

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D.

CHAPTER IX.

SECOND RESIDENCE IN AMHERST.

(No. 1.)

This Chapter is designed to extend from October 1st, 1826, to May 1st, 1833.

Though Mrs. Tupper and I, and two of our children had been very ill, yet, through Divine goodness, we were all preserved in life, and permitted to return and settle again in our own house, with improving health. This was cause of thankfulness and joy.

My ministerial labors were resumed in Amherst and Point DeBute, and, at the unanimous request of the Baptist Church of Sackville, N. B., it was agreed that a portion of my time should be devoted to their interests. In the place last named it was manifest that pastoral aid was greatly needed; but it was equally evident that the discharge of the duty which would devolve upon a pastor laboring there would be attended with much difficulty. A few years previously there had been an extensive revival, in which many had been added to the Church. There was much reason to fear that some of these were strangers to the power of renewing grace. The Church had in general been but partially supplied, and a large portion of the time without any pastoral labor. As might be reasonably expected under such circumstances, discipline had been very much neglected; and the Church had fallen into a state of lamentable disorder. There were, indeed, a number of truly pious and exemplary members; but some of the professors had become quite immoral in their conduct; and among these and others unhappy disagreements existed. These evils necessarily required to be rectified.

For this purpose a special Conference was held on the 11th day of November. On inquiry and investigation, it was concluded, that the Church could not walk together in gospel order until a great change was effected. The question was then considered and discussed, whether it would be better to discipline all the disorderly members, or to dissolve the body, as to its present standing, and to commence anew. The latter course evidently ought not to be adopted except in extraordinary cases. The evils which may render it indispensable, namely, the holy reception, in a time of strong excitement, of persons who do not give satisfactory evidence of piety, and the more inexcusable and pernicious course of neglecting discipline in cases that require it, should be carefully avoided. In this case, however, after deliberate consideration, it was decided by a large majority, that discipline had been so long neglected, and so many serious difficulties had arisen; some of which were of such a nature that it would now be almost impossible to adjust them, that an attempt to remedy existing evils by discipline would tend to create more animosity and strife, and to destroy all the union that remained. It was therefore judged indispensably necessary to dissolve and commence anew. In pursuance of this resolution, such as had not been guilty of outward immorality, and had no personal disagreement with any of their brethren or sisters, were invited to come forward and have their names enrolled. If any present had objections to the reception of any one that proposed to reunite, they were requested to object. A considerable number were thus received without objection. Such as had been known to have been guilty of immoral conduct, were required to confess their faults; and those who were at variance with others were required to have their disagreements adjusted before they could be recognized as members in regular standing.

When the Church was thus brought into a state of order, so that persons who desired to unite with it could consistently come forward, one woman related her Christian experience, and was received, and baptized on the day following. Though the number of members was greatly diminished, yet the state of the Church was evidently much improved.

In Amherst, also, the cause of religion assumed an encouraging aspect toward the close of the year. Some young persons became seriously exercised with reference to the salvation of their souls. One that obtained hope at this time was Eliah B. Curtis, who subsequently became an active and useful Deacon, justly held in high esteem.

On the 16th day of November my beloved

sister Abigail, Mrs. John Pearson, was removed by death. She was much endeared to me, not only as an affectionate relative, but also as a devout and zealous disciple of Christ. In the capacity of a wife and a mother, she was of inestimable value. It was not consistently in my power to visit her during her last illness; but it afforded me much consolation to learn, that Divine grace bore her cheerfully through her sufferings, and rendered her triumphant in the hour of dissolution.

Early in the month of January, 1827, the first No. of the Baptist Missionary Magazine of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was published. My sickness, and consequent removal from St. John, had retarded its publication. An esteemed Christian brother then resident in the city, Edwin W. Garrison, superintended the printing of the first No.; but as he removed soon after, almost the whole care devolved upon me. As the distance between my place of residence and St. John was about 150 miles, and the conveyance by mail only weekly, my task was not an easy one. The obscurity of my hand-writing greatly increased the difficulty. When a friend in the city would obligingly correct the proof-sheets, he would in some instances be unable to decipher my manuscript. It can not, therefore, reasonably excite surprise, that typographical errors frequently occurred in the printing. (As my residence has always been remote from the offices where my communications have been printed, in many instances these have been greatly marred from the same cause; if not, as less doubtless sometimes happened, through the negligence of compositors.) It may be proper to remark here, also, that a few communications were admitted by assistants into early numbers of the Magazine, which I should have rejected, or at least modified, had they been submitted to me.

