

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.

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.

Comparatively few Churches have forwarded remittances to the Finance Committee since August last.

Improvement in the management of our benevolent finances is much needed.

Your active co-operation is earnestly solicited in the endeavor to relieve our Convention of the burden of liabilities now resting upon its Board.

A hearty adoption of the following practical suggestions will greatly aid in the improvement of our financial affairs:—

- 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, viz:—

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, Charlottetown.

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 Africa, and ending near the east coast of China, was an event of peculiar interest to astronomers—who look to it as an opportunity for solving several important questions.

general observation. A telegram received on Thursday from Sohah, 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.

DR. ISAAC MURRAY has given, in the Presbyterian Witness of last week, his sixth and last letter on the Discussion of Baptism, between himself and Rev. D. G. MacDonald, at North Sydney, C. B. We have read them. They are doubtless able, but we have yet to learn from them the first good 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 so directed.

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 equally important to their own welfare that our churches should report themselves annually.

We are glad to learn of the continued prosperity 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.

“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.

The Canadian Literary Institute at Woodstock, Ontario, does not appear to have suffered by the removal of the Theological Department to Toronto.

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.

A commodious room is to be fitted up for the class in Painting and Drawing, which has outgrown its present abode.

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 nursing necessary to rapid recovery.”

EVOLUTION.

The recent death of Charles R. Darwin, acknowledged to be the first 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 life.

Evolution as held by some scientists—there are evolutionists and revolutionists in this field of enquiry with many and quite diverse views and theories—is the doctrine that the whole universe has been gradually unfolded by the action of natural causes without any divine agency or intervention in any age or at any point.

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.

The amount of truth contained in this theory of “Progress by Natural Selection,” is not yet a matter of settled opinion among men of science. It may not outlive our century, indeed it has been already discarded by many of the first scientific observers.

It should be observed that there is nothing in Darwinism so far as least as it applies to lower animals necessarily hostile to the truth of revealed religion. It assumes the necessity of creative power to originate the germs of life from which all existing species are supposed to have been developed.

creation by means of gradual development! As a matter of fact this hypothesis of evolution has been accepted by eminent christian writers as in perfect harmony with Revelation, and as a signal proof of Divine wisdom and power in the plan of creation.

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.

“It only remains to add that the enormous length of time during which the human race has existed, is of itself a 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, similar to the anthropoid apes.”

Professor 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 ever any thing more extraordinary? He may look to the chimpanzee and say, Thou art my father, and the monkey and say, thou art my mother, but surely he has no right to say that a like paternity, “is now generally accepted.”

“SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.”

It is a remarkable fact that the discoveries of geologists and modern scientists, which are heralded by infidels and sceptics as inconsistent with, or subversive of, the system of the universe, as revealed to us in the blessed Book are always found, if true, upon careful investigation to square and harmonize exactly with the teachings of Divine Revelation.

Some careful students have been keen sighted enough to discover in the Darwinian doctrine of heredity a corollary of the scripture doctrine of inherited depravity, and in the famous phrase, “the survival of the fittest” with its correlate truth, the doom of the unfit, a confirmation from science of the doctrine of election.

Did the martyrs die in vain? Shall we forego the cherished hopes held out to us in God's Word, and the rewards laid out in store for those who endure unto the end? No, positively. These shall survive the crack of doom when all things else decay.

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.

A history of the voyage of the Jeannette, 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 all almost limitless ice fields.

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.

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.

It is impossible to contemplate the results of this expedition, indeed of all previous adventures of the same character, without seriously questioning the wisdom of all such efforts to unravel a mystery, which it fully disclosed cannot possibly be of any benefit to the world.

Notwithstanding these disasters and the suffering and death of these of former expeditions, others are found desirous of making still another attempt at Arctic Exploration.

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.

Strive for the best, and provide against the worst.

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.

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

The lafghetto aria “Wild Flowers,” was then given by Mr. Horatio Clarke, organist, and Mr. Edwin G. Clarke, cornet.

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 Credulity of unbelief.

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 then presented to the three graduates.

A hymn by Mrs. Yale, specially prepared for this interesting occasion was then sung by the College Glee Club.

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 a very malignant type.

REV. T. A. HIGGINS, A. M., has been engaged by the Wolfville Baptist Church to supply the place of the pastor, Rev. S. W. DeBlais, during the six months' vacation they have allowed him for rest and recuperation of strength.

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

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.