

For the Christian Messenger. NEW BRUNSWICK EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

BUTTERNUT RIDGE, July 15th, 1875.

Dear Editor, The New Brunswick Eastern Association which opened here last Tuesday at 2 P. M., closed this (Thursday) evening at 6. On the whole it was the most delightful meeting of the kind I ever attended.

Rev. George F. Miles was chosen Moderator, and right nobly did he fill the office.

A mass Missionary Meeting was held on Wednesday evening when various stirring addresses were delivered.

Miss DeWolf, returned Missionary, on two different occasions met and addressed the ladies in the school room near by.

The Board of the New Brunswick Home Missionary Society also held its Annual meeting in connection with this Association. The receipts of this Society for the past year were something over \$2,000.

To our mind the interest of the Association culminated in the Educational Meeting which came off on Thursday morning when the Report on Education was presented and several stirring speeches were made.

About \$680 were sent up to this Association from the Churches for our various benevolent objects.

As you were present at the Nova Scotia Eastern Association I need not report to you its very interesting proceedings.

Please allow me to acknowledge the receipt of the following moneys for the new building:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Mrs. Charles Weatherbe, Onslow, \$1.00; Rev. D. W. Crandall, Pugwash, \$1.00; Rev. D. A. Steele, Amherst, \$4.00; H. A. Davidson, Great Village, \$1.00; Rev. H. Bool, River Hebert, \$1.00; Mrs. D. A. Davidson, Great-Village, \$1.00; A Friend, \$2.00; Rev. W. A. Corey, Springfield, N.B., \$2.00; A. Tingley, Harvey, \$1.00; Rev. Chas. Corey, Richmond, Va., \$5.00; W. H. Wortman, Salisbury, N. B., \$5.00; Rev. T. A. Blackadar, \$5.00; Chas. F. Clinch, Musquash, \$10.00; Mrs. Chas. F. Clinch, \$5.00; Rev. W. A. Crandall, \$1.00; Mrs. W. H. Wortman, \$1.00; Harvey Tingley, Point DeBute, \$5.00; Mrs. I. E. Bill, St. John, \$5.00; Mrs. T. A. Blackadar, \$1.00; Rev. G. F. Miles, Amherst, \$5.00; Mrs. G. F. Miles, \$5.00; A. L. Miles, \$1.00; Mrs. Thos. Todd, Moncton, \$5.00; Wm. Keith, Butternut Ridge, \$5.00; Rev. J. E. Fillmore, \$1.00; Mrs. R. A. Gross, Hillsburgh, \$5.00; Association Collection, \$17.00; Previously acknowledged, \$468.33; Total, \$4,709.33.

Total, \$4,709.33 For the Committee, D. M. WELTON.

For the Christian Messenger.

SOME QUESTIONS ON "THE CONSTITUTION AND ORGANIZATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES."

Mr. Editor,—

In my opinion, the church polity indicated by "Lucus" is sound, provided "the voice of the majority" shall always be the voice of God—an expression of the will of the great Head of the church; but should the church,

by a majority vote, secured through the operation of the fear that two churches could not be sustained financially, or from narrow views and unmissionary spirit, or some other cause or causes, decide that the brethren desirous of forming a new church should not be permitted to do so; but should be compelled to remain in their old connexion, although they were convinced that they had the mind of Christ in the matter, and that the majority was in error, through the cunning and deceit of the adversary, is there nothing further that could be done? Must the minority receive the decision of the majority as right and righteous, simply because it is the decision of the majority? Is this not infallibility? "Lucus" lays down his views of church polity on the hypothesis that the majority is right, so I apprehend; now let him indicate a course, on the assumption that "the voice of the majority" is wrong, and he will much oblige. Yours truly, MARCUS.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 21, 1875.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

A letter appears in the Visitor of last week from Rev. W. B. Boggs, dated Bangkok, Siam, April 19, 1875. It gives an account of the late difficulty between the first and second kings of that country, of which our readers have already been informed. It also describes the recent total eclipse of the sun, visible there. He says:—

"The most impressive sight I ever witnessed, was seen here on Tuesday, April 6th, from 1 to 4 P. M. It was a total eclipse of the sun, visible throughout South Eastern Asia. It had, of course, been predicted, and was anticipated with eager interest for months, especially by the scientific.

