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The Christian Messenger.

Hallfax, N. S., April 18, 1883.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES.

We notice with much pleasure the gradual extension of this modern institution, which is calculated to be o great service in promoting the spiritual and intellectual welfare of all our churches. In many of the counties of this and of neighboring provinces Ministerial Conferences have been organized, and much interest seems to be manifested in sustaining them. There are many reasons why these societies, if they may be so called, should be multiplied and zealously upheld.

The annual meeting of our Convention and of our Associations of Churches has a salutary influence upon the denomination, in the promotion of fraternal feeling among the members of our churches, in securing unity of sentiment and effort, and in planning for the advancement of our grand religious enterprises. But these annual gatherings are chiefly designed to carry forward the practical business affairs with which we as a denomination are concerned. The fact that such meetings are held but once a year and that the important interests of Missions, Education, etc., claim first attention, renders it practically impossible for brethren to enjoy that free interchange of thought on the many religious questions and matters of local interest which they would like to take into consideration.

The Ministerial Conference admirably supplies the want long felt in this respect. Here the pastors and delegates of the various churches in a given county may meet as often as they deem best for the reading of papers on topics of general interest, for free conversa tion on all matters pertaining to church growth and effort, and for the consider ation and discussion of questions of discipline or difficulty. Papers and discussions of this character are o great value, in affording wise counsel to both laymen and ministers, and in furnishing information which may be helpful in rendering the churches more efficient in their religious activities.

Much is gained by such union among the churches and pastors of eac The independence of the churches is not in any respect interfered with, whilst their interdependence is brought into proper prominence. By mutual counsel and aid they build each other up and prevent many difficulties which might otherwise have arisen, to the serious detriment of some or all of the churches.

It is hoped that wherever it i practicable in the Maritime Provinces a society of this kind will be formed at an early date if it is not already in Brethren connected with our Ministerial Conferences will, no doubt, be willing cheerfully to furnish all necessary information as to the methods of organizing and of conducting the business of these societies. As in the past so in the future space in the columns of the MESSEN-GER for the publication of well written papers on subjects of general interest as may have been read at any of these

NON-RESIDENT CHURCH MEMBERS.

There are three parties among us who greatly need being reminded of their duties and obligations, namely, the church member who has removed to another place; the church from which he has removed; and the church where he now resides. First of all, the migrating member. What is his duty? So long as he is only temporarily absent and expects shortly to return, he should keep up as often as convenient or practicable some correspondence with his church, and as soon as he has given up any intention of returning he should at once transfer his membership to a sister church, if one there be in his new place of residence. The importance of this step to the member can scarcely be too greatly magnified. A church member without a church is without the watch care, protection and encouragement which all need. He is the company for so doing, but the not at home. He is among his brethren | company was sustained in their action.

but not one of them. He is a stranger, or at most an acquaintance, whereas he might and should be in the fullest sense a brother. Easily the way leads into other folds of other faiths, or back into worldly paths. Obligations and re sponsibilities lose the force they once had, and the individual suffers. The excuses for non-transfer are abundant, but not one of them can stand investigation, and are not worthy to be mentioned. Kindly let us urge every nonresident church member to do his duty in this matter, cast in his lot with a sister church in his new place of residence, and thus be in a position to help his brethren, and in turn receive their sympathy and encouragement.

Then this member's church has duty to perform. What is it? Is quietly and indolently to leave his name on the roll for years, make no inquiry about him, let him wander where he will and then in some fit for revision of the church list let his name be "dropped?" No, no. The clear duty of such church is to follow, in such ways as can be adopted, the removing member, and urge upon him his duty, ceasing all excuses, to unite with a sister church by transfer of membership. Failing thus to persuade him to adopt the correct course the church should confer with its sister church and seek to combine their efforts to effect the transfer. How often is this done? Too frequently we fear the ninety and nine enjoy the shelter of the fold without much thought for the one who is away perchance on the " mountains cold and bare, away from the tender shepherd's care."

The third responsible party is the church of the place where the member now resides. Is this church aware that a Baptist brother has come among them? Have they sought out such brother, have they shown him his duty and urged him to perform it, and tailing to accomplish their purpose have they brought the matter home to their sister church to which this member belongs? If not, that church has not done its duty, and it is losing the energy and aid of a church member whose name should be on its roll.

