

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

Dear Brother,—

Our winter Rhetorical Exhibition took place in the Baptist Meeting House on Tuesday evening last. Though the day had been stormy, and the snow-drifts interposed some difficulties, the audience was numerous. The meeting was opened by the President, after which Professor Jones, under whom the Sophomore Class had studied Rhetoric during the Term, introduced the speakers. The following was the order of the exercises:—

- Prayer by Rev. S. W. DeBlois, A. M.
- Music.
- The Bema,.....W. E. Parker, Cornwallis.
- Theories,.....Wallace Graham, Antigonish.
- The Crusades,.....Lewis F. Shafner, Canning.
- Music.
- Decided Action,.....Burpe Beckwith, Cornwallis.
- Waterloo,.....Wilbert D. Dimock, Truro.
- Music.
- Compensation,.....T. P. L. Parsons, Liverpool.
- Genius,.....J. W. Manning, Bridgewater.
- Music.
- Address, by T. H. Rand Esq., Superintendent of Education.

The National Anthem. Benediction, Rev. James Parker.

Mr. Saffery presided at the Melodion, and was aided by a very efficient Choir.

The exercises of the evening proved entirely satisfactory, I believe, to all present.

I take this opportunity to state that the business of the next Term will commence on Monday, Jan. 9. Young men who are desirous of attending Partial Courses may then join Classes in Logic, Political Economy, or Moral Philosophy.

For the information of Teachers of Grammar Schools and County Academies, who may be called upon to prepare young persons for College, I transcribe the following passage from our "Catalogue":—

"Candidates for matriculation will be examined in Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, English, Grecian, and Roman History; and in Algebra, as contained in the first six books of Davies' Bourdon—or an equivalent.

"They must be thoroughly acquainted with the Latin and Greek Grammars, and be able to translate and parse accurately two books of Caesar, two books of the Aeneid of Virgil, two Orations of Cicero, and two books of Xenophon's Anabasis."

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Dec. 23, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College, and Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society.

The Meetings which were to have been held on Tuesday last were postponed, on account of the storm. The Governors of the College and the members of the Education Society, and of its Executive Committee, are requested to meet on Friday next, the 30th, inst., in the Library of the College, at eleven o'clock, a. m.

S. W. DEBLOIS, A. S. HUNT, Secretaries.

Dec. 23, 1864.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 28, 1864.

SEASONABLE GREETINGS

are the order of the day during this week; and we would gladly extend our hand to each one of our readers and tender to them our best wishes and the compliments of the season, hoping that nothing may interfere with its being to them a time full of joy and pleasure.

Christmas day falling on the first day of the week has probably interfered somewhat with the social observances of that occasion. We hope however that the week will be none the less a season of home enjoyment and rational amusement. Whilst we renounce all regard for Christmas as the real anniversary of our Lord's nativity, it being pretty well known that that event took place in one of the summer months, and that the season of merry-making observed by our heathen ancestors was adopted by the church of Rome as a fitting feast to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world; we would not indulge in any carping sensitiveness on that point; but, making the best use of the customary outflow of generous sentiment and feeling, would call to mind the glorious event which was ushered in by "the multitude of the heavenly host" more than eighteen centuries and a half since. The great gift then made known of "peace on earth and good-will to men" is a fitting pattern to induce a mutual exchange of presents, and a free disposal of this world's goods to the young, the poor, and the ne-

cessitous. The intrinsic value of the gifts is but a small part of the good produced by them. How much of selfishness is banished by the kindly expression of affection, and the pleasure felt in the imparting of pleasure to others at this season. From the pleasant little fiction of Santa Claus amongst the juveniles, up to the brief but substantial banishment of want from the poverty stricken; and the cheer afforded to the pauper and prisoner, a better feeling is brought out; and christianity in an indirect way sheds its beams on our sin-stricken world. A more generous disposition is given to all the members of the household—by an observance of these amenities. Even the domestic animals are thought of with more of kindness by the little talks on these occasions.

Where such kindly greetings flow from the christian heart they rise into a desire not only to banish want from the hearth and cupboard of the poor, but, seek to make the occasion one of communicating the higher spiritual good from which alone true "peace on earth" can flow. A conviction that Heaven has "good will to men," and, that this must ultimately be extended "to all people," is a spring of joy which will banish the sorrows arising here from sickness, poverty, sin, and death. If the occasion is made available by our readers to convey this to but one desolate heart it will have been to them indeed a right Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

Two or three weeks since we published the proposal of the Evangelical Alliance, to hold united special religious services, during the first week of the coming year. A Committee composed of persons belonging to several different religious denominations in Halifax, have for several years past made arrangements for meetings during each day of the first week, in the several churches of the city.

