

Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

NEW SERIES. Vol. XV. No. 7.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, February 16, 1870.

WHOLE SERIES Vol. XXXIV. No. 7.

Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE STORM.

The day is done:—mid deep'n'g gloom,
The warring empests fiercely rise;
The winds exult at Nature's doom,
And hurl th'ir weapons through the skies.

The day is done:—on wings of snow,
The raging storm goes sweeping past;
Hurries, what'er can swiftly go,
To seek a shelter from the blast.

The day is done:—the driving storm,
The traveller wilders numbed with cold;
Hopeless, he yields his stiffening form,
To sheets of snow, and bed of mould.

The day is done:—The seaman furls
His straining canvass to the mast;—
His ship, the frantic billow hurls—
One thought of home,—one prayer—the last.

The day is done:—how happy we,
As gather round—my love and pride;—
The children sporting at my knee,—
Their mother, by the father's side.

The day is done:—mid deep'n'g gloom,
And warring powers of death and hell;
We rise through death, to deathless bloom,
Secure from storms, where all is well.

The day is come:—the heavenly morn,
Reveals the lovely face and form
Of Him, in Bethlehem's manger born,
Whose "peace" give endless "calm" for storm.
—*Pastor's Evening at home.*
Feb. 1st, 1870.

Educational.

THE DISMISSAL OF T. H. RAND, ESQ., SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

The important interests at stake in this matter, and the necessity that our readers should be fully informed in reference to it, will be sufficient reason for its occupying so much space in our present issue. The following communications have already appeared in the morning and evening papers, yet as they will have more than a temporary interest, and will probably be referred to and perused by many for some time to come, we give them a more enduring place in our pages.

MR. RAND'S LETTER.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 8, 1870.

TO THE FRIENDS OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Fellow Countrymen,—

The discharge of the grave and responsible duties of Superintendent of Education for the Province, has, for a period of nearly six years, been entrusted to my care. During that time I have laboured with a single purpose in my heart,—that of bringing within ready access of every family in Nova Scotia, the priceless blessings of a good education. I can truly affirm that in the manifold discharge of public duty, I have not been swayed by the political or religious differences of the people; but have initiated and carried forward every undertaking with a desire to benefit alike all the people of every community in the Province.

Actuated by this spirit in the service which I have endeavoured to render to the cause of popular education, I have found it a difficult task, within the past two years, to maintain our School system in its integrity.

In furtherance of my efforts, I have not at all times received that support from the Council of Public Instruction which the interests of education seemed to require; and on Saturday last I was notified of my dismissal from office by the following communication from the Hon. Provincial Secretary:—

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Halifax, N. S., 4th Feb., 1870.

Sir,—I have it in command to inform you

that A. S. Hunt, Esq., M. A., of Dartmouth, has been appointed Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Hunt will be prepared to enter upon the duties of the office, on Wednesday or Thursday next.

Should you desire the time extended beyond the period named in order to arrange any unsettled matters (before making the transfer, I am instructed to say the Government will be disposed to meet your wish.

I am, your ob't serv't.

W. B. VAIL.

T. H. RAND, Esq.

I immediately addressed the following letter to the Hon. Mr. Vail, but I have not yet received a reply.

Halifax, Feb. 5th, 1870.

To the Hon. Provincial Secretary.

Sir,—your communication, informing me of my dismissal from office, has just been handed to me. Having exclusively devoted myself for nearly six years past to an untiring and I believe successful discharge of the duties of Provincial Superintendent of Education, and having at all times earnestly striven to administer the law with fidelity, both to the Government and the people of the Province, I think it due to myself, that you inform me of the grounds on which my services have been rewarded with dismissal from office.

I have the honor to be your ob't serv't.,
T. H. RAND.

Having incurred the highest indignity which it was in the power of the Government of this Province to visit upon me, I feel it due to myself to make the following statement of facts in connection with my expulsion from office.

