

growth; but they are hoping for an imported growth. They pray that God will send them some good, live Christians to settle among them and strengthen their hands. Their longing for growth does not include a longing for the salvation of these masses among whom God has thrown them and whom he expects them to leave. These are the Gentiles who, at best, can only be "hewers of wood and drawers of water." These are the Samaritans, with whom no good Jew has any dealings.

But these church-members ought to remember that if God had anything to do with their location, He sent them there for some other purpose than to form a mutual admiration society, and to congratulate each other on having "all the best families in our church."

He did not send them merely to attract others like themselves to the same place, but that they might transform that very people among whom their lot is cast. If they were as anxious to give Christ's salvation to those about them as they are to attract kindred spirits to come among them, they would not long remain barren and unfruitful. When Paul's soul was stirred within him on seeing the whole city given to idolatry, he did not send to Jerusalem for a colony of saints to come and settle in Athens, but he went out on Mars' Hill and preached Jesus and the resurrection to those very idolaters, and the Church at Athens was the result. Let such a church as we are describing feel that they have a mission to that very people by whom they are surrounded, and use their refinement and talent and social power in opening the hearts to the Gospel, and there would soon be a transformation that would astonish and startle them.

Social distinctions are very strong, and the barriers of diverging tastes are very high and hard to cross. But to allow them to set limits to Christian work and bounds to the proclamation of the Gospel is to make them stronger than the love of Christ. The Catholic puts his Church above all things else, and there are no social distinctions in Catholic churches. When we place Christ where He ought to be, at the head of all the objects of our thought, then "the rich and the poor will meet together," and we shall lose sight of everything but the fact that "the Lord is the maker of them all." Men blend joyfully when the leading purpose of their spirits is the same. If wealth, or culture, or social standing is first in our hearts, then on this basis shall we select our companions. But if Christ be first, then Christ and his work will determine our associates.

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SEASON AND ITS PERSPECTS WESTWARD MIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. SUNDRY FACTS AND ITEMS, &c.

It is the eighth of May and until within a day or two there was scarcely more than the tiniest green leaf or blade of grass to refresh the eye. The slight layer of snow which covered the ground in Ontario some weeks ago, has long since vanished, but cold winds and night frosts have effectually checked vegetation until very recently. Farming and gardening operations are being urged forward, in hope of the good time coming, and all are looking anxiously for the genial sunshine, the warm rains and the balmy winds which May must shortly bring us. The absence of a good blanket of snow during the winter has in all probability proved fatal to the Fall wheat on many kinds of soil. The clover crops will suffer severely from the same cause, and the farmer seems to have unusual encouragement to the indulgence of the propensity to grumble which is rightly or wrongly said to be his typical trait. I can at least bear witness that all are not despondent. "It is good for the fruit trees," is an almost stereotyped consolation of the happy class of philosophers who know how to look on the bright side of things.

I cannot but think sometimes that Western Ontario compares unfavorably with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in regard to the duration of that dreariest of all periods, during which, the country is both snowless and leafless. In the snowy East the evergreen forest is a perpetual solace to the eye, and the fall of the leaves of the deciduous trees is so quickly succeeded by the snow-wreaths, and the disappearance of the snow again by the quick-springing verdure that one escapes—unless a fond recollection is

cheating me—the weeks of drear and dismal brownness—of universal death, which intervene in Ontario. Be this as it may, here and there alike the resurrection is sure and joyous. We wait for it.

The period of immigration is at hand; already, I believe, some bands of the locked-out farm labourers of England, have arrived, I fear their landing in snow banks in Quebec, will not give them the most favorable impressions of the Canadian climate. A few hours ride westward will, I suppose help to dispel the dark presagings to which such an omen may have given rise. These bands are, it is believed, but the advance guards of a large army of immigrants. We have room for a good many of the right sort, though this is not always the sort that comes. Simultaneously, too characteristic of this restless Western world—little bands amongst us here and there are "packing up" and taking their departure for the "Great Lone Land" under the setting sun. And very likely some in the Eastern provinces are casting wistful eyes towards the land of hope from which these rambling notes are dated. Thus the great human tide heaves westward and so will move, I suppose, until the broad Pacific checks the process. It is interesting to observe the slow but sure methods by which nature (?) accomplishes her beneficent designs, and as one traces the uniformities which manifest themselves in the movements of men and nations as well as of things, one can scarcely wonder that we purblind observers so often fail to trace the deeper final causes and to recognize the Cause of causes, underlying and controlling the whole.

