

my ears the dying injunction of my father's early friend: "Keep your sons from cards; over them I've murdered time and lost heaven."

For the Christian Messenger.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM REV. DR. STEVENS, dated "Rangoon, May 6th, 1869.

"Miss DeWolfe has doubtless written of the cause of her trip to Calcutta. She has returned much improved; and we hope she may now be able for a season to go on with her work, from which she had been greatly hindered by neuralgia in the face. She seems happy in her present situation, and I doubt not is doing good."

It affords me pleasure to add, that an esteemed Sister in the Church under my care, Mrs J. L. Brown, has recently handed me \$2 toward defraying the expense unavoidably incurred by Sister DeWolfe in obtaining necessary and successful medical aid.

C. TUPPER, Secy.

Aylesford, July 8th, 1869.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 14, 1869.

N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

A SABBATH AT ONSLOW AND TRURO.

Never was the proverb "Man makes the city but God makes the country" more appropriate than on the Sabbath in our recent visit to the Eastern Baptist Association. The broad expanse of fertile lands with gentle undulations, and clear streams winding through them, indicate that rich stores of agricultural wealth are to be gathered here for years to come as they have been for many past years. Over this is a transparent atmosphere which enables us to take an extended survey on every hand. All nature is sending forth its delicious perfume, the birds are carolling sweetest music. The sun sheds forth its brightest rays, and gives a brilliant hue to the foliage of the trees and all the objects in the lovely landscape. A quiet calmness pervades all around, in beautiful harmony with the day of rest. Shortly the inviting tones of the church bells break forth and assist the voice of Nature in directing the thoughts and feelings from Nature up to Nature's God.

The voice of revelation and the Lord's Day are so much in harmony with each other that the division of time into weeks loses much of its significance, and adaptation to man's nature, until we remember that on this day the Lord of life and glory overcame death and the grave. The day has now become far more a day of remembrance than was the ancient Sabbath to its Jewish observers.

Again sonorous sounds fill the air, and peal forth from the steeples of the villages churches and we go forth to join in the worship of the sanctuary. The younger portion of the congregation with a good number of young men and young women are assembled in the Sabbath School obeying the Saviour's injunction "Search the Scripture for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and these are they which testify of me." Addresses from several brethren follow and the time has arrived for the more public services of the day. Large congregations assemble at the centres of attraction and listen to fresh voices speaking the words of faith and hope and love. Opportunities are afforded to join in three services which are embraced by many and we trust that good was done, and souls kindled to newness of life and fresh ardor in the work of Christ.

MONDAY SESSIONS.

On Monday morning the Committees are summoned to meet at 8 o'clock to take into consideration the various matters entrusted to them. Time is scarcely given for this before the hour has come for public service.

The Sermon, the first part of which we give on another page, was felt to be full of sterling truths and well adapted to inspire the assembled brethren to enter on another year's campaign. It will doubtless be read with no less of interest than that which was apparent when it was being delivered.

After the Sermon and it being known that many persons present were interested in Foreign Missions desirous of hearing the Missionary elect—Rev. Mr. George, the time was extended and a special vote taken requesting Mr. G. to address the meeting.

In the afternoon Home Missions were

taken up and speeches of much earnestness made by a number of the brethren. It was apparent that all felt the great necessity of effort being made to send the gospel to the regions beyond.

At the close of the discussion of the Report on Education, the Rev. D. A. Steele moved and the Rev. W. B. Boggs seconded the following resolution, which was spoken to by several others and passed unanimously:

Resolved, That this Association have heard with deep feelings of regret that the Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D., has been compelled to retire from the Presidency of the College.

They cannot permit this occasion to pass without recording their deep sense of the manifold obligations of the Baptists in these Provinces—to our honored Brother—not only for the singularly successful manner in which the duties of President have been discharged. But also for the aid uniformly rendered in various ways by his learning, experience and piety to the cause of truth and righteousness.

They express the hope that his last years may be years of unabated christian vigor.

And that the repose thus obtained may yield large results to our denominational literature.

TUESDAY SESSION.

On Tuesday morning the Infirm Ministers Fund occupied the attention of the Association. We give the Report of the Committee appointed to take this matter in charge:

The Committee on the Infirm Ministers' Fund report:

That they regard it highly important that some provision be made by which a more permanent and reliable Fund may be established, for the purpose of aiding Baptist ministers, when disabled by sickness or age from performing ministerial labor, and in the event of their death for assisting their surviving widows.

Your Committee are of opinion that it is very desirable for ministers themselves to contribute annually to such fund—their contributions being made a basis of their claim to a participation in such fund when required for themselves or their widows.

Your Committee regard it as advisable that a uniform plan be adopted by all the Associations in this Province. A committee having been appointed by the Central Association for the purpose of preparing a plan for the securing of this object, your Committee would recommend that a Committee of three brethren be appointed to correspond, and act with said Committee in the preparation of such plan for raising, investing and appropriating such fund.

