

For the Christian Messenger.

CORRECTION.

DEAR BROTHER,—

In the Minutes of Convention, just issued from St. John, N. B., the list of the Governors of Acadia College is unfortunately omitted. Please insert the following:—

- BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ACADIA COLLEGE.
- Ex-Officio.—Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D.,—President.
 - Hon. J. W. Johnston, Rev. I. E. Hill.
 - Hon. W. B. Kinnear, " A. S. Hunt, A. M.,
 - Rev. W. Burton, " C. Spurden, D. D.,
 - " G. Armstrong, A. M., " G. F. Miles,
 - " Jas. Parker, " J. A. Smith,
 - " D. M. Welton, A. M., " S. W. deBlois,
 - " J. Davis, D. McN. Parker, Esq., M. D.
 - " A. D. Thomson, N. S. deMill, Esq.,
 - " S. Robinson, M. Beckwith, Esq.
 - Rev. S. W. deBlois, A. M., Secretary.
 - J. W. Bars, Esq., Treasurer.

As the Minutes of the Nova Scotia Associations were not printed when I prepared the Report on "the State of the Denomination," I depended on information supplied by a brother who was present at the meetings, and who must have received some incomplete statistics.

I am very glad that the report respecting Nova Scotia went a more favorable aspect, and that instead of losing 31 that province has gained eleven. The Eastern Association, I find by the Minutes, contains 62 Churches, (instead of 61.) so that the whole number of churches in Nova Scotia is 154.

But I am sorry to be compelled to add that in consequence of some confusion having crept into the figures, the net increase of the whole body is only 96—not 279, as stated in the Report. The whole account stands thus:

	churches.	baptized.	members.
NOVA SCOTIA			
Western Association	52	186	7516
Central do.	40	99	4808
Eastern do.	62	108	3486
	154	393	15870
NEW BRUNSWICK			
Eastern Association	62	277	4914
Western do.	53	209	3907
	115	486	8821
Total	269	879	24691
Reported last year			24595
Increase			96

Thursday, Dec. 1, will be the Day of humiliation and prayer. It will be solemnly observed, I trust, by all the churches in these Provinces. May the observance be followed by an abundant blessing!

Yours truly,
Acadia College, J. M. CRAMP.
Oct. 20, 1864.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 26, 1864.

BRITISH AMERICA.

Whatever may be the result of the Conference of Delegates now sitting at Quebec, it seems to attract some attention from our neighbors. The press of the United States do not fail to observe its existence and designs. The New York Methodist somewhat overrates the "agitation" which it asserts has existed in the British North American Provinces, respecting "Confederation." The following is from an editorial in that paper:

The provinces of British North America have been for several months agitated by a movement toward a Confederation, which is, at first, to embrace the two Canadas, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland; as soon as possible to be extended to the Rocky Mountains, and ultimately to embrace all British North America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The success of this movement would establish a country, exceeding in point of territory even the United States, and having all the prospects of becoming one of the most powerful nations of the globe.

There are many and obvious reasons why the people of the United States should take a deep interest in the progress of this scheme. At present we have on our northern frontier only a number of small and insignificant colonies, the inhabitants of which, in general, feel as Europeans, not as Americans. If the new Confederation shall be successfully established, we may soon have for our next neighbor a powerful nation. As the growth of this nation will be undoubtedly much more rapid than that of the isolated colonies, our commercial relations to it must necessarily become of the greatest importance. It is fair to presume, that although the ties which connect these provinces at present with England, may not at once be broken after the establishment of the confederation, a powerful nation cannot fail to drift rapidly into independence and be converted from a colonial appendage to Europe into a free American State. This result is so evident that public opinion neither in England nor in the British provinces of North America entertains the least doubt about it.

The New York Albion, in a sensible article on the subject gives the following advice: "For the present we feel bound to advise our nearer relatives, now casting about for a future

and a policy, to hold fast to old and well-established landmarks, until definite improvements shall stand out clear from those disturbing elements of experimental theories and those internal strifes that now prevail about us."

