

For the Christian Messenger. That letter again.

Mr. Editor,—

Your correspondent, "A friend of the Theological School," seems to be not altogether satisfied with the way in which I have chosen to disclaim all connection with the letter of Dr. Read which recently appeared in your columns. He tells your readers that "he did not suspect either Drs. Cramp or Crawley, or Prof. Higgins, Jones or Kennedy, or teachers MacVicar or Coldwell,"—what a particular recital of names! How the mind is permitted to dwell on each by his skillful rhetorical use of the "or" between them! And what an enviable contrast my name is thrown into by his confession that he did suspect me! As I have never by word or act furnished any just ground for such suspicions, how generous the nature that could have indulged in them! He "asks himself why his mind should have turned to me in this connection." Does he mean to intimate that he hardly knows why? If so, I beg to assure him that the matter is pretty clear to others.

But he mainly concerns himself in his communication with my purpose not to go behind other people to utter any criticisms I may have to offer. He sincerely hopes I will never have any criticisms like those of Dr. Read to make, and that if I do I will never make them. I am quite ready to join him in the expression of the hope of never having occasion to criticise the conduct of those entrusted with the management of our denominational affairs; and I trust, if such occasion should arise and I should see fit to use it, I shall be able to do so in a proper manner and spirit. But are we to understand that criticisms are not under any circumstances to be made?—that no person must say a word, let things go as they will? If so, I must respectfully decline to subscribe to the doctrine. I am really desirous of pleasing "A friend of the Theological School" in this matter, and think on the whole it may perhaps be best for me to adopt the principle of never committing myself to a criticism of any kind without first submitting it to him for his approval. But in order to this it will be necessary to know his name. He will therefore please let his real self appear in anything he may write in the future. Then, too, the public will know who it is that has been drawing on his own imagination for the dishonorable motives which he has been imputing to me.

D. M. WELTON.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 3, 1880.

The Inaugural Address of the Rev. George Gould, of Norwich, England, at the Autumnal Session of the Baptist Union, held in Glasgow, contains the following paragraph:

"Our sons and our daughters are as sensitive to the charms of the most polished and refined society as those who, in any rank or church, are their equals in intelligence, in culture, and in virtue. Scarcely owning the fact to themselves, for the sake of this, they seek other ecclesiastical fellowships. Sometimes, and these not unfrequently, they excuse themselves in terms which fill us with anxiety, because of the logical issue of the principle upon which they rest; for they plead that the question of baptism is non-essential to salvation. Thank God that we know that "he that hath the Son of God hath eternal life, and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life;" but so much the more earnestly do we contend that we should be careful to observe all which a loving Saviour enjoins upon us, and to do it as He has commanded."

This suggests a similar experience among Baptists on this side of the Atlantic, especially in towns and cities.

Much has been said and written in the way prescribing remedies. It has often been asserted that it results from a faulty training by parents, by the lack of denominational literature in our houses, by the absence of instruction in our special views from the Sabbath School teachers and from the pulpit. It is probable that the weakness of some young Baptist people to resist the temptations of the blandishments of so called society, may be traced to the above causes; but were all these positive influences kept in a high state of perfection, the evil in our opinion would not disappear.

It must not be forgotten that temptation is temptation, training or no training, and is often sufficient to unsettle the results of the best that can be done, in the present state of things,

in training children to Baptist principles and practices. This evil influence can be successfully resisted only by a clear and well defined knowledge of divine truth, and a quiet acceptance of the same with all its consequences, together with a thoroughly inwrought conviction of duty to God to maintain and defend the same in the world. This vantage ground cannot be reached by Baptist children as they come along over the several stages of early life, if the parents encourage in them natural hankering for worldly society and amusements.

