

Many are the brave little crafts I see riding gallantly upon the waves. On they come, colors flying, sails unfurled; and the waves seem to fall back on either side as they cut swiftly through them. For at the helm stands the Pilot, Jesus Christ the Lord. Close by His side, near, so very near that His glory seems to shine reflected in their happy faces, stand His little ones, letting Him lead them, letting Him guard them, eager just to do what He commands, eager to be with Him whithersoever He goeth. Happy, thrice happy little Christian mariners! Safe through the cloud and the sunshine ye are bearing on to the radiant land of the blest.

Ah, as you embark this first of January for another year's voyage, dear children, with God's help resolve that you will not set sail until you have honestly asked and answered this question—

**HAVE I THE PILOT ON BOARD?**

To some of you, perhaps, the sea is still smooth; no rude waves leap around you; all is very fair and bright. Then ask the Pilot to come and share the brightness of your voyage. He will make it all the brighter; ay, and He will make the brightness last, for it is He alone in whom is the gladness of everlasting sunshine.

To others the sea may already be troubled. The waves rise high, the winds blow roughly, dark rocks loom threateningly ahead, trouble and fear have overtaken your fragile little barques. Now is the time to ask the Pilot to come to you, now is the time to place grateful, loving confidence in His power, His compassion, His guidance, and His protection.

He waits but till you ask Him; for one step you take toward Him, He will take two. For He loves you.

Then with His dear hand at the helm, with His loving presence by your side you may indeed turn your little craft to the wind, and brave in triumph the ocean wave, only eager day by day to feel the power of sin feeble, only eager to feel your love to your Saviour deeper, your opportunities of serving Him greater; truly then with sunshine in our soul and sunshine in your face, with hearts made clean by the blood which continually cleanseth from sin, and hands ever ready solely and wholly to do His will, you will have that good thing which I earnestly and lovingly pray may be your glad portion, not this alone, but every succeeding year, and all the year through—

**A MOST HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

For happiness comes alone with THE PILOT AT THE HELM.

For the Christian Messenger Acadia College.

Sir,—

I am pleased to see that the Governors of Acadia, have decided to build for the future and not merely for the present. Thirty years ago I remember attending an Association at Liverpool N. S., Father Harding was there; matters in relation to the College looked exceedingly gloomy, several ministering and other brethren spoke discouragingly. Father Harding was sitting under the old wine-glass pulpit, from the flash of his eye, and the knitting eyebrows, it was easy to see that his great soul was intensely agitated, as soon as an opportunity offered, he rose taking hold of his large white neckcloth with both hands, and giving a pull or two downwards, as was his habit on such occasions, as if to make room for the soul-stirring utterance which was about to be poured forth upon the large assemblage before him, he was not long in bringing a wonderful change over the meeting, as well as the aspect of the whole subject, his eloquent and soul-stirring oration on that occasion, viewed in the light of thirty years history, were truly prophetic. The faith of the weak and doubting was strengthened and a mighty impulse was given to the interests of the College, and by such as he it has been carried along in faith, until it has been largely the means under God of building up a great Baptist interest in these Provinces.

Fifty-three years ago, we numbered in Nova Scotia, 1450 church members, in 1876 23,000, with a population of say 70,000, shewing an increase of sixteen hundred per cent. in 1824. We were a poor despised people, twitted and jibed for our ignorance, all sorts of slurs and abuse were heaped upon us by those whose sentiments and doctrines were smiled upon by the rich and the educated. And why were we found in this position? Why? but because the ecclesiastical progenitors of our persecutors would not allow us to remain

long on the planet but sent us up to heaven with fire and sword, they locked up our ministers in prisons, and endeavoured to make our distinctive doctrines odious in the eyes of the people, and make it a disgrace to join the Baptists. Our people everywhere, felt their humiliating position, a strong desire for education, was but a natural result. They set themselves about obtaining it and so admirably have they succeeded that in the United States alone, they have about ninety Universities, Colleges and Academies.

