

before the friend in the adjoining seat said:

"Well, it is too bad, I acknowledge it. Will you give me one, ma'am?"

The other gentleman remained with his arms folded, and his eyes closed as if asleep. For a quarter of an hour he retained his rigid position. At length, apparently awakening out of a sound asleep, he said:

"Well, I had better make a clean breast of it. I beg pardon, too. Will you give me one, ma'am."

With pleasure, which words cannot express, the tract was given, and the lady felt gratitude to Mr. Saffery for the word "spoken in due season."

For the Christian Messenger.

A VISIT TO HALIFAX, AFTER AN ABSENCE OF THIRTY YEARS.

BY REV. D. HENRY MILLER, D. D.

AMHERST, N. S., June, 23rd, 1870.

My dear Bro. Selden,—I have no wish to repress the feeling of the moment, which prompts the writing of these few lines, expressive of the great obligation, which the kind attentions of the Halifax pastors, and doctors, and editors, and educators have placed me under. A stranger in your city, for such I found myself after thirty years absence, I had no claims to special consideration, yet, on every hand the friends spared no pains to make my visit pleasant and profitable. If my experience "on this line," is that of your usual habit, I do not wonder that the "Haligonians" are thought in the States to be the "queerest" as well as the most hospitable of people in all Her Majesty's dominions, for, in this day of bustle and drive, of selfishness and pride, it does seem queer to find such urbanity of manner and courteous politeness relieved from the conventional formalities of a "shoddy aristocracy."

Perhaps you will ask me of my impressions of Halifax. I cannot say they were as pleasing of the "city looks" as of the city people. Since I knew the city, almost all the landmarks of my childhood had been swept away,—and *old Time* had cut down the "sentinels" of truth and righteousness to whom I had looked with boyish reverence:—a Twining, Scott, Martin, Willis and Uniacke, had "fallen on sleep and been laid to the rest of the fathers." Here, and there stood a church building as "in the days of Auld Lang Syne," and rising and spreading her wings as the mother of all, I found St. Paul's, I think bearing date 1750; and away up in "Dutch Town," the little church with a cock on its spire just a true as ever, though for many a day a glittering object at which the passing school boy threw a stone, as I well remember. From "Citidel Hill" the city below, to a stranger, looks dirty and dingy. I think if a little lighter paint were used on the houses, it would greatly help the appearance, and remove the impression of slovenliness which impresses the mind of the visitor, and which I presume never fails to receive its appropriate penalty in the judgment formed. It is true, the fires which swept down whole blocks of buildings were "blessings in disguise," as they made way for buildings durable and attractive. If I mistake not similar blessings, properly directed would in a few quarters of the city greatly add to its beauty and comeliness. Of all this I may be mistaken. Having purchased every view I could of Halifax and its surroundings, if on their examination when I get comfortably settled at home, I find other impressions obtaining, I will frankly say so.

A sail on your harbor is sufficient to settle every doubt as to its magnificence and the beauty of its scenery. I shall not soon forget Halifax Harbor and its surroundings.

A visit to Dartmouth,—to that grand provincial enterprise and humanitarian beneficence, the "Insane Asylum," impressed me more powerfully of the advance of the Province, than any other fact presented, aside from your "Common School System," and the might and main with which you were "swinging into" the Educational work. This will yet become the glory, the pride of your people, as it will also be the envy of those deprived of its beauty and blessings.

I called on Mr. Rand, the late superintendent of your School System, and without much ceremony we were soon, as friends of the cause, plunged into the depths of the work. I think it is to be regretted that he was not retained in the

office, a little longer, at least, until the whole machinery was perfected and in complete running order. In all such enterprises the story of the late President Lincoln is in point, "it is not best to swap horses crossing a stream." After several years experience in the school work I am sadly mistaken in the man, if Mr. Rand is not just the enthusiast you need in Nova Scotia in such an enterprise, and no man in the work will be worth his salt to the Province, unless he has enthusiasm enough to inspire the people, the government, and his subordinate officers with the like zeal.

The Sabbath, as you know, I filled up with labor. In the morning with Rev. Mr. Saunders the excellent and devoted pastor of the Granville Street Church. In the afternoon with Sabbath School, open-air services, and a mission chapel service, where I listened with delight to the gospel from the lips of the Rev. Mr. Campbell and in the very forest of vice and crime. In the evening I was with the Rev. Mr. Goucher of the North Church, the successful preacher and builder. The Baptist cause will not suffer at the hands of such men; and we mistake the signs, if the cry is not heard very soon "enlarge the place of thy tent." The Rev. A. V. Dimock alternated in labor with me at the churches on Sunday. He is so well-known to you and the readers of the "Messenger" that it is superfluous for me to add else than to say he is "an Israelite in whom there is no guile."

