

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

MR. EDITOR,—

There is nothing I more dislike than that of parading before your readers the financial concerns of my department. But necessity knows no law. The Appeal made to the Churches in the Spring with so much earnestness failed to call forth that hearty response we anticipated; the result to follow was of course foreseen. An empty treasury with a quarter's salary due the professors—is not a favourable position to be placed in: we need \$600 at once and I ask all those indebted to the College by note or subscription to forward me the amount due without delay. The small sums as well as the large ones are needed to pay our engagements. It will be a dull Anniversary for our Professors—who have laboured faithfully for the last term—if they are not put in funds to buy their Christmas dinner. We have hitherto met our engagements promptly. I hope all interested in "Acadia" will aid the treasurer in doing so now. Many who formerly sent donations can at this season of the year evidence their gratitude for the mercies of the past twelve months, by renewing their contributions.

J. W. Barss.

Treasurer of Acadia College.

Wolfville, Dec. 19, 1863.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Brother,

I observe that the *Presbyterian Witness* of the 12th inst., contains another insulting editorial respecting me. The writer is well versed in the arts of misconstruing and misrepresenting. He may continue to exercise his gifts. I shall take no farther notice of him.

The Rhetorical Exhibition took place, according to notice, on Friday evening last. The exercises were conducted in the following order:—

Prayer by Rev. James Newcomb.

ORATIONS.

Pompell,	Leander S. Morse, Nictaux.
The Coral Islands,	O. E. Cox, Canning.
Music.	
Socrates' Theology,	James F. Morton, Wilmot.
Self-made Men,	George E. Tufts, New Albany.
Music.	
The Poet's work,	Thos. S. McLean, Little Bras D'or, C. B.
Chivalry,	A. Porter Freeman, Milton, Queens Co.
Music.	
The voice of the Plebs,	Albert J. Hill, Sydney, C. B.
National Anthem.	

It rained heavily in the evening, which prevented many from attending. Those who were present were evidently much interested and pleased. The Orations were of a very interesting order.

On that evening Acadia College completed its twenty-fifth year. The names of the students who matriculated on the 10th of December, 1838, were read, and one of them, the Rev. James Newcomb, being present, delivered an appropriate and encouraging address.

The denomination will be prepared, it is hoped, to present a suitable thank-offering for the goodness of God to our Institution during these twenty-five years. More of this another time.

I should have stated that the performances of an excellent choir, under the superintendence of Mr. Saffery, contributed greatly to the pleasure of the evening.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Dec. 21, 1863.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 23, 1863.

Communion with God.

The christian has many privileges in this world, besides the assurance of eternal life. The knowledge that he can go to his Heavenly Father and obtain pardon, peace, direction and protection, renders his position one of inestimable blessedness—that his confessions of sin and petitions are acceptable to the Almighty may well afford him present joy, and happiness as he looks forward to the future. The believer in Jesus being allowed to cooperate with Him, and instrumentally participate in the work of saving others, is no small privilege to one who has himself been brought out of darkness into marvellous light. Being a subject of Christ's kingdom, he becomes a soldier of the cross, acting under the Captain of salvation.

The formation of correct religious opinion is most important, and this of course will

materially affect the perfection of a believer's christian character—the harmony which should exist between his head and his heart and the proper symmetry of the perfect man in Christ Jesus. The preponderance of knowledge over experience is perhaps more prevalent in these days of hearing the preached gospel, and reading on religious subjects, than when there were comparatively fewer opportunities of knowing the truth as it is in Jesus. We fear that walking with God is too often considered old-fashioned—almost antideluvian. Notwithstanding that it may not be generally appreciated, we venture to affirm that this—communion with God—is the source of all true christian joy and usefulness.

We have no wish to sermonize our readers, or to impose upon them a fragment of religious discourse instead of giving information of what is being done in the church and the world. We pray for religious revivals and expect the fruits of righteousness to appear, but if we do this without cultivating the inner christian life, we shall surely be disappointed. When the hearts of the people of God are right, and proper means are employed, then shall we find that God will carry on his work and our hearts will be gladdened by hearing of progress in Christ's kingdom on the earth.

The great object of Christ's work and ministry on earth was to bring men to God. Men are by nature afar off. They must be brought nigh, by hearing and receiving the good news. They must "Come to Christ," obey Christ and "follow" him, and, further, Christ must be "formed in" the believer the hope of glory. Then God dwells with his people, and the communion is established again which was broken off by disobedience and sin. The union effected between Christ and his people is a vital one, produced by personal experience alone, so that fellowship arises between those who were heretofore estranged. It this does not follow from conversion there is wanting one of the principal elements of the new life. There may be a careful avoidance of wrong doing and earnest endeavours to perform every external duty with the strictest punctiliousness but if our piety goes no further—if religion accomplishes no more for us than this—if there is no communion with God it does but introduce us to the porch of God's presence. The effects of the fall are but partially overcome. When the prodigal returns, his father not only goes out to meet him, but he is reconciled, and brings him in to partake of the feast, and make him feel that he is not mere a petitioner for bounty, or a guest, but a son at home, and the one for whom the feast is prepared. The result is a season of joyful intercourse. The position of a son is not only one of filial reverence but also of familiarity and confidence. There is no presumption or fanaticism in applying this to the child of God—his sins are no more remembered against him. The love of God is shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him.

