

entertainments commonly crowd the lecture-room or the Sabbath-school hall. There is a Temperance Committee which oversees that branch of Christian labor. Last evening a meeting of the young ladies who are interested in this blessed work was largely attended. For years we had an efficient corps of tract-distributors in the Association; but the removal from town of its moving spirits has left this department rather feeble at present. There is also a Relief Committee for cases of poverty, and another one which provides flowers every Sabbath for the pulpit, and then sends them to the rooms of the sick.

We have entered more into the details of this Association because it has yielded such precious spiritual fruits. Its graduates are all over the West as active Christians; some of them have entered the gospel ministry. It has been a training-school for converts, and as such deserves a place beside the Sabbath-school in the affections and prayers of the church. I should almost as soon think of conducting a church without a board of elders, as without this educational institution for new-born souls: It helps to solve several such questions—how to develop the lay-element? how to cultivate social intercourse? how to save the young for Christ, and keep them out of the clutch of the devil? In the apostolic churches the new material was put to immediate use. That was one reason why the Word grew mightily and prevailed. If the machinery in those days was simpler than now; still there was organized effort, and that was built on personal consecration to Christ. Give us but that, and we shall have no dross in the hive, and but few barren fig-trees in the field. Conversion without consecration signifies birth without growth—blossoms without fruit.—N. Y. Evangelist.

Says Mr. Spurgeon, in the "Notes" of the current number of his magazine: "We have been greatly cheered by receiving recently a letter from Belgrade, accompanying copies of one of our sermons which has been translated into the Servian tongue, and sent to each of the twelve hundred priests and teachers in that country. The sermon selected is No. 1889 from the text 'Be of good comfort, rise, he called thee.' No. 279 also is being prepared in press. The friend who sent us the information says that no Protestant preacher in Servian is in the country, and the Greek church is in an extraordinary dead state. He speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Mijatovich the translator, and asks for our prayers that this work may be made a great blessing. Will not our readers unite in the petition?"

For the Christian Messenger.
1881.

Year of storms and year of battles!
Year of dire calamities!
By thy horoscope predicting,
Oh! what ills thy prophet sees.

Year so long foretold as bringing,
Unto us the last great day,
When the heavens and earth together
Like a scroll shall pass away.

Year which may, before it closes,
Usher the millennium in,
When the Prince of Peace triumphant,
Shall His reign on earth begin.

Year of sorrows! year of wonders!
Do thy seers know aught of thee?
Can they tell what e'en to angels,
Is a hidden mystery?

Year—New Year—we bid thee welcome!
Clouds may hover round thy birth,
Yet God reigns, and in His keeping,
Are the nations of the earth.

E. E. C.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Pastorate of Twenty-five years

It is a note-worthy fact in the history of our denomination, that one of our ministers has just completed an uninterrupted pastorate of a quarter of a century—the Rev. S. W. deBlois, A. M., of Wolfville, N. S. This is an event alike creditable to the Church and Pastor, and in striking contrast with too many of our Churches where short pastorates are the rule. The preceding pastor of the Wolfville Church, Father Harding, filled that position for over fifty years. So that this church has had but two pastors for eighty years. We think that few Churches in America can say as much. At the first Conference of the New Year, Pastor deBlois read his usual yearly report of work done, and also a summary of his twenty-five years labor.

During this period he has preached 3607 sermons, baptized 512 persons, made 15200 visits, attended 530 funerals, and married 332 couples.

The Wolfville Church adopted the Convention Scheme at its last Conference.—Com.

For the Christian Messenger.

Prairie College, North West Territory.

Mr. Editor,—

Prairie College has been extensively published in the columns of the Canadian Baptist. There are, no doubt, many of your readers who have not access to that paper. For these I beg a little space, that I may briefly inform them of what we are doing for ministerial education in the North West.

Considering the vast numbers who are seeking new homes in Manitoba and the North West Territory, it is of the utmost importance that we Baptists should not be the last to supply these new settlers with heralds of the gospel.

Being convinced, however, of the moral impossibility of supplying an adequate number of missionaries, at full salaries, on so extensive a field, and with a scattered population, I felt convinced that young men must be trained on the spot, who would be able and willing to cultivate the soil, in whole or in part, for their own support, until the churches are able to sustain them.

I submitted a scheme of education to the judgment of some of the wisest of my brethren, in which it was proposed to give adequate mental culture, without rendering the student unfit for the labors of the farm. My brethren heartily approved, and urged me to take the work in hand, and subscriptions to a considerable amount were offered before I asked for a cent, and students, hearing of my scheme, offered themselves for the work.

Before committing myself to so important and arduous an undertaking, I visited the country to gain information by personal observation. After much anxious thought I resolved, in reliance upon a kind Heavenly Father, to consecrate the remnant of my days to this great work.

