

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADEMY AT WOLFVILLE.

Lest the Baptist Denomination should be led from my silence to suppose the plan for the erection of a Female Seminary at Wolfville, proposed by me June 3rd, to the Governors of Acadia College, and accepted by them, had been abandoned, I deem it judicious to inform your readers that it has not.

At the Convention last August at Portland, N. B., the Governors of Acadia College confirmed the adoption of the project proposed to them in the previous June by passing unanimously the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Governors of Acadia College shall place at the disposal of the regularly constituted Directors of said Company, by lease or otherwise, not less than four acres of land on the north side of the road at Wolfville as a site for a Female Academy whenever the Directors shall make it appear that they are in a position to erect and complete the said Female Seminary, and that the said land shall be valued at \$500 per acre, or what is equal to a subscription of twenty shares of paid up stock.

Passed August 24th, 1874. In a very few days more detailed information will be circulated or be laid before the Baptist of the Maritime Provinces, which will place the matter in a clear and more distinct light.

Every hour attests the pressing necessity for the larger, separate, and more commodious building to accommodate the young women of these Provinces with home comforts and protection. As the proposed buildings will accommodate from 100 to 125 pupils and staff with comfort, if the club system possesses advantages as regards economy, this number will so far as that is concerned be sufficient to give the undertaking an impartial trial.

I remain, Your obedient servant, HENRY N. PAINT.

Halifax, Nov. 27th, 1874.

For the Christian Messenger.

First. It is easy for the regenerated soul to love God.

Second. Loving Him, it is easy to do His will, with both inner and outer man.

Will some Brother, whose eye this may reach, after trying out these propositions in his own experience, but not till then, favor us with their views of them, whether in way of amendment, confirmation or otherwise, and oblige, Yours truly, A.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., DECEMBER 2, 1874

WEEK OF PRAYER 1875.

There is no need that we should commend the invitation of the Evangelical Alliance, and urge our readers and brethren to accept their programme, and endeavour again to carry out its objects. It commends itself to our judgment and heart; and the experience we have had of good in answer to prayer, offered on these occasions, are enough to warrant us in believing that it will be again adopted and carried out wherever it is at all possible to do so.

The following is the Circular:—

The voice of God in His Holy Word, and in the passing events of His all-wise and mysterious providence, calls His Church to prayer—believing, united, and universal prayer. "I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

"I will, therefore, that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love, and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."

What grander spectacle, or one more in harmony with the divine will, can be witnessed on earth, than the children of God, of all nations and of various sections of the Christian church, united at the same time with one accord, in supplication for the same blessings, to their one Heavenly Father, through their one and only Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. The spectacle has now for many years been seen.

Since the formation of the Evangelical Alliance—a society which brings into visible union and fellowship the children of God, of all lands—Christians have been accustomed, with increasing encouragement and advantage, to set apart the opening week of the new year, commencing with the first Sunday in January, for special

supplication on behalf of the Christian church, and of the families of mankind. Who can estimate the spiritual blessings bestowed in answer to the petitions that have gone up year by year at that season, from the hearts of multitudes throughout the world? May we not gratefully connect with these petitions, the effusion of the Holy Spirit in various countries, the opening of many lands to the entering in of God's word, and the preaching of His gospel, as well as the triumphs of His grace in the hearts and lives of the people.

"Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance when it was weary." The state of the world, and of the visible church of our Lord Jesus Christ, supplies matter for renewed and fervent intercession. In view especially of the contentions and controversies among Christians, and of the various assaults of infidelity and superstition upon our Bible, our Sabbath and our evangelical faith, let us, if spared, meet the new year in the spirit of humble faith and unfeigned love, and inaugurate its commencement with devout and combined supplication, "with one accord," at the mercy seat of God, such as will entitle us to expect the fulfilment of "His exceeding great and precious promises."

We therefore cordially, and with all earnestness, invite you to repeat and perpetuate the observance of the Annual Week of Prayer; and by giving publicity to this invitation, endeavor to promote its observance in your city, town, or neighborhood, for the spiritual benefit of many, and of those especially who have not hitherto participated in its privileges. "O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." "Let us exalt his name together."

