

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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The Christian Messenger,
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Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
On Vacation.

Dear Editor,—

North Sydney, as you will remem-
ber, is the most commercial and ac-
tive town in Cape Breton, and a
great resort of shipping engaged in
the coal trade, and a port of call
for orders by vessels coming from
Europe. Here are great piers for load-
ing coal, the trade in which has been
quite active this summer. Here is a
marine railway, on which vessels re-
quiring repairs can be raised and repaired
with ease and safety. Here are large stores
filled with the various articles and ap-
pliances that commerce, the mechanical
arts, domestic life, and fashion require
for their prosecution or gratification.
The population is about three thousand;
and there are five churches, viz: the
Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Presby-
terian, and Roman Catholic,—the latter
being larger than either of the others.

Considering the number of churches
one would expect to see more evidence
than appears of the predominance of
Christianity and temperance. The ap-
pliances of intemperance are prominent
enough, and its results show themselves
but too plainly and painfully. If there
is any power in the Scott Act, or other
law of the land, to limit or diminish
the sale and use of intoxicants, it is
high time that such places as North Sydney,
and Sydney, Canning, Kentville, Halifax,
&c., &c., should be made to feel the
benefits of it.

After all, the best antidote to the
giant evils of intemperance is vital
Christianity, or the Gospel cordially re-
ceived and allowed to permeate the
daily life of society. The great trouble
is, that those who most need the Divine
remedy, are generally most unwilling
to accept and use it: hence the need of
patience, prayer and Christian efforts
to recover the falling and fallen, and to
win the young from the deadly snares
of intemperance.

On the 20th of July, I had the privi-
lege of worshipping with the Baptist
Church, Sydney, of which I was former-
ly pastor for two years, and seized upon
the opportunity to address them in
words of encouragement and help con-
cerning the vicissitudes of the Christian
life, and the joy of Christian hope and
promise.

This church needs strengthening and
enlargement in every respect, spiri-
tually, numerically and financially;
and wise, patient and faithful ef-
forts put forth out of love to Christ
and regard to men's souls by the mem-
bers generally, as they have opportuni-
ty and ability, would result in great
blessings to themselves, the church, and
the community. Rev. Mr. Coldwell, just
from Newton Theological Seminary, has
entered on his work as pastor, with
resolution and hope to succeed, by the
Divine favor, in building up the church
and leading sinners to Christ. But as
earnest co-operation on the part of the
people is generally a condition of a
pastor's success, so a pastor should
strive wisely and well to secure that co-
operation; and the members should
cheerfully respond to their duty in the
matter, as unto the Lord. It is a sad

sight to see churches dwindling and
decaying for want of that fellowship in
Christian work and enterprise which
Christ has enjoined on all His disciples,
and the carrying out of which is so in-
fluential in the development of indi-
vidual Christian life and the furtherance
of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

A minister cannot do a people's work,
nor the people a minister's; but they
can reciprocally help each other greatly
by a faithful discharge of their respec-
tive duties. One of the greatest hind-
rances to the progress and triumph of
vital Christianity in the various denomi-
nations is the failure of Christians and
Christian churches to faithfully carry out
the principles and doctrines that Christ
announced and laid down for their
guidance and government, and for the
sanctification, full equipment and tri-
umph of the church.

Sydney does not show much evidence
of progress, indeed barely maintains the
status of previous years, though the coal
trade is more active than formerly. But
to make a country prosperous much
more than rich coal beds is necessary;
viz., capital, energy, skill, manufactures,
agriculture, &c. These have not been
fully enlisted yet, and put under requi-
sition in Cape Breton. Sydney harbor
is spacious, safe and beautiful, and will
become a great port in the future, when
Cape Breton's great resources in mines
and minerals, agriculture and fisheries
become better known and appreciated
at home and abroad. A railroad through
the Island would give a great impetus to
trade and travel, and help much to
develop its resources. Cape Breton has
not in the matter of railroads received
due consideration from the governments
of Nova Scotia, but it is hoped that the
time of justice to Cape Breton, though
tardy is now near at hand.

