

Association which more than fifty years before he had assisted to organize, was sanctified by the holy breathings of his soul preparing for its departure, and was animated and instructed by his preaching on the theme that through life had given fervour to his public exercises, and which on that occasion—nearly the last of his public ministrations—overcame in a wonderful manner the depression of disease and the debility of old age.

By the arrangement then made the first session of this division of the Association was appointed to be held in the midst of his own church. That arrangement we now consummate. But he is not with us. His work was done, and it has pleased his Heavenly Father that his existence should close with the termination of that associated body with which his life and labours, his affections and energies had been so long identified.

While submitting with humble resignation to the dispensation of our Heavenly Father in the removal from among us of our departed father, brother, and friend,—the churches of this the Central Association feel it to be due to the memory of one who with untiring zeal and fidelity fed the flock of God in this place through a period of fifty years, to record their sentiments of his ministerial character and usefulness. Of him it may be truly said, as of Barnabas of old, that he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, and that through his instrumentality much people have been added to the Lord.

EASTERN ASSOCIATION. "Whereas it has pleased God to remove from earth to heaven, during the past year, the venerable Edward Manning, who for more than half a century laboured in the gospel with distinguished success, and who was justly endeared to the Baptists of these provinces;—

Therefore resolved, That the members of the Eastern Association, assembled at this their first meeting, regard it as a solemn duty to place on record a brief memorial of the departed servant of God:—

That they cherish a grateful remembrance of his talents, virtues, and christian graces,—his vigorous intellect, and penetrating judgment—his promptitude and decision, ever guided by wisdom and chastened by humility—his noble and comprehensive conceptions of truth—his manly piety—his severe self-denial—his sublime devotion:—

That they rejoice in the recollection that Edward Manning was a cordial, consistent, and persevering advocate of all our Educational Institutions, and of the missionary enterprise, both foreign and domestic:—

That they render thanks to the Most High for the extraordinary results which followed the labours of their revered friend. In those labours the words of prophecy were fulfilled—The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.—A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation:—

That while they bow with humble submission to the afflictive dispensation with which the churches have been visited, they deem it their privilege and duty to declare their unshaken reliance on the power and promises of the great Head of the church. He will send forth other labourers into the harvest, and fill up the ranks of the spiritual army by causing many more to be baptized for the dead. In Him let Zion trust.

May 11, 1863.

Yours truly,

MENNO.

ERRATA IN LETTER 68.—Column 1, line 14 from bottom, for "1850" read "1851." Col. 2, lines 2 and 15 from top, for "1862" read "1852." Col. 3, line 13 from top for "succession," read "successive." Page 130, column 1, line 22 from top, for "right," read "high."

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 20, 1863.

The approaching Anniversaries.

CHRISTIANITY is suited to man in all ages, and in every condition of life. The arrangements of the Christian Church are such that they may be adapted to meet the wants of men in every state of society.

Men generally undervalue true religion and live only for this world; even the return of the Lord's Day is to such persons but a cessation of profitable labor, only that they may recruit their powers, for the purpose of again entering into the pursuit of what may contribute to their enjoyment in this life. But for the return of this day of rest, there is danger that selfishness and cupidity would be continually making inroads on the minds of such men, until they would forget God's claim to their obedience and public worship, and thus soon degenerate into absolute infidelity.

But christians, who have been awakened to

perceive their condition of danger, and have learned the unspeakable blessing of the gospel of Christ, also value its institutions. The church is to them the most important organization upon earth. When in a proper state of mind and duly appreciating its appointments, they will lose no opportunity of uniting with their brethren for public worship, for mutual edification, or for combination of effort in the cause of Christ.

Baptist Churches have, as we believe, the true genius of Christianity in them, and are capable of adaptation to the circumstances of men at different times, and to the changes which take place in every country, to almost any extent. They need no hierarchy or Synod to complete their courts for government and discipline. They alike suited the converts formerly in the old dynasties of ancient Rome and Judea, as well as those now in modern India and China, and are equally appropriate to unite together believers in Christ Jesus in populous cities and those scattered over the wilds of newer colonies.

Notwithstanding that each church, like those of the New Testament, is an independent body, free from control outside of its own membership, yet none value more highly the privilege of a more extended fraternity. They fully believe in the benefits of co-operation, to accomplish what cannot be effected by individuals or separate churches. Whilst some christian bodies commit the internal management of their church to their ministers alone, as in the Methodist and Episcopal bodies, or to a Presbytery composed of ministers and a few official laymen, Baptists believe that all these matters belong to church members, yet they, perhaps more than any others, without any necessity laid on them, but simply by the constraining influence of christian love, join together in their Associational gatherings to learn what has been done or experienced by their sister churches during the year, and to participate in the matters of business brought before the united body. In anticipation of these meetings, a letter is prepared and sent by each church, shewing the Lord's dealing with them, and giving an account of their contributions to the Benevolent Objects in which the churches unite.

