

The Christian Messenger. Halifax, N. S., December 31, 1884.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Send to Rev. E. M. Saunders at Halifax, all sums due the Christian Messenger to November 1st, 1884. All that is or may be paid beyond that time belongs to the Rev. Mr. Goodspeed; and it sent to E. M. Saunders, or, if already in his hands, it will be forwarded to Mr. Goodspeed at St. John. If in forwarding money it is found difficult to divide the amounts, send the whole to E. M. Saunders and he will forward the part due the new paper to Mr. Goodspeed. As the Christian Messenger will be removed to St. John at the beginning of the year it is specially desirable that all amounts due the Messenger should be forwarded without delay. Reckon the indebtedness to the Christian Messenger only till November 1st, 1884. From that date the subscriptions go to the Rev. C. Goodspeed, St. John.

WE WISH ALL THE READERS OF THE "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER" A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE LAST WORDS OF THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

BEFORE DEPARTING HENCE TO BE UNITED WITH THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR IN THE CITY OF ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

In the year 1834 there began to be a talk among the Baptists in these Provinces of having a religious weekly newspaper. At that time they had the BAPTIST MISSIONARY MAGAZINE; started in 1827, which appeared six times a year. The circulation was about 700. In the Spring of 1835 "a friend" visited the Association in New Brunswick. The subject was there discussed; and a resolution passed, expressing the belief that a weekly newspaper would serve the public much better than the Magazine. This was reported to the Nova Scotia Association held in Horton, (Wolfville), in June of the same year. The enterprise occupied the attention of this body. Here is the first sentence of the paper that appears in connexion with the Minutes of that Association:—

"Every one admits that the press is one of the most powerful engines that has ever appeared in the world for the promotion of either good or evil, according to the mind that wields it. The pen of the writer in this way often becomes the eloquent tongue of a thousand orators or the poisonous fang of as many vipers."

At the New Brunswick Association were persons who felt so deeply the importance of a weekly newspaper that some were willing to pledge themselves for fifty, and some for a hundred copies. In September following, there appeared in the B. M. Magazine the "Prospectus" of a newspaper. Its title was to be "THE HERALD OF NEWS, SCIENCE AND RELIGION;" and it was to be about the size of "THE HALIFAX JOURNAL" or "THE ACADIAN RECORDER;" and was to be published on Friday of every week, to cost "fifteen shillings" a year, delivered in town and "seventeen and sixpence" for the country, "two and sixpence" being charged for postage. I paid in advance it was to be "twelve and sixpence."

The following was the declared purpose of the new journal:

"It is a fundamental principle with the persons projecting the 'Herald,' that both private happiness and the public good require that the Mechanic, the Merchant, the Professional Man, and the Statesman, should each be an enlightened Christian; and that in proportion as the world is filled with such, national prosperity will become more extensive and more permanent. To promote such intimate correspondence between divine truths and human affairs, as a measure of the highest wisdom and the truest philanthropy, is proposed therefore as the leading object of the 'Herald.'"

The sentiments of the conductors of the Herald were termed "evangelical," and they gave their private preference to the section of the Christian Church "denominated Baptists."

At the Association held at Granville Street, Halifax, June 27, 1836, the subject of the newspaper was again considered, and the following resolution passed:—

"That this Association, being fully satisfied in concurrence with the Association of New Brunswick, that the

interests of religion in connexion with this denomination, require the publication in Halifax of a weekly newspaper, combining religion with other useful and interesting information, in lieu of the Magazine now published, are of opinion that such a paper ought to be commenced with the beginning of the ensuing year, provided a sufficient support can be secured; and in case of its publication the Ministers of this Association pledge themselves, to sustain it to the utmost of their ability."

The name first proposed was changed before the publication of the paper. In the Magazine of November, 1836, a prospectus is found in which it is stated that, "various circumstances have, however, tended to defer the publication until the present time, and an alteration of the title of the paper has been deemed advisable. It is now proposed to commence it as a weekly journal under the title of 'THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER' and Repository of Religious, Literary and General Intelligence, for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick."