Your Committee further recommend that Subscriptions and Donations be forthwith solicited, and a special collection taken in all the churches of this Association for this object in the month of November and that the amounts be forwarded to the Board having this fund in charge. And that all Subscriptions, Donations, Collections and Legacies of upwards of Five Dollars be invested by the Board in good and sufficient real estate, or equally satisfactory security.

Your Committee would further advise that the Board for the ensuing year be elected, and the names of the brethren composing the Board be inserted every year in the Minutes of proceedings of the Association. Also, that an Act of Incorporation be obtained to enable the Board to legally hold property.

Revs. D. W. C. Dimock, T. H. Porter, and Brother B. Douglass were appointed a Committee to correspond and act with committees of sister Associations on this subject.

The Circular Letter was read by Rev. Joseph Murray, the writer, and approved.

The Treasurer read his report, showing that a considerable advance had been made beyond last year, in the contributions sent to the Association for Benevolent Objects.

The Sabbath School Report was read, briefly discussed and adopted. The Statistics were pretty fully given in the Letters, and brought out by the indefatigable Secretary of the S. S. Convention, T. B. Layton.

A resolution condemnatory of any effort to lower the character of our public schools, was moved by Rev. D. W. C. Dimock, and after being pretty fully discussed was passed unanimously.

A movement was also made on behalf of an Inebriate Asylum and a committee appointed to prepare and present a petition to the Local and Dominion parliaments on behalf of such an institution.

The number reported as received into the churches of this Association by Baptism, was 279.

The Association is to meet next year with the Church at Amherst.

The hospitality of the Truro brethren as well as those at Onslow, was called into requisition and proved fully equal to the occasion. Both alike understood the practical application of the apostolic injunctions on this subject, and gave a most generous and hearty welcome to all the brethren.

It was truly a joyous time. The weather was unexceptionable, and a spirit of harmony and earnest concern for the welfare of Zion pervaded the meetings. We trust it may be seen that good was done, and it

was a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

We were gratified to see the progress made in the erection of a new sanctuary for the Truro Baptist Church. It will be a most commodious structure.

A LETTER ON EDUCATION.

At the recent Session of the Central Baptist Association held at New Germany, the following resolutions were moved by Rev. Dr. Cramp, seconded by Rev. James Parker, and passed unanimously:—

Whereas, A resolution has been introduced in the House of Assembly of this Province to the effect that no grant from the Provincial Treasury shall be given in aid of any Department of Education, except Common Schools, and that the monies arising from such saving shall be added to the Common School fund;

Therefore Resolved, That the passage of the said resolution would be regarded by this Association as a retrograde movement, unworthy of the intelligence and enlightened zeal of the people of Nova Scotia; and that in the judgement of this body the School Law should not be limited in its operation, but rather enlarged and extended, by affording increased facilities for the cultivation of the higher branches of learning.

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Provincial Secretary, and D. C. Landers, Esq., M. P. P.

The Rev. E. M. Saunders, in fulfilment of his official duties, forwarded the resolution with the following note:—

HALIFAX, June 26th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed you will find resolutions, passed at the Central Baptist Association held in New Germany, which I, as Clerk of the Association, was directed to forward to you and the Provincial Secretary.

Truly yours,

E. M. SAUNDERS.

D. C. LANDERS, Esq., M. P. P.

The following letter, received since by Mr. Saunders from D. C. Landers, Esq., in reply, has been handed to us for publication:—

NICTAUX, June 26th, 1869.

REV. E. M. SAUNDERS.

Dear Sir,—Your communication enclosing resolutions is received, in reply, if the Association consider it a retrograde move to try to relieve the labouring class of part of their taxes, then in the name of charity let us retrograde. I think it is unworthy of the intelligence and zeal of the people of Nova Scotia to submit to exorbitant taxation, when their money is being expended for useless purposes. As to enlarging and extending the school law, this is only enlarging and extending the taxes of the working class, and in my opinion it is about the same kind of consolation that Rehoboam gave to his refractory people when they complained of high taxes by Solomon, "My father chastised you with whips, I will chastise you with Scorpions." I think the Ministers of the Gospel who are exonerated by the law from paying taxes, are not the men that should dictate to the representatives of the people on the subject of taxation, after some of them having used their influence to sell the country, and deprive the people of the privilege of appropriating their own revenues. If the people of Nova Scotia are content to be taxed \$600,000 per annum for educational purposes alone. If they are content that more than one third of the Provincial Grant shall be expended by officials in carrying out the law, if they are content that nearly \$12,000 should be paid for school examinations, if they are content to keep up an office of Superintendent of Education at the cost of \$5000 a year, then all is right; if they are not content, then let them ask for a change as earnestly as they petitioned against Separate Schools, and I have no doubt they will succeed.

