

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 20, 1872.

"THE SERVICE OF SONG."

Great diversity has existed for some years past in the modes of conducting the service of praise in the religious assemblies in the United States—some by a large choir, some by a choir consisting of but four persons and some by a single person or precentor. Baptist Churches have been very much like others in this respect.

The difficulty of keeping up a large and effective choir in many places, and perhaps a preference for it in some churches, led to the adoption of the quartette—one person leading each part, under the idea that each member of the congregation might take up, and sing one part or the other, according to his or her capability and cultivation.

The effect of this however has been that there was generally so great a disparity between the musical ability of the great body of worshippers, and that of the leaders that it was easier for the members of such Choirs to practice together and carry on that part of Divine Worship by themselves than to do anything to aid the people. And it was also easier for the people, and to some pleasant perhaps, to sit and listen to the trained voices of the choir—in many cases well paid for their work—than to endeavour to join with them, and try to get others to do the same. This has long been regarded as an unsatisfactory state of things in connection with public worship, and a wish has been widely felt for some more uniform and efficient mode of conducting the singing of the churches.

The Baptist Churches without any decided intention, we believe, of attacking that exclusive system, made a simultaneous movement last year, which provides the materials for a radical change. It was announced some time ago, that the Baptist Publication Society would issue a new book of hymns. In the mean time two other books, on the same principle with regard to the music being on the same page with the hymn, have been issued. One of them under the title, "The Baptist Praise Book," published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. And the other, "The Service of Song for Baptist Churches," published by Gould & Lincoln, Boston. The former is on beautiful tinted paper, and got up in first style. The tunes—between 5 and 600—are a fine collection together with the Chants at the end of the book.

"The Service of Song" is also an excellent book of 480 pages of hymnology, having also the hymns and music on the same page. The tunes are fine, full, harmonies, well adapted for congregational use. None of them too difficult.

Besides these there is the Baptist Publication Society's Book which has not yet come to hand. With these three books so much alike the Psalmist will stand a good chance of being crowded out in many congregations; not, however, until a book of the hymns without the music is published to supply the masses. We can hardly make invidious comparisons between these two books, yet we may say that the Baptist Praise Book is the largest (640 pages) and the most handsomely got up; it has a greater variety of Chants and Anthems and Hymns for occasional use.

To bring either of these books into general use in our congregations would involve the expenditure of considerable sums of money, and we do not see exactly how books of such large size can be taken to and from the place of meeting without great inconvenience.

The provisions of the License Law which obtain throughout the province generally do not apply to the city of Halifax. In other parts it is required that parties wishing to take out a license to sell intoxicating liquors shall obtain the names of two thirds of the ratepayers in the polling district in which it is to be situated, recommending the granting of said license. In Halifax the recommendation of three of the members of the License Committee of the City Council is sufficient.

As the Council were making a revision of the City Charter, the Temperance men sought to induce them to put into it the same provisions respecting liquor licenses, as obtain in other

parts of the province. A memorial asking this had been prepared and signed by about fourteen hundred of the citizens, including the clergymen of all denominations, Archbishop Connolly, Bishop Binney, and most of the first mercantile firms in the city. On this memorial being presented to the Council, the Liquor-dealers Association presented a counter petition, asking that no change be made in the present law, and requesting to be heard by counsel.

Friday last was appointed for the hearing of both parties. The following members were present, His Worship the Mayor (presiding), Aldermen Ackhurst, Sullivan, Taylor, Roome, Neal, Serton, McCulloch, Nisbet, Thompson, Blackadar, Graham, and Duggan.

The Council Chamber was crammed to its utmost capacity by citizens, a large number being active Temperance men, Mr. Gayton, M. P. P. for Yarmouth, and a number of ministers of various denominations; quite a number of the members of the Liquor-dealers Association were also present.

Rev. John Forrest appeared on behalf of the citizens' memorial, and Mr. Robert Motton counsel for the liquor-dealers. By arrangement Mr. Forrest spoke first and proceeded to say that the Memorial was a most remarkable one, it was not from any one class, creed or party, not even from total abstiners, for it had been signed by quite a number of other gentlemen who, although not abstiners themselves, yet wished to see drunkenness diminished and the sale of intoxicating drinks restricted. He showed that there were two hundred and seventy-seven houses whose occupants were licensed to sell liquor, besides many unlicensed places where it was known to be sold—giving a proportion of one liquor store to about every twenty-one families; a proportion altogether beyond what could exist without serious detriment to the community. The greater part of the crime, poverty, and injury to women and children arose from this traffic. A reform was imperatively called for, and the question arose, By what means can a restriction be secured? The experience of the other parts of the country had already decided that the recommendation of the granting of licenses being placed in the hands of the people had resulted in a large diminution of drunkenness and the crime that flows therefrom, and it might be confidently anticipated that the same thing might be effected by a similar measure for the city.

