

For the Christian Messenger.

John Wesley once more!

DEAR BROTHER,—

Some of our Wesleyan brethren are sorely grieved at our references to Mr. Wesley's remarks on baptism. Attempts are made to lessen the force of his testimony. It is said that he was a young man when he wrote those passages in his Journal. It is even hinted that he and other Pædobaptist writers were "careless" in the use of expressions on this subject!

I am accused also of inattention to dates. Mr. Wesley's "Notes on the New Testament," I am told, were published in 1754. But it is forgotten that Mr. Wesley revised his "Notes" in 1788, three years before his death. The edition from which I have quoted is expressly declared to contain those "Manuscript corrections of the author":—So that Mr. Wesley stated, in 1788, that the Apostle alluded, in Rom. vi. 3, 4, to "the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion."

But the "ancient manner," it is said, on the other side, was the proselyte baptism of the Jews, which is well known to have been immersion. True, it was immersion; but it did not exist in the time of the Apostle. I re-affirm this, at the risk of being again charged with uttering falsehood, by certain zealots of the above mentioned persuasion, in this neighbourhood, who are as destitute of courtesy as they seem to be of Christianity.

Your readers will observe that the Apostle is speaking of himself and of the believers at Rome:—"We are buried with him by baptism." Now, neither he nor they had received proselyte baptism, even supposing it to have been in existence. Their baptism was Christian baptism, and the language employed establishes the fact, as Commentators of all denominations confess, that that baptism was immersion.

It is sometimes said that we make an improper use of Pædobaptist concessions. "You represent these great men," it is remarked, "as witnesses for immersion, whereas they never practised it: they poured or sprinkled all their lives." So much the worse! They could not deny that the Apostolic baptism was immersion; yet they conformed to the customs of the denominations with which they were connected. Whence they derived their authority for so conforming—on what grounds they assumed a dispensing power—I do not now stop to inquire.

Yours, &c., J. M. CRAMP. Acadia College, Feb. 24, 1866.

Christian Messenger.

HALFAX, FEBRUARY 28, 1866.

Our United States exchanges indicate that a powerful work of grace is being experienced in many places in that Country. The Michigan Christian Herald, one of the most western religious papers we receive, contains notices of revival in many Churches. One of these states:

"The interest in the meeting here is deepening and extending with great power. Strong men of forty and fifty years are moving. Last night several such stood and cried out in bitterness of soul, 'Mea and brethren, what shall we do?' I have not in several years seen such evident display of Divine Power."

When shall we hear of such a state in all our churches in this land?

The Editor of the Presbyterian Witness, instead of giving his readers information on the point we suggested, respecting Unrestricted Communion, indulges in flinging "hard" names. He seems to think the term "hard-shell" so opprobrious, that it will answer his purpose to apply to the Baptist Churches of this Continent who practise restricted Communion. But he should know the meaning of words—even slang words—before he uses them, unless he is desirous of nursing the narrow prejudices of the ignorant. "Hard-shell," as used in the United States, is only applied to those who oppose missionary operations, educational institutions, the payment of salaries to ministers, &c., and has not the most remote reference to communion. We shall not return his opprobrious language, as we do not apprehend that he would, by that means, be convinced of his errors or inconsistencies. We do not admit the term, as at all applicable to ourselves, or to the great body of Baptists in the British Provinces, the United States, and the large numbers in Great Britain practising Restricted Communion. In deed we think he might find as many really "hard-shell" Presbyterians as Baptists in Nova Scotia.