In presenting these views we assume the regenerated condition of the young people, for if this is not experienced by them, no training, no parental influence, or denominational zeal will succeed in removing the constant tendency of the unconverted members of Baptist families as well as others towards worldliness. But the worldliness of nominal Christians and the means at their disposal wisely used, is often sufficient to seduce even the converted members of our families, unless resisted by maintaining an active, holy life. This life however cannot be attained, if parents encourage their young people to mingle in the society of the worldly. That dance, that ball, that one night at the theatre, that one evening spent among the worldly fashionable ones may turn the current of thought and sympathy of the young man or woman, and form the beginning of alienating the heart from the Sabbath School, the prayer meeting, and Christian work, and may carry the mind, the ambition and the strength of the heart into worldly channels. By and by the parents are sad, the church is in grief, and the pastor is disappointed. The young man or young woman disappears from the Baptist church and appears in a congregation to which the tide of worldly advancement will carry any one who may be cast upon it. Then follow the arguments:—Baptism is not essential to salvation; there are good people among all denominations; it does not make any matter what a person believes, limited by so called orthodoxy, so that the person lives right. The result is the Baptist ranks are thinned and the ranks of nominal, worldly Christians are strengthened. *Obsta Principia*—Resist beginnings.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Our English papers give abundant evidences of the alarming distress in Ireland. Here is a specimen or two from a letter from R. K. Eccles, M. D. Referring to the state of Western Ireland he says:—

"Along that indented coast, whose natural harbours are unequalled in the world, there are some 600,000 people unusually near the verge of starvation, because it is the hap of these poor folks to be annually more or less in proximity to that sad condition. Their situation is unpropitious; for, though the environs present to the painter landscapes of much beauty, to the sportsman rivers full of fish and moors alive with game, and to the tourist dells in which even in the first week of January he may cull the blooms of the arbutus, the primrose, and other flowers of spring, yet in that locality the cold damp winds from ocean beat down the corn and blight the potato, and rainy seasons, whose approach can ill be forecast even by the weatherwise, cut off the winter fuel, while the surface of the country presents such obstacles to the making of roads and railways as to prevent easy communication with more favored districts. The western peasant detests constant work. Spade-husbandry he abhors and avoids when he can. He thinks himself "lucky" if he is able to borrow a sorry nag, which, harnessed by an impromptu gear of ropes and rags to a rickety and primeval plough, may help him to pulverise the surface of his corn land just sufficiently to hide the seed from the birds. If, in the potato-setting he must employ a spade, the most handy "tool" in his estimation will probably have its "iron" diminished by a full half, through use or accident. With this he will barely turn up as much earth as may cover the "sets" from which his future crop is to come.

In the best of seasons such thriftlessness entails a little pinch about the end of Spring. This is generally got over through credit at the huckster's. But when an exceptionally bad season comes, this poor easy-going class is universally and immediately prostrated. That such an evil time has just now visited our island statistics show. In three years we have lost in our potato crop alone more than eleven and a-half millions sterling. Savings have diminished five and a-quarter millions. The value of the average crop of potatoes in the years '74, '75, and '76 was nine and a quarter millions. Last year's crop estimated at present famine prices has brought in but three and a-quarter millions. There is a parish containing 4,000 inhabitants; of these one-sixth is in the process of slow starvation. Within its bounds

none speak English but two families. Only two farms have a valuation above £15. Hundreds of inhabitants have never seen a railway train or a full grown tree. Its soil is either rock or trembling bog. The boats employed are frames of wood covered with tarred hides. The hovels vary—some are the ordinary mud-huts which figure in every Irish illustration; others, looked at from the outside, seem but one house. On closer investigation, however, this one house is found "to be split up into five frightful hatches, in each of whose one-cimmerian chamber, by the light of a wisp of straw, you dimly see families of six or ten crouched around a morsel of burning turf, half-clad, half-starved, and buried away from daylight." Others again are but crannies between boulders which have been roofed over with rough sticks, and these covered with turf-sods. In another parish the fields are encumbered with blocks of stone, which dynamite alone could dispose of. The live stock in many cases has disappeared, even to the hens. Where the little mountain cow remains it is starving like its owner. For food many have but a handful of Indian meal boiled, or shell-fish gathered from the strand. Some try to satisfy their hunger on esculent seaweed. At one town such crowds have beset the house where the gentlemen of the relief fund were sitting that the police had to be got out. An attempt to board a ship carrying meal was made at Slyn Head. A gunboat is to be despatched to protect coasting vessels carrying provisions. One has already been placed at the disposal of the distributors of the Duchess of Marlborough's Fund. In a parish of five thousand souls all except two families are on the high road to starvation. They are eating their seed-potatoes. Anything more than one meal a day is a luxury. Many of the men are so worn down by privation that they sit moping in their homes, languid and indifferent. The mothers alone seem to keep heart and hope as they toil for the little ones and their stupefied husbands. In another district we are told of one hundred and twenty families already starving, and that two hundred more will be equally ill off in a month. "In one parish," says Dr. Watts, professor of theology in the Presbyterian College, "a brother writes that six hundred families are in a state of destitution." "Letters from brethren who labour in the specified districts reveal a state of things absolutely appalling. Want has come in a moment upon a large class of our fellow countrymen. In the presence of such calamity I am persuaded that our Church will not fail to come to the rescue."