We left Halifax on Monday by the Inter-colonial rail-road, and were rolled not very rapidly towards the head-waters of "Grand Lake." In obtaining seats in the cars, there being eight persons in our company, it was my good fortune to drop down by the side of a sweet-faced lady, whose *scoop* bonnet, regardless of all modern-styled "flats" or "steeped monitors," covered as it was with crape and lined with paper muslin, coupled with her rigidly out apparel, so white and so black, bespoke at once our respect, and to some degree our admiration for her, as one of the "Sisters of charity."

At the first we were a little shy of each other—but soon recovering from any timidity on my own part, I ventured a question. It was answered so readily and so politely I asked another, and still another with like success; so that soon the meek-eyed, sweet-faced "sister," and your humble servant talked freely on several topics.

Our conversation was interrupted by a Mr. Rand of the "Miacmac Mission" whose views of faith and works differ widely from the commonly received version of interpretation on "the life of faith." The good "sister" hearing his name and the mission he represented, said—(please Mr. Editor don't tell the Dartmouth brother about it) "that Miacmac Rand was, until recently, the Superintendent of our Common School System." I just knew enough of your affairs, to set her right on that matter, before leaving the cars at Fletcher's Station, though we left the "Miacmac Mission" and the dear Sister to "go on" whether to discuss the "life of faith" or personal "infallibility" I know not. Leaving "Grand Lake" we next stopped at Truro, where we met the justly praised pastor of the Baptist church, the Rev. D. W. C. Dimock. After finding accommodations at the "Railway House"—the "Prince of Wales" having refused to take us in, being full, we slept and were refreshed and took stage for this beautiful village. A sixty miles ride in a stage coach for eight Yankees is nothing to laugh at. We all enjoyed it much however, and through pelting rain and mud without stint we rolled all day, and all night, and were in "fine feather" as we alighted in the morning and received the greetings of expectant friends. The Rev. Mr. Steele of this place has shown us every attention, and thus far we have every prospect of a jolly, comfortable, and religiously pleasant time.

I am yours truly,
D. HENRY MILLER.

For the Christian Messenger.

LETTER FROM REV. WM. GEORGE.

We have just received from Rev. Dr. Warren the following copy of a letter from Rev. Wm. George:—

MADRAS, May 3, 1870.

REV. DR. WARREN.

Dear Bro.—It affords me great pleasure to be able to inform you of our safe arrival in Madras after a very pleasant passage of ninety-five days.

The "Winged Hunter" proved to be all that our fondest hopes had anticipated.

Capt. Small gave us good satisfaction. We are glad we did not go overland. Our voyage was completed without a storm or an accident; to God be all the praise.

Mrs. George suffered very little from sea-sickness, and improved during the passage. It is the hot season but we do not suffer from the heat.

As our ship will be at least fifteen days discharging the portion of her cargo destined for this place, we are living ashore, at the Bungalow of the American Board. Our only expense will be the cost of our provisions, which we buy in the market and have cooked on the premises.

Our zeal has not cooled out yet. We feel anxious to reach our destination and get to work.

It would stir the soul of any one to see these poor deluded heathens. If our theological students could spend two days here there would be plenty of candidates for missionary work. Our people at home do not realize the necessity. Home interests blind their eyes to the fact that the people in this land are perishing. O that God would make christians everywhere, and me in particular, fully awake to his work.

The private stores you provided were not needed except the nuts and raisins, for the ship was well found and the table not lacking. Of course it might not be so in another ship.

I will write on our arrival at Calcutta. Please remember me to Dr. Murdock and all the rest of the brethren at the Rooms.

I remain very affectionately yours,
(Signed,) WM. GEORGE.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 29, 1870.

THE N. S. CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

commenced its twentieth session in the North Baptist Church on Saturday last. In the absence of the Moderator of the past year, the Pastor of the Church, Rev. J. E. Goucher, commenced the session by giving out the hymn,

"All hail the power of Jesus' name."

Rev. Dr. Tupper offered prayer. The letters from the churches were called for, and the Secretary of the past year obtained from them the names of the Delegates. While the list was being prepared, the congregation engaged in devotional exercises. In the meantime the Moderator, Rev. D. M. Welton arrived. The ballot taken for Moderator resulted in the election of Rev. I. J. Skinner; and on nomination, Rev. T. A. Higgins, and Bro. Rufus Sanford, were chosen Secretaries, and brethren John Steele, and T. H. Rand, Treasurers. The following brethren were appointed the Committee of Arrangement and Nomination:—Revs. J. E. Goucher, E. M. Saunders, and J. Chase, Brethren Thompson, Selden, McCully, and D. F. Higgins.

Brethren Rev. Jas. Stevens, T. C. DeLong, and M. Normondy, were appointed to examine the Letters; and Revs. D. M. Welton, W. E. Hall, and J. E. Balcom to read them.

The Letters showed the usual variety of experience in the several churches comprised in the Association. Additions had been received to the membership of quite a number. The first letter read—that from the North Church—shewed a larger number than any, having received members into its fellowship during the year.

