

For the Christian Messenger. The Foreign Mission Board.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board held in this city on the third day of February, 1880, the resignation of Bro. T. P. Davies, Treasurer, which had been presented at the previous meeting, was, on motion, accepted, and the following resolution of thanks and sympathy was submitted by a special Committee to the Board and adopted by unanimous vote.

It was also resolved that a copy of the resolution be presented to the retiring officer, and also that it be published in the Christian Messenger and Christian Visitor for the information of the Denomination.

Resolved.—That it is with sincere regret the Board of Foreign Missions of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces has received the announcement of the resignation of the office of Treasurer by T. P. Davies, Esq., who for the past five years has performed the onerous duties pertaining to that position—duties necessarily involving the devotion of much time, care, and attention to the receipt and disbursement of funds, the acknowledgement of contributions, and the keeping of correct accounts, rendered more than ordinarily difficult by concurrent monetary transactions and entries in the currency of India, England, and Canada.

On receiving back from the hands of such a valuable and trusty steward the moneys, books, and accounts of this important branch of our denominational work, the Board of Foreign Missions hereby records its hearty thanks, and with it the thanks of the body, to Bro. Davies for the faithful manner in which he has discharged his functions, and assures him of the high regard in which he is held as a Christian gentleman and an earnest worker in the cause of missions. At the same time the members of the Board, personally, as well as in their corporate capacity, extend to him their continued confidence and their cordial sympathy in the untoward business difficulties that have temporarily—and they trust only temporarily—come upon him, and which have compelled him in his anxiety for the welfare of our enterprise to retire from the position he has so long and so satisfactorily held."

At the same meeting of the Board, the duties pertaining to the Treasurer were assigned to the Secretary, W. P. Everett, who is thereby constituted Secretary-Treasurer, and to whom all remittances for the Board should be sent. John March, Esq., was appointed and authorized to sign the cheques of the Board in conjunction with the Chairman or Secretary-Treasurer, as occasion requires.

W. P. EVERETT, Secretary-Treasurer. St. John, N. B. Feb. 5, 1880.

For the Christian Messenger. "The Wesleyan" and its Denominational Statistics.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in the Messenger of the 14th, an extract from the Wesleyan in which my name appears, and I am charged with making a bold statement. Well, all the fault I have with the accusation is simply this, that it is not true. It appears that Rev. D. D. Currie is the oracle, consulted by certain parties, not a hundred miles from here, on almost all occasions.

By one of those inquirers I am made authority for the statement, that the Baptist population of the Dominion of Canada is eleven thousand more than the Presbyterians.

Now Sir, I never said any such thing, either publicly or privately. What I said in conversation, and I now say without fear of contradiction, was this, that according to a circular addressed by the General Assembly lately held at Ottawa, To the Presbyterians of the Presbyterian Church in the Canadian Maritime Provinces—embracing according to said statement, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, and Newfoundland, containing estimates of money required to carry on the church schemes during the present year, the totals of the statement are as follows—180 congregations, 17,931 families, and 25,000 communicants.

Now, if you turn to our Year Book for 1878, page 60, "On the State of the Denomination, Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D., Chairman, you will find the following total membership from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, 37,017. Let us subtract 25,000 from 37,017, and it strikes me that we have a balance of 12,017. What I said was that according to that circular the Baptists have 12,000 more communicants in these provinces than the Presbyterians. I never intended it for a reflection on the Presbyterian body, and I do not see why the editor of the

Wesleyan or his disciples should take umbrage at a numerical comparison between the Baptists and Presbyterians. When they need defenders they have men who are as qualified as either of those gentlemen to be so. O my friend you cannot plough with the Presbyterian heifer very long. I hope my friend the "Inquirer" will be as guarded in his words as I have been in mine, and he will have less difficulties to contend with in his present situation.

A pretty good reason can be given why Methodist Ministers do not immerse as many candidates now as they formerly did. It is not the tenderness of their consciences, but that such as desire immersion find a more excellent way then to accept it at the hands of those who do not believe it to be right. I have no doubt but the "recent discussions" have indeed had a good deal to do with it.

