

For the Christian Messenger.

JOHN WESLEY HIS OWN INTERPRETER.

Dear Brother,—

The following passage from Wesley's Notes on the New Testament is placed on the Title-page of my "Catechism of Christian Baptism":—"Buried with him"; alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion."

Mr. Wesley, together with a host of Pædobaptist writers, regarded the Apostle's words in Rom. vi. 4, as referring to the immersion which the Roman believers as well as himself had undergone when they were admitted to the profession of Christianity.

Some Wesleyans, however, wish it to be understood that Mr. Wesley's reference was to Jewish, not to Christian baptism. The fact of this Jewish baptism is not admitted; but if it were, how could it be said that Paul and his fellow-believers at Rome were "buried with Christ in baptism" otherwise than in the Christian ordinance?

But I read the following in Mr. Wesley's Journal for Feb. 21, 1736:—"Mary Welch, aged eleven days, was baptized according to the custom of the first church, and the rule of the Church of England, by immersion. The child was ill then, but recovered from that hour."

This is sufficiently plain. The "custom of the first church," was "the ancient mode of baptism." That "custom," the Journal assures us, was "immersion." And so Mr. Wesley is his own interpreter.

Yours truly,
J. M. CRAMP.

May 14, 1869.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE ACADIAN FRENCH MISSION.

The friends of the Mission will be glad to learn, that our Missionary is still pursuing his work with usual success. He has been encouraged in his work, by the privilege of baptizing four persons during the last quarter. In one part of his field a small house for worship is being erected, in which service will be held in the summer.

The sum required to purchase the premises at Saulnierville, have now all been pledged. The friends are hereby notified that the conditions on which many of them subscribed have been fulfilled, and it is hoped that on or before the meeting of the Western Association, they will be able to redeem their pledges, and thereby lift the Board above its present embarrassments.

In the meantime our friends must not forget our missionary, who depends entirely upon them for support. In the extra efforts put forth for purchasing premises, his wants have nearly been lost sight of, and the Board have been unable to meet their engagements with him as promptly as desirable.

The Board would take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to our ministering Brethren and the Churches, who so cheerfully and promptly responded to our appeals for aid by our Agent, Bro. Cogswell, which has encouraged us to continue his services in the good work.

On behalf of the Board,
B. B. MOSES, Secretary.
Hebron, Yarmouth Co., May 10th, 1869.

For the Christian Messenger.

MISSIONARY FOR BURMAH.

Bro. Editor,—

At the Meeting of our Foreign Missionary Board in Tremont, Aylesford, April 23rd, 1869, Bro. William George offered his services as our Foreign Missionary. After inquiries and deliberation, it was moved by Rev. W. G. Parker, seconded by Rev. W. H. Porter, and

Resolved unanimously—11 members of the Board being present—"That Rev. William George be accepted as our Missionary to Burmah."

It was also unanimously

Resolved, "That Bro. George be employed to visit our Churches, hold Foreign Missionary Meetings, take up collections, obtain subscriptions &c., for this Mission: and that he be allowed eight dollars per week for his services, with expenses borne.

It was understood that he could not commence his agency till after the Anniversary of Acadia College, June 4th, and it was thought desirable for him to attend as many of the Baptist Associations as he conveniently can. The Board trust that our Ministering Brethren, the members of our Churches, and the friends of the Mission

generally, will readily aid our Brother in this good work.

Our esteemed Bro. A. R. R. Crawley, though prevented by the sickness of his family from meeting the Board, has been requested by letter to use his influence with the Executive Committee, &c., of the American Baptist Missionary Union, to obtain such accommodation from them as it may be in their power to afford us. We earnestly desire to proceed in perfect harmony with them; but it must be distinctly understood, that ours is an *Independent Mission*. Rev. Dr. J. G. Warren, Secretary of the Union, in a letter addressed to the Secretary of our Board, dated "Oct. 23rd, 1862," after kindly remarking, with reference to our people, that the "Executive Committee . . . would be glad to contribute any thing in their power to forward their plans," justly adds, "Till they have a field and laborers of their own, toiling under their supervision, and dependant on them for support and sympathy, it is certain their resources will not be called out as they should be."

It seems undesirable to withdraw support from such native preachers in Burmah as are now laboring usefully; but Brother Crawley informs us that it is not easy at present to find suitable men there who are not employed. Hence there is an increased necessity for sending an ordained Missionary from our shores.

The out-fit and passage of a mission family, and the subsequent expenses, with the support of our valued sister DeWolf already there, will obviously require enlarged liberality from all the Baptists and the friends of this Mission in these Provinces. "The liberal soul deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand."