What course should be adopted with the member who has removed permanently to another place, who has the opportunity of uniting with a sister church there, who has been urged again and again to do so, but still neglects to make the transfer? Of course each case would be decided by its own circumstances, but, generally speaking, in such an instance as the above there will be found to be something wrong about that member, and a strong case for withdrawal of fellowship will probably arise. In this matter we should copy the example of vigilance set by other denominations. We should then unburden the "non-resident" column of our statistics, we should be fulfilling our obligations, and should be promoting the prosperity of our churches in a particular in which we have hitherto been culpably negligent.

WE have received from the Queen's Printer copies of the Blue Books as they have come from the press, showing we shall always be pleased to afford the operations of the several departments of our Local Government. One of the most important of these is that ef the Department of Mines. From it we learn the following items respecting their productiveness, and the progress made in the past year:

Gold-ounces. . . Gold—ounces. . . 10,756 Iron Ore—tons. . 39,843 14,107 42,135 Manganese-tons. Coal—tons. . . 1,124,270 1,365,811 Gypsum-tons. . 107,133 133,426

The home sales of coal were 458,952 tons, against 268,628 tons in 1881. The coal sent to the upper provinces amounted to 383,031 tons, an increase of 114,-403 tons over the quantity sent in the the year 1881. The sales to New Brunswick show an increase of 30,000 tons; these to Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island a slight increase. The sales to the United States fell from 113,728 tons during the year 1881, to 99,302 tons during the past year. The total coal sales for the year amounted to 1,250,179 tons-an increase of 215,-000 tons over last year.

Ir has been decided that it is contrary to law to swear, or use any improper language by telephone. In a town in Ohio, a telephone company took away the telephone instrument from a person who persisted in swearing. An action was brought against

NOTICE.

A gentleman living about a hundred miles from Halitax, who is desirous of inducing Christians to search the Scriptures on the subject of Christian Baptism, has requested us to offer on his behalf Twenty Dollars to the first person who will produce a passage of Scripture, teaching either by precept or example the Baptism of Infants. He respectfully requests that the Presbyterian Witness, the Wesleyan and the Church Guardian will copy this notice.

PERSONALS .- The Rev. Timothy Harley, of John Street Baptist Church London, formerly pastor of Brussels Street Church, St. John, N. B., is on a visit to the United States. He sailed from London on the 20th ult, and expects to [return the first week in May.

The Rev. R. R. PHILP requests publish the following Card o Thanks: " Time swiftly speeds on, reminding us of multiplied mercies and obligations. My soul goes up in thankfulness to the God of all grace, for since the loss of my eyesight-now over seven years—I have been led by a way which I knew not. Truly the hand of my Heavenly Father has been upon me for good during the years of external darkness, for the Lord has graciously sustained me. At first the blow in its suddenness and sadness almost staggered me, for two years my nerves and physical powers well nigh failed under the shock But the God who gave me grace sufficient kindly rallied and strengthened me to be the companion and protector of my dear motherless girls, and he has dealt kindly with me, leading them in their early days to Remember their Creator, Their industry and love has done much to lighten my affliction and strengthen my heart, and I hope in few years to see them fully established to fight life's battles. Until then my prayer is, Spare thy servant, O Lord. For the past five years my general health has improved, and now my strength is better than ever since my blindness, for travelling and preaching. My special object in thus writing respecting myself is to give information to my many friends scattered over the Provinces, and to express my thankfulness for the uniform kindness I have | baptism, not "baptized" as stated. always met with from them, and to let They were probably baptized on Sunthem know that it is my hope in the day last. Bro. K. adds that the revigood providence of God to meet them val also extends to the Osborne church, again in the flesh. I cannot individualize the names of persons and places scattered throughout the Provinces. ful to see such tidings of good in the Pastors and members of churches have vied one with another to cheer and help churches. May the Lord continue to me. Not less notable have been the add to the churches daily such as shall favors received when travelling by land be saved." and water, the authorities often giving us free passes. On two occasions P. Innes, Esq., generously gave me free passes from Halifax to Annapolis and back, and the captain of the steamer St. Lawrence refused to take any fare when I visited the churches on Prince Edward Island.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE

The House of Assembly was occupied with a large amount of correspondence on WEDNESDAY last respecting vour to answer this question may prove

The Loan Bill introduced on Tuesday by the Government for borrowing acid. Glycerine is a well-know harm-\$2,460,000 at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum for the purchase of railway; for repairs to the Western and for the payment of any floating debt of the Province was also under consideration. Mr. Pipes made a speech on moving its second reading. At the request of Mr. Bell it was deferred till the next day (THURSDAY) when he spoke strongly against the bill and was followed by the Attorney General. There were three sittings this day at which that measure was under debate. Mr. Corning spoke in the evening, and had not finished when the House adjourned.

On FRIDAY Mr. C. resumed his money. His speech was well received and closely listened to. In the afternoon sitting Mr. Bell gave notice of a the elements of nitro-glycerine take on

Resolved, That the bill be not now read a second time but that the House do come to the following resolution:

To the effect that the Government re-open negociations with the N. S. Railway Company, &c.

And further resolved, That the said sum of five and a half millions be applied as follows: \$3,250,000 for Acquisition; \$900,000 for Railroads in Cape Breton Island; \$1,350 000 to be vested in Ottawa, the interest to be used to supplement the Road Grants, and \$350,000 of the principal to provide for the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway if the Company become entitled to

And further resolved, That the ques tion of the sinking fund and other disputed points, if any, shall be settled in accordance with the terms of the agreement of the 6th September, 1881, and existing legislation;

And further resolved, That a separate bill be introduced to provide for the construction of bridges.

It was then proposed to proceed without further speaking. This was not agreed to and the discussion went on till night when it adjourned to the next

On SATURDAY there were three sittings. Dr. Haley and Mr. Whidden occupied the larger portion of the afternoon. At a late hour Mr. Gayton moved an adjournment to Monday.

The House met at 10 o'clock on Monday, and at once proceeded with the discussion of the Loan Bill. After Mr. Gayton had spoken in tavor of it Mr. Corning spoke against it. Messrs. Townshend, McCoy, and Weeks occupied the day till the evening, when Mr. Bell spoke for two hours. Mr. Pipes then closed the debate by an hour's speech at the close of which the division took place as follows: For the Bill.

Pipes, White, Church, Buchanan Gayton, LeBlanc, Fielding, Fraser, Weeks, MacCoy, Johnson, Longley, Power. Ross. McCurdy, Dodge, Haley, Cook, McNeil, Robichau—20.

For the Amendment. Bell, McLennan, Corning, Townshend, Blair, Patterson, Hockin, Munroe, Mc-Donald, McRae, Whidden, Spence,

Harris-13. It was then near midnight, and yet the government determined on proceeding with the bill in Committee. Mr. Cook took the chair and the bill was read clause by clause. The proposal to include in the loan \$60,000 to pay off. the dificiency of last year was struck out. On the \$500,000 for bridges, Mr. Corning moved to reduce the amount to \$250,000, but was defeated. Dr. McLennan moved an amendment to the clause respecting negotiations in relation to Cape Breton extension, which was defeated. It being then after one o'clock the House adjourned until 10 o'clock yesterday morning.

REV. S. B. KEMPTON informs u that we misunderstood on item in his statement respecting Lockeport last week. He says five were received for of which Rev. P. R. Foster is the pastor; and further says: I am thank-CHRISTIAN MESSENGER from the

One of the great po'itical powers of to day is Dynamite. The friends (?) o Ireland seem to have the idea that their wrongs may be redressed by the use of this deadly weapon in the dark! We talk about Dynamite and almost fear by using the word we are calling up an evil spirit. The question sometimes asked, What is Dynamite One of our English exchanges in a article on the subject says ;-