Another circumstance may be noticed with reference to the periodical of which I was the principal Editor. Instead of writing Editorials only, in the usual way I frequently used my former signature, and appended "Philosophical" to articles furnished by me. Moreover, as it was not anticipated that any considerable profit would accrue from the publication—loss was sustained—I never required a compensation exceeding four dollars for the editing of each No. This barely sufficed to enable me to obtain a few Periodicals and Books that were specially requisite in order to the discharge of the duty which thus devolved upon me.

For the Christian Messenger.

Horton Collegiate Academy.

In accordance with the provisions of the fourth section of an act of the Nova Scotia Legislature, entitled, "An Act to enlarge the powers of the Trustees, Governors, and Fellows of Acadia College," the special committee for the management of Horton Collegiate Academy present their annual report as follows:

"During the past year the whole number of pupils receiving instruction in both departments, was one hundred and seventy, viz. 110 in the male and 60 in the female. The average attendance has been one hundred and fifteen.

The various classes have been carried on as heretofore. With but few exceptions, the pupils have manifested energy in their work quite equal to that of any who have preceded them.

At the close of the Academical year, six pupils passed a very satisfactory examination, and are now enrolled as students of the College. Several others it is expected will be fully prepared by the first of September.

Since the last meeting of the Convention, several important and highly beneficial changes have been effected.

In the Academy proper or Male department very extensive repairs and improvements have been made in the buildings, by which greater comfort to the pupils, and convenience to those engaged in the work, will be secured.

Mr. Albert J. Hill, A. B., whose scholarly attainments and systematic habits, eminently qualify him for the post, has been engaged as one of the Assistants.

Rooms in the Boarding House have been prepared, and changes made, to enable one of the teachers, with his family, to reside permanently with the pupils. Mr. Hill has taken that position, thus introducing into the Boarding department, and especially at the table, both the comforts, and restraints of an orderly and well regulated home. The value of this arrangement can hardly be over-estimated.

Regulations have been made, requiring all the pupils to board and reside, at the Boarding house, except by special permission from the

Principal; thus securing better facilities for government, and affording opportunity for a more thorough acquaintance with the habits and deportment of the scholar.

THE FEMALE SEMINARY.

The Principal of the Academy, finding his duties too burdensome, requested the Governors at the close of the last Term, to relieve him to a greater extent than heretofore, from the care and responsibility of the Seminary. In accordance with this request, the Governors have assumed the control of the Female department, and have appointed a Committee of Management for the ensuing year.

The services of Miss O. J. Emerson have been re-engaged, and she has commenced the duties of the current term. The Mathematical classes in the Seminary, as well as the Academy, are being taught by I. A. Blair, Esq. A. M., who is thoroughly qualified to carry on this portion of the work. The usual arrangements have also been made for instruction in music, drawing, &c. The boarding department has been remodelled, and placed in capable hands. The premises have been put into a thorough state of repair. Several improvements have been introduced, which it is trusted will make the school more comfortable and attractive as a residence, than ever before. The whole system of board and instruction, has been placed under the watchful inspection and control of the Committee, thus affording a guarantee to the public of entire efficiency.

Efforts have been made during the past year, to secure funds for the erection of suitable buildings, so much needed for this school. Pledges have been made, shewing that many appreciate the effort and recognize the want;—but a sufficient amount has not yet been subscribed to warrant your Committee in commencing to build.

It is hoped that before the Convention meets next year, some more decided action shall have been taken. The times demand the effort. We have the means in our hands. Let us have the mind to work, and the thing is done.

All of which is respectfully submitted, STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Secretary, Wolfville, August 18th, 1866.

Horton Academy, in account with J. W. BARRS, Treasurer.

Table with financial entries: June 26. To Blank Book for accounts, \$1 00; June 30. Fire Insurance on Seminary, 22 50; Nov. 30. Paid sundry repairs and painting, 55 01; 30. "Rev. T. A. Higgins, 1 year, 10 00; 1866. Allowance to 20th Dec., 330 00; June 20. Do. 1 year to date, 330 00; 30. Fire Insurance premium, 30 00; Aug. 1. Balance carried down, 1059 11.

\$1828 62

1865. By Cash from late Treasurer, 578 62

1866. By 5 Quarterly Grants from Provincial Treasurer, 1250 00

\$1828 62

Aug. 1. By balance brought down, 1059 11

J. W. BARRS, Treasurer

Repairs now in progress on the Academy building and Seminary to come out of this balance are estimated at \$1000.

For the Christian Messenger.

25 Cents per Member.

DEAR EDITOR,—

I noticed, that at the meeting of the Convention at Berwick, a resolution was passed, urging the necessity and expediency of the several churches in the provinces, contributing the sum of twenty-five cents per member, until the Endowment Fund was completed.

