

ment members appointed by the British Government. Their business is to promote and superintend a system of education "from which shall be banished even the suspicion of proselytism, and which, admitting children of all religious persuasions, shall not interfere with the peculiar tenets of any." In order to the establishment of that mutual confidence and good neighbourhood essential to the welfare of society, and which centuries of sectarian strife had almost destroyed; the system seeks to induce the masses to receive the benefits of education, as one undivided body, under one and the same supervision, and in the same school buildings. That it might successfully grapple with existing alienation and distrust, and train up and unite the youth of the country, whatever the religious differences of their parents, in feelings and habits of attachment and friendship towards each other, "combined literary and moral, and separate religious instruction" was adopted as the corner stone of National Education for Ireland. The regulations of the Board are in all respects in harmony with this principle, and prohibit the exhibition in the school room of emblems or symbols of a denominational nature during the hours of united instruction. They also forbid any such exhibition on the exterior of the buildings, and do not permit the use or exposure of any political emblems.

THE EDUCATION OFFICE is situated on Marlborough Street on the beautiful grounds once the property of the aristocratic and cruel Beresford's. Within the same enclosure are the extensive suite of buildings of the Training and Model Schools, the school book depot, and the house of the Resident Commissioner. The grounds and buildings are the property of the Board. The Resident Commissioner is the Head of the Education office, and receives a salary of \$5,000. He is assisted by two Secretaries and an accountant, the former having a salary of \$3,750, each, and the latter \$3,000. The office embraces the following departments:

1. The Correspondence department, consisting of four Clerks, one of whom is chief.
2. The Accountant's department, having ten Clerks. This department is subdivided into Book-keeper's office, and Cash office.
3. The Agricultural department, with one Clerk.
4. The Inspection department, having fourteen Clerks.
5. The Registry and Salary Department with sixteen clerks, one being chief.

Candidates for clerkships in any department are required to undergo a prescribed examination. The annual expenditure for the salaries of the staff in the Education Office is upwards of \$75,000. The organization of the several departments is very complete, and the relation subsisting between each and the controlling authority is such as secures a prompt and satisfactory performance of the work devolved upon the Office. The Department of Inspection is the right hand and eye of the Board, by which it is enabled wisely and vigorously to administer the system of National Education, and constantly to observe its operation in every detail.

For purposes of Inspection, Ireland is divided into sixty districts and six divisions. Each district has its Inspector and each division its Head Inspector. There are also two Chiefs of Inspection resident in Dublin, before whom all the business of the Inspectors ultimately comes for review and action after being first noted and prepared by the clerks of the department. All these officers of Inspection are appointed by the Board after passing a competitive examination, and the selection of the best men is not restricted by territorial limits. The programme of examination is tolerably extensive, ranging in Language from Spelling to Rhetoric and Criticism, and requiring a familiar acquaintance with the standard works of Bacon, Milton, Shakspeare, Pope, and Burke; and in Mathematics, from Arithmetic to a knowledge of Spherical Triangles. Geography, history, physical science, logic, political economy, and book-keeping are also required. A knowledge of the classics, modern languages, and the higher mathematics is not obligatory; but candidates receive credit for any or all of these branches, on examination. Successful candidates are obliged to attend at the Inspection Department and at the Model Schools to learn the details of their future duties; and only those receive appointments who shew by their conduct, and the tests to which they are then subjected, that they are fully competent to perform the duties of Inspectors. The methods of Inspection and the various details of this most important branch of the National System, I have found specially replete with interest and instruction. The members of the Inspection Staff devote all their time to the duties assigned them by the Board. The annual expenditure for Inspectors' salaries is as follows:

2 Chiefs of Inspection.....	\$ 6,000
6 Head Inspectors.....	12,500
personal and travelling expenses, about.....	8,000
20 Inspectors.....	95,200
travelling, postage, &c., about.....	16,500
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$138,200</b>

Besides the above there are a Head Inspector and two district Inspectors of Agricultural Schools. The latter report to the Agricultural Department, and the Head Inspector, in addition to his personal supervision of the Alber-School and Model Farms, performs duties analogous to those discharged by the Chief Inspectors in connexion with the common schools.

