

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Summary of the Letters from the Churches to the N. S. Western Baptist Association.

**Liverpool Church.**—This church, during the first year of Bro. A. H. Munro's pastorate among them, and during the second after their most strenuous and praiseworthy efforts in replacing their meeting house—destroyed by fire, have enjoyed one of the most remarkable revivals of religion known in our Province for many years. 68 have been added by baptism, and 10 youthful persons have been taken under the church's watch-care, yet, while, in addition, 10 have been added by letter, and while 16 have been excluded, only one excluded member has been restored.

The instrumentality owned more than any other in this work, and more directly owned in the conviction of sinners and in the deliverance of the convicted than is usually the case, has been the faithful and pungent preaching of the word. In connection with the Sabbath School in this church the Pastor gives instruction to a Bible Class of 68 members.

One of the members of this church having been selected to sit on the Council lately convened at Granville Street, the Church has expressed, in their letter to the Association, their "deep sympathy with the Granville Street Church, in the long and painful trial through which it has had to pass and to assure its members of their approval, and admiration of the firmness, moderation and discretion they have manifested in connection with the distressing matter with which they have had to deal."

**1st Ragged Islands Church.**—Reports that, during the past Winter and Spring, exempt from discord and divisions, they have been permitted, in quietness and calm, to enjoy the refreshing dews of the Saviour's grace. Eleven have been added to this church by baptism, and an encouraging degree of religious interest is still manifest, which warrants the church in anticipating more additions.

This church notices the abuse, too prevalent, of members of churches changing their residence without transferring their membership and invokes the aid of the Association in some way, for the abatement of the evil.

**Brookfield Church.**—Has been without a Pastor for most of the year; but having engaged Rev. P. F. Murray for a part of the time, who entered on his labors the 10th of May, and the Spirit's influence having been granted with the use of the means of grace, a refreshing from the presence of the Lord has been enjoyed and six have been added by baptism, while the work seems progressing.

**Beaver River Church.**—Rejoices that so many of the churches in the Association have enjoyed revival during the year, but deplores the low state of religion among themselves. Rev. A. Cogswell still labors with them a part of the time in whose ministrations they enjoy the bread of life dispensed.

**Little River Church, Digby Co.**—Enjoying the labors of Bro. J. C. Morse a part of the time, have experienced a very gracious revival of religion during the last Winter, the result of which has been the addition of 29 by baptism, and a very gratifying stimulation of the graces of the members.

**Clements Church.**—In some of its sections has enjoyed revival mercies, and the addition of 30 to its membership by baptism. Bro. G. D. Cox labors successfully in this church and enjoys largely the affections of the people.

**Caledonia Church.**—Has been without a Pastor during the year, and in consequence has been in a depressed and lukewarm condition. Recently, however, the church enjoyed a visit from Bro. G. W. Sederquist, Licentiate, to the conversion of a number and the revival of the church. Six have been added by baptism. The church is engaged in building a new meeting house.

**Hebron Church.**—Has nothing cheering to communicate. Some exhibit stability and fidelity notwithstanding the many obstacles in the way of prosperity. The church has had the services of Rev. R. R. Philp during the past year, but is now destitute of a Pastor.

**Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot Church.**—Writes of diminished numbers on account of unusual mortality and letters dismissal, and also of a low state of religion and no baptisms during the year. (The church exhibits commendable enterprise and activity.) In building and repairing places of worship, in sustaining Sabbath School and Temperance enterprise, and in efforts in behalf of the cause of Foreign Missions.

**Sissiboo Church.**—Has nothing of special interest to communicate, as the year has been one of declension with them rather than of prosperity, yet they experience that in waiting upon the Lord renewal of strength is found.

**Digby Neck Church.**—Is still endeavouring faithfully to use the instrumentalities appointed by God for the promotion of bible piety and the conversion of souls, but during the past year have not been permitted to enjoy additions to their membership.