THE DAY OF PRAYER for Colleges which has been observed with much interest for many years past has in the United States and these provinces in many cases been followed by very marked blessing. Thursday last was set apart at Wolfville in connection with the College and Academies there. The teachers and students of all the departments assembled in the Academy Hall at 11 a. m. Dr. Sawyer presided and gave a very appropriate address. The services were participated in by quite a number of the teachers and students, who manifested in their prayers and addresses an earnest desire for renewed spiritual blessings. The venerable Dr. Crawley was present and gave a most impressive address.

The members of the Junior Class of Acadia College on Friday last presented to Prof. Jones a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, latest edition. On one of the fly-leaves was the following inscription:—"Presented to Prof. R. V. Jones, A. M., on the 27th of February, 1880, by the Class of 1881."

The Methodist ministry in this province seem not a little perplexed over the matter of ministers receiving invitations from Circuits. The plan of leaving the appointment of ministers entirely in the hands of the Stationing Committee of Conference does not appear altogether satisfactory to the people or to the ministers. Some ministers are charged with seeking for invitations; and yet it seems a question whether it is legally right for a congregation to invite a minister. Then again another question exists whether a dependent circuit or congregation may do so, or if only independent circuits shall have such privileges. Again, another question in connection with this matter is, whether a minister under any circumstances shall have the right to present his case before the Stationing Committee. These are some of the difficulties in the way of the settlement of ministers for the short terms they have to exercise their ministry. Baptists have their difficulties, but they will perceive that others also are not without difficulties although they may be of another character. This Methodist tendency is towards greater independency.

A notice of the Anniversary of the A Book & Tract Society is crowded out till our next.

The Blue Books giving all the details of the work performed in the various Departments of the Civil Service, filling thousands of pages, are coming forth from the Capital of the Dominion. The perusal of these is sufficient to occupy all the time it is possible to command, just after the opening of parliament. The tabulated statements in them compiled with so much care, and presented with so much accuracy and despatch shew the vast amount of machinery employed in the organization of government. The comparisons between the statistics of previous years with the results of the last year are also full of instruction. We find it difficult to gather from this vast mass of material much that we are able to present to our readers except by burdening portions of our columns required for other things. We however offer a few items:

Table with 3 columns: Fiscal Year ending 30th June, 1879. Provinces: Customs Duties, Other Revenues, Grand Totals. Rows include Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, N. Brunswick, Manitoba, B. Columbia, P. E. Island, N. W. Ter., Grand Totals.

Table with 3 columns: VALUE OF IMPORTS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION BY COUNTRIES. 1877-8, 1878-9. Rows include Great Britain, United States, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Belgium, B. N. A. Provinces, British West Indies, Spanish West Indies, French West Indies, Other West India Is., South America, China and Japan, Switzerland, Australia, South Africa, Other Countries.

Table with 3 columns: VALUE OF EXPORTS—BY COUNTRIES. 1877-8, 1878-9. Rows include Great Britain, United States, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Belgium, B. N. A. Provinces, British West Indies, Spanish West Indies, French West Indies, Other West India Is., South America, China and Japan, Australia, South Africa, Other Countries.

Total.....\$79,323,667 \$71,491,255

THE ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF PAPER.—The Western newspapers are raising their price-lists. The Chicago Times announces that inasmuch as the price of white paper has advanced fully 50 per cent, so that the difference in cost amounts to \$100,000 a year. It will be compelled to charge its readers a little more for every printed sheet. The daily issues is to be sold for 6 cents a copy, \$14 a year, without the Sunday paper, and \$16 with it. The Chicago Tribune retains its price, but reduces its size by dropping a part of its supplements. The St. Louis morning papers have advanced their rates from 4 to 5 cents. The N. Y. Daily Witness has again suspended.

