

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AN ARGUMENT.

Mr. Editor, In Rev. Duncan D. Currie's Catechism of Baptism, pp. 46, is the following curious statement:

"Paul says, 1 Cor. iii. 6, 'I have planted, Apollos watered.' This language implies that immersion could not have been the mode in which Apollos baptized, and that the mode must have been sprinkling or pouring. An unbiased mind would naturally infer that those plants were watered by affusion. No gardener ever waters his plants by immersion. There is no evidence to indicate immersion here."

We should think not. Neither is there any evidence to indicate sprinkling. Just fancy Apollos with a watering pot, sprinkling his converts.

Paul speaks of himself, as introducing under the emblem of planting or sowing, the germ of truth, the rudiments of the Gospel into places and hearts, before unacquainted with salvation Apollos, by his letters exhortations and prayers, (under the emblem of watering,) causes these germs to grow and spread, but their labors would both alike be unproductive, unless God, by His Spirit's power, should work in men's hearts.

This is the simple view we have always entertained of this passage.

How, by any process of torture there words could be compelled to give evidence on behalf of Infant Sprinkling, the Rev. Duncan D. Currie, could be compelled to admit such evidence, we cannot conceive.

Yet the above is a fair specimen of the arguments employed throughout the entire precious little work!

We only trust our Wesleyan friends will continue to circulate this book in all Baptist communities as assiduously, as they have lately been doing in Wolfville and vicinity.

It is well, that Baptists should see and know how utterly weak, worthless, and futile, are the best and strongest arguments, which can be adduced in favor of Infant Sprinkling, and against believers' baptism.

I am yours, &c. WILLIAM.

Wolfville, February 11th, 1865.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

ABEL KING STRONG.

Youngest son of Deac. Abel and Anne Strong of Brooklyn, Cornwallis, died on the 3rd day of Jan., 1865, aged 28 years, 7 months and 23 days.

This beloved son seemed to have been early exercised with religious impressions. He possessed a remarkably amiable and cheerful disposition, which rendered him a favorite among his associates. His conversation was often sprightly, and made particularly entertaining by a fondness for humor; however, his customary deportment was serious and his manner strikingly characterized by dignity. His judgment was presumed to be superior to many persons of his age and experience, as he maintained an influence over his companions, becoming that of an elder brother or of a respected parent. When in his 22nd year he was seized with a severe illness, and never afterwards enjoyed perfect health.

It was justly remarked by one who was acquainted with him for several years, "That his example would shame many a professor of religion." Although he never joined a church on earth, yet doubtless he has now joined the church in heaven, and is with the celestial choir who tune their golden harps to Immanuel's praise. The night before his death, after having been very earnestly engaged in prayer, he requested his mother and sisters who attended at his bedside to pray with him, this being done he wished them to sing, but they could not raise their voices at that heart-sorrowing moment. "Never mind," said he, "repeat something sweet." He seemed to rest his hopes for salvation, alone on the merits of Christ's blood. "I love God; I love all God's people," said he to one of his sisters; and among his last words were "Blessed Jesus."

"Here Lord I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do."

A consolatory discourse was delivered on the occasion by Rev. James Parker, from Isaiah 53: 15: "Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty; they shall behold the land that is very far off." Communicated.

ISAAC W. OAKES.

Died at New Albany, on the 23rd of April, 1864, Isaac W. Oakes, son of Jesse and Eliza Oakes, in the 21st year of his age. His end was peace.

Triumphant in his closing eye, The hope of glory shone, Joy breathed in his expiring eye, To think the race was run.

Lines suggested by an expression of the dying young man: "NOW COME ON IF YOU DARE!"

