

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 10, 1867.

Baptist Unity.

Some may think this a strange notion. The idea of there being any unity among churches, each of which is absolutely independent of all the others of the same order, is not thought of by many even of their own members, or duly recognized by persons belonging to other communions. No Denomination of Christians is more free to carry out its convictions than Baptist Churches. There are great diversities of restraint placed by the governing powers on the membership of some other bodies. Baptist Churches are, however, without any prescribed formula of creed or general standard of faith,—except it be that of the Holy Scriptures and this we regard as one source of their strength and wisdom. The ecclesiastical constitution of these churches would lead to the supposition that greater diversity would obtain amongst them, than any, and that there would cease to be any thing like homogeneity of character in them. This however, we believe, far from being the case. The very fact of having no trammels would seem to effect greater unity of principle and unanimity of practice. Absolute uniformity is not necessary to union. There is sufficient of flexibility in the principles on which gospel Churches are founded to adapt them to all countries and people, under whatever form of government they may be. The principal feature of their practice, to which our attention has now been called, is not to be found so much in any of their internal arrangements, as in that of the bond by which they combine into Associations. The annual gatherings of these bodies are a most pleasing evidence of christian love, and a fine recognition of the out-flowings of christian fraternity. We find them in every county of England and in some parts of Scotland. They exist in all of the United States, from Maine to California. In several of the countries of continental Europe, and far away in India, Burmah, and the West India Islands, do they combine for co-operation and benevolence. Whilst there is a good degree of similarity in the proceedings of these gatherings, they are not bound by any forms of proceeding, but act out the views generally entertained, as circumstances may warrant and necessities may demand.

If any one wished to secure for himself a name and worldly influence in connexion with a religious body, he would not be likely to choose the Baptist, or any Congregational Church as the arena of his operations. Worldly policy does not produce the same results here as it does in Societies in which a hierarchy claim the right to legislate for their people. For all christian purposes however, we believe that a united band of believers in Christ, are fully equipped for service, when they go forth armed with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God, and aim to hold forth the word of life to their fellow men. It might appear that to speak of unity in these organizations were folly, but we believe that, like the believer who says, "when I am weak then am I strong," so with the christian church, its members need but to feel their dependance on the Great Head, and to seek direction from Him, and they will have grace and wisdom given according to their necessities, and so will have all that may be needed to meet every emergency. It is unfortunate that christian men are not always acting from the high motives of love and gratitude to God in their lives and benevolence, or there would be much more of progress made in Christ's kingdom—a holy unity of sympathy and design would animate all the members of the churches, and the denomination would begin to realize the fulfillment of Christ's prayer "That they all may be one."

Our friend Rev. Dr. Cramp is on a visit to the United States and Canada. The primary object of his visit was to attend the Annual Session of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance at Wilmington, Delaware, being Most Worthy Associate in that organization. We received a letter from him last week from Philadelphia, which although somewhat of a miscellaneous and domestic character,—not prepared for publication—yet as we believe its contents will not be unacceptable to our readers we will take the liberty of inserting a few extracts.

PHILADELPHIA, June 24, 1867. My dear Sir, The Session of the National Division was closed on Saturday afternoon. Some slight changes were made in the Constitution, which will be detailed when the Journal is printed. The colour question remains as before.

Another year will throw greater light upon it, as the coloured people are fast advancing in education, and are beginning to be formed into Divisions. An attempt was made to remove all restrictions on the admission of females to membership, by repealing the legislation of last year, which required a two-thirds vote of Grand Divisions in favour of it, before Subordinate Divisions would take action; it was defeated, however, by 30 to 17, and that subject is also left unaltered.

I was sorry to see in the papers a notice of the death of the Rev. J. Girdwood. He had married his second wife only about two months before his death! He was a very worthy man.

