

For the Christian Messenger.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DEAR SIR,—

A friend has put into my hand the Statistics of the Legislative Council. It appears that there are ten Presbyterians in that branch of the Legislature: four members of the Church of England: three Methodists: two Roman Catholics: and one Baptist.

At present, then, the Presbyterians constitute one-half of the Upper House. Should Mr. S. Chipman be sworn in, they will have the majority. They must have been great favourites with successive Administrations.

The Baptists are about one-fifth of the population. They have just one-twentieth part of the Legislature; in that Department which is the creation of the Crown, as advised by the Colonial Administration. IS THIS FAIR?

Yours,

Jan. 8, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

THAT LESSON ON MODERATION.

MR. EDITOR,—

If your correspondent, "A Scholarship-holder," had looked at my statements, not in their partial but complete form, he would have seen that they are not so "immoderate" as he would have your readers suppose. When he speaks of Harvard with her two-and-forty professors, or two-and-fifty, as he should have said, he rather conveys the idea that I would compare Acadia College with Harvard in this respect. I would do no such thing. I have done no such thing. I spoke not of the number of Professors, but of the *Course of Instruction* pursued at Acadia College, and with this modifying clause—*especially in classics and mathematics*. In his quotation of my words he has left out this clause, and then proceeded to make the remainder an occasion of some very paternal advice.

Now what are the facts, and not the "mere rhetoric" of a comparison of Acadia College with other Institutions as to the course of instruction pursued respectively in them, *especially in Classics and Mathematics*. I have before me, as I write, the catalogues of Harvard, Yale, Rochester, Dartmouth, Amherst, Brown, Waterville and Kings, and from a careful comparison, I find that in the two great departments just named, Acadia College is inferior to none of them.

Let "a Scholarship-holder" but consider these facts:—

1. Harvard has indeed her two-and-fifty Professors. But this number embraces the departments of Divinity, Law, Medicine, Philosophy and Art, Natural and Physical Science, and Modern Languages, as well as Classics—properly so-called—and Mathematics. In the last two departments combined, Harvard has but six Professors, assisted by five Tutors, which number, after all, is not great in a University attended by over seven hundred students.

2. In presenting himself for matriculation at Acadia College, the student is required to be as far advanced as he who enters either Harvard or Yale.

3. In the Course of Instruction, *required and elective*, as laid down in the Harvard Catalogue, (1858-9,) are embraced nine Greek and six Latin authors. In the Course at Acadia, *required and honorary*, thirteen Greek and eleven Latin. Then, what must not be overlooked, no Greek or Latin is required to be studied at Harvard after the first Term of the third year. In Acadia College they are required to be studied through the first Term of the fourth year. Surely with the same amount of brains and training to begin with, the student at Acadia College can learn as much Greek and Latin in four years as the student at Harvard in three. Again, in the Catalogue of Yale, (1856-7,) notwithstanding her "sterling staff," the course of instruction is made to embrace nine Greek and only four Latin authors, and these are studied only to the end of the third year.

4. In Acadia College as much attention is given to Mathematics as at either Harvard or Yale. And the same is true of some other of the leading studies usually included in the College Course proper. So that the course of instruction as pursued at Acadia College, especially in Classics and Mathematics, appears to excellent advantage when compared with that of either of the Universities just named. True, Acadia College has no Professor of Modern Languages, and none of Natural History and Civil Engineering, and cannot therefore be

considered as 'already perfect,' but this does not invalidate my general statement.

In conclusion, "I beg respectfully to suggest" that "A Scholarship-holder" make himself a little better acquainted with the curriculum of Colleges and Universities in America before cautioning against "overstatement" concerning Acadia, and that, while some through their "praiseworthy zeal" speak in too glowing terms of the College, he beware lest he go to the other extreme of depreciation.

ONE OF THE GOVERNORS.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 13, 1864.

REFLECTIONS ON "THE WEEK OF PRAYER."

THE meetings for Prayer in the various churches of the city at the close of the past week were similar in character to those at the commencement, and were all well attended,—something better on the whole, we think, than those of last year. Meetings of about the same description were held in several other places in the province—Truro, Pictou, Bridgetown, &c.

Ministers of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Episcopal churches took part in the exercises of the Halifax meetings.

It was highly gratifying to see all, thus leaving their differences behind, and uniting in exercises of prayer and praise, bowing at the footstool of Divine mercy, and seeking for blessings to be bestowed on the church and the world during the year on which we have entered. The arrangements of the committee were very judicious, and probably, under the circumstances, could not have been better carried out.

Well, now, the "week of prayer" is over, and we suppose each body will settle down into the ordinary routine of denominational devotion and labor, and it will be a matter of enquiry, What is to be the result? We shall not feel that every other is to be less a week of prayer, only that the peculiar character of this, the first week, has passed away, and left each to act in his own sphere during the remaining weeks of the year, but not inconsistently with what we have professed at the beginning. Are the blessings sought for to be realized? will be enquired by many. If the prayer offered be genuine, we hesitate not to answer—It will, if it will be for our good and the glory of God.