The nature and extent of the labours devolving upon the Board and its higher officers, can best be understood by those conversant with the difficulties which surround the subject of education in Great Britain and Ireland. The system established in Ireland, and which has been in operation for thirty-six years, is based upon principles which have only gradually commended themselves to the public. Whilst protecting every child that enters its schools in the inviolable enjoyment of its rights, it also recognizes the rights and responsibilities of local managers, and has respect to the qualifications of teachers in its awards of salaries. By means of its numerous Model Schools of which there are twenty-seven scattered over the country, its Central Training Establishment, and its Monitorial system, it has extensive machinery for the supply of teachers. In its Ordinary Agricultural, and Model Agricultural Schools and Albert Institution, it trains the youth of the rural districts in the practical principles of farm culture, especially in their application to small farms. While paying strict regard to the instruction of the masses in the essential branches of education, it places no arrestment upon the pursuit of more advanced studies, but affords considerable facilities for their acquisition. Its Inspection is thorough, frequent, and effectual; not a mere record of facts and figures, but in itself an aid, encouragement, and support to the efforts of the teachers. Its Inspectors give right direction to the schools in accordance with the system on which they are founded, and record for the teacher's guidance their views and suggestions. They learn of neglected districts, visit on managers, and secure their co-operation, recommend special aid where such is required; and with kindly concern look for those efforts and those merits in their teachers which they may feel warranted in recommending for those rewards the Commissioners are ready to bestow on the deserving. The system is, however, still greatly misunderstood, and the mutual concessions which it demands, whilst an unqualified boon to those to whom they are made, cannot be expected to gratify in all respects those who have to make them. Its history has been one of progress; of adaptation to national wants and feelings; and of generous consideration of the exigencies of population, creed, and locality, and above all of the clamant necessity of begetting and fostering charity and good will amongst all classes of the people and especially among the youth of the land.

Very sincerely, yours,  
T. H. RAND.  
Dublin, August 15th, 1870.

LETTER FROM REV. A. R. R. CRAWLEY.  
HENTHADA, BURMAH.  
June, 6th, 1870.

Dear Messenger,  
I need not assure you that I watch with the greatest interest the course of opinion on the subject of "Our Foreign Mission" with regard to the question, Independence or co-operation? All will agree that it is of great importance that the decision reached should be founded on practical and substantial grounds, and not on mere sentiment. Has it ever occurred to those who insist most strenuously upon the desirableness of Independence that practically some if not all the substantial benefits of Independence are gained by the plan proposed by those who favor Co-operation? Much stress is laid by the Independents upon the consideration that "our Missionaries should be entirely under our control." Now the whole history of the practical working of missionary operations shows that of necessity the Missionaries rather "control" the organization by which they are sent forth; i. e., it is impossible for a body situated many thousands of miles away from the scene of action to do much more than nominally "control" the actors. Take an illustration which all will appreciate, the solitary foreign missionary now sustained and "controlled" by your Board, left her home with the intention of living in the family of a missionary to the Burmese. It is to be presumed that the expectation of the Board, of the Convention, of the people generally, was, that their missionary was to spend and be spent for the Burmans. But neither Board nor Convention could control the "inevitable logic of events" and so Miss DeW. became a missionary to the Karens, and the functions of Board and Convention were narrowed down to an act of official confirmation of a fait accompli. Nor could the American Baptist Union have done more, or different, or better, under the circumstances. Suppose now that Miss DeW. had sailed for Burmah under

the auspices of the last named Society and supported by your churches, would she not be practically as much "under your control" as she now is? Then, as now, she must in the main be guided by the decision of her own judgment, assisted, not by any organization at the opposite side of the globe but by the advice of her fellow-missionaries on the ground.

You stand ready to send a missionary and his wife to "Zimmai." Let it be supposed that the "millions of perishing Karens in Siam" is fact and not sentiment merely; who then is best prepared to enter that field? The American Baptist Missionary Union who hold as a base of operations the key of Siam, in a chain of missionary stations within a short march of its border—or the Baptist Convention of your three provinces? Rest assured that just as soon as the missionary occupation of Siam in behalf of the Karens is possible, it will be occupied by the Union.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. R. CRAWLEY.  
For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—  
It is scarcely necessary for me to offer a reply to the criticisms of your correspondent "Philos." No one who read my letters with a moderate degree of care could fail to see that they contained no evidence of any design on my part to injure Mr. Elder "in the estimation of the denomination," or to "curtail his power for good." I did indeed charge "certain men of science" with ignoring the Bible and promulgating opinions antagonistic to its teachings. But I did not say, nor do I suppose any other man than "Philos" would understand me to mean, that Mr. Elder was one of those men. The question of the "soundness of Mr. E's. religious views" was, in fact, never once raised during the discussion. Why should it be? I knew him as a member of a Baptist Church and a Professor in our Baptist College and supposed I had therefore a right to take it for granted that he was "sound" on all the main points of orthodox Christianity, including, of course, a belief in that old Book from which Christian people claim to obtain their views of doctrine.

I have been puzzled exceedingly to understand the object "Philos" had in view in writing his very remarkable letter. Did he really wish to defend Mr. Elder from a supposed attack, or was it his aim rather to do him grievous harm by conveying covertly the impression that the Professor is not as sound as he ought to be? Was he a misguided friend, or was he an enemy who assumed the friendly garb only that he might wound the more deeply? I confess I think a good deal may be said in support of either view. He affirms that Mr. E's. views are "perfectly sound" and solemnly calls on the denomination to believe that what he affirms is true. But almost in the same line in which these asseverations occur, we meet with dark hints about "suspicious" being afloat "in reference to the soundness of Prof. Elder's religious views."

