

For the Christian Messenger.

HANTSFORT, April 25th, 1870.

Dear Brother,—

I was much pleased to see in your last issue a letter from Dr. Sawyer, calling the attention of the Churches to the Circulars sent them by the Governors of the Acadia College, requesting a small sum from each, to aid them in meeting the current expenses of the Institution.

It is very important that each Church should make an effort to respond to the call. Some have felt disappointed that I did not enter upon my Agency this year, but all who heard me at the Convention last August will remember that I did not pledge myself to the work this year unless my Churches would release me—which they were unwilling to do, and are yet unwilling, but at the close of my present engagement with them which will be the last day of next July. I intend, D. V., to commence the promised Agency, giving one year gratuitously to it. The Baptists of the three Provinces are fully able to place our Institutions at Wolfville on an independent basis, and we hope that when an appeal shall be made to them, they will respond liberally.

Yours very truly,
J. E. Balcom

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 27, 1870.

DEPARTURE OF REV. W. H. PORTER FOR JAMAICA.

HALIFAX, April 21st, 1870.

Dear Brother Selden,—

Having been for some months past, owing to my wife's illness, meditating a removal to the West Indies, and being now on my way to Jamaica, and "ready to depart on the morrow," I steal a few moments from sleep, to bid farewell to those who may be interested to hear from us. Having been so pre-occupied with pastoral duties, special religious services &c., together with the labor of preparing for our removal, I have not been able since our decision to go, to communicate with individuals separately—therefore I do so now, through the Messenger.

I am very sorry to leave my many friends with the possible uncertainty of seeing them again; sorry to leave my native Nova Scotia, with the many ties that bind me to it; sorry to leave our denominational institutions and enterprises, especially our Foreign Missionary Board, at this important and auspicious period; sorry to leave venerated and esteemed fathers and brethren in the ministry; and sorry above all to leave my ever dear church and people of Pine Grove, and especially without a minister; but still I am no less comforted in the assurance that God, who cannot err, is guiding us. I go too, feeling an abiding interest in the objects above alluded to, and shall hence be eager to receive, not only the communications of my personal friends and correspondents, but the more than ever interesting pages of the Messenger.

Doubtless it will be pleasing to many of your readers to learn that God has blessed the special services above alluded to in reviving the interests of religion in the Victoria section of the Pine Grove Church. During the few past weeks I have had the happiness of baptizing eight willing disciples. Several of them being parents of families, and one of them being a woman of upwards of 60 years. Three of the number were baptized on the evening previous to our departure. Sad and yet pleasing was the scene as we "gathered" for the last time "at the river," and after burying in the likeness of the Saviour, the three candidates alluded to, we gave them the hand of welcome to the church, and the hand of farewell and of parting. May the Lord in mercy send a faithful minister, in answer to the prayers of the dear people of Pine Grove.

"Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Please direct my papers and correspondence until further notice to Spanish Town, Jamaica.

If the Lord spares us you may hear from us again.

Yours ever most truly,

W. H. PORTER.

Many of our readers will be as much surprised as we were at first to hear of the departure of our Brother Porter.

We took leave of him and Mrs. Porter and family, on Friday morning last, on board the Mail steamer *Alpha*. We do most sincerely regret the loss of one from our midst, who has been so successfully laboring in the Christian ministry, and who seemed so well adapted for continued usefulness in this his native land.

To some of his friends, who have heard nothing beyond the above letter, it may seem a strange movement. We may, therefore, for their information, state that after our brother was advised, that a warmer climate was the only probable means of restoration of Mrs. Porter's health, and of extending the length of her life, he communicated with the Rev. J. M. Phillippo, of Spanish town, Jamaica, to ascertain if he might calculate on a field of ministerial labor and usefulness for a shorter or longer time if he went there. The reply was in many respects highly favorable, and he concluded at once to remove.

Mr. Phillippo, with whom we are personally well acquainted, has been laboring in the ministry in Jamaica for about forty years, and must be now feeling somewhat the burden of years, as well as the exhausting influence of labor in so warm a climate. He has an immense church in and around Spanish Town, the capital of the Island, and of course occupies a position of much influence. If the climate should prove beneficial to Mrs. Porter's health, and our brother should be able to endure the tropical heat, we shall cherish the hope that he may find a large and effectual door for preaching Christ. The present political condition of the Island—with a separation of Church and State just effected—presents it in a new aspect, and one highly favorable to the Baptists. Whilst others, ministers and people, only a few years since, have had to endure trials of persecution, imprisonment and death, Bro. Porter goes to a people prepared, by civil and religious freedom, to hear without let or hindrance, and to receive the higher blessing of that freedom which Christ gives to his followers:

"He is the freeman whom the Truth makes free,
And all are slaves beside."

