

"Well, well," said his friend, "but all these are trifles." "It may be so," replied Angelo, "but recollect that trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."—*Colton.*

For the Christian Messenger.

ARRIVAL OF MISS NORRIS IN HENTHADA.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

It will undoubtedly afford sincere pleasure to you, the good sisters constituting the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies in Nova Scotia, and the friends of Missions in general, to learn from letters just received, that our beloved sister Norris has been graciously conducted in safety to Henthada.

In a letter dated Henthada, January 16, 1871, Rev. A. R. R. Crawley writes me, "Miss Norris arrived here yesterday (Jan. 15th.) in excellent health and spirits; and is comfortably domiciled at Bro. Smith's."

Sister Oressa L. George, in a letter bearing the same date, says, "Our hearts were made glad last night by the arrival of Miss Norris. She appears to be in excellent health, and enters upon her work with much vigor and delight. We anticipate much pleasure from her society, and the Karen department much valuable assistance. Miss DeWolfe is enjoying good health; but has at present much charge to bear, as Mr. and Mrs. Smith are both away. He is in the jungle, amidst the Karen Churches, and his wife in Prone. I do not think a more pleasant home could be procured for them than that they possess. You will agree with me, that this is very necessary, cut off as they are from the many enjoyments of home."

Doubtless communications will soon be received from sister Norris herself; but it has seemed to me desirable to communicate the above cheering intelligence immediately; as many hearts will unquestionably be gladdened thereby; and it is to be hoped that glowing thanksgivings will be rendered by many to God for His gracious providential care.

Yours in gospel bonds,

C. TUPPER, Sec.

Tremont, Aylesford, March 15, 1871.

P. S.—The interest in this Mission seems to be steadily increasing in this locality. Mrs. Tupper has recently obtained 7 new subscribers to the Women's Aid Society. By general and persevering efforts undoubtedly a sufficient amount may be easily raised in these Maritime Provinces to support several of these very useful female laborers in the foreign field.

C. T.

For the Christian Messenger.

BAPTIST CHAPELS.

Mr. Editor,—

I notice frequent intimations in your paper that places of worship are required by small churches, in new localities; and that contributions in aid thereof would be most acceptable.

I have not been backward in responding to calls of this kind, but sometimes felt inclined to ask how far the contribution went to help the feeble church for whose use the building was intended.

Recently, being called upon for a donation of the kind referred to, conversation in substance as follows took place:

"A. I am seeking aid to build a chapel at S—, please look at my list and see that we have done at home all it was possible to do and must rely upon our friends abroad to do the rest."

B. You say this is not a mixed or union house, so called, but will be under the sole care of the denomination you represent. This is right, as it will save future trouble. I do not contribute to churches owned and managed by more than one society of christians as experience proves that union chapels lead to disunion and often to the breaking up of christian organizations. Your subscriptions are large for your supposed ability. Are all the subscribers members of your church?

A. Oh no. Several who are active in the matter of getting a house, belong to our congregation, but not to the church, and have subscribed as liberally as those who do.

B. You say you are building a house for the church. You mean to say that your local contributors make a donation of their subscription to the church, or do they simply advance the money to be repaid in purchase of pews on completion of the house?

A. It is understood that the pews are to be sold, and those who purchase are to have their subscriptions deducted from the price paid.

B. You say your house will cost £500. You hope to collect £100, so when the Subscribers in your church and congregation buy pews they do not have to pay the full cost of them, as they get the benefit of all outside donations.

A. I did not think of this before. B. Then when I subscribe, instead of helping the church to build a house and control it. I help a few individuals, who will buy the best pews; and who can, independently of the church, sell them or shut them up, or it may be have to transfer them to creditors as they would other personal property?

A. This may be the case, but it is a customary usage.

I will not prolong the conversation, I handed over my donation, feeling uncertain whether I was benefitting a feeble church or a few individuals connected with the movement of getting a new chapel.

Not long since I was asked to aid a church to pay off a mortgage on their chapel.

