

a great and difficult mission work alone; but she was refined and gentle, for she was, and was known to be, "the beloved Persia."—Rev. W. Arnot.

For the Christian Messenger. Rhetorical Exercises at Acadia College.

The winter Exhibition of Acadia College was held in the Baptist Meeting house on Friday Evening, Dec. 20th. The weather proved somewhat stormy. It did not, however, deter the people of Wolfville from turning out to enjoy their annual literary feast.

The Entertainment opened with— Music..... "Once more this day." Prayer..... by the Rev. E. M. Saunders. Music..... "The earth is the same."

Then came the ORATIONS. Mission of the beautiful, Wm. Newcomb, Sophomore. Plea for the right, C. F. Jost, Sophomore. Music..... "Night of the grave." Mesmerism, E. M. Chesley, Sophomore. Language, C. E. Myers, Parial Course. Music..... "Then thou wilt show me." Transition Periods, J. F. Tufts, Senior.

Addresses were then given by the Revs. A. S. Hunt, E. M. Saunders, and G. Armstrong.

After some appropriate remarks from the President the exercises closed with the doxology, and the benediction by Dr. Crawley.

The orations were a happy mingling of the solid, the beautiful, and the ingenious. It would be invidious to particularize, but we cannot omit to mention what seemed to be the singular success of a very difficult undertaking in the oration of Mr. E. M. Chesley. He so discussed the subject of Mesmerism, table rappings and all its other branches, as to almost leave the impression upon the minds of the audience, that it is an article of belief with him; and at the same time he offset this grave phase of the discussion with such extravagant predictions of the place and importance, that the subject of Mesmerism will, ere long, have in the system of education, and be so clothed these predictions in the resplendent robes of fancy, and accompanied the delivery with corresponding gestures, that the whole could not fail to convince the audience that the orator was giving a burlesque to this stupendous folly, which has cheated and befooled so many in modern times.

We learned with pleasure that there are indications of a revival of religion at the Institution. For this let the friends of the College pray, and for this may all who name the name of Christ in that place labor.

ONE PRESENT.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 25, 1867.

Christmas Day.

On this auspicious morning it affords us much pleasure to greet our readers and to wish them a Merry Christmas. And we hope they may be spared to enter upon and rejoice in a Happy New Year. These greetings we would extend to all—friend and foe, without one exception, and we pray that their joys may be derived from the highest source—"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men."

In addition to what we stated in our last respecting "OUR FUTURE," we have much pleasure in being able to inform our readers that the Rev. Dr. Cramp, President of Acadia College, has engaged to furnish for our columns in 1868, a series of papers to be entitled "Thoughts on Theology, comprising the substance of Lectures delivered to the students of Acadia College." Our patrons will hail these as most opportune in the present aspect of theological enquiry.

We shall also devote special attention to Reviews and Literary notices so as to keep our readers well informed of what is appearing in the world of literature.

The state and progress of religion in all parts of the world, we regard as an essential feature of the Christian Messenger, and one which we shall strive to supply even more fully than heretofore, so as to make it all that can be desired in a Religious and General Family Newspaper.

We look with confidence to our brethren and friends for aid in extending our circulation.

We shall commence the New Year with a new series of Sabbath School Scripture Readings—taking the arrangement, as given in Robinson's Harmony of the Gospels. This shows the passages in each of the gospels, having reference to the same event, and placed in their proper order. By this means a better and more thorough acquaintance with the history of our Lord and his teachings may be obtained, than by any amount of desultory reading in the same books.

We print off a number of Lists of the Lessons for the year for Sabbath School use. These being given to the pupils they always know what the lesson is, so that it, by accident or otherwise, any are detained at home, the passage is known and may be read there the same at the Sabbath School.

The Week of Prayer.

Two weeks since—on the 11th inst.—we published the Circular of the Evangelical Alliance in reference to making the first week of 1868, a Week of United Prayer. We are glad to find that arrangements have been made in Halifax for carrying out the suggestions it contains. The following is the circular of the Halifax Committee:

The British and Foreign Evangelical Alliance having again issued a Circular, inviting Christians to make arrangements for, and observe a Week of Special United Prayer at the commencement of the New Year—the Halifax Committee, in again reproducing the Circular, respectfully invite Christians and Christian Churches in Nova Scotia, to unite in solemn earnest supplications at the Throne of the Heavenly Grace for the bestowment of the several blessings suggested in the Circular, and it is sent to the several Ministers throughout the Province, that time may be given for completing the necessary arrangements.

In the City of Halifax, the meetings will be held (D. V.) at the undermentioned times and places:

By order of the Committee, THOS. A. BROWN, Chairman. JAMES FARQUHAR, Secretary.

We repeat the subjects suggested for each days' supplications and exhortations in connection with the place of meeting for each day as follows:

SABBATH, January 5th, Y. M. C. Association at 4 1/2 p. m., a meeting conducted by young men, Sermons, Subject: The person, work, and kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MONDAY, January 6th, at 9 1/2 a. m., and from 7 1/2 to 9 p. m., in CHALMERS' CHURCH. Thanksgiving for special and general mercies during the past year, to nations, churches, and families; and confession of sins.

