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## The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 24, 1882.

We received the following Circular two or three weeks since, together with a letter from Bro. Warren, shewing the need of prompt action in the churches. The letter was for our columns, and duly appeared on the 19th ult. Lest any may not have seen the Circular itself we have thought it well that it should also appear. It ought to be read by every member of the churches in the Convention:

BAPTIST CONVENTION FINANCES. To the pastors and Churches connected with the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces :

DEAR BRETHREN,-

The Convention plan of raising an average of one dollar per member in all our Churches for Missionary, Educational and other Benevolent objects meets with general favor. You are respectfully urged to adopt this reasonable scheme, if you have not already done so, and to unite with the other churches in a vigorous effort to raise funds for the objects mentioned.

Comparatively few Churches have forwarded remittances to the Finance Committee since August last. This is, owing, doubtless, to the force of an old and unwise custom of leaving the matter of soliciting subscriptions for missionary and other purposes till within a few days of our annual Association partial efforts are then made to perform a work which it would require months to accomplish successfully. The almost invariable result is that Churches of considerable financial ability send mean and paltry contributions to our denominational treasuries, and the total amounts of our contributions are often discreditable to us as Baptists, and entirely insufficient to carry on the great enterprises we have pledged ourselves to sustain.

Improvement in the management of our benevolent finances is much needed. Our Home and Foreign Missions are suffering seriously on account of the illiberality of our Churches. We should be unworthy the name of Christians if we allowed these important interests to decline and die through our neglect and penuriousness. Why should our Missionary and Educational institutions be crippled and disheartened, when the small sacrifice of an average of one dollar per member from all our churches would at once relieve them from financial embarrassment?

Your active co-operation is earnestly solicited in the endeavor to relieve our Convention of the burden of liabilities now resting upon its Boards. About \$25,000 are required to meet the expenditure connected with our Convention objects during the present year. A very small part of this amount has been

A hearty adoption of the following practical suggestions will greatly aid in the improvement of our financial af-

1. Let the Convention Scheme be adopted by the Church.

2. Appoint Collectors at once to visit all the families connected with the Church, in order to obtain subscriptions for the Convention Fund.

3. Let payments and collections be taken quarterly, namely, during the first week in January, April, July, and October.

4. Let the pastor preach a stirring sermon on one or the other of the objects of the Convention on the first Sunday in each quarter.

5. Let all funds of this kind be promptly forwarded to the Finance Committee, In New Brunswick, to John March,

Esq., St. John; in Nova Scotia, to Rev. G. E. Day, M. D., Yarmouth; in P. E. Island, to Rev. D. G. McDonald, Char-

The Master's claims upon us are pressing. Be it ours to respond cheerfully, and to contribute liberally to the support of those institutions by which the gospel of peace is made known and salvation brought to perishing souls. In behalf of the Finance Committee,

W. H. WARREN. Financial Agent. Bridgetown, N. S., April 5th, 1882.

ASTRONOMICAL .- The total eclipse of the sun which took place on the 17th inst., beginning near the west coast of of China, was an event of peculiar interest to astronomers-who look to it as an opportunity for solving several important questions. Several parties went to Africa to make observations, and their reports will be eagerly looked for. The phenomena of the sun's atmosphere and halo of brilliant flame which has been a marked feature of the great luminary of late will have been examined to great advantage, while the sun itself was totally obscured. It is also regarded

A telegram general observation. received on Thursday from Soham, Upper Egypt, states that the eclipse of the sun was successfully observed at that place on the previous day by the English, French and Italian astronomers. A fine comet was discovered close to the sun.

the Presbyterian Witness of last week, his sixth and last letter on the Discussien of Baptism, between himself and Rev. D. G MacDenald, at North Sydney, C. B. We have read them. life. Well deserved tributes have been They are doubtless able, but we have paid to him as a most painstaking and yet to learn from them the first good accurate investigator of nature. He scriptural reason why infants or any others than believers should be baptized, unless it be the Roman Catholic reason given for so doing-because the church has se directed. It would be far more to the point for Dr. M. to say, as we are informed his good friend the late Rev. John Sprott did on a memorable occasion of administering it in the Dr.'s theories-is the doctrine that the whole own church, "We have no scripture command for this observance."

