

The ascent and descent are extremely gradual, but it is enough to make one nervous to look down the precipices on the edges of which the road is carried, or to gaze at the overhanging heights above. The construction of the railroad displays much boldness and skill. Before we reached the mountains the scenery was remarkably beautiful, the frequent turns and windings among the spurs of the range affording great variety of prospect. The views on the passage across were truly sublime.

We passed through Harper's Ferry. The public buildings which were destroyed by the Confederate forces at the beginning of the war remain still in their ruined state. Perhaps it is not yet considered prudent or safe to rebuild them. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is under military protection. There is an encampment at each station, and whenever the train halted the soldiers were seen, drawn up in rank and file, with bayonets fixed, ready to defend us from harm or to repel any sudden attack. The large number of young persons among them—youths from sixteen to eighteen years of age—was very observable. We could not help contrasting their appearance with that of English soldiers.

I remained four days at Cleveland, attending the Annual Session of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance of North America, and was hospitably entertained by A. Stone Jun. Esq., whose mansion, replete with luxurious comforts, is pleasantly situated in Euclid Street, about half a mile from the business part of the city. In that street, and in several others parallel with it, the residences of the merchants and gentlemen of the city are for the most part to be found. They are generally built of brick, and are large and handsome. The population of Cleveland is about 60,000.

I could not procure an accurate list of the places of worship in Cleveland. They are upwards of fifty in number, including three Episcopalians, four Presbyterian, three Methodist, two Baptist, eleven Roman Catholic (some of them quite small), and several Jewish Synagogues. The Rev. Dr. Adams and the Rev. Mr. Page are the Baptist ministers. Mr. Page had been to the army in the service of the "Christian Commission," and had recently returned, in an enfeebled state of health. Dr. Adams was then absent, in the same service. I preached in his church on the morning of Lord's day 18th ult. In the afternoon there was a gathering of the Sunday Schools of the city in the same building, when addresses were delivered by several members of the National Division. In the evening I attended a meeting in one of the Presbyterian churches, which was densely thronged on the occasion. Four of the ministers of the city, of whom Mr. Page was one, gave reports of their proceedings and labours while they were with the army. The duties devolving on those who act as Agents of the "Christian Commission" are thus described in an American paper:—

"If any spectacle can be presented more sublime than that of our heroic citizen soldiers enlisted in the service out of pure patriotism burning in their breasts, fighting their way so gallantly to the heart of the rebellion, braving danger and death suffering but never complaining, it is that of the noble delegates of the Christian Commission at White House, where the wounded are brought in from the front, plying every art that Christian kindness can invent for the relief and comfort of the sufferers as they arrive.

Besides the corps of delegates in each corps of the army at the front, there have been sent here to the base over a hundred since the change from Fredericksburg. Ministers, merchants, doctors, lawyers, teachers, men of fortune and of the highest social position, here share the tents, blankets, fare and blessed work of the Christian Commission. Laying aside coat and vest, putting on the shirt of grey woolen, they swing over one shoulder the haversack of food, and over the other the canteen of milk punch; take in one hand a bucket of coffee and in the other a cup to serve it, and go forth at the warning to meet the train of mangled men as they come in ambulance and wagon, revive the sinking, feed the hungry, satisfy the thirsty, and then see what further can be done. Then comes their removal to the hospital tents, or to the transports, the washing, dressing, stripping off the bloody garments and putting on the clean; the inquiries, the letters home, the religious counsels, the prayers to God, and all else called for by the various circumstances.

To supply these delegates with stores for distribution, the Christian Commission, besides its daily shipments by the regular boats from Washington and from Baltimore, has a steam tug boat, a schooner and barge, employed continually where most needed, and also a line of teams and wagons from the base to the front. This has enabled prompt action and relief on an extended scale. Before any wounded men arrived at White House the delegates were there with stores, to receive and relieve them. The first trains—one three-fourths of a mile long—and all coming since, have found them ready."

The meeting alluded to above—was of the deepest interest. The narratives of the ministers were truly affecting, disclosing an appalling account of suffering endured by the victims of the war. The wounded are

so numerous, and so much time frequently elapses before they can be removed and attended to, that if it were not for the benevolent enterprise of the "Christian Commission" the number of deaths would be frightfully increased. The ministers and other delegates generally go for six weeks each, and their places are then supplied by others. A shorter period would be preferable, especially for the ministers, as the toll is so exhausting in its effects that those who are not accustomed to much bodily exercise are apt to sink under it. The horrors of war were never so awfully revealed, unless, perhaps, during Napoleon's expedition to Russia. Only think of wounded men lying on the ground for days till their wounds are ready to putrefy, and of the effort which has to be put forth by persons of delicate sensibilities, to wash and dress them, and render them other needful attentions. Only think of deep, wide trenches dug for the dead, in which the unclaimed corpses are laid, while at the end there is a large heap of hands and arms, feet and legs, sawed off by the surgeons. Only think of the whole body of the surgeons being engaged at the amputating table for forty-eight hours, unable, during all that time, to give help in cases of ordinary wounds. But I must not go into further detail. Some of the statements made at the meeting were too revolting and horrifying to appear in print. All honour to the labours of the "Christian Commission"! Much that they see and do must be veiled from the public eye. But their record is on high, and verily they will be rewarded.

