

A FEW WORDS CONCERNING SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We have not said much of late, specially, on the subject of Sabbath Schools. It is a branch of Christian labor that demands continual attention, and we believe that the work has been progressing amongst the Baptist churches of this province as well as in other places and amongst other bodies. In some localities it is deemed advisable to suspend operations through two or three of the severe winter months. It is time now however to be re-awakening these; and those who are engaged in schools which continue without intermission should enter upon the more favorable summer season with new zeal, and determination to avail themselves of the greater facilities now afforded. So long as human nature continues to be what it is, there will be a necessity for Christians to prosecute this enterprise among the rising generation. Our Lord's example and precept alike teach us that the early days of childhood are the appropriate period for instilling in the minds of the young the great lessons he came to teach mankind.

We have not forgotten the discussion in our pages, during the past year or two, of several matters in connection with Sabbath School instruction. The best means of imparting religious truth to the young is a question always in season. A branch of this which has interested many of our readers is the existing necessity for a Summary of Christian Doctrine suited for the young. It will be remembered that a committee was appointed by the Associations at their last year's sessions to prepare such a work. We have not learned what progress has been made, but hope the subject is receiving their serious attention. We are of opinion that both a Child's Book and one adapted for the use of Bible Classes having the imprimatur of the churches, would be a great boon for Teachers and Parents as well as for their children. We sincerely hope that something may soon be done to supply these desiderata. We are not anxious to have these text-books in the form of Catechisms, as long as they are Aids to Scripture examination and research, and in such form as that their contents may be stored in the memory, and impart a knowledge of what God's word teaches in reference to salvation and the great doctrines of Christianity.

Much is already being done in Sabbath Schools and at home by intelligent parents and teachers, with the Bible alone in their hands, in giving the young under their care a knowledge of what that wonderful book contains, but too often we believe this is of a very desultory and disconnected character even by the best teachers, and might be more efficiently done if more time were expended in preparation for their work, or, if the labors of other experienced persons were made use of for that purpose. If the efforts of those well able to teach are defective, how sadly deficient must be the training of others whose instructors are but ill prepared for their work. Many young persons are engaged in Sabbath Schools whose principal qualifications are gratitude to God for their own salvation, and a desire to lead those younger than themselves to the Savior who has done so much for them. They have the great mine of truth—the Bible—but they require some assistance to obtain from it the gold and gems it contains. Such persons greatly need some help in the prosecution of their labors of love.

It may be a difficult task to prepare a work just adapted to accomplish this object, but we are persuaded that it may be done, and when completed would be worth all that it might cost.

Much is said of Sabbath Schools as nurseries of the church, but, if the aliment provided for the young attending them is ill-prepared and not adapted to their capacities, the plants reared there become sickly and but imperfectly developed ones. When the teachers are fully equipped for their work, and the pupils are provided with instruction in a suitable form the time is much more profitably and agreeably spent, and the results are far more satisfactory to both teacher and scholar.

It is often remarked that Sabbath Schools have to a large extent failed in supplying what is needed by the Christian Church and the world, that they do not retain the youth through the years intervening between childhood and maturity. In the majority of cases so soon as the boy passes into the years of acting for himself, which precede what may be properly termed years of discretion, the youth, one by one, drop away from the Sabbath School, and are lost to such pious association and employment on the Lord's day. This evil, which does certainly exist in many places, calls for the serious attention of Christians. We believe much may be done to supply a remedy by church members and others attending Bible Classes with such young persons. They might do this on other grounds than that of

seeking to benefit them—they might obtain much good themselves by so doing. We have no hesitation in affirming that many Christian people have learned but little of Scripture truth since they left the Sabbath School—that three-fourths of all their store was acquired there in their early days, and probably if asked to quote passages of Scripture in confirmation of many doctrines they hold, which are taught therein, they would scarcely be able to do so correctly. The Sabbath School system will not be fully developed, we believe, until some such practice prevails. It has a place for all, young and old, either as teachers or scholars.

