

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Sunday Schools.

While moodily reflecting on the inefficient state of some of our Sunday Schools, the thought occurred to me that it might be attributed to the apathy by which they are regarded by many in the Church. If it is not right that some should be eased and others burdened, surely the whole labour of an institution so closely connected with the welfare of the church as this, ought not to devolve on a few individuals. It evidently is not the duty of all to engage in teaching. Age, infirmities, or even an inaptness to teach may wholly unfit them for the work. But I can scarcely conceive of a church member, who, in regard to this object, has no duty to perform. It is, I presume, generally admitted, that intelligent piety cannot exist without a knowledge of God's Word, and that this knowledge is most readily acquired in the Sunday School. If this be true, can any who love the Lord be indifferent to its success?

Brethren and Sisters, are we doing all in this department of christian effort which God requires of us? He does not reap where he has not sown, nor gather where he has not strewed; but he does expect us to use the talents committed to our care, that at his coming he may receive his own with usury. And in this work all may co-operate; while some weekly unfold to the young the treasures of God's word, others might occasionally put clothing, or books into the hands of the Superintendent, to be distributed among poor scholars; others invite the teachers to meet at their houses to consult on matters of interest to the schools; others collect funds for the library; others seek to make accessions both to the ranks of teachers and scholars, and all daily pray for its prosperity.

Parents should not think that they do enough when they send their children on each returning Sabbath, but should see that they are there at the appointed hour; that they carefully read and punctually return their books; that they comply with every request of their Teachers, and uniformly speak to, and of them with respect. By these means, children would cease to expect to transgress the rules of the school with impunity; teachers, freed from much which now serves to annoy, would prosecute their work with renewed energy; parents being fit co-workers, would be cured of the spirit of fault-finding; the church would feel that the school was hers, that its interests were identified with her own; and "God, even our own God would bless us."

STOL.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

MR. PHINEAS BENT.

The subject of this brief sketch was the second son of Deacon Wm. Bent, of Wilmot, Annapolis County, of whom it may truly be said, "the memory of the just is blessed."

At an early period of his life our departed brother was the subject of religious impressions.

The example of his parents, the visits of the fathers in the ministry and the influence of pious members of the church, were, by the blessing of God, made instrumental in calling up his attention to the importance of a preparation for eternity.

When about the age of twenty-three he made a public profession of religion at which time he gave such satisfactory and consistent views of the doctrine of the atonement, the lost and ruined condition of man in his natural state, and the finished work of salvation, by the suffering and sacrifice of our blessed Redeemer, as to afford the clearest and most undoubted evidence of having passed from death unto life—and during the remaining years allotted him in time, our Brother's zeal for the welfare of the church of which he was a member never abated, and the cause of God generally, lay near his heart.

He was united in marriage to Miss M. Bohener a member of the Baptist Church at Lunenburg.

Kindness and hospitality characterised both Brother and sister Bent. Their house was long a home for the ministers and servants of God, the poor and needy were never sent empty from their doors. As a neighbor our departed Bro. was ever ready in time of affliction to render every necessary assistance—thinking it no trouble either by night or day to administer to the relief of the suffering, and wipe the cold sweat from the dying brow. He was a kind husband, an affectionate father, a useful member in society and a consistent christian—indeed, as was since his decease, remarked to the writer by one who had long known him, "taking everything into consideration as regards his religious character, Mr. Bent was more than a common man." Suddenly was our brother called away. He had been absent from home about a fortnight en-

gaged in laborious but lucrative business, and on the Saturday evening previous to his death quite unexpectedly to his family, returned home—and as it proved, came home to die! During the ensuing Sabbath he seemed unusually well and cheerful, and at an early hour retired to rest, expecting ere the dawn of the following morning to set out again for the scene of his labors. But how different the result. About ten o'clock an unusual sound as of difficulty in breathing startled his companion, and on procuring a light she found him perfectly insensible. A physician and the neighbors were immediately summoned; but all efforts to restore him to consciousness were vain. After a short time of intense suffering, during which he was from the first unable to articulate, he, as we humbly trust, quietly fell "asleep in Jesus." Sabbath evening, January 27th, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

The Division of the Sons of Temperance, of which Order he was a consistent member, with a large number of relatives and friends followed his remains to the tomb on Wednesday the 30th inst.

