

"I had no idea, when I accepted your offer this morning, that I should have to come so soon to claim it, and I hardly think I should have accepted it so quickly had I known I was to marry a couple to-day and receive such an unusual fee. Generally there is not so much difference in them, but this was a perfect surprise to me."

"No backing out, now," said the lawyer, "that bargain was fair and square, and you must hold to it. Here's your ten dollars; hand over the fee!"

The minister demurred a moment, told him he should beware how he made such rash promises again; but finally, unfastening the cover of the box, said: "All right, I'll stand by the bargain," tumbled out the pup upon the lawyer's desk, and with the blandest smile upon his face, waving his hand and bowing politely, he said, "Here is the fee—which half will you take?"

The blank look of amazement and disgust which overspread the countenance of the lawyer as he looked at the roll of puppiness, was amusing to see.

"You don't mean it, that you married a couple, and that was your fee?"

"Indeed it was," said the minister, "and the farmer who presented it thought he was doing a handsome thing?"

Then, with a hearty laugh, the lawyer handed him the gold piece, and told him that he thought he had nothing more to say in regard to the enriching of ministers by wedding-fees.—Mrs. Jas. S. Dickerson, in the Standard.

EDUCATIONAL RECORD.

COMPOSITION.—I give one fourth day each week to composition exercise. The pupils are provided with paper and pencil, several subjects are placed upon the blackboard, and every pupil required to write all he can on one subject. The subjects are selected so that all pupils are able to write. The following were used last week: Maple sugar-making, ghosts, telling stories, faces, domestic animals, rats, peanuts, observations in a railroad car. During this exercise the strictest order is observed. Pupils that experience difficulty write their subjects, and then are aided by the teacher, who is constantly among them. He does not write, however, but suggests what may be said on the several subjects, and aids them to form the first sentence. The writing continues just one hour, when compositions are folded, superscribed, numbered, and handed to the teacher. The pupils then receive the compositions of the previous week, and are required to correct the errors noted on the outside. Fifteen minutes are given, then the remaining fifteen minutes are given to the correction of mistakes which the pupils failed to rectify. This is done by placing the words and sentences on the board, and calling upon different members of the school for correction. The facility with which young pupils write after a few months' practice is surprising; and while it proves a profitable exercise, it is no less agreeable to the scholars.—N. E. Journal of Education.

AN EXPOSITION FOR THE BOYS.—The Juvenile Industrial Exhibition which it is proposed to hold next year at Ballarat, Australia, under the auspices of the Government of Victoria, seems to us to be worthy of imitation here. It is to be a grand show gotten up with all the paraphernalia of International Exhibitions, but its exhibitors must be under 21 years, or else apprentices not out of their indentures, whatever their age. There are 24 classes covering all kinds of exhibits from machinery to poems, and special prizes are announced. It would be an excellent plan to undertake something of the kind here. To make it a national affair would of course render it too ponderous, but such a show might easily be carried out in a single State. The boys often do capital work, and they get little public encouragement, as they are usually employed under other people who absorb the glory to themselves. The boys can invent besides, and well, for many have come to this office as applicants for patents. We know also that the Scientific American finds some of its staunchest supporters and steadiest subscribers among the youngsters. Let us have exhibitions of what the boys and girls can do, to be held say next summer. It would be a capital winter's work to organize these shows in every township, county or State.—Scientific American.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. United States Correspondence.

Our regular Washington Correspondent, who sends us such readable letters every week, has indulged us with a look at some of the pomps and vanities of their fashionable capital. As a picture it may be very brilliant, but it is sad to think of men and women with immortal souls so spending their time and money, and in so bedecking their frail tenements of clay.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan'y 22, 1878.

