

This village carpenter had neither the knowledge of the schoolmen, nor had he taken a degree at college, yet was he a teacher of divine truths, and he was wise in the wisdom of the children of light. He would often recur to the time when, looking solely on his own weakness and infirmities, he overlooked his only source of strength, and thought he was too poor and ignorant to do anything for the Lord he loved! He lived to a good old age, a blessing to the souls in his neighborhood, and where, as he liked best, to say, he watched for his Master. When some who loved their ease too well; or child, or servant, or sick one complained, "I can do nothing!" he would point to the best built cottage on the Plain, with its pretty bay window and slanting roof, and tell them he had once thought the same himself, but his error had been corrected by a dumb instructor—a beam in that roof—a crooked stick which seemed fit for nothing, but it found its proper place in the building at last, and gave it a grace and strength which no other timber, however superior in other respects, could have imparted. Thus the warped tree had preached to him a sermon on true humility, and made him from that day an humble steward of the things of the kingdom.—*Family Treasury.*

For the Christian Messenger.

A WORD IN REPLY TO A SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDER.

MR. EDITOR,—

It is gratifying to know that "A Scholarship-holder" agrees with me in one respect, that is, in loving Acadia College. And all the friends of the Institution will doubtless learn with pleasure that "he regards it a luxury to contribute yearly to its support." He will of course be allowed to luxuriate in that direction as far as he pleases. Indeed, seeing that his purse is so plethoric, and his love to the College so ardent, I would suggest that he endow a Professor's chair at once, and then, I am sure no one would object to his liberality having the widest publicity, even though it should be given by himself.

In penning his exceptions to my letter, "A scholarship-holder" professes to have been actuated by the fear that it would prove injurious to the College by creating the impression that neither men nor money were any longer needed. No one could deprecate such impression more than myself. Let me therefore here repeat what I have already substantially said:—Acadia College does need additional professors, and the means for their support. Chairs of Natural Science and Modern Languages should be founded at the earliest period possible. At present Chemistry and Geology are taught by the Professor of Mathematics, while French is the only Modern Language which receives any attention, and that principally in the Academy.

But in a course of instruction extending over only four years, all the Natural Sciences and Modern Languages could not be introduced without sacrificing quality to quantity;—without leaving, in fact, little or no time for the study of those branches which stand first in every respectable College Curriculum, and an acquaintance with which must be regarded as absolutely essential to finished scholarship;—namely, Classics and Mathematics. In the Harvard Course, for instance, they can hardly be said to be included; or rather, they are included by excluding other studies of greater importance. In that Institution the course for the first two years ranks about equal to that of the first two years at Acadia. But in the third year at Harvard the student is required to select one study from among Mathematics, Chemistry, German, French and Spanish, and all the rest are dropped; while in the fourth year he is required to select one from these increased by the addition of Latin, Greek and Italian. So that to those having even the perspicacity of "A Scholarship-holder" it must be plain that the only excellence of the Harvard Curriculum over that of Acadia consists in the facilities which it offers to those wishing to perfect their acquaintance with German or Zoology, for example, rather than Greek or the Calculus;—facilities deserving perhaps in a comparative estimate of the two courses, to be reckoned as about balancing the greater attention that is given to Classics and Mathematics in the latter over the former. The truth is, whoever attempts to learn everything in four years, will become a proficient in nothing. It may be questioned whether a reconstruction of the Curriculum of the best American Institutions would not prove beneficial to sound learning. The continu-

ally swelling list of branches necessary to be studied, seems to demand either that the College Course be lengthened from four years to six, or that the student take a higher stand at his matriculation.

"A Scholarship-holder" declares with emphasis that he loves Acadia College. Your readers will see how far this declaration consists with his disparaging remarks. When he follows his expressions of attachment with words which assign to the College an inferior position even among the Institutions of Nova Scotia, he places himself in the category of the youth who maintains that his heart overflows with affection for his mother, and yet calls her by hard names. Indeed so much importance do I attach to the College Course, which is passed over but once, and which, as it is perfect or imperfect must largely determine the standing and success of the man subsequently, that were I dependant on "A Scholarship-holder's" representation for learning of the standing and efficiency of Acadia College, I would send my sons out of the province to be educated, and advise every one else to do the same.

