

For the Christian Messenger. The late Rev. Dr. Cramp.

FROM THE GOVERNORS OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger: DEAR SIR.—Please publish the following resolution of condolence, passed at the meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, Dec. 15, 1881:

"Our Heavenly Father, in His wise Providence, has taken home to Himself our beloved brother in Christ, Rev. Dr. Cramp. The event, though not unexpected,—for he had reached a ripe age,—fills us with a sense of personal and public bereavement. This Board, and our whole denomination, has sustained a great loss. For, though removed from active service, through the weight of years, for some time past, his sympathies were with us, and his prayers unceasing on our behalf.

Of the work performed for Acadia College by our deceased brother it is needless, if it were not impossible, for us to speak particularly. For his labors were incessant and abundant; and such as only a Christian man, endowed with his great qualities of mind and heart, assisted by his wonderful and varied learning could perform. They were labors for which Acadia College owes the most profound thanks to the Giver of all good.

When Dr. Cramp came to take charge of our Institutions of learning great difficulties lay in our way, great discouragement was upon the hearts of its friends and patrons, and, since then, our way at times has been through serious trials. But from the first he manifested, and he ever maintained, a cheerful, manful courage, and a truly Christian faith. To this spirit, as well as to the great efforts he put forth, is due, in great measure, the success that Acadia College has enjoyed.

Our remembrance of the zeal of Dr. Cramp in all our denominational enterprises is grateful, and will long be cherished. He sought to inspire all around him with ardent zeal for Christ and His cause. By his pen he not only defended the truth, but he sought to comfort his brethren and to confirm their faith.

The pastors of our churches, our Home and Foreign Missionaries, will greatly miss his kind and wise counsel and sympathy.

With the Board of Governors Dr. Cramp ever sustained kind and pleasant relationship. Before the Board he brought wise and generous measures of usefulness; to the Board he looked for co-operation and support; and with the Board, through all the changes and events of its official history, he maintained the most amicable relations. We have lost a dear friend. But our Lord has taken him from us. He rests from his labors, and his works follow him.

To his family, in their bereavement, we tender our sincere sympathy. May the God of their honoured father grant to them abundantly the consolations of His grace."

By order of the Board, S. W. DEBLOIS, Sec'y.

For the Christian Messenger. Appointments by Foreign Mission Board.

At a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, held on Dec. 9th, the following appointments were made:

John March, St. John, N. B., Secretary. Chas. F. Clinch, Clinch Mills, N. B., Treasurer.

At an adjourned meeting held on Dec. 20th these brethren signified their acceptance of the positions to which they had been appointed, and at once entered upon their work. At the same meeting Revs. I. E. Hill, D. D., G. O. Gates, and E. W. Kelly were appointed a Committee on Ways and Means for the reinforcement of the Mission.

Published by order, J. MARCH, Sec. For. Miss. Board. St. John, N. B., Dec. 23, 1881.

The Christian Messenger. Halifax, N. S., December 28, 1881.

CLOSE OF 1881.

Our Years are passing away. Another stroke of Eternity's clock will soon be heard by those who listen to its ushering in of a New Year. The earth has almost completed its cycle since the coming in of the present year. A few more hours and that which was supposed would be a more than usually eventful year, because of the prophecies and "old wives' tales" concerning it, and of its, so called,—mystical number, 1881, will have gone like its predecessors to be numbered with the past—taking with it all the record of events of individuals, of families, and of nations with which it is laden. Here we are on the confines of the Old and the entrance upon the New.

Whatever of doubt and dread we may have had, as to what might come before the close of the year, has passed away, leaving us the richer in experience, and affording us at least good grounds for the exercise of hope. Even if our past hopes have not all been realized, we may doubtless now see some of the causes which have led to the disappointment, and so, by a better knowledge of the way, we may be led to adopt a wiser course in the future, and, having less self confidence, may trust more in our Divine Guide, and so be the better prepared for pursuing the remainder of our journey onward and upward.

Our friends are passing away. All things do not continue as they were from the beginning. The most precious things of earth are constantly changing. We may seem to be travelling in a monotonous course, and think that each day and week and month brings with it duties and experiences very much like their predecessors, and yet when we come to compare present surroundings with what we knew them to be, ten, twenty or thirty years ago, we find them changed in almost every respect. It may be that the comparison reveals to us new causes of thankfulness. Some friends we have learned more fully to appreciate, but the loss of friends and friendships we have had to relinquish makes us feel that this is an unsatisfactory world in which to continue, and we long for one where friendships become permanent, and joys are abiding.

