

Dean Alford at Cheshunt College, Hertfordshire, England.

The hundredth anniversary of the Countess of Huntingdon's College, at Cheshunt took place on July 25th in the presence of a numerous and influential assembly. Divine service was conducted in the college chapel, the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., reading the prayers, and Rev. T. Binney preaching the centenary sermon. In the close of his discourse Mr. Binney gave a graphic sketch of the state of society when the college was founded by Lady Huntingdon, and eloquently advocated its claims.—He said the institution was entirely unsectarian. A student can enter the ministry of the Episcopal communion as well as that of any other. The institution was one of the memorials of the great revival of the last century, which affected Churchmen and Nonconformists alike, and aroused multitudes from a barren orthodoxy and indifference into the life of God. It was not going too far to say that the England of to day owed its earnestness and activity to the direct or secondary influence of what was done by the men of that time.

At the close of the service a cold collation was served in the college grounds, the very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury in the chair.—Amongst those present were Mr. J. Cheetham, M. P., Mr. Torrens, M. P., Mr. T. Chambers, M. P., Archdeacon Sandford, Professor Thorold Rogers, Rev. T. Binney, Rev. Dr. Raleigh, Rev. H. Allon, and numerous other ministers. After the usual loyal toasts had been drunk,

The Dean of Canterbury, who was received with loud cheers, said: I am honoured by having to propose to you the toast of the day, "Prosperity to Cheshunt College." I stand before you, if my strict position is to be defined, gentlemen, as representing one of those Christian bodies into which, by the constitution of this college, its students may be ordained ministers. That such a purpose of the college was intended, most of you are aware: but it may not be amiss to remind you how expressly and beyond doubt it was provided for. [He then read a passage from the deed.] It is clear then, that in the welfare and expansion of this college the various Christian bodies comprised in this description are deeply interested. And as a member and a minister of one of these bodies, I have considered it not beside my path of duty to occupy the post assigned me to-day—(cheers)—and to be the mouthpiece of your good wishes for the prosperity of your college. So much, gentlemen, may be said, confining oneself to the narrowest and most technical considerations. But I am sure I shall carry you with me when I go wider than this, and profess other reasons why I feel this wish and am here to express it. This college represents to me, as I read its documents, a very sacred principle—that of hearty mutual recognition of one another as servants of our common Lord. (Applause.) We, in this land, have been long endeavouring to make our Christianity stand on its narrowest and finest point. (Hear, hear.) And the inevitable result of equilibrium on the apex has followed.—(Applause.) It has been unstable equilibrium. Our English Christianity has had to be propped all round. (Hear, hear.) So thickly, indeed, that many have failed to discern the building itself for the multitude of shores that surrounded it. It is high time, gentlemen, that this vain experiment were abandoned; high time that we change our course, and try whether we cannot attain stable equilibrium by setting our English Christianity on its base. It may be true that this reversal of position will require great caution and delicacy of handling. Two things certainly are true—that the process cannot be accomplished unless the artificial props be struck away—(applause)—and that when it is accomplished they will no longer be wanted. Now, it has seemed to myself and to others that the day has come for setting one's hands with advantage to this work. And this has been a further reason why I stand here to-day as the proposer to you of prosperity to your college—that we may, if it be God's will, inaugurate, or at least give expression to, a spirit of hearty, loving recognition of one another as brothers and equals in God's work. (Loud and enthusiastic cheering.) But there is yet another reason, arising from circumstances within the Established Church herself. It is no matter of dispute that her Reformation was a coat of many colours.—(Laughter.) Though in the main the hues were sobered, there were not wanting pieces of the original scarlet—(renewed laughter)—and here and there a tinsel ornament remained, tolerated for old customs' sake, and for the sake of those who cared for it. And when fault was found with us, there were many who could say—and my own feeling went with them—that we were far from disliking the effect of an occasional strip of warm colour, or the glitter of an occasional spangle; and the more so, as three centuries wear had toned down and harmonised all; so that in the brightness there was no glare, and in the richness no incongruity. But, gentlemen, the case is now widely altered. (Hear, hear.) Men have arisen who are for renewing and widening these same scarlet lines: who want to send them to the Vatican to be dyed and trimmed, and the spangles to be regilt and multiplied. Now, I say, if we are going to refit, let the duff grey have its say in the matter likewise. (Laughter, and "Hear.") Let us mend up, and renew the home spun as well. Give us fair play all round. (Loud applause.) If the bright bits are to cross the water for burnishing let the sober material be sent to our own looms and let our working hands have the re-weaving of it. If accidental remnants are to be cherished much more the main fabric, woven as it was amidst prayers, and tears, and anguish, and blood. And then, when the motley vesture is ready, raw in its colors, and without the toning of age, I am much mistaken if John Bull do

