

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., August 8, 1883.

THE BEARING OF TESTIMONY.

The bearing of testimony to the power of gospel truth by the membership of Christian churches is probably one of the most effective means of helping on Christian work, and of encouraging those who are halting between two opinions, or are earnestly seeking the way of life and salvation, to come to a decision to accept Christ and be saved.

intelligent and pious farmers in the congregation," he adds, respecting the doctors. "I am sorry to say amongst those of our own church few are morally fit for the office under consideration."

"Canon the Hon. Adelbert Anson, Rector of Woolwich, and son of the late Earl of Lichfield, who resigned his living a few weeks since for the purpose of engaging, at his own cost, as a Church missionary among the emigrants now flocking in great numbers into the wheat-growing regions of North West Canada, has been offered the vacant Bishopric of Central Africa, but has after consideration, definitely declined that appointment, and will pursue his original intention."—Church Bells.

A "Com." article in the Guardian asks "Holy Matrimony, or Secular Marriage, Which?" and argues that recent legislation is calculated to weaken the ties of the marriage relationship. We do not think there is any choice between the two, but that there should be a combination of the two. The fact that here a clergyman is the essential official in performing the solemnization of marriage is evidence of its being recognized as a religious compact, whilst the civil contract, entered into according to the law made and provided, is, doubtless, the legal act binding the parties one to the other.

MR. SPURGEON has been the subject of numerous slanders of one kind or another. One of the latest was on the subject of communion. It was stated that he said he would rather be a cannibal than a close-communication Baptist. He writes respecting this as follows: LONDON, JUNE 20.

DEAR SIR:—I am not in the habit of speaking disrespectfully of Strict Communion Baptists, for I have a full conviction of their conscientiousness. As to saying that I would sooner be a cannibal than a close-communication Baptist, I never thought so and certainly never said so. I have not the slightest wish to be one or the other; but I rejoice in being a loving brother to the latter. Yours heartily, C. H. SPURGEON.

INFIDELITY: WHAT CAN IT DO FOR US? The following are a few pertinent questions on this matter from a Western paper, the answers to which may be instructive to young enquirers:

Has infidelity ever raised a man or woman from the haunts of vice, and made his or her life clean? Has it ever taken a drunkard from the gutter, the gambler from his cards, the fallen from a life of shame? Has it ever found a man coarse and brutal in character and life, and made him a kind husband and faithful father? Has it ever gone out into the heathen lands, and found a people ignorant and barbarous, delighting in rapine and murder, and by the power of its teaching lifted them out of their degradation until they adopted the customs of civilized nations? Is there in all history of infidelity a story of its moral triumphs that will match the regeneration of the Fiji Islands under the labors of the Wesleyan missionaries? (or, we might add the Congregationalists in the Sandwich Islands, or the Baptists among the Karens in Burmah and the Telugus in India.—Ed. C. M.) Has it added anything to the sun of human happiness? Does it bring one ray of comfort into the chamber of death, filling the soul of the dying with peace, and the hearts of weeping friends with hope? The religion of Jesus Christ has done all these things. The tree is known by its fruits.

THE proposed Great American and European Short Line Railway Company seems to have suspended operations for the present. When looking at the project as a whole it appears to be a wild sort of speculation. The idea of a railway to the most northerly point of Cape Breton, and then connected by a line of steamers to Newfoundland and taking the railway there on to the nearest point thence to England has on its surface at this day a want of reality that would hardly warrant practical men in investing of capital. Unfortunately it seems the poor working men have been duped, and allowed to work and then go to their homes without receiving the wages due them. It would seem to have been a great speculation, perhaps it might be called a swindle, to get shares taken and sold and perhaps to get a large subsidy from government.

ONE of our subscribers in Florida, U. S., sending on his subscription, writes: "The MESSENGER comes to us very regularly. We hardly ever fail to get it on Monday. We enjoy it as much as ever, and think we cannot do without it."

A WORD TO THE WISE.

Whilst many families hold their religious weekly paper in high esteem, and eagerly appropriate its contents as soon as possible after its arrival, there are doubtless many families who do not receive it, and who have no proper appreciation of the benefits they might derive from its visits. Some of the denominations may afford to lightly value their church paper. Where the affairs of their congregations are managed by officials outside of themselves, either in the person of the bishop, the Conference, or the Synod, the church paper may be less necessary, seeing that they have directions given by said authorities by which to be governed; but with Churches that enjoy independence as well as interdependence, the whole membership should be more or less familiar with what is being done in the Churches with which they hold fraternal relationship, so as to fill the position that belongs to them intelligently, and assume the obligations and responsibilities that belong to the whole membership of New Testament Churches. They should also be acquainted with what is being done by the other Christian bodies. People who depend alone on what they hear, or what they learn by occasionally borrowing a paper from a friend, have but a meagre amount, and that very imperfect in character of the information they might obtain from the perusal of their own weekly journal.

