

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 3, 1866.

The Year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-six.

We have entered on a New Year. And although the change from the old to the new is not marked by any unusual physical manifestations, yet it is the inauguration of a new period. The adoption of a new date as above will now be required. Our calculations will commence afresh. Business operations will have a new beginning; and altogether we look upon the new year in its early youth with very different feelings from those we looked on the decreed 1865, which has now closed its career. The division of our time into years is quite arbitrary, and yet it has been very nicely adjusted so as to coincide with the path of the earth around its solar centre. Close calculation and curious contrivance have been required to make the number of days measure exactly a year, so that New Year's Day shall not slide out of its place and eventually come out at a different place in the solar circle. Another cycle has now been added to the Christian Era. Our path is all untried. We enter upon it accompanied by Faith and Hope, believing that the Divine Hand is always ready to guide those who seek wisdom from on high. With Truth for our banner, and a readiness to make this our standard, we feel inspired to move onward and continue in the service of our Great Captain.

Our work is not yet done, there is much of ignorance to drive from our land. Although Light is shedding abroad its glorious rays and driving away Prejudice and Superstition, opening up a glorious prospect of joy and blessing, there are still many dark and gloomy corners not yet reached by its benignant beams. Hosts of the enemies of God and man remain in the world and must be overcome and banished before the full benefits of the gospel of Christ are experienced by our fellowmen. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; and it becomes us to act as the children of light, putting on the armour provided and standing prepared for conflict and conquest.

While we are required to stand on the defensive yet we are not disinclined to make aggressive movements on the territories of our Sovereign's foes. Wherever we can bring subjects under the benignant sway of the Prince of Peace, there blessing will follow in our train. Much ground has been won for us by our forefathers, and purchased by their tears and blood, and, if we now despise our freedom we deserve everlasting shame and contempt; rather let us rejoice in our inheritance, remembering that

"He is the freeman whom the truth makes free, While all are slaves beside."

With this freedom there is much of real substantial enjoyment. We hope to partake of this by accompanying our readers into the open fields of literary and religious enquiry during the fifty-two weeks of the present year. Many a fragrant blossom may we pluck, and, if spared to its close, much delicious fruit shall we gather to regale and reward ourselves for effort made in this and that direction. Especially shall we find that pains taken in preparing ground for, and then planting the Rose of Sharon in it, will be well repaid. Wherever planted it will multiply itself, and bring forth and bud, until the desert shall rejoice and the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field as the vineyard of the Lord. We shall endeavour, from week to week, to procure such supplies of information and instruction as shall make the Christian Messenger an important means of bringing to the families of our readers what will make it, from beginning to end, A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Provincial Teachers' Association.

We have had quite a number of visitors in the city during the past week for the purpose of attending the Annual session of the Provincial Teachers' Association. The weather was not quite so propitious as we might have desired, but perhaps this was all the better, in some respects, as it induced the young ladies and gentlemen to attend the meetings rather than occupy themselves in looking over the city at an unfavorable time.

The session began on Wednesday morning, and, holding three meetings each day, continued till late on Thursday evening. The question of Reading occupied the first meeting. The Rev. Dr. Forrester the President occupied the chair. Quite an interesting discussion arose as to the modern modes of teaching this art and the wisdom of discarding the methods which have been in use during past ages.

In the afternoon the President gave an able address on the leading principles of education in reference to the Teacher and the recognition of his services and position by the public. In the evening, T. H. Rand Esq., the Superintendent of Education gave an eloquent address on the importance of objective teaching, and the development of ideas by this means. An editorial in the Witness pronounces it "one of the most masterly productions to which it has ever been our privilege to listen."

On Thursday afternoon Mr. B. F. Staples gave a lucid and practical exposition of his system of Penmanship.

In the evening a series of resolutions were, after debate, adopted in reference to Education and the School Law.

We were unable to attend all the meetings of the Session and therefore give only this very imperfect outline of the proceedings. The importance of the occasion demands a more extended notice and we expect to receive a fuller and more satisfactory account for our columns next week.

