

gently laid his hand upon the shoulders of the mourning father, and said—
 "Can you believe now, my dear friend, that this spot speaks not of cruelty, but of love?"
 Yes, he could now, though tears prevented him from saying it. God had taken the lesser from him only to make him find the greatest.

ANDREW WHITGIFT.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 4, 1866.

PASTORAL LABOR.

Ministerial work is frequently regarded as comprised principally if not wholly in public preaching the gospel. Sermonizing is supposed to be the great matter to which attention should be given whilst the other part of the ministerial office—the pastoral work—which is surely of no less importance in its results, is, we believe, greatly overlooked, both by ministers themselves and by christian people generally. In the matter of preparation as well as in that of the performance of its exercises the pulpit has usurped a large portion of the ministers' time and attention, and, perhaps because intercourse with his people is not so well defined as public preaching, and liable to be more interferred with and to be controlled by circumstances, that is allowed only the fragments of time left by his more public duties. In times of unusual interest in a church and congregation, we find but little difficulty in speaking to men on matters of personal religion, and urging them to a decision in the service of God; but at other times it is greatly neglected, and often altogether omitted, and yet we look for the results of christian labor, and are often surprised that so little appears. The extent of a minister's usefulness depends much on his ability to present the truths of the gospel to the public in an attractive manner. According to his ability to do this, is his sphere of operation enlarged or diminished; but the fruitfulness of the seed sown and his success in gathering together those who listen to his ministrations, depends more on his personal intercourse with them than on his preaching talents.

It is supposed perhaps by many that no special attention to this department of labor is required, and that the ordinary intercourse of men is sufficient to indicate how a minister shall proceed in his pastoral work. This is probably the cause of much desultory labor, and unprofitable expenditure of time by ministers. A minister must not only let his people know what views he himself holds, and seek to inculcate them, but he should also know what they believe and feel, or he cannot adapt his instructions to their wants and condition. A minister is not merely a lecturer on divine things, but one who should fulfil the office of a shepherd to his hearers, in leading them into the pleasant fields of christian labor and enjoyment, and so far as possible become their counsellor and friend. Whilst we would not undervalue the necessity of his visiting the sick, and performing the rites of burial and marriage when required so to do, yet we think the people of his charge, generally,—those in health, and having the active duties of life pressing on them, especially the feeble and wavering—should not be passed over. It is perhaps the fault of the people as much as it is of the minister that there is not more of freedom in speaking on religious subjects. Many church members would probably be surprised by an enquiry from their own pastor, as to the appreciation of certain truths of the gospel, and their hopes of eternal life. Ministers, we doubt not, often find, by such enquiries, how desirous their hearers have been for opportunities of private personal religious intercourse. Although Baptist churches have no confessionals where the laity may pour into the ear of the priest the story of their delinquencies, and receive from him absolution; or class-meetings for members to relate their religious experience and receive suitable instruction, like some other denominations, yet they may receive benefit by the minister being brought into more intimate relationship than the pulpit affords. This is the principle on which those arrangements are made, and they indicate an acquaintance with human nature in those who adopted them as church practices.

The church is a social appointment of our Lord, and Christian fellowship, to be of any value, must be something more than the fashionable attendance on the public worship of God, and paying respectful attention to a religious discourse two or three times a week. Our Conference meetings are valuable for the purpose of Christian fraternity, but they do

not supersede the necessity for christian intercourse on other occasions, by both minister and people.

Whilst we fully believe in the sovereignty of divine grace, and the need of the Holy Spirit to operate on the human heart to effect any good therein, yet we also believe that God has ordained the use of appropriate means to accomplish his purposes, and no suitable efforts made in humble dependence of Him, will be unattended with his blessing.

We know that all ministers are not apostles, and it is folly to expect all men who are put into the ministry to become extraordinary men, either in labor or success, yet we think a word of exhortation in this respect may not be untimely, and we would therefore respectfully commend the example of the Apostle Paul to general imitation who when he taught at Ephesus, labored "publicly and from house to house," and "ceased not to warn every one night and day, with tears."

