

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Extracts from Letters to Eastern N. S. Baptist Association.

(Concluded.)

INDIAN HARBOR, H. Eagles, Pastor:—Various have been the changes during the three or four years since you last heard from us. Our number has been reduced by death and other means. It has been our painful duty to apply the pruning knife of discipline. We hope that God will make it the means of the restoration of those excluded. We do feel that He has of late favored us with some mercy drops, and are happy to say that matters are beginning to have a more healthy appearance than for some time past. Our meetings are regularly kept up and the attendance seems good.

ISAACS HARBOR.—We have a few that endeavour to walk together in Christian love. We keep up prayer meetings, and can truly say that we often find the Lord present. We have subscribed \$120.00 for Baptist preaching by some good brother who may be able to give us a part of his time. Help us if you can.

LITTLE RIVER, Pastor, W. George:—God has been gracious to us during the past year. Our conference and prayer meetings are generally well attended, and a calm yet devoted earnestness has characterised our intercourse. Our Sabbath congregations have been good. Our pastor is about to leave us. Our anxious souls inquire, Who will look after the sheep in the wilderness, and cry to the Good Shepherd "Send us a man of thine own choosing." Five baptized.

LOWER STEWACKE, A. C. Chipman, Pastor:—We have been obliged to raise the rod of discipline in some cases, whilst on the other hand some additions have been made.

MABOU, C. B.—As a church we have many disadvantages to contend with. The members are very much scattered; and there is no stated preaching. We are surrounded by those who have no sympathy with us as a denomination. Notwithstanding, we hope for better days, and believe that could we but have the regular services of a gospel minister the Lord would add to our number. There are very many in the settlement of Mabou who have an ear for Baptist preaching. Our place of worship is undergoing repairs and will soon be quite comfortable. We are much indebted to Bro. J. F. Kempton for his occasional visits.

MACCAN.—Our church is in a scattered condition. Many of the members do not take any interest in the prayer or conference meetings. We are without a pastor at present, and while we remain so cannot look for much prosperity. Yet there are a few who have been and are still trying to maintain the visibility of the church and persevere through evil report as well as good.

MARGAREE, C. B., J. F. Kempton, Pastor:—We are engaged in finishing the inside of our meeting-house, which will cost us over £100. We fear our Pastor cannot be kept in this interesting field without three or four months support from the H. M. Board. Five baptized.

MIRA BAY, C. B.—God has in answer to the prayers of His people been pleased to visit us with a gracious outpouring of His Spirit. This was brought about by the blessing of God upon the labors of His servants at the Quarterly meeting in February last. The church was revived and sinners saved. We have been called to mourn the loss of our late beloved Pastor, Rev. D. P. McQuillan. We regret that we are obliged to write "Still without a Pastor." We are as sheep without a shepherd, with none to leave us, none to guide us. Oh that the Lord would send us a man after His own heart to break unto us the bread of life. Eight baptized.

NEW HARBOR.—We have been unable to respond to the circular from the H. M. Board.

NORTH RIVER, P. E. I., Pastor, E. N. Archibald:—In answer to the cries of his people and in reward of earnest faithful labor, God has been pleased to gather many precious souls into the fold of Christ. Bro. Frederick Kidson who has been laboring successfully with us has just been ordained at our request to labor as an Evangelist in the H. Mission field. The Baptist interest and influence are extending and strengthening in our community. The good work is progressing; pleasant seasons are being enjoyed; and anxious souls are inquiring the way to Christ. Twenty-six baptized.

NORTH SYDNEY, C. B., Pastor, T. H. Porter, Jr.:—In one most important respect we are enabled to report a more encouraging state of things than for some time before. Special ser-

vices during the week of Prayer and subsequently, proved a great blessing to Christians, and have been followed by Baptisms each month since the beginning of the year. About half the number added were from Little Bras d'Or, where the work of Discipline had been more faithfully prosecuted and carried to a more successful issue than in any other section of the church. A large proportion of them added are from Pedobaptist connections. Some who have professed conversion have not yet united with us. There is manifestly as much room for a general work of grace as before. We would still labor for and expect it. Twenty-five baptized.

PARRSBORO, Pastor, D. McKeen:—Our little church is not flourishing as in times past. But we are endeavouring to sustain the means of grace and praying and hoping that the Lord will soon revive His work among us.

PICTOU.—We have not made any progress this year, having no Pastor and no meetings. As we are trying to do what we can toward paying for the chapel, we are not able to do anything for the Mission this year.

PORTAUPIQUE, J. Reid, Pastor:—We are still endeavouring to walk in the narrow way, and follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. A few have been disposed to unite with us by Baptism. There are a few others who we expect will soon walk in the same path. At the same time we mourn on account of the low state of religion among us.