I left Cleveland on Tuesday morning the 21st and proceeded to Buffalo. My stay in that city was very short, as I continued my journey on Wednesday, in the afternoon of which day I reached Toronto. A ride through the principal streets of Buffalo enabled me to take a view of its public buildings and many of the private residences. Indications of material prosperity were abundant. The city is beautifully laid out, and the broad streets are well lined with trees. There are sixty-four places of worship, viz:—eight Presbyterian, eight Methodist, six Baptist, seven Episcopalian, seven German Lutheran, fifteen Roman Catholic, thirteen belonging to various minor denominations, and two Jewish Synagogues. The city is divided into thirty-three school sections, in which 10,000 children receive instruction. The population is 84,000.

Having enjoyed a pleasant interview with Dr. Caldwell I left Toronto on Thursday afternoon the 23rd by the Steamer "Kingston", and was safely landed at Montreal on the evening of the next day. I had travelled upwards of 2100 miles, and endured some fatigue, but no harm had befallen me.

Yours truly,  
J. M. CRAMP.

Montreal, July,

P. S.—I see that Harper's Ferry is again in the possession of the Confederate forces, and that the bridge over which we passed is partially dismantled to prevent their progress.

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

MR. EDITOR.

I wish to intimate to the churches connected with the Baptist Convention, that have not responded to the Appeal sent them in April,—and a large majority are in this class,—that the Annual accounts of the College will close on the first day of August; and those who have made their collection, or intend doing so, had better remit by that date or the amount cannot appear in the statement to be made to the Convention.

It is not pleasant to parade the financial matters of our College frequently before the public, but there is necessity for my so doing which will be taken as my apology for the act.

J. W. BARRS,  
Treasurer of Acadia College.  
Christian Visitor please copy.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 20, 1864.

A WORD TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—PASTOR SAND PEOPLE.

Our Lord gave his disciples an injunction which was to be the means of perpetuating his kingdom in the world to the end of time. No more sublime statement could be made than that which Jesus addressed to his followers, and with which the evangelist Matthew closes his narrative:—"All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of

the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This is taken as the commission for his ministers in all ages, from the time of our Lord's ascension to that of his returning in like manner from heaven. The promise given in connection with it is the guarantee that they are not required to go on a warfare of their own engines, but that his presence will secure for them all necessary protection, instruction and success. This command is the foundation of all the operations of the Christian Church, whether they be in sustaining the preaching of the Gospel in their midst, or engaging in missionary efforts—Home or Foreign. Not only does it relate to a wide extension of the Gospel message amongst the various peoples of the earth, but it also embraces, we believe, the preparation of laborers and the affording of instruction to them, so that they may be equipped for going into the work, at home and abroad, to the end of time. Our Lord does not particularize here the various agencies to be set in motion, but treating his disciples as rational beings, leaves them to apply the great principle he lays down as they may be able, for the accomplishment of his benevolent intentions towards the human family.

Taking this view of Christ's law for his church it evidently applies to the supporting of institutions adapted to supply the wants of the future ministry as well as sending them out to the distant nations. This, we hold, is a legitimate application of our Saviour's injunction, and we may conclude that each church, or christian community, is practically carrying it out that has not some appropriation of its means, (1) for the preaching of the Gospel at home; (2) for sending it abroad to the heathen; and (3) for aiding in the support of institutions of learning. These three objects are but branches of the tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

What is true respecting a church is also true of individual members. It is not supposed that every church member can do much for each of these three objects, but by small contributions from some, and larger from others who are more wealthy, they can all help, and so make up what will be ample for the necessities of the case, and the fulfilment of their obligations. This is the utmost required of them. Let them but set out as opportunity may be presented, what has been taught by their Saviour, and they will not have his blessing withheld: Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things (other necessary blessings) shall be added unto you.

These thoughts have been suggested by the note in another column from the Treasurer of Acadia College. The absence of a response to the Governor's Circular, is, we believe, the result of forgetfulness rather than of design. When the churches are reminded of the opportunity thus afforded them of complying with the last injunction of Him who died for them, they will not hesitate in meeting the requirements of this one of their institutions, any more than they would those of the others. No miracle is necessary for carrying out this branch in all its efficiency. The prompt and united generosity of all its friends would meet all demands, and remove the perplexity of those they have intrusted with the management of Acadia College.

The Wesleyan Methodist Conference on Dalhousie College.