A large space was to be set apart for temperance. Not only was the Higher Education to receive the support of the new paper, but the "all important but much neglected subject of primary schools" had the promise of constant and faithful support.

On the 6th of January, 1837, "The Christian Messenger" appeared, PRINTED BY JOSEPH HOWE

The Christian Messenger came before the Association held in Yarmouth, June, 1837. It will be interesting to our readers to see the list of ministers included in the Association at that time. They were the Revs. Richard Cunningham, J. B. Cogswell, N. Vidito, Edward Manning, David Harris, Geo. Dimock, Israel Potter, James Munro, I. E. Bill, Peter Crandall, T. S. Harding, John Pryor, Richard McClearn, John Doyle, S. T. Rand, Joseph Dimock, James Skerry, Samuel McCully, Charles Tupper, John Whidden, Harding Porter, Charles Randall, Wm. Chipman, Harris Harding, Wm. Burton, John Burton, Ezekiel Marsters, Thomas Delong, Henry Saunders, Wellington Jackson, Hezekiah Hull, E. A. Crawley, McQuillan, George Richardson, John Shaw, Abraham Stronach, John Chase, and Maynard Parker. Of those who saw the first number of the Christian Messenger, only five remain to read the last number. They are the Revs. E. A. Crawley, D. D., Nathaniel Vidito, I. E. Bill, D. D., John Pryor, D. D., and Silas T. Rand. The closing number of our paper will revive a host of reminiscences in the minds of these venerable ministers of the word. Their hearts will be not a little stirred by the remembrance of bereavements and the glorious prospect of meeting again those who began life with them but vanished from the ranks, and left their places to be filled by young recruits. All who have entered the ministry since and still live to preach the gospel of the Son of God will experience an outflow of gratitude to God for the lives of the talented and devout men who, among other great undertakings, embarked in the important enterprise of a weekly newspaper for the Baptists of these Provinces. One attempt had been made by another body, but it did not succeed. In the face of this "The Christian Messenger" was projected on a most liberal basis. All Christians were invited to write for its columns.

A Presbyterian appears in the second issue as a correspondent. There are in the record no references to any particular persons to whom the body is indebted for the Christian Messenger; but we think there are evidences that the Rev. E. A. Crawley had much to do in imparting to the minds of the people sound views of this case, and in stimulating them to make the venture. Then there were about 6,000 members in the churches, now there are about 40,000. It was a bold and grand enterprise.

At that time our Academies were in their infancy. Acadia College was founded a year after this. The Academies at Wolfville and Fredericton, the latter open and attended by both sexes, were in successful operation. To all these denominational enterprises the Messenger has proved faithful. Have any of them been in danger, the old Messenger has sounded the alarm. Have any of them been in

want, and they have all been always in that state, the Messenger has sent out appeals and pleaded for them as a mother would for her son. With a clear conscience, and a sense of righteous pride this journal can look back over its life of 48 years, and can call upon all to witness that it has never proved recreant to the trust first reposed in it. With its last breath the denomination is called upon to hold up the old flag, and in the language of a venerable deacon "not to lower it one half inch."

Missions at home and Missions abroad, benevolence in all its forms, and the higher education under Christian influence, have been steadily and unflinchingly promoted and defended. And now that the Christian Messenger has fought the good fight, and kept the faith reposed in it, it does, in surrendering its existence, solemnly charge the union journal to make itself worthy of its parentage.

From first to last revivals have received its sympathy and it has always been glad to publish the great things done by the Lord for the churches, and for the world.

