

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ontario Correspondence.

THE RETURN OF SPRING—POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS.—THE ONE HOUSE OF LEGISLATION.—ITS ADVANTAGES.—CHURCH MATTERS.—REVIVALS.—THE BAPTIST INSTITUTE AT WOODSTOCK.—NEED OF MORE MINISTERS.

Mr. Editor,—

The unusually cold and dreary winter has prepared us, in Ontario, to hail, with even more than usual gladness, the return of Spring. And, though we have yet a week or so of March before us, Spring seems to have actually and in good faith, made her appearance. The snow, of which we had a lavish supply three or four weeks since, has disappeared—as if by magic. The soft breezes blow, the warm sun shines, or the warm rains fall, and the singing of birds is heard in the land. My neighbour's plough was at work two weeks since and I have already seen the gardener's spade doing duty in an apparently dry and mellow soil. March has certainly belied its old reputation and brought to nought the forebodings of its detractors, and if April but fulfils the generous pledges of its predecessor we shall quickly be in the midst of summer verdure.

"There is nothing new or startling," as the letter-writers say, occurring just now in this quarter. The Ontarians have, as a people, glided quietly into the New Dominion. Confederation has given rise to none of those convulsions which, we regret to see, are distorting the body politic in Nova Scotia. The people of this section do not regard the new arrangement as either an unmixed good or an unmitigated evil. We are treated now and then, to long faces, and groans and gloomy forebodings, when the Intercolonial Railroad, with its formidable figures, becomes the subject of conversation. In these western regions little or no commercial benefit is anticipated from the building of that road. It is generally regarded simply as a part of the price which has to be paid for the benefits of union. To some of the less sanguine temperaments the price seems rather a large one, but on the whole much less is said about it than might have been expected. The first session of the "One House" has passed and seems, on the whole, to have given a large measure of satisfaction. The tax payer, particularly, seems to be especially pleased with the attention given, in word and perhaps in deed, to "rigid economy." Financially, Ontario appears to be setting out upon her new career, in very comfortable circumstances. But in any comparisons, in this respect, with the Maritime Provinces, it is not, perhaps, sufficiently borne in mind that very many items, both of legislation and reputation, which belong to your local parliaments, are here devolved upon the municipal corporations. I might instance road-making, and bridge-building. It seems strange that this excellent system is not more generally introduced into other parts of the Dominion. It must tend very greatly to simplify and facilitate the public business; and its general principle—the leaving local interests to the care of local organizations—seems certainly a sound one.

I am happy to be able to record some signs of quickening in our churches. From one quarter and another we hear of an increasing interest in regard to the great and true objects of life. Additions are being made to some of our churches. Others are wrestling more earnestly at the throne of grace—sending up, we trust, earnest and believing cries to the presence of the Prayer-Hearer. Still we are far, very far, from enjoying those manifestations of the presence of the Master, and the workings of the Spirit's power, which are necessary to raise our churches to the true dignity and activity and blessedness of their high calling. We need a general revival—a re-awakening from worldly mindedness and spiritual torpor. What are called "revivals," are not, I think, so common with us as with you. Perhaps I should be more correct were I to say that they manifest themselves somewhat differently. This is owing mainly to the distrust with which they are often regarded and the consequent restraints and chills to which they are subjected. May the time speedily come when we shall cease to fear the revival and expend all our concern and dread upon the declension and lifelessness which render them necessary.

Our Institute at Woodstock was never in a more prosperous condition. The members in attendance during the term just closing, has been about one hundred and twenty, an in-

crease upon that of any previous term. Five young men are completing the Theological course and going out into the field. Some fourteen others, at various stages of the course, go out to labour during the five months which intervene before the re-assembling of the Theological Department. These all find open doors to labour. They are immediately absorbed as pastors or missionaries, and the cry is for more, more. In addition to those I have mentioned there are some eight or ten others having the ministry in view who continue at the Institute pursuing their preparatory studies. But all these can do little more as they go out year by year, than supply the vacancies caused by removal, age, death, &c. Meanwhile there are churches destitute of pastors all over the land. In fact it seems to be a problem, becoming year by year more difficult of solution, How shall the churches be supplied with pastors and the missionary fields with labourers? This problem is attracting serious attention in many quarters. Of course Christ has furnished the churches with the true solution, when He says "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, &c." But He expects His people to use means as well as petitions. Works must join hands with Faith. Many among us are beginning to more than suspect that there is after all something seriously defective in our present modes of working. On the one hand sufficient care is, we fear, not taken by pastors and church members generally to seek out and encourage young men with the necessary gifts and graces. On the other there can be little doubt that there is a great want of flexibility, of adaptability, in our modes and courses of instruction. We, perhaps, aim too much to cast all our ministers in the same mould—to "cut them all off at the same length," as I heard it expressed the other day. We too often forget to study, on the one hand, the capacities, characteristics and deficiencies of the student, and on the other, the very varied wants of churches and localities. Spurgeon seems to be opening the eyes of many to the fact that there may be a more excellent way. But I fear I am travelling quite out of my sphere, I leave the solution of the vitally important question to other and wiser heads.