TUESDAY, January 7th, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 to 9 p. m., in GRAFTON STREET CHURCH.—Prayer for nations; for kings and all in authority; for the observance of the Lord's Day; for the removal of obstacles in the way of moral and religious progress; and for internal and international peace.

WEDNESDAY, January 8th, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 to 9 p. m., in ST. JOHN'S CHURCH. Prayer for families; for schools, colleges, and universities; and for our sons and daughters in foreign countries.

THURSDAY, January 9th, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 to 9 p. m., in GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH.—Prayer for Christian ministers, and all engaged in Christ's service; for God's ancient Israel, and for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FRIDAY, January 10th, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 to 9 p. m., BRUNSWICK STREET CHURCH. Prayer for the sick and afflicted; for widows and orphans; and for the persecuted for righteousness' sake.

SATURDAY, January 11th, at 9 1/2 a. m., and 8 p. m., in ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH. Prayer for the Christian Church; for increase of holiness and activity, fidelity and love; and for grace equal to the duties and dangers of the times.

SABBATH, January 12th. Sermons. Subject: Christian Charity, 1 Cor. XIII.—Prayer meeting at Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, at 4 1/2 p. m.—conducted by Young Men.

We trust there may be a general coming together, and a lifting up of holy hands without wrath or doubting, and, that, in answer to the inwrought earnest prayers of God's people, blessings may descend on every hill of Zion.

The Editor of the St. John Christian Visitor will please accept our thanks for publishing our brief letter in his last issue. We may just mention that by a slight error—evidently a typographical one—and therefore perhaps scarcely worth an erratum—the omission of "in" before "accurate,"—he has made us say in the Visitor "an accurate report was first given instead of the Decision of the Council." Our words were "an inaccurate report was first given," &c.

The opprobrious epithets our brother applies to us we can bear, but we must not imitate him, they are but "railing accusations" which, like "the model controversialist," we dare not bring even against an adversary,—they are as harmless as they are unmerited. Ours has been a painful task—a stern duty—but we are glad to have

come to a point at which we may rest, without detriment to the cause we would serve.

The friends who imagine that a further exposé would have more effectually vindicated our position, must pardon us for leaving the matter where it is at present. Facts we know are stubborn things, and although they may be obscured for a time by many words, and subtle declamation, or even crushed to the earth by the arm of power, they will surely rise again and speak. It is right to "speak the truth," yet even that should be done "in love." It is better, we think, to err on the side of mercy than on that of severity. We must not forget that the "wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

OUR PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE is summoned to meet on Thursday, the 30th of January, for the despatch of business. The peculiar position in which the Legislative Council and House of Assembly stand, will cause a large amount of speculation as to the course that may be taken. Much interest will doubtless arise respecting the organization and working of the local government. We can hardly speak of the strength of the parties until they meet. It would appear however, that, as numbers constitute strength, it is all on the side of the government. If the sides of the House of Assembly are appropriated to the parties respectively the opposition will have a pretty easy time of it—plenty of room—with some to offer to their over-crowded opponents.

General Grant.

There seems to be but little doubt about Grant being the next President of the United States. The great trouble with the political parties in the republic is that he will not speak. Both parties appear to have a desire to secure him as their nominee, as there would be less difficulty about his election than any other less popular man, yet both parties want him to say something. But Grant seems to know the virtue of silence. President Johnson would have saved himself some of his troubles if he had been less loquacious. Grant appears naturally reserved and has probably profited by his experience. It seems he is talkative only on the subject of horses, but when politics are introduced he smokes his cigar. One of our exchanges says: "That cigar explains his silence, for the smoker is meditative and tranquil. To enjoy the aroma and experience the sedative effect of a prime Havana such as Grant smokes, one must be silent. Politics are as injurious to cigars as the sea air, therefore Grant eschews the one that he may enjoy the other. He prefers to smoke to being 'smoked out.'" "General," said a Texas editor to him, "we want to run you President, and I want to know what I can say when I return home." "Say nothing, sir," was the reply, "I want nothing said," and the General smoked on.

Some amusement has been indulged in by way of speculating what will make Grant speak. The great weakness of United States politicians has been that they have been too loquacious. If Grant should succeed as President, he will probably bring about a revolution in this matter.

By these means the lines of opposing parties are being broken down, and the leading men of New York are uniting together for the purpose of giving Grant their support. It will, consequently, be hardly worth while for any other candidate to be put in nomination.

The change in the European Mail steamers to New York instead of Boston, arises from the want of freight from the latter place. A letter from a Boston merchant to Sir Edward Cardon on the subject, has elicited a reply from Sir Edward. In which he says:—

"We have been sending an average of 2500 tons of freight every week, or 10,000 tons per month in our ships from this port, [New York] we have been unable to get 500 or 600 tons once a fortnight in Boston at one-half of the freight we were getting here, and that was not considered sufficient inducement, as shippers in Boston complained at paying 20s. per ton when we were asking 40s. a 50s. I should think that the Boston shippers, if they wished to encourage shipments via Boston, should not complain of paying half the rate of freight from New York, but we have taken freight from Boston at 6s. per ton and even for nothing. I have ascertained also, that a good deal of the little freight obtained in Boston was sent on from New York or purchased for New York account, the low rates of freight being the inducement."