The removal of friends from this lower condition of our being naturally awakens in us a desire to know something of the condition, associations and the place to which they have gone. We can obtain no light on this subject from human sources, but in the teachings of our Lord. Although we have not enough to gratify our curiosity, yet, we have quite sufficient to satisfy the confiding trustful heart of the believer: "Whither I go ye know," "I go to prepare a place for you," "I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also;" these and many others give us the assurance that should satisfy those who have committed their all to Him. We should not regard the time we spend in this world as the day, and its close the night, except it be as the time for labor. We should rather think of this as the early morning of our existence, which is to pass away and introduce us to a brighter period. Here we need the light of the sun and moon and stars, a sort of artificial arrangement suited to our condition; but we know that these heavenly bodies are only media through which the Creator of light supplies us with what is convenient to our condition. The Lord of life and glory is our real Sun and the light of life. The ruin wrought by sin and death is to the believer in Christ, but temporary; our hope is sure and steadfast. The teachings of the Divine Book make known to us a safe anchorage, seeing that it enters within the veil, whither the Forerunner is for us entered.

Unbelief can offer us no better hope, and we are content to live on year by year in joyful anticipation of meeting those who have gone before, into a condition where "Everlasting Spring abides And never withering flowers."

"We count the hope no day-dream of the mind, No vision bright of transitory hue, The souls of those whom once on earth we knew and loved, And walked with in communion kind, Departed hence, again in heaven to find, Such hope to nature's sympathies is true, And such we deem God's holy word unfolds to view."

Before our next appearance—our first issue of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER for 1882, our patrons will have exchanged kind New Year's greetings with many of their neighbours and friends. We are not willing to be the last in tendering our congratulations, and although we may have some further good wishes after we have actually entered upon the year, yet we would in anticipation of New Year's Day offer our hand in hearty greetings to one and all of our readers, far and near, although separated from many of them by thousands of miles, with the desire that it may be A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all, and so continue from its beginning to its close. We would be pleased in its earliest hour to join with them in singing Charles Wesley's appropriate hymn for the New Year:

Come let us anew, Our journey pursue; Roll round with the year, And never stand still till the Master appear.

His adorable will, Let us gladly fulfil. And our talents improve, By the patience of hope and the labor of love.

Our life is a dream, Our time, as a stream Glides swiftly away, And the fugitive moment refuses to stay. The arrow is flown, The moment is gone, The millennial year Rushes on to our view; and Eternity's near.

We had a pleasant visit on Saturday last from the missionaries, Rev. John McLaurin and Mrs. McLaurin, on their way from Ontario to Cocanada, in India. The Parisian arrived about 9 a. m., and did not leave again till about midnight. It was not known that they would remain so long in Halifax, and it being a very severe day—the thermometer ranging between zero and 10°—many of our friends were prevented from seeing them who would have been glad of an interview. We were glad to find them both in such excellent health and spirits. They have left their two children at Woodstock, Ont., with their grandparent. Our Ontario brethren and sisters may well feel proud in having such persons as these to represent them in a foreign land.

We have had many enquiries for a specimen sheet of our new ONE DOLLAR EDITION of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, with twenty-four columns, and have been expecting from day to day to receive our new supply of paper of the enlarged size, which was ordered some time since, but it having failed to reach us we have been unable as yet to get it out as we intended. We shall print a good supply of the first numbers, so as to enable us to send them on to subscribers for two or three weeks to come.

CHRISTMAS DAY ON SUNDAY has not occurred since 1870, till this year. This has puzzled a good many people, who cannot see how it could have so happened even by leap-year intervening. We have had the curiosity to look back, and we find that in 1875 Christmas day was on Saturday, and then—1876 being leap-year—it fell on Monday, and so on. It will not have so long an interval again for many years to come. In 1887 after an interval of six years, and again after an interval of five years in 1892 Christmas Day will fall on Sunday.

This may be plainly seen by reckoning: 1882 on Monday, 1883 on Tuesday, 1884—being leap-year—on Thursday, 1885, on Friday, 1886, on Saturday, 1887, on Sunday.

