

For the Christian Messenger.

Sabbath School Convention.

The Central Baptist Sabbath School Convention held at Kentville yesterday was one of deep interest, and, we trust, not unprofitable to the many present upon the occasion.

Andrew Shaw, Esq., of Falmouth, was appointed to the Chair.

The routine of business,—attended as is most usual with its delays for want of promptness on the part of officers, committees, &c.,—having been transacted, the remainder of our first session was devoted to the reading of letters from the schools, many of which were represented to be in a healthful condition and doing good work.

The afternoon opened with a discussion upon *The importance of maintaining the Sabbath Schools throughout the entire year*:—never suffering them to "close" in the fall and "open" in the spring, as is the case with over half the Sabbath Schools embraced within the limits of the Central Baptist Association. We trust that the reports of next year will show that the time occupying the discussion and the many encouraging words from those who had tried and succeeded were not lost upon those who have hitherto thought it impossible to keep their schools in session throughout the entire year.

*The importance of gathering all the children into the preaching service*, was next taken up, and while it was seen that some committees were more highly favored in this respect than others it was still urged that parents at home and teachers in the Sabbath School and ministers both in and out of their pulpits still here find much to be done.

These discussions were characterized by such freedom and ease, so essential in the interest of such questions in debate, that many were induced to join in, and give it the appearance of a family talk in which parents and children all took part.

Notice had been given of an *inspiration* meeting in the evening, but the inspiration was upon us before the afternoon was half through.

This became intensified through Bro. DeBlois' closing address, *The salvation of the soul the aim of the teacher*. Every teacher present must have felt that work in the Sabbath School was not play, and that a little knowledge and plenty of grace was after all better than plenty of knowledge and a little grace. To punish those who would not come to the Convention, I shall not report one word of Bro. DeBlois' admirable speech.

The evening session opened with devotional exercises—singing, and prayer for God's blessing upon Sabbath School work, after which Bro. S. B. Kempton addressed us upon *Bible teaching the highest teaching of all*. He had caught the inspiration of the afternoon and sent it off in all directions. If there is a want for Sabbath School teachers after this, it won't be Bro. Kempton's fault.

Bros. Isaiah Wallace and J. Robbins followed with very appropriate remarks upon the importance of prayer in connection with the teacher's preparation of the lesson. "He studies well who prays well."

I must not forget to say that all these exercises were interspersed with sweet music from the Kentville Sabbath School. The Convention this year was one of the best, and we hope that this somewhat hasty report will have the good effect of making a large number feel sorry they were not present, and induce them to go to Cambridge, the place of appointment for next year.

Yours,  
S. J. NEILEY.

Canning, Sept. 22.

For the Christian Messenger.

"That Proviso."

Mr. Editor,—

After reading through carefully the account of the meeting of the Senate of University of Halifax, I can find in it nothing about any proviso, Popish or Protestant. Great is the strength of the Syllabus; but the chief evidence of its power among us is the perpetual panic which it keeps up in some minds. They can see the dreadful thing even in a Railway time-table.

It ought not to be necessary to inform your readers that the Senate of the new University have not the power to compel a single College to accept their Curriculum. If all "the leading Baptist brethren of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island" belonged to that Senate, they could not impose their Curriculum on Acadia or any other College in the Province.

The Resolution of the Convention makes it clear enough that the Baptists in the Senate of the University of Halifax represent only themselves. The Convention expressly disclaimed any intention of interfering with private rights, and it can no more dictate to these men what they should do in such circumstances, than it would assume to control the action of a Baptist who had accepted office as School Inspector, or as Superintendent of Education in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.

SENTINEL.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor,—

Do not let the vagaries of a rival paper cause you to swerve from the even tenor of your ways. The Denomination is made up, for the most part, of sensible persons, and they will be able to see the difference between love for Acadia College and desire to promote personal and local interests. The purpose of some, at least, of the agitators who are shouting that they are the Convention, and they are the Baptists, seems to be to make as much personal advantage as possible out of the opposition of our people to affiliation with the Halifax University. But what all their discussion has to do with the College or with collegiate education, nobody can tell. Their great demonstrations are for personal ends that will soon be in the past. The Messenger's fidelity to principle, while presenting impartial discussions of public questions, will command the respect and confidence of the people in the future, as it has in the past.

