

of large and State Endowed Universities the verdict of the people is being silently but unmistakably cast in favor of what are called private and denominational schools.

The Ontario Churches have lately had a welcome addition to their stock of Pastors by the coming of the Rev. Calvin Goodspeed at the call of the Woodstock Church.

Dr. Fyle has returned from his European tour with improved though not fully re-established health, to find the Institute buildings pretty well filled with students awaiting his arrival.

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE PULPIT

No. 1.

By a figure of speech "the pulpit," stands for those who occupy the platform as preachers and teachers of the Christian Religion.

Of such, and with a view of elevating the standard of sermonizing, especially among our own (the Baptist denomination) I propose to present a few thoughts to the readers of the Christian Messenger.

I may not be so well qualified to discharge the self-imposed duty of criticizing the pulpit efforts of our public speakers, as many who are likely to peruse what I am about to submit, but to such permit me to say in the words of an ancient writer, Si quid novisti melius, imperti.—Si non has utere mecum.

It is not with the Baptists of Nova Scotia now as it once was—preachers or hearers. As a denomination, we have been using every effort to keep abreast, if not to excel others in an educational point of view.

Long training, added to close reading of the Scriptures, and much mental effort, sanctified by great grace, enabled them to sustain relations to those who waited on these Ministers, that commanded respect, and ensured success.

Since those days, and since most of the class of preachers to whom I refer have gone to their reward, another, and for the most part, a very different class and style of men have taken their places.

But while those who minister in our pulpits have made advances in a desirable direction, many of them, it must not be lost sight of that their hearers too have not been stationary.

I am not about to write an essay on pulpit eloquence, and yet I am fully persuaded that it affords a fine field for profitable cultivation to any one possessed of the capacity and leisure required for such a purpose.

am led into this train of thought in consequence of having, in the course of my career, witnessed a good many very wretched attempts, as I thought, at preaching, and pulpit oratory.

The pulpit orator possesses many advantages as compared with other public speakers. First, as has been well remarked, there is the dignity and importance of his subject. He has the language of inspiration, a storehouse of precious sentiments, full to overflowing, and with which he is, or ought to be familiar.

Compared with these, what has the orator of the secular character to place before his hearers? All his efforts, all his inducements, all his appeals are limited by that line of the horizon, which separates time from eternity.

Has it ever been your good fortune reader to listen to such a speaker? Mark how carefully and how correctly he introduces the subject of his discourse. Watch him narrowly and follow him closely and presently you will discover the design he has in view.

Go into a chapel, to hear a sermon from a modern preacher. Fix your eye upon him as he commences the service of the day. He lines out a hymn or a psalm, and from the sentiment breathing through it already you feel justified in supposing you have some foreshadowing of the topic likely to engage attention.

Then comes the opening prayer. I remember being present once, on such an occasion as I am trying to describe, with a college student, a lad who called my attention to the invocations used by the speaker in his prayer, and to make sure of it, I counted forty five times in this one prayer, the vocative case prefixed with Oh, or O were used.

Rev. Mr. Steele's lecture delivered at the Ministers' Institute at St. John, is apropos on many points to which I may call attention in a future letter.

But what right has any person, whether College bred or otherwise, to insult the common sense of an audience, by appearing before them as a preacher or teacher evidently unprepared, perhaps without a text, trusting to Providence.

MASSILLON.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

To REV. A. W. BARSS: Dear Brother,—The undersigned members of the church and congregation which have enjoyed the benefits of your Ministerial labours during the past two years desire to convey to you an expression of their deep sense of the earnestness, ability and zeal which have ever characterized your labours for our good.

J. CRANDALL, W. H. T. SUMNER, G. W. HONNELL, LOVEL LEWIS, T. KITCHIE, H. F. STEVENS, C. CHARTERS, E. HICKS.

Moncton, Sept. 31st, 1874.

REPLY.

Dear Brethren,—Your very kind and flattering address with the accompanying present is gratefully received.

