

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
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WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVI., No. 14.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ordination at Port Lorne.

In response to the united call of the churches at Port Lorne and Hampton, an ecclesiastical Council met at Arlington, Feb. 7th, to take into consideration the propriety of ordaining to the gospel ministry, bro. E. H. Sweet, of Newport, Hants Co., late student of Wabash College, Indiana. The Council organized by appointing Rev. J. T. Eaton, Moderator; and R. D. Porter, Clerk. On account of a very bad condition of the roads, there was found to be a small number in attendance from churches invited; consequently, it was deemed best that further proceedings should be postponed until a larger representation could be had from the many churches within convenient distance from this place. The Council therefore adjourned until three weeks from date, and the churches invited were advised of this action.

Feb. 28th, Council met, according to adjournment, at the above named place, at 10 o'clock, A. M. There were present delegates from the Upper Wilmot, Pine Grove, Lower Aylesford, Bridgetown, Wilmot, Lawrence-town, and Nictaux Churches.

Bro. Graves, Clerk of Port Lorne Church, having read a minute of the action of the churches calling for the ordination and given a satisfactory statement concerning the engagement of bro. Sweet, his labors, and all the circumstances connected with this call for his ordination; and the Council having heard a very satisfactory relation of Christian experience, call to the ministry, and statement of doctrinal views, by the candidate, it was unanimously resolved to proceed to ordination.

In the afternoon of the same day, in the presence of a large congregation, the aisles as well as the sittings of the church being occupied—the services of ordination proceeded, according to previous arrangement, as follows:

Sermon by Rev. W. E. Hall; public examination of candidate, by Rev. F. Beattie; prayer of ordination, by Rev. J. T. Eaton; hand of fellowship and charge to the ordained, by Rev. R. D. Porter; charge to the church, by Rev. J. H. Robbins; and benediction, by Rev. E. H. Sweet.

The exercises throughout were regarded as more than ordinarily interesting and effective; the impression made by the candidate was exceedingly favorable; the union and harmony prevailing in these churches was very gratifying; and the prospect altogether for future prosperity seemed very encouraging.

R. D. PORTER,
Clerk of Council.

For the Christian Messenger.

The late Rev. W. A. Corey.

Some reflections have been awakened by seeing the brief notice in your last issue of the sudden death of the Rev. W. A. Corey, late pastor of the Baptist Church of Portland, N. B., a brother universally beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. The thought has come to me, who next? The ministers of Jesus Christ have received a loud call to be ready. It is also a summons to increased earnestness in the Master's service. What our hands find to do should be done with all our might, for we know not how long we may be spared to work in the vineyard of our Lord. Revival intelligence is painfully meagre, what is the trouble? Additions to our churches are few, oh! so few! As ministers of the gospel are we feeling when we preach that it might be the last time? Are we faithful? "Am-

bassadors for Christ," is it the message from the court of heaven that we are delivering? or is it some spurious gospel made up to order, with but little of Christ in it? When the opportunity is past, when we are laid aside from active work, and the privilege of "preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ" is denied us, we shall then value more highly our privileges, and regret that opportunities were not more faithfully improved.

It is said of Dr. Lyman Beecher that shortly before his death, on being asked "What is the greatest of all things?" he replied: "It is not theology, it is not controversy, but it is to save souls." Dear brethren let us think of their worth, their danger, and what it costs to redeem them. Surely all the inspiration needed is here, and oh! time is so short, and so much is wrapped in the present. Issues of eternal moment lie hidden in the now of life. To-day never repeats itself. When it goes it goes never to return. Privileges, possibilities, and opportunities to speak in the Master's name once gone come again no more. As one has said, "We go through this world scene but once." What is left undone to-day remains undone forever.

But what is true of the ministers of Jesus Christ is true also of every one of His followers. Men are not converted, be they lawyers or farmers or mechanics or merchants—to idle away their time. Each Christian has something to do for Christ—that is distinctively Christian. Many a pastor's heart sinks within him as he looks over his church and sees here and there one and another who might be of great service in the work of the Lord who do nothing. There does seem to be a good many people who have the idea that joining the church is like entering a Pullman sleeping-car—all they have to do is to enter their berth and sleep until their destination is reached. The command of Jesus is not to the ministry alone, "So go work to-day in my vineyard."

Yours &c.,
FRATER.

News of the Churches.

HALIFAX, NORTH CHURCH.—Rev. J. W. Manning, the pastor, administered the ordinance of Christian Baptism to one person on Sunday evening last.