Through the journey of life all the plights have foes, Who untrusting worry, molest and oppose, 'Gainst the darts that they hurl, there is not a heart, steel'd, We must meet them in battle, with faith as our shield. Many youths not aware of the snares which they lay, Often heed their enticements, and fearfully stray; Then they fall in their traps and would doubtless be slain. Were it not for a friend who restores them again, 'Now come on if you dare,' said the dying young man. 'The Almighty defends me, come on if you can; Sin, the devil, and hell, all the foes that he feared, Grim and horribly stern to his vision appeared, For a short time he struggled, but faith heaved a prayer, Then anon he beheld, and lo! Jesus was there, Gloomy thoughts and forebodings, ye may sleep in your lair, Or surround me and threaten, come on if you dare, And then unbelief, oh thou infamous liar, Hasten on as you were, or in modern attire, Now come on if you dare, you have fettered before, Every fetter is broken, you can fetter no more, Come on you past sins, ye may look, ye may stare, It is all you can do, now come on if you dare, Oh, ye clings to life, that so long filled my breast, Ye are conquered, - ye dare not my bosom molest, Death, come on if you dare, all in dreadful array, You will only release me, and let me away, Now come on thou dark head of the regions of night, Ah! you dare not come hither, for lo! all is light, Let your legions come on, let your thunderbolts burst, For they cannot come near; I'm prepared, do your worst, Now come on all ye foes in the strength of a Friend, I have conquered - now fee ye - the struggle's at an end, 'Precious Saviour,' I love thee, with thee at my side, I shall safely pass over this rough swelling tide, Now faith was the victor, and Christ was the guide, And hope was the anchor Isaac grasped when he died, Neither Cherub nor Seraphim ever can vie, With the sonnet he sings 'mid the ransomed on high, Friends, there's trouble ahead, foes behind and before, There is sickness and pain, - Death is just at the short door, Short the time for thy pleasure, short time for thy pride, Yea the moment has come for decision - decide, Having Christ just before you, pressing upward with prayer, All the host that annoy may come on if they dare, P. W.

Provincial Parliament.

CONFEDERATION CORRESPONDENCE AND DESPATCHES.

In our Parliamentary Report last week we noticed that the Correspondence and Despatches relative to the Union of Colonies, were laid on the Table of the House, on Monday the 20th Inst. Copies of these documents were supplied to the Members of the Legislature. If the government had ordered a few more copies and had supplied the members of the press also, it would have involved but a trifling additional expense, and would have enabled us to give our own impressions respecting these documents. The present government seem as little inclined as former ones, to give such information to the people, or to those who are desirous of conveying it to them. We speak this of public documents generally. The reporter of the Legislative Council has made an abstract of said correspondence, &c., from which we cull a few items for the enlightenment of our readers on this important subject. He says: -

The first of these papers is a despatch from Major General Doyle to the Colonial Secretary, dated 30th March, 1864, enclosing the resolutions passed last session in the Nova Scotia Legislature, relative to a proposed union of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

By a despatch of 30th June, 1864, Lord Monck informs Major General Doyle that "it is the wish of the Canadian Government to send a Delegation to attend the Conference which it is proposed to hold this year (1864) of gentlemen representing respectively Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, with a view to a Union of these Provinces."

Sir R. G. MacDonnell closes a despatch of 9th July, 1864, to the Governor General with the following paragraph: - "In the meantime I can assure your Lordship of the extreme pleasure which will afford this Government to confer unofficially with any Delegates sent from Canada. It is, however, necessary to remind your Lordship that no Resolution has yet been passed by any of the Legislatures of the Maritime Provinces, authorising the appointment of Delegates for any purpose but that of considering some plan for the Union of the three Provinces. Therefore, neither I nor my Ministry have the power to go beyond the exact powers conferred by that Resolution."

It appears by a despatch of Sir R. G. MacDonnell, of 18th Aug., 1864, that it was intended on the part of the Government of Nova Scotia to appoint the hon. Joseph Howe as one of the representatives of Nova Scotia at the Charlottetown Conference, though His Excellency states that in the event of Mr. Howe's not being able to find time from his duties as Fishery Commissioner to attend at Charlottetown, he should appoint some one else to represent the opposition. John Locke, Esq., M. P. E., was appointed one of the delegates on the 27th Aug., 1864, but having resigned the post, the hon. Mr. McNully was appointed in his place on the 29th Aug., 1864.

In a despatch of 15th Sept., 1864, to the Colonial Secretary, the Lieutenant Governor says: -

I have the honor to report that the intended Conference of Delegates from the Lower Provinces assembled at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on Thursday, the 1st. No less than eight members of the Canadian Ministry - Messrs J. A. McDonald, Cartier, Galt, Brown, M. Geo. McDougall, Langevin, and Campbell, attended at the same time to make proposals on the part of Canada.