Mr. Motton said the measure proposed would be impracticable, and the Council would be unable to carry it out. The effect of such a provision in the law in Halifax would be practical Prohibition. The larger dealers would not ask for licenses under such restrictions, and would use all the means in their power to resist the law. And as there was now \$10,000 a year derived from licenses, the Council would be unable to provide for the various departments of city expenditure without that sum. He contended that the Aldermen were not sent to the City Council to ask for such an enactment, and that the question should be submitted to the citizens at the Polls before such a change were inserted in the City Charter. He said the Aldermen had no right to deprive the liquor-dealers of their business and if they did so they need not look for reelection on applying again to the people. Mr. M. seemed to take it for granted that two-thirds of the people would not recommend the licenses now given in the city, and argued at some length the legal aspects of the case endeavouring to show that no measure that would be equal to prohibition could be successfully applied to the city.

Mr. Forrest replied briefly shewing that the memorialists did not wish to interfere with any man's rights. No man had now any right to sell until licensed to do so by the authorities and in all trades the welfare of the public must be the first consideration, and any traffic that was found to be a nuisance ought not to be permitted. He asked protection for those who were suffering from the traffic, whether by liquor shops being opened in their neighbourhood, or by members of their families having temptation placed before them, and endangering their lives. He thought the threats placed before the Council would be well met by the number and character of the memorialists, who were well known, and whose reasonable request could but be respected by the City Fathers.

THE SCARCITY OF COAL IN HALIFAX is one of the most serious inconveniences that have arisen from the terrific snow-storms we have had during the past two or three weeks. The early closing in of Winter prevented many cargoes arriving which were expected, so that many of the inhabitants had a very deficient supply. This was being met by the large quantities brought from the Acadia Company's Mines by railway. The supply by this means all through the Winter had not been more than one fourth enough to meet the demand. But when that source was cut off by the blockade of the Pictou Railway there were grounds for very serious apprehension of a coal famine. Messrs. Cunard, Seaton, Phalen, and other parties having quantities in store for meeting demands of steamers, &c., were applied to, and they generously opened their coal yards to sell at quite moderate prices. These being exhausted the military authorities were requested to dispose of a portion of the fuel provided for the garrison, but it was found that they had an insufficient quantity for their necessities. Application was next made to the Naval Storekeeper who at the request of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor consented to dispose of some of the English coal from the Naval Stores in the Dockyard, in small quantities, not more than half a ton at any one time to private individuals—at the very moderate price of \$3.25 per half ton. When it is considered that in consequence of the scarcity at Montreal, coal has there been selling at \$14 per chaldron, parties in Halifax may be thankful that such accommodation has been afforded by the authorities and the proprietors and agents of steamers. But for this there must have been great suffering among the poor, and those families who are unable to lay in enough to carry them through the winter. It is feared that before a fresh supply can be obtained from the Mines, there will still be great want of fuel if the present severe weather continues.

We issue our paper, the present week, with the hope that it will reach our country subscribers, at no distant day, but without any certainty that the roads will be in a passable condition for some days at least. The storms and heavy falls of snow have stopped the trains westward for a week past. Between Truro and Pictou, too, there has been no train for several days. A train is snowed up at Riversdale, about half way between Truro and Pictou. By dint of great effort a train went from Richmond to Truro on Saturday last, and reached the Junction on its return on Saturday.

Mr. Taylor, the Provincial Superintendent, telegraphed from Truro on Sunday evening, that he expected to get through to Pictou yesterday, Tuesday. He said, "The rock cuttings are full of snow, if any more falls it will have to be hauled out of the cuttings on flat cars." At Kentville, a gang of forty men with two engines and a snow plough started on Wednesday for Windsor, and after spending two days in going sixteen miles had to return to Kentville, where they arrived on Saturday morning. A telegram from Windsor on Saturday said no train could get more than three miles in either direction from that town.

The praiseworthy efforts made to keep the railway open to Truro, have been so far successful—two trains came down on Monday, and one went up. It was expected that the road thence to Pictou would be opened yesterday. There was less prospect of the way being opened hence to Windsor and Annapolis.