We direct attention of Pastors and Clerks of the churches to the notice from the Secretary of Convention given in another column. It is very important that our statistics should be accurate, and Convention gatherings. Hasty and and equally important to their own welfare that our churches should report through unfathomable depths of time themselves annually. From years of experience in denominational printing we can testify to the difficulty Secretataries of Associations and Convention have in keeping the standing of churches when no letters are sent. It is the work of but a few minutes for Clerks of the churches to fill up the blanks and forward them to the Association, by our annual reports. We would also recommend Associations to continue the same brother in the office of Clerk if proper satisfaction is given, as our experience is that annual changes prevent the promptness and accuracy so much ly known as to be desired in these offices.

> We are glad to learn of the continued presperity of our friend, Mr. E M. Chesley, of the class of '70 in Acadia, and '77 in Harvard. He has, we understand, lately resigned the Principalship of Yarmouth Seminary, where his success has been marked during the last two years. He intends to pursue the study of the Classics another year in Cambridge or Boston. Our Superintendent of Education says in reference to his work in Yarmouth: "in my opinion there is no College in our Dominion which might not feel itself fortunate in having either of its classical chairs filled by Mr. Chesley."

"E. C. M., Hartford P. O., Yarmouth Co."-We complied with your request, and sent a copy of the Year Book to you as above, and paid postage We have now just received the same returned from the Dead Letter Office at Ottawa, with an additional charge to us for postage. It was marked "not called for." This should not have been so.

The Canadian Literary Institute at Woodstock, Ontario, does not appear to have suffered by the removal of the Theological Department to Toronto. Professor Wolverton writes of it :-

Usually the attendance during the summer term is the smallest of the year, owing to the absence of the members of the third year and others who find it necessary to remain at home during this busy season. This term, however, is an exception, having attendance in excess of that of the autuma term and approaching closely to that of the prosperous term just closed. Our present numbers are as follows: Regular students, gentlemen Africa, and ending near the east coast | 68; ladies 54, total 122. Students taking special subjects, gentlemen 1. ladies 26, total 27 ; in all, gentlemen 69, ladies 80, making a grand total of 149, Of these 43 ladies and 47 gentlemen total 90, are boarders. This we believe to be the largest attendance ever recorded in a Summer term. There is room for but three more in the Ladies' build-

> A commodious room is to be fitted up for the class in Painting and Drawing, which has outgrown its present abode. The lower flat of the Theological Hall will have the partitions removed and be made into a Commercial College, with all necessary conven-

necessary by the department out-growing its present room. Quarters are to be furnished for the sick, where they can obtain the quiet and careful aursing necessary to rapid recovery."

## EVOLUTION.

The recent death of Charles R. Darwin, acknowledged to be the first DR. ISAAC MURRAY has given, in naturalist of this century, has drawn very general attention to the special theories and doctrines which he advocated, and to which he devoted his great abilities during a long and busy wrote many books upon scientific subjects, but his "Origin of Species," which embodied his distinctive ideas constitutes his chief title to fame. Evolution as held by some scientists

-there are evolutionists and revolutionists in this field of enquiry with many and quite diverse views and universe has been gradually unfolded by the action of natural causes without any divine agency or intervention in any age or at any point. Their theories respecting the origin of life and the human mind are to say the least very indefinite and conflicting. They reject the teachings of God's Word, that there was a special creation by a divine Creator at a specified time, and wandering and space arrive at conclusions, or rather conjectures, little less satisfactory than that of the poor slave girl Topsy, respecting her origin, " I spect I growed." We remember one investigator who found evidence of life in a cheese which had been carefully boxed up. He at once evolved a theory of the universe, and published a book upon and this will secure the result aimed at the origin of animal life—the trouble with his doctrine was that he could not ascertain who was or could possibly have been the maker of the first maggoty cheese-so his theory fell to the ground. The special theeries common-