As the members of the Conference thought their own deliberations might be affected by the proposals of the Canadian Government, they resolved to hear the latter, before proceeding with their own special debates.

This occupied several days, and ended in the Canadian Ministers being invited afterwards to take part in the Conference. So far as I can learn, the proceedings of the Delegates have only gone so far - that they are all in favor of a general Inter-Colonial Union, if it can be shown that no party to such an arrangement will be a loser in the adjustment of the details.

The Prince Edward Island Delegates would probably not be averse to such a Federal Union as would leave them their own local institutions and Government House, but I understand there is no probability of their agreeing to any proposal which would entirely merge their present separate Legislature in a larger body.

He also says in the same despatch: -

As I understand that the Canadian Government intends to invite the delegates of the other Provinces to discuss at Quebec the larger scheme of a general Union or Federation, I think it necessary to request permission to appoint delegates on behalf of Nova Scotia to discuss these wider questions.

The required permission was given in a despatch from the Colonial Secretary of 1st Oct., 1864.

By a minute of a committee of the Executive Council of Canada, dated 23rd Sept., 1864, and approved by the Governor General, that committee advise: -

That the several Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, be invited to appoint delegates under the authority of the despatch of the Secretary for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, dated 6th July, 1862, and communicated by the Colonial Office to your Excellency by a despatch of the same date, to confer with the Canadian Government on the subject of a Union or Federation of the British North American Provinces.

In the same minute the Committee recommend Quebec as the place, and the 10th Oct., 1864, as the time for the meeting.

This may be taken, then, as the early history of the Quebec Conference, of which many have enquired where it originated.

The Report of the Nova Scotia Delegates at the Quebec Conference to the Lieut. Governor, is dated 5th December, 1863. This Report is signed by all the Nova Scotia Delegates, except the Hon. R. B. Dickey.

The despatch of 8th December, 1864, from the Colonial Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor was copied by us, in common with the press generally, at the time.

In a despatch of 23rd December, 1864, to the Lieut. Governor, Lord Monck encloses the despatch above referred to from the Col. Sec. to himself, in which Mr. Caldwell desires him to take immediate measures in concert with the Lieut. Governors of the several Provinces for submitting to their respective Legislatures this project of the Conference. Lord Monck states that he proposes to bring the subject before both houses of the Canadian Legislature, in order that if the Legislature shall think fit, an address may be adopted to the Queen, praying Her Majesty to direct that steps may be taken for passing an Act of the Imperial Parliament to unite the Provinces of British North America on the basis laid down in the Resolutions adopted by the Quebec Conference.

In a despatch of the 9th January, 1865, to the Governor General, the Lieut. Governor says that when the papers and correspondence connected with the subject of the Quebec Conference shall have been laid before the Provincial Parliament, an address to her Majesty will be moved by the Leader of the Government, praying her Majesty to direct steps to be taken for passing an act of the Imperial Parliament to unite the Provinces of British North America. He further says that the resolutions of the Quebec Conference will be suggested as the basis of such union, to be carried out in such manner as may be judged by her Majesty's Government most compatible with the joint interests of the Crown, and of these portions of the British Empire. His Excellency further observes that it appears to himself and the members of his Government, that to avoid the probable multiplied divergence of opinion in each Legislature, inseparable from discussing a great variety of details in several independent Parliaments, despatch of a general agreement in the main objects and principles of the general scheme, it is better for these Provinces to avail themselves of the friendly arbitration of the Queen's Government, and send delegates to consult with the latter during the preparation of the proposed Imperial Bill. His Excellency also says that the peculiar views of each Legislature might, if necessary, find expression in instructions to the Delegates from each.

The following is a copy of the Resolution on the proposed union moved in both Houses of the Canadian Legislature: -

Resolved, That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament for the purpose of uniting the Colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, in one Government, with provisions based on the following Resolutions, which were adopted at a Conference of Delegates from the said Colonies, held at the City of Quebec on the tenth of October, 1864.

Here follow the Resolutions verbatim. The last of the papers laid on the table is a letter from the Hon. R. B. Dickey to the Lieut. Governor, in which Mr. Dickey says that he is

happy to be able cordially to concur in the report of the Nova Scotia delegates to the Quebec Conference, except as to that portion of it which seems to imply the unanimous action of members of the Conference.

