

Government sent an Admiral to take possession. On arriving at Aden, he was treated by the British Commandant, who, having learned the Admiral's mission determined to forestall him. After night-fall, a boat with an officer and a few sailors was quietly despatched to Perim. Next day the Admiral, on arriving off the Island, was surprised to find the British flag flying, and the rock in possession of Her Britannic Majesty! History has not recorded the nature of his emotions, but he probably returned with profound impressions regarding "perfidious Albion."

Jan. 18th.—Our course this morning lay quite close to the northern coast of Africa—between it, and the island of Socotra, I think it is called. Saw a few fishing boats, but no indications of human habitations on shore. Total eclipse of the moon visible last evening from about 5½ till 7½ P. M.

Jan. 26th.—Point de Galle in sight. As there may not be an opportunity for writing after we reach the harbour, I will close now, and continue—after we have left Galle—to keep you informed of all that is noticeable on the passage.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

For the Christian Messenger.

COUNCILS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Dear Sir,—

I ask your permission to place before your readers a brief account of the various Councils of Public Instruction established in the Dominion of Canada.

Here, in NOVA SCOTIA, as is well known, the Executive Council for the time being and the Council of Public Instruction are composed of the same persons, who may sit one hour to manage the political affairs of the Province, and occupy the next in appointing or dismissing Inspectors of Schools, regulating the branches of study to be pursued, sanctioning school-books, hearing appeals, &c. &c. The Superintendent of Education is the Secretary of the Council, but not a member. He has no vote.

In the Province of NEW BRUNSWICK, the Governor and Council, with the chief Superintendent of Schools, constitute the "Board of Education." The Governor, with three other members, and the Chief Superintendent, form a quorum. The Province is divided into four districts, each of which is under the superintendence of an Inspector, whose duties are similar to those of our County Inspectors. There is also an Assistant Superintendent. The salary of the Chief Superintendent is twelve hundred dollars, and those of the Assistant Superintendent and the Inspectors one thousand dollars each.

In the Province of QUEBEC the Superintendent of Education is appointed by the Governor, who also appoints a Council of Public Instruction (of which the Superintendent of Education is a member), consisting of not fewer than eleven nor more than fifteen members. This Council is composed of Protestants and Roman Catholics, in fair proportions. The Hon. Mr. Chauveau has been many years Superintendent. When he became Premier he preferred to retain this office, under the title of "Minister of Public Instruction," and a Deputy Superintendent is appointed, by whom the principal part of the labour is performed. The salary of the Superintendent is fixed by law at four thousand dollars.

In the Province of ONTARIO the Governor appoints the chief Superintendent of Education, and a Council of Public Instruction, consisting of not more than nine persons, of whom the Chief Superintendent is one. Three members form a quorum. The salary of the Chief Superintendent is four thousand dollars. The Superintendents of the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario are required to make full reports to the Legislatures, annually, of the state of education, and of receipts and expenditures in that department.

The position of the Superintendent of Education in the other Provinces, as an *ex-officio* member of the Council of Public Instruction, is a noticeable feature of their educational arrangements.

Yours &c.

King's County, March 9, 1870.

For the Christian Messenger.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS AT OTTAWA.

The week that has elapsed, has not been very fruitful in words or deeds at Ottawa, that need necessarily be chronicled.

Three days were largely devoted to making preparations for, and entertaining the Prince; and the readers of the *Christian Messenger*, many of them at least, will scarcely experience any disappointment if all attempt at a description of the carnival of folly, the extravagance, and silly mimicry of dress and court costumes which characterized the occasion, be here passed over in silence.

Three or four Bills have been introduced into the Senate by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, touching the Coasting trade, Marine hospitals, and the Summary expulsion of American vessels found on our fishing grounds, which have with some amendments, passed their several readings and been sent to the Commons.

Sir Francis Hincks has introduced into the Commons Resolutions of Banking, Resolutions on Currency, and Resolutions on Dominion Notes. What amount of eclat, or of fame Sir Francis may acquire for himself by the provisions of one of this series of Resolutions, in the other Provinces,—I mean that for rendering the Currency uniform, I stop not to inquire. But it needs not the foresight of a seer, to predict for the man who shall rob Nova Scotia of her present currency, so admirably adapted as it is to the coinage of England, France, and the United States—especially to that of England—to bespeak for him such a shout of indignation as will wake the echoes from Cape Sable to Cape North. After the 1st day of July, 1870, the Sovereign is to pass current for four dollars eighty-six cents and two thirds of a cent. And all debts payable at that day in Nova Scotia currency, shall be liquidated by paying seventy-three cents of the new currency, for seventy-five of the old; and at and after that rate for any less or greater amount. That the present currency of Nova Scotia is the best in the Dominion, nobody does or can deny, but that will not fear weigh a feather in the scale. I go bail that for the month of July, 1870, and for many succeeding months Sir Francis Hincks will be the best remembered, if not the best abused man that ever meddled with currency or finance in Nova Scotia, and that is saying a good deal.

