

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., April 2, 1884.

OUR brethren in New Brunswick are obtaining some legislation in the way of combining with the Free Christian Baptists of New Brunswick, and the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia in support of the Baptist Academy in St. John N.B.

A bill was passed in the House of Assembly at Fredericton, on Wednesday last, providing for the incorporation of certain persons—upwards of a hundred names are given,—these "and all the Baptist ministers in the Province of New Brunswick accredited to any Baptist Association in New Brunswick, and all the Free Christian Baptist Ministers in the Province of New Brunswick, and all the Free Baptist Ministers in the Province of Nova Scotia, accredited to their respective Conferences, their Associates, Successors and Assigns be and are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name of 'The Union Baptist Education Society' and by that name shall have succession and a common corporate seal," &c., &c.

The second clause of this Act is as follows: "the permanent capital stock of the said The Union Baptist Education Society, shall consist of one hundred thousand dollars in ten thousand shares of ten dollars each."

It is said in the preamble of this Act that the two corporations, viz.: "The Free Baptist Education Society of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia," and "The New Brunswick Baptist Education Society," "with a view to the union of their interests in the purposes of education and by and with the consent of the denominations they represent, have agreed to join themselves together into one Society for the purposes contemplated."

We have not heard of this being done by the New Brunswick Baptist Associations. The passing of this Act will entitle this Union Baptist Education Society to all the property, etc. of the New Brunswick Baptist Education Society.

The last clause, 20th, of the Act, provides that:

If at any time hereafter any gift, devise or bequest of money or property shall be given, devised, or bequeathed to any of the Baptist Associations in this Province for Educational purposes, such gift, devise and bequest shall at once vest in and become the property of the Corporation hereby created, unless in the Will or instrument giving, granting or conveying such gift, devise or bequest it shall appear that it was the intention of the donor or donors, grantor or grantors, that such gift, devise, or bequest was intended for theological training and education, and in that case a majority of any such Association to which such gift, devise or bequest may be made shall determine whether or not the said gift, devise or bequest shall go and become the property of the said corporation hereby created, and upon the same being so determined then the said hereinbefore last mentioned corporation shall have all the rights and property therein as if such gift, devise or bequest had been made to the corporation created by this Act.

By this it would appear that the New Brunswick Associations are to have taken from them all power to appropriate such moneys as those referred to. They may by a majority determine to whom moneys for theological training shall be given! How very generous! But otherwise this "Union Baptist Education Society," will, without so much as saying, by your leave, seize upon all moneys given for educational purposes. Does this apply also to the Free Baptist and the Free Christian Conferences, etc? Will they allow their hands to be so tied by Act of Parliament? How far this comports with the fact that the Provinces are united for the support of Acadia College it might be well to consider.

This letter from Rev. J. R. Hutchinson on another page will be read with deep interest. Mrs. Hutchinson sends enclosed to the N. S. Central Board W. M. A. S. a copy of her Quarterly Report of the school at Chicacoote which shews that it contains

Table with 2 columns: Gender, Count. Boys - 46, Girls - 20, Total - 66.

Present this Quarter 60. These are taught Bible, Reading, Writing &c., by V. Subbron, Tutor, and Ruth. The latter two are Christians.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF ST. JOHN N. B., 1883.

We learn by this Report that the Schools of St. John are managed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of three gentlemen appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and four by the common council of the city. Of this body John March Esq., is the Secretary and Superintendent of Public Schools.

The report for the past year is a pamphlet of 167 pages giving full details of the operations of the Board and the work done in the schools. It appears that there are 19 School Buildings. The different rooms or departments in them are called Schools, of which there are said to be 81.

The total number of pupils enrolled was 4256, while the number in attendance was 3597—1854 boys and 1743 girls. The per centage of attendance was in winter 75.51 in summer 70.29 for the year 72.90. The total cost for the ordinary service was \$47,318.34. Cost per pupil \$11.11. Total cost for ordinary service including interest \$57,940.51.

There were in the employ of the Board eighty-one teachers, besides thirteen assistants. Of these,

Table with 2 columns: Category, Count. 13 males hold first-class licenses, 5 " " second-class " 30 females hold first-class " 28 " " second-class "

John March Esq. is the secretary of the Board and the Superintendent of the Schools—the two offices amalgamated, which in Halifax are separate and held by two distinct persons.