Again a similar arrangement has been made for next week—the first of the year, 1865,—to hold religious services morning and evening, in six different places of worship, as follows:—

We repeat the list of subjects for the convenience of our readers who may wish to refer to them.

For the Lord's Day "the Agency of the Holy Spirit in the present Dispensation," is suggested as a suitable subject of contemplation.

On Monday, Jan. 2nd, the meetings to be held in Brunswick Street Church, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m. Subject: Thanksgiving for blessings upon Individuals, Nations and Churches; together with Confession of Sins.

On Tuesday, 3rd, in Granville Street Church, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m: Pastors, teachers, evangelists, and missionaries.

On Wednesday, 4th, in Chalmers' Church, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m: The children of Christian parents, congregations and schools.

On Thursday, 5th, in the Tabernacle, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m: Sabbath schools, and all actively engaged in Christian Work.

On Friday, 6th, in Poplar Grove Church, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m: The abolition of slavery and cessation of war.

On Saturday, 7th, in St. Matthew's Church, at 9 1/2 a. m., and three p. m: The Christian Church; For increased holiness, activity, and harmony among its several sections.

And on Lord's Day, Jan. 8th: The visible unity of the Church.

All who may desire to do so may not be able to embrace all these opportunities of Special Prayer and Christian union, but doubtless a large number of the various denominations represented, in them, as well as others, will attend most of the meetings. We doubt not much of good will be realized by those who may be thus privileged. But we beg leave to suggest that personal enjoyment is not the only, or indeed the principal result to be sought by these religious exercises. All the agencies of the Church of Christ, have for their great aim and end, the same as that for which Christ himself came into the world—that sinners may be saved, and the world subdued to his reign. Whilst therefore christians may enter into these arrangements, and rejoice in the general recognition of the various agencies noticed in the programme as parts of church work, for which prayer may be offered, we think if the increased interest in them should cease there, the meetings will prove to have been a failure.

It should be borne in mind that prayer is not offered to be heard and forgotten by us as soon as it has been uttered. What sort of petition, presented to an earthly sovereign would be thus treated? Each individual church should look through every month of the year for a fulfilment of the prayers offered during the coming week. The rule given by the Master for receiving answers to prayer, is,— "According to your faith." Let this in-

spire expectation and hope, and kindle the zeal and love of christians, and we shall doubtless have soon to tell of gracious manifestations of the Divine presence and blessing.

Anti-Federation Meeting.

In consequence of the misunderstanding on Monday evening of last week, mentioned in our last, a requisition was made, and a meeting called, by His Worship the Mayor, for Friday evening, for those who were opposed to the Confederation Scheme presented by the Delegates.

Accordingly a large assemblage of gentlemen met in Temperance Hall at 7 o'clock on that evening filling all the seats and quite a number standing in the passages. The Mayor in a few brief remarks informed the meeting that a programme had been placed in his hands containing the names of certain gentlemen who were prepared to speak; and, if the time allowed afterwards, the proceedings would be regulated by the rules commonly observed at public meetings.

A. M. Uniacke, Esq., went fully into the question—Is the scheme now proposed better for the people than the system of government which we at present enjoy? In discussing this he referred to various expressions of opinion by those who had been prominent politicians in this and the neighbouring provinces respecting a Federal Union. He characterized the present plan as founded in disunion, seeing that before the change could be effected a separation of Upper and Lower Canada must take place. He called on the Delegates to explain why the Legislative Union, for which the Conference at Charlottetown was called to consider, was given up. He denounced the delegation as unfaithful—seeing that some of their number had divulged the results of the Quebec conference, whereas others of them said that no publicity should be given to the proceedings until the Imperial Government had replied to the proposals. The increase of duties which must follow this combination shewed that Nova Scotia is to be taxed to a larger sum, while Canada is to have her tariff diminished. He concluded by demanding that the question should be submitted to the people at the Polls before any further step is taken for consummating the Union.

W. J. Stairs, Esq., next spoke on the financial aspects of the question, disputing many of the figures given by the delegates as to the expense of the scheme, and the amount of taxation it would entail on the people of the province. Instead of the taxation being \$3. per head, his calculations shewed that it would be over \$4. Mr. S. argued that the people of this province would have to pay much more largely than a similar number of Canadians. The time at his disposal was insufficient to allow him to make use of more than a very small part of the facts and figures in his hand, and he closed by urgently pressing on the meeting the necessity for an appeal to the people.

Alfred Jones, Esq., took up the questions of the responsibilities and disadvantages which would arise from adopting the proposals prepared by the Conference. He stated that in his opinion the amount named by the Delegates would be insufficient for our local demands and that direct taxation would have to be resorted to for supplying the deficiency.