PUGWASH, Pastor, T. A. Blackadar:—On account of removals, deaths and other causes our numbers have been very much reduced. Still we are trying to maintain our position and are not without evident tokens of our Heavenly Father's care and love. Five baptized.

SAND POINT.—This is truly a Missionary field. Our church extends ten miles. We will do all that we can to defray the expenses of one sent by the Board.

ST. MARY'S 1ST, Pastor, H. Eagles:—We have great cause for gratitude to God that a good degree of union has been preserved among us, and that we have felt from time to time that God was in our midst. We have made an effort this year to secure more ministerial labor. Our Pastor now with us nearly half of his time.

ST. MARY'S 2ND, H. Eagles, Pastor:—It has been a long wintry season with us, yet we would thank God that we have found Him present when meeting for worship. We trust the day is not far distant when God will again revive His work in our midst. Our Pastor is with us now but a small part of his time.

ST. PETERS ROAD, P. E. I., J. Davis, Pastor:—Our record must still be "Faint, yet pursuing." When our Pastor comes among us he finds good and attentive congregations. Our young people evidently take great interest in the means of grace.

SYDNEY, C. B., G. Richardson and W. B. Boggs, Pastors:—We feel disappointed because cherished anticipations of prosperity have not been realized. However, the seed has been sown, and we believe that with faith and patience we shall yet see the harvest.

TRACADIE.—We still continue conference and prayer meetings regularly, and enjoy refreshing seasons. But we feel our want of a minister. May the Lord direct his coming. If you will send us one we will have money collected for him by the time he comes.

TRURO, D. W. C. Dimock, Pastor:—We hope, and we trust, and pray for better days. Four baptized.

TRYON, P. E. I., Pastor, E. N. Archibald:—We are happy to record some degree of prosperity. This is a large field and far more labor is required. Our esteemed Pastor has for the last year given us one fourth of his time. We hope that God will open up the way for him to come, and us to support him at least double that time. We are united and desire to press on relying on God. Eight baptized.

UIGG, P. E. I., Pastor, S. McLeod:—Our Pastor was through sickness prevented from attending meetings during most of last winter and spring. But our Sabbath and weekly prayer meetings were regularly kept up. As our members are spread over a large extent of country we have very great need of Missionary labor.

UPPER LONDONDERY, J. E. Balcom, Pastor:—Religion is in a low state. We enjoy the labors of our beloved Pastor three eighths of the time.

UPPER STEWACKE, Pastor, A. Chipman:—We would confidently hope and pray that the mercy drops which have fallen may prove but a prelude to a copious shower which shall ere long descend. Six baptized.

WESTWORTH, J. Reid, Pastor:—There ap-

pears to be but little energy or spiritual life among us, but our hope and prayer are that the good Lord will quicken us and cause His face to shine upon us. We are engaged in building a house of worship and hope to be in a better condition to make our minister and congregation comfortable than heretofore. Brother Reid has been spending a portion of his time with us for the past three months.

For the Christian Messenger.

Union, and its effects.

Mr. Editor,—

I do not know that I should present any apology to your numerous readers for what little I have to say on the question of confederation. It is one of much importance affecting all classes of people for all time to come. One hesitates to say anything about it, even though it be a fixed fact. And yet the fact of its being a fixed fact, while it settles the matter of its existence, does not release the people from exerting themselves by all prudent measures to make the best of it. And surely there is abundant reason to do this, for beyond all doubt, the good or evil of this gigantic measure will be proportionate to the wisdom and prudence exercised in its management. It is to human oversight experimental, and to say the least it affords hope, notwithstanding all our fears, of being beneficial to the general interests of the country. If any portion of the New Dominion, can by any lawful means reap a harvest from the Union, by its geographical position, its mines and minerals, and its water power for driving machinery, that portion is Nova Scotia. The nearest, best, and with little exception the only place, where a harbor for six months in the year can be made, for all the transatlantic world, the result must be, that Halifax the capital of this Province,—the point of ingress from the Ocean, and the place of egress from the great, and as yet but partially known continent, West, will grow. This fact itself forbids despair or even gloomy forebodings of the result so far as Nova Scotia is concerned. Look for example to the influence of Railways and their terminuses, in building up villages and in increasing their wealth and that also of the surrounding country. Take Truro as an illustration. Although the place and the traffic is small, and inland, yet the increase is great. I can scarcely say her manufactories have increased, for they have all, or nearly so, come into existence since the birth of her Railway. Shoe, Peg, Lest, Furniture, Farming tool, and Brick manufactories are now in active and profitable operation. An Iron Foundry, Carriage and Paint shops of large dimensions, with other enterprises are also employed, so that Truro is like a bee-hive for industry, though once apparently dead, lifeless, a scattered hamlet without energy, purpose or thrift.

