

For the Christian Messenger.

The American Baptist Publication Society.

To the Baptists of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

DEAR BRETHREN.—Having had ample opportunities of seeing the working of the American Baptist Publication Society, and the great amount of good it is doing in this and other lands, during my eighteen months residence in Philadelphia, I have felt that the Baptist Churches in the British Provinces were really deprived of an important auxiliary in not being supplied, to a greater extent, with its publications. We are all convinced of the power of the press; we all know what beneficent influence is exerted by good books. Such you have, doubtless, but, unless I am mistaken, many of you must feel, as we used to in Canada, the need of a greater supply of Baptist works, expounding and defending our principles, such books or tracts as we can read with profit and lead to our neighbors.

Being a British subject and, for the present, an inhabitant of the United States, considering myself consequently as a kind of link between the Provincial and the American Baptists, having made the acquaintance of some of you some years ago, during a tour in behalf of the French Canadian work among the Romanists, and being invited to visit the Acadian Mission with the view of advising in its reinforcement, I have felt it a duty to spend a few months among you to represent our Publication Society, and at the same time do good, as I may have opportunities, to your French-speaking fellow-citizens, in whose spiritual welfare I, in common with you, feel a deep interest.

Allow me to introduce to your favorable notice the above mentioned Society by the following sketch.

Yours fraternally, NARCISSE CYR. May, 1866.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.—This society was organized in Washington, in 1824, and the seat of its operations was removed, three years afterwards, to Philadelphia, where it occupies one of the finest buildings, all paid for, on Arch street. At first the publication and circulation of tracts was all that was attempted; but the rapid growth and increasing wants of the denomination soon called for a more extended sphere of action. Its object, therefore, has been to provide a Sunday school and general literature, such as illustrates and enforces our distinctive principles.

Its operation comprise two distinct departments: the Book and the Missionary. The Book department sustains itself on business principles; the Missionary department is dependent upon the contributions of the churches.

1.—Book Department.—This society has prepared for circulation nearly a thousand different publications. A large number of Sunday school libraries have been provided, and others are in process of formation. Two Catechisms, upward of twenty different Question books, ranging in their adaptation from the infant child to the adult Bible-class scholar have been published. The Society have also issued a Sunday school Hymn Book, a Sunday-school Tune Book, and a monthly paper—the Young Reaper—and three of which are acknowledged, by disinterested judges, to have no superiors. Maps, Reward Books, Children's Tracts in great variety, Cards, and a large variety of Sunday school requisites have been stereotyped. These publications are eminently evangelical, and fully equal in every respect, and, in many, superior to any offered to American Sunday schools. And through them all our distinctive principles are sprinkled about in the same proportion as they are found to be throughout the Bible.

The society have also devoted special energy to the preparation of a strictly denominational literature. Some three hundred tracts, a large number of pamphlets, and books of all sizes and kinds, written from different stand points, and adapted to different classes, have been printed in various languages. As many as fifty editions, of a thousand copies each, of some of these denominational treatises have been put into circulation.

A large number of standard religious works have also been published. In the list are books adapted to enrich the mind of the minister, to alarm the careless, to guide the inquiring, to indoctrinate the believer, to strengthen the weak, to establish the wavering, to arm the tempted, and to console the afflicted—books for all.

2.—Missionary Department.—The second great aim of the society is to distribute these publications among the poor and destitute. For the accomplishment of this benevolent work the contributions of the churches are asked. The masses of unconverted people and of errorists do not go to stores to buy books; they must be carried to their doors, pressed upon their attention, sold when they can be, and given away when there is inability to purchase. This, the society is endeavouring to do by a well directed system of colportage. We extract from an official document the following particulars on this work, with its results for seven years:—

Work Done.—The Colporteurs have performed 10,209 weeks service; have travelled 363,783 miles; distributed 185,536 volumes, and 2,367,137 pages of tracts—these tracts, and 17,096 of the volumes, have been given away to the poor and erring—they have preached 19,193

sermons; held 10,524 prayer meetings; made 296,467 religious visits in families, and 17,982 on vessels.

