

Agriculture, &c.

LATE PASTURING.

Some farmers keep their cattle out as late as possible in the fall, and even into winter. The pastures are gnawed very close, and even the after-math of mowing fields, as if they never expected to get another crop of grass from them.

The roots of all the grasses are designed to be covered with their own leaves, and stalks during the winter. These, and the snow, protect them from the alternate freezings and thawings, and bring them out in good condition in the spring.

It is quite as bad for the cattle as it is for the land. If they have no fodder in the month of November, they lose, rather than gain upon pasture, unless it is much better than the average.

TOADS IN GARDENS.

At a recent meeting of the Brooklyn Horticultural Society, the subject of toads in gardens was under discussion, when Mr. Burgess, an "old country gardener of long experience," stated "that thirty years' observation had convinced him that it was the snail, and not the toad, which devoured strawberries and their vines."

DRIVING AWAY FLIES.

A French paper, the Courier du Havre, in alluding to a plan lately suggested for driving away flies, (the use of laurel oil,) states that no flies will enter a room in which a wreath of walnut leaves has been hung up.

HEATED APARTMENTS.

The Siccle says:—"Generally speaking during winter, apartments are too much heated. The temperature in them ought not to exceed 15° Centigrade (59° Fah.) and even in periods of great cold, scientific men declare 50 or 58° had better not be exceeded."

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letters to a Young Preacher.

LETTER XI. SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGES.

My Dear Brother,—

By the law of the land the solemnizing of Marriage devolves on the ministers of religion. It is, of course, incumbent on us, in the performance of this part of our work, to act in strict accordance with the requirements of the law.

Ministers expose themselves to a penalty, and also to damages, if they refuse to officiate without a valid reason; and likewise if they do marry persons when a legal objection exists, or in certain other respects contrary to law.

When we are required to solemnize marriage by publication of bans, we must strictly conform to the requisition of the law, which runs thus:—"Any person who shall officiate in the solemnization of marriage, unless notice of such marriage shall have been previously given publicly during the time of Divine Service, at three several meetings at a place of public worship, on two or more Sundays, in the place or places where the parties, or one of them, shall reside, or unless a License have been obtained under the hand and seal of the Governor, shall forfeit fifty pounds."

Not only are we obliged to conform invariably to this rule because the law requires it, but also because the propriety and necessity of it are apparent. The obvious intention of the publication of bans is, to give due notice to all the parties in any way concerned; so that if there be any lawful objection, it may be made prior to the marriage.

When we are requested to solemnize marriage by License, the extract already quoted shews us, that prior to the marriage "a License shall have been obtained." The officiating minister virtually testifies,—the law requires—as stated in the License and Bond, that the parties "are respectively of the full age of twenty-one years; or otherwise; that both or either of them being under that age, have obtained the consent of their Parent or Parents, lawful Guardian or Guardians, respectively to said Marriage."

It may be alleged, that parents sometimes act imprudently in forbidding the proposed marriage of children under their control. Instances of this undoubtedly do occur. It is not, however, the province of ministers to interfere, and attempt to correct such supposed error by transgressing the law.

Men who are anxious to make money by selling rum, may endeavor to excuse their conduct by the flimsy plea, that if they do it not, others will. But such a plea ill becomes one who professes to be a minister of Jesus Christ.

misery would be prevented. The Christian ministry in general would also be held in much higher esteem. If, then, some will persist in this unlawful course, I entreat you, my beloved Brother, not to be "partaken of other men's sins."

On such festive occasions as those of weddings people are very liable to indulge in frivolities and amusements inconsistent with piety. If a minister perceive that his presence does not exercise a restraining influence, so soon as his duty is discharged it is the part of prudence to retire.

If there be any persons who, for the purpose of annoying the parties and their guests, will disgrace themselves, and subject themselves to fine, imprisonment, and finding security for good behaviour, (Revised Statutes, Ch. 157, pp. 612, 613.) by causing disturbances of any kind, the minister can by no means be held responsible for these outrages, provided he "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

May you, my dear young Brother, in the solemnizing of marriages ever conduct with that prudence which, though it may give you less employment in this line, will secure to you the esteem of considerate and discreet persons!

Yours in gospel bonds,

CHARLES TUPPER.

Aglesford, Sept. 18, 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

New Brunswick Correspondence.