While at Sydney I met Rev. C. Spurr,
formerly of Annapolis County, but now
and for some years past, Pastor of the
Baptist Churches in Cow Bay and Mira
Bay; and heard from him a favourable
account of the state of religion in
those churches, and that the prospect
of usefulness and enlargement in the
field of his ministrations is encouraging.
I take great interest in that field, for
there over forty years ago some of my
first attempts at preaching were made
and kindly received there; and when
subsequently visiting Cape Breton, dur-
ing vacation at Horton Academy, I had
the privilege of again preaching in
those places and witnessing a wonder-
ful manifestation of gospel power in
the conversion of many, under the
ministry of that venerable and faith-
ful missionary and minister of the
Cross, the late Rev. Joseph Dimock of
Chester. It affords me great satisfaction
to hear of the spiritual growth and pro-
gress of those churches, and that the
times of refreshing experienced in the
beginning are still remembered. What
is needed in the churches generally
is a more abundant and frequent re-
freshing from the presence of the Lord,
and due culture of the grace and bless-
ings of the Holy Spirit.

GEO. ARMSTRONG.

North Sydney, July 28th, 1884.

For the Christian Messenger.

Home Missions.

NO III.

While we have intimated that our
Home Mission work demands a larger
share of our attention, we would not
have it understood for a moment that
we have any fault to find with our
Board. It is certainly difficult to see
what more they could do than they are
doing under the circumstances. We
believe them to be devoted and con-
secrated to their work, and that every
year they lay us under a debt of grati-
tude for their self-sacrificing labors
in our behalf. This is emphatically
true of our faithful Corresponding Sec-
retary who is giving to us so much of his
valuable time and strength without fee
or reward. Yet we know that the
Board can only move as fast and no
faster than they are backed up by the
hearty co-operation of the denomina-
tion; and if this is so and this hearty
co-operation does not appear we can
easily imagine how tried our brethren
often must be to know what to do under
such circumstances.

We find in the annual report of the
Board for 1883 the following statement.
"Your Board are not satisfied with the
progress that is being made in our
Home Mission work. . . . We know
not what to do however, each year we
have been obliged to report a deficiency.
It does not seem safe therefore to ad-
vance more rapidly until the denomina-
tion show signs of supporting such
advance, as without such support we
should be compelled to retreat with
loss and disgrace."
And when the Board says they are not
satisfied with the progress that is being
made, are they not saying they are not
satisfied with the countenance and sup-
port they are receiving from those who
put them into office. And can we
blame them? Not, as it seems to me,
until we are sure we are doing all that
is possible to place the Board in a
position to attempt greater things than
it dare attempt at the present time.

It seems almost sometimes that we
consider we have relieved ourselves of
a very large measure of our responsibil-
ity when we meet from year to year and
appoint a Board to carry on this work.
But in as far as this idea obtains it must
certainly prove fatal to all progress.

The appointment of a Board is simply
an acknowledgment of our obligation,
and instead of diminishing, it increases,
in one sense, our responsibility in the
matter. Well, it is said, it is an easy
matter to criticise, but what we want is
some one to point out "a more excellent
way" and the question is asked again
and again, What can be done that,
under the blessing of God, will give our
Home Mission work a new impetus and
place us in a position to accomplish
more than we are accomplishing at the
present time. Well in answer to this
great question I would say let us devise
more liberally, let us attempt greater
things than we have hitherto attempted,
and then let us in the name of our God,
and by the help of our God, bring our
thought, our energies, our prayers, and
our means to bear upon the successful
carrying forward of our plans.

In Maine where the writer labored
pleasantly and he trusts profitably for
a number of years, the denomination
thinks it worth their while to engage
the services of one of their strongest
and most experienced men and place
him at the head of the work. Dr.
Ricker gives to this work all his time,
for which he is paid a salary of, I think,
\$1,000 per year. Now if it pays the
brethren in Maine to do this, would it
not pay us to do the same thing in
these Provinces. If the services of a
brother of experience and skill, whose
heart is really and truly in the work,
such as he who is now our worthy
Secretary, could be secured for all his
time I believe it would be the best
thing that could be done for our Home
Mission work.