From the Rooms, 212 Libraries, of from fifty to a hundred volumes each, have been given to poor Sunday schools, and 161 Libraries to needy ministers. Other miscellaneous grants have been made from the Rooms, the money value of which is \$5,149 13.

Immediate Results.—The Colporteurs have reported the formation of 249 Sunday schools; the constitution of 102 Churches; and the baptism of 4,136 persons, and the conversion of very many others.

These are great and blessed results; but they are only the "first fruits." The influence of those personal conversations, family visits, prayers, sermons, and of the good books and tracts left upon the field, cannot be summed up while time lasts.

The success of this society in Sweden alone, where the efforts of the Rev. A. Wiberg and associates have, in nine years, been the means of establishing 172 churches—with nearly 7,000 members, would more than repay all its expenditures since the beginning.

It seems to us that the Baptists of the Provinces would do well to co-operate with this society, purchase some of its books and aid its benevolent operations. A great field is now opened among the Freedmen, nearly half of whom are Baptists, and as you have sympathized with these victims of slavery while you could do but little for them, you should certainly be willing to extend a helping hand now that so much is to be done. It would, besides, only be lending to the Publication Society of our denomination, as well as to the Lord, for I feel confident that this organization will prove an important help to your churches, and will not be long in repaying you for whatever aid you may grant it at present.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 23, 1866.

Women speaking in the Church.

MUCH has been said and written on this subject by both men and women. Perhaps a large portion of it had better not have been said. We have no idea that in matters of religious profession and confession of faith in Jesus as their Saviour there should be any distinction between the privileges enjoyed by men and women. The very suggestion of one sex being entitled to a larger amount of liberty than the other, in this respect, is insulting to the position of woman. Every effort should be made to remove whatever barrier her instinctive modesty and natural habits of retirement present to a public profession of religion.

The only question that need be entertained, is, as to whether it was intended that woman should preach the gospel, or engage in such public services before indiscriminate audiences of men and women.

Perhaps the opinion of woman on this point is entitled to as much respect as that of men. A late number of the Canadian Baptist has a very clever and succinct conclusion on the question, from the pen of a female correspondent: She says:

"In reading the New Testament on this subject, I find the following facts:

"1. Jesus did not choose a woman to preach among the seventy.

"2. Jesus did not call a woman to the apostleship.

"3. I do not find that the New Testament furnishes any example of a woman being an elder over any church.

"4. The churches are no where commanded to ordain women over them as their pastors.

"5. It is impossible for a woman to have the qualifications of a bishop, as mentioned by Paul.

"From these facts, I cannot believe the following statement: 'In Apostolic Christianity sexes are not distinguishable as to the duty of preaching Christ.'

DORCAS."

MURDOCK'S HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.—

No. 15 completes the 2nd volume. It gives

an account of the exciting events by sea and

land, during the war in the latter part of the

past century. A curious movement for estab-

lishing and supporting a public school in

Halifax is recorded on page 610. It was

ordered by the House of Assembly "that a

bill for establishing a public school in the

town of Halifax be prepared pursuant to the

report, and also a bill for raising the sum of

£1500 by a lottery, for defraying the expense

of building the school-house." This, we pre-

sume, was the commencement of the Halifax

Grammar School. £100 were to be given

for the support of the master, and when the

number of scholars should exceed forty, a

further allowance of £50 was to be added.

This was in 1780.

REV. N. CYR in forwarding his communi-

cation, on another column, says: "I intend

to cross the Bay next week. I wish very

much to do something for the Acadian Mission,

and I trust the Lord will bless me in my

visits among the French of Nova Scotia."

NEWS SUMMARY.

