

the New Testament. They were both baptized on a profession of their faith at a very advanced age, by the Rev. John Shaw, about seventeen years ago. It can be truly said of them as their outward man was decaying their inward man was renewed day by day, getting more conformable to the image of Jesus Christ. The writer had the privilege of spending much time in their company since their first coming to this country, their house being always open for the public worship of God. Christians of greater opportunities would often be comforted and edified by their elucidation of portions of scriptures. Many expressions of theirs on christian experience and the condescension of Jesus Christ, to save sinners from the wrath to come, would be truly striking, original and peculiar. His son Ewen Lamont is a member of the Granville Street Church in Halifax. Bro. L. was benevolent without extravagance, kind without flattery, and cheerful without levity. All his neighbors loved him as a good man, and a devoted christian. I had the privilege of visiting him shortly before he died and remained with him until he quietly fell asleep in Jesus with the blessed hope of a glorious immortality. Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his, was the language of all present.

My mind lingers around the memory of these departed christians, for they were my warmest friends to the last. L. McD.

MRS. MARY BUTLER,

The beloved wife of Mr. Edward Butler, died Dec. 13th, 1863, in the 72nd year of her age, leaving a kind husband, an affectionate son, and a numerous circle of acquaintances and friends to mourn their sad bereavement. Sister Butler was a native of England, born Aug. 9th, 1792. After coming to this country, she was baptized by the Rev. Joseph Dimock on the 7th of May, 1820, and united with the Baptist Church, in Chester, of which she remained a worthy member, till her removal by death to the "better land." Her amiable disposition and christian deportment, which were apparent in every relation in life, won for her the high esteem and affectionate regard of all who knew her; especially those with whom she was associated in Church fellowship. While in health, the place of worship was her delight, and when by sickness deprived of the privilege of meeting with the people of God, her heart still yearned for their society. In her last illness, she was remarkably supported by the promises of God's word, firmly believing that the blessed Saviour's promised presence would be with her in the dark and trying hour. Her mind was much employed in contemplation of heaven. On one occasion while visiting at her bed side, she requested me to sing her favorite hymn; which commences

"Come sing to me of heaven, &c." and with a weak and tremulous voice, she joined in the chorus and sang,

"In heaven above where all is love, There 't is no sorrow there."

In this happy state of mind, she sweetly fell asleep in Jesus, a "blessed sleep, from which none ever wake to weep."

MR. JAMES WEBBER,

Departed this life, Feb. 11th, 1864, in the 67th year of his age. He was baptized and received into the Baptist Church in Chester, Feb. 15th, 1834, by Rev. Joseph Dimock. He was sound in the faith and doctrines of the gospel, constant in attendance on Divine service and ready to assist in every good cause. Brother Webber's health had been declining for some years past, and when the disease which terminated his earthly existence laid him on the sick bed, he seemed to have a presentiment that "the time of his departure was at hand." Medical aid was procured but proved unavailing, and gradually he sank beneath the fatal stroke. Although his sufferings were most excruciating, not a murmur or complaint escaped his lips. His removal from this earthly pilgrimage to the land of rest, has left a serious blank in the home circle, the community in which he lived, and in the church of which he was a valued member. His moral remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people. May the Lord sustain and comfort the sorrowing widow and children.

MRS. ABIGAIL SAWLER,

Passed away to the spirit land, Feb. 18th, 1864, in the 71st year of her age. Her life which had been one of great suffering, was marked by deep and ardent piety, and constant devotion to the cause of her Redeemer. For several years she had been totally blind. This severe affliction connected with the infirmities of old age, rendered her situation very distressing. But notwithstanding she was thus shut out from the enjoyment of objects of sense, her clear perception of Divine truth, and her bright vision of the heavenly world were truly astonishing. She has made a happy exchange. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

MR. GEORGE CALLICUTT,

One of the oldest inhabitants of Chester, was numbered with the dead, Feb. 26th, 1864, at the advanced age of 86 years. He was baptized Nov. 28th, 1813, and received into the Baptist Church. For years past he had been confined to his dwelling by disease and the infirmities of age. Although somewhat variable in his feelings, and visionary in his views of many things yet he exhibited many marks of the true and devoted christian, and in departing gave clear and pleasing evidence that his peace was made with God, and that he was going to be with Christ which is far better. "If by reason of strength they be four score years yet is their

strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off and we fly away."—Com. by Rev. I. J. Skinner.

