

not your heart on them. Keep your hearts, your hands, your purse strings, wide, wide open. Scraping money together is a dangerous thing: it shrivels up the soul. "He that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly." "The liberal soul shall be made fat."

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

Wolfville Sept. 8th, 1863.

DEAR SIR,—

As all the Churches were not fully represented at the late Convention, and as it will probably be some time, before the Minutes are published and distributed, it may be well to place some statements before your readers in reference to Acadia College.

It was stated, that there was a balance in hand of income £47 7s. 3d. On the twentieth of the present month however, there will be due for professors' salaries the sum of £112 10s. and in the early part of December £185 for the same object.

Of the Churches appealed to, but one half the number have as yet responded, and many of these not to the full amount called for.

Of not a few considered reliable and good, large balances of principal and interest still remain unpaid.

The subscriber, feeling the weight of these responsibilities pressing upon him in the absence of the Treasurer, would earnestly appeal to those Churches who have not yet responded, to forward as soon as possible, all or a portion of the amounts awarded to them.—It is not yet too late. It is not fair that some should be burdened and others eased.

He would respectfully suggest to those indebted by note-of-hand, and from whom principal and interest are due, that a remittance would be peculiarly acceptable at the present time.

He also begs to intimate to those whom the Lord "bath prospered" that our Institutions need as much as ever, their fostering help and care, and that donations of any amount towards the Endowment, or income, will be most thankfully received.

The present year of instruction commences under the most favorable auspices. Thirty-three students matriculated for the full course, are in attendance, besides others who are taking a partial course. The Professors have commenced their work with their usual energy and vigor. Let us hold up their hands—by our prayers, by our sympathies, and by substantial expressions of both.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Acting Treasurer Acadia College.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 16, 1863.

"The Visible Church": A concession.

We are not afraid of controversy with a manly honorable antagonist, nor disinclined to meet an attack on our principles when necessary, and when the subject in debate has reference to the Church of Christ and its ordinances; as we believe it is by such means, especially when men's opinions are brought to the test of God's word, that error is discovered and truth apprehended. Sincere enquirers are thus assisted to discard the former that they may embrace the latter.

When, however, we find the person attacking us making assertions which he knows to be untrue, we care but little about his statements, as we are satisfied that they will soon meet their reward, and fail to accomplish the object of the writer.

Correct views of religious truth are only to be obtained when sought in a right spirit. A teachable disposition may attain a clearness of perception far in advance of the bold and reckless. An earnest desire for Divine teaching must be accompanied by a readiness to submit to the will of God, and to obey the precepts of his word. With this preparation light may be expected to arise and dissipate the darkness, so as to clear the mental vision as well as benefit the heart; in accordance with the words of Jesus: "If any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God." On the other hand it is not surprising or unusual to find error united with a captious rebellious spirit.

Baptists have nothing to fear from an appeal to the Bible, in support of their views respecting the Church, or the ordinances instituted by Christ for the preservation of its character, for ministering to its comfort, and for securing its continuance; but they must not be expected to adopt the definitions of

ecclesiastical Councils, or Assemblies, however highly esteemed amongst men, when they will not bear the test of an appeal to the Great Church Directory and Statute Book.

We believe in free inquiry in all matters of faith and practise. The same rights we claim for ourselves, we expect others to enjoy. A personal participation of christian privilege can only be secured by a personal apprehension of the foundation on which such privilege rests: "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

These are some of our reasons for objecting to any church-membership which does not rest on individual and personal profession. "The visible Church," therefore, cannot comprise infants who are unable to know anything about it. This was the substance of some remarks we made, two weeks ago, on this subject, but the Editor of the *Presbyterian Witness* has the audacity to assert, in his last issue, that we attempted "to prove that Baptists alone belonged to the visible church of Christ." If such a statement is not an untruth we should like to know from him what is its proper designation. Our remarks were made in the spirit of enquiry, and for the purpose of ascertaining what foundation there was for his assertion: That the children of believers were members of said church. We did not state our own views on the question at all, but merely presented the objections which occurred to us, to what he gave as an article of his faith on that subject. Those of his readers who do not see the *Messenger* many possibly believe the absurd and wicked perversions he gives them of what it contains, but those who do, know for themselves that he is stating what is largely inaccurate. We challenge him and any one else, however wilfully determined to take a hostile position against us, to find a sentence in what we have written to sustain such an assertion. There are however some of his readers who see through his subtle and unscrupulous attempts to invent base calumny against Baptists. Their principles have been assailed in a similar manner before, but to no purpose; for the writings of their enemies have frequently furnished, to discerning minds, a full vindication of them, without any effort being made on their own part. Truth is mighty and must triumph.

We are not troubled by any amount of declamation of our contemporary. His quotations from church standards establish nothing. It is puerile to quote the following, as he does from the Westminster confession, as if it bore upon the subject;

"Saints, by profession, are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity is to be extended to all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus."