We also want in these Provinces at
least three general missionaries whose
salaries shall be guaranteed by the
Board, and whose work it shall be to
go from place to place throughout the
length and breadth of the whole field
with the glorious message of the gospel.
If it is asked will this pay, we point
to the success of our esteemed brother
Wallace, who tells us that no less than
eighty-one persons were baptized by
him during the last three months of his
labors before he was obliged to rest on
account of failing health.

But still it is asked, where is the
money to come from? We answer
from the people. There is enough
money yet among the Lord's baptized
people to do this and much more. Yes
it is said, but they won't give it. But
are we sure they will not give it. I
believe we make a mistake right here,
I believe our people have not only got
the money but that they are willing to
give to Home Missions if the subject is
brought before them as it may be, and
as other subjects are brought before
them.

When Acadia College was in ashes
our people came nobly forward with
their money and rebuilt it, and when
two years ago our appeal was made for
thirty-three thousand dollars to pay off
the indebtedness how promptly the
people responded to the appeal.

An educational institution under the
joint control of Baptists and Free Bap-
tists is founded in New Brunswick,
and when the appeal is made for money

for lands, the erection of suitable build-
ings and endowment, it does not seem,
now that the people will be backward
in handing out the needed funds.

And what does this prove. It proves
two things: First, The people have the
money, and secondly that they are
willing to give when the object is
brought before them, and they are con-
vinced of its importance. Let us not
then expect too much from the Board,
nor let us cherish the thought for a
moment that the people will not give to
Home Mission, but let us unitedly at
our annual gatherings, in our churches,
and in our homes, give to this work the
consideration and attention its supreme
importance demands and I am satisfied
there will be no lack of funds, and God
will help us "to go up and possess the
land."

I. E. BILL, JUNR.
Newcastle, N. B.

For the Christian Messenger.
British Columbia for Christ.

Nearly a month has elapsed since
there appeared in the Messenger, an
appeal for aid in building a house of
worship for the Calvary Baptist Church,
Victoria, B. C. During this period I
have been visiting Associations and
Churches in behalf of our religious
interests in the North West. I rejoice
to write that the Master has set the seal
of approval upon this work and has
opened both hearts and purses of his
people to respond.

I first addressed the Central Associa-
tion assembled at North Kingston,
Aylesford. Almost to my surprise and
to my devout gratitude the splendid
sum of \$117.00 was at once given.

I next presented this subject at the
Eastern N. B. Association, meeting with
the Dorchester Church. The contin-
uous rain and bad roads had the effect
of thinning the attendance somewhat, and
I had dread forebodings of a dull meet-
ing and feeble response to the appeal.
These gloomy fears were soon dispelled
and never shall I forget the hearty and
enthusiastic reception this object re-
ceived. One good brother, well ad-
vanced in years, feelingly said that he
and his wife had been long praying for
British Columbia, and rejoiced to see a
prospect of prayers being answered.
They then gave liberal donations to the
cause. Another brother desired to give
"a bundle of shingles"; still another
wished to "lay a brick in that church."
Ere the session closed nearly \$80.00 was
contributed.

My cause was afterwards laid before
the Eastern N. S. Association at Amherst,
and the Victoria Church soon became
the recipient of many prayers, sympa-
thies, and hard cash to the amount of
about \$57.00.

The story was next heard in Halifax,
and awakened a generous response.
The Dartmouth Church kindly appro-
priated a portion of its Sunday School
missionary collection to this object, and
this amount, (\$20.00) was nearly dou-
bled by private subscriptions. After I
had preached for Bro. Avery Sunday
evening, July 20th, the congregation
practised, and I left the Tabernacle with
a lighter heart and heavier pocket, this
practical expression having amounted
to over \$14.00. Several persons not
connected with either of the above
churches have assisted generously in
this work. I have not yet completed
the canvass in Halifax, but have been
kindly invited to address the North
Baptist and Granville Street Churches,
and I hope soon to report liberal things
from this quarter.