In November last the Hon. Attorney General handed me for perusal a letter, the contents of which, he stated, the Bishop of Nova Scotia desired should receive immediate attention.—This letter complained that the schools in the town of Arichat were conducted in certain respects contrary to the provisions of the law, and the Regulations of the Council. The Attorney General directed me to have the complaints investigated. I addressed a letter of instructions to the Inspector of Schools for the County of Richmond, a draft of which I submitted to the Attorney General, and of which he expressed his unqualified approval.

Several communications passed between myself and Inspector Benoit in pursuance of the enquiry, but no progress was effected in consequence of the interference of the Hon. Mr. Flynn. On the 19th ult. I complained to the Government that I was unable to administer the law in the case, in consequence of Mr. Flynn having not only directed the teachers of the schools to refuse to answer any questions submitted by the Superintendent, through the Inspector, but also denied my authority to issue instructions in the case, and virtually countermanded my orders to the Inspector. I maintained, before the Government, that the right of provincial inspection at any and all times of schools supported by public taxation and provincial aid, and the right of the chief educational officer of the Province to have, under law, the direction and supervision of the Inspectors, are necessary and fundamental rights secured in our School system; and I asked the Government to sustain the Superintendent of Education in a straight forward and impartial administration of the law in the case submitted.

At a meeting of the Council of Public Instruction, held on the 27th ult., the communication which I had addressed to the Government was brought up. The Hon. Mr. Flynn addressed the Council in as train so abusive of myself, that after waiting in vain for any member of the Council to interpose; I appealed to the acting-Chairman, stating that I was ready to submit my conduct in the case to the fullest investigation, but self-respect compelled me to refuse to listen to personal abuse. The Chairman interposed in behalf of decorum, and during the sitting the Hon. Mr. Flynn stated that if the Superintendent of Education was permitted, on his own authority, to direct Inspectors to make enquiries into the method in which schools were conducted, he would not sit at the same board with him.

It was only on the next morning that

several members of the Council took occasion to express to me, in private, their regret at Mr. Flynn's conduct; but from what I had witnessed of the singular influence which he appeared to exercise over the minds and action of his colleagues, I was in some measure prepared for my dismissal, of which I was afforded no other intimation until I received the notice of my successor's appointment.

The above is a plain statement of the circumstances which immediately preceded my dismissal; and I would submit to the friends of Education in this Province, whether the time has not about arrived when the interests of our public school system demand that the officer entrusted with its administration should be afforded the most ample protection in the discharge of the duties and the functions of his office.

I remain, your obedient servant.

T. H. RAND.

LETTER OF THE HON. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

Sent to the *Colonist* in reply to the above.
Halifax, 9th Feby., 1870.

Mr. Editor,—

I was not a little surprised to observe in your issue of this morning, a communication from the late Superintendent of Education which is calculated to mislead the public as to the cause of his removal from office; and although I have no desire to impute improper motives to Mr. Rand, I can hardly acquit him of a desire to deceive, and, if possible draw attention from the real cause of his removal.

Mr. Rand, with the full knowledge that the Government had good and sufficient grounds for their action, wisely, in his own interests, concluded to take advantage of the intervening time before receiving a reply to this letter, to assume that he was removed for other and quite different reasons.

Mr. Rand's letter published below, asking to be informed of the grounds for his dismissal, was received at noon on Monday the 7th inst.

HALIFAX, FEB. 5th, 1870.

To the Honorable Provincial Secretary.

Sir,—Your Communication informing me of my dismissal from office, has just been handed to me. Having exclusively devoted myself for nearly six years past to an untiring and I believe successful discharge of the duties of Provincial Superintendent of Education, and having at all times earnestly striven to administer the law with fidelity, both to the Government and the people of the Province, I think it due to myself, that you inform me of the grounds on which my services have been rewarded with dismissal from office.

I have the honor to be your ob't serv't.

T. H. RAND.

On the 8th I forwarded the following reply, which was delivered to Mr. Rand at 4 p. m., giving ample time for him to withdraw his communication published in the "*Colonist*" of this morning, if desirous of doing so.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, N. S., 8th Feb., 1870.

