

matters of holy living. It is the experience of all Churches that those members only are growing and useful whose adherence to the faith and practice of the Church is intelligent and hearty. The members who are so afraid of sectarianism as to believe a little of everything, or so negligent as not to understand their own Church polity, are not apt to be good for much in their influence upon others. It is your decided Baptists, or Methodists, or Presbyterians, who usually do the most good in their own Churches, and it is they who usually exert the best influence upon society at large. "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" and he will then know just where to work and how to work to the best advantage.

Nor is anything in this incompatible with the broadest charity and brotherly love towards others. As we have said the more clearly one sees the precise points of his own doctrinal position and knows their strength, the more fearlessly and cheerfully will he accord to others the privilege of holding theirs. It is your uncertain and timid theologian who is always snarling and snapping at his neighbors, while the clear, decided man, like the noble mastiff, conscious of his own strength can afford to demean himself towards all around with gentleness and dignity. I believe it is the experience of Christian associations and other Evangelical Unions, that their best supporters, their most liberal and catholic spirited members are the men most decided in their adherence to the peculiar views of the Churches to which they belong. Indeed there is a deeper truth yet which underlies this whole subject. Christian charity is not a fungus growth, a mere excretion of human character. Its roots lie deep down in the foundations of our spiritual nature. It is but a development of that love to Jesus Christ which forms the very essence of our Christian life. In proportion as our love for Jesus is pure and fervent will our attachment for his people of every name be sincere and constraining. Accordingly we find that the apostle does not rest satisfied with enjoining upon the contentious Romans an intelligent faith. He insists also upon punctilious faithfulness, upon that obedience which is both the test and the conservator of love. They must not only possess, each for himself, a full persuasion of the truth, but this persuasion must lead to a corresponding,

II. CONSCIENTIOUS ACTION.

"For, it is written, As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Our Lord has taken pains to make religion a very simple thing. Its truths and its duties are all so carefully explained that any sincere reader of the Scriptures can learn them for himself. The positive ordinances are but two simple acts which a child can comprehend. His evident intention was that each individual should receive and obey for himself. Nay he positively insists upon implicit obedience from every one. "If ye love me keep my commandments." "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them he it is that loveth me." "If a man love me he will keep my words." "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings." Thus four times in the same address and in the same connection does Jesus repeat and enforce this command adding a little each time to its specific distinctness. If we would claim any love to Him, we are not only to keep, observe, obey his commands, but to have them, and not only to have and obey them as general commands, but to keep the very words and to treasure the sayings, to render a literal and punctilious obedience,—to observe minutely and carefully every precept and render to it a child-like and prompt conformity.

This is the obedience which Jesus loves, and he who truly loves Jesus can understand and appreciate the beauty of such obedience. It is not enough for the loving disciple that he can perform what what "will do just as well" as the commands of his Master. There is a sweetness about the privilege of doing just what Jesus said which he would not relinquish for the world. How near does it bring him to that dying friend to know just the words which fell from his lips. And how much nearer still to be able to perform just the acts that he performed and to do them at his command. What cares he if some other act may be quite as serviceable or even as acceptable? Loving obedience affectionately prefers the one which Jesus chose,—which his dear lips have specified and his example hallowed. It was a touching instance of condescension to human instincts and heart cravings that Jesus should have told us to remind ourselves of him, by performing after him two simple acts, and he that has true sympathy with the spirit of the command, will love to obey it in the letter.

There is a random way of talking about essentials in religion which has done much

mischievous. "I do not think it essential to join the Church" says one. "I do not believe that the mode of Baptism is essential" says another. "It is not essential that I should believe every doctrine" says a third.

But what do you mean by this? Essential to salvation? Is it to affirm that one may boldly neglect all knowledge or obedience to these matters and yet be secure of heaven? Suppose it be so! What then? Do you covet the privilege? But what do you know about this? Who has tried—who dares try the experiment of how much wilful ignorance and reckless disobedience will tall short of exhausting the forbearance of a long suffering Redeemer!

It certainly is essential to obedience that every blood-bought soul should know all he can know—and do all he can do of the precise will of his Redeemer. If the master has prescribed lessons, to understand them. If the master has enjoined acts, it is his business to know how and to perform those acts precisely as they were intended. If the master has prescribed forms, he is bound to adopt those forms be they what they may.

And all this, not to purchase salvation. He has no business with the purchase of salvation. This is Christ's work, and, if he is Christ's, has already been done for him,—he has only to obey his Master.

If he is Christ's he has entered into a solemn covenant with that ineffable Being, to devote to him henceforth all his powers,—to make His slightest wish his supreme law, to know no will but His, and to correctly know His will, so far as it is possible for him to know it.