The two years of labour amongst you have been years of deep anxiety for the welfare of the church and congregation.

It has been my aim to labour with an eye to God's Glory in view of the great judgement day, though conscious of many failings the blessings attending those labours are from God and He alone deserves the praise.

Had it been his will for me to labour with you longer I would have gladly done it, but seems not to be, therefore we must bow in submission and say Not my will, but thy will O Lord be done.

I thank you dear brethren for your kind wishes for myself and family, and pray that as God has permitted the separation to occur, He may provide you a pastor more worthy of the important trust of caring for the sheep and lambs of the flock.

Yours in the hope of eternal life, A. W. BARSS. Moncton, Sept. 26th, 1874.

Religious Intelligence.

ORDINATION AT ISAAC'S HARBOR.

An Ecclesiastical Council called by the Baptist Church at Isaac's Harbor, convened Sept. 26th at 2 P. M., to consider the propriety of publicly setting apart to the work of the Gospel Ministry Bro. L. M. Weeks.

Organized by choosing Rev. J. P. Beel, Moderator, and Rev. Geo. W. Thomas, Clerk.

After a short time had been spent in devotional exercises the names of the following delegates were enrolled.

Home Mission Board,—Rev. Isaiah Wallace, General Agent. Isaac's Harbor,—Brethren Allan McMillan, William Pride, William Lintless, Peter Paysanson, Guysboro,—Rev. J. P. Beel. Canso,—Rev. Geo. W. Thomas, Bro. W. H. Hutchison.

A rigid examination of the candidate's views of Bible doctrine followed, conducted by Bro. Wallace, and freely participated in by other members of the council.

The candidate's examination as well as his reference to Christian experience and call to the ministry, being of a very satisfactory character, the council unanimously decided to proceed with his ordination.

At 7 o'clock the public services took place as follows: Ordination Sermon,—By Bro. J. P. Beel, a very appropriate discourse founded on Rom. x. 13—15.

Ordaining Prayer,—Bro. J. P. Beel. Charge to the candidate, and right hand of fellowship,—Bro. Isaiah Wallace. Charge to Church,—Bro. Geo. W. Thomas.

Benediction,—By the Candidate. A deep solemnity pervaded the services throughout which seemed to indicate the marked presence and approbation of the Divine Master.

Bro. Weeks enters his work with encouraging prospects. He is highly esteemed by his people with whom he has successfully laboured during the past year.

At SACKVILLE.—On Sunday afternoon, 27th ult., Rev. Dr. Clay administered the ordinance of baptism to two persons here in the presence of a large congregation, many of whom had come from a long distance to be present on the occasion.

French Mission.—Rev. M. Normond writes:—Dear Brother,—No doubt the friends of the French Mission will be glad to hear of the progress of the Mission. On Sabbath last I had the pleasure of baptizing two happy converts, one of them had been a member of the church at Rome, the other was a lady of some sixty years of age.

We rejoice to announce that through the kindness of three or four generous friends the entire cost of the mission premises purchased for the English Baptist Mission in Italy at La Spezia has been met. There are now at that place large and convenient premises, available for a missionary residence, for schools, for a sailors' reading-room, and for public worship.

A German paper printed at Valparaiso, Chili says that, in a church belonging to the Jesuits, there is a representation of purgatory, in which are seen the figures of the Emperor William, Bismarck and Falk.

In the Fiji Islands, where forty years ago the people were so debased as to drink blood from human skulls, strangle widows and children, bury the helpless and the aged, etc., 10,000 people are now under the Methodist ministry alone, 25,000 attend the class meetings, and 63,000 children are in the Sabbath Schools.

I was taking tea with the missionary and his wife in the lone island of Kandavu, in the midst of 10,000 of these Fijians. As we were at tea, the bell rang. The missionary said, "that is the signal for family worship. Now listen; you will hear the drums beat;" and immediately they began to echo to each other round the shores of that southern sea.

