

# Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

NEW SERIES.  
Vol. VIII. No. 2.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1863.

WHOLE SERIES.  
Vol. XXVII. No. 2.

## Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

### "Almost home!"

The last words of a dying Christian.

"Almost home!" from the ceaseless din,  
And wild turmoil of this world of sin;  
Hourly nearing the mansion blest,  
Where the weary hearted are at rest.

"Almost home!" from this world of woe,  
Where the wild tornadoes fiercely blow;  
Where fearful sweeps of the threatening blast,  
Have oft o'er my troubled spirit passed.

"Almost home!" from this desert wild,  
Where oft my footsteps have been beguiled  
By the mirage smiling on either hand,  
Which proved but dreary and burning sand.

"Almost home!" from time's low employ;  
From the broken cisterns of earthly joy;  
To pluck sweet flowers which will never fade,  
And walk 'neath the amaranthine's shade.

On whose verdant boughs heavenly fruit is growing;  
And bathe in the waters ever flowing;  
To unite in the songs the redeemed are singing,  
Whose echoes through heaven's arcades are ringing.

Almost freed from this house of clay,  
Joy! for I would not longer stay.  
My prison is crumbling to the ground,  
My spirit is thrilling with awe profound.

Almost freed from my griefs and fears,  
From pain and weariness, sighs and tears;  
From a land where my soul has been oppressed,  
Where I have been wearied and distressed.

A land where the worldly pass me by,  
With scorn speaking out in each flashing eye;  
A land where the gold is counted dross,  
And the christian's pleasures a heavy cross.

Where oft my heart has been sorely tried,  
Yet firm through the faith of the crucified;  
Where my weakest point has been oft assailed,  
And the hosts of sin for a time prevailed.

From a life-path dampened by falling tears,  
I got and the thought my spirit obeys;  
Makes it wildly thrill with unspoken bliss,  
As faith compares that fair world with this.

The stranger land where my feet have trod,  
The way which leads to my Father—God;  
Poor and sorrowful, weary and worn,  
Thy joy to feel I am almost home.

Home! where are shed no parting tears;  
A home never darkened by griefs and fears;  
Where the inmates hunger and thirst no more,  
But are fed by the Lamb forevermore.

Where no friends depart they would die to save,  
Where they never stand by the open grave;  
Where the wail of sorrow is never heard,  
And earth's farewell is an unknown word.

Where they sing God's praise, while each heart beats  
And rapture beams from each radiant eye;  
Where eternal summer holds her reign,  
And the happy spirit feels no chain.

Home! where the shining seraphs dwell,  
In glory which mortals may not tell;  
Whose light hath long round my pathway shone,  
Lead, where the friends whom I loved have gone.

The chime of Death's crested waves I hear;  
It mournfully falls on my listening ear.  
My trembling bark is stemming the tide,  
Bearing me on to the other side.

Almost over these stormy tides;  
My bark on the last rough billow rides.  
The beacon-fire gleams from the shining strand;  
It is! it is! the long sought-for land!

I see bright forms that are not of earth;  
They are hailing a spirit's heavenly birth.  
Eternal glory my soul awaits,  
When it passes within these shining gates.

None but the holy may enter there;  
The wicked that glory may not share.  
Thank God, I have kept my armour bright,  
And my name is engraved with the sons of light.

Nearly past, the last throbs of pain,  
Thanks to my Saviour's precious name.  
The changeless love of that friend so true,  
In mine—Dark valley of sin, Adieu!

Onslow, Oct. 29th, 1862.

## Nova Scotia Church History.

For the Christian Messenger.

### The Baptists of Nova Scotia.

PERIOD VII.

From A. D. 1838 to A. D. 1850.

LETTER LXL.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT ACADIA COLLEGE.—THE FIRST DEGREES CONFERRED.—SUBSEQUENT DEGREES.—THEOLOGICAL PROFESSORSHIP. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT.—PROFESSOR STUART.—DR. PRYOR'S RETIREMENT. THE COLLEGE BUILT WITHOUT MONEY.—AGENCIES IN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES. THE ACADEMY.