**Milford and Graywood Church.**—Is thankful to the Mission Board for the ministerial aid supplied them, and for the happy results of the labor expended. Brother E. C. Spinney's visit by God's blessing, resulted in great good, while Bro. Sederquist's labors have not been in vain, wanderers have been restored, sinners converted and the membership of the church has been nearly doubled during the year.

**Hampton Church.**—Notwithstanding the faithful, instructive and laborious services of their Pastor, Bro. J. M. Parker, the church can report no progress during the year. Death has diminished their numbers and they have had no baptisms.

**2nd Hillsburg Church.**—Special efforts have been specially blessed in this church, stimulating the graces of its members, reclaiming the backsliders and adding 6 to its numbers by baptism.

**Pubnico Church.**—Reports having enjoyed prosperity during the year, the labors of Bro. W. L. Parker having been blessed of God in reviving the church and in adding 12 by baptism.

**Jordan Bay and Sandy Point Church.**—Is striving amidst many disadvantages to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made its members free. The enemy has been striving to make inroads among them by means of false doctrine, but the Lord has been their defence. They have had painful occasion for excluding two of their members, and but for the faithful labors of their Pastor Bro. J. F. McKenne, and the blessing of God, the infection might have been more extensive.

**Kempt Church, Queen's Co.**—Is enjoying the dawn of a day of brightness, after a weary night of painful trial and difficulty. The Lord has blessed the labors of Bro. P. R. Foster, (Lic.) among them to the conversion of souls and the revival of the church. Prosperity reigns where discouragement brooded, and God's people can sing "O, Lord, we will praise thee," &c. The membership has been increased by the addition of 29,—23 of whom by baptism.

**Freeport Church.**—Is another with which the past has been a year of the right hand of the Most High. Great grace has rested upon the people and Bro. J. A. Moore has rejoiced in adding 25 to the church by baptism.

**Lower Granville Church.**—In statu quo, laboring and hoping.

**Lake George Church.**—Has nothing encouraging to write. The past has been a year of weeding and pruning. With numbers diminished by the exclusion of 36, they believe their strength is augmented and they labor and hope for the salvation of God.

**Lewis Head Church.**—Has swarmed during the year and sent off a colony to form the 2nd Sable River Church. Nothing besides, specially interesting or cheering to communicate.

**1st Yarmouth Church.**—Has been without a Pastor for most of the year, but its prosperity has been gratifying, considering the circumstances. The pulpit has been for the most part occupied with acceptable supplies, and the Prayer and Conference meetings have been pretty well attended, and have oftentimes furnished much spiritual enjoyment. The church has now settled on a Pastor—Bro. G. E. Day of St. John—and hope for an enlarged measure of blessing in the year to come.

**New Albany Church.**—Is barely able to maintain an existence amid untoward influences. Destitute of a Pastor, and of spiritual activity and energy it ineffectually accomplishes its mission. Some of its members sigh and cry, "O, Lord, how long?" yet they sometimes hope for better days.

**New Tusket Church.**—Has much to lament in view of its spiritual condition. The past year has been a dark and wintry season, attended with many discouragements, and its only hope is that the Lord reigns.

**Milton Church.**—After being destitute of a Pastor for some time, this church settled Bro. J. H. Hughes whose faithful and energetic labors have been largely blessed. An extensive revival of religion has been enjoyed during the past Winter and Spring, and as the result 50 have been baptized, and all the various benefits and advantages accompanying such a work have been enjoyed.

**Nictaux Church.**—Has enjoyed the rich displays of God's grace in one of its sections. The Pastor, Bro. W. G. Parker, has held forth the word of life in great plainness and faithfulness, and God has blessed it to the conversion of sinners and the quickening of his people. 22 have been added by baptism.

**Port Medway Church.**—Has experienced refreshing during the year, but no special manifestation of Divine power and grace. 66 members have been dismissed to form the Mill Village Church, and this, together with a revision of their roll and the exercise of discipline, has greatly reduced its numbers.

**Mill Village Church.**—This church has had existence since last March only, yet during that time it has enjoyed manifest tokens of God's favor and of his approval of its distinct and separate organization. Bro. J. F. Tooker labors here one fourth of his time.

