

Government at last was induced to interfere on behalf of these institutions. Not only however is the name of Guthrie linked to the ragged-school movement. For the cause of temperance he was ever and earnest and eloquent pleader; in the cause of national education he was the chief pioneer; and as a writer he was valued in the world of letters. Most of his works, his "Gospel in Ezekiel," "The city, its Sins and Sorrows," "Discourses from Colossians," "Speaking to the Heart," "The way of Life," "Man and the Gospel," and his papers "On the Parables," have gone through several editions; and it is doing them here justice to say that no literature of their class is more cherished and appreciated in our own country. As a preacher Dr. Guthrie has long stood in the front rank of the Scottish pulpit. "Grace, ease, lucidity and simplicity were characteristics alike of his sermons and speeches." He had a lovely, persuasive eloquence entirely his own, and there is no minister in the Free Church could draw together larger audiences or rivet their attention so firmly and so long. There was indeed neither marked novelty nor profundity in his thoughts, but his illustrations were always fresh, always pungent, and his manner and method left nothing to be desired. Dr. Guthrie's art of arousing, attracting, convincing was felt without being seen; his discourses while being carefully premeditated seemed to be the spontaneous outpouring of his heart. Taking him all in all he was one of the most able and successful pulpit orators that this century has known. "To a character so many sided as that of Dr. Guthrie's it is difficult, as we have said, in a short article to do anything like the barest justice. His life is so full of incident, that in trying to concentrate its multifarious rays under the mental lens, the writer finds himself in 'wandering mazes lost.' As much as any, and most men of his generation he may be called

"A man so various that he seemed to be, Not one but all mankind's epitome."

However he too has gone from the midst of us, to take his stand amidst the Saints in light. We number him also amongst the fallen. The place that knew him can know him no more forever. And so these three Christian workers sleep in Jesus. One lying in the quietude of Stanmore, amongst the ashes of his fathers, whose grave-stones mark the work of death's hand for ages past; one sleeps in the burial ground in the old Nonconformist town of Leicester, where he spent the last years of his toil; and one lies in the Kirk-yard in the metropolis of Scotland, surrounded by the memorials of his long, devoted, and loving labours; and through them he "being dead yet speaketh." Doubtless they all three are enjoying the communion of kindred spirits amidst the eternal felicities of the heavenly mansions.

WILL. R. SKERRY.

For the Christian Messenger.

REV. A. F. PORTER.

BRIDGEWATER, March 24, 1873.

Dear Brother,

Perhaps some of the readers of the *Christian Messenger* would feel interested in hearing from Rev. A. F. Porter who a few years ago emigrated to New Zealand, and in conjunction with a number of friends established a special settlement at St. Martin's Bay in that colony. I have just received letters from friends in Auckland informing me that he is now in that city, soliciting aid for the distressed settlers at St. Martin's Bay. It will be recollected that the vessel in which they proceeded to their destination was lost at the mouth of the River, on the Hollyford bar, and their chattels effects and provisions were all lost with the exception of a few stores; they barely escaped with their lives. They have since endured great privations. A notice of one of his lectures is contained in the *New Zealand Herald* of the 22nd January 1873, just come to hand, in which he says, "About three months ago the settlers were reduced to the extremity of eating their seed-wheat, and potatoes, and were for some time in a state of semi-starvation. In answer to their urgent entreaties the government at last dispatched the N. S. Wallace from Nelson with temporary supplies, for which they had to give promissory notes for six months. What was now wanted was some pecuniary aid to enable them to replace the lost seed, and tide over the present year." He was confident that with economy and thrift the peo-

ple of that struggling settlement would then become wholly self-supporting. The *Herald* says, "His narrative of the history and progress of the settlement was clear and graphic, evidencing considerable descriptive powers. Some of the passages having the ring of true eloquence." The collection at the close amounted to £15, which was subsequently increased to £50.

Yours truly,
S. MARCH.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., April 2, 1873.

SUPPORT OF NATIVE PREACHERS.

The following Circular, issued by the foreign Missionary Board, has been sent to all the churches and individuals, whose names appear in the Convention Minutes as supporters of native preachers. It is also published in the *Messenger* and *Visitor*, that it may come to the notice of persons hitherto contributing to the above object, whose names do not appear; and that it may meet the eye of any who may have been purposing to furnish the support of native preachers or teachers in Burmah:

CIRCULAR.

Since the decision by the Convention in favor of an Independent Foreign Mission, it has seemed evident that the funds heretofore devoted to the support of native preachers and teachers in mission fields belonging to the American Baptist Missionary Union, would henceforth be needed for our own mission. An enterprise, such as that now before us, will require all the funds that can possibly be raised by us for Foreign Missions. It will be necessary, therefore, if we expect to see our mission succeed, for parties hitherto providing for the support of native preachers, to withdraw their support, and transfer their contributions to the general fund of our Independent Mission.