Several eminent astronomers from both England and France came to Siam to witness the eclipse; but their names and position in the scientific world I am not able to give. Their observations were not made at Bangkok but at Petchaboree, a town about seventy miles to the South West.

The eclipse commenced about 1 P. M., the day being very fine, and the sky cloudless. The dark figure of the moon was clearly seen as soon as it touched the edge of the sun's disc, and as it moved steadily on, gradually drawing its pall over the king of day, the light was more and more subdued, till it seemed as if night was stealing on us at mid day. The light that remained was dim and faintly, as to impress one with awe. Things around looked very dismal. The river, which is nearly always swarming with boats was almost deserted. Here and there a lonely craft was paddled along in the gloom. Some birds flew about wildly, as if astonished at the unnatural darkness, or looking for a place to pass the night.

It was now nearly an hour and a half from the commencement of the eclipse, and the total obscuration of the sun was near. It was all covered but a very small spot on one side. Still the dark body moved on, and as it shut off the last remaining rays, and the eclipse became total, the darkness increased so suddenly that it was fearful. The light had been declining gradually from the beginning, but now just at the last moment, when the entire face of the sun became obscured, the darkness seemed to fall on us like a great pall. Then the stars were seen shining clearly in several places. It was like night, but an unnatural night. The eclipse was total for full three minutes. During this time, the sun was entirely dark, and had the appearance of a great black ball. Around the edges, as if shining out from behind the black covering, was a beautiful corona, or halo, of white light, like the aurora borealis; but it gave no more light to the world than do those fitful flashes of the northern sky. It was only three minutes, but they were minutes of awe and wonder. We looked at each other, at the darkened sun, and around us at everything lying under the dismal shadow.

As we stood gazing at the black orb suddenly a bright spot appeared on that part of the sun's rim where the shadow had first come in contact with it, and though it seemed like a mere point, yet in a moment the light came streaming down, flooding the whole sky. It was like bringing a candle suddenly into a dark room. It was as if God had again said, "Let there be light."

The veil was now withdrawn slowly, while the perfect light of day gradually returned, and at 4 o'clock the last rays had passed away from the sun's face, and all things resumed their usual appearance.

Many were the thoughts awakened by this impressive sight; indeed, a thoughtful mind could scarcely fail to be deeply moved.

It was a splendid illustration of the unerring precision of nature's God. At the very moment predicted years before, upon scientific principles, that inexorable shadow touched the sun, and moved on with steady stride; and all the powers on earth, or even in the universe, Jehovah alone excepted, could not have prevented it, or delayed or hastened it. If these ordinances of nature are so inflexible, how imminently true must their Great Author be!

CLOSE OF THE N. S. EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

The Monday evening and Tuesday morning sessions were no less satisfactory than the preceding ones. In the discussion of the Report on Denominational Literature, much anxiety was shown to have the circulation of the Christian Messenger extended until it shall reach every family in each church.

Sabbath Schools and how to make them more was also made a matter of earnest consideration, quite a number of ministers and brethren spoke on the subject.

A resolution on the College question and the unfair and unjust distribution of public money towards their support was warmly spoken to and unanimously carried.

The closing business meeting commenced at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, to allow of a preaching service afterwards.

Rev. D. A. Steele preached an able sermon from Psalm lxxxiv. 11. "The Lord will give grace and glory." A good congregation was present, and at the close joined heartily in singing. "From whence doth this union arise?"

THE HALIFAX SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

held a general meeting on Friday evening in the Y. M. C. Association Rooms. The President, M. H. Richey, Esq., occupied the chair. In opening the meeting he made some statements with respect to the work appointed for Committees and what had been done in the Legislature during its last session. Reports were handed in and adopted. He also mentioned some indications of improvement in the public schools of the city.

Discussion also arose on the changes which had been effected which shewed a general feeling of dissatisfaction with the Legislative action in providing for the formation of a Board of Commissioners. These were regarded as but a very imperfect and unsatisfactory mode of making the Board responsible to the people. It was evident that the objects of the Association were as yet far from being realized.

