

For the Christian Messenger.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION LOAN-IN-AID FUND.

I have read with interest Judge McCully's letter setting forth a scheme for aiding young men studying for the Christian Ministry. I do not know how it may strike many of those for whom the fund is intended; but it looks to me in its present shape as a doubtful aid.

But my chief objection to the plan is that it encourages young men to go in debt. It places before them a temptation to encumber themselves with liabilities which must to sensitive minds act as a weighty incubus which it will be no easy matter for them to throw off.

The first step will be to go in debt and the subsequent steps will be to plunge deeper, till a load has to be borne of considerable magnitude, the evil of which will be felt in after years. In those years when unshackled by restraints of a pecuniary kind, the ministerial student should be in a position to devote his strength and energy to his great work of preaching the gospel; he cannot but feel pressed down with the responsibility of a debt which is ever present with him until it be fully discharged.

Suppose a student were to borrow a year for four years to aid him in his studies. What is his position on getting through? He enters upon his cherished work with a debt of \$400. (Saying nothing of the interest accumulating during the four years of borrowing.) Does he now feel free? By no means. The call from a small needy society must be passed by and he must look to the call which promises the best pecuniary return.

And he must be a good economist if with the salary paid by most of our country churches he can return the sum borrowed under three or four years. So he is in a measure kept bound, and his energies depressed during that time, and with no room for a thought of married life which is so natural to most clergymen. If a young man of good standing and character, possessing self-reliance and perseverance wishes to borrow money on interest, he seldom fails to find a friend or two within the range of his christian acquaintance who will listen to his request in the matter to a reasonable amount, and he can often effect the loan with much less publicity than through any society constituted for this kind of aid; but treat the matter as you will, it is a debt thrown on shoulders not well suited to sustain it.

But let me say here that I do not oppose the raising of the funds referred to, for I highly approve of it. But I dislike the mode of distributing the income. I would in all cases listen to the appeal for aid, I would even encourage that appeal, but when made I would supply the funds as a gift, a sympathizing bestowal of christian love without condition or restriction.

Whilst the student is devoting his best years to hard study, and perhaps has given up bright worldly expectations he should be sustained in a manner to show his motives are appreciated, and his sacrifices duly shared; and when he goes forth to his field of labor he will go full of energy, unshackled by any drawback that could impede his onward course.

many that have entered upon their College course with trembling and fear have passed through honorably and entered upon their pastoral duties, free of pecuniary embarrassments. Our churches have not done what they ought in raising funds for the training of young ministers; but, if they have not done much directly they have met the case indirectly, and, in the Home Missionary fund applied largely to aid our young students for the ministry, they have performed a work which is, just as useful—and probably more so than if—as in some other places—they had a fund especially to draw from, but did not aid by missionary employment.

I find it difficult to express my views fully on this subject in a single article, but I throw out my ideas in hopes it may draw forth the opinion of those who are acquainted with the working of Ministerial Aid Societies in the United States, and also would like to know the views of those for whom the loan fund is intended, viz, the young ministerial students attending our College.

Feb. 8th, 1872.

WOLFFVILLE.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 14, 1872.

RETRIBUTION.

The N. Y. Christian Weekly represents the state of public matters in that city, and the country as greatly improved during the past year. No quarter is shewn to the great public crimes that have existed there or the perpetrators of them, if what is here said is correct. In an article "Nemesis" shewing that retribution surely follows sooner or later upon flagrant corruption, the writer proceeds:

Compare January, 1872, with Jan. 1871, the then and the now.

Then Brigham Young appeared to be entrenched behind barriers that were impregnable. He was an absolute despot in the midst of a Republican country. He set the laws both of God and man at defiance. Lust he embodied in law and honored in a false religion. Violence did his bidding. The United States flag was powerless to protect a United States citizen on United States territory from his vengeance. His wealth was unparalleled, his power without limit, his self-indulgent lust without restraint.

To-day the fabric he reared with such skill is dropping in pieces before his eyes. Christian churches ring out their bells under the shadow of his Mormon temple. His own adherents curse the system which dishonors their birth and degrades the mothers who bore them. And Brigham Young himself is a prisoner in his own house, on a charge of murder, foul and treacherous.

