

The Christian Messenger. Halifax, N. S., November 21, 1883.

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THE NEW CHAIR IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

Our readers will doubtless regret with us that so much of our space should be required for the Series of Letters by Dr. Saunders. Our regret would, however, be greatly diminished, if it should appear that they resulted in allaying the asperity which has been mixed up with the discussion of the subject.

It is most unfortunate that personalities have been so freely used, and that honored brethren who are so highly esteemed have been disturbed in their important work in Acadia College. We are not disposed to unnecessarily interfere in the dispute where there are so many brethren fully able to look at the matter in all its aspects, and ought also to be able to prescribe the remedy for the present state of things.

It is, perhaps, unfortunate that Baptists, have so much publicity given to their disagreements in their own private matters, more than is seen in some other bodies, where there is greater centralization of power in their government. It may, however, be more wholesome to have everything exposed to the public gaze. Where the people have a controlling voice, they generally let their voice be heard, and if there is any chance for a difference of opinion, it is almost sure to be discovered and developed. There is room for much improvement in this respect.

The new departure proposed in Acadia College having been so suddenly introduced and its having first appeared as an editorial in a secular political paper was well calculated to awaken hostile criticism and naturally called forth the enquiry, What is it? and What does it mean?

We are not disposed to call in question Dr. Saunders' statements and defence of the movement and of the parties concerned, but we cannot help suggesting that while the high compliment paid by him to the Rev. Robert Murray, and Principal Ross of Dalhousie College may be well deserved, yet what they have said and done would not be very likely to come to the knowledge of Baptists generally, or to prepare their minds for acquiescence in any such movement.

We are not informed as to the extent of the Series of Letters we may expect from Dr. Saunders. We should have preferred to have known this beforehand so as to have been able to inform our readers what they might expect.

The following letter from Rev. Dr. Sawyer President of Acadia College will inform our readers of some points that seem to call for light:

Mr. Editor,— As the history of the recent appointment in Acadia College, as it has been presented in the MESSENGER, has raised at least some of your readers, though the writer of course designed nothing of the kind, I ask the privilege of making a few statements. It will be noticed that the portion of the historical articles which relates to the course of events before the meeting in Halifax is largely inferential. It is enough to say of this portion that it is quite wide of the truth. The idea of a chair of Education in the College did not originate with me. The faculty of the College never conferred on the subject. The professors may have known as much as I knew on the subject, or they may not. But not one of them knew my views or purposes, until I spoke in the meeting of the Committee in Halifax. Whatever purpose I had in connection with the business was formed after the question of theological education was settled. When the subject of a chair of education was first mentioned by me in the meeting in Halifax, I did not know the position which a single one of those present, whether Governors or professors, would take in regard to it. I spoke only for myself, and made my decisions from time to time, as the discussion advanced, on my own res-

possibility, without binding the action of any other one.

The history of the business is not difficult to understand. At a meeting of the Senate in June, a committee was appointed to consider the question of changes in the curriculum of the College. As there was no opportunity for this committee to attend to its business in Anniversary week, it was understood that, if necessary, there could be a meeting of the members who might be in Halifax at the time of the Convention. After the changes in the staff of instruction consequent on the action of the Board in Halifax, it was thought desirable that this committee should have a meeting, and the Governors were requested to appoint a committee of their own number to meet with the committee of the senate to represent the financial interest of the Board, in any business that might be considered, involving the expenditure of money. The two committees met together on the afternoon of Aug. 28th. As I now remember, there were present six Governors and three professors, besides the president, who may be counted in either class, or in both. What these several individuals represented, or whether each one should be considered as speaking for himself, I will leave for those to determine who are skilled in such matters. Being invited to present any topics that might seem to me to call for consideration on the part of the meeting, I named three. The first two would require action in order that the class work of the year might be carried on regularly. The third was a Chair of Education. Being in possession of information bearing on the establishment of such a chair in Acadia College, I judged it to be my duty to bring the subject to the attention of the Governors at some convenient time. The meeting of these committees seemed to be a favorable opportunity. Accordingly the matter was mentioned and some remarks were added by me to the effect that in various ways such a chair might be useful. I think I named no individual in connection with the chair, some one else suggested that in the remarks which followed, and after that the usefulness of the chair was considered in connection with the man who might fill it. The question being thus before the meeting, it was discussed in different phases, educational and financial, during the remainder of the afternoon and again in the evening, and the result was reached that the proposition to establish a Chair of Education be favorably redorted to a meeting of the Governors to be held the next morning. The Governors met the next morning. The report of the committee was introduced, the subject seriously discussed in its various aspects and, after a somewhat prolonged consideration of the case, it was resolved, "That this Board is prepared to establish a chair of education in Acadia College and requests the senate to nominate a professor to occupy such chair." In my opinion the chair was virtually established at that time. The formalities of the business after that followed the natural sequence. There was some discussion in the senate in respect to the range of duties of the new professor, but it was understood that the chair was established and the recommendation asked for was made out. It may be added that in the meeting of the Governors in Wolfville, after the meeting of the senate, an attempt was made to rescind the action of the Board taken in Halifax, but it failed and the ground taken by the Board at the meeting in Halifax was substantially held to the close, and the appointment was made, as the public know.

