

ing the evening on which his daughter died, declaring that Christ and heaven were present to her sight, "It is a great comfort (to him) that she died so." Have you known one die happy, without the Christian hope, assurance and life? Is there any other class of the dead of whom surviving friends feel, "it is a great comfort that they died so;" than that class of whom the voice from heaven pronounces "blessed"—"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord" Does not the universal conscience of mankind accord with that voice of Revelation? And how shall you die in Lord? but by *living in the Lord*? And how shall you live in him but by "hearing his words and doing them?"

For the Christian Messenger.

Australian Correspondence.

The following letter, although somewhat of a private nature, will yet be perused by our readers, especially those connected with the Sons of Temperance, with some interest, we therefore venture to give it insertion in our columns.

Kingston, Jan. 20th, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER,

The box sent by you containing the books, charter, documents and letters, came safely to hand, in good order, by the *Day Spring*, for which please accept my best thanks and also the thanks of the Divisions recently formed. Shortly after their arrival I opened "Day-spring Division No. 1," which now numbers not far from a hundred members. Afterwards I formed No. 2, 3, 4, and some Juvenile Bands and Divisions of the Daughters, but have been much deterred for the want of books and the necessary documents; consequently we have come to the conclusion to make application for a National and Grand Division charter. The money has been waiting for some length of time, but have not been able to remit it as the banks have no dealings with the N. S. banks. We have sent a petition to your Grand Division to send us the necessary charters for opening the above named Divisions, and to let us know the way to remit the money. Perhaps you may think this a premature step for young beginners, but the advocates of the cause in these Colonies are a numerous, influential and highly respectable class of persons, and had they been acquainted with the organization, they would long ere this have been far more numerous and efficient. Then again the distance is so great that we are excluded from conferring with the Parent Society, either in asking questions or seeking counsel in questions of difficulty. We might apply to England for a Charter, but prefer America as the originators of the order. No such order exists in any of the Australian Colonies, as far as I can learn, after a residence of five years here, or in New Zealand. Whilst intemperance is the sin of the day, and curses this otherwise beautiful country, the deplorable specimens of humanity to be seen here daily, tell most unmistakably of Rum's doings. Visit for instance Dartmouth Prison, on Cockatoo Island, or any of the numerous Asylums in and about Sydney, without mentioning the Police Courts, and one is shocked and sick at heart. No nation, perhaps, ever had so many male and female drunkards. But you may well say, enough of this.

And now, my dear sir, will you not use your influence to send us the required Charters and Documents, and the blessing of those who are ready to perish will no doubt come upon you. You have fought well in Nova Scotia, and success has crowned your efforts. And although you are so far in advance of us here at the antipodes, nevertheless we must buckle on the harness, for the work must be done. I only regret that we cannot receive your very valuable advice and co-operation, but this the vast oceans which roll between us forbid in a great measure.

How does the cause of religion prosper in your midst? We have no good thing to say of ourselves here; pure religion is at a very low ebb. The Wesleyans have been greatly revived of late by a visit from the Rev. William Taylor, of California. Hundreds profess conversion under his preaching. He has frequently preached to five, ten, and fifteen thousand on the Domain, on Sabbath afternoons, and from week to week in the evening in the open air, the Domain being lit up with gas for the purpose. But unfortunately our Baptists stand aloof from their influence. I am sorry to say too, many, not believing that appeals are to be made to the unconverted, consequently when these ultra views are held and propagated, but little advancement can be expected.

Now, my dear Brother, this is one great barrier to the prosperity of the Baptist cause in New South Wales, but I am happy to say that in Victoria they are getting more out of their dead state, and begin to show some signs

of life and animation. The doctrine and practice of the Baptists here is vastly different from that class in Nova Scotia, where you are 50 years in advance. In consequence of this high doctrine many of the Baptists and some whole churches have gone over to the opposite principles of Campbellism, so-called, and have made a worse exchange. The principles of open communion and hyper-Calvinism have done the work of destruction and are still doing it. I cannot point out an exception to this amongst any of the Baptist Churches, unless I go to those of the other extreme, for whom I have no fellowship. When this state of things will subside and give place to a better state, I cannot divine. Our only hope is in the Almighty, who can turn and overturn till He whose right it is to reign shall reign from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

The Christmas season has been celebrated by all the public schools and societies of Sydney with the usual number of picnic excursions, all of which passed off pleasantly. The largest of the season was the Non-vested National School. Some fatal accidents, as usual, attended the Regatta. The Sons of Temperance are to have a public demonstration on the anniversary of the Colony, by an excursion to Windsor and Richmond by railway. Six hundred tickets have been sold, and as many more might be if the carriages could be obtained, but this cannot be realized, as it is the great day for other Societies and pleasure-seekers. The people in this Colony are noted for holidays and amusements. This absorbs nearly everything. Besides the public ones there is, we will say, every Monday for one class,—these are the laboring classes, so-called; then Tuesday for the aristocracy to visit the watering places; and then Saturday afternoon for all, when nearly all the stores are closed.

