

For the Christian Messenger. WESTERN HOME MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. EDITOR.

Please insert this notice of the following Missionary appointments made by the Domestic Missionary Board at its recent meetings at Paradise:

Rev. W. H. Richan—Thirteen weeks to Barrington, Shelburne and intermediate places. Rev. J. Wallace—Four weeks at Annapolis. Rev. O. Parker—Twelve weeks from Jeddore to Isaac's Harbor.

Rev. A. W. Barrs—Six weeks at Cape Canso and vicinity.

Rev. H. Saunders—Six weeks to destitute parts of Lunenburg Co.

The Board has appropriated \$100 in aid of a year's mission to New Albany, Springfield, and Sherbrooke. In case Rev. R. S. Morton who spent the last year in Missionary labour in the field, with the same amount of aid from the Board, cannot perform this mission, the arrangement can be extended to any other Missionary who shall be approved by the Board and acceptable to the people.

Rev. N. Vidito—Two weeks at Graywood and Milford.

Rev. Saml. Richardson—Six weeks to West Dalhousie and adjacent places.

Rev. A. Stronach—To the same field; but these brethren are to arrange among themselves as to the time, so as not to be on the ground at the same time.

Rev. A. Shields—Eight weeks at Port Matoon, Port Matoon Island and adjacent places.

It is expected and desired that these brethren will urge upon the friends among whom they are to perform missionary work the necessity and importance of contributing to the support of the Missions as liberally as they can. Such contributions will aid much in extending the operations of the Board during the year.

At the close of the Associational year the Board was over \$100 in debt for Missionary work performed during the year and pledged for work done in the preceding year. An appeal was made at the late Association to the brethren and friends present to pay this debt. A noble, generous, and heart-cheering response was given. \$113.99 were paid in on the spot or pledged (all the pledges will be fulfilled) to accomplish this important work.

The means on hand for the D. M. work of the year is small; less than \$340 having been contributed by the churches and friends for that purpose. It ought to be at least three times as much. The Home Mission field calls for labour, and we ought to put forth more of our strength in this heaven-ordained and soul-saving work.

Not only should we contribute, but pray much that our Missionaries may be appointed for their work, and that their labours may be greatly prospered,—that Christ may be made known and exalted, and that sinners may in multitudes be converted to God.

Yours truly,

GEO. ARMSTRONG,

Secretary.

For the Christian Messenger. MICMAC MISSION.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I suppose I ought for the satisfaction of the contributors, to have acknowledged before this the collections taken at Canar, Canning, Wolfville and other places, some weeks ago, for the Micmac Mission.

The amount at Canar and Canning was.....\$43.724 Herwick and Kentville..... 21.84 Wolfville..... 22.274

I beg to explain that the friends at those places were requested to hand in, with their names attached, their ordinary contributions to the Mission, at the close of the Sabbath service, at which time a brief account was given of our progress, difficulties, and prospects. The time and trouble of personal applications, were thus avoided, and although some feared the plan would not work, they will be pleased to see that it succeeded well. The amounts received compare well with those of other years. I called on a few whose names did not appear among those handed in—to the Collection boxes,—but this was a trifling job to what I have hitherto had to perform, to the great detriment of the cause in many ways. I think a great improvement might be made upon even our present plan, and that is to ask no one either publicly or privately for aid, except the Lord Himself, and then to leave it to him to prompt his people, both to pray and labor in the work of giving his Gospel to the Indians, and to send on of their own accord such contributions as they might consider their joy and privilege to send. My daily prayer for some time past has been that God would give faith and wisdom sufficient to enable me to commit my temporal affairs, and the mission in which I am engaged, wholly into his own

blessed hands. And to his praise I would here acknowledge that my faith in this matter is becoming more firm and strong, and in measure as it does so, donations come in, unsolicited, sometimes anonymous, and sometimes from unlooked for quarters.

Yours truly, S. T. RAND.

Hantsport, June 28, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger. ACADIA COLLEGE AGENCY.

Halifax, June 27, 1864.

DEAR BROTHER,—

Having arrived in your city late Saturday evening, I wish to communicate through your intelligent Messenger to the friends of Acadia College, and the denomination generally, that I have attended the Anniversaries of the Semi-Jubilee at Horton, and the Western Association at Paradise, and travelled up and down the entire Granville region, where, by the way, I was introduced by Bro. Wallace, to a worthy christian lady who has for many years mourned the absence or loss of a beloved partner by death. Said lady is now watching with filial care and attention to the necessities of her aged parents; she has an only son, a ship owner and mariner. Said son has, as I am informed, placed in the hands of his parent a sufficient sum, managed with care, to make her circumstances easy for many years. Bro. Wallace and myself took tea with the family, we were in their company about sixty minutes. I made my business known and the response was a \$100 Endowment Note, which the signer said would be honoured, with an emphasis that unmistakably told how she appreciated the Institutions at Horton, and how heartily she tendered the service; and added by saying "I may hereby aid some young minister in getting an education." I bespeak the prayers of the faithful for the widow's son, by land and sea. Other notes and sums were received in this vicinity, which will be reported through their proper channel,—the Minutes of the Convention.

