

like consistency. An unbaptized and uncom- missioned Dissenter can neither have nor im- part light, and it is an insufferable imperti- nence in him to pretend to vend it. That a clergyman should be enlightened either spir- itually or carnally by a separatist is not to be thought of. This rector no doubt reads the liturgy thus, "O Lord enlighten our dark- ness—but not by a Dissenter."—English Independent.

For the Christian Messenger.

New Brunswick Correspondence.

St. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 14th, 1868.

Mr. Editor,—

At the present moment it is no very easy matter to write a letter for the press, which would be acceptable to the general reader, be- cause of the perfect dearth of items of interest. Moreover in the present instance your corres- pondent is scarcely able to decide what subjects it would be best to select from the very small budget of news ready to his hand. You know one is so very liable to narrate the least inter- esting events, and to present even these in an unattractive form, that the reader often wonders why one should take so much pains to fill up the columns of a paper with matter that it would have been a great deal better never to have written.

Having these things before my eyes, I am at a loss what to do, and so to guard the reader against expecting anything of more than the most common-place character from my pen, I note them down by way of saying something for a start.

I see the Editor of the Visitor has secured a Nova Scotia itemizer for its columns, and were I disposed I might follow his example, and clip from the daily papers such select extracts as when strung together do passably well to fill up an unoccupied corner, especially if advertise- ments are scarce. But I do not like the idea of copying after anybody else in this matter, and further, if you think such matters suit your readers, you have the same advantages as I possess, and can "clip" for yourself. I prefer, therefore, to take my own way and shall try to present from time to time a few sayings and doings of the people in New Brunswick, as they strike my own mind, if acceptable well, if not, I trust I have grace enough to say, turn your pen through every thing objectionable, even though it should be from "Mr. Editor," to "yours truly." Please to remember that a "special" or "occasional" has no feelings in a matter that affects the interests of the proprietor or the reader.

Religious matters must at all times take the precedence, that is, when I have any thing to note. At the present time, however, there appears to be nothing of an enlivening charac- ter to speak of. A dearth, a barrenness, a cloud of darkness, a spirit of worldly-minded- ness seem to have come over, settled down upon, and taken possession of our churches. Never, perhaps, were the pastors more faithful in their labors and teachings, more earnest and longing in their prayers, or more desirous to see the work of the Lord prospering in their hand. But the people come and go without seeming to have their hearts touched by the great and wondrous truths of the gospel. Professing christians too seem to go through their various duties with a careless and frigid formality, giving those with whom they come in contact the impression that whilst consenting to the truth they are regardless of its obligations and privi- leges, and though accepting the name they "deny the power of godliness." So far as I can learn this spiritual leanness is very general in the churches of this province, and though it is a fearful charge to make, yet, I fear, that my language is but faint to describe the true state of affairs. Do I mean to intimate that there is no spiritual life among us? No, I should do a gross injustice to many good and faithful ser- vants of our Lord, where I to leave such an impression. There are, thanks be to God, not a few who deplore the low state of the cause, and long and pray for a full manifestation of the reviving influences of the spirit of grace. Do we not all need to ponder upon and heed the words of our Lord, "Be ye not of the world as I am not of the world?" And if we did would these things be?

The social element is being cultivated in a legitimate way by some of the churches. Rev. Mr. Bennet's (Presbyterian) people have formed themselves into a society called, "Our Social Circle," which meets once a week in the school- room connected with the church. They have music, readings and social converse, and spend a very happy hour or two in promoting and keep- ing alive the spirit of brotherly love. The Leinster Street Church (Baptist), also have a Circle which meets from house to house, once a fortnight, and here too they have instead of the ordinary weary gossip and small talk, some really good interesting and instructive readings, by ladies and gentlemen, with music interspersed, chiefly of a sacred character, closing with read- ing and prayer, either by the pastor or one of the brethren.