DARTMOUTH.—Rev. E. J. Grant baptized two young men who had made a good confession of their faith in Christ on Sabbath morning last. The friends in Halifax and elsewhere will be glad to know that the meetings continue to grow in interest every week.

WOLFVILLE.—Rev. Dr. Deblois administered the rite of baptism on Sunday last, 2nd inst., to four young ladies from Acadia Seminary, and subsequently received them into the church. Rev. I. E. Bill, Junr., preached in the morning.

MILTON, YARMOU CO.—Rev. J. A. Gordon writes:—"We are having a good degree of interest in our meetings lately, many are enquiring, and we hope to receive a number into the church next Lord's day. The members of the church and congregation made us a donation some time since, amounting to \$80. The object of this donation has not been to make up for a shrinkage in salary."

MONCTON, N. B.—Pastor Gates of 1st Moncton Church, baptized three on Sunday last. He writes, that after the ordinance, Rev. E. M. Saunders, of Halifax, preached an eloquent sermon on the Symbolism of Baptism, which was very much appreciated by his hearers. The good work in the Church moves on.

NOTES FROM ST. JOHN, N. B.—Germain Street Church has been blessed in securing a pastor promptly. Rev. Henry Cross begins his pastorate with them next Sabbath, and we trust this excellent church may be richly blessed under his ministry. Brussel Street has received a number of additions through the winter and is able to thank God and rejoice in His blessing.

Leinster Street prayer meetings have had more interest of late. On Sabbath evening the pastor baptized two and received six into the fellowship of the church.

Bro. Hickson in Carleton has held some special services which have resulted in quickening the spiritual life of church members, and in some conversions. Portland church, in its sadness, was ministered unto last Sabbath by Rev. Wm. George. The work at Fairville has been full of encouragement from the organization of the church. It has been the brightest part of our work here this year. Some Christian ladies, always ready for a good work, have conspired together and arranged a tea meeting of the churches to be held on Tuesday evening, the proceeds to be contributed to Marsh Bridge Church. It is a worthy project. We trust the result may be helpful to the work there, and lend fresh inspiration to the pastor. No man better merits help and sympathy than Bro. Spencer.

In General.—Our Scott Act scrutiny is delayed. The opponents are trying no new tactics. It is simply the old story of obstruction. The temperance people received permanent encouragement at the campaign, which they are not likely to forget very soon.

We have a genuine ritualistic church over here now, Mr. Editor, and the Rector of St. Luke's has boldly condemned its practices. It will certainly be interesting to watch this new plant in our soil. More anon, Kew. April 3rd, 1882.

REV. H. B. SHAFNER, who is just returning from Newton, is expected to visit and labor with the Church at Guysboro and Manchester, with a view to settlement.

BARTON, DIGBY CO.—The Lord is reviving his people here, and moving upon the hearts of sinners. Sabbath the 19th, I baptized one person, and yesterday three more, all of whom were welcomed into the St. Mary's Bay Church. Many more are deeply impressed concerning the salvation of their souls. To God be all praise.

Fraternally,
W. L. PARKER.

March 27, 1882.

CORRECTION.—In the *Christian Messenger* of the 15th ult., where it makes me say that I had baptized 723, should have been four hundred and twenty-three.

Dear Brother,—

The Lord has visited and revived his people at Argyle Sound. This is a settlement on the east side of Argyle Bay, between the main post road and the French settlement of West Pubnico. It contains about fifty families, among whom are about forty members of the Argyle Baptist church, and a larger number of Free Baptists. The only public building in the community is the schoolhouse, which, during the past four weeks, has accommodated a school of 80 registered pupils during the day, and a congregation of from 150 to 200 every evening, and three times on each Sabbath. Darkness and discord prevailed to such an extent that the cause of religion seemed to be almost extinct. But now by the grace of God a change has been effected. Breaches are healed, and many Christians have recovered the joys of salvation. Six have been received by baptism, 4 into the Baptist Church, and 2 into the Free Baptist. A prayer meeting and Sabbath School have been started, and the prospect is very encouraging. As stated in a

previous communication, their partially built meeting house, erected through the labors of Rev. W. B. Bradshaw, was blown down in December last, and now they are making an effort to rebuild. The house is to be owned by the Baptists and is essential to their religious welfare, but they greatly need help. They will enter into a contract for completing the outside forthwith. For this the money is subscribed. Who will help to finish the interior? I will give \$5.00 and will be glad to receive donations in aid of the work.

