

be loyal to Infinite God in vain. As neither man nor Satan can break his covenant of grace. Let the wise men of science come together in congress; let the high priests of nature gather in solemn conclave. Let them deliberate and decree, saying: "Venus cross not the sun's disc! Light, slacken thy speed! Earth, cease to roll! Gravitation, lay down thy force!" But lo! Venus crosses the sun's disc! Light throbs as swiftly as ever! Earth continues to roll! Gravitation still balances creation! You cannot break God's ordinances of heaven and earth, God's covenant of day and night, God's laws of nature. These he has solemnly pledged as the guaranty of his own personal veracity—bidding us accept the constitution of the physical universe as the very oath and sacrament of the inviolability of his promises in Jesus Christ. Strong as that oath and sacrament was in the prophet's day, how much stronger in ours, when the telescope daily brings us fresh instances of the inviolability of natural law. Every fulfillment of an astronomical prediction is a fresh witness to the veracity of God's promises. Let not then the Transit of last Tuesday speak to you in vain. Let its celestial eloquence cheer and inspire you. Go forth, my brother, in the strengthened conviction that your Father in heaven is to be supremely trusted. Aye, blessed are all they who put their trust in him!

HOME MISSIONS.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

I expect to leave home early next week to engage in the work of the agency of the Home Missionary Union. I have decided to take a tour Westward along the Annapolis Valley, to visit the churches with reference to raising funds for the Society, I may go as far west as Digby Neck.

Having done this, which may occupy a month, more or less, I shall probably go East to Halifax, Colchester and Cumberland Counties. I hope the churches will be prepared to respond.

Yours, &c.,
D. FREEMAN, Agent.
Canning, Jan. 8, 1875.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., JANUARY 13, 1875

DEATH OF REV. B. VAUGHAN.

We have not been apprised of the date of Rev. Benjamin Vaughan's death, but we learn by a letter from Joseph D. Marsters, Esq., dated Jan. 5th, that our aged brother was buried on Thursday the 29th ult. Possibly a letter with the intelligence may have miscarried.

DEATH OF DR. TISCHENDORF.

Dr. Constantine Tischendorf, who has been removed by death as he was approaching his 64th birthday, merits a warm tribute of grateful regard, as he will ever be held in remembrance, for the great service he rendered in discovering in Greece, the famous Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest extant copy of the New Testament, with the exception of the Vatican MS. The son of a physician in Saxony, and in early life a poor student at Leipzig, he devoted himself to palaeological research. His reputation reached the ears of King John, the scholarly sovereign of his native country, by whom he was liberally aided while he travelled through Europe, for the purpose of consulting the best and rarest manuscripts. Thrice he visited the East, and it was on the second of these journeys, conducted in 1859 at the expense of the Russian Government, that he was so fortunate as to find the famous Codex, which was published by order of the Emperor Alexander, in 1862, as part of the Commemorative ceremonies of the thousandth year of the empire. The closing years of Dr. Tischendorf's life were mainly devoted to collating the results of his researches; and a few years ago the English public received the benefit of most of these, in a cheap little volume, which was issued from the Tauchnitz press at Leipzig, and which has enjoyed an extensive circulation in this country. In the preface to this copy of the New Testament, he acknowledged the aid he had received from our countryman, Mr. B. Harris Cowper. He was Professor of Theology and of Biblical Literature at Leipzig and a Count of the Russian Empire. In 1865, whilst on a visit to England, honorary degrees were conferred upon him by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. *Christian World*, Dec. 18.

Dr. Tischendorf's publications were chiefly of a critical character, and were numerous and costly. His critical edition of the Greek Testament is very highly valued, and is the best for the use of students. His "Origin of the Four Gospels" republished by the Tract Societies is also exceedingly useful.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AID SOCIETIES of the Halifax Baptist churches will be held in Granville Street Church, on Tuesday next. Speeches may be expected from several ministers and others.

A late number of the Toronto *Globe* had an article on "The Baptists" called forth by a notice of a new church edifice being erected in that city. It stated that "in Jarvis Street the Baptist denomination is erecting a church which will be the chief ornament of the eastern part of the city and which will be well worthy of taking its place side by side with the Metropolitan and the new St. Andrew's Church that is destined to adorn the south-eastern corner made by King and Simcoe Streets."

It goes on to say:—"The Baptists are an unostentatious body, yet they have in their time fought great battles and done good work, and equipped more than one soldier, for the great fight with evil, whose genius was of so large and brilliant a character that the whole of Protestant Christendom made them their own. We do not think that we are using exaggerated language when we say that John Bunyan was worth nearly all the theologians that ever lived, outside of the inspired prophets and apostles; and among preachers Robert Hall rose to a height which, both in regard to his predecessors and contemporaries, and up to the present, his successors, proclaim him the eagle of pulpit orators."

