

use it as a regenerating principle. It is only when there is a yielding to its silent influence, that it delivers the soul from sin and imparts peace.

"The mightiest force in all the universe," says Alexander Maclaren, "is the force which has neither speech nor language. The parent of all physical force, as astronomers seem to be more and more teaching us, is the great central sun which moveth all things, which operates all physical changes, whose beams are all but omnipotent, and yet fall so quietly that they do not disturb the notes that dance in the ethers. Thunder and lightning are child's play compared with the energy that goes to make the falling dews and quiet rains. The power of the sunshine is the root-power of all force which works in material things. And so we turn, with the symbol in our hands, to the throne of God, and when he says, 'Not my might nor by power, but by my spirit,' we are aware of an energy, the signature of whose might is its quietness, which is omnipotent because it is so gentle and silent."

It is well to remember that the baptism of the Spirit does not depend upon our theological opinions, but upon the entireness of our consecration, and the perfectness of our faith. Our theology may be in accordance with the Book, but that circumstance, though a happy one, will not secure for us the divine anointing, if we have not made the necessary consecration, and do not trust in the promises. On the other hand, we may be in error on some points of theology, but if we sincerely and fully consecrate ourselves to the Lord, and look for the fulfilment of his Word our errors in judgment will not prevent our receiving the gift of the Spirit. And our receiving this precious gift will not render our judgment infallible. It is true that with the Spirit abiding in us, and our souls more fully illumined, we shall be better able to detect error and discern truth; but our receiving the Spirit will not perfect our knowledge, or take away our liability to err.

Nor will our receiving this gift make us all alike useful. Nay, some men who have little piety, who have the Spirit only in a small measure, but who are constituted by nature to rouse the sensibilities of an audience, have labored successfully in revivals, especially in convincing men of sin, and leading them to embrace the first principles of religion; while men of great piety, men who have the Spirit in a large measure, but who have but little power either of intellect or emotion, have mourned greatly over their comparative lack of visible fruit. Yet there may have been much fruit, fruit of another kind, but not at first so striking to the eye. Believers may have been taught and benefited, and wonderfully aided in building up a holy and beautiful character. All who receive the Spirit-baptism will be useful, though all will not be useful in the same degree, or in the same way.

Dudley, England.

For the Christian Messenger. Theology at Wolfville.

No. 1.

Mr. Editor,—

You will confer a favor by granting me space in your columns for a few brief articles on this subject. My object in writing them is first of all to inform your readers, or such of them as feel any interest in the matter, of what is being attempted in the Theological Department at the present time; and then to inquire if sufficient reasons exist to justify the continuance of the Department in the future. To this last point special importance must be allowed to attach. Manifestly, if the present effort to provide Theological instruction for our rising ministry in these Provinces is not to be carried forward, or ought not to be carried forward, the present is the right time to stop. If the denomination is not financially competent to make the provision that is required, or if its interests would be better advanced by leaving the young men to seek their Theological training abroad, or not at all, we should know it at once and act accordingly. Not until we have decided upon the best thing to be done, and upon the best means of doing it, shall we be acting worthy of ourselves and of the trust committed to us. A divided, wavering policy is ever a weak one. A policy that does not rest upon sound principle, and commend itself to the enlightened judgement of the people, must end in failure, and ought to end in failure.

It may be said, indeed, that this question has been already pronounced upon; that by distinct resolution the policy of the denomination has been clearly and

definitely settled. In June last the Governors of the College resolved not only to continue the Theological Department, but to continue it in an enlarged and strengthened form; and the Report which incorporated this resolution was adopted by the Convention of last August.

Previously to June last the time of Dr. Crawley and myself had been about equally divided between the Theological Department and the College proper, giving thus an equivalent of only one man's service to the former; but at that time it was decided that each of us should devote himself exclusively to Theological instruction. The Governors believed or hoped, that, for the present at least, two men would be able to do all the teaching the Department would require. But they would endeavor, of course, to make such provision for it as its existing wants at any time might render necessary.