I remain, Dear Sir, with respect

Yours truly,

D. C. LANDERS.

P. S.—As the resolutions with the order for forwarding them to D. C. Landers has been published in the C. M., will the Rev. E. M. Saunders please ask the Editor to publish this as the reply of D. C. LANDERS.

If the request is declined please notify me and oblige.

D. C. L.

As Mr. Saunders performed the duty imposed upon him by his office we see no reason why he should be called upon to reply to the statements contained in the above.—We, however, feel called upon to give correct statements along with this letter, so that our readers at a distance may be correctly informed respecting our School affairs. We presume that our friend, Mr. Landers will be glad to have the erroneous statements he may have seen or heard and supposed to be truthful, rectified. He should be correctly informed.

Were it not that we find similar statements made in a letter to the Bridgetown Free Press we might have written Mr. Landers and sought from him a correction before publishing his letter.

We have taken some pains to ascertain the facts of the case feeling that in making statements and quoting figures it is necessary to be careful and put forth only what is correct. The following then are what we believe to be the facts on the educational part of Mr. Landers' letter.

The only direct taxes levied on the people of Nova Scotia are, 1st., the County Tax, levied by law, amounting to \$91,762 a year; and 2nd., the Sectional Assessments, levied only by vote of the people themselves, amounting last year to \$298,655. So that nearly three-quarters of the entire direct tax for schools is voted and the amount of it fixed by the people themselves, and may be stopped at any moment they are not "content" to bear it.

As to the Provincial Grant, the Revenues from which that is raised, would continue to be collected from the people, whether the money were paid for education or not.

The cost of administering the school law, (including the Inspection of Schools,) does not exceed a tenth of the Government Grant.—Mr. Landers says it is "more than one-third." We suppose he has not examined the subject for himself or he would not have come before the public with the statements contained in his letter.—The Examiners and Deputy Examiners were paid only \$1,148 last year. Mr. Landers puts down School Examinations for \$12,000; another example which shows how necessary it is to look at the facts when dealing with figures.

The salary attached to the office of Superintendent we find is but \$1,200, contingent allowance \$400, clerk \$800, making but \$2,400 for the Education Office, instead of \$5,000 as stated by Mr. Landers. From what we know of the gentlemen filling the situations above referred to, we believe that no public office in the Province, taking into account the amount, character, and importance of the labor performed, is so cheaply maintained.

We have been more or less connected with educational matters for the last thirty years, and we believe, and think Mr. Landers will admit, that the working class of Nova Scotia, whom he is anxious to "relieve" by the measure he has proposed, could never before secure education for their children so cheaply as at present. We reserve any arguments on the proposed measure itself for a future day.

Now, with respect to "Ministers of the Gospel," and their rights and privileges.—We should not deserve the position we occupy if we failed to defend them from any curtailment of liberty to speak on all subjects connected with religion, morality, and education. Mr. Landers says ministers "are exonerated by law from paying taxes," but the fact is, Ministers do pay taxes. A portion of the Provincial Grant for School purposes is drawn from the general revenues of the Province, all consumers and purchasers of dutiable articles pay equally such taxes. Ministers are not, therefore, exonerated in this particular.

Before the last session of the Local Legislature ministers paid taxes on rateable property above two thousand dollars. At the last session a change was made, and now they are taxed for all rateable property above one thousand dollars. Ministers then enjoy exemption only on property under one thousand dollars. This is also enjoyed by other men when they are upwards of sixty years of age. Perhaps Mr. Landers' honorable years confer on him this trifling release from taxes! These, we believe, are the facts, and Mr. Landers, as a representative of the people, assisted, in the last session of the Legislature, in making this law. Is it quite fair, or right, then to say that "ministers are not taxed?"

Did the ministers of the Gospel ever ask to be "exonerated by the law from paying taxes?" We think not. Even if they had done so, would Mr. L. deprive them of the right to speak freely on the subject of Education because of the slight exemption of a tax on two hundred and fifty pounds? Or would Mr. Landers deny this right to all citizens who are over sixty years of age, on account of such slight exemption? Surely not. He would not, if exempted, deprive himself of such right. Generally speaking we believe that men over that age, and ministers of the gospel, are no less able than others to speak sensibly or correctly on these subjects.

The following article from the *Christian Visitor* indicates somewhat how our school system is appreciated by those living beyond our borders:—

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NOVA SCOTIA.—We are indebted to T. H. Rand, Esq., the enterprising and efficient Superintendent of Public Education in Nova Scotia, for a copy of his fifth Annual Report of the Common, Superior, Academic, Normal and Model Schools, for the school year ended October 31, 1868. "ANNUAL REPORTS," in most cases, are rather proxy reading, and usually find their way into the waste paper basket without a perusal, or even the removal of the postal wrapper, to incur an hibernicism. But the one now before us has been actually and carefully examined from the beginning to the close. The figures and the facts, both the general and the