

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 25, 1866.

Justification by Faith.

"How shall man be just with God?" has been asked by men in every age of the world, and probably by all men at some time of their lives. Various answers have been attempted to be given according to men's notions and inclinations, but only when the answer is obtained from God himself, can such reply be regarded as possessing any value, or likely to be the one which will afford peace and satisfaction to an enlightened conscience. The Scriptures are very explicit in this matter, and to him who will receive the information there given, all difficulty will soon vanish. The coveted treasure will be found, and, as a priceless boon, will be held in possession free from all human intervention or control. What no human or divine ceremonial can effect, is brought about by a simple act of favor from the Most High, on the sinner receiving the testimony given of His Son. The man who believes in Jesus is pronounced just, without abating the rigor of the law, and Christ is made our justification and our redemption. Faith thus becomes "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Christ is made "the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

The doctrine of justification by faith in Christ lies at the foundation of all correct teaching and holy living. It has been held by the successive reformers in all ages, as the distinguishing truth required to correct the abuses which have from time to time crept into the church, and been added the glory of the gospel. They have labored to elucidate this doctrine as the effectual means of man's recovery from sinful indulgence and from human thralldom.

Christianity does not consist in negations. It is not enough that we deny that the sacraments, so-called, are efficacious in changing the heart, producing regeneration, and preparing us for heaven; but we must have a positive principle of life derived from a higher source, connecting us with the Living Vine, by which we may be enabled to receive and appropriate to our sustenance and benefit what is provided by another. The definition of Faith, given by Origen are well perusal. Although some of our readers may have his invaluable work in their possession, yet we presume many others have not, and it will do them all good to read a paragraph or two from it on this subject. We therefore make a brief extract. He says:

"Justifying faith is a saving grace wrought in the soul by the Spirit of God, whereby we receive Christ as he is revealed in the gospel, to be our Prophet, Priest, and King, trust in and rely upon him and his righteousness alone for justification and salvation. This faith begets a sincere obedience in the life and conversation. The apostle to the Hebrews calls faith the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, Heb. xi. 1. It assures us of the reality and worth of eternal invisible things, and produces a satisfaction and assured confidence, that God will infallibly perform what he has promised, whereby the believer is as confident of them, as if they were before his eyes, and in his actual possession. The object of faith is the word of God in general, and especially the doctrines and promises that respect the salvation of men through Christ, which reason cannot discover by its own light, nor perfectly understand when revealed. The firm foundation of faith is the essential supreme perfections of God; his unerring knowledge, immutable truth, infinite goodness, and almighty power. Faith has a prevailing influence upon the will, it draws the affections, and renders the whole man obsequious to the gospel.

By this faith we are said to be justified, Rom. v. 1. We are justified by faith, not formally, as if it were our righteousness, or the meritorious cause of our justification before God; but instrumentally and relatively, as it apprehends and applies to us the righteousness and blood of Christ, which is the object of faith, and which only cleanseth us from all sin and renders us acceptable to God. It is called the faith through which we are saved, Eph. ii. 8. Faith is, as it were, a condition on our part, whereby we come to be partakers of the blessings of the new covenant. It is a faith which worketh by love, Gal. v. 6. It is not an idle, unactive, and inoperative grace, but shows itself by producing in us love to God and our neighbour. It purifies the heart, Acts xv. 9. It is called the faith of God's elect, Tit. i. 1, because it is bestowed only upon those. This grace increaseth from one degree to another, Rom. i. 17, being in some strong and firm, Mat. viii. 10, in others weak and languishing, Mat. xiv. 31. Lastly, this grace is the special gift of God, Eph. ii. 8. By grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; that is, that you believe, is not by any ability of your own; and that you are saved, is not for any worth in yourselves."

Whenever men have sought in themselves or in human instrumentality the means of re-

covery from condemnation and guilt they have invariably gone astray, wandering either in the mazes of doubt, scepticism and infidelity, or else on the other hand they have yielded themselves to the degrading yoke of priestly domination. Error on this point leads its victims either to unbelief or superstition. The believer in Jesus is not the victim of incredulity, but the link formed by God himself between heaven and earth, and the daily proper exemplification of manly piety.

