

For the Christian Messenger. The Use of our Opportunities.

The pastor of a Church in Nova Scotia wrote a few days ago to the Principal of the Academy, that on the next day five students would leave that place for the Academy and Seminary at Wolfville.

For some time complaint was made that the accommodations at Wolfville were not such as our young people ought to have. As a consequence of this, a large and commodious boarding-hall for young men was erected, where a hundred students may be boarded.

But higher considerations ought to be borne in mind. At no time in the past have our people had such advantages for the education of their children open to them.

For the Christian Messenger. Acadia College.

RESOLUTION OF CONVENTION. Mr. Editor,—The following preamble and resolutions were passed by the Convention at its recent meeting in Truro:

Whereas there has been a falling off in the usual contributions to meet the current expenses of our Educational institutions at Wolfville, causing a deficiency which must be supplied by the Denomination, therefore

Resolved,—That this Convention earnestly request the Churches of which it is composed, to forward to the Treasurer of Acadia College at their very earliest convenience, a sum equal to an average of ten cents per member to meet the present and pressing demands; and further,

Resolved,—That the Pastors of the various Counties of the three provinces take the matter in hand, and neither lose time nor spare effort to collect and forward the above amount, and also that a copy of this resolution be at once forwarded to every Pastor and Missionary laboring with our Churches.

It was not intended that the plan proposed by these resolutions should conflict with the larger scheme of raising an average of a Dollar per member for all the objects of the Convention, but rather that it should be a part of that scheme—the amount forwarded to the Treasurer of the College being counted as a first instalment of the larger sum.

As yet very few of the churches have responded to this Appeal. Meantime the wants of the College are constantly increasing. The deficiency is greater now than it was in August, and the Treasurer cannot possibly meet the demands upon him, if funds are not supplied by the churches.

By order and on behalf of the executive committee. D. F. HIGGINS, Sec'y. Wolfville, Jan. 8. 1880.

For the Christian Messenger. "The Christian Messenger" and its Work.

Dear Editor,—You, in your editorial of Dec. 3rd, say, that if our Ministers and Deacons would study to circulate the Messenger among those who do not receive it, it would result in a benefit to the denomination at large.

Windsor. L. For the Christian Messenger. Now Baptist Church, Dartmouth.

It is now little over three months since the Committee of the Baptist Church, Dartmouth, decided to build, and Mr. Andrew Dewar, Architect, was called upon to furnish them with a design.

This firm have already brought themselves into notice. At the last Exhibition they carried off all the prizes in their department. The building now completed adds still more to their credit, for in rapidity of execution, and excellence of workmanship it has not been surpassed.

The exterior is plain, being a simple parallelogram roofed over with a high Gothic pitch; but massiveness is added to it by a square tower at the south west angle, having broad angle buttresses, which are sanded in imitation of stone.

The interior is, however, the most worthy of inspection. The timbers of the roof are dressed and exposed. The rafters are stained and oiled a dark walnut, and the lining between merely oiled, showing the grain of the white pine.

The window casings, and wall linings are of ash. The seats are of ash and walnut. The panel mouldings in the pew ends, and the coping of seats being walnut. The doors are very handsome, of ash root.

The platform is finished in ash and walnut, and the Reading Desk, Chairs, and Choir Screen, all of the same material, and constructed by Messrs

Rhodes, Curry & Co., from designs by the Architect.

The Building Committee have worthily carried out their work, and all parties concerned have proceeded with such unanimity, that the result is a church edifice, of which the Baptists and the community generally of Dartmouth may well be proud.—Com.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 14, 1880.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

The Inspection of Schools is an important part of our Common School System. There has long been a demand for improvement in this branch of the public educational arrangements, by doing away with the County Inspectors, and substituting a more professional arrangement.

EDUCATION OFFICE, January 6th, 1880.

