

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 7, 1883.

The Presbyterian Witness and Infant Baptism.

In our last we referred to the fact that our respected contemporary the Presbyterian Witness was not satisfied with our article on the omission he made from Archbishop O'Brien's late pastoral. We then showed that Dr. Guthrie had admitted that the Presbyterians had brought Infant Baptism from Rome, and we supposed he wished it had been left there. We omitted to quote what our contemporary said. Here it is:

OUR respected contemporary, the Messenger, suggests that infant baptism belongs to the Church of Rome, and that we should let it go. No, no! The promise of the greatest of all blessings is to us and to our children. It would be to most of us an unspeakable deprivation if we could not bring our little ones to the Lord and commit them to Him as lambs of His fold and regard them as indeed belonging to Him, and daily train them up in love and obedience to Him. The Church of Rome has perverted this precious doctrine as she has so many other doctrines. The Church of England unfortunately has not wholly escaped the disastrous errors of Rome. The Presbyterian Church is not responsible for these errors; she has for centuries earnestly contended against them.

We were unable then, by want of space to say all we thought should be said on this matter, and now proceed with a few further remarks on the subject.

Many of our friend's readers are doubtless asking, and a much larger number of our own, when they see this, will also earnestly ask, a number of questions, to which it will not be difficult to get satisfactory answers. The first of these will probably be, Is Infant Baptism the equivalent of "bringing our little ones to the Lord"? as the Editor would have us suppose. Do not Baptists bring their young children to the Lord, far more certainly by praying for them, and praying with them, than Presbyterians do by performing this ceremony over them when in a state of unconsciousness? Does the Lord indeed require this rite of Infant Baptism at their hands, and accept it in the place of true baptism—an act of obedience on a profession of faith in Him? We think not; we do not so understand the Scriptures.

Another question will doubtless be, Does Infant Baptism—which the editor seems to imagine is "bringing our little ones to the Lord"—Does it indeed make them "lambs of his fold"? If Presbyterians believe that it does, why then surely there is no need of their being born again. They should be treated as "lambs of the fold," and brought—infants as they are—to the Communion. Having been initiated into the church, let them be at once participants of the Supper, as is now done we believe in the Greek Church and some other communions. The doctrine of human depravity becomes a fiction, and conversion unnecessary. It is folly for our contemporary to talk to "the Church of Rome" and "the Church of England" about their "disastrous errors," seeing that he is in the same condemnation—"Thou art inexcusable O man whosoever thou art that judgest, for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself, for thou that judgest doest the same things." How can the Presbyterian Church contend against the error of baptismal regeneration, when she puts forth such unscriptural statements. If the above does not teach baptismal regeneration, we fail to see in it any proper use of language. It is vain, good brother, to think that by such exclamations to escape the fact that the New Testament does not teach Infant Baptism.

Another question will suggest itself to many—Presbyterians as well as Baptists, Is not "the promise," to which the editor refers "of the greatest of all blessings" made to Baptist believers and their children—who do not observe Infant Baptism—as much as it is to Pedobaptists and their children? And further, does not the Apostle Peter say: "The promise is unto you (Jews) and your children (descendants) and to all that are afar off (the Gentiles) even as many as the Lord our God shall call?" Why does our brother omit the latter part of the

text? Away then with such "disastrous errors!" Let no good Protestant make use of the flimsy argument used by our neighbor on such important subjects. Let our brother bring forth something more worthy of consideration before he talks to us about being "emancipated from ritualism." We believe in the ritualism of the New Testament, but not in that of Rome and her descendants. Having an open Bible we may hope that the people will for themselves—at no distant day—abandon the wrong interpretations given to such passages of Scripture as the one here referred to.