Then a "ring," entrenched in apparently an impregnable position, ruled the commercial metropolis of the nation. Its members grew rich with marvellous celerity. It burdened a wealthy and prosperous city with intolerable taxes and left it with dirty streets, unfinished public buildings, inadequate police. It robbed the charities of the metropolis to increase its own spoils. It sustained itself in frauds whose effrontery surpasses credence. It manipulated legislatures, bought up public presses, controlled corrupted courts, rendered New York city a by-word and a shame—and when an indignant public demanded relief it responded coolly, "What are you going to do about it?"

To-day not one of these ostentatious magnates retains a semblance of power. Four have fled; a fifth has but just obtained a temporary release from prison; a sixth escapes it only by giving his own son as bail, deserted by all other friends; a seventh has "retired." Their names have become a hissing and a reproach wherever the history of their crimes is known. And as one looks with mingled feelings of pity and satisfaction on their ruined fortunes and dishonored names he recalls the homely but significant proverb, "As the partridge sitteth on eggs and hatcheth them not, so he that getteth riches and not by right shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool."

Then James Fisk, Jr., rode the streets of New York city, a prince in name and riches and the power that riches give unrestrained by fear of God or man or any sense of shame, he embodied in its ripest consummation the American vice—ostentation of wealth. The dreams of romance afford no such story of marvellous success and no

more signal testimony to the folly of a godless and unprincipled prosperity. The Nemesis that pursued him was winged not halt and the judgment that overtook him was as sudden as it was sure.

For to-day he stands at the judgment bar of God to give account of the deeds done in the body; and all his success is consumed in an instant by the hand of death as forest-leaves are turned to ashes at the touch of a torch.

"The mills of God grind slowly, But they grind exceeding sure."

The telegrams from Europe are somewhat more lengthy than usual, and call up our attention to matters that are largely affecting commercial circles on both sides of the Atlantic. The international Conference of Arbitrators on the Alabama claims has been brought before the Legislatures of Great Britain and the United States:

The expressions of the English Press respecting the Conference now setting at Geneva are being closely watched and commented on day by day. The other European nations are not uninterested spectators. The views given in Parliament add intensity to the deep interest felt in the question. As such large interests are involved it is most important that it should be known what is demanded by the United States, and what they will be likely to get from Great Britain.

The following are the so-called Alabama Claims set up against Great Britain by the United States, and presented to the Conference:

I. For the destruction of vessels and property belonging to the Government of the United States. \$25,000

II. For the destruction of merchant vessels, cargoes and property, sailing under the flag of the United States. \$17,900,683

III. For other damages or injuries to persons, growing out of the destruction of each class of these vessels.

[In respect to this item the 'case' says it is impossible at present for the United States to present a detailed statement, but the amount of the claim cannot be less than hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of dollars, on account of hardy, helpless seamen and their families.]

IV. For national expenditures in the pursuit of the cruisers. 7,080,478

V. For loss in the transfer of the American commercial marine to the British flag.

[In respect to this item the United States ask the arbitrators to estimate the amount which ought to be paid to them, after we submit statistics in respect to our tonnage before and after the rebellion.]

VI. For enhanced payments of insurances by citizens of the United States, so far as now known. 1,120,795

VII. For the prolongation of a civil war, the addition of a large sum to the cost thereof and of the suppression of the rebellion.

[As to this item the United States claim that after the battle of Gettysburgh offensive operations by the insurgents were conducted only at sea, through the Anglo Confederate cruisers, with the hope of involving this country with a war with Great Britain, and that the latter ought in equity to reimburse the United States for the expense thereby entailed upon them.]

VIII. Interest upon all the claims up to the day when the award is payable by the terms of the treaty, which is twelve months after the date of the award, at the usual rate of interest in the city of New York, where most of the claims of individuals are held, which is seven per cent. per annum. The United States claim that interest should be computed from an average day, say July 1, 1863.

According to the foregoing statement, so far as it goes, the figures reach the sum of \$26,136,896.

