The Christian Messenger,

Hallfax, N. S., December 24, 1884.

CHRISTMASTIDE.

It was the winter wild, While the heaven-born Child All meanly wrapt in the rude manger Nature, in awe to Him.

Had doffed her gaudy trim, With her great Master so to sympa-

Thus sings great Milton, and we care not to question the correctness of the time of the year assigned as that of the nativity. This festal season has been the theme of many admirable outpourings of christian devotion, of oratory, hymnology, and art. Not to mention the writers of mediæval Latin bymns, we have rich contributions of permanent value to the hymns of the season by Charles Wesley, Byron, Tate, Heber, Keble, and others. A host of painters have represented the nativity, and it is the inspiring theme of the chief part of Handel's greatest triumph, the Messiah. The sway of the English "lord of misrule," or the Scotch "ab bot of unreason," has little to do in these days with Christmas-keeping in Christian homes. The world has been steadily outgrowing some of its follies, and getting down to the heart of things.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son to men, says the beloved disciple. Thanks be unto God in the world. for his unspeakable gift, exclaims the zealous apostle to the Gentiles. Here is the gift of gifts from the heart and hand of the Great Giver. Herein is revealed to men, as by a sunburst, the attitude of heaven to earth, of God to men. He is love, and love moves him to give,to give himself for others. This is the lesson of self-sacrifice for all the ages and all the eternities. Jesus the helper and Saviour of men is the gift of God. And as the time of his advent into our world, as the great token and substance of the divine love comes round, let us not forget to manifest a returning love 'to him who gave and him who came.' The means for the active manifestations of this love lie all about us. Parents and children, children and parents, in short, friends in every degree of relation, expect love tokens and affectionate remembrances at Christmastide, This is well, and may be full of the sweet tenderness to Christ; but if we merely love those who love us what thank have we? Do not even sinners the same? We must exhibit a selfsacrificing love or we fail to catch the spirit of the great example and our great examplar. The sick, the sorrowful, the poor, the neglected, the helpless, the erring,-who will care for these if the lovers of the Savior do not? Gentle reader, do you know of some poor widow whose little store may prove all too small for the needs of "the winter Then help her if you can; and if you cannot, bring her case under the quiet notice of those who can. The opportunities are manifold. This is the true keeping of Christmas that we give of our substance and of ourselves for the helping of others. And let us remember that all needs are not those of the body,-what we shall eat and wherewithal we shall be clothed. There are those at home and abroad who are stretching out their hands to us for the " bread which came down from heaven," that bread which is the gift of God to us. In all relations, that of the family, of the church, of society, may this blessed Christmastide bring the sweet benediction: " Peace on earth, good will to

O, blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed ! O, happy hearts, and happy homes, To whom the King of triumph comes A GLAD CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS.

THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF THE "CHRISTIAN MESSEN-GER."

In another column may be found a communication from the Rev. Calvin from the platform. These orations Goodspeed, relative to the purchase and the future of the Christian Mes- gave evidence of a good degree of senger. As stated by Mr. Goodspeed, mental discipline and literary ability this paper will, after the close of the on the part of the speakers. An

I purchased the Messenger; out im markedly characterized by simplicity mediately after doing so, I wrote the and naturalness. I should say that Rev. Mr. Goodspeed, agent of the the Junior Class, judged by their on fair terms. On Thursday last he and A. P. Shand, Esq., completed the purchase, the terms of which had been agreed upon about a week before. My filled the part assigned to her with part in the sale of the Messenger has been of a merely accidental character. As Mr. Goodspeed came to me so soon after the paper came into my hands, I sold it to him for the exact sum that I gave Mr. Selden for it, not charging him for expenses necessarily incurred.

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As the part taken by me in the sale of the Messenger has been of so special a character, I do not come under the obligations usual in the sale of a newspaper. Mr. Goodspeed himself freely admits this. But while I am thus as free as if I had had no part in the matter, yet I feel, in common, I sup pose, with the denomination at large that it would be inexpedient to project any enterprise in journalism, intended to interfere with the purposes of the Company. I therefore join with all other well-wishers in commendation of this new undertaking. I hope it may be largely helpful in fostering denominational institutious and missions, and in advancing truth and righteousness

E. M. SAUNDERS.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

THE JUNIORS' RHETORICAL EXHIBI-

The Rhetorical Exhibition of the Junior Class of Acadia College was held on Thursday evening, the 18th ago emerged from slavery, are the data inst. Old students are wont to associate leafy trees in white blossoms with anniversary days. This year Juniors' evening was not without its of Europe had been wrought upon only outdoor arborial decorations. During by the forces by which these writers the previous day the feathery snow fell gently through the mild still air, the freedmen? The christian religion testooning buildings, and fences, and every bole and branch, and twig of the element by which the resistance of trees for many miles around. This was the fairy scene through which the friends passed as they gathered grace with their presence the Junior Exhibition of 1884. The fine sleighing and the bright cool air of Thursday evening aided in securing a large audience in College Hall at the appointed hour. The following was the

PROGRAMME: Prayer by the President.

