

For the Christian Messenger. Students' Field Clubs.

MR. EDITOR,—

Dear Sir,—In the Leisure Hour for June, an extract from the late Canon Kingsley's admirable work on "Health and Education" thus gives his opinion of the value of Naturalists' Field Clubs. "A laboratory for chemical experiments is a good thing, it is true, as far as it goes, but I should prefer to the laboratory, a Naturalists' field club—such as are prospering now at several of the best public schools, certain that the boys would get sound inductive habits of mind, as well as health, manliness, and cheerfulness, amid scenes to remember which will be a joy for ever."

C. J.

For the Christian Messenger. "Observer."

MR. EDITOR,—

Your friend "Observer" must have observed the report of a certain "district meeting" which appeared in the same paper with his own report of the naughty conduct of their Wesleyan ministers during their brief stay in Yarmouth, and he doubtless observed likewise the boast made by the writer of that report, viz.: That the Wesleyan people remain firm adherents to the doctrines and practices of their Church concerning the mode and subjects of baptism. Now, will "Observer," or the editor of the Wesleyan, or somebody, be so good as to inform us what mode of baptism Wesleyans call their mode, and will they also enlighten us as to their subjects for baptism, who they are, and also will they give us a reference or two, to their best authority or authorities in this matter, and thereby much oblige

ANOTHER "OBSERVER."

For the Christian Messenger.

My Dear Sir,—

The noble collection for the sufferers at St. John made in the Baptist Church, Charlottetown, on the Lord's day after the fire was forwarded to the Baptist Churches in Germain St. and Leinster Street, for their special use; and the same course was adopted in the distribution of the sum raised at the meeting of the Central Association. The reason was, I apprehend, that many persons who had lost their all would be unwilling to apply for a share of the public bounty, and yet might suffer more than others, to whom relief has been given. There are probably many such cases, and it may not be easy to meet them satisfactorily. Perhaps a hint may not be improperly hazarded. If the ministers of the respective congregations were entrusted with the distribution of money among those known by them to be in want, although they had not made application to any relief Committee, many deserving persons might be assisted who would otherwise be passed over. Of course, reports would be made of the appropriation of such sums. Friends in different parts of the country might also avail themselves of this opportunity of rendering assistance.

Our ministering brethren, Revs. G. M. W. Carey and Geo. Armstrong, have suffered heavily, having lost their valuable libraries as well as other property. Mr. Armstrong had no insurance. Their brethren and friends will doubtless show practical sympathy. Yours truly, J. M. C.

July 7th 1877.

HOME MISSIONS.

Dear Editor,—

The Board of Home Missions met in regular session on the 2nd inst. Attention was given chiefly to the summaries of work performed and financial statements of the past year. It was very gratifying to find that the Board has now funds in hand to pay off all our liabilities up to the present

moment. A balance will be left in the treasury, and this will be considerably increased by the contributions from the Eastern and P. E. Island Associations. The Board will therefore hand over its work to its successors free from all debts or encumbrances.

Rev. W. C. Rideout's mission in Cape Breton will continue six months longer.

Missionaries are requested to inform us, as early as convenient, of their entrance upon their work, and of their P. O. address. They are further requested to let us know whether they have received schedules from the Board, and to send for a new supply when it is needed. In case they begin to labor sometime during the month, they are expected to report at the end of the month. Some of our missionaries are in the habit of beginning their monthly report from the middle of one month and continuing it to the middle of the next. This is a great and quite unnecessary mistake, causing much confusion and trouble to our Secretaries. The report for each calendar month should be kept separate and distinct from all others. Each schedule indicates in their order the days of the month; and by simply following out the plan therein laid down our missionaries will avoid all occasion of difficulty.

W. H. WARREN, Cor. Sec. pro tem.

Yarmouth, July 5, 1877.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 11th, 1877.

Christian Churches are voluntary organizations of believers who covenant together to sustain the Worship of Almighty God and render mutual help to each other by fellowship and other means to combine in works of faith and labors of love, and thus manifest their love to the Lord Jesus, who is to be their only Prophet, Priest and King.