THE PRESIDENCY OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

Whatever affects the position of Acadia College is matter of deep interest to our readers, and to the Baptist denomination generally of these provinces. Its operations are intimately connected with the progress of the Church of Christ and the well-being of the present and future generations.

At the late meeting of the Board of Governors, Dr. Cramp intimated his intention of retiring from the duties of the office of President at no very distant period. As we find that a report of this intimation has gone forth beyond the precincts of the Board, we feel that a correct statement of the case may probably be expected from us. We therefore without further hesitation take the liberty of stating, that we believe the intention of Dr. C. above named, has arisen from circumstances in relation to himself alone, personally, and not from any thing which has occurred in connection with the Governors or the Faculty of the College; between whom there is, we believe, the utmost harmony.

If we may be allowed to make use of the knowledge in our possession, Dr. Cramp thinks that the office of President of a College should be held by a man of unabated mental energy and vigor, and of capacity to meet the wants of the times, and that when a person has attained the period of threescore and ten years he becomes, at least physically, unequal to demands such as are made upon him by a conscientious discharge of all the duties of such an office.

Notwithstanding that for some time past Dr. C. has given to the College nearly one half of his own salary, to enable the Governors to secure the services of a fourth Professor, and, by that means to add to the efficiency of the College, he has continued to devote himself unremittingly to the work, with scarcely less of devotion than heretofore; and, so far as known to others, he has, in no way become less active than in former years, yet, being desirous of devoting some time to other labors of an important character, he is unwilling to do so whilst holding the office of President of the College, and gives this intimation of his wish to retire, so that ample time may be afforded for deliberation, before carrying his design into effect.

We cannot here forbear remarking the change which has taken place in the College since our respected friend has been connected with it. We cannot trust ourselves to do more than suggest, that, when he accepted the invitation to Acadia, Professor Isaac Chipman was there, alone, and then, shortly after, he—so much beloved and so adapted for usefulness—was suddenly and mysteriously snatched away from this world of toil and sorrow. The College was then burdened with debt and had but a small number of students, yet its best friends rallied around, and from time to time came to its rescue, until it is now in a fair way of becoming free from embarrassment, and possesses a permanent endowment—although not yet of a sufficient amount, which reflects much credit on those who contributed of their money towards raising it, and others who have been concerned in gathering it up.

THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL closed its Winter Term on Thursday last, the three days previous had been occupied in the examination of Teachers by the gentlemen appointed to that service Rev. Principal Ross, Rev. Dr. Robertson and Professor Higgins. The pupil teachers and a large number of visitors assembled in the spacious rooms of the Normal School at 11, a.m. The Principal Rev. Dr. Forrester gave illustrations of the mode adopted in giving object lessons, bringing out the principles at the foundation of all good teaching. The following list of names was read as the result of the examinations held,

Each of the Examiners made remarks in reference to the basis of their decision and offered words of counsel to the graduating students.

On the invitation of the Principal short addresses were also made by T. H. Rand, the Superintendent of Education, by Mr. S. Selden, and by the Rev. D. W. C. Dimock.

The singing exercises were highly creditable to the students and the lady who presides over that department.

The next term commences on the second Wednesday of May. The Superintendent stated that persons desirous of entering should obtain certificates from the District Examiners at the April examinations.

FIRST CLASS—Male.

John Stewart.....Richmond.
 John R. McDonald.....Icton.
 James H. Eaton.....Annapolis.
 John H. Hicks.....do.
 Isaac Baird.....Colchester.
 John Hollies.....Guysboro.
 Daniel McKay.....Pictou.
 Finlay McMillan.....do.

Females.

