

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

DEAR EDITOR,

Having read the present Educational Act, somewhat carefully, and the Superintendent's Comments and Explanations, kindly sent by the Superintendent. I am desirous of making some remarks thereon through the pages of the *C. Messenger* in the hope of producing some salutary effect upon the minds of at least some, who may have indulged in needless prejudice against the Act itself, as well as those who passed it.

Although comparatively an uneducated man myself, in the enlarged acceptance of the term, yet from having raised a large family of children, and educated them according to my ability, to my advanced age, I have had some considerable opportunities of judging of the former disadvantages, and of late to some extent, of the improved advantages. Having also laboured to promote the general education of those in the township where I resided, as well as in this province at large, I may be permitted in my imperfect way, to say something in commendation of the present Educational Act.

1st. I have been informed that the Hon. C. Tupper framed the Act, and presented it to the Legislature. This I consider reflects much to his honour, inasmuch as it lays the foundation for the promotion of the Education of Nova Scotia, in a manner, far surpassing every thing before presented, as to its utility and practicability. I saw at first that it would necessarily undergo some modifications, and was happy such was accomplished while it was passing through the Legislature, I am still led to believe, that in its practical working, it will need some further modification.

2nd. I was delighted in seeing the Legislature lay hold of it, as a subject of vital importance to the interests of Nova Scotia; at the same time, apprehending that their characters as politicians, would be likely to be assailed, yet resolving to pass such an Act, designed, and calculated to make Nova Scotia an educated people. True, within about twenty years the higher branches of education, have been much more extended, and many persons both male, and female, have been greatly benefitted. The Common School Education, has also been much improved, yet when we consider the aggregate number of the people of this province, it is still vastly deficient, more especially amongst the poorer classes. In this act a foundation is laid to benefit all, to an extent unknown in this province before. This being the case, how desirable it is that every person should feel deeply interested in it. Even those who have educated their own children under all the former disadvantages, and in many respects, by a much higher expenditure; yet they ought now to be willing by voluntary subscription to assist others, and not subject themselves to an assessment, in order to promote the general good; considering that education is calculated to raise an individual, and in this instance the mass of the people, into a higher scale of being, and thereby promoting the best interest of humanity and of society generally. By this means Nova Scotians may become much more elevated in intellect and many, who otherwise would live in obscurity, may be raised to become useful members of society. When men by the grace of God become truly pious, they may, more especially by education, be better qualified to promote the best interests of their fellow beings, and the glory of God, the great end of their creation, and especially their redemption. Surely if this subject is calculated to promote such noble objects, every rational being, should throw the weight of their influence into the scale in its favor.

And now may I be permitted to make a few remarks in reference to the Superintendent, and his Comments and Explanations.

This appointment I think shews the wisdom of the Council of Public Instruction. His first attempt to exercise his functions, in preparing these exceedingly wise, plain and explanatory Comments on the Act, evinces his extended views on the subject, and prove that he is "the right man in the right place," and that if properly encouraged, and supported, by the other officers connected with the Act, he will further be fully equal to his position.

Once more. According to my limited foresight, I think I see some difficulties in the way of carrying into effect all the provisions of this act, and perceive the need of much wisdom being exercised. In reference to the location of the County Academies, and Superior Schools, as well as in the division of the Common School

Districts. In order to the successful working of this beneficent Act, much care and caution is necessary. Such is the supreme selfishness of many persons interested, that it will be of vast importance so to arrange the whole, that no just cause of offence may be given. The best of men may err, and it is exceedingly desirable that all as far as practicable should aid those on whom these duties devolve, and when in their view errors are made, that forbearance should be exercised.

Again. It is to be hoped especially that party politics, may not be suffered to interfere, but on the contrary, that strict impartiality, may be aimed at, in reference to all the foregoing particulars.

In conclusion, may I be permitted modestly as I trust, to intimate that, as I view the subject under consideration, it would evince more wisdom to applaud the present Government, for framing, and passing this valuable Act, than to rail against them for doing so.

There are some further points on which I might remark, but the above seem to me the most important, I therefore forbear.

I am respectfully and fraternally yours.

WILLIAM CHIPMAN.  
Pleasant Valley, Sept. 1st, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

Loiterings at Parrsboro.

No. 2.