The following series of resolutions are the expression of the Methodist body in reference to the position of Dalhousie College.

RESOLUTIONS RESPECTING DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.—The attention of the Conference having been, by the Halifax District Ministers, directed to the recent action of the Nova Scotia Legislature, by which Dalhousie College has been transferred to the Presbyterian denomination, it was resolved:

1. That disclaiming all political aims or bias, and all sectarian animosity, the Conference cannot but view with extreme dissatisfaction an Act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia passed in the session of 1863, relating to Dalhousie College; the operation of which is to make that College, which is professedly Provincial virtually denominational, giving its emoluments to one body of Christians, thereby enlarging greatly the educational influence of that denomination by the prestige of its Provincial position, and also inflicting a grave injustice upon the other churches of the Province.

2. That the course pursued by the Governors of Dalhousie College, in initiating and perfecting the scheme for the resuscitation of that College, by consulting the views and wishes of the Presbyterian Church Courts, and those only—was not such as to inspire public confidence.

3. That the Act for the present working of Dalhousie College, though ostensibly fair and liberal, is in its bearings really unjust, as it confers upon one body largely disproportionate advantages, and as its tendency is to unsettle the principle of denominational Colleges, long

since affirmed by the people and Legislature of Nova Scotia, and in the faith of which some of the existing and flourishing denominational institutions have been built up,—heavy expenditure incurred, involving responsibilities which essentially preclude all possibility of according to the terms offered by the present Dalhousie Act.

4. That the Conference entertains the strong conviction that unless the Dalhousie College grievance as now existing be redressed on principles of equal justice to all parties, and in accordance with the recognized spirit and design of the foundation of that Institution, it will never cease to be a matter of most undesirable political and ecclesiastical agitation.

5. That in the judgment of the Conference, unless the Colleges of the various denominations of Nova Scotia can be afforded advantages equal to those possessed by the Presbyterian body, the original design in the founding of Dalhousie College, may, under existing circumstances, be best subserved by the dissolution of the arrangements by which that College has been resuscitated, and the distribution of its funds on equitable principles among the several denominational Colleges, thereby removing all reasonable ground for complaint, and employing those funds for the promotion of Collegiate education to the best advantage.

6. That the principles enunciated in the foregoing resolutions be embodied in a Petition from this Conference to the Nova Scotia Legislature; and also in a Petition to be earnestly recommended to our people for signature, to be presented at the next Session of that Legislature; and that our friends on the several circuits in Nova Scotia be requested to make arrangements to obtain signatures to the last named petition.

7. That in order effectually to carry out the views of the Conference on this subject, the following Ministers and lay gentlemen be requested to act as a Committee for that purpose:—

(For names of Committee, see Printed Minutes of Conference.)

"THE EDUCATION ACT AND COMMENTS THEREON."

THERE are no functions of a government so important as those relating to the encouragement of Education. Whatever affects the material interests of a community may be made the subject of legislation, and will admit of various modifications and changes without seriously affecting the character of the people, but whatever action is taken to provide for the mental and moral training of the young involves considerations of a nature which all others sink into comparative insignificance. Entertaining these views, we have hesitated in advising our readers fully respecting some points in the new Educational Act until we had the proper data for forming correct opinions upon it. We had hoped that our contemporaries would have observed equal caution, and thus avoid pre-judging the law passed in the last session of our Legislature, on the subject.

For the past twenty years or so the importance of this subject, and the very grave interests it involved, have been a barrier to the several governments of this province in the way of producing an enactment adequate to meet the necessities of the country. The laws which have been passed, have, we believe, been rather approximations to what was required than measures such as they felt it desirable to place on the statute book.

The Act under which our Schools have been managed of late years was passed in 1850. Some slight modifications have been made by way of amendments, but no material alterations of a general character have been effected since that date.

In the year 1859 a Bill was brought before the Legislature by the Hon. Attorney General (Mr. Young), which proposed to make a thorough change in school matters. It provided for Assessment and Free Schools, and a School Inspector in each District. The annual meeting called by the Trustees of each Section was to decide on the manner in which they would raise the sum estimated for sustaining the school, whether by a distinct Assessment or by subscription. We then gave a synopsis of the Bill after which we closed with the following remarks: "We do not consider it a perfect measure but subject the difficulties which surround the subject it is perhaps quite equal to what we ought to expect, and the modifications it may receive during its passage through the Legislature, will, we hope, render it such a piece of our social machinery as will enable the wise and good throughout the land to provide for the rising generation educational advantages superior to any they have yet enjoyed." Although that measure was withdrawn in consequence of an attempt to engrain upon it some new and incongruous clauses, yet we have maintained similar views ever since, and have several times expressed them, without learning that any of our readers differed from us on the question. We still hold the same general sentiments respecting the common education of the country.

We have before us, now, "the New Education Act" with "Comments Thereon," "pre-