

For the Christian Messenger.

MR. CALKIN'S LECTURE ON OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

The expectations of the members of Acadia Athenaeum were fully realized in the very interesting and humorous lecture delivered before them on the evening of April 20, by J. B. Calkin, Esq., A. M., Principal of the Normal School, Truro. As has been already announced his theme was "Oliver Goldsmith." The talented lecturer evinced, throughout, a perfect acquaintance with the life, character and writings of the distinguished poet whose name he had selected out of a multitude of literary celebrities, as deserving of special consideration.

It is well, said the lecturer, to look back occasionally at the men of former times, to study their lives and characters, that we may be enabled to avoid their errors and profit by their experience. Our age is too little disposed to learn the valuable lessons derivable from this source. Trashed, superficial literature is rapidly becoming the all-absorbing matter of thought even among the intelligent; whilst the more sober and useful precepts and facts of real life are either ignored or neglected. The true student, however, still loves to learn from the records of the past the great lessons which have been taught by wise and good men of all ages.

Biography presents few distinguished characters which are more remarkable for their peculiarities, their eccentricities or their excellencies, than that of Oliver Goldsmith. He had oddities and weaknesses at which the world will never cease to laugh; yet he had virtues which we might well imitate, and genius that will be admired and lauded by the intelligent in all succeeding ages. Some of our sweetest remembrances of early school-days are connected with impressions received from the off-repeated extracts from the poems of Goldsmith. The sunny hours of childhood seem to come back again every time we read these exquisite lines,

"Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the plain, Where health and plenty cheered the laboring swain, Where smiling spring its earliest visit paid, And parting summer's lingering blooms delayed."

The early life of this great man furnishes a striking example of the embarrassments and difficulties which often oppose the aspirations of dawning genius. Initiated into the mysteries of the alphabet by a servant girl in his father's kitchen, he began to acquire such education as his miserable circumstances and hereditary poverty would permit. Ugly, awkward and stupid, "poor Noll," as he was sympathizingly styled by his comrades, was everywhere the butt of ridicule and merriment among even the little ragamuffins of the village. He gave little evidence of genius during his common-school career. Entering a Collegiate institution, subsequently, the meial position he was obliged to occupy for his support, and his unqualified hatred of mathematics gained for him little sympathy from his associates and less from his tutors. He left college in disgust, and began that shifting, wandering, aimless life which was always the prominent characteristic of Goldsmith. He passed through a series of positions and phases with the facility and carelessness of an actor in some comedy. He became by turns an apothecary's hack, a garret scribbler, a law-student, and a physician's apprentice.

Besides his ruinous indecision, Goldsmith had never learned economy. He spent faster than he earned. As a natural result, he was never free from debt. His ideas of the utility of money are well shown in the anecdote that is related of him when about to set sail for America. Through his thoughtlessness and inattention he was left behind; and, having no other immediate use for the pocketful of money he had collected, he invested part of it in an old, lean horse, and gave the remainder to a beggar woman. At his death he was \$2000 in debt. Well might Johnson exclaim, "Was ever poet so trusted before!"

Undaunted by his first misfortunes, Goldsmith re-entered college, later in life, and completed the prescribed course. He graduated "lowest on the list." Many of the following years were spent in idleness and folly. It was the great puzzle of his friends "to find out what he was made for." His life seemed to be a paradox. The only thing in which he was successful was in telling Irish stories. Tired of life's monotony, he started from his native land, without money or friends,

to travel on the continent of Europe. With the help of his flute and his inexhaustible store of humorous stories and songs, he wandered about through France, Flanders and other countries to which he had often turned his thoughts with longing desire to see them. In these solitary wanderings he collected the materials which he has so finely wrought into those inimitable poems, the "Traveller" and "The Deserted Village." Returning to London, he began to exhibit the indications of that genius which soon after raised him to the first rank in literary circles. He became the companion of Johnson, Burke and Reynolds, and soon began to shine as a star of the first magnitude in the constellation of poetical geniuses.

Simplicity, wit and easy grace are the distinguishing characteristics of Goldsmith's writings. "No man" said a great author, "was more foolish when he had not a pen, or more wise when he had one." He was successful in almost every department of literature—in history, in science, in poetry or in romance. It was in the domains of poetry, however, that his genius shone brightest. Johnson said of the "Deserted Village" that there was "not one bad line in it," a eulogy that could not be safely pronounced upon any other poem in existence. His method of composing poetry was peculiar. He first wrote his thoughts in prose with as much correctness and elegance as possible, and then adapted it to measure with the "least avoidable change in thought or expression. Ten lines per morning was his rate of composition.

