

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College and the University Bill.

I am given to understand that there is some considerable excitement and quite a difference of opinion among the friends of Acadia College, in regard to the course that ought to be pursued by the Baptist Body as touching "the Act to establish a Provincial University" passed at the last Session of the Legislature.

As one of the Governors of the College, I think it a duty I owe to the Body, to assist in dispelling the mistakes and misapprehensions which seem to have taken possession of the minds of persons of all classes.

An idea has gone abroad that the Governors, or the Convention about to assemble at Sackville, N. B., will be called upon to decide whether they will accept and act under the provision of the University Bill in common with other denominations. I have perused this Bill very carefully and I find nothing in it which calls for any such action or expression of opinion. Acadia is already in Acadia College, and all the other Colleges have been legislated into a University.

I beg, therefore, to invite attention to the 30th Sec. of the Act. It is as follows:

30. The following Institutions shall be in connection with the University of Halifax, for the purpose set forth in the last preceding Section, that is to say, King's College at Windsor; Dalhousie College and Saint Mary's College, in the City of Halifax; Acadia College at Wolfville; the College of Saint Francis Xavier, at Antigonish, and Mount Allison Wesleyan College at Sackville, New Brunswick; and it shall be lawful for the Senate, with the consent of the Governor in Council, from time to time to alter and amend the list of institutions in connection with such University by adding any other institutions thereunto.

It is therefore too late now to object to joining in the measure. The Legislature has settled that question. If the Bill was not satisfactory, it ought to have been opposed while under consideration in one or other of the two Houses. Acadia is its completely part and parcel of the University at this moment as Kings or Dalhousie, or any of the other colleges. The writers referred to, and I observe that our New Brunswick scribes have fallen into the same error, suppose that it is discretionary with Acadia, and its Governors, Convention, &c., to pronounce whether they will or will not co-operate in the measure and assist in perfecting this Provincial University. The Bill is so drawn it seems to me as that it requires no such assent to bring it into operation.

Already the Senate is appointed, but the Act has not provided, nor has Government signified that A. B. C. and D. represent this or that college. Nothing of the kind. Though selected, so as to secure public confidence of all classes, yet no such principle as that a like number of persons are to be selected from each of the Institutions is provided; although it is desirable probably that an approximation in that respect should ever be preserved.

Suppose Acadia, at the Convention is forbidden to co-operate. What then? Will that prevent her graduates going up and applying for degrees? How can you hinder them, if you wished to do so? And in the name of all that is respected in College or University hall, why wish to prevent them? It is not in the power of any existing college to control a student in that respect. The Act is for the benefit of aspiring students. It was not so, what, pray, has Acadia or her scholars to fear in the coming contests? Are Baptist students to be forbidden the tests lest they expose their inferiority? Are their teachers and professors not on a par with those of other teaching Bodies? Nobody surely would urge these as reasons for standing aloof.

But New Brunswick and P. E. Island are co-partners as it were, in Acadia. What of that? Mount Allison is legislated into this corporation as well as Acadia, although it lies without the Province, whose legislature has legislated for it.

Acadia has its charter, that is safe enough. But if the Legislature chooses to pass an Act whereby her students may, if they think proper, apply, and take degrees in this Provincial University, who can hinder them, or would wish to do so if they could?

It is said the Fellows are appointed

for life. I find no such provision in the Act. All government appointments are as a rule *dem se bene gesserint*—During good behaviour. But crime, absence, resignation, or incapacity may vacate this, as it would any other office.

I hope our friends will each for himself examine the Act carefully, and if I mistake not he will rise from its perusal as I have done, satisfied that the Convention coming off in a few days, cannot repeal any clause nor obstruct its operation if they desired to do so. That their interference is not invited, and any hostile action to be taken at Sackville would be but mere *brutum fulmen*. As I read this Act it in no way interferes with existing Colleges. It is in promotion of higher Education. It is for the benefit of graduates and scholars ambitious of its degrees—but not in any way to lower or defeat existing Institutions.