In my last I remarked, that it was in contemplation, to build a rail-road from the Spring Hill coal mines, to Mill Village. I may now remark, that there is every probability of a more important rail-road, viz., the Intercolonial, passing through Parrsboro' on its way from Halifax to Quebec. I have it from good authority, that the route via Parrsboro', is more level, and better adapted for building a rail-road, than any other line that has been surveyed. Should these rail-roads be built, as anticipated, Parrsboro' must eventually rank among the more important places of the province. During my perambulations, I became acquainted with an eccentric, but enthusiastic gold-seeker, who informed me that auriferous quartz, could be obtained at a place called Kirk's Hill; therefore full of golden visions, I started from the village, accompanied by my eccentric friend, in search of the golden mountain. About two miles from the village, we passed through the settlement of Four Corners, an uninviting place, and apparently the very quintessence of dullness; the most prominent object that arrested my attention, was a large house, originally intended for a hotel, and built in one of the Four Corners from which the place derives its name. I was informed, that an enterprising individual, conceived the idea of attracting the stream of travel from the hotels at the Island and Village, and built this house, in anticipation of a large amount of patronage from the traveling public: but the scheme failed, and the building is now fast falling to ruins.

"The best laid schemes of mice and men,  
Aft' gang a-gley."

Another mile over a perfect level brought us to our destination. Whilst we were occupied in climbing the hill, the sky became gradually darkened and a thunder storm came on, to avoid which, we retreated into a deep fissure or gulch running into the mountain, and found shelter under a projecting rock. As the storm was passing over us, my friend informed me that, last summer, two Geologists from the States, had discovered some curious fossils in this mountain. How interesting a science is that of Geology; which enables man to investigate the strata of this many stratified earth's crust; so that what appears to be confusion, exhibit order and arrangement; that at successive periods, distinct races of beings have lived and died; the remains of which are still buried in the crust of the earth: that our terraqueous globe, has undergone a variety of changes; now land, now ocean, presently dry land and life again. Whilst seated under the rock, my mind conjured up the pre-Adamite landscape, (which existed thousands of years, before Columbus was cradled, or the Indian hunted on these shores,) with its strange and gigantic features, animate and inanimate. I then thought of the world's grey fables, and all that we call antiquity: of the time, when the victorious legions of Caesar, reduced our pagan ancestors to submission; of Boadicea, with her yellow locks streaming in the wind, arousing her troops to sentiments of revenge, against the hated Roman.

"When the British warrior queen,  
Bleeding from the Roman rods,  
Sought with an indignant mien,  
Counsel of her country's gods;

Rome shall perish—write that word  
In the blood that she has spilt;  
Perish hopeless and abhorred,  
Deep in ruin—as in guilt."

Of Alexander, who scattered the millions of Asia like chaff, and tossed about crowns like foot balls, and wept with vexation because there was but one world to conquer; of that famous scamp of Hannibal's across the Alps, which made the Roman "gents" turn pale with terror, and Roman matrons silenced their noisy children with the cry of, "Hannibal is coming." And back still further, to those distant ages which time covers with its dim and twilight glories; of Urrnus the Egyptian prince, of his family of Titans, of his son Saturn, of Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto, of Hercules and Orpheus. Of that half fabulous, half authentic period described by the poets, when

"The angelic youths of old,  
Burning for maids of mortal mould,  
Bewildered left the glorious skies,  
And lost their heaven for woman's eyes."

But even these, great as their antiquity undoubtedly is, become modernized, and but as yesterday, when compared that Geologic period, when the Inguanodon walked the earth, with flying monsters to keep him company, and huge hideous creatures inhabited air, land, river, and sea.

But the storm soon passed away, and thus ended my day dreaming. I left the friendly shelter of the rock, and observed a magnificent rainbow spanning the sky. The sight of the rainbow always reminds me of those beautiful lines of Campbell.

"Triumphal arch that fills the sky  
When storms prepare to part,  
I ask not proud philosophy  
To teach me what thou art.  
For faithful to his sacred page,  
God still rebuilds thy span,  
Nor lets the type grow pale with age,  
That first spoke peace to man."

But to return to the object of our visit; after a diligent search, we could discover no traces of the precious metal, at which my friend became exceedingly chagrined, and felt very confident, that gold bearing quartz had been discovered in this locality. "Well" said I, my conclusion is, that it will be far easier, to extract gold from the quartz at the Minas Hotel, (Mill Village) than from the quartz, at Kirk's Hill. But if gold cannot be found amongst the minerals of Parrsboro', the more unpretending and useful metals abound in various sections of the township: Iron Ore of excellent quality, is visible to the most casual observer; Copper also can be found in several localities; and I obtained some very good specimens of Plumbago, and Silver. At a place called Green Hill, I found traces of Manganese and Barytes, also of anhydrous Gypsum and quarries of excellent Limestone, may be found from Moose River, to Cape D Or.

SYLVANUS OBEID SMITH.