DARWINISM,

are attempts to explain existing facts respecting animal life, rather than the origin of the principle of life itself. We know by every day experience that by human skill animals are greatly changed in all their characteristics -- their very natures are modified and improved by careful discipline. Mr. Darwin held that a similar process had been in operation through natural causes from the moment life began until now; that there is a tendency in plants and animals to reproduce themselves, and in the process of reproduction there has necessarily been a struggle for existence; in this struggle the stronger and best circumstanced has survived and that according to well ascertained laws of heridity new and distinct species have been originated. And in the processes of natural selection and sexual selection there has been a constant improvement in the forms of life from certain primordial germs up to the fully developed animal, and even human life such as we now see in the

this theory of "Progress by Natural subversive of, the system of the universe, Selection," is not yet a matter of set- as revealed to us in the blessed Book tled opinion among men of science. It are always found, if true, upon careful may not outlive our century, indeed it investigation to square and harmonize has been already discarded by many of exactly with the teachings of Divine the first scientific observers. Agazzis Revelation. Subjected to all these was a determined opponent of the assaults and criticisms, the Bible has whole doctrine, and our own Dr. Daw- survived. Some careful students have son, with other distinguished naturalists been keen sighted enough to discover instill scout the theory. The weak point the Darwinian doctrine of heredity a of the theory is that nobedy has yet corollary of the scripture doctrine of been able to produce a distinct species inherited depravity, and in the famous by selection, and the famous "missing phrase, "the survival of the fittest link," between the human and the brute with its correlate truth, the doom of the families is still an undiscovered-and undiscoverable monstrosity.

nothing in Darwinism so far at least as the ancient Platonian creed has gone it applies to lower animals necessarily to that undiscovered country from whose hostile to the truth of revealed religion. bourne no traveller returns, the It assumes the necessity of creative questions are presented to us anew, power to originate the germs of life What shall survive with us? Have from which all existing species are supposed to have been developed. The theories which the so-called scientists doctrine of final causes is not weakened claim to have discovered which shall but strengthened immensely by the shake our faith in the eternal verities? theory. If it requires no less than Are we prepared to repudiate the testidivine power and wisdom to create life money handed down to us by prophets, at first, how much greater the foresight apostles, saints, and sages and with it and power necessary to adjust the reject our Lord and Saviour? Shall

ment! As a matter of fact this hypothe- forego the cherished hopes held out to sis of evolution has been accepted by us in God's Word, and the reeminent christian writers as in perfect wards laid up in store for those who harmony with Revelation, and as a sig- endure unto the end? No, positively. nal proof of Divine wisdom and power | These shall survive the crack of dooms in the plan of creation. We are, at all when all things else decay. We turn events entitled to wait quietly until with renewed faith to our blessed Lord men of science settle these questions and Master, and humbly bow in revamong themselves, and can demonstrate the truth of their theories by substantial proof. Until then and always we know that "the foundation of God standeth sure."

"SCIENCE FALSELY SO CALLED." Why will scientific teachers continue

to make such large drafts upon our credulity-our intelligence? This time it is Professor John Fiske, of Harvard University, who comes to us in an article on "The Arrival of man in Europe" printed in the May number of the Atlantic Monthly. He discourses quite learnedly about the Neolithic Civilization, the River drift men and the glacial periods of from 700,000 to 2,650,000 years ago. His theories and speculations respecting these remote dates and matters would be quite entertaining if it were not such a tax upon valuable time. But the Professor in almost his last paragraph, makes an astounding assertion, he attempts to cover us all with his mantle of evolution, and that special phase of the theory, which evolves reasoning man from the irrational animals. He says:

"It only remains to add that the enormous length of time during which the human race has existed, is of itself powerful argument in favor of the opinion, now generally accepted, that the human race was originated by a slow process of development, from a race of non-human primates, similiar to the anthropoid apes."

