

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 11, 1883.

RELATIVE GROWTH OF CHRISTIAN BODIES.

The N. Y. Independent, (Congregationalist), is responsible for the following facts. In the last decade the United States has gained 31 per cent. in population. The Baptists have increased during that time 63 per cent. in numbers, the Episcopalians 62 per cent., the Methodists 43 per cent., the Presbyterians 31 per cent., and the Congregationalists only 23 per cent. These figures, which show the relative growth of these several denominations during the past ten years, are very suggestive, and the causes which have in operation produced such marked differences are well worthy of careful consideration. It will be observed that the greatest difference is between the Baptists and the Congregationalists, the two denominations which are the most alike in their forms of church government, so it is evident that the remarkable discrepancy in their relative growth must be attributed to other causes than their outward forms of church polity. In the Congregationalists there has been much theological discussion and restlessness as to the foundation truths of Christianity, a reaching out after a "New Theology" of human invention, advanced thought, so called, which bids fair to sweep away the old standards of orthodoxy, and land the denomination upon the barren shores of Unitarianism, which is evidently dead spiritually while it has a name among the living. To this one vital cause can be attributed the degeneracy of that denomination which once possessed such men as Jonathan Edwards, and led the van in defence of sound doctrine. To this cause may be traced the curiously pastoral state of the Congregational churches in New England. In Vermont there are only forty-nine pastors to two hundred churches. The ministers prefer to serve the churches as stated supplies rather than as pastors, because the former relation requires no councils of examination as to doctrinal belief, and does not compel them to be under the discipline of the churches they serve. This is but one of the effects of the growth of scepticism and advanced theology which is fast eating the vitality out of this once orthodox denomination.

Baptists, on the other hand, have had no such departures from the truths taught in the New Testament. They have been led to follow the "old paths" with remarkable unanimity. Their ministers continue to proclaim the same old doctrines which Paul preached, "the truth once delivered to the saints," which was and is everywhere "the power of God unto salvation." We have no disturbing questions respecting baptism or what constitutes true church membership. The Bible alone is our all-sufficient authority for settling such matters. These are the sources of Baptist growth and strength, and while we continue so to do and teach we shall prosper and increase, and receive the Divine blessing. Let us be thankful and take courage.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING.

It goes without saying that the aims and objects of the service of song are the same, whether in the Sunday School, the Lord's Day services of the church, or the weekday social meetings, to raise the hearts with the voice in praise and adoration, to fill the soul with devotion and gratitude to God for His many unmerited gifts, and to lift the spirit into communion and fellowship with the Father of our spirits. In addition to this, Sunday School music should be regarded as in a measure educational. Its use should be to awaken and quicken the minds of the young that they may more readily receive the truths to be imparted. It should convey the truth contained in the hymns to their perceptions, and impress it upon their memory. To accomplish this great care should be given to the selection of the hymns as well as the music. We believe that there is great need of elevating the standard of both the poetry and the music now in use in most of our Sunday Schools. We can see no good reason why many of the hymns and

tunes should not be used both in the Sunday School and in the Lord's Day services of the church. Of course great care should be exercised in selecting them. Due regard should be given to the truths to be taught in the lesson of each particular day, so that there may be harmony in all the exercises of the school. But all the school, including the infant class, should learn some of the hymns and tunes used in the church services. In this way our young people would become familiar with the church music and feel at home there,—they could take part readily and become more interested in the services, learning insensibly to love to attend. Besides, the hymns learned in Sunday School days should not be only such as are fit for a child, to be laid aside and forgotten with other childish things, but they should be a permanent acquisition to be stored up in the memory as a lasting treasure, an inspiration of what is best in the formation of character as well as to protect and bless them along the journey of life.

The leader of the singing in the Sunday School as well as in the church should be a person to whom God has given personal magnetism and enthusiasm, coupled with spiritual earnestness. For as a Church or a Sunday School does not, as a rule, rise higher spiritually than its head in its pastor or superintendent, so the spiritual benefits of the service of song in any school will be largely influenced by the leader.