Church independency is a principle in which Baptists rejoice and which they may carry out to its utmost limits. This is not interfered with by their combinations into Association. The power of such Associations consists in offering advice and seeking to influence by moral means. Attempts are made by some denominations to bring the power of their combination to bear upon individual churches, but the amount of needless and ineffectual trouble they often cause themselves is not calculated to inspire us with confidence in them as being more Scriptural than the simple pattern of the primitive churches as seen in the New Testament. The recent Macdonnell case here, and that of the High Ritualists in England, or the "hunkering" case before the Free Church of Scotland a week or two since, all shew that the tendencies of the complicated Church Courts are to lead away from Bible simplicity and damage real christian work in the several bodies. Independent churches may have some apparent disadvantages but they have advantages which are more than a compensation when applied in a loving christian spirit.

A NEW TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

is now being made in the United States in the formation of Reform Clubs. Men who have been drunkards and are reformed, or are resolved to reform, combine into Clubs for the purpose of self-preservation and for the rescuing of other drunkards—having in connection with them none who have never been drinking men. This is found to operate more effectually than having together those who have and others who have not been accustomed to drinking.

In pursuit of this Mr. D. BANKS MACKENZIE, of the Appleton Temporary Home, near Boston, is now on a brief visit to this country. At Liverpool, where he spent his early years, he was the means of forming one or more of such Clubs, which, we are informed, already numbers two or three hundred persons.

Mr. Mackenzie delivered a lecture on the subject in the Halifax Rink on Sunday afternoon before a large audience, consisting of about 1500 or 2000 people. Hon. Dr. Parker presided and made brief reference to the Inebriates' Home at Dartmouth, which was established largely under the influence of Mr. Mackenzie on his former visit to Halifax.

After the lecture Mr. Neal stated that since his connection with this Home, 117, we think it was, had been enjoying its benefits. Among them were 48 men who had been brought to

the police station through drunkenness, and who were taken from the station to the Home. Of these only seven have ever fallen into the hands of the police again.

One of our city papers very justly remarks:—

"It is fair to assume that Mr. Neal's efforts in this direction have kept a good many men out of Rockhead prison, and thus saved the city the expense of supporting them. We speak only of the direct material gain to the city, not of the indirect gain through the earnings of men who were put in the right path, or of the moral gain, which is above all. From the lowest standpoint the Inebriate's Home is a successful institution, and deserves the support of the community."

These Reform Clubs contemplate more than the rescuing of men from the habits of drunkenness. The design is to bring them to become active Christian men, taking a deep interest in the work of bringing others to sobriety and to Christ. We can but wish all possible success to such a work and say, "God speed" to all who engage in it.

Died at Tremont, Kings County, on the 4th inst., in the 84th year of his age, MR. DAVID SAUNDERS. Mr. S. had been for about fifty years a member of the church in Aylesford. He was greatly beloved by a large circle of relatives and friends. His wife passed away to the Eternal Rest eleven years before him. These parents leave nine children, all professors of religion and members of Baptist Churches. One of them is the Rev. E. M. Saunders, of Halifax. The Rev. Dr. Tupper being from home, and the Rev. E. O. Read, the pastor, being laid aside with a broken arm, the Rev. W. E. Hall preached to a large audience an appropriate funeral sermon from Rev. xiv. 13: "Write, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

THE LATE REV. HENRY POPE, SENR.

The oldest minister for many years past in Halifax passed away on Friday last in this 89th year of his age. Upwards of seventy years ago he came out from England as a Wesleyan Methodist Foreign Missionary. He landed at Quebec and labored for a number of years in the active service of that body. For some years past he has been acting as a Supernumerary in Halifax, and for about twenty years has held the office of Chaplain to the Provincial Penitentiary. Being a most genial, kind-hearted, earnest Christian man, he was beloved by his own, and by all other, denominations. We shall greatly miss his frequent brief calls at our office, and the pleasant intercourse with which he was always ready. His acquaintance with nearly all of our aged ministers, and his retentive memory of past events and incidents in connection with his own ministry and theirs, made him very companionable and his conversation full of interest. At the funeral on Sunday last there was a very large attendance. After prayer at the house by Rev. Dr. McGregor, the procession, preceded by about twenty clergymen, followed the bier bearing his remains to the Grafton St. Church.—The Revs. J. Abbot, P. G. McGregor, R. Murray, E. M. Saunders, A. W. Nicholson, and B. Breken, officiating as pall-bearers. In the church the services were participated in by Revs. E. Brettle, E. M. Saunders, W. H. Hartz, and Dr. Burns, after which the procession reformed and proceeded to the Cemetery where hundreds had already assembled. Rev. Mr. Daniel, of St. John, N. B., read the burial service at the grave. In the evening the Rev. E. Brettle preached a funeral sermon from Hebrews xi. 14-16. Addresses were subsequently given by Revs. A. W. Nicholson and H. Daniel.

