

gloves are strictly forbidden by the etiquette of the Vatican; so that all who have braved the intense discomfort entailed by this garment in the Roman dog-days in the persuasion that they were doing the proper thing, had to divest themselves of the encumbrance before they were allowed to cross the threshold of the reception-room above mentioned. The Pope wore a long woollen robe confined at the waist by a sash of watered silk, and a little round cap; all—robe, sash, and cap—of the purest white. Round his neck was a golden chain terminating in a cross, also of gold, and placed for convenience under the sash, as a watch is worn in the waistcoat pocket. The appearance of the "august prisoner," as the clericals persist in calling him, afforded the most striking evidence of the utter falsity of the reports in circulation about his failing health. A florid, jovial old gentleman, with a merry twinkle in his eye, and triping along briskly enough under the weight of his seventy-nine years, he certainly looked (in my friends' opinion), nothing like a martyr, and but little disposed to make way at present for a new occupant of the chair of St. Peter. Stopping to converse for a few moments with every person present, and speaking with a strong Roman accent, he questioned each in turn as to his name, his province or country, and so forth, confining himself on the most indifferent topics, and presenting his signet-ring to be kissed. Some endeavored to inveigle him into a longer conversation, or presented a variety of knick-knacks upon which they solicited the Papal benediction; but the Pope wisely steered clear of all these difficulties, and compounded to administer the blessings "in a lump" at the close of the interview. Then came a bevy of ladies, the bearers of one of the usual addresses, to which his Holiness listened with great patience, and quite as if he had never heard anything of the kind before. He afterwards replied, in a few words, exhorting his "daughters" to remain steadfast in the faith, and to watch and pray without ceasing, for they knew not when the hour of deliverance might be at hand. Then, the audience being over, the Pope gave a general blessing to all present, and to the rosaries, scapularies, and other such things which they had brought with them, and retired with his escort, leaving his visitors to do the same.

For the Christian Messenger.  
**ACADIA COLLEGE.**

*Mr. Editor,*—  
Acadia College has been styled the *Child of Providence*. But the God of Providence sometimes leaves his children to suffer from their mistakes, to teach them to do better in future. Not being at the Convention at Yarmouth, I did not fully learn the financial position of the Institution, till it was prominently brought before us by the Editor of the *Christian Visitor*—one of its oldest governors. I agree with him that a good opportunity was lost at the Convention by not embracing so favourable an occasion to pay off the year's indebtedness; a few stirring speeches from laymen of means, followed up by the ministers present, would as on other occasions have resulted in contributions of the amount required; but this was omitted, and the time taken up by the reading of an essay on Female Education. This no doubt was very good; but it was not the time for it, and after being engaged in the work of education forty years, the Baptist body connected with the Convention, hardly needed arguments to convince them of its importance—they wanted something more, viz. *Funds* to carry on their works of higher education; and I must be pardoned if I say I think the *Governors* omitted the most essential part of their mission in not pressing the matter of immediate funds to an issue. But why in debt at all might well be enquired by some who are seldom present with the Board? In 1850 the Institution without any Endowment was in debt \$14,000, (including a mortgage of \$4000) a scheme was proposed for paying this off, and with it a promise was made that no new debt should be incurred. This promise has been kept faithfully for twenty years, and no Treasurer's annual account has shown a deficiency till the last one; then if with no means to begin with, a heavy debt to liquidate, the Institution could be kept in a favourable position, and free of debt, and during those years a moderate

endowment added, then the question arises again, Why in debt just now?—I have not seen the Treasurer's account, as the Minutes are not yet published, but I learn that the Churches contributed more in 1871 than for any of the two preceding years. From other sources the income could not be less than usual. Then if there is a debt the Governors are censurable for voting money they had not, and which by past experience they could not anticipate.—In 1869 about \$500 advance on salaries was voted without a day's notice, or an hour's deliberation, and in 1870 a vote was made to pay the salary of the Professor of Natural Science \$800, hitherto supported by Private contribution. These two sums make the \$1300, which I learn through the *Visitor* was the deficiency of the year. I do not say that the increased salaries are too much, nor do I say that the chair of Natural Sciences is not an important one. But I do say that when the Governors vote money they should be sure they can meet their engagements. But the thing is now done, and the remedy must be sought for: Let the Governors go vigorously to work and let the new hands recently elected take hold and get the Institution out of the drifting current. Better get on as we were doing with four Professors than have five without funds to pay them, and here I would remark that I think the Board of Governors should not vote money without giving ample notice, so that the Treasurer and others who are well acquainted with the finances of the College might be present.