Sir,—In reply to your note requesting to be informed of the grounds of your dismissal, I am directed to inform you that your conduct, from the time the present Administration was formed, created an impression that you were not well affected towards the Government; but they were unwilling to proceed on bare suspicion, and retained you in office for upwards of two years.

A short time ago they exercised their right to remove F. W. George, Inspector for Cumberland, and appointed another gentleman to succeed him. They consider that it was your duty, after your recommendation of Mr. Darragh, which his commission under your signature recites, to have at least, abstained from interference in a matter of so much delicacy.

Your correspondence with Mr. George, and encouragement of his cause, which resulted in legal proceedings to set aside their appointment, manifested such decided hostility, to the Government, that it became impossible for them to retain you in the office of Superintendent of Education.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. VAIL.

The above communication furnishes the substantial reason for Mr. Rand's removal. The Arichat School question in no manner

influenced the Government, as that matter had been fully considered and disposed of by the subjoined Minute of Council, several days before his dismissal was submitted for the approval of the Lieut. Governor.

"The Council have had under consideration a letter from the Superintendent of Education stating that, at the request of the Attorney General, he had opened a correspondence with the Inspector of Richmond County, with a view to the removal of some alleged irregularities in the schools at Arichat, and that in consequence of the interference of the Hon. Mr. Flynn he was unable to obtain the requisite information and asking to be sustained by the Government in the administration of the Law.

"Mr. Flynn—a member of the Council of Public Instruction—has submitted to the Council a lengthy correspondence between the Trustees and the Rev. Mr. Brine on the subject to which the Superintendent's letter refers, and the explanations contained in the correspondence, and made, personally, by Mr. Flynn to the Council, have been sufficiently satisfactory.

"It may further be observed that the Trustees, being responsible for the execution of the Educational laws, within the sphere of their action, it was proper that they should have been called upon for explanation. As there was, therefore, some irregularity in the steps taken, and the trustees having made satisfactory explanation as respects the charges preferred against the management of the schools, the Council are satisfied that there is no necessity for a further investigation of the subject at present.

"At the same time the Council have to remark that the alleged complaints have not come before them regularly; but when any alleged infraction of the Educational Statute is advanced, and the same is brought legally before the Council, they will sustain the Superintendent, the Inspectors and all other officials in charge of the Educational interests of this Province, in the impartial and faithful administration of the law."

The above are the facts respecting Mr. Rand's removal from the office of Superintendent of Education, from which plain statement the public will be able to judge of the merits of the case.

I am, your obdt. serv't.,

W. B. VAIL.

MR. RAND'S SECOND LETTER.

Halifax, N. S., Feby. 9th, 1870.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Fellow-Countrymen,—

I received last evening the following reply from the Hon. Mr. Vail, to my letter of the 5th instant:—

(Given above.)

In replying to the above charge, I wish to state at the outset that I never voted at an election but once during my life; and that since my appointment by a Liberal Government to the Provincial Normal School, in 1860, I have felt it my duty to abstain from taking any part whatever in the politics of the day, being persuaded that by such a course I could most fully serve the educational interests of the people.

Mr. George, late Inspector for the County of Cumberland, allowed me, after much solicitation, to recommend him for that office; and in October, 1867, he was appointed, and entered upon a most successful discharge of his duties. It was not many months, however, after the present Council of Public Instruction came into office, before I was asked to concur in the dismissal of Mr. George. I stated that I could not do so, as he was faithfully and successfully discharging the duties of his office.

Early in December, 1868, proposals were before members of the Council of Public Instruction for the dismissal of several of the most efficient Inspectors in the Province (of whom Mr. George was one), and I deemed it my duty to submit, for the consideration of the Council, observations covering the whole subject of inspection; and I remonstrated with the Council against the dismissal of competent and faithful Inspectors, as destructive of the interests of education, and in violation of the whole scope and spirit of the law.

On the 25th August last, I was informed by the Hon. Mr. Annand that Mr. George had been dismissed from office, and that the Council had appointed the Rev. Mr. Darragh to be Inspector for the County of Cumberland, and desired me to forward a commission to him. Although I had repeatedly