

The Christian Messenger. Halifax, N. S., December 19, 1883.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

The rapid flight of Time has brought us to the last issue before the great festival day of the European and American peoples, and, indeed, of all Christendom, which is intended to commemorate THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR into this world, at Bethlehem in Judea. We would join with the heavenly host in the song:

"Glory to God in the highest, on earth Peace, good will to men."

The superstition connected with the observance of

Christmas Day

having any scriptural authority is largely banished from the minds of intelligent Christian people, but as a time of reunion and hearty expression of kindly feeling between members of families and friends, of gifts and presents, it is, we believe, more and more observed, and that in a more rational and pleasant manner than at any previous age of the world! We have had the privilege of joining in such expressions of good wishes for the happiness of our thousands of readers for twenty seven years, and we never felt a warmer attachment, especially to the children of our patrons, than at this day. To them all, and to their fathers and mothers and uncles and aunts and cousins, we would offer a heartfelt and sincere wish that they may one and all have

Merrie, Merrie Christmas.

THE matter of Confession, Absolution, &c., brought so prominently forward during the recent visit of the Episcopal visitors to our city, has been taken up vigorously by Rev. Dr. Burns, Presbyterian minister of Fort Massey Church. The publication of his lecture has brought forth an elaborate defense from a writer over the signature "C." anders ood to be from the pen of the Archbishop of Halifax, or the Bishop of Arichat. Opinions will of course differ as to which is the more able production. Dr. Burns is, of course, unable to take his stand on ground that is necessary to render his position unsailable. In the matter of Infant Baptism Tradition is appealed to by Protestants and Catholics alike. The pith of the whole argument is, of course, as to the sufficiency of the teachings of the Sacred Scriptures, or whether reliable Tradition is left as any part of Christ's legacy to His Church. It is singular that the priest, so called, who recently opened up this matter in St. Luke's, bears the same name as he, who, in 1859 was the means of bringing forth a vigorous pamphlet from the pen of the late Rev. Dr. Cramp, entitled, "Scripture and Tradition: A reply to Rev. Mr. Maturin's Letter on the Claims of the Catholic Church." If Presbyterians would but carry out the views they sometimes express on the subject of Baptism, they might successfully challenge the Anglican or the Roman Catholic in reference to the matter they profess to have had committed to them as the successors of Peter, and of the other apostles, but, until they do, they have an exposed joint in their armour, through which they may receive the deadly thrusts of the Anglican Bishop, or the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and so may be silenced.

We have not cared to interfere in this discussion at present, as we had not authoritative statements from any of the leading men in these communions, but we have now just learned that Bishop Binney has put forth a pamphlet on the subject. We have not yet seen it, but shall probably in a day or two, and shall inform our readers of the character of its contents.

We are requested to state that the public meeting advertised to be held at Wolfville for this evening will not be held.

A letter received from a brother at Toronto dated Dec. 7th. says: The weather here is very mild. Some of the farmers are finishing their ploughing.

We have of late had our columns so over-burdened with correspondence on the College Question, that we were hoping for a respite for our readers in our present number. But we have received the two letters on another page which we could hardly defer for a later date. We have also received a request from respected brethren to insert another letter that appeared, several days ago, in one of our city papers, which we are compelled to decline. It would be but a repetition of matters which have already appeared in one shape or another in our columns. It we did this we must, of course, copy all the replies and rejoinders, and whatever else is written, of bad temper and bad language, the writers may choose to use in them. We cannot put aside our own correspondents' communications for those that have long ago appeared in print elsewhere.

LOOK out for our **SPLENDID NEW SERIAL** to commence the first week of the New Year! New Subscribers, please send on your names immediately!

We have before us a copy of a small circular addressed by the Executive Committee of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of Ontario and Quebec, to the churches of those Provinces, shewing the estimates for the year 1883-4, for each of their four stations in India. The totals are as follows:—Cocanada, Rev. A. V. Timpany...\$3,110 Tani, Rev. G. F. Currie... 3,125 Akidu, Rev. John Craig... 2,150 Samulcotta, Rev. John McLaurin... 2,550 Total amount required.....\$10,935 They have a debt of \$3,600. They state that on all parts of the field God is blessing the work. Last year 287 were baptized. Fifty students are in the Samulcotta Seminary. To maintain one of them for nine months costs \$17.