Notwithstanding what we mentioned to the contrary last week, the editor of the Witness presumes to assert that "Presbyterians ac-

knowledge the validity of Baptism as administered by Baptists." We might reply, Yes, and so do Presbyterians acknowledge the validity of Roman Catholic baptism; but we do not see that to be any reason why we should therefore acknowledge infant sprinkling, either by a Presbyterian minister, or a Catholic Priest, to be Christian baptism, whilst we believe the New Testament teaches the contrary. Our contemporary also takes upon himself to assert that the conduct of a Presbyterian minister who 'sprinkled' a member of the Baptist Church "would not be sustained by our Presbyteries and Synods." Will he please to define the "our," to which he has reference. Such general terms may answer his purpose, but they admit of much evasion. As he seems so anxious to know all about those ana-baptizing Presbyterians we noticed, we promise to give him "all the particulars of the case" if he will call at our office for that purpose. He professes to be in blissful ignorance of hostilities in "the Presbyterian family." He might without any very great effort recall some things of that nature not many months ago in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island. We do not care to refer to all the subjects of these "misunderstandings," but it may not be improper to ask if there were no animadversions indulged in, a short time ago, because one Presbyterian minister chose to administer baptism, so-called, to the children of those belonging to another charge than his own? and, if we mistake not, under discipline. Thus wishing to deprive the poor little babe of its privileges, because of the contumacy of its parents.

The question of Communion is not one of so great difficulty that our contemporary need shirk it, or try to evade it by a side issue. As he has taken the trouble to interfere so unceremoniously with Baptists, because "Country Parson" exhibited one of the unfavorable phases of open communion, we will give him an opportunity of ventilating his Presbyterian church order in such case, and we shall soon see who are the more consistent; and surely "Consistency is a jewel" no less in religion than in politics. Let him then fairly and honestly reply to the two following questions:

First, Do Presbyterians offer Unrestricted Communion to all, without regard to baptism or church relationship?

Secondly, If a member be excluded, for some irregularity, from one branch of the Presbyterian "family," and be subsequently received into another, is he, or is he not, by virtue of his membership, entitled to communion with the one from which he was excluded?

If our contemporary will define his position on these points, without cavilling or railery, he will shew whether it leads to open or restricted communion. A large proportion of the members of every Presbyterian church, if infant baptism makes them members,—and if it does not, what does it do for them?—are not allowed to participate in their observance of the Lord's Supper!

Without such free communion as our neighbour wishes to impose on Baptists, we believe there is far more of Christian love and fellowship between Baptists and members of other denominations, without interfering with Church privileges, than there is between some branches of "the Presbyterian family," of which he speaks.

New Publications.

THE WESTERN PULPIT is a new monthly magazine, published in Chicago, intended to be a Theological Miscellany, devoted to the Purity and Power of the Ministry and the Spiritual Improvement and Harmony of all Christian Believers; edited by five ministers of as many different denominations. The January number contains: 1. An excellent sermon on "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." 2. A valuable article on "Union of Christian Believers." 3. A paper, full of suggestions on "Religious Revivals." 4. An outline of a sermon on "Peace and safety in God." It may be had for \$1.25 per annum.

The February No. of the SUNDAY MAGAZINE is, as usual, full of good things, calculated to make christians better men and women, and to reflect their goodness on the world around them.

Good Words for February is a marvel of cheap literature, and not merely cheap, but every article is highly interesting and instructive and worth ten times the same amount of trash now so common everywhere.

A DISCOURSE ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF THE REV. ISAAC CHASE, D. D., by Wm. Hagus, D. D. The service rendered to the cause of Christian truth, by Professor Chase demands

more than a passing notice. This discourse would supply material for much profitable reflection. We shall, however, reserve it and probably speak of it more at length at some future time.

Our thanks are due to Judge Marshall for a copy of his "TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES TO THEIR DIVINE INSPIRATION." Our worthy friend is always at work on something valuable in Religion or Temperance. In this pamphlet, published in London for gratuitous circulation, he combats the errors taught by Bishop Colenso, and gives an excellent epitome of the arguments, and passages of scripture, by which the Bible is known to be the Word of God given by Divine Inspiration for the instruction and salvation of men.

MURDOCH'S HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA, No. 12, contains the account of further proceedings in the settlement of the province after the fall of Quebec. The particulars are given of the proclamation of George the Third at Halifax, in 1761.