not elect to have the whole garment home spun—to relegate the scarlet and the spangles to the Vatican, and label them "Not wanted."—(Cheers.) For this reason also, I heartily wish prosperity to this and to like institutions: prosperity—let the word be truly understood—to Dissent itself. (Hear, hear.) For this, gentlemen, is your true prosperity—not to swell vastly in apparent numbers—not to flourish on the ruins of other churches—but to give in the best example of this goodly purity, this orderly method, of the English faith; to lay up for your selves and us such store of this garment, which no moth can corrupt, that in the crisis of England's Church we may bless God that we possess Dissenters. (Loud applause.) For these reasons, gentlemen, I, an outsider, but not an unsympathising one, say heartily, may God bless and prosper this college and its work. May the plan—now only on paper—ere long become a reality, and the most sanguine wishes of its promoters be surpassed. You, gentlemen, will have other and more cherished reasons for echoing this wish. To some of you this has been your Alma Mater—to others the object of the cherishing care of years. But whatever reasons and however various, may co exist in your minds I am sure you will not overlook, but will deeply feel, those great public ones which I have mentioned. I am sure that all, public and personal, will conspire and converge towards your fervent aspiration for the prosperity and enlarged usefulness of this admirable institution; and in that conviction I propose to you now to drink "Floreat Domus." (The very rev. chairman resumed his seat amidst loud applause.)

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Pen Sketches.

No. 8.

HUMBLE PERSONS

have been regarded by some minds as mean, contemptible, as being low spirited. It is true that humble persons have a feeling of unworthiness. The consciousness of demerit is found within their soul. Its eye looks out upon the moral excellencies of others and feels to sink into insignificance. Pride of birth, of learning, earthly honors, worldly influence, they have none. They know that none of these go to form the true character of man. They see what they ought to be and their standard is an exalted one, so they feel like one overwhelmed at times with shame. They are generally modest and retiring persons, never feeling that they are fit for any exalted position in life. Empty headed and hollowhearted ones generally make a great bluster and push themselves forward to be seen of men, now these are of the very opposite character. In thinking of these persons we are reminded of a part of a poem by Cowper which the writer once recited in public when young.

Not so the pheasant on his charms presumes,
Though he too has a glory in his plumes,
He, christian like, retreats with modest mien
To the close copse, or far sequestered green,
And shines without desiring to be seen.

JOHN.

Associational Letters.

At the recent Session of the Central Baptist Association it was ordered that an Abstract of the Letters from the Churches be prepared for publication in the *Christian Messenger*. The following are extracts, pure and simple, from those letters.

Aylesford Upper.—We are not unmindful of the ordinances of God's House. Our Conferences are well attended and the Master shows his smiling face to encourage his weak followers. We also have three weekly Prayer meetings.

During the winter our pas or, aided by some of his Ministering brethren, held very interesting Missionary meetings, and it was found the Church had Missionary fire enough left to pledge themselves to support a Native Preacher in Burmah with a salary of \$100.00 and \$30 00 in aid of Sister DeWolf.

Bridgewater.—Our beloved Pastor Rev. S. March, is highly esteemed and sowing the good seed faithfully, which we fondly hope will before long yield an abundant harvest. At a church meeting it was unanimously resolved,

That this church deeply sympathize with the Granville Street Church in the severe trials which they have been called to pass through, and attach no blame whatever to the able Editor and Proprietor of our Denominational organ, for the manner in which he has dealt with the subject in that paper.

Chester.—There is a good degree of union existing among us and we have enjoyed some precious seasons in Conference and Prayer meetings, and especially at the monthly Missionary Concert. There are those among us whose daily cry to Heaven is, "O Lord revive thy work;" "In wrath remember mercy."

Cornwallis 1st, Canard.—The past year brought us many mercies and some trials.—Among the latter we severely felt the loss of our Pastor's health, Elder Hunt, and then his removal from us. After having enjoyed so many years of friendship and intercourse, the connection was most unwillingly broken, but necessity com-

pelled us. Then came to us the task of calling a man to occupy our pulpit. We trust that the Lord gave us wisdom. Blessed be His Holy name. We are now comfortably settled with a Pastor to lead and to feed us, and we hope to gather souls among us to God.