I feel persuaded that a note of alarm will do us no injury if the matter is treated as it has hitherto been treated by the great body of our denomination, and I for one shall not find fault with the *past*, if a more prudent course is pursued in the *future*. The only apology I make for writing this is my continued deep interest in our Educational affairs in connection with Acadia College.  
J. W. BARSS.

Wolfeville, Nov. 8, 1871.  
\*Rev. Dr. Crawley has sent on the Report on Obituaries, and the Minutes are now in the hands of the binder, and will be forwarded to the churches this week. S. S.

**The Christian Messenger.**  
Halifax, N. S., Nov. 15th., 1871.

**DAY OF THANKSGIVING.**

Thursday the 23rd Inst., is appointed by the Nova Scotia Government as a Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for 'the bestowment of an abundant Harvest during the present year, and a continuance of the blessings of peace and protection'.  
The Lieutenant Governor recommends all Her Majesty's subjects in this province to observe reverently and devoutly the said day.  
The same day is also appointed by the New Brunswick Government as a Day of Thanksgiving. We have unquestionably much reason for Thanksgiving. There are of course many cases of distress and sorrow to be found in every place. These will afford a good opportunity for the exercise of kind consideration on the day referred to. Let there be some effort to obtain the "more blessed" by all who have the wherewithal to assist their less favored neighbours. The churches will doubtless remember some of the objects of benevolence around them on this Day of Giving of Thanks.

**Y. M. C. ASSOCIATION.**

Prayer Meetings on behalf of Young Men's Christian Associations were appointed to be held simultaneously throughout America on the Second Sunday in November. The meeting in Halifax was held in Temperance Hall on Sunday last at 4 o'clock. The Hall was filled—a large portion of those present were young men. J. S. McLean, Esq., presided. It was an interesting occasion.  
The first Lecture of the course for the present winter was to commence last evening by the Rev. A. W. Nicholson. Subject, "David Livingstone."

**ESSAY ON TEMPERANCE.**

Those of our readers who have the Temperance question at heart, and who desire to promote its interests amongst Christian people by writing upon it, have a good opportunity presented of carrying out that desire, seeing that an offer of a Prize of \$50 for an Essay is made by Edw. Jost, Esq., through the Grand Division of

the Sons. The following is the proposal:

A prize of \$50 will be awarded to the writer of the best essay on "the importance of combined efforts in the cause of Total Abstinence from the use of Intoxicating Beverages, on the part of the clergy of all denominations, and the Religious public generally, and the responsibility which rests upon them in connection with that cause."

The competition to be confined to Nova Scotia. The Manuscripts offered for competition must not exceed, in each case, 20 to 24 pages of ordinary foolscap; the writing to be clear and intelligible, and on one side only of the paper. Each Manuscript also must be properly pagged so that it may be all ready for publication in case the Examiners should give it the preference.

Each writer competing will attach a mark or sign to the Manuscript; and a corresponding mark or sign must be placed on the outside of an envelope enclosing the writer's name.

Parties intending to compete must have their Manuscript in the hands of the Grand Scribe on or before the 1st of March, 1872.

The Manuscripts will be examined, and the Prize awarded by a Committee appointed at the last annual meeting of the Grand Division S. of T.

The Essay to which the Prize may be awarded, will be published in the form of a tract of 12 to 16 pages.

Manuscripts to be sent to Mr. P. Monaghan, Grand Scribe, Halifax.

The communication of J. W. Barss, Esq., demands more than a passing perusal. The same thing has been placed before the churches by a Circular from the Governors, and we are glad to learn that by some of them it is being taken earnestly in hand. One of the deacons of the Truro church informed us a few days since that they had resolved to do their utmost towards the Eastern Association raising one-third of the whole amount required to make up the deficiency. This is a noble aim. We hope they may succeed. When we look at the membership of the N. S. Eastern, in comparison with that of the others it will be hardly creditable to allow the smallest to do more than either of the other larger ones. Here are the latest returns of Membership of the Associations:—

N. S. Central.....	5,567
N. S. Eastern.....	3,763
N. S. Western.....	8,161
N. B. Eastern.....	5,249
N. B. Western.....	4,905
P. E. Island.....	763

We are glad that the *Visitor* has shown its readers somewhat of the real state of the case, and we hope it may have a good effect on our New Brunswick brethren. Now that they share in the honor of administering our denominational affairs, they will doubtless undertake a fuller share of the pecuniary liabilities of the body.  
Each church in all the Associations should take up the matter as one that must not be overlooked or delayed.  
Praying the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers must be accompanied by efforts to help them go, or the prayers will not reach far.

The letter from Hon. Dr. Parker, on another page, is somewhat longer than an ordinary communication, yet it will be read with interest by others besides his personal friends. We did not like to break the continuity of it by dividing it into two parts.