DR. H. E. BUCHAN, an active Baptist in Toronto has been appointed assistant Superintendent of the Toronto Insane Asylum. The editor of the Baptist predicts for him "a career of distinguished usefulness in the cause of Christ and humanity in his new work."

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

Literary.

THE INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY is one of the most popular of the Lesson Helps issued by our Baptist Publication Society. It is prepared for children who are fresh from the Primary Department, and not advanced far enough for the higher grade helps. Every lesson has special features worthy of notice. The circulation of this Quarterly is well on to 200,000, each issue, and constantly growing. It is worthy of highest commendation. Mrs. M. G. Kennedy continues as editor. A beautiful new cover for the January number adds to its attractiveness. Price, in clubs of five, or more, 10 cents a year.

Mr. E. V. Smalley's sketch of General Sherman in the January Century has been inspected and revised by General Grant, whose suggestions have been of great value in assisting the writer to give an authentic and trustworthy account of the important events of General Sherman's career. A paper on General Sherman will follow in the February number.

WIDE AWAKE for 1884, monthly. The Christmas number is a capital one. Its literary contents are just what boys and girls delight in, and the pictorial embellishments are abundant. We cannot begin to name the articles, much less speak of their excellencies, but must recommend all who can to get it. To be obtained of D. Lothrop & Co. Franklin St., Boston, price \$2.50 a year.

DIO LEWIS'S MONTHLY, DECEMBER 1883.—Contains a number of interesting articles all having a bearing on the hygienic principles held by the author. "That far away look," will apply to a good many readers as well as those referred to. One on "Vivisection," very properly, shows the uselessness as well as cruelty of efforts, at discovery by torturing living animals. "My Insane Asylum Experience," by Edward A. Bandy, is the story of an unhappy victim of a U. S. insane asylum. "Home and School Teaching," by L. F. Gardner, is a strong, hearty discussion of a genuine school. "Tessie's Merry Christmas," by Lillie Deveraux Blake, is full of tears. "A

Spirited Brooklyn Girl" shows up in a piquant way the nonsense of our fast young men who pretend they cannot afford to marry, but spend twice as much upon their personal indulgences as would meet the expenses of a modest family. "Up and down in Norway," by Prof. E. P. Thwing, gives us a flying breezy trip through portions of that interesting country. "Divorce" is a thoughtful paper on this much discussed topic, by Emily Faithful, the English philanthropist. "Ab Wing" a story of experience with Chinese servants in California. "Hygiene of the Brain," by Dr. M. L. Holbrook, is a very important discussion of the conditions under which our brains may reach their highest and best work. Published by Frank Seaman Bible House N-York \$2.50 a year, 25 cents a number.

THE PULPIT TREASURY for December is a valuable number. We give on the second page of our present issue the substance of an excellent Christmas Sermon, by Rev. Dr. Hepworth, from its page.

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

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Home Missions.

The December meeting of the Home Mission Board was held in the vestry of the First Baptist Church, Yarmouth, on the 10th inst. Treasurer reported receipts of the month \$322.90. Reports were received from Brethren Arnold, Coy, McLeod, H. Marc, Fillmore, Foster, I. E. Bl, Jur, and Isa. Wallace.

- Grants. 1. To Barrington field, Shelburne Co., \$100.00 for current year. Rev. W. H. Richard, pastor. 2. To Fairview field, P. E. I., \$100.00 for current year. Rev. J. B. Woodland, pastor. 3. To Cow Bay field, Cape Breton, \$75.00 for current year. Rev. J. C. Spurr, pastor. 4. To the Alberton field, P. E. I., \$75.00 for one year. Bro. H. G. Mellick, missionary. 5. To Tobique field, Victoria Co., N. B., \$200.00 for current year. Rev. C. Henderson, pastor. 6. To Lower Hill Church and adjacent stations \$30.00 for 6 months, provided they raise the same amount. Rev. W. C. Rideout, missionary. Appointment. Rev. M. Normandy was appointed to visit Kent Co., N. B., with a view of spending 3 months in mission work. Remarks. The reports received for the past quarter were of an encouraging character. Several of the parties are being encouraged by additions to their churches. Rev. I. Wallace our general missionary has been blessed in his labours at Tuket. Some eight or twenty have been added to the church there. It is hoped that a like blessing will follow our brother's labours with other pastorless mission churches. Our Treasurer is in great need of funds to pay the orders now in his hands. I am prepared to furnish collection envelopes to pastors desiring them at twenty five cents per hundred. It is hoped that all our missionary pastors who have not some better plan, will send for these envelopes. Those who have given it a faithful trial find that it works well. A. COBURN, Cor. Sec'y. Hebron, Dec 13th, 1883.

