

need; and I love it, and make it welcome. I shall not suffer for want of it. I think I will not give up my power to point out the precipice that so many young theatre-goers are seeking, just for three hours of fun. And tell me every one of you, whether you wish me to make that exchange. Tell me, you young people who are not living for Christ, whether even you think it would be wise for me to throw open the door, as far as my influence goes, just for a sight of 'Pinafore.'

"I think I shall not go; and I shall not advise the church to go. There would be too much given up, and too little gained. I presume, indeed, that no one would advise the whole church to go. No one in this community would be glad to see the whole church marching into the Gaiety Theatre to-morrow night. That would be carrying the thing too far. But there are many who would be glad to see a few of us go there: not the minister, perhaps, but a few of the members cattered about, enough to keep them in countenance."

IMMENSITY OF SPACE.—In a recent lecture delivered in Edinburgh, on the "Stars," Prof. Grant gave a graphic idea of the immensity of space. He said a railway train travelling night and day, at the rate of fifty miles an hour, would reach the moon in six months, the sun in 200 years, the Alpha Centauri, the nearest of the fixed stars, in 42,000,000 of years. A ball from a gun, travelling at the rate of 900 miles an hour, would reach Alpha Centauri in 2,700,000 years; while light, travelling at the rate of 185,000 miles a second, would not reach it in less than three years. Light from some of the telescopic stars would take 5,760 years to reach the earth, and from some of these clusters, the distance is so great the light would take 500,000 years to pass to the earth; so that we see objects not as they really are, but as they were 500,000 years ago.

For the Christian Messenger.
Nova Scotia Central Baptist Association.

WOLFVILLE, May 9th, 1879.

Dear Sir,—

I am in receipt of the following Resolution of the King's County Ministers, "Moderator of the Central Association, to notify the churches, that the Association will meet, one week later than previously announced," &c. I believe, that in accordance with our Constitution and Rules of Order, which I have carefully examined, I have no power to postpone the meeting of our Association. Article 2nd of the Constitution provides, that the Association shall meet at such time and place, as shall be agreed upon by the Body. The time and place, thus agreed upon are, the Saturday following the 20th of June, at Berwick.

Article 11th, provides, that the Moderator may at any time, during the year, call a special meeting, on a Requisition signed by ten members. These, the only rules touching the matter, give no authority to the Moderator to do anything but what they express. They certainly give no power to put off a regular meeting to which the Body is adjourned.

I have consulted with Rev. W. E. Hall, Moderator of the Western Association, and I see no other constitutional course, left but to let both appointments stand as previously announced.

I am exceedingly unwilling to assume any power other than those which our regulations give, and I think it is well sometimes, rather to suffer a little inconvenience, than to open a door for infringements of the Constitution, which in organized bodies should be held in great respect.

Nevertheless if I should, previous to the 1st of June receive requisitions from a majority of the Churches in the Central Association, ordering me to postpone the meeting till the 28th of June, I shall cheerfully obey.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS,
Mod. Central Association.

For Christian the Messenger.
That Telescope Fund.

Dear Brother,—

Allow me to make a remark or two concerning the Telescope fund to which my old classmate, J. W. Longley, Esq., A. M., calls attention in your last issue.

As the matter is entirely in the

hands of the graduating class of 1871, it seems to me a little injudicious to discuss the subject in this public way. Mr. Longley's suggestion is, however, a good one, namely, that the members of our class be requested to meet in social re-union at the approaching Anniversary, at which time the matter could be re-considered, and any necessary changes properly made.

Our good friends of the Acadia Athenaeum seem to think that "so far the scheme has failed," and that even if it were successful its only advantage would be that, "such an instrument would be useful to amuse occasional visitors!"

Instead of being a failure the scheme has been a decided success. The fact that upwards of \$500.00 has already been secured does not certainly look like failure. This fund is, moreover steadily increasing, and the members of the class are at present in a much better position, financially, to carry out the original project than they were when they went forth in hopeful impetuosity from the familiar halls of Acadia.