Yours truly,

WM. HOBBS.

For the Christian Messenger.

The "Medium Institutions."

DEAR SIR,

You last contains two reports of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's Speech at Dalhousie College, one taken from the *Sun*, the other from the *Presbyterian Witness*. They do not greatly resemble each other.

According to the *Sun*, while his Excellency expressed his regret that our resources were not combined in establishing a "central university," he stated that "the day has gone by for the founding of a provincial institution," inasmuch as the denominational colleges, which have been long in existence, "are now prospering." So far, so good. His Excellency is quite right. The day has gone by. The other denominations cling to their own colleges, the Presbyterians only taking hold of Dalhousie, which under such circumstances, is not and cannot be a provincial university.

According to the *Witness* his Excellency said that "he could not conceive how any friend of education could be jealous of Dalhousie." His Excellency has been misinformed. I know of no one who is "jealous of Dalhousie." It is indeed a general opinion among other denominations that it would have been better if the Governors of that College had not negotiated with the Presbyterians, and thus contributed to place them in a false position. But Dalhousie has not been exalted thereby, so as to excite "jealousy." If any such feeling exists, it relates to the Presbyterians, who so "adroitly" contrived to become partners in a wealthy concern, yielding them large profits.

His Excellency further remarked, if the *Witness* is to be credited, that "one good establishment is better than six medium institutions." Doubtless:—I agree with the Lieutenant Governor. But then, as his Excellency also said, and as everybody knows, "the time has gone by for the founding of a provincial institution."

"Medium Institutions!" Perhaps so. They will not bear comparison with the magnificent establishments of Australia. The Hall of the University of New South Wales, at Sydney, exceeds, I am told, in size and splendour, any thing of the kind even in the old country. The literary standing of the Australian Institutions, I dare say, is of a highly respectable character. Compared with them, the Colleges of Nova Scotia exhibit, at best, but "medium" excellence.

I am glad, however, to see that his Excellency places them all on the same level. There are "six medium institutions," namely, Kings, Dalhousie, St. Mary's, St. Francis Xavier's, Acadia, and Mount Allison. Dalhousie enjoys the supposed advantage of a location in the metropolis, and is sustained by a substantial endowment and the whole strength of Presbyterian support; yet it is only a "medium" institution. The other Colleges are as good as Dalhousie.

I hope they will all try to do better. I trust that there will be as much energy and ambition displayed that such an expression as "medium institutions" will cease to be fairly applicable. Acadia's sons, I fancy, will be of one mind in this matter. The motto of their *Alma Mater* must be "Excelsior."

The "Act to enlarge the powers of the Trustees, Governors, and Fellows of Acadia College," which received the royal assent on the 31st ult., places the Academy (now termed the "Horton Collegiate Academy") under their control. A sub-committee has been appointed to take special charge of it. The Female Branch of the Academy requires particular attention at this time. The necessity for a new building is generally acknowledged. There will be an appeal to the denomination in this subject. Serious responsibility rests upon us. We have now the opportunity of taking a bold step in connection with the education of the country. Future generations will bless us if we prove faithful, and generous, and persevering.

Yours,

A GOVERNOR OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

April 15, 1865.

P.S.—It is reported here that the friends of the Government have advised them to demand payment of the £5000 lent to Dalhousie in 1822. That would be a very popular measure in Annapolis and Kings Counties.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 19, 1865.

MURDER OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

THE community of Halifax were startled and greatly shocked on Saturday morning, by a telegraph despatch from New York, announcing the assassination of President Lincoln in the Theatre at Washington, on the preceding evening, by a man of the name of Wilkes Booth, a playactor. It appears from subsequent telegrams given in another column, that the assassin got access to the President's box at the theatre, where he was sitting with Mrs. Lincoln and others, and placing a pistol to his head, discharged it with fatal though not immediate effect. Mr. Lincoln survived until Saturday morning, when he expired. Another desperado, no doubt an accomplice, proceeded at the same time, to the house of Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, then lying dangerously ill, and being admitted into his bedroom under pretence of having some medicine for him, inflicted several severe, though it is hoped not mortal, stabs in his neck and head. Mr. Seward's son was stabbed at the same time supposed to be by the same man. The perpetrator of this horrible crime on Mr. Lincoln is said to be a New England man, but nothing has yet transpired as to his motives, whether personal or political.

It is long since a deed of this kind has been perpetrated upon persons high in power and office in the civilized world, and it is one which all, who possess the common instincts of humanity, will, with one voice, unite in reprobating. Whatever may have been the conflicting views of Mr. Lincoln's public character, amid the strife of parties that have unhappily prevailed among our neighbors of the Union, we believe him to have been, in private life an amiable and honest man, and we deeply deplore his sudden and tragic end.