The request will not be given in vain. The hallowed influence of former year's services, still lingering in the hearts of thousands, will obtain to this invitation a quick and devout response.

"O, Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come."

The following topics are suggested as suitable for exhortation and intercession on the successive days of meeting:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3.—Sermons.—Christ the one Prophet, Priest and King.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4.—Thanksgiving and Confession.—Review of the past. Prayer for grace to express gratitude, not only with the lip, but in the life. Humiliation for personal and national sins. Prayer for the riches of mercy, and prayer to overcome temptation.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5.—National Objects for Prayer.—For kings, and all in authority; for soldiers and sailors; for the rich and the poor; for prisoners and captives; for the afflicted and bereaved; for the persecuted and oppressed.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6.—Home Objects for Prayer.—Our children at home, in business, and abroad; for tutors and guardians; for universities and colleges; for the Christian ministry, and Sunday Schools.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7.—Home Objects for Prayer.—The extension of religious literacy throughout the world; the prevalence of peace among nations; the increase of harmony, sympathy, and service among Christians of all lands; the subordination of international intercourse, and the increase of commerce, and of science, to the spread of Christ's kingdom.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8.—Missionary Objects for Prayer.—For the conversion of the house of Israel; for the spread of the gospel in heathen lands, and for the deliverance of nations from the yoke of superstition.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9.—Prayer for Religious Revival.—On the churches throughout the world, for their increase in zeal, spirituality, and devotedness; and for a clearer witness for the truth among them.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10.—Sermons.—The essential unity of Christ's church, and the obligation, binding on all its members, to manifest it "in the bond of peace."

Judge Marshall's active mind and pen have produced another pamphlet, of 24 pages, entitled "Bible Truth versus Oppositions of Science." It is called forth by a paper read before the late Evangelical Alliance Conference at Montreal by Professor McKnight on "Confessions and Creeds." The Judge objects to the statements made respecting the Creation—that the first day or lengthened period, was occupied in creating the matter of the heavens and the earth and the other days in making from them all the rest of animate and inanimate nature. The geological indications of a date much further back than the four or five thousand years of our common reckoning he thinks may be accounted for as the effects of the convulsions which took place at the time of the deluge.

The meetings for Prayer during last week in Granville Street Church, were of a most interesting character, and were attended by large numbers, many of whom were deeply concerned about their own personal salvation. On Wednesday evening quite a number indicated their desire to become followers of Christ—it was a very remarkable meeting and worthy of a more lengthened notice. On Friday evening nine

were received for baptism, after giving very satisfactory testimony of their faith in the Lord Jesus. One case was a very practical illustration of our Lord's injunction: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not,"—a lad of 12 years related his experience, and, as in one or two instances at previous meetings, was joyfully received as having become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

On Lord's Day, these nine believers were baptized by Rev. E. M. Saunders. Three of the number were parents, and the children of pious parentage, who had been, in past years, the subjects of many prayers.

Several others have given indications of religious concern. Perhaps there was never a time when it was felt in the city more generally, as well as in this congregation, that the Gospel is worthy of all acceptance and the pearl of great price, which, if men are wise, they will obtain at whatever cost.

The marvel of this revival is that it should have followed the visit of Mr. Earle, who divided his time in Halifax pretty equally between the several churches of the different denominations of evangelical Christians. He came too, not in the first place, at the solicitation of Granville Street Church, yet many there, as well as in other churches, will long be thankful for his visit to our city.

It is a good while since we received a letter that pleased us more than the following which came to hand a few days since, from one of our much respected agents:

NOVEMBER 16TH, 1874.

Mr. Editor,—

DEAR SIR,—I enclose in this letter to you eight dollars and the name of a new subscriber. Mr. [redacted] about ten years ago took the Christian Messenger, but was unable to pay for it. Being a poor man he stopped the paper until he could get money to pay for it. He now sends six dollars to pay up the old bill, and two dollars for the paper next year.