"He is passing from sentiment to homily," do I hear some of your critical readers exclaim? Well, I will spare them and close my letter with two or three practical matters, if I can find them.

Our Manitoba Missionary was at last accounts succeeding very well in his efforts to raise money for the support of another missionary and the building of one or two chapels in the prairie province. He had received pledges to the amount of several thousand dollars. The editor of the Baptist, and Secretary of the Home Missionary Convention has accepted a call to the pastorate of the church in Hamilton. His secretaryship will I presume, have to be given into other hands at the close of the year.

Dr. Fyfe, who has been delayed by illness in his family, will probably leave next week on his European tour. He was made the recipient of several valuable testimonials at the close of the Spring Term and Theological year of the Institute. One was a purse of \$100 in gold from the Associated Alumni, and another a beautiful gold watch, value \$200, from the students. The Literary Department of the Institute has on its roll during the term now current, the names of upwards of 150 students, more than a score more than were present at any previous corresponding term—this too, notwithstanding the fact that no less than 38 students having the ministry in view have gone out to labour during the summer months in mission fields and with destitute churches. The constant increase of attendance at the Institute, notwithstanding the excellent free schools which abound in Ontario, affords a suggestive comment upon the question as to the need of and demand for denominational schools.

The Presbyterians are, I believe, about to show how they read the lesson set by example, by moving to erect an institution in Brantford, I trust the pen of your Brantford correspondent will soon be sharp enough to enable him to tell you all about this, as well as many other matters not so immediately connected with the ambitious town in which he resides. He is not cooped within four walls and can tell of a thousand things in Ontario, which I have no opportunity of seeing or learning.

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE HOME MISSIONARY UNION ANNIVERSARY.

MR. EDITOR,— The method suggested by the Rev. E. M. Saunders, though doubtless well meant, of reaching a decision as to holding the above Anniversary at a different time and place from that of either of our three Associations, seems to me open to serious objection. The constitution has definitely fixed the Anniversary to be held successively each year in connexion with one of our

three Associations; and if a change be thought desirable, or found necessary, it does not seem best to effect it in the way suggested. For, though it may be supposed that in effecting this change perfection will have been reached, still, as some may fail to regard this change in the same complacent light, a change perhaps of a more serious and radical character might be brought about in some manner; and thus the supposed perfection be marred in as hasty and summary a way as it arose. The precedent might not be safe. And besides, the Constitution having fixed the time and place of the "Union" Anniversary, it hardly seems proper that either the President of that body, or the Secretary of its Board should initiate measures to change so important a matter, particularly as it has been so recently settled and fixed with the approval of the three Associations. The proposal of my brother that "all the churches" in the Province be requested to send delegates to the "Union" Anniversary to be held at Parrsborough, the day previous to the next meeting of the Eastern Association may appear a fair and proper way of deciding the question; and yet there is good reason to believe it would prove very unsatisfactory. Is there any ground to suppose that all the churches in the Province would send delegates instructed how to decide the matter? Is it probable that even a fourth of them would do it? In my opinion they would not. And then, it is with reason apprehended that few churches outside of the Eastern Association would be represented at all. This would in effect put the whole burden and responsibility of deciding this matter, and perhaps changing the constitution, upon the Eastern Association; which, however far-seeing and wise that body may be, it would not feel disposed or wish to do alone, and in the absence of others equally interested in the subject.— The last time that "all the churches" in the Province were invited to send delegates to one of the most important meetings called among us of late years, (that at Berwick two years ago,) does not furnish encouragement to believe that a satisfactory issue would be reached on the present question.— Though that call emanated from the Western Association, the largest in the Province, and the subject was most important, yet not a tithe of the churches sent delegates; and though action was taken in respect to the matter contemplated, yet every one felt and knew that from the smallness of the representation nothing effectual or binding was done, and the Associations had to be referred to a year later to affirm, alter, or reject the measure as each judged proper. However inconvenient and slow the process may appear, and I believe the Home Mission cause will be better promoted, harmony and good understanding better maintained and increased by referring the matter of change to the Associations than by dealing with it in the way suggested. Besides, by holding the Union Anniversary for a few years in the place and at the time authorized by the Constitution, sufficient time will be allowed for testing the present method, and for considering what change will be most conducive to the Home Mission cause, and at the same time secure well understood and united action on the part of the whole denomination in the disposal of this question. No interest can suffer by this delay, and much good may result.