**MANITOBA.**

A friend has favored us with with a copy of the *Weekly Manitoban* of Sep 30th, by which we learn something further of the character and resources of this young Western province. Governor Archibald had paid his first visit to Portage La Prairie, and had received a warm welcome and complimentary address from its inhabitants. The following is an extract from their address:—  
"We cannot but avail ourselves of this opportunity of assuring your Excellency that although we have been stigmatized as 'Rebels,' you will find us in the hour of call as ready to support you again as we were before to come forward and risk our lives and our liberties in support of constitutional Government and the authority of Her Majesty the Queen, of whom you are the Representative."  
Governor Archibald gave a more lengthy reply in which he spoke of his impressions of the fine country through which he had passed. Our readers will be gratified to read an extract on two from his address:—

You allude to the great future of this new Province. I have never felt so assured of that future as I do at this moment. For two days I have been moving as rapidly as horses could take me over the virgin districts that lie west of this Parish, and during that period I have seen some of the most beautiful spots upon which my eye have ever rested. My whole journey has been through a country more uniformly rich and fertile than any equal space I have ever seen. Taking the tract I have passed

over as a fair sample of the West (and I believe it to be so). I may say that any one who has seen it, may be pardoned for indulging in bright hopes of the future, not only of this Province, but of the whole of the vast domain which extends westwardly to the Rocky Mountains.

Now that Indian treaties—liberal to the natives and honorable to the Government (treaties which, let me say in passing, will be observed with the fidelity that always distinguishes the dealings of the Crown with the native tribes) I say, now that these treaties have opened to immigration a tract of land equal to four such Provinces as this, we may fairly begin to look in the face the future that awaits us.

This country, in soil and climate, is at least equal to the adjoining State of Minnesota. It has many advantages which that State has not, and the time has now come when the British North-West is to enter on an era of progress and development such as has made that State what it is. Twenty years ago Minnesota had a population less than half of what Manitoba now has. Twenty years ago, Minnesota numbered only five thousand inhabitants. It has now five hundred thousand.

Twenty years ago; nay, only ten years ago, Minnesota had not a mile of railway; now it has a thousand miles in actual operation and two thousand more either in progress or under charter.

As Minnesota was twenty years ago, this country is now. The iron road stretching out its arms towards it from the East. Vast tracts of soil of good quality, but not so good as yours, were holding out invitations to the immigrant—invitations less seductive and less tempting than those which are extended by your fertile plains.

The same causes which have made Minnesota develop with a rapidity unexampled in the history of the world, will act upon this country in the same way, and before those of you who are now entering upon manhood shall have reached the vigor of your age, the same transformation which has passed over the surface of that country, will pass over the surface of yours.

You will make some allowance for me, if my eyes, dazzled by the bright vision ahead, refuse to turn, or turn with reluctance, to look behind and the obscurity of times of commotion and disorder that occurred before the responsibility of Canada commenced, to strain for the discovery of dark spots that may be found in the events of the past.

I may say, gentlemen, I have no objection to vigorous criticisms on the part of the Press. A certain portion of the political strife and animosity to which you refer, is an insupportable incident of free institutions. It is the condition annexed by the Almighty himself to the development, the progress, and the improvement of civil government. I accept, as I always have accepted such criticism, with the determination of giving it no other answer than that of living it down.

An editorial in the same paper speaking of the fertility, of the soil says:—

"The scenery of the White Mud River is beautiful. Along the margin of the stream the wood is very fine. Forests of oak, and maple and poplar, stretch away from the banks on either side to a considerable distance from the river. The prairie is studded with groves and clumps of every variety of shape and form that the most vivid fancy could suggest. Glades of park like prairie open as the road winds among the trees, and it is impossible to resist the delusion that the visitor is gazing on an English park artistically laid out and beautifully kept. All this, in the lovely light of an autumnal day, with the leaves reflecting every variety of tint, formed a scene that was delightful to gaze upon. Now and then a house built on the edge of a grove, embayed as if to receive and enfold it, suggested the idea of a plantation artificially made for the purpose of shelter. Some of the sites of the dwellings were beautiful in the extreme. The party were much struck with the position of a cottage built by a Mr. Dugget, a Nova Scotian, who has taken up his residence near the Third Crossing. The house is built on the north bank of the river—a beautiful stream flows in front—the house itself nestles at the foot of a maple wood which towers majestically behind it, and sweeping with the curvature of the river partly encloses it, forming a beautiful background to the silver stream which meanders in the front. At Poplar Point a settler was thrashing his wheat. A ponderous machine drawn by horses was at work; at one end men were pitching the unthreshed grain into the machine; as the straw emerged at the other end, other parties were removing it a few feet and bruining it as fast as delivered from the machine. In the evening all that remained of the stacks was the grain in one heap and ashes in another. In the East this would be considered a wanton waste; here it is looked upon as labor saved. The limitless prairie yields all the food the cattle require, while the richness and fertility of the soil are such, that the people consider the making or saving of manure as labor lost.