Another question we have reason to believe will be asked, Do not Baptists teach their children, and "daily train them up in love and obedience to Him"? Certainly the fact of their infants having had no such rite performed over them does not prevent them doing this. We are thankful to believe that many Baptists do this, at least as diligently as Presbyterians, and in this way they observe the injunction of our blessed Lord: "Suffer the little children to come (not be carried) unto me and forbid them not." They—Baptists—certainly do not make the administration of the rite of Infant Baptism an excuse for not inviting them to come unto Him, but many of their children are found walking in all His ordinances and commandments, even in the early days of their intelligence and understanding. The prayer of good Baptist parents is that it may be made evident that their children are indeed converted, and so made truly "lambs of His fold," choosing His ways, and loving His house and His people all their days.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The Annual Report for the year 1882 of the Medical Superintendent of this Institution, A. P. Reid, M. D., has been submitted to Parliament, and contains some valuable information. We extract the following items: Number of patients in the Institution first of the year..... 382 " " admitted during the year..... 91 Whole number under treatment in 1882..... 473 Number discharged, recovered &c..... 51 " Died..... 23 - 74 Leaving on the Register, Dec. 31st, 1882..... 399 Being an increase of 17 on the year's record, of the whole number now in the hospital, 194 are men and 205 are women.

The mortality rate has been less than five per cent. of the whole number under treatment. The rate would have been less were it not that six of the patients admitted were in the last stage of disease, and only survived a short time—the rate has however been less than the general average of the past, which has been six per cent.

The recovery rate has been a little above the usual average being 45 per cent. on admissions. In his remarks upon "Recoveries" Dr. Reid emphasises the importance of placing persons afflicted with insanity under proper treatment as early as possible—that delay until the disease becomes chronic is almost sure to preclude the possibility of recovery. He says that of the whole number now under treatment only 40 are at all hopeful, and that the remaining 359 are practically hopeless cases. He depends almost wholly upon the recent cases among the incoming patients for successful recoveries.

The cost per week for maintenance is a fraction under \$2.50 per patient—which is much lower than the rate in similar institutions in the United States, and it compares favourably with any in the Dominion.

Among the acknowledgments special mention is made of the religious services which have been conducted gratuitously and in rotation upon each Sunday in the month by Rev. P. M. Morrison, Presbyterian; Rev. Dr. Gilpin, Episcopal; Rev. E. J. Grant, Baptist, and Rev. Mr. Doane, Methodist. Several other of our city clergymen have also ministered occasionally to them. Mr. J. Forbes of the Starr Manufacturing Co., generously presented 30 pairs of skates for the use of the patients. In the long list of newspapers furnished gratuitously and regularly received, and which includes nearly all our political papers we are

somewhat surprised to find that "The Disciple" and the Christian Messenger are the only representatives of the religious press.

Dr. Reid informs us that in 1871 the Census gave 1,254 as the number of insane in this Province and that the malady is gradually but surely increasing. The number under treatment in the hospital which is less than one-fourth of the whole now living with us, taxes to the utmost the accommodation provided, and that he is compelled to refuse the prayers of many pleading for admission. He makes it quite apparent that increased accommodation is urgently demanded and in quite an extended and intelligent manner presents his views as to the best way of meeting the requirements of the case.

EDUCATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education for the year 1882, is before us. Dr. Allison states that the year's operations of our schools have been marked "in important respects by exceptional educational activity" and he claims that some advancement has been made especially in providing and putting into operation for the first time in the history of our school system a systematic authorized course of study.

The whole expenditure for Public Schools in 1882 was \$571,389.46, of this sum \$173,877, 18 has been supplied by Government and the balance by county and local assessment.

The number of pupils registered as having been in attendance during the year is, 95,912 which is 2,236 less than the previous year. This decrease is accounted for in part by the unusually inclement weather, and obstruction of travel by snow-drifts during the winter season of 1881-2. The proportion of the population at school during some part of the year was 1 in 4.5 as compared with 1 in 4.4 the previous year. The average of regularity of attendance shows a slight improvement on last year.

The whole number of teachers employed (an average being struck between the two terms of the school year) was 1898, of this number 665 were men, and 1233 women. As compared with last year it would appear that the male teachers have decreased to the number of 49, while there has been an increase of 100 female teachers. This indicates that other employments offer relatively superior attractions to male teachers. The superintendent expresses disappointment that the statistics of the year show no improvement in the salaries of either male or female teachers—in fact the averages indicate a decrease in the salaries of all high class teachers and a slight increase in the lower grades. The average salary for male teachers of the first class, was \$388.58, in 1881 it was \$396.96. First class female teachers received \$288.59 compared with \$293.92, in 1881. The highest salaries were paid in the city of Halifax, where the average for this class of male teachers reached \$669. The average salary for female teachers of the same class in the city was \$375 while in Cape Breton this class received \$420.