It is a serious matter to add another Anniversary,—new and distinct as to time and place,—to those already existing among us, viz., our Convention and three Associations, besides the College Anniversary—as it is now proposed to do in the way referred to, by holding the anniversary of the Union away and wholly apart from the Associations; and such a measure not resorted to, except for the most grave and urgent necessity. Such necessity does not in my opinion exist at present. By adhering to the present order of holding the Union Anniversary we disturb nothing, and we lose nothing; and moreover it is quite possible that important changes may soon occur by which the question as to the time and place of holding said Anniversary would easily be settled. Our brethren in P. E. Island, convinced that strength and advantage would result from united counsels and action in the Home Missionary enterprise, have asked to be received into the Union; and may it be that our brethren in New Brunswick will ere long take a similar view of the matter, and request also to form a component part of the Union? And if the churches and Associations of that Pro-

vince should take that course, it would be easy to include Home Missions as one of the prime and special objects of the Convention; indeed the far-seeing brethren who formed the original Constitution adopted by this body put Home Missions in that document as a part of the "great work contemplated. If New Brunswick and P. E. Island should unite with us in the Home Mission work, as they most cordially do in Foreign Mission work, (and why should they not?) then would the Home Mission find and hold its appropriate place side by side with Acadia College and Foreign Missions; and an additional day or more, if necessary, could thereby be easily given to this most important Christian enterprise. And if time were properly economized, and not wasted, as too often it is at some of our anniversaries by want of proper business arrangement and from love of talk, plenty of space could be found for the Home Mission Anniversary without much extension of the time commonly allotted to the Convention.

The matter, it seems to me, is deserving of serious consideration, and should be allowed to work its way to the mind and judgement of the entire body of the denomination comprised in our Convention. And if the brethren in the three Provinces could agree to conduct Home Missions in unison, and felt they could do so to better purpose, than if each as now were to attempt that work in his own field, and should enter in good faith and with real intent to work for Christ and the extension of his Gospel in these Maritime Provinces, a bright day as it seems to me, will have dawned upon us. What would tend better to perfect and unite our Convention, extend and consolidate our work than heartily making Home Missions one of its special objects? Is it not desirable to have the missing link restored, and put in the proper place, and used as a bond of union between the other two great objects? Would it not tend to our spiritual growth, power, and prosperity? Would it not conduce more to the diffusion of the Gospel, the salvation of sinners and the glory of Christ?

Baptists of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, shall our Convention go on only with Acadia College and Foreign Missions? Shall the Home Mission be kept divorced from our most powerful and influential public organization? Or shall we not emblazon on our banner and take to our hearts and hands most affectionately and strongly to love, and carry forward, and support in the strength of the Lord,—Acadia College, Home Missions and Foreign Missions? Why should it not be? No principle would be violated, and great good would, with the blessing of God, result to our denomination in these Provinces.

Yours truly, GEORGE ARMSTRONG. Sydney, C. B. May 13, 1874.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., MAY 20, 1874.

