

For the Christian Messenger. Acadia College.

Mr. Editor,—

I wish through you to remind the Churches which have not yet sent in their Contributions for College expenses that but a fortnight will elapse before the annual accounts are made up to present to the Convention; therefore no time should be lost in forwarding the sums collected; up to this time less than one-half the amount appealed for has been received, we would respectfully and urgently ask of our Pastors and Churches an immediate attention to this matter.

J. W. BARSS, Tr. A. College.

Wolfville, 18, July 1865.

The Micmac Mission.

The friends and patrons of the Micmac Mission are respectfully informed that the Mission is in full operation as usual. They are reminded that at his own request our Missionary was, at our last Annual Meeting, relieved from the labor of collecting, and all annual subscribers released from their obligations, the Missionary agreeing to receive as his salary whatever individuals might be prompted to give for that object. He is able to report favourably, at the close of the first half year, respecting the working of the new method. The Mission has been remembered and generously supported by the Head of the Church and by His people. But at the close of last year there was a balance against the Society for printing Reports, and for money which had been advanced by individuals, to the amount of about thirty pounds. An appeal was to have been made by the patrons of the Mission for the payment of this balance, and public notice was to have been given to that effect. Through some oversight that notice has been delayed until now, and the debts are still unpaid. The Committee, at a meeting held on the 12th inst., resolved to appeal at once to our former subscribers, and Mr. Daniel Galligher has engaged to call upon them for that purpose. It is confidently hoped and believed that this, intended as our final appeal, will not be made in vain.

JAMES F. AVERY, President. GEO. H. STARR, Treasurer. JAMES FARQUHAR, Secretary. J. W. RITCHIE, CHAS ROBSON, D. McN. PARKER, H. N. PAINT. Committee.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 19, 1865.

Our yearly ecclesiastical gatherings in our Associations have come and gone. The ministers and delegates have returned to their homes to resume their labors amongst their own people. Whether refreshed by the opportunity of mingling with their brethren for a few days, and prepared for occupying their position more vigorously, or merely to again take up their duties, and proceed as heretofore, we cannot say. If the matters brought before the convocations pass from the minds of the brethren without giving them a new impulse to engage in the service of Christ, one great design of them will be lost. Religion is, however, a reality—and a subject of the first importance. The great facts of Christianity are not myths, but are producing mighty changes in men, and in the world. The advances of the Kingdom of Christ amongst men must be acknowledged by the most careless observer. Although by comparing the sphere immediately surrounding us we may not find sufficient to warrant us in concluding that the churches are at present, advancing in the same ratio as at some other times, yet we believe that a comparison of several years will show great advances. What is to be the character of the year on which we have now entered? is a question which will be asked by many who take an enlarged view of their church relationship. If the same state of things which has existed for the past two or three years to continue, or, are we to experience a larger measure of the Divine blessing, and see larger numbers become obedient to the faith? If the latter is not to be the case, why not? may be very properly enquired.

The Baptist churches have no such stimulus provided for them as that given by a general change of ministers. Such a system of change adopted by one denomination of christians may have in it some advantages in a numerical point of view. It may have the effect of rubbing out some of the troubles of ministers in certain localities—removing alien-

ations—bringing back some of the wanderers who had been offended by the former minister, and so, by placing men in new places, giving them the chance of going over again the result of their former studies and preparations, and of causing a general stir amongst the people for a time. But we do not think that these advantages are at all an equivalent for the disadvantage of giving up a settled pastorate. If the christian life or church relationship were dependent on ministerial effort, and religion were a state of constant excitement, some such system would be well adapted to afford to it the necessary aliment; but we regard the pastoral teaching of a series of years and the connection for an unlimited period between pastor and people more congenial with the word of God than any itinerancy can possibly be. The frequent appeals for an extension of time shews too that those who commonly recognize for three or four years at a time, this relationship, would, if possible break through the rule, when a favorite preacher is with them. We say this not for the purpose of depreciating the mode of supplying ministerial aid adopted by the esteemed body to which we have referred, but for the purpose of calling attention to the need there is in our own denomination of such a course of earnest activity and vigorous pastoral labor as shall supply the necessary elements of advance and growth in the churches. Our Associations are neither Methodist Conferences to appoint places for the ministers and dispose of the funds of the body, nor Presbyterian Synods to legislate and take charge of appeals from the inferior church courts; but, whatever in either of them is agreeable with the gospel, and in harmony with our church principles and polity, should be drawn from them. The stimulus of fraternal union and encouragement derived from cordial co-operation should, from year to year, be realized by the ministers and members united together in the sacred bonds so formed. Whilst greater freedom of action is enjoyed under the congregational form of church government, and more opportunity is given for gathering in those, who, having given themselves to the Lord, would unite themselves with his church, yet there is more need for consulting the great text-book of the church, and for constant submission to its directions.