Yours fraternally,
W. H. RICHAN.
Barrington, March 21st.

THE TEMPLE, YARMOU, March 28th, 1882.—The Lord is still with us as a church and people, encouraging and supporting us in all our work for Him.

Last December, a license to preach was granted to our Bro. Samuel Cain after much prayer and thoughtful consideration. Bro. Cain gave the most satisfactory evidence that the Lord had called him to preach the gospel. Our brother has the full sympathy and esteem of his brethren, and we anticipate for him a life of usefulness in his Master's service.

Recently, we have been holding a few special meetings, with encouraging results. Two have been received by experience, and one by baptism.

The ladies have recently formed a vigorous Sewing Circle, and the manner in which they have commenced operations shows that they have "a mind to work." And here we desire to record our gratitude to Almighty God for His protecting care over His people. Last Wednesday afternoon as the sisters were at work in their room at the Temple, they were suddenly startled by the loud report of a gun and the crashing of glass. A boy had carelessly fired in the direction of the building, and it is a wonder that one of the sisters near the window had not been seriously hurt or killed; for several shots were afterwards discovered in the hair of her head.

Last Sunday afternoon the Sabbath School gave a very interesting concert. The subject—"Our Faith and Practice"—was largely scriptural, and was felt to be exceedingly profitable.

We are doing what we can for the Convention Scheme.

Yours truly,
J. CLARK.

OSBORNE.—There is a quiet and thoughtful work of grace in progress in this church, and many have been led to reflect seriously on the subject of life eternal through faith in Jesus. Quite a number have yielded obedience to Christ's will and claims, and are now rejoicing in a new found hope, and others are seeking for light. During the month of March I have baptized eighteen, and others are looking toward the church.

The friends assembled in full force on the evening of the 23rd inst., and took possession of our home at Osborne without even consulting us; among whom were our esteemed brethren Rev. J. A. Durkee, who is always ready to every good word and work, and J. Goodwin, (Lic.) These brethren added much to the pleasure of a very enjoyable evening by their smiles and engaging speeches, but the next morning our store-room was "a sight to behold." It was suggested to our mind to open a dry goods and grocery mart, so abundant were the good, rich, fancy and useful articles left by the friends, besides a well rounded purse, which always makes a man—even editors and ministers—fearless on meeting his creditors, if he should be so unfortunate to have such. May the Lord bestow upon all these kind and benevolent friends the rich benedictions of his love.

P. R. FOSTER.
March 27, 1882.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.—The following communication from an old friend, Levi W. Eaton, Esq., will be read with pleasure by many of those who were acquainted with him before he left this country. It was not written for publication. We hope he will pardon our giving it publicity.

Dear Brother,—
I am pleased to get the *Messenger* and the good news from Nova Scotia, and yet it often brings word of the death of my old acquaintances; but I know they are only gone home to rest. Although I have been long from the scenes of my native land, yet I love them well.

The Baptists in this place are gaining ground. We have two Baptist churches in Auckland, one has not been long organized, the other the first church, has over 400 members. Mr. C. Spurgeon, a son of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, of London, is our minister, an excellent preacher. I have no doubt he will be the means of doing much good. Our meeting house is too small, so we have taken a large public hall for the evening service, and have just bought a piece of ground on which to build a new meeting house, for which we pay £2,300, and by the time the house is up we shall have spent six to seven thousand pounds. This country is improving very fast; 250 houses and shops have been built in Auckland this last year, and building still continues. It is now no more a new place, but an old one, and has a beautiful climate. Wishing you every success with the good old CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, and with my prayers and best regards for all my friends in Nova Scotia.

I remain,
Yours truly,
LEVI W. EATON.
Feb. 28th, 1882.

Leinster Str., St. John, N. B.—The pastor baptized one on Sunday.

Germain Str. St. John, N. B.—A hearty and unanimous call has been extended to Rev. Henry Cross, of New York, to become pastor of Germain Str. Church. We understand that he has telegraphed his acceptance and will be here a week from next Sunday. Mr. Cross is a man of considerable experience in the pastorate, an excellent preacher and a safe counsellor. We rejoice that this important church has so soon secured a pastor and one whom we believe so well adapted to ensure prosperity.

