

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, February 15, 1882.

WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVI., No. 7.

NEW SERIES.
Vol. XXVII., No. 7.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
Whence shall we obtain Faithful Pastors?

In a letter received a few weeks since one of our earnest self-denying pastors writes thus: "Where are we to look for pastors, men who are willing to go to the weak churches, men who are prepared to sacrifice ease, and go to those regions where the cause needs lifting up, and there to labour for the interest of truth?"

This I regard as the most important question before the denomination at the present time. We must admit that under God the growth of the churches, and, in the case of the weak ones, their very continuance, depends largely upon their having efficient ministerial labour. All may not know that there are to-day, in the limits of the Convention, not less than twenty-five fields without pastors. Mark I say fields, which means that twenty-five more men are needed. Some of these fields are strong, self-supporting interests, and others are dependent on aid from the Home Mission Board.

But, besides these, some of the fields now occupied by missionary pastors are much too large to be successfully worked, and should be at once reinforced, and new fields should be occupied. As I have watched this matter for the last five years I have hoped that the number of men for the ministry coming from our Institutions and elsewhere would so outnumber those falling out by death and other causes that we should at length see the vacancies filled, and all our churches and mission fields supplied with faithful pastors. But I unwillingly confess that there has been little if any improvement during that time.

Where is the trouble? Have the churches ceased to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his vineyard; and ceasing to pray, no longer look out and encourage faithful men to give themselves to the ministry of the word? Or has such a spirit of worldliness and worldly ambition settled down upon our churches, and especially upon the young men of the churches, that the only question asked is how can I make the most of myself for myself, and not how can I make the most of myself for Christ? Time was when men were not only brought to know Christ at our Institutions, but also to consecrate themselves to his work, so that those who came to fit themselves for secular employments went away to devote themselves to the preaching of the Glad Tidings. Is it so to-day? Or do those who go up there asking "what wilt thou have me to do," and almost ready to say, "here am I, send me," find, even there, the foul atmosphere of worldliness and selfishness, which quenches the fire of consecration that had begun to burn in the heart, and the life that should have been given to the preaching of the cross is given to law or medicine?

Perhaps the very meagre aid given to needy young men who are anxious to fit themselves for the work of the ministry has something to do with this deficiency of labourers under which we are now suffering. The Maine Baptist Education Society gave to ten beneficiaries, all but one studying at Waterville, during the past year \$960. We gave to eight or nine, it is not clear which, \$185. Yet we have two funds, the DeWolf Aid Fund and the Ministerial Education Fund, both of which report considerable funds in hand, and yet we hear of young men going away from our Institutions for want of a little aid.

By the way, is it not time that we had a report from the Ministerial Education Board at our Convention? That

Board has been in existence two years, but has made no report except the statement of the Treasurer, and this year the Board does not even appear in the Year Book! How is this? Do the Board regard their work as of no importance?

But, whatever the cause, the fact remains that there is a sad want of pastors, and our churches are suffering in consequence. We have a well-equipped Academy and College, a Theological Department where undergraduates at least can, we believe, receive better help than at other schools, but all these do not seem to be increasing the supply of faithful, devoted ministers. He who can search out the cause of this deficiency, and devise means for its removal, will deserve the everlasting gratitude of the denomination in these Maritime Provinces.

A. COHOON.
Hebron, Jan. 24th, 1882.

On Amusements.

"As I grow older as a parent my views are changing fast as to the degree of conformity to this world which we should allow to our children. I am horror-struck to count up the prodigal children of pious persons, and even ministers. The door at which those influences enter which counteract parental instruction and influence, I am persuaded, is yielding to the ways of good society; by dress, books, and amusements an atmosphere is formed which is not Christianity. More than ever do I feel that our families must stand in a kind but determined opposition to the fashions of the world breathing the waves like the Eddystone Lighthouse. And I have found nothing yet which requires more courage and independence than to rise even a little but decidedly above the par of the religious world around us. Surely the way in which we commonly go on is not the way of self-denial and sacrifice and cross-bearing which the New Testament talks of. Our slender influence on the circle of our friends is often to be traced to our having so little difference between us."—Dr. J. W. Alexander.

The Gospel of Work.

