

he had read in the Scriptures, of Christ being baptized, or, the Pedobaptist translate it, 'receiving the wash ceremony,' in the river. He was told, however, that the custom of applying water to the head also prevailed. He has never felt satisfied on the subject, during the nine years that he has been connected with the church. He came to me of his own accord, without any acquaintance farther than a passing introduction last spring, which I had forgotten."

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 6, 1867.

Common Sense.

It would be well if Christians would pray more frequently for common sense as well as for grace. It may be thought that "Every man has his modicum of sense," but it might be difficult in some cases to prove this satisfactorily. It would materially improve the Church of Christ, we think, if this were considered more seriously. It is a wonderful help to a minister as well as to his people to cultivate this virtue. We would not, however, for a moment insinuate that a minister is likely to be deficient in so elementary a requisite for real usefulness, but it may be made greatly beneficial in their pulpit and pastoral labors, and deserves some consideration even from them. We believe it is owing largely to Spurgeon's good share of English practical common sense in adapting means for the accomplishments of the ends desired, that he is so successful as a preacher and minister generally.

The deficiency of this valuable commodity, is, we fear, more frequently seen in the members than in the minister. In churches which are so constituted that the members have nothing to do with the discipline of the membership, but where the work of the church is left to the minister or to the minister and his elders, it is not of so much consequence that the people should be concerned in maintaining the purity of the church, but in churches where every member is called to participate in the privilege of receiving young disciples into their fellowship, and then of caring for them, there must be the exercise of much forbearance, christian love and common sense to enable them to cultivate the christian graces in their brethren, and by that means promoting their holiness and usefulness. This is, perhaps, closely connected with the perfection—or well proportioned piety—which the apostles inculcate. Many of the offences which arise in churches and amongst church members are occasioned by defectiveness in common sense rather than by positive wickedness. The treatment of offences, too, would doubtless be greatly helped by a little more discretion and prudence in finding out the true amount of guilt resting on the parties concerned. By judicious management half the trouble might be prevented and the alienation and sorrow avoided. We would not, of course, suppose that there are any obstinate christians, in the general way, but in matters needing discipline there is sometimes that which looks very much like obstinacy. In such cases it is that common sense and an enlarged acquaintance with human nature are highly valuable. But in the adaptation of plans for the welfare of different classes and persons in a congregation, and suited to the localities in which they live, Baptists, above all others, should not be found wanting. Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians have their governing bodies and their modes of discipline and order prepared for them; this may be well for them, yet far otherwise for other churches. But those who really take Dr. Chalmers' remark—"The Bible is our great Church Directory and Statute Book," have a greater demand upon their practical wisdom and should even be better instructed than those who have their canons, books of discipline, laws and regulations, to govern them in these matters.

What a flood of light might be thrown on a number of subjects such as infant baptism, ritualism, poverty and ignorance by the use of Common Sense and the Bible. Our Sabbath Schools would be improved and filled, our congregations would be enlarged and blessed, and their exercises rendered more attractive and profitable. It is too often that this one talent which is entrusted to all, is laid by in a napkin until, being so small, it is supposed to be useless and not increasing it really becomes so.

Let Christians give full play to these two sources of enlightenment and we shall require no state church to form "a bulwark for Protestantism." Our institutions surrounding Zion will flourish, and what is of far more value than mere Protestantism,—Christian principle and love—will cover the earth with its beauty and fragrance, and the fruitful field will become as the garden of the Lord.

The Act for the Union of the British North American Provinces.

We have received by mail from England a copy of the Act for the Union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and as its provisions are of deep interest to the people of this province, whether they be in favor of the measure or opposed to it, and as many of our readers see no other paper, we shall lose no time in laying before them as much of it as will give them an intelligent acquaintance with the new constitution of things provided by the British Parliament for Her Majesty's subjects in British North America. We might make up a synopsis of the Act and give any explanation that might occur to us respecting its several provisions, but we think it would be more acceptable to thinking men, such as our readers, to have the text of the Act itself, without note or comment. We shall therefore copy such of the 147 clauses as may appear likely to serve the above purpose.

After the preamble and preliminary clauses, it says:

3. It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, to declare by Proclamation that, on and after a Day therein appointed, not being more than Six Months after the passing of this Act, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick shall form and be One Dominion under the Name of CANADA; and on and after that Day those Three Provinces shall form and be One Dominion under that Name accordingly.

5. Canada shall be divided into Four Provinces, named Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

6. The Parts of the Province of Canada (as it exists at the passing of this Act) which formerly constituted respectively the Provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada shall be deemed to be severed, and shall form Two separate Provinces.—The Part which formerly constituted the Province of Upper Canada shall constitute the Province of Ontario; and the Part of which formerly constituted the Province of Lower Canada shall constitute the Province of Quebec.

7. The Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall have the same Limits as at the passing of this Act.

11. There shall be a Council to aid and advise in the Government of Canada, to be styled the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

16. Until the Queen otherwise directs, the Seat of Government of Canada shall be Ottawa.

17. There shall be One Parliament for Canada, consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate, and the House of Commons.

