

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

On the Exposition of John iii. 5.

MR. EDITOR,

By the *Christian Messenger* of 15th of Feb. (just come to hand) I perceive that Bro. Goucher, has put a meaning to my Exposition of John iii. 5., which I never intended it to convey, nor do I think it will bear; He says; "he appears to suggest the idea of two regenerations, pertaining to one soul;" what I said was; "the work of the Spirit, is not an independent work, but is performed in connection with, and following the work of the Word;" and this I still hold to be true. I also said the Saviour used the word water, figuratively, denoting the Word; this I still believe; for the following reasons:

1st. Because He had already taught the need of the new birth.

2ndly. Because He was then explaining the manner of it, or rather the means by which it was effected.

3rdly. Because the whole language here used is figurative,—a change of heart, is called a new birth—the word—water; the life giving spirit—air.

4thly. Because the text points to water and the spirit as means, "Except a man be born by means of water, and the air, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"; both these are figurative, therefore one would not be used as explanatory of the other, as Bro. Goucher's rendering of the text would make it. I cannot think Bro. G's reasons for taking the secondary meaning of "kai," instead of the primary and usually received one sufficient. The 1st. is unsatisfactory, because it implies that any other rendering, and exposition teaches two regenerations, which is not the case. The 2nd. because the Lord was not teaching Nicodemus concerning the giving of life,—a new birth. The 3rd. because though the secondary meaning is required in 1 Cor. xv. 24, it cannot be allowed in Rev. i. 8; there being a great difference between the Son delivering up the Kingdom to His Father—God; and making us kings and priests to God—to himself—and His Father. The 4th. because it was neither necessary; or becoming in those to whom the word was entrusted, to say anything of its part in a work, which could only be wrought by the Holy Spirit, according to the will of God.

I must therefore still abide by the authorized version. And taking the following passages in connection with John iii. 5., I still think I am right in saying the water there meant, is the teachings of the word, which must precede the Holy Spirit's work; "That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." "He leadeth me beside the still waters." March 10th, 1865. H.

For the Christian Messenger.

BAPTISM.

Extracts from eminent Pedobaptist writers.

No. 1.

JOHN WESLEY.

"He being dead yet speaketh." "Their rock is not as our rock, even our enemies themselves being judges." John Wesley, a faithful scholar and one of the world's most devoted, conscientious and successful christians, was a baptist, or rather administered the ordinance of baptism by immersion. While a missionary in Savannah, "He refused the Lord's Supper to dissenters, unless they would be rebaptized, insisted upon immersion in the rite of baptism."—See *Encyclopedia Americana*, article, Wesley. In the same article we learn that he was the author of an *Ecclesiastical History*. The original work, not a reprint, is before me. Here is the title page: "A concise *Ecclesiastical History*, from the birth of Christ, to the beginning of the present century. In four volumes. Vol. 1. Printed by J. Faramore, at the Foundry, Moorfields; and sold at the New Chapel, in the City-Road; and at the Rev. Mr. Wesley's Preaching-houses in town and country, 1781." This was ten years before his death. The history is marked with but little originality. It is mostly a translation and an abridgement of two former pedobaptist historians: Dr. Mosheim, and Dr. McLaine. It is however the transcript of Mr. Wesley's own views in *Ecclesiastical History*. Under Century First, Rites and Ceremonies, Chap. IV. Sec. VIII. Mr. Wesley says,— "The sacrament of baptism was administered in this century, in places appointed for that purpose, and was performed by immersion of

the whole body in the water. At first it was usual that the converts should be baptized and received into the church by those, under whose ministry they had embraced the christian doctrine. But when the christian churches were well established, the right of baptizing was vested in the bishop alone. This right, indeed, he conferred upon the presbyters and chorepiscopi, or country bishops, when the bounds of the church were enlarged, reserving to himself the confirmation of the baptism."

Again Century Second, Chap. IV. Sec. IX. "The sacrament of baptism was administered publicly twice every year, at the festivals of Easter and Pentecost, or Whitesuntide, either by the bishop, or the presbyters, in consequence of his appointment. The persons that were to be baptized, after they had repeated the Creed, confessed and renounced their sins, and particularly the devil, and his works, were immersed under water, and received into Christ's kingdom by a solemn invocation of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, according to the express command of our blessed Lord."

Mr. Wesley tells us the Lord's Supper was administered to infants during the second century, but up to this time, and later, he nowhere finds that infants were baptized, nor is there a word about any other baptism than by immersion.

D. O. PARKER.

Arbordale, March 14th, 1865.

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISITS.

A large number of kind friends visited us at our dwelling on the 7th February, and after a very social season spent in pleasing conversation and an excellent tea, presented us with a purse containing forty-six dollars in cash; and other articles to the amount of twenty-one dollars, making in all \$67, for which very handsome donation may the Lord reward them seven-fold in the things of this life, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Brother W. G. Parker was with us, and added to the entertainment of the evening, by delivering an excellent speech. We parted, feeling how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Yours in Christian love,  
PEREZ F. MURRAY.

