

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
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WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII., No. 6.

News from the Churches.

HALIFAX, GRANVILLE STREET.—On Friday last additional interest was given to the usual monthly Conference Meeting, by eight persons presenting themselves for baptism and membership. Good evidence being given of their conversion they were gladly received, and will shortly be baptized.

The pastor of the Dartmouth Church, Rev. E. J. Grant on Sunday morning last administered Christian Baptism to a young man, who had previously made profession of faith in Christ before the church. The baptism was near the Marine Railway in the Harbor with a temperature of about 20 degrees below freezing.

WOLFVILLE.—Rev. Dr. DeBlois preached on Sunday morning 28th ult. He spoke of the pleasure it gave him to address the congregation again after a silence of eight months. The day he said reminded him of the opening of the house of worship in which he was speaking. That took place just twenty-three years ago. Many who were then present were in other parts of the world, and many had gone from the earth. He preached a strong sermon and was not apparently wearied with the exertion.

WINDSOR.—We learn that the Church in Windsor has extended a unanimous call to Rev. Herbert Foshay, of Sussex, N. B. It is expected he will accept though perhaps not able to enter immediately upon his work with his new charge.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NOTES.—Rev. W. B. Bradshaw has resigned pastoral care of the churches at Montague and Murray River. His present address is Bedeque, P. E. I.

We are glad to learn that Rev. E. Whitman is doing a good work at Charlottetown.

NORTH RIVER is enjoying the benefit of the labors of Rev. A. H. Lavers. They are a worthy people and deserving of such a devoted pastor as he is.

Since writing the above we are informed by a correspondent that special services are in progress at several points along the Baptist lines on the Island. The new pastor Bro. Lavers is holding meetings nightly, assisted by Bro. Bradshaw at North River. Bro. Whitman is holding special services in Charlottetown, and Bro. Corey assisted by Bro. Woodland at Tryon. There appears to be encouraging signs in all these places. Bro. Archibald is probably engaged in similar work at the West. The Island offers a fine field for our good brother Chubbuck. The spiritual drought has been of long continuance, and the needs are pressing.

ONSLow.—Rev. C. H. Martell is in the midst of a most deeply interesting work at "Belmont." Large numbers (for a small locality) upwards of twenty are professing faith in the Lord Jesus. Some of the leading men have become humble followers of Christ.

AMHERST.—We baptized seventeen on Sunday, most of the converts being heads of families and young men. Bro. Chubbuck left for Moncton on Saturday, with the best wishes of the people. The pastor took occasion at the last service to convey to the evangelist our appreciation of his services. He has presented the gospel of our Lord forcibly and honestly, and has given wrong-doing no quarter. Many of our churches would be blessed by a course of Mr. Chubbuck's sermons and Bible readings. With some eccentricities, he is a great

power in awakening the slumbering hosts of Zion, and in bringing sinners to decide for Christ. We have found Bro. C. to improve upon acquaintance, and have learned to love him for his work's sake. D. A. S.

Another correspondent writes giving the same facts, and adds, "This makes a total of sixty-eight in the three last sabbaths. We are looking for more. May the Lord continue His work of saving souls in our midst."

MONCTON, N. B., Feb. 5th.—Dear Brother Selden.—You will be pleased to learn that the 1st Moncton Baptist Church is being blessed. The members of the Church are being revived and cheered in seeing many for whom they have prayed coming to Jesus. I baptized 11 yesterday, and received these with 4 others by letter last night. Bro. Chubbuck began his work with us yesterday. He has come I hope just in the right time. Pray for us.

Yours truly,
GEO. O. GATES.

LEINSTER STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B., is now enjoying the labors of Rev. Mr. Bartlett, he having entered upon his work the first week in February. Mr. B. was purposing to leave Fairville and the Leinster Street Church gave him a cordial invitation. We trust it may prove to have been of Divine appointment.

Since the above was in type we have received an excellent report of the Sermon preached by Mr. Bartlett on Sunday morning, the commencement of his pastorate, from Matthew xix. 5, but too late for our present issue. It will appear in our next.