Christina Oulton.....Cumberland.
 Minerva Hamilton.....Colchester.
 Annie Jenks.....Cumberland.
 Minnie Embree.....do.
 Elizabeth Brooks.....do.
 Ballinda Parker.....Colchester.
 Eliza Russell.....do.
 Sarah J. Dellar.....Halifax.
 Jane Sterna.....Colchester.
 Annie Harrington.....Inverness.
 Helen E. Saunders.....Kings.
 Sarah F. Baxter.....Colchester.

SECOND CLASS—Males.

Wallace C. Denon.....Annapolis.
 John W. Elderkin.....Kings.
 Peter McL. McDonald.....Inverness.
 Peter McMillan.....Pictou.
 Wm. Ross.....do.
 John Bethune.....Richmond.
 Wm. P. St. Onach.....Kings.
 Wm. H. Gullit.....Colchester.
 Wm. A. Spinney.....Kings.
 Leonard Crowe.....Colchester.
 Asa H. Walker.....Yarmouth.
 Bartlett F. Covell.....Selbourne.

Females.

Abbie Hyde.....Colchester.
 Maria Armstrong.....Kings.
 Maggie Calkin.....do.
 Catherine Wi kie.....Antigonish.
 Isabella McKay.....Colchester.
 Mary A. Baxter.....do.
 Phoebe Langille.....Pictou.
 Susan A. Stronach.....Kings.
 Jane McK. McKenzie.....Pictou.
 Laura A. Little.....Colchester.
 Margaret Tupper.....do.
 Annie Costley.....do.
 Victoria McGarby.....do.
 Henrietta Wilson.....do.

STAPLES' SYSTEM OF PENMANSHIP is comprised in a series of six copy books, commencing with the elements, and progressing through the several stages of that valuable art, until the learner is brought by easy stages to the rare accomplishment of good writing. Each page has directions given with the new element introduced to the pupil. Accompanying the set of books is a small pamphlet of 12 pages giving further explanations of the system. We have been acquainted with several systems of teaching the art of writing, but, for combining the practical with the theoretical, and for the adaptation of what is good to the circumstances of the pupils and teachers of our schools, we have seen nothing to be compared with this set of books.

Mr. Staples says in the introduction of his pamphlet:

"This System of Penmanship owes its existence in a great measure to the suggestions and countenance of T. H. Rand, Esq., M. A., Superintendent of Education, to whom the author desires to express his indebtedness for much valuable assistance during the preparation and arrangement of the work to meet the wants of our Public Schools."

NEW MUSIC.—We are in receipt of three new songs arranged for the Pianoforte from Adams & Co., 21 Bromfield St., Boston.

1. "Lost Marguerite," by L. H. Gurney. A charming melody, well adapted to become popular.
2. "Love never sleeps," by the same author, is a sacred song set to an air of much beauty, calculated to touch and improve the heart.
3. "There's no such girl as Sally," by P. Jones. A humorous song about that incomparable girl "Sally." The music is sparkling as the words.

NEWS SUMMARY.

THE R. M. S. China arrived with the English mails on the 28th ult. She brought London dates to the 17th of March.

The chief topic of interest in England was the introduction of the long-talked of Reform Bill in the Commons, by Mr. Gladstone. Its provisions appear restricted in a great measure to the lowering the Elective Franchise. Its chief defect, in the view of the more advanced advocates of Parliamentary Reform, is that it does not provide for a pretty general re-distribution of seats. The increase of population, and its frequent local changes, have rendered the representation in many respects very unequal. It is, however, we believe, not considered as a final measure, but as an important instalment of what may

be considered still necessary to be effected. It is quite uncertain whether it will become a law; as there will no doubt be a strong opposition to it both in the lower and upper Houses.

There has also been a Bill brought into the Commons for the abolition of Church Rates. The measure has met with strong opposition. On the second reading in the Commons there were 285 votes in favor, and but 252 against, giving a majority of 33 in favor of the measure. Unless it is put to rest by a compromise which is talked of, it will probably be thrown out in the House of Lords.

