

and all the loving friends feel the absence of the departed. But we will not mourn. He has laid aside the instrument of music by which accompanied with his voice he was accustomed to delight us, but God has placed in his hands one far more delightful with which he now augments that song which is the delight of every inhabitant of heaven.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Rev. David Freeman.

Dear Brother,—

As several letters have appeared in the Christian Messenger of late with reference, to the support of Dr. Pryor, as Professor in Acadia College, I would suggest that each member of the Alumni act as an agent for the object. If each member would add a pound or two to his annual fee, and beg a few pounds besides, fifty members could easily accomplish that desirable object. I am willing as one to carry out this suggestion. In case of falling be hind-hand, the Society might employ agents here and there for a few weeks to collect funds. In raising funds for this object it would be well for the society to avoid placing themselves in the way of the Governors of the College who might find it necessary to make formal appeals to the Churches in order to meet their obligations. Let the society and the Governors operate each in their appropriate spheres without clashing, and much more can be accomplished. As the Professor is to enter upon his duties in April immediate action is necessary. The King's business requires despatch.

Yours &c., D. FREEMAN.

Canning, N. S., Feb. 15th, 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

Canada Correspondence.

Some account of the New Baptist Church edifice in Montreal, was given in a previous number, yet as the following letter gives fuller details we gladly give it insertion.

DEAR BROTHER,

Perhaps the readers of the Messenger may be somewhat interested in a few items of a religious nature from Canada East. The First Baptist Church in this city, sold their property in St. Helen Street a year since, and immediately, purchased the site of Beaver Hall, upon which to erect another edifice.

After worshipping about a year in the Music Hall, services were held in the basement of the new building on last Lord's Day, and sermons preached appropriate to the occasion,—in the morning, by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Goodby, afternoon and evening, by Rev. J. H. Walden, of Massena, N. Y. We may also add, that throughout this week a series of evening meetings is being held, and on Thursday a Church Soiree will take place, chair to be taken at 7 1/2 P. M.; and on Friday at the same hour, the children of the Sunday School purpose holding their Annual Soiree.

The church edifice is in the early English Gothic style, surmounted by a tower, and is built entirely of stone, rock-faced, with cut stone dressing,—the roof being covered with purple and green slate, in ornamental patterns. The edifice is 55 feet wide, by 80 feet deep, with a projection of 10 feet in front and 8 feet in rear; and consists of two departments—the main audience-room, or church, and Lecture-room. The speaker's platform and the baptistry are to be placed at the rear of the church, the organ-gallery at the opposite end; this portion of the building is 40 feet in height from the floor to the centre of the vaulted ceiling; it will at first be arranged to seat about 550 persons, and should galleries be afterwards added, will then accommodate an audience of 900. There are to be three entrances, two in front and one on the east side of the building. The front and rear of the structure are to be adorned with large windows of stained glass, filled in with religious emblems and mottoes, the one in front is to be the most elaborate, the central object being a figure of our Saviour, while at a distance beneath is the motto, "One Lord, One Faith, and one Baptism," the Bible, and chalice, and other objects filling up the design. Along the lower part of the rear windows are the words "Why tarriest thou? arise and be baptised;" near the top in large characters are placed the Greek initial letters Alpha and Omega, surmounted by a descending dove. Religious services will be continued in the basement every Sabbath until the church is completed; which is to be by 1st of September next. Excellent arrangements are made for ventilating the entire building and

it is to be warmed by three hot-air furnaces of the most approved kind. The cost of the whole, excepting the stained glass windows which are presents from two members of the church, will be \$22,000, including the price of the ground.—When finished the structure will form an elegant addition to the architectural adornments of Montreal, and also reflects much credit on all concerned in its erection.

The "First Baptist Church" is now over thirty years old; it was organised on 13th November, 1831, under the pastorate of Rev. John Gilmore from Aberdeen, Scotland; and public religious services were first held in their late church in St. Helen Street. The Rev. Dr. Goadby, formerly a Missionary in India, became their pastor in May 1859.

At the regular opening of the new church, this coming Autumn, I will with your leave send you a brief account of the proceedings for the Messenger.

I remain &c., E. A. NASH.

Montreal, C. E., Feb. 4th, 1862.

Religious Intelligence.

NICTAUX.—Rev. Dr. Tupper writes under date Feb. 7.

"I have been endeavouring to assist them a little here in Nictaux in a series of meetings. The prospect is highly encouraging. Several have professed faith in Christ. The persevering efforts of Brother Parker and those assisting him in the midst of discouraging appearances for a time are evidently being crowned with success. May others be prompted to engage earnestly and perseveringly in similar efforts."

And again on the 12th inst., he says:—"Through Divine goodness the gracious work is evidently advancing. Brother Parker baptized nine persons on the past Sabbath. More are expected to come forward soon."

