

CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Christian Messenger.

On the Hill.

BY B. W. L.

I stood on the hill at evening
When the day was nearly done,
And the gloaming shades were falling
Around me there alone.

From Eden's bowered glory
Had dropped Spring's rarest green,
And the velvet turf beneath my feet
Was bathed in mystic sheen.

And I thought then of one lying
In a grave where mourner's tread
Ne'er came, that rosemary might bloom
Above the sleeper's head.

But his sleep in the ocean sepulchre
Is sweet and all is well.
What though no train went to his grave
And no tear but the angels' fell!

Alas for the Spring-time's power
O'er leaves that are withered and
sere!
Alas that Spring may ne'er recall
An unreturning year!

Upon the hill that evening
I saw a sovereign die.
An amber beam like a living stream
Fled down the western sky.

And I dreamed that the passing spirit
As bright a setting knew;
That the winged steeds of Faith and
Hope
O'er the darkling pathway flew;

And my weary heart grew lighter
And I said:—Those forms shall rise
And burst like the new born sun again
Above the orient skies.

I stood on the hill at evening,
My heart too sad for tears,
I thought of the early, figured past;
Its lightly laden years.

Oh many years have fled away
Since we last went hand in hand,
Amidst those dim religious haunts
A happy youthful band.

But Christ He doeth all things well,
Amen, so let it be!
And through my soul like a pealing bell
Swept a wave of harmony.

I saw Ambition's baleful star
Shoot down the western gloom,
And the crimson glare of its weird light
Pale into dusk full soon.

Then kneeling 'midst the slumbering
dead,
I breathed a prayer to heaven,
That the deathless love of Christ our Lord
To my soul might then be given.

Leaves are light and useless and idle
and wavering and changeable; they even
dance; yet God has made them part of
the oak. In so doing he has given us a
lesson not to deny the stout-heartedness
within because we see the lightness of
without.

For the Christian Messenger.

"The state of the Denomination."

I.
Confessedly the all important question
of the hour is the University. This
being so it will be difficult to find a place
for what is to me a thought of no less
importance, and that in its relations to
the present moment.

For a number of years the Annual
Report respecting our condition as a
people has been quietly passed without
even a word of comment. But, if I
understand it, "the general interests of
the Denomination" is as much a part of
our work in Convention as either Mis-
sions abroad or Education at home.

But if we have been able to do this,
are we in a position to do it longer?
While we are discussing our College and
our Foreign Mission what are the facts
relative to the cause among us? How
many of our churches are standing still?
How many going backward? And what
combined and intelligent effort is made
to save them? What is being done to
preserve the unity of our people? Even
on the Educational question, who is
thinking of that? What effort is being
made even to gather statistics that are
uniform? What to preserve the oneness
of our various Associations in their
sentiments, objects, aims, and methods?

What to bring all our churches into
similar and right relations to the State,
and keep them there? What combined
effort are we making to raise the stand-
ard and qualifications of our ministry,
and keep all our churches properly
supplied? What to support those worn
out in the service and their families?

I have a remedy for all this, and one
that is possible, natural, and not at all
difficult. It is simply this—to spend
more time together when we do meet.
Why must we all hurry off on Tuesday
night? Who else does it, and what one
good reason can be given for it?

Brethren, unless my vision is entirely
at fault, we have reached a point where
we are compelled to look at these mat-
ters, and look at them carefully, a point
where we can already see some of the
evils of neglect. I have no wish need-
lessly to sound a note of alarm, but I
cannot force back from myself the
question, Whither are we tending?
And in writing thus I have but one
object, to speak before it is too late. If
there is anything in what I have said
and suggested, I beg my brethren to
look at it and to look at it now.

MARK.
For the Christian Messenger.

The University Question.

Mr. Editor,—

As you have freely opened your
columns for correspondence and re-
ports of speeches which, if I may ven-
ture to adopt your own language to
another view of the case, may tend to
"embarrass the Governors of Acadia
College" by smiling upon the project
"and thus creating a sentiment" in
favor of "this movement," you will
doubtless be equally willing to publish
a letter or two in reply to those of
"Halliburton."

In the first place, however, let me re-
mark that very little seems to have been
said by anybody touching the most vital
aspect of this question. How will affil-
iation with the University of Halifax
affect the unity of the Baptist Denomi-
nation in the three Provinces? Acadia
College is not the property of the Bap-
tists of Nova Scotia.

"Halliburton's" first letter, published
June 21st, is partly introductory, and
relative to the letter of "Aliquis."
With the insinuation as to the reason
why "Aliquis" did not write long be-
fore, I have nothing to do; but it seems
at least somewhat ungenerous.

After stating briefly "what the Uni-
versity of Halifax is," "Halliburton"
says it will be "a perfectly distinct in-
stitution, having no control whatever
over any of the Colleges. On the con-
trary, the Colleges will have control,
through their Alumni, over the Univer-
sity." Now in his third letter we are

told that the course of studies at the
different colleges "will be largely de-
termined by the University," and "we
shall have substantially one course in
all the colleges." Is not this control of
a very important kind?

The college exists for its course of in-
struction. If the course at Acadia is at
present equal to the best the country
can afford, and better than that in some
of the colleges, shall it be reduced to a
lower standard to accommodate the new
University? The Governors and Facul-
ty of Acadia College have thought it
advisable that the students should be
instructed in certain branches of know-
ledge which perhaps will not be a part
of the new University curriculum, so to
speak. Shall these be removed from
our course or made merely optional,
because the new "Senate" so decrees?

Again, how much control will Acadia
College have over the University through
her Alumni, supposing she should enter
into the arrangement? The University
will be governed by the Senate. One
fourth only of the Fellows who compose
the Senate will be nominated (not elect-
ed) by the Convocation. This Convoca-
tion will be composed of graduates of
all the colleges, besides Doctors of Law,
Medicine and Science, and others. The
number of graduates of Acadia who
become members of Convocation would
bear but a small proportion to the
whole body.

The only other point in the first letter
requiring notice is the statement by im-
plication that the Baptists "gladly con-
cur in the provisions of the Act which
gives their college \$2400 per annum."
It should be remembered that the Bap-
tists as a body have never passed judg-
ment upon that Act, either accepting its
provisions or otherwise; and that
very many of our wisest and best men
do not approve of the arrangement
made, but rather think it was a trap, so
well baited that many were caught who
now find themselves obliged to support
this new University scheme. Enough
for this time.

July 29th, 1876.

[The above was written with the ex-
pectation that it would appear last
week. The long letter from Professor
Welton compelled us to defer its inser-
tion. We have No. II at hand, and as
our brother, the writer, evidently de-
sires that his series of letters shall
appear before the meeting of Con-
vention, we give both No. I. and No. II. in
our present issue.—Ed.]

Mr. Editor,—

Permit me now to comment briefly
upon the principal points in "Hallibur-
ton's" second letter.

First, he says that the Baptists can
not keep aloof from the new University.
The Governors may: the Convention
may: but no one can prevent students
from going up for degrees, nor Alumni
from joining the Convocation and ac-
cepting positions in the Senate. Be it
so. Let those who wish to do these
things, do them. The Baptist Denomi-
nation holds itself aloof from many
things in which some individual Bap-
tists choose to concern themselves.
Possibly the Denomination may not ap-
prove of the course taken by those
whose names are already published as
members of the Senate.

The second point that our friend
"Halliburton" seeks to establish is
that "to fall in with the examining
University" would not be a compromise
of principle on the part of the Baptists.
They accept from the State money grants
and the power to confer degrees.

Upon this matter there are differences
of opinion. It is a traditional principle
of the Baptists to make no alliance with
the State. Strict adherence to this
policy has not always been maintained,
it is true. Many will think, however,
that our present embarrassment,—the
critical aspect of affairs in reference to
our college to-day—testifies to the
soundness of the principle, and demands
a careful review of our position. But
whether this principle would be contra-
vened or not by entering into the Uni-
versity scheme,—there may be a sacri-
fice of a higher principle,—a consequen-
tial breach of trust. It behooves us to
be careful.

Thirdly, we are assured that the es-
tablishment of the University of Halifax
will not lead to a Provincial Teaching
University. Of this no one can be sure.
There are some suspicious features in

the Act. What do the friends of a
Teaching University say?

Lastly, after asserting that the exam-
ination at Halifax will do students no
harm, which may safely be granted,
"Halliburton" argues that it will do
good, (1) by furnishing an incentive to
study, and (2) by the honor accruing to
Acadia from the brilliant successes that
will be achieved by the students she
sends up to these examinations. Yes,
the constant looking forward to such an
examination would be a powerful stimu-
lus; and honor would accrue to those
who honorably passed the tests, and to
the colleges which educated them.
But these benefits may be obtained
without uniting with the University of
Halifax. How? Well, the answer to
that question is not required just now.
For the present, as "Halliburton" jest-
ingly says, *nunquam mens*.

Coming now to the third letter of the
series, we find that the purpose of nearly
the whole of it is to show that "the
new University will prove to be a provin-
cial benefit" because it is "calculat-
ed to advance collegiate education in
this Province." Your correspondent
refers to Nova Scotia, of course. He is
evidently writing at Halifax, and from a
Nova Scotian point of view. This is the
radical error into which "Halliburton,"
like other advocates of the same course,
has allowed himself to fall. This ques-
tion—whether the Baptist Denomination
and Acadia College shall co operate with
the new University—does not come to
us as Nova Scotians, but as Baptists
united in the support of our college,—
some of us living in one Province, some
in another. The question for us is, Will
the benefits to be derived by Acadia
College from this affiliation outweigh the
disadvantages? Will the college do
more for the denomination, and the
denomination more for the college in
consequence of becoming a servant of
the University of Halifax?

But what reasons does "Halliburton"
give for believing that the new Univer-
sity will advance collegiate education in
Nova Scotia?

I. Examinations should be conducted
by a body independent of the professors
and teachers. This is not necessary,
though it is often advantageous. Much,
indeed all, depends on the character,
scholarship and skill of the examiners,
and the nature of the arrangements
made for examination. There is yet no
guarantee of the success of the plan to
be adopted and the men to be appoint-
ed by the heterogeneous body styled
the Senate. Where is the Examination
to be conducted? How? Who is to
prepare the questions?

Again, an examination for degrees, in
which nothing is conceded to that per-
sonal acquaintance with the students
which their instructors acquire, is nec-
essarily an imperfect test.

2. The Examining University will
afford a means of ascertaining the char-
acter of the education given by each
college.

This is not proved. Suppose the
standard is placed low, as will probably
be the case: then those colleges which
work beyond the point required, are
not tested on the more advanced part
of their work. Moreover, those that fall
below the requirements and send few
students qualified to pass a satisfactory
examination, may manage to have their
condition falsely reported. Why not,
when two institutions enter this compact
as Colleges, whose courses of instruction,
etc., are inferior to an ordinary Aca-
demy? More might be said on this
point.

3. It will be a means of securing uni-
formity in the course of studies at the
different colleges.

That is, as the President of one of the
colleges has said, the course in each
College will be practically such as may
be prescribed by the University, and
even the text-books will be for the most
part determined by the Senate. Are
we to submit tamely to such control as
this? What benefit would there be in
adopting such a course and such books
as shall be agreed on by all the denom-
inations including the Roman Catholics?
What histories will be read? What
systems of moral philosophy will be
studied? Surely there will be room for
one independent course of collegiate
instruction, untrammelled by the re-
straints to which four of the denomina-
tions are willing to submit.

4. The Examinations will be an in-
centive to the students. This point has

already been touched upon and may
now be passed over.

5. There will be some great benefit
derivable from the annual assembling of
graduates of all the Colleges. This may
pass for what it is worth. Let us infuse
new life into the gatherings of our own
Alumni at Wolfville.

6. The establishment of this new Uni-
versity settles forever the question of a
Central Teaching University. If so, that
point is gained without the affiliation of
Acadia College;—and she will, by re-
maining independent, be a standing
testimony in favor of the denomina-
tional plan as opposed to the union, secular
plan.

But if not,—if the question will be as
unsettled as ever,—if the promoters of a
Provincial Teaching University continue
in the determination to hold on to Dal-
housie with its revenues,—if they should
some day gain a majority,—what then?
If the union now effected renders an-
other step more easy,—what then?

7. It will increase denominational
benevolence.

Will the Baptists of New Brunswick
and of Prince Edward Island be dis-
posed to contribute more liberally in
support of Acadia College when it has
become only a feeder to the University
of Halifax? Will the Baptist churches
throughout Nova Scotia find their sym-
pathies drawn more closely round their
college because she has been subjected,
against their will, it may be, to the
control of the Halifax University?
Perhaps they will.

You may expect one more letter from
H.

For the Christian Messenger.

More about the College Question.

The attitude the Baptists will assume
at the Convention towards this question
still seems uncertain. Your correspon-
dent Halliburton and Aliquis have set
forth at considerable length the pros
and cons respectively; and it only re-
mains for intelligent readers to settle
the question in their own minds, if possi-
ble.

Before voting, delegates to the Con-
vention should see to it that they know
fully what the question on which they
are to vote purports to be; even though
they may not be able to foresee all the
results that will follow from their action
upon it.

I believe that a good deal of confusion
still exists in the minds of many as to
what "affiliation" involves; and even
your very astute correspondent Halli-
burton appears to be somewhat hazy on
this point.

In the issue of July 12th, Halliburton
argues in favor of the new University
thus;—"It will afford the province at
large, and each denomination in partic-
ular a means of ascertaining the charac-
ter of the Education given by each of
our Colleges which has not hitherto been
attainable."

He says he wants some "indisputable
evidence that the College (Acadia) is
quite up to the times, and that the
training she affords is of the most ex-
cellent character." He affirms, more-
over, that "this independent examina-
tion of all the students of all the Col-
leges will afford the very best possible
means of acquiring this information.
And the province at large will thus as-
certain the standing of each College."

Now I believe that this University
scheme will prove an utter failure in the
very respect on which is based the
strongest argument in its favor, that
which Halliburton sets forth in the
above quotations;—simply because the
measure, as we now have it does not
provide for the independent examination
of all the students of all the Colleges.

Some years ago in this province their
existed a number of boards of "district
examiners," which were located in var-
ious counties, and before any of whom
candidates for teachers' licenses might
appear for examination; but in order
to secure a uniformity in the value of
licenses all over the province, that all
applicants for a particular grade might
be compelled to undergo equally rigid
examinations and that all the examina-
tions might be sufficiently severe, the
government very wisely abolished the
system of district examiners and ap-
pointed a provincial board. Now could
the government, with equal facility;
have abolished the local boards of ex-
aminers at present existing in connec-
tion with the various Colleges, and ap-