A committee, nominated by the Baptist Convention of Ontario, to consider my scheme and report, met in the city of Brantford. They approved of the scheme, and warmly invited their brethren to contribute towards so worthy an object.

Having resigned the chair of theology in the Canadian Literary Institute, Woodstock, which I had occupied for thirteen years, I associated with me, and that with the hearty concurrence of the committee, a young man of piety and talent, the Rev. G. B. Davis, B.D.; and we went to work at once to raise the necessary funds. In this we succeeded beyond the expectation of many. My brethren seemed to regard the scheme as the only one adapted to that field. The few Baptists in the North West, almost without solicitation, have also contributed considerably over one thousand dollars in cash.

Brother Davis left for the North West on the 2nd of March, with eleven students, and in July I sent six more. These took with them considerably over two car-loads of live stock, farm implements, tools, machinery, and provisions.

In the immediate vicinity of Rapid City we have secured eleven hundred and twenty acres of excellent land for a college farm, and on this land we have erected, by the labour of the students alone, the first wing of the college, a thoroughly substantial, three-storey stone building. We intend, by divine aid, to erect a large octagon building in front of the present erection. When this is done, Prairie College will be an elegant and spacious building, and sufficiently substantial to stand for generations, a monument of the skill and industry of its first students.

Besides erecting this college wing, burning their own lime, and teaming all the materials to the building, these young men teamed twelve tons of freight thirty miles from the steamer, and several tons more from Winnipeg, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, on bad roads. They have also raised six hundred bushels of grain, and one hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes. They have cut and drawn home about eighty cords of firewood, and one thousand posts. They have cut and cured sixty tons of hay, and erected temporary stables for the horses and cattle. Besides all this, they have ploughed over one hundred and twenty-five acres for next year's crop. All this proves the energy and determination of

these young men. Nor have they done their work in a bungling manner. In fact, several of these students are first-class mechanics. One of them took first prize for panel doors at the city fair.

Having commenced their studies some weeks ago, the teachers can testify that these young men have determination and energy which characterized them on the farm and at the building. I have been very careful in accepting only such young men as possessed not only piety and natural ability, but also pluck. A man naturally either timid or indolent, must prove a failure on this field.

In Prairie College the winter half-year is devoted exclusively to study, while the summer six months is devoted entirely to farm work. We do not think it expedient to mix up work and study. In the working season many opportunities and encouragements will be afforded the young men to mental improvement, but these must be pursued entirely out of working hours.

Liberal wages are allowed to the students, and good and sufficient work is expected in return. Ministerial students will thus have it in their power, with economy, to pay their way through college without pecuniary help, and it is also confidently expected that the profits of the large farm will meet all the running expenses of the institution. This cannot be, the case however, for at least the first three years. During this period expensive buildings must be erected, the prairie broken up and fenced, and additional stock must be purchased.

Twelve of our students are studying for the gospel ministry; and it pains me exceedingly to be obliged to refuse many others who offer themselves, simply for want of room, and for want of means. I have had to decline this very week two excellent young brethren, who, I have no doubt, would prove an honor both to the college and the gospel ministry.

All we want, with the divine blessing, is a moderate increase of capital. We have hundreds of acres of excellent land ready for the plough; but we need capital to purchase oxen and seed grain to enable us to bring it under cultivation. We have hundreds of acres of the best meadow and pasture, but we have not sufficient capital for the purchase of stock. I have confidence, however, that our Heavenly Father, whose work it is, will supply all these things in his own time and manner.

Besides our educational work, we have organized a church of some thirty members in Rapid City, with a good Sabbath School, and have secured two good lots for the erection of a church. We hope also shortly to organize other churches and Sabbath Schools, and give them, from the college, the gospel of God's grace.

There is a great work before us in that vast territory. May the Lord, whose work it is, open the hearts of his people to help us in this important undertaking for the Master.

Thanking you heartily, Mr. Editor, for the space kindly afforded me in your valuable paper,

I am,
Yours in the truth,
JOHN CRAWFORD.
Woodstock, Ontario,
24th Dec. 1880.

Donations to "Prairie College Missionary Society" will be most thankfully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Wm. Craig, Esq., Port Hope, Ontario, or by the writer.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 5, 1881.

THE NEW YEAR, 1881.