As one of the Governors of Acadia I can see nothing to cause fear or alarm. Were it otherwise, I should be the first to strike the note of warning and arouse hostility to the measure. But sure I am, that the coming Convention has nothing to do, but to let the Government pilot their measure over the sea of public opinion, upon which they have safely launched it. And I for one wish them all success. That College that hereafter best fits its students for successful application for University degrees will soon have its halls well filled with students or I much mistake.

J. McCULLY.

Halifax, 4th August, 1876.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

It is not necessary for me to undertake to defend the utterances of the brethren to whom your correspondent "Alter" refers, but I wish to call his attention to a distinction which he seems to have overlooked. It was quite proper, and indeed highly desirable that any member of the Association who had formed an opinion upon the University bill, should give free expression to his thoughts, but it was certainly wise that the Association, as a body should not commit itself to either view. Very few of the brethren had ever seen the bill, and still fewer had given it the amount of study and thought necessary to lead to an intelligent conviction. To take a vote on the question under such circumstances would have been unworthy of us as Baptists.

The University will seriously affect us whatever course we take, and we ought to weigh the matter with the utmost care, and discuss it in all its bearings before venturing to record our vote for or against it. What Dr. Sawyer said of the professors is, I believe, true of a great many other intelligent men amongst us. There is so much that may be said on both sides of the question, so many possibilities and probabilities that can be only dimly foreseen, that a man may be pardoned for being slow to make up his mind. Probably those who make up their minds the most slowly will be most likely to reach correct conclusions in the end. It is an important question and should have the best thought we can give to it. Let us free ourselves of all prejudice and consider it dispassionately and prayerfully, that when the decision is reached it may be the wisest and the best.

A BAPTIST.

For the Christian Messenger.

The College Question.

I have read the letter of "Aliquis," on this question, published in your last issue and feel considerably relieved. The denomination is safe. "If a few individuals"—a few nobodies—"have committed themselves that is their concern," and should excite no alarm. "Aliquis"—a somebody—speaks with authority, no doubt; and, surely, if bald statement, bad logic, and base philosophy can effect that object the University question may be regarded as settled! I am not one of these few nobodies who "have committed themselves" and I may therefore be permitted to question the manner in which this "somebody" sustains his assumptions. Let us look at his facts. Professor "Aliquis" says:

(1.) Acadia College under the University Act of 1876 "will close its year like a Common School without any exercises." Where is the authority for this rash statement? It is untrue.

(2.) "A diploma from the Halifax Examining University will be inferior

to one from the Halifax Teaching University." This is the *ipse dixit* of "Aliquis." It requires proof.

(3.) "A degree from the latter (the Halifax Teaching University) cannot be worth more at home or abroad than one from Fredericton Provincial Teaching University"! I say it can. If not, why not?

(4.) "The friends and supporters of Dalhousie are pressing for the Teaching University"—This is absurd. They have the Teaching University now.

(5.) "An examining Board separate from the faculty is a humbug"! Here is another reckless statement. The soundness of an opinion just the reverse is admitted every where, is in harmony with the practice of London, Toronto and other distinguished Universities, and finds illustration and confirmation at our very doors in the examination of teachers for our Common Schools.

(6.) "Any body can prepare an examination paper"! This is simple folly and overweening conceit. Surely Dr. Aliquis is not serious.

(7.) "Why have not Oxford and Cambridge established such an Examining Board?" These Universities have such Examining Boards, and "Aliquis" should have known the facts before referring to them. Your correspondent has propounded a new system of moral philosophy in which he defines the province of the state in religion to be "the enforcement of the general principles of morality upon all"! I say nothing of the alarm which this doctrine will excite in the minds of such men as Roger Williams and the host of worthies who have fought the battles of soul liberty; but, will "Aliquis" kindly define the moral offence and the punishment which he deserves and which the state should inflict upon the person who deliberately makes the false and absurd statements which I have quoted from his letter.

