

which genuine and profound philanthropy must proceed. He worked from the centre to the circumference; and even if He began, as He often did, with the outer man, it was that He might the more effectually penetrate to the core, and do a vital work in the heart. Spring does not work from the branch to the root, but from the root to the branch. So with all true usefulness. The roots of manhood are in the heart, and any work that does not penetrate in that direction can only end in a cumbrous or gorgeous artificialism. Make the tree good, and you make the fruit good. I tremble for some of you. Leafage plenty—fruit none! You know not how to appease the world's moral hunger. Many a fainting one has come to you, hoping for the enlivening word, but that word has not been declared. I tremble for you; and I would tell you of my trembling with many tears! He who wastes life's spring and life's summer cannot have anything in life's autumn; and as for the impending winter, no power can avert it, and once come it will never melt and brighten into another probationary spring!

For the Christian Messenger.

Dalhousie College.

Pursuant to a resolution passed at the recent annual session of the Baptist Convention, a meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College was held this day at Wolfville. Scholarship holders and other friends were present.

Statements were made to the meeting, to the effect that the sum of £9750, being part of the "Castine Fund," was placed in the hands of the Earl of Dalhousie, for the establishment of Dalhousie College;—that after expending £4750 on the building, the remainder was employed in the purchase of £8259 7s. 6d. in the English three per cent stock, yielding an annual income of £310 17s. Currency;—that the House of Assembly granted £300 towards the erection of the building;—that in 1823, the building being still unfinished, the House lent to the Governors of the College the sum of £5000, to be repaid whenever required by the House, after the expiration of five years;—that the said sum of £5000 has not been repaid, and that interest thereon, for forty years, is also due;—and that, in consequence of the College having been in operation but for short periods, the property has accumulated, so that an income is now receivable, in interest and rents, amounting to about £900 a year.

The Act passed last Session, "for the regulation and support of Dalhousie College," was explained. It appeared, that under the operation of that Act the College is about to pass into the hands of the Presbyterians, and thus to become a Presbyterian Institution, largely supported by public money. It further appeared that in consequence of the establishment of denominational Colleges in the province, the supporters of which will not consent to sacrifice them, Dalhousie College cannot become a provincial University, and that the foundation of such University, however desirable it might have been under other circumstances, cannot now be contemplated with any reasonable prospect of acceptance and success. After mature deliberation and discussion it was resolved to petition the Legislature for the repeal of the abovementioned Act, or for such an amendment of the same, as may prevent the appropriation of the property of the College to sectarian purposes. It was further resolved to invite the co-operation of all classes of the community in this movement, and to embody in the petition a request that the Governors of Dalhousie College may be required to pay the debt due by them to the Province (and for which the property is pledged as security), and that the proceeds, or the interest thereof, may be appropriated to the furtherance of education in connection with the Collegiate Institutions existing in the province. A committee was appointed to carry the whole into effect.

A. S. HUNT, Chairman.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.

Wolfville, Oct. 1, 1863.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 4, 1863.

Thanksgiving and Prayer.

The Report on the first page of our present number, on the State of the Denomination, presented at the late Anniversary of the Convention of Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, will, we doubt not, be read with deep interest. The suggestion in the last clause of the Report was acted upon by the Convention, and the following Resolution unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That in view of the statements contained in the above Report, THE FIRST THURSDAY IN DECEMBER be recommended as a Day to be set apart by the churches comprised in this Convention for Special Thanksgiving and Prayer."

Thanksgiving is demanded of us for the blessings bestowed in answer to prayer. When mercy has so abounded to us, and there is so much evidence that God is with us, the christian heart, with a proper sense of its obligations and privileges, needs but little more to call forth its sincere thanksgiving and praise to the Giver of all good. Let there then be a united determination on the part of our brethren to make the Day so appointed, one in which the members of churches shall appear in their sanctuaries to shew to each other and their Divine Master, that they do appreciate these blessings as tokens of His favor. The Convention possesses no Synodical or other ecclesiastical power to command compliance with its resolutions, but very properly, in the spirit of Hebrews x. 24, 25, recommends the observance of this day. We hope to hear that the exhortation is generally accepted, and timely preparations made for rendering it a special season of gratitude and thanksgiving. Let there be also a recognition of our entire dependence on the Divine sovereignty for the continuance of spiritual and temporal blessings and we shall be prepared to engage in united earnest prayer to the Most High for an abundant outpouring of His Holy Spirit; so that the evidences of God's presence may be continued and multiplied from day to day, throughout the land, and that we may see his name glorified in the extension of His kingdom and the salvation of sinners.

DISCRETION, THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.—The following very expressive paragraph is from the *Presbyterian Witness* of Saturday last:

ANSWER OUR QUESTION.—We are not disposed to discuss the questions raised this week by the *Christian Messenger*, until our contemporary answer our question proposed in our last. Does the *Messenger* believe that Baptists alone are rightly members of Christ's Visible Church?—Does the *Messenger* endorse Brother A. Chipman's definition of the Visible Church? Please favour us with a reply.

Why does not the Editor prove his assertions?

Railway Management.

"FALL ARRANGEMENT."

It is not often that we think it desirable to remark on matters which belong to any of the departments of our provincial government. The secular papers are commonly on the alert to call the parties concerned in them to account for any improprieties. Their remarks are, however, we believe, often but little heeded, as they are supposed to be made for party purposes, more than for the public good. We, however, shall not be supposed, we believe, to have any such object in view, by these remarks, on a matter of much importance to the public, as well as to one of our principal public works.

The advertisement of a new Time-table furnishes us an opportunity for saying what we have long felt should be said, and said so as to secure attention in the proper quarter,—i. e., the want of punctuality of our railroad trains in reaching their destination. This has been matter of public complaint for a long while past, and yet no effectual remedy has been applied. The advantages of railroad travelling are greatly increased by punctuality. We hope, therefore, that this new Time-table will be found so well arranged that it will be better kept than former ones. Whatever the facilities and speed on the road may be, they will not be appreciated or afford satisfaction to the public, if no reliance can be placed in the time named for reaching and leaving the various stations on the road, and especially in arriving at the termini. Being from half-an-hour to an hour behind time should not be tolerated, except very rarely and for some sufficient reason. There have been a number of instances which we have known, in which this has been the case, where we could find no sufficient reason for the delay and loss of time. On most railroads which we have known, and in New Brunswick especially, the starting of the trains from each station is regulated by the clock and so carefully attended to, that a passenger with the time-table in his hand, might correct his watch by this means all along the road.

There may be occasional difficulties in the way of this being done in Nova Scotia, but surely some remedy should be provided forthwith for such irregularity. Accidents are far more likely, and loss of time to workmen on the road must result from such uncertainty. If it were known at what minute a train would make its appearance, much more could

be done, without danger, by parties so engaged, than when expecting it so long before it arrives.

If any suppose that in making these remarks we are improperly interfering with what belongs to others who have these matters under their special charge, we beg to remind them that whatever concerns the public welfare and the safety of human life, does concern us, and every person in the province. We hope to see some reform in this particular, and to find that this "Fall Arrangement," made with the benefit of past experience, is such as may be fully relied on, except in cases of accident or some other satisfactory reason given for irregularity.

NEW PAPER.—We have received the first number of *The Free Press*, published at Bridgetown; A. M. Gidney, Editor, and I. B. Gidney, Proprietor. The editor states in his inaugural that his design is "to use the *Free Press* in allaying party spirit," and to make "a readable journal, moderate in its political tone and upholding the interests of agriculture, education and morality." The paper is got up in good style. Both editor and publisher have our best wishes.

News Summary.

The R. M. S. *Europa* arrived on Wednesday last from Liverpool with news to the 9th ult. She encountered very severe weather for the first few days of her passage. But little hope exists of Russia making any concessions to Poland. The Czar accepts the six points of the other European powers but demands first the suppression of the rebellion. This is considered highly insulting to Great Britain. Earl Russel does not hesitate to charge Russia with violation of pledges and with being the cause of the present insurrection.

Her Majesty had returned from the Continent, and was spending a short time at Balmoral.

The unusually abundant harvest in England is subject of remark throughout the country. The diminution of pauperism and distress in the manufacturing districts shows that the abundant agricultural productions, are telling on other interests and that the general welfare of the country is the result.

We see that a strange rumor is afloat that there would not be no appointment of a new Lieutenant Governor of this province till the whole of the British North American Colonies had been united into one Viceroyalty under Prince Alfred.

The arrest of the steam-rans which were building on the banks of the Mersey by the order of Earl Russel, is a matter of much speculation and of severe censure from some, but of praise from others. They were professedly being built for the Pacha of Egypt.

But little has been done by the contending armies in the neighbouring republic. Hundreds of lives sacrificed on either side being so common an occurrence, that to learn of 1300 being killed in the late battle at Sabine Pass, creates but little remark.

We hear on one side of great good being done by the Christian Commission in attending to the comfort and religious welfare of the Northern army, and on the other of a most lamentable amount of immorality prevailing there. The following from the *American Messenger* for October, the present month, indicates the fearful state of morals which exists amongst the soldiery.

DEMORALIZATION OF THE ARMY.—Notwithstanding all that is done for the spiritual welfare of this army by all agencies, I am constrained to believe that the general tone of character is gradually sinking, and vice gaining a stronger and stronger hold daily.

Against this conclusion I have struggled, and yet it must be true. In evidence, note the numbers of backsliders from a profession of Christianity found in every regiment. Scores of men there are who had maintained for years a standing in the church at home, who become, in a few months of soldiering, among the most noted of the flagrantly wicked. Said a clear-headed chaplain to me, "When you go north, tell the churches that the type of piety now prevalent in many places will not stand the tug of war. We need apostolic piety, martyr piety, for such days as these. Oh, send us men that have the root of the matter in them." I deliver his earnest message, and add the prayer that no man may go to the army professing Christ, who does not mean in His strength to stand up for Jesus against all comers. False professors do unspeakable injury, vastly more in the army than is possible at home.

Intemperance runs riot in some parts of this army beyond any thing I have elsewhere seen: not while the men are on duty, for this neither the army regulations nor the safety of the men will allow; but with those off on furlough, going home or returning from it, going into hospital or just discharged, and at all times where the strong hand of military law does not prevent. Whatever physical causes may be found in the exposure of the men, their exhaustion from over-

marshing and underfeeding, or their need of stimulants, accounting for the almost universal indulgence in drink, the results are appalling; and unless the vice is checked, more strong men will fall by drink than by either the deadly bullet or deadlier disease to which the soldier is exposed. Oh, if the brave boys would utterly refuse to touch the maddening stuff, how many mothers' hearts would leap for joy.

Profanity of course follows in the wake of drinking. Men befuddled by vile liquor lose all sense of reverence for God and respect for their sober companions; so that in rail-cars and in hotels one constant stream of heaven-defying profanity pours along, oftentimes for hours, until the devout Christian is led to wonder how a jealous God can bless an army whose members thus profane his name. As ten righteous men would have saved Sodom, so are there many men in every brigade of this army who have power with Him and prevail. In these and in the praying thousands at home is our hope that God will spare the wicked and not blast our cause, nor allow our country to be lost.

I am sorry to add that obscenity most shameless is abounding, and vile books and pamphlets pandering to the lowest passions are to be seen in the hands of youth who were carefully guarded from all such contamination at home. May God hear the prayers of their mothers and sisters, and save our young men from the ruin which comes upon the obscene and the licentious. Up to this point I fear that the tendency in all these and other respects is still downward.

How can it be otherwise when, in addition to the ordinary tendencies of all war, confessedly most destructive to good character, so many of our officers set the example of vice in all possible forms and degrees? I have travelled hundreds of miles in the railroad train with officers, from colonels down to corporals, who indulged in drinking, swearing, obscenity, and gambling, for many consecutive hours, and in the presence of the soldiers. Many such officers, I am glad to know, are leaving the army for its good.

The inefficiency of many of the chaplains is complained of; and an appeal, founded on the above dreadful picture, is made to churches to send their pastors, and to the Christian Commission to redouble its invaluable efforts.

The following picture of the awful desolation produced by the ravages of war is enough to induce us all to pray: Give peace in our time O, Lord!

The iron heel of war treads out much that is beautiful and tasteful wherever it goes, but some parts of the South are doubly desolated from the swaying back and forth of rebel and federal forces repeatedly over the same ground. What the rebels left, the federals took; and what the federals overlooked, the camp-followers found; so that now whole tracts of once charming country are covered with the wrecks of villas, fine shrubbery, well-cultivated farms, and orchards. Even the family burying-ground in the edge of the orchard or garden—this peculiarity of the South—is robbed of its enclosure, trampled over by cattle, and sometimes its marble monuments broken or defaced by vandal hands. The towns show this material desolation in a concentrated form. Whole blocks of houses, as in Murfreesboro or Tallahoma, are without an inhabitant; in some, remnants of the furniture are still found, occasionally a bookcase filled with law-books, but most are entirely denuded, the windows broken, the doors ajar or torn from their hinges, and hogs or cattle passing through them at will. Large store-rooms on a level with the street, and extending back through fine blocks, I noticed were used as shelter for cavalry horses or hitching-places for the farmers' mules when they came in to trade. Elegant suburban residences, once filled with all that wealth and taste could procure, are now in ruins, completely dismantled, while the rains of summer are fast dissolving the decorations of their parlors and halls.

And this desolation of the family residence is a fit emblem of the fate of the family. The father, perhaps aged and infirm, went south with the rebel army; the mother's form lies in the graveyard near by, the grave trampled by the horse-hoofs of careless cavalry; the sons were officers in rebel ranks, and have fallen in the battle; and the single sister left, sits and weeps by the grave of her now deceased father, who sleeps in loneliness upon some southern plantation. This is a description substantially of thousands of families, once the honored names of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. Was there a dire necessity that it should be thus, in order that a new type of governing minds might come in to possess the land? Perhaps so, though I will not affirm it.

Notices, &c.

PRESENTATION.

DEAR BROTHER,

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of a very beautiful carriage harness, worth about twenty-five dollars, from a number of my people. Through the kind efforts of a lady of the congregation the amount was raised, and a most judicious selection was made of an article adapted to the use for which it was designed.

The manner in which the gift was presented causes me to feel that when driving abroad to comfort the mourner, and to direct lost souls to Christ, I shall not fail to look upon it, and be cheered by the thought that I have also the prayer of the donors that my labors may not be in vain in the Lord.

Yours &c., D. FREEMAN.

Canning, Sept. 28th, 1863.