One distinct promise made by the Messenger, in the days of its early life, was, that it would be a bold and faithful advocate of Temperance. This promise has been kept. Temperance has always claimed the friendship of the Christian Messenger. It found the subject a weak and struggling one; now it has come to the front, and has fair prospects of complete victory. It is with no small degree of satisfaction, that the Messenger looks back upon the earnest help it has always endeavoured to render this good cause. In its Prospectus "primary education" was said to be "much neglected," and with this a promise was made to take special interest in that subject. Has that promise been carried out? Has not the Christian Messenger been to the front in helping in every forward movement. The Free Common School system received its support; the "Science and Art of Education" has also found in this paper a faithful friend. When the Christian Messenger first made its appearance England was agitated with the abuse of Church Rates and the cruelties to the apprenticed slaves in the West Indies. Upper Canada was rent into factions by the "Clergy Reserves question," and the fires of rebellion were breaking out in Quebec. The report of a meeting in Halifax, declaring loyalty to the Queen, and providing help for soldiers' families in their absence, getting through the cold and deep snow from Halifax to Quebec, to put down rebellion, was published by the Messenger in the first year of its existence. Some of the people in the Cornwallis and Annapolis Valley will remember turning out in their sleighs to help the "red-roats" along to Annapolis at that time. All this has given place to an improved state of things. The principles laid down in the Prospectus of the Christian Messenger have been recognized, and to a great extent put into operation. The Mission of the religious newspaper was clearly pointed out, and in all these respects the Messenger has endeavoured to be the friend and helper of every good work and laudable enterprise.

It does not pretend to have been infallible. Many, no doubt, have been the mistakes and many the short comings, for all of which regret is expressed, and hopes of forgiveness held; and now with the little that the Christian Messenger has done to advance truth and right in the world, to be neighbourly and Christlike, it takes its farewell, leaving best wishes to all the journalistic brotherhood, its work and blessing for the world and the Baptist denomination, and specially for those of these Provinces at large.

A FEW MORE LAST WORDS. MR. EDITOR,— This being the last issue of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER from the Office in Halifax, I may be allowed to say that after so long a period of connection with the paper as proprietor and editor, it is not without a severe wrench of the feeling of attachment to the paper. I think of entire separation from it, and its removal to St. John, N. B., to form with the Christian Visitor, the one Baptist paper of the Maritime Province. As, however, the removal has been determined upon, and the object aimed at

by the Company endorsed by Associations and Conventions, I could not but assent. I doubt not our brother Rev. C. Goodspeed will do all that is possible to prevent disappointment to any in the carrying of this into effect.

One of the chief sources of regret in the removal of the paper from Halifax, arises from the change that will be rendered necessary in the Messenger Printing Establishment, and the breaking up of the regular routine of work in getting out the paper. This reminds me that it would be unjust to my own feelings as well as to the men employed on the paper, to allow the present opportunity to pass without giving them the need of praise to which they are so well entitled. They are all sober, industrious, trustworthy men, and have always been so—our foreman Mr. Henry D. Holloway, has been with us now for over 27 years, first as an apprentice, then as journeyman, and since for seventeen years as an efficient trusted foreman. Next we have his brother—Mr. Joseph C. Holloway, a now skilled and superior workman, for a period of 25 years. Then another journeyman, Mr. John Brunt, a careful reliable man, who has been with us from his boyhood, for 21 years. It is doubtful if any printing office in the City can give a better record of three of its employees.

I hope the One paper will be as regularly and carefully mailed, as the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER has been. We have frequently had the compliment paid us by the postmasters in the country, that no paper came to them so regularly, or as well done up and protected as the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. The credit of this is largely due to our Office hands, and it is right that this should be said of them.

S. SELDEN, Publisher.

After having written the foregoing, I found the following on my desk, which will not be out of place among the Valedictories of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER:—

"The Christian Messenger"—Farewell.

To S. SELDEN, Esq.,—

Dear Sir,—Allow me to say a few words in parting with the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. It has been a second home to me, and it is with regret that I make up its pages for the last time. I have been employed in the MESSENGER Office, on the 20th Dec., 1884—Twenty seven years—also my brother Jos. C. Holloway, who has been employed for the past Twenty five years. I first went to your School—the Royal Acadian—for some three years, then I came as a boy to learn the Printing business, I was thought at the time, by the foreman, too small, but having gone to your School, I was taken on trial, as a boy, then as journeyman, and now for the past seventeen years, as foreman. During those long years, Sir, we have never had an angry word, let alone a quarrel, but worked along harmoniously to the present time. Looking back I see that the MESSENGER has been enlarged three times—it was first worked off on a hand-press—the labor of which the boys now-days, know nothing—in fact there are now no boys.) Now the printing is all done on the steam-press.