LE NOUVEAU MONDE, a new French Protestant weekly paper, under the management of the Rev. N. Cyr, is to be commenced on the 1st of April. Subscription \$3.00 a year. Office, 7 Beekman Street, New York. It is to be the collective work of evangelical religion as professed by the leading American churches.

The "Canadian Messenger" is another marvel of cheapness in modern literature. A semi-monthly paper, published at the "Montreal Witness" office for 25 cents a year.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB shews that the institution sustains the same efficiency it has held for several years past, under its worthy Directors and its indefatigable Principal. Forty-seven pupils received the benefits of the Asylum during the year,—some from almost every county in the Province, three from Prince Edward Island, and five from New Brunswick. The income of the year has not been quite equal to the expenditure. The Report informs us that besides the Legislative Grant it requires at least \$2400 to meet the yearly demands of the establishment. It is well worthy the enlarged patronage of the public.

We learn from the Visitor that Donation Visits have been paid to several of our New Brunswick brethren. Rev. Thos. Todd, Rev. W. A. Corey, and Rev. John Rowe are among the happy recipients.

NEWS SUMMARY.

The new Reform Bill to be introduced by Earl Russell is the chief subject which fills the English papers. With the exception of some of the subordinate offices there are few changes in the Ministry. The press is still much occupied with the discussion of Jamaica affairs, and it is thought that warm debates will arise on the subject in the House of Commons.

Europe seems unusually quiet at present. The attempted insurrection in Spain has been quieted, but their Government has got into a war with the South American state of Chili, one of its ancient Provinces, in which, however, the Chilian Republic seems as yet to have obtained the advantage.

The news from the East is favorable. The war in New Zealand appears to be virtually at an end, not, however, before costing Great Britain a serious loss both in men and money.

Our Provincial Parliament have assembled and are getting to work in good earnest. As will be seen in another column, the Address was disposed of on the second day of the session, and the Western Railway extension made the order of the day for Monday. The remarks made on the correspondence, being laid before the House of Assembly, indicate that this work is to be shortly put into active operation. Our readers being largely interested in the Western railway, we have given as full a report of those remarks as our space will permit. We shall doubtless have opportunities of again noticing some of the contents of those documents.

NOTICES, &c.

The next Lecture before the above society, will be delivered by PROFESSOR D. F. HIGGINS, M. A., in the Vestry of the Baptist Church, Wolfville, on Friday evening, March 2nd, at 7 o'clock.

CONNECTION. The Secretary of Foreign Missionary Board desires us to correct the amount acknowledged from the Ulag Church. The \$8 being in Union Bank Notes, it should have been credited that amount in N. S. currency, and it is done in the accounts.

Acadia College. A Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in the Library on Tuesday, March 20, at two o'clock, P. M. A Meeting of the Academy Committee will be held at the same time. S. W. DeBlouis, Secretary. Feb. 24, 1866.

REPOSITORY OF LETTERS RECEIVED.

J. Frost, \$5. Jos. Read, \$2. I sub. Handley Starratt, Esq., \$2 pays 1866. D. Mosher, Esq., \$8. B. L. Telfer, \$2.50. A. Marshall, Esq., \$5. Rev. Dr. Tupper.—Yes.—Please also pay Mr. Spinnery \$4, received from L. Johnson, Esq., and charge to acct.—Also for Foreign Missions \$1.25, from Miss Jane Olding. W. Gates, \$2. J. Lantz, \$11.50. Ward Eaton, Esq., \$8. R. Harris, Esq., \$6. J. F. Masters, Esq., \$2. Rev. J. McKenne. W. H. Webster, \$5. Wm. Eaton, \$1. S. Wheelock, \$4. W. R. Doty, \$1. J. B. McNutt, Esq., \$9. W. Aymar, Esq., \$10. G. Whitley. C. H. Harrington, Esq. Rev. J. F. Tooker, 1 sub. D. Smith, Senr. T. H. Patton, \$3.50. D. DeLong, \$6.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

APPOINTMENTS.—Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax, Feb. 15, 1866.

