

xlii. 16. The house crowded—their ears opened—my heart overflowing—and God Almighty present—and his work going on and extending. I then prayed with the candidates and gave them the right hand of fellowship. We then sang, and parted, but with some reluctance. The young converts happy. O bless the Lord all ye hosts of his, in all his dominions. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Further particulars respecting this revival will be given in my next. Yours truly, MENNO. May 6, 1861.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College Agency.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—

Since the College Governors sent their Circular of appeal for funds to make up the deficiency of the income for the present year, the churches, visited by me, have nobly responded to that appeal. Beaver River, Weymouth, Digby, Hillsburgh and Clements, will not be backward in this good work. Digby raised their quota and sent it by the Agent, who will be careful to hand it to the Treasurer, together with an accurate statement of the donors' names, which is desirable in all cases. If all the churches are prompt in this matter, we shall come out with flying colors at the end of the year. Such an event would give unusual eclat to our next College Anniversary. It is to be hoped that the friends living at a distance will come to the Anniversary, and see what is being accomplished by our institution. Also that the churches that have not moved in the matter of the Circular, will lose no time in doing so. And that not only will the College nil present a happy assemblage of friends on the sixth; but also that the first of June will so swell the coffers of the treasury, that the empty purses of our faithful and self-denying Professors may be replenished.

Yours, &c. D. FREEMAN.

Clements, May 6, 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 15, 1861.

Sabbath School Convention.

SOME of the brethren, named as officers, of the Baptist Sabbath School Convention, held at Windsor last year, have signified to us their approval of the suggestions we offered a few weeks since, as to the best means, under our peculiar circumstances, of carrying out the objects of the Convention. There seems to be some difficulty in reaching all the Sabbath Schools, or the proper person in connection with each, by means of a circular sent by mail. Some might be unintentionally omitted, and the expense of postage would be considerable. We have concluded, therefore, that the insertion of the proposed Circular in the Messenger will be the most effectual method, at present, of getting Returns from the Sabbath Schools, in preparation for the Anniversary of the Convention on the 8th of June next, at Wolfville.

Several of the brethren elected as officers of the Convention, were not present at the meeting, and their consent was not given to such use being made of their names, and probably will not act in the offices assigned to them. J. W. Barss, Esq., was named as Secretary and Treasurer, but he informs us that, as he has to attend to various other matters in relation to denominational affairs, he would prefer to leave this duty in the hands of those less engaged and consequently more able to give it their attention. He consents, however, to receive the returns if sent to him.

We therefore further suggest to those of our readers who are connected with Sabbath Schools throughout the Province, that the following form of Return, as near as may be, should be copied on a sheet of paper, and the statistics inserted where blanks are left, and that such Returns be sent, postage paid, to "J. W. Barss, Esq., Wolfville," before the 1st day of June, ensuing.

CIRCULAR.

The Sabbath School at..... with Christian salutation, to the Provincial Baptist Sabbath School Convention, to assemble after the Baptist Associations at Wolfville, Beaver River, and Guysboro, in the months of June and July ensuing. [Here any remarks may be added.]

The following are the Statistics of our School:

- 1. The School has been held [Here insert the number of Sundays] Lord's-days during the past year.
2. Number of Scholars—males....., females..... Total.....
3. Average attendance—males....., females..... Total.....
4. Number of teachers—males....., females..... Total.....
5. .... adults attend in .... Bible Classes.

- 6. Our Sabbath School Library contains .... vols.
7. We take .... copies of the [Here insert the name of the paper or papers] S. School paper.
8. We have expended \$.... in sustaining our School during the year.
9. We have collected for missionary purposes ....
10. In addition to Bibles and Testaments we use [Here insert the names of the catechisms, or other books used.]
11. .... of the pupils are members of the Church, .... have united with the Church during the past year.

College Endowment Fund.

WE make no comment, at the time, on the proposal of J. W. Barss, Esq., on behalf of Acadia College Endowment Fund, but waited for a response, feeling persuaded that the fact of his generous offer would, of itself, speak, to those whose hearts are right in this matter, more loudly than any words we might use. Dan. O'Connell said "one fact is worth a cart-load of arguments"; and yet we should be wanting in self-respect if we undervalued arguments; and might also be considered as deficient in respect to the intelligence of our readers if we thought them insensible to such influences. We should be glad, if, by any efforts of ours, we were able to call the attention of our readers to the urgency of the case, which has induced Mr. Barss to propose the plan of raising £5,000 towards this fund. Lest it should have escaped the notice of any of our readers who might be disposed to unite with Mr. B. in this honorable work, we will quote a few lines containing the proposal:

"I propose that Fifty persons come forward and give £100 each, and we have the £5000 at once secured. In looking over the wealth, intelligence, and piety of the Baptist body in our three Provinces, I feel that this is not too much to expect. I propose to take the scheme in charge (with the sanction and by the advice of the Governors) and I will see to the collection and faithful investment of the funds free of charge, that no part of the sum be used in Agencies. Let each one who is willing to come forward, for the purpose named, write me to that effect; when, with my own name, fifty names are obtained, which I anticipate will be before the Convention in August, a payment of £20 will be asked for soon after; the balance will be secured by annual payments of £20 by notes, bearing interest, which will spread it over four years. This will make it comparatively easy for the contributors, and secure the object sought, as the principal will be invested as it comes in, and the interest used for annual support."