Cornwallis 2nd, Berwick.—The past year to us has been an eventful period. The ordeal through which we have been called to pass, in our history as a church, finds no parallel.—Perhaps never, were we more in need of an earnest and faithful ministry. In full reliance upon the promise of God, we can but hope that his people will learn wisdom, and that the Sun of Righteous will soon arise with healing in his wings.

Cornwallis 3rd, Billtown.—We have had some tokens of mercy through the year. Especially in one section of the church, has the reviving influence of the Spirit of God been felt. Sinners have been converted, christians encouraged, and our Pastor has had the privilege of baptizing and receiving into the church a number of willing converts.

Cornwallis 4th, Long Point.—We have been called to grapple with difficulties, that have disturbed our peace and union. We have been compelled to act upon rules of discipline so clearly taught in the New Testament by the head of the Church. Consequently we are now enjoying more peace and union in the Church.

Cornwallis 5th, Pereaux and Canning.—There has been at times a somewhat pleasing state of religious interest on the minds of the people. A few drops of mercy have fallen upon us, and we are praying for and expecting a more plentiful shower.

Dartmouth.—Our number is not large, our finances limited, but we nevertheless trust, that the day is not distant when we shall rejoice in the enlargement of the Kingdom of our common Lord.

Falmouth.—God has graciously given us for a Pastor the Rev. J. E. Balcom, a minister earnest, faithful, and much beloved, large numbers attend his ministry.

It has been our happy privilege to visit the baptismal waters, and five brethren and one sister were "Buried with Christ in Baptism." The Church is united, and walking in harmony and brotherly love, and we are happy to acknowledge, that "Goodness and mercy" have been continued to us through the year.

Halifax 1st, Granville Street.—In September last Rev. E. M. Saunders accepted our unanimous call to the pastorate of this Church, and has since labored faithfully among us. His labors, we believe, have been productive of much good. Our congregations on the Sabbath have been large and our Prayer and Conference meetings have as a rule been largely attended. Many, we have reason to believe, are seeking the way of life. A good number have joined us from sister churches. Our Sabbath School and Bible Classes are well attended and are, we believe, doing much good.

Halifax 2nd, North.—The faithful, earnest labors of our much loved Pastor, have been largely blessed among us in the conversion of sinners, and the maintenance of the christian graces in the hearts of believers. His visits to the sick and afflicted among us have been especially beneficial to them, and the exercises on those occasions applied by the Holy Spirit to their hearts. Our hearts have also been made to rejoice in seeing sinners brought to a knowledge of Divine truth, and the addition to our number monthly of such as we trust will be eternally saved.

The prayer and social meetings have been of a deeply interesting character, often leading us to exclaim—"Surely God is in this place."

The Committee hope in the course of a few weeks to have the basement of our new Meet-House completed and ready for occupation.

Hantsport.—It is not our privilege to report the large additions which some of the Churches can, and in which we truly rejoice, we mourn that while some of our number have been expelled from the Church by Discipline, we rejoice that a few have been added by Baptism. The word and ordinances of the Gospel are faithfully held forth among us. Our beloved Pastor, Elder J. E. Balcom, labours faithfully and earnestly for the building up of the cause of our Lord here, his preaching being well received by large and attentive congregations.

The cause of Temperance is holding its own among us. There is no public Rum-shop in our village yet, we have fought it out whenever the demon made his appearance.

Hammonds Plains, 1st.—We desire to feel and to act out that responsibility which we are under as a professed church of Jesus Christ.—In consequence of the hard times we are at present unable to send any money, but will make up something through the summer—for the College.

Hammonds Plains, 2nd.—We are in a dull state at present, but are hopeful of an improvement taking place shortly.

Horton, 1st, Wolfville.—Bound to you by the ties of Heavenly birth, we are happy to say, that notwithstanding our lack of ardor in the common cause of Christianity, we are sensible that our interest in the various objects engaging your attention and receiving your assistance is not lessened.

We thankfully acknowledge the goodness of our "Heavenly Father" in the rich display of his mercy manifested in the conversion of several attending the Institutions of learning in this place.

