

For the Christian Messenger. Baptist Usages.

Mr. Editor.—

I am thankful for your suggestions in reference to my Enquiries, and yet I trust you will excuse me for saying that they do not afford as full and satisfactory a solution of my difficulty as I could wish.

As to the usages of Baptist churches, you dispose of the matter in a very general way by saying that they are "congregational in the reception and discipline of their members."

Question.—Is it in accordance with Scripture and Baptist usages for females to vote on a question of expulsion of members from the churches?

Now I have no purpose to serve in pressing this matter on the attention of yourself and your readers other than to elicit information for my own benefit and for others who possibly may have similar doubts.

Perhaps I am wrong in my convictions. If so, I am willing to be instructed. Hoping to receive more light on this subject, I am

Yours truly, A READER.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., November 20, 1878.

"THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH."

This is doubtless no less true now than it was in apostolic days. There are still those who say "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation," and are afraid to think of the coming of Christ again to earth as a practical real thing.

There have been a good many mistakes on this subject from the earliest days of Christianity to the present time, especially with those who have sought to determine the date of His coming.

such motive should at all times so continue to operate.

A few weeks since a large number of Christian men came together in New York into a Conference on this subject. They exchanged their views by a number of well written papers in relation thereto.

Resolved, That the doctrine of our Lord's pre-millennial advent, instead of paralyzing evangelistic and missionary efforts, is one of the mightiest incentives to earnestness in preaching the gospel to every creature 'till He cometh.'

On the other hand it is held by a large portion of Christians that through the preaching of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit applying the word to men's hearts they will be changed and so the world will be more and more brought under the reign of Christ and thus this world will be made better and better until the gospel has been preached to all nations.

The accommodations on board the "Sarmatian" are such as will induce many to seek for a sight of them:—

The saloon is artistically decorated with ferns and flowers. The state-rooms of the Princess Louise, the Marquis of Lorne and Lady Sophia McNamara are specially fitted with self-adjusting beds.

Mr. Sydney Hall, who is commissioned to make sketches of the interesting scenes in the Vice-Regal progress, accompanies the party.

Colonel McNeil, the Queen's equerry, accompanies the Princess Louise. He will return to England after the accomplishment of the journey.

\$10,000 is the sum paid to the Messrs. Allan, for bringing the Governor-General and party across in the S. S. "Sarmatian."

H. M. S. Black Prince arrived on Monday afternoon. Captain H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh landed immediately after the ship anchored, and is the guest of His Excellency the Admiral.

A DRAWING ROOM will be held at Government House, at 9.30 p. m., the day of the official landing by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne and H. R. H. the Princess Louise.

A PROVINCIAL PROHIBITORY CONFERENCE is called by members of the Council of the Dominion Alliance, to meet in the Division Room, Temperance Hall, Halifax, on Thursday, 28th November, instant, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M., to consider the propriety of organizing a Branch of the Alliance for the Province of Nova Scotia.

All friends of Temperance and Prohibition are invited to attend, and Temperance Societies (close and open), are invited.

Travelling facilities will be afforded by the Railways, &c. (Signed) Robert Burns, D. D., Joseph Bell, George P. Nelson, Avar Longley, Samuel Creelman, R. Alder Temple, John Burgoyne, J. T. Bulmer, J. Parsons.

THE NEW NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

The inauguration of the handsome new Building at Truro on Wednesday last was an event in our province which deserves far more attention than it has received.

The chairman's address was very appropriate, expressive of his high appreciation of the N. S. School law as finely adapted to the condition of the country.

Dr. McRobert, Secretary of the Commissioners gave a clear statement of the history and construction of the New building. Its entire cost is set down as \$41,000.

Principal Calkin gave a brief historical sketch of the first Normal School erected 23 years ago.

Hon. S. Creelman spoke of the steps that had been taken in the Legislature in the development of our educational system, the men who had first fostered it, and of the Hon. Dr. Tupper who had in 1864 introduced the present system.

The building is a spacious handsome structure well adapted for the purposes for which it is intended and highly ornamental to the town. It is 98 feet in length by 50 in width, having a wing in the rear measuring 62 feet by 50.

The Model School close by is in similar style. It was erected by the Town of Truro at a cost of \$10,000.

MR. CURRIE'S CHALLENGE.

The following letter has been sent by the Editor of the BIBLE INDEX to Rev. D. D. Currie.

TORONTO, ONT., Nov. 7th, 1878.

Rev. D. D. Currie,—

DEAR SIR,—Your challenge is before me. Of course you do not expect me to expend a hundred dollars, more or less, in time and money in a fruitless effort to deliver you out of the furnace into which your peculiar way of quoting Greek lexicons has baptized you.

1. Let a committee of your own choosing affirm that Schrevelius or any Lexicographers named by you does give sprinkle as one of the definitions of baptizo, and I will publish their testimony in the Index, accompanied by two pages or less of argument from you, provided you will get some Methodist paper to publish my reply of the same length.

2. If the people of Moncton, immersionists and affusionists, desire for any purpose a discussion of the whole question of baptism, as to its action, or even the narrow question of falsifying and manufacturing definitions, I am ready whenever they will, provided that such discussion shall not be held at my expense.

3. If anything I may write should make it as warm here as it seems to be in Moncton, I will either migrate, or get cooled off at my own expense or that of my friends, or stay in the heat.

Yours &c., H. MCDIARMID.

The United States Government has sought to get rid of paying the five and a half millions of dollars agreed upon by the Halifax Commission, and has urged every conceivable objection in its despatches to the British Government.

The editor of the Canadian Spectator of Montreal, asks, "Is there no law against cruelty to animals in this country? If there is, it should be carried out and heavy punishment meted offenders. The way poor horses are lashed and tormented by unfeeling brutes, to make them drag loads up the hills in this city is simply disgraceful.

Our, so-called, Music Hall, in Halifax, is simply a Theatre and should have been so called. It has just enough of musical entertainments to save its name, but if it had been more adapted to music in its arrangements, it might be far more useful, and good concerts might be given at more reasonable prices.

We advise our brother to get up a society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals after the pattern of the one we have in Halifax, and the Secretary would soon make himself a terror to evil doers in these respects.

ZION'S ADVOCATE, one of our most highly esteemed exchanges, the organ of the Baptists in the State of Maine, recently celebrated its semi-centennial. It was started on the 6th day of November, 1828.

We are glad to find that the Advocate holds its own, notwithstanding the competition of rivals and neighbours. It has come to us regularly for the past twenty years and upwards, and we set a high estimate upon it.

The Arches across the streets in different parts of the city are assuming a finished appearance. They will be highly picturesque and beautiful. The double arch at the north west corner of Province Building in Granville Street is a most elaborate structure.

Excursion Tickets are being issued for parties to come to Halifax and back for one fare, good from the 21st to the 30th, that they may witness the grand reception given to the vice regal party.

I have, &c., (Signed) SALISBURY.

A later despatch from New York indicates that the U. S. government do nevertheless intend to pay the award, before the date named for that purpose has passed.

The Spectator says Montreal wants a Music Hall—a brick building capable of accommodating about two thousand people.

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