I spent a very pleasant Lord's day at Boston with brother Garner, for whom I preached in the morning. He has an excellent place of worship, well furnished in all respects. The arrangement of rooms for Bible Classes, Infant Classes, and other purposes, is admirable. God is blessing his labours. He has baptized every month since his settlement. There have been 24 conversions in the S. School, and 22 of the converts were baptized.

At Gould and Lincoln's I had the pleasure of an introduction to Drs. Eddy and Hoyey, and also to Professor Lincoln, of Brown University. Wilmington is a pleasantly situated city. The streets are at right angles, broad, and many of them lined with trees. The doorsteps are generally of marble, and the window shutters are almost uniformly painted white, in imitation of those of Philadelphia, and kept closed during the middle of the day. There are four Baptist Churches. Brother Marsh, pastor of the second Church, kindly entertained me at his house. Dr. Kendall Brooks was also there, with whom I was previously acquainted. I preached twice yesterday; in the morning, in one of the Wesleyan Churches; in the evening, for brother Marsh. I should have said that Wilmington is 28 miles from Philadelphia, and has 30,000 inhabitants.

June 25, I have spent a very pleasant morning. At the office of the Publication Society I found Dr. Kendall Brooks, who was busily engaged in getting out this week's number of the National Baptist. On the same premises is the Office of the Historical Society, of which Dr. Howard Malcom is President. I had not seen him since 1831, when I saw him in the pulpit of Surrey Chapel, (in London, where Rowland Hill formerly officiated) offering prayer previous to one of the Annual sermons on behalf of the Baptist Missionary Society. He looks well, and is doing a good work for the Historical Society, in collecting Baptist books, Newspapers, Minutes of Associations &c. &c., all which will furnish materials to future historians. I had an interview also with Dr. Benjamin Griffiths, the Secretary of the publication Society, who gave me, besides other publications, a copy of my Catechism on Baptism, which has been re-printed for the Society, and has an extensive sale.

Entering one of the horse-cars with Dr. Brooks I enjoyed a ride to West Philadelphia. It is the most beautiful part of this most beautiful city. After we left the car we walked a considerable distance. Evidences of wealth, and of good taste in the use of it, as far as regards architectural and horticultural matters, appeared in every direction. The Philadelphians are uncommonly well housed.

The splendid residence erected by the late Dr. Jayne, but which was not quite finished when he died, was pointed out to me. It is built of white marble, and is truly palatial. There are thirty-eight Baptist Churches in Philadelphia. Other particulars respecting this city may be communicated another time. I am to leave for N. York to-morrow, and hope to be at Montreal on Thursday night.

Yours very truly, J. M. CRAMP.

EDUCATION.—We take the following items of information from the Journal of Education, just received. It is pleasing to have such proofs that the people generally, are availing themselves of the advantages which the present excellent School Law secures to their children.

MAHONE BAY SCHOOLS.—On Friday, April 26th, the scholars of the above school, which for the last four months and a half has been under the charge of Mr. J. W. Knight and Miss Maggie Ross, passed through an examination, and in the evening entertained their parents and the public with an exhibition. The state of the school when Mr. Knight and Miss Ross entered upon their duties was such, that the progress made during this short term shows that they must have labored very diligently, and certainly not without success, and such success as should encourage them and those whose children they have taught. The trustees, parents and visitors who were present during the examination, were greatly pleased with the results.

In the evening Victoria Hall was crowded by an attentive audience, who listened with considerable interest to the dialogues and recitations, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. Mr. Henry Mader presided at the melodeon. Many of the pieces were highly instructive and amusing, and the whole of the entertainment was most interesting. Mr. Knight and Miss Ross are first-class teachers and our friends at Mahone Bay may consider themselves fortunate in securing the services of such competent instructors for their children.—Bridgewater Times.

DIXON CO.—Some eight new schools go into operation this term. The work of school building is also making satisfactory progress. The schools are doing a great work. Education is advancing throughout the county.

