

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 12, 1883.

1884. 1884. SPECIAL OFFER.

From this date NEW SUBSCRIBERS who send on the \$2.00 for 1884, will receive The Christian Messenger from the date of our receiving the money till the end of 1884.

BAPTIST UNION IN ST. JOHN, N. B.

The Free Baptists (so-called) are disposed to embrace the opportunity of securing an educational institution to aid them in their ministerial training offered by the Academy in St. John.

The Free Baptists held their first Convention in Yarmouth, on the 27th ult., comprising delegates from the Conferences of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Among other business they had before them the proposal made them by the Directors of the Baptist Academy in St. John.

Whereas, We think, under the present circumstances of our respective Conferences as regards our educational facilities, that it would be advisable to accept the proposal in the main made by the directors of the Baptist Academy in St. John.

Resolved, That we agree to unite with the Baptists in academic work as proposed, subject to conditions to be named in subsequent resolutions.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to frame bye-laws, be a committee to draft resolutions, stating the conditions of union as named in the above resolution, and report at the next session.

On the next day the Convention unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we recommend that the conditions as named in the basis of agreement between the New Brunswick Baptist Education Society and the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick be the conditions and basis to govern the proposed union;

Resolved, That the carrying out of the above named be left with the Executive of New Brunswick Free Baptist Conference, and that the Executive of Nova Scotia Free Baptist Conference co-operate with the New Brunswick Executive.

The following resolution, after a general discussion, was then passed:

Resolved, 1. That we recommend our young men seeking the ministry to go to the St. John Academy; 2. That there be a plan of theological studies arranged for young men who cannot attend school, prior to ordination.

3. That there be a committee of three ministers in St. John, who shall conduct the theological education of those young men seeking the ministry who may attend the St. John Academy.

Further Resolved, That the Convention Executive (Rev. Jos. McLeod, J. E. Read and Bro W. G. Sims), the St. John Free Baptist ministers (Bros. G. A. Hartly, J. T. Parsons and W. J. Halse), with Rev. E. Crowell, be a committee to arrange a plan of theological studies.

The conditions and basis we understand are that one half of the directors shall belong to their body and the other half belong to the Baptists.

The Free Baptists are to meet for further preparation of plans on the 12th inst., and the N. B. Baptist Education Society on the 20th, for the same purpose.

The Free Baptists of the Provinces are proposing to have a more distinct Foreign Mission of their own. Hitherto they have aided in sustaining the missionaries appointed by the Free Will Baptists of the United States. At the late Convention of Yarmouth they adopted the following:—

That Whereas, We believe that it would stimulate at home our Foreign Mission interest, if we had a station set apart in India, to be under the care of this Convention in conjunction with the Free Baptist Foreign Mission Board of this continent,

And Whereas, We believe it is essential to our success in our Foreign Mission work that we have at once a man in India, representative of this Convention,

Therefore resolved, That efforts be made to secure such a man.

Four small boys skating on Steel's pond, Freshwater, on Tuesday afternoon, went through the ice and several of them had quite narrow escapes from drowning.

THE Anglo Catholic Missioners have had their hearing in our good city, and have done their best to indoctrinate their brethren of the Church of England with their teachings on the duty of private auricular confession and priestly absolution, and have now gone their way. They may have done good, but of this we have not learned. They have however given their sympathizers some trouble. Bishop Binney, we understand, has had to declare that he does not approve of all they taught, and yet he insists that the Book of Common Prayer teaches both of these doctrines. The evangelical clergymen have strongly and publicly denounced their teachings and the breach between the High and Low is greater than ever. Now, it appears we are to have the Roman Catholic side presented. The Roman Catholic Archbishop O'Brien is advertised to lecture this evening on "The Early Stages of Christianity in England;" and when Father Wisel returns from Newfoundland he is advertised to lecture on "Martin Luther and his fourth centenary."

What with the Presbyterian lectures on these subjects, and the Roman Catholic teaching, we ought to know all about the man who dared to oppose the Papacy in the dark ages.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 5, 1883.

Dear Sir,— I notice that my letter in reply to Dr. Saunders is not in your paper of to-day. Why is that? I did not ask you to copy my letters, but when you commence to copy, you should carry it through.