It may not be out of place here to make two or three items of comparison between the schools of St. John N. B. and Halifax N. S.

It appears that the Halifax Public Schools contain 5618, and the average daily attendance is 3925 or 76.5 per cent. of the whole number registered.

The proportion of the Halifax population at schools is 1 to 6 (We do not find this item in the St. John Report). The total amount expended for schools by the Board is \$61,981.01. The average cost per pupil \$11.37.

THE LESSON HELPS of the American Baptist Publication Society are about as complete and as near perfection as it is possible to bring them, whether we consider the number and their adaptation to the various ages of young people and old, who make use of them, or their varied contents. They begin with the Picture Lesson Quarterly, a series of picture cards with a few easy questions and answers on the back. Next is the Primary Quarterly with lessons a little more advanced, suited to those who can read with less difficulty. Then we have the Bible Lesson Monthly with more advanced Notes, questions &c. Then comes the Intermediate Quarterly a beautifully illustrated pamphlet of the lessons of the Quarter, progressing into more advanced suggestion and thought. The Advanced Quarterly brings food for more study by additional references, Notes, and Questions. The Senior Quarterly is more complete still, has a higher class of map and illustration with its themes for thought and study, and further preparation on the subject of the lesson, with music to hymns suitable for the lessons.

The Baptist Teacher is a further development, and the Baptist Superintendent is a quarterly full of matter suited to help him in his work of government and management of the School, so as to give it the highest possible state of efficiency. These seem all intended to stay and help on in the great work of giving Bible teaching to all ages and conditions, and make it pleasing and profitable. It will require some wisdom and discretion to make the selections as to suit the different ages, and give each its appropriate one. With these helps in diligent use Baptists will be worthy of the commendation given to the Bereans who "searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Besides these Helps the Baptist Publication Society got up a most beautiful series of papers for young people with illustrations on which it is a pleasure to look, they are so finely executed and printed. They comprise: The Young Reaper, semi-monthly 4 pages.

The Sunlight, semi-monthly 4 pages.

Our Young People, monthly 12 pages.

Our Little Ones, weekly 4 pages. These may all be obtained at the Baptist Book and Tract Society's Rooms, 104 Granville Street, Halifax.

"THE TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES."

This latest discovered of old manuscripts is still under discussion and is making quite a stir among Pedobaptists. The N. Y. Examiner is disposed to think it is not a forgery—There being but this one copy known to exist there is no opportunity to make any careful comparisons. The Examiner says of it:

Some of our contemporaries imagine that Baptists are in a great state of anxiety about this document, and are very desirous of establishing its untrustworthiness. This is a mistake. Baptists have no interest in this matter except a historical and critical interest. Baptists are perfectly willing to grant for argument's sake, that the present form is correct. It is, in fact, a very strong testimony to the truth as Baptists hold it. It is evident from this document that the early church polity was congregational, that the churches were composed only of those who gave credible evidence of regeneration, that believers' baptism only was known, that baptism was a prerequisite to the Lord's Supper. This is the soundest kind of Baptist doctrine. The only point in which there is any perceptible difference between Baptist principles and the teaching of this document is, that when water enough for immersion could not be had, affusion would be accepted as a substitute. In the United States, at least, no one ever has any difficulty in getting all the water necessary, so that this clause is null and void for American Christians. We shall be heartily glad to see all our Pedobaptist brethren follow the teaching of this document. We could then only ask one thing more of them: that they should follow the teaching of the New Testament.

THE ACADIA ATHENAEUM is loud in praise of the new matron of Chipman Hall, Mrs. Balcom. It says:

"She has already won the favor and esteem of the students, by her kind and obliging manners, and her readiness to attend to their comfort in sickness as well as in health. The students are not slow to observe and appreciate these acts of kindness, and consequently each one strives to deport himself with becoming propriety, not only in the dining hall, but in the building generally. On Monday afternoon all the students, boarding in Chipman Hall, met in the chapel and passed unanimous resolutions, in which they agreed 'to co-operate with the executive committee in all efforts that had in view any improvement in the management and comfort of the boarding house. At the present time the corridors of the boarding house are comfortably heated and lighted up at night, springs are put on the outside doors, and the whole building has a more comfortable and homelike appearance than for many a day."