What is dynamite? A brief endeathe Western Counties Railway, and the interesting. It is a form of nitroglycerine. This, as its name suggests, is a mixture of glycerine with nitric less material. It may be regarded as the essence of soap. Its elements are there is no explosion. But oxygen loves carbon and hydrogen more than nitrogen, and is quite ready when opportunity serves to forsake the one for the other. The result is a very great change. The oxygen and carbon unite forming carbonic acid, which demands a far greater space than the materials formerly occupied. Other compounds are formed, such as water, which, from the heat, becomes steam. The change is made, when once is commences, very suddenly. If a train were laid reaching from London to Edinburgh, and the alteration once place along the whole length in about baptism out at the back window. two minutes. The new form which series of resolutions to the following being what is called exploded, requires, according to Wagner, twelve hundred times the space it occupied before. According to Nobel there is considerable heat developed in the explosion which causes the expansion of the gases to be vastly in excess of the original bulk. He estimates that "one

volume of the substance will yield 10,384 volumes of gas, whilst one part by bulk of gunpowder yields 800 volumes of gas."

This enormous expansion brought about so suddenly becomes almost irresistible. It drives everything out of the way. Its explosive force may be roughly estimated at about ten times that of gunpowder.

Such is nitro-glycerine. It has been found of advantage to mix it with loose, sandy earth, such as is formed of the fossil shells of infusoria, and found at Luneburgh. When so mixed, three parts nitro-glycerine with one part earth, it is called dynamite. When it is mixed with saw-dust, prepared for the purpose, it is called diralin. Lithofracteur, which is much used by miners, is nitro-glycerine made up into a paste with sulphur and saltpetre. Hartmann made his dynamite in Russia from nitro-glycerine and sugar. The perpetrators of the recent outrages seem to have made it themselves.

An attempt has been made at protection from any abuse in the employment of these dangerous compounds No one may trade in them without licence.

There is another dangerous article in which people are not allowed to trade without a license. The evils arising from it are even greater than from the use of Dynamite, and yet people purchase it and swallow it as they imagine with impunity, but its power is soon felt, not by an explosion, but by turning men at first into fools, then into madmen, and then into beasts. Whilst Missionaries, the involuntary inheritors Dynamite destroys a house and endangers men's lives, Rum certainly destroys hundreds of men and women, and makes beggars of their children. Which is the worse, the Dynamite fiend or the Rum fiend? The answer is not difficult.

PRACTICAL PROHIBITION IN ENG-LAND .- WE are frequently hearing of the amount of drinking in England, but it is not so widely known as it should be that in two localities in London, each having a population equalling that of a fairly-sized provincial town, there exists not merely local option, but Prohibition The Queen's Park Estate at Harrow road belonging to the Artizans, Labourers, and General Dwellings Company has upon it 2,200 houses; with a population according to the last census of six and a-half inhabitants to each house, or 14,300 persons, all of whom live, move, and have their being, without a single public-house to supply them with intoxicating drinks. The Shaftesbury Park Estate has about 1,200 houses, with a population of about 7,800, all living under a similar regime. Thus within the vast space covered by overgrown London two communities, numbering together scarcely anything short of 22. 000 souls, living under a state of rigid prohibition, and paying rents to the company owning the property which enable it to declare a dividend of five per cent with the regularity of Consols.

Here is a specimen of the ideas of sequence entertained by our astute neighbor, the editor of the Presbyterian Witness:

Dr. Cuyler remarks that the three greatest Baptist ministers have been in theory and practice "open Communion." They would sit at the Lor's Table with other Caristians. The three whom he names are John Bunyan, Robert Hall, and Spurgeon. He thinks that the Baptists will soon outgrow this practice of theirs and throw it out at the back window. No doubt

We think we can help our good brother to a better statement of his case. Is not the following the inference that would suit his purpose? Three of the greatest names in church history, Calcarbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. Whilst vin, Luther, and Knox, sprinkled the Counties Railway; for the subsidy to the mixture is kept tolerably quiet children of believers, therefore, we all ought to accept of infant baptism, and throw believer's baptism out at the back window.

Or, supposing our esteemed contemporary to have written the above in a humorous mood, in the same spirit we beg to tickle his fancy thus: Three great names, Mosheim, Neander, and Chalmers, have acknowledged the position of believer's baptism in apostolic times; shall we not conclude with a chuckle, Therefore, our Presbyterian speech against the bill for borrowing commenced in London, it would take friends will soon throw their infant

"The Bible is our great Church Directory and Statute-Book," you know.