Last week you copied Dr. Saunders' letter in which he says that I misled Dr. Parker and others. My letter in reply ought to have gone with the same issue. But if you, for any reason, could not publish it then, you certainly ought to have published it this week. Your neglect to publish leaves the denomination under the impression that I did not or could not answer the false charges made by Dr. S.

Hoping that you will do me the tardy justice to copy it in your next, I remain yours, D. F. HIGGINS.

Dr. Higgins will please accept our thanks for directing us as to what we ought to do, but if our friend will look again at Dr. Saunders' letter in CHRISTIAN MESSENGER of Nov. 28th to which he refers, he will perceive that we did not copy it from any paper, but that we received it directly from Dr. Saunders himself, and if he, Dr. H. wished his reply to appear in our columns he should have sent it to us, or sent us some request concerning its publication. It is not for us to look into other papers for replies to our correspondents. This copying from other papers is all irregular; and we only consented to do it at the special request of brethren who have heavy duties and responsibilities placed upon them by the denomination, and who wished to have the defence of their proceedings placed before their brethren generally, as well as before the readers of the Herald where their acts had been called in question. It will be apparent therefore that while the answer, so called, by Professor Higgins, is his reply to what appeared from Dr. Saunders in the Herald, it was not the answer to what was in the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. However as Dr. Higgins assumes that it was, we publish it herewith:

SIR,—Dr. Saunders, not finding it convenient to answer my questions, now seeks to slay me by a formidable array of authorities. Dr. Parker, B. H. Eaton and others, got the impression that I favored the scheme. How did they get the impression? Was it from hearing me say so, or was it because some enthusiastic promoter of the scheme told them so? The fact is, that I have never spoken with unqualified approval of the plan either in public or in private. On the other hand, it is true, I did not place myself in violent opposition to it. I thought the scheme, in order to be useful to the college and acceptable to the people, required some important modifications, and I used such means as seemed to me reasonable, while it was under discussion, to have changes made. When these means failed, I did not feel at liberty to continue to oppose. I do not claim to be wiser than the Board. At all events the Board is the party that has the right to control such matters. I submitted as I was in duty bound to do. I told the Board that though the measure seemed to me objectionable on several grounds, yet I would not stand in the way of its success. If any one who heard me make that statement, understood it to

mean that I was in hearty sympathy with the measure, it must have been due to their intense desire not to hear anything unfavorable.

But I am not yet prepared to believe that these gentlemen received any such impression from anything they heard me say. I suspect that when Dr. S. comes to question them closely about it, he will find that they have been "using their telescopes" and have discovered that his statements in regard to them should have been materially different. Be that as it may, I know of several gentlemen, not perhaps the equals of some of the Halifax lawyers in ability to discover what does not exist, yet quite their equals in other respects, who heard all I said at all of the meetings and got from it a very different impression from that which Dr. S. says he and others in Halifax received.

I deeply regret the necessity for this egotistic epistle, and hope it may not be necessary for me to burden your columns again. D. F. HIGGINS.

OBSERVE.—We greatly need all the money due us to meet pressing demands.

OUR St. John contemporary—whether it be the "N. S. Ed." or the "N. B. Ed." does not appear—because of the information we gave to our readers last week, indulges its readers with the following piece of dog-Latin advice, "For editors as well as others it is profitable to meditate cogitare tuam occupationem." Strange idea that for a newspaper man to indulge in! He must surely be contemplating retirement into private life. We should rather say, in plain English, whatever concerns my fellowman concerns me, or as the Apostle Paul expresses it, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

THE Dalhousie Gazette expresses regret that the Senate of Dalhousie College have decided to abolish the use of the Collegiate gown. The article on the subject says: "There is such a thing as making an institution too cheap, and this we much fear will be one result of the doing away with the good old University custom of wearing gowns."

The number of students registered is 46.

EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—The N. Y. Examiner supplies some interesting statistical information on this subject, although, it is not so recent a character as is desirable. We learn from it that the last report of the Commissioner of Education is just published, covering the year 1881. It is to be regretted that the parsimony of Congress so hampers the Bureau of Education, that these reports are continually behind hand from two to three years.

The school population for the year covered by the report was 15,879,506, yet the actual attendance was but 5,657,356, though the enrollment was nearly ten millions. The common schools, fail to educate more than two-thirds of those who ought to be educated in them, and thoroughly educate only one-third of the school population. The expenditure for the year was \$85,111,442, or about \$8.50 for each scholar enrolled.