The funeral sermon was preached by Revd. N. Vidito, from Prov. viii. 4.

"Brother, thus in solemn trust,
We commit thee dust to dust,
In that faith we wait, till risen,
Thou shalt meet us all in Heaven."

Paradise, Feb. 5th, 1861.

—Communicated.

MRS. HANNAH BROWN.

Died at Yarmouth, Jan. 8th, in the 86th year of her age, Mrs. Hannah, widow of the late Capt. William Brown, Senr. of Yarmouth. At an early period of her life she was converted to God. About 60 years ago she was baptized by the late Father Harris Harding. At the time of her union with the church, it was a season of great religious declension. An extensive revival of religion commenced soon after, and numbers were "added to the Lord." From that time, until prevented by the infirmities of age, she was punctual in her attendance upon the worship of God, and the ordinances of His house. She always esteemed it a pleasure and an honor to extend the hospitalities of her home to the ministers of the gospel, who in those days "went everywhere preaching the word."

In 1836 she became a widow, and in succeeding years was bereaved of three children. First, a beloved son, who found a watery grave while pursuing his calling upon the deep, then a beloved daughter, the child of her old age, was suddenly removed, and again, a son, who resided in an adjoining county. She was sustained, however by the hope that her loss was their gain.

Having passed the allotted period of human life, she looked for a speedy removal from the toils of earth, to the repose of heaven. Infinite wisdom however ordered it otherwise, and she was visited with perhaps, to one of her active temperaments, the severest affliction of her life. A stroke of the palsy rendered her helpless, and nine wearisome years followed ere she was called to rest. Through the whole of her trying season of infirmity she was sustained by the hope of the gospel, and though reduced to second childhood, she still realized the faithfulness of the divine promises, "even to old age I am he, and even to your hoar hairs will I carry you." "I will never leave nor forsake you."

On the Sabbath following her interment, a funeral sermon was preached in the Baptist church from Psalm 71, 9, by Rev. H. Angell.—Communicated.

MRS. LUCINDA STRONACH,

Wife of Mr. Asaph B. Stronach, died at Margarettville, Wilmot, on the 7th day of January, 1861, aged 47 years.

In her youthful days she was happily led to embrace the Saviour. Many years ago she became a member of the Baptist Church at Nictaux. From this she subsequently transferred her membership to that of Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot, where she resided.

Sister Stronach was a sincere lover of Zion. She delighted in attending the worship of God. To His people she was ardently attached. Her sedateness, mildness, and prudence were remarkable.

Brother S. and his amiable partner had the satisfaction of seeing several of their children brought in early life to confess Christ. (One of these, sister Mercy Ann, left the world last winter, in a joyful state of mind). Sister Stronach's faithful admonitions, coupled with her exemplary deportment, were highly serviceable to her children, as those who survive her readily acknowledge; while they, with our deeply afflicted brother, justly regard their loss as very great.

Our valued sister was removed by consumption. While she expressed to her Pastor submission to the divine will, and unshaken confidence in the Redeemer, she frankly stated, that she was desirous to live, if such were the allotment of Providence, for the benefit of her family. As is very common in such cases, she entertained hopes of recovery till very near the close of life. When, however, it became certain that her dissolution was at hand, with kind admonitory words to those around her, she cheerfully committed her departing spirit into the hands of her faithful Saviour.

Though the weather and roads were unfavorable, yet her funeral was attended by a large number of relatives and friends. A discourse was delivered by the Pastor from John xvii. 24.—Communicated by Rev. C. Tupper.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visits.

TO REV. E. O. REID.