My friends in Hantsport, Brooklyn and Avonport made us a very agreeable Donation Visit on the tenth of February. A large number attended. The amount in cash was \$26.90, in household goods \$139.60. Amongst the articles were two barrels of flour, a good buffalo robe, and a new sleigh of the first style. We offer most sincere thanks to our many friends.

WM. BURTON.

Hantsport, March 16, 1865.

Dear Brother,—

It gives me great pleasure thus publicly to acknowledge the kindness of the members of my church and congregation who visited me on the 8th of February,—though the day was stormy and unpropitious,—and presented me with a generous Donation of \$100, \$60 of which was cash. Other donations to a considerable amount have since been received from persons who could not attend on the day named. To all these friends I tender heartfelt thanks for their continued kindness and confidence; and pray that the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ may be received by each of them.

Respectfully yours,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

Bridgetown.

On the 8th of February, the Church and friends at Clements, met at Capt. James Gilliatt's (who kindly opened his house for our benefit,) to express their kind regards to their young Pastor. Although the evening was very stormy, yet a good representation of the church and community was present. After spending some time in profitable exercises, the chair was taken by Deacon Aaron Chute, who in a very appropriate address, presented the Pastor a donation of \$169.67. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, many were not able to be present, so that four evenings have been spent since in Donations, amounting in all to \$211. So you see, kind friends, I have received a shower of donations, they have not consisted in meats and drinks only, but in other articles worth having, \$50 in cash, a fine cooking stove, a good harness, worth \$24, five nice bed quilts, five excellent blankets, with other articles of superior quality. May God bless the donors. I think donations are very good things, and perhaps I am not alone in this way of thinking. Ministers who have received a Donation Visit with many others are forced to endorse this sentiment.

Yours,  
G. D. COX.

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

HANDFORD DENTON.

Died February 20th, 1865, was born at Centerville, Digby Neck, June 21st, 1837. In his early youth his godly parents taught him the

great truth, "ye must be born again." Nor were their teachings in vain. The Holy Spirit made use of these instrumentalities to discover to him that salvation is of grace, by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Heavenly teacher at the same time gave to him a disposition to receive Christ as his prophet, priest and king. As an evidence of which he believed and was baptized. Bro. Denton united with the First Baptist Church of Digby Neck, April, 1855. In 1860, he went to the Normal School, Truro. And on the 28th March, 1861, graduated in class B as a First Class Teacher. He often made grateful mention of the Rev. Dr. Forrester, and T. H. Rand, Esq., as well as other kind friends whom he met with while at Truro. He returned to Digby Neck, and in the Autumn of 1861, opened a school at Little River, in which he taught the youth with extraordinary success. Last fall he received a First Class Certificate of the Examiners at Digby, and immediately recommenced operations at the River, with the determination to advance his school to the position of a Superior one. It is thought by persons who are qualified to judge that he had accomplished his purpose. Had he lived two weeks longer, the tests would have been applied by our worthy County Inspector. But his Heavenly Father suddenly called him home, having doubtless provided better things for him.

A sermon was preached on the day of our brother's burial to a large and deeply sympathizing congregation. And on the following sabbath an address was delivered to the school which two weeks previous enjoyed the presence of an affectionate and faithful christian teacher. It was truly a solemn and I trust profitable season. Bro. Denton though dead will continue for a long time to come, to live in the memory and affections of the young people and children whom he has been training for the last four years. His interesting and instructive addresses in the Sabbath School will never be forgotten. Bro. Denton has left an aged mother behind, who rejoices that she has a young son in heaven. And the brothers and sisters of the departed find that their cup of sorrow is sweetened by the same consideration.

J. C. M.

Sandy Cove, March 14th, 1865.

LEANDER DAVISON.

Died at Halifax, Dec. 29th, 1864, Leander Davison, the only son of Mrs. Samuel Davison, residing in Five Islands, aged 23 years. His death was occasioned by exposure at sea. He was much esteemed, though he had not made a public profession of faith in Christ, yet he possessed a kind, meek and modest disposition, and we charitably hope he has entered into that rest which remaineth for the people of God. May the Lord comfort his afflicted mother and sister, and may all his young acquaintances consider their latter end.—Communicated by Rev. James Reid.

Gone as the summer rose that gave  
Its fragrance to the breeze;  
Gone as the balmy breath that moves,  
The leafy forest trees;  
Gone as the ripple on the stream,  
Goes to the farthest shore;  
Gone as the generations go  
To come again no more!

His stay was brief with kindred ones,  
But not too brief to shew,  
That goodness, gentleness and love,  
Did in his nature flow;  
And kindness, soberness and thought—  
In many minds so dim;  
Were crowning features of his life,  
They sweetly shone in him.

The Hand on high forever has  
In mystic motion moved,  
It takes those first to dwell above,  
Most loving and most loved!  
And is it not that heaven may seem,  
To us more lovely, fair,  
Because it holds our sweetest joys,  
Our dearest ones are there!