Such in brief is the account of the
work of soliciting thus far, and truly I
can say, "The Lord hath done great
things for us, whereof we are glad."

During the few weeks remaining
before I leave for British Columbia. I
hope to receive many more tangible
expressions of interest in this great
work. I have been invited to speak on
this subject at Wolfville, Windsor and
Halifax which I purpose to do before
the Convention meets at Moncton.
There are many churches that I will be
unable to visit. Pastors, will you not
kindly present this matter before your
congregations and secure collections, no
matter if small, for this object? Will
not some Sunday Schools devote a por-
tion of their missionary contributions

towards nailing a few boards on our new
church building? Will not individuals
who read this take a share in this enter-
prise? Every donation will be gladly
received, and duly acknowledged.

WALTER BARRS.

Wolfville, August 2nd, 1884.

The following is a list of contributions
already received. If any errors in
names or money occur I shall be glad
to correct them.

Central N. S. Association, Aylesford.
Rev J F Avery.....\$10 00
Parker Spurr..... 2 00
Rev T A Higgins..... 10 00
Mark Curry..... 10 00
Rev S B Kempton..... 5 00
E S Lyons..... 1 00
J C Dumaresq..... 10 00
E M Keirstead..... 5 00
Rev J A Gordon..... 5 00
A P Shand..... 10 00
Rev E J Grant..... 5 00
A Coldwell..... 5 00
L O Neily..... 5 00
Rev J F Kempton..... 5 00
E W Sawyer..... 5 00
W J Gates..... 5 00
John Hall..... 1 00
D F Higgins..... 2 00
Rev S March..... 1 00
Two Friends..... 2 00
Collections..... 13 28
\$117 28

Eastern N. B. Association, Dorchester.
T L Hay.....\$ 5 00
Rev E C Corey..... 5 00
Rev W J Swaffield..... 2 00
E Read..... 1 00
Rev I J Skinner..... 2 00
Rev J F Fillmore..... 5 00
W H Wortman..... 10 00
Mrs W H Wortman..... 5 00
Rufus Tingley..... 5 00
D Archibald..... 1 00
Rev T M Munro..... 2 00
Rev A T Dykeman..... 2 00
Mrs John March..... 10 00
Mrs Killam..... 5 00
Rev G O Blake..... 5 00
Rev J C Blakney..... 5 00
Rev George Seely..... 2 00
Rev E H Howe..... 2 00
Rev C C Burgess..... 2 00
Nathaniel Peck..... 1 00
Collection..... 5 00
\$77 50

Eastern N. S. Association, Amherst.
Rev J E Goucher.....\$20 00
T H Rand..... 1 00
T R Black..... 5 00
Walter Black..... 25
T B Leighton..... 25
Rev E T Miller..... 1 00
Rev P S McGregor..... 5 00
Geo Christie..... 1 00
Mrs G B Smith..... 2 00
Moses Lowe..... 1 00
Wm Cummings..... 2 00
James N Layton..... 1 00
D F Quigley..... 1 00
Sophia L Steeves..... 2 00
A Friend..... 1 00
Mrs Charles Christie..... 1 00
Elisakim Newcomb..... 1 00
Rev D A Steele..... 4 00
Collection..... 25 02
\$57 02

HALIFAX—Dartmouth Church.
Sunday School.....\$20 00
Aubrey S Hunt..... 4 00
J W Johnston..... 8 00
B A Fielding..... 3 00
Mrs C L Weeks..... 1 00
Mrs Eliza Savage..... 0 25
Eber Herman..... 0 50
Eliza Crandall..... 0 10
Lizzie Adams..... 0 50
James Gates..... 2 00
\$39 35