The small amount of life and energy in many of the churches arises largely from the circumstance of so few persons taking and reading the religious paper of the body. A newspaper from another locality, a distance away is not likely to supply the place of the one that is the medium of communication at home. If a minister would promote the intelligence of his people and obtain the efficient aid and sympathy he ought to receive from them in his work, he must endeavour by all the means in his power to introduce amongst them the denominational paper of the body, so that the number of living, intelligent Christians may be enlarged, and be continually enlarging. We might mention the names of several of our successful honored brethren in the ministry, some of whom have finished their course, who allowed no opportunity to pass of introducing the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, and they have thus left behind them intelligent Christian families, largely made so by these influences brought to bear upon them in their earlier years.

If we would have the young people grow up with a deep interest in the extension of New Testament church principles and practices, let the deacons and the members, and especially the ministers use their best endeavours to persuade all their fellow members to become subscribers to, and readers of, the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER and never rest satisfied until it finds a place in every family in their congregations.

OUR daily papers have recently had a number of anonymous letters in them, referring to certain High Church teachings in the Halifax Episcopal churches. They originated in an article which appeared in the Wesleyan a week or two since, commenting on the ritualism in certain of the churches, especially in what is taught in Dr. Dix's Trinity Church Catechism, recently introduced.

The discussion having been carried on anonymously does not amount to much. The writers being unwilling to affix their names would indicate that although they may have convictions of the Romanizing tendencies of these teachings, yet as they have not the courage to let their names stand by said convictions, they are not likely to affect or prevent such teachings. The signatures "Churchman," "A Protestant," "No one in particular," &c., &c., do not hurt the ritualistic clergymen or laymen nor do they prove that the writers are representative men, nor that they are not all written by two or three individuals.

It is doubtful if the High Ritualists are not the most consistent churchmen after all. It is of no use for Church of England people to affirm that their church does not teach baptismal regeneration and its kindred errors. We ourselves received a copy of said Catechism some short time ago, and

were at the time informed, that it was being taught in St. Luke's Sabbath School, but as we have something of far higher moment to attend to than what Infant Baptism so-called effects for the little innocents we satisfied ourselves with thanking the unknown friend from whom it came. We are quite willing that our brethren of the Wesleyan and the Witness shall continue to discuss that matter with our neighbour of the Church Guardian; and that anonymous writers shall continue to correspond, but we prefer to deal with better things. When they have decided the matter among themselves they may perhaps be led to enquire whether they have really received baptism according to New Testament teaching, and the example of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

THE Editor of Zion's Advocate, Portland, Maine, in two late issues gives his readers an interesting account of his visit to these Provinces—some what more extended than any we have seen from our late visitors. In the first he deals with the incidents of the trip, what he saw of St. John, N. B., and his voyage across to Digby and the Annapolis Basin. He says:—

We left Annapolis about half-past two. It was a bright summer afternoon, and the lovely valley, which became lovelier as we advanced, charmed us with its grass-waving meadows, pretty villages, and wooded mountain slopes. Several gentlemen, who had come from Windsor to greet us, showed us points of special interest. Prof. William Elder, of Colby University, a native of Nova Scotia, who had accompanied us from St. John, and was on his way to Wolfville, which he makes his headquarters for the summer, was also exceedingly helpful in this direction. The beauty and fertility of the Annapolis Valley surprised us. Extensive orchards were to be seen on either side of the wide meadow in the centre of the valley. It is said that from this valley alone fifty thousand barrels of apples are exported annually, for the most part to England. The other productions are hay, cheese, and cattle.

At Berwick we entered the Cornwallis River. Through it flows the Basin of Minas, not far from Wolfville. Vast meadows, stretch away to the eastward, protected from the waters of the ocean by extensive dikes. About half-past five o'clock we reached Wolfville, a pretty village overlooking the Cornwallis Valley. Here leaving our party, we stopped for the night.

Wolfville is the seat of Acadia College, a flourishing institution established by the Baptists of the Maritime provinces. The college buildings present an imposing appearance, overlooking the beautiful meadows on either side of the Cornwallis River, while beyond is North Mountain, which terminates abruptly in the magnificent headland known as Cape Blomedon. To the northeast, about three miles away, is the great meadow, from which the village of Grand Pré, the home of the Acadians celebrated in Longfellow's delightful poem Evangeline, derives its name. Beyond the meadow are the blue waters of the Basin of Minas.