The following from the Reporter of Monday evening, will shew something of the labor performed by the railway officials: Train left Annapolis last Thursday and has not got to Bridgetown yet, distance 14 miles. Mr. Busby, with a train and two engines left Truro at 12 yesterday (noon) and arrived at Halifax 5 o'clock this morning. The road thus far is in pretty good condition at the present time. He ran the snow plow off the track at Grand Lake and it was completely smashed.

The W. and A. train left Windsor yesterday afternoon for Halifax, and had not arrived at Mount Uniacke, a distance of 19 miles, at two o'clock to-day. Mr. Taylor with three engines and a snow-plough, left Truro yesterday with a gang of men and had succeeded in getting a half a mile. On Saturday he made a distance of eight miles. 50 men and two engines were working yesterday and succeeded in getting to Hopewell, a distance of a half mile. An engine and snow-plough left Wolf-

ville last Thursday, and has not since been heard of. The snow drifts in the vicinity of Glen-garry, Pictou Co., extend for a quarter of a mile on the track, and are three or four feet higher than the smoke-stacks of the engines.

A correspondent writes that some Temperance friends in his neighbourhood being desirous of instituting a Lodge of Good Templars, a respectful application was made to the minister asking his co-operation. No direct reply had been received, but the writer was credibly informed that he (the said minister) is opposed to the instituting of a Lodge in that locality, "giving as his reason that he regards all such societies 'death to piety'."

Our friend will perceive that it would be improper for us to publish his communication with the name of the minister, when the thing complained of is only a matter of conjecture. Even if he had given expression to such a sentiment it would not be right to publish it except by first obtaining his consent so to do. While we say this, we do not think that any man and specially a minister can excuse himself from aiding in every way in his power to sustain and extend the principles of Temperance.

Extract of a letter to the Editor:—Dear Sir,—I am one of the sons of Nova Scotia who years ago left my home to seek my fortune in the United States. Years before leaving home I experienced religion, and have been thus kept by Jesus my Saviour from the vices to which so many of Acadia's sons have fallen victims in the land of their adoption.

Since January first, I have entered into the experience of the higher Christian life, or trust in Jesus for full salvation. Having thus fully yielded myself, to the Lord, He is leading me to preach Jesus as the only way of salvation to sinful men. I purpose shortly going to Wolfville, to enter upon a course of studies preparatory to the great work.

I long since came to the belief that every Baptist family ought to read a good Baptist paper, and I fully believe that every Baptist family in Nova Scotia should take the Christian Messenger. I know that a good religious paper does a work in a family that no other religious instrumentality can do. I have had access to the Messenger often in the States, and its weekly visits have been to me like the visits of an old and tried friend. I mean to get all the subscribers for the paper I can.

I have some relatives who ought to take the Messenger but they think they are not able, but I believe they are. So I propose to send the paper one year to some of them, and do not doubt but they will like it so well as to continue their subscriptions afterwards themselves.

It appears from the Baptist Statistics that for the past year the average increase of membership of Baptist Churches was ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY DAILY, or a total of 69,698 church-members, or an average increase of nearly 2 churches, more than 3 ministers, and more than 190 members for each day of the year.

Our thanks are due to some friend for a copy of the Oshawa Advertiser containing an interesting account of the opening of a new Baptist Church. At a tea-meeting on the following day the whole amount of the debt was subscribed, and the people with full hearts joined in singing, Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

EPISCOPAL.—The Church Chronicle sees "Light Ahead" in the prospect of the Sustentation Fund of \$120,000 shortly becoming available. For some time past there has been a deficiency of six or seven thousand dollars:

"At a small meeting of the Local committee of St. Luke's, when, including the generous benefaction of \$2000 from Miss Binney, and \$1000 from his Lordship the Bishop, the sum of \$4,600 was made up; since which about \$1,100 have been subscribed, leaving only a little more than \$2,000 to complete the amount required to bring the Endowment scheme into operation."

This will cheer the hearts of a number of clergymen who have lately been anticipating the withdrawal of the Diocesan Fund from their small salaries.

It is said that the new Census taken by the Civic authorities of the city of Montreal will show 120,000 inhabitants instead of 107,000, a difference of 13,000. It is thought that if a new Census were taken of Halifax, it would shew that our city has a population of between 30,000 and 40,000.

NO LICENSES.—There is not a licensed liquor shop in this city at present, but it does not follow that no liquor is being sold. All licenses expired on the 15th inst., and, pending the settlement of the license question, no new ones will be issued. The entire liquor traffic is therefore being conducted at present without license.—Chron.