Coming to secondary instruction we find that there are 224,815 pupils classified under this head. Of these, there are 48,705 in 225 normal schools. The rest are in city high schools, academies and other preparatory schools.

As to higher education, reports were received from 362 colleges, with 4,361 instructors and 32,459 students. There are 226 institutions for the higher education of women, containing 26,041 pupils, of whom 10,945 are in the collegiate department.

With regard to professional schools the statistics are: schools of science 85, with 12,709 students, and an income of over \$100,000; schools of theology 144, with 4,793 students and an income of \$572,706 from productiv funds; schools of law 47, with 3,227 students and an income of \$187,138; schools of medicine 126, with 14,536 students and an income of \$375,493.

The total amount of reported gifts by private individuals for the cause of education during the year in question was \$7,440,224. More than half of the amount was bestowed on colleges, but the theological seminaries received \$962,535.

SUBSCRIBERS in arrears will much oblige by immediately sending on the amount due us.

ABOUT DAKOTA.

The following article from the N. Y. Examiner should be read by all who propose going to that distant territory, for information, as well as by those who stop at home, to make them feel more contented with Home sweet Home:—

THE OTHER SIDE ABOUT DAKOTA.

The glowing accounts which have been given to the world of the marvellous farming facilities of Dakota are not it should seem, to be taken without some pretty large grains of salt. It has been painted as almost an earthly Paradise, whose fertile soil needs but to be tickled with a hoe in order to make it laugh with a harvest, and where the industrious poor man may make a home and fortune for himself in a very few years. But there is a reverse side to the picture which is not quite so glowing and of which it is well to take account. A correspondent of The Aroostook (Me) Times turns that less attractive side to the gaze of those who are tempted to abandon comfortable Eastern localities in the hope of bettering themselves in that far-off region. Much poverty and suffering, he says, prevail among recent emigrants to the Territory, and he tells what sort of difficulties of various kinds they are compelled to encounter.

The climate, according to his statement is almost beyond the endurance of man unless he adopts the habits of the Esquimaux. The surface of the land in the best farming regions is generally flat, in some places rolling, without timber or building stone of any kind, except in small quantities in isolated sections, and is interspersed with great bogs and marshes. The water is hard money scarce, living high, and everything is at the mercy of the railroads, the sole outlets for farm produce. The rates of transportation are so fixed that the farmer's profits are consumed by the freightage.

With regard to the climate a correspondent of The Rural New-Yorker, who writes from Sanborn, where he owns 480 acres of land which he is anxious to sell, gives these instructive particulars:

We have some beautiful days here in summer; but I hope I shall never be obliged to live another winter on a Dakota prairie. A well a short distance from here, thirty-eight feet deep, covered with a horse blanket only, froze so that the ice could hardly be broken by raising and dropping the bucket with the rope. The writer has cut ice thirty seven inches thick, with from three to six inches of snow on top, on the Cheyenne River. The river is frozen so long and thick during the winter that thousands of the small fish die for want of air. May 13, I rode fifteen miles and back with a friend. We were obliged to get out and walk twice going and once coming back to keep warm. We had warm under-clothing and buffalo coats. The first of June, ice froze in a pail of water out-doors. The first part of last September, our squashes, melons and pumpkins froze one inch deep the first frost.

This, we suppose, does not apply to all parts of the vast Territory; but such accounts show very clearly that much discrimination must be exercised in the choice of a location. It will not do to make the selection at haphazard.

Still another objection to Dakota is stated by a writer in The Western Farmer, who points out that as the farmer must depend entirely upon wheat, farming is necessarily a particularly hazardous business there. In view of this important fact, he says:

When once the soil has become exhausted for the production of wheat, what resource has the Dakota farmer? He cannot go into stock-raising, for it would prove most unprofitable on account of the long and severe winters; he cannot raise fruit or go into ordinary mixed farming. They must soon face this question, for the soil is not so deep and rich as was that of Illinois and Indiana, which were long ago exhausted by the unnatural strain imposed by continuous wheat cropping. Unlike Illinois and Indiana, Dakota cannot fall back upon mixed farming for the reasons above stated.