19. The Parliament of Canada shall be called together not later than Six Months after the Union.

The Senate.—21. The Senate shall, subject to the Provisions of this Act, consist of Seventy-two Members, who shall be styled Senators.

22. In relation to the Constitution of the Senate Canada shall be deemed to consist of Three Divisions—

- 1. Ontario;
2. Quebec;
3. The Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; which Three Divisions shall (subject to the Provisions of this Act) be equally represented in the Senate as follows: Ontario by 24 Senators; Quebec by 24 Senators; and the Maritime Provinces by 24 Senators, 12 thereof representing Nova Scotia, and 12 thereof representing New Brunswick.

A senator shall be possessed of Freehold estate, of the value of \$4000, and Real and Personal Property worth \$4000.

The House of Commons.—37. The House of Commons shall, subject to the Provisions of this Act, consist of One hundred and eighty-one Members, of whom Eighty-two shall be elected for Ontario, Sixty-five for Quebec, Nineteen for Nova Scotia, and Fifteen for New Brunswick.

The Electoral Districts are next recited 1st Ontario, 2nd Quebec.

(3)—Nova Scotia.—Each of the Eighteen Counties of Nova Scotia shall be an Electoral District. The County of Halifax shall be entitled to return Two Members, and each of the other Counties One Member.

(4)—New Brunswick.—Each of the Fourteen Counties into which New Brunswick is divided, including the City and County of St. John, shall be an Electoral District. The City of St. John shall also be a separate Electoral District. Each of those Fifteen Electoral Districts shall be entitled to return One Member.

50. Every House of Commons shall continue for Five Years from the Day of the Return of the Writs for choosing the House (subject to be sooner dissolved by the Governor General) and no longer.

68. Unless and until the Executive Government of any Province otherwise directs with respect to that Province, the Seats of Government of the Provinces shall be as follows, namely,—of Ontario, the City of Toronto; of Quebec, the City of Quebec; of Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax; and of New Brunswick, the City of Fredericton.

Sections 91 & 92 show the "Powers of the Parliament" and the "Exclusive powers of the Provincial Legislatures."

We shall reserve those sections for our next.

Education.—93. In and for each Province the Legislature may exclusively make Laws in relation to Education, subject and according to the following Provisions:—

(1.) Nothing in any such Law shall prejudicially affect any Right or Privilege with respect to Denominational Schools which any Class of Persons have by Law in the Province at the Union;

(2.) All the Powers, Privileges, and Duties at the Union by Law conferred and imposed in Upper Canada on the Separate Schools and School Trustees of the Queen's Roman Catholic Subjects shall be and the same are hereby extended to the Dissident Schools of the Queen's Protestant and Roman Catholic Subjects in Quebec;

(3.) Where in any Province a System of Separate or Dissident Schools exists by Law at the Union or is thereafter established by the Legislature of the Province, an Appeal shall lie to the Governor General in Council from any Act or Decision of the Governor General in Council on any Appeal under this Section is not duly executed by the proper Provincial Authority in that Behalf, then and in every such Case, and as far only as the Circumstances of each Case require, the Parliament of Canada may make remedial Laws for the due Execution of the Provisions of this Section and of any Decision of the Governor General in Council under this Section.

Revenues; Debts; Assets; Taxation.—102. All duties and Revenues over which the respective Legislatures of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick before and at the Union had and have Power of Appropriation, except such Portions thereof as are by this Act reserved to the respective Legislatures of the Provinces, or are raised by them in accordance with the special Powers conferred on them by this Act, shall form One Consolidated Revenue Fund, to be appropriated for the Public Service of Canada in the Manner and subject to the Charges in this Act provided.

103. The Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada shall be permanently charged with the Costs, Charges, and Expenses incident to the Collection, Management, and Receipt thereof, and the same shall form the First Charge thereon, subject to be reviewed and audited in such Manner as shall be ordered by the Governor General in Council until the Parliament otherwise provides.

104. The annual Interest of the Public Debts of the several Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at the Union shall form the Second Charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.

114. Nova Scotia shall be liable to Canada for the Amount (if any) by which its Public Debt exceeds at the Union Eight million Dollars, and shall be charged with Interest at the Rate of Five per Centum per Annum thereon.

115. New Brunswick shall be liable to Canada for the Amount (if any) by which its Public Debt exceeds at the Union Seven million Dollars, and shall be charged with Interest at the Rate of Five per Centum per Annum thereon.

116. In case the Public Debts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick do not at the Union amount to Eight million and Seven million Dollars respectively, they shall respectively receive by half-yearly Payments in advance from the Government of Canada Interest at Five per Centum per Annum on the Difference between the actual Amounts of their respective Debts and such stipulated Amounts.

118. The following Sums shall be paid yearly by Canada to the several Provinces for the Support of their Governments and Legislatures:

Table with 2 columns: Province and Amount. Ontario: Eighty thousand Dollars. Quebec: Seventy thousand Dollars. Nova Scotia: Sixty thousand Dollars. New Brunswick: Fifty thousand Dollars.

