

tioned Brahmin said, with much meekness, "Sir, we desire to be baptised, and become Christians." My heart bounded within me to hear such a resolution; but fearing lest he might have adopted his resolution hastily, and having suspicions that his companion was more influenced by enthusiasm than grace, I proceeded to lay before them all the hindrances they would probably meet with from the world, the flesh, and the devil, and pointed out to them how sad it would be to mistake excitement for piety. I spoke of the hate of relatives, the loss of social standing among their countrymen, the poverty and worldly ignorance of most of our Christians; and asked them to seriously consider if they were prepared to endure all these for a saving Christ and a true religion. They confessed that they had not thoroughly pondered all these things, and requested a month's delay that they might take a comprehensive survey of the whole subject, and weigh every thought and feeling by which they imagine themselves to be prompted. I prayed with them, lent them "Doddridge's Rise," &c., exhorted them to be faithful to truth and conscience, and now await the result with interest.

These two young men are Kulin Brahmins, that is, Brahmins of the highest grade belonging to the Mookerjee and Banerjee families, and should God give them grace to decide aright, their baptism will make a profound sensation in Jessore. I have strong hopes relative to one of them only.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Normal School again.

MR. EDITOR,—

I have been an attentive and unprejudiced reader of the articles which have lately appeared in your paper. Much information beneficial to the public, we trust, has been given by persons evidently desirous of their country's welfare, and most undoubtedly interested in the cause of Education. Barriers to the sympathies of the Baptist denomination being enlisted in behalf of the Normal School have been set up by "Quis" and "N. S.," and these barriers in turn have been graciously demolished by Mr. Rand. For my part, I never entertained feelings of a want of confidence in the faithful conduct of the Normal School. Even if I had, they would all have been removed by the straightforwardness and conscious integrity which characterized Mr. Rand's first letter. His second letter has confirmed my impressions, and caused me to regret exceedingly that "N. S." was not earlier in possession of the facts so fully and clearly given by Mr. Rand.

I have expressed myself thus freely because I feel a little wholesome denominational pride that the Baptists have a representative in the Normal School so worthy of their respect and confidence. His sympathies and talents are warmly enlisted in behalf of Education generally—Collegiate, and Academic, as well as in behalf of Common Schools. His interest in the Educational Institutions at Wolfville needs no comment from me:—a Scholarship in the Endowment of one's Alma Mater has a voice of its own.

Having spoken thus freely of our Teacher at the Provincial School, I ask permission to say a few words respecting the Institution itself. I hold that such an institution is indispensable to the weal of our province. One of your correspondents proposed to sweep it away. This proposal is too puerile to have weight with any right-thinking mind. Any one that pretends to know anything about the teacher's office, knows also, that special training is needed as much in that as for the ministry. The possession of knowledge is one thing; the impartation of it so as to secure the highest possible development of the mental and moral, is quite another thing. We have borne tulle with teachers of our Common Schools, so manifestly deficient in qualifications; and if the Normal School can help us in even a small degree, let us support it with all our hearts.

The same writer says in effect, "Teachers need no Normal training;" and in the next breath he recommends attention to be given to it in our Colleges. This is but one instance out of many that might be quoted from the same article, showing immaturity of thought with regard to this subject. I cannot doubt but that writer stands alone his views. For the sake of the welfare of the young, I hope so; we cannot, we must not retrograde.—Something has been done to improve Common Schools, and let us keep what we have, and beg for more not less.

I hold that there is no ground for jealousy between the Provincial School, and any Academy or College in the Province. "Quis" and "N. S." have said much about the Presbyterian tendency of that School. I do not believe this to be the real objection that indit-

ed their letters. Was it not a fear that the school at Truro might conflict with other schools? I apprehend this to be the true moving cause. I think such fear quite unnecessary. Dr. Forrester has stated repeatedly in his public addresses that, "Those who went to the Normal School with the highest scholarly attainments received the greatest benefit while there." No one can question the truthfulness of this statement. Then let the young men and young women of the Province obtain their scholarship where they please. I cannot see that resorting to Truro to obtain special benefit for themselves as teachers need, in any possible way, conflict with the interests of other schools.

I hold that every sound political economist, every true philanthropist, every enlightened christian ought to rise superior to personal consideration in this high and noble work of Education; that he ought to give countenance and support to every honest effort made for the elevation of the educational standard.—We move slowly enough. I for one, and I do not think that numbers join with me, do not wish to roll hindrances before the wheels, but to remove obstacles out of the way. May the right prevail!

L.

September 23rd., 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

Sabbath School Convention at Windsor.

According to notice, the Teachers and friends of Sabbath Schools met in the Baptist Church in Windsor, Sept. 25th. The Sabbath School assembled at 2 P. M. The services commenced by singing from the "S. S. Bell," and prayer by the Rev. Mr. Murdoch. The Secretary, Mr. Sabine, then occupied half an hour in examining the school on Mark xiv. It was a beautiful specimen of Sabbath School instruction, presenting in an interesting manner the various touching incidents there recorded, and enforcing their lessons upon the minds of the children. The superintendent then read a report of the manner of conducting the school.