We have no reason to fear an examination into Scripture teaching. No doctrine or precept of God's word need be ignored lest it should clash with our observances. Christians should know for themselves that their acts of faith are founded on and required by God's word or they will be liable to be turned aside by every wind of doctrine and to fall into every new error that may arise.

Friends of Sabbath Schools, do not neglect the adult classes, especially Young Men's Bible Classes.

The communications in another column respecting the Jubilee of Acadia College, will commend themselves to our readers. We are practical people; and it is not surprising that the brethren charged with the interests of the College, should give a practical character to this celebration. It will be well for no time to be lost in the churches, in commencing to carry out the suggestions of the governors. The occasion will be one of much interest, not only to those able to attend the Jubilee meetings, but to all friends of our educational institutions at Horton. A generous emulation should be encouraged in this presentation of an offering to the cause of religious education. This work has occupied some of the holiest thoughts and aspirations of hundreds of the best men and women of the past and present generations. May there be an ever increasing army coming forth to take up the labors of those who are passing away!

Just before going to press we received the following note from Mr. Charles Robson, which we insert with much pleasure.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger, DEAR SIR,

On reading your article in the last number of your paper, in reference to the statement that the professors and governors had cheered Dr. Tupper at the conclusion of his speech on the subject of Dalhousie College, I noticed that you have not retracted that statement.

I will be obliged by your inserting in your next number my declaration that on the occasion of Dr. Tupper's first speech on the College question, no professor was present, nor any governor, except myself, and that I never uttered a word nor made a movement to indicate approbation of the views of the speaker. I have never in a single instance made such a demonstration of approval, because I consider it disrespectful to the House and also a violation of the law.

I am, Dear Sir, yours very truly, C. ROBSON.

We were not aware that our friends were so very tender on this point, or should have taken care to be a little more specific in our statement. We did not of course watch the motion of every individual hand and foot in the gallery, but said generally "—a large part of the latter (those in the galleries) were the governors, the professors and students of Dalhousie. At the close of his (Dr. T's.) speech they did not omit the applause which might have been expected from them."

Mr. Robson admits that the students cheered, which caused him some annoyance. Does he not perceive that the word "they" might refer to them?

NEWS SUMMARY.

The present month of April completes the third year since the intestine feuds, which had so long existed in the neighboring Republic between North and South, broke into open violence. Few could have believed at that time, that one of the bloodiest and most destructive wars recorded in history, would have been prolonged to the present moment, with so little of decided superiority on either side and so little prospect of a speedy termination. In fact were it not for the vast advantage of numerical strength and financial resources possessed by the North, but which have hitherto been comparatively of so little avail, we have no reasonable evidence to conclude that the final result is not far distant. The Federals have indeed obtained some highly important advantages; as for instance the possession of the Mississippi, and the capture of the two strong forts of Vicksburg and Port Hudson on its banks. Its navigation, however, is still greatly obstructed by the guerilla parties, who line its course, and render it of little use for commercial pur-

poses. Some permanent advances have also been made in Tennessee, Western Virginia and Kentucky. On the other hand the two great armies of the contending powers, are at this moment almost in the same position they occupied in the first days of the War. Lee with his veteran troops are entrenched almost in sight of the Federal Capital, which is only protected from seizure by the main army of the North intervening, at present an inert mass, between them. It is evident that on the successful progress of one or other of these two great hostile bodies, must depend the ultimate fate of the war. All attempts for the capture or even very near approach to Richmond, the Confederate metropolis, has been hitherto signally unsuccessful. The siege of Charleston, thus far, after an immense expenditure of treasure, and no small sacrifice of life, is apparently almost abandoned, while as little success seems likely to attend the attack on Mobile by Farragut. Indeed the real question of the final subjugation of the South, appears to us, not to depend so much upon the physical power of their armies to resist aggression, as on their material resources to furnish them support.

