

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 27, 1867.

We have ever, hitherto, and still feel it our duty, to abstain from the discussion of party politics. Conducting a journal like the Christian Messenger, ministering to the religious, intellectual and moral wants of a very numerous body of the community, and one which above all others, asserts for itself the right of entire freedom and independence of thought, whether in secular or religious matters, and among whom, we are well aware, much diversity of opinion as regards political questions must prevail, it would most evidently be wrong to meddle with party differences. We have, however, where the occasion seemed to require it, never attempted to disguise our own views, on any of the great topics which, from time to time, may have divided public opinion, but endeavoured to express them with candour and moderation. Thus on the subject which for these two years past has so largely occupied the pages of the secular Press, and caused so great a conflict of opinion in the community—we allude of course to the great question of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, we have always freely expressed the honest convictions of our own minds in its favor, we do not deem it necessary here to do more than state very briefly a few of the principal reasons, which have appeared to us most cogent in favor of the Union now accomplished. Among the first and most important, in our own view, is the strengthening and ensuring of our connection with the British Empire—an Empire under whose admirable constitution and laws these Colonies at this moment are enjoying a greater degree of real liberty than is probably, the lot of any other country on earth, and a severance from whose rule and protection would certainly, as we think, sooner or later, expose us to great political misfortune. The experience of the last six years, ought to teach us that annexation to the neighboring Republic would be anything but a desirable change. That country with all its fine institutions, its social and political advantages, and they are no doubt many, affords but feeble evidence of stability or improvement in its institutions or its future. In the course of four years they have accumulated a public debt, beside separate State debts, larger than that of Great Britain during more than a century. The Democratic principle among them has become so overpowering as to override the constitution whenever any great question becomes the subject of strong popular feeling, and although we are quite convinced that a vast amount of moral and religious worth exists in the country, we believe it far too weak to resist the constant tide of innovation that is sapping the best principles of Government among them. The numerous increasing and widely separated States of the Union have no common or permanent centre but a name, to enlist or cement their sympathies, and the seeds of disintegration have already been largely sown, and may very possibly ere long produce fruits most adverse to the enjoyment of national freedom. Any closer alliance, in such a state of things, than that of commerce and kindly intercourse, is in our view any thing but desirable.

"CONFEDERATION, considered on its merits; being an examination into the principle, capabilities and terms of Union, as applicable to Nova Scotia." By a Nova Scotian. This pamphlet of 35 pages published by R. T. Muir, 135 Granville Street, places the subject in a clear, distinct light, and meets the objections in a plain, straightforward manner, well calculated to instruct the people. We are not aware who is the author, but think he has succeeded admirably in putting the question in a succinct form calculated to be useful to his fellow-countrymen. He treats his subject under the following heads: The principle and capabilities of Union; the position and wants of Nova Scotia; the difficulty and its remedy; the case of Belgium; the terms of Union; the benefits to be realized; what Union will do for the farmers of Nova Scotia; its advantages to the fisherman; the artisan and laborer; its political aspect; the distribution of revenue; misrepresentations; the supporters of Union; what the Confederation will give us compared with the Quebec scheme; strength and resources of the Confederacy; conclusion.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of various public documents presented to the Legislature during the past week: REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL 1866; from which we learn that the disbursements of the past year were \$86,127.14, an excess

of £5,180.12 over 1865, and the income \$69,010.99, an increase of \$6,689.24 over 1865.

The Money Order Office has nearly doubled its amount of business during the year.

THE IMMIGRATION REPORT which shows that 932 immigrants arrived in the province during the year.

REPORT OF CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT, 1866.

REPORTS CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH; the Steamship "England," &c.; Indian Affairs.

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF WORKS.

FINANCIAL RETURNS of Expenditure and Revenue; and VARIOUS STATEMENTS connected with the TRADE and COMMERCE of Nova Scotia.

We have been unable to wade through the whole of these important papers. The following comparative statement of Imports and Exports for the years 1865 and 1866, will be perused with interest.

Imports into the province during the years ended 30th September, 1865 and 1866:

Table with 3 columns: Countries, 1865, 1866. Lists countries like Great Britain, Canada, New Brunswick, etc., with their respective import values for 1865 and 1866.

Duty.—The amount of duty collected at the port of Halifax in 1865 was \$868,144.05, and in 1866 \$994,910.19—showing an increase for 1866 of \$126,766.14.

Exports from Nova Scotia during the years ended 30th September, 1865 and 1866.

Table with 3 columns: Countries, 1865, 1866. Lists countries like Great Britain, Canada, New Brunswick, etc., with their respective export values for 1865 and 1866.

Exhibiting a decrease in the year 1866, of \$787,598.

The Receiver General's Account shows to the credit of the Province the sum of \$118,882.40.