In many of our Sunday Schools organs are used for sustaining the voices, and difficulties sometimes arise respecting an organist. To remedy this we think that in the home life parents who are giving the advantages of musical instruction to their children should aim to have them able as soon as possible to play for the church and Sunday School. If the young people who take piano or organ lessons are taught to play readily the simple accompaniments for singing, the church will then have a number from which to choose, which will prevent much trouble and inconvenience.

Do not make the Sunday School simply a singing school, and do not be anxious to learn new music too quickly; a hymn and tune well known, and which the children can understand, is much preferable to a new one imperfectly and carelessly learned. It will awaken the interest and enthusiasm of the children. Give them every possible incentive to do their best. Let all the children sing, and let them do it heartily, as unto the Lord.

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB had an interesting public day on the close of the term on Saturday last. The classes were examined in the various branches of the education they receive. The company of visitors were greatly delighted by the ready replies to questions asked, and with the large amount of intelligence displayed by these children of silence. One class had, however, been trained to articulate, and showed the great advantage of this over the alphabetical use of their hands and fingers. At the close Rev. Dr. Forrest spoke warmly in favor of the Halifax institution in comparison with those he had visited in other places.

Rev. Mr. MacArthur, in course of a brief address, said it was the first time he had been in the building, but it would not be the last. He had never witnessed a more interesting exhibition.

Hon. Dr. Parker noticed the departure from this life of the medical adviser of the institution, Dr. Moren, and the appointment of Dr. Campbell as his successor. He also noticed that the pupils had been remarkably free from sickness during the year, and impressed on the friends present the claims of the institution, from the fact that a great many of the pupils came perfectly penniless, and had to be provided with clothing as well as food and instruction.

Rev. Allan Simpson closed by pronouncing the benediction.

During the session there have been in attendance at the institution 68 pupils—36 boys and 32 girls—from the following places: Nova Scotia, 36; New Brunswick, 10; P. E. Island, 7; Newfoundland, 4; Winnipeg, 1; Boston, 1.

Bibles and Hymn Book in great variety—direct from the Publishers at the Baptist Book Room.

The following is the report of the Committee on Education, presented to and adopted by the N. S. Central Association at Canard:

Report of Committee on Education.

Our Educational Institutions at Wolfville have been maintained during the year with much efficiency, and the work done has been of the most thorough and satisfactory character. The attendance has been one of the largest yet attained in any one year.

Of the 70 students who have been present at the Academy during the year the usual proportion, we understand, will be prepared to enter College in September next.

The Board of Governors of the College are actively alive, as your Committee feel assured, to the importance of maintaining this branch of our educational work in increased efficiency and in the confidence of the denomination, and we understand, are now taking steps to assure more effective government by bringing the school more entirely under the supervision and watch-care of the Principal and his Assistants.

The ability and success with which the Ladies' Seminary has been conducted have secured for it a largely increased patronage, 90 young ladies have been enrolled during the year, six of whom formed the graduating class at the recent Anniversary. The graduating exercises were of an exceedingly interesting and entertaining character. The Seminary is evidently fast growing in the confidence and esteem of the denomination and of the friends of education generally.

The College has never done more effective work nor occupied a higher place in the confidence of the denomination than at the present time. 58 students have been enrolled during the year, eleven of whom having completed the College course and passed the requisite examinations have been recently admitted to the degree of A. B. The vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Professor Schurman a year ago has been filled by an able and efficient instructor in the person of Prof. Kierstead who entered upon his College duties in September last.

The chief drawback to success in our College work has arisen from the crippled state of our finances.

For several years past we have received no government grants or other State aid in connexion with our educational work at Wolfville. In consequence the current expenses connected with the work have not been met, year by year, by the annual income, and considerable indebtedness has arisen. In grappling with the difficulty and with a view of wiping out this debt, the Governors of the College have appointed an Agency Committee whose agents are now in the field and are meeting with considerable success. It is the intention we understand, to raise sufficient funds to pay off the mortgages on the buildings in addition to the debt on current expense account. Your Committee feel assured that there will be no indisposition on the part of the denomination to assume the increased responsibility thus cast upon them, and that they will readily respond to the appeal now being made.