Arrests and Trials for Fenianism are still going on in Ireland, although much less alarm is occasioned by it than was so prevalent at the first. The prompt and vigorous measures pursued by the Irish Government appear to have effectually put a stop to any real danger, if any such ever existed.

The marriage of the Princess Helena, the Queen's third daughter, to Prince Christian, of Slesvig Holstein, is fixed to take place on the 9th of July. Her Majesty appears to have at last resolved to put an end to her long seclusion, and has been reviewing the troops at Aldershot and holding her usual Levees.

Latest advices from Liverpool via New York are to the 22nd ult. No additional news.

The Confederate cruiser *Shenandoah* was sold at auction for £15,750.

Notices, &c.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The next Lecture before the above society, will be delivered by REV. R. M. SOMMERVILLE, B. A., in the Vestry of the Baptist Church, Wolfville, on Friday evening, April 6th, at 7 o'clock.
 Subject,—“WHAT TO READ AND HOW”
 GEORGE E. TUFTS, Cor. Sec.

Eastern Baptist Association.

A requisition having been received from a number of the Churches belong to the Eastern Association, desiring that the next Annual Meeting should be further adjourned to the 21st of July—concurrent with the requisition being given by the Church at N. Sydney, Amherst, and others, as well as by many brethren.
 Notice is hereby given, that the Eastern Baptist Association, will meet (D. V.) at N. Sydney on Saturday the 21st of July, at 2 o'clock.
 D. W. C. DIMOCK, Moderator.

Truro, Nov. 21st, 1866.

Ministerial Conference.

The Ministerial Conference of Queens and Lunenburg Counties, will meet at Port Medway, on Monday evening the 16th of April. Ministers and brethren not yet members are cordially invited to attend.
 D. O. PARKER, Secretary.

Acadia College.

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, in the College Library, on Wednesday, 2nd of May next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Business of great importance will be considered, scholarship holders and other friends are invited to attend.
 STEPHEN W. DELOIS, Secretary.

Donation Visits.

SANDY COVE.—Dear Brother,—On the evening of the 26th of December 1865, a number of my dear friends from the First and Second Baptist Churches of the Neck, paid me a visit. After an evening, made interesting by conversation, singing, prayer and addresses, the company retired leaving with their minister and family \$54 57, half of which was in cash. May God bless them greatly for their kindness.
 J. C. MORSE.

March 24th, 1866.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you allow me through your columns, gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of my friends, who paid me their annual Donation Visit on the 27th Feb., and presented me with \$9, in cash, afterwards raised to \$81, and useful articles valued at \$52, total \$133. The congregation at the 3 mile plain, one of my preaching stations, also presented me on the 1st day of last May, the sum of \$28 in cash—besides useful articles. May the author of every good and perfect gift, make all grace abound towards the donors, that they always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound in every good work.
 Windsor.
 D. M. WELTON.

Letters Received.

R. Chambers, Esq., Rev. J. J. Skinner, G. Cogswell, Esq., \$5. J. Chute, C. Hall, R. Barse, J. Higgins, \$4. C. Bill, Esq., H. J. Gesner, \$1 50. E. Lamont, J. S. Witter, \$5. D. H. Jenks, 2 subs. Jas. Desbrisay \$4. Rev. J. C. Morse, C. Jost, Rev. Dr. Tupper, \$4—(G. N. pays to April 1, '66.—W. H. McK. pays to July 1, '66. Rev. M. A. Bigelow, S. Coldwell, 1 sub. Rev. Jos. Murray, A. McDonnell, \$4. M. Kinsman, \$4 50. Rev. C. Randall, \$5. J. E. Wells, Rev. E. M. Saunders, \$3.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

STORM.—On Friday last a severe gale of wind arose in the afternoon causing damage to several vessels in the harbor.
 In the afternoon a boat lying bottom up on Escon's wharf, under which some boys had taken shelter from the rain, was turned over by the force of the wind, and, with one of the boys in it, was launched overboard.