To this policy, therefore, as thus projected, the denomination may be said to stand fairly committed at the present time. It has been framed and adopted after the maturest and carefullest consideration. So that the question whether there shall be a Theological school in Wolfville or not, is now not really open for discussion; it has been discussed already, and settled in the affirmative. And this being the case, those upon whom the duty more immediately devolves of carrying out this policy have some claim upon the sympathy and co-operation of their brethren generally. If certain individuals do not think that the course entered upon is the wisest and best, yet as the majority of their brethren think so, they are bound in honor and by constitutional usage, at least to throw no obstructions in the way. That such individuals have a right to their opinion—as good a right as those who differ from them have to theirs, is freely granted. That they shall have a right also to propagate their opinion, provided it be done in a legitimate way, must also be conceded. Such way, however, is manifestly not by endeavoring to undermine or thwart the policy that has been initiated, but rather by showing those who authorized it that it would be better to rescind it. That is, as the power to say what shall or shall not be touching this matter lies ultimately with the Convention, those who would have the Convention decide otherwise than it has done, have simply to show its members that they have committed an error. Every member of the Convention is presumably open to conviction; no one of them wishes to adhere to an indefensible course of action. Let it be clearly demonstrated that the maintenance of a Theological School at Wolfville should not be attempted, or, if attempted, that it must prove a failure; that the growth and advancement of the denomination would be better secured by abandoning the project altogether—let this be shown, and every representative of the churches will welcome the superior light and yet to walk by it. But until this is done the denomination will naturally incline to adhere to its present line of policy.

From the new College Catalogue, which will soon appear, it will be seen that a course of Theological study suited to graduates and occupying three years has been drawn up, from which selections will be made for partial course students and others who may not be able to take the full course and remain the full time. It may take considerable time to enter as fully and regularly into this course as we should like. We could not certainly have been expected to do so at the beginning of the present College year.

At that time the principal number of students having the ministry in view were found connected with the regular College classes, and doing regular College work; consequently they had very little time at their disposal to give to Theological inquiries. As a general thing full College work is enough to be attempted at one time. There were, however, a few partial course students who were at liberty to give the greater portion of their time to Theological studies. Of these last, two began the study of Hebrew, and have continued it till the present time. They have gone through and thoroughly reviewed Green's Elementary Hebrew Grammar, taking all the exercises in order; and have read a portion of the book of Genesis, and the whole of Ruth. At the same time a class of twenty was formed in Homiletics. In this class a course of lectures on the preparation and delivery of sermons has been delivered, and sermons have been read, and plans of sermons presented for criticism by different members of the class.

At the beginning of the present term a class was formed in systematic Theology, which seventeen have attended. The topics so far considered are: The Existence of God; The Divine Inspiration and authority of the Scriptures; and the Attributes and Purposes of God.

During the year the two young men of the class in Hebrew have also taken Greek Exegesis with Dr. Crawley, and have gone through John's Gospel. He has also during the last term given a course of lectures on Church Polity to about a dozen young men.

Thus a beginning has been made in the Theological Department humble indeed, but about all that the circumstances would permit. When students shall find themselves in a position to give more time and attention to Theological studies, more may be attempted on their behalf.

D. M. WELTON.

For the Christian Messenger.

Kings County Ministerial Conference.

The Baptist Ministers of Kings Co. held their May meeting on Monday the 5th inst., at Berwick. The weather was unfavorable for a general gathering. Nevertheless several of the brethren fearless of "sprinkling," found their way thither; and an interesting and profitable season was enjoyed. At the afternoon Session Rev. S. B. Kempton occupied the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. T. Murray. The Secretary read the Minutes of last Session;—the usual routine business was transacted;—Several lay brethren were invited to seats; among whom were Deacons Wheelock, White, T. H. Parker, and Bro. Edward Skinner.