It appears to be pretty well understood that Secretary Fish has so enlarged the indirect claims with the object of making the chance of the arbitrators allowing a larger sum on what are called the direct claims. The monstrous sums that would be set down are not likely to deceive anybody. It may be regarded as a sort of Yankee speculation.

Perhaps there are no parties more concerned in this matter than Canada, and especially Nova Scotia, and yet we are not at all apprehensive that negotiations commenced in such a spirit as the Treaty of Washington was, will result in anything so suicidal as war between Great Britain and the United States.

J. E. Wells, Esq., Professor of Latin and Greek at the Canadian Institute, will accept our thanks for a

copy of the Canadian Baptist Register for 1872. It is a pamphlet of 90 pages and comprises reports of the various Baptist societies of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) with lists of the Churches, Ministers, &c.

The following is a list of the Baptist Associations in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec:—

Table with 4 columns: Names of Associations, Baptized, No. of Churches, Total. Lists associations from Western to Amherstburg with corresponding statistics.

Tota's..... 1270 256 16753

The following is the Summary:— ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.—Associations, 11; membership in associated churches, 16,753; baptized in eleven associations, as per tabular view, 1,270; membership of unassociated churches, 747; total membership, 17,500.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Associations, 2; churches, 136; ordained ministers, 68; baptized, 409; total membership, 10,154.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Associations, 3; churches, 160; ordained ministers, 86; baptized, 718; total membership, 17,639.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—One association; churches, 14; ordained ministers, 8; baptized, 47; total membership, 768.

In the British Provinces there are three weekly periodicals, and two educational institutions.

The above is the only reference to the Baptists of the lower provinces of Canada. No mention is made of our College or Missionary operations! Although the membership in the churches of the upper provinces is smaller even than in those of Nova Scotia their additions during the year were considerably larger. This is a fact which should call forth serious enquiry on the part of N. S. Baptists.

Y. M. C. A.—R. C. Morse, Esq., of New York, is on a visit to the Young Men's Christian Associations of these Provinces, having been appointed by the Executive Committee of the Y. M. C. A. of New York, for this purpose. Mr. M. addressed the meeting in the Barrack Street Chapel on Sunday afternoon, very appropriately and forcibly, from the passage of Scripture appointed for the day.

A suggestion has been made that Mr. Morse's visit may be one of enquiry as to the feeling existing amongst the young men of Nova Scotia respecting annexation, or in case the Treaty of Washington should fail, to learn what amount of resistance might be expected. We would take this opportunity of saying that we heard Mr. Morse's address, and believe that his mission has no reference to anything more than christian work, and information respecting the operation of the Young Men's Christian Associations throughout the country.

ONE of our Subscribers in the United States writes:—"Your worthy paper is a welcome Messenger to our family—containing as it does so much that is profitable. It is very cheering to read the communications in reference to the progress of the good work in the Provinces—especially so to one who has not forgotten to love his native land. I think every Nova Scotian living out of the Province should be a subscriber to the Christian Messenger. If more money were spent by Baptists in supplying their families with religious reading, such as may be found in the columns of your paper, and less in other ways, and for other reading less profitable, it would be better for the community and the churches. I send enclosed the payment for 1872, and hope the number of your subscribers may be multiplied greatly."

Hon. Dr. Parker's interesting letter from Scotland, on another page, will be read with pleasure, especially by those concerned in educational work. Our next will contain a further portion, giving some account of the University of Edinburgh.

WE are glad to learn that the Baptist Church at Chester are about to erect a new Meeting House. The venerable building in which the church now meets has done good service to the cause of Christ and the denomination generally. Many souls have been born there, and then prepared for the mansions above.

Notices, &c.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the Editor of the "Christian Messenger."

DEAR SIR,—Again allow me in the columns of your esteemed Messenger to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums of money for the Foreign Mission: Viz: on the 19th Inst.

