

state briefly the origin of the discussion. Several of those who had formed part of Mr. Stamer's congregation, attended baptist meetings; some of them, in consequence, sought the Saviour and found him, to the joy of their souls. Finding their mistake with regard to Christian baptism, they were "Buried with Christ by baptism," thus denouncing the sprinkling ordinance administered in their baby-hood. Mr. S. then began to bestir himself by increasing the usual number of services in the churches, going from house to house to indoctrinate his people. At those extra services the Rev. gentleman expressed his willingness to meet anyone at any place to discuss the subject of Infant Baptism. His beautiful challenge he uttered in the unknown presence of a Baptist, by whom it was noted; and an acceptance of it by Rev. W. E. Hall was presented to him within the walls of his own sanctuary, in the presence of a large number of witnesses—to which he acceded. Mr. Stamer on the following day notified Mr. H. that he would meet him on certain conditions, which he himself stipulated—one of which was the claiming of the first hour to express his views on Infant Baptism and its mode. Mr. H. conceded to Mr. S. his demand. A large and attentive audience assembled, and was called to order by J. E. Slatford, Esq., chosen as chairman, at 2 o'clock, P. M., on the day appointed, when Mr. S. delivered his views on the subject named. The following is the order of his remarks epitomized: "Infant Baptism," he said, "is not forbidden in the Bible—and he demanded proof that it is from his opponent. 'The ordinance had its origin in the Abrahamic dispensation—it grew out of circumcision which was never revoked.' Thus the Mosaic was merged into the Christian dispensation. 'The language of our Saviour in the Great Commission, 'Make disciples of all nations,' he considered must be understood to embrace the infants. As circumcision when the child was eight days old was the door into the Jewish Church, so Infant baptism is the door into the Christian church. Jesus' language in the 18th chapter of Luke, 'Suffer little children to come unto me,' etc., means that they are to be taken into His church. 'And he took them up into his arms,' etc., Mark x. 16—'a divine sanction of the ordinance.' The language in 1 Cor. vii. 14, quoted as a proof that 'children are fit subjects for baptism,' 'Children obey your parents in the Lord,' etc., Eph. vi. 1 is 'an absurd command if they are not to be initiated into the church in their earlier days by baptism.' 'The uninterrupted practice of this ordinance from the days of the Apostles is a fact not to be trifled with.' He Mr. S. stood before the audience a representative of the whole Christian world. 'How much safer for them to cast in their lot with the many rather than to be led away by a 'mere fragment.' 'If the few are right, then God is the Author of Sin in allowing His unnumbered millions to go unbaptized! 'The promise is to you and your children' etc., Acts ii. 42—the conversions of the households of Lydia and of the Jailer at Philippi were all dwelt upon, and held up as unmistakable evidences that infants are to be baptized. Reference was made more than once to 1 Cor. x. 1. 'All baptized unto Moses' etc., ridiculing the idea that the Israelites left their babies behind them to be destroyed by the Egyptians. Mr. S. did admit that there was one instance of immersion found in the Bible, 'Pharaoh and his hosts, the enemies to God's people were immersed and destroyed both soul and body.' Mark the inference! The language in Rom. vi. 4, 'Buried with Christ,' etc., he interpreted as having reference to 'that part of the burial ceremony where the earth is sprinkled upon the coffin.' Isa. lii. 25, and Ez. xxxvi. 25 were favorite passages of the speaker.

The well known ability of Rev. W. E. Hall, renders it unnecessary to occupy space in describing the masterly manner in which he, with the "Sword of Truth," demolished the positions taken by Mr. Stamer, and convinced every unprejudiced listener that none but believers are fit subjects for Christian baptism, and no mode is scriptural except immersion.