With 700 professors and teachers 8300 students, with College property valued at \$12,000,000, endowed with \$5,000,000, and receiving and expending \$750,000 per annum in obtaining higher education, and these despised people who a hundred years ago were locked up in prisons for practising their distinctive principles, number over 2,000,000 Church members and then ministers compared favourably in point of education, piety and general knowledge with any in the world, and President Robinson of Brown University, never uttered a clearer truth than when he said

"I suppose it to be admitted, Mr. President, by all real scholars, that biblical learning and the higher biblical criticism, is altogether on our side. It is perhaps, needless in this presence to say that the two, if not the three, foremost biblical scholars in this country are Baptists. I suppose it to be admitted by all biblical scholars of both Europe and America, that our mode of baptism is the primitive one. I suppose it to be admitted by all competent and candid scholars. European and American, that there was no infant baptism in the primitive church; that the first Christians received baptism only on profession of personal faith in Christ; that there are no traces of either Episcopacy or Papacy in the New Testament. These I take to be facts in the case. They are not disputed by impartial scholars. We can summon for our support therefore, the biblical learning of the world."

And this has been coming from our opponents, through the education imparted by the Colleges, instituted and sustained by our fathers.

Yes, by all means build for the future because if we continue to increase in as in the past we shall have 371,200 Church members in Nova Scotia alone in 53 years hence, and a baptist population of 1,120,000, that is if our ratio of increase continues, as it surely will and more. Emigration agents will need to be on alert to supply the material.

The Baptist who talks about making up the direct loss only should have lived before the flood, at all events he should trace the footprints of the flock, from those made by John about the Jordan, and as delineated through the Acts of the Apostles, by Jones, Robinson Orchered, Benedict, and Cramp, he will find it a profitable and heart-warming exercise, and besides he will be reminded of the value of our principles, by the price they cost our fathers, and will be the more willing to contribute for their perpetuation.

Yours,  
W. H.

**The Christian Messenger.**

Halifax, N. S., January 2nd, 1878.

**THE NEW YEAR, A. D., 1878.**

To all our readers, young and old, far and near, rich and poor, we wish A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

More happy in all respects than any of the past have been.

The old year has passed away with all its joys and sorrows, its troubles and trials, its deficiencies and defects. The record of 1877 is written, and the completed volume laid away with its predecessors in the archives of the past ages to await the judgment of the great day. Many of its pages are sadly marred by mistakes and blots, wasted hours and unemployed days, and the review of them will afford but little satisfaction. Many an "idle word" is down which should not have been spoken. Many an act would be gladly recalled, but it is now too late, too late! The truth must be told. But the account the record gives of blessings bestowed and mercies received by us from the Divine Hand encourage to greater trust in the love of our Heavenly Father. These fill up by far the larger space, and the number has been limited only by our readiness to receive them and use them properly. These are all only seeds for future growth and development. The enquiry of many will doubtless be, What shall the harvest be? It may be

that the lessons learned will be put to good account, and what has been gained in experience will help to avoid a repetition of wrong, and in future to choose what is best, and so secure a wiser course for the future, making the pages of the current volume to present a fairer and more satisfactory aspect than any of the preceding. Although evil abounds on every hand, yet there were perhaps never so many facilities for getting good and doing good as at present. Each year brings fresh advantages with increased responsibilities. This life is the time for labor. The opportunities of doing Christian work are passing away, and after a few more New Year's days have gone, will come our last. What if we have already seen our last? Reader, have you entered on the year that is to bring your work to a termination? Perhaps it is so. May you have grace and strength to employ its days so that when you are called away the Master may say, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"

**STATE COLLEGES.**

The College question in the United States is well put in a short article in the *N. Y. Chronicle & Examiner*. It seems very much as it was with us a year or two ago, which however now seems pretty well settled. The views we held and the policy adopted seem very much like that of our brethren in the United States:—

**AN OLD SCHEME REVIVED.**

President Hayes, in his first annual Message, revives the time-honored suggestion that Washington be made the seat of a great national university, and emphasizes—as has already been done, over and over again—the facilities afforded for such an institution by the Congressional Library, the collections of the Smithsonian Institute, etc., etc. On *a priori* grounds, this argument would seem to be conclusive; but the Baptists—alive to their advantages—founded in Washington, fifty years or so ago, a college whose affairs were to be administered in a thoroughly undenominational spirit. The *New York Nation* emphasizes the practical difficulties which hinder the realization of such a scheme as President Hayes contemplates:

The President's suggestion as to the establishment of a national university at Washington, though nothing is likely to come of it, is, in the present condition of the civil service and of the public mind about patronage and salaries, rather ill advised. None of the State universities, so called, are successful in the highest and best sense of the word. Some of them are the mere playthings of politicians, and as a general rule, the more ignorant a politician is the more he has to say about the university. In all of them the pay of the Professors is scanty, the interference of the incompetent constant, and the humiliations frequent and deep. To start another such institution on a great scale at Washington would be a curse to the Government and a real hinderance to the cause of higher education. Each Senator would want a chair for "his man," and "the man" would be overhauled every session in the House for some defect in his teaching, and the President of the university would have to pass half his time in lobbying either to get the appropriation or prevent his being legislated out of existence. Then there would be an annual "board of visitors," who would recommend each year a total change in the curriculum and discipline, and perhaps the dismissal of a professor of history for secret leadings to monarchy, or of a professor of political economy for unsoundness about the tariff or the double standard. In short, it would be a great and serious addition to existing troubles and responsibilities.

And, after all this is said, is it the legitimate province of "the general government" to provide a "higher education" for the handful of its citizens who would avail themselves of the provision?

We have just been favored with a look at the plans and elevation of Germain-Street Baptist Church, St John, N. B. The new arrangement of the church and ministers residence are admirable. The latter fronting on Queen Street instead of Germain Street as before. It will have the tower and steeple on the corner, and will be a very handsome structure. It is now being covered in with slate. The basement will afford a large amount of accommodation. Entering from Queen Street, it will be light and airy. The whole is to cost about \$30,000.

The Leinster Street Church are obtaining an additional lot of ground, and will build their church on the corner of Germain and Carmarthen Streets. They are excavating and we believe purpose beginning to build shortly.



**OLIVET CHURCH, MONTREAL.**

The above cut represents the new Baptist Church building now in course of erection in Montreal. Thinking that a pictorial representation would give our readers a better idea of it than any verbal description we made application and have been favored with the engraving for our pages. We copy the following description of the building from the "Olive Branch" a small sprightly monthly paper published under the auspices of the church:—

We present in this issue a wood-cut of the new edifice now being erected at the corner of Mountain and Osborne streets, and which (D. V.) will be ready for occupancy about the close of 1878. One of our city newspapers, in a recent editorial, expressed the opinion that Montreal has already too many churches; this may be so, but the people of Olivet Baptist Tabernacle need greater accommodation for their rapidly increasing congregation and Sunday School, and, believing that they have distinctive principles to uphold, and duties to perform, have commenced to build, and hope to finish a large sanctuary for the worship and glory of God. Our people have perfect unity in this work, and manifest great liberality and earnestness in its prosecution.

The building will be constructed of what is known as rough mountain lime stone and will be 109 feet in length by 84 feet wide. Fronting on Osborne Street, there will be two towers, each 100 feet in height. The main audience room will be octagonal in form, with semi-circular seats, capable of holding about 900 persons, and, with the aid of galleries, will seat 1400 persons. The basement will be light and cheerful, and perfect in its arrangements for Sunday school and prayer meetings. The cost of the building will be about \$50,000—organ and furnishing extra.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.**

The 15th Annual Convention of this Association commenced on Wednesday evening last in the library of Dalhousie College. A large number of Teachers were present.

Mr. A. H. McKay the President in his opening address referred to the season, and wished the members the usual compliments. He noticed the loss they had sustained of one who had met with them on former years and offered them words of advice and encouragement in their work. He then noticed in detail the various changes which he thought necessary for the better instruction of the people in this Province. He thought that the curriculum for a teacher's certificate might, in several of the subjects, be modified. The lower grade teachers should be thoroughly versed in physiology and natural science. The common schools were not satisfactory, a change to a more central positions, might in many places be made; reducing their number would increase the efficiency. There should be about four central county academies, say Yarmouth, Truro, Halifax, Sydney, New Glasgow or Amherst, or some such towns. He thought the Government was bound to consider the most effective means for producing the desired results in the education of the people. He thought it of great importance, that attention should be given to gymnastics. The apparatus need not be expensive. The address was listened to very attentively and was well received.