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

Revival Ordination, &c. at Hawksbury, C. B.

Since last June Bro. J. W. Manning has been laboring in the gospel with the church at Hawksbury, and the Lord has evidently been with him. The last Cape Breton Quarterly Meeting was held there, commencing on the 13th March, 1868, and very soon after the commencement of the meetings a gracious influence was manifest. Persons became anxious and began to inquire for the way of life, and before the regular services of the Quarterly Meeting closed several had expressed hope in Jesus. Though two of the ministering brethren were obliged to leave, the meetings were continued and the interest increased. On Sunday, March 22nd, five converts were baptized by Bro. J. F. Kempton, and on the 29th nine more.

About this time the ordination of Bro. Manning (for which the church was anxious last summer) seemed desirable, and the church unanimously and heartily decided to call a Council to consider the propriety of taking this step. Letters were sent to several ministers and brethren on both sides of the Strait, and the Council assembled on Tuesday, March 31st, at 5 P. M. It was composed of the Hawksbury Church, together with the following representatives from sister churches:—

- Guyborough.—Rev. Joseph Murray and Dea. Samuel Pyle.
- North Sydney.—Rev. T. H. Porter, Jr.
- Margaree.—Rev. J. F. Kempton.
- Sydney.—Rev. W. B. Boggs.

Bro. Kempton was unanimously chosen Moderator, and Bro. Boggs, Secretary.

Bro. Peter Paint having briefly stated the reasons for which the church had requested the Ordination, Bro. Manning was called on to relate his Christian experience and call to the ministry, which he did in a satisfactory manner. Several doctrinal questions were put to the Candidate, the answers to which gave evidence of his soundness in the faith.

The examination being concluded Bro. Manning withdrew, and, after consultation, it was unanimously decided to proceed with the Ordination in the evening, and the appointments were made for the public service.

At 7.30 o'clock, the congregation having assembled, the ordination service was conducted according to the previous arrangements.

Bro. Porter preached the sermon. His text was Acts xi. 24, "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord." He pointed out first, the great, primary object of all Christian effort, viz. the salvation of souls, the addition of people unto the Lord: and secondly the qualifications of a successful minister of Christ; he must be "a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith."

Bro. Kempton asked the Questions, in which he brought out clearly some of our distinctive principles.

The Ordaining Prayer was offered by Bro. Murray.

The Charge to the Candidate and the Right hand of fellowship were given by Bro. Boggs.

Bro. Murray, in plain and pointed language, gave the Charge to the Church. I hope his faithful, pungent remarks may be long remembered.

The Benediction was then pronounced by Bro. Manning.

The meetings were being continued and the work of grace seemed to be advancing. The Church, after years of desolation, is now rejoicing in the presence and saving power of her blessed Lord. May the good work extend far and wide until all the churches shall be visited by "the Dayspring from on high."

W. B. BOGGS,
Secretary of Council.

For the Christian Messenger.

The First Yarmouth Church.

[The following from the Pastor elect of the first Yarmouth Church, will awaken the sympathy of brethren in various parts of the province towards our friends in the western capital. May they speedily have their numbers replenished by those who are willing "to be baptized for the dead," and so have their broken ranks filled up, and new converts brought in to be partakers of like precious faith.—Ed.]

Mr. Editor,—

God addresses his creatures in various ways. Sometimes his calls are whispers, and only those ears which have been unstopped by the touch of Jesus can hear the music. He calls again and in the crashing thunders are heard the syllables of Jehovah's voice. But, in whatever manner he addresses men, his designs are merciful. "So all these things worketh God oftentimes with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living."

During the past three months we have been labouring in Yarmouth, N. S., while there we were forced to believe that God was not so much speaking as thundering to the people, and not merely by a single bolt, but with peal after peal. Sickness and death were of almost daily occurrence. Especially was this the case in connection with our own church and congregation. Typhoid fever, Pneumonia and Measles were unusually fatal. During the brief period of our stay in Yarmouth, no less than fifteen persons belonging to our church or congregation departed this life. Several of this number were children, but many were adults. The following were members of the church:

MRS. ELENOR ARCHER,

who had been a worthy member of the Church for fifty years, after a tedious and painful illness, which she bore with patience and resignation to the Divine will, passed peacefully away to "the better land." To her, death was a great and incalculable gain.