Mr. Stamer, probably feeling this, invited Mr. Hall to meet him at Hubbard's Cove in a certain building, which he named, to renew the combat, which invitation was accepted and the following day was agreed upon. Accordingly on Thursday the 9th inst. large number assembled at the place proposed by the challenging party only to learn that no effort had been made to secure the house named for the renewal of the discussion. To satisfy a manifest spirit of inquiry, Mr. Hall announced there to the as-

sembled hosts that he would preach the next Sabbath morning from Matt. xxi. 25 and in the afternoon would examine the claims of Baptismal Regeneration. We are pleased to add that the recent discussion of the subject of Baptism has already been, and is still likely to be productive of good results. 'The Book of Common Prayer' has already been discarded by some, and is no longer regarded as of Divine authority. Many have discovered that Episcopal authority is not necessarily Bible authority, and have resolved to regulate their future lives accordingly. The words of one of the most intelligent churchmen in the place are "The Baptists ought to be proud of Mr. Hall." Well, I believe they are and prouder still of the Bible.

AMANS VERO.
Ingram River, April 18th.

For the Christian Messenger.

A VISIT TO CHURCHES IN KINGS AND ANNAPOLIS COUNTIES.

Dear Editor,—
I am inclined to give you a few thoughts, gained by a visit to some of the churches so wonderfully blessed with revivals. Great was my joy in witnessing the work of the Lord in the 2nd Cornwallis church. God has blessed this people wonderfully in the bestowment of converting grace during the last eighteen years. In 1855 the Rev. John Chase united with the late venerated William Chipman, and God honoured them in gathering into the church 67 souls by baptism. In the summer of 1857 it was my privilege to co-operate with Father Chipman as a missionary-student from the College. This led to pastoral association and joint-labour with Father Chipman which was suspended for nine months in 1860 and 61. In that time God gave to the church 143 members by baptism. During my leave of absence brother Goulet joined hands with brother Chipman, and 13 more souls came into the church through burial with Christ in baptism. Valuable help was rendered by Bro. Robert S. Morton during this time. My labour with brother Chipman was resumed in the spring of 1861 and terminated by his death in 1865. God honoured our united labours in this period by bringing into the bosom of the church 70 rejoicing converts. Before closing my pastorate with the church in 1867, 24 other precious souls came gladly into the church by believers' baptism. Then comes the five years of arduous pastoral labour by brother Read, in which time God honoured him in leading into the church 55 more happy converts through the same, divine ordinance. And still they come to the church. Brother Wallace, in a few weeks, has led, if I mistake not, 118 souls into the baptismal waters. In these 18 years the church has been increased by baptism (490) four hundred and ninety. This is the period of my personal acquaintance with this church. Brother Wallace found the church calling on God, perhaps as it had never done before, for a blessing. He lifted up his heart and voice in faith and earnestness, and the blessing came. Said a sister to me, "My prayer through the winter was, 'Arise O Lord and plead thine own cause.'" A brother, past middle life, remarked to me, "I never knew before what it was to feel upon my heart so much of care for the church."

In the absence of brother Wallace I united with brother MacDonald in conducting a conference meeting, at Berwick, at which 172 spoke of the love of Christ, and four were received for baptism. One of those who spoke was dear brother Sandford, a deaf-mute. The tongue was silent, but the swimming eyes and the radiant countenance were eloquent; his fingered words were interpreted; but it was hardly necessary, for the silent language of heaven, uttered by his inimitable gestures and by an honest face, that never fails to express the real sentiments of the heart, was plain to all who saw him. God be thanked for the Institutions for the deaf and dumb. Before this good brother entered one of them he knew not that there was a God, and wondered why the dead horse was given to the beasts of the field, and a dead man so carefully buried. What hath God wrought? May God bless this church, and all the churches.

I enjoyed a day in the field where Dr. Tupper and Bro. Vidito are gathering sheaves. The united labours of these two veterans have resulted already in leading 63 into the church. The ardour of youth is still upon both of the servants of God. The work is wonderful and glorious in this place. The attention to divine things is unusual. I saw no careless ones. Old and young seemed all alike thoughtful.