#### My Young Friend,

Twenty-one students commenced their studies at Acadia College in January, 1839. Three more were matriculated during that year. The additions during the remainder of this period are thus recorded:—in 1840, six; in 1841, eight; in 1842, ten; in 1843, three; in 1844, seven; in 1845, one; in 1846, four; in 1847, six; in 1848, two; in 1849, sixteen; in 1850 three;—Total, ninety. Few of them, however, completed the College course. Some continued one or two years, and then retired; others confined their attention to some particular branch of study, such as the Classics, the Mathematics, or the various divisions of philosophy. There has always been full liberty in this respect, although it is greatly to be desired that young men should not satisfy themselves with "shallow draughts," but rather "drink deep" at the fountain of knowledge.

Degrees were conferred for the first time at the College Anniversary, June 20, 1843. On that occasion, after prayer by Father May, the orations were delivered in the following order, viz:—

- Nature in her Western Wilds, John Leander Bishop.
- Nature a wise economist, Amos Sharp.
- The Islands of the South, Richard E. Burpe.
- Steam the great Agitator, Lewis Johnston.
- The harmonies of Nature, Abraham S. Hunt.
- The Crusades, J. W. Johnston.
- External nature coloured by the soul's own emotions (a Poem), Samuel Elder.

Messrs John Leander Bishop, J. W. Johnston, Lewis Johnston, and Amos Sharp received the degree of A. B.

At succeeding Anniversaries the same degree was conferred on the gentlemen whose names are subjoined.

- 1844—George Armstrong, Richard E. Burpe, Samuel Elder, Abraham S. Hunt, W. F. Stubbart, and George Robbins Wilby.
- 1845—William A. Johnston, Samuel Richardson, and James Whitman.
- 1846—Edward Anderson, Asahel Bill, Stephen W. DeBlois, Lewis Johnston Jun., and James S. Morse.
- 1848—John Moser, and Harris McClatchy.
- 1849—Arthur K. R. Crawley, Henry Thomas Crawley, and Elisha Budd DeMill.
- 1850—Thomas William Crawley and David Freeman.

After this period the names of Graduates will be found in the published Reports of the Convention.

In 1845 Dr. Crawley received the appointment of Theological Professor, the English Baptist Missionary Society having promised £100 Sterling per Annum for the support of a Theological chair. Subscriptions to an equal amount were pledged by the friends of the Education Society, so that no portion of the legislative grant, which formed part of the income of that society, was appropriated to theological purposes. Dr. Crawley wrote four letters on the subject, addressed to the Denomination, which were inserted in the *Christian Messenger* in the Spring of the following year. In the first, he recommended that "each church of sufficient magnitude, and where that was not the case, two or three churches united, should engage to find some youth of adequate talent, promise, and piety, and maintain him in a course of study." In the second, he enumerated the qualifications of such persons, showing

that they should be sincerely pious—modest—earnestly desirous to glorify God—and of good understanding. In the third he dwelt on the great need of ministers in the province. The fourth letter was devoted to an argument on the importance of education to the christian minister.

In pursuance of this arrangement theological classes were formed, and persons were invited to join them, irrespective of any connection with the College proper, and for such periods, and such branches of theological study as they might choose. In the autumn of 1846, however, Dr. Crawley removed to Halifax, to take charge of the Granville Street Church. Professor Pryor was then appointed President of the College, to which appointment was added in the following year that of Professor of Theology. A. P. S. Stuart Esq., a graduate of Brown University, entered on his duties as Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Logic and Rhetoric, in the autumn of 1847. His services were of great value to the Institution, and in 1849, when he resigned his Professorship and returned to the United States, the Committee of the Education Society recorded "the high satisfaction with which they regarded the able manner in which he had discharged its duties, and the sincere affection and respect which his whole deportment, during his connection with the College, had so deservedly won."

Dr. Pryor (the degree of D. D. had been conferred upon Professor Pryor in 1848) resigned his post in June, 1850. The following resolution, passed at the annual meeting of the Education Society, expressed the feelings of the members of the Society, and of the denomination at large, on that occasion:—"Resolved, That this Society cannot permit the connection to cease which the Rev. Dr. Pryor has for so many years held with them without begging to present to him a sincere expression of affection and respect, as well as of the high sense they entertain of the faithfulness, urbanity, and success with which he has ever discharged the important duties of the offices he has held in their respective institutions; and whatever may be the residence or field of labour he may hereafter select, they intreat him to be assured that he is followed by this society with the most earnest and sincere wishes for the continued happiness and prosperity of himself and amiable family."