On Sunday evening there was a very large congregation. Mr. B. preached from Acts xvi. 25, a capital sermon. The new choir, under the leadership of Mr. T. H. Hall, gave some excellent music. The Anthem in the morning was, "Cast thy burden on the Lord," and in the evening, "How beautiful is Zion."

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger,
From England.

BY REV. JOHN BROWN.

The Old Year went out sobbing and sighing, and the New has followed the Old. Rain, mist and clouds have largely marked the New Year, so far as it has gone. No snow, very little frost, fields green, birds singing, snowdrops, crocuses, jonquils, &c., are pushing through the soil. I have picked several primroses, and have quite a number of them blooming indoors.

I find by a letter from a friend in Yarmouth that you are in the height of the sleighing season. Your flowers, therefore, will have to wait a little before they can display themselves; well, they will be all the more appreciated when they do show their charming faces. Your sweet Mayflower, hiding itself among the moss and brown grass so very modestly, with a fragrance fit to charm the goddess of flowers herself, of itself repays months of waiting. One flower alone exceeds it perhaps, namely, our primrose. The violet of rich fragrance and modest beauty is blooming freely in the gardens. This sweet flower Miss Cole has made the subject of one of her poetic effusions, and which, as I do not think it has appeared in the Messenger, I enclose.

This week we are observing the week of prayer, meeting alternately and unitedly at the three Nonconformist chapels. The meetings are fairly attended, but nothing as they should be; there are many who do not seem to know the way to any chapel but their own, and sometimes lose the way even there. I hope, however, much good may come of our united prayers. The state of religion here and in the country in general

is not in the most encouraging condition. May the time to favour Zion soon come, or perhaps I had better say,—May the time soon come when Zion will shake herself from the dust, arise, and put on her beautiful garments; awake, and put on her strength. The reason of Zion's weakness is because she has put off her strength, and when she puts it on then she shall go forth "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

I was interested in a brief article a week or two ago in the Messenger on Ecclesiastical Slang, in which the writer dealt with the word "hiring" as applied to ministers. I do not quite agree with him as to the origin of its use, viz., the hiring keeper of sheep referred to in the sermon on the mount, but rather, "The labourer is worthy of his hire." That, however, is of no consequence, I fully agree with him in his strong dislike to the use of the word. It always grated painfully on my ears. No less so the terms "out of a situation," "looking for a situation," &c., when a minister may be without a pastoral charge. At the Western Association held at Hebron in 1879, a resolution was unanimously passed strongly recommending the disuse of such terms, and, if I remember rightly, the yearly "hiring" system also. If a minister be chosen let him be chosen without reference to time. If a change be desirable there ought surely to be no difficulty at any time. But I may be wrong in my supposition of the reason of the yearly "hiring."

Lord Wolsley, whose name and fame is world-wide, wrote a letter a short time since to the children of the National School at Woodville, which I very heartily recommend to every one of the youthful readers of the Messenger, and I hope they are many:

"Please tell the children from me," writes Lord Wolsley, "that I believe success in life is within the reach of all who set before them an aim and an ambition that is not beyond the talents and ability which God has bestowed upon them. We should all begin life with a determination to do well, whatever we take in hand, and if that determination be adhered to, with the pluck for which Englishmen are renowned, success according to the nature and quality of our brain power is, I think, a certainty. Had I begun life as a tinker my earnest endeavor would have been to have made better pots and pans than my neighbours, and I think I may venture to say, without any vanity, that with God's blessing I should have been fairly successful. The first step on the ladder that leads to success is the firm determination to succeed; the next is the possession of that moral and physical courage which will enable one to mount up, rung after rung, until the top is reached."

The Postman which has now been running for a year, edited by Mr. Fullerton, one of Mr. Spurgeon's evangelists, is a real live publication, full of good matter, and suiting, I should say, all tastes from grave to gay. I give an extract or two from the January number, from a paper on "The Bellman," by Nathaniel Blunt, who, I guess, is a near relative of John Ploughman's. The Bellman is made to say:

"O Yes! O Yes!