One thing I do know that ordinarily they receive none into church membership, but such as they believe to have been baptized, and they will receive immersed believers without any compunction of conscience whatever; conclusion, immersion is christian baptism. I am respectfully,

Yours, J. A. GORDON. East Point, P. E. I., Jan. 20, 1880. Christian Visitor please copy.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Editor,—

The following letter is so encouraging that I venture to ask you to publish it. I hope that many of our non-resident church members will do as Miss McKeen has nobly done.

Truly yours, G. E. DAY.

DR. DAY.

Dear Sir,—Since returning from the Convention, I have thought often of the possibility of raising the \$36,000 in the provinces. Remembering that a large number of the members of the Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia, are now in the United States, who, if solicited would help. I therefore wrote to a few of my young friends who responded as follows: John A. Kirk, Leadville, Colorado \$5 00 Abner W. McKeen, " " 5 00 Henry McKeen, " " 5 00 Samuel McKeen, " " 5 00 Miss A. McKeen, Belmont, Mass. 2 00 Miss L. McKeen, Fall River, Mass. 6 00

Total.....\$28 00

All formerly of Melrose, Guysboro, Co., N. S.

Hoping the Convention Scheme may be a success, and much good be done thereby.

Your friend, LIZZIE MCKEEN. Fall River, Mass., Jan. 14, 1880.

We are happy to number Miss McKeen among the best of our Subscribers. Ed. C. M.

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Board of Governors of Acadia College.

Gentlemen,—

In the last issue of the Christian Messenger there are two letters in regard to the matter I lately brought publicly to your notice; one is written by the Rev. Dr. Sawyer, the President of the College, and the other by a Member of the Executive Committee.

From the mask behind which the latter writes, he thinks proper to throw out some dishonoring insinuations, and to impute to me false motives. His example I decline to follow.

My sole object is the good of our Institutions of Learning, especially of the Seminary in which I am deeply interested, as I hope to be able to send my children there for their education. But if they are unable to bear the strictest investigation, they are unworthy the confidence and support of honest men.

I had tried ineffectually the use of private remonstrance before I laid the matter before you, and now I beg your attention to some points in the letters just referred to.

From the impatience of criticism displayed, the intemperance in the language used, and the singularly indistinct conceptions of truth exhibited, it is evident that I have not a moment too soon thrown a little daylight upon the proceedings of the Executive Committee. The writer who speaks for that body declares that they "believe they have followed exactly the line of policy indicated by the Board."

Let us hold that statement up to the light and see whether it will bear scrutiny.

The writer does not venture to question the correctness of my definition of your decision made in June, 1878, although he makes use of the opportunity

to utter an ungenerous allusion to the source of my information. If that decision did not involve the giving to the young ladies the full advantages of the institution afforded by the teachers in the male department, and the continuance of the system of management already in force, what was its value?

He claims, however, great latitude in regard to details. True, but that latitude lay in one direction only, that of fidelity, and not of perversion or reversal.

The new building was erected, and new teachers engaged, but it is found that the Seminary is placed under a separate head, the young ladies are shut up to the teachers in their own building, while the classes are formed and studies arranged without the advice or even knowledge of the principal of the Academy; and this state of things is continued until a change is compelled by outside pressure.

To call this a faithful adherence to the policy decided on by your Board, is simply a misuse of language. It is idle to say that mixed classes were formed within a week of the opening of the school. I wish the writer to tell the public what classes were mixed, and let us see by what means, intelligible to plain men, that procedure could be called a carrying out of your policy.

Besides if these gentlemen began right, why did they not continue as they began? Why was any change made? But a change has been effected, and since the publication of my letter, I have learned with much pleasure that the internal working and management of the Academy and Seminary are now in the hands of the teachers themselves, with the principal of the Academy virtually at their head, and I venture to affirm that in no other way can the two schools be successfully conducted as a united institution.

Parents may now, therefore, send their children to either school in the confident assurance that they will enjoy all the advantages the schools are capable of affording, and I hope the Seminary will reach ere long a point of prosperity, surpassing any previously attained in its history.