THE NEW YORK BAPTIST SOCIAL UNION comprises from fifty to a hundred of the leading business men among the Baptists of that city, who meet monthly to devise means for aiding the cause in New York. At the last monthly meeting, on the 7th inst., the subject for discussion was "The work of grace in the churches." Reports were given by several of the pastors present of what was being done. Rev. W. C. Van Meter, formerly of the mission to neglected children called the Home for Little Wanderers, was present, and was called on to tell of his mission in Rome. He thrilled all hearts with his narrative of what the Lord has enabled him to do in Rome, Frascati, Milan, Modena, Civitta Vecchia, Bari, and many other parts of Italy. He makes his office for the present at 76 East Ninth St.

He proposes making a tour through the principal cities of the United States, to excite more general interest in his work. In this he cannot fail, says the National Baptist, for with his transparent manliness, his great faith, his contagious love, his consuming zeal, he unites the gifts of commanding eloquence and organizing and executive ability. He is a much greater man than he has yet the credit for. He will be heard at the Washington anniversary, and then it will be conceded that the Publication Society did a great thing in sending him to Rome.

We have just received a most interesting letter from Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, which will appear next week.

New Subscribers.

ONE DOLLAR.

We will send the Messenger to any address from the date of receiving the name, up to the end of the present year, 1874, for ONE DOLLAR.

TO CANVAASERS,

Ladies or Gentlemen.

We will send the Messenger as above to five New Subscribers on receiving the payment for four. Here is an opportunity for profitable employment, and doing good at the same time. To any person wishing to engage in this work we will, on application, send a copy of the paper, as a specimen, without charge.

TO THE BENEVOLENT.

A Christian newspaper is perhaps, one of the best educators that can, week after week, come into a family circle. By getting four subscribers you can, if you wish, by this means, supply the funds to secure family order, wise unable to get it, by whom it would be highly prized, and to whom it would constantly come freighted with pleasant and instructive thought.

Never before were so many able pens employed in contributing to the columns of the Messenger. Never before had we so many readers. Never was it so necessary that every body should be regularly provided with good reading; and as we wish to afford all possible facilities for enabling others to participate in these communications we make a sacrifice of profits by the above offer, so that a large number may thus be added to our list of readers.

We have omitted other matter, prepared for our present issue, that we may be enabled without delay to place the Rev. George Armstrong's letter before our readers.

Rev. D. W. Crandall has retired from the financial agency of the Visitor, and is now laboring at Summerside, P. E. I. He has received a call to the pastorate of the Baptist Church there. We trust that our brother may be very successful in that important position.

We learn from the Visitor that arrangements have been made for supplying the editor's lack of service, during his tour in England, by the appointment of Rev. Thomas Todd who has undertaken the financial management of the Visitor, and will devote one-half of his time to this business. The other half will be devoted to missionary and union business under the direction of the Board, the Visitor being responsible for one-half of his salary.

We wish for our Brother Bill and his lady all the blessing and enjoyment they can desire on their passage, whilst they are there, and on their return voyage, so that what he has longed for may prove a rest and refreshment after his long continued years of toil in editorial and pu pit work.

Notices.

YARMOUTH, May 15th, 1874.

Deaf Editor,—

Please acknowledge in the Messenger the following sums:

- From Widow Jas. Noonan, Margarets Bay, per Rev. W. E. Hall, for Home Missions. \$1 00
From Rev. W. L. Parker, Freeport, per Rev. S. Boothby, for French Mission. 2 00
Total \$3 00

Yours truly, SAML. BROWN, Treas.

ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

The Annual meeting of this Society for the election of officers and the transaction of business will be held in the Vestry of the Baptist church, Wolfville, on Wednesday the 3rd day of June next at 4 o'clock, P. M.

The usual dinner will take place on the same evening at the close of the business meeting. Should any change be made in the above order of proceedings, due notice will be given through the columns of the Messenger next week.

Members from all parts of the Provinces are urgently requested to attend. It is anticipated that our approaching Annual gathering will be more than usually interesting.

J. W. LONGLEY, Sec'y A. A. C. Col. Halifax, May 18th, 1874.

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