Yours in gospel bonds,
CHARLES TUPPER.
Aylesford, May 12th, 1869.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

I wish to acknowledge through the columns of your paper, the receipt of a letter, without signature, dated "Wolfville, May 4th, 1869," containing twenty dollars towards the fund of the "Chair for Natural Sciences." The whole was enclosed in an envelope bearing a P. E. I. stamp and Post mark. If the donor of the aforesaid sum will send his name I will place the amount to his credit.

You will oblige me also by giving a place to the enclosed letter, as an evidence of the promptness and cheerfulness with which the appeal from our College is responded to. This little church is foremost in the list this year. Last year the church at Portauquique was the first to respond. If the large, able churches had a little of the earnestness and enthusiasm which incites the smaller ones to do their part, the books would not show so great a deficiency of funds in the Treasury.

Yours respectfully,
ANDREW D. W. BARSS, Treasurer.
Wolfville, May 17, 1869.PORT HAWKESBURY, C. B.,
13th May, 1869.

Dear Sir,—

At a meeting of the members of the Baptist church in this place, it was unanimously resolved to respond to the call for aid, by the Governors of Acadia College, by forwarding the amount solicited. You will please therefore find enclosed the sum of

C. Clerk.
A. D. W. BARSS, Esq., Treas. Acad. Col.**Christian Messenger.**

HALIFAX, MAY 19, 1869.

OUR CHURCH PSALMODY.

The "Psalmist," used by Baptist Churches in this Province, is, we believe, one of the best collections of Sacred Poetry for public worship in existence, but, within the last few years many other excellent hymns of a devotional character, from various sources, have been brought into use in our more social religious meetings. It has been suggested that many persons in our congregations would like to have a number of these more modern productions put together in a small book convenient for use—especially at our prayer meetings.

In many congregations the people do not join so heartily, or so generally, in singing the praises of God as they might if all had books of their own. Many persons having no books either depend on the words given out by the minister, or on the persons

engaged in conducting the vocal exercises, and the result is they sing but little, or, not at all, and lose much of the benefit of this part of Divine Worship.

The "Psalmist," being so large a collection of hymns, the price is in some cases a barrier to its being generally purchased, and every member of a family having a book. Other denominations reap the advantages of low-priced psalm- and hymn-books; and why should not we?

For some time past we have sought a remedy for this state of things, and have been desirous of securing for our brethren advantages in these respects equal to those possessed by other bodies. It would appear that a selection of a number of the best hymns, and those mostly in use in the Psalmist might be combined with some of the best of the modern hymns abovementioned; and they together would form a valuable compilation such as might be used, at least in our social meetings—and without interfering injuriously with the Psalmist, as our accepted book of Psalmody; the numbers of the hymns from it being retained.

If a demand for a sufficient number of copies of such a book could be relied upon, it might be published at so low a price, that all capable of using it, might procure a book.

We have sought advice on this subject from several of the ministers of our churches; and have, in reply, received great encouragement to proceed in the matter. Several of them state that it is a desideratum they have long felt, and urge us to lose no time in getting out the book.

We have, therefore, commenced the publication, and shall be able shortly to announce the price, and how soon the book will be ready.

THE POLICY OF THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT.

The resolutions, promised by the Attorney General on the first day of the session, respecting the course the government propose to take with regard to accepting the situation, under Confederation, were laid before the House of Assembly on Wednesday last. The Hon. Attorney General, in a brief speech set forth the reasons for the course the government had pursued. The resolutions declaring their policy are as follows:—

Whereas, His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, late Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a despatch bearing date 4th June last, has thrown upon the Government and Parliament of Canada, the responsibility of conciliating the people of this Province, and reconciling them to Confederation;

And Whereas, Earl Granville, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a despatch of the 13th January last, probably written under the impression that sufficient time had not then been afforded the Government and Parliament of Canada to try out the policy of conciliation with which they were charged by Her Majesty's Ministers has said:

"I can hold out no expectation that Her Majesty's Government will propose, or that Parliament will entertain, any measure for the repeal of the Act of 1867."