No one can read, even cursorily, the four Evangelists, without being struck with their distinct peculiarities. The four faces of the cherubim, the lion, the ox, the eagle and the man, might well express their strong individuality. One of the strangest facts of Christian evidence is the uniformity with which the whole ancient church has ever accepted the authority and authorship of these four Gospels. The second Gospel was written by Mark, the nephew of Barnabas, and the scribe, it is said, of Peter, from whom he probably received the facts of his Gospel. The most striking characteristic of this, the shortest of all the Gospels, is that it is a record of deeds rather than words, a picture of the Great Servant, rather than the Royal Messiah, a vivid, rapid, glowing portrait of one who "went about continually doing good; crowding into every moment of life the wonderful work of which, even by all the witnesses, the hall has not been told. The first chapter sweeps over His birth and temptation, and ushers us at once into this intense and busy life; the last leaves Him sending forth his Apostles with the same commission, and, even in His ascended glory, still "working with them." The key note of this Gospel is the word "straightway." It was the Gospel for the practical Roman, as Matthew's was for the Jew, Luke's for the whole world, and John's for the Christian worker; and, from the marvellous picture of His directness, activity, promptness, compassion, boldness, wisdom and spiritual power, we can learn, as nowhere else, the true conditions and elements of Christlike, efficient and acceptable service.

The Best Recommendation.

Nicholas Biddle, Esq., when President of the Bank of the United States, once dismissed a clerk because the latter refused to write for him on the Sabbath. The young man, with a mother dependent on his exertions, was thus thrown out of employment by what some would call an over-nice scruple of conscience. But a few days after, Mr. Biddle being requested to nominate a cashier for another bank, recommended this very individual, and mentioned this incident as proof of his trustworthiness.

"You can trust him," said he, "for he wouldn't work for me on Sunday."

News of the Churches.

Organization of a Baptist Church at Carleton, Yarmouth, N. S.

A note appeared in this week's Messenger in reference to the revival in Carleton, under the labours of Rev. J. A. Gordon. Rev. H. N. Parry baptized five converts there last Sabbath.

A Council called together by the Baptist friends in that place to consider the propriety of organizing a church, met with them in the Carleton Hall, Feb. 2nd, at 2 P. M.

Rev. J. A. Stubbert was chosen Moderator, and Rev. P. S. McGregor, Secretary.

After prayer, the names of the delegates were given.

3rd Yarmouth Church.—Rev. J. A. Stubbert, Brethren Charles Tedford, Richard N. Crosby, G. S. Crosby, and R. H. Symonds.

Hebron Church.—Deacon William Durkes.

On motion, Bro. P. S. McGregor, pastor of the Tuskett Church, was invited to a seat in the Council.

On account of the heavy snow storm on the previous night, a number of the ministers and delegates invited were not present. The Carleton brethren gave their reasons for calling the Council and earnestly requested that a church be organized that afternoon.

The Council then unanimously resolved to comply with their wishes. A Baptist Church consisting of eight brethren and three sisters was organized and welcomed into the denomination by Rev. J. A. Stubbert. The names of two sisters were received who could not be present. They will soon be welcomed into the Church.

Bro. E. C. Crowell was elected and ordained deacon, Bro. R. F. Telfer was chosen Clerk, and Bro. T. H. Uhlman was appointed Treasurer.

After singing and prayer the meeting was closed. An interesting meeting was held in the evening in which a number of the delegates took part, and had the pleasure of hearing the new converts telling of their love to Christ and their desires to see their friends coming to Jesus without delay.

P. S. MCGREGOR.

TUSKETT.—On the last Sabbath in January I had the pleasure of baptizing a young man who has lately experienced religion in our meetings at Tuskett Village. The church has been revived and sinners have been heard enquiring the way to Zion.

P. S. MCGREGOR.

DARTMOUTH.—Dear Bro. Selden.—We have been holding a few special meetings for prayer and exhortation, and the results are quite encouraging. Four or five have been hopefully converted to Christ, and a number of others are manifesting deep concern.

We have some earnest workers, and the Lord is graciously blessing their faithful efforts.

We are glad to be able to report that our sisters have this week organized a Woman's Missionary Aid Society with nine members. The beginning is small, but we are sure that it will grow in

numbers and influence, and accomplish good, both at home and abroad. The following are the officers:—

President.—Mrs. E. J. Grant.
Vice-Presidents.—Mrs. A. Hutt and Miss S. Meagher.
Secretary.—Miss A. E. Johnston.
Treasurer.—Miss Ella Hunt.

ITALY.—It is cheering to learn that Mr. Wall, the leading representative of the English Baptist Mission in Italy is enabled to enter the New Year with very encouraging prospects. Tidings are reported from the station in Florence by Signor Borzi of a marked progress in the Sunday Schools. Several baptisms have taken place in the River Arno, and others are about to follow. Similar encouraging reports have been received from Rev. B. Walker concerning his station at Genoa.

The Baptist church at Tewkesbury, England, is one of the oldest in the denomination. Its 226th anniversary was celebrated by special services held last month, associated also with a commemoration of the thirtieth year of the pastorate of the Rev. T. Nicholson.