Hopewell Cape, A. Co.—It will doubtless be gratifying to the many readers of your valuable paper, also to all the friends of true religion, to hear of the good success which is attending the labors of Rev. William Bluett in this place. He is truly an evangelical man, deeply devoted to God, and earnestly, zealously and laboriously engaged for the salvation of souls. Already tokens of the divine favor are resting upon him. On Sunday, March 19th he had the pleasure of baptizing three happy converts: A hymn of praise expressed the exulting feelings of joyous hearts. Stillness and solemnity pervaded the scene. And as the result of the especially interesting meetings of late, others seem already to enter the kingdom of God's love.—*Visitor*.

Eden, Ontario.—We are pleased to learn that God has owned and blessed the word preached by Pastor J. B. Moore to the Eden Baptist Church, where ten have been recently baptized by him, and added to the church, and two more on experience. Others have been converted and will soon obey.

Queen St., Toronto.—The Queen St. Church, is having a season of refreshing. Last Sunday evening after preaching to a crowded audience, Pastor A. Moore had the pleasure of baptizing five candidates on a profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tiverton.—Sabbath the 12th was a red letter day to the Church in Tiverton. Very large congregations attended the services of the day, that in the evening being confessedly the largest ever gathered since the founding of the place. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Davidson, preached a sermon on the Baptism of Jesus, from Matt. iii. 13, 17, and at the close in the most solemn and impressive manner, buried with Christ in baptism four rejoicing and willing believers in Christ.

Leamington.—Since Pastor Mason commenced his labors there, the Lord has prospered the Church. At the close of the service on a recent Sabbath evening five rejoicing believers were baptized.—*Canadian Baptist*.

Rev. Alex. MacArthur.

The steamer *Beta* arrived from Jamaica and Bermuda yesterday morning. Letters were received from Rev. Mr. MacArthur, at Jamaica, where he had gone in preference to remaining at Bermuda. We were sorry to learn that his voice had not been restored when writing. He expected to return by the *Beta* on its next trip, in a month's time.

Rev. J. A. GORDON wishes the Home Missionary Brethren to give special heed to the suggestion in his postscript, in another column, as their doing so will save him much needless trouble.

DEATH OF A CHILD AT A CHRISTENING.—The *Blackburn* (England) *Times* of February 1st, gives an account of the following sad and painful incident:

"An extraordinary death took place at Whalley, on Tuesday night. An insurance agent named Smith and his wife took their child to the Whalley Wesleyan Chapel, for the purpose of having it christened, but just when the ceremony was about to be performed the child died. When the parents left home, a short distance from the chapel, the child was in its usual good health. On Thursday afternoon, an inquest was held at the Judge Walmsley Inn, Billington, before Mr. H. J. Robinson, coroner. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child had been accidentally smothered, whilst being carried to church by its mother."

We do not feel called upon to offer any advice or word of caution to our readers in connection with this painful circumstance, as they are not likely to be found in the performance of that rite on unconscious infants, but we may caution them to consider the condition of their babes when they have occasion to take them out in winter. There is far less danger of their suffering from cold than from suffocation.

ANOTHER ONE.—How curious it is that testimony in favor of Baptist practice is continually coming up from sources from which it is not expected. Matthew Henry, in his comment on Exodus xii. 48, in reference to the Passover, says:

None might sit at the table but those that came in by the door; nor may any now approach to the improving ordinance of the Lord's Supper who have not first submitted to the initiating ordinance of baptism. This is the best kind of evidence we could have, and of what this celebrated divine thought respecting the relation of the two Christian ordinances.

Venor's Weather Predictions for April.

2. Generally fine warm weather, with frosty nights, in portions of Canada and Northern New York.
- Unusual warmth in western sections during week.
- Showers probable about 6th and 7th. Cool and unsettled weather may occur again, with cool nights and frosts in some sections.
- General signs of an advanced season.
9. Fine warm and dry weather, with every prospect of speedy opening of navigation in northern sections.
- A colder wind may be set in for a day or two.
- Very little rain so far.
- Altogether, a fair, warm to hot week.
16. Change to cloudy and possibly cooler weather, with showers or indications of rain.
- Navigation probably will open on St. Lawrence River this week.
- Later portion of week colder, with rain, sleet, and probably snow, in northern sections, and particularly in Lower St. Lawrence and New York State, about 20th or 21st.
- Fine weather to hot and dry weather on and after the 22d.
23. Probable change to warmer and generally dry weather. Indications of storms, probably with high winds, with cooler and stormy weather in the West. Altogether, a warm and dry week in the majority of sections.
- Not at all like usual April weather.
- Change to cool and rainy weather after the 28th.
30. Colder weather, with rain and snow falls, in some northern portions, probably ushering in a cold and wet May.