He then boastfully remarks, "When, we ask, will those whose views are represented by the *Messenger* attain to this glorious height of christian liberality." It is sheer hypocrisy to pretend to exhibit that as his rule of conduct. For the editor of the *Witness* well knows that even different sections of Presbyterians have no "fellowship and communion in the worship of God," and have been even more opposed to each other than those denominations who profess no fraternity. Past experience teaches us that his great love for union is but as the invitation given by the wolf to the lamb, to drink at his stream. Similar consequences might be expected soon to follow.

We are not very particular how our neighbour confesses his defeat, and endeavours to hide his chagrin at being compelled to change his ground. He employs considerable strategy in pretending to great catholicity before he adopts a different platform from the one in his former article, being evidently sensible of its imperfection. He does not, in so many words, withdraw that part of his definition which relates to children, but, in a confused and contradictory manner, now states, that

"Conversion is not the test of membership of the visible church. A credible profession of religion and of conversion is all that we are entitled to ask of a fellow-mortals. It is not given to us to say: 'Such and such persons are converted: such are still unconverted.' God alone reads the heart: we must humbly judge doctrine and conduct."

Having advanced thus far and admitted that "We are entitled to ask of a fellow-mortals a credible profession of religion and of conversion," we presume he will not now contend for the inconvenient adjunct "and their children" as part of "the visible church." If he adheres to this new position, we shall make no further demands upon him, but shall be at one thus far in this matter. We can bear his slander, and excuse his taunts as to what Baptists believe, and smile at his charges against them of "narrowness and ignorance;"

although they come from him with such bad grace.

There will, however, yet remain two points which his readers will want cleared up. 1. What position do the children of believers, whether baptized or unbaptized, occupy in "the visible church?" 2. What is meant by "a credible profession of religion and conversion?" We commend these two questions to our neighbour as well worthy of his serious attention. His capacious powers may find in them profitable employment, and his readers may be instructed by his elucidation of them.

WHAT DENOMINATION IS TO RULE DALHOUSIE COLLEGE?

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces held at Charlottetown June 30th 1863, page 21.

"Resumed consideration of Dalhousie College. Agreed that the Synod appoint two Professors in connexion with that Institution, that their salaries be £300 each. That the Rev. Professor Ross be the Professor of Moral Philosophy, and that Professor McCulloch be our second Professor, the branches to be taught by him to be left at the discretion of the committee.

Agreed that the subject of fees, both as to the amount and the appropriation of them be left to the discretion of the committee, it being understood that this Synod desire that they be as low as possible."

This is perhaps the most satisfactory answer that could be given to the two or three columns on the subject in the last issue of the *Witness*.

News Summary.

WITH the remarkable regularity which appears to be a permanent characteristic of the Cunard line of steamers, the R. M. S. *Arabia* arrived yesterday morning from Liverpool, G.B., bringing 146 passengers and European news to the 6th inst.

Europe appears to have been blessed with a remarkably good harvest. England in particular has secured from the corn-growing districts an unusual supply and in excellent condition.

The returns from the Board of Trade, too, have been very favourable. The exports during the summer compare very favourably with previous years. It would therefore appear that although there may have been some suffering amongst the labouring classes of Lancashire, the population generally have been well employed.

The news from Poland is not very different from that of preceding mails. From the special correspondent of the *Times*, we learn the National government is strangely carried on with great vigor and regularity. It has constituted regular tribunals, and published a penal code, by which all offences are to be tried; laid down the rules to be observed in trials, and fixed the punishments. Persons of all classes, including the members of the National Government, can be put on trial, and may defend themselves. The tribunals sit in the chief towns, but may transfer their sittings to the place where the crime was committed. The Press Law is adapted from France; a journal may be warned, and afterwards suppressed. One has already been suppressed, for stating that the Polish insurrection, unless aided from without, must utterly fail. Though the brutalities of Mouravieff have suppressed the rebellion in Lithuania, in the Kingdom the Poles are certainly known to have been the victors lately.

The feeling respecting the Confederate cruisers is somewhat changed.

The Emancipation Society has formally called the attention of Lord Russell to the notorious fact that two iron rams are building for the Confederate Government; one in the Mersey, the other in the Clyde—one of them to be received shortly by the Confederate war vessel *Florida*, now known to be hovering off the British coasts for that purpose. While thus on the look out, the *Florida* has captured, off the Irish coast, the fine American ship *Anglo Saxon*, taken out all she could, and, as usual, burnt her, landing the crew at Brest. The French there are rendering the Confederates the service of permitting them to dock and refit the well-known *Alabama*—which, for this purpose, takes the alias of the "*Atalanta*." Her bottom had become so foul as to lessen her speed considerably.

Notices, &c.

Associated Alumni of Acadia College.