MISS HARRIET H. DANIELS,

Daughter of Mr. Simeon F. Daniels, died at Annapolis, on Wednesday, the 30th of Dec., 1863, aged 19 years. Less than two years ago Miss D. experienced the grace of God in the pardon of her sins and the conversion of her soul;—great was her joy and peace in Jesus. Immediately she manifested her regard for Christ by making a public profession of her faith in Him as her Saviour and Lord. She was baptized by the writer into the fellowship of the Annapolis and Upper Granville Baptist Church. She adorned her profession by a holy and consistent life. She was much beloved by those friends of Christ, who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. Her religion was not of the transient and fitful kind. "It seemed never to have suffered what so many appear to regard as inevitable, and what, alas, is so sadly common,—a decline. In her case there was daily piety, daily duties were performed,—the public worship of God was never neglected;—secret prayer and the study of God's words were not neglected for a day; the Holy Spirit was not grieved by continuance in known sin or by unholly tempers;—hence she progressed steadily and constantly in the divine life, and was happy not only in health, but also in sickness and weakness. Her end was peaceful and triumphant. Death was not dreaded, but welcomed. May Bro. Daniels, his companion and remaining children be comforted in their affliction, and be blessed with abundant grace, that henceforth they may live daily more devotedly to Christ, that in the end their death may be like hers—great and eternal gain."—Com. by G. A.

LORETTA GRIMES,

Died at her father's residence Wilnot, Dec. 26th, 1863, in her 21st year, second daughter of Elias Grimes, Esq. Our departed sister united with the Nictaux Baptist Church, in the summer of 1859, since which time she ever adorned the profession she had made. In May last, fatal consumption had marked her as its victim, from which time she was denied the privilege of attending public worship but daily read her bible and trusted in God's promises. She felt that he was a just God, too wise to err and too good to be unkind. Through all her sickness she was never known to murmur nor complain, she was frequently heard to say when dying, "I am going home to join those who have gone before." Soon after the sun had sunk behind the western hills, her sun set on earth and arose in glory. The occasion was improved by Rev. G. Parker from a text of her own choosing,—"having a desire to depart and to be with Christ; which is far better." Phil. i. 23.—Communicated by her sister, E. J. G.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN.

An amazing discovery has recently been made, viz., that as the current of the river Jordan is rapid, and its banks steep, to immerse a person in it is dangerous if not impracticable. An important inference has been deduced from it,—that Jesus was not immersed by John, but that both Jesus and John stepped into the edge of the stream, and that John took up water in his hand, and put it on his master's head. So says the Rev. Gilbert Haven who has recently travelled in Palestine. It appears to us evident the Rev. gentleman surveyed the scene through the glass of his prejudices, and in his inference has drawn largely upon his imagination.

We are thankful to Mr. Haven for one statement. He informs us that the River Jordan is deep enough to drown a person. In our travels through the province we have frequently heard it affirmed that the Jordan was a very small stream, too small for a person to be immersed in it. A few years since, a certain divine pompously assured an intelligent audience, many of whom believed him; that the Jordan was a mere swamp. We always thought that the scripture testimony was sufficient upon this point, when it informs us that Naaman dipped himself seven times in the river. Mr. Haven's statement we hope will set this baseless cavil at rest.

We will not dispute the correctness of Mr. Haven's assertions, when he assures us that the memorable stream is rapid in its current,—that its banks in many places are precipitous—and that in those places immersion could not be performed without risk of life. It may still further establish his testimony, when we mention the fact that a year or two since a theological student from the States was bathing in the river, and incautiously advancing into the stream, was swept away by the current and drowned. But when he labors to make the impression, as he evidently does, that immersion cannot be conveniently or safely performed any where in the Jordan we confidently affirm that he is not impartial in his description and therefore not reliable. There are many streams in this province where in many localities immersion would be hazardous, but in others, perfectly convenient

and safe. In that beautiful stream that meanders through the Gaspereaux valley in which hundreds have been baptized, there are many places where immersion would be unsafe, but how many will remember the happy scenes they have witnessed when the willing converts were immersed in its waters by that "wary and discreet" administrator, Rev. Dr. Pryor, without the slightest danger. Mr. Haven's unqualified assertions are refuted by well-authenticated facts, and by the testimony of many eminent travellers. F. P. M. gives Dr. Robinson's testimony. We will give a few more testimonies equally reliable and as the writers of them were not Baptists, they cannot be considered partial.