On old account. . . . \$6 00
In advance. 2 00

Yours, &c.,

We have no permission for the publication of the above or might have allowed the names also to appear. We venture to affirm that our worthy friend, the new subscriber to whom it refers, will read the paper with new interest and real benefit after paying the old score fully and honorably. We have a few other names on our books against which we should be happy to write the same thing we have done in this case.

Great dissatisfaction is felt among all parties at the changes recently made in the tariff of charges for freight by railway. The increased charge will of course have the effect of diminishing the amount of goods transferred by this means from one point to another, and therefore there will probably be but little addition to the revenue. It will be almost a prohibition to bringing coals to Halifax by railway, and will consequently raise the price of that article in these parts, and prevent its export during the winter.

The administration of our railway affairs is of first importance to our commerce. Our merchants have to compete with other places and it is unfair to have our trade driven out of the province by our want of railway facilities. The farmer should have every facility afforded to him for bringing his produce to market at reasonable rates. We hope that the authorities will perceive the injury that is being done before the experiment is carried to an extent which cannot be rectified.

"MAN'S UNSELFISH FRIEND," is the title of a very handsome Chromo, got up by the publisher of The Aldine. The picture is well worthy of that repository of Art. It is the head of a dog. The following is a good description of this fine work of art:

"The very nobility of doghood is shown in this fine head and bust, those of a Newfoundland, with perhaps a shade of softening cross with the great St. Bernard, affording a subject quite as capable of being loved as of loving. How tastefully and yet how naturally, is the neck encircled by that crumpled, curled fleece, from which the head rises as proudly yet unconsciously as the daintiest lady's from her ruff! How perfect, in short, are all the details of this admirable picture, the mere possession of which, in any house, will be quite equal in effect to a long sermon by the most renowned professor, against cruelty to animals.

The subscription price is \$6 00, which includes THE ALDINE, one year, this Chromo, and one share in the Art Union distribution.

THE ELECTIONS.

It is at length announced that we are to have a General Election. The Gazette of Wednesday last contained the proclamation. The Local Assembly is dissolved and writs issued bearing date the 23rd of November and returnable on the 4th of January, 1875.

Thursday the 10th of December is the day appointed for the Nomination of candidates and the following Thursday—the 17th, for the Polling Day wherever there may be a contest. Only about a fortnight has been given therefore to prepare for the campaign. But little time for parties to make arrangements and organize. Various changes will be made in the persons offering for election in several of the constituencies. These will render necessary a reconstruction of the government. There will probably be less adherence to party than heretofore. Electors will probably vote for men more than for party, and modifications will most likely be made after the elections, to suit the altered circumstances of the country.

The Halifax candidates in the interest of the party at present in power are, Messrs. P. C. Hill, Dr. Farrell and Donald Archibald. Mr. Hill has hitherto been on the side of the Opposition. If he is elected it is supposed that he will become an active member of the Government and will fill one of the Departmental offices—probably that of Provincial Secretary.

We have heard two or three names mentioned as likely to be the opposition candidates for this County, but as we have no sufficient authority for mentioning them we must leave them for the present week.

We have also heard the names of some likely to stand for other counties, but are in the same position with regard to them.

Perhaps there is no question on which the people have greater occasion for caution in the selection of their representatives to the Local Legislature than that of Education. The present position of our Common School Law, and its administration, particularly in Halifax, demands special attention. We know no reason why sectarian schools should be sustained by public taxation in the metropolis more than in other parts of the country. Men who are unsound on this matter should be rejected, to whatever party they may belong. Efforts will doubtless be made to further pervert Education to sectarian purposes, and bring the revenues which are derived from the whole people, and make them subserve the interests of a denomination. It is therefore of first importance that electors choose the right men on this question. Men who may be relied on in dealing with Temperance matters, should also be chosen in preference to those of doubtful principles. The ground already gained in the suppression of Intemperance, must not be lost by a want of vigilance on the part of friends to the Temperance cause.

The matter of road making and assisting to build railways, and a hundred other things we might notice will operate in certain sections of the country, but on these we need offer no word to our readers.