And Whereas, in view of that decision of Her Majesty's Government, it is expedient to wait such reasonable time as may be necessary for the Canadian Government and Parliament to mature and submit measures of relief for the pacification and conciliation of the people of this Province;

Resolved, That pending the deliberations and decision of the Canadian Government, it is the duty of this House to declare:

1st. That the expectations held out in the despatch of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham to the Governor-General, of 4th June last, that the Government and Parliament of Canada should relax or modify existing arrangements relative to Taxation, the regulation of Trade and the Fisheries which may prejudice the peculiar interests of Nova Scotia and the Maritime portion of the Dominion, should be fully complied with;

2nd. *Resolved*, That this House will accept of any increase of subsidy from the Canadian Government that may be offered, as an instalment of the amount justly due this Province, reserving the right to demand from said Government such further sum or sums of money as upon a full investigation of the statistics in relation to population, public property, and increased taxation will more fully appear.

3rd. *Resolved*, That while the enforced union of Nova Scotia under the British North America Act continues, it is the duty of the House to seek such modifications and improvements of said Act as will make it less burthensome and injurious to the people of this province, among which the following are the most important:—

That the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick should be considered as a unit, with separate and distinct interests from other parts of the Dominion which can only be guarded and promoted by an increased Representation in the House of Commons, equal to the number of members allowed to the province of Quebec, which is in the same proportion as the existing allotment of members to the Senate.

That in the selection of members to the Senate, the Local Legislatures of the Provinces, instead of the Federal Executive, should make such appointments.

4th. *Resolved Further*, And it is hereby declared, that no settlement of the questions involved in the passing of the Act of Confederation, either as respects its principle or its details will be considered as final, until after the subject has been submitted for the approval of the people.

It is perhaps unnecessary that we should offer more than a remark or two upon these resolutions. The discussion of them commenced on Monday last we are unable to give our readers anything like a full account of the reception they will meet with from the members of the Assembly. Mr. Campbell seconded the resolution and spoke in their favor. Mr. Desbrisay and Mr. Kidston strongly opposed them, and advised a continuation of the agitation for Repeal. The debate will probably continue until every member has spoken.

Although they appear in the form of four resolutions they may be regarded as expressing but three considerations. 1st. Financial. 2nd. Representation. 3rd. Finality.

Or 1st. That any increase of subsidy will be accepted until by a full investigation of statistics a further adjustment can be secured.

2nd. That Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have an increase of representation and certain enactments or modifications distinct from those of Ontario and Quebec, and adapted to their maritime position. The appointments to the Dominion Senate to be made by the Local Legislatures.

3rd. We do not understand that the government propose an appeal to the people by a dissolution of the present Legislature. Therefore, thirdly, the final acceptance of "the principle and details" of the Act of Confederation is to be deferred till after the next general election, which will take place in 1871.

We shall not venture to predict what course the friends of the government, either in the Legislature, or in the several counties will pursue under this new aspect given to our public affairs. It is highly important for the interests of trade and commerce, generally, that a condition of greater stability should be given to our institutions; and that all barriers to the development of the resources of the country be removed, without delay.

The discussion of the government policy in the Legislative Council indicates that no factious opposition will be given to the resolutions by those who have hitherto stood opposed to the Repeal party, but a liberal construction will be put upon the resolutions. The intentions of the government, it would appear, will be as far as possible acquiesced in by all parties. Business will take the place of agitation, we trust, and a healthful vigilance and greater prosperity shortly prevail throughout the province.

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.—The completion of the Central Pacific Railroad has been a subject of much interest in the United States, and indeed in commercial circles generally. The following table will shew the distances from one point to another:—

	Miles.	Hours.
New York to Chicago, Ill.	911	30½
Chicago to Omaha, Nebraska,	491	24½
Omaha to Bryan,	858	43
Bryan to Ogden, Utah,	233	10½
Ogden to Elko, Nevada, via Central Pacific Railroad,	278	12½
Elko to Sacramento, Cal. via Central Pacific Railroad,	465	31
Sacramento to San Francisco, via Western Pacific Railroad,	117	12½
Total	3,353	161½

The total distance of 3,353 miles is made, according to the above table, in six days seventeen and a half hours, actual time by a traveller's watch, from which deduct three and a half hours difference of time, when going west, leaving the apparent time consumed in making the trip, six days and fourteen hours.

Letters have been received in Halifax from the Pacific coast since this great work has been accomplished in 14 days, and were detained in New York 3 days,—making but eleven days in passing from the western part of the continent to the most eastern.

Still, when a railway is constructed across the continent on Canadian territory, the distance may be yet further shortened. The *Pall Mall Gazette* in speaking on this subject, says:—"What concerns others is the fact that a Railway would shorten the distance between Liverpool and the East by seven hundred miles, as compared with the route through the United States."

When, at some future time, this shall be accomplished, and Halifax is made the terminus of the Atlantic and Pacific Railway, it will become a city of no small consequence.