**Pine Grove Church.**—Has enjoyed the ordinary means of grace, and in different sections of the church special means have been employed, but without any extraordinary tokens of favor. In addition to the concert of prayer for Missions, held monthly, organized special efforts have been put forth for increasing and intensifying the interest in the Foreign Mission cause. Five weekly Prayer meetings are held in the church.

**2nd Ragged Islands Church.**—Has had no revival and no diminution of numbers by death or otherwise. Some trouble has been experienced on account of misunderstanding about the proprietorship of its house of worship, but this has passed.

**St. Mary's Bay Church.**—The section of this church known as South Range Settlement, has been refreshed by an outpouring of the Spirit in connection with the word preached by Bro. L. B. Gates and some converts have been added; but the year has not been distinguished as one of revival with the body and the church.

**Sable River Church.**—Is struggling on with no special tokens to encourage. Bro. McKenne labors here one fourth of his time.

**West Sherbrook Church.**—After a silence of two years, during which time storm after storm of affliction and trial has been experienced, with a cloud still hanging over them, express their faith and trust in the God of Israel, and their thankfulness for grace bestowed, by which some among them have been hopefully converted and some added to the church.

Prayer and Conference meetings are maintained, and at times with a good degree of interest.

**Wilmot Church.**—Enjoys still the dispensation of the word, but that not being accompanied by the special influences of the Spirit, nor mixed with faith in those who hear, has not resulted in reclaiming wanderers nor in converting sinners.

**Wilmot Mountain Church.**—Has the word ministered by Bro. J. M. Parker who is laboring with good effect. Two Conferences a month and three Prayer meetings a week are sustained, but no revival enjoyed—no additions.

**Annapolis and Upper Granville Church.**—Enjoys union and harmony in a good degree, but have had no special awakening and no additions during the year. Some of the members sigh for the abominations done in the land and are crying, "Spare thy people, O, Lord, and give not thy heritage to reproach."

**Tusket Church.**—Has experienced trial and little religious interest during the year. Bro. Richan has devoted one fourth of his time to this church and his labors have been blessed in restoring and fostering harmony when hostility prevailed. On account of hard times they fear they will not be able to sustain the preaching of the word among them during the coming year.

**Westport Church.**—Has enjoyed a revival under the labors of Bro. J. A. Moore and 39 have been baptized.

**South Yarmouth Church.**—Enjoys a good degree of union and harmony. Its new house of worship has been completed, Bro. Joseph Robbins has been licensed to preach, a revival has been experienced and 12 have been added by baptism. Bro. A. W. Barss' labors have been owned as largely instrumental in the results.

**2nd Sable River Church,** organized during the past year, has experienced tokens of Divine recognition and favor. Bro. McKenne preaches to the church once every fourth Sabbath. The people are now engaged in building a meeting house.

**Ohio Church** has been blessed with refreshing showers of grace, and 9 have been added by baptism; but the removals, by death and otherwise, have exceeded the additions. The Sabbath School prospers and the church has increased attachment for our principles and practices, and increased desires to walk in the "old paths."

**Argyle Church** has felt severely the pressure of the hard times and finds difficulty in sustaining pastoral labor. Bro. W. L. Parker lives in the affections of the church and people, and his labors have been largely blessed and give promise of increased usefulness.

**Deerfield Church** has been vigorously engaged purging out the old leaven, after faithful and patient labor with those who have been long delinquent, and have enjoyed tokens of divine approbation while performing the painful labor. Members have been added by baptism and by letter; the congregations are good; the gospel faithfully preached comforts, strengthens, edifies, and the distinctive principles of our denomination are increasingly loved and cherished.

**West Yarmouth Church** is in a languishing state and without a Pastor, again. Efforts are being made to secure one and to sustain the cause.

**Digby Church** without a Pastor, enjoyed the labors of Bro. L. B. Gates occasionally, in the early part of the year, and since

have engaged Bro. Martell a part of the time, whose labors have been blessed. The church is weak because the members are geographically scattered.