A. D. THOMSON.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 29, 1864.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

TIME'S ravages are seen in the works of men and in the changes in society in many places. From various causes—removal or death—men pass away, leaving behind them only the history of their doings. Not so with the great features of Nature; these remain from generation to generation with only slight variations of the surface, as cultivation is attempted or neglected. Such thoughts as these must fill the mind of one who looks over the field of vision in the locality of the late Session of the Central Association.

CHESTER is, probably, well-known to but a small portion of our readers. Perhaps no place in Nova Scotia affords so great a variety of scenery within the compass of so small a space, beautifully diversified by land and water, island and cove, hill and dale.—When it is borne in mind that the Bay contains 365 islands, each said to have a distinct name, all differing in size and shape and the foliage of the trees, it will be unnecessary to expatiate on the loveliness of the prospect seaward, to convey to the reader an idea of its surpassing natural beauty. Some of the islands are well-cultivated and have comfortable farm-houses upon them, whilst others are but dreary wastes with occasionally one solitary spruce tree to darken the horizon.

The one of this archipelago, which is at the present time attracting more attention than all the rest, is OAK ISLAND, where the treasure seekers, are digging down into the bowels of the earth, hoping to come upon the treasure hid there by the pirate Captain Kidd.—This island is situated about four miles from Chester southward. Having our time so fully occupied, during our recent visit to Chester, we found it necessary to make an economical arrangement to enable us to pay a visit to this El Dorado. Accordingly, by getting up at 3 past 4, we were able to accomplish this object, before breakfast. A sail of half an hour brought us to the scene of operations, where the treasure seekers, par excellence, are groping their way under ground—far below the level of the sea—to the money pit, as they fully believe. It would occupy too much of our space to describe fully, the work already performed, or the present mode of operation. A glance must therefore suffice. Shafts have been sunk and tunnelling, on scientific principles, is now being effected. Already these underground passages, of four feet by six, reach some two or three hundred feet, and are

lined, on all sides, with solid timber. A drain is supposed to exist from the sea to the money pit. The object now aimed at is to get at the drain and stop it up, so as to prevent the water from flowing in. Then, when that is accomplished, the treasure may be easily secured. Four men are at work together in making excavations night and day. The gangs being changed every four hours. They leave off at 11 o'clock on Saturday night, and commence again at 1 o'clock on Monday morning. A steam engine is continually at work pumping up the water from the principal shaft, and horses are employed in heaving up the earth as it is excavated.—Some rocks of granite having been met, they were blasted and brought out, and remain with the other stone and earth as they were raised to the surface.

It is very remarkable that quite a number of oak trees grow on this island, whilst, we believe, there are none on the others all around.

But we began with noticing the ravages of time. Well, then, to return to Chester. Here we find a well-planned town; the streets of which those who laid it out evidently supposed would long ago have been built up and occupied, but no, the blocks and a large portion of the streets are still green fields. Even the houses already built have to be let at very low rents to secure inhabitants. No additions have been made to them, we believe, for several years, and whilst the associations of former years may remain, yet the names of those who took part in them have, with few exceptions, passed away from Chester proper, and the Baptist Church over which Father Dimock formerly presided now exists rather in the suburbs than in the town. The meeting house is still a respectable one, capable of accommodating a large congregation. Its pews in the gallery as well as below are still those with seats on three sides. The pastor, Rev. I. J. Skinner, and his people are, however, of an excellent spirit, and vied with each other in giving the Delegates a hearty reception.

The natural adaptation of Chester is that of a fashionable watering place. Its unrivalled facilities for sea-bathing and the smoothness and tranquillity of its Bay render it a most desirable resort, for parties who wish for a week or two of entire change from city business, or from life in the agricultural districts in the interior of the province. Should any of our readers wish to try this change, and so be on hand when the treasures of Oak Island are brought again to see the light of day, they may find at Lovett's Hotel such accommodations as could not fail to please the most fastidious. With a coach fare of \$2.50 from Halifax we doubt not there will be many who will take this road during the summer.

But we are forgetting the Association and shall now have to abbreviate our account of it. As however its features were pretty much like similar gatherings in other places, our readers will not be displeased if we do not weary them by full details.

The Letters had many points of interest. A committee was, however, appointed to prepare a digest of them for publication, so that those who take a deep interest in the affairs of Zion may have an opportunity of becoming somewhat familiar with the churches, although they were not present at the Association. A good gathering of ministers and delegates was present on Saturday.

