

For the Christian Messenger.

## PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.

Dear Brother,

I beg to remind the ministers and churches that Thursday the 20th inst will be the day of prayer for Colleges, and to express my hope that it will be generally observed.

In the present dearth of ministers it is the special duty of the churches to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our young men, that the unconverted may be brought to God, and that many of the converted may be induced to consecrate themselves to the Saviour's Service, in whatever department of the ministry he may see fit to employ them.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Feb. 1, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

## ANOTHER WORD IN REPLY TO A SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDER.

MR. EDITOR,—

It is quite possible that the discussion between a "Scholarship-holder" and myself concerning the curriculum of Acadia College, as compared with that of other Institutions, has already assumed "too much latitude" in your columns. But as you have allowed a "Scholarship-holder" the third time to assert against me the charge of immoderate statement, you will not of course deprive me of the privilege of a third time, replying. I humbly crave this favor mainly that the discussion may not be left incomplete and that my instruction and advice, hitherto so beneficial to him, may extend to those parts of his education in which he still appears to be deficient.

Touching his "ample evidence in reserve," whose existence he so boastfully proclaimed, I might well say nothing, since it has narrowed itself down into the form of a little dialogue, in which he has found it convenient to make my arguments appear very weak, and his own very strong. Like a schoolboy, he has built a man of snow,—has placed him in a leaning posture, and then gloried in the exploit of pushing him over. I should certainly give him credit for a larger amount of ignorance than he even professes to have, if he could not in this way win the logician's palm.

But observe how he still blunders in figures, as if stung with the pain of correction, and wishing to retrieve his character as an arithmetician, he makes a desperate effort to put me right, but in doing so only shows himself to be the more palpably in the wrong.—I showed that the efficiency of cultivation reached by the Acadia professor as compared with the Harvard was in the proportion of over three to one. I reiterated the statement. The exact figures are three and one fifth to one. I would gladly indicate the steps by which this answer is obtained, but do not wish to go beyond an "ignorant man's" power of comprehension.

As regards my reference to the conformity of the course of instruction at Acadia with that of Oxford, in which a "Scholarship-holder" seems to have found what, to use own inelegant language, he denominates a titbit, let me inform him that *conformity* and *equality* are not precisely synonymous terms. The curriculum of Acadia College does conform to that of Oxford in this respect:—a great deal of attention is given in both to the classics. The student must take a high stand at his matriculation, and having entered College, he is required to devote the time and attention necessary to make himself acquainted with the leading characteristics of style and idiom in the old authors. Besides he is expected to learn to write good Latin and Greek prose and poetry,—to put these into English, and English into them, and in all, if he wishes, he may strive for honors. It would be surprising indeed, if in an institution as old and crowded with students as Oxford, some should not reach a higher classical scholarship than has been attained by the students of youthful Acadia. But let it be remembered that if we must look to Oxford for celebrated scholars we must look there also for celebrated dunces.

A "Scholarship-holder" appears quite disconcerted under my suggestions touching his style. He says, "we expect the Governor of a College to be a greater adept at fine English than an ignorant man." I reply that persons may be either Governors or Scholarship-holders without being learned. But when a "Scholarship-holder" fills a position which any one but an "ignorant man" should fill:—a position devolving on him the duty of instructing others in the beauties and elegancies of "fine English," he should not expect to shield his errors beneath a pretended ignorance. He professes over and over again to be an "ignorant man," and I will take him

at his own estimate. And seeing from his last letter that he has profited from my advice concerning dashes, notes of admiration, &c., and hoping that his aptitude for figures will improve, I will finally give him a lesson in English Grammar. In his last communication we have this sentence,—“your readers may judge of the ‘maximum’ of thought displayed in these lucid demonstrations of the Governor’s.” It will be seen that in this sentence we have what may be called a double possessive. The apostrophe and letter s of the last word are superfluous. The error is sometimes committed by ignorant and slovenly writers, but not by those speaking and writing the English language in its purity.

ONE OF THE GOVERNORS.

[We prefer speaking to our correspondents in the indicative mood, rather than in the imperative, and were supposing that our few words last week would have sufficiently indicated our opinion and wishes concerning the above subject. We would not on any account do injustice to any one against whom a public charge has been preferred. Indeed we would rather allow a little too much latitude, than do so, we therefore give insertion to this rejoinder. But we do think that it would be for the public good now to have a period put to this discussion. The Baptist body have become somewhat better acquainted with their College, and its curriculum, by what has been elicited, and have good reason to value it and its Professors, its Graduates, and its Students. Both of the gentlemen who have been taking part in this controversy can write, and write well, and we shall be glad if they will now turn their thoughts to some other subject, of which they possess such ample resources, and make use of their pens to convey their thoughts to their brethren, and thus benefit a large number of those for whom they feel so warmly, and contribute to the good of the body to which they are both ardently attached.—Ed. C. M.]

## Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 10, 1864.

## THE CHURCH'S WORK.

ALTHOUGH the Christian Church has no miraculous powers entrusted to it for the purpose of confirming the truth of the doctrines it teaches, yet it has what is more than an equivalent; it has the promise of the Divine Master's presence even unto the end of the world. The Word of God may be widely circulated, Bibles may be in every house, but if they are not made use of they are no better than any other book. No more good will arise from them than if they were so much waste paper, whilst they are kept as ornaments for the shelf or library. The Church has no reason to suppose that men without religion will take that word and adopt its principles, or search for its precepts; its truths are to be proclaimed. The great duty, of a church, or a combination of churches, is, to supply the world with the preaching of the gospel of Christ. When this is accomplished, then and not before, a fulfilment of the promise of our Lord to his church may be expected: "When he (the Comforter) is come, he will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment." Then "whoever believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

The observance of the Lord's Day by the christian church is also a standing testimony of Christ's resurrection. Thus the great proof of his work being divine is brought before the world every week, wherever Christians are found and they consecrate that day to the Lord's service. This being the appointed day of public worship a continual recurrence of his claim to universal submission is brought forth to the world. The ministry of the gospel on the Lord's Day, with the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, thus set before the world the last great miracle, and render any further interposition, as far as outward evidence is concerned, unnecessary. The gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," and if men reject these which may be deemed at least equivalent to "Moses and the prophets," they surely would not be persuaded even "if one arose from the dead." They are left without excuse.

When we consider the greatness of the responsibility laid on the church, we shall feel that every facility should be afforded to aid the ministry in preparation for their work. There are no new faculties given to men in conversion but an entire revolution must take place in their thoughts and feelings, in order to their becoming new creatures in Christ Jesus. An efficient instrumentality to effect this is worthy of the best energies and earnest prayers of christian men. Christian ministers are but

the representatives of the church as a whole, and they are generally what the people make them. If we would have them endowed with power from on high, we must seek a descent of holy influence upon them, and let our actions be in accordance with our prayers.

The gospel is the great lever which is to raise men from the state of degradation to which sin has sunk them. The pulpit—the preaching of the cross—is the fulcrum by which this power is brought to bear on the minds of men. What is to prevent men from degenerating into formalism and indifference—to selfishness and heathenism? The preacher is to be the barrier to beat back the floods of ungodliness, as its waves come on ready to overwhelm the church. Some temporary excitement is seized on and relished with great avidity by the world, whilst the story of Christ and him crucified is often considered dull and uninteresting. It is not enough that we have preachers,—they must be men suited to the times. We may not have so much of organized professed infidelity to contend with here as there is in some countries, but there is yet a vast amount of irreligion to overcome. Whilst the sentiment of the people is in favor of church-going, yet the same principles dwell in the hearts of unconverted men pretty much alike every where. It is the same here too, that only "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." There is no true religion without faith and obedience.

We have no ecclesiastical organization formed to bring men into the ministry independent of the churches with whom they are to labor, but our ministers must be brought out from amongst the people, and it therefore becomes the more necessary that they should realize the need for high cultivation and exalted piety. They are nevertheless but earthly vessels, and as such should have the sympathy and prayers of the church; so that whilst they have a high mission from Heaven they may commend their message to every man's conscience, as in the sight of God. Ecclesiastical titles are not necessary for great usefulness, but a high and noble purpose, and entire consecration, with suitable mental endowments, will make them workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

DEATH OF MRS. HURD.—We are sorry to hear from the *Visitor*, of the death of Mrs. Hurd, wife of the Rev. J. C. Hurd, pastor of the church at Fredericton, N. B., on the 2nd inst. The Rev. E. McLeod, in a letter to the *Visitor*, says:—

Mrs. Hurd was in the 31st year of her age.—She professed religion at an early age, and was a member of the Baptist church; was married nearly eleven years ago, and has left two sons the eldest in his ninth year, and the other in his fourth. Our dear brother has lost an amiable wife, and agreeable companion. Her death was remarkably triumphant. On Tuesday last she was supposed to be dying, and I was called in to witness her departure. She was calm and sensible as I ever saw her. Taking her by the hand, I asked her if she felt Jesus to be precious? Lifting her other hand slightly, and raising her eyes slowly to heaven, she firmly replied, "Precious, precious Jesus—I shall soon be home." She continued to talk much in the strain of Christian triumph. I have often been in the chamber of death, but never in one of more calmness and peace than her's.