In another place we find him stating parenthetically, as though it were a secret that had slipped out by mere accident, that the Professor is "exceedingly liberal in his views respecting the relationship existing between God and Man." But perhaps the worst case is that in which he professes to prove that his friend is "perfectly sound." To do this he introduces a quotation which he affects to believe is quite in point and will speedily settle the question, but what is our astonishment to find that this quotation, though introduced with a flourish of trumpets, is really quite irrelevant to the matter in hand—good and true doubtless, but containing no more proofs of orthodoxy than may be found in abundance in the writings of Unitarians and Universalists and often times in those of Rationalists and Free-thinkers. Now I hope no one supposes that the quotation in question contains the highest or most distinct expression of orthodoxy that ever came from the pen of Mr. Elder. If "Philos" had all the "personal knowledge" which he claims, he surely could have found statements better suited to his purpose than the one he has adduced; and it seems to me a most unkind insinuation on his part to bring this one forward with so much parade as if nothing better could be had.

But after all has been said, I am loth to believe that "Philos" has been so false in his friendship as this view of the case would imply; and I prefer therefore to think that the confused logic was the result of some mental weakness or perturbation. In any case, Prof. Elder may well pray

that the good Lord would deliver him from such a friend.  
Fortunately while the logic of "Philos" is slightly confused, his affirmations are sufficiently distinct and emphatic, and I hope the "men of our denomination" will not hesitate to "believe" him. Logic is a weapon which few men are able to handle effectively. Perhaps fewer still are capable of attaining the highest success in dogmatism. But of the two, the latter, in the hands one who is master of the art, is the mightier weapon; and I advise "Philos" henceforward always to employ it.

LAICUS.  
For the Christian Messenger.  
COLLEGE AGENCY.

Dear Brother,—  
I wish through the Christian Messenger to inform the friends of Education, that I am now engaged in my Agency in behalf of our Institutions of learning, and hope to receive their sympathy and co-operation. The Treasurer of the College has put into my hands a large number of Notes to be collected, and I would like for the parties to be prepared to settle them when called upon. I expect to visit—as far as possible—the following places:—River John, Piouton, Antigonish, Ship Harbour, Port Hood, Mabou, Margaree, Sydney, Cow Bay, Guysborough, Cape Canso, Isaac's Harbour, St. Mary's, Stewiacke, Brookfield, Truro, and Onslow. I give this early notice, so that persons residing in the places named, may be prepared to settle their Notes to the "Endowment Fund," now due, when I shall call upon them. It is very important that all the Notes shall be collected as soon as possible, and the money safely invested.

Appeals have often been made to the Baptists of these Provinces for funds to place our Institutions at Horton in the position which is actually required, but they have been to a large extent disregarded.

Brethren and friends! I here renew the Appeal. It depends upon your generosity whether my agency shall be successful or not. Remember that I am giving the year gratuitously, and that all you may give will be devoted to the support of Educational Institutions, no part of it being required for the Agent's salary. I have received since the Convention the following sums:—

A. F. Randolph, Esq., Fredericton.....	\$100.00
Isaac Shaw, Waterville.....	20.00
Amos Fountain, Great Village.....	4.00
D. A. Davison, do.....	3.00

I hope these contributions will be only the few drops before a more plentiful shower.  
Yours truly,  
J. E. BALCOM.  
Great Village, Sept. 6th, 1870.

Christian Messenger.  
HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 14, 1870.

Our columns this week are more than usually richly laden with Correspondence, and we are in consequence prevented from saying to our readers much that we might otherwise say. Passing events follow on so rapidly that there scarcely appears time for speculation on "What next?" before it is here. What is to be done with Napoleon and his family? What with the Pope? What is to become of France, and of Italy? When and how is this terrible war to cease its cruel devastations? These are some of the questions which thinking men are asking themselves and each other.

And although so much is written in the way of reply, yet, the opinions of the wisest are still only conjectures, and those who give them have to wait the unravellings of history to know how far they are correct.

Notwithstanding all the fierceness of men's passions, and the overturning of society, yet, we know that "The Lord reigns," and He will evolve good from the awful amount of evil manifesting itself amongst men. The Christian's prayer "Thy will be done," needs to be offered more earnestly than ever.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.—An interesting session of the Central Association Baptist Sabbath School Convention was held at Port William, Cornwallis, on Thursday last. The Minutes have just come to hand and will be published next week. Rev. W. B. Hoggs delivered an Essay in the afternoon, and Rev. M. F. Foshy preached in the evening.