The gay season may now be said to be at its height. Receptions, balls, dinner-parties and entertainments of every sort are of nightly occurrence, and oftentimes many pleasers divide an evening into thirds and quarters, lending their presence for a necessarily limited time to various scenes of gayety. This was the case on Tuesday evening of last week, which was the opening night of Italian Opera with Misses Kellogg, Cary and Roze (all prima donnas) and other noted artists. It was also the occasion of President Hayes' first public levee; that of a grand ball given by Mr. and Mrs. Ross Ray, in honor of their second daughter's debut in society; a dinner party by Representative and Mrs. Eugene Hale in honor of Mrs. Hale's father, Ex-Secretary Chandler, and two or three exceptionally elegant receptions. The opera house presented a rare scene that evening, being thronged with ladies in full evening dress, prepared to attend one or more parties after the opera. At the President's levee Mrs. Hayes appeared in white gauze polonaise, over-trimmed white silk, with no ornaments—of which she never wears other than natural flowers. Madame Mantilla (wife of the Spanish Minister) whose dress is always very noticeable, was clad in a princess robe of pale pink satin, with low neck, short sleeves and long trained skirt, draped with point lace, and further embellished with shaded embroidery in brown floss spangled with steel beads. The upper border of the waist gathered with diamonds, which also ornamented her hair, while her throat was encircled by a velvet ribbon studded with pearls. Two days of last week were devoted by the Senate to the pronunciation of eulogies of Senators Bogy and Morton. Some fault has, with reason, been found with this manner of procedure, on the ground that such rites increase the public esteem for neither the living nor the dead, and that every day so spent is an expense to the country of \$20,000. The staunch old Puritans did not so, for when the Dark Day lay like a doom over Connecticut, and the judgment day was supposed to have arrived, the Legislature was in session and the members proposed to postpone all business and give the remaining time to prayer; but brave old Abraham Davenport, of Stamford, rose in his seat and said, "This is probably the Lord's great day; but He has put us here to make laws for his Colony, and, for one, I propose to meet him face to face doing my duty, I move to go into Committee of the whole on the Bill for an Act to Regulate the Shad and Alewives Fisheries." The motion was agreed to, candles were lighted and at mid-day those hardy old pilgrims waited for Gabriel's trump while considering the Shad Bill.

In view of the thousands of very poor people in the District, a penny lunch room has been recently started for their benefit, where a bowl of soup, a dish of tea or coffee, a dinner of cod-fish, vegetables, or other eatables—a really substantial lunch—may be had for a penny. Of course money can't be made by it, and if everything had to be purchased it could not be done; but our market men and grocers are benevolent, and many of our citizens are patronizing the establishment by becoming monthly contributors, and by purchasing hundreds of tickets to bestow upon the beggars who are continually ringing their door-bells. The pennies taken go to pay the help and buy necessary provisions that are not donated. Some of the first people of the Capital have lent their influence to the project, and it promises to do much good.

MERRILL.

For the Christian Messenger. Baptismal Regeneration.

Mr. Editor,—

Without waiting for any one to question the statement made in the Messenger of Jan 5, that Infant Sprinkling, and connected with it, the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration, is destructive to the eternal interest of thousands, if not of millions, I shall proceed to justify the statement.

And first, as regards the Romish Church. According to their teaching, "Baptism washes away all, particularly original, sin," and again, "Whoever shall affirm that grace is not conferred by these Sacraments of the New Law, by virtue of the act performed (ex opere operato), but that faith in the divine promise is all that is necessary to obtain grace, LET HIM BE ACCURSED." It is well known that sprinkling is practised by this church (and called baptism). Here, then, we have the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration plainly taught. The number of Catholics the world over is computed at about one hundred and seventy millions; and we are told by Catholics themselves that they are one and united in their belief, so that we have all these millions who hold that when the water was applied to them they were then, "by virtue of the act performed," made children of God. In one of their catechisms we find the following:—"Q. What is baptism? A. Baptism is a sacrament by which we are made Christians, children of God, and members of the Church. Q. What other grace is given by this sacrament? A. It cleanses from original sin and also from actual, if we be guilty of any." Thus much concerning the Church of Rome. Now let us see what the Church of England teaches on this subject. In this church it is also well known that infant sprinkling is universally practised, and Baptismal Regeneration universally taught.