Sir Alexander T. Galt has again astonished every body, that allows himself to be astonished by any thing political, by an unexpected eulogy of Sir Francis Hincks' Banking policy.

Sir Francis had hardly taken his seat on Tuesday the 1st March, after propounding his new Banking currency and Dominion note policy, when up sprang Sir Alexander T. Galt to compliment him. Scarcely a week ago, this same Sir Alexander publicly declared that he withdrew his support from, and his connection with the ministry and its policy, because Sir John had allied himself with Sir Francis Hincks, a minister whose antecedents had been a legacy of mischief and misfortune to the country for the last fifteen years. By common consent, Mr. Galt has not improved his position in Parliament or the country by such tergiversation. It seems at present perfectly inexplicable.

The impression is pretty general, that Hincks is a man of decision and action. The work of the Finance Department is being brought up, with a promptitude that is gratifying, and likely to economize the time of the country and shorten the Session.

There seem to be some rather unmistakable out-croppings indicative of a retaliatory Dominion policy being adopted in reference to future relations with the United States. This is scarcely to be wondered at, however; the *Globe* I observe condemns the Bill which has passed the Senate, to place the Coasting trade of the Dominion on the same platform as the Americans maintain theirs, but it is hardly to be controverted, that there is a feeling rapidly increasing in all Sections of the Dominion, in this matter to do to our Cousins, as they do to us. Whether this policy carried out, is likely rather to irritate the lawmakers of the adjoining Republic, as the *Globe* thinks, or to induce them to do to others as they would have others do to them, I profess not to affirm. But unless some advances come from the greater and more influential organization, I think the smaller is about determined right or wrong to devise means which, it is supposed, will tend better to promote their interests.

The latest Red River news, are not very exciting. The attempt at organization of a *de-facto* government there, by Riel, of which he is President, is the most recent intelligence. A deputation from this Board has been deputed, it would seem, to confer with the authorities here. There will be some fencing, no doubt, before the status of any such delegation is acknowledged. The credentials of such a delegation once admitted, would give Riel and his followers a vantage ground, from which it might be no easy task hereafter to dislodge them, in case of a failure to settle disputes.

Ottawa, March 4th, 1870.

Com.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We have not thought it necessary to answer the questions of all our correspondents upon the present school difficulty, and we have not sufficient space at our disposal to publish all their complaints. Our judgment upon the general question must be known to churchmen, and we are altogether averse to enter the arena of politics; but since a member of the Council of Instruction from his place in the House of Assembly, has thought fit to class us with the advocates of separate Schools, and represented the Church in complicity with those who desire to overthrow the present system of Education, we feel bound to emphatically deny the alliance. On the contrary we infinitely prefer the Schools, as they are now established by Law, to the two fold division of Roman Catholics and Protestants, which has the popular name of Separate Schools. Such a division would be simply to give denominational teaching to one class of Christians, and leave all the rest with no religious instruction at all. We value the distinctive lessons of our Catholic Church, quite as much as Romanists can esteem the Syllabus of Trent, or the new dogmas of the Vatican, but we have no desire to entertain them at the expense of those who differ from us and from each other.—*Church Chronicle.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 16, 1870.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY MATTERS.

Our readers will be pleased to hear of the progress of our devoted missionary brother Rev. A. R. R. Crawley. It is very gratifying to watch him advancing so rapidly, by the power of steam, from point to point on his voyage to his great field of labor in Burmah. How is the prophetic declaration—many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased—being realized in these latter days. Doubtless many have, with the maps of Europe and Asia before them, traced Mr. Crawley's path by the names of places he has given in his letters. The Ceylon postage stamps on his last letter were a pleasing illustration of British progress in the eastern hemisphere.

We perceive that Rev. W. H. Porter's letters in reference to an Independent Foreign Mission for our Churches, are being copied into the *Ch. Visitor* and commended by the Rev. George Armstrong, Bro. A. gives his own opinion respecting our Foreign Missionary work, and says:—

"I may say my own preference is a *Dominion Baptist Missionary Union*, or as far as practicable, a *Union of all the British Provinces in North America*, with the view of combining all our churches in the holy and blessed work of Evangelizing the heathen by organizing and maintaining an Independent Mission."

It is desirable that this question should be well considered, and fully ventilated, so that whatever action may be taken at our next session of the Convention, may be the result of mature thought and prudent council.

A short time since we had some questions suggested respecting the Foreign Missionary operations of our Presbyterian brethren, and made some enquiries of the Rev. Mr. McGregor.

We asked for, 1st A list of their Foreign Missionaries. 2nd What it costs to support them? and 3rd. What might be regarded as the number of members of churches on whom it devolves to raise their support? In reply Mr. McGregor kindly gave us the following interesting particulars:

NO. AND NAMES OF MISSIONARIES.