This experience it is that makes the difference between those who participate in the public services of the sanctuary. A season of worship may have been one of only ordinary interest, with but little that was new either in the prayers, the praise, or the preaching, and a casual observer might perceive nothing special in the service and might even forget all he had heard, yet if the hearer were like Enoch of old—walking with God—he would find each part profitable, and the whole a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

If religion is to do in us and for us all that it is intended and adapted to, it will bring us into this communion with God. The wonderful attributes of his character and especially those which have been brought into operation to secure our salvation and restoration, will be subjects of most delightful meditation. Our religion will be a light, not cold and cheerless, like that of the moon, which borrows its brightness from the great source of day, but like the warm invigorating beams of the sun itself, cheering all it reaches.

We commend to our readers these few thoughts on an important subject; those who have been content with the streams, we invite to come to the Fountain, that they may take of the water of life and live for ever.

Before another issue of our paper, our readers will have celebrated again the festivities of Christmas. We congratulate our young friends on the arrival of this season loaded with the pleasant things it has in reserve for them. Many of their seniors will almost exclaim, when seeing their enjoyment, "I wish I were a child again!" A participation in youthful hilarity is, we think, perfectly compatible with the greatest sobriety and the most exalted piety. We will suggest a few counsels which we think may help to make it

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

Let Temperance preside over the side-board.

Banish the wine cup and all that would intoxicate. Let efforts be made to lighten the sorrows of the afflicted and suffering. Let selfishness be expelled from every heart and every home. Let the young folks be very considerate of those more advanced in life, and the old folks bear with the juveniles in their mirthfulness, and let each seek to 'please his neighbour for his good,' and we venture to predict that no similar season will be remembered with more real satisfaction than Christmas day of 1863.

The "Chesapeake" affair.

In our last we gave the particulars of this bold adventure, up to that date. We have since had further developments and a conclusion, as far as the capture and retaking of the steamer is concerned. It is not likely we shall hear the last of it for some time to come.

We left her at Shelburne last week. It appears that her captors called in at several ports on our Southern coast coming on towards Halifax, and shipped two or three more hands on their way. At Margaret's Bay she lay for some little time, and then advanced as far as Sambro, the western point of the entrance to Halifax harbor.

The U. S. gunboats "Ella and Annie," and "Dacotah," arrived on Wednesday, and, learning of the *Chesapeake* being somewhere along the coast, went in search and found her at Mud Cove, Sambro, with five men of her original crew and two of her captors on board; when discovered they hoisted a flag of distress. She had been taking in coal from a schooner, on board of which was found one of the men who had recently held the steamer in possession, named Wade, said to be sick.

The rest of the party—Braine and his associates—had escaped to land. The three men were taken by the U. S. officers, placed on board the *Dacotah* and heavily ironed!

On the two gunboats arriving in the harbor with the *Chesapeake* the commander of the former sent an official report of his doings to the authorities here, but it is said, failed to state that he had the three men as prisoners on board of his vessel, and it would appear that he intended to have taken them off. This was doubtless a rash and illegal act. Information of this circumstance, however reaching our government, an order was sent to the commander of the squadron for the release of the men, and an intimation that the ships would not be allowed to leave the harbor until they had been given up. The forts all around the harbor were in readiness, and on the alert, in case an attempt had been made to do so. One o'clock on Saturday was named as the hour for delivering up the men. Just before that hour had arrived, the Frigate *Niagara*, one of the largest belonging to the U. S. Navy, steamed up the harbor. Communication was immediately held with her by the commander of the steamers in port. Shortly after, a boat left the *Dacotah* with the three prisoners in irons, and came to the Queen's wharf, where the Hon. Provincial Secretary, Hon. Solicitor General and the High Sheriff, the acting American Consul and a large number of citizens were assembled for the purpose of witnessing the release. On the boat reaching the wharf, the three men were landed and the officers in charge unlocked their irons. The Sheriff then told them they were at liberty to go where they pleased.

Just at this moment one of the men (supposed to be the one who shot the *Chesapeake's* engineer) jumped into a boat lying alongside the wharf, and two fishermen who were in the boat, pushed off with him. Policeman Hutt, in private clothes, however, stood ready to take him in charge, but not being sufficiently alert, he allowed the man to escape, and on finding he had got into the boat, aimed a pistol at him, and threatened to fire at him unless he returned, when Drs. Almon and Smith, who were among the spectators, interposed, and the former struggled with Hutt to prevent his shooting at the men, and in doing so, both got into the water. In the meantime, however, Wade got away, and was rowed down the harbor, followed by the cheers of those on the wharf, and thus he escaped capture, which, if he be the criminal supposed, is much to be regretted.

It does not appear that the policeman had given any intimation that he had any authority to arrest Wade, as one of those charged with the murder of the engineer. It is likely there will be great indignation expressed on the part of the U. States authorities for this failure to secure one charged by them with capital crime, but it appears to have been caused by the superior generalship of those who felt indignant at the conduct of the American officials, in illegally arresting and detaining those men.

What may have been the nature of the warrant we have not learned, and what may further arise from this unpleasant affair, we

cannot say. Whether our authorities will be required to arrest and render up any of those charged with the piracy of the *Chesapeake*, will be seen in the future. Had it not been for the promptness shewn by the British Government in taking up the Mason and Slidell affair, it is likely this matter would have caused the same difficulty as that did. There have been other war steamers here on the same errand—seven in all.

The *Chesapeake* remains here at anchor, and it is the intentions of the government, we believe, that she shall so continue until the Court of Admiralty have determined what are the provisions of the law in her case.

THE FREIGHT OF THE CHESAPEAKE.—The *Portland Courier* states that the following are the principal items of the *Chesapeake's* freight:—For Lewiston, 90 bales Cotton, 108 boxes Starch; Winthrop, 15 bales Cotton; Gardner, 131 bales rags; Quebec, 10 hhds. Tobacco, 100 casks Wine, 112 hhds. Sugar, and 112 bags hair.

News Summary.

THE NEW ZEALAND WAR.

We mentioned in our last a few particulars respecting the war between the Colonial Government of the British Colony of New Zealand and the Maories, or native population. Like many other wars, its cause and origin are somewhat obscure. It may, however, be briefly stated to have arisen from the jealousy of the natives, a barbarous, though a brave and in some respects intelligent people, arising from the large English emigration that for a few years past has been rapidly pouring into the country. Encroachments on lands occupied by natives, and instances no doubt of mutual aggression have at length roused several of the most warlike tribes to the attempt of destroying or expelling the intruders, and although heretofore divided into very numerous and hostile clans, the idea has now grown popular among them of having a king of their own, and one of their chiefs is, it would appear, aspiring to the dignity. Several of the principal tribes, however, are still friendly to the British, and desirous of the means of civilization. The extensive emigration from Great Britain and Ireland, very many of whom have carried considerable wealth to their new home, and are from the middle and substantial working classes of society, renders the new Colony an object of great solicitude to the mother country, and gives the unhappy conflict with the natives a character of peculiar interest in England. The Islands of New Zealand are three in number, two principal and a smaller one, lying in the Southern hemisphere, between about the thirty-fifth and forty-seventh degrees of latitude, and are altogether about 800 miles in length, though much less in proportion of breadth. Most parts of the Islands are extremely fertile and well-wooded, and the climate mild and healthy, although of course as they are directly North and South, there is a great difference in the temperature at the two extremities. The rapidly increasing population, and of the character we have mentioned, and its natural resources and adaptedness for trade and commerce, must very shortly render the Colony a most important one. The present war with the natives is a cause of deep regret, especially as it is evident that if they continue their resistance, the Colonists will have no other resource but to subdue them at any sacrifice, as no doubt a general massacre of the English would be the immediate consequence of the ultimate success of the Maories. General Cameron, an officer of reputation, and who a few years since commanded the 42nd Highlanders in this garrison, is in command of the British troops in New Zealand. He will long since have received reinforcements from India and Australia, and little doubt is entertained, that with an adequate force he will quell the insurrection, and we trust bring the natives to reasonable terms, which the Government is most willing and desirous to afford them.

UNITED STATES MATTERS.

President Lincoln's message to Congress was as usual a very lengthy document. It touches on almost every subject of the relations of the country, home and foreign. "The British Government," he says, "has prevented the departure of hostile expeditions from its shores," and "the French Emperor in doing likewise has vindicated the neutrality which he proclaimed at the beginning of the war." He (Mr. Lincoln) passes a high eulogium on the people for their cheerfulness in sustaining the burdens of the war. There are 100,000 negroes in the service of the U. States, 50,000 of them as soldiers; and the President says it is difficult to say they are not as good soldiers as any. The total revenue of the year is \$91,000,000 of dollars. 1000 vessels have been captured during the year, running the blockade, worth about