In view of the fact that the cost of living has been steadily increasing, this, showing that the remuneration paid to the highest class of teachers has not increased in sympathy with the tendency towards better salaries, observable in all other departments of labor, but has rather declined, would indicate that this important feature of the school system has not participated in the "exceptional educational activity," referred to. The whole question of teachers salaries must receive intelligent and liberal consideration before our best young men and women will be induced to adopt teaching as a profession, rather than a convenient temporary stepping-stone to their regular business in life. We believe that the prosperity and efficiency of our public school system depends upon the right solution of this important problem.

The report treats in quite an extended manner of the Normal school, Special and County academies, compulsory attendance at schools, and other matters. On some of these subjects we may have more to say next week. The statistics are full and comprehensive

and no doubt sustain the Superintendent's claim for "exceptional educational activity."

We should be glad to find better evidence that there has been some real progress made.

The Editor of the Church Guardian says "the literature of the day is nine-tenths of it clever devil-worship."

He also denounces the movement to promote the use of the unfermented juice of the grape for communion purposes, and says "It might have been thought impossible that any clergyman of our Church could be found venturing to tamper with 'so Divine a thing' as the symbols of the body and blood of Christ." We do not understand that any act of transubstantiation is performed on the symbols to make them "Divine." The 28th Article says, "it is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture." We have no desire to interfere in this matter so far as the Church of England is concerned, but, for ourselves, would prefer what we believe to be the true 'fruit of the vine,' rather than a compound of brandy and chemicals as that often is that is called and sold as wine.

We have just received a copy of the Minutes of the Prince Edward Island Baptist Association, held at North River in July last, neatly printed at the Summerside Journal office. We learn from them that there were 79 added to the membership of the previous year, nearly 5 per cent., the number being at that date, July, 1,698.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

The House of Assembly were engaged on Tuesday with the Bill for purchasing the Eastern Extension Railway—from New Glasgow to the Strait of Canso, which will place the Government of Nova Scotia in a position to receive from the Dominion Government the line of railway from Truro to Pictou. As it was necessary that this should be done before the 10th inst., it was carried through the several stages without opposition.

On Wednesday Mr. MacCoy introduced a Bill to repeal the County Incorporation Act and to revive the Court of Sessions.

On Thursday Mr. Harrington introduced a Bill to compel attendance at the Public Schools.

The City Assessment Bill occupied a good deal of time in the early part of the week and further time was taken up by the Reports on several departments of Government.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK GOVERNMENT under the leadership of Mr. Hannington it is said asked the Lieutenant-Governor to dissolve the Assembly, but was refused. Mr. H. announced on Friday last their resignation.

The Opposition leader, Mr. Blair, was called to form a Government, and promptly named the new ministry as follows:

- Hon. A. G. Blair, Attorney-General and Leader.
Hon. Wm. Elder, Provincial Secretary;
Hon. R. J. Ritchie, Solicitor-General;
Hon. Patrick Ryan, Chief Commissioner of Board of Works;
Hon. Jas. Mitchell, Surveyor-General,
Hon. Thos. F. Gillespie, President of the Council;
Hon. E. A. Vail, Hon. Gaius Turner, Hon. A. Harrison, M. L. C. members without office.

Mr. Elder, is the editor of the St. John Telegraph.

Dr. Vail filled the position of Speaker of the House for some years. He is a brother to Hon. W. B. Vail, M. P. for Digby.

Rev. Joseph Murray, was the week before last suddenly attacked with disease of the brain. We are glad to learn that he is recovering, but is still confined to his bed.

Rev. E. J. Grant has had occasion to leave his work and take a recess of two or three weeks in the eastern part of the province but is better and is expected to return this week. Dr. Saunders has supplied his pulpit during his absence.