I hope the present misunderstanding will soon disappear. One thing is certain, the College must be kept in sympathy with the people. If they will exercise a little patience, I trust that they will see our difficulties removed before a long time has passed.

Yours truly, A. W. SAWYER.

In our last we gave a line or two stating that "Dr. Saunders had written asking Dr. Higgins to point out specifically the 'wholly incorrect' character of the statements," he Dr. S. had made. Dr. Saunders, however, requests us to copy said letter. Lest he should suppose that by condensing it into a single sentence we do him any injustice, we give it insertion as follows:—

To the Editor of the Herald:— Sir,—Since reading the letter of Dr. Higgins in the Herald of this morning, I have carefully looked over my letters to ascertain if possible, the 'wholly incorrect' character of my statements regarding Dr. Higgins' connection with the appointment of Dr. Rand. I find them to be in effect as follows:—(1) Professor Higgins is a member of the Faculty of Acadia College; (2) Professor Higgins is an adviser of the president of the college; (3) For about a score of years Professor Higgins has given his counsels and labors to Acadia College; (4) additional confidence is placed in Dr. Sawyer because of Dr. Higgins' counsels; (5) the views of Professor Higgins are greatly valued by

President Sawyer; (6) Prof. Higgins is a member of the senate and of its executive committee; (7) the governors took the advice of Professor Higgins as a member of the senate; (8) Professor Higgins did not fail to discharge his duties in his official capacity; (9) Professor Higgins expressed agreement with Dr. Sawyer in establishing and filling the new chair.

After carefully examining the above statements, I cannot see that they are 'wholly incorrect,' or incorrect in any respect. Will Professor Higgins please point out specifically the 'wholly incorrect' character of the above statements? If Dr. Sawyer has any facts which he thinks materially changes the account I have given of my connection with Dr. Rand's appointment I shall be glad to have him place them at my disposal, so that any change warranted by them may be made. 10th Nov. E. M. SAUNDERS.

The following also from Dr. Higgins, having reference to the above, appeared in the Mail on Monday evening:—

To the Editor of the Mail:— Sir,—I shall be obliged, in my own defence, to crave from you the privilege of asking Dr. Saunders a few simple questions.

1. Will Dr. Saunders deny that, at the meeting of the joint committee, I expressed the conviction that the appointment of Dr. Rand could not be safely made except on the condition that his salary be drawn from sources outside of the existing endowments of the college?

2. Will Dr. Saunders deny that, at the meeting of the senate, I objected to the establishment of a chair of didactics alone? Did I not urge at some length, and with some emphasis, the disproportion that would arise if Dr. Rand should give his whole time to the new subject of Didactics, seeing that we have but one man for both Latin and Greek and another for the whole range of the natural sciences, while no provision was being made for history? Did I not follow up the presentation of these views by proposing that the chair to be established be a chair of History and Didactics? Will Dr. Saunders kindly tell us who it was that opposed the proposition I had made, and by what means he succeeded in closing up the discussion?