The following resolution on the slur attempted to be cast upon clergymen was adopted, with much unanimity:

Whereas allusion has been made in the report of the Executive Committee just read to an act of the Legislature passed in 1874, whereby the Clergymen of all denominations holding positions as Commissioners of Public Schools in this city;

And whereas the Clergymen of Nova Scotia as a rule have ever been distinguished for zeal and efficiency in the cause of education, and are actively engaged, many of them, at this present time as Commissioners or Trustees of Public Schools in all parts of the Province, except the Capital; and further, as there is reason to believe that the passage of the obnoxious act alluded to was suggested, if not caused, by the prominent part which some clergymen have taken in the affairs of this Association;

Therefore resolved that the members of the Halifax School Association are of opinion that the passing of the Act in question was invidious and unjust to a most influential class of citizens, and that they hereby pledge themselves to use every exertion in their power for the repeal of a law which is insulting to the parties specially aimed at, and which, as they believe, cannot fail to be detrimental to the best interests of this community.

Great indignation was felt that at this day such a law—for the exclusion of a class more highly respected in the community than any other, from participating in the management of our schools—should have found a place on our statute book, more especially as coming from a section of the community that is so largely represented in the schools sustained by the money of the citizens.

A large Committee was appointed to watch over the interests of the Association.

THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH was gaily decorated with evergreens and flowers on Sunday last. It being the appointed "Children's Sunday," the infants of the congregation, to the number of nine, were brought to have the ceremony of Infant-Baptism, so-called, administered to them. The propriety of this was called in question by some of the congregation, especially some of the principals—the infants themselves—who loudly and vigorously protested against the essential part of the rite, shewing that they were not consenting parties to the contract.

The Halifax Public Schools have been undergoing their examination during the past week. The results have occupied a large portion of the daily papers of the city. The teachers will be glad of their vacation.

THE EVANGELICAL CLERGY.

Dr. Parker is one of the most popular Congregationalist preachers in London and has a very large handsome House of Worship called the City Temple. There has lately been some excitement in Nonconformist circles from the freedom taken by Dr. Parker in inviting a Church of England clergyman, Mr. Fremantle, rector of St. Mary's, Bryanstone Square, to preach in his pulpit. He had accepted the invitation and it was largely advertized when the Bishop of London sent to Mr. Fremantle prohibiting him from filling the appointment. Mr. Fremantle subsequently went to the Bishop and they agreed to submit the question to counsel. Two eminent lawyers were engaged to decide what was the law. The counsel for Mr. Fremantle—Mr. Fitzjames Stephen—said in his opinion no clergyman can, by the king's ecclesiastical law, preach in any Nonconformist place of worship, whether licensed or unlicensed; nor can he take part as an officiating minister in a service of the Nonconformists in any place whatever; that he cannot do so even should the incumbent of the parish where the building is situated sanction it; nay, not even though the bishop allowed him to do so.

In this opinion of course the Bishop's counsel agreed. Our contemporary very properly remarks: "Many a good and true man in the Establishment must have hung his head for very shame as he read this opinion, and felt it was the law to which he had vowed obedience, and which he was bound to observe."

The London Times in noticing this affair remarks in a sort of sneering way: "What in the world had Mr. Fremantle to do in Dr. Parker's pulpit?"

This decision respecting what clergymen may not do places the liberal and evangelical party under a very galling bondage. They will be narrowly watched and infractions of this law will be very likely to bring them into the law courts of the realm, or, perhaps they will persist in breaking the law and taking the consequences. They must eventually either obey the church or come out of it.

We were informed by the city papers on Monday morning, of the protestation given by the Roman Catholics of Halifax to the Pope's Alegate who has been on a mission to the United States, and is now on his return. An address was read to him on Sunday afternoon by Mr. Stephen Tobin. The address expresses "heartfelt sympathy with the illustrious prisoner of the Vatican—Pope Pius the Ninth." These latter years of his life are pronounced "a lingering martyrdom." True, the fires do not kindle upon him so rapidly as they did on Ridley and Latimer and a host of other real martyrs.

It is a somewhat curious circumstance that parties holding the Pope in his, so called, prison, and inflicting such "martyrdom" are good Roman Catholics; whilst it is said in the address that, "here, under the mild and equitable rule of the gracious Queen Victoria (a Protestant) we enjoy at the same time earthly peace and the entire freedom of our religion."