After tea at the Village House, where the kindly landlady has a cheerful welcome for the stranger, we ascended the heights above the village, and were rewarded with a sunset of more than ordinary loveliness. Heavy fog had swept up the Bay of Fundy, and as far as the eye could reach to the southwest we could see it above the North Mountain ridge, hanging in heavy folds over the waters of the bay. Rapidly it moved up the Basin of Minas, and soon it began to creep over the top of Blomedon, until the bluff was enveloped as with a hood. But the fog did not enter the valley, and as we gazed upon the scene, we were reminded of Longfellow's beautiful lines—

"Away to the northward Blomedon rose, and the forests old, and aloft on the mountains Sea-fogs pitched their tints, and mists from the mighty Atlantic Looked on the happy valley, but ne'er from their station descended."

Upon the upper surface of the fog the bright rays of the setting sun fell in all their splendor, and then flooded the lovely valley, through which the river wound like a golden thread. A more enchanting view can hardly be found anywhere. How wisely, we thought, did our brethren, in the Provinces locate their chief educational institutions here!

Dr. Cramp, formerly president of Acadia College, and widely known as the author of the History of the Baptists, is buried in the Cemetery at Wolfville. His valuable History of the Baptists of Nova Scotia he revised during his late years, and at his decease he bequeathed the manuscript to the Baptist denomination in the Provinces. We did not learn that it has yet been published, but we trust that it will be an early day.

Dr. Burdge stayed at Wolfville and early next morning arose and took a drive through the beautiful Gaspe-reau valley, coming out at Grand Pré where he took the train for Halifax. He says:—

As we descended the hill to the border of the great meadow, where once stood the homes of the Acadians, it seemed as if we could catch the echo of Gossiping looms, whose noisy shuttles within doors Mingled their sound with the whir of the wheels and the songs of the maidens."

Fresh from our reading of Evangeline, we could but look for the parish priest, and the children crowding around him, and kissing the hand extended to bless them; while

"Anon from the belfry Softly the Angelus sounded." Yet the only building before us was the railroad station. Indeed, hardly a vestige of the ancient Acadian village now remains.

After relating the story of the hostile Acadians, he says:—

In 1755, it was resolved by the British authorities that the Acadians, as a source of perpetual danger, should either take the oath of allegiance or leave the country. The demand was certainly a just one. The cruelty, however, with which the decree of banishment was effected, after the refusal of the Acadians to take the oath, is incapable of justification. It is not necessary that we should here rehearse the story of this cruelty for Longfellow's Evangeline has made it as familiar as a household tale.

The lands of the Acadians were not long left unoccupied. In 1760, colonists from Connecticut arrived at Grand Pré in a fleet of twenty-two vessels, and repopulated the desolate scene.

"Still stands the forest primeval; but under the shade of its branches Dwells another race, with other customs and language."

Of his visit to Halifax and trip up the North West Arm Mr. B. writes:—

The shore of this river-like inlet is occupied on the Halifax side with fine mansions, and reminds one of the shores of Long Island Sound near New York, as well as of some parts of the shores of the Hudson River. The fog had set in as the day drew to a close, and it was now somewhat chilly; but all greatly enjoyed the exceeding beauty of this portion of Halifax.

Mrs. C. C. Hunt is writing a series of letters in the Gospel Banner entitled "Press Excursion Gleanings," and gives a racy account of the trip from Maine to Nova Scotia. No. 1 brings the party to St. John, N. B.

We have a letter from Rev. J. R. Hutchinson, received just as we were going to press. It is dated Chicacoole, India, June 8th. We are glad to know they are well. We shall give something further from it in our next.

SUBSCRIBERS who have delayed payment for the MESSENGER, will much oblige by an early remittance.

THE Dartmouth Times is a new venture in the newspaper line. Mr. James A. Halliday publisher of the Watchman, has removed his office to Dartmouth and started the Times a weekly paper to appear on Saturday mornings. It is a respectable looking sheet and will doubtless be a favorite with the people on the eastern side of the harbor.

REV. W. G. LANE preached in the Brunswick Street Methodist Church on Sunday evening last, and in the course of his sermon said—

"For the Local Parliament and all ranks of society, until you step into the door of the poor-house, are soaked through and through with profligacy and shame."