It is a well-sustained fact that once every year, on the day in which it is supposed our Saviour was baptized, a multitude of Pilgrims go out from Jerusalem to the Jordan, and dip themselves in the sacred stream. Miss Fredica Bremer, the celebrated Swedish traveller, gives an amusing account of a scene she witnessed on one of these occasions. She states that a strong hairy looking man, a very good representative of John the Baptist, waded into the stream a sufficient depth, and the pilgrims one by one were immersed by him. All this she describes as done without any risk of life. But if Mr. Haven is to be believed this could not have been safely performed.

Here is the testimony of Lieut. Lynch, "We arrived" he says, "at El Meshra, the bathing place of the christian pilgrims. . . . My first act was to bathe in the consecrated stream; thanking God for the precious favor of being permitted to visit such a spot."—Lynch's Expedition p. 255. Speaking of the caravan of pilgrims, he says, "the pilgrims descended to the river where the bank gradually slopes. . . . Each one plunged himself, or was dipped by another three times below the surface in honor of the holy Trinity," p. 263. Here is another testimony; Rev. Mr. Spencer, an Episcopal clergyman of New York thus describes his experience at this hallowed place: "Alone in a woody and retired spot, protected by the shade of the sycamore, the ilex, and the willow, I disrobed, and advanced into the river. Earnestly did I supplicate that God of His mercy would wash and purify my soul, body and spirit by the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, and with the deepest reverence, remembering whom I worshipped, I bowed my head beneath the waters of the Jordan three times, and pronounced each time the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Ghost." "The East" by the Rev. J. A. Spencer, p. 392.

Here is another; Rev. George Fisk, a minister of the church of England thus writes, "Perhaps the greatest refreshment I experienced, was a delightful dip in the waters of Jordan in a lovely secluded spot, overhung with tamarisks, oleanders, and other luxuriantly growing trees, which afforded a grateful shade." Fisk's Memorials of the Holy Land, p. 314. These will suffice to show that Mr. Haven is not to be relied on, and that it is possible to be conveniently and safely immersed in the Jordan.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 8th.

The house met at 3 P. M. Several petitions were presented. Hon. Aty. Gen. presented one for alteration of Dalhousie College Act, and Mr. Longley one from a number of inhabitants of Truro, and one from Port Williams, on the same subject.

The Pictou Railway—Hon. Attorney General introduced a bill providing for the construction of a railroad from Truro to Pictou. He said the means provided for meeting the expenditure which this extension necessitates are the appropriation of such deposits in the Savings-bank as may be applicable for that purpose, and the issue of provincial debentures not exceeding sixteen hundred thousand dollars, at six per cent, redeemable in twenty years. For many years he had been opposed to the system of railway construction by government, and advocated instead the construction of railways by private enterprise. A controversy of no ordinary character arose upon the policy which divided the two parties in the country at the time. It is no longer, however, a question of first impression, the policy has been constitutionally settled—that is, it has been settled where alone the affairs of a free people can be settled—by the representatives of the people. After a strenuous and protracted struggle a bill was passed for the purpose of incorporating a company with very considerable aid from the government. A year was allowed to enable those who might be disposed to hazard their means in such an enterprise, but the year passed without the undertaking being adopted by private capitalists. A change took place in England in the situation of affairs in consequence of the Russian war, and capitalists abroad were unwilling to invest