Great and sad changes have taken place during the last fifteen years of my life. I have committed to the silent grave, a loving mother, father, three brothers, three nephews, and a beloved niece, and last and saddest on Jan. 30th, 1884, I parted with a loving and amiable wife, after a brief six months of happy wedded life. Cut down in the bloom of life, and gone to be with the God who gave her. I have often felt that few have undergone more sad trials.

And now, Sir, before I close, I must not forget your kind and esteemed Lady. She has never forgotten the hands in the office on a Christmas Eve, as the years rolled on—though sometimes in feeble health—to supply us with abundance of refreshments and kind words. This she has done for the Twenty-eighth time on the past Christmas Eve's that I have had the pleasure to be in the Office. Trusting that she and your daughter may be long spared to you to spend many years of happiness, is the wish of your,

Obedient servant, HENRY D. HOLLOWAY, Foreman, Christian Messenger Office, Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27th, 1884.

REV. JOSHUA T. EATON has received a unanimous invitation from the Church in South Ohio, Yarmouth County, and has accepted it, and entered upon his labors with good prospects of success. The people are building a new house of worship seventy feet in length having a convenient basement, ladies parlor &c. and expect to have it finished ready for use before long.

AN ADDITIONAL WORD.

Some persons have failed to apprehend the true import of our observations last week under the caption "A GREAT AND IMPORTANT QUESTION." The drift of that editorial was to this effect:—We have had two religious newspapers circulating among the Baptists, one, the Christian Messenger for 48 years, and the other, the Christian Visitor, for 36 years. A good degree of effort has been made to get them into the greatest number of Baptist families. In the last three years hundreds of new subscribers have been obtained; but many of them have discontinued. All who have had to do with the circulation of either of our papers for the last ten years know that the great obstacle in the way is the subscription price. Not one fourth of the Baptist families has ever been induced to be subscribers to the Baptist newspapers. Up to this day people are discontinuing their papers and refusing to subscribe, and nearly all for the reason that the papers are too high. We are quite aware that the proposed paper cannot be published for less than the price fixed. The Messenger and Visitor especially when the indulgence to some of the subscribers is taken into account, have not been too dear; but there stares us in the face the fact that more than fifteen thousand of Baptist families have rejected these papers chiefly because of their price, and they will continue to reject a "two dollar paper." Papers whose titles we need not name find their way into a large number of households. They cost one dollar instead of two. Again therefore we say, here is a most important question. We assume that the new paper will about hold the ground surrendered to it by the Christian Messenger and Christian Visitor. There then remain more than fifteen thousand families unsupplied.

As the two papers have been united a new and good opportunity presents itself for an honest effort to reach these houses where no Baptist paper is found. Whoever will propose a scheme and successfully carry it out, will do for the denomination and for religion what has not yet been done. It is a field of labour, the contemplation of which should awaken zeal, stimulate benevolence and tax the consecrated skill of the denomination. Who will solve this great question? The golden opportunity has arrived. No one should think of projecting a paper to rival the one now about to come into existence. That has a great and sacred mission to perform and should receive a generous and loyal support; but outside of the work of the paper to be published in St. John there is an uncultivated field most important to occupy. The result might be a less number of papers from the United States and the west of the Dominion; but who will grieve if Baptist families choose to take a good paper advocating their faith in addition to giving general news? This is a living question now. The solution of it would be a day of forward movement by the entire Baptist ranks.

While things are in a transition state, the forming and execution of a plan to meet this great want, is not, as we judge, to be expected; but after the papers have become consolidated, and got into efficient working order, then the result of the thinking of the body in the mean time, may take practical form which may ensure the cultivation of a large and long neglected field.