There is no reason why all the real advantages of every other ecclesiastical system should not be enjoyed by Baptist churches, whilst, at the same time, they are free from all their trammels. The only barriers to the highest condition of prosperity in them is imperfect knowledge and defective piety. Let these have their appropriate remedies, and, with the blessing of Him who is head over all, the prospect is full of encouragement and hope. But, without living piety in the members composing them the form of religion will soon disappear,—sooner than under any other organization. Let there be, then, a proper appreciation of our privileges, and a resolve each year to come up nearer to the realization of christian life and character, and we shall find that the laws of Christ are sufficient to meet all emergencies, to fit men for usefulness on earth, and prepare them for the glories of heaven.

THE FRANCHISE.

Our political papers have lately been discussing the question of the franchise, or, rather, in the paucity of material for their columns, they have made that subject the occasion of some debate. From the circumstances of the Franchise Law, now in force, being on a different basis from that under which the present House of Assembly was chosen, it is argued by the opposition that there should be a general election to express the opinion of the country as to whether they approve of the measure. Should there be any occasion, by death or otherwise, for an election of one or more representatives to the legislature, they must come in under a restricted suffrage, whereas the rest of the House were elected by universal suffrage. This, it is argued, would be an anomalous state of things which demands consideration and remedy. These demands are not, however, deemed sufficient by the present government and its supporters for any interference with the existing House of Assembly. The question of the suffrage is not so much the matter in debate as a general election, for the purpose of effecting some change. It is likely that the Franchise Law will be made one of the topics on which there will be considerable discussion before another election of representatives takes place.

This is a subject which at the present time is commanding attention throughout this continent. The circumstances in which the people of the conquered territory in the United States find themselves, and the large addition of freedmen to the population, opens up a

grave question as to whether they shall have all the privileges of their former masters, and every man be allowed by that means to participate in the government of the country, is a problem not easily solved. It is supposed by some that the ballot will be a sufficient check and guard against corruption.

The laws of a country should unquestionably be enacted by the united wisdom of the people. What are the best means of securing this, whether by every man in the country being allowed to vote for a candidate to the legislature, whether he possess intelligence and a place of residence, or have nothing more than his bone and muscle to qualify him for this important duty, is a question for grave consideration.

We were informed by telegram on Saturday morning last, that the Rev. WILLIAM CRAMP, of Pleasant Valley, Cornwallis, departed this life at seven o'clock on Friday evening. The funeral was to take place on Monday.

After the notice in our last, our readers will have been prepared to receive this intelligence. Whilst we lament the departure of aged friends, we may rejoice at the testimony they leave of the faithfulness of God in granting to them sustaining grace even unto the end. We shall doubtless shortly receive fuller details of his long and useful life.

Since the above was in type, we have learned that, by special request, the Rev. Dr. Cramp, on the occasion of the funeral, preached a sermon on Psalm 73, 23, 24: "I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me by thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory." There was an immense concourse of sorrowing relatives and friends present.

Rev. S. T. Rand's Quarterly Report of the Mic-mac Mission under the new régime, is on our sixth page.

NEWS SUMMARY.

THE leading event on this side the Atlantic during the past week has been the great Commercial Convention at Detroit. It was a meeting on a most extensive scale, composed of numerous Delegates from most of the States of the neighbouring Union and the British North American Provinces, to deliberate upon the general interests of trade and commerce on this Northern continent, and to devise means by which political powers may be influenced, and the interests of a sound and liberal commerce advanced. These objects are no doubt highly important and well worthy of a progressive and enlightened age. Much interest will naturally attach to the proceedings of the meeting, and it is not improbable that one of the greatest benefits likely to result from it, will be in a large measure to materially abate the spirit of alienation which to some extent has sprung up between these Colonies and the United States, from occurrences during the late intestine war. The commercial interests of both countries bordering on each other for an extent of about two thousand miles, are so closely interwoven that nothing but a continuance of the most amicable relations can avert the most serious injury to either.

The Convention met on Tuesday the 11th. We learn by telegram that "Delegations from all the leading cities of commercial interest in the United States and British Provinces were in attendance. On Thursday the Convention adopted the Report of the Committee in favor of the Niagara Ship Canal divested of its military character. It was said that powerful protective influence from New England and the Northern States opposed the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. Nevertheless, on Friday a unanimous vote of the Convention was given for a resolution recommending the negotiation of a new Treaty. After which the Convention adjourned sine die.

The Great Eastern steamship is now in the midst of her undertaking of laying the Atlantic Telegraph Cable between Ireland and Newfoundland. We may therefore expect very shortly to hear of her reaching her destined goal, and accompanied with better success than the former experiment. Admiral Sir James Hope, who arrived in H. M. S. Duncan on Friday last from Bermuda, will, it is said, proceed at once to Trinity Bay, Nfld., to welcome the arrival of the Great Eastern.

By the arrival of the steamer Hansa and City of Washington at New York on Monday we were put in possession of news to the 5th instant.