Tabernacle Church.
John Mason.....\$1 00
Wm Keady..... 1 00
Mr. Reid..... 1 00
Mrs. Davis..... 1 00
C. Hubley..... 1 00
J. K. Hubley..... 2 00
Others..... 7 60
\$14.60
Henry Hermes..... 2 00
Frank H. Doull..... 8 00
Mrs Wiley Smith..... 4 00
John Burgoyne..... 1 00
John Y. Payzant..... 2 00
Wallace Graham..... 10 00
A Friend..... 50 00
\$77.00

Elsewhere.
John W. Barrs, Wolfville..... 50 00
Edgar D. Shand, Windsor..... 10 00
John H. Haley, Yarmouth..... 5 00
Libbie A. Johnson, Truro..... 2 00
\$67.00

When tidings reached the little church
in Victoria that their brethren in the
East were rendering their assistance in
their church building, their hearts were
greatly cheered. The good news made
them desirous to clear off the \$200 yet
owing on their church lot, towards
which \$500.00 had been previously paid.
By vigorous efforts this desire has been

nearly realized, and only a few dollars
remain unpaid.

As a dark side to this picture, the
owners of the hall where they worship
have notified them that the rent shall
hereafter be \$50.00 a quarter instead of
\$25.00 the former charge. They will
now be obliged to pay double their
previous rent which shows the impera-
tive necessity of having a house of
worship where they can be free from the
unjust exactions of worldly men.
W. B.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Baptist Book & Tract Society

have engaged the services of three
brethren to act as colporteurs. They
are also in communication with two
other brethren and hope to have them
at work shortly. These are all that the
society can employ at present. Appli-
cations are coming in from good men
who are desirous of working for the
Master, but our means are limited and
therefore we cannot give them employ-
ment. The amount to the credit of the
Colportage department is not large;
it will bear an increase. Should any of
our brethren and sisters have it in their
hearts to aid the above department of
the Society's work, donations, etc. will
be thankfully received at the Room
104 Granville St., Halifax.

Mr. Laird is working in P. E. Island,
Mr. Morrison of Onslow, will spend
some time in Cumberland N. S. and
Westmoreland and Albert Co's. N. B.,
and Mr. Spide in Lunenburg, Queens
and possibly Shelburne, N. S. Brother
William Blenkhorn of Mascon, is also
employed on special terms.

The Committee of Management would
bespeak for these brethren the hearty
and cordial support of the Society's
funds. Any courtesies extended to
them will be appreciated. The colpor-
teurs are instructed to take collections in
aid of Colportage at all Sabbath services
which they shall conduct.

In behalf of the Committee of
Management.

G. A. McDONALD, Sec'y.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Master.

Thoughts suggested on hearing the
first two lines, in an impressive sermon
by Rev. J. E. Goucher.

"With faith in the ship,"
"It can never go down;"
The waves high may rise,
The dark clouds may frown.

Should the Master seem sleeping,
While the rough billows roll;
Fear not "child of sorrow,"
He'll speak "peace to thy soul."

Then call on Him now,
For you need Him each hour,
In calms, as in storms,
Acknowledge His power.

He's the "life-boat" to save,
From the sad "wreck of sin";
You are safe, if the Master
Has taken you in.

Then "be watchful," be prayerful.
As the boat bears you on
To the haven of safety,
The end of life's storm.

W. J. G.

It has always been held that the most
pungent and effective preaching is the
expression of individual experience.
Here is an illustrative incident told of
a Hartford (Conn.) preacher:

He once wrote a powerful sermon
against the besetting sin of a violent
temper. It was so potent, so pungent,
so real, that he was congratulated by
several of his hearers, who expressed a
kind of admiring surprise at such a
searching and effective discourse on
that subject. "Why," he replied; "I
did that out of my own personal experi-
ence. It was because I knew just where
I was daily sinning myself, and in the
worst way, too, in that very direction,
that I was able to make such a feeling
sermon on that particular failing. If
you will believe me, I was not preaching
at any of you, but at myself. That was
actually what I wrote and preached that
sermon for! I was trying to reform
myself."