These annual gatherings are held throughout British America, the United States, in Great Britain, on the Continent of Europe, and in far-off Burmah, and never perhaps were they deemed more important than at the present moment, and never looked forward to with more interest.

Our brethren in the Western part of this province will meet this year at Yarmouth, on the 13th of June. There being so large a portion of the population in the immediate neighbourhood, belonging to the Baptist denomination, will, of course, cause the public gatherings to be very large. Many will, however, go from Digby, Shelburne, Annapolis and Queens Counties, and bring a host together on that occasion at our western capital.

On June 20th, the delegates from the Central Churches will meet at Upper Aylesford; and on the 4th of July the Eastern Churches at Bedeque, P. E. I. Let the brethren go to these meetings with the anticipation of their being in advance, in all that is good, of any hitherto held, and let the ministering brethren seek such facts to present, and such influences to bear on the people as shall be productive of benefit to the churches represented throughout the coming year. Remember that "now is your salvation nearer than when ye (first) believed," and now are we nearer than ever before, to the assembly above—the great multitude which no man can number, of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues, "who join in singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, crying aloud, saying "Amen, Blessing and glory, and honour and power, and might be unto our God for ever and ever, Amen."

Much might be said on the proper spirit which should pervade these gatherings, and on the mode of preparing and conducting the business, so as to waste no time on unimportant matters. Perhaps this suggestion, and those heretofore given by brethren in our pages, may be sufficient.

It is only by the Spirit of God applying the truth that any permanent good is accomplished. Let much prayer ascend that God would make the places where his people assemble glorious by His presence, and then, whether the numbers be large or small, the work of Christ will be promoted by them, and those present will have to say, as the disciples of old exclaimed, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?"

Political.

To-morrow is Nomination Day, and electioneering will doubtless be the order of the day for the coming week or two. The polling will take place, where there is to be any con-

test, on the 28th. A few days after which will make it known who are the people's choice of rulers for the coming four years. The metropolis has been remarkably quiet since the close of our provincial parliament. The gentlemen whose thoughtful smiling countenances we were accustomed to see, passing to and fro from the Legislative halls, suddenly disappeared from our streets, and the Province Building has since seemed almost deserted.

According to present appearances, we are to have no contest in Western Halifax, and perhaps Eastern, as well as in some other Districts. Our late members are the only names before the public. Although we are so quiet, yet there may be seen occasional little groups of politicians in the streets, apparently enjoying each others confidential communications on important business matters. The arrival of the mails each evening, however, becomes the signal for the appearance of those anxious to obtain news from the country. Not willing to wait, they may be seen opening their letters as soon as received, and reading them with rapt attention by the post-office lights. As might be expected, the two parties of politicians do not appear to be drawing nearer to each other as election day approaches. When they meet at the hustings in various parts of the country, there will probably be but little diminution of hostility. We trust, however, that both parties will have sufficient self-respect to avoid personalities, and indeed any words or acts which will not bear subsequent reflection and examination. We do not believe in a lower code of morality for politics than that given in God's law. Men will have to answer for sins committed in electioneering campaigns as well as at other times. The sentiment that "All is fair in politics and war," cannot be allowed by christian men. A triumph purchased by dishonest means is worse than a defeat. Whilst therefore we would encourage the use of all proper exertion,—no stone should be left unturned to induce every man to let his voice be heard in the choice of representatives,—yet violence and lying, bribery and treating should be frowned upon by all good men.

A lengthy letter has been published in the *Morning Chronicle* and partially copied into the *Witness*, over the signature of "J. McCully," which appears to be intended as the manifesto of the government party, and as a guide to their supporters through the present contest. It treats of a number of subjects which have formed the material for political discussion for several years past. It of course exhibits the present government as the best financiers and the greatest economists, and as the only party having either honor, honesty, or ability, and as entitled to the suffrages of the people of the province.

Dr. Tupper has published in the *British Colonist* a series of three Letters in reply to Mr. McCully, and calls attention to the proceedings of the two parties. These letters, of course, put the matters referred to in a very different light, and shew that the measures of the party now in Opposition, whether carried by themselves or adopted by the Government party, have been the means of diminishing the expenditure of the country, and saving it from bankruptcy and ruin.

A perusal of these documents, independently of their party aspects, is somewhat interesting, as shewing what different views may be given of certain courses of proceeding when seen from different stand-points. Those who have been living with their eyes open for a few years in Nova Scotia, and have watched what has been passing, will not need any such enlightenment to enable them to vote as intelligent men. They must have seen, and, if possessing an ordinary amount of discrimination, have already decided for themselves, as to the party they will choose to rule the country. In the language of a contemporary, with whom we do not always coincide, we would say:

"The men of your choice should be carefully sought out. Do not pick up the noisiest blabber—or the best canvasser, the loudest talker, or the man with longest tongue. Those who push themselves forward are often the least fit for preferment. Worth is often, is always, modest and retiring."

