

For the Christian Messenger. Acadia College Agency.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 6th, 1878.

Mr. Editor.—

In compliance with the request of the Committee, I visited some of the churches east in behalf of our College.

From the interruption to travelling, and the peculiar financial state of the places, depending on the fishery, I did not extend my visit to nearly all the places I had intended to visit.

At Antigonish I found that brother Weeks had already moved in the matter, and probably will obtain still further subscriptions.

At Canso, after two successive years' failure of fish, it may well be admitted, that depending on this source of supply, the financial pressure must bear very heavily on the inhabitants.

At an educational meeting at this place greatly assisted by the Pastor and Rev. Mr. Bigney (Wesleyan), subscriptions were obtained amounting to one hundred and twenty dollars, increased by subscriptions of twenty dollars at Crow Harbor. Bro. Bars, pastor of Guysboro' and Manchester Church had obtained subscriptions of over ninety dollars, and increased by subscriptions at Manchester to about, or nearly one hundred and twenty dollars.

At Port Hawkesbury after presenting the case of the College, a subscription paper was left with Bro. Peter Paint, who kindly consented to circulate it, and gather what he could, being headed by himself with ten dollars and Peter Paint, Senr., with twenty-five dollars.

A list of the subscribers will be left with the treasurer, and as paid, will be acknowledged—the following sums were paid to me:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Collection at Canso (\$3 17), A Friend (20 00), A. Cohoon (10 00), Mr. John Hendeby and wife (5 00), Geo. A. Tanner (0 25), T. Carter (0 20), Collection at Hawkesbury (1 07), Peter Paint, Junr. (10 00), Mrs. Frank Cunningham, Antigonish (4 00), Mrs. Isaac Blair, Truro (50 00).

D. W. C. DIMOCK. Truro, Jan. 30th, 1878.

What Constitutes Hell.

Dr. Norman Macleod is accredited with the following: "Let the fairest star be selected, like a beautiful island in the vast and shoreless sea of the azure heavens, as the future home of the criminals from earth, and let them possess what they most love, and all that is possible for God to bestow; let them be endowed with undying bodies, and with minds that shall ever retain their intellectual powers; let no Saviour ever press his claims upon them, no Sabbath ever dawn upon them, no saint ever live among them, no prayer ever be heard within their border; but let society exist there forever, smitten with the leprosy of enmity to God, and with utter selfishness as its all-pervading and eternal purpose—then, as sure as the law of righteousness exists, on which rests the throne of God and the government of the universe, a society so constituted must work out for itself a hell of solitary and bitter suffering, to which there is no limit except the capacity of finite nature. Alas! the spirit that is without love to God or its neighbor is already possessed by a power which must at last create for its own self-torment a worm that will never die, and a fire that can never be quenched."

Dr. Tyng on Pew-Rents.

The younger Dr. Tyng has had an experience in building up a working church, and in the work of "reaching the masses," which make his views worth listening to. He has tried the pew-rent system and the free-pew system, and recently gave his opinion of both. The rent system, as usually conducted, "makes the church a private club, and the free-seat system is the catchpenny of a demagogue." The true system, as he believes, is "the one that puts the rental within the reach of all." By this policy pews are made as good as free to all who wish to occupy them regularly—the rent in many cases being nominal—and two great evils are avoided: the danger of driving all but the wealthy from the church, and of giving harborage to the "church tramp."—N. Y. Ez.

If a man take no thought of what is distant, he will find sorrow near at hand.

"Inquirer" asks a few important questions concerning the Christian ministry, and wishes for answers through the columns of the Messenger. First, he asks, Is every man called to preach the gospel who thinks he is so called?

2nd. Is it not possible that some are mistaken in their calling?

3rd. Is it not a common thing for all Christians to desire to bring souls to Christ?

4th. Does it follow, therefore, that all who have that desire must be public preachers of the gospel?

And then, 5th, Is it not the first duty of those who are so called, being ignorant, to seek the necessary qualifications for so important a work?

The enquiries thus far may be considered to contain their own replies, for whilst all believers are to preach Christ by their lives, and testify what he has done for them, it is only such as have gifts to qualify them for being heralds of the cross, able to command the attention of an audience, and to speak to their edification, who can be regarded as called to give their lives wholly to the office of the ministry, and, of course, being ignorant, they must be willing to learn how to speak correctly, and having at all times to use the Inspired Word, they must be able to read correctly, and give the interpretation or they had better find some other occupation.

