

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., October 11, 1882.

WORSHIP.

Much has been said and written for the purpose of defining man's place in the universe of living sentient beings, as distinct from other animal life.

The teachings of the New Testament are that these ceremonials in themselves are of no value, and that worship must be a spiritual exercise or it is not worship at all.

Our combining in congregations for worship must have certain elements to make it of any value to ourselves or in the smallest degree acceptable to Almighty God.

Many regard the mere assembling together with those who meet for worship as in itself an act of worship, whereas it may be an act of impiety, and an abomination in the sight of God.

We don't wish any more weeks added to our spring season if you please! We have now more spring months than we know what to do with. The great question is to get rid of the present supply.—Windsor Mail.

Some say we have no spring, and that as soon as we are out of Winter we are into Summer. We presume that it depends largely on which part of the season the addition might be made, whether our friend of the Mail would be thankful for it. We would not object to a three weeks earlier commencement. But then we do not apprehend that the experiment will be made for a few years yet!

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up the living flower, with the delicate perfume which exhales from its petals. Man may not be able to detect the counterfeit in his fellowman, but the all seeing One whom we worship sees through the veil and accepts the most feeble and imperfect when it comes from the proper source and when the heart is engaged in prayer, adoration and praise.

It is worth an honest effort to know whether in our approaches to the throne of heavenly grace we are really worshipping God, or are merely going through a routine "as the heathen do."

It appears by the note from John March Esq., in another column that a change has taken place in the intention of our brother I. C. Archibald, our accepted new Foreign Missionary, and that he now proposes to go out to India very shortly. Mr. Archibald is a member of the Halifax North Baptist Church and a Council is called for Wednesday, the 18th inst., to consider the propriety of his ordination.

Those of our friends who have not already sent on their subscription will do us a great favor by sending the amount due without delay.

We were pleased to learn from Rev. Dr. Welton that there is great reason for encouragement at Acadia, in both the Arts and Theological Departments. There were thirteen present in the Class in Homiletics on Saturday last. Several former students have returned to go on with their studies.

We shall be glad if Dr. Welton will give us a brief article on the present arrangements of the College and Theological Classes for the general information of Baptists in these provinces.

THE Christian Messenger in an article on the closing of the Straits of Belle Isle, says:—

"It is thought that, if the Straits were closed, it would add from 2 to 3 weeks to our spring season."

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CRIME IN IRELAND.

The Act for the prevention of Crime in Ireland, which has proved itself such an excellent measure of pacification in the disturbed districts of the country, is being further developed. Its 19th section orders compensation to be paid in certain cases of murder or maiming arising out of agrarian or other unlawful associations.

The Annual Criminal Statistics for Ireland, have just been published. It is not pleasant reading for a right-hearted Irishman. About 12,000 offences are recorded—the largest list of any year of the decade.

"Sir,—I should be obliged if your correspondents would kindly say what they think of a suggestion that has occurred to me. Every clergyman must have felt the difficulty that often attends the baptism of sick or refractory infants. Standing on a narrow step, the minister has to make the babe as secure and easy as he can with one hand, and with the other perform the ceremony, and perhaps to turn over a leaf of his book. All this, when accompanied by loud cries from the child, is often very trying, and tends, too, to disturb the solemnity of the service.

THE MISSION TO CONGO, CENTRAL AFRICA.—We perceive by a letter from the Secretary of the English Baptist Missionary Society that the small steamer is just completed. He says, "The Peace is now on the point of being launched. It is hoped that the trial trip which will be run during the next few days will demonstrate her compliance with the conditions laid down as to speed and draught, and that she will immediately afterwards be "on view" to such as are sufficiently interested to pay her a visit.

THE COMET.—It is probable that more people have got up before daylight during the last week, than for many years past, to look at this great sight. It is said that the southern negroes have become terribly excited over it. It is doubtless a marvellous object over which the wisest of the philosophers are also much puzzled.

It is now said that the nucleus has broken into three distinct parts. The largest fragment is estimated at 15,000 miles in length. The comet was previously estimated at 24,000 miles in length. It will shortly disappear from our system in the heavens, and pass away into limitless space.