There is some movement being made to hold Union Services among the Baptist Churches of

the City and Portland, protracting them every night for a week in each place of worship, and bringing to bear at each one, the power of all the churches. If this is carried on, and carried out with ardor and prayer and faith, I shall have cause to write in a very different strain than that above in a very short time. For when the people have a mind to work, the Lord always works with them.

The various benevolent societies of our city are increasing their means of usefulness by means of Concerts for which there is a raging fever just now. "Negro Minstrels," "Private Schools," "Glee Clubs" and others have already contrib- uted their vocal powers for the benefit of the Orphan Asylums, Protestant and Roman Cath- olic, and the Home for the Aged. There is now another on the tapis at which representatives of the "F. F.'s" will be the performers. By this means the "people" will be permitted to enjoy the pleasures of harmony, and be thrilled with the sweet sounds of voices which hitherto have only come to them now and then through shut- ter and window, and blind of some "big" house into which they had not the entree. Their concert will doubtless be a great success and the friends of the "Home" have a handsome addi- tion to their funds.

Last Tuesday we were visited by a very severe gale of wind from the South and South East, which drove the high spring tides into our harbour so as to do a great deal of damage, and and cause the loss of one life. At Sand Point there was a breakwater upon which our City Fathers have from time to time expended small sums of money to keep it in position and cause it to be available in keeping the waves from beating upon the wharves &c., on the Carlton side. On Sunday this breakwater was broken by the water and carried up and across the har- bour to Reed's Point. The waves then rolled up and dashing upon the lower wharf, very soon moved it from its foundations and floated its debris to other quarters. A number of build- ings near the shore, used as fish houses were also destroyed, and the second wharf moved from its position before the storm abated. A Brigantine named the Jessie which left for Havana on the 7th, was forced to return and in making the harbour, was driven on the foul ground having lost her rudder and became unmanageable. The waves made a clear breach over her, washing the captain overboard. After bumping some time she got free of the rocks, and drifted help- lessly up Courtenay Bay, running ashore on the rocks near the Alms House. By the aid of four men who went to their assistance the crew, seven in number were safely got on shore, and provided for by the keeper of the Alms House. The body of the captain was recovered on Tuesday and interred on Thursday afternoon. His name was Tobin, he belonged to Digby, and was but lately married.

Our Provincial Legislature was opened yes- terday by the Lieut. Governor, General Harding, with the usual ceremonies. After the call, the Lower House were returned to elect a speaker. B. Botsford, Esq., having received that honor they returned to the Council Room, when His Excellency made the following speech:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legis- lative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: I have much pleasure in meeting you in general Assembly, and in being able to congratulate you on the generally prosperous state of the Province.

Providence, has during the last year blessed the labors of the husbandman. The fisheries, as far as prosecuted, have been generally successful; and al- though, I regret to observe that in some portions of our sister Province of Nova Scotia, they ex- hibit a lamentable failure, and the consequent distress and destitution of those engaged in the business will I am sure excite your warmest sym- pathy, while circumstances beyond our control, have to a certain extent, dampened the prospects of our enterprising shipbuilders, yet, I trust, with the con- tinuance of peace in Europe and the consequent im- provement in the trade and commerce of the world, combined with the facilities for shipbuilding in this Province, and the acknowledged energy and skill of our people, that we may reasonably hope for an im- provement in this most important branch of business.

The Provincial Exhibition held at St. John during the last autumn gave satisfactory evidence of the ad- vanced state of our manufactures. It is highly gratifying to me to be able to inform you that the state of our revenue is highly satisfac- tory, and that after providing for all the ordinary services there will be a surplus amply sufficient to enable you to make the usual provisions for roads and other public works.

At the same time, taking in consideration the in- creasing wants of the Province, with a revenue, to a certain extent limited, I would earnestly recommend you to adopt and enforce a rigid system of economy, and, as far as practicable, retrenchment in every branch of the public service. With this view, mea- sures will be submitted to you for the abolition of such public offices to which salaries are attached, as are not absolutely required for the exigencies of the public service—also, for the more careful collection and management of the public revenue, and for the more speedy collection of Crown debts.