We suppose it would not be difficult to find fifty, or even a hundred, persons, who love Acadia, and particularly Acadia College for the work she has already done, who might, from the means in their possession, appropriate to this object £20 a year for five years, without experiencing the least embarrassment, or any other feeling than that of the highest satisfaction. There are many who with a little effort, might do the same, who would not hesitate to make such use of their money if they could fully realize the value of such an appropriation of their property, and estimate the benefit they might, by that means, confer on their fellow-men.

Our brethren in the neighbouring States are pouring out their money by thousands of dollars, and perhaps the more precious lives of their sons, and probably even their own blood, for the purpose of saving their country from anarchy and confusion, and to uphold human law. How thankful should we be that no such demand is made upon us. It would be well if gratitude for such exemption chose channels like this Institution in which to flow, and by its permanent Endowment, raised up an enduring monument of "peace on earth and good-will to men," to shew future generations, that their forefathers placed a proper estimate on wisdom, and valued knowledge above choice gold.

Genuine patriotism, even without Christianity, would rejoice to be able to scatter the blessings of education and place them within the reach of all. The true Christian patriot, however, will add love to Christ, as a higher and far more noble motive to such good works than could be felt by worldly men.

Our Lord expressed a fact, which is no less true now than then, when he said, "the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light." This was intended as a reproof rather than as a statement of what ought to be. Wicked men are more faithful to their master than the disciples of Christ are to Him. Whilst the former are full of stratagem to accomplish their purposes, the latter are often slow to devise, and negligent to carry out, all they might do for him who gave up his own life to save them from death.

Since the above was written, we have received the following brief note, which we have much pleasure in placing before our readers.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you please let your readers know that the first response to my appeal for £100-contributors to the Endowment Fund for Acadia College, has come from a Lady from Am-

herst,—from one largely engaged in doing work for God's cause in her own locality, but who feels deeply for that which concerns the community generally. I feel encouraged by this timely reply, and judge that when the ladies take the matter in hand the matter will be accomplished. J. W. BARSS.

May 10, 1861.

We trust this may prove to be but the first-fruits of the harvest, so that the enemies who were beginning to say "Ah, so we would have it," may be confounded and ashamed, and after praying "that the thoughts of their hearts may be forgiven them," may confess their error, and "bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

"Free Church Popery."

WE should not do justice to our neighbour the Presbyterian Witness, were we to omit noticing that, in his last issue, he answered our question of last week, "Which of the three voices—that of the Presbytery, the Synod or the General Assembly, all three of them being different deliverances, was the 'voice of the church.'" He says "The question is easily answered. The voice of the General Assembly was the voice of the church." We admire the straightforwardness of this reply, and are encouraged to seek further acquaintance with his idea of church order. Will he favor us by as distinctly informing us if the voices of the Presbytery and Synod, in the case of Mr. Mc Millan, although giving a contradictory deliverance, are not also, "the voice of the church."

The Editor says:—

"Among Presbyterians, discipline is exercised by the office-bearers of the Church. They have been elected by the Church, and do this work for the Church. We hope our weak brother's conscience will now be reconciled to the language which has offended him."

He is greatly mistaken if he thinks that his "language" has given his "weak brother's conscience" any offence, and that we referred to the phraseology simply, when we spoke of "Free Church popery." We regarded the whole paragraph, from which we copied but a single sentence, as containing in itself the essence of popery. We quote the whole paragraph—the first one of the article referred to on "the Cardross case."

"There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ." "The Lord Jesus, as king and head of the church, hath therein appointed a government in the hand of church officers, distinct from the civil magistrate. To these officers the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed." Such is the expression given in our Confession of Faith to the great Scripture doctrine of the spiritual independence of the Church, and its subjection to Christ alone. HE is the only Head and Governor of the Church purchased by his own precious blood, and his servants—the officers of the Church—are responsible to Him for the manner in which they employ the authority with which He has invested them. It is theirs, and theirs alone, by censures and absolution, to shut or open "the Kingdom of heaven"—to expel from communion or to admit into holy fellowship. Christ gave them this power; and no earthly authority can divest them of it."

