

All history is undergoing revision. It is our duty to take part in the scrutiny, and to subject all our historical materials to renewed and close examination. We shall lose nothing by it.

J. M. C. Acadia College, Nova Scotia.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

Yesterday the day for Prayer for Colleges was duly observed here. A more interesting season I have not witnessed in connection with our Institutions. The large number of Students of the College present, and of pupils from the two departments of the Academy joining in the services of the day, with countenances beaming with intelligence and the evidence of unbounded confidence, reposed by them in their devoted Professors and Teachers, was a sight that would have gladdened the hearts of the parents of the young then present, could they have attended on the occasion. The letters read from twenty or upwards of ministering brethren who had gone out from these institutions, describing the extent of their fields of labor, and shewing the happy influence they were exerting in preaching the gospel, had they been listened to by our whole denomination, would have convinced them, that all their struggles to sustain the College had been amply repaid. The churches are now reaping the reward of their contributions in the forty or fifty pastors and labourers who have been educated here and who are now devoting their piety and their cultivated minds to the work of winning souls to Christ. The Treasurer of the College could not repress a sigh when pecuniary matters intruded themselves, at the time referred to. He thought, How soon he ought to have funds in hand to meet the salaries of those Professors who had laboured so perseveringly in the training of those sent here to be educated. On the 20th of March—in three weeks—a quarter's salaries become due. My object in writing this is to ask all indebted to the Institutions howsoever small the sum, to remit me if possible by that time. I dislike being in debt and the principle is wrong of allowing salaries to Ministers and Professors to go unpaid. This season has been, I am aware, rather a hard one in money matters, consequently funds have not come in as freely as formerly, therefore I make the present appeal. We have had no agent in the field for some months in this Province and there is somewhat of a slackness in many parts in relation to forwarding the claims due the College, and I feel reluctant to repeat my letters so frequently, therefore let me ask each one to whom this application will apply to do their utmost to put us in funds by the 20th March, that the Treasurer may meet the demands then to be made upon him.

The Governors will meet I presume in March (about 20th) to consider the ways and means required to carry the College through the year. Our Churches may expect the annual appeal, complaints were made last year that timely notice was not given, we now speak of it, and the Governors no doubt will at their next meeting look into the state of the finances and report to the churches their wants which I think will be met with a hearty response.

J. W. BARRE, Treas. Acadia College. Feb. 27, 1863.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 4, 1863.

Church Union.

How lovely is union. Man, by himself, is but a poor feeble creature, and soon loses his dignity, whether it be in the march of material improvement, or in the cultivation of noble impulses. Shut up in himself, he soon ceases to feel for others' woes or care for their fellowship. By unity of effort, men promote their own happiness, secure large advantages to themselves, and spread them abroad in the world. All great enterprises are the results of combination. Whilst the various commercial, political, and philanthropic organizations of the world have for their object the benefit of those of whom they are composed, they all confer blessings to a greater or less extent, on the mass of mankind.

These combinations are valuable in the proportion in which they have for their object the amelioration of man's condition, and as they embrace the interests of his whole being,—material and mental, moral, spiritual and eternal. Whatever may be aimed at by these organizations, they fail to reach the higher necessities of mankind, unless they embrace the latter of these features of human life.

As the Christian is the highest style of man, so is the Christian Church the highest form of human combination. Other relationships, as that of the family, of the citizen, and of professional life, are important, and indeed essential to our well-being in this world; but that of the Church, whilst it has an infinitely higher origin and object, takes cognizance of all these, and renders them doubly valuable. In the family relationship the likeness to each other is seen in the different members, in other associations similarity of opinion and practice form the bond, but the church is founded on moral and spiritual qualities, and the resemblance, in these respects, of each member to the great Pattern—the first-born among many brethren.

As the image and superscription on the coin of the realm, shew it to be the genuine currency of the nation, and as the proper test applied to the spurious, discovers its inferior value, so does the image of Christ seen in each of his followers, and a readiness to be guided by his precepts, shew them to be representatives of Him, who died for our sins and rose again for our justification. Here then is a foundation for a union of the most perfect and enduring character. Whatever of joy may arise from other fraternities, the Church alone provides for fellowship in the spiritual exercises of divine worship and service here, and the pure union to be completed hereafter.

The saints on earth and all the dead But one communion make: All join in Christ their living Head, And of his grace partake.

Whilst this union is adapted to bring its subjects nearer to its great Author, every departure from the Divine law is calculated in its nature to separate men from the great Lawgiver, and from those who bear his likeness. Immorality drives those who perpetrate it, away from the fountain of morality, and from all its streams, but the natural instincts of a renewed nature all tend towards the source of holiness, and to all that bears its resemblance. So soon as a person becomes sensible of his sinful condition, he applies for forgiveness to Him who came to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Then, instead of feeling himself lost and ruined, he becomes conscious of salvation, and desires to be united with others, who, like himself, are rescued from condemnation and wrath. He thus commences his church-life, and feels that he belongs to a fraternity whose destiny is everlasting blessedness. Having the Word of the Saviour and Master to guide him, he seeks to be conformed to his will, and thus to glorify his great Exemplar.