Our correspondent asks further: Is it the duty of Christians, especially of Christian ministers, to encourage a young man to go on preaching whom they know to be without the necessary gifts? Ought they not rather to tell him in a manly way first to go to some good institution of learning and qualify himself for the work?

Here again the question must carry the answer on its face. No man should be encouraged to drag along a miserable existence in attempting that for which he is not qualified.

"Inquirer" proceeds by stating what is very true. "We have abundance of talent in this country, and institutions in which it can be polished and improved to any extent. The time has passed when a jumble of words will pass for a gospel sermon. People want to be fed with gospel truth and sound doctrine."

We commend to our brother and to our readers desirous of mature thought on the subject the paper on Licensure and Ordination, page 28 of the Year Book, and he will there find important principles laid down regulating this matter.

The Halifax Election resulted in a majority of 220 votes in favor of Hon. A. G. Jones, Minister of Militia. Halifax and Dartmouth gave a majority for Richey, but the rural districts especially the Eastern parts of the country gave a majority for Jones, sufficient to decide the matter. The proceedings were characterized by the greatest order and propriety during the day of voting. The good effects of Prohibition of the Liquor traffic were seen. The law providing that there shall be no sale of liquor on election day saved much quarrelling and fighting. The law was pretty generally obeyed we believe in Halifax and Dartmouth, and that to the advantage of all parties concerned. The arrangements for voting too—allowing but one voter in the polling place at a time and requiring that he shall mark his own voting paper—seems to be as near the perfection of the ballot as human ingenuity can devise. There are nevertheless modes of purchasing votes and of voters proving that they voted for a given candidate.

The agitation ceased as soon as the day had passed and now parties have resumed their ordinary occupations, and we doubt not forgotten the hostilities of political partisanship. It is likely that the result of the election will be a larger amount of attention on the part of the government to the necessities of our provincial capital, and a development of its resources and facilities as the Shipping Port of the Dominion.

The last mail brought us a copy of the Annual Catalogue of the SEAU-KAREN NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE at Bassein, Burma, for 1877-1878, printed at Rangoon. Rev. C. H. Carpenter is the Superintendent, who has four other English and eight native Teachers. It is a very neat pamphlet of 50 pages on toned paper, equal to any thing done in Boston. It is partly

in English and partly in Karen. The names and residences of the students are given, and the course of study for each class. There are 141 students in the English Department, and 68 in the Vernacular, 164 males and 45 females. The average age of each class is given—the first class is 18 years 8 months and so down to the 10th class, the average age of which is 13 years 3 months. In the Vernacular the average age is somewhat higher than that of the first class being 21 years 3 months, and of the fourth, 14 years 9 months. Candidates for admission to the Vernacular Department must have studied the four fundamental rules of Arithmetic and the Geography of Asia, and must also have taken a course in the catechism "A good head carpenter has been secured, who gives practical instruction in the use of tools daily to a class of young men. In speaking of the religious character of the Institution it says:

We are not embarrassed as the managers of certain mission schools in India are said to be, by the necessity of employing heathen masters. All of our assistants without exception are professed Christians, and seem to take a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of the pupils. Besides the Sunday School and devotional exercises every morning and evening, one hour a day is given by all to the systematic study of the Bible.

We are happy to be able to report that during the year there has been an unusually deep and tender religious spirit on the part of many in the school. Fifteen of the pupils were baptized by the pastor and superintendent, besides several more who were baptized by their own pastors during the school vacation. We now have 123 professed Christians out of a total of 209 pupils. With two or three exceptions all are the children of Christian parents.

To show how they live, we may quote again:

In November, December and January, owing to the limited capacity of the school-granary and the large increase in the number of pupils, we found ourselves obliged, for the first time in the history of the school, it is believed, to buy several hundred baskets of rice and paddy at the very high price then ruling in Bazaar. This exigency had been foreseen, and notwithstanding their own short food supplies, the Karen pastors brought in a special contribution of over Rs. 1000 to meet the deficiency. This, with the aid of the first appropriation ever made towards the current expenses of the school by the Woman's B. M. Society of Boston U. S. A., enabled us to close the year without a debt.