It further notices that, "throughout the world at the present time the number of members of the Baptist Churches is two millions, and in order to get the number of Baptists in principle—for saintsship is not transmitted—we should multiply this by five.

They have 10 colleges in Great Britain, at which an average of 212 students attend; and in addition to the General Baptist Missionary Society, there are special missionary societies intended to work in all parts of the world. The number of conventions, societies, associations, indicates great activity of zeal."

One of the statements made by the writer of the said article, we may offer a remark not in the way of correction, but of affording a more correct statement of our views of church membership and baptism. "It is not our province here to discuss the great distinguishing doctrine of the Baptists—to wit, that the only true form of baptism is immersion, and the only fit subjects for it adults who can be said to have a reasonable faith in the Gospel."

Baptists do not hold that "adults" are "the only fit subjects for baptism." Our cardinal doctrine is Believers' baptism. Any person who gives good evidence of faith in the Lord Jesus and has an intelligent Scriptural apprehension of what is required of a follower of Christ, whether he or she be an adult of 21 years or a child of 10 years is regarded by us, as a fit and proper subject of baptism. Our objection to Infant baptism therefore does not reach so far as to say that adults only are fit subjects to follow Christ in this ordinance.

Rev. I. R. Wheelock a native of this province, who has for some time been pastor of the Pleasant Street Baptist Church, Worcester, Mass., has tendered his resignation to take effect April 1st. The *Watchman & Reflector* says:

The announcement was a surprise to his people, and it will be a matter of deep regret to the public, by whom Mr. W. is greatly esteemed. The cause is a want of entire union among the church, though the congregation are understood to be almost unanimous in their protest against this action.

If we could by some means secure the return of Mr. W. with a number of others, strong useful men, to labor in their native province, it would be greatly for the benefit of our churches.

REV. JAMES PARKER.

Our best endeavours to serve even our best friends are not always successful. Two weeks ago we received from Rev. J. L. Read an account of the sad affliction of the Rev. James Parker, and after it was in type received another kind note from our brother Wallace with an account of the same circumstance, but supposing that Bro. Read's would be sufficient, we did not publish the latter. As however, our brother complains that his note did not appear, we do the best we can to supply a remedy, and here, although somewhat late, insert the note in full:—

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF REV. JAMES PARKER.

Berwick, Saturday Dec. 19, 1874.

Dear Brother,—I have just returned from Morristown, whither I have been to visit my esteemed and venerable brother, Rev. James Parker in his serious affliction. Last Lord's Day while delivering a sermon in connection with the dedication of the new Baptist meeting-house at that place, he was attacked with Paralysis, and was carried to the residence of his nephew, Stanley Fisher, Esq.

One side of his body is almost entirely paralysed. It is supposed by his medical advisors that he has delivered his last discourse. I found him comfortable in his mind and cheerfully submissive to the divine will. He requested me before prayer to read the 23rd Psalm as expressive of the feelings of his heart. He wished me to say to his many friends abroad through you, that the Gospel he has so long preached to others wonderfully sustains him now, and that he only desires to live for his family's sake, and to preach the glorious gospel, and to look after the interests of the Kentville church.

Mr. Fisher and the people of Morristown are doing themselves great credit by their untiring efforts to make our dear brother comfortable. Doubtless his numerous friends in other places will participate in the efforts.

Brother Parker's being stricken down under the above circumstances suggests a very remarkable coincidence. Near the spot where the new and beautiful sanctuary now stands in Morristown, bro. P. some 38 years ago, when the country was comparatively a wilderness preached his first sermon. (I saw the building he occupied).

After extensive and successful labours in the Gospel ministry at various sections of the Province, he returns to the same community, now one of the finest in the province, to deliver what is supposed to be his closing message.

Yours truly,
ISA. WALLACE.

Since the above was in type we have had the pleasure of receiving the following note from our brother—Rev. James Parker written by his own hand. We trust he may be fully restored.

NEW MINAS, Jan. 11th, 1875.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

You may be surprised to receive this from me, but thank God I am able to write a letter. Three weeks ago I was deprived of the use of my left leg and arm, and now I can lift my hand to my head and can lift my foot. I am very much encouraged and hope to walk again and preach too, and with your permission I wish publicly to acknowledge the very great kindness of the friends in Morristown during my illness, and especially A. S. Fisher, Esq., and Lady to whose house strong men carried me from the pulpit, and from whom I received every mark of attention. I want to say more about the kindness of the friends of Morristown, but words fail to express my gratitude toward them. Heaven will reward them, I cannot. Also Dr. Masters and Shaw-attendant Physicians have laid me under tribute to them for their gratuitous services.

JAMES PARKER.

The friends of religious liberty will look with anxiety on the sudden change that has taken place in the affairs of Spain.