The receipt of the following contributions is hereby acknowledged:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Glideon Longille, T. S. Harding, R. N. Beckwith, D. R. Eaton, Revs. Dr. Cramp, S. W. DeBlois, Prof. Higgins, T. H. Porter, Jr., I. J. Skinner, T. DeLong, D. Freeman, Dr. Tupper, A. S. Hunt.

J. Y. PATYANT, Secretary.

Acadia College.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville, on Wednesday, the 30th inst., at 3 o'clock, P. M. precisely, in order to take into consideration certain matters referred to the Board at the recent meeting of the Baptist Convention, and to transact such other business as may be introduced. Scholarship-holders (who have the right to sit and vote with the Board) and other friends of the College, are invited and requested to attend.

S. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary. Wolfville, Sept. 12th, 1863.

Received for Foreign Missions.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Amount. Includes Alma Church, Caldonia Church, Central Ass'n, N. S., Collections at Convention, Special donation by Rev. A. D. Thompson, do. M. W. Beckwith, Esq., do. C. W. Eaton, Esq., do. J. W. Warrlock, Treasurer.

Letters Received.

X. Z. Chapman, 5th, 1 sub, 5s. Rev. W. Dobson, 7th, 1 sub. Rev. Chas. Randall, 4th, £3. Hance Mills, 7th. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 8th, and 12th, 20s. Rev. G. F. Miles, 6th, 1 sub. Rev. W. H. Porter, 1 sub. Jas. Craig, 14th.

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

CIVIC.—The following Aldermen will have completed the term for which they were elected, at the close of the present month:—For Ward 1, Ald. Compton; 2, Ald. McCulloch; 3, Ald. Ackhurst; 4, Ald. Coleman; 5, Ald. Leahy; and 6, Ald. Meynell.

There will be an election of one for each ward on the 1st of October. The candidates named are as follows:—

- Ward 1, Jas. Tobin and George Henderson. 2, Rob. Richardson and Alderman McCulloch. 3, Alderman Ackhurst, John D. Nash and Thos. A. Bauer. 4, John Murphy and Philip Thompson. 5, Alderman Leahy. 6, Alderman Meynell.

We hear of but two names as candidates for the Mayoralty—the present incumbent and Alderman Coleman. Both of these gentlemen have published their cards in reply to respectfully signed requisitions. There will probably be a tight run on the day of election.

DR. COGSWELL.—At a meeting of the Commissioners of the Poor's Asylum, held on the 7th inst., the following resolution was passed:

Resolved,—That the thanks of the Board be tendered to Dr. Cogswell, for his generous gift of the Iron Railing around the garden, and also for the interest manifested by him in his desire to promote the improvement and comfort of the inmates of the Poor's Asylum.

The potato blight is making great havoc with that vegetable. Several farmers have informed us that they will not save the seed planted—where they ought to have three or four hundred bushels.—*Digby Acadian*.

Potato blight has shewn itself in many places around Halifax.

The Railway Returns for the month of August show an increase of \$2630.78 over the corresponding period of last year.

MORE ICE.—The brig, *James Cross*, which cleared at this port on Saturday last, takes 350 tons of ice to Philadelphia.

FIRE AT ELMSDALE.—A fire broke out on Thursday afternoon about 5 o'clock, in a dwelling house at Elmsdale, owned and occupied by Mr. Alexander Fraser. Every effort was made to stop the progress of the flames, but all proved unavailing. The house was burned to the ground, a portion of the furniture only being saved. Mr. Fraser was from home at the time.—*Recorder*.

FIRE AT WEYMOUTH.—We learn by a telegram received at the Merchants' Reading Room, that a serious fire occurred at Weymouth on Tuesday night. The bridge, Lovitt's new building, containing two stores, and the *Acadian* printing office, were totally consumed. The goods were saved.

ARREST OF A HORSE THIEF.—A man calling himself Patrick Mealy was arrested in Dartmouth yesterday, for stealing a horse from Capt. James McKay, of New Glasgow. Information was lodged with the Marshall, and after considerable trouble, the thief was captured by constable Power, who deserves great praise for his energy and promptitude. The prisoner was handed over to the New Glasgow authorities.—*Reporter*.

ROBBERY.—A colored man was yesterday examined at the Police Court on a charge of stealing letters containing a considerable sum of money. From the evidence it appeared that Mr. Philip Perrier, merchant at Sherbrooke, had handed the prisoner, Thomas Bayard, four letters to deliver to Capt. McDaniel, of the packet *Ariel*, of which the former was cook. Two of these letters, addressed to parties in this city—ones containing £50 in notes and gold, and the other £15 in paper—never reached their destination, and Capt. McDaniel stated that he had not received them from the prisoner. Suspicion having fallen on Bayard, he was arrested, and it was subsequently ascertained that he had been spending money pretty freely, having purchased a hunting watch, for which he paid \$19 in notes and gold. The prisoner was committed for trial.—*Recorder*.