

sanctuary. Who ever did it permanently and prospered? The Sabbath-breakers are not the men in any community to be trusted.—Boys who stroll about on Sunday, almost without exception, make worthless men. Look about among those in your neighborhood, and see if your own observation does not correspond with the statement. Then, if you have no higher motive than earthly prosperity, take your children with you to God's house upon his holy day. Then his Spirit may meet with your soul and rescue you from eternal ruin, as well as save you from a thousand snares of Satan in this life.—*Banner.*

For the Christian Messenger.

The Scriptural Principle of Church government.

No. 2.

On a certain occasion, and in a place beyond the geographical bounds of ancient Israel, Christ put this question to his disciples; "Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" This interrogation was not made until about three years after Christ had entered upon his public ministry, and it was at a time when He and his followers were lingering in the regions of Caesarea Philippi. In this conversation the Saviour gave to his disciples the first information which was put on record of the nature and name of that institution which he purposed to establish in the world. "On this rock I will build my Church," was the declaration of the Lord Jesus Christ on this important occasion.

When the word church (ecclesia) fell upon the ears of his followers, who were, as yet, only partially informed, it did not call to their minds, clearly as it does to ours, the visible kingdom of Christ, made up of a number of distinct churches, officered and independent, and guided by the laws of their divine Head. Their minds were pre-occupied with the Mosaic establishment. From it they had not been alienated, not even by the example or teachings of their Master. In his early life he submitted to its rites and attended its festivals; and after entering upon his public career, he bowed to its ritual, and allowed his followers to participate, without restraint, in the services of the Temple. A firm belief, no doubt, had taken hold of the minds of his followers, that something new was to be developed; but they were predisposed to believe, that the prospective institution, would be an earthly kingdom of unexampled power, under the protection of which the Jewish institutions would be strengthened and enlarged. To them the word church, which in its literal signification meant an assembly, served to revive in their minds those indefinite and extraordinary notions which from the first they had entertained of the kingdom the Lord Jesus Christ came to establish.

The disciples were not yet prepared to receive definite knowledge of the nature and external form of the christian church, and the relation it would bear to the institutions of their fathers. The roots of error and truth were so interlaced in their minds and feelings that the sudden eradicating of the former, would have destroyed the latter. It was better for the time being, that they should grow together. Had the Lord Jesus Christ put before them, in their present form, the churches of this dispensation—the Christian Theocracy, antagonistic, as it really is, and as it would have appeared to them, in nearly every point, to the Jewish Theocracy—it would have done violence to all their sympathies, both those which they cherished for the institutions handed down to them from their fathers, and also for the one which they had been taught to believe the Messiah would establish. Instead of delivering them at once from their pleasing delusions, Christ put into their minds the seed-fact, which He afterwards watered and nourished till it expanded into a well proportioned and beautiful tree. "My church," was an expression that would naturally start an enquiry in the minds of all the disciples. To them there was one institution, venerable and dear, shattered and threatened, but destined to rise up in perfected form, strong and imposing, the admiration of the nations and the glory of the whole earth. But their Master ignores this altogether, and speaks of His Church, made up of souls inspired by a faith like that which was already becoming vigorous in the heart of Peter, against which the skill and forces of hell would be directed in vain.—"What is this of which our Master speaks?" was doubtless an enquiry that went down deep into the hearts of his followers.

The word (ecclesia) itself would suggest to their minds an assembly; not an organized church with its officers and its established forms of worship. The word was used for any popular gathering. It was to them generic, but to us it is specific. It bears to our minds

two distinct ideas. Where it is employed in scripture to point out all of the redeemed, it suggests to the christian mind, the entire number of those who have participated in the redemption of Christ, both "the spirits of just men made perfect," and those who are in the militant state. Besides this it brings before the mind a society of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, organized and officered with the two distinct orders—bishops (elders) and deacons, such as were in the church at Philippi. The germs of both these ideas were in the words of Christ. In Peter they saw the element of the universal church, and the word Church (ecclesia) foreshadowed indefinitely the external of the new society. The spiritual nature and the power of the church are central facts evolved by this disclosure of the divine purpose. Christ referred, no doubt, to all hearts in which love holds the reins of power; but at the same time He pointed to a visible structure, the outlines of which were mirrored in the word ecclesia.—This organization existed as yet only as a conception and plan in the mind of the Messiah. The first lesson of instruction, seminal though it was, contained two leading ideas which are important to this discussion. The first is, that there was to be a superstructure, and the second is, that it was to be built of "living stones," a specimen of which could be seen in the heart of Peter.