From the Pine Grove church N. S. by Mr. James P. Dodge . . . \$12.00

From Mrs. William, St. George, N. B., per Rev. E. Hickson . . . 1.00

From Miss N. Meeting, do. . . 1.00

From Mrs. H. A. Smith, do. . . 1.00

From the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies of Nova Scotia, by Mrs. Eliza McCully, Treasurer of the Central Board at Halifax . . . 259.31

From Rev. David Crandall, as token of God's goodness to him in a Special Providence . . . 4.00

From Messrs. A. T. L. and Harding H. Morse, of Paradise, N. S., for the support of native preacher in British Burmah . . . 100.00

Z. G. GABEL, Treasurer of the B. F. M.

P. S.—I would remark that the sum of seventeen hundred and fifty-nine dollars has been paid out by the Treasurer since the 4th Nov. last. Z. G. G.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Cape Canso.—Mrs. A. W. Bigelow. \$10.00

Hall's Harbour.—Elsner A. Roscoe. 2.00

Sydney, C. B.—For Life Membership of Mrs. Crawley. Miss M. M. Hill . . . 25.00

Holland's Harbour Sabbath School.—Gideon Fleck . . . 1.00

Mrs. M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y.

Feb. 13th, 1872.

NEW SOCIETY.—We are glad to learn from Eleher A. Roscoe, Secretary, of the formation of a Woman's Mission Aid Society at Hall's Harbour, Cornwallis. This is the second Society in connection with the Billtown Church. M. R. S.

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD was to hold a meeting on Monday last in St. John. A letter from Brother McKenzie the Secretary, received on Monday evening, says:—

Dear Bro. Selden,—Will you in your next issue, please apologise for my neglect to send notice of the Mission Board meeting to the Messenger. It escaped my mind until it was too late to forward you such notice for insertion. I shall endeavour in future to be on time."

LETTERS RECEIVED.

Rev. J. H. Saunders. Rev. D. Freeman, (2) 1 sub. Rev. S. B. Kempton. W. Frizzle, \$4. Rev. W. H. Richan. \$4.75.

M. Kinsman, \$8. C. Hall, Esq. E. M. Beckwith. R. Cameron. X. Z. Chipman, Esq., \$37.95. Rev. J. Rowe. J. Marge-son. O. W. Bent, 1 sub. \$2. W. J. Gates, 1 sub. I. Thurber, Esq.,—much obliged, \$10. E. J. C. Jas. Grinton, \$4.

Rev. I. J. Skinner, 1 sub. J. E. Lockwood, Esq., \$25. Rev. Dr. Trupper, \$5.85. Rev. John Shaw, \$2. Wm. Hunter, 1 sub., \$6. H. E. Payson, Esq., \$10. G. B. Muir, \$4.39. Rev. W. S. McKenzie. J. A. Walker.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The following Justices of the Peace, are re-appointed, the same having been disqualified under the Act 33 Vic. Chapter 5:

Cape Breton Co.—William Armstrong, Gaberouse; Donald Gillis, Grand Mira; John Forbes, North Bar; Thomas Moore, Leitich's Creek; Donald McDougall, Benn Eoin; Geo. E. Burchell, Sydney; Angus McAuley, False Bay; Patrick Mullins, South Bar; Donald McDougall, and Edward Mullins, Main a dieu; Duncan McLarty, M. D., Sydney Mines; Allen McLenn, Glace Bay; Ronald McDonald, N. S., East Bay; Ronald McDougall, Grand Mira; Lawrence Holland, North Bar; and William H. McAlpine, Louisburg.

The Board of Health met on Monday. The City Medical officer reported the city free from infectious disease, with the exception of scarlet fever, which was in some cases of a malignant type.

The past week has been a sort of carnival of sleigh-driving parties. The roads have been in excellent order and horses have been in great demand.

Two bears were killed at Hammond's Plains on Thursday last. They were brought to town on Saturday, and exhibited on the streets.

THE AQUATIC CARNIVAL of last summer is still producing some of its legitimate fruits. Some of the persons who subscribed to the Carnival Fund, resist payment on the ground that the fund was not appropriated in the manner proposed when the subscription list was signed. They are being sued for the amount of their subscriptions.

DROWNED.—On Tuesday night a seaman named John Chute, while endeavoring to get on board the schooner Dundana, of Newfoundland, lying at the Richmond Depot wharf, fell into the water and was drowned. The body was recovered and an inquest held yesterday afternoon, when coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.