To avoid such a deficiency in the future, we have, by advice of the pastors, just completed a very substantial new granary of over 3000 baskets capacity, or three times the size of the old one. In this we have at the beginning of the new year 2500 baskets of the best paddy, all given freely for the school by this devoted people. The money for current expenses also has come in up to the present time more freely than ever before.

OUR FOREIGN MISSION.

Last December, Messrs. Sanford and Churchill visited Bobbili, in search of a location for mission premises, and found a very eligible spot, which there is some reason to hope will be freely granted for the purpose. The inhabitants of the place are favorably disposed to the residence of the missionaries there. The second teacher in the school at Bimlipatam is a native of Bobbili.

The Munsiff (a town officer) of Bimlipatam has given a piece of land to the mission, well suited for a school. Another piece of land, adapted for mission purposes, belonging to the same person, has been purchased at a reasonable rate, and will be deeded to our Society. So we may call the name of the place "Rehoboth," and say, "The Lord is making room for us." C.

WOULD NOT RECIPROCATE.

The following highly suggestive story is told by the Fairfield Chronicle. We commend this principle of reciprocity, and hope that all who read it may see the point of the editor's witty comparison:

He was the manager of a church fair, and one morning he walked into the newspaper office and said: "Want an item this morning?"

"Of course," replied the editor, whereupon the visitor laid the following note upon the table:

"The ladies of the Street Church will give a festival at their vestry hall next Friday evening. Literary and musical entertainments will be provided and a supper will be served to all who desire. The ladies in charge of the affair have much experience in such matters, and are sure to provide a good time. Admission will be only fifteen cents, and it is certain that no one can spend that amount to a better advantage."

age. Be sure to go and take your friends."

When the editor had read it he said: "O, I see—an advertisement."

"No, not an advertisement. We prefer to have it go in the local column," replied the manager.

And seeing the editor looked sceptical he continued: "It will interest a great many of your readers, and help a good cause; besides, we have spent so much money getting up our entertainment that we cannot afford to advertise it without increasing the price of the tickets. In such a matter as this we ought to be willing to help each other."

"Well," said the editor, "if it goes into the locals, I suppose you would reciprocate by reading a little notice in your church next Sunday."

The visiting brother asked what notice, and the editor wrote and handed him the following:

"The weekly Chronicle for the coming year will be the cheapest family paper in Maine. Its proprietor has had much experience, and has all the help which a large outlay of money can procure. His paper has a larger circulation than any other published in the county, and is to be furnished at only two dollars. It is certain that no one can spend that amount to a better advantage. Be sure to take the Chronicle and subscribe for your friends."

The manager hemmed and hesitated, and then said, solemnly, that he "doubted whether it would be judicious to read such a notice," but suggested that if it was printed, copies of it might be distributed at the door of the vestry on the evening of the entertainment.

"Yes," said the editor, "but it would attract more attention in the middle of a sermon. It will interest a large number of your congregation and help a good cause, and besides so much is spent upon the Chronicle that I don't see how the owner can afford to print handbills to advertise it without increasing the subscription price. In such a matter as this we ought to be willing to help each other."

Then the gentleman saw the situation and went straight out without leaving so much as a complimentary ticket.

The readers of the article lately given in our columns on the Telephone and Phonograph will be pleased to find what progress this new discovery is making for itself.—A short time since the inventor, Professor Bell, and Col. Reynolds were presented to the Queen, and exhibited the telephone. In a lecture of 15 minutes' duration Professor Bell explained the mechanism of his invention and then held telephonic communication with Osborne-cottage, the residence of Sir Thomas Biddulph. The apparatus there was under the management of Mr. F. C. Ormiston, who was the first to address the Royal party. Her Majesty conversed with Sir Thomas and Lady Biddulph, and later Miss Kate Field, who was at Osborne-cottage, sang "Kathleen Mavourneen," for which Her Majesty returned gracious thanks telephonically through the Duke of Connaught. Miss Field, afterwards sang Shakespeare's "Cuckoo Song," and "Comin' Thro' the Rye," and delivered the epilogue to *As You Like It*, all of which were heard distinctly. The applause which followed came through the telephone. The Princess Beatrice, the Hon. Mrs. Ponsonby, and others conversed with Osborne-cottage, sometimes through a circuit of one, three, and five persons. As the evening wore on telephonic connexion was established between Osborne-house and Cowes, Southampton, and London. At Cowes, where Major Webber of the Royal Engineers, superintended the line, a quartet of tonic-sol-fa singers, sang several part songs, which produced an admirable effect, and the Duke of Connaught talked for several minutes with Major Webber. Attention was then turned to Southampton, where Mr. W. H. Preece, of the Post Office, talked as fluently with Professor Bell and Colonel Reynolds as though he were in the next room. A bugle in Southampton sounded the retreat with startling distinctness; and, lastly, came the tones of an organ from London. The experiments lasted from half-past 9 until nearly midnight. Her Majesty, and Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught, and the entire Royal household evinced the greatest interest. Yesterday Professor Bell made very successful experiments between Cowes, Osborne-house, and Osborne-cottage, at which the Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Richmond, Lord John Manners, Lord Ripon, Lady Biddulph, Lady Cowell, Sir John Cowell, and others assisted.