Considerable doubt exists in many minds as to whether the Canadian Delegates can be relied on in their professions of disinterestedness in this matter. Whilst the Hon. George Brown has been expressing himself strongly on behalf of the proposed combination, his paper, the Toronto Globe, makes it only a secondary matter, and even expresses doubt about, what we deem an essential part of any union of the Provinces—the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. In its issue of the 18th it uses the following language: "The scheme which we declined to advocate was—the intercolonial railway first; the confederation next, but at some indefinite time; and justice to Upper Canada, last of all, or more likely, not at all. The policy which we are now supporting reverses all this. We are getting, as first and most important, justice to Upper Canada—a boon which is to be secured without delay, even if confederation should not at present be realized; next, confederation; and last, if at all, the railway."

It is pretty clear that the most influential politicians of Canada are more anxious for western extension than eastern confederation. Whatever will open up the territory towards the Pacific finds more favor than any expenditure of funds in reaching an eastern terminus for their railroads. The absurdity of their representative system is very apparent,—having the same number of representatives from Eastern Canada as from Canada West, whereas the latter has so much the larger amount of population;—and, if the Canadians can get the lower provinces to help them out of their difficulties, they will deem the time occupied in the Conference well spent.

If the telegrams sent from Quebec to the Morning Chronicle, respecting the subjects under discussion by the Delegates, may be relied on, they are going on swimmingly in the work of constitution-making. The following extracts therefrom may indicate how we are being disposed of by this combination of leading politicians:

Quebec, Oct. 19, 1864.—Constitution of the Legislative Council reported settled, as nominative by Crown for Life, with real estate qualification of Four Thousand Dollars, continuously unincumbered.

The mode of appointing first Council is now under consideration. There is a strong leaning to appoint from the present Councils, thereby reducing numbers. Vacancies not to be filled, thus lessening expense.

Number of members of House of Assembly, it is supposed, will be two hundred: one for every seventeen thousand of the population.

The Constitution of both Federal Houses is reported to have been agreed upon.

Lieutenant Governors are to be nominated by Federal Executive.

Some are favorable to one House only, but the majority are supposed to be in favor of two—retaining existing institutions upon greatly reduced scales.

Oct. 21.—The duration of the Federal Parliament will be five years.

The Conference is now engaged distributing subjects of proper jurisdiction to General and Local Legislatures. Considerable progress, it is reported, has been made.

Financial Statements are about being submitted as basis of Union.

Unanimity continues to prevail.

Oct. 22.—Constitution of the Legislative Council will be as follows:—Upper and Lower Canada, twenty-four members each; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, ten each; P. E. Island and Newfoundland, four each; total, seventy-six.

Lower House will be composed of, for Lower Canada, sixty-five members; Upper Canada, eighty-two; Nova Scotia, nineteen; New Brunswick, fifteen; Newfoundland eight; P. E. Island, five.

Financial Scheme has been submitted. The basis is that no one province shall entail heavier liability than another.

Oct. 24.—The Conference finally rises on Thursday next.

The delegates will receive the hospitalities of Montreal all day Friday, and partake of dinner on Saturday. Will visit Ottawa on Monday, and lunch and take dinner on Tuesday. They will reach Kingston on Wednesday, where the Corporation of that city will dine with the delegates on Thursday. On Friday they will be entertained at Toronto with a Ball and a dinner. On Saturday they will visit the Falls of Niagara, and on Monday the party will scatter. The question of finance and judiciary yet engages Conference.

Whether the people will accept these arrangements is a question which must be submitted to their representatives, and will require very grave consideration.

The Delegates to the Conference have free passes over the Grand Trunk Railway and the Great Western Line; special trains, and other conveniences for travelling even to Chicago and Milwaukee, are placed at their disposal till the 1st of December!