A vote of censure passed Parliament, after exciting discussion, against the Lord Chancellor in connection with the recent bankruptcy court scandal. The Lord Chancellor resigned, and his resignation was accepted by the Queen, to take place on the prorogation of Parliament.

J. T. Bell & Co., East India merchants, and C. J. Nasmyth & Co., in same trade, have suspended with large liabilities.

Parliament was prorogued on the 16th, and dissolution immediately followed.

The Queen, in her speech, rejoices at the termination of the civil war in America. She regrets that the Confederation scheme in British America was not carried out, believing that it would give the Provinces additional strength, and lead to many improvements. She expresses gratification at the assurances of loyalty from the Provinces.

THE elections in England absorb a large share of attention at the present time. Church-rates, we learn, are referred to in the cards of a large proportion of the candidates. This is a point on which the Dissenters feel keenly, and their influence is not now to be despised.

Notices, &c.

Received for the French Mission.

From Mrs. Lockhart Dimock, Newport... \$4 00 The Treasurer will please debit the same to our account.

Notice.

On behalf of the poor colored brethren at Hammonds Plains, I beg to call the attention of the pastors of the churches and friends, (especially those belonging to the Central Association,) to a resolution passed at the recent session of the Central Baptist Association, as follows:—

Resolved, That the Churches of our body be requested to take up a COLLECTION to assist in the erection of a Meeting-house for our colored Brethren at Hammonds Plains, and that the collection be on the 1st Lord's Day in August.

Only two or three responded to the appeal made for this object last year. It is hoped that as more time is given there will be a more hearty co-operation in this benevolent work this year.

On behalf of the Church, D. G. SHAW.

\$20 TOWARD ANOTHER NATIVE PREACHER, have been forwarded to our care, as "a thank-offering from a poor, weak christian, chief of sinners," with the hope that some other person or persons may be able to supply the balance of eighty dollars. We shall be glad to hear from any friend to missionary operations in relation to the same.

Meetings of the N. S. B. Home Missionary Board.

AT AMHERST ON TUESDAY JULY 4TH.

Present,—Bro. John King, Vice President in the chair.

Revs. Dr. Cramp, J. E. Balcom, T. H. Porter, Jr., G. F. Miles, A. Chipman, Jas. Parker, S. Thompson, E. O. Read, D. McKeen, J. Davis, D. W. C. Dimock, and Bro. S. Selden.

Appointments,—Rev. Thos. Blakely, 3 mos. at Tatamagouche.

Rev. R. J. Langridge, late of Ottawa, Canada, 12 months, to Pictou and River John.

The appointment previously made to Rev. Jas. Parker, in Cumberland Co., was transferred to Colchester Co.

At the Annual Meeting of the society, held on Monday July 3rd. The following brethren were appointed the Officers and Board of Managers for the ensuing year.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

J. W. Nutting, President. J. W. Barss, Vice Presidents. John King, Vice Presidents. D. McN. Parker, M. D., Treasurer. R. N. Beckwith, Secretary. George Robins, Auditor.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Rev. J. E. Balcom, Rev. E. M. Saunders. " J. M. Cramp, D. D., " I. J. Skinner. " S. W. DeBlois, " D. M. Welton. " D. W. C. Dimock, " H. R. Cunningham. " David Freeman, " Louis Estano. " A. S. Hunt, " H. N. Paik. " G. F. Miles, " L. S. Payzant. " A. H. Munro, " Alex. Robinson. " John Pryor, D. D., " S. Selden. " A. F. Porter, " J. Steele. " Jas. Parker, " D. Thompson. " R. R. Philp, " Francis Webber. R. N. BECKWITH, Sec'y. H. M. Board.

MINUTES.—The last portion of the Western Association Minutes, (in MS.) came to hand on the 12th inst. We mailed some copies (printed) on Saturday last, and hope to receive the remainder from the binder, and mail them in a day or two.

Going to the Convention.

Members and Delegates to the Convention at Berwick, on the 19th inst., will be allowed to go and return on the railroad for one fare. On going the fare must be paid as usual. A certificate of attendance, signed by the President, will be required on returning, which must be given to the Ticket Master at Windsor, who will in return give a free ticket.

We learn from the Visitor that "The proprietors of the Hatheway steamers have kindly consented to allow all persons attending our Convention at Cornwallis, to pass over their lines both ways for one fare. Persons wishing to enjoy this advantage can pay their fare, and then procure a certificate of attendance at the meeting from the Moderator or President, which will answer the same as a free ticket, with which to return."

Baptist Anniversaries.

The Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, will hold its twentieth Annual Session at Berwick, on Saturday, the 19th day of August next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Letters Received.

W. J. Gates, 1 sub. \$12. J. W. Barss, Esq. Alex. Fraser, 1 sub. A. B. Woodworth, 1 sub. Rev. Chas. Randall. H. Mills. Rev. T. A. Higgins.