"This is to give notice—that half the village is in an uproar because certain women folk and others won't keep their tongues still. Also that all gossips trespassing on other people's premises will, after the five thousandth word, be in danger of assault and battery on the part of enraged husbands. Also that there's a larger quantity of old women collected and gossipping over pewter pots in any one ale-house any Saturday night than can be found in the whole of the remaining population."

O Yes! O Yes!

To be sold to the first buyers, and no offers refused, three hundred and thirty members, (samples); ten sleepy parsons; three tons of starch, plenty of said parsons; half-a-dozen screw, fault-finding deacons, together with two old chapel brooms—to make one lot; also several thousand tea-meeting speeches (with more in reserve), guaranteed to make excellent waste paper; six dozen church and chapel choirs, with a devil in every one of them—devil included; several loads of prayer-meeting killers—purchasers to cast them out of the country immediately; all these lots going at once and without reserve.

The latter is almost too suggestive to allow much play for the risible faculties. Its humour is grim enough.
With affectionate remembrances,
JOHN BROWN,
Melksham, G. B., Jan. 11, 1883.

"O Yes" is a corruption of the French "Oyez," hear ye.

Berlin has two earnest "guerilla" gospel workers, as they are contemptuously termed—Mr. Rosbach and Mr. Schuemacher—both of whom were expatriated Germans, whom love to their country of a Christian sort have drawn them back to Fatherland. The meetings of the latter, who both sing and preaches the gospel, have been largely attended in the Nazareth church. He will move next week to Dr. Kraft's church.

For the Christian Messenger. P. E. Island Baptist Sabbath School Convention.

The sixth annual session of the P. E. Island Sabbath School Convention was held at Cavendish, Dec. 27th and 28th, 1882.

OFFICERS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

President—Arthur Simpson, Bay View.
Vice President—Theodore S. Robertson, East Point.

Secretary—W. B. Howatt, Tryon.
Treasurer—Jacob Bain, North River.

Twelve schools reported to the Convention, viz.: Alexandra, Albany, Annapolis, Belmont, Cavendish, Clyde River, East Point, Eldon, Montague, North River, Tryon, and Westmoreland.

Five sessions were held, three on Wednesday, and two on Thursday.

1st Session.—Devotional exercises, election of officers, reading letters, receiving reports, &c.

2nd Session.—The first subject on the programme for the afternoon, viz.: "Qualifications, duties, and appointment of Officers and Teachers," was opened by Rev. J. B. Woodland in his usual instructive and effective manner, and was spoken to by five others. The subject of "Sabbath School Literature" was then taken up. Opened by Bro. T. S. Robertson, who was followed by a number of the delegates, all of whom seemed to feel that great care should be exercised in selecting libraries and other reading matter for our young people.

3rd Session.—The question for discussion this evening, viz.: "Aims and results of Sabbath School work," was opened with a stirring address by Rev. W. B. Bradshaw, who was followed by Revs. R. B. Kinlay and E. B. Corey. The venerable Superintendent of the Presbyterian Sabbath School of Cavendish being present, was invited to address the Convention. In a few appropriate remarks he declined making any lengthy address.

4th Session.—The first matter for the consideration of the Convention at this session being "Advantages of adult membership in our Sabbath Schools," the discussion was opened with a few remarks by the Secretary. An interesting discussion followed, in which seven or eight brethren participated. A "Model Bible Class" was then taught by Rev. W. B. Bradshaw, which was both interesting and instructive.

5th Session.—After attending to various matters of routine in connexion with Convention work, an exhaustive paper on the question "How to conduct a Sabbath School," was read by Rev. W. B. Bradshaw. The discussion which followed was lively, and taken part in by a number of those present.