The Pastor, occupying the chair, then called upon friends present to make remarks; but as the time for the meeting had expired none thought it best to prolong it, though all seemed delighted with the exercise.

At 4 o'clock the friends reassembled.—After prayer by Rev. Mr. DeBlois, Bro. Freeman presented an Essay on the expediency of continuing our Sabbath Schools through the winter season. An excellent letter was then read from J. W. Barss, Esq., Superintendent of the Wolfville School containing valuable suggestions as to desirable improvements in schools. After remarks by Bro. Mosher, Harding and others, it was resolved that Mr. Selden be requested to publish the Essay in the *Christian Messenger*.

After a short discussion the following resolutions were passed.

Resolved, 1. That a Committee be appointed by this meeting, to call a Sabbath School Convention at _____ on September the 1863, and to invite the Sabbath Schools of the Central Association to send letters and delegates to said Convention, and to draft a Constitution and Bye-laws to be submitted to the Convention.

2. That Brethren D. Mosher, T. S. Harding, William Sabine, J. P. Marin, and D. M. Welton be the Committee with power to add to their number, and to fill up the blanks of the preceding resolution.

Resolved, That J. Y. Payzant A. B., be appointed to read an Essay at the next Convention, and that Rev. S. W. DeBlois be his alternate, and that Bro. W. Sabine be appointed to deliver an Address on the occasion, and that Rev. D. M. Welton be his alternate.

The meeting closed by singing the doxology.

At seven o'clock a good congregation assembled to listen to the public addresses.—After singing, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Bancroft. The following resolutions were then spoken to:

Resolved, 1. That second to the preaching of the gospel, the Sabbath School is the most important instrumentality for the conversion of the rising generation.

Bro. DeBlois in moving the resolution shewed that the faithful Sabbath School teacher was an effective preacher of the gospel.

Bro. Davenport Cox in supporting it, said that his own experience was a proof of the fact. He alluded to the influence of a pious mother as illustrating the force of early religious instruction.

Resolved, 2. That to secure the highest efficiency of Sabbath Schools it is expedient that the most improved system of conducting them be adopted.

Bro. Sabine in moving the resolution said that such a thing as discontinuing the schools

in winter was never thought of in England.—He had seen in London on a rainy Sunday nine teachers and five scholars meet. The teachers were at their posts. It was ably supported by Rev. Mr. Bancroft.

Remarks were then made by Brethren Freeman, R. Eaton, and J. Y. Payzant.—The doxology was then sung.

Thus ended one of the most pleasant meetings I ever attended. I am sure that when the character of these Conventions becomes known they will have a larger attendance of persons from a distance. May the Lord continue to smile upon them, so auspiciously begun, until our Sabbath Schools throughout the land are animated with new life and energy.

Signed,
D. FREEMAN, Secretary.
Windsor Sept. 25th, 1862.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 1, 1862.

Generalship.

We believe that in the view of most persons, who may be called indifferent lookers-on, in the present unnatural contest between the North and South, there is a lamentable want of able Generalship in the management of the Federal armies. How fir this will have been remedied by the bitter experience and rude lessons of the past year, remains to be seen. In our own apprehension had there existed in the North as good material for forming competent Generals to marshal and conduct large armies, as for creating the armies themselves, the Confederates would long since have been thoroughly beaten, and the South nominally, if not really subdued. Or, to use the favourite expression so frequently adopted by the North in the commencement of the strife, the rebellion would long ago have been "crushed out!" Every one, however, who has considered the past history of the war, with the most casual observation, must know that the talent to command large armies is one of the highest exercises of mere human intellect.

Perhaps indeed, in the term General, in its fullest meaning and development, one in half a century, on an average, is above what even what is called the civilized world produces. It is well known that many a military leader who would be quite competent to manoeuvre and bring into action ten or even twenty thousand men, would be utterly at a loss how to command an army of a hundred or a hundred and fifty thousand. Nay, many a one who would be well able to discipline a large army fitted for the greatest exigencies when ably commanded, might be wholly incompetent to command it himself. Such seems to us from the numerous military reverses of the past year, to have been the situation of affairs as between the North and the South. The able Generalship, so far as it has shewn itself, has hitherto been all with the latter. No doubt great disadvantage has resulted from the difficulties for what is called handling troops from the nature of a much wooded country like America, instead of the open campaigns of Europe, but this has been a disadvantage applying to both sides. Another great evil attending the North, and which we doubt not has conduced to many of their disasters, has been their overweening self-confidence in their own superior abilities and resources, and a consequent contempt for their opponents. We believe it to belong to national character in every country to be more or less self-confident, boastful and arrogant. Republics, from obvious reasons, are certainly not less so than others.

From this very natural outburst of human sin and infirmity our Republican neighbors are by no means exempt. Their Generals, without trial and before every action, have been lauded to the skies as paragons of military genius, and every defeat has been preceded by the prediction of certain victory. In fact, boasting has been the order of the day, from Mr. Lincoln-himself, his Secretaries and his Generals, down to the pages of the most worthless print in the Union.