After the opening Address, the President introduced Rev. Canon Dart, President of King's College, who gave a lecture on "Thomas Hood." He described Hood as a charming writer of verse. After noticing what was required to make up a poet, he said Hood had all these, and held high rank among England's moral writers, wits and humorists. The "Song of the Shirt" is perhaps the best known of his writings. The lecture was listened to with much attention by the large audience present.

On Thursday morning, after the routine of opening, the Council was

instructed to apply to the Government for a grant of \$100 per year towards the funds of the Association.

Mr. Groat from Ontario gave some account of the School System in that province. There inducements are held out to retain Teachers in the profession in the shape of an annuity, six dollars being given for each year's teaching. High Schools are very superior, the teachers having to undergo a careful examination, the schools grade into each other, the Common School prepares for the High School, and that again for the College, the pass examination of the lower being the matriculation of the higher. Payment by results is made, ten dollars per passed pupil being allowed. Inspectors are required to be trained teachers, and to help to organize, classify, and teach for the instruction of the poorer teacher. All teachers are required to pass an examination in drawing and music, and to teach those branches in school. Township Boards he believed more effective than sections in carrying on education. Inspectors are paid ten dollars for each school which they are required to visit twice a year, each visit occupying not less than three hours.

W. H. Waddell, teacher in the Halifax High School, read an excellent paper on Teaching of Science. He shewed the several branches of Science which should be taught in schools. First, Botany; next, Zoology; then Physics and Chemistry. With due attention, these studies create an amount of interest that no other part of education could. He believed all should be taught these subjects, and concluded by expressing the hope that the Technical School spoken of would soon come into operation.

The President also spoke at some length on the need of science in schools to meet the demands of modern civilization.

Dr. Bayne moved a resolution to the effect that it is desirable that some arrangement be effected whereby teachers may be enabled to take advantage of special courses of instruction either at the proposed School of Science in this city, at the Normal School, or at some one of the Colleges at present existing, and that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Council of Public Instruction in reference to this matter, and to take such further steps as may seem best suited to realize that end.

Dr. Bayne, Principal Calkin and President McKay, were appointed, to be such Committee.

The afternoon Session was taken up by an excellent address from Principal Calkin, on Object Teaching, which was illustrated by Miss Hamilton, using the blackboard for the purpose.

Miss McCulloch, of Morris Street School then read a capital paper on drawing, which evinced most careful thought on the subject.

A resolution was then submitted and passed, recommending the appointment of a drawing master for the Province. It was well supported by various speakers, and was passed.

The evening session was occupied first by Dr. Allison the Superintendent of Education who was welcomed by a special resolution of the Association. His address was in no way special but introductory to his real work giving good promise of the future management of our educational affairs.

Professor McDonald then gave a well prepared paper on the proper course of study for Common Schools and High Schools. Mr. McD. held that the time spent in studying Greek might be better employed by many in the Natural Sciences. Several impromptu addresses followed from Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Mr. Daly, Rev. Dr. Hill, His Worship the Mayor, Rev. J. Ambrose, Alderman Reid, Professor Higgins and the Rev. J. Duncan.

On Friday morning at 10 o'clock the members of the Association assembled again.

Mr. A. N. Archibald, Principal of Richmond School, Halifax, read a paper on Teacher's Institutes, their advantages and the duty of teachers and school inspectors respecting them. To do away with combinations of men in all the different callings would be to disarrange all the social, commercial and political relations in the state. Just so great necessity exists for teachers combining for the promotion of the general good. Here the teachers have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with prominent educationists, receive valuable hints respecting school organization, discipline, text books, methods, &c.

Mr. Condon said he fully endorsed Mr. Archibald's views.