The utility of such an instrument was fully considered by the projectors of this enterprise, and I presume that each member of the class of '71 views the matter in about the same light as he did eight years ago. We call to mind the pleasant hours spent in Prof. Elder's studio in gazing through the Professor's telescope at the moons of Jupiter, and at the full, bright face of our Earth's attendant satellite. What wonder that our class, after enjoying such enrapturing views, should decide to procure for the benefit of succeeding classes a suitable instrument for these exalted contemplations!

That any change should now be made in this project would seem to me to augur unfavorably as to the perseverance and success of the class of '71. It seems like child's play to bargain for one thing and buy another. And I fully agree with you, Mr. Editor, in your remark that "if this fund were disposed of for another object, it might be a very long time before another effort would be so successfully put forth for such a purpose."

Besides this, to make any change in the appropriation of this fund would be scarcely just to the many donors who have liberally contributed towards it with the distinct understanding that it was to be applied to this object. We concert which was held at the inception of this scheme. The admirable episode about the "stray sovereign"—the generous challenge of J. W. Bars, Esq.—the general enthusiasm with which the project was advocated that evening, are still fresh in memory—too fresh to reconcile me to any proposed change in the scheme.

It should further be borne in mind that our classmates fully anticipated the lapse of a number of years before the fund should be sufficiently large to warrant the purchase of a suitable instrument. The time has, indeed, come for making some further efforts in the way of carrying out the original design. But there has been neither failure nor disappointment thus far in the accomplishment of our purpose.

In compliance with Mr. Longley's suggestion I would respectfully urge our classmates of '71 to meet at Wolfville in June during the Anniversary celebrations. It will be a most favorable time to renew old acquaintance and to get an introduction to the new Alma Mater. The question under consideration might then be freely discussed and finally decided.

Very truly yours,
W. H. WARREN.

Bridgetown, May 8th, 1879.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 14, 1879.

Many difficulties exist with an elective head of a great nation which is avoided in a constitutional monarchy such as that of Great Britain. One of those has just arisen at Washington in the President giving his veto to the Army Bill recently passed by Congress. We do not yet see what will be the result, but we see that any such action under British rule would soon find its remedy by an appeal to the people. The Boston Watchman says in referring to this matter:

"The great event in the political world is the veto by President Hayes of the Army Bill. He justifies his decision to withhold his approval by various reasons.

First, he maintains that the sixth section, which relates to the uses of armed men at elections, is unnecessary.

It provides, in effect, that no person in the civil, military, or naval service of the United States, shall have armed men at the place where any general or special election is held, unless it be necessary to repel the armed enemies of the United States, not even if the purpose be to keep the peace at the polls. The President shows, by numerous citations from existing statutes, that the use of the army at elections is already so hedged about with jealous restrictions that no abuse is possible.

Second, the sixth section, he argues, would prohibit the presence not only of troops, but also of armed civil officers of the United States, at the polls, even where the election is to determine the choice of congressmen. The United States Marshal might be present, with deputies, but neither he nor they could bear arms. Hence no arrests could be made. The attendance would be a farce. But two provisions of the Constitution authorize legislation by Congress for the regulation of congressional elections. In pursuance of these constitutional provisions Congress has enacted various laws for the protection of citizens at the polls. But the section of the Army Bill objected to would render it impossible for the civil officers of the United States to enforce these laws.

The third objection which the President makes to the sixth section is that it comes to him not as a separate measure, to be judged on its merits, but as "a rider" to the ordinary appropriation bill for the maintenance of the army during the coming year. In effect, Congress says to the Chief Executive, "Agree to use neither civil nor military force in guarding the purity of elections, or we will refuse to support the army, and will starve it to death." It remains to be seen whether Congress will carry out the threat. But that the bill as presented to the President is such a threat he says plainly. He makes a dignified protest against all legislation by riders, and pleads for a return to the earlier custom of Congress, where, during the first forty years of our history, no such methods of securing the enactment of measures in themselves objectionable were known.

The fourth and last reason by which the President justifies his veto is perhaps as strong as any. He holds that the sixth section is an attempt to coerce the Executive, and hence to deprive him of power which the Constitution prove an obnoxious measure under pain of seeing the army disbanded. It does not leave him free, as a branch of the national Government coordinate with the legislative and the judicial branches, to exert his proper influence, but proposes his subjection to the legislative branch. To this reversal of the Constitution he objects.