Our Pastor faithfully proclaims the "Glad Tidings" every Sabbath, and explains the "Word of God," in a Bible Class held weekly.

Horton, 2nd, Gaspereaux.—In addition to our usual Sabbath Schools, our Pastor has conducted

an interesting Bible Class. We feel it incumbent on us to devote special attention to the young members of our Church, as we feel assured that their early training will to a great extent determine their subsequent Christian character.

As you enter on the arduous work claiming your attention during this session we earnestly desire that the spirit of Christ may be manifest and all may be enabled to say, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Horton, 3rd, New Minas.—Shortly after the beginning of this year, our beloved pastor Rev. S. B. Kempton having accepted an invitation from the first Cornwallis Baptist Church, we were left destitute of pastoral care. We immediately secured the services of Rev. Wm. George, then studying at Wolfville, to supply for us on the Lord's day, whose labors we still enjoy.

We are sorry to contribute so feebly to the enterprises in which the denomination is engaged.

Indian Harbor.—The Church has in some degree grown cold since Brother Philip left us, yet we have not altogether forgotten the responsibility resting upon us as a Church, nor the many favours which in times past we have received from the hand of God.

We have Brother Delong engaged for a year, receiving one third of his time, and have reason to believe that through God his labors will be blessed.

Jeddore.—Truly the Lord is good to his Israel. In the midst of deserved wraith, he has remembered us in mercy. Instead of visiting us in judgement for our coldness and want of zeal to Him and his cause, He has warmed our hearts with his love and made us to rejoice by adding to our number whom (we trust) he has eternally saved.

Brother J. Meadows, who laboured with us for three years a licentiate, has been ordained our Pastor, and we trust that the great Shepherd and Bishop of His people will make him wise to win many precious souls from the ranks of the enemy into the glorious army of Christ our King.

Kempt, Hants Co.—The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad. Our Church commenced a series of meetings about the middle of last February. Bro. Vaughan's health being much improved; he was enabled to assist our Pastor in preaching the Gospel, which has proved the power of God unto salvation. We have indeed enjoyed a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord in the different branches of the Church. And we trust, many souls have been converted to God. Backsliders reclaimed, and God's name glorified.

Lunenburg, North West.—We have but little progress to report, but we thank God for the cheering intelligence from other Churches that God in mercy has blessed them. That the reviving influence of his Holy Spirit has been felt, and in many there is a large increase. We are now destitute of a Pastor. We value the Gospel and ordinances of the Church, but we are unable wholly to support a minister. Could not the Missionary Board give us some aid?

St. Margarets Bay.—We have had no Pastor during the past year, nevertheless with the help of God we have been able to keep up our prayer meetings regularly. We have made arrangements with Elder Delong for the present year, and pray that his labours among us may be blessed of God.

New Cornwall.—The little church here is in a scattered state. Rev. W. E. Hall from New Germany has preached to us a few times to good acceptance and baptised one convert. We think Dear Brethren if a mission was granted to some suitable Minister to labour in this field that much good would be done; and we would do what we could for the mission as we are unable at present to have stated preaching.

New Germany.—We are "endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," and God has granted some renewed tokens of His divine mercy. Twenty-one candidates have been immersed upon a profession of faith, and admitted to the privileges of this Baptized Church. Wanderers have been reclaimed and the church greatly encouraged. For this we bless God.

Still we acknowledge our want of more entire consecration. Our Spiritual life is yet too low, our trophies won from darkness far too few. We need more of that holy love that quickens faith and gives religion an aggressive power.

We still love those principles which are held by us as a denomination, because we believe they are scriptural.

Newport West.—Brother Morton has been labouring with us for the last three months with good acceptance. The good seed sown, watered by the prayers of God's people, we hope to see springing up and bringing forth much fruit to the honour and glory of God.

Newport East.—Too much indifference is manifested among us the professed followers of Christ. We have, however, praying souls who are longing for fresh manifestations of God's love and power. We know that the ear of the Lord God of Sabaoth is ever open to the cries of his children.

New Ross.—Last year we did not write on account of the low state of religion and neglect of duty. Our meetings are held once on the Sabbath. But our numbers are small; many of the members of our community are evidently far from God. Some few are striving in faith and prayer for the prosperity of religion. We are happy to say that some Missionary labor has been performed in connection with the church, for which we are thankful, we have now our meeting-house finished in side it is all seated and far better than heretofore.