We devoutly wish this most unhappy contest were at an end, but looking at the spirit and objects of it on either side, we must own we can see little prospect of such an event. The spirit of bitter hatred in the South, and of wounded pride in the North, from unlooked for defeats by an inferior power, is little likely to be allayed by any influence which is yet perceptible. The chimera of continued Union must surely have vanished long ere this, and what just or valid reason there can be for prolonging the contest at such a cost of human misery, the world is at a loss to discover.

WESTERN N. B. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—We are glad to learn by the letter of Rev.

J. C. Hurd, on another page, that the Annual Session of this body was so pleasant and satisfactory. Much depends on the firmness and urbanity of the Moderator in such assemblies, as to whether they shall fulfil their designs, and benefit the parties composing them, or otherwise.

We find an item or two additional in the *Visitor*. Brother Bill there states:—

"On Saturday evening Rev. B. F. Rattray, of the Free Baptist Church, preached by the request of the body to a densely crowded congregation. We had not the pleasure of hearing the sermon, but we were informed that our brother delivered faithfully the Lord's message. There was a large accession of visitors by the steamer *Union* on Saturday evening, and the congregation on the Sabbath was far in advance of the dimensions of the sanctuary. It became necessary, therefore for brethren Harvey and Hughes to preach to the people in a beautiful grove near by, while brethren Spurden and Cadly were preaching in the house, crowded with attentive listeners. It is said that in the afternoon there were as many in the grove as in the house. The evening congregation, was addressed by Bro. Wm. Howe, the former pastor of the Newcastle church."

"We have only to add in conclusion the we left Newcastle deeply impressed with the unrivalled kindness of the people and full of the idea that our Association from first to last was of the model type.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.—A letter from W. H. Whyckoff, dated New York, September 27, 1862, gives us the following concerning the operations of the Union, with an invitation to attend the Anniversary:—

The Anniversary of the American Bible Union will be held on the last Wednesday and Thursday of October (the 29th and 30th), in the meeting-house of the First Baptist Church, New York. The Gospels, revised by the Final Committee, printed and bound in a neat New Testament edition and ready for the widest possible circulation will be laid before the Union.

Price for one copy, \$0 20 cts. by mail, free of postage; six copies, \$1, expense by mail or express paid by the purchaser.

"The great war in our land has restricted our receipts. The generosity of our friends has been taxed to sustain the Government. Millions have been needed and freely given. But all that the Bible Union needs before the Anniversary is only \$3000. This will sustain the revisers, pay the printers, provide for the issue of the first edition of the Revised Gospels, for the deficiencies of the past year and all other unavoidable expenses. Our reliance is upon voluntary contributions. It is a long time since we made a direct appeal to you. We now do it under deeply interesting and very encouraging circumstances. If at the close of such a year as the present we had asked for \$10,000 to make up the deficiency of receipts, you would have no occasion for surprise. But now we only need \$3000 to complete the year. We feel perfectly assured that you will cheerfully assist to make up that amount."

MR. EDITOR,—

In an article on the first page of the *Christian Messenger* last week headed "Misquotations of Scripture," I notice the following, purporting to be Eph. iii. 20.—"God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think." The passage reads thus,—"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think," &c.

"PHYSICIAN'S" DOCTOR.

Very good Mr. Doctor. There is nothing like cultivating the spirit, and imitating the daily practises of the "noble" Bereans.—Acts xvii. 11.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED NOVA SCOTIAN, ABROAD.—A correspondent of the *Sun* two or three weeks ago gave an interesting sketch of Major-General Charles Beckwith a native of Halifax, who died recently at Pignerolo, in Piedmont. His father was a captain of the British Army, who had settled in Halifax, and married the sister of the late Chief Justice Haliburton. The Major entered the army under the auspices of his uncle,—also Gen. Beckwith,—and served with great gallantry and distinction throughout the whole of the Peninsular War, and also in the terrible days of Quarter Bras and Waterloo, all of which service he went through without receiving a scratch. At the close of the battle of Waterloo, however, a partly-spent cannon-ball struck him below the knee, rendered it necessary to have his leg amputated. After the restoration of peace, he returned to Halifax. In the year 1823, he established, in conjunction with the present Prothonotary, J. W. Nutting, Esq., the first Sabbath-school in the city, in the old Dutch Church, at the North End,—fitting up the room, supplying books, and defraying expenses out of his own pocket, and what was better, continuing himself a teacher of the school until he left the country. Shortly after leaving Nova Scotia, he repaired to the Alpine valleys, and took up his residence among the Waldensians, among whom he labored till the day of his death. The General also occupied a seat in the Italian Parliament. It is needless to say that this worthy man was greatly beloved by the simple people among whom he pitched his tent, and labored so nobly for upwards of 34 years. Indeed they fairly idolized him. A gentleman who recently travelled through that country, reports that the poor villagers had posts erected at the cross roads in