

Agriculture, &c.

For the Christian Messenger.

Spruce Hedges.

"A Young Beginner," in the Christian Messenger of the 8th inst., asks for instruction respecting the manner of obtaining seeds and slips, and setting out and growing Spruce and Thorn Hedges. I have been experimenting with Spruce Hedge for twenty years and think I may be able to give him some information.

About Thorn Hedges I have but little to say, as I believe no one should attempt to raise it in this country. It requires a great deal of cultivation to make it grow at all, and when grown it must be cut every year, and in this country Thorn Hedges soon become sickly under any circumstances. But if a "Beginner" prefers to try it he can obtain the seeds in the Fall, in almost any place where Thorn Hedges are grown. They should be kept in the cellar during the winter mixed with earth, and sown early in the spring. The seeds of the spruce may be obtained by gathering the cones at the time of the first frost. They must be thoroughly dried and the seed can be easily shelled or separated from the cone. But this is unnecessary the small spruce bushes found every where on waste lands, and in old pastures, are just what is needed to set out a spruce hedge. After trying various methods I have adopted the following as the most expeditious and best plan for planting a hedge. I "backfurrow" a ridge five feet wide, ploughing it several times. I then open a trench by running the plough through the centre twice. I set two rows one foot apart, and the trees ten inches apart in the row. The bushes can be pulled up without any digging. About twenty inches high is the best size to set, and two men will prepare the ground and set twenty rods in a day.

The trees should be set on a cloudy or damp day, to prevent the roots from being dried, and if the work is carefully done not more than one in twenty will die. I have found the month of May the best time for planting, but they will do very well in June and October. The ground needs no cultivation whatever after the trees are all set. They will do better if the ground is mulched with rushes, chips, brush or rotten wood.

They will make a substantial hedge without being cut or topped, but a much better one if topped as soon as high enough for a hedge, and if a handsome hedge is desired it should be sheared the same as a thorn hedge.

No one need have any fears that the spruce will not make a good hedge, it has been sufficiently tested in this country. They will grow on any kind of land if properly set, while the thorn will not grow on heavy, wet or poor land.

Sheep must be kept away from Spruce Hedges when the snow is upon the ground, and sometimes cattle will injure them when first turned from the barn in the spring, that is while the hedge is young. After it is fully grown and sheared neither cattle nor sheep will do it much injury. The spruce grows slowly for two or three years, but if planted as I have directed, and any that may die the first year is replaced by others, a good hedge will certainly be secured. A WESTERN FARMER.

Wilmot, May 15th, 1867.

TO MOTHERS.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children, is an old and well-tried remedy. It has stood the test of many, many years, and never known to fail. It not only relieves the child from pain, but invigorates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, and gives rest and health to the child and comfort to the mother.

THROAT AFFECTIONS.—A Physician writing from Newfane, New York, speaking of the beneficial effects resulting from the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches," says: "For alleviating that horrid irritation only felt by those who have suffered from any Bronchial Affection, and for Hoarseness and Sore Throat too, I am free to confess (though I am an M. D.) they answer all you claim for them." To avoid disappointment, be sure to obtain the genuine "Brown's Bronchial Troches."

Probably no disease (except epidemic diseases) has been more fatal than the Diphtheria. For a time it baffled the skill of physicians everywhere, and is still causing them careful and anxious study. As an internal and external remedy for that fatal scourge of our Province, Diphtheria, we are told that Johnson's Anodyne Liniment has no equal; effectually preventing when used in season, and affording great relief to, and seldom failing to cure the most stubborn cases. No family should be without it.

We pledge our reputation on the assertion that any educated physician, after a careful examination of the recipe, will say that Parsons' Purgative Pills possess more merit than any other pill now offered for sale.

GOLDEN WORDS FOR DAILY USE.

Selected from C. H. Spurgeon's "Morning by Morning."

JUNE 2. Sunday. On Him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus, Luke xxxiii. 26.

Though Simon had to bear the cross for a very little while, it gave him lasting honour. Even so the cross we carry is but for a little while, and then we shall receive the crown.

3. Monday. For me to live is Christ, Phil. i. 21.

This alone is the true life of a Christian. Its source, its sustenance, its fashion, its end, all expressed in one word, Christ Jesus.

4. Tuesday. Just, and the Justifier of him which believeth, Rom. iii. 26.

Thy faith, O Christian, rests not on what thou art, or dost feel, or know, but on what Christ is, in what He has done, and is doing now for thee.

5. Wednesday. Cursed be he that maketh flesh his arm, Jer. xvii. 5.

Few run too far in neglecting the creature's arm; but very many sin greatly in making too much of it.

6. Thursday. Faultless before the presence of his glory, Jude 24.

All the jewels in the Saviour's crown are of the first water, and without a single flaw. Saints will not be out of place in heaven; their beauty will be as great as that of the place prepared for them.

7. Friday. When I am weak, then am I strong, 2 Cor. xii. 10.

The most healthy state of a Christian is to be empty in self, and constantly depending on the strength of Jesus.