The Baptist friends of Higher Education in Ontario seem to be somewhat divided in their operations. Whilst the brethren generally are discussing the question of an Endowment for the Canadian Literary Institute and considering how best to promote Theological training another party is actively at work collecting from the churches for Prairie College, Manitoba, an institution to be raised on an Industrial foundation for the West. Whilst both may be desirable, yet it would seem a great pity that all are not working together for one end, for a time at least.

INDUSTRIAL MONTHLY, and commercial and statistical Review January 1880 E. Young & Co., publishers, New York.

This is a new monthly under the editorship of Edward Young we presume formerly of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington. The editor appears to be familiar with Trade Statistics of the United States and Canada, and will doubtless be a valuable periodical in the interests of Commerce. In an article on the Political Destiny of Canada he says:

Whatever opinions may be entertained in Canada in regard to reciprocal trade between that country and the United States, or by the few in favor of independence, one thing is certain that no considerable number of people in the Province of Quebec, are in favor of annexation to the United States. British Columbia, which entered into Confederation on the condition that a Railway to the Pacific should be built by the Dominion government, periodically enforces its demand for the speedy completion of that immensely expensive Public work by threats of secession to the United States.

In our boyhood we knew an old man who when a boy enforced his demand for luxuries upon his widowed mother by threatening to jump into a well, running towards it with the apparent intention of jumping over the curb, which action invariably brought his fond but foolish mother to terms; but Stephen prospered and lived to advanced age without adorning a tale in Sunday School literature (for the good boys only are supposed to die young.) His example is now imitated by a young woman Mrs. Columbia, who has gone to house-keeping in her new and distant home. Irritated at the delay of her mother and big sisters in making a good road, as they promised, over which she could easily and quickly travel to visit her Eastern friends, she threatens to leave the homestead, and occasionally starts with the avowed intention of jumping over the fence into the richer field of her neighbor, who has roads already made to every part of his big farm.

The probability is however, that the young matron, will have a large family, and live to a prosperous old age, on good terms with her family and with her southern neighbor. Age and experience, to say nothing of the rod of adversity, are good correctives of foolish boys and silly girls."

AMERICAN BAPTIST ALMANAC 1880 American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia pp. 152, 50 cents.

The getting up of this annual involves a vast amount of labor. It contains a brief account of the various Baptist Societies, Associations and other organizations with the denominational statistics in the United States. So far as they can be ascertained.

Table with 3 columns: U. States there were in 1878, 1879. Rows include Bap. Associations, Churches, Ordained Ministers, Additions by Baptism, Letter, Experience, Restoration, Diminutions by Death, Letter, Exclusion, Erasure, Total Membership, Increase during year.

Notices.

EASTERN COUNTIES MINISTERIAL AND LAY CONFERENCE.

This Conference will meet (D. V.), on the 19th of March, 1880, when a season of unusual interest is expected. Essays on different subjects will be read by T. M. King, and A. H. Deakins. The sermon will be preached by the Secretary, at 7 p. m. Saturday. Ministers and Delegates intending to be present will kindly communicate with Captain J. McConnell, Port Hillford. The former name of Port H., was Indian Harbor. A. H. DEAKINS, Sec'y. Guysborough, Feb. 27, 1880.

The next meeting of the Colchester and Cumberland Baptist S. S. Convention will be held with the Church at Pugwash on March 24th 1880. Morning session will be taken up by the reading of letters from the different schools of the two counties, and an Essay by Rev. M. P. Freeman, subject of the Essay, "How to make the Sunday School attractive."

Afternoon, Essay by Rev. J. E. Goucher, subject, "Sabbath School concerts, use and abuse," followed by discussion and remarks.

Evening session, Essay by Rev. C. H. Martell, subject, "The place of the S. S. in relation to the family and pulpit," followed by discussion and remarks. A form will be sent to each S. School in the two counties, which must be filled out accurately and returned to the Secretary of the Convention to be read in the morning session. Each school is requested to send one or more delegates to the Convention so as to have a good representation of our S. S. workers in the counties. A. J. WALKER, Sec'y.