

For the Christian Messenger.

What are our Foreign Missionary Board doing?

Can any one answer the above question? We are not only failing in our duty to the heathen, but suffering immensely for want of the relex influences of a Foreign Mission.

Lower British Provinces, Feb. 14, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Horton Institutions and the day of Prayer.

DEAR BROTHER,—

Allow me to place before your readers some facts adapted to stimulate and encourage their prayers for our Institutions of learning.

Including the College and the two branches of the Academy, there are one hundred and thirty-five persons receiving education in this place.

Of this number, forty-nine are resident in Wolfville or its neighbourhood. Eighty-six have come from other places—in Nova Scotia proper—in Cape Breton—in Prince Edward Island—in New Brunswick; and from New York.

Twenty young men, I am happy to say, contemplate the christian ministry as their life-work. Most of them are occasionally engaged in preaching the gospel at stations in this vicinity; and their labours are acceptable.

Brethren, pray for us! Pray for us all—for those who teach, and for those who receive instruction. Pray that this may be one of the "years of the right hand of the Most High;" that the unconverted among us may be brought to the Saviour; and that those who have "believed through grace" may be kept from temptation, roused to befitting activity, and "filled with all the fulness of God."

And seeing that the welfare of these Institutions is closely identified with the prosperity and progress of our Denomination, I beseech you to pray constantly for them; that the old educational zeal may be revived—that the pastors (especially those educated here) may stir up the people—that the people may respond to the pastors' appeals—and that those who thirst for knowledge may flock hither in such numbers that the place may be "too strait for us."

I will say nothing about the apathy of some, or the ill-concealed hostility of others; nothing about unpaid salaries; nothing about discouragements of any kind. But, whatever you leave undone, Brethren, pray for us!

May "God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us!"—This granted, all will be well, hearts will be softened—clouds will disperse—quickened energy will mark our movements.

Acadia College, Feb. 15, 1861. Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 20, 1861.

We have received the following note from the Rev. N. Gunnison the Universalist minister in Halifax:

Editor Messenger.

SIR,—In your paper recently, you gave currency to a report that Frank Stuison, of Hamilton, Canada West, the suicide, was a Universalist and that his Universalism led to the act of self-murder &c.

I have investigated the case and have it from the Post master of Hamilton "that Mr. Frank Stuison was a member of the Church of England."

Presuming that you did not intend to misrepresent in publishing the account, I will further presume that you will rectify the falsehood, by stating to your readers the truth that Mr. S. was not a Universalist, but a Partialist. The Post master's name is E. Ritchie.—I shall expect to see the correction in your next issue.

Yours respectfully, N. GUNNISON. Halifax, Feb. 12th 1861.

In justice to ourselves and our readers we republish the paragraph to which Mr. G. refers.

in connection with his note. It was as follows:—

CANADA.—The following is given as a sad result of Universalist teaching:—

At Hamilton, C. W., a young man of 23 years Frank Stuison, son of Mr. T. Stuison, retired to rest on Thursday, 27 December, and almost immediately afterwards blew out his brains. At the Coroner's Jury, letters written by him were [read.] addressed, "Dear Father," reflected upon him, and in one, this fearful sentence appeared: "You told me there is no hell; your arguments have convinced me, and I do not fear the consequences!"

The account was given we believe in all the papers, religious and secular, but in most of them at much greater length than in the Messenger, but we have seen no contradiction in any other paper either from Canada or in Nova Scotia. We know not why we should be honored with this attention, seeing that the columns of so many Halifax papers are pleased to advertize for the reverend gentleman. It will be perceived that the above does not state that the suicide was a Universalist, or that he was not a member of the Church of England. We cannot therefore perceive that it contains any falsehood. It would certainly appear from his own language that his father held, and had taught him, what are commonly understood to be Universalist sentiments, although he might have retained his membership in the Church of England.

TEMPERANCE POLITICS.—The Abstinence referring to our present Legislature says:—

"As a body, the members have not the manliness—do not possess moral courage enough—to enact the law temperance men have been seeking for so long. Some of the members who voted for the measure on previous occasions would not do so now—at least we believe so; and we believe further, that our present G. W. P. [A. Longley, Esq.] is the only member who would act independently in the matter. We believe that he is sincere, and, at the present time, he only."

This surely is somewhat too severe. The editor is of opinion that some of these gentlemen—some who had even been Sons of Temperance—withdraw from Temperance organizations because occasionally receiving invitations to dine at Government House they "did not possess the moral courage to refuse to drink wine with the Representative of Majesty." This is plain talk for you gentlemen! If it is true however, more is the pity that such blandishments should have blinded the eyes of honorable gentlemen and shorn them of their courage and the source of so much strength.