With this leaven working in the hearts and minds of the disciples, let us follow them through a few more scenes to the place where they received further instruction upon this subject. The hopes and pleasure excited in their breasts on hearing of those things from the Master while in a community of idolaters, were immediately succeeded by feelings of alarm and despondency. Christ unsealed and spread before them the scroll in which they read his approaching death and resurrection; and impulsive Peter was rebuked by the startling reproof, "Get thee behind me Satan," when he vehemently opposed himself to the intention of his Master just divulged. After this the favored three were lifted into the glory of the transfiguration splendors; and then the whole body of disciples witnessed the healing of a demoniac, and heard from their Master, another account of the death and resurrection to which he was hastening. Then the miracle of the tribute money was followed by a dissection among them, "Who should be greatest." On this occasion they were taught humility, forbearance and brotherly love. The unhappy state into which they had fallen furnished the next recorded lesson that was given them upon the nature and form of that church which existed in an incipient and informal state among themselves.

Without pointing out to his disciples the parts, or informing them how they were put together, the Saviour set the machinery of a christian church in motion before their eyes, and gave them an illustration of its simple and harmonious operations. There being no external church formed, Christ said to his followers, "If thy brother trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone, if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

By the first conversation of Christ with his disciples, in which Peter is represented as the rock upon which the church was to be founded, two prominent facts are brought to the light:

First, Regenerated humanity was the spiritual and substantial element of which the church was to be composed: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." "Thou art a regenerated man—a man of strong faith—such is the element for my church."

Secondly, The great strength of the church is declared in semi-challenging language: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The latter fact is the power of the church to resist external enemies, but this is not involved necessarily in the present discussion; the fact, made known, thus early that the church was to be composed of regenerated souls (believers) is however in point, and must be kept in view along the line of our present investigation. In the latter revelation, in which the offended brother is directed to make a final appeal

to the ecclesia, the authority of the church is first indicated.

EDWARD MANNING.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 1, 1868.

To Postmasters and others.

A question has arisen in the minds of some parties as to whether postage should be charged on papers delivered on and after the 1st of April. We have therefore obtained the following from A. Woodgate, Esq., Post Office Inspector for Nova Scotia:—

IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED that all Nova Scotia papers posted previous to the first of April, will be allowed to pass free.

A. WOODGATE.

G. P. O., March 30, 1868.

We mailed the whole of our present issue on the 31st of March.

Any newspaper sent by mail by others than the publisher must be prepaid by a two cent stamp.

One cent postage on every paper will be charged by the Postmaster delivering the same, in all cases when the five cents for the quarter has not been paid by the person receiving it.

Subscribers living beyond the boundaries of the Dominion will please understand that the postage on their papers, five cents per quarter, must be paid with their subscription.

Horton Collegiate Academy.

At the recent Rhetorical Exhibition of the Horton Collegiate Academy a very large assembly was present. Six able original Essays were delivered by the students, and a number of dialogues were given with no small amount of dexterity and dramatic effect.

At the close two of the students—Rev. W. W. George, and Mr. W. Doull, appointed by their fellow-students, presented on their behalf the following

ADDRESS TO MR. A. J. HILL.

Mr. Hill.

Respected Sir,—We come before you as the delegates of the School to express as best we can our high appreciation of your kindness and gentlemanly behaviour towards us during the period we have been associated as Teacher and Scholars, and in doing so we are instructed to say in behalf of our fellow students that we learn of your intended departure with regret, and that the kindly interest you have ever manifested in our success, more in fact than that demanded merely by your official position, has won for you our sincere esteem as a Teacher and a gentleman, and that you go from us leaving a name remembered only with affection.

Nor can we forget to express our gratitude to Mrs. Hill for the many acts of kindness bestowed upon us who have been your boarders, especially when sick and we had more need of those kindnesses so seldom found away from home.

Wishing to leave you with some lasting testimonial of our esteem we have procured this album in which are placed our photographs—Please accept it as a small token of our love, and when separated from us, for whom you have labored so faithfully, let it remind you of our unabated esteem.

In behalf of the Students,

W. W. GEORGE.

W. DOULL.

REPLY.

Gentlemen,—

I accept the address you have just presented with feelings of the sincerest gratification, as the spontaneous expression of your kindly feelings towards me: be assured that in closing my official connection with you they are fully reciprocated.

Accept my thanks also for your expression of regard for Mrs. Hill who shares with me in the kindest interest in you all.

Your beautiful souvenir will be highly prized by us, and the familiar faces it contains will call up our pleasantest recollections of Horton Academy.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

ALBERT J. HILL.

To Rev. Mr. George, W. Doull, and the others who signed the address.

