

For the Christian Messenger.

Criticism and Explanation.

Mr. Editor,—

pouring to be poured with, 'arise and be poured, and wash away thy sins,' 'one Lord, one faith, one pouring,' 'buried with him by pouring,' 'as many of you as have been poured into his death, &c., &c. And further, since the word translated 'with' in Matt. iii, 11, is the very same as that translated in the 6th verse. 'They were baptized in Jordan,' will he show this reading to be unwarrantable, 'I indeed immerse you in water. He will immerse you in the Holy Spirit and fire?' Not till he does, can he make it appear that there was any 'misstatement' in 'extract' No. '3.'

'(4.) But he asks 'Why unexpectedly favoured?' I reply, simply because we had not heard his appointments, and went expecting the Gospel to be preached, as we told him during the conversation he alludes to. Surely he had no good reason to doubt our truthfulness. And yet he plainly intimates that he did not believe us, and includes this among our 'misstatements.'

'(5.) He next inquires 'if Baptists fellowship other Christians in the proclamation of the gospel why should they refuse to fellowship them, at the Lord's table?' To this I answer, because we have authority for the one that we have not for the other. We are not to forbid others laboring for Jesus because they 'follow not with us.' The Apostle says 'some indeed preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds.' And adds, 'What then? notwithstanding every way, whether in patience or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.' But we do not find him rejoicing in the opportunity of partaking of the Lord's Supper with those unbaptized.

'(6.) His concluding paragraph requires but little comment. Its personalities to say the least seem hardly in good taste. Surely I was not to be expected in private conversation to reply to his lecture of an hour and a half, 'immediately after the service.' Had an opportunity been given before its conclusion, I would have deemed it a privilege to 'show mine opinion.' As to the remark attributed to me, I beg to assure my friend that he should have selected more reliable inferners. I never uttered it. My statement was that I should assume the entire responsibility of presenting my views on the following evening. He then asks, 'Why this necessity if not a few Sabbath School children could so easily show the absurdity of the argument?' I answer, because I anticipated the presence of a number not connected with the school, and who had only heard one side of this subject, and was not disappointed. As to the 'precocity of the children in the Baptist school at Margaree,' let me assure him, that to be able to refute such arguments as he advances in support of 'the dogma of infant church membership, and the substitution of pouring for Bible baptism,' does not at all give evidence of matured intellect. And let him not forget that Jesus said, 'Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.' To the complaint that 'we afterwards sent him word that we should be happy to talk with him privately or more publicly on this subject, but we could not get even another sight of him until he turned up in the *Christian Messenger*,' I reply that I regretted, not less than he, the circumstances that conspired to prevent a meeting, of which he need not have remained ignorant.

I am not at all surprised that 'a graduate of Acadia College' confessed himself unprepared to converse with one who ignored the 'dictionaries.' Doubtless he had been taught that as the New Testament was originally written, not in English, but in Greek, the lexicon must be resorted to, and confided in, and that it was just as explicit, intelligible, and reliable in defining the word which describes the act of baptism as any other; and consequently, that 'the final appeal to God's word' our brother so earnestly advocates, could not be made without its aid. And this being the case, let him not forget that he who in the baptismal discussion, 'sets aside dictionaries,' rejects, not the authority of 'the men who make them,' but of the Divine Author of the Bible Himself.

I regret that not having seen my opponent's article earlier, my reply has been so long delayed. It will be observed that he is not responsible for all the italics in my quotations from him.

Deeming no further apology necessary for the appearance or length of this communication, I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours very truly,

T. H. PORTER, JR.

North Sydney, C. B., Dec. 14th, 1867.

I never knew how it was, but I always seemed to have the most come in when I gave the most away

BAXTER.