At Bridgetown, the brethren are looking to God for a pastor to take the place of brother Armstrong with whom they parted reluctantly and with great grief. It is not common for more violence to be done to the heart—connexion than was felt by the Bridgetown church, and our brother mutually when the separation actually took place. One dear friend, Mr. Willett Marshall who felt the loss much, fell under a sudden stroke of apoplexy, and had not time to say Farewell. A brother's wife, Mrs. William Marshall, who visited the widow to console with her, and comfort her, was suddenly laid on her sick bed under the roof of the widow whose heart she came to cheer; and in a few days after burying her husband, the widow had the painful duty of closing the eyes of her comforter. The late pastor is much missed in these scenes of death; and it will move his heart much to hear it in his new field. From these departed ones I have received uninterrupted kindness for twenty one years. The mourners mourn with hope—a hope so much divine may trials well endure. Mrs. Wm. Marshall had long been a worthy and honoured member of the Bridgetown church. In these three fields to which I have referred, I have a peculiar interest. Where Dr. Tupper now is, I was buried with Christ in baptism, twenty-five years ago by the late Rev. J. Park. Twenty years ago, I was taken by the hand by brother Armstrong, and led into one of his pulpits to preach my first sermon. God bless him. He gave warm sympathy and good advice to the young man. About 16 years ago the hands of ordination were laid upon my head at Berwick. May God bless those churches.

A few drops of converting grace fall upon Granville Street Church year by year. Six have put on Christ by baptism this year; and we are looking for larger bestowments of blessing. Brother Wallace stands pledged to labour with us for a time. We trust he may soon see his way open to fulfil his promise; and may the Lord come with him.

On the first Sabbath in May we expect to ordain deacons, lately chosen to that office, Dr. Cramp is engaged to be with us and assist in the services.

Truly yours,
E. M. S.

Religious Intelligence.

REVIVAL ON STONACH MOUNTAIN, AND PRINCE ALBERT STREET.—In due season we shall reap, if we faint not. This has been remarkably verified in the present case. Vital religion had been in a low state on Stonach Mountain for a length of time. Attempts had been made to hold several series of meetings there; but, while some benefits evidently resulted, storms, impassable roads, &c., seemed to prevent special success.

A revival, however, appeared so manifestly needful that Bro. J. A. More, who spends a portion of the time there, and I determined to put forth an earnest effort, in dependence on the Divine blessing, for the attainment of this important object. A series of meetings was therefore commenced on the 9th day of March. For some days the prospect seemed unpropitious. After fulfilling my appointments on the plains the next Sabbath after, though there were extra meetings held which I could much more conveniently attend, yet, as Bro. Moore had been ill, and our brethren on Stonach Mountain especially needed assistance, I returned thither. Ere long the prospect began to brighten. After remaining three days, being indisposed, it became needful for me to return home. It was, however, consoling to me to know that Bro. M. was able to labor, and that he had far more help from members of the church than formerly.

On Lord's day, March 22nd, he baptized one person, on the 29th, five, and April 5th, fifteen, together 21.

After assisting in various other places nearer my home, I returned to Stonach Mountain, March 28th, and spent the Sabbath forenoon there, and the next Tuesday. It was truly cheering to find the work progressing.

Bro. M. and I, according to agreement, commenced special services at Prince Albert Street on Monday, March 30th. The field seemed white, ready to harvest. At the close of the first meeting, five arose to request special prayer to be offered for them; and at the close of the second about 15. A deep sense of eternal things appeared evidently to pervade the assemblies.

In the first instance of baptism at Prince Albert street two went forward in

that ordinance; and on Lord's day past, April 19th, sixteen.

Besides the thirty-nine thus added in these two sections of the Upper Wilmot Church, there are others received for baptism in each; and more are expected to come forward soon. "Bless the Lord, O my soul!"

On the Sabbath past, April 19th, Bro. Vidito baptized nineteen more in Tremont. These make the number sixty-three thus recently added to the Baptist Church of Lower Aylesford and South Wilmot.

I trust you will soon have a cheering notice of the advancement of the cause in Melvern.

May this gracious work advance and extend its salutary influence far and wide; and all who profess faith, be "faithful unto death!"

