

For the Christian Messenger. MONTREAL, Feb. 4th, 1878.

Dear Sir.— In the Messenger of Jan'y 30th there appeared a pretty little poem, entitled, "A Free Seat," and I have no doubt but that it was read with pleasure and profit by many besides myself. It may not, however, be known to your readers than an incident similar to that metrically described in your paper occurred in this city some fifty years ago. The St. Gabriel Street Church, the oldest Protestant church in Montreal, was then the fashionable Presbyterian church of the city, and one Sunday morning when the congregation had assembled, a well dressed American gentleman walked into the church and up the middle aisle, looking for a seat, and though the church was not quite full, yet no one offered him one, for, as in the poem, "the pews were paid for, rented." On he went till he reached the communion table, then he turned and down the aisle he quickly walked, but no one stopped him, so out into the street he went, procured a large stone, placed it in the aisle, and sat upon it. Imagine the scene! The gentleman, unlike the old man, did not change "his stone for cushioned pew," but much to the chagrin of those who now offered their seats, and to the shame of the whole assembly, sat bolt upright on his stony and peculiar seat till the benediction was pronounced. That congregation must have been able to distinguish "sermons in stones" ever afterwards, yet that particular one was certainly "a rock of offence" unto them, for it occasioned a great furor in the city, and the papers were down on them like sledge-hammers next morning.

Yours, etc., J. M. C. MUIR.

For the Christian Messenger. Home Missions.

On Monday morning, the 5th inst., the members of our Home Mission Board met for the transaction of business. The correspondence presented the usual variety of interesting items. A number of contributions were acknowledged as having been received by the Treasurer during the month past, the largest of which was from J. W. Barss, Esq., who is always foremost in rendering aid in the promotion of our denominational enterprises. Another brother sends five dollars, the amount of his "usual tobacco money" which he desires to dedicate to a nobler use. We need many more donations of this kind.

We regret to learn that Rev. W. C. Rideout, who labored among the churches in Cape Breton last year, is suffering from a severe attack of throat disease, which he fears will permanently lay him aside from his loved work of preaching Christ.

In a letter from River John a good brother writes, in acknowledging a remittance from our treasury:—"We, as a church, feel obliged to the Board; and our prayer is that the Lord may pour out his Holy Spirit upon us that a large number may be gathered into the church."

Rev. D. H. Simpson writes encouragingly from Alberton, P. E. I.:

"I am endeavoring to 'tell the old, old story' in my humble way in thirteen different places, more or less often; and I hope not without good results. As you have doubtless learned from Bro. Sweet's report, there was a gracious revival of religion experienced in this field last year, through which seventy persons were added to the church, twenty-eight of whom I myself baptized. I have yet to learn that any of these have 'gone back.' By the blessing of God we have been enabled to lead them forward, as we hope, in the 'narrow way.' This is truly a cause for gratitude, and is telling very much in our favor. We have reason to believe that God is working in many hearts in this field; and we hope before long to see many more putting on Christ."

An excellent report comes to us of missionary labor gratuitously performed by Bro. E. S. Maider at New Canada. He writes as follows:—

"The Home Mission appeal has been received. I will make every effort to have a favorable response from our church. By to day's mail I forward a second collection made at New Canada, during my vacation, which I spent there. The first collection was sent to Rev. J. H. Robbins, and has been acknowledged in the Messenger. The brethren there belong to the New German church, which, though strong in numbers, is weak in effort; and so, being left to themselves and surrounded by opposing influences, the interest is not increasing. In the last part of the summer, as soon as arrangements had been made to have Pleasantville and Summerside supplied by the pastor of

Bridgewater church, I visited New Canada and have continued to do so every month since, as the interest increased and the congregations became larger each succeeding visit. I promised to continue my visits and labors monthly, at least, until something better is done for them. Our services during vacation resulted in good; and I would gladly have remained with them longer, but I was necessitated to attend to my school duties. If it were not so far (23 miles) I would go twice a month. Indeed, I shall try to do this in future. This is my missionary work, and I know that it has not been in vain. The declining interest has revived; the brethren have been encouraged and quickened; several precious souls have been brought to God, and a spirit of anxious inquiry has been awakened in the hearts of many others, for whom we pray and wait. Though I receive no remuneration, and ask for none, I feel amply repaid. 'Tis for the Master's cause. All I can collect will be forwarded to your treasury."

This is a worthy record, and it speaks well for our brother who manifests such an excellent missionary spirit. We are glad to notice that this voluntary and gratuitous service for Christ is on the increase.