Respectfully submitted, E. D. KING, Chairman.

In our notices of books we do not guarantee the orthodoxy of every author. Our correspondent "W." gives us a critique on the writings of George Eliot, and of the sentiments they contain, and we place it before our readers for their edification:

A CAUTION TO READERS.

Mr. Editor,—The book notices in the MESSENGER and other papers tell us that Funk & Wagnalls, of New York, have just published in book form the essays of "George Eliot." And, as is usual with authors of any celebrity, the papers all speak in very high terms of the work.

Now I am not a grumbler, and I appreciate the literary works of "George Eliot" as an influential, if not a valuable contribution to English literature. I say if not valuable, because I believe, with all my admiration of the woman as a writer, that it were better for the general public if the essays had never been published. In the hand of the careful, solid thinker the book may serve to stimulate thought and enquiry, in the hand of the mere reader, captivated by its style, it is a source of real danger.

And the newspaper notices tell us that this danger is increased by prefixing to the work the panegyric pronounced upon the author by "Nathan Sheppard." Now the object of this notice is not a review of "George Eliot," but a timely word of warning to all into whose hands the book may come. The woman who wrote over the signature of "George

Eliot" was a brilliant writer, but a confirmed sceptic, Agnostic, or something else which amounted to a Religion hater. Her essays are full of flings at professors of religion and sneers at religion itself. Some people have been deceived by reading one or two of her works of fiction, like Janel's Repentance, where a spirit resembling piety was necessary to give the desired effect to the tale. Other books like Middlemarch and The Impressions of Theophrastus Such, breathe an insidious spirit of doubt, scepticism and mockery of religion. But when we come to her essays, there her personality is revealed. Her true character is yet before us. The literary women whom she most admired were those women of easy virtue and easier religious convictions, who attracted notice for a brief period in Paris, in the early part of the 17th century. Of her three essays on Clerical personages published in the Westminster Review, from which this volume is confessedly collated, one defends the character of the person under review, Rev. John Stirling evidently for the insufficient reason that Mr. Stirling was under the censure of his bishop for heresy. The other two reviewing Rev. Dr. Cummings and Rev. Dr. Young, are mere ebullitions of spleen against men who had distinguished themselves as religious teachers. The object apparently sought, was a vehicle to convey to the public, her disgust with religion and her sneers at its professors in general, and ministers in particular! Her thunderbolts are launched at clergymen in general, but ostensibly directed against the persons under review! Her essay on The Influence of Rationalism, overflows with the same spirit of bitterness. The mention of the name of a prominent clergyman appeared to have the same effect on George Eliot, as the display of the red cloth had on the infuriated brute in the arena of the Amphitheatre. Her own religious creed, it is quite impossible to define from her published writings. It appears to be largely made up of negatives, chief amongst which is her railing against the doctrine of "Future punishment." She defends Voltaire from the charge of being an Atheist, by affirming that it was only against, "Jehovah the God of the Jews, that he wrote," and declaimed amongst her earlier efforts, was a translation of "Strauss's Life of Jesus." Why this selection, is a question which if answered might reveal to us something of her religious creed.

On the whole, the volume under notice is fraught with more danger to the reading public than any book of recent issue, and one can only wonder how Dr. Funk could make such selection, even in the race for popularity! Now, Mr. Editor, I know I have spoken plainly, but I have only said what hundreds of others have felt and known, but hesitated to express.

June 1st, 1883. We have received a letter from Dr. J. G. McGregor, having reference to the Circular from the Acadia College Agency Committee in our last. We have not space to allow its insertion this week, but shall be able to give some attention to it in our next.

PERSONALS.—MR. RALPH M. HUNT is spending a short time with his friends at Dartmouth before proceeding to St. Stephen N. B., when he will enter upon the pastorate of the Baptist Church there.

MR. A. C. CHUTE preached an excellent sermon in Granville Street Baptist Church on Sunday morning last, while Mr. McARTHUR preached in the Tabernacle. Mr. Avery is spending a short time in Prince Edward Island.