money in a large undertaking of that kind; and and the scheme failed. In opposing this policy he was never actuated by the belief that Railways were inexpedient or useless things; he on the contrary, claimed for himself the credit for having been the first member of the Legislature who took a really practical step towards the introduction of the question of railways, for whilst in office he introduced the resolution upon which the survey—known as Major Robinson's—was ultimately carried on. The object of that survey was to obtain reliable information or in other words, substantial ground to work upon. In '57, The hon. member for Colchester with himself had used their best energies when in England, to induce the British Government to lend a favorable ear to the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. Gentlemen opposite had used exertions for the purpose of bringing their scheme to the notice, and engaging if possible, the favorable consideration of the British Government. That also failed, and our railway policy was ultimately brought down to the Acts which passed during last session. To these Acts he (Mr. J.) said, I gave my very decided opposition, for I looked upon them as I do now, as recommending the adoption of a scheme of railway construction which must have been most injurious in its consequences. I looked upon the agreement which was entered into in combination with the other delegates from New Brunswick and Canada as having given a very disproportionate share of the burthen to Nova Scotia,—one which, if it had gone into operation would have entailed upon us an excessive load of debt, and the burthen of sustaining a railway enterprise under circumstances which would have been very injurious. The act passed last session, authorizing the extension of ten miles on a line common to the Pictou and Intercolonial roads, he deprecated as utterly at variance with reason, to pass a bill for the purpose of constructing ten miles of railway upon a line that was not defined, and could not be defined until other parties had concurred. When the change took place that brought into power my colleagues and myself, we felt it was better to leave the subject open for the decision of the Legislature. I felt that I was called upon to consider it with reference to the interests of the whole country, rather than to those of any particular section, and endeavored to adopt that policy which I believed on the whole to be the best for the interests of Nova Scotia, that one, in fact, which seems an absolute necessity.

Taking a very large proportion of the province of Nova Scotia the question of railway extension unquestionably obtained a deep hold upon the minds of the people. And it is a singular circumstance that there is scarcely a county in this province which has not, at one time or other, affirmed the policy. The extension to Pictou was early a favorite object with the eastern portions of the province. In 1859, whilst we were in office, and gentlemen opposite were in opposition, the extension to Pictou was moved and urged by the strongest considerations and arguments possible. We were placed, as a government, at that time, in circumstances of a very trying character. The resources of the country then rendered such an extension in our judgment exceedingly injudicious, if not impracticable. But what was the course that the Administration of that day took? The extension to Pictou was not denounced as inconsistent with the interests of the province, but it was opposed at that particular juncture simply on the ground that the financial condition of the country did not warrant the outlay. Gentlemen opposite said, notwithstanding this, the railway should be built. We answered that we felt we could not touch it for that year, but in the resolution which we moved, we pledged ourselves in effect that when the resources of the country would permit it, the extension to Pictou should be made the subject of government action. We gave the assurance that when the resources of the country warranted it, our intention was to extend the railway. On the other hand, gentlemen opposite gave positive assurance that it should be done immediately. The people of Pictou accepted the more positive assurance they received from our opponents, the elections came on, and the reins of government passed out of our hands. During the past four years gentlemen opposite avoided the question and have thrown upon us the responsibility of dealing with the subject. There are many considerations which may naturally justify the feeling that has grown up in favor of extension. The western part of our railway has reached the navigable waters of the Bay of Fundy. In doing so, it has not been necessary to travel a great extent of country, but it has reached a terminus where it can open up intercourse with the whole western portion of the country, and I was not a little struck last autumn, whilst spending some days at Windsor, to observe at the wharf there a regular packet, trading from Wilnot, in the county of Annapolis, to Windsor. Here I had an evidence that the western portion of the Province, in addition to its advantages for communication and intercourse with St. John, and the States, by virtue of its geographical position, had also in the railway a means of arriving at this market with punctuality and despatch. On the other hand, the railway at Truro is of no special benefit to the East. The advocates of extension to Pictou, have naturally urged that if we took the rails 40 miles further on, to the navigable waters of Pictou, we would open up communication with Prince Edward Island, and with the eastern portions of our Province, which lie far off, and can only be reached at present by circuitous routes. Communication with Prince Edward Island is a matter of some benefit to the Province; but beyond that, when one looks at the island of Cape Breton, we cannot but feel that at present it is largely separated from us, and that the mode of communication is tedious and protracted. Build