Under authority of the Act relating to Public Instruction, the Council of Public Instruction has divided the Province into the following Districts for the purpose of School Inspection, and, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education, has made thereto the following appointments:

- District No 1—The City and County of Halifax.—Hinkle Congdon. District No 2—The Counties of Lunenburg and Queens.—Thomas R. Patillo, A. M. District No 3—The Counties of Shelburne and Yarmouth.—A. C. A. Doane. District No 4—The Counties of Digby and Annapolis.—Leander S. Morse, A. M. District No 5—The Counties of Kings and Hants.—Colin W. Roscoe. District No 6—The Counties of Antigonish and Guysborough.—Roderick McDonald. District No 7—The Counties of Cape Breton and Richmond.—Alexander McKinnon. District No 8—The Counties of Inverness and Victoria.—John Y. Gunn. District No 9—The County of Pictou and that part of the County of Colchester not included in No 10.—David H. Smith, A. M. District No 10—The County of Cumberland and that part of the County of Colchester comprised by the District of Sterling and the Townships of Economy and Londonderry.—Wm. D. McKenzie. By order, DAVID ALLISON, Superintendent of Education.

There were formerly eighteen Inspectors. The number it will be seen by the above has been reduced to ten, in some cases putting two counties together. A change is also to be made in the mode of payment of these gentlemen. Hitherto this has been by fees according to the number of visits made. It is now to be by a fixed salary, so that the Inspectors will not be tempted to make mere formal visits for the sake of the payment, but will be expected to regard the quality more than the quantity of the visiting and inspecting done.

Something like this—or perhaps even a smaller number of Inspectors—we believe, was contemplated as far back as when Mr. Rand (now Dr. Rand) held the office of Superintendent in this Province, but for some reason it was not then carried out. It is doubtless a step in advance, but will require great vigilance on the part of the Chief Superintendent to know that the men appointed actually do the work required of them.

RETURN OF PRINCESS LOUISE.

There are contradictory rumors respecting the Marquis of Lorne meeting the Princess Louise here on her return; one despatch of the past week said the Princess Louise, who sails for Canada on the 22nd inst., will be met at Quebec by the Governor General.

Another one from Ottawa says the Governor General will leave here towards the end of the present month to meet the Princess Louise on her arrival at Halifax.

Another one informs us that "a letter

from an officer on board H. M. S. Bacchante, on which vessel the Princes Albert Victor and George Frederick are now serving, states that they will, in all probability, be able to make Halifax, N. S., by the time the Princess Louise arrives there about the latter end of January, and in the event of this, the young Princes will be granted leave of absence to pay a visit to their Royal relatives at Rideau Hall and Ottawa."

"THE WESLEYAN" AND ITS STATISTICS.

The editor of the Wesleyan is unfortunate in his endeavours to satisfy a Prince Edward Island Correspondent respecting the proportion of persons baptized by immersion and by sprinkling in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. He "has not access at present to any statistical authority." He however adds the following:

"Formerly, in these Provinces, some Methodist ministers would immerse persons without any serious scruples of conscience about it. The recent discussions of the subject, however, have changed all that. We do not know of a single instance of immersion for baptism by a Methodist minister in these Provinces within the last fourteen years, although there may possibly have been a few such instances."

It may be that some of our readers are able to furnish information on this point. If so, will they please drop us a line.

He gives, from said correspondent, three statements, which he affirms, "are frequently made, publicly, by prominent members of Baptist Churches in his vicinity. The latter of these statements is, as follows:—

"3. The Baptist population of the Dominion of Canada is 11,000 more than the Presbyterian."

Our uncomplimentary brother then adds the following remark:

"The authorities quoted for the above astounding predictions and statements are a Rev. Mr. Brohoe, of the United States, and a Rev. Mr. Gordon of P. E. Island, and the Halifax 'Christian Messenger.'"

It is easy for our brother to publish such things, which have about as much truth in them as what he affirmed, but failed to prove, concerning the Lexicons. But we venture to call in question the statement that any one, who may properly be styled "a prominent member of a Baptist Church" has ever made such a statement, and we challenge him to give the name of such person.

Our brother seems to have had the characteristics, for which he has acquired such notoriety, awakened by this "P. E. I. correspondent," and appears not unwilling to do the work demanded of him towards Baptists.

Our brother appeals to the Census of the Dominion of Canada for 1871, to shew what was then the proportion of the population belonging to the different denominations, and then remarks—"These figures will indicate how absurdly erroneous those Baptist statements are."

But what are the facts? Mr. Currie knows, or ought to know, that the Census of 1871, with respect to Denominations, in this province, is worse than useless, being clearly inaccurate. When the Census was first published, we called attention to this matter, and shewed that, at least, in several parts of this province, there had by some unaccountable means been an entire transference of the numbers from one column to another, entirely destroying the value of the "figures."