On the reception of the news in town, the flags on the Citadel and at Government House were lowered to half-mast, as a becoming token of regret for the sad event and the heavy misfortune which has befallen a friendly Power.

It will not be expected that we shall be able to give even a summary of the debate in the Assembly on the Union of the Colonies. The resolution laid on the table of the House on Wednesday, March 22nd, had reference to a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces, as the only thing practicable under existing circumstances. It is therefore scarcely a test as to the question of Confederation with all the British North American Provinces. Even this—Confederation—many of the present opponents do not pretend to object to, as an ultimate measure at some time,—the opposition is principally to a consummation of Union forthwith, on the basis of the Quebec Conference.

Confederation is, of course, a very complicated question, and both its advocates and opponents mix up other matters with it, and mean other things besides that, by the views they espouse and express. The speeches in parliament, notwithstanding that they have only the lesser Union under

consideration, have elicited the views of the advocates of Confederation, and also those opposed to them, the same as if it were on the question of the larger Union.

The speech of the Hon. Provincial Secretary occupied the whole of Monday evening last week. Mr. Annand occupied the afternoon and Mr. Archibald the evening session of Tuesday. These are pretty fully given by the official reporter, and may doubtless be obtained *in extenso* from other quarters, and will be read by those who desire to do so. There is unquestionably a strong conviction on the minds of a large proportion of the members, that their constituencies, to a large extent, either object to Confederation altogether, or are unprepared to sustain them in voting for it.

The friends of the measure appear no less confident that when it comes to be fully examined and when the opinions of the people are formed on an intelligent view of the present position and future prospects of the provinces, they will perceive that Confederation is but the accomplishment of what has been sought by all the leading men in Britain and British America for many years past. We are glad to have the opportunity of giving information in reference to this matter, and we believe that our readers are equally desirous of obtaining it, so that whether they decide that it will be better for us to remain as we are, or, to join our fortunes with our sister British American provinces, they will do so from personal conviction rather than from the dictation of other people.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION.—We find that the visit of Professor Agassiz to Brazil, noticed a week or two since, is of a more extensive character than we had supposed. The *N. Y. World* mentions the names of several scientific gentlemen who are accompanying him. Prof. A. takes his wife, Dr. Cotting and his wife, Mr. Burkhardt, Messrs. Anthony, Leaver, Hartt, (Mr. C. Frederick Hartt, spoken of last summer in connection with a geological survey of Nova Scotia,) St. John, Allen, and James. They propose going up the river Amazon, and afterwards in boats to the Andes. They expect to separate into two parties at Rio Janeiro. The Trustees of the Massachusetts Museum of Comparative Zoology are enabled to spend \$24,000 this year out of the interest of their splendid endowments. In addition to this, Mr. N. Thayer, of Boston, has offered to defray all the expenses of this party of exploration. It is expected that the Emperor of Brazil will render the party essential service as he has before shewn his interest in the Museum. We shall look with deep interest for their progress and return.

We have received a copy of the Constitution and Byelaws, with a list of the members, of the "Inland Fisheries and Game Protection Society." The following is a general Summary of the Laws in reference to the protection of Moose, Cariboo and Birds:

"No person, or any number of persons together, shall kill more than FIVE Moose or Cariboo, during any one year or season; under a penalty of \$20 for each offence—one-half to the informer.

"No person whatever, shall set snares or traps, for Moose or Cariboo, under a penalty of \$20,—one-half to the informer.

"All Moose and Cariboo are protected from 15th February 1st September, under a penalty of \$20,—one-half to the informer.

"Cow Moose are protected from 1st January to 1st September, under a penalty of \$20,—one-half to the informer.

"No person whatever, shall buy Moose or Cariboo meat, or have it in his possession, from first day of March to 1st of September, under a penalty of \$20."

"Partridges, Snipe, and Woodcock, are protected from 1st day of March to 1st of September,—Penalty Ten Shillings for every bird killed out of season.

"No person is permitted to have any of the above in his possession in the close season, under a penalty of Ten Shillings for each.

One of our friends in Australia has sent us a copy of *The Illustrated Sydney News*, December 16th 1864, a really handsome paper similar in size, style of illustration and letter-press to the *London Illustrated News*. Some idea may be gained from it of the progress of Art in that southern portion of the British Dominions. It has a handsome first page Christmas picture, and a number of other well-executed wood cuts, representing the scenery and public buildings of the country. Although the seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, and that festival occurs with them about midsummer, instead of midwinter, as in the northern hemisphere, yet there, nevertheless, the people do not forget the festivities of the season. They can, however, indulge in pic-nics, school excursions, and other open air enjoyments instead of our fireside sociabilities.