THE Christian Visitor is assured that the new paper will view the matter of union with the Free Christian Baptists favourably. This is good, if viewed from the right grounds. In the Messenger the Rev. Mr. Goodspeed assures the denomination that he and those associated with him will be loyal.

We are persuaded that both the editor of the Visitor and the editor of the new paper personally hold Baptist views of Church polity; but what course will they take on the question of union? One has told the body what he will do, the other has not. The policy of the new paper is what the Baptists are now looking for. Will there be any change of "THE OLD AND FIXED LANDMARKS OF OUR DENOMINATION?" The body ought to have a reply to this question.

THE BAPTIST BOOK ROOM, HALIFAX.

A number of most devoted and loyal brethren have at no little sacrifice of time and money established a Book Room in this city. By a vigorous canvass support has been obtained from all parts of the province. The brethren who led in calling this Institution into existence have continued their earnest labors to keep the business in operation. It is well known that no profit accrues to those who give so much of their time to this work. It would not we are sure be thought invidious if we were to mention the name of A. P. Shand of Windsor in this connexion. Mr. Shand especially as well as those laboring with him has laid the denomination in Nova Scotia under a lasting debt of gratitude for his zealous, gratuitous and successful labors. This can be best repaid by largely patronizing the Rooms which are well served by the efficient and agreeable secretary, Mr. George A. McDonald.

The local Board of Managers, Rev. J. W. Manning, A. L. Wood and C. H. Whitman are all active promoters of the good work.

CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY.—A Loud Call.—The rapidity with which the construction of this great work continues to go forward is without parallel in the history of railway building. It is expected that in March next trains will be running from Montreal to the waters of the Columbia River. Next autumn the road will be open to the Pacific, and by the following spring there will be direct railway communication between Halifax and the new town of Vancouver.

It is a matter of great interest and moment that in the building of the road abundance of coal and abundance of timber have been discovered. The people of the great North West will speedily have their needs supplied in these important respects.

In his address at Toronto the other day, Sir John A. MacDonal read the following "carefully prepared" statement. It is surely fitted to make the pulse beat quicker in every Canadian breast.

The distance from Montreal to the Pacific ocean is 2,900 miles, or 430 miles less than from New York to San Francisco. From Montreal to Yokohama, in Japan, via C. P. R., the distance is 10,977 miles, or 1,013 miles shorter than via New York and San Francisco. When the C. P. R. has been extended eastward to the maritime provinces, with a direct line to Louisburg, C. B., the ocean voyage from England to America may be accomplished easily in five days, and the railway journey from Louisburg to the Pacific ocean may be done in five days more. This will be ten days from London to the new city of Vancouver, on the Pacific coast. The run across the Pacific to Yokohama may be made in 14 days. The whole trip will thus be made in 24 days from London to Yokohama, a saving in time of at least 20 days over the route via Gibraltar and the Suez canal. The English colony of Hong Kong may be reached by the C. P. R. in less than 30 days from England, or 16 days less than by Gibraltar or the Suez canal. During all that time the traveller will never be out of the sound of the British drum, and may always have his eyes resting on the Union Jack.

The great country thus opened up for the settlement of many millions of people appeals to every christian denomination in the Dominion to enter in and occupy for Christ. To no denomination is the call louder than to our own, and yet no denomination, perhaps has been more tardy in making an adequate response. Even on grounds of political economy and national safety the incoming peoples of the great North West should be leavened with the uplifting ennobling principles of the Gospel. Without these principles society must be corrupt, and civil and political affairs throughout the Dominion must reflect more and more the evils inseparable from such a social condition. The movement to organize the Baptists of Canada for united efforts in discharging the great and increasing responsibility devolved upon us in relation to Manitoba, the North West and British Columbia has not been undertaken an hour too soon. There is a great work for the Baptists of the Dominion to accomplish for the Master in this behalf. Let us lose no more time, but gird ourselves for the inspiring service to which we are so loudly called.