We may quote from one county for the information of our brother and to refresh the memories of our readers:

In the County of Annapolis—for instance, where they are almost entirely Baptists, we have the following most absurd figures given:

Table with 4 columns: Population, Baptists, Free-will Baptists, Wesleyan. Rows include Wilmot, Middleton Cor., Clarence, Bellisle, New Caledonia, Clementsport, Hessian Line, Annapolis Royal, Carleton Corner, Nictaux, Dalhousie, and Maitland.

So much for the "figures." Our brother proceeds with his comparisons in the following strain:

The census of the Dominion of Canada for 1871, gives as the total population of the Dominion 3,485,761. The Baptist population is given as 165,000. The Free Baptist as 60,507. The Methodist population is given as 567,098.

Our readers will be amused to learn how our artful brother has obtained these figures, over which he rejoices. The Census gives five columns under

the general heading "BAPTISTS." These columns have their separate headings, "African Association," "Baptists," "Free-will or Christian," "Union," and "Tunkers." The general heading "METHODISTS," embraces seven columns, having separate headings, "Methodists," "Wesleyan," "Episcopal," "Primitive," "New Connection," "British Episcopal," "Calvinistic," and "Bible Christian." While our contemporary has added together several of the "Methodist" columns to make up the number of Methodists he allows the one single column of Baptists to stand all alone; and so makes up his contrast, and his percentage from the number in one single Baptist column. We ask, is that fair? Is it honest? If we were disposed to treat our Methodist brethren so, or even to give them the one column marked "Methodists" and compare it with the one column marked "Baptists" we might say—what the Census does actually say—there are but 17,592 "Methodists" in the whole Dominion, whilst it says there are 165,238 Baptists. How does that look, good Brother? Well, there it is, more truly than what you affirm. But you know it is not the truth, nor are your figures the truth with regard to either body. It is sometimes said "Figures cannot lie," but it is very evident here that they can and do lie, most shockingly, on this matter.

DEEDS FOR UNION HOUSES OF WORSHIP.

Brother Robbins' words of Caution in respect to Deeds of Church property held jointly by different denominations are worthy of careful consideration. In this, as in many other matters, "eternal vigilance" must be exercised. In those places where it seems good to the people to erect houses of worship to be used by different denominations, the rights and intentions of all parties may be secured by a trust deed given by the party from whom the lot of land is purchased, or by whom it is presented, to Trustees selected from each denomination joining in the enterprise. Let the people who determine on erecting a Union building meet together and settle in writing the terms on which it shall be built and held and enjoyed. Let these terms be clearly stated. Select one Trustee from each denomination to be named in the Deed. At the same time fix the manner in which the place of any trustee becoming vacant shall be filled. Then proceed to the office of a responsible lawyer and have the paper drawn up in due form so as to carry out the intentions of all parties as expressed in writing at such meeting. These Trustees and their successors in office will always hold the building upon those trusts, and upon those only, which are set forth in the Deed—and under such an arrangement I do not see that any trouble or difficulty can ever arise for which there would not also be at hand a speedy remedy.

It is obvious that no set form of words of trust could be prescribed to suit every occasion. The exact terms of the compact in each case must depend on the understanding mutually arrived at by the parties interested. The great point is to settle that understanding in clear and distinct language.

As to cases already existing, I would say do not too quickly conclude that you have no rights. Examine the Deed carefully. One case came to my notice where it was asserted that the title was in the Methodist Conference, but examination of the Deed itself shewed the title to be in trustees of several denominations.

There is another point in which it is, but ought not to be, necessary to use words of caution and that is in respect to the title to land on which our churches propose to build. I know one of our churches that was built at great cost on land to which the church had absolutely no title whatever. Fortunately they were able to obtain a proper title afterwards. There is but one correct course to adopt in all cases, whether the land be a gift or obtained by purchase, namely, to employ a responsible lawyer to search and certify the title. No wise builder would neglect such a step before building.

A PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING.

A PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING will be held in the Vestry of the NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH on Thursday evening, commencing at 7 1/2 past 7 o'clock. Reports from the Ladies Central Board and W. M. A. Societies will be read by the Lady Secretaries, and addresses will be given by several ministers and other gentlemen. The choir will supply some selections of music suitable to the occasion.