind, could not be fully accomplished by the teacher of the secular school. The general principles of morality and Christian knowledge might be imparted, but the Sabbath School was the agency to which we must look for a religious training for youth. Mr. J. referred to the astonishing benefits which had followed the labours of Sabbath School teachers. Whilst in many cases only one hour in the week is occupied with his pupil, yet by close observation it could be often seen what a powerful influence this exerted, notwithstanding all the rest of the time might be spent in a place and manner often the very reverse. He deemed this institution one of the great bulwarks of the people's safety and of the country's progress and happiness.

Dr. Parker referred to the desirableness of parents co-operating with the Teachers of their children and considered the Sabbath School the most suitable place for all, both old and young, to obey the injunction of our Saviour, "Search the Scriptures." He referred to the benefit he had himself derived from this exercise some years since in an Adult Bible Class in connexion with Dr. Sowers. He thought parents should not be satisfied merely with sending the youthful members of their family but should *come with their children*, and whilst they were engaged in the juvenile classes, they themselves would find it pleasant and profitable to occupy the time in similar exercises in adult classes. He hoped to see Sabbath Schools presenting this aspect more generally than they had hitherto done.

Avard Longley, Esq., referred to the evidence afforded by statistics of the value of Sabbath School instruction. His only hope that other moral reforms would be accomplished and become permanent arose from the results of Sabbath instruction. The formation of correct habits in early life was, he believed the most secure foundation for society to rest upon.

Rev. Mr. Munro referred to the necessity of S. S. Teachers having personal piety themselves and aiming at the conversion of their pupils. Nothing short of this would be accomplishing the highest objects of these institutions. By way of encouragement to perseverance he related an interesting incident of a teacher finding a little boy in the streets in rags, supplying him several times over with clothes, which were repeatedly sold by his parents, at length, however, the child was softened and reclaimed and afterwards went as a missionary to China and became the great Dr. Morrison, the first who carried the gospel and translated the Bible into that difficult language.

Rev. Mr. McLearn referred to the numerous sources of discouragement experienced by teachers, and the necessity for parents to manifest their sympathy with them, and to interest their children in the instructions afforded in the Sabbath School.

Mr. Ackhurst spoke of the necessity for the subjects taught in the Sabbath School being made matters of familiar conversation in the family. He alluded to the temptations surrounding youth, requiring all the good influences of parental injunction and example, and dwelt particularly on the pernicious effects of intemperance, and the need for efforts to preserve the young from its snares.

The want of statistical information respecting Sabbath Schools is a great desideratum in taking a general view of this matter. Attempts have been made several times to inaugurate a Baptist Sabbath School Convention. We hope the Committee appointed at the Central and Eastern Associations to attend to that subject, will be able to send in a valuable Report when those bodies meet a few weeks hence.

The numbers of those attending Sabbath Schools, sometimes given in the letters from the Churches, have been just sufficient to shew that more is being done in this department of Christian labour than is commonly supposed; and if Returns were made by all the churches of the number of Scholars and Teachers, there would be an aggregate of some thousands.

We shall hope yet to see something more done in this very inviting field of Christian enterprise.

It will be seen by the above that we do not quite endorse our worthy friend Masters' opinion, given on another page. Whilst we admit that there is too little thought of Sabbath Schools and Bible instruction generally, we are not prepared to charge our Churches with wholly neglecting them. We are pleased to know that the lessons given on our fourth page are made use of by many, both in the school and family. We shall be glad to receive suggestions from our friend and others calculated to call up more attention to this important question.

**Congregational Singing.**

\$50 PREMIUM TRACT ON CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: by Rev. J. R. SCOTT. Price \$1 25 per 100 copies.

We have omitted to notice this tract before, hoping to be able to give our readers copious extracts from it. It has some excellent remarks on the nature of this part of Christian worship. Our space still compels us to omit some passages we would like to insert.

It is now coming to be understood that this department of the services of God's house is one to be personally and actively participated in by every worshiper, according to his ability, and which can not be delegated to others without a real infraction of duty, besides the privation of a delightful privilege.

We do not deem it necessary to wage a war of utter extermination against either choirs or instruments. As leaders and helpers to the congregation, not interfering with the duty and privilege of all, their services may be employed with eminent advantage.

It is certainly desirable that there be at least a few strong and cultivated voices so grouped in some part of the house that they will be readily recognized as leading, and thus secure correctness of time, harmony, and expression throughout the assembly. Nor can there be any just objection to the occasional performance of pieces so artistic or unfamiliar as to preclude the people generally from joining in them. On the contrary, the effect in elevating the taste of the mass is much to be desired. Still, if the choir must monopolize, let it go: for Christian obligation should be paramount; and that makes it the duty of every worshiper who can sing God's praise, to do it.

Instruments, too, especially the organ, are not necessarily to be discarded. A good organ may be made an invaluable aid to congregational singing, as is proved all over the continent of Europe, where the most majestic music is made by the people following the lead of the organ, and frequently without the help of a choir. The organ not only adds sweetness, variety, and compass to the song, but is highly useful in sustaining the singers' voices, and promoting accuracy of pitch and time. Only let the instrument be kept subservient to the