"IN A CONDITION TO BE SAVED."—The editor of the Church Guardian in discussing "Who are Christians" uses this phrase in reference to Baptism. What it means we fail to perceive. He says:—

We see that the Apostle taught here (Acts ii. 41) as well as in his Epistle (1 Pet. iii. 21), that Baptism saves us (places us in a condition to be saved), and, consequently, it was by Baptism that additions were made to the Apostolic Church, as it has been in all ages since, according to the Master's instructions.

This is a strange office for Christian Baptism and hardly comports with the Baptismal Regeneration taught by our contemporary. Further our neighbour writes:—

Faith or belief must exist in the adult (perhaps it exists in the infant) before coming to Baptism—the Church has ever taught that; but all the "belief" in the world does not, cannot, perform the office of Baptism, by which alone we are initiated, we gain an entrance into the Christian Church, and which alone makes a man a Christian.

The parenthesis ('perhaps it exists in the infant') will strike many readers as a no less strange hypothesis than the affirmation before mentioned. If the "infant" were of an age to make his faith and repentance evident, there would be no reason why he should not be baptized on a profession of that faith.

\*The term infant was anciently used for all who were under-age.

SOMETHING NEW ON THE BAPTISMAL QUESTION.

This is an age of invention, and why should not a clergyman try and contribute to the comfort of his brethren and the little ones by a new invention.

"Clericus" a correspondent of the Rock, one of the leading Church papers of London, writes to that paper, as follows:—

"Sir,—I should be obliged if your correspondents would kindly say what they think of a suggestion that has occurred to me. Every clergyman must have felt the difficulty that often attends the baptism of sick or refractory infants. Standing on a narrow step, the minister has to make the babe as secure and easy as he can with one hand, and with the other perform the ceremony, and perhaps to turn over a leaf of his book. All this, when accompanied by loud cries from the child, is often very trying, and tends, too, to disturb the solemnity of the service. I am surprised, then, that the simple expedient has never occurred to anyone of having had at hand a convenient receptacle, something in the nature of a small fixed cradle, to place the child in during the ceremony. It would then feel more at home, while the clergyman's two hands would be at liberty. I should be glad to know of any objections there may be to such a proposal, other than that of its merely being a novelty, which by itself ought not to be any objection to reasonable minds."

Others might be able to improve on this. Would it not be a good plan to offer a Prize for the best cradle in which infants might be baptized? Here is a new field for enterprise.

At the Bristol Baptist College Anniversary held on the 11th of September, there was a conference of former students at which a presentation was made to Rev. Dr. Gotch the president, who had in the capacity of student, professor, or president been there upwards of half a century.

Dr. Gotch begged the chairman on behalf of the College to accept the portrait and take charge of it for the college. In accepting the present, Dr. Gotch said: "The presentation of himself to the college made it difficult for him to know how he was to speak. Nevertheless, he thanked the president of the Baptist Union and Mr. Robinson for what they had so kindly said of him. It was true he had been tutor for not more than thirty-seven years, but he had known the college and taken the deepest interest in it and endeavoured to promote its usefulness for the whole time referred to. No pleasure was greater than the appreciated estimation of old students for their tutor. He trusted those who had received advantages from the institution would know how to make good use of them, and also use them to obtain further advantage, and that the work set on foot there would grow till it blossomed and bore fruit in the world of glory.

AN Immersion is by some supposed to be a very serious matter physically. Many pedobaptists are frightened at the thought of baptism, in all climates, requiring an immersion. To them there are colds and all sorts of lions in the way. Rev. C. H. Spurgeon says that he and his brother James, have baptized over 20,000 persons, and he "never heard of one that caught cold from it."

We are glad to learn from Rev. E. Whitman at Charlottetown, that he is most agreeably surprised to find so united, active, and energetic a church at Charlottetown, P. E. I., where he is now settled.

In connection with this our brother adds: "I will tell you that one of your most intelligent readers in this city said yesterday that 'he regarded the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER as being the most readable religious paper in the Maritime Provinces, and I did not dispute it.'"

Nova Scotia Free Baptist General Conference.