I found on enquiry the pews belonged to members of the Church and others; and when I made my contribution, I remarked this goes to relieve Mr. A. and Mr. B. from foreclosure of their property, and the Church as such is not pecuniarily benefited; and when the sums you collect remove this encumbrance they feel more comfortable in their possessions but the church gains no new control. Sometimes a chapel gets burned and a generous christian public is appealed to for substantial sympathy, but it is usually found that the building was owned by a few individuals who chose to be their own insurers and as such were the losers. But the church as a body were not pecuniarily injured.

I have read occasionally of religious services being held to dedicate a new chapel to the service of God and it was called the Lord's house, but I read on and find immediately after the pews are sold to the highest bidder, members of the church and others, and the church thus gives up the control, and the occupants of the highways cannot be invited by the church to enter in and fill the house as it now belongs to individuals whose rights cannot be invaded, it then with all its dedication ceremonies ceases to be the Lord's House.

We hear of the benevolence of individuals in subscribing to get a new place of worship.

But when we learn of their anxiety to get repaid every shilling of their subscription in appropriating the best pews (and these frequently much cheapened by outside donations and sometimes by Bazaars,) we think there is very little christian benevolence in the act, but one characterised by supreme selfishness. When christians can feel that they and their property are not their own, they will then say, "Let us arise and build a house for the Lord, and a Tabernacle for the worship of the Most High."

J. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

ANONYMOUS DONATION.

Dear Brother,—

I received a communication yesterday, a copy of which is inclosed:

HORTON, March, 14, 1871.

Dear Sir,—

Enclosed you will find ten dollars which you will please place to the use of the Home Mission fund as a gift of a friend to the cause, hoping that it may prove a blessing in God's hand of doing some good.

I remain,

A FRIEND.

TO REV. DR. CRAMP, D. D.

The unknown "Friend" is hereby thanked for the donation. You will oblige me by handing the inclosed ten dollars to the Treasurer of the Home Missionary Society.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Wolfville, March 18, 1871.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

Your remarks respecting the appointment of an Inspector of Schools in Annapolis County by the Governor in Council rather than by the Council of Public Instruction upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education were pertinent, and tending to uphold the dignity of Inspectors and the Superintendent. But the dignity of the Teacher should also be maintained, and it is unjust to the interests of Education, that Teachers should be ignored in the higher offices.

Mr. Morse is a gentleman and scholar of high standing, but a Lawyer

by profession; and I believe he never taught school. He knows no more of the School Law than his practice leads him to, and understands no more of the internal arrangement and management of schools than many of the pupils. Mr. Morse will feel a little peculiar we should suppose in visiting and inspecting schools taught by men and women long engaged in educational work. It is unfair that teachers should endure the toil, and other professions receive the profits and honors in our educational work.

TEACHER.

The writer of the above, employed in the duties of his profession, knowing the high estimation in which we hold Mr. Morse, urged its publication by asking, "What would the lawyers say if I were appointed an Inspector of law work?"

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 22nd., 1871.

We are unable to endorse many of Henry Ward Beecher's utterances.—His elucidations of gospel teaching have often more of originality in them than of orthodoxy, and from their want of harmony with his other teachings are sometimes calculated to confuse, rather than instruct. The article on the first page of our present issue has perhaps much of the originality which characterize his public exercises, and presents a view of our Lord's life on earth, somewhat different from that often taken, and will be found highly suggestive. In reading it many of the Saviour's expressions will doubtless recur to the mind of the reader, shewing that he who was constantly imparting joy to those around him, must have had an exhaustless supply in himself.—His was not only the joy of experience but more so of anticipation. "For the joy set that was before him, he endured the cross and despised the shame."

We must not forget however that he called on his hearers to, Repent for the kingdom was at hand. Sorrow for past sins, and a reformation of life was demanded by him. With these, there was no limits to the joy and peace in believing. At the close of his days on earth in company with his disciples, when discoursing of their intimate relation to him, he made known the intentions he had in view towards them by telling them "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Seasons of special sorrow and lamentation on account of his sufferings are no part of our Christian Year. We have no day for remembering his agony and crucifixion, but we have the Lord's Day for calling to our remembrance his resurrection and all its holy and joyful associations. Let christians seek to partake more largely of his fullness of joy, and so hasten the removal of the old slander on Christianity that it affords any encouragement to gloom and asceticism.