The influx of students having rendered enlarged accommodation necessary it was determined to make an effort to complete the College building by the addition of wings; but as this would involve extensive outlay, and the resources of the denomination were already well taxed for the ordinary support of its educational Institutions, the question of ways and means was very anxiously considered. Professor Chipman gave his whole soul to the subject. At length a plan occurred to him by which the College might be to a considerable extent "built without money." Applying to the case the principles of universal effort and division of labour he devised a scheme of action admirably adapted to the purpose. It was first sketched in a letter to his father, dated Nov. 20, 1842. The following is an extract:—

"As to the building scheme, I have said to Bill and Chase, if Wilmot will send the timber here, Horton will frame and put it up. My suggestion was, to take the north shore, from Chute's Cove to Gates' Pier, and distribute the sticks required among a large number of persons, and have them hauled to the nearest landing place on the shore, and there gathered up by a vessel which it could not be brought together by rafting. There would be implied in this such a division of labour as to make the burden light on individuals, and this is the principle of success for the undertaking throughout. There would, for instance, be several distinct operations in getting the timber hewed; there would be sawing the small stuff, and hauling, and rafting, and conveyance from the shore. This last I have thought M. Beckwith would consent to do, in returning from St. John some time. To carry out the same principle of division of labour in application to the whole building, Wilmot would thus furnish the timber, Horton put it up; boards and shingles might be solicited wherever they could be found on the shores; and lime, nails,

paint, glass, &c., in Halifax and St. John. There would be the more hopes of obtaining the last if the undertaking got well on, from its being so novel and interesting. It is a great public measure, of large utility, and the province as a whole would feel interested in it. The article of bricks I have omitted. Perhaps these, or some of the foregoing, could be furnished from your district. How is it with Aylesford, where they have so large supplies of excellent lumber?—In the very principle on which it is all intended to work I see the main difficulty:—it supposes so wide an extent of country, and so large a number of individuals, to look after. Nothing but the most careful planning and unwearied activity on the part of at least a few individuals can accomplish it, particularly in fitting the frame. It would therefore need some one or two plodding and active spirits at the head of the whole, and in the same way, persons to control the several sections of the work. I really allow myself to be sanguine in the matter, if five or six suitable men can be found to undertake and say it shall be done."

The men were found. There was a prompt and liberal response from all quarters. The sound of the axes was heard in the woods; the saw-mills were put in requisition; horses and oxen were freely supplied for the transport of timber and boards to the shore; owners of vessels conveyed material without charge; and necessary articles of all kinds were provided, in great abundance, and with an alacrity of kindness which could not but be admired. The Baptists of Cornwallis, Aylesford, Wilmot, Granville, Yarmouth, Liverpool and other parts of Queens County, Truro, and many other places vied with each other in zealous endeavour. The men of Horton excavated the cellars and carted the materials from the wharf to the place of building. Young men who studied three or four hours spent the rest of the day at work, and thus paid for their board tuition. Nails, paint, glass, &c. were sent from Halifax, and lime from St. John, just as had been expected. Doors and windows were made and sent from many places. Donations of various kinds of farming produce and manufactured articles proved most acceptable, as by their sale funds were procured for the payment of wages. It was as when the second temple was built, "The people had a mind to work."

By dint of indefatigable exertion and wise management the undertaking proceeded prosperously. The frame was raised in the first week of August, 1843. The whole building was roofed and boarded in before the winter, and in the course of the next year it was finished externally, and the East wing was completed, furnishing a residence for a Professor, and thirteen rooms for the use of students and other purposes.

This was a noble effort, meanwhile it was needful to labour hard for the means of annual support. Various agencies were employed for that purpose. In 1844 it was judged desirable to appeal to the benevolence of the public in the United States and in England. These applications met with considerable success. The Rev. I. E. Bill travelled extensively in the United States on behalf of the object, and collected about £750. Professor Pryor went to England, where he obtained upwards of £800, besides many valuable donations of books, and the co-operation of the English Baptist Missionary Society, as before noticed.—Professor Chipman spent a large part of the year 1847, in connection, successively, with the brethren Dickie, Vidito, and Chase, in advocating the claims of education, as one of the branches of the Union Society system. Still, the expenditure continually exceeded the income, and a heavy debt was accumulated. Another mission to England was resolved on, and the brethren I. E. Bill and J. Francois were requested to undertake it. They sailed from St. John, N. B., in October, 1849. They collected about £450 in England, and would have been far more successful if their operations had not been thwarted by opposing influences, originating in this country. Communications were sent to England, grossly misrepresenting the actual position of the College in regard to legislative aid, and prejudicing the minds of English brethren against it. There was in addition some mis-