Provincial Parliament.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Thursday last at 2 o'clock P. M.; His Excellency the Earl of Mulgrave attended by the usual Staff together with a large assemblage of military and Naval officers and citizens—ladies and gentleman—appeared in the Council Chamber, for the purpose of opening the Legislature of the Province.

His Excellency's arrival was announced by a salute fired on the Grand Parade, by the Halifax Volunteer Artillery who made a highly creditable appearance on the occasion.

The Halifax Rifles and Mayflower Volunteer Companies lined the entrance to the Council Chamber, and the Volunteer Band played the National Anthem in the area of the Province Building. The Guard of Honor outside, was composed of the 16th Regiment, their fine band was also present and performed several airs in passing from their barracks and back.

On His Excellency taking his seat on the throne the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was directed by the President of the Council to inform the House of Assembly that it was His Excellency's will and pleasure that they should immediately attend him in the Council Chamber, whereupon the members of the Assembly appeared, headed by the Speaker. His Excellency then read the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The sudden death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has deeply afflicted our beloved Sovereign, and cast a gloom over the whole Empire. You will, I doubt not, be anxious to convey to the fact of the Throne an expression of sympathy and condolence in accordance with the universal sentiment of Nova Scotia.

Circumstances having arisen, which threatened, for a time, the amicable relations that have so long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States, rendering War upon our frontiers imminent, attention has naturally been turned to the state of our local defences. Her Majesty's Government has shown a disposition, while maintaining the honor of the British Flag, to defend these Provinces with the whole power of the Empire; and it becomes our duty now to prepare for self-defence and to take such measures as will hereafter secure this country against sudden or unexpected attack.

It affords me much gratification to be enabled to assure you that the Volunteer Corps, throughout the Province, are increasing in numbers and improving in discipline. In case of invasion they would have sustained the regular forces with spirit, and formed in each county a valuable school of instruction for the Militia. But while great credit is due to the exertions of these Corps their numbers are still inadequate to the defence of the Province; and it should be remembered, that their services being voluntary it is not just

that a duty, which rightly devolves on all, should be accepted from the loyalty and patriotism of a few, not only without remuneration, but at considerable sacrifice and inconvenience.

A measure, having for its object the revision of the present Militia Law, will therefore be submitted to you, and I would earnestly press upon your consideration the necessity for taking such steps as shall, without wasting our resources by extravagant expenditure, secure to the inhabitants of Nova Scotia the means of resisting aggression in the event of war.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The public accounts, with the estimate for the current years, will be laid before you. Though the derangement of commerce, arising out of civil war in the neighboring Republic and from the closing of the Southern ports, has largely affected our revenue, you will be gratified to learn that the appropriations of the year have been met and that the credit of the Province has been maintained.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The discovery of Gold, in various parts of the Province, during the past summer, has opened new sources of employment for our people.

The responsibility has hitherto devolved upon the Government of regulating this new branch of industry, guarding alike the rights of the Crown and the interests of proprietors. The responsibility of legislative regulation will now rest upon you. In the papers, which shall be laid before you, the steps, already taken, will be detailed; and your attention will be invited to a measure by which a permanent and uniform system of management may be established.

The liberal provision made at the last session for a representation of the industrial resources of this Province at the great International Exhibition, enabled me to appoint a Commission charged with that service. By the labors of a body of intelligent gentlemen a very creditable display of objects of Natural History, of Art and Industry, will be made; not the least valuable or attractive portion of which will be specimens from the Gold Mines, and from the rich and inexhaustible coal measures of this Province. It is reasonable to assume that the exhibition of these specimens will attract into Nova Scotia some portion of the surplus labor of Europe, and call home many of our people who have been seeking employment in the United States and elsewhere. Some provision should be made for a wide diffusion of correct information in regard to the social condition and industrial resources of this Country.

A geological survey of the Province would be invaluable, as an authoritative record of facts upon which capitalists, at home or abroad, and immigrants seeking employment, may rely.—With a view to ascertain the practicability and cost of such a survey, correspondence has been opened with eminent geologists, and I shall be gratified if the financial condition of the Province is found to warrant an appropriation for this service.

Although an unfavorable answer was given, by Her Majesty's Government, to the joint address of the two Houses asking aid to the Intercolonial Railroad, circumstances seemed, at a later period of the year, to favour the presumption that that decision might be revised; and that a renewed application, from the three Provinces most interested, would be more successful. A delegate was sent to New Brunswick, and a joint delegation subsequently assembled at Quebec. It was there determined to renew the offer made in 1849, and again in 1858, and to send delegates to England to urge the acceptance of that proposition upon Her Majesty's Government. When the papers are laid before you, I trust that the mode in which these missions were conducted will meet with your approval. No answer has yet been given to this application, which is still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Recent events have brought prominently to the notice of the people of the British Islands the absolute necessity of this great National Highway, as a work of cheap defence. The danger to our frontier, in case of war in winter, has now been demonstrated; and the cost of transporting men and material over the common roads will soon be ascertained. These considerations, we may fairly anticipate, will be maturely weighed; nor can the presence of an enormous standing army in the neighboring Republic, and facilities for throwing large bodies of troops into the adjoining Provinces, which exist in that country, escape observation.