Such is a brief outline of this able and courteous paper. The Legislative appropriation bill, if presented to the President in its present form, will probably also be vetoed, on account of the political features which are attached to it as riders. The bills cannot be passed over the vetoes, as the majority in their favor is small. What course Congress will pursue, in view of the President's action, is not yet determined. The country watches the contest with an interest keener than that excited by any political debate of recent years.

Rev. J. F. Avery sends us "Notes" to the effect that he needs \$10 to pay for improving the front of their building, putting the letters TABERNACLE on it and lights over the doors. He will be glad to acknowledge donations however small "even a few postage stamps." He concludes by saying "The Lord is still adding to us by letter and baptism and amidst the discouragements by the way, we are cheered by the Master's presence."

Some of the Halifax papers have had a short paragraph stating that the Rev. Dr. Tupper is over 90 years of age. We are glad to be able to state that we, believe, he wants 5 or 6 years of 90.

Rev. John Clark left on Wednesday last in the *Edgar Stuart* for Yarmouth. Before leaving he received complimentary addresses with kind words and wishes from Rev. P. Morrison, (Presbyterian), and Rev. Mr. Shore, (Methodist).

We trust that the union between Mr. C. and the Temple Church will be abundantly blessed.

We had a pleasant visit from Rev. George Armstrong of St. John the past week. We were glad to see him so well recovered from his late sickness.

Great indignation is felt in the result of the trial of George Paw for stealing letters from the post office on Tuesday of last week. It appears that the regular jury were objected to by the prisoner's counsel, one after another, until there were but six left in the jury box. The required number of twelve was then made up from men who were found in the court room, supposed to have been there for the purpose of being called upon. The names of the jurymen consisted of the following:

Messrs. T. Bateman (foreman), Wm. C. Anderson, Theo. Bowser, Maurice Levy, John Flynn, M. Mountain, Wm. Shiers, John Lomas, George Williams, W. A. Swindon, William Webber, Wm. S. Hutchinson.

The trial proceeded through the day shewing, as plainly as it was possible, how the letters were discovered on the prisoner. Mr. Motton then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner and Hon. S. L. Shannon for the Crown.

The Judge then charged the jury according to the evidence to bring in a verdict of guilty. After being out about three-quarters of an hour, the jury returned with a verdict of Not Guilty!

Such a verdict on such evidence is pretty generally regarded as an outrage on justices, and a grievous wrong to the other officials in the post office and the post office management generally.

The action taken by Judge James in the Supreme Court on the following day was such as must commend itself to all parties desirous of preserving our courts from becoming a mockery of justice, and an abettor of crime. We copy from a morning paper the report of what took place in the court room on Wednesday morning:

"Judge James, from the bench, said that by the Act of last session he had the authority to discharge a jury if he saw fit, and he would exercise that authority now to discharge six of the jurymen who had acquitted George Paw last night. For years the officers of the law had been endeavoring to detect the persons who had been committing these Post Office robberies. When Paw was caught and tried, the jury, in the face of the most conclusive evidence of his guilt, had acquitted him. He (the Judge) must presume, therefore, that the jury had either disregarded the evidence before them or were incapable of discharging their duty in accordance with their oaths. He would never sit on the bench to try another criminal case while those men were on the jury."

On society than the encouraging of, or conniving at, dishonesty in post office employees, thus producing a feeling of distrust in the transmission of mails. Trial by jury by such means becomes a farce and a delusion and such jurymen fail to protect the innocent from violence and wrong.

The Valedictorian Mr. R. R. J. Emerson, B. A., of Dalhousie College by a letter in a morning paper, informs the public that his "valedictory" was reviewed by the Principal of Dalhousie College, and that 'to the best of his knowledge the Governors and Professors agree with all he said on the matter of concentrating all the scattered learning of the province in Halifax.

"This," he says "in my opinion, makes my poor 'utterances' these of my Alma Mater."

Persistence in such utterances may appear to them very wise, but we question if many, even of their own Presbyterian friends, regard it so.