AND OLD SUBSCRIBER.

The Wisdom of God.

This earthly globe, the temporary habitation of man, encircled with the glorious canopy of the heavens, whose great luminary regulates and controls its motions and contributes to it light and heat, its world-wide extent of beautiful and majestic natural features, in addition to its almost innumerable variety of productions, and its diversity of climate, lending ever changeful expression to the radiant face of Nature, presents a most wonderful scene of grandeur and sublimity. Viewing this magnificent panorama of the universe even with a hasty glance it would appear that the most untutored of human beings might recognize an Infinite Creator in the completeness and perfection of his works. The advancement of the arts and sciences during successive generations, resulting from the immense number of important discoveries that have been made, shows that the different ages have produced not a few whose comprehensive minds, unsatisfied with merely a limited and superficial survey of Nature, have penetrated beneath its surface; assayed to fathom the mysterious depths of the great ocean to obtain the hidden treasures of its vast liquid store-house; peered into the volcano's deep crater and earth's gloomy caverns, exploring with dim torch those dark subterranean regions which no gleam of sun-light ever reached; while those of loftier research have advanced beyond the terrestrial, extending the hand of inquiry to greet the starry inhabitants of the firmament, and in patient and long protracted nightly vigils, have observed with eager scrutiny the multitudes of brilliant orbs within the ken of human vision, computed their distances from each other and even presumed to investigate the elements of those unknown spheres. Yet earthly wisdom with all possible acquisitions and attainments cannot comprehend God which authentic history demonstrates in records of undevout scientists, among whom were heathen philosophers and astronomers. Many living in our own enlightened christian land, and in possession of much worldly lore, yet, are destitute of a knowledge of the Lord from ignorance of his Word. To such, the Volume of Divine Inspiration is an interesting tradition, particularly the Old Testament with its genealogies, its lengthy records of primeval events, its prophecies and ceremonies; but to all who read the Scriptures with an earnest desire to understand its precepts, and the intent of those offerings and sacrifices which were emblematical of the mission of our Saviour, the Bible becomes not only a most entertaining Book, but illustrates and proves God's wisdom and omnipotence.

"Yea if thou criest after knowledge and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."—PROV. II. 3-5.

M. L. G.

MOODY AND SANKEY.—A slander has gone widely on the wings of the press of both Great Britain and America to the effect that the Evangelists had quarrelled over their shares of the collections or payments received by them, and Mr. Hepworth was given as the authority for the statement. Mr. H., we need hardly say, utterly repudiates the story. It is the baseless fabrication of an enemy.—Messrs M. and S. are shortly to begin special services in Chicago. On the 1st of Jan. they will begin a campaign in Boston.—Witness.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., September 27th, 1876.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

The anomalous position of Dalhousie College—sometimes regarded as a Presbyterian institution and other times as firmly held to be provincial, is becoming more apparent and unsatisfactory to some of its warmest advocates. It is likely that it will be made the subject of discussion at the approaching meeting of the Synod to be held in this city on the 3rd of October and following days. The Presbyterian Witness of last week in noticing the several matters likely to occupy the attention of the Synod, remarks, in reference to this:

"Matters of very great importance will come before the Synod, bearing principally on Education. Dalhousie College was largely discussed last winter in the Legislature and the press. There are members of Synod, wise and strong men too, who think it time that the Presbyterian Synod should withdraw its aid from the College, and start a Presbyterian institution which would rival the Colleges of other Denominations. The provocation to this course is by no means weak. The time may come when the Church will feel compelled to say to the Government of Nova Scotia, 'We cannot continue this partnership any longer. The Province as such is, according to our views, bound to support a non-sectarian institution where our youth may get the benefit of a College course. It is no part of the proper permanent function of the Church to provide secular education of any grade for the people. It is for the State to see to such education from the primary school up to the University.'