In this matter there are no such things as non-essentials or trifles. Under the faithful guidance of a clear judgment and an honest heart he is bound to settle for himself every question of truth and duty, and to perform every duty punctiliously and faithfully. In this way only can he maintain that communion with Jesus, which will enable him truly and constantly to drink into His spirit. Thus only can he be sure of becoming Christ-like in heart and lovely in temper and conduct, towards all who differ from him.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prayer for Colleges.

To the Ministers who have studied at Horton Institutions.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

Thursday, Feb. 28th, will be the day of prayer for Colleges. Let us hope that it will be devoutly observed in all our churches, and that the prayers of the brethren will be characterized by much faith and fervour.

It will add greatly to the interest of the meeting on that day in this place if you will respectfully favour me with information respecting your ministerial labours during the year 1860. Letters from former students are listened to on these occasions with peculiar pleasure.

Your kind compliance with this request will oblige.

Yours truly,  
J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Jan. 30, 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 6, 1861.

Common Schools.

Education we perceive is not made one of the subjects of the Speech from the Throne. Dr. Forrester's pamphlet is probably intended to introduce the subject, and so let it come from the sovereign people to their rulers rather than from the sovereign rulers to their people. In the present state of political parties, it is not likely that any movement will be made to alter the present imperfect condition of this matter. Dr. F. says:—

"The longer I continue in office, I am the more thoroughly impressed with the conviction that until something substantial is done with the Common Schools of the Province. We can neither keep pace with the general intelligence and progressive advancement of the age, nor furnish anything like an adequate supply of duly qualified students for the higher academies or collegiate institutions of the land. I have canvassed this subject in all its length and breadth. Since I entered on my present duties I have laboured, on an average eight hours a day, with a view of training up a class of duly qualified teachers for the supply of these schools—and though some improvement has been effected by the voluntary efforts of the people themselves in the matter of school-houses and of the emolument of teachers, that improvement has been confined to a few of the more favoured and advanced localities, whilst the general condition of our common

schools, both in point of quantity and quality, has been retrograding instead of advancing. If then, a sound and an efficient system of common school education constitute the basis of all national intelligence, industry and morality, surely it is high time that we bestir ourselves, and, calmly yet earnestly, enquire what, in present circumstances, can and ought to be done. To me, it appears plain and palpable that, whilst many things may and ought to be done for the removing of clamant defects and putting us on a career of high and ennobling progression, there is one thing lying at the bottom of the whole, without which all other remedial measures will prove of comparatively little avail,—I refer to the method of supporting these schools by compulsory assessment, giving effect to the principle that the property of all should be taxed for the education of all."

One or two statements in the above would seem somewhat paradoxical. Since he entered on his present duties, Dr. F. "says the general condition of our Common Schools, has been retrograding instead of advancing." This surely should not have been the case. If it be, the cause should be sought out and removed forthwith.

There is no question but that the plan of supporting schools by assessment would be the most effectual and economical if it could but be brought into operation. The great difficulty is, doubtless, to convince the people that the law could be carried out, if enacted, and that it would not be made use of for denominational or party purposes. It may be said that it is hardly possible for it to be so perverted. Of course the people would themselves have the remedy against such an abuse; but the feeling that such perversion would possibly take place will probably keep many from taking the subject up warmly. We are fully persuaded ourselves that if a proper measure were brought forward, adopted, and properly worked it would confer vast and incalculable benefits on the rising generation.

Political Correspondence.

The Royal Gazette of Wednesday last contained some official correspondence between Dr. Tupper and the Government.

As our columns will contain only a certain fixed quantity we are unable to lay the whole of this correspondence before our readers.

Dr. Tupper in a letter to His Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave makes known to him the late action at seven public meetings in Digby County and the township of Argyle. Official copies of the Minutes of those meetings are enclosed. The first of these meetings was held at Digby at which the following resolutions were passed with but three dissentient voices.

"Whereas, Colin Campbell, Esq., was elected by a majority of over one thousand of the electors of this County, in opposition to the party now in power.

And Whereas, he has declared in writing, "should the Constituency be dissatisfied with my proceedings, and will petition with only five hundred names, I will retire and give place to another."

And Whereas, more than that number of the electors, who voted at the last General Election for Mr. Campbell, have signed a requisition, requesting him to resign his seat for this County.

And Whereas, this meeting has no confidence in the present Government.