But while it is desirable that this change be made, it is also very desirable that it be made in the right way. It would be manifestly improper for Church, or individual, hitherto furnishing the support of a native preacher, to discontinue the same, without giving previous notice to that effect. All parties intending to turn their contributions henceforth into the new channel, should give due notice, that at such a time the support hitherto provided would be discontinued; otherwise unexpected embarrassment must be experienced both by the men themselves, and by the missionaries who employ them.

This subject has been brought particularly to our notice by recent communications from Burmah, which state that funds for the above object are not forthcoming—and yet no notice has been given that such would be the case.

Now, we, as a Board, have never assumed any authority in this matter—and all we can do is to suggest what we think would be the best course to pursue.

We would suggest, then, that you continue the support of the native preacher hitherto sustained by you, until the meeting of the Convention in August next, and if you intend at that time to transfer your contributions to our Independent Mission, you give notice to the Board to that effect now, so that we may inform the Missionaries at once—that after August next, they must look to some other source for the support of the native preachers under their care.

We suggest this course as the best and most honorable, and we trust it may meet your approval. Please give the matter your early attention.

By order of the Board.

W. B. BOGGS.

Secretary F. M. Board.
St. John, N. B.,
March 14, 1873.

FROM RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

The following letter was received on Saturday last from Rev. E. M. Saunders by one of the brethren in the city.

RICHMOND, VA., March 24, 1873.

My Dear Brother,—

Mr. — will tell you of my health. In this note I will give you a little sketch of the first meeting for worship that I attended in Richmond. I went on Sabbath morning to Dr. Burrow's church; and on entering the basement story I found the Sabbath school in session. I was introduced by Mr. Corey to Dr. B. and also to the super-

intendent and others. There were present in the school four hundred and eighty-one pupils. Many of the teachers had grey hair and grey beards. And there were many young men and young women among the pupils. They are holding a series of meetings about this time, and there is a revival in the congregation. It was evident on entering the room that a solemn feeling was upon the minds of the people. It was something that could be felt. Dr. B. was present and the exercises were shaped to be in harmony with the revival. After singing a spirited hymn, Dr. B. gave an invitation to all who had decided to follow Christ to come to the front and shake hands with him and a Mr. Nimfree who was to preach for him that morning. About twenty-eight responded. Among them were little girls and little boys, such as are found in your house and mine, and in other families in our congregation. These reflections came upon me so suddenly that you will not be surprised when I tell you that I was melted to tears. O that the little ones at home could be persuaded to follow the Lord—their Saviour. I saw little boys and girls weeping as if their little hearts were full. After these had all been shaken by the hand and kindly spoken to, another hymn was sung and an invitation given for all who had made up their minds to seek Christ, to come forward. I think there were about twelve accepted this invitation. These were tenderly exhorted to continue seeking the precious Saviour. Soon the morning services began and I was pressed to take a seat in the pulpit. The congregation filled the house. There are galleries on every side of the house; and I was told that there were not less than twelve hundred present. Mr. Nimfree preached. After which the pulpit moved back and disappeared through the wall; and from the place where I sat on the platform, there opened up a beautiful Baptistery. By and by the Dr. appeared in the water leading into sight of the congregation a blooming and happy looking young lady. This went on till there were fifteen buried with Christ in baptism. It was a heavenly sight. They were all calm and evidently happy. Among the number were two little girls about eleven or twelve years old. On one side of the Baptistery there was an elevation in the bottom so that the heads of these little girls were as high as that of the Dr. When the Dr. stood there in the water up to his breast, repeating appropriate passages of Scripture, and making happy remarks, his round, genial face beaming with harvest-joy, and the blooming little girl standing by his side, as calm as a summer evening, her face radiant with the new born joy of her soul, her flaxen tresses flowing down upon her shoulders and floating away on the water, I was overwhelmed with emotion in contemplating the scene in all its aspects and in all its bearings. Again I thought of home and our families and Sabbath school. When will the Lord come and revive us. Kind regards to your family, and all the friends. If you think this would be interesting to our Sabbath school you can use it as you please.

Very truly yours,

E. M. SAUNDERS.

Since the above was in type we have received a longer and very interesting letter from Mr. Saunders, which will appear in our next. We are thankful to say that his health is rapidly improving.

We had purposed to lay before our readers some thoughts concerning the refusal of the government to give the reasons for Mr. Parsons' dismissal. Even the *Morning Chronicle* indicates that the refusal was a mistake saying: "We regret that the Government did not accede to the request of Mr. Holmes, and lay upon the table the reasons for ousting Mr. Parsons from office."

