

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 23, 1867.

Church of England Matters.

A question has existed in the Church of England as to whether a mandate from the Queen were necessary to the consecration of a Colonial Bishop.

By the recent decision of the Judicial Committee in the case of the Bishop of Natal, that Her Majesty has not the power to create a diocese, or assign a sphere of action to a Bishop in a colony in which an independent legislature has been established.

We congratulate our Episcopalian friends in being thus as free from state control as they are from state support.

A case has just occurred, however, in New Brunswick, which seems to conflict a little with such freedom. It appears by the death of the Rev. F. Coster, rector of Carleton, St. John, the parishoners had resolved to get Rev. Mr. Disbrow appointed; but in the mean time Bishop Medley had advised the Lieutenant Governor to appoint the Rev. Mr. Walker, who had been assisting Mr. Coster during his illness; and he was consequently duly appointed.

The Rev. Mr. McNutt, on Lord's Day, the 13th inst., preached to an immense congregation at Brussels Street Church, and gave his reasons for the step he had taken in leaving the Episcopal for the Baptist Church.

"After unfolding, with much distinctness and force, the scripturalness and propriety of this leading principle in the government of the Christian Church, and the weighty obligations resting upon all men to yield implicit obedience to this divine authority, irrespective of all consequences, the speaker said, 'This brings me to the point on which I have designed all these remarks, more or less, to bear, and of which I now proceed, more especially, to treat; and in performing this task, I desire to speak with that deference and modesty which it becomes me to do.'

"The relationships I at present sustain," said Mr. McNutt, "were not sought merely as a refuge or place of shelter from threatened danger; but because I then believed, as I now sweetly experience, that, in the bosom of the Baptist communion, my long-fevered and unsettled spirit would find a resting place and a home."

In stating his reasons for his secession from the Episcopal Church, Mr. McNutt remarked that, first of all, he objected to the connection of the Church with the State.

He objected to the spiritual supremacy of the Episcopate, as involving a grave infringement of the rights of Christ and conscience.

He objected to the baptismal service, the confirmation service, the ordination service, and the burial service, of the church, as given in the prayer-book. These services he quoted at large, commenting upon them at considerable length, and explaining in what way and to what extent he regarded them as opposed to the instruction of God's word, and destructive to the vital forces of a pure christianity.

He then went on to explain, definitely, his reasons for joining the Baptist body. He said, "In the Baptist communion I find not one of the errors to which I have referred. I find here no state sovereignty, no state vassalage, no cringing subjection to political or prelatical usurpation, no vaunting preeminence of one

minister over another, or of minister over people, or of people over each other. All are left in the enjoyment of their inalienable birth-right, mind and soul liberty—liberty to think, speak, believe, and practice, in things pertaining to God and conscience, entirely for themselves. I find here no countenancing of worldly wisdom with divine revelation, no trappings of sensuous ritualism and traditional superstition, no sacramental or ceremonial scaffolding to conduct to heaven; we find here nothing but what Christ, the divine Bishop of our souls, has expressly authorized—what is drawn from the pure and sparkling fountain of intallible truth. A few simple articles, say twenty in number, comprehend the substantial doctrines of the faith we profess—all of which are so transparently scriptural and so liberally charitable, that they commend themselves with all but resistless attractiveness to the enlightened mind.

The preacher then referred to the positive and peculiar nature of the Baptist creed on the subject of Christian baptism, recognizing those only as proper subjects of baptism who give Scriptural evidence of faith in the Redeemer, and immersion as the only scriptural mode of water baptism. These distinctive features of the Baptist faith, Mr. McNutt regarded as perfectly harmonizing with the instructions of inspired Scripture. On these points the speaker was brief but very explicit, decided, and satisfactory."

EDUCATIONAL.—We perceive by a late English paper that examinations of working men are adopted in England as a means of stimulating the people to educational effort and advancement. This is done through the Society of Arts. Members of Mechanics Institutes, Working Men's Clubs, laborers, clerks, the sons and daughters of tradesmen and farmers, and others are invited to participate in such examinations,—excluding those who were following or intended to follow a learned profession, or had enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education. Certificates are granted of proficiency, not competed for, but are awarded as records of positive attainment.

First, there are local Elementary examinations of those who present themselves. Afterwards those who show a certain amount of proficiency. Then Final examinations are held. These are at some Central town. We doubt not some such course might be made highly beneficial on this side the Atlantic. It is a subject worthy the consideration of the Council of Public Instruction.

A Circular, recently issued by the Chief Superintendent of Schools in New Brunswick to the Teachers in the county of Restigouche, proposes a number of Prizes and to have examinations of pupils from the several schools in the county to compete for them. This is intended to act on those who have educational opportunities. The former is rather for those who are unable to secure them. Both we regard as highly valuable.

DRUNKENNESS and Pauperism are great evils, and must necessarily accompany each other. Poverty abounds where the latter spirit is encouraged. Various devices have been tried to root them out, but have been only very partially successful. We, in Halifax propose a general visitation of the City. The formation of the Society for this purpose we have noticed.