We shall be watching with deep interest the arrival of the West India mail to receive intelligence of our brother after his arrival.

We were pleased to find that the proprietors of the *Alpha* had engaged Dr. Trenman to go out as surgeon of the ship.

On Monday last we received from Dr. Woodbury, a copy of the Farewell Address from the Pine Grove Church to Rev. W. H. Porter, on his departure and his Reply thereto. These documents will be read with interest by many others besides the members of the Pine Grove Church, on whom they reflect much credit. Being somewhat lengthy, we have been obliged to defer their insertion till our next.

We received the following from Rev. Dr. Stevens by the last mail. The brethren will be pleased to hear of the arrival of Brother A. R. R. Crawley, and as the other items are such as will interest many of our readers, we have thought it well to publish the letter:

RANGOON, Feby. 22, 1870.

S. SELDEN, Esq.
Halifax Nova Scotia.

My dear Sir,—

I am sorry that absence from Rangoon has occasioned so long delay in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of Nov. 12, 1869, containing First of Exchange for £60, and Second of Exchange for £45, on the Bank of British North America, which shall be duly brought into account.

As Bro. Crawley has returned, to our great joy, although I have no word from Dr. Tupper to that effect, I shall immediately pass into his hands the balance of the funds of the Nova Scotia Society remaining in my hands, and I take it for granted, that future remittances will be sent to him, rather than to me.

We earnestly hope that Mr. George will soon be on his way out to join us, or if not he, some other brother of devoted spirit. We need the men and every encouragement exists, to prosecute our work with energy and prayer.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely
E. A. STEVENS.

Since the above was in type we have received via Wolfville, a most interesting letter from the Rev. A. R. R. Crawley giving an account of the latter part of his voyage and of his arrival at Henthada. It will appear in our next.

One of our New Brunswick subscribers has sought from us an expression of opinion, on a case of difficulty respecting the publication of a letter to a church, before it had been received by the said church.

A knowledge of all the circumstances is necessary before an intelligent and satisfactory judgment can be formed, and, as we may not have this knowledge we are not very confident that our view of the case will be of much value.

We may however repeat briefly what we have before, in substance, stated—but in reference to a somewhat different case—that it is our opinion that when a letter, so addressed, or having special reference to any particular church, calling in question its acts, it should be first submitted to the said church before it is published, whether such communication be from another church or from an individual: and then, if it is to be published, the explanatory remarks, or refutation, as the case may be, should be published with the accusation, that is to say, if publication be still determined upon. The reasons for this will be obvious; when it is considered that if the charges preferred are first published, the paper containing them might be sent to parties, or find their way to places, to which it would be impossible to get the replies forwarded; and injury and probably great injustice would be done which could never be fully redressed.

We prefer not to give further details of the case in question, as it is not connected with anything that has appeared in our pages; nor are the churches referred to connected with the Nova Scotia Association.

EDUCATIONAL.

A large portion of the time of the late session of our Legislature was occupied in Educational matters, but no Annual Report from the Education office was presented. The expenditure for this service exceeds that of any other Public Department, and interests are involved paramount to all others. Of course it may be said that the dismissal of Mr. Rand from the office of Superintendent of Education is the cause of this omission. That may possibly be a very good and sufficient reason, but at any rate if it be, some explanation to that effect is due to the province. We are a little surprised that there has been no attempt to explain the non-appearance of so important a public document. We understood when Mr. Rand was so summarily dismissed that he was busily engaged in preparing his report to lay before parliament, and had it well advanced toward completion. The public will be anxiously looking for the report of the past year's proceedings.

The effort that has been made to damage the petitions for the restoration of Mr. Rand, by stating that a large portion of the names appended to them are in one hand-writing, is all of a piece with the attempt to damage his character, subsequent to his removal. We saw a number of the petitions, and so far as we could judge, they were all genuine signatures, and a large proportion of them were those of respectable influential men; even more so, than are ordinarily attached to public petitions to the Legislature. We are informed that, since the 72 petitions having near 4000 signatures were presented, others have come to hand containing about one thousand additional names.

The Returns made to the P. E. I. Legislature shews that there are 360 schools now in operation in the Island, with 13,676 pupils on the Register, and 8417 in daily average attendance. In Kings and Queens counties, 28 new schoolhouses were built during the past year. The number of Grammar Schools now established is fifteen. The Reports say that the education system is working well. The Normal School is described as in a flourishing condition, and the attendance sufficiently large to require the services of an additional teacher.