3. When Dr. Saunders knows that, in the discharge of my duty as a member of the senate and of its committee, I urged objections against two of the essential features of the appointment, is it quite just and right for him to place my name before the public as one of the chief promoters of the business? D. F. HIGGINS.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MATTERS IN HALIFAX.

Whilst Martin Luther and the Reformation have been the subjects of consideration with such large members of Protestants in Europe and America during the past two or three weeks, a movement was being made of a very different character by Bishop Binney and some of his clergy in Halifax for the purpose of introducing an order of priesthood as Missioners to effect a revival of what has heretofore been regarded as peculiar features of the Roman Catholic Church Auricular Confession and priestly Absolution. The Bishop at the introductory service in St. Luke's gave a very sharp rebuke to the rectors—Rev. Dr. Hill, of St. Paul's, and Rev. Mr. Winterbourne, of St. Mark's Church, who refused to cooperate in this movement. St. Luke's and St. George's Churches have been the points of their operation. Special services have been held at these places almost daily, and at the Academy of Music on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

These Missioners, as they call themselves, have not hesitated to invite their hearers to come and confess their sins to them—fallible men, and by way of helping them, have had separate meetings of men and others of women so as to instruct them in the details of coming and unburdening themselves of their wickedness and pouring it into their ears so that they might use the power of the keys which they affirm is entrusted to them, enabling them to remit sins and to admit them into the kingdom, or to withhold from them the desired forgiveness. We understand that the timid were recommended in case they had difficulty in trusting themselves to speak, or were ashamed to state in the ears of men without such help, to write down their more flagrant transgressions, and then take what they had written and read it to the chosen confessor.

Their argument is that whilst Protestants—which name however these

priests repudiate—believe in God as a Spirit and to be worshipped only in spirit, they of the Anglican faith hold that a material medium is necessary, and that, to secure this, Christ delegated this power to them—the successors of the Apostles—as they claim they are, giving them the power of absolution and forgiveness of sins, and of unlocking the gates of the Kingdom to such persons.

The Church of England, which in the mother country has been so often designated, probably, for some political purpose, 'the bulwark of Protestantism,' is—if this be her correct teaching, simply a Jesuitical daughter of Rome and ready to adopt her teaching when the convenient time arrives.

It would seem that they perceive the power which the confessional gives to the priesthood, and they do not hesitate to press this on the people as a means of relieving them of the burden of sins. This is still somewhat clumsily done in some instances. We are told that one of these priestly fathers the other day as an inducement for ladies to make no reserve in their confessions, stated that a married lady had confessed to him that she had been guilty of an act of infidelity to her marriage vows, as if that would be an encouragement to others to confess their most flagrant sins. The wonder is that the whole company did not regard it as an insulting proposal and get up and walk out of the church.

It is not however for us to indulge in denunciations of such teachings being offered in what has hitherto been regarded as a Protestant Church. The church people themselves must see to it that they are not by these new fangled notions led back again through Ritualism into pseudo-Romanism and what is even worse than the real thing.

On Sunday morning last Rev. Dr. Hill in St. Paul's church, before commencing his sermon, said:— 'Although very deeply pained by the occurrences which have taken place in the Church of England in this city within a few days, I had intended for the present to pass by them in silence.

'As respects the observations made relative to the Rector of this Parish, they are of little moment to any one but myself, and I consider them unworthy of notice; but when assault is made upon the doctrines of the Church, when all that has been held dear by the Protestant Church of the Reformation is assailed, and when an attempt is made to subvert the teaching of God's Holy Word as to the forgiveness of sins, and to inveigle silly women and weak-minded men into the confessional of medieval times, silence can be no longer maintained, and in God's name and in God's house I enter my most solemn protest against the whole proceedings of the Missioners now conducting services in this city.

'At present I say no more, and am pained to the heart that, in my advancing years, I am compelled to say so much.'

Mr. David Mills, a train despatcher on the I. C. R., died at Athol, Monday morning of typhoid fever. Mr. Mills, who resided some two years ago in Moncton, having had a position in the I. C. R. audit office here, had lately been stationed at Campbellton, in the train service. He went to Athol to be with relatives after having taken sick. A few days ago he telegraphed to Campbellton that he expected soon to go on duty again, but experienced a sudden relapse which proved fatal. Mr. Mills was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

The above was the only son of our esteemed friend Mr. Hans Mills of Athol. A line from a ministering brother informs us that he was a competent official and rising in the public service; and adds: I had a very satisfactory interview with him in relation to spiritual things, and found him trusting in Christ alone. It is a great blow to the family but they sorrow not as those who have no hope.