Toronto appears to be making a little advance on Halifax, and purposes combining the educational and the religious with the eleemosynary principle. The Leader, in a late issue, said:

"An Association for the promotion of Well-Doing' had been established in this city. The objects of the Association, as set forth in a circular, are—first: 'Attendance at school of those who should be there and are not; attendance at worship of those who habitually absent themselves, and the increase generally of piety and worth. Second—Industrial training for the boys and girls going about idle, the one in trades, the other in household work, and employment to those who may require it; thus offering the best and most effectual relief, aid to earn what they require, and third—the prevention of street begging, drunkenness, idleness and crime. The means chiefly relied on being visitation and all that moral suasion and Christian kindness can do, addresses and distribution of tracts, urging the advantage and duty of using all our powers in promoting the well-being of ourselves and others, and pointing out how philosophy and scripture, which are so one on the subject, teach that this may be most effectually done. The association is to consist of the members of the city council, clergy and office-bearers belonging to schools and philanthropic societies in the city as ex officio members.

Another suggestion comes from Canada,—not of quite so pacific a character. It is as follows:—

THE SLASHERS.—At Smith's Falls, C. W., there is a society bearing the above cognomen, the business of whose existence is to enforce temperance principles, by means of physical force. The society is governed by a "colonel," and is composed of companies of three members; each three being commanded by a captain. Just about nightfall, with masks on for the purpose of disguise, these companies ally forth in all directions, in quest of drunkards, and if a luckless wight who has been indulging in his

potations happen to fall in their way, woe betide him. His captors know no mercy. He is seized and dragged to the nearest lamp-post, his arms lapped round it, and held there while the captain armed with a black-snake whip, administers a castigation so severe as generally to leave him a sober man, at least for the time being. It is said that many have been thus reformed; indeed, it is maintained by the Slashers that their mode of dealing with intemperance is infinitely more effective than that of the moral suasionists, in proof of which they point to the effects of the new regime, that whereas the town was formerly disgraced with drunkenness there is now no toper to be seen in its streets.

If it is said that the laws which are best administered are best, and that the value of a law must be judged by its effectiveness in accomplishing the object sought. We do not recommend the latter specific, and yet we do not know if it is not more merciful to a man's family than taking a man when found "drunk and incapable," and incarcerating him in a filthy hole, and then fining him or putting him in prison to spend a number of days in comparative idleness."

THE PROPOSED ALTERATION IN THE UNITED STATES TARIFF.—Mr. Wells has recently submitted to the Treasury his Report on Revenue and Taxation, and it would appear by it that experience has taught a lesson on the subject of Reciprocal Trade, which has been stated repeatedly by British American statesmen, but without effect. The following is a table of some of the articles in which our provinces are interested, and the changes it is proposed to make in the duties:

Table with 3 columns: Article, Present Duty, Proposed Duty. Includes items like Coal-bituminous, Fish-pickled Salmon, Herring, and various agricultural products.

This list indicates a middle course between the two, extreme protectionist and free-trade advocates, and is therefore likely to be accepted by Congress. Mr. Wells states that the Commissioners have been guided wholly by the interests of the United States. He says:—

"The Commissioners therefore having in view the general welfare, rather than any special interest, recommends that the duty on coal be either entirely removed, or placed at the lowest point consistent with the requirements of the Treasury for revenue."

This is gratifying intelligence to our commercial circles and we doubt not will raise our trade operations to an improved condition.

A QUESTION FOR THE MAGISTRACY!—Is a debt contracted for intoxicating drinks purchased on the Lord's day, one that may be collected by a rumseller?

I do not ask this question because I wish to take any unfair advantage, but because I wish to put those on their guard who think their license gives them the privilege of selling poison on seven days in the week.

[We might offer an opinion on the above, but should prefer to have a decision from one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to whom it is addressed.—Ed. C. M.]

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of "British America, arguments against a union of the Provinces reviewed; with further reasons for Confederation; by the Hon. J. McCully, Q. C.," a pamphlet of 32 pages published in London. This subject is being well canvassed before the British public as it ought to be, ere they are called to pass upon it in Parliament. The Delegates are now only waiting for Parliament to assemble which will be a week or two hence.

Notices, &c.

The next Cape Breton Quarterly Meeting will be held (D. V.) with the church at Mira Bay, commencing (at the Holmes' neighborhood) on Saturday, February 16th, at 2 p. m. By order, W. B. Bees.

The Baptist Ministerial Conference of Annapolis Co., will meet, (D. V.) at Bridgetown on Tuesday the 19th of Feb. at 9 o'clock. Preaching on Monday evening preceeding. A full attendance is solicited. W. H. Porran, Sec.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Y. M. C. Association will be held (D. V.) on Saturday evening, Jan. 26th, in their rooms, 133 Hollis Street, Chair to be taken at 7 o'clock.

Received for Foreign Missions. 1866. Dec. 24. Rev. James Reid, Fortauquique, \$4 00. "Thy Kingdom Come," To support } 25 00. 1867. Jan. 9. Do. by another } 25 00. 4. Rev. J. E. Balcom, towards supporting a native preacher. } 25 00. C. TUPPER, Sec'y.