The young king, Alfonso the XIIth, is only 17 years of age, the son of the ex-Queen Isabella, who, not many years since, fled from her throne amid the execrations of the people. He has been educated in strict conformity with the discipline of the Roman Catholic Church. Both he and the young Prince Imperial of France have been students in the Woolwich Academy—one of the best English Military Schools, and are said to be both of them fine young men. They are all said to be excellent friends and in sooner was the fact of Alfonso's acceptance by the Spanish authorities confirmed and made known, as a sort of fern hope of putting a stop to the rebellion, than the Bonapartists began to speak out more freely and boldly the intentions with regard to the Prince Imperial returning to France. Alfozo seems to have received special favor from the Pope who telegraphed to him his gracious benediction. This motion, too, coupled with order for the suppression of two Piestant newspapers in Madrid, and of Castellar preparing to quit Spain before Alfonso's arrival, plainly indicate that the religious freedom which has existed under the Republic is not continue. When we know that Mahon the President of the French Republic is a friend of the Bonapartists must be prepared for any coup d'etat may be devised at the Roman Vian for bringing back a monarchy subservient to ultramontane influences.

The possibilities are that with the assumptions of Papacy a favorable opportunity may be made for an attempt to overthrow the present Italian Government. However may be in the future the best movement bodes no good to those of civil and reli-

gious liberty. Alfonso has expressed the hope "that there will now be inaugurated an era of real liberty, peace and forgetfulness of the past, discords." This will not go for much whilst he is acting in conjunction with the Head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Perhaps their is no function of government so important as the appointment of judges. A good deal of anxiety seems at present to exist in certain quarters as to who is to receive the appointment to the vacant judgeship in Nova Scotia. Heretofore we believe the selection made by the Dominion Government, of men for these offices, has been eminently wise and judicious. The caution now shewn by the delay to make the appointment, indicates that it will not be made without very seriously considering the qualifications of the men who aspire to that honorable position. If there is one position more than another that demands men of high and honorable character free from partizanship, it is that of the judges of the Supreme Court. Men of corrupt minds here would be to the country as rottenness in the bones of the human system.

The future confidence of the people in the government depends largely on the appointments to these offices. We do not often refer to these functions of government, perhaps not so often as we should, no man who has any proper regard for the well-being of the people but must be concerned as to whether the bench shall be occupied by weak minded inefficient men, or men of high moral standing. We feel therefore that if we should be unconcerned it would indicate a want of proper regard for the best interests of the people and country.

BAPTISTS IN THE SOUTH.—A double sheet of the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* gives various religious and Educational Statistics of that city, the capital of the late Southern Confederacy. It also gives a summary of several other religious institutions. It says the Richmond Institute, Rev. C. H. Corey, president, designed to train colored preachers and teachers, is admirably conducted in its course of instruction, discipline, &c., the conduct of its students has been so exemplary as to win the confidence of our best citizens.

During the year seventy-five students have been in attendance, most of whom are preparing for the ministry. Thirty-five of these have received aid as beneficiaries of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. There is great demand for the students of this school as teachers. One of the graduates of the institution has started as a missionary to Africa. Tuition is free to all, and five different denominations are represented by those now in attendance.

The first Baptist church has a membership of 890 members and has received an addition of 99 during the year.

The following table will afford a good picture of the religious state of the city of Richmond:—

DENOMINATIONS.	Number of churches.	Membership.	Increase.	Number in Sunday Schools.
Baptist (white).....	8	3 458	338	3 125
Baptist (colored).....	8	9 429	1 203	2 044
Methodist (white).....	10	2 202	99	2 009
Methodist (colored)....	2	688	77	195
Episcopal (white).....	7	1 705	125	2 017
Episcopal (colored)....	1	.....	.....	60
Presbyterian (white)....	4	1 384	94	1 323
Presbyterian (colored).....	.....	.....	.....	320
Lutheran.....	2	309	51	255
Disciples.....	1	613	21	325
Catholic.....	3	4 813	215	570
Friends.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Jewish.....	3	236	.....	280
Totals.....	50	24 828	2 230	12 823

We have examined with pleasure a small volume by H. C. Estes, D. D., entitled the *Christian Doctrine of the Soul*. One of the chapters contains an instructive examination of the various passages of the Old and New Testament relating to this subject. We commend it to the attention of any who have to deal with believers in the "no-soul" theory.

Notices.

RECEIVED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.
Per Rev. W. P. Everett, collection at Union Prayer Meeting held at Brussels's St. Church, St. John 4th January. \$10 05
Do. A Friend. 5 00
Jan. 8., per Mr. C. Covey, Indian Harbor Church, West, N. S., quarterly payment. 7 25
THOS. P. DAVIES,
Trea. F. M. B.