Washington Irving has, in a single paragraph, given the most elegant and correct portraiture of Goldsmith that we have ever seen; and the picture well accords with that drawn by the learned lecturer. "There are few writers," says Irving, "for whom the reader feels such personal kindness: as for Oliver Goldsmith, for few have so eminently possessed the magic gift of identifying themselves with their writings. We read his character in every page, and grow into familiar intimacy with him as we read. The artless benevolence that beams throughout his works; the whimsical, yet amiable views of human life and human nature; the unforced humor, blending so happily with good feeling and good sense, and singularly dashed at times with a pleasing melancholy; even the very nature of his mellow, and flowing, and softly-tinted style, all seem to bespeak his moral as well as his intellectual qualities; and make us love the man at the same time that we admire the author. While the productions of writers of loftier pretension and more sounding names are suffered to moulder on our shelves, those of Goldsmith are cherished and laid in our bosoms. We do not quote them with ostentation, but they mingle with our minds, sweeten our tempers, and harmonize our thoughts; they put us in good humor with ourselves and with the world, and in so doing they make us happier and better men."

The lecture was racy, witty and instructive, and was highly appreciated by the audience, as was abundantly shown by their frequent applause. A few practical observations, drawn from the subject of the evening, and especially adapted to students, formed the conclusion of the entertainment. Goldsmith's chief misfortunes were of his own making. Indecision, want of purpose and lack of economy in youth were the fertile sources of all his mistakes and misery. A young man should early decide what path in life he intends to pursue. Lack of purpose and of fixed aim at the outset is enough to ruin a man for life. The true navigator knows well the port of destination before he sets sail. The habits of early life become the grooves in which we run in later years. Decision and energy, exercised in life's youthful days, mould our circumstances. It is not dashing genius that enables us to accomplish the grand ends of our existence; but these can be fairly attained by decided effort and winning perseverance. Decide, strive, win are the watchwords to success.

W. H. WARREN.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Sir,—

In your issue of the 12th inst., the Rev. E. O. Read writes: "I have baptized three persons into the fellowship of the Church lately." Our Lord's commission authorizes us to baptize disciples in (into) the name of the "Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;" and Paul, writing to believ-

ers, speaks of their being "baptized into Christ." Do we read in the word of God of any persons being "baptized into the fellowship" of a church?

Yours in the Gospel,
J. B. McDONALD.
BEDEQUE, P. E. I.
April 17, 1871.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Sir,—

I have no wish to continue a controversy with "Zetetes." It is not probable that either of us would convince the other.

Permit me, however, to remind him that "common courtesy" and Christian courtesy alike, should have prevented him making, in the first instance, an unprovoked attack upon me.

Yours, &c.,
PASTOR.
WOLFVILLE, April 20, 1871.

For the Christian Messenger.

PRAISE.

Mr. Editor,—

I am much interested in the discussion of the subject of praise in the house of God in which "Zetetes," "Pastor" and "Yclept" have taken part.

Be so kind as to allow me to enquire of "Zetetes" through your columns, in what consists the unfitness of the 469th hymn of the Psalmist for public worship? "Zetetes" will do me a favour in pointing out clearly and specifically the objectionable features of that hymn.

Permit me to ask "Yclept" also to name the hymns which his pastor gave out which did not contain the language of praise? May I also ask "Yclept" to point out the "wrong, wrong, wrong" of singing those hymns in the house of God.

Full and definite answers to those questions will greatly oblige.

Yours,
A BAPTIST MINISTER.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., April 26th., 1871.

Our readers will be much gratified with the information, in our present issue, coming from many places, giving account of showers of Divine grace falling on the churches. The bestowal of these blessings calls for grateful acknowledgment. Earnest prayer should be offered for a continuance of these manifestations of the power of God in the salvation of souls. The nearer the approach of a sinner to conversion, the more critical and dangerous his state becomes, until he has cast himself on the finished work of Christ, and is safe under the guidance of the good Shepherd.

Similar blessings are being largely enjoyed by the churches in other lands.

LETTER FROM BURMAH.