To the father and other members of the family we tender our warm sympathy and sincere condolence.

We have on hand an interesting article on the Fredericton Church, but have been obliged to defer it with several others to enable us to insert the correspondence making such large demands on our space.

The election of Mr. Alexander McKay to the office of Supervisor of Schools gives general satisfaction we believe. It is an excellent appointment,

JOHN BLAIR WHIDDEN.—We have received a copy of the Cooperstown, Dakota, Courier of Nov. 2nd, which gives an obituary notice of the above:

The demise of J. B. Whidden, whose spirit passed to that other bourne with the sinking sun Monday evening, leaves a lamented gap in a bright young family and saddens the hearts of a multitude of friends. One week ago he felt slightly indisposed, but entertained no alarm. Saturday morning he was in a high malarial fever, and to his attending physician the end was apparent for he perceived that disease was rapidly approaching the citadel of life—the brain. Three days of terrible suffering followed and he passed away as softly as the leaves on an autumn eve drop to the earth beneath the gentle sighs of a western wind; and he died with a christian's faith and a christian's hopes.

He was born at Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Sept. 4, 1853, being 30 years old at his death. For eight years past he had lived in San Francisco, where he met, wooed, won and wed Miss May Lever, who, with her bright little fifteen month's old boy, are called upon to mourn the loss of a husband and father whose sterling worth can never be calculated. Mrs. Whidden's heart bleeds not alone in this, her severe hour of trial, for none knew the departed one but to respect and love him.

Just six months ago the departed man came to Cooperstown and engaged as junior partner with his brother, W. R. Whidden, in a general mercantile business, and prospects never bore for him a ruddier hue than when he was taken ill. A prosperous trade and a nice little home nearly ready to move into was all that he could desire aside from the possession of his family. During that six months he has endeavored himself to all who came in contact with him. His loss to our community is a sad blow, equalled only by that which his brother, his wife, little son and mother are forced to sustain.

The funeral obsequies were conducted by Mr. Rockwell. He chose no text, but from a scriptural standpoint answered the questions always propounded to our minds upon the death of a dear one, namely: "Where has he gone?" "How did he go?" "Shall we see and recognize him again?" The services closed with the hymn, "We shall sleep, but not forever," after which the friends were permitted to take a last look at John Whidden. He was buried in a metallic coffin, so as to permit the removal of his remains at some future day.

The Provincial Normal School was reopened for the regular annual session on Wednesday last. Principal Calkin read the opening address. Some of the latest phases of educational work and a special address to the assembled teachers. He stated that the list of 120 teachers were from the several counties of the province as follows:

Colchester, 45; Cumberland, 15; Hants, 10; Pictou, 9; Halifax, 6; Yarmouth, 5; Victoria, 5; Digby, 5; Kings, 4; Lunenburg, 4; Antigonish, 3; Inverness, 3; Annapolis, 2; Guysborough 2; Queens, 1; Richmond 1.

Professors Eaton and Dr. Hall also gave brief excellent addresses on practical matters in relation to teaching.

Ex-Governor Archibald being called upon, also spoke to good effect. Col. Blair expressed his deep interest in the matter of Education, especially the work of the Normal School. Dr. Allison, Provincial Superintendent of Education, spoke at some length especially dwelling on the necessity of a provincial Technical School.

The Amherst Gazette says, that on the 400th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, Sir Charles Tepper gave an address in London, on the life and works of the great Reformer.

J. Parsons, Esq. was in Moncton last week conducting the Civil Service examinations. There were 25 candidates.

An old fashioned winter snow storm commenced on Friday, and continued through the day; and the thermometer fell to 14° during the night. The snow continued on the ground making good sleighing up to Sunday.