8. Saturday. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much, James v. 16.

Prayer girds human weakness with Divine strength, turns our folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

The relation which the present School Law bears upon the future existence of Denominational Academies and Colleges.

A close observer of the operations of our present School Law must feel convinced that all opposition must cease to a system which is already accomplishing such vast results in educating the youthful mind of Nova Scotia. Some improvements in the Act are desirable, one of which should be viz., that of imposing a fine upon parents or guardians for neglecting to send their children to the School, as by law established; another to carry out the compulsory assessment more generally, placing it out of the power of a majority to have no school in a District which is often the cause of great grievance to many who have large families to educate.

The question will arise 1st, What will become of those Academies or High Schools which do not come under the operations of the School Act? I answer they will be closed. The qualifications required on the part of Teachers, for County Academies and Superior Schools, are such, that these schools are equal to our best. Witness the Schools in Yarmouth town, where there are twelve teachers in one building, some of whom are graduates of the Universities of Europe, and the modern languages are taught by accomplished masters, and where a boy can be well prepared to matriculate in any College in Nova Scotia. Will any Yarmouth boys go to Windsor, Horton, or Sackville when these advantages are at his door? The same remarks may apply to other parts of the Province. The ultimate destiny of our Denominational Academies will be, they will cease.

2nd. What will become of the Denominational Colleges now in existence. If the pressure is coming upon the Academies, and Private Schools, the same pressure will bear heavily upon the Colleges requiring higher qualifications and a larger Staff of Professors than what we see now in Nova Scotia in any Institution. The drift of the public mind is now for a Metropolitan University. No one Religious Body can sustain an efficient University in this small Province. As a Denomination we should foresee the exigencies likely to arise in connexion with the cause of Education, and should prepare to meet them.

Confederation is the order of passing events. Concentration is a felt necessity amongst nations and all organized societies, either secular or religious, at the present day. Should the lesson be lost upon us? Acadia College might rally around it the sympathies of the Baptists of British North America if proper steps were pursued. We have an Institution in Horton, and one in Fredericton. Is there any necessity for Dr. Spurgeon to teach Theology and Hebrew there, when his services would extend over a larger field in Horton, where more strength is required in the Theological staff,

why not give him a chair at Acadia? thus uniting the two Provinces in the bonds of Educational Union. We have likewise an Institution in Canada under Dr. Fyfe, more elementary in its character, but where the energetic Dr. is doing a good work for us, more fortunate than former attempts in reference to Baptist Education in that country. Would it not be wise to open up a correspondence with the Canada brethren on this matter, or to send a Delegation to confer with them on subjects in which we have a common interest. Acadia will soon be crippled by reason of the advanced age of two of her Professors, one of whom is past his three score and ten, the other bordering closely upon it. Our duty now is to prepare for the crises, and not to put off until the last moment. Verbum sapientibus satis est.

WM. HALL.

[Mr. Hall has in the above stated some things quite correctly which, however, are already pretty generally known. Others are somewhat questionable. We are not quite prepared to advocate the rigorous amendments to our School Law he suggests. We think it is scarcely in harmony with Nova Scotia views and feelings that compulsion in Educational matters should be carried to the extent he proposes, nor do we think it is needful. For all practical purposes with the inducements presented by the law, it is not likely that any will keep their children longer than possible from obtaining education. The law is provided rather for the encouragement of education than for enforcing it on unwilling and negligent parents. We nevertheless believe that no parent has the right to allow his children to grow up without at least the rudiments of learning. As to the Denominational Academies, Mr. Hall appears to be supposing that they will not partake of the general stimulus given to education. We believe far otherwise. If they were to remain in the same state as they were before the increase of educational advantages his conclusions might have some weight; but, being raised in their character to meet the increasing demand for higher education, they will become the resort of the largely increased number of persons desirous of obtaining the advantages they present. As the number of children attending school increases so doubtless will be the number of those seeking a classical and collegiate course, and the demands for well equipped teachers will be also increased. The higher Academies will be the principal source of supplying these for the Common and Superior Schools. We do not think there need be much concern about them whilst they so efficiently do the work for which they are instituted. All honor to the Yarmouth people for the public spirit they have manifested in establishing their excellent Seminary.

We see no indication of the current of opinion of which Mr. Hall speaks respecting our Colleges. The Governors of the several colleges in the province will doubtless be prepared for the altered circumstances of the country, so that when any change is demanded in their constitution, and the objects at which they aim, it may be promptly met and such provision made as the progressive spirit of the age demands.

Mr. Hall need indulge no fears respecting Acadia. The governors, are we believe, fully aware of what her Faculty comprises. Young men are not generally possessed of the same ripe scholarship and experience, as those more advanced in life. There is, however, a happy combination in the Professors of Acadia. Let us be thankful that God in his good Providence has spared to the College such men as the two professors, to whom Mr. H. refers. Let the friends of the college continually manifest their thankfulness by rendering all needed support to the governors, and we trust that the said professors may have the vigor they now enjoy long continued, so that the cause of Christ may yet for several years have the benefit of their valuable labors.—ED.]