Rev. W. H. Warren is also threatened with fever. We hope it may be averted.

Home News

Novo Scotia.

APPOINTMENTS.—Colchester Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—W. H. Hogge of Lower Stewiacke.

Antigonish Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—Adam Kirk, of Antigonish. Shelburne Co.—To be Justices of the Peace—W. H. Matheson and Isiah Smith (son of Solomon), of Upper Wood's Harbor, and David K. Smith, of Baccaro.

Cumberland Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace—George Baxter, of Tidnish. To be a Coroner—Peter MacDonald, Esquire, of Pugwash.

THE HALIFAX COTTON FACTORY is approaching completion. The manager, Mr. Stevenson, on Wednesday last, published an address to the workmen stating that it was desired to commence operations on the 1st of March—but that it would be a fortnight later.

Some fifty skilled operatives are on their way from England to commence work in the mill. The remainder of the labor will all be native. About 150 hands—men, girls and boys, will be employed at the start. Mr. Stevenson has expressed himself highly pleased with the location, the satisfactory and thorough construction and equipment of the building and the good prospects for easy and excellent work in production.

The Halifax Society for the Prevention of cruelty to animals are filling a most important position. A report of the doings of the Society for January and February shows that the Society has given its attention during that time to cases of cruelty affecting 13 women, 60 children, 4 men, 13 horses, 4 sheep, 2 oxen, 3 dogs and 1 pigeon. Total number of human beings 77; total number of animals 23.

THIS IS RELIABLE.—B. N. Wheeler, merchant, of Everton, was cured of a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs by Hagar's Pectoral Balsam. This great throat and lung healer cures weak lungs, coughs, hoarseness, bronchitis, and all Pectoral complaints.

Dr. Arthur Moren, the Halifax City Medical Officer died very suddenly of hemorrhage on Tuesday.

Mr. John McLellan accidentally cut his leg on Friday last, and but for timely aid would soon have bled to death.

Padbury the Englishman arrested and detained by telegraph was on Friday, discharged, the papers being without sufficient proof.

IT IS SPRING.—A resurrection of nature's latent forces is taking place. Like the world around you, renew your complexion, invigorate your powers, cleanse the channels of life. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the means to use for this purpose.

Our harbor has at length within the past two or three days, in the upper part, become covered by ice. People are crossing from Richmond. The Dartmouth steamers however, cross regularly free from obstruction.

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.

Is your hair turning gray and gradually falling out? Hall's Hair Renewer will restore it to its original color, and stimulate the follicles to produce a new and luxuriant growth. It also cleanses the scalp, eradicates dandruff, and is a most agreeable and harmless dressing.

A REMARKABLE FACT.—It is a remarkable fact W. A. Edgers, of Frankville, who was so far gone with liver and kidney complaint that his life was despaired of, was cured with four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters. At one day he lay a fortnight without an operation of the bowels.

Dominion of Canada.

The sum paid for superannuation and retiring allowances by the Dominion Government for the past year was \$160,319.95.

The most interesting features in the House of Commons of late has been the presentation of Departmental Reports and the Questions asked as to the intentions of government in performing public works in different parts of the vast territory over which it has jurisdiction. We might fill any amount of space by giving summaries of the facts contained in these documents.

Professor Wiggins is coming to Halifax to witness the great storm here on Saturday next.

The Ontario government is sustained by the recent returns, but by a smaller majority than it was previous to the elections.

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.

For a long time there has been a need for such a liniment as Kendall's Spavin Cure.

C. M. Moseman & Bros' office is the head-center for all prominent horsemen of New York City. In a letter of recent date says: "We are perfectly satisfied that there never was anything made to equal Kendall's Spavin Cure, nor can there be anything to take its place, as it removes the trouble, and no remedy can do more. Read Advertisement.

DECLINE OF MAN.—Nervous, Weakness, Dyspepsia, Impotence, Sexual Debility, cured by "Wells' Health Renewer." \$1.