In the church catechism we find the following:—"Q. What is your name? A. N. or M. Q. Who gave you this name? A. My godfathers and godmothers, in my baptism, wherein I was made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven." "When we come to the Order of Confirmation we find the Bishop in the first prayer, referring to the persons about to be confirmed, saying, "Almighty and everlasting God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate these thy servants," &c.; in the next prayer, while his hand is on the head of the candidate, "Defend, O Lord, this thy child," &c., and in the next . . . "We make our humble supplications unto thee for these thy servants," &c. Here again, as in the Romish Church, we have Infant Sprinkling practised and Baptismal Regeneration taught; and as if there were danger of this doctrine not being quite understood, a clergyman in the English Church referring to it says: "With the water of baptism, the grace of regeneration, the seed of the Holy Ghost, the principle of a higher existence is committed to the soul . . . as long as the believer trusts to his baptism, all is well." Another says, "By baptism we are adopted into his covenant, incorporated into His Church, . . . in baptism all our sins are pardoned, and the Holy Ghost bestowed."

The next thing we have to do is to find as near as possible how many there are in this Church who hold this doctrine. According to religious statistics of the British Empire just received, there are in England about twelve and a half million members of the English Church. Taking the world over, Protestants number about seventy-six millions; supposing one fifth of these to be Episcopalians, we have, including those mentioned above, fifteen millions, two hundred thousand, who hold the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration. Here then we have, if they are all true to their creed, one hundred and eighty-five millions, including Episcopalians and Catholics, who hold the doctrine just referred to, or to put it in other words, who hold that the way to Heaven is by having a few drops of water sprinkled on the face. If we find the Bible teaching this doctrine, then, so far as they are concerned, all is well. We will see what it says:—"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Rom. iii. 24. "But as many as received him, to them

gave he power to become the sons of God," &c., John i. 12. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God," 1 John v. 1. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," &c., Acts xvi. 31. "For by grace are ye saved through faith," &c., Eph. ii. 8.

These passages with others that might be named give us the Bible way of salvation. I have given above the way of salvation as taught by the Churches of England and Rome. Which is to be believed? the word of God or the word of man? If the Bible is true, then these are false, and what I set out to prove becomes most terribly apparent that the doctrine already alluded to is destructive to the eternal interests of tens of thousands, if not of millions.

And what we may well ask is the responsibility that rests on those who call themselves the Shepherds of Christ's flock who teach such things? How will they render up their account at the last day? It has been said, "There will be multitudes disappointed at the last day, because they built their hopes of Heaven on a foundation that had no warrant in Scripture, and they will be speechless." If this be true what shall be said of those who taught them thus to build? It is enough to make the angels weep when they witness, day after day and week after week, tens of thousands of both old and young taught by those who profess to be their spiritual guides, such things which, if believed and trusted in, must forever bar them from the joy and bliss of Heaven. It gives me no pleasure, but much pain, to write thus; nor do I do it to expose any church or people, or to seek to shew that the denomination to which I have the privilege and honour to belong is superior to others, for in many things we all offend, but seeing that Baptismal Regeneration takes the crown from our Saviour's head, denies the necessity of his death, is subversive of the Scriptural plan of salvation, and ruinous to souls, I feel it my duty to speak out, be the results what they may; and if any should feel hurt at what has been said, I have only to refer him to Galatians iv. 16.

J. BROWN.

Paradise.

For the Christian Messenger. Grateful Mention

is made, by the subscriber, of a pleasant evening spent, a few weeks ago, at the residence of Bro. Capt. William Knowlton, of Advocate Harbor.

Responding to a kind invitation, we repaired to the house of our brother at an early hour, and were soon in the midst of a very pleasant and apparently happy circle of friends.

The evening passed quickly. Social conversation, singing and prayer formed a large part of the programme of the evening.

Before separating, a plate was laid upon a table and free-will offerings were made to the writer—not as salary, but as a pure donation. Accompanied by a brief but appropriate address, the Rev. Mr. Bird (Wesleyan), who, with his lady was present, presented the plate, containing thirty-six dollars.