The French Mission funds being exhausted, Bro. Normonday has been requested by our Board to visit the churches for the purpose of securing contributions towards the support of that mission. We sincerely trust that a generous response will be made to his solicitations. A considerable amount is now due Bro. Normonday on his salary, and, as we have no funds on hand, his circumstances are becoming very much straitened. Let us not starve our French missionary.

W. H. WARREN, Corresponding Secretary. Yarmouth, Feb. 5, 1878.

For the Christian Messenger. Juvenile Generosity.

AYLESFORD, Feb. 6th, 1878.

Mr. Editor,—

From the subjoined letter it appears, that a grandson of my first wife residing in a remote part of N. B., takes your valuable paper; and that the notices in it of the distressing Famine in India have prompted his young daughter to make a remarkable sacrifice to aid in relieving the sufferers.

I have promptly forwarded the money, with \$1.25 from an aged brother, to be remitted to India, as requested; and I will be glad to receive more for the same object.

Yours truly, C. TUPPER.

P. S.—The name of the donor of the last dollar received and remitted by me, was not given; but it was doubtless a benevolent friend in Newport. C. T.

CLIFTON, GLOUCESTER CO., N. B.

REV. DR. TUPPER:—

Dear Sir,—Having read in the Christian Messenger about the starving in India, I send a gold dollar, which was given me three years ago. Please send it to the starving people in India I am nine years old; and I am a granddaughter of Moses Lowe, Esq., of Amherst, N. S.

EVELYN E. A. LOWE.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 13th, 1878.

We copy the following editorial article from the St. John Christian Visitor:—

GRADUATES OF ACADIA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HALIFAX.

The admirers of the University of Halifax, it is said, are much encouraged in the hope that Acadia College will ere long become regularly and avowedly affiliated with that University. It is alleged that sixteen graduates of Acadia are members of the Convocation, and consequently entitled to vote on nominating gentlemen to the Senate. And other graduates of Acadia College have been approached and urged to become members of Convocation in order to aid in securing the appointment of a Professor in Acadia College to the vacant seat in the Senate! A correspondent, in a letter just received, says: "To-day I received from Halifax a large envelope with a request to join the Convocation of Halifax University. The Circular gives the names of sixteen Graduates of Acadia who are members, and the name of * * * * * is among them. I was much surprised to find his name on the list. I cannot join the Convocation* honestly. When the Baptist Convention approve this course, then I will go with them, but not till then." This is in our opinion a wise and consistent

*This word is probably a misprint. It is likely it was written, Convocation.—Ed.

decision. We presume the graduates who have gone in would fain draw Acadia College with them; but the Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, after mature consideration in Sackville in August of 1876, decided that Acadia College should be kept independent and free to control and work out her own curriculum in the best way possible. This was thought to be the wisest and best course for the Denomination and for higher education. It was for the purpose of sustaining the College in this position of freedom and independence in fulfilling her high mission, that the Convention resolved with almost entire unanimity to raise \$100,000 additional endowment. Thus the plan to carry Acadia in was utterly defeated. But still success is hoped for notwithstanding, by carrying in a Professor or a graduate now and then, and thus quietly compass what by other means was found impossible. We confess such a course appears to us more politic than just and proper.

While not wishing to interfere with the right or exercise of individual liberty, the Denomination, we feel certain, cannot approve a course adapted to sap its policy and render its action nugatory. It is quite time our students, graduates and people knew whether Acadia College is to carry out the course determined on by the Convention or to be quietly engineered or drawn into the Halifax University. For our own part we protest against this latter alternative, and warn the Denomination against drift and movement in that direction.

There are very many in these Provinces who would not have contributed their money freely towards the additional endowment, if they had supposed Acadia was to be carried into the Halifax University, either avowedly and in form, or quietly and by connivance. And high and independent educationists of broad and liberal views in the neighboring Republic think the Baptist denomination acted wisely in declining affiliation with the Halifax University. And we have seen nothing to induce the Denomination to abandon the policy and course determined on at Sackville, and adopted by the great body of Baptists in these Provinces. And we hope the Denomination will not be diverted from its course by the example, influence and movements of brethren who, however wise and worthy, have in this matter failed to understand and respect the policy and decision of the Convention."