**Hillgrove Church** has nothing of special interest to communicate. Members are scattered and not alive.

**1st Hillsburg Church** is holding on its way amid difficulties and discouragement. Itching ears and alienations among members give trouble, but the Lord gave his blessing to the observance of the "Week of Prayer" and to the labors of the Pastor. Disensions have been healed, wanderers reclaimed, sinners converted, and eleven added by baptism and by letter.

For the Christian Messenger.

## Justification by Faith.

It is clear, that, if the above statement be true at all, it is truth which so affects our interests, brings to us tidings so joyful, hopes so glorious, assurances and consolations so strong and satisfying, as to be worthy of all acceptance, say of all our powers of thought through all of our existence; and that to praise it faintly, is virtually to condemn it, that is, to deny its truth; for there is no other way of condemning it.

It is faint praise of it, to prize honor, riches, learning, organizations, rights, ceremonies, ordinances, or the divine and eternal moral Law itself, more than it; or, in any sense, in connection with our salvation, to place these on a level with it; so to attach to these any of that importance which belongs exclusively to it; these things being in fact of no importance, so far as salvation is concerned, except as they become so by virtue of this glorious truth, and that, not as an appendage or superfluity, but as a first and all pervading cause, without which preachers are but dumb dogs, however learned, eloquent or popular; and professors but withered branches whatever may be their works, gifts, or attainments.

Justification in its spiritual sense, even when most restricted, is unpeakably important, but, whom He justifies them he also glorifies.

"Let everlasting glories crown  
Thy head my Saviour and my Lord,  
Thy hands have brought salvation down,  
And wrote the blessing in thy Word."

"Tis by the mercies of thy blood,  
The Father smiles again,  
'Tis by thine interceding breath,  
The Spirit dwells with men."

"I'll speak the honors of thy name  
With my last laboring breath,  
And dying, clasp Thee in my arms,  
The antidote of death."

"Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

"Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me."

"And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will let him take of the water of life freely."

"His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns, and he had a name written that no man knew, but he himself."

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God."

"And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of thunder, and I heard the voice of harpers, harping with their harps."

"Jesus and shall it ever be,  
A moral man ashamed of thee?  
No, when we blush be this our shame,  
That we no more revere thy name."

Believers in Justification by Faith will see the application, and the propriety as well as force of the foregoing quotations, others cannot, the latter must be born again and see things in his light, who is the Light of the world and the Life of men.

Some of your readers may think all this mere rhapsody, but publish it, and be not thou ashamed of the chain that constrained me to strike a feeble note to the praise of Him that loved me and washed me in his own blood.

I might go on quoting from the sacred writers and others, passages grand and sublime, in praise of Him and of his great salvation, of its plan, means, operations, and results—but should not then be satisfied, nor shall I be, until I help to make Heaven re-echo with his praise, when there will be none to whisper, and none that would listen to a hint or contradiction, either of his truth or my interest in it. Yes, I, not worthy of the least of his favors, by virtue of His worthiness, have a right to room there, a right accorded me by the Grace of God and by his Justice. For now his Justice and faithfulness as well as mercy and love to truth are concerned in the forgiveness of him that believes in his Son.

Nearest the throne, and first in song,  
Man shall his Hallelujah's raise,  
And wondering angels round him throng,  
To swell the chorus of his praise.

P. T. O.

For the Christian Messenger.

## IN MEMORIAM.

GEORGE W. OAKES

Died of consumption, at Caledonia, Queen's Co., June 23rd, in the 28th year of his age, leaving a wife and numerous other relatives to lament his early death. When but 13 years of age he sought and obtained the forgiveness of his sins, was baptized by the Rev. R. S. Morton, and ever honored by word and deed his holy profession.

A heavy cold which settled on his lungs was the origin of the disease, which for more than two years and a half continued to prey upon his once vigorous constitution. Through his sickness he never murmured at the hand that afflicted him, but with calmest patience did he await the hour of his release. "Jesus is all my trust" were the last words he was heard to utter, and we doubt not his ransomed spirit is now happy in the presence of