LUNENBURG CO.—W. B. Lawson, Esq., reports: "Educational matters in this county have visibly improved during the past term, and the schools in operation, as a whole, have been doing good work. The improvement made within the last twelve months is greater than the most sanguine could have anticipated. Several new houses are now being erected, others are being repaired and some enlarged. But very few of the old ones remain to disgrace the name of schoolhouse."

In New Dublin there are four new houses building besides the one on LaHave Island, and five in Lunenburg. Several new houses are in contemplation in Chester, but the tightness in money matters has operated as a serious drawback.

Teachers are still in demand and several are coming in from other counties. The people generally are beginning to take that interest in the welfare of their schools which is absolutely necessary to their healthy existence.

I am pleased to state that a school is in operation on the island of Tancook. There are about 100 families on the island. It is to be hoped a graded school will ere long be provided by the people. A new building is contemplated. Mr. Albert Pearl, one of the Trustees, has made strenuous exertions to secure the means of education for the whole island. Other residents have also nobly seconded the work."

QUEEN'S CO.—The Inspector writes: "On the whole the schools are prospering. So far as I have learned there is the same number in session as last term. Others are intending to open soon. Several fine school houses are in progress."

NEWS SUMMARY.

The prominent news of the week is of a nature which we in some manner anticipated—the public execution of Maximilian, the so-called Emperor of Mexico. With the experience the world has had for years that are past, of the ferocious and semi-barbarous character of the Mexicans, and in truth of the Spaniards, whether in the old world or the new, we were in no wise surprised to hear of such an outrage upon the laws of nations and of humanity, as the murder of this unfortunate and ill-advised Prince, and that in the face of the remonstrances of the leading governments of Europe, and we believe also of the United States. It has for a long time been the policy of Spain, in the constant revolutionary outbursts that have taken place there, for the prevailing party to save themselves the trouble and expense of political prisoners, by matching out and shooting the leaders of the unsuccessful party with little or no further enquiry. In the present instance the French Emperor has been the origin of the heavy misfortune which has thus befallen the House of Austria, as Maximilian was the brother of the Austrian sovereign. Louis Napoleon's attempt to constitute a Mexican empire in alliance with France, was a bait too tempting for the German Prince to forego. The vast expense and great unpopularity of the French Mexican expedition, and its signal failure, finally compelled Napoleon to leave his protegee to his fate. It affords a striking lesson of disconcerted ambition in the case of each. It is said that the European Powers have generally withdrawn all official intercourse from the Mexican Government, if there be anything in that ill-fated country that can deserve the name, and have recalled their envoys and consuls.

A most singular demonstration of the mighty changes in manners and feelings which have passed over the world during the present century is the visit of the Turkish Sultan, Abdul Aziz, to Paris and London. The time is within the memory of many aged persons, when such an event would have been almost as wonderful as a visit of a denizen of one of the planets—but the world seems marching on at more than railroad pace.

Notices, &c.

French Mission.—There will be a Meeting of the French Mission Board at Hebron on Saturday, July 20th, at 10 o'clock. A full attendance of the members is particularly requested. J. H. SAUNDERS.

The following brethren are members of the Board: All the Pastors of the Baptist Churches in the County of Yarmouth, together with Brethren C. Randall, C. Sabean, William Leat, Joseph Shaw, W. H. Gridley, S. Brown, William Churchill, W. G. Goucher, W. Corning, B. B. Moses, Charles Teuford, W. R. Doty, Cyrus Perry, W. S. Raymond, W. Patten, J. Crosby, J. G. Morse, and C. McNeil.

LITTLE BRAS D'OR, June 26th. Dear Editor.—Will you allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to tender our thanks to those Sabbath Schools in Halifax, for presenting to our S. School (Boylardrie Centre) such a nice assortment of good books. Also, to Revs. A. McBean and A. T. Porter for the same object. May the Lord abundantly bless the donors, and make the books a blessing to our Sabbath School. JOHN R. STURTEVANT, Superintendent.