At the First Baptist Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey, a little girl of nine years blind from her birth, was baptized. As she related her experience, the people were astonished at her intelligence and the soundness of her views, which had been spelled out with her fingers from the raised print of her Bible.

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A Touching Sight.—At the First Baptist Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey, a little girl of nine years, blind from her birth, was baptized. As she related her experience the people were astonished at her intelligence and the soundness of her views, which had been spelled out with her fingers from the raised print of her Bible.

Dominion & Foreign News.

HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER 7, 1874.

The Dominion official Gazette of Saturday contains the appointment of W. B. Yall, to be a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council of Canada and Minister of Militia.

The Great Western Railway Car Shops, at Clifton, Ontario, were burned on Tuesday night, with Graham's hotel.

An engine and five cars of a special train on the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railroad, were overturned on Tuesday by running over a cow. The fireman was instantly killed.

Hardman & Co's Tannery and Belting Factory, in Montreal, was burned on Monday 28th ult. Loss \$40,000—insured. Three cottages adjacent were also burnt—loss \$5,000.

The loss by the Lennoxville fire on Monday, is estimated at \$200,000.

The military academy is to be located at Kingston.

The steam saw mills of J. H. Hullett, Hamilton, Ontario, with a million feet of lumber, were burned on Saturday last.

It is estimated that a railway tunnel can be put under Niagara for a million dollars.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

A terrible accident occurred on Wednesday night on board the freight train from Moncton to St. John. A switchman named George McWilliams was engaged in directing two loaded flat cars into the siding at Petitecodiac Station, and while doing so noticed that the chain with which the cars were connected had become loosened and was dragging.

Sudden Death.—On Tuesday evening of last week W. H. Needman, Esq., while walking from the Court House at Woodstock stopped at a house for a drink of water, and almost immediately expired. He was a lawyer by profession. He was prominent in public affairs, having represented St. John in the Common Council. He was several times in the House of Assembly of New Brunswick.

Manship, the boy murderer of Sackville has been committed for trial.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Railway work is expeditiously performed at Charlottetown. Mark Butcher, Esq., recently built four first-class railway cars in the extraordinary space of thirty-one days. There were 14 men on an average, employed on the work; which was equal to one man for 105 days to each car. The workmanship has been pronounced by competent judges to be first class.

Forty candidates for teachers' licenses appeared for examination before the Board of Education, but were all refused. Their failure was mainly due to the fact that the Board had raised the standard of required proficiency.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The House of Assembly has been dissolved, and a general election will shortly be held.

UNITED STATES.

The Grand Duke Vladimir will represent the Emperor of Russia at the centennial exhibition at Philadelphia.

Great damage was done to the crops in North Carolina by a storm on Monday of last week.

An escort to a supply train repulsed 400 Indians, after three days fighting. The Indians had 27 killed; the troops 13 killed and wounded.

In New Orleans thirty houses in Mannis street were burned on the 1st inst; loss \$35,000.

A fire at Greenport St., destroyed 25 buildings; loss \$100,000, insured \$69,000.

A passenger train on the Utica and Shenandoah Valley railroad was wrecked by collision with a gravel train on Friday, and two persons were killed and several wounded.

Fire at Steubenville, Ohio, on Wednesday, caused loss of \$100,000; and at Chico, California, \$80,000.

Considerable damage was caused by a storm in a portion of South Carolina and Georgia, on Monday of last week.

It is reported that the New York agency of the Bank of Montreal loses \$250,000 by the failure of James Bishop & Co.

A collision Valley Railway was wrecked persons seriously injured. The Grand destroyed by \$400,000. Another e York for to time. Passenger pool have be SOUTH A refused the railroad.

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SPAIN.—A that there ar the Carlist ar TURKEY.— rapidly in the appeared in FRANCE.— of French m wife of Don frontier imm A despatch says that t Presented to dent McMaha of the ma Civita Vecel