Rev. A. R. R. Crawley writes from Myanong, under date Feb. 28th, 1871 says:—

Our Associational meeting at Prome during the early part of this month was one of much interest. The Committee on Resolutions for discussion, reported among others, the following:

Resolved, That it is the duty of every member of a church to aid in supporting the Pastor; and any member refusing so to do, ought to be disciplined by the church.

Resolved, That it is plainly one of the duties of this Association to aid feeble churches within its limits.

These resolutions indicate the development and progress of New Testament views among the native converts,—views which must result in compelling the churches, at no distant period, to recognise practically the principle of Independence and self-support. Another Resolution which involved the question "What is a church of Jesus Christ?" had, for want of time to be postponed to the next meeting.

I am, with kindest regards,

Yours truly,
ARTHUR R. R. CRAWLEY.

We have also a letter from Miss Norris, which will appear next week.

We beg to suggest to our Brother the Editor of the *Provincial Wesleyan* that we did not say Judge Marshall's letter had no "excellence beyond the merely negative one, that they were not 'disrespectful.'" The Judge is deserving of better treatment than that at the hands of our contemporary. If that had been the character of his

letter it is probable that it would not have been refused publication.

With regard to the "constantly increasing collection of communications" which our brother says he has on hand, that he has "decided not to publish," and which he is ready to place at our disposal, we may say that we are not at all desirous of the honor. If we may judge of them by what are not rejected, they are not what our readers would care to spend their time upon. We are quite aware of the reason why some of said communications are not allowed to appear. It might be inconvenient for him to publish them. We have had some such sent to us already, which for various reasons we did not feel disposed to adopt. As for his depreciating remark respecting "Wentworth's" letters, we may say that we regret the necessity for their publication; and so do the teachers in a school the necessity for applying the rod to an obstreperous pupil.

Mr. Editor,—

1st. Is it according to Baptist polity, when a member in good standing asks for a letter to unite with another church of the same faith and order, to withhold such letter?

2nd. In two neighboring Baptist churches, both recognized by the Association, also recognizing each other as sister churches,—if a member in good standing in one of these churches should ask for a letter to unite with the other, has the church a right to withhold said letter?

3rd. If the person seeking for such letter of dismission, and shall continue so to do for six months, and still fail to obtain it, comes to the other church, what course shall that church pursue? Does the report of the Committee on Questions in Letters, of the Western Association of 1860 apply to this case?

4th. Does it constitute a member not in good standing, if said member continues to ask for a letter of dismission, and at the same time submit to the church?

Yours truly,
ELEUTHERIA.

The above questions all appear to refer to the same case. Without a knowledge of the circumstances further than is supplied by the questions, we may reply generally:

1st. If the member have some good and sufficient reason, and unless there be some special circumstances rendering this an exceptional case, we should say, the church should grant such letter.

2nd. Ditto.

3rd. Here is the Report to which our correspondent refers:

"If a member of a Church in regular standing, reside in the neighborhood of another Church, and request a dismission to join the latter, we recommend that the request be at once granted; and in case of its continued refusal, that the latter receive him without such dismission."

It appears to apply to just such a case as the one under consideration.

4th. We cannot perceive any disorderly conduct in a member asking for a letter of dismission, if, as before suggested, he has a good and sufficient reason for so doing.

KINGS COLLEGE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE.—A new provincial Monthly published by M. A. Buckley, and printed by Bowes & Son, Halifax. Whilst we have so little of a literary character it is gratifying to see any party with pluck enough to start a new Magazine, and faith to believe that the people will sustain it, notwithstanding the abundant supply we have from other countries.

The following is the table of Contents: George Raymond; Reminiscences of College Life No. 1; Sonnet; La Mort; Polaria. No. 1. On first and second love; Deep Sea Explorations; The Bear and his book; Philarete Charles.

The articles are of varied character and ability. The Alumni of the College will be specially interested in its contents, and its permanency. Its proprietor has our best wishes for his success in this venture.

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL.—Three discourses by George Jarvis, Geo. D. D., S. R. Wells, New York. These sermons have for their special subject:—

1st. His real sin to be confessed.
2nd. Its false use and true.
3rd. Its relation to the Church. The subject is not a new one, but has several original treatises given to it in these sermons.

We regret to learn that in consequence of severe illness the Rev. S. B. Kempton is directed to abstain from preaching for a time.