Having witnessed the departure of the old, decrepit year 1880, and having attended to its being decently deposited in its proper place, along with its predecessors, we welcome the entrance of the New Year, 1881, with all its grand possibilities. His new and vigorous youth comes bounding forth full of high anticipation. A new decade opens upon us, bringing a simple yet curious combination of the two figures of which it is composed. We may not divine what it will bring to us. It is not for man to peer into the events of the future, but we must wait for its developments, and watch for the unfoldings of the plans of mercy and grace week by week as they advance to show the designs of our Heavenly Father. We know that the God of love will crown the year with His goodness. We have His promises, and on them let us rest, seeking to know His will and run in the way of His precepts.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

The notice of the Week of Prayer Services on another page will form the complement of the List of Subjects as given in our columns several weeks ago. We regret that the Halifax programme did not reach us in time for our last issue, as it should have done.

The meetings began on Sunday afternoon by a large meeting in the Y. M. C. Association Hall.

On Monday morning the Hall was filled by ministers and people from all the churches in the city. S. L. Shannon, Esq., presided. The exercises were entirely free and were participated in by quite a number. Prayer, singing of hymns and addresses followed each other without loss of time, and with much fervor. It was a profitable occasion.

On Tuesday morning also the spirit and tone of the meeting was good, and the attendance large.

On Thursday evening last we had the pleasure of listening to an able lecture on "Heroism" given by Rev. Walter J. Swaffield, pastor of the Baptist Church at Hawkesbury, C. B., in the Tabernacle. It was a masterly production, replete with vivid illustrations of the various points taken, to show what is genuine heroism—a sacrifice of self for the good of others. Some of its passages were bursts of high, impassioned eloquence, worthy of being listened to by a large audience. We hope that Mr. S. will soon visit our city again, and give our citizens, more generally, an opportunity of hearing him.

After the lecture, on invitation from Rev. J. F. Avery, brief congratulatory addresses, in harmony with the subject of the lecture, were given by Rev. E. M. Saunders and Rev. T. A. Higgins. At the close, the choir executed a choice anthem, making the whole a most enjoyable evening, worth far more than the ten cents charged for admission, in aid of the Building Fund.

We were glad to learn from the Report of the past year read by the Treasurer, that all claims had been met, and that a balance remained in hand in favor of each of the funds of the Third Baptist Church, meeting in the Tabernacle.

The Report has since been handed to us, from which the following further particulars are gathered:

Total cash collected in the year 1880.

Current expense fund.....	\$1539 45
Missionary fund.....	69 41
Comunion fund.....	41 18
Building fund.....	18 00
Total	\$1667 99

Total cash now in hand, as follows:

Current expense fund.....	\$ 6 33
Mission fund.....	34 12
Comunion fund.....	80 91
Building fund.....	30 10
Total	\$151 46

Total amount of cash collected for the Building Fund since 1875.....\$4772 92

Rev. T. A. Higgins has been on a short visit to the city during last week, and on Sunday last preached two able sermons in Halifax, in Granville Street Church in the morning; and in the North Baptist Church in the evening. He returned on Monday morning to join with his congregation and the citizens of the ancient capital in the meetings of the Week of Prayer.

On Sunday week, Rev. Raleigh Bishop, preached at Dartmouth in the morning, and Rev. Joshua T. Eaton, in the evening, the former being on a short visit to the pastor Rev. E. J. Grant, the latter on a visit to the family of Mrs. Eaton. We were glad to see the pastor of the church at Paradise in such excellent health and spirits, and to learn from him that that church is actively engaged in relieving itself of the encumbrance on its commodious House of Worship. The past history of this church would lead us to anticipate for it a continuation of usefulness and prosperity, equal to any in the province.

CHURCH CLERKS.—"Inquirer" asks, What are the duties of a Church Clerk? Whether in case of division of sentiment on any question he is justified in entering on his record of the meeting his own impressions respecting the conduct of the parties respectively, strongly condemning one side, and approving the other, and that without the knowledge of any other member of the Church.

We do not find any direction in the Scriptures for the Clerk or Secretary of a Church, as such. The office is one that arises from the nature of things rather than from any special appointment, and yet there is perhaps

no officer in the church, except the pastor, on whom so much rests, and who has so many opportunities of promoting the welfare of the body.

The duties of the Clerk in a church are the same as in any other society, but, should be held as demanding, if possible, greater care, promptness and faithfulness.

The usual definition of the clerk's duties is that he shall keep an impartial record of the proceedings, and preserve all the papers and documents belonging to his office. Anything incorrect or improper should be corrected when read at the commencement of the subsequent meeting.

Our readers generally are in hearty sympathy with whatever they believe calculated to promote Higher Education and benefit the cause of general enlightenment. The University of Halifax has hitherto failed to receive their confidence and co-operation. Impressions were given at its inception, that it was aiming to interfere injuriously with some of the established institutions, and many of the warm friends of Acadia College consequently declined to endorse the affiliation which had been provided for by the University Act, and they preferred to let the experiment be tried with those colleges which expressed a willingness to cast in their lot with the new Institution. Recognizing this condition of matters and without pronouncing upon the value of the University or its adaptation to accomplish the object which it proposes we think the late session of the University has developed several things which our readers are entitled to know and well consider.