The Metropolitan Tabernacle Evangelists' Association have just issued their annual report. They have held upward of three thousand services during the year in different places, being 796 in advance of the former year. The balance sheet adds up £200.

WELLAND, ONT.—On Sabbath evening, the 15th, Mr. Alfred Spencer, a Quaker preacher, was baptized at Welland by Rev. W. H. Porter of St. Catharines, having been previously received by the Baptist Church at Font Hill, as a candidate for baptism and church membership.

The New York Observer says: "Polio was converted at nine years of age, Matthew Henry at eleven, President Edwards at seven. Dr. Watts at nine, Bishop Hall at eleven, and Robert Hall at twelve. The Church is arousing itself to do more for the children than it has done in the past. The preaching of five minute sermons to the children each Sunday, before the sermon to adults, is the latest and most successful answer to the question. How shall we get the children to attend the preaching services?"

The Emmanuel Baptist Church of Chicago, Rev. Dr. Lorimer pastor, was to hold its first service in the new church building on Sunday, the 18th inst. The auditorium is one of the finest and largest in Chicago, and the church is beautifully and tastefully furnished throughout.

OLD AGE DINING OUT IN SEVEN DIALS, LONDON.—It is somewhat curious to note the variety of parties which are given during the Christmas season. The gorgeous hall has been hung with evergreen, the stately mansion adorned and festooned with emblems of rejoicing, the cottage home has had its garlands of leaves and flowers to lend holiday cheerfulness to the invited and assembled guests; but these parties have usually been the result of family union and concurrent friendships. Young and old have freely united together to lend each other pleasure, and participate in the provisions of the festive board. It is not often that a person is disqualified from attending an evening party because the number of years are not up to three-score, and yet the terms of invitation to a New Year's gathering ran as follows:—

"Evening party for the aged. No person under sixty years of age can use this ticket. A few friends interested in aged people ask the favour of your company to an evening party on Wednesday, January 4, 1882, at the Mission Hall, Moor-street, The Dials, St. Giles's. A roast beef and plum-pudding dinner at half past six o'clock, Mr. William Harrison and other friends will be present to welcome you. During the evening selections of music will be given." Of course the invited guests were the aged pilgrims of the neighbourhood, and if proof were to hand that the Seven Dials bundle did not circumscribe their humble habitation, they were disqualified and unable to be present. The evening was one well adapted to the convenience of the old folks, for it was fine, and somewhat dry under foot. Some two hundred and thirty accepted the invitation, whose ages varied as follows:—Four were over 85, ten over 80, twenty-one over 75, sixty-one over 70, ninety-two over 65, and the remaining

number were about 60: in all giving an aggregate of 17,000 years of human life.

The Salvation Army in England proposes to build a salvation temple in the city of London, that shall seat six or seven thousand people, and have services carried on by relays of friends unceasingly, day and night.

Rev. Dr. DeForrest, missionary of the American Board of Osaka, Japan, says: "No other topic now will draw the multitudes together in Japan like discussions on Christianity."

Rev. J. P. Jones, pastor of the English Congregational Church, Bridgend, has in consequence of a change of views respecting the doctrine of baptism, tendered his resignation to the Church. He was the first minister of that Church, having accepted the pastorate in 1874. He will probably be immersed at an early date, and become a member of the Baptist denomination.

Rev. A. B. Simpson, who lately became a Baptist, but is unaffiliated denominationally, has secured the Academy of Music, New York, for Sunday evening services.

In the four Theological Seminaries in and around Chicago, the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational, there are at present about three hundred young men—a larger number than are gathered for the same purpose within the same space elsewhere in the United States.

The Reformed Episcopal Church has been in existence eight years, beginning with nine clergymen, including Bishop Cummins, and twenty laymen. It now has 110 clergymen, and about 7,000 communicants. It has church property valued at \$915,000 exclusive of incumbencies.

The pastor of a Congregational church in Connecticut used the Revised version of the New Testament in the pulpit. Whereupon the officers of the church sent him a request in writing to return to the "St. James" version. He could not stand that and resigned.

BRINGING IN SHEAVES.—The Indianapolis (Indiana) Journal of Dec. 26th reports:

"An event occurred in Robert's Park Methodist church in this city on Sunday, the like of which is not often seen, and which is worthy of more than passing notice. There were received into what is known as 'full membership,' in Methodist parlance, a class of nearly four hundred probationers. These were a portion of the fruit of the unparalleled revival of last spring. This means that above four hundred of the converts have so lived for a period of at least six months that they have been counted worthy, and qualified for admission into a relation of full membership with the Church. Of itself, this is a great thing; but to the church it means the added strength, spiritual and natural, of four hundred people, who came into their religious life in the fervor of spiritual awakening, the influence of which will be felt in all their future lives and work. The evangelist, Mr. Harrison, and the church which received this remarkable accession, are to be congratulated. It was a day of the 'bringing in of the sheaves,' and a royal harvest home was fittingly shouted around the altar of Robert's Park."