Mr. Dickey concludes his letter as follows: - "As I had the misfortune to differ from my colleagues in several important details of the scheme submitted to your Excellency, I feel myself constrained to withhold my signature from the report unaccompanied by this explanation.

My regret at this circumstance is greatly diminished by the reflection that the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in his despatch of 3rd December last, sustains my view that the scheme is susceptible of modification and improvement.

A more pleasant task remains; to acknowledge the uniform good feeling which, during the whole of these important deliberations, subsisted between my colleagues and myself.

Being most unwilling to be regarded as an opponent of Federation on "principles, just to the several Provinces," I venture to ask that these reasons for the absence of my signature to the Report may receive equal publicity with the Report itself.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21st.

Hon. Mr. Shannon, reported several Railway and Mining Bills.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the reply of the Adj. Gen. to the question asked, on a previous day, by the member for Digby, (Mr. Colin Campbell) as to the reasons why Captain James Stewart, of Clive, Digby County, could not get the sum of \$30, recommended by the Committee of the House, on the 29th April last.

After some considerable discussion the matter was referred to the Militia committee.

Mr. Blanchard presented a petition praying aid to construct a bridge over Margaree River.

Mr. Stewart Campbell presented several petitions for additional mail accommodation, &c.

Railroad Liabilities. - Mr. Churchill asked what progress the Crown officers had made in enforcing the payment of the sum of \$400,000, which the city of Halifax had assumed voluntarily by the act of 1853. The hon. gentleman read the section of the act, and said the Sheriff of the County of Hants was adopting extreme measures to enforce the payment of the tax for the right of way of the railroad, and the excuse given by the people for non-payment, was that Halifax had failed to carry out her pledges. He had advised his constituents not to pay, until the City of Halifax had fulfilled her obligations; and he thought it was quite time that the sum should be paid. He hoped that before the Pictou Railroad was under contract, that the Annapolis road would be commenced; and he trusted that this government would live to see it completed. He hoped that the Crown Officers would take steps to bring the matter to a speedy issue.

Hon. Attorney General explained that it was only shortly before the sitting of the Court in April last that he had been appointed to the office he now held, and as it was a question of some magnitude, he did not feel that he would be doing justice to it if he brought it on then. His absence from the country in Canada upon public business had prevented him from bringing it before the Court in October - but it was his intention to prosecute the matter at the next sittings of the Court. He did not think, however, that much had been lost by delay. Any one conversant with the matter was aware that the reason given for the repudiation of this debt was, that the contract with the city had not been fulfilled. He would not say whether this was a legal objection or not - but rightly or wrongly the citizens say that they assumed the liability upon the faith that the road would be carried to Pictou and the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the one side - and to Victoria Beach and the waters of the Bay of Fundy on the other - and that this had not been done. If the road was carried in those directions, the only objection raised by the city would fall to the ground and in equity as well as in law she would be bound to pay the sum. He was sorry that the hon. gentleman had advised his constituents so badly, as, however wrong the City of Halifax might be, that was no excuse for the County of Hants refusing to pay its obligations.

Mr. Archibald regretted the position assumed by the member for Hants. As regards the city of Halifax he had always felt that she ought honorably to discharge her obligations. The late government had put the matter into a shape to enforce its collection, and he hoped that the present government would take early measures to obtain a judicial decision upon the question.

Mr. Tobin said that nothing had ever been done by the city of Halifax, in its corporate character, to bind it to the payment of this money. It would be quite time for hon. gentlemen to charge her with repudiation, when the proper tribunal had decided that she was liable.

The hon. gentleman presented a petition of William Carroll, of Beaver Bank, who complains that his lands had been taken for railway purposes, without his having received any compensation.

Cape Breton Land Affairs. - Mr. C. J. Campbell complained respecting the reporting of debates last session. He thought the reporters should report everything verbatim, and they were not to judge of what should go to the country or not. The hon. gentleman complained in conclusion of the undue preference which he stated was given to foreigners in regard to application for coal mines, &c. &c.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said since the house had engaged the services of official reporters the go-