Much labor has been expended throughout the summer, and with beneficial results, in adjusting the titles to land in the Island of Cape Breton, and in quieting disputes arising out of the irregular occupation of Indian Reserves.—This service will be continued till the irregularities of the past no longer impede the distribution of real estate and the improvement of the Island.

That you will devote yourselves to the business of legislation, in a spirit of thankfulness for the blessings of the year, I confidently anticipate; and you may as certainly rely on my anxious desire to co-operate with you in every measure calculated to promote the prosperity of our Province.

After the withdrawal of His Excellency and staff and citizens, the Hon. Solicitor General presented a Bill to enable Joint Stock Companies to be incorporated. The speech was read by the clerk and the Hon. Mr. Whitman moved the Address in reply to the speech; which as it is but an echo of the speech itself we think unnecessary to give in our columns.

Hon. Mr. Tupper seconded the Address which was read the first time and ordered to be read a second time on a future day.

A committee was appointed to make arrangements for Reporting the business of the Session.

After a brief notice of the removal of the Library to the new room—the late Supreme Court-room—and a few remarks complaining of the difficulty experienced in former sessions from delay in sending bills from the House of Assembly at so late a period in the session the Council adjourned.

On Friday the Council met at 1/2 past 2 when the debate on the Address was continued by the Hon. Mr. Dickey who corrected a statement contained in the speech respecting the negotiations for the completion of the Halifax and Quebec Railway. The Hon. Solicitor General admitted that the offer made by the Provinces in 1858 was not precisely the same as that made in 1849 but that they, and that made in 1861, were substantially the same. The Address was passed and arrangements made for its presentation.

On Saturday at 1/2 past 12 the Council proceeded in a body to Government House with the Address to which His Excellency made a brief reply.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

After the reading of the Speech of His Excellency in the House of Assembly, the returns of the late elections of Representatives for Kings and Victoria were read. The two members elected Daniel Moore, Esq., and Wm. Gammel, Esq., were introduced, the oath of allegiance was administered to them, and they took their seats.

Mr. Esson introduced a bill (pro forma) entitled an Act for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

Mr. McLellan moved the Address in answer to the Speech from the throne. He briefly reviewed the subjects contained in the Speech and hoped there would be but one feeling in the discussion, especially dwelling on the bereavement of Her Majesty, the Volunteer movement as a necessity of the times, the loss of revenue by the war in the States, the discovery of gold in various parts of the province, the necessity for a thorough survey of the Province, and the importance of the Intercolonial Railway.

Mr. Gammel seconded the address. Dr. Tupper then arose and said that there was sufficient in the events referred to in the Speech to form a reason for departing from the usual course of reviewing the past year. He felt too that it was necessary to economize the public time. He deprecated the length to which the Legislative sessions had been extended and thought that the business of the country might all be done in a much shorter period than of late years.

He then referred to the question of Education and although it had been formerly made a leading subject of consideration yet no reference was made to it in the Speech or the Address.

He had understood the leader of the government to say, at the last session, that they were waiting until the Census should be taken, before proposing any measure, in order that they might have authentic returns to guide them in deciding what course should be pursued. That work had been performed and with a result, so far as the educational condition of Nova Scotia was concerned, which he frankly confessed had struck his mind forcibly.

It seemed to him almost incredible, that with a population of only 330,000, and in a country where so much effort had been made to educate the people, there should be, as the census showed, over 81,000 persons, over five years of age, who are unable to read, and over 114,000 persons above that age who are unable to write. He did not understand what induced the persons who prepared the Census to take the number of persons who could write from five years and upward; but, deducting 14,000 for the number of persons between five and ten years, at which latter age children might naturally be expected to be able to write, and they had still something like one third of the entire population of Nova Scotia unable to write. This fact, he thought, must have made a deep impression on the friends of the country, and it was impossible that any person entrusted with the educational interests of Nova Scotia could be otherwise than deeply impressed by it.

The hon. gentleman said he did not refer to this subject for the purpose of throwing any unnecessary blame upon the government, because it was possible that they acted wisely in not bringing forward any educational measures at this time. He was not quite certain that if there should be a change in the government, the new government would be prepared to deal with the important question of education as it had a right to be dealt with; and it was perhaps wise in the government not to undertake to deal with it, in order that it might be taken out of the sphere of party conflicts, and that those charged with the education of the country should be invited to bring forward the most mature scheme possible for their candid and unbiased consideration, that they might see if some measure could not be devised by which, when another decennial Census is taken, they might be able to present to the world a result more creditable than that furnished by the census recently completed.