I observe in your last, among some remarks in reference to the Sophomore Exhibition of Acadia College, held in the Baptist Meeting house on Friday evening, Dec. 2nd, some singular insinuations concerning a particular oration and its author. Insinuations I say—perhaps not—I will call them peculiar statements. The writer seems to imagine that we were giving a burlesque to the subject of mesmerism and endeavors to make that the general impression.—We can assure "One Present" however, and all present that such was by no means the intention, and that the writer was perfectly sincere in all he said on that occasion. "Extravagant prediction and clothed in the resplendent robes of fancy." But if "extravagant prediction" can be substantiated, if the "resplendent robes of fancy" have concealed beneath them solid sentiment, if a basis of facts constitute the interior and gorgeous apparel the exterior, if man has the power of judging of the future from the past and presents and if such conjecture has not always proved unsuccessful, then will the shadowy phantoms of imagination assume the garb and consistency of stern reality. But we have mesmerism designated by a "stupendous folly." So was Geology when first brought to notice, geology which is now triumphantly establishing its most astounding theories respecting the past duration of the earth. A stupendous fool was the venerable Galileo when he stood ready with his diagrams and formulas to demonstrate the motion of the earth. So was it extravagant when a few years ago it was predicted that steam would be applied to the purposes of navigation. To have said then, that such a tiny power would be rousing the world from the dormancy of the past, quickening into a new life the sleeping energies of man, liberating the human mind, breaking up the great dead sea of barbarism, ignorance, and superstition, and acting as a mighty agent in the spread of the gospel, would have been considered preposterous and giving a burlesque to airy nothingness. Be it remembered that all scientific discoveries which in course of time throw great floods of light over the world and figure largely on the platform of human advancement meet at first sight with no pleasing reception.

No doctrine that is not true can be permanent and all truth will be found finally to be perfectly harmonious emanating from the same grand fountain and concurring to accomplish the same grand end, the display of His glory and the promotion of happiness in His universe.

E. M. CHESLEY.

Acadia College, Dec. 27, 1867.

On receiving the above we forwarded it to the writer of the article referred to. He has requested us to append the following:

Mr. Editor,—

In reply to the above, I would state, that in view of the jealous care that an old student feels for the reputation of a young student, I am unwilling to abandon the impression first made upon my mind. I would be heartily glad to find that Mr. C.'s letter is a further attempt at the ironical. But as I have interpreted once I will request the whole body of students to which he has the honor of belonging to become his expositors this time. To them I would offer this injunction: Rack your brain—knit your brows, tax your skill—in fact do anything but wrong, to get an explanation, before accepting that which is given *prima facie* in Mr. C.'s letter.

ONE PRESENT.

Religious Intelligence.

ONSLow.—Rev. B. Scott writes, Dec. 25th 1867. Since I last wrote you I have baptized four more willing converts—all heads of families but one. And two have been received to be baptized next Sabbath at Anon Chapel the place of baptizing and receiving into the church.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—A meeting of the ministers of the city was held in the Committee room of Leinster Street Baptist Church, on Monday, the 24th ult., to consider the best mode of observing the Week of United Prayer. A committee was appointed to obtain a suitable place in which meetings might be held.

We do not understand what obstacles exist to a mode similar to that observed in Halifax,—the meetings of each day being held in a church of a different denomination.

THE LEINSTER STREET CHURCH recently held an interesting social festival in their spacious basement. The city ministers were guests. At the close of the festivities an address was read to the Pastor Rev. W. S. McKenzie, during the reading of which the door and window of the Committee room were opened, and a bountiful supply of articles, necessary and desirable, for housekeeping and family use, was exhibited and presented to the pastor. It was a genuine surprise and was greatly enjoyed by both givers and receivers. May the good example of these brethren and sisters be followed in all the churches!

BLACKVILLE, MIRAMICHI, Dec. 16th, 1867.—Yesterday was a day of Zion's glory. Nine were buried with Christ in baptism and one restored. This work is taking hold of all classes of society: here you may see the middle-aged, heads of families, men of ripe years, standing up confessing Christ, and rejoicing in the blessings of the Gospel; also, the young men and women, in all the strength of their youthful feelings, saying:—

"Jesus I my cross have taken,
All to leave, and follow thee."