The thanks of the Convention were tendered to the kind friends of Cavendish for so hospitably entertaining the delegates. The Secretary was requested to forward to the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER and Visitor a summary of proceedings, with a request for the publication of the same, and the session adjourned to meet (D. V.) at North River, on the last Wednesday in December, 1883, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

W. B. HOWATT,
Sec'y. of Convention.
P. E. Island, Jan. 20, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger. From Wolfville.

AN EVENING WITH "KATHRINA" AND "ARTHUR BONNICASTLE."

This was the subject of a lecture delivered Friday evening, 26th ult, in the large Assembly Hall of the College, under the auspices of the "Acadia Athenaeum," by Senator Boyd, of St. John. Or rather it was the subject on which he was advertised to lecture. "Kathrina" and "Arthur Bonnicastle." I need not inform your readers, are the names respectively of two works of the late J. G. Holland.

The fame of the lecturer drew together a large and appreciative audience. The people of St. John have been reported as being proud of three institutions: the Academy of Music, the Victoria Hotel, and Hon. John Boyd—I suppose the last may be so designated, for there are some men who are an Institution in themselves. This was of course before the fire. The citizens of St. John may justly feel thankful that the relentless flames, which destroyed so many of their public buildings, spared Senator Boyd among their public men. For probably there is no man among them who better answers to the description given by Dr. Holland in his little poem "Wanted," of the men that are needed at the present time:

"God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor,—men who will not lie."

But those who came to the lecture expecting that Senator Boyd would critically analyze those two works, and point out their literary beauties or defects or those of Dr. Holland's other works, went away disappointed. He did nothing of the kind. It is known that Dr. Holland wrote extensively and well. His larger works include, besides the two named above, "Bitter Sweet," "Letters to Young People," "Gold Foil," hammered from Popular Proverbs," "Plain Talks on Familiar Subjects," &c., and it would have been both instructive and entertaining to be told of their structure and contents. The same might be said of his shorter, more fugitive productions, in some of which are passages of exquisite beauty. Witness his little poem "Words," in which the melody of all the birds in the woods is shown to be dull and tame in comparison with the music and infinite meaning of a child's prattle:

"Bobolink, chickadee, blackbird and jay,
Thrasher and woodpecker, cuckoo and wren,
Each sings its word or its phrase, and then
It has nothing further to sing or say.
But—
A little child sits in its father's door,
Chatting and singing with careless tongue;
A thousand beautiful words are sung,
And he holds unuttered a thousand more.
Words measure power; and they measure
Greater art than in thy prattling woods
Than all the singers of all the woods.
They are brutes only, but thou art divine."

But it was not the writings of the man, but the man himself, of whom Senator Boyd chose to speak. Excepting an allusion to "Arthur Bonnicastle," who was intended, we are told, to represent Dr. Holland himself, and the reciting throughout of "Daniel Gray," who was meant to represent Dr. Holland's father, no reference was made to the former.

And what was said of the man himself might be stated in few words.

First of all, a brief sketch of his early life was given. As a boy he was poor, and rose in the world chiefly by his own endeavors. This gave occasion for the lecturer to expatiate on the blessings of poverty in general, and especially to students, as a fitting discipline for subsequent life. Struggling students present would draw some comfort from this doctrine, though they would doubtless prefer the memory of poverty to its experience. Whatever might be its issue in the future, they could not but feel greatly inconvenienced by it in the present. Besides, they could hardly forget that while many great men had been developed from poor students, the converse of this was not necessarily true,—not every poor student could expect to become a great man.