NEW YORK has a host of philanthropic institutions engaged in all sorts of efforts to save the erring and rescue the perishing. We have before us the FIRST PUBLIC REPORT OF THE HOME OF INDUSTRY AND REFUGE FOR DISCHARGED CONVICTS. The inception of the Home is a highly interesting story. It was begun by Michael Dunn, who had spent thirty-five years in prison in various parts of the world.

In forty-eight hours after the Home was opened, six homeless men found shelter in it, and in two years this refuge gave shelter and aid to 295 men of the same character, most of whom came to it direct from prisons. Such of these men as were sincere in their desires to reform their previous ways of life, were employed in various kinds of labor in the Home until independent employment could be obtained for them, or until they were restored to their families or friends.

The men are lodged and fed in the house, and as a compensation for their lodgings and food, they are required to be busy all day in making brooms, or in some other industry, until they are able to get suitable employment elsewhere. If any of them, by superior skill or industry, are able to earn more than is sufficient to repay the expenses of their board and lodging, they are paid the difference in money, according to an equitable determination of the value of their labor. Besides, learning a trade which may be useful to them, the men are often able, by this labor, to lay a way money in the savings bank for themselves.

Since the opening of this Home in

1879, 1,245 men have been received as inmates. Of this number 659 have obtained employment.

The total number received into the Home, from January 1, 1883 to Jan. 1, 1884, was 466. The total number that obtained employment during this time was 213.

THE WOLFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH at a recent business meeting extended a unanimous call to the Rev. T. A. Higgins to become their pastor. Mr. Higgins will enter upon this important work, with the fullest sympathy and cordial co-operation of all the members of the church.

A very precious revival is in progress in Wolfville and many have already declared their attachment to the Saviour. Others are seeking the kingdom. There are also indications of a revival in connection with the institutions.

We find the following in one of our morning papers:—ANNIVERSARY.—Tuesday (Festival of the Annunciation) His Lordship Bishop Binney celebrated the thirty-third year of his elevation to the Episcopate by a special thanksgiving celebration of the Holy Eucharist at St. Luke's Cathedral at 11 a. m. The congregation was large.

Is that a legitimate use of the Holy Eucharist?

D. M. Terry & Co., of Windsor, Ont., and Detroit, Michigan, have sent us their handsome Seed Annual for 1884. It is full of valuable instruction and hints 'as to the best treatment of Seeds and Plants and the Soils suitable for them. Send for a copy

Literary.

THE BOWSHAM PUZZLE: by John Habberton. Funk & Wagnalls Standard Library, No. 110, pp. 222. Price 25 cents. S. F. Huestis, 141 Granville Street, Halifax.

This is a story of Western life which will find for itself readers. The characters are freely drawn but some of them are of the loud coarse sort. The story borders very closely on the sensational novel style. Some of its scenes are strange enough and the conduct described not often witnessed where the proprieties of life are better observed. The puzzle like all others is easy enough when it is solved.

HARMONIC ARRANGEMENT OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: by George W. Clark, D. D., author of the Harmony of the Gospels, &c. Philadelphia, American Baptist Publication Society, pp. 263. Price \$1.25.

This book is arranged for the use of Teachers and as a help to get a clear and intelligent view of the contents of the Book of Acts. The narrative in the book itself is often interrupted and to a superficial reader would appear as a number of fragmentary portions of history, but after using this "Arrangement" it would be better understood, and design of the whole more clearly perceived.

COUSIN MERCY'S IDEA; OR, THE HEAVENLY WARDROBE. By Mrs. Ada C. Chaplin. Price \$1.50. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1420 Chestnut Street.

The author of this excellent work has passed to her rest while the book was in the printers' hands. It is an interesting story of a New England manufacturing town, and is especially noticeable for the aptness of the author in linking lessons for the Christian life with the common incidents of ordinary life. To young men and women in our Sunday-schools it will have special attraction from the variety of the incidents and the appropriateness of the lessons.