The N. Y. Albion suggests the name "Canada" for the new nation—whose birth is anticipated from the Conference now sitting

at Quebec, as a compromise between "Canada" and "Acadia." This would be allowing Canada its full name, and giving the lower provinces an "i,"—those provinces comprising part of the continent being the lower part of the i, and Newfoundland the dot. We are much obliged to our New York contemporary, but we think such a name could scarcely be called "a compromise." We prefer the name at the head of our article, or, if the Union consist only of the lower provinces, ACADIA.

A correspondent of the Provincial Wesleyan of last week attempts to controvert Spurgeon's Sermon on Baptismal Regeneration. He professes to be writing his letter "To a friend," and commences with "My dear Brother, Your letter is to hand," and requests that "anything I may say shall not be regarded as intended to offend your Baptist feelings." After indulging in various flings at the "American Bible Union," and misrepresentations of Spurgeon, and the Baptists generally, he proves many things to his own satisfaction, but really shows plainly that he does not comprehend the question at issue.

He comes to a very sage conclusion which he puts in the following words: "I think it is trifling with the sacrament of baptism to represent it as depending upon or being in water at all." And again "I do not say that water is unnecessary in baptism, but I may be allowed to give it as my opinion that baptism is not in the water—it is therefore simply ridiculous, and, I fear, a plain perversion of a very important and instructive portion of the word of God, to speak of being buried with Christ in baptism because a person has been put under the water for a moment."

He here has the privilege of being opposed not only to the views of Baptists, but also of the Apostle Paul, (See Rom. vi 4.) John Wesley, Dr. Samuel Clarke, Dr. Doddridge, the Assembly of Divines, and a host of the wisest and best men in all denominations who have written on this passage of Scripture.

There is, however, some hope of this very modest writer, for notwithstanding the positiveness of some of his statements he concludes his letter with the following paragraph:

"I hope you will not be offended with my plainness of speech in dealing with your favorite Spurgeon. In compliance with your solicitation I have given you my opinion. I sincerely wish the doctrine of baptism could meet with some masterly exponent, who would put an end to all controversy. Yours affectionately."

If he cannot find such a writer as he wishes, we recommend him to take the New Testament, and gather together all the passages which speak of baptism, and then seek Divine guidance, and act on his convictions.

This nameless writer and his readers will probably feel the force of the paragraph of an English Correspondent, in the same paper, respecting Spurgeon. He writes from London and can better appreciate the work and worth of Spurgeon and his out-spoken plainness:

"Mr. Spurgeon has now unmistakably got the ear of the country. Though only about 30 years of age, he is beyond question the foremost man in the ranks of English dissent. Yet he is no party leader. He is thoroughly independent, pursuing his own course, and asking no one to follow him as a partisan. All the small criticism upon his jokes, vulgarities, and odd expressions has now passed away, and he has established himself as a real power in this country. It is quite an unexpected thing that he should turn controversialist, but hitherto he has managed matters with such skill and force as dreadfully to discomfit his antagonists."

Work of the Bible in Burmah.

MANY of our readers are contributors to the American and Foreign Bible Society. To them the following extract of a letter from the Rev. E. Kincaid, D. D., will be very acceptable:

For about twelve months I have had a very intelligent young Karen preacher at work reducing the Kyen language to writing. He had been among that people a good deal and studied their language, and came to me urging that he might undertake that work. He manifested so much anxiety that I could not refuse. He has taken the Pwo Karen alphabet and formed a spelling-book, has translated about two-thirds of the Gospel by John, and twenty hymns from the Burman hymn book. A number of the Kyen Christians now read and sing in their own language. I have reason to think he has done well so far, and after a little more revision, will get a tract of fifteen or twenty pages printed, to be carried and read in the Kyen villages that the people may learn the glad tidings in their own language. This is a small beginning, but it is still a beginning. I can recollect the time when the first little flock of Karen Christians began to learn their newlyformed alphabet, and wondered if they would ever read God's good Book in their own language. It seems but a short time, and is only a little over thirty years. Now thousands and thousands, for 500 miles along the eastern and northern shores of the "Bay of Bengal," and far up into the country, are reading and teaching others to read

the inspired volume. How can I doubt then the power of this living Word? No power of man—no wisdom of man ever has effected such a change. He who said, "Teach all nations," also said, "Lo, I am with you." It is the spoken and the written Word in the name of Christ that is now overturning the powers of darkness and setting the prisoners free. Peace on these outposts of Zion, warring against principalities and powers! We should sink down in despair, were it not that "our weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