The Fishing Licences realized the sum of \$1,151.56

REPORT OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MINES

REGISTRATION REPORT. In this Report we find some exceedingly interesting facts developed. We know something of the materials from which Mr. Costley had to compile his report, and believe that it has been a most laborious work to present them in the form he has here done. In the Registration department, we believe there is more labor performed in proportion to the expenditure, than in any branch of the public work.

The advantages of Registration to the people are not so direct as those of imports and exports, trade and commerce, but they are of far higher importance, and will be found in future years more seriously to affect many families. Any neglect allowed in these matters now may cause serious injury many years hence, and no pains should be spared to put the department on its proper footing and give it adequate support. An extract from Mr. Costley's Report will interest our readers:

"During the last year ended 30th September, 1866, the number of births registered amounted to 7876, of deaths, to 3865, and of marriages, to 2720. It will thus be seen that as regards births, the number registered during the past

year exceeds that of its predecessor by about 350 per cent., of deaths by 250 per cent., and of marriages by nearly 50 per cent. Should it be found possible to keep up this ratio of improvement, the registration system in this Province may be expected to reach a sound and satisfactory condition within the next two years.

The number of Marriages registered in Nova Scotia during 1866, was 2720, of which 2082 were by license, and 638 by publication of banns.

Of the 2720 marriages celebrated last year, 646 belong to the Baptist Church; 583 to the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces; 501 to the Roman Catholic Church; 465 to the Church of England; 250 to the Wesleyan Church; 141 to the Church of Scotland; 53 to the Lutheran; 41 to the Congregationalist; 29 to the Reformed Presbyterians, and 11 to other smaller bodies."

The Registration of Births and Deaths is yet far from complete, and will probably continue so until Registrars are compelled to levy the fines for neglect.

THE NINTH ANNUAL Report of the Institution for the DEAF AND DUMB, shows the establishment to be in its usual state of efficiency and usefulness.

MEMOIR OF REV. HARRIS HARDING.—Rev. A. D. Thomson of St. Andrews, N. B., in a letter to the Visitor, writes as follows, and requests us to copy it:—

"I am much gratified, and congratulate my worthy Brother Davis, after his toil and faithful labor in getting up the life and times of the Rev. Harris Harding of happy memory, to see such men as Rev Dr. Crawley and Tupper coming forward with their commendations of the work, and speaking of the labours of the author with such becoming approval. I doubt not that when the present edition is disposed of and read, that it will give rise to many reminiscences of the past life and times of that extraordinary servant of the Most High, that would enrich a second edition in no small degree. I hope the above hint will be acted upon, and those who have in memory rich sayings and doings of that humble and godly man, will commit them to paper and remit them to Bro. J. D., free of expense.

Having had some acquaintance with the author, and subject of the memoir, and their differences of administration and style, I was not expecting so life like a picture of the departed as I found it to be.

Buy the book brethren, it "brings times past to present view, brings distant objects home."

MARCH is generally the month which carries off a large portion of the aged and feeble than any other in the year. The slight change from the severity of winter, and the piercing winds act on the diminished vital forces, and often in a few days bring down those who have probably for years past been the pillars of society.

In our list of deaths last week, was that of SIMON FITCH, Esq., of Wolfville. We received the telegram from his son-in-law, J. W. Bass, Esq., conveying to us the information, after going to press, or we should at the same time have given some remarks expressive of our feelings on the departure of one for whom we entertained the highest esteem, and who had been so many years known and beloved through the Baptist denomination. He had attained the good old age of 83 years, and up to the day of his death retained much of his usual vigor and freshness. On the previous day he had been about as usual, and conducted family worship. He was in the act of dressing on the 19th Inst., when feeling unwell, he returned to bed, and in a few minutes had fallen asleep in Jesus.

From the earliest efforts of the Baptists to secure Educational Institutions, Mr. Fitch had been a warm supporter of them, and by his presence and counsel rendered important aid in their behalf. He will be greatly missed in the church and community where he had lived for so long a period.

Halifax has recently lost several of its more aged citizens. A perusal of the list of deaths in the papers from week to week, would tend to confirm the belief that this province is highly favorable to longevity.

We regret to learn of the departure of the Rev. E. McLeod, editor of the Religious Intelligencer of St. John, N. B. We had the pleasure of making his acquaintance some years since, and have always received his paper with pleasure. He was the leading minister of the Free-will Baptists of New Brunswick and had made great sacrifices in their behalf. He was also pastor of the church of that order in Fredrieston. He was a man of an excellent spirit, and will be greatly lamented by large numbers of that people, as well as by those of other denominations.

A compliment is paid to one of the Boston papers, by a religious contemporary, which it would be well if the same could be said of a good many other papers, "it contains nothing to cause a blush on the cheek of man or woman."