PARENTAL TEACHING.

If there is one thing more than another in which christians of the present day fail, it is, we believe, in personally attending to the religious instruction of their own children. We are aware that it is difficult for many persons to do this, because they have not the necessary helps for study and preparation; and so the matter is left pretty much to the Sabbath School.

The Series of Lessons we are now giving from week to week on our fourth page, and the careful Examination and Explanation of the same afford an excellent opportunity for Parents to give instruction to their children, as well as for Teachers to their classes on the Lord's Day. A little previous study of the lesson would enable every father or mother to surround each of the subjects taught with great interest and to make them profitable to all the members of their family. In doing so we are confident that in every case the parent would be abundantly rewarded, not only by imparting truth in an intelligent manner, but much more by the benefit they would themselves receive in the effort.

In many places in the country where it is difficult for children to attend Sabbath Schools, and where perhaps there is but one public service on the Lord's Day we believe that the Pastor could in no way do a greater service than by occasionally calling attention to these lessons on "The Words of Jesus," and by encouraging parents to make use of them on the Sabbath

Day. They would doubtless soon see the fruit of their labor in the younger members of their charge having a more intelligent appreciation of those "Words," and in many cases in their coming to Him from whom those gracious words proceeded. It would not be amiss even for the minister to go into some such families, where the parents feel any difficulty in the work, and give them a practical exemplification of the best way to make use of the said lessons.

ANOTHER SERMON.

Judge Marshall has favored us with a copy of a small pamphlet he has just published, entitled "On Scriptural Conversion; the modern style of Preaching and the state of the Churches, by John G. Marshall." It is a sermon upon three texts. Isaiah lv. 7; Acts iii. 19, Matt. v. 13.

There is doubtless a large amount of truth in the views here expressed by the venerable Judge. He is of opinion that the preaching of modern times is very defective, inasmuch as the doctrine of repentance is not insisted on as it should be, and was done formerly. Whilst exhortations are given to faith and to an unconditional reception of Christ's invitations, sorrow on account of sin, and a turning away from sinful practices is not sufficiently insisted on as an essential part of conversion. We fancy the Judge is a little forgetful when he says he "has not for ten or a dozen years, or more, heard a sermon on repentance, although regularly attending on public religious services in different countries and various denominations."

If we were asked what denomination would be most likely to omit such subjects, we certainly should not have named the Methodist body. No one ought to know with regard this matter better than Judge Marshall. We hope, for the sake of the ministers of that connexion, that he is mistaken.

His strictures on dress and frivolity are very timely, and may well be heeded by all christian people. He recommends a careful examination of Isaiah chap. iii, to see how similar displays of feminine adornment were regarded in those early days.

The music of the church being left to the direction of a choir composed of vain and trifling persons receives severe reproof and condemnation.

WANTED, a remedy for making people honest! If a man were compelled to pay his debts the day they became due, and so absolutely "owe no man anything, but love" he would we believe be a more happy man, and more likely to love those who would otherwise be his creditors than he would if, on the contrary his conscience should be all the time telling him he is doing injustice and a wrong by withholding payment from those to whom he is indebted. If any man wishes to have a large number of enemies let him but allow many people to get in his debt; but if he would make them his friends he must require them to keep their accounts squared up. Of course christians are generally amongst the most upright and honorable of people, yet there are some who bear the christian name but who, notwithstanding their profession, take advantage of any indulgence that may be shewn to them in not compelling prompt payments. When such persons find their creditors reluctant to enter upon a legal process to recover their just dues they delay payment from time to time, until the debt has passed the limit of time allowed for its collection. Then, not being under the influence of a good conscience or a high sense of honor, such persons, without compunction or regard for what is just and right, leave the creditor to suffer without remedy. Having seen and felt so much of this evil ourselves, we have almost come to the conclusion that the man who demands prompt payment is a greater benefactor than he who indulges his debtors with delay in the payment of just debts; and that a lawyer is a more effectual teacher of honesty for such people than the gospel minister.