We place these thoughts before our readers, not as intended to convey the idea that our brethren are defective on this point, or, that they do not give due prominence to Apostolic teaching on this cardinal doctrine, but we do it rather as an expression of evangelical truth, which, as we understand it, all should receive as the foundation of that true peace with God which passeth all understanding. It in any case one should feel, on further reflection, that he has too truly lost sight of this, the source of joy and strength, and is induced to lay more stress on the subject, we shall be amply rewarded.

It will be seen by our report of Parliamentary proceedings that the resolution on Confederation introduced by the Hon. Provincial Secretary, on Tuesday, the 10th, and inserted in the report of that day's proceedings, was carried by 21 to 19, on Wednesday morning, shortly after 2 o'clock, the debate of Tuesday having continued till that hour. There will, of course, be differences of opinion with regard to this measure. Some may be inclined to think that an immediate change for the better will take place, and that in Nova Scotia—being the Atlantic wharf of the Confederated provinces—we shall have an age of unprecedented prosperity thrust upon us forthwith. Others will be disposed to look very differently on the prospect. Some do even now take a very gloomy view of the matter—one gentleman intimated to us the next morning, in most lugubrious tones that the May-flowers would henceforth cease to grow. We have no such apprehensions, or that they will be less beautiful as our provincial emblem, because of affiliation to the other parts of British America. The British rose is no less fragrant because entwined with the Scottish thistle and the Irish shamrock; nor would either the North Briton or the son of the Emerald Isle feel disposed to have their own emblem separated from the trio, or allow that their country would gain any advantage by having to live on alone. The effect of Confederation, when accomplished,—and there is much yet to be done before the Union is effected—is far from certain. All new measures in politics, as well as in other matters, are to a certain extent experiments, and may be more or less beneficial according as they are properly worked out, and the laws are well administered. The people will still have to choose their representatives for the purposes of government. As the sphere in which these will be called to act will be enlarged, so will it be the more important that wise and able men shall be in readiness for that service. Apprehensions entertained of evil arising from the union, will, we trust, be agreeably disappointed, by finding that our bond of union, to the mother country is strengthened, by our consenting to become the nearest link to Europe of the British Confederation on this continent.

The calling out the Militia Artillery to active service during the past week, in place of the regular troops, has been a source of considerable inconvenience to many employers in Halifax. The printing offices especially have been troubled by their hands being required to perform the sentry duties at the various posts in the city. Whilst additional labor is demanded during the sitting of the Legislature they have had to give up to the public service in most cases one and in some more of their workmen. From these causes we have had also to submit to various disappointments in the steam-press. We hope our friends in the country will bear with us if we should fail to come up to our usual regularity. We shall do the best we can.

The arrival of more troops from Malta will, we trust, remove the necessity of depending further on civilians for military service.

BIBLE ATLAS AND GAZETTEER.—American Tract Society, New York.

Mr. N. P. Kemp will accept our thanks for a copy of this very useful work. It is an invaluable help for Sabbath School instruction, and for all who would "Search the Scriptures," and enquire into the geography, topography, and chronology of Bible-lands. It is truly *multum in parvo*; and presents at a glance much of the information which is often a source of considerable difficulty to those who have no maps and other helps of this description.

DEATH OF REV. LEVI H. MARSHALL.—We learn by a letter from Rev. J. C. Hurd to the Visitor that the Rev. L. H. Marshall died at Hopewell, N. B., on Lord's Day, the 15th inst., in the 56th year of his age. He was out on Saturday,—read, prayed, and conversed with a sick neighbor. Had worship in his own family on Saturday evening, in which he enjoyed unusual freedom. Spent the night as comfortably as usual. Died almost instantly without a struggle or a groan. He had been in a very feeble state of health for some time past.

The Rev. Wm. Hall may be expected to preach in the North Baptist Church on Lord's Day next, morning and evening.