The Boston Journal of a late date says the steamship China was taking in ballast at that port on Monday, not having sufficient freight to put her in sea-going trim.

We have been compelled to defer several communications, received since the space in our present issue was appropriated.

Notices, &c.

NOTICE.

The people of Middleton and vicinity purpose having an ENTERTAINMENT at the Pine Grove Baptist Meeting-house, on January the 1st, 1868, commencing at 6 o'clock, P. M.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Refreshments. (No tea.) Addresses on the following subjects by the following Gentlemen: Education.—Rev. George Armstrong, A. M. Music.—Rev. James Robertson, L.L.D., and Ingle Phinney, Esq. Early Consecration.—Revs. Isaiah Wallace, A. M., and Wm. H. Porter. Interspersed with appropriate Music, Vocal and Instrumental. Admission fee 3/4 cents. Funds to be appropriated toward procuring an Organ for the above named house.

Letters Received.

Rev. S. B. Kempton, 1 sub. Ward Eaton, Esq., \$41.00. A. Davidson, Rev. W. McPhee, H. Downing, Rev. G. D. Cox, I. L. Fulton, Rev. I. J. Skinner, W. Churchill, Esq., 1 sub. \$20. Rev. T. H. Porter, Junr., W. Chipman, Esq., \$17. J. B. McNutt, Esq., (2), \$2. G. J. Creed, Rev. J. E. Balcom, 1 sub., \$3.25. S. Morrison.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax, Dec. 20th, 1867. APPOINTMENTS:

New Year's day will be observed as a Holiday.

In the County of Shelburne.—Theodore Nickerson is appointed a Commissioner of Schools for the District of Barrington.

To be Notaries and Tabled Public:—Messrs. Howard McLean, F. M. Whidden, Jas. Foley, Sanford H. Pelton, Frederick J. Tremain, W. H. Wyde.

The contract with the Cunard Company for the conveyance of mails between Halifax, Bermuda and St. Thomas, at the cost of £19,500 per annum for ten years, with power to terminate the contract within five years, was approved in the House of Commons, England, on the 8th instant.

The City Criminal Court met on Wednesday when Thomas Lonergan, for stealing harness from the Penitentiary, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$50, or be imprisoned in the latter institution six months, in addition to the term he is now serving out.

SMELTS in large quantities have been packed up on our wharves for shipment to the U. States during the past week.

THE CITY RAILWAY has been obliged to succumb to the snow. The cars stopped running on Saturday last about noon, but resumed again on Monday. The cars are to be placed on runners in a few days if there is a sufficiency of snow; but the fare is to be doubled.

The residence of Capt. Wm. McDonald Lower Water Street, was robbed on Thursday last of a coat, vest, and \$30 in cash.

A truckman's horse ran away on Tuesday in Brunswick street, and turning down Prout's Lane, continued his course until he landed on the deck of a schooner at Mooney's wharf. One of the evening papers suggests that this may have arisen from the action of the Dominion government respecting oats.

SUPREME COURT—It is ordered by His Excellency the Lieut-Governor, that a Special Session of the Supreme Court for the County of Halifax, be held at the Court House, to commence on Wednesday, the fifteenth day of January next, for the trial of all prisoners charged with felonies, who may then be confined in the Gaol at Halifax.

The Halifax Board of Fire-Wards have imported one thousand feet of leather hose, from England for the use of the Fire Department.

The Halifax city authorities have ordered from the United States a snow-leveller, such as is now in use in all the principal cities of the Union.

U. P. C.—The Union Protection Company, one of our most enterprising and useful city organizations, had their general meeting on Tuesday the 18th, and elected their officers to serve until December 1870, as follows: Mr. Thomas Bently was elected Captain; Mr. George S. Yates, Vice Chairman; H. B. Selton, Secretary; F. Leaverman, Asst. Sec.; W. T. Smithers, Treasurer; T. E. Everett, Marshal. Most of the Divisional Officers were re-elected.

BERWICK.—We regret to learn that Mr. Benjamin Gould was accidentally drowned from a vessel at Black Rock, on the 10th instant.—Coroner M. Sheffield, M. D., held and inquest over the body on Thursday.

NARROW ESCAPE.—We learn that the Rev. Perez Murray of Annapolis county, while coming down the new Harborsville road had to pass over a piece of ice, and as his horse's shoes were quite smooth the horse slid off a precipice taking the carriage and Mr. Murray with him to the bottom, a distance of about twenty-five feet or more, among the stumps and brush, causing no damage except the breaking of a shaft.—Berwick Star.

We are glad to hear of the escape of our worthy brother.