C. TUPPER.
Aylesford, April 21, 1874.

BRIDGEWATER, April 20, 1874.—Dear Bro.—We rejoice at the good tidings brought to us weekly in the Messenger. God has not forgotten us. We are enjoying a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pleasantville, about six miles from Bridgewater. Many are converted. Numbers more are enquiring, and some have already followed their Lord in baptism. Saturday afternoon last, the largest conference ever held in LaHave met, eighty-five persons testified of Jesus, fourteen of them for the first time, five were received for baptism and yesterday in the presence of upwards of 1000 persons followed their Lord in that ordinance. The work is but just begun. Pray for us.

S. MARCH.
P. S.—One restored making six who received the right hand of fellowship. Also, at our Conference meeting here on the first Saturday in this month one was restored, and two received by letter.

S. M.

KENTVILLE.—The Baptist church here is still making progress. On Lord's Day, 19th inst., Rev. Jas. Parker, now their settled pastor, baptized two on a profession of faith in Christ, and four other persons were received by letters of dismission from other churches. The church was organized on the 3rd of March with twenty-four members, it now numbers fifty-eight. Valuable accessions have been made by parties who have removed into the town from other places.

The Sabbath School, too, is doing an excellent work. May a rich blessing rest on all connected with this hill of Zion.

BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, April 13th, 1874.—Dear Bro. Selden,—I need not say how cheering to our hearts, are the gracious revival tidings.

The Lord has been very good to us in this land wherein we have been strangers.—During the 6 months we have been here, I have had the happiness of baptizing 42, and receiving 19 more, into the church, by experience and letter.

One of the last baptized was our eldest daughter, aged 10 years—the same age at which I also was baptized by the late Father Wm. Chipman. Memorable season that—and to be held by many in grateful, and everlasting remembrance.

Rev. A. McDonald of the Manotoba Mission, is to lecture in Brantford this coming Friday evening. His efforts are being very encouragingly successful.

The backwardness of the Spring is proving injurious to the Winter wheat crop. I will try and sharpen up my corresponding pen, and in the mean time,

Believe me,
As ever yours,
W. H. P.

GREENFIELD, ANNAPOLIS Co., April 15th, —Dear Brother Selden,—Since I last wrote I baptized one at Middlefield, and seven at Greenfield, one restored, and the Lord is still calling others. I have just returned from Chelsea, were I spend part of my time. There we enjoyed a glorious outpouring of God's Spirit. Whole congregations bowed under a sense of God's presence. Between twenty and thirty have confessed their love to Christ, and many more are deeply impressed with a sense of their lost condition. Our great trouble is to get a suitable place to hold meetings in, they have no Meeting-house. The fields all around are white for the harvest.

Yours, &c.,
H. ACHILLES.

BEAVER RIVER.—Rev. J. H. Saunders writes, April 20th: "We are enjoying a season of refreshing in one section of the Beaver River Church. We have received thirteen members by baptism, and are hoping that the good work will extend."

CLEMENTSPORT, April 24th, 1874.—Dear Brother.—The Clements Church rejoices in an ingathering, commenced at the Goat Island section. We baptized seven to-day. Many more profess to be dead to sin, dead to the world, and dead to the penalty of the law, and are waiting to symbolize these facts by being "buried with Christ in baptism." There is a great movement amongst the young people. To God be all the glory.
Yours very truly,
J. M. PARKER.

PINE GROVE, WILMOT, AND NICTAUX.—Brother Page informs us, April 23rd: "The work of grace is still progressing at Pine Grove. Brother McLean is laboring there, and quite a number have been received for baptism. Bro. Blakeney has already baptized 56 in connexion with the Nictaux Church, and a goodly number expect to be baptized on the first Sabbath in May."

NEW ALBANY.—A letter from Mr. D. Whitman, informs us that twenty nine persons have already been baptized and united with the church in that place, and a number more await the ordinance. The influence of the revival is extending.

UPPER AYLESFORD.—Rev. J. L. Road baptized twenty-one believers in the Lord Jesus, on the 19th inst.

AFRICAN BAPTIST.—The Rev. James Thomas baptized 10 persons at Africville near the Three Mile House, on Sunday last. A large number of persons were present.