REV. J. WHEATEN SMITH, D. D., of Philadelphia, was on a visit to our city on Sunday last, being on his way eastward to spend a few weeks of his vacation. In the evening he preached an excellent sermon in Granville Street Church. We were glad to see him in more vigorous health than on his last visit to Halifax.

JUST IN TIME.—The new MOWER advertised in another column appears to combine in it all the points which must make a machine valuable, and to those having large farms indispensable. Labor-saving machinery, in these days are one great condition of success.—Send on to W. F. Burditt for one of the descriptive pamphlets.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WEEK.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. July 2. Battle of Marston Moor...1644. Death of Sir Robert Peel...1850. 3. Death of J. J. Rousseau...1778. 4. Declaration of Independence, U. S....1776. Battle of Maida...1816. Death of Bishop Watson...1816. Death of Ex-President Adams...1826. Death of Ex-President Jefferson...1826. 5. Execution of Sir Thomas More...1535. Battle of Wagram...1809. Battle of Lansdown Hill...1643. Death of Sir Thos. Raffles...1826. 6. Death of King Edward VI...1553. 7. John Huss, burnt...1415. Death of R. B. Sheridan...1816. 8. Battle of Pultowa...1709. Death of Edmund Burke...1797.

One of our ministering brethren writes us on the eve of leaving his charge for his usual "vacation," and kindly suggests, "You should have a vacation also." Be assured good brother we should be very glad to have such a thing in prospect. The nearest approach to it is our occasional run into the country to meet the brethren at our Associational gatherings; but then we have extra work in preparation for going and on returning must dispose of the accumulation waiting for us. Whilst there, too, we are not relieved from business cares. The demands of the press for copy and money are unceasing and imperative.

We often think that farmers and ministers ought to be amongst the happiest men living, the one cultivating the natural, and the other the spiritual field, and comparatively free from worldly cares.

"As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

Our brother, Rev. Geo. Armstrong writes in last week's Visitor: "A friend informs us that the Editor of the MESSENGER expresses deep sympathy for us, and has kindly volunteered to take charge of books, etc., which brethren and friends may contribute to replace the choice gatherings of many years of our life. Thanks, dear brother, for christian sympathy and help."

We quote the above to show our readers how the proposal is received, and how they may help restore to our brother what has been so suddenly taken from him. If friends would prefer sending books on direct to St. John, so be it, if by mail, the postage is one cent for every four ounces; but if we can serve him and them by taking charge of such donations we shall be very glad to do so. Friends in Halifax may have volumes to spare from their book shelves, and we hope they will make up sufficient for a box to be sent in the course of a few days.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD.—We are glad to learn from Rev. W. P. Everett, Home Secretary of Foreign Missionary Board, that the Board met with no very serious losses in the late conflagration. He says: "We lost a few books, valuable maps, and letter-copying press; but our Secretary's and Treasurer's books were saved. The address of our Treasurer, T. P. Davies, Esq., is now 61 Charlotte St. We trust that the treasurers of the respective Associations who have received or may receive contributions for the Mission, may forward them promptly to the Treasury; and that churches which have not yet taken their annual collections for us, will do so soon, so as to remit the money to Bro. Davies before August 10th, at which date the yearly account closes that is to be presented to the Convention. Any amounts received after that period will have to be presented in the next year's account."