"THE DOMINION" EXTENDING.—A Telegram from San Francisco on the 18th Inst., states that:—

"Despatches from New Westminster announce that the Legislative Council of British Columbia voted unanimously for admission into the Colonial Confederacy."

Notices, &c.

The Annapolis Co. Ministerial Conference

will meet (D. V.) at Stony Beach, Granville, on Tuesday the 16th of April, at 9 o'clock. Preaching on the previous evening and Ordination of Deacons in connection with the Conference.

W. H. PORTER, Secretary of Conference.

Letters Received.

M. Wylie \$4.50. G. Cogswell, Esq., \$4. Rev. D. McKeen. S. Smith. H. Roberts. Rev. J. C. Morse. \$2. I sub. Rev. I. J. Skinner, \$9. D. Smith, \$2.— Rev. W. Burton. M. Kinsman, \$5. W. Churchill, \$20. W. Aymer, Esq., \$8.50. Rev. T. A. Blackadar, \$4. H. E. Payson, Esq., \$6.50.—Yes, all right. Thanks. Rev. I. Wallace. J. D. Marsters, 1 sub.— Rev. J. A. Stubbart, \$3. Rev. D. Freeman. A. J. Hill, \$4. D. Corbett, \$4. W. Haley. W. J. Gates, 1 sub. Rev. Chas. Randall, \$4. Rev. W. H. Porter, \$4.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

In the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL the Hon. Mr. Almon moved an amendment to the address in answer to His Excellency's Speech similar to that of Mr. Stewart Campbell in the Assembly. The same arguments were used in its support as in the Lower House. Those in favor of the Address too, were much of the same character as the speeches in the Assembly. On the division taking place, there were found 12 in favor and 6 against the amendment. The Address was therefore carried by the same a two-thirds vote as in the Assembly. The Honorable Messrs Comeau, and Patterson being absent.

JEDDORE.—Jeddore Harbor is nine miles long. It is composed of Egmont Basin, Jeddore East, and West, the Nor-West Branch and the River. Its greatest width is perhaps a mile and a half. Jeddore River extends far into a mountainous country, and is generally bounded by high bluffs; some of which are over 300 feet in height, and nearly perpendicular. Its water course abounds with beautiful broad basins, situated in a wildly romantic country. Dark borders of spruce, fir, hemlock, birch, maple, beech and other indigenous trees, densely shade the steep lands on every side of many of these, as also the river, and the scenery has a rich variety in its novelty, only peculiar to Halifax County; yet no where more prevalent than in this vicinity.

There are few portions of Nova Scotia more inviting to the sportsman, the ardent lover of nature, and the genial, affable tourist, than Jeddore. Every person is as hospitable as possible; and, because of the "piscatory" nature of the avocations, if every house you approach cannot accommodate you with hospitality, and their "best of cheer," the kind hearted inmates gladly recommend their neighbor who can, and will be almost sure to lead the way, by the "short cut," to the designated spot. This is not only exceedingly pleasant, but is as it should be. Owing to the prevalence of heavy fires in past years, which have robbed the "Point" of its dense growth of fine wood, and the extremely rocky nature of the land, agriculture is limited, and cattle raising, the dairy, and fishing, are the principle means of support. The land is dear at two shillings an acre; as it is only fit for pasturage and building purposes; yet beautiful stone for the architect may be obtained here, at a small expense, as the quarries are conveniently situated near the water. Hundreds upon hundreds of acres lie bleak rocky and bare to the single view as the visitor approaches Jeddore Point, yet the shores are thickly settled by an industrious people, and most of the houses are suggestive, if not of luxury and refinement, of a large amount of comfort. The inhabitants are affable and appreciative. It has a good Debating Society, meeting weekly, to discuss such questions as "Confederation." "Which the most beneficial, the products of the mind, or the products of the earth," &c.

Notwithstanding the many natural disadvantages of Jeddore, it is blessed with more pleasing characteristics in the hearts and homes of many of its people.

The sparkling waters in the bean ideal inlets, the picturesque undulations, the broad Egmont, and its crowding, busy boat-fleet, the music-loving, enthusiastic people, and the countless attractions which make up the arcadian picture of content and happiness, make Jeddore, in summer, a favorite resort for the tourist and the lover of Nature's beauty.

They are chiefly Baptists and Episcopalians, the former predominating; yet a unanimity of charitable toleration for all denominations prevails. All appointments for religious worship are well attended. The Wesleyan body send an itinerant once in three weeks to the "Branch," and service is held in the school house. There is a commodious Episcopalian Church there, yet it seems to indicate a gloomy state of interior life from its unpainted and dark exterior. Perhaps at the moment of its completion, except by paint, the tasteful Episcopalians suddenly resolved to build another shortly, and thus permitted the edifice to remain.