Another kingdom is just about being formed of Bulgaria heretofore a province of European Turkey. On the 29th of last month the Bulgarian Assembly of Notables unanimously elected Prince Alexander of Buttenburg to fill the throne with the title of Alexander I. This action seems satisfactory to the Powers and the Czar of Russia Alexander is nephew of the present Empress of Russia and first cousin of the Grand Duke of Hesse, who married the Princess Alice of Great Britain. This is supposed to be a great factor in securing future peace, and the settlement of the great Eastern question. The Bulgarians have suffered untold horrors. We hope they may develop into a prosperous christian nation.

THE GOSPEL HYMN BOOK for use in Prayer Meetings, Family Circles and Church Service. American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, pp. 224.

This is a collection of 455 hymns, old and new. Many of them are the good old standard hymns sung by all evangelical Christians and others, some of the best of the more modern favorites which have now become familiar in devotional meetings. Several are new compositions believed to have claims

that will make them popular and lasting. The book is got up in excellent style, in cloth binding, and with the music in clear distinct type. It is not intended to supersede the Baptist Hymn and Tune Book but to serve as a sort of Auxilliary for use in the more social services. The price, 50 cents, is low for a book of its style and size. It is certainly worth the money better than most of the popular books of hymns, the price that is charged for them.

BAPTISM.—Open letters to Rev. D. D. C. and A. W. N., on Baptism and Communion by Rev. J. Brown. 10 cents per copy or 15 for a dollar, postage paid. To be had of many of the Baptist Ministers in N. S., N. B., and P. E. I., also at the *Messenger* office, Halifax, Visitor office, St. John, N. B., and of the author, Paradise, Annapolis Co., N. S.
April 30. 4ins.

OUR HOME MISSIONS.

The May session of the H. M. Board was held on Monday the 5th.

We were cheered by the large number applying for fields of labor, but disappointed that more of the churches were not heard from, as many are known to be without pastors.

The following appointments were made:—

- 1. Bro. C. Haverstock a mission of 3 months to New Ross.
- 2. Bro. A. W. Jordan a mission of six weeks to the colored people of Guysboro and Tracadie to be extended if deemed best.
- 3. Rev. P. S. McGregor is requested to resume work at New Glasgow.

Most of the other applicants have been advised of pastorless churches, where they are directed to seek employment. It is hoped that these churches will not fail to invite and welcome the men who will be introduced to them by the Corresponding Secretary. As great care has been taken in the arrangements, we expect the results to be satisfactory.

REPORTS WANTED.

All missionaries in the employ of this Board are requested to send forward their reports, together with a full statement of the condition and prospects of their fields, immediately after the close of this month. The union meets early in June and the reports are needed so that the General report can be prepared.

OUR APPEAL.

Once more we appeal to the Brethren and sisters to aid us with their contributions. The N. S. Treasury should receive at least (\$800) eight hundred dollars and the P. E. Island Treasury (\$350) three hundred and fifty, before the closing of the accounts. Now let all who have not contributed send their donations at once.

We hope that all churches receiving subsidies from the Board will raise all they can and place it to the credit of the Board in their last report. Some have already done this.

FRENCH MISSIONS.

Do not forget to send your donations for this mission. But little of \$300 asked for in the last report has come in.

Yours in the work,
A. COHOON,
Cor. Secretary.

Hebron, May 7th, 1879.

P. S. Rev. G. E. Day, M. D. Yarmouth will be glad to attend to all orders for Sabbath School Books.

A. C.

Notices.

The next meeting of the "Yarmouth Co. Ministerial Quarterly Conference" will take place (D. V.) on the 27th inst. at the Temple Baptist Church, Yarmouth, at 2 1/2 o'clock p. m.

Rev. T. H. Porter is to read a paper on "Church Discipline," and other matters of importance and interest will be considered by the meeting.

There will be preaching in the evening, and religious services will probably be held with the Church two or three days following the meeting of the Conference.

It is hoped that every Baptist minister in the county will please make it a point to be there.

H. N. PARRY,
Secretary.

Cheggogin, May 6, 1879.

Mr. Editor,—Allow me through your paper to return my hearty thanks to my Church and friends for the handsome donation which they made me during the past winter, amounting to \$120.

W. J. BLEAKNEY,
Nictaux, May 10th, 1879.

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