COMMENTARY ON THE REVELATION: by Justin A. Smith, D. D., in consultation with James R. Boise, Ph. D., D. D., LL. D., pp. 316. Price \$2. Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

This is the third volume of the complete Commentary of the New Testament which is being issued by the Baptist Publication Society, and is perhaps the best of the three. It is not simply a book containing the opinions of the author on the text of this difficult book, and its symbolisms and teachings, but Dr. Smith brings together here the views which have been put forth by learned divines, and presents them to the reader in a condensed, and yet sufficiently elaborate form to make it a most useful and readable commentary suitable for the Christian minister, the student, the teacher and for family use.

The author says in his preface: "Points present themselves from time to time that require more of expansion than is practicable in the exposition proper. These are treated in the form of 'General Comments' or of 'Ex-cursus.' Some of the more general aspects of the exposition itself are considered in connection with these separate

divisions. It is hoped that a more clear, as well as a more full presentation of some of the more difficult subjects requiring distinct treatment has thus been practicable."

For the most part, the Greek text of Westcott and Hort, which was made also the chief textual basis of the Revision printed in this volume along with the authorized version, has been followed in our own exposition. There is less occasion to go back of the excellent work of Westcott and Hort, and the manuscripts so much relied upon by them, in any inquiry after the true text, as the variations in the Apocalypse among manuscripts, though very numerous, are less vital in character than in some other of the New Testament books. Manuscript authority, however, has been consulted, where thought necessary, and the aim has been, so far as possible, to ascertain the text which most accurately represents that of the inspired author himself."

HARPER'S MAGAZINE FOR APRIL, has its usual great variety of articles, among which are—A visit to Sardinia.—Charles Elliot Norton; With Five Illustrations. The Hohenzollerns.—Herbert Tuttle; With Thirteen Illustrations. From the Fraser to the Columbia. I.—Ernest Ingersoll; With Ten Illustrations. Modern Sanitary Engineering.—W. P. Trowbridge. Working-men's Homes.—R. R. Bowker; With Thirteen Illustrations. Editor's Easy Chair: Literary Record: Historical Record: Drawer: and a number of others. The Drawer is full of racy pieces.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

On Monday 24th ult., among a number of other bills read a third time was the one to incorporate the Baptist Book and Tract Society.

Dr. Haley gave notice of motion to establish a free bridge over the River Avon.

The House in Committee proceeded with the Revised Statutes. On disarranging for rent a discussion arose.

The Act to incorporate the Great American European Short Line Railway was read clause by clause and passed.

On Tuesday a number of chapters as far as Mines in the Statutes were revised and passed.

The subject of abolishing imprisonment for debt was next brought forward for consideration by the second reading of the bill introduced by Mr. McCoy.

The discussion was brought to a close by Mr. Corning saying that he opposed the bill last year and intended to oppose it now. He would not consent to any understanding that it should go before the committee.

Mr. Power said he was glad the hon. member for Yarmouth insisted on the vote being taken now.

The motion was put and lost, 14 voting for and 18 against.

Names being called for, there appeared:

For the motion: Messrs. H. Munro and Mack, Hon. Mr. Pipes, Hon. Atty.-General, Hon. Prov. Secy., Hon. Mr. LeBlanc, Hon. Mr. Fielding, Messrs. Fraser, Weeks, McCoy, Cook, Harrington, Blair and McLennan—14.

Against: Hon. Comr. of Works and Mines, Hon. Mr. Johnson, Messrs. Buchanan, Longley, Haley, McCoy, McNeil, Power, Dodge, Harris, Spence, Whidden, Hockin, Patterson, Townsend, Corning, Campbell and Robichau—18.

Mr. Harrington arose and said, now that the House had thrown out the bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, he was going to move his resolution to reduce the expenses of this legislature, in order to give the people a little more money to pay their debts.

He moved that the number of the House of Assembly be reduced to 21 members and the Legislature Council to 12 members. After a lengthy debate the vote was taken when three members voted for the resolution Messrs. McCoy, Harrington and McRae, and the rest 21 against. Mr. Power subsequently asked to have his name recorded for, and Hon. Mr. Fielding against.