GASPEREAUX, April 25th.—Dear Bro. Selden.—We are still enjoying the revival influence. Last Sabbath I had the privilege of baptizing 16 happy believers, making in all 151 that I have baptized since the first of February, 12 others are received for baptism. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."
Yours very truly,
E. O. READ.

NEW MINAS.—Rev. James Parker baptized six persons into the fellowship of the Third Horton Church on Lord's Day the 26th.

BERWICK AND CAMBRIDGE, CORNWALLIS, Monday, April 27, 1874.—Dear Brother.—The work of God still advances graciously in Berwick and the surrounding country. Yesterday, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather seventeen courageous and happy converts were baptized into the fellowship of the 2nd Cornwallis Baptist church—thirteen at Berwick and four at Cambridge. Six others are received for baptism, and many more have their faces Zionward. During this marvellous revival one hundred and thirty-five have been added by baptism, and ten by letter and experience, and this number will likely be considerably enlarged during coming weeks. The brethren and sisters are organizing for work and are nobly girding themselves to their increasing responsibilities.

Much sympathy is felt for our dear brother McDonald in his deep affliction. He spent a week in this field during my absence in Yarmouth, and by his faithful labours and Christian spirit endeared himself to the people. His return is greatly desired.

I wish my papers and correspondence sent to Wolfville.
Yours in the work,
ISA. WALLACE.

REV. GEORGE P. MILES writes from Amherst—Dear Messenger.—Last Lord's day in the presence of a large congregation I baptized five believers into the fellowship of the Baptist Church, at Point DeBute, N. B. Many appear anxious about their salvation, and I trust a goodly number have obtained hope of eternal life. Others are received for baptism. Rejoice with us.
April 24th, 1874.

P. S.—Many young people in this village are rejoicing our hearts by their exhortation in the House of God. Truly it is a time of God's power.
G. F. M.

Dominion & Foreign News.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 20, 1874

The House of Commons has been in Committee of supply during the past week. Discussions have arisen on many of the items from day to day. One of these was on the Railway terminus at St. John, another the St. Lawrence Canal. On Friday night the House was so occupied till 2 o'clock the next morning.

The Elections Bill was also under debate. The ballot clause is very distasteful to many. On a motion for open nomination, a division took place resulting in a vote of 42 for to 98 against.

In discussing Militia items, the Premier said "it was their intention to place an English Major General at the head of the Canadian Militia."

Mrs. Cohen, an old lady, was burned to death in Montreal on Tuesday last, and her husband dangerously injured by the burning of their house.

UNITED STATES:

President Grant has vetoed the Financial Bill.

In his veto from his previous against inflation payments. He Congress, ple States liabilities use of the rec recommends s as will meet e The press President's veto feeling of reli disposition of t The British Liverpool to Cape Florida. The new bloodshed The Governme of the situat provol of the clamatio call of the Legisla In Boston Pomeroy, agr old child, who in the subur eighteen time throat. The pardoned for cutting and younger than Despatches favorable effe upon United J. John Reve men named M left Five Fat for Cape M swamped, an Reeves, who Despatches that the who mouth of the and that ten on the verge New O.le people, to w given, and suffering the issued a pr that every eff distressed, a to forward th The overl Arkansas r large number and causing is stated 25 starvation passed Cong being raised citizens of B for the suffer Reports last came England and Hampshire u to the depti York the sto than any ki damage to sl Later rep the necessit urgent. Th 900 rations i In the Se introduced r independence Articles of Thursday la Brown, of of Pittsburg the Connect in latter par Julius P. cut his thro last week, b troubles. Steamers "Boston" co Monday th "City of an and the p person was Two tug assist the st ly. Nine mer New Orlean were picke New York ling Eshlat 3 per cent. LATE ENGLAND Monday th to Sir Gar the Queen The Hot reduction of the pound, duty as rec The Indi ordinary ex account of propos a demands. On Frid Marquis of harvest in and that famine was A telegr said: "L tially relie pumps, and in the a to get her Transatlan touching h Christian