We were pleased to learn from Rev. J. McLaurin, that our brother Rev. W. F. Armstrong is meeting with success in his pastoral work at Roslindale, Boston. He baptized four persons on a recent Lord's Day.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Fatal Explosions in coal pits, have not yet done their work. On the 19th inst., there was a severe one at Bolton, England, by which thirty-four persons were killed, and thirty-six injured. £10,000 have been raised for the relief of distressed Irish ladies, and £7,000 for the defence of property.

The southern parts of England have been visited with torrents of rain, in consequence of which there have been several sad disasters. The river Thames rose considerably and flooded the valley and meadows about Windsor. At Bristol the wind blew a hurricane. A house occupied by four families was destroyed and fifteen persons buried in the ruins. The disaster was caused by the fall of a lofty chimney crushing through the building. Two children were killed and seven inmates seriously injured.

On Tuesday and following days the gale, which was of unprecedented violence, raged in the English Channel, with much rain, hail and very high sea. Mail communication between England and the Channel Islands is greatly delayed. Much damage was done in Jersey. Large tracts were flooded at St. Heliers.

The Irish Landlords are taking united action. A meeting was held on Thursday, when resolutions were adopted condemning the way in which the Land Act is administered, and demanding compensation and purchase by the State.

At Meigen in Russia a court-martial is trying 200 persons who participated in the anti-Jewish riots in August last. A discovery has been made at Madrid

in Spain of a gang of thieves and forgers, who used the contents of stolen letters for procuring money by forging acceptances. The judge has ordered the arrest of many persons throughout Spain.

Hayti has another revolution on hand. President Solomon, with a strong force, landed at Saint Marie and quelled the rising there, after 150 men were killed on both sides. The Government House was sacked and other houses burned.

The Hon. Mr. Holmes Provincial Secretary of this province has been at Ottawa during the week on business connected with the proposed Syndicate to take control of the Nova Scotia Railways.

The Bankers of Toronto and Montreal are not satisfied with the requirements of the Government, with regard to giving information concerning the custom of banks making loans to speculators, contrary to law.

The ex-Mayor of St. John, Mr. C. R. Ray, chairman of the Water Commission has left that city with 15 or \$20,000 of debts contracted previous to his retirement from business. He went to Boston and wrote thence resigning his office, and giving reasons for leaving and expressing the hope that "in time," he may be able to liquidate his obligations to all who are interested.

In the Lewin case, getting a cheque cashed which had already been paid, the jury disagreed and he was liberated on bail, himself in \$1,000 and two sureties in \$500 each. Furlong was acquitted. As soon as the result of the trial was known, it is said Lewin "skipped."

Robert L. Kirwin, second engineer of the steamer Falmouth, while endeavoring to get on board the steamer at the wharf at St. John, on Wednesday evening, slipped and fell on his back on the ground, and from thence into the water. He was taken out of the water immediately and removed to the saloon of the steamer, but all efforts to resuscitate him proved fruitless, he having evidently been killed by the fall. He was a native of Eastport, where his aged mother now lies at the point of death. It is also reported that he was about to be married, and, indeed, had purchased a portion of the furniture. On the previous morning he said to one of the waiters on the boat, in a jocular way, "I dreamt last night I was laid out, and my poor mother was in great agony over it."

The new Chinese Minister and suit, 28 in all, have arrived at Washington. Last Monday and next have been declared statutory holidays in the United States.

THE ARTIC SHIP JEANNETTE.—The Governor of Siberia has issued a proclamation announcing that the Arctic voyaging ship Jeannette is safe, with all on board well and all equipments intact.

The following further particulars are given in a later telegram from St. Petersburg: "The Jeannette was crushed in ice June 11th, lat. 11, long. 157. The crew embarked in three boats. They were separated by wind and fog. No. 3, with eleven men, Engineer Melville commanding, reached the mouth of the Lena, September 19th. Subsequently No. 1, with Capt. Delong, Dr. Ambler and twelve men reached the Lena in a pitiable condition. Prompt assistance was sent. No. 2 has not been heard from."

In response to the above the following was transmitted by Secretary Frelinghuysen: "Tender the hearty thanks of the President to all authorities or persons who in any way have been instrumental in assisting the unfortunate survivors from the Jeannette or furnishing information to this Government."