The Senate met in annual session on Wednesday last in the Council Chamber.

After the preliminaries of the first meeting, and the reception of reports from committees, the Chancellor, Rev. Dr. Hill, gave an address to the Senate on the position and prospects of the University, and made some statements which it is important to notice at the present time. Dr. H. said:

The University of Halifax was established by Act of parliament four years ago. The Senate met for the first time in the month of September, A. D., 1876. The business assigned to it was entered upon with vigor by the duly appointed members, nearly all of whom assembled, and who, after a long session, followed at intervals by others equally well attended, during all of which the most earnest and painstaking work was performed, made a considerable degree of progress in arranging the standards for matriculation and examinations for the various degrees in Arts, Science, Law and Medicine. From time to time these standards have been amended, as experience of their practicability taught the Senate the advisability or the need of such amendments. And, without fear of contradiction, I may state that every pains has been taken by the members of this learned body—more than a quarter of whom are gentlemen engaged in practical work in the affiliated colleges of this Province and in Mount Allison Wesleyan College, in the Province of New Brunswick—to meet as far as possible, the existing condition of the educational arrangements of these Institutions, both as to the subjects taught in them, and the text books used by them.

Considering the perfect independence of each college to create any standard it may please, either for matriculation or for degrees—although deriving aid from the Government—one can hardly imagine any better plan than that of this Examining University, organized four years since, whether viewed in reference to the advantages to the college, or to the treasury of the country was being expended. Briefly, the University of Halifax—a non-teaching, examining, and degree-conferring institution, modelled after the University of London—was designed to simplify and to render uniform the collegiate system of Nova Scotia, and to bring into harmonious co-operation the highest educational forces of the Province.

In view of the fact that by Act of the Legislature all the grants hitherto made to the colleges determine and cease on the last day of this current year, it is, in my humble judgment, a most opportune time to inquire whether the University has fulfilled the purpose of its organization, and on the data thus acquired form a conclusion as to its utility in the past, and so be enabled to draw a fair inference as to its probable utility in the future.

As a member of the Senate, deeply interested in the success of a project which I more fully believe in than ever, as one admirably adapted to meet the educational requirements of the country, and equally interested as a native of the Province in any matter which can advance its interests, I desire to make a fair, honest, and unprejudiced review of the events of the past four experimental years of this University—not willing to weaken it if really useful; not willing to urge its continuance if the results of its existence are not proximate to its cost in coin and the great mental labor ex-

pendent upon it, and no fair, or, what may be accomplished. On year's Calendar, who find a summary of the up for examination, afterwards add the year, which, of course, published.

Let us then look up the statistics to December, find a summary of the up for examination, afterwards add the year, which, of course, published.

Analyze this sum it reveal? This set the total number of Science, Law and M—of whom 17 co- back to pages 10. do these inform you dates came? 14 had 2 came from Dalhousie Halifax Medical Co Francis Xavier's Co Mary's College; 1 4 from Mount Allison 5 from Pictou Acad from some of our p to this what was present year—the 1 Twenty persons ap tion, 13 for matric B. A. 1 for Second L.L.B. Of these 5 Allison College; 1 5 from Pictou Ac John, New Brunswick 1 from Mount Allison

Observe, then, the gation into positive ception of Mount may say that not specially referred to Legislature, have co advantageous the opportunity affor their students teste side of their own in one College, except has taken any pra thering the projec general touchstone the youths whom structing. From A have been no can know of few from of legislation, the U more valuable aid t individual members and the governing tion.

The Chancellor sions of the Facul Kings College, m University, and t mark:

Other colleges to steps, as, for exam the standard for n however, has been posed co-operation read to you furni doubt, the ruling p established institut their best judgment have some solid re which they have ad these reasons may to say that, howev be as to the line o the colleges conce fully persecuted is of this country i higher education, th reason or other, the practical symp luke-warm co-ope ed colleges of Nov I look at the effo made to obtain th the suggestions of I confess to be wh for the indifferen and again, both I conference, we ha authorities to tell point out our exc suggestions as f better than we w had examiners fr have consulted t with the leading i they thought wou to the highest inte result has been th stated. Should thi fearless of being p the University has its merits, and th can complain th to seek counsel an ing and conducti Briefly, my hono is the situation t the grants to th week; in view of by these colleges, University shoul there a reasonable of private stud number of candi I ask—Is it wort to devote time a may have to a w institutions, in p have set themse financial conditio spend \$2000 a ye seems, at any rat favor from the then just to coura reap so little ha country to expen tion the object the greater part n it appears to now arrived wh view of the exp of the University the means of det