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

TO MY SISTER MARIA.

May God support us in this bitter hour! May Hope still cheer us with unfading power! May Faith unflinching raise our drooping eyes To those bright mansions far beyond the skies! And when our tears shall unrestrained flow In all the deep intensity of woe, Think then that she, whose loss we both deplore, Though dead, yet lives,—not lost—but gone before. In those far regions from all sorrow free, She waits the dawning of eternity. Hush then the sob, the wailing low and deep— She is not dead, but only fall'n asleep— Asleep in Jesus till that last great day When mortal tears shall all be washed away.

ETTER.

Written at mother's grave, in the Cemetery at Milton, Mass., Friday morning, April 26th, 1867.

For the Christian Messenger.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM FIELDEN.

I have been requested by a daughter of the above, to furnish a few particulars of their lives and deaths for the Christian Messenger.

They resided in Horton, and were for over thirty years consistent members of the Baptist Church in that place. The mother made a profession of Religion several years before the father. As she was first to enter the church on earth, so it was her privilege first to enter the church triumphant. Mrs. F. died of typhoid fever, after a fortnight's illness, Oct. 28th, 1863, aged 64 years. Her companion followed, Feb. 19th, 1867. Brother Fielden's parents were both Baptists, and members of the Horton Church. His grand parents, on the father's side, were also pious people. They were Quakers.

Mr. and Mrs. Fielden left eight children and a number of grandchildren to mourn their loss. The daughter who has furnished the writer with the particulars here mentioned, speaks in glowing terms of her mother's example, instruction, and prayers. Nor does she express herself less confidently respecting her father's piety. So to live as to impress upon our children and those who know us best, the reality and importance of religion, must be acknowledged to be a very favorable mark. Our departed Sister loved to pray, and believed in the reality of the prayer of faith, and its efficacy to heal the sick, and to obtain other important temporal blessings, as well as to bring down "all spiritual blessings, in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

On one occasion her husband was stunned and nearly killed by a blow from a falling piece of timber, while assisting in raising a house-frame. As he lay one day in the agonies of death, she knelt by the bedside, heedless of the company present, and poured out her soul in deep-toned agonizing prayer, such as always has, and always will, move heaven and earth: "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous which avails much." And her husband recovered. Where there more such prayers there would be less sin and less sickness on earth, fewer untimely deaths, and more numerous and richer blessings.

Bro. Fielden was in his 80th year when he died. He, too, believed in a Living God, whose truth abideth forever, and who still hears and answers prayer. The following incident may be given in illustration: For many years he had been afflicted with "Heart disease." Five or six years before his death, a stranger passed through the settlement, professing to heal diseases by the imposition of hands and prayer. Of course such pretensions would be received by most people as indications of insanity or imposition, for people are at this day, in such matters, about what they were two or three thousand years ago. But a little boy, son of Mr. M. T., residing near Hantsport, was actually and instantly cured of his partial deafness by said stranger laying his hands upon his head and praying. Hearing of this fact Mr. Fielden at once was led to believe that could he see this man, he would get rid of his dangerous disease of the heart. In about a fortnight accordingly a stranger called in the evening and asked for a night's lodging. It was readily granted. It proved to be the person who had cured the neighbor's child of his deafness. He appeared devout, evangelical in his religious views, and so heavenly and Scriptural was his conversation, so serious his manner, that the family were deeply impressed. Mr. F. told him of his distressing complaint, and the stranger laid his hands upon him and prayed. After waiting a while for the answer, he pronounced him cured. And he was cured. He was never again troubled with the complaint. Two persons were then mentioned who were laboring under the same affliction, who were not present. Both of these were prayed for and both were also healed.

I give those incidents on what I consider unexceptionable testimony. I have no difficulty in believing them, and have good evidence that still greater wonders are being performed in our days, by the prayer of faith. What we often hear about the "age of miracles having ceased, by the appointment of heaven," receives no countenance from Holy Scripture. Unbelief in all ages could hinder miracles, and shut off every other blessing. But there never was and never will be any other barrier in the way of our receiving all that infinite love and power can bestow. Were Christ himself present among us now, would He be able to do many mighty works? "because of our unbelief." I fear not. S. T. RAND.

Hantsport, May 18th.

Religious Intelligence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Hantsport and Gaspereaux.

Dear Brother Selden,—

It has been my privilege to baptize twenty-one happy believers at Hantsport, since the 10th of March, these in addition to a number baptized by Bro. Welton make, in all, thirty since the revival commenced. The church has been without a Pastor since Father Burton's death, Bro. Titus, one of our young men from the College, is now labouring amongst the people with much acceptance. We are now enjoying a precious revival season at Gaspereaux. On Sabbath the 12th inst., seven were baptized; three received by letter, and one by experience. It was a season of deep interest. Yes—