CANADA AT THE LONDON FISHERIES EXHIBITION.—It appears that the fisheries exhibition was even a greater success than at first announced. A despatch received from Mr. Wilmot conveys the pleasing intelligence that as the result of the final revisions of the awards the number of gold medals awarded to Canada has been increased to twenty-seven, and the silver medals to thirty.

The editor of the Hants Journal is jubilant over the introduction of water into the town of Windsor. He speaks of this new arrangement in the following terms:

"THE NEW JOY.—There is a gay time in some of our families over the waterworks supply. Where two or three households were wont to depend on perhaps one leaky puncheon for domestic uses there is now an unfeeling rush in each kitchen at command. Consequently some are wondering whether it is not the first spurt of the Millennium.

REV. E. J. GRANT'S letter in another column was intended for our last but want of space compelled us to defer its insertion.

Literary.

"THE FAIREST COUNTY OF ENGLAND" (Devonshire) is the title of the opening article of December Century, for which Harry Fenn furnishes a number of beautiful pictures.

DR. CHARLES WALDSTEIN, the young American archaeologist, who holds the position of University Lecturer at Cambridge, England, has written for the December Century a paper on "The Frieze of the Parthenon," which describes his discovery in regard to the Athens. Drawings of a part of the frieze and of a plaque now in the Louvre will illustrate the text.

THE BAPTIST SUPERINTENDENT for January, 1884, contains just what every superintendent needs to know. It has short, crisp, valuable general articles; familiar talks on practical points in management; outlines of closing talks on each lesson, with blackboard suggestions; review outline; a scripture and song-service; practical hints and helps of all sorts, etc., etc., making a very complete paper of 16 pages, quarterly, at the low price of 25 cents a year. Send the amount at once to our Baptist Publication Society, and you will get quadruple value in suggestive material in the first issue alone.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for December is a CHRISTMAS NUMBER, with an extraordinary wealth and variety of papers, poems, and pictures, by an array of authors and artists (American and English) seldom, if ever, brought together before. This will take the place of the mammoth Harper's Christmas of 1882, which will not be repeated this year.

The Number has four extra plates, in addition to its usual 160 well-filled pages. The illustrations alone have cost, it is stated, over \$10,000.

The Number opens with a charming Christmas titlepage, drawn by DIELMAN the artist of 'A Girl I Know,' in which pretty pictures of Santa Claus and his reindeers and of the Christmas waits are united by a wreath of Christmas holly.

The poet WHITTER contributes a most worthy and beautiful Christmas poem, 'The Supper of St. Gregory,' illustrated by F. S. CHURCH. But 'The Kingdom of the Child,' by a less known poet, Mrs. F. L. MACE, is not less beautiful, and will impress readers with its tender and lofty Christmas joy, while Mrs. CURTIS adds to it a charming picture of child-faces.

The Number is very strong in stories. Mr. W. D. HOWELLS contributes a delightful tale, 'The Register,' which Mr. REINHART illustrates; BOUGHTON, the artist, makes his debut as a storyteller with 'The Kissing Bridge,' a legend of Albany, illustrated by a full-page plate from himself; CHARLES READE has a characteristic story, 'There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.'

The Editorial Departments are as bright as usual; the Drawer has a pleasant introductory Christmas bit from the pen of CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER, and several illustrations.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER of ST. NICHOLAS will be ready on Saturday the 24th of November. The edition, like that of the November number, is 100,000. There are nearly one hundred pictures in this Christmas issue; among them, a number reproducing paintings by Edouard Frère, which are said to be perhaps the finest pictures that have ever been engraved for a child's magazine.

POPULARITY.—Why they are popular. The reason that National Pills are so universally popular is because they are certain in their action, mild and painless in their operation, and never leave the bowels constipated. They are sugar-coated and contain no mineral poison.

BUDD'S CREAM EMULSION IN GENERAL DEBILITY AND WASTE OF FLESH.—In conditions of General Debility, Waste of Flesh, Coughs, and tendency to Lung and Bronchial Affections, which are so often found in young children, nursing mothers and young women, in the lack of vitality attending old age, and the prostration following Fevers, Diphtheria and other acute diseases, BUDD'S CREAM EMULSION will at once give strength, and vigor to the emaciated, and produce immediate increase of flesh. Sold by all. Price 50 cts.