ORATIONS.-Life of an Athenian Citizen in the Time of Pericles : - *Harry Lovett, Kentville, N. S. The Ideal Historian :- Foster F. Eaton,

Parrsboro, N. S. The Literary Element of the Bible *John W. Brown, Grafton, N. S.

The Guelfs and Ghibellines: - Walter V. Higgins, Wolfville, N. S. Music :- Vocal Solo, by Carl Shaw.

The Source of National Greatness Hibbert B. Smith, Brookfield, N. S. The Uses of Imagination :- *Earnest M. Freeman, Newport, N. S.

The Main Feature of Roman Worship *Mark B. Shaw, Berwick, N. S. The Making and Influence of the English Bible :- Harry H. Hall, Penob

Music: - Violin Solo, by R. W. Ford, accompanied on piano, by Lila Williams. The Study of Style :- M. Blanche

Bishop, Greenwich, N. S. Sir William Herschel: - Vernon Masters, Cornwallis, N. S. The Influence of Patronage on Literature :- *Austen K. deBlois, Wolfville,

Egypt: - Frank H. Kanop, Sackville, Music: - Vocal Sole, to Benie Day.

Retribution: or The Sole of Greek

Tragedy: - *Charles H. Day, Yar-

mouth, N. S. Nationalization of Land :- Wm. B. Hutchinson, Great Village, N. S.

The Study of Chemistry as a means of Mental Discipline: - Frank H. Beals, Inglisville, N. S. Music:-Violin duett, by Dr. Bowles

and George Munro, accompanied on piano, by Mrs. Bowles. National Anthem.

Those to whose names I have prefixed an asterisk delivered their orations were prepared with much care, and present year, be transferred to St. John earnest, manly, and Christian tone qualities. God uses it as one of his and united with the Christian Visitor. pervaded the utterances of all. I choicest balms,-yes, uses it. It re- fusing the body, yet the great question A few words explanatory of my don't suppose the professors imagine freshed and comforted the heart of the of putting a denominational paper into connextion with the paper may not be that the delivery of these students weary Christ, upon whose spirit the the fifteen thousand Baptist families, out of place at this time. Having cannot be further improved. It is due shadow of the cross was beginning to now unsupplied, will still remain un-

be prepared to consolidate our papers, from the artificial and weak, and was appearance on Thursday evening last, contains some men' from whom we shall hear further by and by. I must not forget to add that Miss Bishop was warmly received by the audience, and much self-possession and dignity.

ONE PRESENT. Wolfville, Dec. 20 1884.

HE GREAT FACTOR LEFT OUT

The Atlantic Monthly, the North American Review, and the Popular Science Monthly, have recently published elaborate articles upon the negro in the United States. It is not our purpose to reproduce the extraordinary and often s'riking statements of facts presented by the writers of the articles referred to. We may say, however that the proposition of the writer in the Popular Science Monthly that th white people of the United States should compel about ore seventh of the population to expatriate themselves in an un civilized land shows how like our

new science is to pagan brutality." We wish merely to emphasize the fact that the writers in the influential periodicals referred to, discuss the destiny of the negro as though it we a mere question of economic science or of physics. There is a lofty and selfsufficient ignoring of the christien religion as one of the great factors of civilization, or indeed as a factor at all. Physical traits, heridity and such like considerations, and the present economic attainments of a people who a few years chiefly relied on. This is reading history with blind eyes. Where would be the civilization of to-day if the peoples are pleased to adjudge the destiny of has been the inspiring and uplifting natural forces has been overcome. Its grand doctrine of the brotherhood of man, despite all outward distinctions race and condition, has been a force immeasurable energy in this overcoming process. The doctrine of moral responsibility and the immortality of the sou have been great stepping stones by which the peoples have risen into modern civilization. Above all. The great truths of the incarnation and the atonement have enabled men even to regain their likeness to God. The revelation of the Father "in the face of Jesus Christ" has been a mighty gospel in its regenerating power over human lives; and however imperfectly it has been apprehended and applied, modern society owes the best of what it now is to the gospel of the grace of God. The wide, open heavens of God's love and grace is the way of escape from the direful teachings of the new science. In these heavens above us shines the great sun of the moral and spiritual world and whose very shining is a rebuke of gloomy prophecy and pessimistic despair. Never was the regenerating en. nobling, and civilizing power of the simple gospel more evident than the history of the American freedmen; and the pen of the future historian will record that the source of error in the estimates of the writers we have reterred to was this: the great factor was left out.

ALABASTER BOXES.