Rev. J. F. Avery informs us that it is planned to open the Tabernacle Bazaar ou Tuesday, the 24th, and Wednesday, the 25th of April, and solicits the gene-rous aid of friends in supplying useful articles. Admission 10 cents.

Biterary.

THE LIFE OF ADONIRAM JUDSON. By his son, Edward Judson. New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co. Price \$2.00.

Dr. Judson's name has been a household word with all the friends of Foreign Missions for the past half century. Something has been known of him and his devoted, excellent wives, by what has been written of them, but no one, till now, has been so well suited to bring forth a permanent Memorial Volume of Adoniram Judon. This was left for his son, Dr. Edw. Judson, to perform, to whom the world is indebted for this latest and best work on the life of his

Judson and his pioneer labor has been before the world for upwards of forty years, and now his son gives the reason for producing this new "Life of Judson." He says: "It is not my purpose to present a theory of Missions, but simply to give a clear and consecutive story of my father's life. have been impelled to do this by the desire that his memory should be cherished in the minds of the rising generation. Dr. Wayland's noble and comprehensive Memoir is now out of print, and it has seemed to me that a career which may be justly said to form the main artery of all American Foreign Missionary endeavour needed to be presented anew.'

The dedication of the book is beautiful and touching to those who know what was endured by the subject of the Memoir and members of his family. It is as follows: "To the children of of their parents' sufferings and rewards, this book is affectionately dedicated by one of their number."

The record which appears on a marble tablet in the Baptist meeting house of his native place tells in brief the story of his life. It is as follows:

> IN MEMORIAM. REV. ADONIRAM JUDSON, BORN AUGUST 9, 1788, DIED APRIL 12, 1850. MALDEN HIS BIRTHPLACE. THE OCEAN HIS SEPULCHRE. CONVERTED BURMANS AND THE BURMAN BIBLE HIS MONUMENT. HIS RECORD IS ON HIGH,

The name of Judson stands in relation to the American Baptist Missionary Union about the same as Carey's does to the English Baptist Missionary Society. They were respectively the founders of these Societies. His father was a Congregational minister. It is known by most of our readers, probably, how he became a Baptist, and yet for the sake of our younger readers we may re-state the circumstances. We cannot do this better than in the words of the author. He was going out to India under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions "He was a Congregational minister:

his parents were Congregationalists; and he had been sent out by a Congregational Board. All his sympathies and affections were bound up with the life of that great denominational body. On his way to Burmah, however, he became a Baptist. His attention was at this time especially drawn to the distinctive views of the Baptists by the fact that he was now about to found a new Christian society among the heathen. When the adult heathen accepted Christ by faith and love, he should of course be baptized, and thus formally initiated into the Christian Church. But ought the children also to be baptized upon the strength of the parent's faith? This was a practical

"Again, Mr. Judson expected to meet in India the eminent English Baptist Missionaries, Carey, Marshman, and Ward. In the immediate neighborhood of these men, he proposed to institute a Congregational form of church life, and he would, of course, have to explain to the natives these denominational differences. His mind was cast in a scholarly and argumentative mould. Controversy might possibly arise between himself and the Baptist missionaries. He thought it best, while he was on the ocean, to arm himself beforehand for the encounter with these formidable champions, in order successfully to maintain the Pedobaptist position.

In the enforced seclusion of a long sea voyage, he had plenty of time for thought and study on this important subject. The result of his searching investigation was the conclusion, reluctantly formed, that he was wrong and that the Baptists were right. Of course they held many fundamental doctrines in common with Christians of all other evangelical denominations; but there were two distinctive tenets: that faith should always precede baptism, and that baptism is immersion. He was convinced that in these views they had the Bible on their side."

The book contains two beautiful maps, and portraits of Judson and of two of the three excellent women to whom he was successively married.

The Foreign Missionary cause on this continent will doubtless receive a new impulse from this presentation of one of its pioneers. Independently of the ef-

who w sent se Hen from t the Do Geor Muirh years i Tho house to two The City o wharf, quired

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