Then again, What is to be the difference between the past and the future? This combination of Christians, as such, by common consent is of course an important fact, and must have its influence on the community around, but if that is all, we doubt if it will be of much practical value. We do not suppose that any of those who attended the meetings will be less warmly attached to their own churches than heretofore. The Presbyterian will be no less a Presbyterian, the Methodist will not be induced to renounce Methodism, nor will Baptists feel that their testimony for personal experimental religion and a public profession of it, is less demanded of them than before.

If the effect is to make every christian feel that he has more of individual responsibility laid on him, the benefits will be great; and if by his attendance on these meetings he is surrounded by motives for acting out his convictions, and if he has thus been led to strive after a nearer approach to the New Testament standard of character and practice, the good will be incalculable.

This, we think, should be one of the principal fruits of "the week of prayer." The members of churches should go back to their own field of operation, and be more ready to "stand up for Jesus," to urge others to commit themselves to the cause of Him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

If any of those who were willing to attend the prayer-meetings, when they were crowded, feel that they do not relish their smaller social gatherings with those of the same faith and order, so much as they did before, it will be a very plain proof that whatever good the meetings have done in general and to others, they have received but little good. Their appetites have been vitiated if they have more inclination for seasons of festivity than for the charms of home.

There are features in church life and organization which such general gatherings fail to provide, and if we would have an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and see those upon whom he acts making known their experience, and testifying that they have been born again and brought into the

kingdom of grace, we must look for it in connection with the churches themselves. Where the Word of God is preached and practised, there may we expect to witness its triumphs.

The blessing has been sought, and it will depend, we believe, greatly on the attitude of the churches where the answer is to be bestowed. Those which are continuing, still waiting and looking for His appearing, with them the Master of Assemblies will meet and by them the apostle's prayer for the Thessalonians will be realized—"that God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power; that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

THE ESCAPE OF WADE.

ON Monday last the examination of the parties charged with aiding Wade in his escape from arrest, took place before His Worship the Mayor and Alderman Roche. It was decided in this case, although unusual, that the examination should be conducted in open court.

The policeman Hutt was first examined, and stated that after the three prisoners had been liberated, Wade got into the boat, and with a revolver, loaded with bullet, threatened to shoot them if they did not do so. Dr. Almon seized him by the arm, and Mr. Keith tried to take the pistol from him. While this was going on—about three minutes—Wade made his escape. He said there were about one hundred persons on the wharf.

The City Marshall and other constables testified to similar circumstances. One of them (Burke) was positive there were three pair of paddles in the boat. Sheriff Sawyer, in the course of his testimony, said he was certain there were but two oars.

Lieut. Reyne said there could not have been more than thirty or forty civilians on the wharf. He had, in obedience to orders from the General, refused many who had wished to come on the wharf. He thought that if Dr. Smith had not interfered, Dr. Almon would have been shot. He saw no warrant in the hands of Hutt.

J. W. Ritchie addressed the bench, and expressed his opinion that the case should be decided by this court, and contended that Dr. Almon's interference was a laudable one, as it probably prevented a case of murder. Far more important cases were frequently adjudicated upon by His Worship.

Dr. Almon addressed the court, and stated that he had first learned of the being a sick man on board the *Ella and Annie*, taken by its officers at Sambro, and he informed a friend. They engaged Mr. Ritchie, and made it known to the Government, which had led to the demand of this man and two others, who, it had been discovered, were also taken by the Federal officers and placed in irons.

The Mayor decided to hand the depositions over to the Crown Officers, and ordered the accused parties to appear on Wednesday (this day) and to give bail for their appearance before the Supreme Court, should they be cited to attend.

A WORD ABOUT OUR POST OFFICE AFFAIRS.

WE ascertained on Wednesday last that a large portion of our Subscribers' papers of that date were not forwarded, as they should have been, by that day's mail. They were sent to the Halifax Post Office on the previous evening, a little later than usual, but the bulk of them were there before 1/2 past 9, yet the clerk in charge thought proper to detain them till the following day. We made our complaint to the Post Master General—who, we believe, is always ready to correct irregularities,—he immediately called the delinquent to account. We believe this is not the first time of such an occurrence, but we hope it is the last time we shall have occasion to complain. We shall be much obliged if, when our agents are writing, they will inform us of any repetition.

Those of our subscribers who were disappointed in receiving their papers at the proper time, will please accept this explanation and apology.

ONE of our subscribers some time since sent us a \$2 note, (Bank of Fredericton). We find that the said note is worthless,—the bank has not been in operation for some time, and shall be glad if the person who sent it will have the kindness to forward us \$2, and we shall be glad to return the said note.

WE have received a list of several marriages, said to have been performed by Rev. J. H. Moore, but without his signature, and we are in some doubt about its being his hand writing. Mr. M. will please inform us.