The Provincial Wesleyan of Saturday last says:—

Good Tidings we may convey to our readers from Halifax. The churches generally have been prospering of late. In our own there are penitents every night. At Gratton St., we are permitted to rejoice with parents who have prayed and waited for their children's conversion. Congregations large and devout are perpetually indicating how deep and wide spread is the feelings of awe and reverence. Brunswick St., has similar joy. May the blessed work continue and grow!

The Witness in an editorial article on the General Election makes some statements that are truly startling, and which demand enquiry. The editor says:

There is another matter which the Electors should note. We once and again called attention to the corruption practised in connection with the public printing in Nova Scotia. Past Governments, and public men in other days, may have done wrong; but it is with the present we have to deal; and we believe that matters have been growing steadily and rapidly worse.

The facts are to this effect:—The Morning Chronicle, the Citizen, and the Recorder are paid annually upwards of \$5,000 each for Public Printing. The work done for this money could be done under tender and contract for certainly not more than two thirds of the amount. The Chronicle alone has received within the past six years \$30,000 public money. The Recorder has fared probably about as well; and the Citizen during its brief existence

has been fed at much the same rate. These facts have been proved by us time and again. The proof is open to any eye. What makes this system so shameful is that the Government and Legislature have been profiting by the spoil divided among these offices.

KINGS COUNTY has Dr. Henry Shaw and Leander Rand named by the Chronicle yesterday morning as candidates. Messrs. D. B. Woodworth and D. Moore we understand have also been nominated for that county. The peculiar position of Mr. Woodworth will give much interest to this election, and this county has now before it the grave duty of approving or condemning the stand which Mr. W took last winter.

OBSERVE!!!

From this date to the end of 1874. NEW SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1875

WILL HAVE

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

from the date of our receiving their subscription to the end of 1874 FOR NOTHING.

ONE THOUSAND MORE.

Now is the best time of the year to begin. We want a thousand new subscribers added to our list to commence the New Year.

Reader, will you not try to obtain for us, at least, one new name?

Educational Record.

President Porter of Yale College has expressed his views on the course of study preparatory to college. He has a word in favour of the public school as furnishing an important part of the preparation:—"Those withdrawn to select schools have their attention diverted into a narrow range of acquisition. There is required of an educated man a background of common knowledge, which the college-bred man rarely possesses for this very reason. There is needed, too, a foundation in correct intellectual habits, which the public school, with its wider view, is better fitted to give than the mere grammar school. There is needed not less a foundation in common sense, an acquaintance with common things and common people, and with the common aims and hopes of the masses, which the segregation of the prevailing method prevents. I look to the years spent—unprofitably enough and under methods barbarous enough—in a certain old red school house, as among the most valuable of my life, for this very reason, and I believe that many will unite in like testimony."

We also quote what is said on the subject of examinations:—"A second pernicious feature of our preparatory schools is the growing tendency to trust in special examinations. They derive much prestige from the prevailing impression that they are used with great success in French and German schools. But we are to notice that French and German instruction—as any who have been under such teachers may readily judge—is by dictation, the pupil spending much of his time in copying into a book what he is expected to reproduce the next day. The pupil, used to this, can manifestly thrive better under the written examination system than can one under the American system, which depends largely on text-books. Another thing which gives the system public favor is the fact that the newspapers are constantly insisting on written examinations and the like, as the true method of deciding competitions for official position. Now I grant that the method of written examinations secures certain advantages which can hardly be found in any single other system. I also concede that it affords a discipline of nerve, of power of expression, and of expeditious work, which, at some time in an educational course, must be highly valuable. But I do claim that it is in many respects unfair; that the poor scholar, from a certain facility, may pass credible muster; that the real scholar, for lack of that facility, may suffer undeservedly. I ask anybody who is accustomed to read examination papers if he does not always read them with eyes enlightened by a knowledge of the scholar's real attainments, and if he does not always detect discrepancies.

A third pernicious feature of our preparatory school, is a tendency to rely on system and method, and the various paraphernalia of a well regu-