We care not about this being from "the Confession of Faith." We conceive that no sound Protestant should countenance such a statement as that "to these officers (of the Church) the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed." We might call a host of witnesses to give a very different view of the passage of Scripture to which allusion is made,—one will suffice, Barnes (a Presbyterian) in his Notes on the Gospels, says:

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven."—Matthew xvi. 19.

"The kingdom of heaven here means, doubtless, the church on earth. When he says, therefore, he will give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, he means that he will make him the instrument of opening the door of faith to the world—the first to preach the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. This was done. Acts ii. 14—36, and x. The "power of the keys" was given to Peter alone, solely for this reason; the power of "binding and loosing" on earth, was given to the other apostles with him. See Matt. xviii. 18. The only pre-eminence, then, that Peter had was the honour of first opening the doors of the gospel to the world."

When Jesus gave this power to the apostles, he meant that whatsoever they forbid in the church should have divine authority; whatever they permitted, or commanded, should also have divine authority—that is, should be bound or loosed in heaven, or meet the approbation of God. They were to be guided infallibly in the organization of the church, 1st. by the teaching of Christ, and 2nd. by the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

This does not refer to persons, but to things—"whatsoever," not whosoever. It refers to rites and ceremonies in the church. Such of the Jewish customs as they should forbid were to be forbidden; and such as they thought proper to permit were to be allowed. Such rites as they should appoint in the church were to have the

force of divine authority. Accordingly they forbid circumcision and the eating of things offered to idols, and strangled, and blood. Acts xv. 20. They founded the church, and ordained its rites, as of divine authority."

If our valiant neighbor can bring forth and substantiate for "these officers" of the Free Church the popish claim of Apostolical Succession, then we may allow that "the power of the keys"—to bind and loose—is committed to them, but until he succeeds, we shall have serious doubts about his or their infallibility.

Brother E. N. Harris in a private note dated the 4th, says, "I shall preach my farewell sermon, to a affectionate people to-morrow. And I cannot be thankful enough to God, for the happy union and accessions, I have enjoyed with the Hebron Church."

Though I found them rent, I leave them united, and pray the Lord to bless them with a successor whom He will delight to honour. Though I am about to plant my family in 'the forest city' of Maine, (Portland) I am not done with my native Province. The Lord willing I shall be at the Central Association, after which I must redeem my pledge at Bridgewater."

In an item headed "Princely Munificence," the Montreal Gazette says, that Mr. William Melson of that city has announced his intention of building the western wing of the McGill College. Some time since Mr. Melson and his two brothers gave £5,000 to endow a professorship in the same institution." The Halifax Morning Sun says "Such men are an honor to any country. Would that we had a few in these lower provinces." So say we.

News Summary.

So many and so contradictory reports, relative to what is now transpiring in the Southern and Central States, reach us every day, that we feel quite uncertain whether anything we report on the subject in our pages is true or false.

One thing is however certain, that the whole country from Maine to the Gulf of Florida, is in hot and violent commotion. As it is now a little over the twenty days limited by the Proclamation of President Lincoln for the Southern "combinations" against the Government to disperse, it would seem almost a moral certainty that a decisive collision must shortly occur.

There are said to be as many as 35,000 troops, Regulars and Volunteers, now at Washington, and daily accessions from various States of the North, are being made to their numbers.

On the other hand very considerable bodies of troops are said to be concentrating in the state of Virginia, in the vicinity of the Capital. The spirit of animosity and defiance on both sides appears to have increased to an extent which could scarcely have been imagined a few months since. We have as yet seen nothing to indicate what are the ultimate objects of the Federal Government, unless it be to restore and preserve the Union. This, however, would seem almost or quite a hopeless one, after all that has passed, for were they to subdue the whole of the Southern States, which, with their overpowering numbers, it is most likely a determined perseverance in the contest, would enable the North to do, the restoration of Union would be farther off than ever.

We believe that dispassionate lookers-on must have already come to the conviction, that if it can be effected, a mutual separation would be infinitely the wisest course for both parties. Vast loss has already been sustained, in the destruction of national property. It is stated in the New York papers that the property, in ships and munitions of war, destroyed by the Federal Government to prevent them falling into the hands of the South, at the great Naval Depot at Norfolk, in Virginia, was worth the enormous sum of ten millions of dollars. It appears that the Government is about increasing the number of regular troops to 25,000 men.

Latest from Europe.



ARRIVAL of the EUROPA.

The English Royal Mail Steamer Europa arrived yesterday forenoon, with dates from Liverpool to the 4th, and from Queenstown to the 5th. She brought 21 passengers for Halifax and 28 for Boston, and \$21,000 in specie for Halifax and \$5,199 for Boston.

The American disturbances and the blockade of the Southern ports occupy much attention in England.

The Emperor of Austria opened the Council on Wednesday the 1st inst. His Speech was received with great applause. He stated his de-