Mr. L. is being called to account for this, and probably will have to substantiate or withdraw the statement.

EGOTISM often clothes itself in the garment of humility, and then draws comparisons between himself and the other fellow, as if any one was deceived thereby! Retiring dignity is something to be admired, but when the fellow brags over it it is a hollow sham.

"The body of the unknown man found dead on the Intercolonial railway near Riverside on Wednesday last was identified to-night by Captain Isaac Fulton, of Londonderry, N. S., as that of his father, who had left home the morning of his death for St. John and had fallen from the train and been crushed under the wheels."

Home News

Nova Scotia.

Please do not forget. We have large demands to meet every week, and need prompt payments.

The trial of the Lunenburg election petition occupied three or four days last week. The court opened on Wednesday. The ballots were examined and an effort made to count them.

The petitioner objected to eighty-one of the ballots marked for Keefer. On Saturday the judge decided that the ballots could not be counted, and as the irregularities were so serious as to affect the result of the election; he declared the election void.

The Halifax Rosebud Band of Hope will hold their annual picnic and excursion at Hosterman's, N. W. Arm, on Wednesday, Aug. 15th. The excursion this year will be fully equal to any preceding one, and all may rely on enjoying themselves.

On Sunday morning as the Intercolonial night train from Quebec was coming along about a mile north of Polly Bog's the engine driver observed an old man lying asleep across the track, his head resting on a small bundle. On the driver whistling the man awoke, jumped to the side of the track and then made an attempt to obtain his bundle, but he could succeed in doing so and getting beyond danger the pilot of the locomotive struck and threw him. The train was stopped and the lifeless body of the man taken on board. The remains were then found to be those of William Whiddle, of Stewiacke, a very poor old man, having been an inmate of the Poor's Asylum in this city several times.

A SECRET FOR THE LADIES.—The great secret of beauty is pure blood. Eruptions and all blotches that disfigure 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.

THIEF OVERTAKEN.—A man who registered at the International Hotel on Thursday, under the name of H. A. Powell, was arrested on Friday by constable Burke, from Sackville, N. B., and taken back by the night train to Sackville for trial, on a charge of stealing some hundreds of dollars from the safe of Mr. Estabrooks, Brunswick House, there. His real name is Koderick Currie, a watchmaker, formerly of Sydney, C. B., but carrying on business in Sackville for some time, where he has a wife and two children.

A sad affair occurred at Tracadie on Tuesday last. For some time past Frank Bowie and Randall McDonald, both farmers, have been in a dispute about a lot of land. While McDonald was cutting the hay on it, a son of Bowie, aged about fifteen, attacked him with a gun and mortally wounded him. Young Bowie during the past few weeks has been threatening to shoot McDonald and has carried out his diabolical designs.

Frank Bowie was arrested by the Deputy Sheriff on Thursday morning at his dwelling in Tracadie, as an accessory to the murder of Randall McDonald, and lodged in the Antigonish jail in the afternoon. There is strong proof that he aided his son in carrying out his murderous designs. Young Bowie is still at large.

The annual festival of St. Anne was celebrated on Indian Island, on Wednesday and Thursday last. About three hundred Indians were present, and about one thousand spectators. Eight Indians and two squaws danced a war dance.

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.

Deaths by drowning have appeared more numerous than usual during the past week. Bathing alone is dangerous where there are currents or a strong surf running. We hear of a good many cases in the United States. At Dartmouth on Thursday last, one of the employees of the Mount Hope Asylum, who was a good swimmer was enjoying a rather long swim when he was taken with cramps and was drowned.

The Roman Catholic Bazaar was an immense affair every day last week. There was a grand display of valuable articles contributed on sale. Lotteries were indulged in to a large extent. The evenings brought together larger numbers of people, about from 600 to 1200. The sum expected to be raised for the rebuilding of St. Patrick's Church is variously estimated at from \$10,000 to \$20,000, or \$30,000.

THAT HUSBAND OF MINE is three times the man he was before he began using "Wells' Health Renewer," \$1. Druggists.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is designed for those who need a medicine to purify their blood, build them up, increase their appetite, and rejuvenate their whole system. No other preparation so well meets their want. It touches the exact spot. Its record of forty years is one of constant triumph over disease.

A WONDERFUL CHANGE.—Rev. W. E. Gifford, while pastor of M. E. Church, Bothwell, suffered from chronic dyspepsia so badly as to render life almost a burden. Three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters cured him.

A PAINLESS CURE.—"None name it but to praise." This is true of that unsurpassed remedy, "Hayward'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.