We were much gratified at the respectable and intelligent gathering of ladies and gentlemen we saw in the Lecture room of Dalhousie College. There were present about 150 persons, we presume mostly from the counties of Hants, Kings and Colchester. We doubt not a fresh stimulus will be given by this professional convention. The Association deserves every encouragement.

It was resolved to present an Address to the Lieutenant Governor. A deputation therefore waited on His Excellency on Friday with the following:—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM FENWICK WILLIAMS GENERAL IN HER MAJESTY'S ARMY, &c. &c. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN AND OVER HER MAJESTY'S PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, &c., &c., &c.

We the Members of the Teachers' Provincial Association met in Annual Convention desire to present our congratulations to your Excellency, and to express our unfeigned satisfaction at seeing a native of our Province, and one who has so signally distinguished himself in the Public Service, as the Representative of Her Majesty in our midst.

We beg to convey to your Excellency the assurance of our loyalty to the person of our beloved Sovereign, and our devoted attachment to the great principles of the British Constitution, as well as the sense of our obligations as the Educators of the Province, to imbue the minds of the rising generation with similar views and sentiments.

We are thoroughly persuaded of your Excellency's appreciation of the many benefits arising from the diffusion of a sound system of popular education to Communities and States, its paramount importance in facilitating and giving effect to the high and important ends of civil government, and therefore confidently anticipate in the discharge of our public functions, your Excellency's encouragement and support.

Wishing you all personal happiness and much success in your government, we in the name and by the authority of the Association, beg to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's humble servants.

(Signed)

ALEX. FORRESTER, D. D. President  
GEO. HUTTON Vice-President.

Government House, Halifax,  
29th Dec 1865.

TO THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

Gentlemen,—I thank you heartily for your Address and the kind terms in which your congratulations are offered to me on the assumption of the Government of my Native Province.

With reference to your expressions of Loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign, and attachment to the inestimable blessings of the British Constitution, they are the truthful reiteration of similar feelings which have actuated the inhabitants of this beautiful Province, since its formation as a British Colony, and I have no doubt for the future on any of these points.

I shall by my acts evince the interest I feel in your praiseworthy and invaluable labours as long as I administer the Government of Nova Scotia, and when that pleasing duty ceases, I shall take into private life the keenest desire for the advancement of its happiness, and the diffusion of a sound system of education, without which no people can expect permanent prosperity.

Thanking you for your kind wishes at the termination of your address, I also sincerely hope your efforts may be crowned with complete success.

W. F. WILLIAMS.

REV. DR. CRAWLEY arrived at Wolfville late on Saturday evening. The passage from Boston to St. John was so rough that the steamer had to put into harbor twice and did not arrive till Sunday morning. The steamer Empress having discontinued running, the family were obliged to cross the Bay to Annapolis in a sailing vessel. We beg to offer our cordial welcome to our worthy friend, to Mrs. Crawley, and to their family.

We learn from the Ch. Visitor that at the close of the Sunday evening service in the Bruns-

sels St. Church, the pastor Rev. S. Robinson introduced Dr. Crawley to the meeting, and called on the Rev. I. E. Bill, who was present, "to extend, in the name of the brotherhood the hand of welcome."

The Rev. Mr. Bill in doing so referred to the past history of the College and of the men with whom Dr. C. had been associated in former years.

After an enumeration of many of the past and present ministers of the denomination, and a reference to his former connection with them, and the personal esteem in which he was held by them, Mr. Bill remarked:—

"Then there was a still higher consideration exerting its influence. We want to see our rapidly extending churches all over these growing Provinces filled with an enlightened ministry, wholly consecrated, soul, body and spirit to the great work of saving souls; and we felt that your commanding intellect, thoroughly trained by educational discipline, and filled with all the higher elements of the religious life, expanded and matured through long years of toil, temptation, and conflict, just fitted you to assist the worthy President and Professors of Acadia in the accomplishment of this great purpose. Then again, vast missionary fields are stretching out on all hands, demanding united and earnest action in sending forth the heralds of the Cross to proclaim the word of God to the destitute.