We have before us the BAPTIST QUARTERLY for April. It has a number of able, fresh, original articles each of which will repay one for a careful examination. The following is the table of contents:

1. New Testament Revision; by Prof. A. C. Kendrick, D. D., Rochester, N. Y. 2. Athens,—her Place in History; by Prof. J. R. Boise, LL. D., Chicago. 3. Lightfoot's Christian Ministry; by Prof. G. Anderson, D. D., Newton Centre, Mass. 4. The Baptist Historical Society; by Howard Malcom, D. D., LL. D., Philadelphia. 5. The National Baptist Educational Convention; by S. S. Cutting, D. D., Brooklyn. 6. Life and Times of Rev. John Leland; by Rev. J. T. Smith, Warwick Neck, R. I.

J. W. Marling of the Canada Life Assurance Company will accept our thanks for a copy of New Currency Tables.

Notices, &c.

RECEIVED FROM WOMAN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Billtown.—Mrs. W. C. Bill. \$11 25
Bridgetown.—Miss Jossie Chipman. 8 00
M. R. SELDEN, Sec.

April 25th, 1871.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNION,
32 Great Jones St., N. Y.

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the American Bible Union, will be held in the Meeting House of the First Baptist Church, (Dr. Everts, Pastor) Chicago, on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning the 17th and 18th May. The following speakers have been appointed:
Rev. Reuben Jeffery, D. D., Cincinnati.
" T. D. Anderson, D. D., New York.
" Wm. Pope Yeaman, D. D., St. Louis.
" C. B. Crane, D. D., Hartford.
" Geo. P. Percost, D. D., Brooklyn.
" Wm. H. Everts, D. D., Chicago.
" J. P. Hawthorne, D. D., Albany.
" W. V. Garner, D. D., Boston.
" G. C. Lorimer, D. D., Albany.
" D. Henry Miller, D. D., Elizabeth.
Charles T. Goodwin, Esq., New York, and the President.

A meeting of the Chicago Bible Union will be held in the same place on Lord's day evening, May 21st.

THOMAS ARMITAGE,
President.

WM. H. WYCKOFF, Cor. Sec.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"A Subscriber" in Mira should have given his proper name with his communication. Without that condition we can not communicate with him—or offer an opinion on the case.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

Rev. Dr. Tupper, \$4. G. H. Dobson. Rev. J. B. McDonald, J. B. Kinney. P. D. Kinney, \$4. W. H. Haines—It was a mistake in the name. A. P. Shand—Sent Jan. & Feb. to E. W. Rev. J. C. Morse. Rev. A. R. R. Crawley. Rev. J. Davis. F. M. Hawkins.

News of the Week.

POLITICAL.—The Reconstructed Local Government.—A Royal Gazette Extra, issued on Wednesday last, contained the following announcements:—

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Halifax, 19th April, 1871.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to make the following appointments:

To be Commissioner of Crown Lands—Hon. E. P. Flynn.
To be Prothonotary and Clerk of the Crown in the County of Halifax—Hon. Martin I. Wilkins, in the place of C. M. Nutting, Esq., temporarily appointed on the 7th July last.
To be a Member of the Executive Council of this Province, Henry W. Smith, Esq., in the place of the Hon. M. I. Wilkins, resigned.

To be Attorney General of this Province, the Hon. Henry W. Smith, in the place of the Hon. M. I. Wilkins, resigned.

To be a member of the Executive Council of this Province, William Garvie, Esq.

To be Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, the Hon. William Garvie, in the place of the Hon. Robert Robertson, resigned.

The Local Government will therefore stand as follows:—

Hon. Wm. Annand, President of the Executive Council.

Hon. Henry W. Smith, Attorney General.

Hon. W. B. Vail, Provincial Secretary.

Hon. William Garvie, Commissioner of Public Works and Mines.

Hon. Edmund P. Flynn, Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Hon. R. A. Melleffey.

Hon. Robt. Robertson.

Hon. James Cochran.

Hon. John Ferguson.

Hon. Jas. Cochran it is supposed is appointed to the Legislative Council in the place of the Hon. Mr. Stairs, resigned.

The Elections by which these appointments are to be confirmed or condemned will take place on Tuesday the 16th of May. Nomination to be on the 9th. There will, of course, be much activity by the opposing parties for the next three or four weeks.