We have thought, however, that a summary of what took place in the House of Assembly on the subject would show more clearly than anything we might say, the injustice done to Mr. Parsons in this matter:

Mr. Holmes called attention to the reasons given by the Government for the dismissal of Mr. Parsons from the Inspectorship of Schools for Halifax County. The papers laid on the table were as follows: 1st. Minute of Council.

"The Council of Public Instruction met in the Council room this 2nd of Sept. 1872. The Council deliberated on the propriety of a change in the incumbent of the office of Inspector of Schools for the City and County of Halifax. After mature consideration the Secretary of the Council was instructed to inform Mr. Parsons that his term of office should cease on the 31st day of October next, and to instruct

him that all official documents, &c., must be handed over to his successor in office.

A. S. HUNT.

"Secy. C. P. I."

2nd. The second was a letter from the Superintendent of Education, as Secretary of the Council of Public Instruction, informing Mr. Parsons of his dismissal to take effect on the 31st of October following, and instructing him to hand over all official documents and other property belonging to his office.

3rd. The third was a letter from Mr. Parsons to Rev. A. S. Hunt. It was as follows:

"HALIFAX, 16th Sept., 1872.

Rev. A. S. HUNT, M. A.

"Secy. C. P. I."

Dear Sir,—

"My absence from the Province prevented the receipt of your letter of 2nd March, till yesterday.

"I beg to ask the cause of my dismissal by the Council of Public Instruction, and if any charges have been preferred against me I desire a copy.

"More than four years diligent service in the discharge of my duties as Inspector, will surely warrant me in requesting to know the cause for my removal from office.

"An early reply will oblige,

"Yours truly,

"J. PARSONS.

Sd

4th. The fourth and last document he (Mr. Holmes) had received was a letter from Rev. Mr. Hunt addressed to Mr. Parsons as follows:

"EDUCATION OFFICE, Sept. 25, 1872.

"J. PARSONS, Esq.,

"Dear Sir,—

"On my return to this office on Friday last I received your note of the 16th inst.

"Your note shall be laid before the Council of Public Instruction at its earliest meeting.

Yours truly,

A. S. HUNT.

Secy to the C. P. I."

This closed all the correspondence between Mr. Parsons, the Superintendent, and the Council.

Mr. Holmes continued it would be seen that the Government had declined to inform Mr. Parsons of any reason for his dismissal. If any such reason existed the Government had also declined to furnish it according to his (Mr. Holmes) request. He had been asked by Mr. Parsons to make this request, which he (Mr. P.) was not able to make, and Government had refused to comply with it. He would now ask the Government to furnish this House with the reasons for the dismissal of Mr. Parsons. It would be satisfactory to the country to know those reasons. The office was too closely allied to the cause of Education, and of too great importance to allow any person to be dismissed without reason, or without having the reasons laid before him, that both he and the country might know them.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said that when the hon. member for Pictou had handed in his request he had handed it over to the Superintendent of Education. He was not aware until to-day that the hon. member had asked for the reason of the dismissal.

Mr. Blanchard asked if we were in the age of responsible government or not? Here had a man been dismissed from office; and now the question was asked, Why? He would say that the government that did not answer that question on the spot were retrograding from all the principles of responsible government. No government should dismiss a public officer without being prepared to lay on the table their reasons for doing it. When a man held an office he should not be dismissed without an opportunity being afforded him of hearing the reasons of his dismissal. The principle was as old as the New Testament. This man had no such opportunity. He had asked the Government to give him their reasons, and had been refused. He (Mr. B.) felt compelled to say that it was not the system on which a government should be conducted.

Hon. Prov. Secretary thought that the government could remove a public servant on sufficient grounds, just as a private person could remove his private servant and when a public servant was removed the house had a right to suppose that it was done on very good grounds and in the interests of the public service.

Mr. Holmes said that the house wanted the reason for Mr. Parsons' dismissal in order that they might judge whether he had been properly dismissed or not. This is what he had asked for the other day. If those reasons proved to be satisfactory, he for one would move any further, and he presumed that no other hon. gentleman would. He thought that the Government should give these reasons at once for their own protection.

Mr. Blanchard said it was one of the first principles of responsible Government, that when an officer was dismissed by the Government, they were bound to give the reasons for that dismissal when they were asked for. If such information was to be refused the house might as well go home, and let the Government manage the affairs of the country without control.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said if he had done exactly as the hon. member for Pictou had requested he would have attached a piece of paper to those handed to the hon. member, stating that Mr. Parsons had been removed for "good and sufficient reasons."