There are attempts to counterfeit this Church union, but we must deter the consideration of them for some other occasion.

The War and Slavery.

THE great Civil Conflict in the neighboring States continues to be carried on with increasing bitterness and alternate successes and reverses on either side. Scarcely any event in modern history has presented features more gloomy or harrowing to the feelings of humanity. The past history of the Union has been unique and peculiar. The same may be said of the chief characteristics of its people. Advancing with giant strides, within less than two and-a-half centuries, from a small shipload of houseless emigrants, set down in mid-winter on a barren, inhospitable coast, surrounded for thousands of miles on every side by trackless forests, they have grown to a population of upwards of thirty millions of souls, largely advanced in every attribute of intellectual power, and every art of civilized life. Surely there has been enough here to foster the pride and gratify the self-sufficiency of man. It is our firm opinion that had it not been for a large admixture of religious truth in the mass of its population, North America would long since have been what unhappily it has now become,—a field of blood. But we must ever remember that in the great mass of human society, religion has hitherto been, not the rule, but the exception. Unfortunately in the present case, a false and exaggerated view of the superiority of their Institutions to all others that ever have, or we might almost say, ever can exist, and an illusive belief in the greatness of their future national destiny, have blinded their eyes and perverted their understanding, as a nation. In the mean time, a fatal disease has been festering at their heart's core, which they have used no sincere or efficient efforts to heal, but, on the contrary, have, in effect, cherished and suffered to grow. Wise and moral and religious men, in all times of the Union, have, in their inner hearts, looked on Slavery as a sad and serious evil, as well as a blot on their Constitution, but, allowing themselves to be deluded by the belief of the perfectibility of their great Confederacy, and the dazzling prospect of becoming, not only the pattern but the dictators to the

nations of the earth,—they have suffered themselves to believe that increasing civilization would of itself extinguish Slavery, or that it would die out of its own accord. What else can account for the fact, which we believe we are safe in asserting, that no practical, well advised, even moderate measure, either for its prompt or gradual abolition, has ever been set on foot and persevered in— if by no others—by the great body of truly good and religious and moral men belonging to all parties in politics, who have in other respects seasoned the mass of human society in America. Surely this was an object in which the love of country and the fear of God, ought to, and would have united good men of all parties, had it not been for the flattering and delusive belief that there was something so perfect in their institutions, and that Providence had decreed such a brilliant future to the nation, that Slavery must of necessity die out of itself.

If we speak the honest truth, we must say that the Abolitionists have been the only consistent party as regards the accursed evil of Slavery. Consistent,—not indeed as to the means they have too often taken to eradicate the evil, for in this respect we fear that they have sometimes too well merited the name of fanatics,—but consistent in the honesty, and intensity, and perseverance of their endeavours and intentions. That the South revolted without sufficient cause, we do not doubt. The occasion of Mr. Lincoln's election was not the shadow of a justification for the Act. No law or compact of the Union, either express or implied, had been violated. Their fears for Slavery was doubtless the great motive for the revolt. But for this, they, in reality, had no great reason to fear. The North had always acted kindly and complacently towards them in the matter. Slaves had become, by virtue of fugitive Slave laws, as much an institution in every State of the Union as in South Carolina or Georgia; and if we are to believe in the proclamations and Acts of the Federal Government, the restoration of the Union as it was, with Slavery and all its safeguards, would have been gladly hailed, until almost the moment of Mr. Lincoln's tardy, inconsistent, and not very honest Abolition Manifesto.

The real restoration of the Union, however, is now a moral impossibility. Were all that the North can hope for, to be achieved to-morrow, the very name of Union, as hitherto understood, would be a solecism and a mockery. The utmost to be looked for is the military subjugation of the South, to be hereafter held as a fief, much in the fashion as Poland is by Russia, with the difference of having a more intelligent, more hostile, and more determined population to keep under. But strong and conflicting undercurrents of feeling and of interests are already fermenting and at work in the Federal States,—what the results will be lies far beyond our ken and is only known to the Great Disposer of all things. May He overrule the whole for the ultimate good of a people, in whose welfare we cannot but feel the deepest concern.

"DISCIPULUS."—We do not perceive any sentiments in your rather lengthy communication essentially different from those already published, and we think it undesirable to continue the discussion further, as we do not see how it can be determined whether man has a material spirit—a spiritual body—immediately after death, or no; and if it could, we do not perceive that any practical good would follow. We fully endorse your last sentence. "What the nature of this spiritual body is, which angels and the spirits of the departed possess, is not revealed, and any conjecture respecting it is mere unprofitable speculation."