The Public Schools of our city have been undergoing examination during the past week. Clergymen of the different denominations have been called in to render their aid and give their countenance to the proceedings. The morning and evening papers have given elaborate reports of results of the examinations at several of the Schools, and we presume the work has been in most cases pretty thoroughly done. We congratulate the teachers and scholars on the vacation they will now enjoy. The recuperation is much needed by the former to maintain that elasticity of mind so necessary for an efficient teacher.

THE STORY OF THE ST. JOHN FIRE has only been very partially told as yet. Much more remains to be learnt. The sensation of the first shock is over, but the distress arising will take a long time to find out as well as to relieve. Supplies are being received by them from all quarters but they are all needed, and the great difficulty will be for some time to come to so appropriate the donations of food, clothing and furniture as to avoid permanent injury to the independent spirit of the recipients.

We have had opportunities of conversing with a number of persons who have visited St. John since the fire, and their uniform testimony is that all the descriptions of the fire and of the scene of desolation fail to convey any adequate idea of the fearful destruction of property. The people are beginning to realize what is the amount of their calamity. Whilst many are receiving the aid sent on from other cities and villages, the probabilities are that a number almost equally large are silently suffering. The mode of giving out the aid is somewhat tedious, but the checks and guards are for the prevention of imposition. It is of course exceedingly difficult wholly to prevent this, but all cases that are discovered are treated with becoming strictness and severity.

The Telegraph says:

"The new arrangement for dispensing relief, though somewhat cumbersome at first bids fair to be a great improvement over the previous plan. In consequence of current reports that many of the poor were not relieved as promptly as their necessities demanded, two of our reporters made a careful survey of the work at the rink, Saturday afternoon, and interviewed some of the parties asking relief. The following is a concise account of what they there saw and heard. The case of each applicant is carefully examined by one of the committees in charge, and when found entitled to aid the applicant is furnished with a ticket as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Quantity. July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 11.

RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Supply...wife and...children...with...lbs flour...lbs meal...lbs sugar...lbs tea, ...loaves bread...lbs meat. Former residence,.....street, .....Committee, Commissariat No.....

The blanks are filled in by the committee issuing the ticket, and designate the number of members of the family, as well as the number of days' rations to be given out at a time. The applicant then carries the ticket to the commissariat, whose number corresponds with that on the ticket; and that officer issues the rations in accordance with the following scale, said by some to correspond exactly with the rations issued to the United States army: Flour or bread 2lbs.; meat, 1lb.; potatoes, 4lbs.; rice, 1lb.; pilot bread, 2 lbs.; butter 4 oz.; tea, 1oz.; coffee, 1oz.; sugar 4oz.; meal, 2lbs. Fish, molasses and soap are also given, the two first in lieu of other articles of food to suit the taste of the applicant, or when some of the stores are short. In answer to a reporter, one of the committee men said when a family consisted of two adults and three children, rations were used for three adults. To test the practical working of this system, the contents of the baskets of several applicants were examined by our reporters, and compared with the lists above given and in nearly every case the result was satisfactory so far as the quantity was concerned, though the assortment varied according to the department from which it had been issued.

A sickly looking woman, thinly clad, besought one of the attendants to give her a little more butter. "I have none to give you," said the clerk, "but here is some good cheese instead."

"What does a baby want of cheese?" Its bread and butter I'm asking for the poor thing," replied the woman, who tearfully took up her little basket and moved toward the door.

Other applicants did not conduct themselves so quietly, but used their tongues sharply against the attendants on the slightest provocation. Some seemed to be suspicious of favoritism, and, no matter how small their families, claimed the right to get as much as their neighbors. Tea was constantly required for, and all sorts of plans were adopted to get more than the regulation quantity, generally without success. The attendants were sorely tried at times; and, though some answered sharply, instances of absolute discourtesy were rare. Said one, in the hearing of our reporter, to a woman who objected to pilot bread as too hard for her scanty teeth,—"you can take what I give you and if you don't like it go to some other place."

The bread given out Saturday afternoon was nice looking and comparatively fresh, though a woman who had stopped on Jeffries hill with her load, to rest, showed our reporter two moldy loaves, that were absolutely unfit for food. "Did you show this to the attendant," enquired the reporter? No sir; I was glad to get anything; and the pork and