Professer Fiske seems to have persuaded himself of the truth of what certainly is not true at all, and holding up a huge guess before us says this now generally accepted "as fact. Was everany thing more extraordinary? He may look to the chimpanzie and say. Thou art my father, and the monkey and say, thou at my mother, but surely he has no right to say that a like paternity, " is now generally accepted." It simply is not true. That certain phases of evolution have been adopted as a useful working hypothesis of scientific enquiry is doubtless true. But the theory of man's evolution from brutes, is not and has never been generally accepted by any considerable numbers of intelligent men in any country. Even so great a scientist as Prof. Tyndall has said "inasmuch as it is still in its hypothetical stage, the bar of exclusion ought to fall upon the evolution theory. . . I hold with Virchon that the failures have been lamentable, and the doctrine is utterly discredited." Mr. Fiske ought to substantiate what he affirms, by direct proof. To state a fact that cannot be supported by evidence is not scientific -it is not becoming. We refuse to honor his draft.

"SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST."

It is a remarkable fact that the discoveries of geologists and modern scientists, which are heralded by infi-The amount of truth contained in dels and sceptics as inconsistent with, or unfit, a confirmation from science of the doctrine of election. Be this as it | head of it. It should be observed that there is may, now that this modern apostle of we found any thing in the fine spun planets which are too near the sun for iences. This also has been made forces of nature so as to continue this we spurn the blood that was shed? against the worst.

creation by means of gradual develop- Did the martyrs die in vain? Shall we erence to His teachings.

## ARCTIC EXPLORATION.

From the telegrams of the past week we learn that the steamship Hidalgo, with Lieutenant Danenhower, Mr. Newcomb, the naturalist, Jack Cole, the insane seaman, and Long Sing, survivors of the Jeannette, arrived at Hull, G. B., on Wednesday last, They are in good health. They went direct to Liverpool, and sailed on Thursday in the steamer Celtic for New York. A history of the voyage of the Jean-

nette, fitted out by the New York

Herald, for discoveries in the frozen regions, has also just been published, which will now have a chance of being completed. It is a sad story. The expedition succeeded in getting about five hundred miles north of the Siberian coast, where they remained twenty-one months, locked in the embrace of the almost limitless ice fields. When at last released it was to find their ship crushed and wrecked so that she had to be abandoned. They had scarcely time to get the provisions and beats out on one of the largest ice floes, when the Jeannette sank to the bottom of the Arctic sea, a crushed and broken thing. The party then began their weary journey looking for land. Sometimes after weeks of terrible toil, and hardship, they were discouraged to find that they had drifted farther from land than they had travelled towards it. At length, after three months of unheard of toil and privation they reached the open sea. Here the party divided and gathering up the remnants of their provisions, &c., took to their three boats and sailed for the Lena River. They soon after encountered a terrible gale in which one boat commanded by Lieut. Chipp went down in the heavy sea with all on board. The other two escaped as if by miracle, but saw nothing more of each other. The boat in charge of Lieut. Danenhower, succeeded in reaching the land, and was rescued after mere than two years toiling and journeying over the trackless solitude. The fate of the remaining boat in charge of Lieut. DeLong, was more sad and tragic, two of its crew succeeded in finding the natives and were rescued; but the rest have been found dead, their food utterly exhausted; they finished a record of their hopeless condition until overcome and famished, they all died of starvation, and so have been found by the rescuing party with their books and papers beside them. Of the thirtythree persons comprising the expedition thirteen only survive to tell the pitiful

It is impossible to contemplate the results of this expedition, indeed of all previous adventures of the same character, without seriously questening the wisdom of all such efforts to unravel a mystery, which it fully disclosed canor participate in any future enterprise of this character, should be held morally responsible as abettors of suicide and murder. It should be prohibited.