Your attention will be called to amendments in the County Court's Act, with a view of rendering those Courts as beneficial as possible to the public interests. Your attention will be invited to other matters tending to develop the resources of the Province, facilitate its settlement and amend the educational system.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: I have directed the accounts of Provincial income and expenditure, to be laid before you; also esti- mates for the ensuing year, which have been framed with due regard to the resources of the Province.

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Since the last meeting of the Legislature of this Province, the Act of Parliament for the Union of the Provinces has come into force, and I confidently trust that when the operation has been fully tried and tested, it will be found to advance the social, material and political interests of the Dominion over which it extends.

Large numbers of citizens and of the military were present.

Yours truly MEXDIP.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—

Will you be good enough to give insertion to the following additional letters from mem- bers of the late Council.

And oblige yours B. H. EATON. Clerk of Granville St. Church.

Feb. 17.

WEYMOUTH, FEB. 12, 1868. To the Baptist Church of Granville Street.

Dear Brethren,—

Your letter of the 4th, inst came to hand last evening, and I hasten to reply.

As regards the question being asked whether the church would accept the decision of the Council as final—I can only say that I have no distinct recollection of the question being raised.

I am quite satisfied that it was not raised by the Council as such, but it was raised at all, it must have been by some individual on his own responsibility, and this may account for my not heeding it at the time, as I never for a moment imagined that we were there to decree,—but to investigate, report, and advise, subject of course to the action of the church, whose action would be final.

I wish to be understood to say, that while I have no distinct recollection of the question &c, others, more personally interested, and before whose minds the subject had been previously started, would not be likely to be mistaken.

I am Dear Brethren, Yours to serve. CHARLES RANDALL.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 12, 1868.

B. H. EATON, Esq.

Dear Sir,—I duly received your letter re- specting the difference of opinion between Mr. Hunt, Mr. Rand and yourself. I recollect after the Council was formed by choosing Mr. Spurden as Chairman and Mr. Kenzie as Secretary, the question being asked of the Church if they were satisfied with the Council, and also the same question being asked of Dr. Pryor, which I think was answered in the affirmative, but I do not recollect what was said in respect to the decision that might be concluded upon.

Yours truly T. R. PATILLO.

SAINT JOHN, Feb 10th 1868.

B. H. EATON, Esq.

My Dear Sir,—

In reply to your enquiries of the 4th Inst, I beg to inform you that I do not recollect that the late Council in Halifax asked the Church if they would regard the decision of the Council as final: but I do distinctly remember that the Council, before proceeding to business, did ask both the Church and Dr. Pryor if they accepted the Council as convened as a mutual Council, and that both parties answered in the affirmative.

If there be any doubt about this matter let the minutes of the Council decide the point at issue.

Respectfully yours, I. E. BILL.

P. S. I do not profess to give the question verbatim as it was asked but the substance of it.

I. E. B.

FREDERICTON, 10th Feby, 1868.

B. H. EATON, Esq.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 4th Inst., came to hand to-day, in which you refer to letters in the Messenger of the 5th Inst., and also inquire whether "I recollect the question being raised as to whether the Church would agree to accept the decision as final." I have not yet seen the Messenger of the 5th Inst., and perhaps it would be better for me to state my recollection of what occurred at the first session of the Council prior to any investigation.

The inquiry was put whether each party re- ceived or acknowledged the Council, but in what precise terms it was put I do not recollect.

The direct question whether the parties would receive the decision of the Council as final was not raised.

I have laid it down to myself as a general rule not to serve on a Council unless the parties would agree to abide by its decision, but I knew beforehand from their own avowal, that the representatives of the church would not agree to this, and that any attempt to force concurrence in a decision not yet given might stop proceedings altogether, I therefore waived my personal feelings on the subject, and did not put the question, because I thought it of the ut- most importance that the Council brought to- gether with so much difficulty, should not be prevented by any question of that kind from proceeding to investigate and pronounce an opinion.