Hon. Prov. Secretary said Mr. Rand and Mr. Parsons were always bosom friends and there was very little that took place while Mr. Rand was in the education office, that Mr. Parsons did not know. But there was no feeling of harmony between Mr. Parsons and the present Superintendent in any way, and in fact the government were led to suppose that Mr. Parsons would be only too glad at any time to take advantage of the present Superintendent and throw obstacles in the way of his carrying out successfully what he should undertake. This had gone on until it reached such a point that it was necessary for the government to move in the matter, and to re-

move either the Superintendent or the Inspector. As there was no choice, and as the Superintendent was much more useful, in every way, as a provincial officer, than Mr. Parsons was, as Inspector of Halifax Co., the Government felt that it was better to remove Mr. Parsons and to allow the Superintendent to remain.

Mr. Blanchard said that if Mr. Hunt wanted Mr. Parsons removed, and the government felt disposed to gratify him, the right way would have been for the Superintendent to have put a letter in the hands of the government saying that he could not any longer continue to discharge the duties of his office efficiently while Mr. Parsons remained Inspector. Every one knew that the two offices were entirely independent of each other. It would not do for the Government to dispose of this enquiry as they were now seeking to do.

Mr. Morrison said if the government had not dismissed Mr. Parsons, he would have done his best to dismiss them.

Mr. Holmes said it seemed that the hon. member for Colchester had taken upon himself the functions of the Government. The Government must have felt somewhat astonished to find one of their underlings discharging the duties that they were either indisposed or unable to perform. Mr. Holmes moved the following resolution:—

Whereas, J. Parsons has been dismissed from the office of Inspector of Schools for the County of Halifax, and it appears by the correspondence on the subject laid upon the table of the house, that the Government has not informed Mr. Parsons of the reason of his dismissal, and the said correspondence does not inform this house of the cause of his dismissal;

Therefore Resolved, That this house requests the Government to lay upon the table of the house the reasons for which Mr. Parsons was dismissed from the office of Inspector of Schools, and the charges, if any, preferred against him.

Mr. Blanchard seconded the resolution and said that unholy hands had been laid upon the holy cause of education, and it was prostituted for political purposes before the face of the whole country. He was sorry to hear that Mr. Hunt was a party to that prostitution, for he had thought better of that gentleman. It was mere pretence to say that he was dismissed because he could not agree with the Superintendent.

Mr. Blanchard said it was amusing to hear the hon. Atty. General say that the Government had dismissed Mr. Parsons because the Superintendent recommended it. Did the hon. gentleman forget that a few years ago the same government dismissed Mr. George in the face of the superintendent's recommendation? They had also dismissed an inspector in the county of Kings and had never to this day given their reasons. Now when they were asked to say why they had dismissed the inspector of Halifax county, they said that it was because he could not agree with the superintendent.

Mr. Woodworth said that the doctrine held by the government upon this matter was a very strange and a very dangerous one. He could hardly believe that he was sitting as the representative of a constituency under responsible government, and listening to a declaration of the government that they could of their own mere motion discharge any official they pleased without giving the reasons to this house. He had heard of such things in the middle ages. He had heard of the Star Chamber, but he did not know that such an institution existed in British America. He would ask hon. members on both sides of the house if such a declaration as the government had made did not savour of tyranny and oppression. The meanest criminal that was committed for the smallest act of felony, was entitled to a hearing. But the government after waiting for seven months, and being asked in the press for the grounds of this dismissal, and after laying on the table the papers containing what proved to be a very modest request from the dismissed Inspector for the reasons for his removal, had come down and stated through the hon. Prov. Sec. that there was only one ground for the removal of that officer. That reason was that he was the bosom friend of Rand, and that they were afraid that he would communicate with his bosom friend some things that occurred in the Superintendent's office; though they did not say that he had ever done so. They discharge Mr. Parsons without any cause alleged. It was not pretended that he had done anything beneath the dignity of his office, or that he was not an enthusiastic educationist, working with all the zeal and ability at his command. He contended that the government were bound to give the reasons for their conduct. If they now took shelter under a vote of the majority of this House, and refused to give their reasons, they would stand condemned.

Hon. Attorney General gave a lengthy speech in defence of the government to which Mr. Blanchard and others replied.

When the vote was taken there appeared:

For the Resolution:—Messrs. Rennie, MacRae, Vickery, Dr. Campbell, Penco, Allison, Woodworth, Holmes, Blanchard and McKay.—11

Against it:—Messrs. Freeman, Eisenhauer, Gayton, Archibald and Ross, Hon. Mr. Robertson, Mr. Wyldo, Hon. Mr. Fergusson, Hon. Prov. Secretary, Hon. Commr of Crown Lands, Hon. Commr. Mines, Hon. Atty. General, Messrs. Johnston, Taylor, Kirk, Morrison, McDonald, Doucette, C. J. Campbell and DesBrisay.—20.

The resolution was therefore lost.