In our opinion the Presbyterian Church would be doing good service to the whole country by anew holding forth this principle—anew insisting on the duty of the State towards Education. At present, however, we hope the Synod will not withdraw from Dalhousie College, or interfere with existing arrangements. There is a movement in progress for raising \$100,000 for Dalhousie. When that is raised, we hope the Synod will feel at liberty to withdraw a portion (if not the whole) of the aid now conferred upon the institution. We do not suppose that the Synod will feel called upon to pronounce favourably or otherwise upon the Halifax University. It seems to us that the feeling among the Presbyterians is to this effect: 'We would vastly prefer a teaching University worthy of the Province, combining all the resources of the people, whatever their religious connections, and receiving some \$20,000 a year from the public treasury; but as this is not allowed to us, let us have the Paper University and make the best of it.'

It is not likely that the Legislature would be willing to expend \$20,000 a year, and some hundred thousand dollars besides for a splendid building on a doubtful experiment, when we have already the results of one experiment, so apparent in the endeavour to make Dalhousie a Provincial Teaching College, and another one at Fredericton, which in that province has no other institution to interfere with its claim to be a Provincial Teaching University, or to share with it in Legislative or Governmental nursing.

"INDUSTRIAL CANADA."

A pamphlet with the above title is received from Montreal. Its object is stated as "the duty of development and how to accomplish it," and the writer "A Baumgarten Ph. D." It deals with the matter of our fiscal regulations in trade and advocates protection to our industries as at the foundation of improvements in our commercial operations. The writer says:

"A good many people attribute to Government the sole cause of our misfortune, others to an overproduction and overstocking of the different merchandises, combined with a rotten credit system, others to the climatic situation of Canada, which in the strife of competition throughout the world it evinces more and more difficulties in overcoming. A great many others are satisfied with the sad consolation that business is bad in all parts of the world, and wait for the return of better times in the shape of an exceptional good crop of cereals, which they think, must eventually make up to the people at large all previous losses."

The question of sugar refining and doing it within our own borders is carefully examined. The writer says:

"Taking the population of Canada only at four millions and their average consumption of sugar at 32 lbs. per head per annum, their yearly consumption would amount to one hundred and twenty-eight million pounds and the average gained would be eighty cents per head or \$320,000,000 in all.

The working expenses for refining sugar in the shape of wages, salaries, interests, insurances, commissions, repairs all kinds, cartage, general trade, business and travelling expenses, internal revenues, fuel, cooerage, animal charcoal, etc., etc., amount to at least 95 cents for every hundred pounds refined, and if Canada was in a position to supply its own refined sugar the sum of \$1,216,000.00 would every year be gained, and remain in the country which now we pay to England and America. The last mentioned sum does not include any allowance for commission to the merchant importer of raw sugar, nor of the advantage the country must derive from a large and direct communication with countries producing raw sugar. We leave the reader to draw his own conclusions from the figures given and only wish to mention that our refiners have never been in a position yet to supply more than half of Canada's sugar consumption."

He sums up his arguments on these important questions by saying:

"Let Government give us a judicious, but stringent protective tariff to foster our industry in its infancy.

Let it organize the Department of the interior on the model of the American one so as to distribute widespread knowledge in regard to fertilizers, the latest improvements in agriculture, and let it use all energy to promote the starting of agricultural industries.

Give us legislation making the replanting of forests compulsory or offering premiums therefor.

Then the duty of the people will be plain. Industrial insured of stability must reorganize their manufacturing establishments, mills and shops on the latest improvements, regulating their production according to the demand and supply on a more national and economical basis, open out new branches of industry, for which with a fair assurance of success capital will not be lacking.

Merchants must take a firm stand to abolish the pernicious credit system. Farmers and agriculturists must give their soil, in the shape of fertilizers, what they take from it, and rich crops will soon repay them for the outlay.

Let every one, Government and individuals, put their hands energetically to the wheel and we shall soon enough run smoothly on the high road to fortune."

EIGHT YEARS AGO.