The part that young Holland played as a school teacher was next referred to. The names of a number of distinguished men who had followed this calling in early life were given, and amusing stories setting forth the manner in which particular schools in Ireland, the United States, and places nearer home had been taught, were related. Indeed, as to story-telling in which Senator Boyd is remarkably clever, nearly half the time devoted to the entire lecture was consumed in this way. At this point the question of the Education of the gentler sex received some attention also, and the manner—the high-pressure manner in which it is conducted in many ladies' Seminaries was strongly condemned. There can be no doubt that in many schools for young ladies the distinction between the sexes is lost sight of, and girls, both in the character of their studies and in the manner of pursuing them, are treated too much like boys. The mind is urged to efforts which overtax its powers, and for which there is not a sufficient substratum of physical strength, and both mind and body are consequently weakened and injured. What pleasure can be drawn from intellectual culture that is so dearly obtained, and of what practical utility can it be in life? Manifestly that is the soundest system of education for the young which duly recognises both the mental and physical element in their nature, and allows them to grow

and become strong together. A strict anatomy might find fault with Fontanelle for saying that woman has one cell less in the brain, and one fibre more in the heart than man, but he uttered a great truth nevertheless; his language suggests the direction in which the sexes should be respectively educated. The trouble comes in with those who are unwilling to admit that the additional fibre in the heart of woman is a full equivalent of the additional cell in the brain of man. But it is. Indeed if superiority belongs to either, it is to the former. Let women be educated as women, and men as men, and each for the sphere they were designed to fill, and human society will have fewer of those monstrosities known as feminine men and masculine women.

From what Senator Boyd said of the home in which young Holland was reared, it should seem that it was dominated by a Puritanically austere spirit, which, instead of winning him to religion, seems rather to have soured him against it. On this account Senator Boyd, who seems to have echoed the sentiments of Dr. Holland on this point—would have the Christian home rendered attractive by appropriate amusements. But what amusements are just suited to the Christian home, Senator Boyd did not say. I gather, however, from his remarks that he would go farther in the direction of rendering home thus attractive than many who listened to him. On this whole question, however, with your permission, I may write again.

CHAZAYA.

M. Mayer, a Swiss Christian gentleman, has for some time labored among the Kabyles in the French colony of Algeria, and has recently returned in order to procure further help in prosecuting his good work. He spoke at Nimes, where the Protestants are numerous but far from warm in their sympathies towards Christian missions. He must have surprised them when he told them that the scenes he had witnessed were "second editions of the Acts of the Apostles."

The Paris Figaro does not hesitate to lay sacrilegious hands upon the Scriptures to give colour to its interested advocacy of monarchy in France. It quotes the hand writing upon the wall in Nebuchadnezzar's palace, but not the last part of it, that not suiting its purpose. To this it adds what is not in the Scripture narrative, "He who shall succeed you will be 62 years of age." This slip is perhaps not to be wondered at from one who never reads the Scriptures. The age quoted is that of the Count de Chambord, the world-be Henry V., King of France.

Basutoland is the field of the greatest French Protestant Mission. It has been much disturbed by the untoward military events which have followed our little wars with Cetewayo and the Boers. Presuming upon a prolonged period of peace the workers, with additional helpers, are returning to their old post. A valedictory service was held a few Sundays since to take farewell for a time of M. Boyner, director of the Mission House in Paris. He with his wife is going to South Africa to see for himself what the prospects are. A young companion of the veteran Cillard—M. Jeanmairet—will accompany him, the latter going on to the Zambesi Mission.

The Methodist church at Palermo is fired with the laudable desire of extending the knowledge of Jesus throughout dark, or we might say "darkened," Sicily. Under priestly thraldom the people of that island have retrograded since Paul put them a three days' visit. Trapani and Marsala are already settled as stations.

Madame Delacour will be greatly helped in her mission to French women by the resuscitation of *La Femme*, a journal originated by the late Madame Delpet. Its new editress is Madame Robin, wife of the earnest pastor of Belleville.

The Russian officers take great liberties upon themselves in Bulgaria when they undertake to chastise Bible Colporteurs in the public streets, because the Bibles which they sell do not support the worship of the Virgin.

The Bishop of Metz must surely be a *rara avis* among prelates to say no! when the great Emperor of Germany offers him the bribe of a decoration. But opinion is divided as to the reasons which led up to this bold decision, and it is always unsafe and often unjust to sit in judgment upon the inner workings of the consciences of ordinary men, to say nothing of an exalted prelate. But the position of his see, and his own nationality, point to patriotic motives.