MR. WALTER BARSS of Rochester Theological Seminary is expecting to spend his summer vacation with the Baptist Church at Canso.

MR. C. R. B. DODGE, a graduate of Acadia, class 80, who has just completed his Theological Course at Morgan Park, Chicago, is spending a short time with his friends at Middleton, Annapolis County. He is we believe as yet undecided where he will locate. We hope his patriotism will be a guarantee for his choosing to remain in Nova Scotia.

MR. W. C. GOUCHER, son of Rev. J. E. Goucher of Truro, is, we learn, spending his vacation with Rev. G. O. Gates at Moncton N. B. an inviting field of Christian labor.

REV. DR. CLARK, of the Olivet Tabernacle, Montreal, has received a professorship in the Baptist College, Toronto.

We have received a copy of McGregor's City Directory 1883-84. It seems to have been prepared with the usual care and accuracy given by the compilers. It is a necessary and very convenient work, for every merchant, and indeed every family. The publisher deserves every encouragement, and purchasers should respect the request made in the preface not to lend their copy to other business firms.

Calendar of Dalhousie College and University, 1883-84. In addition to the Acts of Incorporation, benefactors, governors, officers, general regulations, faculties of Arts and Law, this calendar gives lists of the graduates and students and the Alumni Association, also the Examination Papers in the various subjects of study of the past term. It is a thick pamphlet of 136 pages, and got up in good style.

The editor of the Church Guardian affirms that

At a Convention of Baptists, recently held at Saratog, New York, it was decided by an overwhelming majority that the denomination shall no longer support the American Bible Society in circulating the Scriptures, but will in the future circulate only Baptist Bibles.

Our contemporary altogether misapprehends the action of the Saratoga Convention. He ought to know by this time that the Authorized Version is a good Baptist Bible, and Baptists are quite content to use that. The version revised under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is, doubtless, a better Baptist Bible, and the more perfectly it is revised and translated, according to the original, the more thoroughly it will present Baptist principles and practices. He ought to know also that the Common Prayer Book of his own church is a Baptist Prayer Book. When he follows the directions of the Rubric he will have to teach the Priests of his church to enlarge their fonts so as to enable them to "dip the child in the water discreetly and warily," instead of doing what, according to that book, is no baptism at all.

At the late annual festival of the Stockwell Orphanage held as usual on Mr. Spurgeon's birthday—his forty ninth—it was stated that it had been determined to build a master's house, board room, and other necessary offices, which will thus complete the quadrangle formed by the various homes. The contract for building the new portion of the work amounts to £4,100 (exclusive of fittings and furniture), and when erected it will set free that portion of the girls' orphanage which is for the present occupied by the master; and then the number of female inmates will come near the maximum number of 250. When the number of 500 boys and girls has been reached it is proposed that there shall be no further increase. The houses were open for inspection, and amongst the attractions were Mr. Spurgeon's collection of Reformation pictures and a bazaar.

In his closing remarks at the evening meeting Mr. Spurgeon said they had no deaths in the orphanage during the period covered by the report, but one had since occurred; and he seriously remarked, somewhat to the surprise of his hearers, that he should like to be buried in the square enclosed by the orphanage. In death he should like to be helping the orphanage, and he thought if people came to see his grave they would be induced to help that which was so dear to his heart.

The report states that the number received into the orphanage is 837; those who had left, 472; in residence, 365—131 girls and 234 boys. The children mainly come from London. The balance-sheet shows total receipts, including balances amounting to £5,770, of £21,793, while the expenditure left a balance in hand again of £7,912.

The Independent Order of Good Templars held its Annual Session of the Grand Lodge at Bridgewater on Wednesday and Thursday last. They had several lively discussions, making it altogether one of the best and most enthusiastic sessions ever held.

The Committee on political action reported condemning the new license law of the Dominion Parliament.

Send to the Baptist Book & Tract Society for Lesson Helps—at Publishers Prices.

Literary.

THE MISSIONARY PROBLEM, containing a history of Protestant missions in some of the principal fields of Missionary enterprise, &c., by James Croil, Montreal, published in Toronto, Montreal, and McGregor & Knight, Halifax. Price \$1.00. pp. 224.