THE WESTERN N. B. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Editor,—

This body held its Annual Session with the Baptist Church at Newcastle, Grand Lake, last week, commencing on Thursday at 3 o'clock P. M. The services were opened in due form by the Rev. Dr. Spurden, Moderator of last year.—The usual time was occupied in religious exercises, in which a large number of brethren took part, much to the edification and comfort of all present. It was indeed a good season. God was evidently in the midst of us, a deep solemnity pervaded the whole audience, and many felt that it was a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

The rest of the day was occupied in the reception of Reports from the several Committees, on Union Societies, Sabbath Schools, Home and Foreign Missions, Temperance, Obituaries &c. Warm and earnest speeches were delivered on these subjects, and I trust a good impression was produced. The evening Session was devoted to the subject of Home Missions. The claims of the cause were ably presented by the several speakers, whose enthusiastic appeals to the hearts and pockets of the people were not without some satisfactory results.

It is a source of pleasure to all interested in the welfare of the young amongst us to witness the growing interest manifested throughout our Province in the subject of Sabbath Schools.—One of the immediate results of which was the institution of Sabbath School Conventions.—The benefits arising from them must necessarily

looking after. There is money buried amongst them, and actual discoveries have been made recently. Rich veins of gold are available, but as in "Tangier" and "The Ovens," a Crushing Machine is needed to make them productive.—Let the friends of Acadia see that such a "machine" is not wanting at our next Association, and I will guarantee that the result will be highly satisfactory.

The Institution at Horton, however, was not forgotten. The writer endeavoured to the utmost of his humble ability to present its claims upon the Baptists of this province. He felt, with many others present, that it is our own Institution; and as such we feel a deep interest in it. We not only desire its prosperity; but are willing to do what we can to help it forward. The next meeting of our Association will take place with the Baptist Church at Lower Kingsclear, 8 miles above Fredericton, on the St. John River. It is a beautiful locality, and easy of access.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

I regret that I have been unable sooner to give you any account of the progress of this Institution. The following from the Head Quarters, will indicate the favourable auspices under which the present term opened on Monday the 8th inst.

The lectures of the Michaelmas term of the University were commenced last Monday. At four of the afternoon of that day Professor Bailey delivered an address introductory to the study of Natural Science. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen in the Hall, shewing the general interest that is being awakened in the rising fortunes of the Institution. The best proof, however, that the University is becoming popular throughout the Province, is the influx of fresh blood—young students—from the different counties that has entered within its walls since the beginning of this term.

It is really pleasing to see that the advantages that the University affords are beginning to be better—though still not adequately—appreciated throughout the Province. Before long the fame of it may be expected to draw students from afar. But it cannot be wondered at that the claims of the University should begin to attract attention, for it may well be said that it puts such opportunities of improvement and advancement in the way of youth of New Brunswick (offers them almost without price) that their natural guardians would be blind and insensate indeed if they did not put them in the way of obtaining the advantage of them.

In treating of the one department to which he more particularly devotes himself, the Professor dwelt upon the practical value of a study of natural history, and of an intimate knowledge of the branches of geology and mineralogy to the inhabitants of this country that is so rich in minerals, and instanced in how many cases a knowledge of the rudiments of these sciences would have prevented ardent but blind searches after nature's hidden wealth, making fools of themselves by taking trash with a spurious glitter for the precious ores.

At the close of the address, the President thanked Prof. Bailey for his able and eloquent address, and himself shortly went over its ground, enforcing its precepts. He impressed particularly upon the students the benefits of a study of natural history in awakening and strengthening the powers of observation. By these means a new world was brought within their ken. A close study of nature enabled them to find—"Tongues in the trees, books in the running brooks; Sermons in stones; and good in everything."

I must apologize for the length of this article, I have really not time to make it shorter.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN FREDERICTON.

You will be glad to hear that the work of the Lord continues progressive in Fredericton. I have baptized several interesting persons recently. Others are looking forward. To God be all the glory.

I am sir, very truly yours,

J. C. HURD.

Fredericton, Sept. 25th, 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

Annual Meeting of Yarmouth County Baptist Sabbath School Convention.

It is a source of pleasure to all interested in the welfare of the young amongst us to witness the growing interest manifested throughout our Province in the subject of Sabbath Schools.—One of the immediate results of which was the institution of Sabbath School Conventions.—The benefits arising from them must necessarily