Pugwash, September, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

On Autumn.

The verdure now no more is seen,  
Of fields and trees which were so green,  
The lovely flowers too have gone,  
Their beauty and their fragrance flown.

Summer with all her charms has passed, and the earth is disrobed of her beautiful garments. The sweet notes of the feathered songsters which warbled their Maker's praise, and animated our spirits as we perambulated fields and groves, are heard no longer. The birds have flown to a more congenial clime; not to return until the earth shall have been warmed again by the benign influences of Spring.

In looking abroad we behold a variety of Autumnal tints on the grass and foliage; and as long nights and chilling winds are approaching, we are warned to prepare for Autumn's successor.

But this season affords us many sources of enjoyment. It gives us the most delicious fruits for refreshment. There are also many other things in Autumn which are calculated to inspire the mind with gratitude and delight towards the Almighty.

The hearts of the husbandmen are doubtless cheered as they gather the productions of our American climate; receiving the rewards of long and arduous toils.

While viewing the leaves that have withered, fallen to the ground, and scattered by the breath of Autumn, we are solemnly reminded of the close of life, when mankind being divested of beauty, vigor, and health, is swept away by the ruthless hand of death, to return to his mother earth, there to await the resurrection morn. And as seeds and plants which are buried are

again restored to vegetation; so will the bodies of mortals be raised up to a higher and more spiritual existence.

E. A. STRONG.

Brooklyn, Sept. 8th, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR EDITOR,

Will you have the kindness to insert the following in your valuable paper.

THERE IS A REMEDY.

During a number of years I was afflicted with what is termed a Strabismus in both my eyes; which I found to be a great disadvantage, and almost despaired of a cure. But in the 28th day of last June, I submitted to an operation by Dr. S. Fitch, of Portland, Maine, a native of N. S. And I am happy to state that I have received a great benefit therefrom. I would earnestly recommend to all who are suffering from the like cause to apply at once to the same skillful oculist.

Respectfully yours,

ELIZA A. STRONG.

Cornwallis, Brooklyn, Sept. 8th, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

ELIZA COVEY,

Beloved wife of Thomas Covey, died at Indian Harbour, St. Margarets Bay, August the 31st, in the 41st year of her age. In very early life she became concerned about salvation. Before she was 18 years old, she professed faith in Christ, was baptized into his death and united with the Church at Lallave. When married she removed to Indian Harbour, and became a member of the Church here. Sister Covey was a mother in Israel, and a devoted christian. She loved the house of God. When she spoke in Conference Meeting it was evident she held communion with God as well as his people. Mrs. C. died of Consumption, and bore her sufferings with patient cheerfulness. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

A discourse was delivered on the occasion, by Rev. T. C. DeLong, from Heb. iv. 9.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prince Edward Island.

Brother Dobson is at present on a visit to the Island. We have recently performed a tour together to the westward as far as Lot 7 and Tignish. A small church was organized by Bro. D. in Cascumpec, more than a year ago. The brethren are living so remote from each other that some to attend worship have to travel 15 or 20 miles. But with all these inconveniences they have kept up their stated service during the last year, thus setting an example worthy of imitation, in some other places that might be named.

We reached Lot 7, Friday the 16th, and held meeting that evening, conference the following day, and had preaching again in the evening. The people were willing to hear the truth, and several who had not before followed their Lord in baptism, were now desirous of submitting to this ordinance.

Sabbath morning found us assembled at the waters' side. Is there not something delightful in a baptism rightly administered? Does not the Spirit still hover over the spot where disciples of Christ do honor Him by obedience to his commands? We have often felt that it was even so; and this instance was no exception to the rule. A slight breeze played upon the surface of the pool, while the sun shone brightly above our heads, fit emblem of the light and comfort that came to our hearts from the "sun of righteousness." Seven persons on this occasion were baptized by Bro. Dobson. On Monday following the brethren again met with us in Conference, and after prayer for the divine guidance proceeded to the election of a deacon. Bro. Richard Lidstone was unanimously chosen to the office, and set apart by the imposition of hands. Two others offered themselves to the church, and after baptism were received into fellowship. Of the nine here baptized seven are heads of families.

Tuesday we started for Alberton Cascumpec, where we had an appointment. At the house of Bro. Lewis we met a few friends and found his aged father, desirous of following his Lord, even though at the "eleventh hour." This baptism, in one respect at least, was the most interesting I ever beheld. "They went down both into the water," the administrator and the candidate, the latter, in his 84th year, with tottering limbs, supported by a staff held in his right hand and by the administrator on his left, and then our aged brother was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,