There have been, it is true, some remarkable successes in wheat culture in Dakota, but rarely by the men whose capital was their two hands and their ability to labor. It is a country well adapted to the Russian and Swedish immigrant, to whom the severe climate is not an objection; but for the American farmer, used to the milder air, the social advantages and the varied farming of the East, it is only the choicer parts of the Territory that are suited to his occupancy.

MR. J. W. LONGLEY, M. P. P., delivered a lecture before the Acadia Athenaeum on Friday evening last, on "Politics as a Fine Art." The lecture was very instructive and enjoyable. It was a very fair exposition of the science of Government, and described, in a somewhat humorous way, the path the political aspirant must walk who expects to make a name for himself in statecraft.

We are glad to learn that Dr. deBlos was able to preach again last Sunday, after an enforced rest of several weeks.

Literary.

VENNOR'S ALMANAC FOR 1884, (eighth year), price 20 cents, is out with all the assurance that would lead one to suppose it had been correct in all its former forecastings of the weather. It has some excellent things in it, but it continues to predict what will be the condition of our atmosphere all through the year.

Wm. H. Smith of Montreal gives some articles in it containing predictions for the winter, commencing with the present month. He says:

After a wet and windy autumn season, December, 1883, bids fair to show a continuance of unsettled weather. This is added from the several strong aspects occurring during the month between the two boisterous blusters, Uranus and Mercury. The last month of the year will probably enter with some downfall, after this a favorable interval of fine weather, changing about the sixth day to wind and storm. Towards the eleventh another unsettled term may be looked for, continuing for a day or two, or up to the thirteenth, cloudy with considerable wind, and if accompanied by snow there will be drifts in many places. At the winter solstice (20, 21, and 22), there is every indication of a very unsettled and stormy time. Uranus reaches the square of the sun on the first-named date. Winds high and boisterous will, no doubt, prevail, accompanied by snow in some sections. This blustery term will be followed by clearing to fine weather. The 27th and 28th promise once more a variable time with a bit of wind, the year ending with a spell of colder weather. The temperature of December, however, as of the rest of the winter season, will range above the average.

Mr. Smith says "The month of January, 1884 will probably open" cold (not a very remarkable thing that, Ed. C. M.), "and change by 2nd and 3rd to stormy."

Vennor in his Calendar however, says "New Year's mild, no snow &c." So weather prophets do not see exactly alike into the future.

THE BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY has done a grand work for Sunday-schools in preparing a well-graded series of Lesson Helps, eight in number, for 1884. The entire set is now ready, and any school that has not already done so, should take steps to get and use them. Nothing seems to be wanting to make them complete. We cannot but regard this forward movement of the Society with great satisfaction. Superintendents who are wise will see to it that only the best teaching material is used in their schools.

Here are three new books just issued from the prolific press of the Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia, and all got up in their neat but stylish and substantial bindings. Baptists may well feel thankful and proud of having this enterprising Society to supply their literary wants, and suit the tastes of all ages and classes:

A DEACON'S DAUGHTER. By Miss Lillian F. Wells. Price \$1.00

This work well illustrates the importance, in family training, of the sweeter graces of the Christian life. The deacon was a man of sterling piety, and possessed of an earnest desire for the spiritual welfare of his family. But the presentation of the sterner aspects of the Christian life, with little of its more tender and joyous characteristics acted as a repulsive force on his daughter. Her history is traced until, as she goes out from her father's home, under the providential and gracious leading of God, she is brought to a knowledge of the truth, and comes back to shed a better influence in the home.

ERIC THE SCANDINAVIAN; or, life in the Northwest. By Miss L. Bates. Price, \$1.25.

An interesting story illustrative of life in one of the lumber regions of the Northwest. Eric had come to seek his fortune in this western world, and is introduced to the new life, in which an uncle is a prominent character. It is a spirited narrative and gives sketches of life in logging camps; in a more thickly settled locality on the borders of the Mississippi River; and in Central America; with a glimpse of some Indian characters to whom a minister preaches, on an island in the great river. The hero of the story is led from indifference to a simple faith in Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM. By Richard Fuller D. D. Price, \$1.00

This is a re-publication of that part of Dr. Fuller's work which relates to the act and the subjects of Baptism. It was extensively circulated and met with a very favorable reception on its first issue. It is a clear and forcible presentation of the Scriptural arguments, marked with evidences of Dr. Fuller's earnest love of truth, and of his candor and courtesy.