TEMPERANCE LECTURES.—Arrangements have been made for the Rev. Mr. McArthur to deliver lectures under the auspices of the Grand Division, Sons of Temperance, at the following places, and at the times placed opposite:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Date/Day. Locations include Lower Horton, Wolfville, Port Williams, Cornwallis, Canard Hall, Canning, Sheffield's Mills, Carving, Centreville, Kentville, St. Mary's School-house, Aylesford, Kingston, Aylesford, Lower Aylesford.

Collections in aid of the Agency Fund will be taken at the close of each lecture.

It is possible that it may be found necessary to change the date of some places. Should this be the case, due notice will be given.

Mr. Beattie will also lecture in the eastern section of the County of Halifax,—at Musquodoboit Harbor, on Thursday, 5th; and at Kent's Island, Friday, 6th; Jeddore, on

Monday, 9th; Ship Harbour, Tuesday, 10th; Tangier, Wednesday, 11th; Pope's Harbour, on the 12th; Spry Harbour, on the 13th; Sheet Harbour, on the 16th; Beaver Harbor, on the 17th.

OUR WESTERN SHORE ROAD.—We have received the following brief communication from one of our correspondents, and are only surprised that the subject has not long ago been attended to, and the proper remedy applied.

Mr. Editor,— Much difficulty as well as danger has been experienced during the present winter, as well as on former occasions, by coach passengers crossing the LaHave Ferry, as well as the delay of Her Majesty's Mails.

It is to be hoped that all the members from Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens and Lunenburg, will use their utmost influence to secure a sufficient Grant to complete the Post road from Bridgewater to Millville.

This road (which is now nearly completed) will greatly shorten the distance from Mahonebay to Liverpool, thereby enabling the people in the metropolis and Yarmouth, and also the intermediate Towns and Villages to receive their papers and letters some hours earlier than at present, and with a greater degree of safety than by the present arrangement.

W. J. G. No one who has travelled along the south coast, either in winter or in stormy weather in summer, but must feel what a serious inconvenience the LaHave Ferry is to the travelling public.

We venture to bespeak the immediate attention of the members of Parliament for the western counties to this matter. A little of the surplus revenue could not be better spent than on this road. Its claims are even stronger than those of the Pictou railroad.

News Summary.

By the arrival of the Steamship Jura at Portland on the 26th ult., we learned a few items of intelligence later than in our last.

Mason the Confederate Commissioner was welcomed at the Lord Mayor's Banquet and received three cheers.

Parliamentary proceedings were unimportant. A stormy slavery meeting had been held at Liverpool. The Secessionists mustered strong, but Emancipation carried two to one.

The French Minister had explained that the Emperor's Italian policy is to reconcile Italy and the Pope, for the purpose of maintaining tranquility.

Conflicts in Poland continue, but mostly in favour of the Russians—one exception. The Times says the insurgents are increasing under the lead of Catholic priests, and seizing and keeping whole Provinces.

The Galway subsidy is to be restored; their steamers will sail from Southampton to secure a portion of continental traffic.

The Gibraltar, late the Sumpter, left Gibraltar on the 6th.

Mr. Fortescue, in the House of Commons said the Government refused to give direct aid to the Intercolonial Railway but would lend the Imperial credit for raising a loan.

English Diplomatic Correspondence strongly favors the withdrawal of the French from Rome.

The Asia arrived at New York on the 28th ult. By a telegram of the news she brought we learn that it is not expected that the Budget would be introduced until after Easter.

A Meeting was to be held in Liverpool on the 19th to adopt an address of sympathy with Pres. Lincoln's Emancipation movement.

Breadstuffs were quiet and steady. Provisions flat Consols 92½ a 92½.

Notices, &c.

Acadia College.

The Quarterly Examination of the Classes will take place on Wednesday, March 18th, and two following days, commencing each day at nine o'clock, A. M. J. M. CRAMP, President.

Feb. 26th, 1863.

A meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in the Library of the College on Thursday, March 19th, at two o'clock, P. M. A full attendance is requested. S. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.

Feb. 26th, 1862.

Colchester County Sabbath School Convention.

There will be a Quarterly Session of the Colchester County Baptist Sabbath School Convention, at the Baptist Meeting-house, Brookfield, on Friday, March 7th, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Pastors and Superintendents are solicited to use their best endeavors to send Delegates, Letters, and Statistical Reports from every School in the County. T. H. RAND, Secretary.

Truro, March 2nd.

Mic-mac Mission.

Received from W. J. Gates, Bridgewater, for Mic-mac Mission, and paid to Mr. Rand. B. F. Harrington, Esq., 10s. 0d. Mrs. J. Weddleton, 2s. 6d. John Barkhouse, 2s. 6d.

Received for the Foreign Mission.

From the Baptist Church of Truro, \$50.00 From a Friend in Newport, 4.00 C. TURPIN, Secretary.

Aylesford Feb. 27th, 1863.