To be a Notary and Tabellion Public—Douglas B. Woodworth, Attorney at-Law.

Lunenburg Co.—To be an issuer of Marriage Licenses, George Turner, New Ross.

Colchester Co.—To be a Coroner for said County—Elisha Roach, M. D.

Digby Co.—To be a Commissioner of Schools for the District of Digby—John Milberry.

ANNAPOLIS.—The heavy rain on Monday last caused serious freshets in some localities in Annapolis County.

THE TROOPS in this garrison were mustered on the Grand Parade on Friday last, and marched through the city, making a fine demonstration of British physical force.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Thursday last an inmate of the Poor's Asylum named Andrew Bennett fell over the balusters in that institution and soon after died from the effects of the injuries received.—Verdict, Came to his death from a fracture of the vertebre.

DIGBY.—An insane man recently inflicted such serious injuries on a woman by whom he was employed, in Digby, by striking her on the head, that she died shortly after.

PICTOU.—The dwelling of Mr. James Turnbull, Albion Mines, Pictou, was destroyed by fire on last Saturday night. Three lads have been arrested on suspicion of having set fire to the premises.

SYDNEY, C. B.—The News furnishes a neat notice of an eloquent and excellent lecture, delivered before the Sydney Mechanics' Institute, by Mr. Creed, Principal of the Academy in that place, on the "Power of Waiting." The Rev. Roland Morison was announced as the next lecturer. Subject: "Instinct, reason and intelligence, as they constitute the distinct or common property of Man and the Brute Creation."

Y. M. CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—On Tuesday last week, Rev. Mr. Temple gave a very able Lecture on "The Bible, the Greatest Phenomenon of Literature and Modern Thought," before that Association. It was well received and highly appreciated by a large and attentive audience. The Rev. Canon Cochran will occupy the lecturers' stand on March 2nd, and give "More Recollections of Half a Century."

DARTMOUTH.—Geo. Shields, Esq., Police Magistrate, has been presented with a handsome address from the inhabitants of Dartmouth, assuring him of their high appreciation of his efforts in preserving the peace and quiet of the community.

CIVIC.—The Sanitary Committee of the City Council have endorsed the recommendations expressed by the Medical Society, as to the necessity for cleansing the city, removing nuisances, &c.

Mr. T. Rhird is appointed Clerk to the Board of Health. Messrs. Story, Jennings and King, are named as candidates for the seat in the City Council, vacated by Mr. Mumford.

THE LOCKE FAMILY OF LOCKE'S ISLAND.—A correspondent informs the Yarmouth Tribune that a remarkable and interesting gathering of the Locke family took place on New Year's day, under the paternal roof on Locke's Island. The parties were: John, aged 84; Samuel, 92; James, 80; Priscilla, 76; Mary, relict of the late Geo. Cann, aged 70; and Abigail, relict of the late Enos Churchill, Esq., aged 64—aggregating four hundred and fifty-six years—all of whom are at the present time enjoying comparatively robust health, and bid fair to add many more years to an exceedingly useful and honorable life.

ABSENTEES.—Several of the members of the Legislature are not expected to be in their places this session, as follows: Hon. M. B. Almon is in Europe; Hon. S. Chipman is ill at home; Hon. Mr. Comeau is too infirm to attend; Messrs. P. Smyth, Levesconte, and J. McDonald Fin, Secretary, are also among the absentees. The two latter gentlemen are on the delegation to the West Indies and South Americanus need not visit.

ST. JOHN & BOSTON.—We learn that it is intended to commence running the steamers between Boston and St. John, on the 5th of March. This we believe is considerably earlier than usual, and it is to be regretted that it is not intended to commence running the steamers between St. John and Halifax, on the 15th of March.