For the Christian Messenger.

McMaster Hall, Toronto.

Dear Editor.—At the time the Union was affected at the late Convention, no provision was made for the support of young men coming here from the Maritime Provinces beyond a private subscription which was started there and then, and on which enough was raised to defray the expenses of three or four in getting here. It was not certainly the intention that Ontario Baptists, who are nobly supporting their own Theological students, should carry the burden of supporting ours also. Of these last there are now eight in attendance, and they will need considerable aid to get through to May next, after which they will be able to do much to help themselves. I believe I speak the mind of these young men when I say they are not only satisfied but delighted with the state of things here. I have no fear that this Institution will do its part towards drawing and holding Maritime students; but they cannot stay at any Theological School without financial aid. This School may be said to be in every respect a model one, and it is manifestly

destined to do a great work for the Baptists of the Dominion.

That our young men may be able to continue their studies here, permit me on their behalf to appeal through your columns for aid. Contributions from churches or individuals will be very thankfully received and acknowledged, and a report made at the right place and time of their apportionment among the students as their necessities shall require. D. M. WILSON.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

Sir,—I gave what I regarded as a correct account of the founding of the new chair, and of the appointment of Dr. Rand. Then I defended it from a public attack, by showing that everything was done fairly and honourably. Of the part of this account referring to himself, Dr. Higgins first says, that it was "wholly incorrect," then that it was partly incorrect, and lastly that the statements are "false charges." But he must see that they are not charges at all. It is simply a recital of business transactions in founding a chair in Acadia College, and in appointing a professor. I took no little trouble to get the account correct. In order to do this, before publishing it—the account of what took place in committees, in the Senate, and in the Board of Governors—I, by request, read it to the Rev. J. W. Manning, B. H. Eaton, Esq., E. D. King, Esq., and the Hon. Dr. Parker. They all agreed that the whole account, including what was said of the part taken by Professor Higgins, was, to the best of their knowledge, correct. We tried to state the case fairly. If Prof. Higgins' part in the matter was by him intended to be different from that of my account, then he has led us all astray. These are the facts of the case, so far as I know them.

Truly yours, E. M. SAUNDERS.

Dec. 17.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Chair of Education at Acadia.

Mr. Editor,—I trust you will give me space, as one who has been opposed from the first to the establishment of the Chair of Education, to contradict certain statements made by Dr. Saunders in his "Series" to the effect that "in the agitation led up against the College authorities, it is evident that passion and caprice," "trickery," base and "unscrupulous" means, "insane," "blind" feelings, "political devices" have taken the control. These kind, brotherly, Christian expressions will harm no one so much as the author himself. The use of such terms "deserves only to be mentioned that they may be de-pised" I am intimately acquainted with those who are opposing the founding of the Chair, and big to state that they are not actuated by any such motives; but on the contrary have acted from the highest sense of duty and obligation resting upon them as Baptists, Alumni, and friends of the College. Many of them are the personal friends of Dr. Rand; but, believing the well-being and prosperity of the College to be at stake in this appointment—by its very existence—they have been compelled to lay aside all personal considerations in order that they may act according to the dictates of their consciences and labor for the best interests of the denomination. We hope that those, who have favoured the "New Departure," have acted from as high motives, and that only motives of public good will guide their future actions.