Let me thank you, and through you, all those who have found it in their hearts to assist in putting the New Testament within the reach of some thousands of Burmans and Karens. It is a noble offering, for a noble purpose.

THE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.—To our call for the names of the "notoriously illiterate and confessedly vicious and profane" Commissioners of Schools, the Witness replies:

"Name them indeed? (1) Not we. But we assert that there was not a particle of exaggeration in our statement of the case. We are quite willing to let our assertion go abroad before the country for what it is worth, and let the Messenger's doubts go along with it."

We expressed no "doubts." We only asked for proof of the assertion; and questioned the right of the Witness to cast odium on men having such important trusts committed to them. If they are confessedly vicious and profane, there would not be much difficulty in shewing them up, we suppose, and getting them superceded. Name them!!

THE MISSIONARY MAGAZINE.—The Rev. Dr. Warren, with whom we formed a pleasing acquaintance at our late session of the Baptist Convention, writes:

"BOSTON, Oct. 13th, 1864.—Dear Brother Schden, My interview with the brethren at St. John will be ever a bright spot in my pilgrimage, never called to mind without a distinct emotion of gratitude to God. I love the simplicity, the earnestness, and the manliness of my brethren in the Provinces. They have a noble future before them.

"Please say, in one line, to the brethren who subscribed to the Magazine, I found I could not prepay all the postage on it, only the U. S. postage. They shall not suffer in the end."

Most affectionately,
J. G. WARREN."

New Publications.

THE WEED WITH AN ILL-NAME:—Life Illustrated Series. American Tract Society. A first-rate book for boys, shewing them the noxious influence of a certain plant in nature, and another in the human heart.

NEWS SUMMARY.

By the arrival of H. M. S. Jason on Sunday morning last, we learn that the Yellow Fever had considerably abated. Her dates were to the 17th inst. No new cases had occurred since the 11th.

The Bermuda papers confirm the telegrams of last week concerning the capture and destruction of the Roanoke. The Gazette of the 11th gives the following account of the affair:

"The somewhat unusual spectacle of a burning ship was to be seen from the east end of our Island on Sunday. The Roanoke left Havana for New York a short time since, and when some distance from land was captured by a number of Confederates who had shipped as passengers. Most of the officers surrendered quietly, but one, a Dutchman, who does not appear to have understood what was said to him, was shot dead; and another of the crew, who offered some slight resistance, was wounded. The vessel was brought to the neighborhood of this Island this day week, and nightly visits were paid to Fathom Hole, where she was provided with men and provisions. A brig went out to her with coal; but the weather proving too stormy, it was finally determined to abandon the prize, which was effected on Sunday—the crew and officers landing in boats, when they were immediately placed under arrest by the authorities."

On trial, Lieutenant Braine produced his commission and also special instructions from the Confederate States government to seize the vessel. The charge of piracy was withdrawn, but the whole party was committed to prison.

Notices, &c.

CORRECTIONS in Minutes of Convention.—Page 19, Col. 1, line 10, for "Sydney Welton," read William Rhodes, Esq. Do. do. line 30, for "Lower Wilmot and Upper Aylesford," read Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot. Page 20, line 33, for "1862," read 1863. Page 22, line 6, after "immeasurably," add more.

C. TUFFER.

CORRECTION.—The fine ship launched at Cornwallis, we learn by a subsequent notice was named the Beattie Harris, not Eliza Harris as stated last week.

LETTERS RECEIVED will be acknowledged next week.