Notwithstanding these disasters and the suffering and death of these of former expeditions, others are found desircus of making still another attempt at Arctic Exploration. A Bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives at Washington, for the purpose of fitting out another expedition. Mr. Lucian Young wishes to be at the

The N. Y. Examiner says: "Our country has done enough in the Quixotic and barbarous business of Arctic expeditions. It may be that there is near the Pole an area of land, as Mr. Young suggests, where the climate is mild enough to support vegetation. But what of it? It would cost more to get anything to market from there than the land and all that is raised on it is worth. Besides all this we have land enough in the United States already."

Strive for the best, and provide

TORONTO BAPTIST COLLEGE.

The Canadian Baptist gives a full account of the closing exercises of the Term at McMaster's Hall, the Baptist Theological School in Toronto, on Tuesday, May 2nd. There was a large attendance of notable men at the Dinner in the afternoon.

The Convocation was held in the evening in Jarvis Street Church. Rev. Dr. Castle presided, and there were present on the platform Rev. Drs. Stewart and McVicar and Prof. Newman. The proceedings were commenced by the singing of an anthem by a choir of students, and prayer by Rev. Dr. Stewart. The principal features of the proceedings were the addresses of the graduates, Messrs. McArthur, McEwen, and Tapscott, and the presentation to them of their diplomas by the President' Rev. Dr. Castle

The first of the graduating addresses was delivered by Mr. D. D. McArthur of Dominionville on the subject of Christian Triumph.

The larghetto aria " Wild Flewers," was then given by Mr. Horatio Clarke, organist, and Mr. Edwin G. Clarke,

Revelation progressive was the subject of the next address by Mr. James McEwen, of Bradford.

The Fantasia and air, "Rocked in the cradle of the deep,' was executed with very impressive effect by the organist, Mr. W. Horatio Clarke, and Mr. Edwin G. Clarke, who accompanied him upon the cornet, the imitation of the storm being very effective.

The last address was delivered by Mr. W. T. Tapscott of Toronto, his theme being The Creduality of un-

Each speaker, at the conclusion of his address, was presented with a floral offering by Mr. Mills, on behalf of Mrs. John Turnbull, of Montreal.

The three graduates were then recalled to the platform, and addressed in a very appropriate and effective way by the President, Dr. Castle.

Rev. Dr. Castle then explained that although the graduates had only passed one year at the Toronto Baptist College, they had previously spent two years in theological study at the College at Woodstock, They had, however, completed their course at McMaster Hall, and this fact allowed him the pleasure of presenting them with diplomas. He prayed that the blessing of God might ever abide with them.

The diplomas were thes presented to

the three graduates. A hymn by Mrs. Yule, specially prepared for this interesting occasion was then sung by the College Glee

After the singing of this hymn the Convocation was closed by Dr. Castle, pronouncing the benediction.

DR. CLAY is having a hard time with some of the immigrants, arriving here in the steamers from England. He passes them on to the Upper Provinces. His son went on to Quebec a week or two since with some children who had been detained with scarlet fever. On the journey he was attacked with the disease, which proved to be of not possibly be of any benefit to the a very malignant type. Shortly after world. All who in any way encourage his return, Mrs. Clay was also attacked, and both have been in great danger. They are, however, now in a fair way of recovery. Dr. C. finds it difficult to remove the wrong impressions given to many by parties in England that when they reach Halifax they will be provided for.

> REV. T. A. HIGGINS, A. M., has been engaged by the Wolfville Baptist Church to supply the place of the pastor, Rev. S. W. DeBlois, during the six months' vacation they have allowed him for rest and recuperation of strength. This arrangement, we doubt not, will be highly satisfactory to both pastor and

Mr. Higgins wishes to inform his friends that his address will be Wolf-

We much regret to learn that the Rev. L. B. GAETZ and wife, of Mahone Bay, were thrown from their carriage on Friday last. Mrs. Gaetz had one of her wrists dislocated, and Mr. Gaetz received some severe bruises.