Dear Brother,—I wish to acknowledge my thankfulness to the friends of my church and congregation for a Donation visit made on the 30th of January which amounted to 87 dollars. Excellent speeches were made on the occasion by Brethren S. W. DeBlois, R. S. Morton, W. G. Parker and J. L. Read which rendered it a season of deep interest.

I would also state that since my last communication I have baptized seven and the prospect is still encouraging.

Yours, &c.
E. O. READ.

Gaspereaux, Feb. 4th, 1861.

TO REV. THOS. KEILLOR.

Mr. Editor,—I deem it unjust to my friends and myself not to publicly acknowledge their kindness towards me and respect for me which they saw fit to evince in a donation upon New year's eve, although the day was rainy and I did not expect to see any person that day, they braved the storm the distance of 6 and 8 miles and in the evening about 70 persons had assembled at my boarding house with their several donations.

After spending a very pleasant evening in conversing and singing, the meeting was called to order and an excellent and appropriate address given by Mr. T. Freeman. Mr. F. Freeman was Chairman of the meeting.

A verbal answer was given in which the pastor expressed his hearty thanks and his only regret was that he had not been more useful.

Prayer was offered by the deacon and the company dispersed each expressing it good to be there.

THOMAS KEILLOR.

Provincial Parliament.

MONDAY, Feb. 4.

A discussion arose on Post Office matters, called up by complaints from Mr. Bourinot, that the mails were not carried regularly as they should be to the eastward. It was shewn that stages of twenty miles and upwards were constantly travelled without change of horses, instead of there being fresh horses provided every 15 miles.

Mr. Chambers presented a petition against the return of Charles Campbell, Esq., for Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Howe, in reference to interference with the Post Office regulations, contended that the Government had the power to exercise their discretion wherever the wants of the country demand it, and then come down to the house and have their acts justified. Of course they must take the responsibility, as he was prepared to do in this instance.

Mr. Tobin could not agree with the doctrine laid down by the Provincial Secretary. The duty of a government was to administer the laws during the recess, and see the recommendations of committees which had been confirmed by the house carried out. It would be dangerous to give the government the power claimed by the Provincial Secretary—it might be exercised for political purposes. Suppose that he (Mr. T) were running an election for Halifax county, it might be very convenient to establish new rides to get political support, but it would be a dangerous practice and productive of much corruption.

Mr. James McDonald agreed with the hon. member for Halifax as to the unsoundness of the doctrine laid down by the leader of the government. He pointed out the unfairness of the course pursued, while the petitions of numerous localities which had been before the House had been rejected, on the plea that the great number of way offices in the Province imposed too heavy a burden upon the treasury, the Hon. Provincial Secretary proceeds to establish a post-ride where it was most to his interest to place it. This was an interference with the regulations of the House, and such a violation of the laws of the land as should not be allowed.

If it was once admitted that the Government could take such liberties as this with the law, they might come down to the House, and by a packed majority, justify the most illegal measures. As regards the Lunatic Asylum, the Government acknowledge that they had violated the law on the statute book. If they could do it in one case, what is to prevent them tampering with any law if they have a majority to ratify their conduct.

The Hon. Atty. General acknowledged that it was the duty of every Government to pay due regard to the recommendations of committees of the House, but he was afraid the late Government had not set a good example in this respect.

The Hon. Speaker announced the reception of a letter from the Speaker of the House of Assembly in Newfoundland, accompanied by copies of certain resolutions passed by that body relating to the Fisheries and the encroachment of French fishermen on grounds set apart for the exclusive use of British Colonists.

Mr. Longley presented a petition for aid to a road.

The Hon. Speaker thought the present a good opportunity to call attention to the fact that under the resolution of last session, all petitions asking money grants must first be brought to the notice of the Government.

Mr. Wade asked: Did they intend that the petitions for Navigation Securities—Breakwaters, &c., were to be sent to the committee on those subjects, or was the Government to assume the power of deciding on those claims ignoring the Committee altogether.