JUST AND HONORABLE.—We are glad to learn that on Monday last the House of Assembly voted \$1000 to the widow and fatherless children of the late Dr. Slayter. Hon. Provincial Secretary and Mr. Stewart Campbell passed high eulogiums on the heroic conduct of the deceased.

COLPORTAGE.—Mr. N. B. Kemp of Boston, Treasurer of the American Tract Society, New York, was in Halifax last week, and at a meeting of gentlemen belonging to the several denominations of christians in the city, offered on behalf of the Society he represented, to put six additional colporteurs to work in the province on condition that \$1000 were raised in Halifax towards the support. An effort is being made to secure this desirable result.

THE FENIAN RAIDERS.—The Government stores on Indian Island were burned to the ground on Friday last about 3 a. m. The person's boat, also destroyed at Eastport, who gave information to the British Consul. The despatch also says:

"Fenians increasing in numbers between Eastport and Calais. No confidence felt in American efforts to suppress Fenianism. Confederation increasing rapidly. Government's action meets with hearty approval."

NEWS SUMMARY.

AMID the variety of reports and telegrams, often conflicting the one with the other, it is difficult to ascertain with accuracy, the exact state of matters on the New Brunswick frontier. That the Fenian hordes are gathering at Eastport and Calais and the neighboring places in very considerable numbers there is no doubt, and that they are getting supplied with munitions of war, and organizing for an attempt on some part of the New Brunswick soil, is now abundantly evident. The American General Meade has been sent by his Government to see that the laws of neutrality are not infringed, but it does not appear that he has any troops with him to enforce his mission. His mere word or remonstrance is not likely to have much effect with the reckless multitude with whom he will have to do. It is said he has had an interview with Gen. Doyle at Eastport. The *Duncan*, with the 17th Regt., had arrived, and we believe lauded the troops or part of them. It was said at first that they were immediately to return to Halifax, but we have since heard the report contradicted. We cannot, however, be long without some reliable accounts as to what is actually going on. Nothing but the prompt action of the American Government in sending forward a sufficient force to enable Gen. Meade to enforce his authority, and co-operate as far as necessary with Gen. Dyer, can avert what may shortly lead to the most serious complications.

A few days later accounts from Europe bring no news of any alteration in the state of affairs between Austria and Prussia; and the gravest fears are entertained that a war is inevitable. The right, as far as any right can exist, in the division between them of the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig, plundered from Denmark, is thought to be on the side of Austria, but as her finances are very low, and she is in other respects unprepared, Prussia seems confident of the final event of a war and the appropriation of the Duchies to herself.

Notices, &c.

Donation Vitis. MR. EDITOR.—Permit me through the Messenger to express my gratitude to the members of my church and congregation for their kindness, in presenting us recently, with a donation of \$78. May the donors be richly rewarded. Yours &c. E. O. READ.

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. DUBLOIS, Secretary.

Letters Received. F. N. Richardson, Rev. S. T. Rand, N. M. Nelson, Rev. Jas. Reid, D. Mosher, \$16, 1 sub. J. and L. A. Seaman, Warl Eaton, Esq., \$10. H. H. Morse, R. J. Maisters, Rev. Dr. Tupper, W. A. Morse, \$4, W. Courchill, \$3; Rev. H. Eagles, 1 sub. Rev. D. O. Read, Rev. Jas. E. Stubbitt, \$4. E. A. L.—Very good.—Write. G. V. Rand, Rev. T. H. Porter, Jr.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

Provincial Secretary's Office, 16th April, 1866.

Halifax Co.—To be Health Officer for the Port of Halifax—Charles Gossip, M. D., in place of John Slayter, M. D., deceased. To be a Justice of the Peace in said County—Charles Gossip, M. D., in place of John Slayter, J. P., deceased. To be a Board of Health for Waverly District, in said County—B. C. Wilson, John Lingley, Joseph Salter, Dr. W. B. Buckley, Joseph Thompson, Charles Thomas, Robert Laidlaw.