I am sorry to inflict on "A Scholarship-holder" a second correction in figures. But his mistake is too palpable to be overlooked. In his "little sum in proportion" he errs in making the number of Classical authors to be taught, stand as the measure of the work to be performed by the professor; or, in the other form in which he has put the question, as the extent of the soil to be cultivated. Properly this would be represented by the number of students to be taught. The old authors are only the means which the professor employs in making the students familiar with the languages in which they spoke and wrote. In its corrected form the question would be thus:—"Given 5 men to teach 400 students in 2½ years; and 1 man to teach 30 students in 3 years: to find the efficiency. Or, to bring it down to "A Scholarship-holder's" level: Given 5 men to till 400 acres of land in 2½ years, and 1 man to till 30 acres in 3½ years: to find the efficiency of cultivation." I have solved the problem as thus stated and find as the answer, that the "efficiency of cultivation" reached by the Acadia Professor as compared with the Harvard, is in the proportion of over three to one. Should "A Scholarship-holder" contend that it is as easy for a Professor to teach ten students as one, I reply so it may be, but it is not so easy for him to teach a hundred as ten. Beyond a certain limit classes become unwieldy, and the Professor finds that the difficulty of making their members proficient in the branches studied, increases as they are enlarged. Hence the necessity, as at Harvard, of breaking up the larger classes into two or more divisions, each requiring the same amount of time and attention, and so rendering two or three Professors necessary, where in other Institutions more thinly attended, one would answer just as well.

In view then of the facts on which my assertion concerning the curriculum of Acadia College was based, it will probably appear to most of your readers that the exceptional note of "A Scholarship-holder" was justified by no better reason than a mere desire to appear in print. And seeing that he aspires to a clever wielding of the pen, let me kindly advise him to refrain from the too frequent use of dashes, notes of admirations, &c., as in his last letter. The page that is all bristling with these, is sadly marred in the eyes of the best judges of composition. Besides they are generally resorted to by those whose vanity leads them to imagine that the minimum of thought may be atoned for by the maximum of words. Let me also remind him that such expressions as "tit-bit," "few copers," and "whistling when out of the woods," are, to say the least, inelegant, and not in keeping with a subject so dignified as that which we have been discussing.

"A Scholarship-holder" intimates that if I am not yet convinced "he has ample evidence in store." If this statement was made for the purpose of intimidating me from further discussion, then I must inform him that it has failed of accomplishing its object. For the more he writes, the more clearly does he prove that the force of his logic is inversely proportionate to the parade with which it is enunciated. Perhaps, however, it would not be profitable to protract the controversy, and unless some of "his ample evidence in reserve" shall prove more worthy of notice than what he has already adduced, I shall herewith leave him to buzz like a fly on my chariot wheel, while I ride on to the performance of nobler work.

ONE OF THE GOVERNORS.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 27, 1864.

MIRACLES.

THE miracles performed by our Lord in attestation of his Divine character are often regarded as mere exhibitions of power for commanding the wonder and awe of the beholders.

The record of them given in the writings of the evangelists are frequently read by us as conveying no instruction in particular, but as if all of them were intended merely to inculcate lessons similar in character and design. Having had these wonderful stories introduced to us in our earliest days, we have become so familiar with the circumstances that they too often fail to produce much thought, and thus our impressions concerning them instead of being deepened are rather diminished by their frequent repetition.

The astonishing facts so briefly but graphically described by the sacred writers in connection with the life and ministry of Jesus Christ have afforded material for the shafts of the infidel and sceptic—some, recognizing only the ordinary operations of Nature, have denied the possibility of such variations from God's method of procedure in the world. Those manifestations, they conclude, make too great demands on their faith, and after a superficial view pronounce them pure inventions of the imagination. Others seek for a theory by which to account for each, and although they may be inconsistent with each other, yet they prefer these rather than an acknowledgement of the genuineness of the account, as given by the historians, ascribing the event to some sort of legerdemain, used as a clever but legitimate deception of the masses for their good.

Perhaps Christian people do not realize fully the beauty and force of the narrative of these miraculous performances, but their very familiarity with them, acts rather as a barrier to further enquiry than as a charm inducing closer examination.

Biblical literature is now taking a higher stand than ever before, and Dr. Hovey has done good service by the publication of his recent work on the Miracles of Christ*. He brings argument and philosophy to a critical examination of the objections, and treats the miracles in such a manner as must instruct the most profound as well as the plain enquirer for truth.

*The Miracles of Christ, as attested by the Evangelists, by Alvah Hovey, D. D., Professor in Newton Theological Seminary.

WE are much obliged to the friend who forwarded us a copy of a small sheet entitled *The Burning Bush*. We had seen two or three numbers before. Having no desire to mislead the proprietor as to the value of his disquisitions, we think it hardly worth while to make him known beyond the locality in which he circulates. If he can do any good, by precept or example, we should be sorry to say ought to interfere with him, but with sensible people his lucubrations on *baptizo* are perfectly harmless.

OUR FRENCH MISSION.