And I shall beg to trespass further on your page to lay before your readers a few facts and suggestions which have not been brought prominently to their notice. The reasons why I have opposed the establishment of the Chair of Education may be briefly summed up as follows:—(1) such a chair forms no part of the regular Afs course in any College in the civilized world, that Didactics is therefore properly an elective subject, that Acadia cannot afford electives on the ground of want of funds, that there has not been any demand for such a subject at Acadia, and therefore, for all these reasons, such a chair is not needed; (2) the discrimination in regard to salary is unjust and subversive of the best interests of the College; (3) the establishment of the Chair of modern languages and the strengthening of the Science department is imperatively demanded, especially by those who have felt this pressing want the most sorely; (4) the founding of the Chair of Education removes to a distant and an indefinite future the supplying of these wants; (5) the income of the College is barely equal to the expenditure exclusive of the \$1600 and that, therefore, in view of the pressing needs of the College, the expenditure of \$1600 for Didactics is absolutely without warrant and will strongly savor of ex-

travagance; (6) justice to the College and the Academies, (i. e. the students), the denomination, and higher education demands that only men qualified to supply the most urgent needs of the institutions be appointed; (7) the recent action threatens the complete disintegration of the Convention Scheme and a large diminution in the contributions of the churches. Already, to my own personal knowledge, one large and benevolent church has curtailed, to a large degree, its quarterly contributions. No doubt others will do the same so far as the College goes; (8) as the financial agent of the College during the last seven months, I think I am justified in saying that the recent action has had a most injurious effect upon the financial condition resulting in a large actual loss, and, if persisted in, will result in the loss of many thousands of dollars. I have felt to bear out these statements. Including the large increase of salaries in the Academy and the \$1600, there is every prospect of a deficit next year of \$2,000 or \$3,000 on current expenses and interest. The boast of "another enquire" of one sixth of the \$33,000 having been already paid is silly. If \$15,000 had been paid he would then have had reason for congratulation.

In view, then, of all these reasons, the great interests that are at stake, in order that there may be no suicidal divisions in the body, we ask and entre the Governors to reconsider their action and abolish the new chair. And we have the greater reason for doing this when it is considered that so important a subject, mature thought and deliberation, and knowledge should be exercised, and that, in this case, neither time nor opportunity were given for ascertaining the wishes of the body. It has been more than hinted that the Ladies' Seminary will help support the chair, that its surplus earnings will be pit into the general funds of the College. Under any circumstances, I most earnestly protest against any such misappropriation of Seminary funds. The cost of female education is very high, especially when compared with the cost of the same in convents. Many young women who otherwise have the ability and inclination to obtain a liberal education, are debarred on account of the great expense. Besides the whole debt of over \$34,000 has not yet been pledged by a considerable amount, and the surplus earnings of the Seminary (a very doubtful contingency this year) should be applied towards the liquidation of the debt on its building. Moreover, as soon as the Seminary is free of debt, efforts should be put forth to bring liberal female education within the reach of a greater number, thus increasing, perhaps tenfold, the present benefits; and this I have set before me as one of the objects for the accomplishment of which I may earnestly work and pray.

Unobtrusively the Baptists believe that Acadia is supported for the cause of Christ and the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom on the earth through education given under circumstances the most favourable for the development of Christian and moral character, and that the professors and officers of the College and Academies are laboring unselfishly for the accomplishment of this grand and noble ideal. With this object in view, the Institutions were founded, for this purpose, the fathers of the denomination sacrificed and indefatigably labored. This is the fundamental motive in the founding of Denominational Colleges. This is the reason why Denominational Colleges can find capable Professors to fill their Chairs at a smaller salary than that given in many non-denominational Colleges of the same standing. These Professors, for the cause of Christ and the furnishing of Christian character, are ready to remain and labor on small salaries. The Baptists of the Maritime Provinces, believing that these conditions hold good in Acadia College, have twice nobly and heroically built their College and Academical buildings, and, in like manner, are supporting them. But let personal and mercenary motives prevail among its Professors, its Governors, and its supporters; let the least suspicion of selfish motives obtain in the denomination, and the hour of Acadia's prosperity has vanished. No College can live and flourish without an ample supply of funds. Acadia has an insufficient endowment and must depend upon the Christian liberality of the churches. Let the confidence of the denomination in the management of College matters be shaken seriously, and the life of the College is short. Acadia is strong in the feelings and affections of her warm hearted Alumni and generous friends; but affection cannot cluster around selfishness, the reckless pursuit of aggrandizement and of a course betraying the utmost want of confidence in those who have supported and are loyally supporting the

Institutions. Secret conclaves, whisperings, and similar proceedings are not calculated to foster a sentiment of sincere attachment.