Two hundred and sixty thousand; and an annual Grant in aid of each Province shall be made, equal to Eighty Cents per Head of the Population as ascertained by the Census of One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and in the Case of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, by each subsequent Decennial Census until the Population of each of those two Provinces amounts to Four hundred thousand Souls, at which Rate such Grant shall thereafter remain.

121. All Articles of the Growth, Produce, or Manufacture of any one of the Provinces shall, from and after the Union, be admitted free into each of the other Provinces.

132. The Parliament and Government of Canada shall have all Powers necessary or proper for performing the Obligations of Canada or of any Province thereof, as Part of the British Empire, towards Foreign Countries, arising under Treaties between the Empire and such Foreign Countries.

Intercolonial Railway.—145. Inasmuch as the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick have joined in a Declaration that the Construction of the Intercolonial Railway is essential to the Consolidation of the Union of British North America, and to the Assent thereto of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and

have consequently agreed that Provision should be made for its immediate Construction by the Government of Canada: Therefore, in order to give effect to that Agreement, it shall be the Duty of the Government and Parliament of Canada to provide for the Commencement, within Six Months after the Union, of a Railway connecting the River St. Lawrence with the City of Halifax in Nova Scotia, and for the Construction thereof without Intermission, and the Completion thereof with all practicable Speed.

Provision is made for the Admission of other Colonies on Addresses from the House of the Parliament of Canada, and from the Houses of the respective Legislatures of the said Colonies.

The above may be taken as containing the leading features of the Act of Union. The other clauses supply the details of the measure. The Act in full will probably be shortly published, so that every citizen may obtain a copy.

The principal changes made in the Act from the Quebec scheme is that Prince Edward and Newfoundland are not included in the United Provinces; and that the maintenance of Penitentiaries is to be at the expense of the General Government, instead of the Provincial, which it is supposed will improve the financial aspects of Nova Scotia to the amount of not less than \$120,000 per annum.

OUR thanks are due to the Rev. D. W. O. Dimock, of Truro, for a photogram of seven of the Native Teachers,—six Preachers, and one School Teacher,—now laboring in Burmah, under the direction of Rev. A. R. B. Crawley, and sustained by the Baptists of these provinces. The original photogram was taken at Rangoon in November, 1866. Mr. Dimock has had a number of copies taken for the purpose of supplying the friends of the mission. They are for sale at the Bookstores in Halifax and Truro, at 25 cents each. The profits will be appropriated to the mission.

The picture is well taken, and will, doubtless, be highly valued by many who hold these men in high esteem, as not only the fruits of their contributions to the mission funds, but, as now their Agents in carrying forth the gospel to their heathen fellow-countrymen.

THE ORGAN QUESTION.—Efforts have been made by the superior courts of one of the Presbyterian bodies in this province to suppress the desire in some of their congregations for instrumental helps to the music of the sanctuary, and a decision arrived at forbidding their use, but it is not likely that their decision will be long effectual in every case, in preventing a reconsideration by the parties more immediately concerned. At a discussion of this question recently by the young men of Chalmers' Church, it was carried in the negative by a majority of but one.

The following paragraph from the Colonist of last week indicates that another Presbyterian congregation is disposed to take its own course in this matter:

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church in this city have decided the "organ question," so far as they are concerned, in accordance with the progressive spirit of the age. At a meeting one evening this week it was determined, without a dissenting voice, to procure an organ suitable to the requirements of the building, and we understand steps are now in progress for securing such an instrument as is required. We congratulate the congregation of this church on the public spirit they have recently evinced in meeting the wishes of their new pastor.

THE Rev. Chas. M. Grant's lecture last week on "The Godward side of History," was an able essay. It was not so well suited, perhaps, for a popular assembly as it would have been if divested of some of its more metaphysical arguments. Several of the terms employed, too, were more adapted to the College class-room than to a public platform. The lecture, however, contained much original matter, and was highly instructive,—well adapted to give an enlarged view of human affairs in past ages, as controlled by an overruling Providence.

Notices, &c.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The next lecture before the Athenaeum will be delivered in the vestry of the Baptist Meeting-house, Wolfville, by Rev. E. A. Crawley, D. D., on Thursday March 14th at 7 o'clock.

H. E. MUNRO, Cor. Sec'y. Acadia College, March 4th 1867.

The friends who have sent us No. 3, will please accept our thanks. We have forwarded a pamphlet to each person, and hope it has come to hand.

Letters Received.

Rev. D. Froeman. Rev. W. E. Hall. Rev. J. E. Balcom, \$2 pays for J. H. to March, 1868. D. H. Jenks, Jan. 30, '67 and Feb. 22nd. Jas. Grinton, \$1. W. H. Wyckoff. S. Whelock, \$2. J. M. Parker, Esq., \$18. Rev. Dr. Cramp, 2 subs., \$4.