"The persons you choose ought to be 'men of ability'—men of wisdom and strength of character, who can stand on their own feet and hold their own consciences; who can neither be scared nor bought into what is wrong—men who think it worth while paying close attention to their duties and who are competent to discharge those duties."

"The men whom you elect should be 'haters of covetousness'—should hold their country, their honour and their God above all price.—The briber can himself be bribed. He who would purchase a seat in the Assembly would sell himself and that seat."

"If the country will be mis-governed; if bad, immoral, truthless men will occupy positions of honour and trust in the country, the fault will lie with you. Power and honour are now in the hands of you, the people; take heed how you dispense them. You will be responsible to God

and to posterity for the manner in which you discharge your obligations."

The *Morning Chronicle* of Saturday last asserts that in case the Conservatives obtain a majority at the coming elections, and a change of government takes place, they have it upon authority upon which they can rely, that it is their intention among other things to provide a place for Mr. Johnston as Equity Judge of the Supreme Court, at a salary of \$3,200 per annum.

The *Acadian Recorder* of the same day says that, in the event of the Liberal party being returned to power, "it is the intention of the Executive under the pretense of following the example of Canada, to attach a salary of \$4,800 to the office of President of the Council" which is not to be responsible to the people.

We are not in a position to say what amount of truth is contained in these statements, or whether they are both pure fictions.—Time will shew.

Presbyterian.

Induction of Rev. G. M. Grant to St. Matthew's Church.—This interesting ceremony took place on Wednesday last. The Rev. Mr. Scott, who has so long been the pastor of this congregation, having resigned his pastorate, the Rev. George Stewart, attended as Moderator of the Presbytery and preached from Isaiah 19, 20. After stating the circumstances which had led to the connection about to be formed, a series of questions was put to the Rev. Mr. Grant, and satisfactorily answered by him. He was then inducted to the office of pastor and Addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Stewart to pastor and people. Hopes are entertained of great good arising from the settlement of Mr. Grant over this important charge.

LOSS OF ANOTHER MISSIONARY.—The Presbyterian Church is called once more to mourn a fresh blank in the Foreign Mission field. The Rev. Mr. Matheson, late of Tanna, has gone to his rest and reward. He died on the island of Mare, on the 14th October. He had gone to live with Mr. Creagh on Mare for a short time, for the benefit of his health; but instead of recovering he became gradually weaker till on the 14th October he breathed his last. Mr. Matheson was in delicate health ever since he went to the New Hebrides, and tidings of his death would not have surprised us at any time during the last four years. His complaint was pulmonary consumption, and had been in Nova Scotia he would probably have fallen years ago. God mercifully spared and sustained him while doing an invaluable work, in translating the Word of Life into the language of Tanna. He succeeded in translating the *Four Gospels*. He was able to walk about till within a few days of his death. The Presbyterian Mission has been sorely tried within the last three years.—Mr. Johnston fell first; then Mr. Gordon and his wife; then Mrs. Matheson, and now Mr. Matheson. But we have the great satisfaction of believing that none of our brethren or sisters has either lived or died in vain.—*Witness*.

Sons of Temperance.

THE NATIONAL DIVISION will hold its Annual Session this year in Halifax, commencing on Thursday, the 11th of June. The officers have made arrangements with the proprietors of steamboats for a reduction of fares, and it is likely that representatives of the Grand Divisions of New Brunswick, Canada, and many of the U. States will be present.

A Special Session of the N. S. Grand Division will be held in Halifax on Wednesday, the 10th.

A public breakfast will be given to the National Division on Thursday morning.

Addresses of Welcome will be presented in the evening.

On Friday afternoon there will be a Grand Procession of the various Temperance organizations in the city, together with the National and Grand Divisions.

In the evening a Public meeting will be held in Temperance Hall.

A steamboat excursion is proposed on Saturday or Monday, up the North West Arm, and a visit to Downs' Aviary.

The National Division will hold its session in the intervals of these more public occasions. Arrangements have been made with several of the coach proprietors, east and west, for the accommodation of representatives; and we doubt not a large gathering in the city will be the result.

By the report of the late Session of the N. S. Grand Division, held at Liverpool, we learn that five new Divisions have been added during the past quarter, making 100 Divisions now in operation, with nearly 4000 members. The additions during the quarter were 313, deducting from this number 133 suspended, leaves a clear gain of 180 members.

The Session at Liverpool appears to have been a very pleasant one to all concerned.