Rev. S. B. Kempton presented a paper containing a series of suggestions upon the best means of supplying the destitute Sections in our own County, and render important aid to the Home Mission Union. This paper called forth an animated and profitable discussion which was engaged in by nearly all the brethren present;—considerable information was elicited, when it was unanimously—

Resolved, That this Conference undertake to supply the preaching of the gospel to the people on the New Ross Road, south of Alton, as far as practicable, during the ensuing summer.

That the pastors of the churches be requested to co-operate in carrying the above resolution into effect.

Brother Kempton volunteered to supply them on or about the third Sabbath in this month, to be succeeded by other pastors.

A change in the Constitution of the body was also suggested and after due deliberation, and the whole ground had been surveyed, the Second Article of the Constitution was amended, to read thus:

"This Conference shall be composed of the ordained Baptist Ministers, and Licentiate, and one delegate from each of the churches," of Kings County.

It was felt that such a change would tend to give strength and permanency to the organization, and thus render it a more powerful agency in effecting objects sought thereby. It is hoped that every church in the County will avail itself of the privilege thus afforded, and that at future meetings, each will have a representative.

A good programme of work was laid out for the next Conference to be held at Canard in September, of which the brethren will receive due notice.

Bro. Murray gave a sketch of a Sermon (Textual) on Heb. xii. 1, which called forth favorable criticisms from the brethren.

It was resolved that Rev. S. March be requested to furnish the paper read by him at the previous Conference at Cambridge, for publication in the Christian Messenger and Christian Visitor.

We had an excellent meeting in the evening when Rev. S. B. Kempton preached a lucid and forcible sermon from Luke viii. 5, "A sower went out to sow his seed," which was listened to with marked attention and interest.

Brethren March, Murray, and D. O. Parker followed with earnest addresses; and a collection was taken up for Home Missions.

Bro. Black, the pastor is highly esteemed, and is becoming greatly encouraged in his work. Several have recently been added by baptism to his church; and other churches are enjoying tokens of divine approval.

S. MARCH, Sec'y.

May 6th, 1879.

Bro. March explains the lateness of the above reaching us, that it was sent

by him a fortnight before, but, as the Postmaster allowed it to pass with insufficient postage, it was sent to the Dead Letter office at Ottawa, and returned for additional postage.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger. For the Infants Home.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging fifty cents from Mrs. Austen Locke, and also a box of very useful garments which she collected from the Ladies in Lockport.

This is not the first expression of thoughtful kindness from that benevolent community, and we trust they will be abundantly rewarded for their generosity.

MRS. SAUNDERS, Sec.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Johnny Peep."

Dear Editor,—

I am quite amused by your little "brother" J. P., and should most certainly notice "the little fellow" were it not that I am otherwise engaged.

I hope that his want of a knowledge of polite life will be pardoned by your readers, and that his introduction into public life, under such circumstances, will not be regarded as an intrusion.

He is not the first child who has unwittingly asked questions when others were talking.

Success to you "Johnny"! Be patient! Many a little prattler has become a philosopher!

May you soon be able to produce an article, at a proper time and in a suitable manner, and then you will be able to publish over your proper initials.

Affectionately, J. C. B.

For Christian the Messenger.

Rev. Dr. Tupper.

Dear Brother,—

Your readers will be pleased to learn that Dr. Tupper is on a tour among his friends. He is feeble, yet cheerful, and his mental faculties are unimpaired. He preached last Sabbath for the pastor of the Newport Baptist Church, his voice seemed strong and his articulation perfectly distinct, and his discourse was completely beautiful, and must result in good. J.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 28, 1879.

We have to pay money for every sheet of paper we use, for every line of type set up, for every copy of the paper that is printed and for the postage of every paper that goes through the mails. This we cannot do without money! We want the money that is due us from all subscribers who are in arrears. Many of our readers always pay in advance, and we would rather that they should not read this paragraph; but there are also quite a number who should read it over and over again and then ask if it is not for their special individual benefit. Some of these friends do not know the satisfaction there is in reading their own paper. Those who do would not give up that pleasure for far more than it costs. We shall be glad to receive a remittance now from all our friends who are in arrears.