THE "OPEN AIR CHRISTIAN MISSION."—Since Mr. Raitton's visit to Halifax, two years ago, open air meetings during six months of the year were held on Albert and South Brunswick Streets. There have been two great advantages in connection with the work: 1st. Crowds, i. e., two or three dozen people, sometimes more and sometimes less, have been gathered into the inside meetings of an evening and thus the empty benches filled up. 2nd. Large numbers come to the doors or windows of the houses, or stand at the street corner, or the passer-by will stop a moment or two to listen, the most of such people being of a class who won't come inside of a church or even into mission rooms. It is therefore proposed to resume the open air meetings on the first of April. Names of Christian workers are wanted. The prayers of the ministers and their congregations are asked on behalf of these "lapsed classes," who, if we believe what we profess, are "perishing," surrounded by a score of churches and over 2000 professing Christians.

D. MACGREGOR, Chairman. RICHARD SAUNDERS, Sec'y

Notices.

FOREIGN MISSION RECEIPTS FOR FEBRUARY.

Table with columns for location and amount received. Includes entries for Second Digby Neck, Rev. J. C. Morse, Aylesford, friend of missions, Pugwash, Rev. H. Bool, Lindop, Amherst Shore, and Great Village.

J. MARCH, Secy. For. Miss. Board. St. John, N. B., Feb. 26, 1882.

CONVENTION FUNDS RECEIVED.

Table with columns for church name and amount received. Includes First Cornwallis Baptist Church and Weymouth Baptist Church.

G. E. DAY, Yarmouth, Feb. 26th, 1883.

RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

Table with columns for location and amount received. Includes Wolfville—Miss Barrs, 1st Ragged Islands—Mrs. A. L. Foster, Halifax, Granite St. Ch.—Mrs. A. L. Wood, Falmouth—Miss Messenger, Newport—Mrs. E. M. Dincock, and Halifax, March 6th, 1883.

Moneys Received.

Table with columns for name and amount received. Includes D. F. Crowe, Rev. J. A. Morse, J. C. Bishop, W. Dunn, S. M. Maider, Rev. H. Bool, Rev. J. L. Read, Rev. S. Welton, and G. F. Allen.

Acknowledgments.

Rev. H. Bool has received \$260 in donations since Oct. 26th, including \$200 in cash. The meetings were held as follows:—Oct. 26th, at Northport, where the friends at Lindon and Amherst Shore united; next day at Waterdale; 12th Dec., at Port Phillip; 23rd Jan., at Pugwash, and 15th Feb., at Wallace River. Each party did their best to show appreciation of their pastor's labors, and the money given was not greater than the expressions of approbation.

The greatest interest was at Pugwash and Wallace River, where Mr. Bool has laboured more than four years. The last donation was made at the residence of Councillor Howard, where \$100 were contributed, \$80 in cash. Mr. Howard bore strong testimony to his pastor's efficiency as a preacher.

Mr. Bool entered into his field of labor at a time of considerable religious and mercantile depression, and he has held the fort until a change of circumstances promises a fair reward. With deep anxiety for the conversion of souls, he justifies the policy of carefully guarding the churches from any who do not bear good evidence of change of heart. He desires only that expansion which is united with strength and consolidation. A revival is expected, chiefly as the sunshine and showers which give life to the seed which has been sown in toil and hope.

On Monday afternoon, Feb. 19th, a number of our kind friends, members of the Port Hillsford Baptist Church and congregation made us their fifth annual donation visit. The ladies with their baskets, or with what they contained, soon prepared for the company a very well got up tea, which we all enjoyed very much. As soon as it could be made convenient all met in one room where the evening was spent very pleasantly. Our good brother, Capt. James McConnell, on behalf of the company, presented us with a purse of cash, and articles for family use, to the amount of \$49.30. He said that this was presented as a token of the respect and esteem in which they held us, and hoped we would so receive it. After a number of appropriate remarks, interspersed with singing, which all enjoyed much, they bid us good night, leaving us richer and more happy by their coming. May the Lord abundantly bless the donors.

Our friends of Nova cut and hauled into our yard several loads of nice wood. We hope that the Lord will reward them for their thoughtful kindness toward us. Yours truly, H. EAGLES.