The richest birds are first to fly,  
Unto a sunny land;  
The sweetest flowers are soonest touched,  
By Autumn's chilly hand;  
The richest of the harvest ears,  
Are first to fade and fall;  
The ripest fruit is soonest strown,  
Outside the orchard wall.

'Twas thus Leander went away,  
From out the cottage home,—  
The cottage home is lonely now,  
His footsteps do not come!  
A light that shone so gently there,  
Is ever gone away—  
A light to join and sweetly blend,  
With the eternal ray.

The flowers the angels gather here,  
They plant them in the skies;  
To grow in beauty and to bloom,  
Beneath the Father's eyes;  
Thy son, thy brother, aye shall live,  
A blossom pure of bliss;  
Safe from the cares, and storms, and ills,  
Of such a world as this.

May comfort in some saintly way,  
Come to the stricken hearts;  
That meek submission and that joy,  
Which Love Divine imparts!  
May they love much the land afar,  
So pleasant and so fair;  
And meet at last some happy day,  
Their son and brother there.

S. O. F.

Westbrook, Feb. 15th, 1865.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 21st.

Mr. King presented four petitions against Confederation.

Mr. Blanchard one for a way office. Mr. Bill three praying that no immediate action be taken in reference to Confederation.

Mr. Allison one in reference to a dam. Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table a report from Mr. Perley on Mabou Harbor.

Mr. S. McDonnell and Mr. Blanchard spoke in favor of the same.

Hon. Mr. Shannon presented the petition of W. C. Silver and others in Halifax, in reference to the license law in the city of Halifax.

Mr. P. Symth presented a petition against the Union of the Colonies and the School Bill.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table statements explanatory of the financial position of Canada, and a comparison thereof with the position of the other British North American Colonies, issued by the Department of the Minister of Finance, Canada.

*Bear River Bridge.*—Mr. Archibald presented a petition from Bear River praying the House not to take any further steps towards the completion of a bridge on the ground that it was an obstruction to the navigation of the river. The hon. gentleman, stated that he knew nothing about the locality in question, but he felt that the House had a right to attach no considerable weight to the statements of a petition that was so largely signed. If it were true that the bridge was an obstruction to the trade and ship-building at the place in question, that its importance as a harbour of refuge was injured, then the prayer of the petitioners was deserving of most serious consideration.

Mr. S. Campbell said that in his opinion the erection of the bridge had been premature; it was a nuisance which parties affected by it could abate if they pleased. It might be said that it was proposed to have a draw constructed on the river, but that did not meet the difficulty without legislation, for the people on it were entitled to its entire use.

Mr. Longley regretted that his hon. colleague was not present, as he was more intimately acquainted with the subject than himself; but he would state for the information of the House that the bridge was not only an advantage to one, but to two or three counties. He believed it saved some seven or eight miles on one of the most hilly roads in the province. Persons had been detained at the ferry for hours, and at times passed over at the hazard of their lives. He was of opinion that the majority of the people were in favour of the bridge, and that it did not interfere to any serious extent with the rights or interests of individuals.

Hon. Atty. Gen. said that the subject of building the bridge had been before the House for twelve years. It was urged as a great public necessity to the travelling public in the west and not with reference to the convenience of some few individuals in Digby or Annapolis. He had himself been detained for some hours at the ferry, and knew the bridge was most desirable. The same objection that had been raised in the present instance could be urged with reference to the bridge at New Glasgow, where a far larger number of vessels were built. He was inclined to doubt if the availability of the place as a harbor of refuge had been destroyed.

Mr. Blanchard said that the question to consider was, whether the government ought to invade the rights of private individuals? He contended that the parties had rights which could not be set aside without the constitutional and legal course having been taken. The New Glasgow bridge had been put up long before a ship was built above it; but the petitioners declared the erection of the bridge at Bear River was positively injurious to the interests that now existed. They had a perfect right to the free navigation of the river. He knew an instance of a bridge having been built across the Bras d'Or and an individual came and destroyed it, and it was never rebuilt.

Hon. Mr. McFarlane considered that a draw in the bridge would answer all the requirements of the people, and alluded to the fact that there were numerous rivers all over the face of the Province where bridges actually crossed even the mouth. He considered that private rights should give way to the public interests. He was curious to know why they did not express their sentiments at the time it was about being constructed and before any large expenditure of public money had been incurred.

Mr. Archibald said it was the duty of the government, under existing circumstances, to find out how far the statements of the petitioners were correct, and be governed accordingly.

Mr. Miller was not at all surprised at the discussion, for he looked upon it as a result of the policy of last session. The House had before it the question of a great public work, and in order to carry it, it was necessary to subsidize the western counties. Had the money for this erection which appeared to cause such great dissatisfaction been expended in the St. Peter's Canal, he was sure no complaints would have arisen.

Mr. Longley said the strong claims that the undertaking had upon the western members had secured the grant for its construction. He thought it was only a minority that was at the head of the present movement, and that a very large majority were in favour of the erection. In looking at the petition he found that it only contained 253 names of persons who, as he conceived, had any right to express any opinion. He was quite sure that 1000 names might easily have been got in the same populous district in