One of our correspondents has called an attention to an editorial of ours, which appeared in the Messenger in November, 1869, under the title, "Rev. George W. Hill and the Colleges," and asks for the re-publication of the closing paragraph. We do not know that the suggestion then was at all distasteful to any of our readers in either of the Provinces. It is a little curious to see how nearly the same thing, after the lapse of eight years, has appeared, in the hands of others:

"We may embrace this opportunity of offering a few words upon the proposal to found a Provincial University. The subject is not a new one. If we had no Colleges in the Provinces such a plan might be the best for the promotion of liberal education in Nova Scotia. If it were practicable we might be disposed to give it a fair trial. But where is the Province to obtain funds to erect, equip, and support such a University? The few thousand dollars of provincial aid received by the Colleges at present, would be but as a drop in the bucket. Almost the entire support of the University would have to be raised by direct taxation. The people of Nova Scotia would not consent to this now, nor for many years to come. We cannot see, therefore, at present, how a University for the Province is to be established and liberally supported. Would it not be a wiser course to let go this dream of one grand central University, and endeavour to render our existing institutions increasingly efficient? What is there to hinder the formation of ONE FACULTY for the granting of Collegiate Degrees in the Province. This would render necessary some assimilation of the Courses pursued at the different Colleges, a very desirable and practicable thing. If all

the students of the different Colleges were required to undergo examination before one and the same Faculty, representing fairly all the Institutions, it is easy to see that a stimulus to excellence in scholarship would be instantly diffused amongst all the students and professors, far beyond anything that could be expected in a Provincial University. Competition, generous rivalry, would be the order of the day. Private contributions to the Colleges would be stimulated very largely, and each of them would grow as the means of its support flowed into its Treasury."

In complying with the request of our brother we would take the opportunity of saying that our antipathy to a Provincial Teaching University is rather increased and intensified than otherwise, since we gave forth that utterance; and we believe that feeling is becoming more general everywhere. We see in such an Institution greater injustice to the public and to the less numerous religious denominations, greater danger to the interests of evangelical religion, and more probabilities that the dominant political party will make use of the additional power it would give them to promote the interests of their party.

The possibility of the University of Halifax developing into a Provincial Teaching University was, very properly, the great argument used against it at the late session of Convention.

Suppose our contemporary, the Visitor, should take up this thing, to which Baptists so strongly object—a provincial Teaching University—which they have fully developed at Fredericton, and let us know what is the result of their experience in reference to that Institution.

A correspondent of the Visitor, whose writing appears very much like some of the editorials of that paper, seems much concerned that the MESSENGER has not "hinted that one of the brethren is willing to give \$10,000 toward the additional endowment" of Acadia College.

What a pity he did not give the name of the "one of the brethren" if he had any authority for making such an assertion. We could name a hundred brethren "willing to give \$10,000" as soon as they are able, and when any do it we venture to affirm that the donors will be from amongst those who are constant readers of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, and we shall only be too glad to make it known to our readers. If there be any person who has intimated his intention of giving the above sum, we apprehend that he will not thank the Visitor, or its correspondent, for making such a dishonorable use of it as they are now doing. If we may judge of motives by what is written we should say it is not so much love for Acadia College that prompts this man-behind-a-mask to write, as it is his desire to rule Nova Scotia Baptists from St. John or Fredericton—and to prop up the interests of the Visitor a little longer.

NOTICES.

BAZAAR AND TEA MEETING AT CHESTER.

The Ladies of the Baptist Sewing Circle of Chester intend holding a Bazaar on Wednesday the first day of November next, in the Basement of the New Meeting House in that place, to aid in finishing said building. Doors open at 10 A. M. Admission 5 cents, Dinner at 12 noon, Tea at 4 P. M. Refreshments will also be provided throughout the day. Should the day be unfavourable it will be held the first fine day following.

By order and in behalf of the Committee.

I. J. SKINNER.

Letters Received.

C. E. Sanford, \$4.14. C. Fraiszier, 80 cts. W. A. Reid, \$4. N. E. Butler, 1 sub. \$1. M. E. Webster, \$1.

LOCAL NEWS.

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS will be held on Monday next.

Mayor Richey will doubtless be re-elected without opposition.

The names of the candidates for Aldermen, as yet announced, are:

- Ward 1. Ald. Coleman.
- " 2. " Taylor.
- " 3. " Connolly.
- " 4. Mr. Frank O'Connor.
- " 5. Ald. Ellis and H. H. Bligh.
- " 6. ex-Ald. Wm. Taylor and Ald. Roome.

A servant of Lieut. Fenwick, on Thursday last, stole \$150, and went to Ainsley's Livery stables where he hired a horse and waggon and left it for parts unknown. It is said that a man answering to his description was seen to jump from the train just upon its arrival at St. John and run off up the hill, but was allowed to get away.