Mr. W. A. Henry. Are the Government in possession of the necessary information; prepared to come down with their budget and submit it to the House? If so, it was as well to wait the result; but for the Provincial Secretary to ask gentlemen to present their petitions and afterwards wait for two or three weeks for information—not knowing whether the administration intended authorising the grants they sought, was not the course he thought should be pursued.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said petitions for aid to public works should be handed to the Financial Secretary whose duty it was to ascertain whether there was any thing necessitating the outlay. Where a case was fairly made out, aid would be afforded. The cross-roads must be dealt with as heretofore.

Mr. Churchill thought the new system would give dissatisfaction. When he observed the short notice that had appeared in the papers, it struck him that a petition might be presented, handed over to the Executive Government, and there buried. Suppose the Government chose to repudiate a just claim, they might be charged in the House. What then? There were too many charges against them already.—(Laughter.) He thought it would only prove a means of ridding themselves of responsibility.

The Hon. Atty. General thought the principle when understood would be found to work better than hon. gentlemen anticipated. By adopting it the system of log rolling would be done away with and a more equitable principle established.

Mr. Tobin believed the system had its advantages and its disadvantages. The Attorney General had said that all the petitions would be handed to the Financial Secretary. What would then occur?—The Executive Government would examine them, make their memoranda, and afterwards the whole thing would be submitted to the party and discussed in caucus. Gentlemen might shake their heads, but he had been behind the curtain before.—(Hear!) He felt that great power was not only given to the Government, but to the party supporting them.

Hon. Prov. Secretary.—The hon. member seemed afraid that injustice would be done by the majority! Could not the majority pass or neglect any grant they pleased? It was quite incompetent for those supporting the Government to go into caucus and appropriate the revenues any way they pleased. The hon. gentleman knew that was not done, and could never be done by any party.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS. RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The seventh clause in the address was read.

Mr. James McDonald said the county which I represent undoubtedly feels a very great interest in regard to the extension of the railway. They feel, that the railway should be extended to the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; but the population of that county is too intelligent, as well as well informed upon the public affairs of their country—they have the general welfare too much at heart to allow purely selfish motives to induce them to seek the prosecution of a public work which will be injurious to the public at large.

The Speech announces a number of measures which I think both sides of this House will consider as being of a petty character. It speaks of a wharf at Digby, (for a purpose which all can understand,) and a road to Inverness; and such little button-hole contracts of a local character—advanced for their own aggrandisement.—But real political measures of importance to this country are hardly touched. Every measure is adapted simply to the benefit and protection of the party now in power. And then we have a subject announced in vague terms, though it is one in which the reputation and statesmanship of the hon. leader are concerned. We find him ignoring his past position, and inviting his own friends and gentlemen on this side of the House to deal with it as they think proper.

The hon. leader of the Government, in propounding the policy which he has announced in the Speech, has deserted the principles which he advocated formerly. He said that he never carried a railway policy by a party vote. My recollection tells me it was carried by a strictly party vote—by promises which have proved illusive, but which might have been sincere when he advocated such an undertaking in this country. He got the Province to involve itself in a million; but none of the pledges on which he staked his reputation; have been fulfilled. The people, in the first place, gave their support to him on the promise that these railways would not cost more than £5,000 a mile; and, in the next place, that the road would go to Pictou, and that possibly it would be extended to the frontiers of New Brunswick.

When he first found he was mistaken in his calculations he did not then retrace his steps. He did not say as he says now by his policy which he has at length presented before us. Now he says to all intents,—I over-estimated the cost of a railway; I deceived you when I told you that it would only cost £5,000 a mile. Last winter when the late government were in power, my hon. friend beside me (Dr. Tupper) said, on Mr. Wilkins' resolution relative to the extension to Pictou. Here's a railway which has exhausted the whole resources of the country; we don't consider it wise to go on with the extension at present. What was the reception that proper and cautious policy received? It was denounced by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Howe.) They were told, and more particularly the County of Pictou, that the Government who did not bring it there did not deserve the confidence of the people. What did they do last winter? When