One of our contemporaries says:—

The Religious Newspaper has become a necessity in every Christian family. Without it, the range of sympathy and interest in the work of the Church is sure to be limited. With the numerous openings for usefulness, which now abound, and the loud calls for action in so many directions, this is not a time to cabin and confine our sympathies and efforts. Christians should keep themselves in intelligent sympathy with all the great movements for the elevation of the world. Nor should it be forgotten, in estimating the value of Religious Newspapers, that they are one of the most potent agencies in the moral and religious education of the young for the duties of life.

We are desirous of having the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER reach every Baptist family in Nova Scotia, and as many others as possible, and as some inducement to

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

we will for ONE DOLLAR send it to them from the date of receiving their names up to the 1st of Jan., 1880. Our present subscribers will much oblige by mentioning this kindly to their neighbours.

Our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic have been very busy with their Anniversaries. The Baptist Union was one of the best ever held, under the presidency of Rev. George Gould, of Norwich. There is something solid and substantial in their meetings. The speeches are full of earnestness and enthusiasm. They are bold outspoken utterances on all the subjects treated on, whether religious, social, or political, and give tone to the body as well as demonstrate the characteristics of the denomination.

The Foreign Missionary Society was presided over by Lord Northbrook, formerly connected with the Government in India, and well acquainted with the pioneer missionaries to that vast continent, spoke most effectively.

Rev. J. A. Spurgeon made a capital speech. Dr. Punshon too, and several others spoke most effectively on missions.

The new mission to Congo by Mr. Comber and others gave new interest, in addition to that of the great work itself.

Then there was the Bible Translation Society, the Baptist Tract Society and the Home and Irish Home Mission, the Ladies Zenana Mission, and a number of other branches of Christian work. All asking for and receiving a good share of the attention of the brethren of the metropolis as well as from other parts of the country and of the world.

MRS. FRASER.—In our list of deaths will be found that Mrs. Elizabeth A. Fraser, wife of Ald. George Fraser, who died early on Monday morning, after a lingering illness of several months. Mrs. F. had been for a number of years a much respected and beloved member of Granville Street Baptist Church. Her lovely disposition and gentle manner, were conspicuous features in her character, and endeared her to all. She had the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. Called to suffer the loss of her children under circumstances of peculiar trial, she offered no complaint but took the two motherless grand-children, and reared them with all the care and affection of a mother. Her experience of trust in the Saviour, and assurance that all was done in kindness and love, was such as only the religion of Christ could supply.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Rev. R. Sanford writes to Dr. Cramp that on the first Lord's Day in April he baptized a Telugu woman from Vizianagram.

Rev. G. Churchill and family have removed to Bobbili, and commenced missionary operations there. (This is, we believe, about fifty miles from Himlipatam, where they were before.)

Mrs. Armstrong writes that she will not return so soon as she expected. Her health is somewhat improved.

Bro. Boggs, we perceive in one of the American papers, is defending Mr. Clough from a charge supposed to have been aimed at his work in India by Rev. C. H. Carpenter, who wrote, "There appears to be in the present age a disproportionate interest in the work of multiplying converts over that of promoting their Christian culture." Mr. B. shows that the profession of faith in the case of the thousands of converts was clear and as satisfactory as is usual in our churches at home, some of the candidates having been kept back for six months and more, on account of the famine. They are reported standing well.

We have received a letter from Rev. J. E. Clough at Ongole, per Rev. W. B. Boggs dated April 12, 1879. It gives a very full and satisfactory account of the great work done at that station in India last year. There were 9,606 baptized during the year making a membership of 12,804. These are living in over 400 villages in the district. In 42 of the villages, schools are established having in them 645 scholars. They are building a chapel and school house 104 feet by 60 with an eight feet verandah all around. The chapel will seat 600 and the verandah as many more, to cost Rs. 11,500.