At the last meeting of the Convention, the subject was again brought forward. It was stated that some churches had already adopted the plan, and that others would soon follow.

On my return home, "doubting whereunto this would grow," I sat down as "Housekeeper" did, but with a somewhat different purpose.

The question with me was, shall I bring the matter before my church, and shall we pledge ourselves? With regard to the amount, I had no question. Without boasting I can say, we have given as much and more in one year, towards the income, as this contribution towards the principal would be. But the question in my mind was, Would it really help the College?

I find that we have in the three provinces, say 275 churches, and about 25000 members. Now, providing that for every one of those 25000 members, the sum of 25 cents per member be contributed, it would amount to \$6250 per year. I then turn to the Treasurer's account of the Endowment Fund, and find that it is estimated say in round numbers at \$9000

or \$36000. Therefore, in order to bring it up to \$80000, the required sum, we need \$44000 by contributions of \$6250 per year. According to my calculation, Mr. Editor it would take a little over seven years. Yet, I have frequently heard it stated, and I think some of the churches who have adopted the plan, have proceeded on the supposition, that the thing could be done in four years.

In the mean time, the expenses of the College, professors' salaries, repairs, insurance, &c., average at least \$4000 a year. To meet this, we have—

Estimated income interest, \$21600
Provincial Grant, 1400
Dr. Cramp's donation, 400
Other sources, say, 200
Total, \$23600

Leaving a deficiency of at least \$840, to be made up by contributions from the churches. A question then arises, will the churches, while they are working out this 25 cent scheme, be willing to contribute also, towards the annual support?

But is it certain that all the 275 churches in these provinces, will respond to the 25 cent appeal? Can we not judge something with regard to this, by the way in which they reply to the yearly call, made by the Secretary of the College?

In examining last year's return, (and I think that was a more favorable year than the present) we find that out of the 118 churches in New Brunswick, but five churches contributed; out of the 12 churches in Prince Edward's Island, but three contributed; and out of the 144 churches in Nova Scotia, but 43 contributed; making a total of 51 churches, or not quite one fifth of the whole number. Say, however, that by agitating the matter thoroughly, one third of all the churches can be induced to adopt the plan, the endowment would then be completed in twenty one years.

Now sir, I do not wish to make objections merely for the sake of objecting. I wish to see the endowment raised to \$80000, and raised at once. I believe that the denomination is able to do it in one year, if the right plan can be devised, but I confess my mind is very dark, with respect to the 25 cents. I fear it will be deemed by some, a sufficiency to give their quarter of a dollar, when they are able to give fifty times as much. I fear it will cut off the annual supplies—and I fear that those who are under the impression, that four years will make up the required sum, are under very great delusion.

At any rate I certainly would like to have a clearer exposition of the benefits of this plan, before I can present it to my church, with any view of its helping the College.

Yours very truly,
GURNE MANTHORN, Clerk.

For the Christian Messenger.

Valedictory Address.

To Rev. J. E. GOUCHER.

Beloved Brother,—

Various as have been our experiences, as a church, we have seldom been called upon to endure so trying a circumstance as your removal from our midst, the ties severed in this instance may truly be said to have bound the hearts of a devoted people to their beloved pastor; but, though our hearts are left bleeding, we cheerfully submit to the promptings of duty on your part, and a hidden Providence which we trust will result in good to ourselves, yet we cannot let you go finally without an expression of our sorrow at your removal and interest in your welfare and usefulness in your future field of labor. We do feel, as was expressed by some of us upon our final separation at the wharf, that the boat which was freighted with yourself and dear family born from as those who still occupy a large place in our hearts. We are disposed in all sincerity to commend you and yours to the special care of the great Shepherd, and to the christian fellowship and sympathy of the people of your choice, feeling assured that your manly bearing and christian deportment will win for you the respect and esteem of all with whom you may mingle. We subscribe ourselves, yours in the bonds of Christ.

Signed in behalf of the Church,
GURNE MANTHORN, Clerk.

Port Medway, Sept. 2nd, 1866.

Dear Brethren,—

Your address has come to hand, and though it finds me engaged in another portion of our Master's Vineyard, under circumstances somewhat different, yet it does not find me insensible to those feelings with which you regard my removal from your midst. The sorrow, which you express, at parting with me and mine, was my sorrow. And added to the pain of separating from a loved church and community, was the pang which a knowledge of your deep

and sincere affection for me and mine, rendered more poignant.

It is a privilege to be remembered by you, and to be known as one of your children.

I am, dear brethren, your affectionate friend,
J. E. GOUCHER.

For the Christian Messenger.