The St. John N. B. *Intelligencer* says "our own Legislature, at its recent session voted \$15,066.66 for the support of sectarian schools, in addition to the \$100,000 authorized by law for education. Of these special grants, over \$5,000 (more than one-third) is given to Roman Catholic schools, which means simply that a British Province professedly Protestant, donates this large sum annually for the sustenance and propagation of principles that are avowedly hostile to British law, and all our most dearly cherished privileges."

And in reference to the Training School the same paper remarks:

"Rumor says—we know not how correctly—that the Board of Education have sent or are about sending to Edinburgh for a successor to Mr. Mills, as Master of the Training School. If this report be correct, it is a sorry compliment to the teachers of New Brunswick."

In common with several other of our contemporaries, the *Colonist* copied from our last week's poets' corner, and asked "Who is F.—By the Medway?"

We should have no objection to answer the question if it would afford our contemporaries any gratification or would benefit the writer; but as we suppose the question is only intended as a well-deserved compliment, we must let "F." remain "By the Medway."

The Circular and Catalogue of MOUNT ALLISON WESLEYAN COLLEGE AND ACADEMIES, 1869-70, is received. The lists of students are given, in the College there are 22; in the Male Academy 109; and in the Female Academy 106. The former comprises a Primary and Intermediate Department. The latter has Primary, Intermediate and Collegiate Departments. The Circular gives indications of a pleasing state of efficiency in these institutions.

HOME FOR YOUNG WOMEN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. No. 171 LOCKMAN STREET HALIFAX.—The first Annual Report of this institution shews that 140 young women have availed themselves of its advantages,—many have secured good situations with out the loss of even a day. Written references of good moral character are required.

REPORT OF THE HALIFAX PROTESTANT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, 1869, shews what has been done during the year; but the moral benefits of Mr. Grierson's work there are beyond computation.

Nearly six hundred Bishops at Rome have voted infallibility to the Pope. It is said a number had been advised to leave and go to their homes, and others absented themselves on the occasion. It is said the absent ones represented the larger number and the most intelligent part of the Roman Catholic people.

Notices, &c.

ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

The next lecture before the above Society will be delivered in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting-house, Wolfville, on Thursday evening the 28th inst., at half-past seven o'clock, by the Rev. J. A. Rogers.

Subject—"True Greatness."

H. MORROW, Cor. Sec.

Rev. Charles Randall will accept our thanks for Minutes of Western Association 1864. Thanks also to J. E. Carter for Central Minutes. The Western only were wanted.

SUNNYSIDE.

The friends of Mr. P. Freeman, Cavendish, have supplemented their donations of last fall, acknowledged in the Messenger, with a beautiful new Sleigh and Robe, besides many other useful things, given without ostentation, but with real kindness of heart. Such tokens of affection are cheering to the heart of the Pastor. May it incite to greater earnestness in efforts for the good of their souls.

[It affords us real pleasure to record brief notices of donations, and other efforts to give a "Sunnyside" to ministerial life. Some of our U. S. contemporaries have adopted a plan of making them up into the smallest possible compass, such as the following:

"SUNNYSIDE
To Rev. J. W. Phillips of Bayfield \$125,
To Rev. W. M. Weston of Poyntonville \$75"
&c. &c.—Ed.]

Letters Received.

S. J. Mason, H. Grenley, S. Dimock,—the \$2.25 received and credited correctly. L. B. Barrs, 50c. Rev. D. Freeman, Rev. R. R. Philp, A. Marshall, Esq., \$5. Geo. Crosby, \$4. H. Morrow, Rev. M. P. Freeman, \$2—received nothing from J. C. Rev. B. Scott, Rev. E. C. Spinney.

General Intelligence.

Province of Nova Scotia.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Halifax, N. S., April 19th, 1870.

APPOINTMENTS:

Cumberland Co.—To be Justices of the Peace, Valentine Wood, Thomas Lowther, Stephen Oxley, Rufus S. Purdy, and James D. Purdy. To be Issuer of Marriage Licenses at Amherst.—James P. Bliss in the place of C. E. Rachford, Esq., removed from the county. To be Commissioner of Sewers for the "Forrest Body of Marsh" at Amherst Point.—Nelson Forrest. To be a Commissioner of Pilots for the port of Pugwash.—Thomas Webster, in the place of A. Black, deceased. To be Commissioner of Pilots for the Harbor of Tidnish.—James McKay, Netis D. Chappel and C. Brundige. To be a Notary and Tabeillon Public.—Gilbert Seaman, Esquire. Victoria Co.—To be a Commissioner for taking affidavits &c.—Alexander Taylor, junr..