Our good brother, the editor of the Visitor, in his jealous regard for Acadia College (which jealous regard we cannot too greatly admire or commend) appears greatly exercised by the fact which has come to his knowledge, that several of the graduates of Acadia have connected themselves with the Convocation of the University of Halifax, and charges these brethren with failing "to understand and respect the policy and decision of the Convention." What was that "decision"? Let us see.

In the minutes of the Convention held at Sackville we find it recorded that it was moved by Rev. I. E. Bill, seconded by Brother E. D. King, and

Resolved, That we hereby express our fullest confidence in the fidelity of the President of Acadia College, as also in the highly esteemed brethren who with him have been appointed by the Government of Nova Scotia to the Senate of the University of Halifax, and while we would not for a moment infringe upon their individual rights, yet we wish them and all others concerned to distinctly understand that their acceptance of office must not be interpreted to indicate affiliation, direct or indirect, of Acadia College with the University of Halifax.

We cannot perceive any attempt in this resolution to control the individual action of brethren or prevent them exercising their liberty in this matter. It would be a strange thing for a Baptist Convention if it were so. One object of the resolution was evidently to remove any misapprehension on the point, that the disinclination of the Convention to affiliate might seem to interfere with "individual rights." We see no necessity for being frightened where there is really no danger of being hurt. After reading our contemporary's article we became curious to know who the gentlemen were who were so referred to by our New Brunswick friend, and made enquiry in the proper quarter. Let us see, then, who these men of Acadia are who have such grave charges preferred against them. Here are the names:—

W. L. Barss; B. H. Eaton; W. Graham; J. J. Hunt; E. D. King; J. Parsons; J. Y. Payzant; J. W. Longley; J. W. Johnson; J. F. Covey, St. Andrew's, N. B.; Dr. Barss; J. W. Wallace; Thos. E. Corning; Rev. S. W. DeBlois; Rev. J. W. Manning; W. D. Dimock; D. F. Higgins; Rev. E. M. Saunders; Hon. Dr. Parker; Rev. S. B. Kempton; Ingram B. Oakes, Chatham, N. B.; R. J. Munroe; Albert J. Hill; L. M. Smith; Dr. S. Fitch; G. G. Sanderson; Prof. R. V. Jones; Dr. Wickwire; Dr. McLatchy; Neil McLeod.

We should be sorry to call in question the loyalty to Acadia of such men as these, and we dare not suppose that any of these graduates "would fain draw Acadia College with them," except with the unequivocal hearty concurrence of the Convention and Governors. One of them is a governor of Acadia, who has recently "come down" for the re-building fund to the tune of \$500 (his past services and donations are too numerous to mention); another, a

Governor of Acadia, who has probably done as much as any man towards raising the \$100,000 New Endowment; another is at present a college agent; another Treasurer of Acadia; another, Secretary of the Governors; two others, Professors of the College; another (not a Baptist) recently donating \$100 for re-building; another (not a Baptist) giving \$100, and so on. Are these men likely to do anything against the interests of Acadia? Are they "conniving"? Can you not trust them, good brother? You cannot surely imagine that these twenty-seven graduates of Acadia mean ill towards their Alma Mater? Such an assumption is altogether too wild. Dismiss your fears, brother. Wherever you shall find these Alumni of Acadia working, depend upon it, they will be doing good or checking evil, and promoting the cause of Higher Education and considering the best interests of Acadia, whether in Acadia College or the Convocation, or the Senate of the University of Halifax. There should be a more generous construction placed upon their acts. They can be trusted, and so far as they are concerned, we believe, will not allow Acadia to occupy a secondary place in their estimation.

Our brother, and other brethren named, will pardon us for suggesting that in case he or A. F. Randolph, Esq., or J. H. Harding, Esq., or any other of the N. B. governors of Acadia College, should be appointed governors of the University of Fredericton—and that is a teaching University, whereas the U. of H. is but an examining body—we should believe they would not love Acadia less or do less for it on that account. But it may be that our brother thinks the University of Halifax is hostile to Acadia, as some at first supposed it would be. Let us see: The Chancellor has promised a donation to the re-building fund; the vice-Chancellor has sent in his cheque for \$500; Senator Power, Superintendent Allison and Dr. A. P. Reid have each given liberally and without solicitation to that fund; and so on. And these men are not Baptists either, but belong to four different denominations. Again, we suggest that in a case where there is no danger it is manifestly out of place to give way to feelings of alarm.