On Lord's day they were scattered over the various localities in the neighborhood, and the ministers, two or three in a company, were engaged in preaching Christ and him crucified in all the region round about,—at Chester, Chester Basin, Waterville, Tanook, Oak Island, &c., &c.

At Chester sermons were preached by Rev. Dr. Fryer in the morning, Rev. W. Burton in the afternoon, and Rev. S. Richardson in the evening.

On Monday morning Rev. S. W. deBlois preached the Introductory Sermon from Jude 3: "That ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."

He shewed what was Christ's message from heaven to the children of men. Whilst it was peace on earth and good-will to men, yet it was one of war against all error and wrong. The conflict required of the christian is for "the faith"—the doctrines of the gospel. No assumptions of men or additions to the word of God are worthy of such "contention." Various attacks on the christian faith were noticed and exposed. One of the most insidious and dangerous errors was pointed out—that of satisfaction with orthodoxy without religion—"with an orthodox creed a man may go down to hell." The truth which excites the opposition of the world and unregenerate men is that which should be desired. The cross of Christ must be exalted as the source of salvation. The effect of such contending on religious men is that it ennobles them. No modification is allowed of Christ's utter-

ances. It is only by vigorous effort that souls can be saved. At the close of the sermon the preacher made some most touching references to what had taken place in that sanctuary. Ten years ago he had been there set apart to the work of the christian ministry. Since then, how many had crossed the stream of death and passed on to the better land. Just fifty years ago, the Baptist Association, comprising the churches in the two provinces had been held in this very place, and Father Ansley had preached the Introductory Sermon from this same text. After that sermon, the first effort was made at combining together for the extension of Home Missionary operations. From that gallery was thrown on the table a doubloon to aid in carrying the gospel to the destitute. A resolution was then passed expressive of the determination of those then living to follow the example of the Saviour in caring for the souls of their fellow-countrymen.

The Circular Letter on "Family Prayer," was then read by Rev. D. M. Welton.

In the afternoon the Home Missionary Society held its Annual Meeting. Able and eloquent speeches were made by Revs. Dr. Pryor, A. H. Munro, G. Wetters, E. M. Saunders, S. March, and L. B. Gates.

On a suggestion being made that the balance due missionaries for the past year's labor, at the Western Association, was made up by special donations of brethren, amounting to about \$100, a proposal was made to place the Board of the Home Missionary Society in a position to meet their present liabilities, without drawing on the funds for the ensuing year, Brother Francis Welber contributed \$20, and proposed that twenty other individuals or churches should do the same so as to raise \$200 for this purpose.—After a brief consideration of the matter money and pledges were handed in amounting to about that sum. One of the members of the Board, we believe, will shortly give further particulars of this jubilee offering to the Home Missionary Society.

In the evening a Session of the Sabbath School Convention was held, the President in the Chair.

Rev. D. Freeman, the Secretary, read a full report, giving the statistics and some excellent counsels, respecting the work of Sabbath School teaching.

Addresses were then made as follows:— On "The importance of early religious instruction," by Rev. E. M. Saunders.

On "Sabbath Schools in their relation to the State; and the improvement of Society," by Professor DeMill.

On "Who should be Teachers in Sabbath Schools," by Rev. D. M. Welton.

As a request had been made by the Sons of Temperance in Chester, that a Temperance meeting might be held before the departure of the Delegates, it was arranged that after the session of the Sabbath School Convention there should be such meeting organized.

Rev. I. J. Skinner, the G. W. P. of Nova Scotia, took the chair. Several effective speeches were given on abstinence from the use of intoxicants and narcotics. A large congregation was present and continued to listen attentively till 10 o'clock.

On Tuesday morning, after some routine business had been attended to, the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society held its annual meeting, T. R. Patillo, Esq., in the chair. Rev. A. S. Hunt read the Report of the Executive Committee. Several brethren spoke on the benefits conferred by education, and especially by the Institutions at Horton. Professor DeMill gave some most gratifying statements respecting the internal work of Acadia College. The additional number of students, he shewed, represented even a larger increase than the number indicated, for with the demands made upon matriculants, above several other similar institutions, it shewed that a higher standard had been reached in educational proficiency. They could easily make the number of College students much larger, but the Faculty valued efficiency more than a slight numerical enlargement. So much had Dr. Cramp the President, desired to increase the advantages of the College that he had given £100 a year out of his salary, to enable the governors to appoint a fourth Professor, which they had done by the addition of Professor Jones to their staff.—He rejoiced in Acadia as an institution where ability was the only distinction known or thought of. The working man might come and receive equal honor with the most wealthy or exalted in this world. King's College has the honor of having eminent men among its Alumni; the friends of Acadia honor it for that, and hope to emulate it in that respect, but Acadia is preeminently the people's College—a christian institution for the masses. It aims at making christian scholars.

Professor Higgins spoke well on the peculiar temptations of the student—his habits of criticism and careful examination