That the responsibility for the conduct of our educational affairs rests mainly with the President cannot be denied, but that gentleman evidently believes his acts to be above criticism, and has thought it not unworthy of himself, nor unbecoming to his position to meet my statements with a bald and baseless charge of falsehood.

Is it possible that the President is unaware of the manner in which the institutions under his charge are conducted, or is it that in the high and dry light of science and philosophy in which he moves things wear a different, perhaps a reverse, aspect to that which they present to humble individuals like myself? Meanwhile the facts remain, and they can, if necessary, at the proper time and place, be easily proven. Of the tone and spirit displayed by the President I need say nothing, they speak for themselves, but I venture to hope they are such as would mark the productions of few men occupying so elevated a position.

I commend his unique letter to your thoughtful consideration.

H. H. READ.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 11, 1880.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON HORTON ACADEMY AND SEMINARY.

WOLFVILLE, Feb. 9, 1880.

Mr. Editor,—

The Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of Acadia College has directed me to request the publication of the following statements, in the way of correction to a letter which appeared in the Christian Messenger of the 28th ultimo, over the signature of "H. H. Read."

Truly yours, D. F. HIGGINS, Sec'y. of Ex. Com.

As it would be most inconvenient for the Board of Governors to hold a meeting at this season of the year the Executive Committee met, and gave their careful attention to the complaints contained in the letter in question.

The Committee believe Dr. H. H. Read to be a sincere and benevolent friend of our Institutions of Learning. But as Dr. Read has not enjoyed the opportunity of obtaining direct information of the working of the schools, not having been on the grounds since the new buildings were erected, the Committee regrets that any person or persons should have given representations,

leading him to make the statements contained in his letter, and that he should have allowed himself to publish them. It is doubly unfortunate that blame should have been imputed to the President of the College, who has been in no way blame worthy; and that any reflection should have been cast, as it seems to have been, by innuendo, in the last paragraph of Dr. Read's letter, upon the high reputation earned by Dr. Sawyer in the faithful and successful employment of his distinguished abilities in our Institutions, first as one of the Professors in Acadia College, and then as its much honoured President.

The Committee find that the policy of the Board of Governors in the matter of mixed education has been carefully, wisely and successfully carried into operation from the time the schools opened in September till the present day. For the accomplishment of this, President Sawyer has not ceased to give his best counsel and full co-operation to those upon whom the responsibility of the practical labours rests, leaving thereby no grounds for any person to complain, that he has even manifested a desire to defeat the policy of the denomination.

The Committee have great pleasure in stating, that all the departments of the Institutions are in a most healthy and efficient state; and never before offered greater facilities for good work, or were filled with more promise for future usefulness.

S. W. DEBLOIS, Chairman. D. F. HIGGINS, Sec'y of Ex. Com.

"GOVERNOR" AND COLLEGE MATTERS.

Another letter on the fifth page of our present issue from "Governor" in reference to College Matters, calls for some further remark from us, so that our readers shall not be misinformed.

If "Governor" can make black white, then he may prove that Acadia and Woodstock Colleges are on the same course. The Faculty and friends of Woodstock College, have recently published a prospectus, indicating the future of their College, in which they propose to raise \$100,000 Endowment and to give a complete B. A. course under their own roof, but still, for the greater value of the degrees, to remain affiliated with Toronto University. Up to this time that is the policy of Woodstock Baptist College. Acadia College holds aloof, and we think wisely from practical affiliation with Halifax University. If the one is right the other is wrong. The establishment of this patent fact takes the bottom out of a large part of the two letters of "Governor." Neither in the press, nor the Legislature, nor at Sackville did any person show, or attempt to show that "unless the college which they controlled should co-operate with the Halifax University the provincial grant would be withdrawn from the College." The memory of "Governor" has grossly misled him—led him into a statement of what never took place; for instance he says "the readers of the Christian Messenger of that year and the delegates to the Sackville Convention, will bear witness that it was gravely and earnestly attempted to lead the Baptist denomination to believe that co-operation with Halifax University and the receipt of the provincial grant were correlatives."