It is comforting to know that in Australia the weather for the past two or three weeks has been intensely hot, whilst in the New England States it has been from 20 to 40 degrees below zero, and in Nova Scotia 6 or 7 below.

The Halifax Y. M. C. Association held its 24th Annual Session on Saturday evening last. After a short address from the President, J. S. McLean, Esq., the Secretary, read the reports from the various Committees showing the work of the year. The Mission Committee referring to their work at the Barrack Street Chapel said that as that building, by the last will and testament of Mr. Jost, passed into other hands, the Sabbath School in connection with the mission will have to be suspended for the present; as will also the gospel meetings held at the same place on Sabbath afternoons. The committee hope some other opening for the continuation of this work will be presented.

The Finance Committee reported a balance due the Treasurer of \$119.15; that \$119.42 of interest have been paid on the floating debt; that \$37.32 are due the building fund for interest; during the year the subscriptions amounted to \$1239. For the use of the hall \$206 were received during the year.

The membership at the end of the year was 530. At the beginning of the year the membership stood at 563; 57 were added during the year and 110 names removed from the roll. Death removed six of this number.

From April 1 to Nov. 1—33,000 tracts and religious periodicals were distributed. The tract distributors report that they are much encouraged in their work.

The Treasurer reported total receipts from all sources \$3,149.47. The expenditures \$3,268.62, leaving a balance due the Treasurer of \$119.15.

The total cost of the building was \$37,643. Towards this there were subscriptions paid to the amount of \$23,630.64. Of the balance \$12,000 is represented by a mortgage, and \$2,012.80 by Trustees' Notes.

After the reception of these reports the Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The retiring trustees, Messrs. E. D. King and James Thomson, were re-elected, and Mr. Jos. Bell was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. E. Jost. The office-bearers were then elected as follows:—

President.—J. S. McLean.

Vice-Presidents.—M. M. Lindsay, D. McGregor, E. Lloyd, J. B. Morrow, Dr. Delaney, Dr. Slayter.

Treasurer.—S. H. Black.

Corresponding Secretary.—W. H. Wiswell.

From the Visitor we have learned that the Rev. R. D. Porter is perseveringly laboring to prosecute his work of raising funds in St. John, for rebuilding Acadia College. The circumstances of the people in the city, however make the case rather discouraging. In Germain Street Church every member of the congregation, with but two or three exceptions, has been burned out. The same may be said of Leinster St., while in the other churches large numbers have been losers by the fires. With churches and homes to rebuild and business to re-establish, and with shipping and general business depressed, it should not be a matter of great surprise, if the Agent were unable to report very large contributions.

The Baptist Church at Ottawa do not appear to be much troubled by the narrow sectarianism of some of the Pedobaptist ministers of that city a little while ago. It will be remembered that a number of those gentlemen joined together in refusing to receive and co-operate with the Rev. A. A. Cameron, the pastor of the church, because he refused to stultify himself by withdrawing certain expressions he had made in his own pulpit. The Evangelical Alliance there subsequently dissolved, as it ought to do, having ceased to be such institution. The last Canadian Baptist gave a copy of an address presented to Mr. Cameron signed by eight deacons of the church, in which they fully sustain him in the course he pursued. They say in their address:—"We take this opportunity of assuring you that the course you have pursued meets with our most hearty approval, and that you have the full sympathy of the church in the matter. Moreover we do thank the Great Head of the church for placing over us one whom He has so signally qualified for the work of 'contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.'"

"We regret the dissolution of the E. A. in this city, but are happy to know that the responsibility does not rest on you, as you have violated no clause of the basis of union, and consequently stand unblameable in the matter."