Therefore Resolved,—That in case Mr. Campbell does not resign his seat in conformity with his written pledge, his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to dissolve the Legislature, and allow the electors of the County of Digby an opportunity to elect a member in place of Mr. Campbell, who will oppose the present Government, in accordance with their wishes, and with the pledges made by Mr. Campbell previous to the last General Election."

At the meeting held at the Court House in Tusket Village the following resolution was also passed with but three dissentients.

"Whereas this meeting has no confidence in the present Government, and believes that the constituency of Argyle and a majority of the constituencies of the Province entertain the same opinion.

Therefore Resolved, That His Excellency the Lieut. Governor be respectfully requested to dissolve the Assembly and appeal to the people, in order that they may obtain an Administration who possess their confidence, and will govern the country with their well-understood wishes."

Resolutions of a similar character were passed at each of the other meetings.

Dr. Tupper also informs His Excellency that the elections for Cumberland to supply the vacancies occasion by the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Young to the office of Chief Justice, and the appointment of Mr. Hugh Munro to be Chairman of the Board of Works, had resulted in the return of gentlemen opposed to His Excellency's Government, proving, by constituencies chosen by themselves, that the country has no confidence in the present government.

The following letter is published in reply to that of Dr. Tupper.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.  
Halifax, 29th January, 1861

SIR,—I am commanded by the Lieutenant Governor, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., covering a letter addressed by you on the 26th to His Excellency, with enclosures. These papers, having been laid before the Executive Council, I am commanded to enclose to you a Minute, in which the views of that body are expressed: and to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor does not discern, in the papers to which you have called his attention, any reason why he should prematurely assume that the Legislature, summoned to meet for the despatch of business on Thursday next, will not sustain the Government: or why this Province, without any hostile vote or interruption of public business, should be disturbed by a general election.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
JOSEPH HOWE.

Charles Tupper, Esq.

The "Minute" to which reference is made, and which is signed by Joseph Howe, Adams G. Archibald, Jon McCully, John H. Anderson, William Annand, B. Wier, John Locke, T. D. Archibald and Colin Campbell, states that the Council attach but little importance to the meetings in Argyle and Digby. They "regret that the terms 'indisputable illegality' should be again applied to proceedings sanctioned by the law, confirmed by the Legislature, and which the Lieutenant Governor has been distinctly informed by his Grace the Colonial Secretary, no other power has the right to question or disturb."

The Minute of Council also states that "Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Campbell are the best judges of the soundness of their own views and of the propriety of their conduct." It states further that "in 1857 nine gentlemen changed sides—Mr. Johnston and Dr. Tupper accepted their support and governed three years with their assistance" and concludes by stating that they were prepared to meet Parliament and "propound their policy and submit their measures" confidently relying upon "a fair measure of support."

We appropriate all our available space this week to "Parliamentary Intelligence," but have been unable to give anything like a condensed view of the speeches in the Assembly to a latter date than Saturday. Sooner than omit these we preferred waiting till next week to bring up our summary of this debate, as it will probably be the ground-work of the party action for the session.

The work has begun in real earnest. The review of the acts and position of the government commenced on the first day, on the address. Some warm feeling was soon manifest. The galleries were threatened on the first day and cleared on the second, for sympathizing in the excitement below, when cries of "order" "order" and "take down the words" came from some of the members.

"Dear Editor,—The Christian Messenger is always a welcome guest in our house, we have taken it ever since it bore that name—nor has it lost any thing since it come into your hands. No Mr. Editor we should not do justice to you, nor our own convictions, should we not say that in our own estimation it is very much improved of late, we look for it every Friday morning when it is generally dropt in the box at the head of the lane, although some times there is a failure as was the case with the last—the missing numbers generally come to hand some days after—the money I have paid for the paper this 25 years past I consider to have been as well expended as any that I have used for the most important purposes, inasmuch as it affords so much moral and religious information, and has been one means of cultivating a taste for the right kind of reading in the youthful part of my family."

We have quite a number of letters from which we might make extracts similar to the above, some of them probably stronger in expressions of their appreciation of our labors.

Whilst we are grateful for these amongst all the other favors from our old friends, we rejoice in having made a number of new acquaintances who will, we doubt not, remain equally steadfast. In many cases they have become our advocates amongst their neighbours. By this means our patrons enable us to extend the boundaries of our influence and advance in our work of Christian instruction and reformation.

The friends of Female Education will be gratified to read the Rev. Mr. Higgins' letter, on another page. Since receiving it we have learned, from another quarter that the Male Department of Horton Academy is in a more flourishing condition than ever before, having upwards of ninety students in attendance.

Our Correspondents must have patience with us if they do not find their communications inserted quite as early as they expected.