News of the World.

In the House of Commons during the debate on the Queen's Speech, Sir Stafford Northcote assailed the Government's policy.

Mr. Gladstone, in an eloquent speech vehemently attacked the Land League and highly eulogized Mr. Forster's efforts to restore order in Ireland.

At Berlin some boys were teasing a sentinel of the Fusilier Guards, when the Sentinel fired upon them. Two of the boys were killed, and the Sentinel was subsequently declared blameless by the authorities. A portion of the press indignantly denounce this judgment.

The Island of Ceylon is suffering greatly from coffee blight. The crop is worth only £2,500,000, against an estimated value of £6,000,000.

The King of Burmah has issued a mandate abolishing monopolies; and has appointed an embassy with a view of re-establishing relations with India.

The Russian University at Charkoff has been closed in consequence of a disturbance among the students.

The silver wedding of the King and

Queen of Sweden and Norway is to be solemnly celebrated at Stockholm on June 6 next. A subscription has been started in Norway for the purpose of making a presentation to the Royal couple upon this interesting occasion.

Mr. John Pendlebury, of Manchester, who died on the 1st December last, left bequests to charitable institutions in Manchester and Salford to the amount of about £100,000.

The first public exhibition of the Edison electric light in England was made a few weeks since, at the Crystal Palace, the concert-room of which was brilliantly lighted up by means of 250 incandescent lamps of Mr. Edison's pattern.

A BIG BLAZE.—On Sunday evening a spark from a locomotive on the Buffalo, New York, and Philadelphia Railroad, set fire to little pools of oil in the low ground near Olean, N. Y. where the united pipe lines have a number of large iron tanks. The flames soon communicated to 3 iron tanks containing in all 105,000 barrels of oil which are now in flames, a large force of men left Bradford by a special fast train. They took picks, shovels, cannon and chemical fire extinguishers. Olean creek runs near the scene of the fire and great fears are entertained that the oil will strike the surface of the stream and destroy a number of railroad bridges and houses near the banks of the Creek. The oil will be drawn off as rapidly as possible by perforating the tanks with cannon balls. The night was as bright as day for several miles about the tanks.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

On TUESDAY of last week, in the debate on the Railway Bill, on a motion that it do pass, Dr. Campbell moved in amendment that it be referred back to committee for the purpose of inserting a clause making the \$1,350,000 a permanent deposit at Ottawa, the interest to be drawn, and the principal to remain until appropriated by an Act of the Legislature.

This was seconded by Mr. McCurdy. It was voted down, there being but three in favor.—Messrs. Campbell, T. B. Smith, and McCurdy.

Mr. T. B. Smith then moved:

"That the bill be referred back to the committee and the following clause inserted: That the proposed railway from Windsor to Truro station shall be built, instead of being optional, as in the bill, and that the Province pay for right of way in lands taken for the same."

The Speaker ruled the motion out of order, on the ground that it was a money vote.

The bill finally passed, three members—the same as above—voting against it. The bill was then sent to the Council.

On WEDNESDAY there was no business of any consequence done.

On THURSDAY, the Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table of the House, the Financial Returns for the past year. The balance due on Dec. 31, 1880, was \$40,398, whereas on Dec. 31, 1881, it was but \$17,374. The amount paid during the year for all services was \$544,670. The amount received was \$527,295. Add to the above balance of \$17,374, loan due Provincial Railway account \$242,901, loan from Western Counties Railway \$40,000. Gives a total of \$300,275.

Mr. Blair moved the second reading of his bill repealing the acts forbidding Dominion and local officials from voting, and spoke well in its favor. Hon. Attorney-General, and Messrs. Patterson, Pugh, and A. N. McDonald, Messrs. Kinney and T. B. Smith spoke against it. The motion was put and carried, 28 to 7.

The Railway Bill is in the hands of the Special Committee of the Legislative Council for examination, before being brought up in the Council for discussion.

On MONDAY Mr. Harrington's bill respecting compulsory attendance of children at school was under discussion. The bill provides that any school district may, by vote of ratepayers, have a law requiring all children from 7 to 12 years of age to attend school for eighty days in such school district.

Hon. Attorney General moved and Dr. Campbell seconded, that the bill be deferred until next session and printed in the meantime, and this motion was carried by a large majority.