The intelligence in our present issue from various churches will afford much gratification to the brethren. The invitation given, "Rejoice with me," is a glad sound to the disciples of Christ, similar in its nature to the joy among the angels of God, over the repentant sinner. It is an indication that those who were 'the lost' are now 'found,' and have become heirs of glory.

CENTENARIES.—Halifax is becoming somewhat ancient. Its institutions are beginning to reckon by their hundred years of existence. Last week the North British Society held its Centenary celebration. Another Society—the Union Protection Company—is making prepara-

tions for its Centenary Celebration in August next. The object formerly of this society was the protection of property, generally, from fire. It is now more specifically for saving the moveable effects at fires.

General Intelligence.

Province of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX ITEMS.

ABORIGINES.—A pair of fine Moose obtained by Mr. A. Downs, for the King of Italy, were to have gone on in the last mail steamer, but as they arrived too late they are now on exhibition at Northrup's Country market.

The Polar bear sent from here to Italy, some time since, appears to have arrived safely.

An old man named Wm. Tilly was found in his bed at the Poor House, on Wednesday morning last, in an insensible condition from the effects of laudanum, which he had taken, it is thought, for a cough he was troubled with. Although every means was taken to resuscitate him, he died in a few hours after. Two bottles from two different city drug stores, were found in his pocket, and a post-mortem examination by Drs. Garvie and Almon revealed the presence of the drug in his stomach. An inquest was held and verdict in accordance with the facts was returned.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—The half-yearly meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held in the Province Building on Tuesday. Among other business transacted matters connected with the approaching Exhibition were taken up and discussed. It was agreed that the thorough-bred shorthorn Bull "Western Prince," imported last fall from Canada, should be offered for sale, by auction. Another meeting of the Board was held on Friday forenoon, to arrange matters connected with the Agricultural Department of the Exhibition. It was announced by the Secretary, Prof. Lawson, that Yarmouth county Society voted \$100 to the Exhibition, and Onslow Society \$20. The Board adjourned to visit the Drill Building and Governor's Field, to make an examination of the proposed erection for the agricultural portion of the show. A draft of the annual report of the Board of the Legislature was submitted, and the necessary directions given. Various matters of detail were adjusted with the view of facilitating the operations of the executive committee.

ACCIDENT.—A boy named Bishop, employed in Mr. Yates' shoe factory, lost two of his fingers by coming in contact with some of the machinery on Friday last.

BAD BOYS.—In the Police Court on Saturday, two boys about ten years of age were arraigned on a charge of stealing various articles from St. Mary's Cathedral. They confessed their guilt, and at the request of the Archbishop were handed over to him, as he did not desire them to be punished.

On Thursday morning an old woman while passing Mumford Terrace, North street, discovered a boy about twelve years of age, lying under the steps of the house occupied by Mr. Higginson. She informed parties in the vicinity, and an effort was made to pull him out, but without success, as he was frozen to the ground. The steps were then torn away and the boy removed, badly frozen and delirious. He was recognized as the son of a man named Walsh, residing in Water Street, and taken home. He left his home two days before, and had not been heard of until found. It is supposed that he got drunk and crawled under the steps to sleep. It is said that he was in the habit of absconding himself from home at nights, and therefore his friends were not alarmed at his absence.—*Chron.*

ANOTHER VICTIM.—One of the passengers from Liverpool for New York, per R. M. S. City of Washington, while laboring under an attack of delirium tremens, jumped overboard and was drowned, when the vessel was four days out. He was a native of Switzerland. It is said that he had a large sum of money on his person at the time.

A passenger by the mail steamer from England for New York, was robbed of a gold watch and a sum of money on Friday last, by some colored girls. The man was left behind. Three girls were taken into custody on the charge.

The brig Chanticleer, Capt. Davis, owned by Messrs. Salter & Twining, of this city, from this port for Melbourne, arrived at Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope, on the 30th January. They experienced heavy weather for the first two or three days. Three hours after leaving here the cook slipped overboard and was drowned.

POOR TRAY!—It is officially announced that all dogs not registered in the City office before the first of May next, will be indiscriminately destroyed. Would it not be well also for some guarantee to be demanded of the parties registering their dogs, that they shall not be permitted to bark by the hour at night to the great discomfort of neighbours? Orders should be given to the policemen and the city night watch who hear such disturbances to report them on the following day.

WINDSOR.—The bridge for the Railway over the Avon River will be a busy scene this summer. Advertisements are out for five boats for this service. Piles of rocks are already on hand for the piers.

We understand that the steamer Empress will resume her trips between St. John, N. B., and Windsor, is about ten days.