OUR readers will remember the Appeal of the French Mission Board which appeared in our columns a few weeks ago, over the signature of the Secretary. Brother Normondy is now on his tour. On Lord's day last he was at the churches in Halifax—Granville Street in the morning and the North Church in the evening. He has made the following arrangements for holding meetings and presenting the claims of the Mission to the churches on his way as he returns to his field of labor. It is very desirable that the brethren should be prepared to render all necessary aid. He has much to discourage him in the wide field of labor to which he is called. Let the churches but feel that he is laboring for them—that it is their work he is doing—and give him such reception and assistance as is urgently needed, and "verily they shall have their reward."

The French Mission originated in the desire to carry out the Home Missionary operations to all those dwelling in our province, but being unable to send the gospel to the Acadians, in consequence of their understanding only the French language, it was deemed necessary to employ a missionary capable of addressing them in their own tongue, and thus seek to "preach the gospel to every creature."

The Western Baptist Churches have hitherto sustained the greater portion of this burden but it is a work in which all may

very properly unite. Men of Israel, help. Brother Normondy proposes to be at—

Rawdon, on Thursday,	28th January.
Newport East,	29th "
Newport West, morning,	31st "
Windsor, evening,	31st "
Falmouth,	1st February.
Hantsport,	2nd "
Lockhartville,	3rd "
Wolfville,	4th "
Gaspereaux,	5th "
Gaspereaux Mountain,	6th "
Canard, Cornwallis, morning,	7th "
Pereaux, do, afternoon,	7th "
Canning, do, evening,	7th "
New Minas,	10th "
Canaan,	11th "
Billtown,	12th "
Berwick,	14th "
Upper Aylesford,	15th "
Lower Aylesford,	17th "
Nictaux, Morning,	21st and 22nd "
Pine Grove, Afternoon,	21st and 23rd "
Central Meeting House—Messenger neighborhood,	24th "
Round Hill,	25th "
Goat Island,	26th "
Clements—Hessian Line, morn,	28th "
do. Waldeck, afternoon,	28th "

NEWS SUMMARY.

WE learn by the arrival of the Cunard Steamer *Canada* on Monday evening, that Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was confined of a healthy Prince on Friday, the 9th inst. Both mother and infant were doing perfectly well at latest accounts. She was out, on the ice with her husband for some time the same afternoon. This event will doubtless afford Her Majesty and the Prince of Wales great satisfaction. It is, too, an event not without interest to all loyal subjects.

The Imperial Parliament is to meet on the 4th of February for the despatch of business, the same day as our own "assembled wisdom" is to be brought together. There has been considerable inconvenience from severe frost in England. Skating has been the order of the day. The manufacturing districts have indicated more of distress and suffering than for some time past, probably from the unusual coldness of the season.

We perceive that the London *Illustrated News* has an inaccurate account of the capture of the *Chesapeake*, and an illustration of said capture; not taken, we presume, by their special artist. The accounts in the English papers are mostly copied from the New York press. We have not heard if any word has been received by our provincial government in reference to the disposal of this troublesome steamer.

The news from Europe is important. The march of German troops into the Danish Province of Holstein is, to some extent, imperilling the peace of Europe. It is still hoped, however, that the pacific intervention of other Powers will prevent so great an evil as a general war.

The precautionary steps taken by the British Naval authorities indicate that they are somewhat apprehensive of danger. The recall of the Channel fleet from the N. W. coast of Africa, shows that they are disposed to be prepared for whatever emergencies may arise.

It seems still quite uncertain whether the Austrian Archduke Maximilian will accept the throne of Mexico. The subjugation of the Republican party by the French is as yet too incomplete to render the proffered sovereignty of the country a very permanent or desirable acquisition.

Sir John Lawrence has been appointed to the highly important post of Governor General of India, made vacant by the death of the Earl of Elgin. Sir John, whose eminent brother Sir Henry Lawrence was killed at Lucknow, was born in India, and has spent a large portion of his life there in civil employments under Government. He is considered a man of high talent and well qualified for the situation.

Little is doing at the different centres of hostile operations in the South. It would appear that a good deal of distress and some amount of despondency prevail in the Confederacy, although the bitterness of strife which has been hourly increasing since the first outbreak of the unhappy struggle, is not likely to abate. Even in New Orleans, as may be seen by a letter on our 6th page, there is no deficiency of hatred to the Federals, notwithstanding their quiet possession of the city.

The siege of Charleston still continues, but with no immediate prospect, from all appearances, of a successful termination.

We are informed that Messrs. Cunard & Co. are proposing to send the steamship "Osprey" on a sealing voyage of three or four weeks to the Labrador coast. The high price of oil and seal skins are quite an inducement at the present time to venture on such an unusual experiment.