- Rev. Dr. Geddie, Aneiteun, New Hebrides.
- Rev. Jas. McNair, Iromanga.
- Rev. John Morton, Trinidad, B. W. I. labouring among the Coolies.
- Accepted and preparing to go.
- Rev. K. Grant, of Merogomish to Coolies of Trinidad.
- Rev. Daniel Blue, of New South Wales, to sail in April from Australia to N. S. Wales.

Five has been our average for the last six years. The two accepted only bring us to our normal number, reduced by Rev. J. D. Gordon's acceptance of connection with, and support from, the Presbyterian Church of N. S. Wales, and by the death of Rev. D. Morrison of Fate.	
SUPPORT.	
Three Missionaries in New Hebrides £150	
Stg each	\$2250
Widow's Fund and children's allowance..	225
Our proportion of support of Day-spring.	1250
Two Missionaries in Trinidad, £250 stg.	
each	2000
Agency, Extras and Contingencies.....	375
	\$6000

Our people generally contribute but without any specified pledge. They give what and when they please; some annually and some quarterly. By our Statistics we number 71,365. Communicants 15,450, but as there are a few congregations that neglect to forward their statistical returns our numbers will probably be in all 72,000. Communicants 16,000. These remarks include the Lower Provinces, but not the Church of Scotland Presbyterians.

Our actual Foreign Mission Expenditure has not so far quite come up to the \$6100. It will amount to that sum in future because the salaries of our Missionaries have been raised within the year. Our past expenditure has been about \$5000 per annum.

P. G. MCGREGOR.

Halifax, Feb. 9, 1870.

N. B. There are seven Missionaries on the New Hebrides supported by Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand, Australia, and Scotland, in addition to those from Nova Scotia.

We had no intention of publishing the replies to our enquiries when we made them, as we supposed they were already in print, but, as they are given so fully, a brother to whom we shewed the manuscript has intimated that many of our brethren would be much interested to obtain such information.

The cause of Education belongs to all the people of the province, on behalf of themselves and their posterity. A certain portion of the recent discussion of this question is so closely related to our readers, in particular, that we do not feel at liberty to pass it over. By the debates in the House of Assembly—the official report of which did not appear in time for comment in our last—we find that the Provincial Secretary, by telegram, obtained leave of Dr. Crawley to read to the House Dr. C's reply to his (Mr. Vail's) letter, enquiring whether in the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of Superintendent of Education, he (Dr. C.) would accept of that situation.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary in describing what took place at a meeting of the Council on the 21st day of December 1868, said:

Among others Dr. Crawley's name was mentioned, and I was then instructed to communicate with him in a private note, and to ask whether he would accept the office. It was just about Christmas, and I did not attend to the matter at once, but I heard of Dr. Crawley being in town, and hoped to meet him here. He left Halifax, however, I think, on the 5th of January, and on that day I addressed to him this letter:

"Dear Sir,—In consequence of certain changes that are about to be made in the department of education, it is more than probable the office of superintendent may become vacant, and I am instructed by the government to enquire whether in the event of such vacancy occurring, you would be disposed to accept the office.

Yours truly,

(Signed)

W. B. VAIL."

On the 8th of January, three days after the date of this letter, I received this reply:

"Dear Sir,—I have given all attention to the enquiry contained in your note of the 5th inst., since first a hint on the subject of it was conveyed to me in confidence from the Atty. General a few days ago. I am aware that the superintendent of education, besides being himself highly educated, and able thereby to gain the confidence of instructors, should be also enthusiastic in his vocation, and possessed of vigorous physical and mental activity. On mature consideration, I have come to the conclusion that my time of life pleads against the prudence of changing my present quiet occupation for one untried and demanding so much bodily and mental exertion.

"While quite sensible, therefore, of the consideration shewn me in this application, I feel that I must decline the office in question if offered to me.

"I am the less reluctant to make this answer because I am sensible that the government have already in their service a gentleman who possesses in a high degree the needful qualifications for Superintendent, with the addition of much experience in the duties of the office, having been, as I believe, the efficient and sagacious source of much of the arrangement that has already placed the department of education in so respectable a position—I allude to Mr. McVane. I should hardly have taken the liberty to make this allusion but that the Atty. General's communication contained a request for a reference to some other gentleman belonging to the Baptist body. I do not know of any person whose appointment as superintendent would give more general satisfaction than Mr. McVane.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir, yours very truly.

(Signed)

E. A. CRAWLEY."

I produce this correspondence with the consent of Dr. Crawley, obtained by telegraph.

At one time and another Dr. Crawley has given the Baptist denomination some splendid opportunities of exercising the grace of forgiveness; and their conduct towards him, bears ample testimony that they were not devoid of that christian virtue.

Another such opportunity is here afforded them; but, whether the denomination will be equal to that emergency we cannot yet determine.

It is to Dr. Crawley's reply we wish to