The seventeenth Annual Conference was held with the Centreville Church, Cape Island, commencing Thursday, Sept. 14th Present—Revs. J. I. Porter, W. C. Weston, A. Swim, C. Cann, F. Babcock, S. K. West, Dr. Sturgis, S. N. Royal, Wm. Miller, T. H. Siddall, J. W. Freeman, L. W. Gowen, J. F. Smith and Licentiate J. L. Smith. Delegate from F. C. B. Conference, N. B. Rev. J. R. Rend. Delegate from F. W. B. of United States (Maine Central) Rev. Dr. Bowen. Deas. A. M. Durkee, Seth Smith, W. C. Robertson, Colman Atkins, Nelson Corning, Freeman Kenney, Edward Ross Wm Snow. Delegates Jotham Johnson, Foster Crosby, Hervey Trefry, Silas Woodworth, B. F. Covell, Levi Hopkins, Amos Pitman, Asa Pitman, N. D. McGray A. Corning, Byron Sims, and others.

Rev. L. W. Gowen was appointed Moderator; Rev. S. N. Royal Vice Moderator; Rev. J. I. Porter Clerk; Rev. T. H. Siddall Assistant Clerk. Committee of Arrangements—N. D. McGray, F. Kenney, Rev. S. N. Royal. Rev. J. E. Rend of N. B., in reporting the doings of his Conference, said, fifty years ago they formed a Conference consisting of two ordained ministers, and four churches; now they numbered 40 ministers, 9 licentiates, 140 churches, 11,000 members, 35,000 adherents. Last year they raised \$20,000 for Christian work. They have over 100 Sabbath Schools, 500 Teachers, 45000 Scholars; volumes in library 9,000, and collected over \$1000 for school purposes. This year being our semi-centennial, we are making an effort to raise a large amount of money for our various societies, and we are having excellent success. Our interests are healthy and strong, and the Lord is blessing our efforts.

The clerk of the Harmony Quarterly Meeting then reported, also the clerk of the Yarmouth and Shelburne Quarterly meeting. There has been a few gains in membership, but owing to deaths and removals the membership is the same as it was last year. After some routine business had been completed, Conference adjourned.

In the evening, Rev. Dr. Bowen preached to a good congregation—Text Ps. 18; 25, 26 verses. It was an interesting discourse, abounding in felicitous statement and apt illustration. Friday, conference assembled at 8 a. m. The various committees then reported. The committee on the Sabbath called attention to the running of trains on the Sabbath, and the increased Sabbath driving around these shores, and urged the Christian Church to do all possible to check a growing evil. The committee on missions pointed out the demand for systematic giving for benevolent purposes and called upon all churches to put forth plans for aiding, especially during the coming year, the home mission society.

Resolved, that whereas we believe that uniformity of practice in terminating pastoral relations throughout this yearly meeting would be an advantage to all concerned, Therefore resolved, that we recommend both pastors and churches, that when a change is made in pastoral relations, it be made on the last Sabbath of September.

Further resolved, that we recommend that churches and pastors notify each other at least three months before effecting a change.

On Friday afternoon the customary Woman's Foreign Mission meeting was held, Mrs. L. W. Gowen presiding. The meeting was addressed by Mrs. Rufus Crowell and others. Miss E. Swain and Miss Debbie Crowell gave some interesting readings.

In the evening a large mission meeting was held, Rev. F. Babcock presiding. Rev. Dr. Bowen, T. H. Siddall, J. E. Rend, S. K. West, L. W. Gowen and W. G. Sims, Esq., addressed the meeting. Over \$116 was raised for the benefit of Home Missions. W. G. Sims, Esq. gave \$50.

SATURDAY, Resolved, That T. W. Wilson, N. D. McGray, and J. E. Cushing, Esqrs., with the officers of General Conference, be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That N. D. McGray Esq. be Secretary of the Halifax Mission and that Hervey Trefry, and G. E. Cox be associated with him as a committee.

Resolved, we reaffirm report of last year as regards both the Intelligencer and the Star.

On Saturday afternoon the usual social service was held, when a large number took part.

In the evening the Educational Society held their annual meeting—President, Rev. J. T. Porter, presiding.

The Secretary, Rev. T. H. Siddall, read the Fourteenth Annual Report, and called attention to the object of the society, which is to aid young men who are fitting themselves for the christian ministry, and to advance the interest of ministerial education. The following addressed the meeting—Revs. J. F. Smith, L. W. Gowen, Dr. Bowen and J. E. Rend. The meeting was one of the best of the entire session.

On Sunday Rev. J. E. Rend preached in the morning—Rev. Dr. Bowen in the afternoon—Rev. Dr. Sturgis in the evening. In the evening, at the Kirk, Rev. Wm. Millar. At Clark's Harbor—morning, Rev. S. N. Royal, afternoon, Rev. J. E. Rend. At Barrington—morning, Rev. S. K. West; evening Rev. Dr. Bowen. At Port-La Tour, afternoon, Rev. S. K. West.