A new church,—formed at Canning a few weeks since—applied for admission to the Association. Rev. David Freeman, its pastor, on behalf of the church received from the Moderator a hearty welcome into the Association.

A Committee appointed last year to prepare a Deed of Trust by which Church property, could be held by Baptist churches, and by which said Trusts might be properly and legally perpetuated, presented their Report by the chairman, Hon. J. McCully, one of the Committee, by request, gave explanations of the character of the Deed prepared, and the objects sought to be secured in its preparation. Several of the brethren took part in the discussion, regarding it as a most important matter, and on which, in many cases, heretofore, there had been great want of consideration.

The Report was adopted, and the Form of Deed was ordered to be printed with the Minutes.

The same brethren, Revs. E. M. Saunders, and J. E. Goucher, and Hon. J. McCully, and B. H. Eaton, were appointed a Committee to petition the Legislature on

behalf of the Association, for an Act to enable Trustees, duly appointed by churches, to hold church property, without the necessity of a new Trust Deed.

Bro. Selden in compliance with a resolution of last year laid on the table a bound copy of the Minutes of the N. S. Central Association from its first formation to the present date.

The Committee of Nomination and Arrangement presented their Report, in part, providing for the Lord's Day services, which with some slight alterations, was adopted, as follows:—

North Baptist Church.—Rev. A. W. Sawyer, D.D., at 11 a. m.; Rev. T. H. Porter, at 7 p. m.

Granville Street Baptist Church.—Rev. D. M. Welton, A.M., at 11 a. m.; Rev. T. A. Higgins, at 7 p. m.

Brunswick Street, (Wesleyan).—Rev. J. M. Cramp, D.D., at 11 a. m.; Rev. W. E. Hall, at 7 p. m.

Grafton Street, (Wesleyan).—Rev. C. Tupper, D.D., at 11 a. m.; Rev. S. W. DeBlois, at 7 p. m.

Kaye Street, (Wesleyan).—Rev. E. N. Archibald, at 11 a. m.; Rev. I. J. Skinner, at 7 p. m.

Dartmouth, (Wesleyan).—Rev. J. E. Balcom, at 11 a. m.; Rev. E. O. Read, at 7 p. m.

Poplar Grove, (Presbyterian).—Rev. W. B. Boggs, at 7 p. m.

St. Andrew's, (Church of Scotland).—Rev. Stephen March, at 7 p. m.

African Baptist.—Rev. A. Shields, at 3 p. m.; Rev. T. C. DeLong, at 7 p. m.

Zion African Church.—Rev. J. Meadows, at 3 p. m.; Bro. A. Cahoon, at 7 p. m.

Open-air Services were also held on the Market wharf by Rev. A. W. Bars, at 3 p. m., and at the Cemetery Gate by Rev. J. F. Kempton, at 4 p. m. Good congregations were present at each of these places, especially at the latter, and listened to the word of life.

The Committee made appointments for Rev. Dr. Crawley and Rev. David Freeman but on account of impaired health, they severally declined filling them.

The Congregationalist Church also subsequently made application, and the Rev. S. T. Rand preached at Salem Church in the evening.

Other ministering brethren attended with those named and took part in the services in several of the places of worship.

The weather was favorable, and at all the churches congregations assembled in large numbers; and we trust much good was done by the presentation of Divine Truth. The North Church especially was filled on each occasion to its utmost capacity. In the afternoon a most interesting Sabbath School Concert of the two Baptist Schools—North and Granville Street—combined. Passage of Scripture and a number of hymns were well recited by scholars of both schools. Several of the classes were questioned by their teachers from the "Scripture Catechism" the answers to the questions were given with much readiness and accuracy, shewing an intelligent appreciation of the truths they had so well learned. The hymns were varied, some being in full chorus, whilst others were sung by a select choir, and the refrain taken up by the schools. Several addresses were given to the children the teachers and the friends present, by Revs. Dr. Clay, J. F. Kempton, E. F. Foshay; J. W. Bars, Esq., also spoke with much appropriateness and affection to the two schools, in both of which he had in former years been at each.

This meeting was kept up with great interest for upwards of two hours. It was brought to a close by the Superintendent Mr. J. F. L. Parsons calling on Rev. A. S. Hunt to engage in prayer.

On Monday morning, Rev. Dr. Cramp preached the Introductory Sermon from Ephesians iv. 31. 32 and v. 1. 2. "Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice, &c. &c. It was largely an expository discourse and, of course, full of instruction, valuable to christians at all times; and under all circumstances. A request was made for its publication in our pages, with which we shall be glad to comply.

After the sermon the Circular Letter was read by the writer, Rev. J. E. Balcom. It was approved and adopted.

A number of letters not previously received were read. The committee on Benevolent Funds presented their report. Discussion followed, the result of which was a general regret that more system is not observed in the churches in collecting the funds for purposes of benevolence. The time of adjournment arrived, and the report was deferred.

In the afternoon the subject was resumed and referred to the committee to devise some mode of accomplishing this object.