Some of us are impressed with the idea that the Baptists of these rising Provinces have a distinct and important mission to fulfil in all the departments of christian enterprise, and we feel that you can greatly aid us in the future as you have done in the past, in prosecuting the work committed to our care.

With these impressions and convictions, dear brother, the call was extended to you to return to your home, and we rejoice that, in the providence of God, you have seen it your duty to accept the call, and that we see you here to-night, with strong health and vigorous nerve, prepared to engage in the work before you. Be assured, dear brother, that it is with unutterable pleasure that I therefore extend to you this hand of cordial welcome, and I think I but express the general feeling of the Baptist brotherhood of these Provinces, when I say welcome, welcome, dear Bro. Crawley to our Institutions of learning, to our churches to our homes, to our hearts. May the Lord greatly bless you and your dear family, and make you a blessing to the present and to future generations!"

The following is given as an outline of Dr. Crawley's Reply:—Unexpectedly made thus the object, my dear brother Bill, of the very kind expressions of welcome and goodwill, to which you have just given utterance, I find it not easy to make any suitable reply; the best thing, perhaps, that I can say, will be the sincere and honest declaration of the thought that arises in my mind at the moment. Allow me to say then how grateful I am to the friends, who, with yourself, have prepared this mode of assuring me how kindly I am received and how heartily welcomed. The expressions, indeed, of your kindness and esteem, I must say seem to myself to go far beyond any desert of mine, but they do not exceed what I wish to deserve; and the allusions you have made to the honored and sainted dead are well calculated to quicken within me the sentiment of devotion to the cause of God in these Provinces, with which I desire to return to labor once more among you in connection with the advancement of education in our midst.

Shrinking as I do naturally from being put thus so prominently forward by this public and kindly welcome, I seem to find its best apology in the happy reference you have made to those blessed spirits to whom we owe so much, and to whom, especially, the cause of education is so deeply indebted. I may not detain this audience by any lengthened remarks; or it would rejoice me now to tell them how often I have seen those excellent brethren you have mentioned, in the midst of large congregations, with streaming eyes, declare to the people their strong convictions of the duty of the Baptist churches to establish and maintain among themselves the means of education. Blessed spirits! may their mantle fall on us who follow them, may their spirit be ours, and aiming ever to tread in their footsteps, may we reap largely of the same wondrous success.

I return, my dear brother, to the post which has been so kindly assigned me, with the sincere desire and intention of devoting myself without reserve, for the remainder of my days to the great cause of religious education in these provinces. It is cheering, indeed, to receive this so unexpected and most kindly welcome, and I beg you dear brother Bill, and all the brethren concerned to accept the assurance of my most hearty thanks for all your kindness. May the blessing of God abundantly reward you all for your brotherly affection and esteem, which I do, indeed, most heartily respond.

"Her Majesty the Queen."

The sentiments expressed in the following extracts from an article in the London Freeman under the above caption, we believe, are held by the Baptists of these Provinces no less heartily than by those of Great Britain. Our configuity to the great Republic does not induce us to undervalue, but rather enhances to us the throne under which we enjoy so much of civil and religious liberty. Thankful are we not only that God has cast our lot under a limited monarchy, but more especially that we have so wise and good a woman as Queen Victoria to wield the sceptre.