A willing people, made willing in the day of God's power.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless and praise His holy name; it is surely a day of glad tidings with us, and we would not do well to keep silence.—*Visitor*.

THE RECENT MASSACRE IN FIJI.—The *Wesleyan Missionary Record* publishes the following extract from a short note written by Mr. Carey, announcing the massacre of the Rev. Thos. Baker, a Wesleyan missionary at Fiji, together with an assistant missionary and six native teachers:—

"I am sorry to inform you that the whole district has suddenly been thrown into the deepest sorrow by the death of my esteemed colleague the late Rev. Thomas Baker. He left his home on the 18th of July to visit some inland tribes; and on Sunday the 21st he and a native assistant missionary, Shadrach Seil-ka, together with six others, were all brutally murdered by the natives of an inland tribe. Two of Mr. Baker's party have escaped alive. One of these teachers we have examined, and the other, who ran for his life right across 'Na Viti-Levu,' coming out at Ba, we are hourly expecting here. Mr. Baker has indeed fallen, and fallen—my heart sickens while I write it—among the vilest cannibals. You will imagine our grief at this moment, and that of poor Mrs. Baker and the three fatherless girls who are now with us. He set out on the 27th October for Soloira. After journeying for three days, and taking advantage of various opportunities of delivering his gospel message, Mr. Baker (with a native assistant-missionary) arrived at Korobalavu (Longtown). The kind of human beings among whom Mr. Baker laboured may be judged of by the following description of an individual living in the place in which he perished:—"In this town (Longtown) there lives a notorious cannibal, with whom I had a little conversation. He pointed me to a pile of human bones in the fork of an orange tree under which we were sitting, and assured me that he had eaten the men of which each bone there was a representative, and that he had kept these bones as a memento of his cannibalism. Many other things did this inhuman wretch make known to me; and his countenance, and more than ordinary worn teeth, only helped to convince me that he had literally been a human bone crusher! To have listened to this man's statements, and told, too, in the presence of those who could have contradicted them if false, would have removed for ever from the minds of some the idea that Fijians are not lovers of human flesh. This vile cannibal affirmed that, as for eating, nothing was comparable to human flesh, not even fowls or pork. In different parts of this town we saw human bones hanging on the trees, which told of very recent butchery. We made an arrangement that as soon as their teacher should arrive all these bones should be collected and buried."

Mr. Baker's efforts to Christianise the savages of the Fiji Islands were crowned with great success, and whilst making further efforts to evangelise the inland tribes he and his brethren were ruthlessly massacred.

Dominion and Foreign News.

New Brunswick.

NO THANKS TO THEM FOR LEAVING.—It will be seen that the imposition of postage on newspapers was only carried by thirteen votes. Had the Maritime members not left, Canada would have been relieved of this obnoxious tax. The heavy duty imposed on printing paper, on which publishers never seek to make any profit, looking to their advertisements for that, ought also to have been watched and cut down. The abolition of the paper duties in England, an old and heavily taxed country, was a great boon.—*St. John Telegraph*.

A TEA MEETING was given by the ladies of the Germain Street Wesleyan Church to the Soldiers of the 15th Regiment who attend that church on Wednesday evening last. It is said to have been a very pleasant affair. Addresses were delivered by several of the resident clergymen.

The sale of the New Brunswick and Canada Railway is advertised to take place in Fredericton on the 18th day of June next.

HORSES LOST IN THE ICE.—On Saturday evening last the Rev. Judson Bleakney was driving up the Belisle towards White's Point, where he

intended to spend the Sabbath with Rev. Mr. Corey, his horse broke through the ice off Long Point Bar, and was lost. The sleigh was smashed to pieces and the Rev. gentleman also lost a valise containing his best wearing apparel. A man whom we were told belongs to Fredericton and named Reed—not John H. Reid—while driving a pair of horses across the ice on Grand Bay on Wednesday afternoon, broke through and lost both animals, they dying on the ice, after being taken out of the water alive.—*Globe*.