News has reached the Government at Jakutsk, Eastern Siberia, that on the 14th September three natives of Oulou, near Cape Barhay, 140 versts North of Cape Bekoff, discovered a boat containing 11 men, who stated that they belonged to the Jeannette and had undergone terrible suffering. On hearing the news the District Deputy Governor, with a doctor and medicines, were immediately despatched to the help of the shipwrecked sailors, and was instructed to bring them to Jakutsk. The Governor also instructed them to do everything in their power to recover the remainder of the crew, five hundred roubles being given him to defray first expenses.

On October 29th Nindeman and Noras, seamen, who were on boat No. 1, joined their comrades, and stated that Lieut. Delong, Dr. Ambler and

twelve others had reached the Northern mouth of Lena, and were starving. An expedition was at once sent out to rescue them. The survivors lost everything.

All the London journals publish editorials on the reported safe arrival of the Jeannette's crew and unite in declaring that the news will be universally received with feelings of satisfaction and relief. The Standard says: "The Americans have added additional glory to that which they have already won in the frozen regions."

Rain was falling at Cincinnati continuously for three days last week. Private telegrams from all directions indicate the approach of a destructive flood in the Ohio river and its tributaries.

The question of Guiteau's sanity is still held in abeyance. On Thursday an angry colloquy ensued between Guiteau and Scoville over the interruption of witnesses by the prisoner, in which Scoville declared he would leave the case if it continued. To which the prisoner replied, "We will have a new man to-morrow; this is your last day." One of the witnesses was charged with previously being indicted for perjury.

The flagship Tennessee floated out of the Brooklyn dry dock on Thursday, and anchored in the Bay. In the afternoon she was run into by a steamer, believed to be the Western Star, during fog, and was struck amidships and cut down to the water's edge, and had to be heeled over to prevent the water flowing in. It will take a month to repair her. Virulent small pox has broken out in East New York in the suburb of Brooklyn. Black diphtheria is killing many people in Bloomingdale, N. J. The patient's tongue becomes black and swollen and protrudes from his mouth. Death ensues in about forty-eight hours.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

We have seen no official notification, but have heard that the Halifax Evangelical Alliance purpose holding the services next week in the morning in the Y. M. C. A. Hall at 9.30, and the evening meetings at 7.30 in St. Matthew's, and Brunswick Street churches.

It is doubtful if the same interest will be taken as if the meetings were in the different places of worship as heretofore.

BAPTISM OF REV. J. J. PARKER, LATE METHODIST MINISTER.

We find the following in the London Baptist of the 2nd inst:

A baptismal service of special interest was held at Wednesbury on Sunday evening, November 20, owing to the fact of Rev. J. J. Parker, late Primitive Methodist minister, being one of the subjects. Rev. J. E. Barton (pastor) conducted the service, taking for his text, John ii. 5, "Whosoever He saith unto you, do it." At the close of the sermon he announced that Mr. Parker would say a few words in explanation of his position.

He said: "It is difficult for some people to understand the various changes in religious conviction, belief, and practice, which are constantly taking place. They can comprehend 'the denominational reason why,' but can see no sufficient reason for those who have been brought up in one church passing over to another. And when those changes occur in the case of persons occupying the position of religious teachers, the surprise is increased. Teachers, they think, at least should know their own minds. I believe it would modify somewhat, if it did not prevent this perplexity, if the two following considerations were kept in view. Firstly, that truth is the guide of life; that until truth is clearly apprehended by the mind, and becomes part of our intellectual stock, it can exert no regulating influence upon our conduct; that truth is difficult of apprehension, and gained slowly and by degrees. Secondly, the methods of imparting religious instruction adopted by the churches are not such as tend to help, but rather embarrass, the mind in this great quest. Years of struggles are often needed to correct the bias and vanquish the prejudices thus created. And further, for myself, I must put in the plea that during the last few years my nature has been in revolt against certain phases of dogmatic theology, and especially against Ritualism. I have learned how powerless is theology to sweeten men's tempers or purify their lives. I have been conscious of a growing tendency to attach less and less importance to creeds and ceremonies, and appraise in an inverse ratio practical religious truth, truth which warms the heart, broadens the mind, and ennobles the life. It is on this account that the question which is of such profound importance to you, which is your denominational characteristic, has for me, until lately, possessed hardly any practical interest. I say