Monday, Conference assembled for a short session.

Resolved, we endorse the action of special Conference as to the Convention of Free Baptist bodies on this continent:

Resolved, That Rev. J. I. Porter, T. H. Siddall and Mr. W. G. Sims be delegates to F. C. B. Conference of N. B., to represent the interest of the Convention.

Resolved, That Rev. Wm. Millar be delegate to F. C. B. Conference of N. B. Resolved, That we tender the steamboat companies our sincere thanks for the concessions made to the delegates in rates of travel.

Resolved, That our best thanks be given to the friends of Centreville for their kind and generous hospitality.

Resolved, That Rev. S. N. Royal and J. I. Porter be a committee to locate next yearly meeting.

In the afternoon the Sabbath School Convention was held, Rev. S. N. Royal presiding. Rev. J. I. Porter, L. W. Gowen, T. H. Siddall and Messrs. A. M. Durkee and B. F. Covell took part in the proceedings.

In the evening the Annual Meeting of the Temperance League was held—N. D. McGray, Esq., President in the chair. Revs. J. I. Porter and S. K. West delivered most excellent speeches. The entire session was one of profit and deep interest.

Owing to the stormy weather on Saturday many were prevented from attending the Sabbath meetings.

The difficulty of getting teams on the Island prevented many delegates being in attendance. The people did all possible to make those who visited the island feel at home and comfortable. Their hospitality was unbounded, and their attentions to strangers and friends all that could have been desired. Rev. W. L. Gowen, pastor of the church, Deacons Kenney, C. Atkins and N. D. McGray with others of the Committee, were most attentive and obliging to those needing their assistance.—Yarmouth Herald.

Review of Books.

THE HEBREW STUDENT for September. Dr. Harper, of Morgan Park, Chicago, is the editor of this monthly magazine at \$1.00 a year (10 numbers).

It has an attractive table of contents for those interested in such studies:—

1. Had the Massorites the Critical Instinct; 2. Robertson Smith's Prophets of Israel; 3. The origin and the formal contents of the Talmud; 4. The book of Ruth considered statistically; 5. General Notes; 6. Editorial Notes; 7. Questions and answers; 8. Book Notices; 9. Recent papers on the Old Testament.

Its contents are of course all connected in some way with the Hebrew Scriptures, and are full of interest to Bible Students, more particularly to those who read the books in the original.

The article on the Talmud by Rev. P. A. Nordell, is instructive on the views and practices of the Jews respecting the Sacred Scriptures, for which our Lord reproved them because they made the commandment of God of none effect by their traditions. The following are the first two paragraphs of said article:

"The Talmud (from to teach) is a depository of law, theology, exegesis, philosophy, natural science, medical learning, ethics, political and domestic economy, as these were understood and discussed in the Rabbinical schools for the space of nearly a thousand years after the return from Babylon. The numberless rules of conduct which had become an intolerable burden to the common people in Christ's days are here. Here are the hair-splitting dialectics, the subtle casuistries by which the rabbis, sitting in Moses seat played hide and seek with truth and righteousness. Beside this, there is a mass of mythological and legendary lore, parables, anecdotes of the rabbis, the whole tossed together in what seems at first sight almost chaotic confusion. There is hardly anything in heaven or on earth not discussed in the Talmud.

It is a mistake to suppose that the Talmud is a species of commentary on the inspired texts of the Old Testament. The Talmud claims co-ordinate rank with the Mosaic law. But the Jews themselves have not been content with such modest claims. That the Talmud in their estimate far outweighs the Scriptures in sanctity and authority, is clear from the oft-quoted saying of the rabbis, "The Bible is water, but the Talmud is wine," and that it is a waste of time to study the former when one may study the latter. It is useless to argue with a Talmudist even out of the Pentateuch itself, for he answers out of the more venerated Talmud.

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER OF CANADA is a monthly, lately issued at Toronto, John Galt, C. E. & M. S. General Manager. It is got up in excellent style and is marvellously cheap at \$1.00 a year.

It is illustrated by well executed diagrams. The contents of No. 2 are "Serious Boiler Explosions," "Rail-