"We congratulate our readers on the announcement that her Majesty intends, health permitting, to open the new Parliament in person. Queen Victoria carried with her into the seclusion which she sought on the death of "Albert the Good," the sympathy of all her subjects. It was right and seemly that the widowed sovereign should shrink from the prominent part she took on state occasions. Though sorrow releases from no obligation, and leaves untouched the graver responsibilities of life, it is necessarily abhorrent of the pageantry of mere ceremonialism. Very few Englishmen need the assurance given some short time since by the Duke of Argyll, that the Queen had continued to discharge the duties connected with her high station. Victoria has never failed to grant interviews to the chief officers of State, to transact the business of the Crown or even to manifest an interest in the internal affairs and foreign relations of the kingdom over which she reigns. It is true that she has delegated to the Prince of Wales and his royal bride the task of receiving the loyal respect of courtiers, but she has uniformly reserved for herself the more onerous task of counselling with her ministers on the weighty matters pertaining to the well-being of the nation. The Queen has been, without seeming to be, the sovereign. Only the semblance of royalty has been laid aside. And now her Majesty has resolved to appear as our sovereign lady, to wear the insignia of royalty, and to stand before her faithful Commons and trusty Lords as the chief magistrate and monarch of these realms, all England will rejoice to see Queen Victoria once more in the House of Parliament and on the throne, and no class of her subjects will give her a more cordial welcome than the Nonconformists of the nation. We all love and honour the Queen, and Baptists ever join in the devout wish, God bless and save her."

Victoria has fairly earned the confidence and homage of the inhabitants of Great Britain. We cannot claim for her the personal prowess displayed by Boadicea, whose eloquent appeals awoke the slumbering patriotism of the ancient Britons, and whose martial arbut called into existence a vast army, which spread terror among the Romans, and almost succeeded in wresting from them the island they had won by the sword. Nor can we plead that Victoria has proved herself as politic and shrewd a ruler as was Elizabeth, who caught the Spaniard in his own net, crossed the projects of the King of France, pacified a distracted and divided people, rescued her crown and country from manifold and ever changing dangers, and made England a first class power among the nations of Europe. But though not as brave as Boadicea, or as great as Elizabeth, Victoria is better than was either. Her domestic life has refined and ennobled her royal rule. The faithful love she bore her husband, and the maternal affection she has ever lavished on her children, have exerted a purifying and inspiring influence on her character. The English court was never so free from faults and blemishes as it has been during her Majesty's reign. Our aristocracy bears a higher character for intellectual culture and moral worth than it has done at any former period, England admires the members of the royal family, and with thankfulness contrasts them with the princes of bye-gone ages. Crown and Court and country are in sympathy with goodness, and the "larger heart" and "kinder hand" are already opening to "supply the needs of the poor and wretched. All this to a great extent is due to the personal influence of the Queen. The fountain-head of English society has sent forth pure and health-giving streams; and it is cause for mutual congratulation that her Majesty will still give tone to social life in high places.

Her Majesty has other claims on the allegiance of Christians. She is herself a Christian.

Victoria commends religion more by her private piety than by her public acts as the head of the Church. Her devout and constant attention to the duties of her faith, the preaching that she approves both in England and Scotland, her prompt and sympathetic support of every Christian enterprise, the manner in which she has trained her children in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord,"—her whole life and deportment, in fact, constitute a persuasive to piety, and exert a most salutary influence on the aristocracy and the people. Instances that are well known in the neighbourhood of Royal Residences still more strikingly illustrate the devotion of her Majesty. A daughter of a labourer in the vicinity of a palace was "sick unto death." When the missionary called at the house, he found the Queen had been there before him. She had talked with the little one about Jesus and the great salvation, had read to her words of comfort from the best of books, had prayed with her for the Divine blessing, and so had cheered and strengthened the dying girl in her last struggle with sin and sorrow. We have a religious Monarch; and as Christians we give God thanks that the throne of Britain is filled by the devout and godly lady whom we hail as Queen. May God long spare her life, and grant her in health and wealth to reign over us for many years to come!

JAMAICA.

By the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Cramp we have received a copy of a Jamaica paper—the Kingston Morning Journal—of Nov. 24th. It contains a letter from the Rev. J. M. Phillippo, of Spanish Town, together with an extract from a letter of a Baptist minister who had recently travelled across the island. We copy the extract.

"I travelled to Montego Bay and back Saturday and Monday last. I conversed with all