Antigonish Co.—To be School Commissioners—Rev. Dr. MacGregor, Richard J. Forristail.

Inverness Co.—To be Postmaster at the Forks of Margaree—Donald Campbell, in place of Samuel Campbell, resigned. To be Deputy Registrars of Marriages, Births, and Deaths—Donald Campbell, in place of Saml. Campbell, resigned. Lauchlin McDonald, in place of Hugh McKay, resigned, at Malagawatch, in said County.

Kings Co.—To be Health Officers—Dr. C. C. Hamilton, Dr. Holmes Masters, Dr. M. E. Balcomb.

Pictou Co.—To be a Commissioner of Pilots for the Port of Pictou—Captain James McKinnon, in place of Robert Dull, resigned.

Cumberland Co.—To be Justices of the Peace, William McNab, John H. Gilroy, William Scott, Frederick A. Donkin, Luther Baker. In the Port of Cumberland, in said County: To be an Officer for the Protection of the Revenue—George W. Forrest. To be a Commissioner of Sewers for the Township of Amherst—James Corbet. To be a Commissioner for taking Affidavits and Recognizances to hold to Bail—Robert Strabbs. To be Notaries and Tabetions Public—Charles S. Townshend, Alexander A. Black. To be Health Officers—Nathan Tupper, M. D., Edwin Clay, M. D., A. Stewart Townsend, M. D., Clarence E. D. Wolf, M. D. To be a Board of Health for the Ports of Cumberland and Joggins District—C. E. Ritchford, A. S. Brienkorn, R. K. Smith, J. W. Delaney, Douglas Pagsley, Hyram Black, W. E. Cullen, R. B. Boggs, Gilbert Seaman, Michael Pagsley. To be a Board of Health for the Port of Wallace—Stephen Tilton, Donald McKay, William McNab, James B. Davidson, Nicol Nicholson. To be a Board of Health for the Port of Peggwash—Cyrus Bent, Henry G. Paine, Henry G. Bennett, William H. Scouian, Charles E. McNutt. To be a member of the Board of Health in Parrsboro—E. D. W. Ratchford.

APRIL, 18TH, 1866—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with the Advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the appointment of William N. Wickwire, M. D., as Assistant Health Officer for the Port of Halifax.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the Appointment of Jesse Olney Lewis, as Deputy Crown Land Surveyor for the County of Cumberland.

CHOLERA.—The unfortunate steamship *England* has sailed for New York with 875 steerage passengers and 16 cabin passengers. Her crew comprises 116 men. It is said that about 250 have died. About fifty left on board the *Pyramus* and on the quarantine ground four have died, and the rest are reported improving and likely to recover. The Pilot, Lawrence, who brought the ship into port, and his daughter, have died at their residence Portuguese Cove. There were two or three other cases of sickness in that locality. In consequence of which Dr. T. Prvor is appointed Deputy Health Officer for that district, and will remain there until the disease disappears.

We regret to learn that on Sunday afternoon, a child was discovered in the vicinity of Freshwater with the Cholera, supposed to have been contracted from clothing washed ashore from the steamship *England*, and picked up by the parents of the child. The City Authorities, on learning of the fact, had the whole family conveyed to the City Hospital, and a Police-man stationed on the dwelling occupied by them to prevent parties communicating.

SUPPOSED HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND MURDER.—The body of a man named Joseph Fleming was taken out of the water at Loudonderry Bridge, on Tuesday morning inst., under circumstances which leave no room for doubt but that he had been most foully murdered the night previous, as his hat and marks of blood were found on the bridge. The deceased had been drinking at a public house on Monday night, and leaving for home at a late hour, it is thought he was waylaid, and murdered for his money. It appears that he was drinking in company with two young men, during the afternoon and evening, and about 11.30 p. m. went with them about 100 yards beyond the bridge; but that he then left them and returned towards his home. His wife states that he had from £2 to £4 with him during the day. Dr. McRoberts, Coroner, held an inquest over the body, and returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts.