

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 23rd, 1876.

THE APPROACHING CONVENTION.

Perhaps there was never a Session of the Baptist Convention of these Provinces anticipated with a greater amount of anxiety than the one to be held on Saturday next and following days at Sackville, N. B.

It must not be overlooked that our Foreign Missionary operations are in a condition demanding earnest and prayerful consideration—not that any important changes are imminent, but the leadings of Divine Providence during the past year must not be disregarded. The hopes cherished a year ago, if not blighted, have been largely interfered with by severe sickness incident to the warm climate in which the mission is located. The number of active laborers in the field has been greatly thinned whilst the amount of work that has been actually done is like that of preparing to raise an edifice—not such as can be seen or counted. Direct operations on the heathen mind are still before us in the future, and the calls for the light of the glorious gospel are more than ever urgent. Our Lord's commission still rings in our ears. Our missionaries themselves will be looking with much concern to see what is done at this session of the Convention. Although we may not have them personally present with us, except in the case of our brother and sister Boggs, and they very reluctantly, neither may we receive from them a direct telegram of their recent movements, as last year, from Cocanada "All here joyfully working," yet many will feel that the work which is being done by them on our behalf and the prayers that will be offered by us for them and efforts made to sustain them will bring them very near to us on that occasion. The churches, too, will be looking anxiously to learn what more can be done to awaken their interest and make it more general at home in the great work of carrying the gospel to the heathen who are now sitting in darkness and the shadow of death.

Acadia College and its future will perhaps be the principal thought in the minds of the delegates from the churches and will occupy a large share of the attention of the Convention. The leading position to which that institution has attained renders it a matter of first importance that nothing shall be done that will tend in any way to detract from its character and prospects. It is also no less important that nothing shall be left undone that is within the reach of its friends to prevent injury to the cause of Higher Education. A crisis seems to have arisen by the enactment of the University Act, which renders it necessary that the friends of the College should carefully inquire what they ought to do, and what they should avoid to promote the best interests of the College and the welfare of those who come to its halls for preparation for their life work. It will be for the brethren in Convention assembled to weigh well whatever is brought before them, and deal with the facts as men having the fear of God before them, and that free from any provincial partialities, predilections, prejudices, or passion. All action of a partisan character would be unworthy of our antecedents and standing, and whilst the matter is greatly mixed up with influences outside of the Baptist denomination it is hoped that there will be wisdom given to us to avoid any combination that might compromise us on one side and on the other the cherishing of any antipathies and hostilities towards others, or vain gloryings which would be inconsistent with our character as Christians or Baptists.

We see no cause at present why in considering this matter in our columns we should depart from the ground we have chosen. If we had taken a stand either for or against the University of Halifax, perhaps we should have saved ourselves from the unjust and malicious charges some of our contemporaries have heaped upon us. We have chosen rather to give our readers the fullest possible information on the subject, and allow our correspondents to do the same without prejudice to either side. It is not for us to offer our opinion and pronounce all others fools who differ from us. We regret that some have sought to misrepresent and malign us for doing this. We can well understand how parties may take one side as well as the other, and still be true friends of Acadia College.

We have had no reason to suppose that the University Act was intended to injure Acadia or any other of the denom-

national Colleges. It is the introduction of a new principle into this province in relation to Higher Education, and one intended to test the character of the education given in the various Colleges so-called. We have no reason to suppose that the government have any other motive in doing this than what the Act itself says any more than we have that the Education Act has in its examination of Teachers as to their ability to conduct the Common Schools. It is not likely that the Act is perfect without requiring some amendment such as practical men and experience may point out. Whether the Act is such as may be worked at all is not even demonstrated as yet, and it may be that the Convention may determine to stand aloof, until it shall have been proved and found necessary to co-operate, or else it be found out that the experiment has failed. We hope that whatever may be the decision, it may be a unanimous one, although we do not as yet see clearly what is to be the exact shape of a resolution to be put to vote. It appears to us that it must be, in substance, one of three, either

1st, To recommend the governors of the College to co-operate with the University of Halifax, so far only as they believe that in doing so they can promote the best interests of Acadia College;

Or 2nd, To agree to pass no resolution at all on the subject;

Or 3rd, To denounce the Act establishing the University, and advise petitioning for its immediate repeal.

A preliminary vote might be given on each of these points, and then an agreement come to, to make the one having a large majority in its favor a unanimous vote, the matter might thus be adjusted without any serious damage being done to the body, or to the interests of higher education.

Our City School Commissioners have recently had before them the question of the right of the Roman Catholic Archbishop to continue the practise of nominating teachers in certain of the Public Schools. At a meeting of the Board some time since a committee was appointed to make enquiry and ascertain on what the supposed right was based. Messrs. Silver, Belcher and Thompson formed said Committee. At the meeting on Wednesday last the report of said Committee came up for consideration. There were two reports. That from Messrs. Silver and Belcher denying that the Archbishop had any such right. The minority report by Alderman Thompson contended that the Board by allowing the practice to exist and made a contract with the Archbishop which virtually constituted a right. After some discussion the minority report was rejected by 6 to 3, after which, rather than pass the majority report, Mr. Bremner moved the following series of resolutions,—

Whereas the system of appointing teachers heretofore adopted, was, upon the whole, satisfactory, and the Board, while not pronouncing upon the claim advanced on behalf of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Halifax to the right to nominate the teachers for certain schools, are of opinion that the practice heretofore followed in the appointment of teachers should, with some modifications, be continued.

Therefore resolved, That the practice with reference to the appointment and employment of teachers in the public schools of the city of Halifax shall hereafter be in accordance with the following scheme:

1. None but Roman Catholic teachers shall be appointed to, or employed in, the schools where the teachers are now exclusively of that denomination.

2. No Roman Catholic teachers shall be appointed to, or employed in, any other of the existing public schools than those referred to in the preceding paragraph.

3. The Roman Catholic teachers shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Roman Catholic members of the members of the Board not belonging to that denomination.

4. All teachers, after their appointment, shall, subject to the foregoing provisions, be under the control and management of the whole Board.

5. This scheme shall not apply to the proposed High School.

This was seconded by Alderman Power. The portion of the Preamble in italics was eventually eliminated, and the scheme adopted by the vote of Messrs. Seaton, Bremner, Connolly, Power, Nisbet and Belcher, 6, for it; and one—Alderman Taylor—against it.

We need hardly say that we regard this whole proceeding as contrary to the spirit and letter of the School Law and most mischievous in its tendencies. It is Separate Schools in their most objectionable form. It is a proscription of both Catholics and Protest-

ants. It is making essentially two Boards of Commissioners which, being unjust, will be the cause of serious trouble in the future. It is degrading to our Public School Teachers and injurious to the Schools to have any such sectarian distinctions. We are not surprised to see the Morning Chronicle alarmed at the prospect in reference to our public schools. The editor says:—

"We confess that at the first glance the resolution has an ugly look. A rule imposing religious tests on candidates for appointment as teachers is a strange commentary on a "free non-sectarian school law." It is not pleasant to read that in some schools the teachers shall be Catholics, while in others no Catholic teachers shall be appointed. To a certain extent this has been the state of affairs in the past, but it existed under a sort of unwritten law. Now the system is extended and stares at us in black and white."

The more we think of the resolution the more "ugly" it becomes, and, we trust the Council of Public Instruction will interpose before worse consequences ensue.

Mr Editor,—

Some time ago I received a note from William Elder, Esq. M.P. P. of St. John, N. B. a few extracts from which I give below:—

"I was agreeably impressed with the work done at your institutions on the occasion of my recent visit, and would like to render you some assistance in carrying it on, however slight. In counselling with Dr. Rand as to how this might best be done, he thought that possibly if a silver medal were offered for the best monthly essays in the Academical Department this might be of some service, there being a prize for similar work in the College but none in the Academy. If it were deemed desirable, I will gladly give such a prize for next year's competition. I suppose such a medal should be open to the male and female students of the Academy, but it was owing to the good accounts I heard of the essays read by the young ladies of the Academy, that the idea of the prize suggested itself to my mind."

The Male and Female Departments of the Academy have reopened. Competition for the above medal will begin at once. The prospect is good for a large attendance the coming year.

J. F. TUFTS.

Wolfville August 19, 1876. P. S.—In the last issue of the Christian Messenger you mention the number of students in the Male Department of Academy last year as being sixty-two. The number should have been ninety-two, we had that number of young men in the Academy last year.

[Professor Tufts will accept our thanks for the above correction. We gave the number from the list of names given in the last College Calendar, which on looking over again we find comprised only the Senior Class in the Classical course 36 names, and the Second year or Junior Class 26 names, making 62 in those two classes. Will our friend the "Senator of N. B. University," please observe this correction.—Ed. C. M.]

Rev. Dr. Cramp's Notes on the University Act of 1876, of which a copy is given on our first page, have been the subject of comment in some of the Halifax papers. An ill-judged letter, signed, "A Baptist," which we hope was not written by any Baptist, indulging largely in personalities, appeared in the Morning Chronicle of Saturday last. We think the writer rather damages the cause he aims to serve.

It is pleasant to receive visits from old friends and ministering brethren living at a distance. Halifax has had some of these of late. Rev. A. H. Munro, now of Toronto, was in our city for a few days and preached in Granville Street and the North Church on Sunday week. Rev. John Williams, of Mahone Bay, also preached in the former church on Sunday evening. Rev. I. R. Wheelock, a Nova Scotian, settled at Fitchburg, Mass., preached in Granville Street and the North Church on Sunday last.

Moung Edwin, a Karen student from Newton, preached in Gerrish Hall on Sunday morning, and lectured on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Rev. A. S. Hunt was expecting to administer baptism on Sunday last but was taken ill and confined to his bed during the day.

Rev. C. V. Hanson of Peabody Mass., recently made a visit to Nova Scotia. On his return we perceive he is giving the readers of our excellent Maine contemporary, the Zion's Advocate, some account of what he saw. He speaks

with pleasure of having met the pastors of the Halifax churches and shews that he enjoyed his visit to these Provinces. We were pleased to make his acquaintance at Hants port where he was invited to a seat with the Central Baptist Association.

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GENTLEMEN:—This is to certify, that I was troubled with Bronchitis for about 12 years, and tried different preparations which were recommended for it, but got no relief until I used your LIFE OF MAN BITTERS, SYRUP AND OINTMENT, and have been troubled but very little in that way since, which is now about three years; I would highly recommend your medicines to all suffering with throat and lung diseases.

Respectfully yours, DAVID FALES, Sworn to, before me, April 9th 1875, at Victoria, Wilmot. WALLACE PHINNEY, J. P.

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OXFORD MILLS HOMESPUNS.

A full range of these very excellent goods will, from this time, be kept by us which will be offered

AT A VERY SMALL ADVANCE.

N. B.—Our Mr. J. W. Smith sailed for Europe by the last mail boat for the purchase of

AUTUMN & WINTER GOODS. Any special orders which any of our friends may entrust to us will be forwarded without delay. SMITH BROS.

July 5.

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We refer to Hon. M. D. Leggett, Ex-Commissioner of Patents, Cleveland, O., O. H. Kelley, Esq., Secretary National Grange, Louisville, Ky., Rev. F. D. Power, Washington, D. C., and to the Danish and Swedish Foreign Legation at Washington, D. C.

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April 19.

POST OFFICE, HALIFAX, N. S., 29th July, 1876.

Notice to the Public.

The sale of Postage Stamps to the Public, at the Halifax Post Office, will be discontinued after

Tuesday, the 1st of August.

Postage Stamps can be obtained from the following vendors:— G. E. Morton, Hollis St., T. P. Connolly, Granville St., M. A. Buckley, Granville St., A. W. Nicolson, Wesleyan Book Room, Granville St., A. McBean, Book and Tract Depository, Granville St., H. A. Taylor, Barrington St., J. Courtney, Pleasant St., R. Urquhart, Spring Garden Road, G. W. Jones, Birmingham St., A. P. Power, Brunswick St., H. C. Tully, Upper Water St., James Crawford, Upper Water St., G. T. Winsor, Lower Water St.

Licenses will shortly be issued to other vendors. By order of the Postmaster-General, H. W. BLACKADAR, Postmaster. Aug. 2.

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A CONSUMPTIVE CURED.

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FOR SALE. FARM and CROP.

THE SUBSCRIBER offers to sell an excellent Farm in Colchester County, two miles from Stewiacke Station, containing 300 acres of upland well calculated for woodland, pasture, and tillage, 40 acres under good cultivation free from stone, and 14 acres of marsh. The lot is well calculated for two good Farms as there are two public roads passing through it about a mile apart.

On the premises are good buildings consisting of a commodious Dwelling House well finished, a large double Barn, Coach House and Stable, beside other out Buildings necessary for Farming operations. There is also a nice Plum Orchard bearing well and a few Apple Trees.

Within half a mile is a good School, just across the street a New Baptist Meeting House, and about two miles off a Presbyterian and Episcopal Church, Telegraph, and Post Office. Any person wishing to secure a pretty situation in a nice locality with every convenience almost for farming, will do well to call at an early period and examine for themselves. It can be sold in two lots if necessary, with or without the present growing crop.

For terms of sale and other particulars please apply to JAMES A. COX, Upper Stewiacke, or the Subscriber on the premises.

E. C. BANKS. Lower Stewiacke, July 15, 1876. July 19. 2 mths.

Established 1861. PARKS' COTTON WARP.

White, Blue, Red, Orange and Green.

THE COTTON WARP made by us for the past fifteen years having proved so very satisfactory to consumers, we feel justified in recommending it to all who use the article as the BEST IN QUALITY, and actually the CHEAPEST in the market.

We warrant every bundle to be full length and weight and to be numbered correctly.

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Aug. 16. 3 mths.

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WOOD BROS. & CO., Have received and are now showing one of the LARGEST AND BEST ASSORTED STOCKS OF FASHIONABLE DRY GOODS IN THE CITY.

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