Poetry is a high order of literary composition and needs something more than an agreement between the sound of the last words of the lines. It is of no avail to place sentences in the order of verse if there is not correct rhyme and rhythm. It is better to tell a story in plain prose, especially when it is one of sorrow and death, than to put it in verse except in rare cases. Efforts to sympathize, sometimes inflict deeper wounds of such verse be faulty and open to criticism.

We greatly regretted that we were unable to attend the Exhibition at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum on Monday of last week after the kind invitation given by its respected principal. We are glad to learn that it was a most successful one, shewing more and more the thorough efficiency of the institution, with its enlarged accommodations.

Next Sunday is to be Hospital Sunday, and collections are proposed to be taken up in the churches in Halifax in aid of the Dispensary. The directors of that Institution are just about to commence the new building.—It is an object worthy of general support and no doubt will receive large donations.

HORTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY.—Attention is invited to the Advertisement of this institution in another column.

The arrangements there indicated will, we doubt not, be highly satisfactory and will secure a very large attendance of students. The Ladies' Department presents educational facilities such as are not offered by any other institution in the province.

With the unsurpassed beauty and healthfulness of the situation and the easy access to Wolfville, east or west by railway there is nothing to prevent a large influx of young ladies and gentlemen to participate in the advantages of the first class course of instruction provided. The comfortable accommodations which the new Academy building will supply will make it far in advance of anything yet enjoyed.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION held its Quarterly meeting on Thursday evening in Popular Grove Church, Mr. E. D. King in the chair. Interesting reports of the late S. S. Convention at Baltimore were given by Rev. E. A. McCurdy, Messrs. R. D. King and J. Grierson.

THE GERRISH HALL BAPTIST CHURCH held a Strawberry Festival and Sale of Fancy Articles and Clothing on Thursday evening last. There was a large gathering of people present who kept the ladies at the tables well employed. Some good singing was performed by the large choir during the evening and all seemed to vie with each other in kindly co-operation. There must have been a good amount of effort put forth to provide so much of clothing and other useful articles for the tables. The Sewing Circle we learn embraces a large number of workers together with two, or three sewing machines. The proceeds amounted to near \$200.

TRUE CHRISTIAN BENEVOLENCE is not slow to adopt the most approved modes of using its appropriations, and of making its blessings fall on youthful recipients so as to tell most effectually in raising them above the accidents of life, which have brought them into the condition of dependence in which they are so frequently found, and of putting them into relation with the world around as nearly as possible to that which the benefactors would desire for their own children, if by any of life's changes they should be placed in such circumstances. The second great command of our Lord, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," which He said was like unto the first, is being illustrated in many of the noble charities of Great Britain.

One of the latest and most pleasing cases of this nature is the establishment of "Village Homes for Girls," an account of which we find in one of our London exchanges. The occasion of the gathering was that of laying the foundation stones of ten Cottages about to be erected on the grounds of Mossford Lodge at Barkingside, Ilford, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen. A company of about a thousand ladies and gentlemen assembled to participate in the ceremony.

The grounds were bright with flags and resounded with the merry strains of the boys' band, and occasionally with the sweet voices of the little girls as they sang several well-known melodies. A more agreeable or a more convenient spot it were difficult to conceive, and many were the expressions of delight which fell from the lips of visitors as they watched the little girls in their neat attire trooping through the grounds, and looking as bright as the flowers which grew on every side. The cottages when completed will form a pretty group, and several of the homes will bear floral names. The following, for instance, are amongst the names of the ten cottages, the foundation stones of which were fixed by the Earl of Aberdeen, "Hawthorn" Cottage, "Myrtle," "Jessamine," "Honeysuckle," "Woodbine," etc., in addition to "Clapham Cottage" and "Cambridge Cottage," subscribed by the undergraduates of Cambridge. It should also be added that fixing the foundation stone of a Chapel for the young inmates formed part of the proceedings of the day.

Dr. Bernardo appears to have been the moving spirit in the affair, an extract from his speech will shew something of the spirit which has brought forth these delightful exhibitions of concern for destitute and unprotected girls:

The Earl of Aberdeen presided; and, when the time for speeches came, said they would now have an opportunity of