This historical compendium of Christian Missions gives a general view of what has been done in India, Africa, Madagascar, China, Japan, the South Seas, the Sandwich Islands, Turkey, &c., &c. The author of this book purposes by it "to supply a want that has long been felt,—namely, a concise yet comprehensive sketch of the rise and progress of Protestant missionary effort in heathen countries, from a purely undenominational standpoint."

There is in the work much information thrown together in a very concise and convenient form for reference in discussing these matters, and we doubt not, supposed to be impartial, and yet we could not help noticing in the account given of Judson's early progress, the writer finds it difficult to tell the whole story. Judson and his four companions on arriving in India, he says, "received a hearty welcome from Carey and his companions, but the East India Company no sooner heard of their arrival than they ordered them to leave the country." "Judson, soon after this, joined the Baptist Church, and founded mission at Rangoon in the Burman Empire. Rice also joined the Baptists, and returned to America to report the state of affairs, and to enlist the Baptist Churches in Foreign Missions, which he succeeded in doing. This missionary band was indeed broken up, but in the providence of God it was overruled for good. How it came about we have not room to tell, but a new era was at hand." The author had probably less inclination than room to tell the whole story. It is difficult for any but Baptists to tell the story of Baptist missions correctly.

In the tabulated statement on page 202, the figures show what is somewhat remarkable in this respect—that the success of Baptists in the Foreign field has been vastly greater in proportion to the men employed than in the missions of any of the other bodies. We may copy a few of these:

Table with 3 columns: Society Name, Aries, Memb. British Societies: Ch. Missionary Society (211, 34625), London Missionary Society (65, 38927), Wesleyan Meth. Society (139, 92474). American Societies: Am. Board of Commission (159, 18446), Presbyterian Church (130, 18260), Baptist Churches (80, 86589).

With this book, is a convenient map of the world, placed in a pocket in the inner cover. It is worthy of a place in every family library.

The numbers of The Living Age for June 23rd and 30th and July 7th contain James Clerk Maxwell; Cairo, the Old in the New; Carlyle in Society at Home and Abroad, and the Poetry of Arthur Hugh Clough; The Improvement of the Roman Campaign, and Fox Hunting; The Portrait Art of the Renaissance; Gladstone's Early Politics; The Old Virginian Gentleman; Some Fashion Gleanings from 1744 to Organized Charity in Switzerland, and 1768; Music as Occupation; William Chambers; The Coronation of the Czar; The Princes; Trade's Guilds of Constantinople; George Eliot; Parish Fools; Fish in the Talmud; A Visit to the Nore; with instalments of "The Wizard's Son," "Fleur-de-lis," "Katy the Flash," and "The Little World" a story of Japan, and poetry.

A Volume begins with the number for July 7th.

THE AUGUST CENTURY will be the "Midsummer Holiday Number." It will open with a paper by Prof. Alfred M. Mayer, of the Stevens Institute, an enthusiastic sportsman, on "Bob White," the Game Bird of America." Prof. Mayer calls him, as the bird calls himself, "Bob White," and as he is known everywhere, although in the North and East he is commonly called Quail, and in the South and West, Partridge.

A PRAISEWORTHY OBJECT.—"None name it but to praise." This is true of that unsurpassed remedy, "Haggard's Yellow Oil." It cures pain and inflammation, whether from sprain, burn, bruise, or frost bite, lame back, rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat, croup, deafness, and is for internal and external use.

CATARH OF THE BLADDER.—Stinging irritation, inflammation, all Kidney and Urinary Complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." \$1.

No injurious effects can follow the use of Ayer's Ague Cure in the treatment of malarial diseases. It contains, besides a specific and unfailing antidote for miasmatic poison, other remedial agents which unite to expel the poisonous humors, purify the system, and leave it in a healthy and reinvigorated condition.

A SECRET FOR THE LADIES.—The great secret of beauty is pure blood. Eruptions and all blotches that disgrace the face, may be quickly cured by Burdock Blood Bitters. Annie Heath, of Portland, certifies that she was cured by this remedy, after suffering for two years.