The Twenty-second Annual Session of the BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, will be held with the Pine Grove Baptist Church, Wilmot, N. S., commencing on the 24th day of August, at 2 o'clock, in the afternoon.

Colonial and Foreign News.

Canada.

MONTREAL, July 2nd.—Reports from every city, town and village in the Dominion agree in the unanimity and heartiness with which Confederation day was celebrated. No previous event in the history of the country has called forth such rejoicing.

LATEST FROM UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, June 6.—Intelligence from Mexico announce the capture of Vera Cruz on the 27th June, and execution of Santa Anna on the 26th. The report requires confirmation.

THE CROPS.—So far as we can judge, reports continue favorable as to the prospects for fruit, hay and grain. It is yet too early to form just opinions as to root crops.

We regret to see that the canker worm is desolating the apple trees along the line of the Fitchburg railway in Cambridge, and as far as Watham, twelve miles from Boston. It was hoped this pest had disappeared, but it was only postponed on account of the weather.—Boston paper June 27th.

Grasshoppers are doing great damage on both sides of the Missouri river. For a distance of one hundred miles, gardens and corn fields are devastated and trees stripped of their foliage.

Chief Justice Chase is again spoken of in connection with the Presidency of the United States, and will likely receive the Republican nomination. The Democrats seem disposed to run Gen. Grant.

A Boston paper says that Mr. Jefferson Davis is about to proceed to Mississippi, and will probably be elected to Congress from that State!

A despatch from Washington says that there is official authority for the statement that Mr. Seward inclosed in his letter to Juarez, copies of despatches from Queen Victoria and Napoleon to the President, asking the United States Government to use its influence with Juarez to preserve the life of Maximilian.

Always after war come famine and pestilence. In the City of Mexico the people are left with little or no food, and a general famine was threatening the poor inside the walls, and it was only due to the judicious measures of the chief of the municipality, that a panic had not swept the populace into disorder and riot. The imposition and collection of taxes continued unremittently, being carried on in the most tyrannical and exacting manner.

JUAREZ.—Juarez, who becomes for a little time the ruler of Mexico, is described by Secretary Seward's messenger, who bore the recent intercession for Maximilian's life, as a slow-motioned, stout, and heavily built man, about sixty years of age, with short straight black hair and black eyes, a clear-shaven, broad, and coarse-featured face, expressive of much determination and general intelligence, and a large and well-set head. He is a full-blooded Mexican Indian. His utterance is low, but marked with much decision. He speaks no English. Whether he will be able successfully to rule the turbulent country over which he has been called to preside, is a question that time only can solve. With so many rivals as he has, and in a land that has had an average of one ruler for every fifteen months of the last half century of its existence, the chances of his having either a long or a quiet reign are decidedly poor.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By Atlantic Telegraph.

ENGLAND.—Liverpool, July 1.—In the House of Commons last evening Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for foreign affairs, stated that his Government was making slow progress in its negotiations with the Government of the United States in regard to the "Alabama" case, but he said he did not despair of a happy result. The foreign office would soon lay before the House all the documents and correspondence in the case. A large number of English claims against the United States had been filed.

July 4.—The English Government authorities have postponed the Grand Review, which was to have taken place in Hyde Park, on account of the execution of Maximilian. The conduct of the Mexican Government, condemning Maximilian to death, and his subsequent execution, causes great indignation here and on the Continent.

The Sir Morton Peto estate has gone into bankruptcy. Fenian prisoners Burke, Doran, McCafferty, McClure, and others, have been brought from Ireland to England.

July 6.—United States Minister Adams has succeeded in his efforts with the British Government to obtain the liberty of the convicted Fenian Condon. He has been set free, and will shortly sail for America.

All the Courts of Europe have adopted mourning for the death of Maximilian. The Recall of the British legation from the City of Mexico and the suspension of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the Government of Mexico is seriously proposed.