

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 3, 1863.

The Christian Ministry.

We believe in apostolic succession. Not that received by the imposition of the hands bearing the crozier and wearing the garb and mitre of the prelate, but a succession which has a real resemblance to the original men chosen by our Lord, and sent forth with a divine commission to preach the gospel to every creature.

The apostles wished to be free from temporal embarrassments and cares, that they might give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word. This was the primitive apostolic spirit, and it must characterize their successors.

The church is influenced by its ministers, not only in its progress in numbers, but in its character and that which will affect its future welfare and advancement. Additions to the church are desirable, but the character of those added is of far more importance than the numbers.

These few remarks we offer as suggestions which might be almost indefinitely extended. In anticipation of ministering and other brethren meeting together at the Associations, they may possibly serve to bring out important facts and principles on which our future usefulness and progress may greatly depend.

Mr. Spurgeon's Visit to Holland.

Public attention has been called to the late tour of Mr. Spurgeon by the circumstance of his having had an invitation ("command") from the Queen, and from his preaching in the King's Church. Letters have been published in the British Standard, from one who accompanied Mr. S. in his travels.

We had a very rough and boisterous passage, though an unusually rapid one, leaving London at eleven a. m. on Tuesday, April 21st. We arrived safely, though sickly, at Rotterdam on the following morning at six a. m. There we found kind friends awaiting us, Mr. Davis, the English minister, and his deacons, who heartily congratulated us upon our safety, and gave us a very cordial welcome to Dutchland.

the people seeming unwilling to depart. Such words of welcome! such congratulations! They all know him by means of his sermons, which are translated into Dutch and everywhere read, and they treat him as an old and valued friend. Next day, Thursday, service was held in the King's Church at two o'clock, and a very solemn time it was to all present. The Queen had signified her intention of being there but was prevented by the indisposition of her little son; the Princess, however, and others from the Court were present, and, at least for once in their lives, heard the Gospel fully and faithfully preached. Mr. Spurgeon was mightily helped. His text was from 1 Peter 12, 'This is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.'

"This evening we go on to Amsterdam, where there are to be two services to-morrow (Saturday) and two more on Sunday. On Monday he preaches at Utrecht, and then we go to Rotterdam."

"Rotterdam, April 28, 1863.—I wrote to you last from Leyden, after Mr. Spurgeon had concluded service in the cathedral of that town. We arrived safely at Amsterdam that night (Friday), and on Saturday Mr. Spurgeon preached twice to overflowing congregations—in the morning at the Mennonite church, in the evening at the Dutch Reformed. On Sunday the morning service was in Mr. M'Ilbrath's church (Scotch Presbyterian), evening at M. Schwartz' (Dutch). These four sermons in Amsterdam have caused quite a commotion there; rich and poor, old and young, Dutch and English, are there alike enthusiastic in their joy.

On Sunday the 3rd ult., Mr. Spurgeon resumed his ministerial duties at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and made several allusions to his tour and the spiritual state of Holland. There were, he said, 70,000 souls who had not bowed the knee to Baal, and in the Netherlands a banner had been lifted in defence of the truth. During his stay there he had preached in the cathedrals and in the sanctuaries of almost every denomination. He went there expecting to be listened to by fifties or hundreds, instead of which thousands crowded around him wherever he went.

the warm-hearted Hollanders. One day, most unexpectedly to him, the Queen of Holland sent for him, and he had an hour's interview with that most amiable lady, and to the best of his ability, he spoke to her faithfully of the things which appertained to her everlasting happiness, and when he left her presence he did so with a conscientious conviction that he had spoken to her "the truth as it is in Jesus." In preaching there he had studiously avoided all forms of doctrine, and told them of the Saviour as the only way to salvation. They had three schools of theological error, where the Bible was put forth as little more than a myth. In fact, in Holland they were fifty years ahead of England in infidelity.

Missionary work in Burmah.

We have received from Rev. A. R. R. Crawley in Burmah a copy of the Third Annual Report of the Rangoon Burmese Missionary Society a small pamphlet of 16 pages presented Oct. 25, 1862 in the Town Baptist Chapel, Rangoon. It gives us the following gratifying intelligence of the labors of the native brethren in that far-off land:—

"Ko En, Mounng San Doon and Mounng Hmaing have continued their labors in the same place as last year; the two former in this town, near the corner of Godwin's Road and Canal Street, the last at Ananben. Mounng Hmaing has been chiefly occupied in preaching to callers at two Zayats, not far from his house; one of which is much frequented by travellers in the dry season; and the other is occupied in the rains, when the flooding of the paddy plain prevents travelling near the first. We are sorry to say, no new converts have as yet been added to the little church in that village, although some, for whom Mounng Hmaing has long prayed and labored, seem now nearer than before to the kingdom of God. Mounng Hmaing has also visited neighboring villages, both beyond, and this side of Ananben; and in company with others, some villages more remote. We are gratified to receive from time to time pleasing testimony of his good conduct and fidelity, and have reason to believe, that his influence is of the most salutary kind, a steadily burning light in the midst of darkness.

The Zayat, which Ko En and Mounng San Doon occupy, is a place of frequent resort, being well known as the place in town where Christ is daily preached. One of these preachers living in a room in the zayat, and the other residing in an house adjacent, one or both of them are always at hand, to direct enquirers, and to preach to such as call. We have reason to believe, that the preaching here during the past year has been blessed to the conversion of some, and to the enlightenment of many more. The number baptized and received into the church of which Ko En is Pastor, since the last report, is 18, most of whom however pertain to Kemendine. A portion of the funds of the Society, as in former years, has been expended in itinerant labors, and with manifest good results, and much encouragement to those, at least, who have engaged in them. The most good from the preaching of the gospel, is evidently to be expected in continuous labor in the same place. But where the number of preachers is so small, if occasional visits be not made to destitute places, how can they be evangelized.

During the last dry season, journeys were undertaken, sometimes by land, sometimes by boat. The most interesting journey of the season was that to Hen-tha-dah, to attend the Annual Meeting of the Burmese Association. In anticipation of the assembling of delegates from the different Burmese Churches, of the Rangoon, Bassein, and Hen-tha-dah districts, the church at Hen-tha-dah had prepared a temporary shed on one of the principal streets, for evening meetings; and had been praying daily for the blessing of God to attend the services of the occasion. Immediately after the commencement of the meeting, indubitable evidence appeared, of the Holy Spirit working on the hearts of some, producing conviction of the truth, tenderness in view of sin, and a determination to forsake idolatry for Christ. The evening meetings were attended by large numbers of the people, and were evidently growing in interest, until the fire, which ravaged the town, laid the place of meeting in ashes. The subsequent meetings of the occasion were held in the Karen Mission Chapel, and in a tent in the mission compound; they were mostly confined to the christians, and those belonging to their company, and were felt by all to be of a truly refreshing and strengthening character. On the last day of the meeting, Mounng The Hnan, preacher of Thong-zai, was ordained to the gospel ministry; and eleven persons, four belonging to Hen-tha-dah and seven to Thong-zai, were baptized in the river, in the presence of a numerous concourse of natives, who crowded the precipitous bank. In the evening the ordinance of the Lord's supper was administered a season of great comfort and brotherly love; and when, on the following day, the disciples dispersed to their several homes, it was with a common feeling, that God had been with us of a truth, and that the kingdom of Christ was evidently taking root among the Burmese, as well as the Karens of this country.

It will doubtless be gratifying to the members of the society to learn that the number of Burmese Churches represented in this Association was 5; the members of those churches 214; and the number of baptisms reported for the year previous, 65, besides the 11 baptized at the time of the meeting, making 76 for the year."

The Elections.

DEFEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The general results of the contest on Thursday last are pretty well known, before this, by politicians, all over the province. The telegraph wires are so convenient, that the information was probably conveyed to most parts of the country by that means on the same day. But we must place on record some further particulars, and the names of the men whom the people have thought proper to honor with their confidence, and make their representatives in Parliament. The following is, we believe, a correct list of the gentlemen elected, and the numbers of their majorities, as far as we can ascertain:

Table listing election results for various locations including Annapolis, Halifax West, East, Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne Co., Barrington, Yarmouth Co., Argyle, Digby, Kings North, South, Hants North, South, Colchester N., South, Cumberland, Pictou West, East, Antigonish, Guysborough, Richmond, Cape Breton, Inverness, and Victoria. Columns include candidate names and majority counts.

* Supporters of the Government. Government 14 or 15. Opposition 39 or 40. Unpledged 1.

We have not heard of a single act of violence in all the contests throughout the province. We hope there have been none, and under this supposition can but congratulate our readers generally on the improved conduct manifested by the electors and all concerned. After the application of certain irritating epithets to one class of electors, it was feared that some acts of recrimination might be indulged in, but we have so far been agreeably disappointed. Indeed there is but one place in which even a scrutiny is demanded. There may perhaps be petitions against some. We have been told that there will be some charges of bribery again, when the House of Assembly meets. No doubt exists as to the party the persons elected are intended to support. We give the above names of supporters of the present government from the Morning Chronicle, the government organ, and as many of our readers will be desirous of learning what view is taken of the contest by the government, and what their intentions are, we copy a few lines from our contemporary the Chronicle of Saturday last. The editor says:

THE GOVERNMENT DEFEATED.—The returns from the several counties, as they have now reached us, prove that the Government sustained a decided defeat at the general elections of Thursday. We are frank to confess that we were not prepared for so extensive a reaction in public opinion, as these returns exhibit. The administration having now been defeated—the country having expressed its wish for a change—the men who have recently piloted the ship of state with such marked success and ability, will not, we apprehend, lose a single moment in yielding a ready and a cheerful compliance.