The Grand Division at its Annual Session appointed a Committee to apply to the Legislature for an amendment of the present License Law. We hope the effort made at the last session of the Legislature will be renewed and that the recent changes will give it a better chance of success this year.

The CENSUS is now looked upon as a necessary step in the progress of prohibition. The Grand Division will petition the Legislature, requesting that body to instruct the government to take the voice of the people on this subject, at the same time as the census is taken. This was one of the instruments used in the Assembly to beat back the tide of Prohibition on a former occasion, and we hope it may now be so applied as to supply what was then demanded by the opponents of the measure. The printed schedules to be filled up are, we understand, to be left by parties appointed for that purpose previous to the 31st of March, and called for on the 1st of April (?) The proposal of the Grand Division is, we presume, to have the question,— "Are you in favor of Prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks?" made one of the enquiries to be answered. It will depend much upon the agitation of the subject in the country and the character of the Agents employed to take the Census, what the answer is which is given. If the people could be allowed to speak out their real sentiments, we doubt not there would be an overwhelming majority in the affirmative.

The answers standing on the schedules will be instructive to the representatives of the people, but we do not apprehend that this will be at all decisive. The electors will have to demand prohibition of their representatives at the polls before they will get it. The government derive too much of revenue from the sale of intoxicating drinks for them to throw it up, when that revenue is so much required for railway and other purposes. There must be strong faith in the revenue being made up by other means before the government will be prepared to relinquish it. The remarks of A. Longley, Esq., on this subject in a circular to the friends of Temperance, just published, are well deserving of attention.

Should an opportunity be thus accorded to the friends of temperance, of expressing their wishes upon this important measure, no time should be lost, or pains spared, to persuade the whole population to proper and decisive action. Public meetings should be held in every locality throughout the length and breadth of the land, and not a single mind left in doubt, concerning the momentous question at issue. We are spending annually, a sum not far short of our entire revenue, in intoxicating drinks, which is demoralizing the population, and interfering with every branch of our industry. Vice, and poverty, and crime, and woe, are produced, and fearfully propagated, by the traffic in intoxicating drinks, and its suppression would be attended by incalculable benefit to the country, morally, socially, intellectually, and financially.

It is believed that the moral, enlightened, and sober sentiment of the country, is in favor of the suppression of Traffic. An opportunity, we hope, is about to be afforded of applying the test,—let, then, every man and woman, and every youth of sufficiently ripened years, testify their abhorrence of the vicious traffic, by recording their names on the side of Prohibition.

Since the above was in type we have learned that there are several members of the Assembly who do not take wine at Government House. And further we understand that the request to allow the Prohibition question to be taken with the Census was refused on Monday last.

The following remarks from the N. B. Christian Watchman will be read with interest by many of our friends. We commend them to our readers.

The College has passed through many trying ordeals; its friends have often trembled for its existence; yet Providence has sustained it, and made it a source of incalculable good to those who sought knowledge within its walls, and also of the denomination.

The reason why this institution has continued to exist under many difficulties, is that it has been a continual subject of prayer. This, also, is the reason why it has not only imparted education, but has been the means of saving many precious souls committed, by loving and anxious parents, to its keeping. We well remember one winter, when some Christians met together to present the students before God, and to pray for their conversion. In answer to these prayers, these careless young men were brought to attend to the subject of religion, to cry penitently for pardon, and exult in the grace of God. All the students were converted, the most of them baptized in one day.

Many of these young men felt themselves called of God to proclaim those truths which they had found to be so beneficial, and are now laboring indefatigably in their Master's cause, seeking to win souls to Christ, or in heaven praising him for his grace, and in their gratitude not forgetting the means of their conversion, or the place where they first learned to pray and praise. Look at it; a fervent prayer offered by a feeble voice, and from a humble but longing heart, and in consequence, sinners converted; these converts preachers of the gospel; and in New Brunswick, in Nova Scotia, even in Burmah, pointing the sinner to his God, and rejoicing over souls saved through their instrumentality.

Surely every church in the Province, when the appointed day comes will remember in its prayers, Acadia College.

A Correspondent of the Presbyterian Witness signing himself "ONE OF THE STANDARD BEARERS," "Cornwallis," takes the editor to task for the position he has taken respecting "Essentials and Non-essentials," and concludes by the following very significant paragraph.

"God's Law is,—nay must be, perfect—nothing wanting, nothing superfluous, and whoever shall break one of these least commandments and teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. And now Mr. Editor, tell me in conclusion, don't you think the ideas of those Christians, who act on the distinction between essentials and non-essentials in religion "not very clear."

ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF ACADIA COLLEGE.—We have much pleasure in being able to inform our readers that the Rev. Dr. PRYOR has accepted an invitation of the Committee of the above Society, to deliver the Oration at the Anniversary meeting of the Society on the 5th of June next.

THE COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY, we believe, also takes place on that day, when the newly appointed Mathematical Professor will deliver his Inaugural Address.

THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION will commence its Session on the following day at Wolfville.

These attractions will doubtless bring together a considerable number of friends from distant parts of the Province, and render it an occasion of no small amount of interest.

HALIFAX CITY MISSION.—A public meeting was held on behalf of this mission on Thursday last, in the Argyle Street Chapel. Mr. C. Robson occupied the chair. Addresses were delivered by Revs. McGregor, Humphrey and Boyd, and Messrs. T. A. Brown, Shannon and Judge Marshall.

Mr. Morton gave an account of his labors and the destitution existing in the city. Intemperance was shown to be the crying sin, and the parent of nearly all the vice, immorality and suffering which prevails. Let Christians generally come

forward and aid this useful institution. The Report shows that during the past year he visited 1577 distinct families. Repeated visits 326. Visits to the Sick 471. Visits for Prayer and Scripture Reading 943. Total number of visits 1636. Tracts distributed 1636.

A change has taken place in the proprietorship of our Western counties exchanges. The Acadian (Digby) and The Register, (Bridgetown.) The former is now under Mr. A. E. Dodge, and the latter under Messrs. Thorne and Gidney, Mr. Calnek having retired from its editorship.

News Summary.

SECESSION is still in unchecked progress in the Southern States, and as far as any substantial indication to the contrary has yet appeared, will continue to advance until the work of complete separation is finally achieved. Several of the Northern Slave States, as Virginia, Tennessee and Maryland, are strongly in favor of a continuance of the Union, provided any satisfactory compromise can be agreed on, by which the conflicting views of North and South can be mutually adjusted; but every day's experience adds to the improbability of the adoption of any such measure. The strong convictions and feelings of the North inevitably lead to the conclusion, that the present is the time, if ever, to free their country from the imputation of virtually sustaining an institution which they cordially detest, while the strong interests of the Southern States, one and all, are deeply involved in the retention and even the enlargement of Slavery.

A General Convention of the Delegates of six or seven States, met at Montgomery, the Capital of Alabama, on the 4th inst., to deliberate on the measures needful to be taken. The action of South Carolina was, we believe, unanimously adopted, and a full and final separation from the Union solemnly and formally decreed. There must be a powerful reaction to induce them to retract so decided a measure—a reaction which, however strong the conservative element in some of the seceding States may be, and we believe such element does exist to a very considerable extent, we can scarcely hope to see realized.

A General Convention from the Northern States are also in Session at Washington, to endeavor, if possible, to heal the broken Union. Nothing, however, has yet transpired to lead to any well-grounded hope that their efforts will be successful.

Congress is still in Session, but appears to be wholly paralyzed. Indeed nothing whatever seems to have been attempted in that body, whose very mission it would seem to be, is to devise some remedy for the evils that are rending in pieces the Government, and to stay the progress of the evil.

It has long been our opinion that a Federal Union like that of the United States, wanting a general object of Concentration, and a common power of executive action—an imperium in imperio,—made weaker by the addition of every new State, carries in its very vitals, the seeds of self-destruction. As against foreign aggression it might be all powerful, but as against internal dissension, weaker than water. Such a Government in the little Cantons of Switzerland, jealous of every motion of every powerful State which surrounds it, but watched over and protected by all for their own safety and convenience, may endure for an indefinite period, but it would almost seem a necessary consequence that so huge an edifice as that of the United States, must, sooner or later, fall with its own weight. The time for trial is come, and if it survives so severe a test, it may well hope for years of its hitherto unexampled growth and prosperity.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

POOR'S ASYLUM.—We learn from the Colonist that a short time since His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Earl of Mulgrave, accompanied by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, visited the Poor's Asylum, and minutely inspected every ward and department of the institution, conversing with some of the oldest of the inmates, and enquiring as to the care and comfort bestowed upon them. His Excellency's visit was without any previous notice, and on leaving the Asylum he expressed his satisfaction at the order, cleanliness, and comfort displayed throughout every department, reflecting much credit on the Superintendent and Matron.

Colonel Hugh Hartshorne, has resigned the post of Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave.

We understand from the Superintendent of the American Telegraph Company, that a Telegraph office has been established at Aylesford, in the County of Kings.

There are some great calves about Truro. Mr. Richard Christie has one in his possession, only 9 months old, which weighs 512 lbs. The breed is between the Ayrshire and Durham.—Sw.