Patrick Power, Esq., believed that the most disastrous consequences would arise from the proposed union. We now have a certainty and should be very unwise if we gave it up for an uncertainty. He caused some amusement by his allusions to the persons composing the delegation—two lawyers and a doctor—perhaps it was because they were more able to talk than commercial men or farmers. Some people he said have a tongue and no brains, whilst others have the brains and no tongue. He was not able to talk fluently, but this being an extraordinary occasion he felt it his duty to depart from his usual course and come and speak his mind on this subject. He believed that if the Confederation were formed, United States would repeal the Reciprocity Treaty, which was now a great boon to this province and great injury would be the result.

W. Miller, Esq., M. P. P., arose to speak but was met with a perfect storm of hisses—probably on account of his threat at the previous meeting—until the Mayor asked the audience to give him a fair hearing. On his again rising he was listened to very attentively, and spoke at some considerable length. He expatiated on the greatness and importance of the subject now under consideration. He glanced over the peculiar circumstances under which Union of the Provinces was inaugurated. It was to accommodate Canada and help her out of her troubles, and the persons by whom it was introduced to the people

of the province—the leaders of the two parties in the Assembly and Council, and thought it required much ability to stand against the formidable parties, who had agreed to place it before the public. He combatted the idea expressed by Hon. Mr. McCully, that Nova Scotia would have a full share of representation in the Legislation. He said that in the case of Scotland and Ireland uniting with England, referred to by the Delegates at the previous meeting, it was not in either case by their free consent, but coercion and bribery had been used for the purpose of bringing them to combine. He had no confidence in the parties to this union. He was not opposed to a Union, if it could be a fair and equitable one. He believed that representation by population in the Federation was unfair, and in the future alterations of representation, great injustice would be done to these provinces. The advantages of our situation should command for us more than a similar extent of territory, or an equal number of people in any other part of the proposed Confederation. The proposal to provide naval and military defence, he conceived was made without due consideration of what it involved. The expense of even gun-boats on the lakes in Canada, would be beyond any sum we could provide for such service. He explained how the Funded Debts of the Provinces had lately been subjected to depression and then a rise. The time at which the interest was payable, had more to do with that than the federation scheme. The only proper tribunal for such a question was the polls, and he demanded an appeal to the people.

W. Annand Esq., M. P. P. spoke on the various objects sought to be effected by Union, and argued that they might all be obtained without such an additional burden as as confederation would impose. A uniform currency might be arranged in half-an-hour by men capable of dealing with such matters. Free trade might also be accomplished by mutual consultation. As to the Imperial Despatch which had that day been received. It was well known that the sentiments it contained were such as might be expected from the home government. It has long been the practise for the British Government to concede what is asked to her colonies and of course, coming with an offer to assume a large amount of the means of defence there would be nothing but approval expressed.

The meeting was brought to a close about 1/2 past 11 at night.

His Worship informed the audience that a requisition had been presented to him to call another meeting at which there might be free discussion on both sides. He had therefore appointed next Friday evening for this purpose to which time the meeting would stand adjourned.

One of our contemporaries, last week, published a letter from a Subscriber, with which he had received four dollars for the year 1865.—twice the amount of Subscription. An act of rare generosity! We do not expect such things, but if payment is made promptly according to our published terms, we are well satisfied. A good proportion of our friends are always up to time, with their payments. If this were the case with all we should be saved a vast deal of trouble and anxiety, and consider ourselves amongst the most favored of mortals. The amount of brain-work, material and manual labor, employed to furnish the reading matter of a family Newspaper for fifty-two weeks, is, we believe, greater than that supplied for the same sum by any other profession or branch of industrial occupation. Quite a number of our friends, in different parts of the province, occasionally give us expressions of kind consideration and interest in our labors, for which we tender our best thanks. The following from a ministering brother a week or two since, may serve as a specimen: He says:—"I intend to try for some more names for the next year for the Messenger. Our pastors should do more than they do. I hope they succeed better than I do. Bro. S. tells me that he would rather pay 30 shillings a year than be without the Messenger. I wish there were more like him."

NEWS SUMMARY.

By the latest accounts from Europe, we learn that the capital of the new kingdom of Italy is shortly to be transferred from Turin, a city in the most northern part of the Italian Peninsula, and the seat of the former kingdom of Savoy and Piedmont, to Florence, a large and central city, the capital, before the revolution, of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. The change has been effected by the vote of a large majority in the Italian Parliament. Florence has been renowned for several centuries as one of the chief centres of art and learning, and in this respect ranks next to Rome. Rome however, for many years, has been the