Not only is the now thrifty village of Truro thus benefited, but the country around is also quickened. The cry was "the Railroad will ruin us." Instead thereof the farmers found great advantage from it. The price of their hay was raised from eight to twelve dollars per ton, other produce for Halifax market rose in price also. They made their trip to Halifax market, and back in one day by the cars instead of six by the old road and their own vehicle. Hundreds of tons of timber are readily conveyed to market, that would have to be burnt on the land or left to rot on the soil, the surplus labor of the country finds near home ready employment. The demand for building materials, wood, stone, and brick is largely increased, and mechanics by the score find remunerating prices for their labor. All this and much more has in a great measure grown out of the simple fact of the Railroad to Truro and its terminus there for a few years. The connection, if it take place, of the Intercolonial Railroad at Truro, will perpetuate this advantage, notwithstanding, the present road terminates at Pictou.

Now my argument is this, if the Railroad terminating at Truro for a few years has done so much to build up, in fact to make Truro what it is in capital and enterprise, what will not the terminus of the Intercolonial Railroad do for Halifax, connecting it with the mighty west of our own Dominion, and the neighboring Republic on the one side, or end, and on the other, with those transatlantic countries, whose inhabitants will visit our Dominion with their capital, for enterprise, or even as tourists. And if Halifax be enlarged, the effect on the Province generally is easily foreseen, every one added to its (Halifax) population, increases the aggregate expense of living in Halifax, by the cost of what he consumes. If then the population of Halifax be increased as undoubtedly it will, say even by one thousand per year, at the rate of even \$100

per head the aggregate of increase would be \$100,000 per year. In the small estimate we have made, there is not taken into account the expense of the enlargement of the city for house accommodation, nor for the increase of equipage, and other expenses that must necessarily arise, and therefore we may safely add to the amount \$100,000 more, a great portion of which must come through the laboring classes of the country, thus increasing the market for all their *disposables* in the shape of mechanical skill, and labor, as well as for all the produce that can be spared in the market.

But this is taking a very limited view of what may be the advantages of confederation. I reserve for another letter a few additional thoughts.

MODERATION.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Baptist Anniversaries at Chicago.

Dear Brother,—

I did intend writing you one or two more communications in reference to my recent visit to the United States. But my time has been so occupied since my return that I have, thus far, failed to carry out that intention.

In my last I spoke of the novel "Baptist Hotel"—its lodgings, provisions, music, etc. But much more than these were to be enjoyed there. The rich intellectual and spiritual feasts were of such a nature as to make all who partook of them feel that, in this they were highly privileged, if not greatly benefited.

Very many subjects closely connected with the interests of the cause of God and the Baptist denomination were discussed; all of them calling forth the most thrillingly interesting speeches. No one connected with the cause of the Redeemer could witness them without being delighted and profited. As I saw and learned what God's people, in that great country are doing for Him, I felt, more than ever before, that we in Nova Scotia, are doing a very small work compared with what we ought to do. It may be said we are a small people compared with them. Granted. But our efforts for God's glory, when compared with theirs, do not bear a true proportion to our numbers, even. For instance; their contribution this year for the Home Mission work alone is \$200,000; and for Foreign Missionary purposes alone \$250,000. Almost half a million of dollars for these two objects; to be raised in one year. I do not know exactly what we, in the Provinces, have contributed for these objects during the last year; but I think I am safe in saying that it is not more than 4 or 5 thousand dollars at most. Fellow Christians, let us awake to the work of the Lord. Let us have a larger share in gathering the harvest into the granary of our God.

It was a pleasing report the American Baptist Home Missionary Board had to present, showing that through the instrumentality of their Missionaries alone, the Lord had, in one year, given the churches 7000 souls. They "attempted great things for God, and received great things from God. Stirring speeches were made during the H. M. Convention as to the propriety of collecting a fund for the express purpose of assisting to build places of worship on the mission field. This fund is to receive a certain rate per cent per annum on the money thus loaned till the parties are able to return the amount. Or if the Board see that the parties are not able to return the money, they may be prepared to consider their case and deal gently with them. In this way it was maintained that great assistance would be rendered. Many places desired not gifts, but loans.

The H. M. Convention continued two days and closed its sessions, in the evening, with a "Reunion." The large audience room of the Chapel was literally crowded. More than 2000 were present, representing not only the Baptist denomination of the United States, but also the different denominations of Christians in the city of Chicago. A free invitation had been extended to all. The exercises opened with prayer; after which the Organist was invited to favor the company with music. This he was slow to perform; for in an instant the vast edifice was filled with the powerful but melodious sounds of the monster organ, the third largest in the reunion. It is about 25 or 30 feet across the front; and stands about the same height. It requires two strong men at the bellows. I took the liberty to step behind the screen where one of the men stood supplying the instrument with wind. Great drops of perspiration were standing upon his face. He said it was hard labor; and I proved his word to be true by, myself taking the lever and working it for a moment.