Rev. J. H. Robbins writes:—"Please recify mistake in *Messenger* of last week in Dr. Day's acknowledgement of \$10 from "Ellerhouse" by me, it should have been from *Ravdon Baptist Church*."

ACADIA COLLEGE.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Governors in the College Library on Wednesday, 3rd day of February prox. at 12 o'clock noon,
By order,
STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS.

Wolfville, Jan'y 6th, 1875.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Colchester County Baptist Sabbath School Convention will meet in the Baptist Church, Truro, on Thursday, January 14th, 1875, at half past 2 o'clock, P. M. The evening Session will commence at half-past seven.

Are Sabbath-School Concerts, as generally conducted, commendable? Will be discussed in the afternoon session.

Does the Sabbath-School accomplish all its most ardent supporters could desire? If not, why not? Will be for the evening discussion.

A. J. WALKER, Sec'y.
Truro, Dec. 26th, 1874.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

BEDQUE, P. E. ISLAND.

Dear Editor,—

It is now scarcely three months since I became Pastor of the Bedque and Tryon Churches of this Island. The time has appeared short, owing to plenty of agreeable work to do for the Master. My relations to this people have been exceedingly pleasant, and prospects of usefulness are good. We are not yet favored with a special revival, but have much reason to hope for a "gracious rain." Pray for us.

It is again my privilege and pleasure to record the fact of myself and family having been placed on the "Sunny Side" of Pastoral life.

On Christmas Eve our house was unceremoniously but quietly taken possession of by about seventy-five friends from near and afar, younger and older, who socially and substantially contributed towards a very enjoyable evening, leaving behind for the grateful use of the occupants of the Parsonage, cash and other timely articles, in all estimated at about \$90.00. For these and for many previous tokens of the generous thoughtfulness of my present people I hereby express our heart-felt gratitude and our desire to labor the more earnestly and successfully for their spiritual good.

While writing I may add that two of the members of the Tryon church have recently left us and their bereaved kindred,—one, our aged brother Foy, leaving behind him good evidence of having departed to his heavenly home; the other, sister Webster Howatt, having been a wife for only a few short months, but having through Divine grace and love gained the victory and welcomed the exchange, at the Master's bidding, of earth for the purity, serenity and glory of Heaven.

A. CHIPMAN.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

Nelson Miller, Esq., \$12. J. Houstie, J. F. Tufts, Esq., \$2. J. W. Bigelow, Esq., \$14.50. B. MacNaughton, 1 sub. \$2. Rev. J. Chase. W. R. Doty, 1 sub, C. Jost, Esq., \$32. J. Desbrisay, Esq., \$18. Rev. Dr. Fupper, \$1. J. D. Masters, Esq., \$11. J. B. Kinney, \$2. Rev. H. Achilles. Dr. DeWitt, 1 sub., \$2. G. B. Hubley, M. Kinsman, \$6 & \$2. J. G. Nowlan, \$3.10. F. L. Jenks, \$2. W. T. Hammond, \$2. J. Wheelock, \$2. J. P. Nowlan. A. Harvey. I. McNayr, Esq., \$2. W. Frizzle, \$2, and \$4 for Missions. W. Cummings, Esq., \$4. W. Simpson, \$3. G. Freeman, 2 subs. \$6. J. Bigelow, Esq., 1 sub., \$6. H. E. Payson, Esq., \$13. A. L. Banks, \$4. C. Gates & Co. T. P. Davics. A. H. Sutherland. L. Tufts. W. S. West, Esq., \$4. Rev. Dr. Freeman. Rev. J. M. Parker, \$2. Rev. C. Randall, 1 sub., \$2. C. J. Margeson, Esq., \$2. Rev. Isa Wallace, 1 sub.

Local News.

CIVIC.—At the meeting of City Council on Friday last the License presented a plan for dividing Wards 4, 5, and 6 into licensing districts. It was laid over for further consideration.

A committee was appointed on Railway Extension into Halifax consisting of Ald. G. Power, Aldermen Fraser, W. Murray, L. G. Power, M. J. Power, Thompson and Vaux.

Ald. L. G. Power presented a bill to authorize the erection of the City Hall on the Southern end of the Grand Parade, at a cost of \$100,000, the money to be provided by debentures bearing 7 per cent. interest. A call of the Council was made but an adjournment was carried by a vote of 7 to 5.

FIRES IN HALIFAX.—There was an unusually small number of fires in Halifax last year there being but thirty-six and these comparatively small, besides four alarms from slight cause. In 1873 there were thirty-nine, and four false alarms.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.—The snow-drifts near Palmer's Cutting, Dorchester, and one mile from Memramcook formed a blockade, and the trains to Halifax and St. John stuck there on Saturday night. Nothing could be done on Sunday, the weather being so boisterous and cold. The train for Halifax arrived yesterday morning.