A word as to the logic of this "Somebody." He says: "A diploma from the Halifax University will not benefit the young men who study at Acadia." This statement is proved thus. No diploma is of any value; some diplomas of Acadia are valuable; all diplomas from Harvard College are valuable. Hence the conclusion as above stated!! Here follows a syllogism so admirably stated that your readers should carefully embalm it. It is warranted to prove anything and everything.

Again, "Aliquis" says: "It is not necessary to affiliate for self-defence." "This plea seems to puerile too deserve notice," but he goes on to prove it as follows: The Baptists are too weak to endure competition; they are too strong to fear competition; by affiliating they would come into dangerous competition with "others stronger than themselves." Hence don't affiliate!

A glance at one or two of his illustrations will show how clearly (?) Professor Aliquis apprehends this whole "College question." He says: "Who would think of going into the battle field where the conflict is raging for the safety of his life?" Is history all wrong? Every body knows that nations always "go into the battle field" when national life is endangered. Why should the principle not apply to denominations?"

Again: "It is not the butcher who girths the ox, but the farmer who feeds him that gives him value"! I have always supposed that weight and measurement were the best possible tests of the value of a fatted ox. At any rate, they are the tests always employed. Education, too, must be judged by these tests, I think, "Aliquis" to the contrary notwithstanding.

The "Professor" must have considerable force in reserve. He has devoted four columns of your paper to prove that Acadia College should not affiliate with the "University of Halifax." She was affiliated months ago by Act of Parliament. A formidable power has been established in our midst. Shall we grasp it, and employ it for our good and against our enemies, or shall we stand quietly by and let others use it for our destruction? Will Aliquis give some light on this question. Although a graduate I am not a governor of Acadia, and am in particular

NEMO.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

"Aliquis" says that an examining board separate from the faculty is a humbug, and asks, "Why have not Oxford and Cambridge established such a board?" They fact is that they have had such boards from time immemorial. The University of Oxford is a corporate body separate from the colleges. Its sole duty is to examine

students and confer degrees. The colleges are also corporate bodies, independent of each other, but all connected with the University. They prepare students for the examination of the University, but have no power to confer degrees.

The University of Halifax differs from these, venerable models chiefly in that its affiliated colleges are not located in the same town and that they do not all belong to the same denomination.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 9th, 1876.

Our readers will doubtless soon become pretty familiar with the College Question in all its aspects. What the University of Halifax is to be seems something like the interpretation of unfulfilled prophecy. Men—professors and even learned Doctors—as they look at it from different standpoints, have opinions as to what it means, as different from each other as possible. Some of our patrons may be getting tired of the controversy on this subject whilst others are wanting more. We have several communications still on hand, the writers of which will pardon us for omitting them, seeing that others they had not seen, now published, express about the same sentiments. We hope to close it up shortly.

The existence for some years past of a Provincial Teaching University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, is instructive in considering the question of Higher Education in this province. Our brethren in that province, we believe, do not much enjoy the privilege of appropriating the large sums of the public money which that institution absorbs, year by year, and that without its bringing forth corresponding contributions from the benevolence of the people, or even calling forth such a number of students to accept the education given in its halls as would form an equivalent for the money spent? We have yet to learn that Baptists have ever received a *quid pro quo* for what they pay into its coffers. The reorganization some years since was, we believe, regarded as an attempt, perhaps an honest one, to give all denominations participation in its privileges and honors, but we have not heard that our brethren have ever been in any proper measure considered in the management of that Institution, and it fails, we believe, to supply their wants or their desires. They prefer as we in this province do, to have our Higher Educational institutions controlled by men whom we hold in respect, and in whose religious principles we fully sympathize. It may be that the fear that such a thing might grow out of an Examining University in this province makes our New Brunswick brethren afraid of the new University of Halifax.