"HONORABLE MENTIONS."—The *Canadian Baptist* remarks concerning those names it has found necessary to strike from its list of Subscribers, "not one name had to be stricken off with the New Year, as being a hopeless debtor. And during the twenty days that have intervened, only two names have been erased in debt, and one of those two, who had gone to the States, we expect to turn up some day and pay us. This is nobly in advance of last year." We congratulate our contemporary, and hope some day to have the same thing to say ourselves. We can say, however, that our experience during the present year, has been an improvement on previous years.

The following paragraph from the Governor's Speech was inadvertently omitted in the manuscript copy sent to the Queen's Printer, and consequently did not appear in the *Royal Gazette Extraordinary*, nor in the newspapers of last week. It should precede the last two paragraphs.

"Proposed alterations and amendment in the laws connected with the Post-office and Revenue Department will be brought under your notice."

The *Church Record* seems yet to have vitality. It made its appearance again on the 30th of January, under the proprietorship of Mr. J. B. Strong. As we did not receive a copy last week, we omitted to record this fact in our last.

If the editor wishes to attack the Temperance body on their defects, he will have to get a more sober and truthful correspondent,

than the one who signs himself "Sobriety," or the church will find that it has gained a loss.

The attention of our brethren is called to the note in another column, concerning the Day of Prayer for Colleges. We hope this matter will not be narrowed down to prayer for Colleges in general, but that it will be understood by our readers as prayer for all who are engaged in any way in receiving and giving instruction in collegiate institutions—that the learning imparted in them may be sanctified, and that the students in particular may become christian men, and preserved from the snares which too often surround them, on leaving the parental roof for residence at seminary of learning.

SHAKESPEARE'S TERCENTENARY.—There is a good deal of talk in some quarters about the appropriate observance of this anniversary— orations and concerts, sermons and public breakfasts and plays are mentioned as parts of the programme in different places. *Punch* very pertinently suggests the following in reference to this farce:—

"Taking example from the numerous gentlemen, known and unknown to fame, who are busily engaged in getting up a Tercentenary Festival to WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, several persons have formed themselves into a Committee, 'with power to add to their number,' in order properly and with due solemnity, to celebrate the Quintilicent-Sextotennial Anniversary of ADAM, known as the father of all Poets and of the Human Race generally speaking."

We have been obliged to defer notices of Books Received. They will appear next week.

## NEWS SUMMARY.

The Cunard Steamer *Arabia* reached us on Friday with the English mails. The Steamer *Asia* from hence with the American mails, had a rough passage. She was considerably injured by the violence of the sea, and had one of her crew washed overboard and drowned.

There is little addition to previous news. The Princess of Wales and her infant son are doing well. Parliament was to meet on the 4th inst., but there are no measures of much importance spoken of, as likely to occupy their immediate attention, unless it be questions connected with the somewhat threatening state of continental hostilities. The troops of the German Confederation appear to have occupied the Danish Province of Holstein, and although no absolute collision had taken place between them and the Danish forces, strong fears are entertained that actual hostilities will shortly follow; in which case other Powers will almost of necessity become involved. Among them England, in her present friendly relations with Denmark, will not probably be able to keep aloof.

The conspiracy against the French Government, lately discovered in Paris, in which several Italians were implicated, and have been arrested, does not seem to have ramified to any great extent. A very violent feeling exists among many of the Italians against Louis Napoleon, for his forcibly upholding the Papal Government, and thus obstructing the strong and almost universal desire of Italy to abolish the temporal power of the Pope and to obtain the ancient capital of the world as that of the new Italian kingdom.

The insurrectionary war in Poland is going on with little variation of circumstances. A skirmishing warfare is prevailing throughout the wide tract of country composed of extensive swamps and forests, rich agricultural fields and populous villages and towns. Tyranny and barbarity on the part of the Russians, and retaliation, the natural result of bitter national enmity, and incident to all civil wars, make up the history of the miseries of Poland, during the last two years.

No late event has materially altered the state of hostile affairs in the South. Charleston still holds out, although apparently becoming a heap of ruins. The contending armies in Virginia and Tennessee, although occasionally attempting to out-manoeuvre each other at certain points, are in a great measure inactive.

Our own Legislature met for the dispatch of business on Thursday. There was a full assemblage of members of both Houses. The topics referred to in the Speech of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, which will be found on another page, would seem to afford scope for ample occupation for the time and talents of our assembled notables during the Session. Let us hope that the result will commend itself to the public approbation, and largely contribute to the advancing interests and prosperity of the Province. We have long been satisfied that with the Agricultural, Mineral, and Marine advantages so lavishly bestowed by Providence on these Lower Provinces, no similar