MRS. JOHN WYMAN,

who had also been a church member of excellent standing for nearly half a century, after a few days of very severe illness, entered upon the rest of the people of God. And the narrow house which opened to receive the mortal remains of her husband just one week before, received her to its sacred keeping.

MRS. PRINCE ROBBINS

was well known as an active, devoted Christian. A few days before her decease she was in the public assembly testifying to the goodness of God and exhorting others to trust in him. Smitten down suddenly, she had but little time to set her house in order. That time, however, was well improved. And when death came she had but to request her husband to pray for sinners. Shouting as she went into the valley, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," she undoubtedly passed safely into her Father's house on high. A husband, several small children, and many relations mourn their loss.

MRS. WM. WYMAN

was the subject of severe suffering for several months. All that kindness of friends and medical skill could do to arrest the progress of disease was done, but the destroyer was too powerful, His approach was stealthy but sure. And the citadel of life became so thoroughly sapped, that the garrison within was compelled to yield. The young sister of whom we speak

was baptized about two years ago, and less than a year since was married. With bright prospects opening up before her, we should expect her to cling to life. But so strong was her attachment to her Saviour that she longed to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better. Although loved and almost idolized by her friends, she calmly bade them adieu and breathed her happy spirit away into the presence of God.

MR. CHARLES SEALY

was a young man greatly beloved by the whole community. His practice correspond with his profession, and when death came, suddenly though it was, he had little to do but to die. His departure was mourned as a loss not only by the church, but by several societies of which he was an honored member. Some might think his death premature, but it was not so. The Christian cannot die before his time. His Lord's appointment is the servant's hour. This good brother and the others we have referred to, all died in hope of being found with Christ. With his rod and staff in their trembling hands, secure and unharmed, they passed on to the regions of eternal day. Be it ours to follow them as they followed Christ that we may at last enter into the same rest.

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IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. HENRY BANKS,

died at Clarence, January the 27th, 1868, in the 82nd year of her age. She had been the consort and companion in all the vicissitudes of life for more than 62 years, with our deeply afflicted and aged brother. Their separation will be but for a moment. More than forty years ago she gave herself to the Lord, and to his people; with whom she ever walked in peace and fellowship. Her heart was the seat of kindness and good will to every one around her. She has left for heaven, beloved and lamented by a very large number of relatives and friends. She was the mother of 10 children, 40 grand children and 32 great grand children. A number of whom, we believe, were in heaven to welcome her to the throne of God and of the Lamb. May Heaven speed us all onward until we join them in glory.—Com. by Rev. N. Vidito.

MRS. ELIZABETH BANKS,

The beloved wife of Mr. Jacob Banks of Inglesville, died January 15th, 1868, aged 70 years, in hope of eternal life. Our departed friend was in connection with the English Church, but was friendly to all denominations, was kind hearted, and respected by all who became acquainted with her. She has left a husband, and four children, and a numerous circle of relatives to mourn. She professed to have experienced religion when young, and ever lived consistent with that profession. Now (we trust) she enjoys the company of the blessed in glory.—Com. by J. W.

Religious Intelligence.

PUBNICO AND ARGYLE, Yarmouth Co., March 25, 1868.—My dear Brother, you and the readers of your valuable paper will be glad to learn that the Lord is graciously visiting the little church at Pubnico, Yarmouth Co., at which place I am laboring one quarter of my time in connection with the Argyle Church. I commenced to preach with the church the third Sabbath, in January. We have been holding some extra meetings which has resulted in a revival, back-sliders have been reclaimed, the wanderer has returned home, and sinners are inquiring the way to Zion. I have had the happiness during the two last Sabbaths, of baptising 10 willing converts, and uniting them with the church. And there are a goodly number more whom we think are truly converted, who have not strength as yet to follow their Saviour in the ordinance of baptism, to the Lord be all the praise.

Yours truly,

W. L. PARKER.

REVIVALS IN NEW YORK.—The special meetings in the Tabernacle assumed new and great interest last week, and they will be continued this week, under Rev. Mr. Earle's ministry. He preached on Sunday evening to a crowded congregation, and at the close of his most solemn and searching sermon, a large number came forward to express their desire for Christ's salvation. It is believed that more than one hundred conversions have occurred in the meetings, about twenty-five of whom have been baptized, and as many more are likely to put on Christ by baptism next Sunday morning.

Dr. Dowling baptized thirteen converts on Sunday, and the interest is increasing.

God is visiting the Macdougall street Baptist congregation with the gentle refreshing and regenerating influences of the Holy Spirit. The pastor, Rev. William Reid, last week received by baptism eight recent converts.

Reviving influences have been manifest in the Clinton Avenue church, Brooklyn, Dr. Hiscox pastor, for some weeks past. Several have recently been baptized, and others are now awaiting that ordinance.