We fear the theory held by persons accustomed to view the dark side of human nature, that the natural condition of man is a state of warfare, is too clearly proved by practice and experience, to admit of a consistent denial. There are now three distinct and active wars in progress on the great American Continent. The First, and which properly belongs to North America, is the one now raging in Mexico, in which Maximilian, with French aid, is endeavouring to conquer his new Empire. The various successes and defeats which have followed each other in pretty quick succession for these two years past, render it very problematical whether the German Prince will not be compelled to relinquish his enterprise. The Emperor Napoleon, who was its author and abettor, is about to withdraw his auxiliary troops, as the expense bears pretty heavily on the French Treasury, and the war has always been a very unpopular one in France. The Emperor of Austria, who would, no doubt, willingly support his relative in obtaining a firm footing in his new dominion, has ample employment at home, with decreasing revenues, and at sword's point, as it were, with Prussia, Italy and Hungary, to prevent him from affording any very efficient assistance to Mexico, while the United States are throwing all their moral influence into the scale of the Republican cause.

The second war is that which is raging on the western coast of South America between Spain and her former colonies of Chili and Peru. The bombardment of Valparaiso by the Spanish fleet has inflicted a heavy loss on the Chilians, although it is said that the chief part of it will fall on European merchants, whose goods were principally destroyed in the attack. This fact leads to the supposition that France and England will shortly interfere to put a stop to hostilities and mediate between the contending parties.

The third war is one which has been for some time existing, with alternate success, between the Emperor of Brazil and the Republic of Paraguay, situate on the great River Parana, in Central South America. By the latest accounts the Brazilians were obtaining decisive victories, and it is more than probable that the Paraguayans will have to succumb.

The R. M. Steamer Cuba arrived on Monday afternoon with news to the 13th inst.

There has been great embarrassment in England in monetary operations. The Times of the 12th says:

The Bank yesterday raised their rate of discount at 9 per cent, and their charge for special advances to 10 per cent. The pressure, even at these terms was enormous, and it was only on unexceptionable bills that accommodation could be obtained. Meanwhile additional and more serious disasters are hourly announced. The first was of a comparatively small bank, the English Joint Stock, for £800,000; then came that of Peto and Betts for £4,000,000; then that of Mr. S. W. Shrimpton, the railway contractor, for £20,000, and finally it was understood that the Imperial Mercantile Credit Association, whose paid up capital is £500,000, and Consolidated Discount Company, with a paid up capital of £250,000, must, without extreme commitments, pass into liquidation during the day.

According to the circular announcing the temporary suspension of Peto & Betts, their liabilities are about £4,600,000, of which all but about £200,000, consisting of acceptances and accounts for current supplies are stated to be amply secured. The assets of the firm are estimated, even under existing circumstances, and after many serious sacrifices consequent on the long continued pressure, to be nearly £5,000,000, and as all the works for which they are under contract abroad are in a very good state, while those with which they are connected in England have been undertaken jointly with other powerful contractors, who are in a position to insure their steady completion, it is confidently assumed that in a short time a proposition for the adjustment of all claims can be submitted.—Every one will hope that this may be so for Sir M. Peto and his partner rank prominently among those who have carried the fame of English enterprise to all parts of the globe, while at the same time they have commanded the high personal regard of all sections of their countrymen.

Besides the firms above named the company of Overend & Gurney, and others of lesser note, have failed. On the night of the 11th the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the Bank of England was authorized to suspend the Bank Act.

VERY LATEST.—London, Saturday evening. The Bank directors have just raised the rate of discount to 10 per cent.

There is still a run upon several banks, but much less excitement than yesterday.

The Funds have advanced, and all securities are better.

The act of the Government has already afforded great relief; money can now be procured, although high rates have to be paid for it.

The state of feeling is much more favorable among the commercial community, and it is thought affairs will right themselves in a few days.

Mr. Gladstone introduced a further measure of Reform in the House of Commons on the 7th, providing for a re-distribution of seats, giving an additional member to several of the large cities in England and Scotland.

A new church-rate bill is also before Parliament, rendering the imposition of church-rates almost a voluntary tax.

The news from the Continent is still more warlike, and actual warfare is now said to be only a question of days. The Italian Government appears as deeply involved as Austria and Prussia. It has decreed to form twenty battalions of volunteers under the orders of Garibaldi. This movement is deemed hostile to Austria, and a violation of the pledge given not to be the first to attack that country.