Aylesford, Jan. 15, 1867. We accidentally omitted from our list of Agents the name of Charles Neil of St. Mary's Bay, Digby County. Our subscribers in that neighbourhood will oblige by paying to him any amounts due us.

Letters Received.

D. F. Curry, Esq., \$2.50 G. Robinson, E. Layton, J. Meadows, Chas. Bill, Esq., \$10.50. J. P. Wood, C. Jost, Esq., (2) 4 subs., \$24. W. Churchill, Esq., \$20. A. McDonnell, 1 sub., \$9. Chas. McNeill, 1 sub., \$4. Abel Strong, \$2. W. J. Gates, 1 sub.—Yes, the \$6 was credited as you directed. M. Kinsman, \$4. W. H. Chipman, per Mr. Fellows, \$10. Rev. P. F. Murray, \$4. Rev. A. H. Munro, \$8. Rev. W. H. Porter, \$2. Asaph Marshall, Esq., (2) \$8, 1 sub. Rev. W. B. Boggs, Rev. B. Scott, H. Pinceo, Rev. Jas. Reid, Rev. J. Bancroft, J. Whitman, \$4. J. W. Barss, \$2, 1 sub. Rev. S. B. Kempton, Rev. Dr. Tupper, 1 sub.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

Provincial Secretary's Office, 8th December, 1866. APPOINTMENTS:

Annapolis Co.—To be Justices of the Peace: William H. Troop, (to take precedence from the date of his former appointment, 1849.) Jacob Neily, Major Stronach, James A. Gibbon, Welton Welton, John Stoddart, Samuel Neily, Bernard Calne, Samuel McCormick, John Ryder, Charles Whitman, W. A. Corbett, John Rice, William Wright, William Carlton, George Ditmars, Dowe D. Potter. To be Registrar of Deeds for said County: John McCormick.

Pictou Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace: Donald McDonald, Fisher's Grant.

Kings Co.—To be Justices of the Peace: Jeremiah Bligh, West Cornwallis, Leander Eaton, Canard. To be Issuers of Marriage Licenses and Deputy Registrars of Marriages, Births, and Deaths: Charles McMillan, East Lake Ainslie, Pictou county, John Forbes, North Sydney, C. B. To be Deputy Registrars of Marriages, Births and Deaths: J. Whidden Allison, Avondale, Hants Co., Charles Rudolf, La-Have, Lunenburg County, Matherson, Little Bras d'Or, C. B., John Gunn, Hopewell, Pictou Co., James G. Ross, Maligant Brook, Antigonish, Stephen McNeil, Beaver's Cove, C. B., Donald McDonald, Georgeville, Cape George, Antigonish, Archibald McGillivray, Antigonish, Antigonish County.

Richmond Co.—To be Justices of the Peace: Francis Marmad, senr., Arichat, Duncan Cameron, St. Peters.

Victoria Co.—To be Prothonotary and Registrar of Deeds for said County: Alexander Taylor, junr.

Halifax Co.—To be Postmaster at Tangier: Joseph Browner, in place of—Leary, resigned.

OUR CITY RAILWAY.—The heavy fall of snow on Thursday night last has decided for the present the question of running the City Railcars. On Friday morning an attempt was made to clear the track, but it was altogether ineffectual, and the public are now left dependant on the ordinary conveyances of the City. The snow was piled up on the sides of the streets in some places to the height of five or six feet. Suggestions have been made that the inmates of Rockhead should have a little healthful exercise given them in levelling the snow, so that vehicles might not be confined to the centre of the street.

We are informed that the Governor in Council, has sanctioned the ordinance of the City Corporation, prohibiting the use of salt on the track, but not disallowing the use of the snow-plow.

Notwithstanding the storm on Thursday, the Rosebud Band of Hope held their entertainment, and Temperance Hall was well filled. The juveniles, however, had a sorry time getting home.

LIFE BOATS.—A proposal has been made to engraft a Life-boat Institution on the Provincial Naval Brigade. An important service for which it is well to make provision.

ENJOYMENT FOR THE DEAF MUTES.—The inmates of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, to the number of 42, were treated to a sleigh-drive in several of Conlon's conveyances, on Thursday last, to the great delight of all the party. They are indebted to this treat to the kind anticipation of their wishes by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to whom the happy group paid their respects at Government House, as they passed along, receiving from him a courteous welcome. No cheers came forth from their silent tongues, yet no one could look on their joyous faces without feeling that there was real cheerfulness within.

WIS.—The Grand Jury of Lunenburg county have refused to recommend the issuing of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors in that county.

POLITICAL.—The Anti Confederates of Colchester county took the opportunity of the Court of Sessions meeting at Truro on Wednesday last to hold a political gathering. Mr. John Putman was called to the chair, speeches were made on the aspect of public affairs by A. W. McLellan, W. Blackwood, R. Chambers, T. F. Morrison, A. N. Tupper and Daniel Murray, Esqrs.