The students of Acadia College who have come from that province or from P. E. Island have been in no way inferior to those of Nova Scotia, and we should be sorry to think that the few of our brethren in that province who have taken a hostile stand against the University of Halifax have done so, as has been suggested, because it is located in this city. As well might the Baptists of Liverpool or Bristol in England seek to damage the London University, or Glasgow try to keep her young men away from Edinburgh and its institutions because the name of those cities were given to their Universities. We cannot believe our brethren would allow such a narrow local prejudice to influence them. We give them credit for higher motives and a desire for the real good of Acadia. Any formal denunciation of the University by the body would only operate if fresh legislation were demanded, which would have the effect of depriving the former graduates of Acadia of their position as members of Convocation. Her graduates whether in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick are now members of Convocation and will remain so until deprived of the privilege by a new enactment.

PROFESSOR D. M. WELTON left last week for Europe, in a ship recently built at Windsor, belonging to Mr. Dimock. She sailed from St. John. Prof. W. proposes to spend a year at Leipzig in Germany. He promises to give us occasional letters from that city or wherever he may be in his travels. We shall be glad to hear of his progress and of his finding all things agreeable and profitable in securing the mental treasures he seeks.

Have patience Mr. Chronicle. We Baptists are accustomed to think for ourselves and then act out our convictions without consulting any other "We." We are not greatly concerned as to what other people think about the proper weight of our opinion. We are not anxious to cross the bridge till we come to it. We have the fullest confidence that the Convention will come to a correct decision on the University question.

Some of the friends of Acadia evidently suppose that the object is, to affiliate that Institution with the new University—Professor Welton for instance in a long letter published in the *Christian Visitor* last week, uses the word *affiliate* on some derivative of it, no less than twenty times combating the policy. Turning to the Act itself, it is not to be found there at all! Such a thing as *affiliation* is not so much as hinted at. Com.

*The same letter is in our present issue. It was crowded out last week by the long letter of "Aliquis."—Ed.

NOTICES.

RECEIVED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Per Chas. Covey, Esq., Indian Harbor Baptist Church, Per James Des Brisay, Esq., P.E. Island, Treasurer Brudnell Baptist Church, etc.

RECEIVED FOR HOME MISSIONS.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Per I. B. L. Steeves, Esq., Treas. N. B. Eastern Association, July 27—Per Rev. Geo. Armstrong, A Friend, Wicklow, N. B., etc.

NOTICE—Churches or individuals intending to contribute to Foreign Missions for this year will please take notice that the accounts will be closed August 10th.

RECEIVED FOR HOME MISSIONS. Dear Editor,—Please announce in the Messenger that our Board have received the following sums for Home Missions: From Western Association,—Per Wm. Haley, Esq., Treas. for Home Missions, \$567.50 (Bal. of \$18 to be paid.) 114.58

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes From Central Association, Per W. A. Porter, Esq., Treasurer for Home Missions, 221.92; Paid Prof. Welton, 180.00; For French Mission, 32.43; For Theological Chair, per Wm. Cummings, Esq., 15.00; Isaac Blair, Esq., 5.00; Nathan Archibald, Esq., 5.00; Collection at Lapland, Lunenburg, per A. H. Lavers, 1.13; Newport church, per Rev. A. E. Ingram, for Home Missions, 3.00; French Mission, 0.50; Per Rev. M. P. Freeman, Great Village church, French Mis'n, 1.00; Job Seaman, Esq., from Eastern Association, balance, 254.10; Total, \$1401.16. G. E. DAY, Yarmouth, Aug. 4, 1876.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Barrington,—Mrs. M. D. Forbes, \$1.59; Lower Aylesford and Up. Wilmot,—Mrs. Reuben Baker, 5.00; Peregau,—Mrs. J. L. Sanford, 7.00; Hammonds Plains,—Miss M. Hayes, 8.50; Great Village Mission Band, per Job Seaman, Esq., 14.67; M. R. SALTERS, Secy., Halifax, N. S., Aug. 9th, 1876.