The past week has been fruitful of remarkable events which will make it memorable on the page of history, and will have a controlling influence in the future of the European nations. A week ago the proposal was made for an armistice to consider what should be the terms of peace between the two nations. But the ambition of Russia would not brook such delay. The Russian army having got within a few miles of the coveted prize, and finding it possible to put her army, with the flush of its recent victories fresh upon it into her enemy's capital, she has marched her legions into Constantinople, perhaps for a temporary rest, and perhaps for a longer occupation as circumstances may determine. The British people are aroused to the greatest excitement on finding that Russia has in this rapid movement stolen a march upon them, and will have the advantage of possession in any negotiations of the proposed Conference.

The vote of credit asked for by the English government for six millions sterling, was passed with a large majority in Parliament, the opposition giving way under these new circumstances between the contending forces. Russia will thus be in a position to demand a larger amount of consideration and Turkey must yield except as she is sustained by the other European nations. Being unable to cope with her hardy northern foe she can only take what is left by permission of her neighbors. It is doubtless high time that such a weak heathen despotism should be relieved from controlling nations deserving a better form of government than she can give them. Mohammedanism has long enough controlled so vast an extent of the fairest portion of the world, and we ought to look for a change which will give them more freedom and security of life and of the property they may acquire.

In addition to these changes in the Eastern question we have the death of

the infallible Pope Pius the IX. After disappointing friends and foes so many times he has yielded to the last enemy, and finished a course perhaps the most remarkable of any man of the present age. He began his pontificate as a friend to liberty and introduced reforms in church and state, but finding he had advanced beyond the line where he would be sustained by those who must sustain him, he was obliged to submit to the inevitable and give up the temporal power to the sovereign chosen by the people; retaining only the spiritual jurisdiction. This, however, he has continued to administered with more and more vigor, making his influence tell especially over the Roman Catholic nations and advancing in the development of new dogmas; making the decrees of the Vatican more imperative and binding than ever before. We shall now be watching each week for fresh developments in the Papacy.

BAPTIST STATISTICS.

We learn from the London Freeman that the Baptist Hand-book is out, although it has not as yet arrived here. From our English contemporary we find that the number there given of members of Baptist Churches in Great Britain and Ireland is 269,836. We may refer to other particulars when the Hand-book comes to us.

The American Baptist Year Book noticed elsewhere informs us that the number of members of Baptist Churches reported to the Associations in the United States last year is 2,024,224; of Churches 28,908; and of ministers 14,596. That is an increase of about 500 ministers and 92,000 members during the year. These numbers do not include various other bodies practicing immersion which would in the aggregate make nearly six hundred thousand more. These numbers are likely to be in error by omission rather than by excess as there are numbers of churches that make no returns. It is generally allowed that the proportion of communicants is as one to five of the adherents of churches generally. If we calculate, on a lower proportion, say one to four, we shall have now about eight millions of Baptists in the United States, about a quarter of a million in the Dominion of Canada and a million in Great Britain.

The Summary of United States Statistics shows that there are in the various States:—

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Associations: 1048; Churches: 23,908; Ordained Ministers: 14,596; Additions by Baptism: 102,292; Letter: 35,486; Experience: 6,967; Restoration: 11,306; Diminutions by Death: 15,659; Letter: 37,355; Exclusion: 23,408; Erasure: 5,112; Total Membership: 2,024,224.

These are encouraging facts shewing that much work has been done, and, as we recognize only believers as church members we may hope that God has visited his churches and made the seed of the Kingdom which has been sown, to germinate, blossom and bear fruit to his praise. Such blessings called for gratitude and humility, and a determination to still labor on; and God who is faithful to his promises to Zion, will make it a praise in the earth.

The writer of the following neat epistle gave us no authority to publish it, we therefore omit the place and signature and tender our best respects to him, hoping he may long live to continue with us, and that we may have a host of just such gentlemen on our list of subscribers:—

January 31st, 1878.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed is two dollars for the present year's Messenger. This gives me the best satisfaction of any two dollars I spend the whole year. I cannot do without it.

Yours truly,

We were pleased to learn by the Berwick Star of last week that a sociable will be given by Mrs. N. P. Spurr, Aylesford, on Thursday evening 14th inst., for the benefit of Rev. Robert Morton. Tea at 6 p. m., tickets 25 cents. Should that evening prove stormy it will take place on the first fine evening following.

As Rev. Mr. Morton has been an invalid for several years, and as Mrs. Spurr has so generously offered to give a sociable for his benefit, a generous and sympathizing public should avail themselves of opportunity of showing their respect for this worthy and afflicted servant of Christ.