To this address a reply was given, accompanied with an expression of thanksgiving to the donors. May God bless them a thousand fold.

No people could deal more kindly with their pastor than mine deal with me. It is a pleasure to serve a people who appreciate ones labors; and prove it by word and look and act.

Yours very truly, J. F. KEMPTON.

Parrsboro', Jan. 28th, 1878.

For the Christian Messenger. Rebuilding Acadia College.

TRURO, Jan. 20, 1878.

Mr. Editor,—

I notice in the circular issued by the Governors of Acadia College, that it is contemplated to expend from seventy-five to eighty thousand dollars in rebuilding Acadia College. Permit me to say to them that I do not think that they are justified in expending over the one-half of the above amount. And I am in a position to state that the eastern part of Nova Scotia will not bear them out in any such expenditure. And further, that it will cripple the progress of the Endowment Fund, if not

stop it altogether, for years. As a friend of the College, and one that has taken a deep interest in our Institutions of learning, I cannot sanction the action taken by the Governors, for the following reasons:—

1st. The Baptists of the Lower Provinces are not able to raise any such amount.

2nd I abhor debt, and if you carry out your plans you must owe largely on your buildings, when completed.

3rd. It would be sapping the generosity of the denomination. Other objects of as much importance will be neglected, viz: Foreign and Home Missions.

I think that you, as well as every thinking person in the denomination must agree with me in the opinion I have expressed in regard to this matter.

My plan would be to put up a wooden building (we are not able to build of brick and stone) say to cost twenty thousand dollars, and ten thousand ought to provide other buildings required. That amount could be raised without its being felt. Then you would not retard the internal work of the College by a debt.

WM. CUMMINGS.

In Memoriam.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON. SARAH JOHNSON.

Again we are called upon to record the death of two: A father and mother in the Church of Christ. A little time since, George Wm. Johnson, and his wife Sarah, aged respectively 87 and 88 years, trustingly, fell asleep in Him on whom they had believed from early childhood.

Father and mother Johnson were beloved members of the First Baptist Church, of Digby Neck. Theirs was a life blessed of the Lord; their house was a house in which the voice of prayer was heard in the morning of their days; under whose roof many hearts were made glad; like Job, they made the widow's heart to sing for joy. They had born to them five sons and five daughters; these are all living at the present time, and all profess to have known their father's God. From these children have descended fifty-two grand children, sixty-four great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. Their dying words were, "Oh, that we may meet our children beyond the river, around the throne of God." May Jehovah grant the dying request. They sleep now side by side in the old family burying ground not more than forty rods from their once happy home. "Hear me now, therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth."

C. H. D.

Jan'y 28, 1878.

death is still doing his work among us, and has recently taken two aged men (brothers) from our midst.

MR. ROBERT SABEAN

died on the 11th inst., at the house of his son-in-law, Jesse Warne, of Digby Ridge, in hope of everlasting life, and was brought home and buried in the old Baptist burying ground at Weymouth on the Monday following. He professed conversion to God forty-five years ago, and was baptized by Rev. Henry Saunders in March, 1833, united with the church of Sissiboo, before my ordination and so has remained till his death. He was in the eighty-first year of his age.

The same day on which he was buried his brother,

CHARLTON SABEAN, ESQ.,

died at his residence in New Tusket Settlement, in the County of Digby, where he had resided over fifty years. He had been a great sufferer for some ten years from a cancer in his eye, which had eaten it all out, and yet he lived on until he was a mere skeleton. Mr. Sabean has been a member of the Baptist Church for some sixty years, and has been a deacon for over forty years. He evidently was a useful man, both in religious and in civil society as well, for he had been a magistrate for quite a number of years, and quite a leading member of society. He died on the 14th day of January, 1878, lacking a few days of being 82 years old. He trusted in Jesus, and God took him.—Com. by Rev. Chas. Randall.

Weymouth, Jan. 25th, 1878.

MRS. SARAH J. FINEGAN,

daughter of the late John Verge, Junr., of Halifax, and granddaughter of the late Daniel Benjamin, of Pugwash, de-