Notices, &c.

COLCHESTER COUNTY BAPTIST SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The Quarterly Meeting of this Convention will be held in the Meeting House at Debert River, on Friday, March 22nd, commencing at half past two, P. M. There will be a sermon at the beginning of the afternoon Session. Evening Session to commence at 7 o'clock.

A. J. WALKER, Sec'y. Truro, Feb. 16, 1872.

TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES AND THE FRIENDS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Contributions of articles to be forwarded to Miss Norris should be sent to Halifax as early as possible in the month of April. Either of the following named members of the N. S. Central Board, will be pleased to take charge of such contributions: Mrs. Goucher—28 Albro Street. Mrs. R. I. Hart—115 Pleasant Street. Mrs. A. Smith, A. & W. Smith's—7 & 9 Buckingham Street. Mrs. A. W. Clark—6 Mumford Terrace. Mrs. Sel-n—61 Granville Street.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

C. A. Whitman. T. M. King, 1 sub \$4. C. J. Graves, 3 subs. Rev. Dr. Lupper, 1 sub. John Wheelock, \$2. D. Cortett, \$2. J. E. Potter, Esq., \$6.25. J. McVane, \$1. Rev. M. P. Freeman, \$1. Rev. D. Freeman. Rev. W. H. Richan. \$8. D. C. Archibald, \$4. A. J. Leadbetter, \$6. D. Smith, Sen., \$2.

News of the Week.

MONDAY ORDER OFFICES will be opened on the 1st of April at Aylesford, Berwick, Great Village, Hantsport, Lawrence-town, Lower Horton, Londonderry, Maitland, Newport Landing, Port Williams, Port Medway, River John, Shubenacadie, and Tangier.

The City Council has granted the Visiting Dispensary the use of the old Engine House on the Grand Parade, until the end of the year.

In the Police Court on Friday last, a butcher was sentenced a pay a fine of ten dollars for killing and dressing a calf within the city limits, contrary to law.

THE Y. M. C. A.—The Halifax Young Men's Christian Association will shortly remove from their present quarters to rooms over G. E. Morton's store, Campbell's buildings, where they expect to remain until the erection of their new building.

The attendance at Rev. Mr. Garrie's lecture last week was greatly interfered with by the storm. The application of the legendary term "The Wandering Jew" to the Apostle Paul, appeared to us like at least a want of reverence for the great Apostle of the Gentiles.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce have agreed to ask the Provincial Government to assimilate the Usury laws of the province to those of the Dominion.

ANTIGONISHE.—On Tuesday last, a fire broke out in Mrs. McEachern's Caledonian Hotel, destroying that building, and also St. Andrew's Hall and the stores of W. J. Beck and Daniel Chisholm. The loss will be about \$14,000, a great part of which is not covered by insurance. The principal insurance companies losing are the "Queen," "Imperial," and "Liverpool and London and Globe."

STELLARTON, March 16.—A man named McKenzie, belonging to the Albion Mines, was found frozen to death in this village this morning.—Chron.

A telegram was received on Saturday last by Mr. J. Wright, of Dartmouth, stating that his sloop, "Emma," Beanson, master, was driven ashore in the ice on Tuesday last, at Fourche Head Crew saved, vessel lost, and no insurance.

DARTMOUTH.—A large number, about 400 of the citizens were present at the public meeting on Monday night. J. W. Turner, Esq., occupied the chair. J. W. Johnston, Jun., read the report of the Committee appointed at the previous meeting recommending the procuring an Act of Incorporation. D. Farrell, Esq., moved that the Act as prepared be printed and circulated and that no further action be taken for three months—that a meeting be held on the 18th of June, to decide when a plebiscite of the ratepayers shall be taken, to vote for or against the said Act.

BROOKFIELD, QUEENS Co.—The following is a report made by Professor Nichols respecting what were supposed to be Oil springs in this neighbourhood:

"By your request I examined the supposed oil creeks near Brookfield, Queens County, N. S., and find the oily film to be a real exudation of petroleum or rock oil, having the strong characteristic odor of that substance and leaving a waxy residue of crystallized paraffine. In consequence of the quantity of ice and snow I could not form a definite idea as to its source or quantity, but was informed by several residents of Brookfield that it issues out from fissures in the rocks. There is every appearance of its existing in quantities, and it is worthy of more careful examination when the absence of ice and snow will permit. Respectfully yours, F. B. NICHOLS, Prof. of Chemistry, &c. Halifax, Dec. 23, 1871.