An attempt has been made to assassinate Count Bismark, the Prussian minister. Five shots were fired at him, but none took effect. The assassin has since committed suicide.

A General Election is on the point of commencing in New Brunswick. The test question will be Colonial Confederation. Of all doubtful events, warmly contested elections are perhaps the most doubtful. We are, however, led pretty decidedly to the belief, from the general tone of the Press in our Sister Provinces, that the cause of the Unionists will triumph.

Notices, &c.

Donation Visits.

Mr. Editor.—Permit me through the Messenger to express my gratitude, to a number of old friends, and some new ones, of different denominations from this and the surrounding communities, for the very generous and timely donation they made us on the 1st day of March, amounting in cash and useful articles to \$81 29, which has since been increased to about \$96.

Yours &c, D. McKEEN.

Little Forks, Maccan, May 11th, 1866.

THE NATIONAL DIVISION of the Sons of Temperance in North America, will meet in Annual Session in the city of Montreal, Canada East, on Thursday, 21st day of June.

THE GRAND DIVISION Sons of Temperance of Nova Scotia will meet in Quarterly Session at North Sydney, Cape Breton, on Tuesday evening, July 24th, at 8 o'clock.

Acadia College.

The Anniversary will be held on Tuesday, June 5, in the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville. Orations will be delivered by the Members of the Senior Class, Degrees conferred, and other business transacted.

A Meeting of the Governors will take place on Monday, June 4, at ten o'clock, A. M., in the Library of the College.

Candidates for matriculation are requested to attend in the Library, for examination, on Saturday, June 2, at nine o'clock, A. M.

J. M. CRAMP, President.

May 14, 1866.

Associated Alumni of Acadia College.

The Annual business meeting of the "Associated Alumni," will be held in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, on Monday, June 4, at 3 P. M. A punctual attendance of the members is particularly requested.

The Annual Oration before the Society will be delivered in the Baptist Meeting House, on the same day, at half-past seven, P. M.

On Tuesday, at 3 P. M., the members of the society, with their friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, will dine together at the Rooms of the Gymnasium. JNO. Y. PAYZANT, Secretary.

Sabbath School Returns.

We beg to remind the Superintendents of Sabbath Schools of the necessity of preparing their Reports and Statistics for the meetings of Sabbath School Convention, in connection with the Baptist Association. It is important that the information be as full as possible. By referring to the Minutes of last year, it will be seen what is required. In case there are any who have not a copy of the Minutes at hand, we will mention the order in which the particulars should be given:

Name of Superintendent.

Number of Male Scholars.

Female Scholars.

Average Attendance.

Number of Male Teachers.

Female Teachers.

Adult Bible Classes.

Members of Church in Bible Classes and Sabbath School.

Volumes in Library.

Amount expended during the year.

Our Sabbath School operations are a most important department of Christian labor. There are about 107 Sabbath Schools in the three Baptist Associations, containing about 7000 scholars, taught by about 700 teachers. We shall be glad to have a fair and correct account of these, so as to incorporate it in our yearly record. We respectfully ask each teacher to lend assistance in this matter.

Baptist Anniversaries.

THE WESTERN NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION will meet on Saturday, June the 9th, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at Lower Granville.

THE CENTRAL NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION will meet on Saturday, June the 16th, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at Hantsport.

THE EASTERN NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION will meet on Saturday, July the 21st, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at North Sydney, Cape Breton.

Letters Received.

Rev. T. W. Crawley, \$2. G. E. Dimock. Rev. G. Armstrong. Rev. Chas. Randall, \$5. Rev. S. B. Kempton. Rev. J. E. Kempton. Rev. J. Murray. Rev. T. H. Porter, Jr. Rev. N. Cyr. W. North, Esq. H. H. Morse. Rev. E. M. Saunders. J. Whitman. J. M. Parker, Esq., \$5, 1 sub. Rev. Dr. Tupper.