On Wednesday Hon. Mr. Fielding introduced a bill to incorporate the Halifax Railway Company with the view of establishing a street railway. He had been informed by its promoters that it would not be pressed any further until the City Council had an opportunity of dealing with it.

Hon. Prov. Secretary stated that he was requested by the committee appointed to draft an address to His Excellency the Governor-General in regard to the matter of better terms to report progress to the House. He wished to ask that a sufficient number of copies be printed for the use and for the information of hon. members of this House and the other branch. The committee would be prepared to submit the address for consideration at an early day.

Several bills were reported up and

passed upon. One of these was a bill to authorize the town of New Glasgow to borrow the sum of \$20,000, and another a bill respecting the union of the Methodist Church of Canada with certain other Methodist Churches.

Some time was expended in the consideration of whether levying for arrears should be permitted to continue. Dr. Haley submitted the resolution of which he had given notice respecting the sale of Government House. Under the present state of things the Lieutenant Governor's salary was insufficient to sustain an establishment such as his present residence contemplated and it involved so much expense to the province that it should be diminished by the Dominion Government providing a much smaller one.

Hon. Mr. Fielding said the impression that the expenses of Government House were exceedingly large was a mistake. In respect to the claim that the maintenance of that building should be a charge upon the Dominion Government he might say that there was a provision in the B. N. A. Act under which this Province was allowed the sum of \$60,000 for expenses of Government and legislation. We might have some difficulty in showing that the actual expenses reached that amount, and there might be some reason for contending that the cost of the maintenance of Government House should form a part of and be included in that amount. He was inclined to agree that the present building was larger than we could afford but he was afraid that if it was sold it would be sold for a song, and he was sure that the hon. mover of the resolution would not wish to see it sacrificed. If the resolution was merely designed to enable the Government to sell the building if they saw fit he did not know that there would be any serious objection to it, though he would be glad if the hon. member would allow it to stand as an expression of opinion without pressing it to a vote.

Mr. Weeks would be very chary about placing the power, at all events unrestricted power, in the hands of the Government to sell anything—that was the element in the resolution which above all others struck him as being the most objectionable. Mr. Longley wished the hon. member for Hants had adopted the suggestion thrown out, and withdrawn his resolution after discussion. It would probably cost a larger amount to purchase and erect another building suitable for a Governor's residence than this one would realize. As a matter of sentiment this building should be preserved. It was creditable to the Province, superior in architecture and surroundings to the residence of the Governor in any other Province of the Dominion.

Mr. Townsend called attention to the fact that the resolution was out of order. A resolution dealing with public property could only emanate from the Government. His Honor the Speaker said that he had not had an opportunity of reading the resolution before, and must reserve his decision—the question being an important one—until to-morrow.

Mr. Bell wished to ask the Government if it was their intention to introduce any scheme for the consolidation of the Western railway of the Province, or if any such scheme was in contemplation. Mr. Longley said it was the simplest thing in the world to frame a policy which would secure the completion and consolidation of the railways from Halifax to Yarmouth, without adding a dollar to the obligations of the country, and, if we had a Government worthy of the confidence of the country, such a Government would perfect such a policy before twelve months.

Mr. Weeks said that statement was without the slightest foundation in fact. On Thursday the Speaker in reference to the resolution relating to the sale of Government House discussed yesterday, said that he considered it to be a deviation from the rules of the House.

Dr. Haley said he would accept the ruling of His Honor and would modify his resolution accordingly. In reply to a question from Mr. Bell given on a previous day. Hon. Mr. Pipes gave the following as his answer: "The Government have not matured any scheme for the completion of the Western Counties Railway. We have reason to believe and do believe that arrangements can be made at an early day, which will complete the Western roads and provide for extension eastward at a cost to the Province that will be small in comparison with the obligations contemplated by other schemes."

This was not accepted as satisfactory by several members and other questions were asked in explanation. Mr. Corning thought the House was entitled to a more explicit answer than had been given. As the Government had admitted that they had in contemplation some scheme whereby the roads to the westward might be completed,

he would contemplate some scheme whereby the roads to the westward might be completed,