We have been led to these reflections by having suffered from a number of cases such as those referred to. That others may be put on their guard it might be well perhaps for us to make the names of such persons public.

A large proportion of our readers we know sympathize in these views, and act accordingly by paying regularly at the commencement of the year. With a number of others there is plenty of room for improvement. We are daily hoping to hear from some more of them.

THE "MORNING CHRONICLE" AND MR. RAND.

It is a little remarkable that the Morning Chronicle should be so easily imposed upon by certain parties, who, with so much vindictiveness, seek to destroy Mr. Rand and the work in which he was so successful in accomplishing while Superintendent of Education. On Wednesday last it was stated in an editorial article of that paper, that "For years there has been more than a rumor, that Mr. Rand himself had his fingers in the book monopoly, and for aught we know to the contrary, the Editors of the "Witness" and "Messenger" each received some comfort from the same source. This golden apple can no longer be plucked by these worthies," and much more of a similar character. On the next day the editor of the same paper was under the necessity of publishing the following:

THE SCHOOL BOOKS.

A correspondent, who is well informed on the matter, thinks that our remarks yesterday relating to the school books, were unfair to Messrs. MacKinlay. As we have every desire to show fair play to all parties, we insert the following with pleasure:—

"Mr. Rand, I know, never had any share in the profits derived from the sale of the school books in any shape whatever. As regards the payment of the \$6000, it was a part of the contract, and, in the instance referred to, if I mistake not, Mr. MacKinlay did not receive it until some months after it was payable by the Government. The province derived a substantial benefit from the payment in the diminution in the price of the books. In order to supply the whole province a large stock must necessarily be kept on hand, causing large loss in interest, which, but for the mode of payment, would certainly cause an increase in the price. The books of which Mr. MacKinlay has the copyright, as well as the others, are supplied to the province at 20 per cent., or more, under the selling price in England. They are supplied at less than currency prices for sterling—i. e., one selling at a shilling sterling is supplied to the province at a shilling currency or 20 cents, and often less than this. This shows, too, that the monopoly, as it is now the fashion to term a contract, is not worked against, but in favor of the province; and it is certain that under no system, other than that of a contract, can the Province be supplied so cheaply as it is at present by Mr. MacKinlay. Of course it does not suit other booksellers, but so long as the contract is a great benefit to the province, the public ought to look to this and not to the benefit of individuals."

HALIFAX, March 15, 1871.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle:

SIR—We observe in your paper of this date that you broadly insinuate that T. H. Rand, Esq., late Superintendent of Education for this province, derived some pecuniary advantage from his official book transactions with ourselves. We beg to state that Mr. Rand has never had, nor now has, any pecuniary interest, whatever, in any books published by us, nor has he ever derived any personal pecuniary advantage in any form whatever, in connection with any transactions with us. Mr. Rand's official transactions with us were ever characterized by the strictest integrity, and a paramount desire to serve, in the highest degree, the interests of the department over which he presided.

In justice to Mr. Rand, and ourselves, we request the insertion of this letter in your next issue.

Your obedient servants,

A. & W. MACKINLAY.

It would have been more manly and graceful to have retracted the whole fabrication, and so to have made a clean breast of it, rather than to keep up a pretence of "fair play to all parties," and then again on Saturday morning, returning to the charge; and that in an editorial article of the same style; whereas in the same paper a letter appeared from Mr. Rand, effectually disposing of the charges made, and proving them false by reference to public documents.

We would advise the Chronicle to be more cautious in receiving either correspondence or editorial articles from the same source as those of Wednesday and Saturday last, after learning how unreliable the writer's statements are.—The author may by such means seek favor from certain parties who have no love for our free school system, except as it may serve their own interests; but we believe the public will perceive that his productions are not likely to serve the cause of popular education.

Since the above was in type we find the following editorial in the Morning Chronicle of Monday:—

We think it unnecessary to publish any further correspondence in reference to the charge that Mr. Rand was in some way interested in the so-called book monopoly of Messrs MacKinlay, as we are satisfied that the rumors intimating that Mr. Rand derived some pecuniary advantage from the

sale of School books. We state that

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