Again we say the Halifax University was created by the same Act that limited the grant to five years. The statute, as it then existed, and the warnings of the Government of the day to all the colleges to set their houses in order for the withdrawal of the grants at the end of the five years, irrespective of co-operation or non co-operation with the Halifax University, not only refutes the statement of Governor, but renders it impossible that the Messenger or Convention delegates could have taken the ground that continued provincial grants depended upon practical connexion with the Halifax University. The question was asked about the consistency of taking money from the Legislature, and yet refusing to send up students to the Examining Board—the Halifax University—created by Parliament, but that is quite another matter. No one, so far as we remember, sought to mislead the Baptist body at the time of the creation of the Halifax University. Not more than two or three brethren were willing to take steps for practical affiliation. Some wanted a resolution to pass the Convention, refusing to co-operate, others thought it better simply to let the matter alone. The latter yielded to the former, as the views and feelings of the former were the stronger—but no de-

cision, binding the future, was made by the Convention.

"Governor" must not say that we are dissatisfied with the present independent position of Acadia College. We are not only not dissatisfied, but are and always have been most heartily satisfied with it.

The fact that the denominational chartered colleges of Ontario, held aloof from the Toronto University, and the chartered college of the same denominations in this province co-operate with the Halifax University in moulding their curricula and sending up students show conclusively, that different policies obtain in the different provinces of the Dominion. We stated this, together with the opposite policies pursued by the Baptists, as matters of fact, and it is not in the power of "Governor" to change those facts. We did not state that the policy of the Ontario brethren was one of "expediency." We stated that Governor attributed to them the policy of "expediency."

"Governor" speaks of fifty years having passed over the head of our Institutions, and seems to assume that the success of the past has come from freedom from the State. Does he really know what he is talking about? Why, the foundation stone was laid in provincial gold, and our Institutions have continued to the present time to take sustenance from the provincial funds, and we have given to the province, in return, more than any other educational institution in the land. This has been and is now expediency. Scholarships were raised years ago. This too was expediency. We believe and always have believed, that had it been possible to avoid both of those expedients, it would have been all the better for the College.

Neither "Governor" nor any other living man can now say, and show good grounds for the ipse dixit, that the time will never come when degrees to students of Acadia from Halifax University, will not be better for Acadia College herself and for the denomination than degrees given virtually by her own teaching staff, as at present. We do not "scatter broadcast" or narrow cast, "doubts as to whether the Baptists know what they are about." We believe they do know what they are about, and that they have been Divinely guided in the past, and will we trust have wisdom for the future.

It puzzles us to understand how "Governor" fails so lamentably to apprehend plain facts. He smites down things that have no existence. He attributes to us and others, acts and courses which are mere fictions. We do not suggest the policy of "indecision," nor do we prophecy for all time to come. We are willing to commit the future to the future. We do not say "drift," nor "set great store" by provincial grants. We say and always have said, get rid of them as soon as possible, and see to it that other religious bodies do not feed on us, out of the provincial treasury. We believe the Baptists have given liberally for fifty years to support the Horton Institutions, while they have been receiving provincial aid; and we believe they will continue to do so, so long as they think it expedient to take aid, if it is offered to them; and when they judge otherwise their liberality will flow none the less bountifully. We know the denomination has a policy, and that is our policy; just the one we have always advocated, and continue to advocate. We are glad that we are in full accord with the body in this matter.

We feel our "grave responsibility" and act accordingly. We have bidden good speed to the denominational enterprise of raising a dollar per member. Our esteemed friend "Governor" must not be so much disturbed by the Halifax University as to suppose that those who see its possible usefulness are opposed to any denominational interest.

With reference to the replies to the questions about the interdependence of a chartered College and the Parliament granting such charter, we have only to say, that, in the very nature of things, a parliament must have the right and the power to interfere, if a College abuse its functions, in the matter of granting degrees, just as a parliament would have the right to interfere with any body that might abuse, to the detriment of the State, the functions derived from said body. If a college agrees to do certain things, and parliament must be approached for the