When these deficits are taken along with the consideration that the Baptist denomination is strongly adverse to the recent appointment, and that other denominational objections are loudly for increased support, the financial outlook becomes rather gloomy. And if the Convention, nay, if the churches in their individual character, should refuse to meet these large deficits of \$2,000 or \$3,000 yearly, should I refuse to contribute to the Convention Scheme, as some are intending to do, what is the position of our loved Acadia? Oh! Accia! Oh Child of Providence, fondly called, with thou not rather be called the Child of Im-providence? And suppose that the hearts of Acadia's supporters are waned away, will not the day of consolidation be hastened, will not the estranged turn away from the College which they are so often called upon to free from embarrassment to that College which makes no claim upon their pockets? If Dr. Rand loveth our people as B. H. Eaton, Esq., says, if "he is a Baptist all over" through an "ironing," if he has any regard for the Institution which has so benignly nurtured him, he will not place her and denominational interest in jeopardy, he will show that he too can rise above all personal considerations, and take his stand among those who are willing to say, "By no act of mine shall harm be done to my loved Acadia or to Baptist interests." Not that if the Chair of Didactics should be of vast importance, the College cannot live if a large proportion of the denomination are opposed to its policy. The College must work in harmony with the wishes of the people if it works at all. Ruin follows division as surely as night the day.

The recent action is looked upon by many as an evidence that if ever Baptist generosity should free the College from debt, that the governing body would forthwith plunge it into debt again and that any effort to raise funds is only an inducement for further indebtedness. Men and women, under these circumstances become tired of the horse-leech's cry of "Give, give." It would have been prudent, if it could have been wise, to have managed to get along in an economical way for a few years. Did not the Governors at the St. John Convention say that College matters would move along in a business way, if only the present debt was removed, and did not that noble hearted man, Mr. Cummings, endeavour to gratify the wishes of the Governors? Ask him if this is not so. Let us return, before it is too late, to the safe way, let us say aside all personal aims and so for the cause of Christian education like men. It may be too late a year hence. If once a deficit of \$2,000 or \$3,000 occurs, as it is likely to do under the present circumstances, it may be extremely difficult (I will not say impossible) to remove it. People may decline to pay a debt which they have protested against incurring.

Thanking you for your space, I remain, Yours etc, A. J. DENTON.

For the Christian Messenger.

Rejoinder from Rev. J. Skinner.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.—I have neither the time nor inclination to engage in controversy on the subject of Didactics, which is already sufficiently before the public. But two or three points in Bro. R. M. King's reply to my letter in your last issue, I cannot allow to pass unnoticed. I therefore ask a brief space in your columns for this purpose.

Bro. King takes exception to my statement that the founding of the new chair at Acadia College, was done without the knowledge and concurrence of the Convention, and he comforts himself with the assurance that a "brief recital of the facts of the case," will prove and convince me, that "it was not really so,"—that is to say—that my statement was incorrect. But after the "brief recital" referred to, Brother King comes to my rescue and lifts me quite out of the difficulty by making the unqualified statement, that "it was not possible to ask the advice of the Convention in the matter." This, if true, abundantly proves that what I stated was strictly true. For if that impossibility did really exist, the business referred to must have been done without the knowledge or consent of that body. Again, Bro. K. says that up to the time of closing the Convention "the subject of the Education Chair, &c., had never been before the Governors." Now I am not going to deny this. But if true one of three things must be apparent to every intelligent mind. Either the Board of Governors must have been in possession of superhuman wisdom, to enable them to

bring to in so sh done be ration a that th before h for the kindly sitions i

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.

Against the ratification of the Convention, the Board of Governors, by virtue of their office, are bound to ratify and confirm any measure passed by the Convention, and if they refuse to do so, they are liable to be removed from office.