Military as well as political ability is evidently on the side of the South, while the intense hatred which has grown up among all ranks against the Federal States, seems a pledge that nothing but the extremest necessity will induce them ever to surrender. We have little doubt, however, that the vastly preponderating power of the North must at last succeed, unless some disturbing element should show itself in the dissatisfaction already apparent in many of the States, from protracting the contest at so vast a sacrifice as they are compelled to make in a pecuniary way, and the danger they incur of subverting the foundations of constitutional freedom. Should any considerable success attend the Confederate armies at the opening of the approaching campaign, this danger will be greatly enhanced.

Notices, &c.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The closing lecture of the season, before the above named Society, will be delivered in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville, on Friday evening, April 22nd, by the Rev. A. H. Munro. Subject—"FAILURE AND SUCCESS."

L. S. MORSE, Cor. Sec'y.

Letters Received.

T. H. Patton, 30th, \$2.—The former \$2 all right. J. Crawford, 4th, \$5. W. J. Gates, 4th, —S. has not paid. J. W. Stevens, Esq., S. Parker, 9th. Rev. Dr. Tupper, 7th. Rev. J. A. Stubbart. L. S. Morse, 11th. Jas. D. Potter, Esq., 8th, \$16. Rev. Charles Randall, 8th. D. Robinson, 1st. W. F. Cutten, Esq., 7th. W. H. Harris, Esq., 9th, \$4, also March 12th, \$6, (omitted). C. F. Hart, 25th. Rev. J. E. Goucher, 31st. Gideon Cogswell, Esq., 8th, \$5. C. H. Harrington, Esq., 2nd.—S. S. B. sent.

We have on hand several interesting communications which we have been reluctantly obliged to defer till next week.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

FIRE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.—A fire was discovered in the second story at Government House about 1/2 past 10 o'clock on Monday evening. The alarm soon brought the firemen and it was speedily extinguished. The furniture was much damaged by the water.

INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.—The Directors have much pleasure in announcing the following contributions up to the 31st of March:—

- Mrs. Alfred Jones, (omitted).....\$5 0 0
John Stairs, Esq.,.....5 0 0
Mrs. J. Duffus, Jr.,.....1 0 0
Mrs. J. Silver,.....1 0 0
Mrs. Dr. Brown, Halifax,.....2 0 0
Rev. Henry Steins,.....0 10 0
Miss Barlow, (a frequent contributor) St. John, N. B.,.....7 10 0
Hon. J. McCully, Halifax,.....1 0 0
Mr. W. Smith, Halifax,.....1 0 0
Rev. J. Storrs, Cornwallis,.....0 10 0
Do (collection in Church),.....2 5 0
John Greer, Pictou,.....1 5 0
Collection at Cape Canso by Master C. Hart, 1 0 0
Captain W. Forbes, New Glasgow,.....1 0 0
Mr. S. Freeman, Jr., Milton, Queens,.....1 0 0
Edward Albro, Esq., Halifax,.....1 0 0
Howard Primrose, Esq., Pictou, (collected by him towards the support of a poor boy about to be sent to the Institution,) 25 0 0

This last item is deserving of special notice. The contribution came exactly and providentially at the time it was wanted to pay the monthly expenses. The interest manifested by Messrs. Primrose in this child of silence is praiseworthy, and their mode of procedure, in collecting the necessary funds and thus diffusing a sympathy for the individual pupil and for the Institution among many persons, is worthy of imitation.

J. C. COCHRAN, Secretary. Halifax, 4th April, 1864. Strangers admitted any day from 2 to 4 p. m.; residents on Tuesday and Friday.

Mayflowers—the harbingers of Spring—are making their appearance in our neighbourhood.

THE HALIFAX CLUB.—From the first Report just published, it appears that the number of members belonging to the Halifax Club is 162. The entrance fees and subscriptions of the original members, (\$69 each) amount to \$7020. Entrance fees of 23 new members, (\$80 each) \$1840. Expended in furnishing the building, \$7904. Annual subscriptions for the current year will be \$3380. This will give the Treasurer a disposable fund of \$4355 64. The institution is therefore in a most flourishing condition.