NEWS SUMMARY.

THE English mail, bringing London dates to the 26th ult., adds little to our previous European news. The meeting of the Congress of Sovereigns seems more problematical than ever. England has *courteously* declined being present, without first having received specific intimation of the precise matters proposed to be discussed, while all the other great Powers of Europe, in agreeing to the Conference, have done so in terms which evidently shew their determination, not to submit any of their more important interests to the ultimate decision of the intended Congress. No doubt Louis Napoleon must have foreseen all this, although the precise ends which he was to accomplish by the plausible scheme, are not so plainly visible.

French affairs in Mexico do not appear quite so promising as was anticipated. Reinforcements are being sent out from France, and it is quite uncertain as yet whether the Austrian Archduke Maximilian will accept the proffered crown of Mexico.

No news of any moment has been received during the week from the seat of war. Of course the winter puts a stop to almost all aggressive movements on either side. Drafting and recruiting are still going on actively in the North. The greater part of the new levies will no doubt be supplied from the Irish and German emigrants who are flocking into the country, evidently allured by the enormous bounties offered by the Federal Government.

We believe no intimation has as yet been received from England, who is to succeed Lord Normanby as our new Governor. It seems therefore probable, as the Legislature is to meet on the 4th of February, that General Doyle will continue to administer the Government during the coming Session.

Notices, &c.

Acadia College.

An adjourned Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in the Library of the College on Wednesday, the 27th inst., at eleven o'clock, A. M. A punctual and full attendance is particularly requested.

W. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.

Wolfville, Jan. 8th, 1864.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The next lecture of the course, before the above named Society, will be delivered in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville, on the evening of Friday, 22nd inst., by the Rev. Prof. Hensley, of King's College.

I. S. MORSE, Cor. Sec'y.

Annapolis Co. Ministerial Conference.

The next meeting of the Annapolis County Conference of Baptist Ministers, will be held D. V., at Wadeville, on Tuesday morning, the 19th Jan. 1864, at 9 o'clock. Missionary meeting on previous evening. A full attendance is earnestly solicited.

ISA. WALLACE, Secretary.

Lower Granville, Dec. 22nd, 1863.

Foreign Missionary Board.

The Foreign Missionary Board will meet (D. V.) in Tremont, Aylesford, on the last Tuesday in January, at one o'clock, P. M. A full attendance is requested.

CHARLES TUPPER, Secretary.

Tremont, Dec. 25th, 1863.

N. B.—Individuals, Churches, or Societies that design to contribute toward the support of any native preacher, or the Mission School, are respectfully requested to forward their contributions before the Meeting of the Board.

Central Minutes.

We have made all possible enquiry concerning the bundle of minutes for the churches in King's County sent to Cody's Boarding House, but we cannot find by whom they were taken from there.

We hereby offer

A REWARD OF FIVE DOLLARS

for the recovery of said bundle, or for information which will lead to the recovery. It was addressed, "Geo. V. Rand, Wolfville, care of Mr. Messenger." We have got together all the copies of Central Minutes that we can, and now forward them to the several churches whose parcels we believe to be missing.

Letters Received.

Adam E. Durland, 51st, 1 sub. T. M. King, 4th, \$11. Jas. Burhoe, 26th, \$4. Jas. Desbrosay, Esq., 2nd, \$6. W. Churchill, Esq., J. M. Parker, Esq., 5th, \$24, 4 subs. Rev. J. C. Morse, 2nd, \$2, 3 subs. J. Broderick, Esq., 2nd, \$4. Rev. Chas. Randall, 1st, \$17, 1 sub. Rev. H. Angell, 20th, Rev. Jas. Spencer, 4th, \$4, 1 sub. B. L. Telfer, 2nd, \$12, 1 sub. D. Robertson, 1st, \$8. X. Z. Chipman, Esq., 4th, \$11.50, 1 sub. J. Gammison, 6th, \$5. Rev. A. Martell, 4th, Isiah Thurber, Esq., 4th, \$2, 1 sub. Asaph Marshall, Esq., 7th, \$10. H. E. Payson, Esq., 5th, \$20. Israel McNayr, Esq., 1st, \$12.44. C. H. Harrington, 4th, 1 sub. Benj. Wood, 8th, \$2. Rev. S. McLeod, \$5, 1 sub. J. G. Ross, 20th, 1 sub. Rev. L. B. Gates, \$4, 1 sub. Rev. I. J. Skinner, 9th, Hon. H. G. Paine, 9th, \$2, 1 sub. Rev. Jas. A. Strubberg, 6th, \$8, 1 sub. Rev. P. F. Murray, 6th, \$5, 3 subs.—Yes, certainly. Rev. Jas. Reid, 6th, Asaph Whitman, 7th, \$1.50. Melastah Kinsman, 6th, \$5. Jas. E. Potter, Esq., 7th, \$12, 1 sub.—Yes, of course. A. Musgrave, 7th, \$4.