The French Academy will be described in the January Century by the

author of the article on Gambetta, recently published in the same magazine.

Edward Eggleston continues in the January Century his series on early colonial history, with a paper on "Husbandry in Colony Times." In connection with the recent attempts at silk-culture in the United States, his story of the trials of the colonists in starting this industry will be of interest.

Mr. Frank R. Stockton has written for the January Century, a short story called "His Wife's Deceased Sister."

HELPS FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS 1884.—The American Baptist Publication Society are continually enlarging their list of excellent aids in the work of Sabbath School instruction. They have added to their list for the new year three new publications, the Baptist Superintendent, the Senior Quarterly and the Primary Quarterly.

The Baptist Superintendent is edited by Dr. Blackall, an earnest practical Sabbath School man. It is to be a neat monthly at 25 cents a year. No. 1 contains a number of good things calculated to help the Superintendent by offering suggestions for making his work more efficient and pleasant.

The Senior Quarterly is a large pamphlet and superior in many respects, and is to be at 7 cents each, or in packages of five copies and upwards at 6 cents per copy.

The Primary Quarterly takes the place of "Our Children's Picture Lesson" and is greatly improved. It costs 5 cents a copy or in packages of five or upwards at 2½ cents per copy.

GRIP'S COMIC ALMANAC FOR 1884, fifth year, published by the Grip Publishing Company, Toronto, price 25 cents, is full of fun and witticisms, with numerous illustrations—good, bad and indifferent,—political and otherwise. We could scarcely call it profitable reading although some of it is very funny.

"The Colored Series" of story books published by Partridge, London, mentioned in McGregor and Knight's Advertisement in another column, comprise a number of excellent small books for children full of pleasant thoughts and are beautifully illustrated.

AN ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR SCHOOLS—HALIFAX—A. & W. MacKinlay, 1883.

Lindley Murray and Lennie hold bell sway in this department of School Books, but they belong to a past generation. This is the first edition of a new work prepared for the publishers and prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction. We have given it a cursory review and regard it as a decided improvement on its predecessors. One of its excellent features is that it is well supplied with practical exercises. An intelligent teacher with this book may make the study of grammar a highly interesting and pleasant exercise.

THE SCHOLAR'S QUARTERLY, First Quarter 1884 25 cents a year. THE LITTLE FOLKS QUARTERLY, 1884. 16 cents a year.

These are marvellously cheap Sabbath School Helps published by Howard Gannet & Co., Boston. They are beautifully illustrated, and filled with excellent matter on the International Series of Lessons.

TRAPS FOR THE YOUNG.—By Anthony Comstock. Published by Funk & Wagnalls, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York. Price, \$1.00.

For over eleven years the author has been seeking the haunts of vice to bring its victims to justice. This book discloses in a graphic, yet prudent manner, the many insidious "traps" by which the young are ensnared and corrupted. This testimony of an eye-witness must bring to the mind of thoughtless youth, or careless parents, conviction that the facts disclosed, however startling and unreal they may seem, are nevertheless true. To conceal them, because distasteful to those of pure morals, would be unmanly, while to expose them in a free, sensuous manner would but spread the evil more and more. So insidious is the corrupting power of vile literature and illustrations on the hearts and minds of youth that parents frequently suspect no wrong until "sin hath conceived and brought forth." We urge upon parents the duty to acquaint themselves with the causes so that they may avoid these traps and snares.

THE ORIGIN OF BAPTISTS, by S. H. Ford LL. D.—You ought to be familiar with the History of your own denomination, at least the outline of it. You have no time to read a large book. In this little book of 188 pages you have it all in a nut shell. The author commences and traces back the Baptist denomination from the present century to the days of the Apostles. It will show you that Baptists did not originate with Roger Williams nor in England, nor with the mad men of Munster, nor with the mad men of America, as our enemies charge, but are older than the Protestants or the Catholics, and are in fact the only religious community that has stood since the apostles, and is the only church deserving to be called the Church of Christ. This is a new and greatly enlarged edition. Price 60 cts.

May be obtained at the Baptist Book Room, No. 104 Granville Street, Halifax