At High Bluff, an energetic and enterprising gentleman who has set an example in farming that the people of the neighborhood would do well to imitate, pointed out the richness and the depth of his soil. He had dug a lime kiln, and the section showed a solid bed of over two feet of the richest mould. He asked triumphantly whether any soil such as that could be shown, even in the rich Province of Ontario, from which he has come. There is no wonder that with ground like this, attempts to make or save manure are at present looked upon with derision."

**Notices, &c.**

EVERY BAPTIST FAMILY IN NOVA SCOTIA should have the weekly visits of the *Messenger*. We should be glad to assist them in getting it, and have therefore concluded to make the following liberal offer:

NEW SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1872, who forward their subscriptions—any time between this date and the end of the year will receive the *Messenger* without charge, to the end of this year.

Will our present subscribers have the goodness to make this known to their neighbours and friends? They will by this means promote the welfare and happiness of many families, and be at the same time helping on

**OUR CHRISTIAN WORK.**

If any of our Agents will send by letter or Postal card the names and address of any parties they have reason to believe would like to become Subscribers, we will forward to such address one copy of the *Messenger* free.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Stewiacke.—E. C. Banks . . . \$2.25  
Wolfeville.—Mrs. F. A. Higgins . . . 6.50  
Mrs. M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y.  
Halifax, Nov. 14.

**To the SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.**

Dear Mrs. Selden.—A successful effort has just been made to organize a Woman's Aid Society at North River. At a meeting held in the Baptist Chapel of that place on the evening of Wednesday the 18th inst., it was unanimously resolved that a branch Society be formed forthwith.

The following officers were then appointed:—

- President.—Mrs. J. Warren.
- Vice Presidents.—Mrs. P. Warren and Mrs. J. Nelson.
- Treasurer.—Miss L. Mackinlay.
- Auditor.—Miss L. Scott.
- Managers.—Mrs. J. Dickendoff, Mrs. G. Scott, Miss J. Cummings, and Miss J. Mackinlay.

The Constitution of the Halifax Societies as published in *Messenger* of Aug. 2nd was adopted with some slight modifications. We hope that this little society will in some degree assist in the furtherance of the great and glorious Missionary enterprise which is now being so successfully carried forward.

Yours respectfully,  
LOTTIE MACKINLAY, Sec'y.  
North River, Oct 19, 1871.

**ACADIA ATHENÆA.**

The first lecture of the course will be delivered before the Acadia Athenæum by the Hon. B. Musgrave, in the Baptist Church, Wolfeville, on Friday evening, the 17th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock.

Subject:—"The Metaphysics of the Bible."

By Order,  
W. G. PARSONS, Cor. Sec.  
Acadia College, Nov. 13.

**News of the Week.**

SUBSCRIBERS who have not paid for 1871, and any previous time, are respectfully requested to PAY NOW!

NEW SIGNAL.—When the steamer for England is signalled in future, whether from Quebec or from Baltimore—a new flag, the upper quarter next the mast, blue, with a white circle in the centre, the outer upper red, just beneath it blue and the lower quarter next the staff red, will be hoisted on the signal staff at the Citadel.

OUR TAXES.—The city of Halifax is paying the Bank of Nova Scotia interest on \$59,000 borrowed for civic purposes.

The fifty eighth Anniversary of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary Bible Society will be held (D. V.) in Temperance Hall on Monday evening the 20th inst. Chair to be taken at 7.30.

A child of Mr. Allen Gilliat's, two-years old fell into a well at Central Granville last week and was drowned.

We understand that the General Superintendent of the Nova Scotia Railway has received invoices of about one thousand tons of steel rail, daily expected for the sections of the Intercolonial line from Truro on.

KENTVILLE.—Dr. John Struthers, was thrown from his wagon on Monday, and had one of his arms broken.

The "Kentville Hotel" was on fire last Friday. No damage.

Mrs. Benjamin Miller, of Pugwash, was thrown out of a coach in Pictou, on Monday, and dangerously injured. The accident was caused by the horses running away.

PICTOU.—The *Standard* says that the Rev. Messrs. Simpson and G. M. Grant of Halifax, the Rev. D. McRae of Hopewell, Hon. James McDonald, J. D. McLeod, Esq., of Pictou, and Hon. Wm. Garvie, have kindly consented to deliver lectures before the society during this season. The Rev. Mr. Simpson will deliver the first lecture on or about the 16th inst.