While I entertained the hope that the Church would abide by the decision of the Council, the representatives of the Church appeared to me to be very careful not to say or do anything which could fairly be regarded as a pledge to that effect.

You are at liberty to make what use you please of this letter.

I am, yours truly, C. SPURDEN.

BRIDGETOWN, Feb. 11th, 1868

Dear Sir,—I have to say in reply that I do not recollect that the question was raised at the first meeting of the late Council, "as to whether the church would agree to accept the Decision as final." I do recollect distinctly that the question as to accepting the Council was put

and answered in the affirmative first by the Representatives of the Church, and then by Dr. Pryor. Had I understood the church would not accept the Decision as final, I would have de- clined to act on the Council.

I remain dear sir,

Yours truly,

GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

B. H. EATON, Esq., Clerk Granville St. Church, Halifax.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 19, 1868.

ONSLOW, Feb. 10, 1868.

Dear Editor,—

There is reference in the Christian Messenger to a resolution recorded in the Minutes of the last session of the Eastern Association as fol- lows:—

"That this Association cannot receive either of the letters said to be from the Onslow church but recommend the church to seek advice from judicious brethren and endeavor to settle their difficulties, and unite in harmonious action with as little delay as possible."

Now, for the information of the church, would you be so kind as to answer the following ques- tions in regard to the true import of the Reso- lution.

1st. Did the Association mean to recommend the Onslow Church to seek private advice, or call a Council?

2nd. If the Association meant a Council, why did it not employ the term "Council" in its Resolution?

3rd. Did the Association intend to advise a party in the church to send letters, unofficially to call a Council without giving general notice to the church?

4th. Can the Association, consistently with the independency of Baptist churches, and in keeping with its own rules, interfere with the affairs of a Baptist church while said church is in a position to decide all questions coming before it, by a majority, and is sound in the Faith and Practice of the Denomination; unless the said church request the aid of the Association?

Yours truly, B. SCOTT.

The following is the reference to the above matter in the Ch. Messenger of July 17th, 1867:—

"Some difficulty had existed in the Onslow Church arising from the transaction of business in two sections. The circumstance of a letter being sent from each of these sections rendered it necessary to hold a private session of the Delegates on Tuesday morning. The result of which was a resolution recommending both sections to seek advice from judicious brethren and unite in harmonious action with as little delay as possible."

We do not apprehend that the enquiries of our worthy Brother Scott need a very lengthy reply. We are not the constituted interpreters of the acts of the Association, or we might venture to give our judgment in the case. The Moderator would be better suited for such a delicate task. Whatever we may say, therefore, must be taken merely in the way of an opinion, from which our brother may take exception or not as he thinks proper. We are of course, always glad to do anything by way of giving information to our brethren. We would say, then, on the 1st question, we do not think the Eastern Association would assume any such interfe- rence with the business of any one of the churches of which it is composed, as to re- commend their calling a Council, unless members of that church had requested such recommendation from that body. Of course, if the church chose to put that construction on the action of the Association, and resolve to call a Council for the purpose of advising with them in the matter, they were perfectly at liberty so to do, but the Association had no right, or power, or inclination, we believe, to impose any duties on the Onslow Church.

2nd. If the Association had meant to ad- vise the calling of a Council, we suppose they would have said so.

The 3rd. and 4th questions are, we think, sufficiently met by the above.

We may say that a church having two places in which its business is transacted is likely to have difficulties arise from that cir- cumstance, and much caution is required, lest alienation result from differences between meetings held in the two places.

The Church Monitor informs us that an amalgamation has been effected between that paper and the St. John, N. B., Church Wit- ness, and that it will be published in future under the title of the Church Witness and Monitor, to be issued simultaneously at Hal- ifax, N. S., and St. John, N. B.. The Church Witness was for many years under the able management of the Rev. Dr. Gray, who died recently in Halifax. The circumstance of his death is probably the immediate cause of this arrangement. Both papers have been organs of the evangelical church party in the provinces respectively.