ACCIDENT.—On Friday, about 11 o'clock a. m. while a number of Quarrymen were engaged at work in making a blast on McGuiggan's work about 7 miles up the Western Extension, the shot went off prematurely, by which three men, viz. Charles McGuiggan, Patrick Sheays and John Burns, were blown up and badly injured.—*St. John News*.

The *St. John News* says that there have been large shipments made of Corn Meal to the maritime provinces which will have the effect of decreasing the price of that staple even lower than it was before the Tariff rose.

FREDERICTON SEMINARY.—The *Ch. Visitor* gives a report of the recent examination of this institution. It says "Classes were examined in Spelling, English Language and Literature, English Grammar and Parsing, Arithmetic, Algebra and Virgil. Euclid, Homer and Roman History were omitted for want of time.

As on all such occasions, some of the students did not appear to such advantage as, with a little closer application during the term, they might have done! and it is hoped that the well-timed remarks of some of the gentlemen present will be remembered, and serve as a stimulus to greater diligence in the future.

A large majority of them, however, gave very general satisfaction, answering with a promptitude and correctness creditable alike to themselves and their teachers.

Ontario.

London, C. W., Dec. 23.—The Grand Trunk Railway office in this city was entered by burglars yesterday morning. The safe was blown open and a large sum of money stolen.

The Ontario Legislature was opened with the usual parade on Friday, the 27th ult. Mr. Stevenson, Reformer, was elected speaker.

Quebec.

The Quebec Parliament opened on Friday the 27th ult. Dr. Blanchet, Conservative, was elected speaker of the Assembly by acclamation.

Deboucherville, appointed by the Government, is Speaker of the Quebec Legislative Council.

MONTREAL, A fire broke out on the 23rd ult. in Nordheimer's Hall, occupied as a billiard saloon by the Dions. The buildings was completely destroyed. Dion lost six billiard tables. Gould & Hill, and Wm. Ryle, tobacconists, lost heavily.—Railway trains were destroyed by snow.

Some unbusiness was occasioned in Montreal on Christmas Day by reports which had been in circulation for some time past, of the proposed Fenian rising, and of a scheme to blow up the English Cathedral. Threatening notes were received by the Police authorities.

The election for the county of Montmorency, in the room of the Hon. Joseph Couchon, resulted in the return of Mr. Langlois, of Quebec.

Newfoundland.

The R. M. S. *Merlin*, arrived on Sunday morning from St. John's, N. F. via Sydney, having experienced a very rough passage. She brought twenty-eight passengers.

The *Times* says:—"We understand the Government have contracted with Mr. Cunard for the transmission of our mails by the usual steamer from Halifax for six months from the arrival of the mail next week—making three monthly and four fortnightly trips. The cost will be £4500—half of which is to be defrayed by the Imperial Government and half by the colony."

The United States.

ATTACK ON MORMONISM.—In the Washington Senate on Friday week the Committee in Territories reported a bill relative to affairs in Utah, regulating the militia organization, &c. Among other things it provides that marriages shall be solemnized only by regularly elected and qualified law-officers or regularly ordained ministers of the gospel. Polygamy is positively prohibited, and marriages within certain degrees of consanguinity are declared incestuous and void, and persons entering into such marriages to be liable to severe penalties.

The soundings for the Atlantic Cable from Brest, France, to the French Island of St. Pierre, off Newfoundland, thence along the coast to New York, are completed.

The New York *Times* estimates that the impeachment force has cost not less than \$500,000.

DESTITUTION.—The N. Y. *World* states that there are fifty thousand persons in New York who live by the labor of their hands, out of employ, which is a more truthful statement of our financial condition than columns of deftly arranged figures relating to the national debt.

There is about \$10,000,000 worth of property afloat on the Erie canal. Much of this is perishable, consisting of apples and potatoes, and already partly frozen. More property is afloat at this season of the year than was ever before known.