THE MUTUAL BANK proposes to start with a capital of \$1,000,000, in 100,000 shares of \$10 each, to be equally apportioned between the city and country, and one-fourth of the stock to be paid in prior to the 30th of June ensuing. A branch bank will be opened in every county of the Province.

OUR COURTS AND OUR JUDGES.—One of our evening papers the Citizen some days ago contained a long article arguing that a Court of Equity was greatly needed in the Province and affirming that the Hon. Attorney General was the most suitable person to become the Judge at such court. The Chronicle denounces the proposal and asserts that "no sixth judge is wanted in Nova Scotia".

The Morning Chronicle of Thursday last gave the following as a Rumored Resignation:—"It is currently rumoured that his Honor Judge Bliss, has tendered his resignation as one of the Justices of the Supreme Court—coupled, however, with a condition of being allowed a pension for life. The Government, it is said, have the subject under consideration.

ROBBERY.—A person from the country said to be a J. P. was robbed in one of the houses of ill fame in Halifax a few days since. The police were informed of the circumstance and soon ascertained that the woman who kept the house had since gone to Windsor. They followed her and on being taken she confessed her guilt. A considerable portion of the money was found on her and in the house subsequently. She is committed for trial.

OUR MINES AND MINERALS.—It will be seen by our Parliamentary Report that a bill has been introduced into the Assembly concerning Mines and Minerals. It provides for this becoming a distinct governmental department with an able Inspector over the whole, combining the Gold commissionership and the duties relating to mines heretofore performed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

OUR REVENUE is being largely replenished by the payment of duties on Spring importations. \$31,000 were paid at the Custom House on Saturday last.

A fire at Truro on Wednesday last destroyed a house in which several families of colored people were living.

The Rev. Walter Goucher recently gave a lecture at Bridgetown on Modern Spiritualism.

We have recently seen some very fine specimens of quartz, taken lately from the Major Norton claim at Wine Harbor. The quartz was obtained about 24 feet from the surface (the distance to which it is sunk), and gave unmistakable evidence of the precious metal.—We learn that the lead continues to grow richer as it descends.—Colonial Standard.

We learn from the Pictou Standard that there has been of late a vast accumulation of ice in the Straits of Northumberland. The whole coast has been filled reaching out to sea as far as the eye could reach.

A fire broke out in the shipyard of Hold & Brothers, Jordan River, near Shelburne, on Friday last. The workshop and contents were entirely destroyed. A bark and schooner on the stocks were fortunately saved owing to the exertions of those present. We are informed that there was no insurance, and the proprietors of the yard will incur a loss of nearly \$4,000.—Express.

FIRE AT PORT GEORGE, ANNAPOLIS CO.—The Free Press gives an account of a disastrous fire which occurred at Port George on Saturday night. Two stores, with all their contents, were consumed.—One was owned by G. B. Reed Esq.—and the other, was the estate of the late Edward Cropley, who died only a day before, and lay at the time in his house uninterred. His coffin was destroyed by the flames. Mr. McIntosh's barn was also reduced to ashes. The whole loss is estimated at \$4,000.

ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

.....OF.....

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No. 144 GRANVILLE STREET.

REMNANTS Prints, Coburges, Lustrea, Delaines, and Fancy Dress Goods.

REMNANTS Mohairs, Wincies, check and fancy Tweeds, Poplins, Poplinettes, &c. in lengths from 2 to 10 yards, suitable for Shirts or Children's Dresses, all very cheap.

REMNANTS Bed-Ticks, Striped SHIRTINGS, Drills, Denims, Grey and White COTTONS, various useful lengths at very reduced rates.

REMNANTS Towelings, Flannels, Serges, &c.

REMNANTS Tweeds, Dressings, Cloths and Coating, in lengths suitable for Coats, Vests, and Pants, at very low prices.

ET Together with a variety of ends of other goods too numerous to mention.

R. McMURRAY & CO.

March 30.