A year ago a friend, whose happiness it is to break alabaster boxes of love we lay down the pen. In the mean-Company would not in the near future that the manner was generally free by which divine energy has entered ity, and the removal of local prejudice

into and exalted the worn and anxious and a high intellectual efficiency in a spirit. How many a humble and united journal is one thing; but the paper for our first issue, but hope to earnest soul has been enriched and gladdened by it, and bow many a one has pined and died because this sympathy has been withheld. Life's thoroughfares and by-ways are crowded with struggling ones, each of whom, could we but see it, are hungry for this divine ministration through human This need is not less but even greater among those who are doing the hard work of the world in more public positions. The ministers of the gospel, the laborers in the Day and Sunday Schools, in short all who seek to render a true service and discharge obligations which compass their fellow-men.

takes no account of the weak is no part it is a large sum. During the last of God's true world. Glory to the strong on the reverse side of the shield is oppression to the weak, But sym- our small tarmers in different parts of pathy which moves the heart to loving | the country, We have listened to words and deeds makes the weak their accounts of hard labours, and strong. There is an upward spring in disappointments in the poor returns in it. It seems to disclose new resources farming both the sea and the land. of power. There is life in it,-it is It is in the light of these truthful and life. Sympathy trains the loving eye into a working power able to see truth value of two dollars a year to such even. As the microscope reveals new worlds, so do the lenses with which ought to have a cheaper paper. Insympathy endow tha eyes of the spirit. deed they do get cheaper papers; but The mountains become suddenly filled papers containing religious reading couraged to believe we shall have both with horsemen and chariots. If you to only a very limited extent, and in no small measure. want to make one strong, dear reader, entirely neutral in regard to advoto do and to bear, pour into his heart cating denominational principles. The this sweet essence of which we speak, and by and by you shall hear the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye

and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them; the kind gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them.

"If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours, and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them while I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy.

"Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Postmortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the

GREAT AND IMPORTANT QUESTION.

There are in the Maritime Provinces more than twenty thousand (20,000) Baptist families. Not more than one proprietors will continue to publish fourth of them take a Baptist paper. No other denomination, however, has supplied so large a proportion of their families. This is largely owing to the fact that the Baptists have had two papers published in the two important centres. The Company will find by experience that it will be impossible to keep one paper in as many tamilies as have been supplied by the two papers. We predicate this on the experience of three years, and also on the experience of and tenderness over sore hearts, placed the Wesleyan body, a people who from a printed leastet in our hands, saying the nature of their ecclesiastial organias she did so, " I think those words zation are better prepared than the are very true and sweet." We read Baptists to make centralization successthem with sympathetic interest, feeling ful. There may be at first an impulthat they were in leed sweet and true. sive movement which may carry the We shall reproduce them in full before subscription list beyond this estimate; but in the long run we have no doubt time we want to call attention to the about the result. While the union of truth that human sympathy may really the two papers may realize the hopes be divine in its teaching and comforting entertained by some of annihilating believed with many others that the to the young men, however, to state fall. It has been the frequent vehicle solved. The restraining of individual-

supply of 15,000 families is quite another. Their relative importance would not for a moment be a matter of doubt in any intelligent mind. Next to the preaching of the gospel to this host of families, is the supplying of them with a religious, denominational paper. Who will solve this question? By what means can it be done? Any person who will produce a workable plan for the accomplishment of this end, will confer a great boon upon the denomination.

One thing is certain-a two dollar paper will not do the work. To many it may seem a small sum; and to many It is an axiom that a system which it is a small sum; but to many others three years, we have visited hundreds of the homes of our fishermen, and of unvarnished accounts that the real persons is seen. They feel that they difficulty arises chiefly from matter of expense. It ought to be met. It a successful plan could be carried into operation, the results would be good and great beyond com But let us redeem our promise. putation. This enterprise of uniting Here are the words of the leastet we the two papers which for many years referred to. We do not know who have been on an equality, has opened penned them, but they are redolent of the door for an honest effort to attempt the precious spikenard: -" Do not the other and more important work, keep the alabaster boxes of your love | Who can think of the passing of the and tenderness sealed up until your Sabbaths and long winter evenings of friends are dead. Fill their lives with fifteen thousand Baptist families who sweetness. Speak approving, cheering never look into a denominational paper, words while their ears can hear them, without a stirring of soul to make some effort to supply this want? The Messenger and Visitor have been in all things you mean to say when they are their past history busy agents in working for our schools of learning, and our missions at home and abroad. paper that would enter these unsup plied families would do similar work Collateral blessings, too, known only to Omniscience, in extent and importance, would flow from the success of this great work.

THE CONSOLIDATED PAPER

For a long time the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have been watching the movement to secure a single paper for our people, with ever deepening interest. At first there much apathy and no little distrust. As time has passed, however, and the strong common sense of the people has been directed towards the question, the circle of its friends has widened, and distrust has given place to general confidence. We have now the pleasure to announce that the last difficulty has been overcome. The Christian Messenger and the Christian Visitor have Publishing Company. The presen their respective papers until the close of this year. The Company will assume control in January, and will send forth the first number of the Consolidated Paper, under the name

MESSENGER AND VISITOR, on Wednesday, January 7th, 1885.

The Messenger and Visitor will be mailed to all subscribers for each of the present papers. Payment in advance would take on the vital question of to either Dr. Saunders or Dr. Hopper | church order now before the denominato the end of the present year will in- tion. The Visitor has committed itself sure the new paper until such subscription expire.

Visitor will be \$2.00 per year in ad- in harmony with the denomination, vance. We are sorry this announcement could not have appeared earlier, but circumstances beyond our control have made this impossible.

We shall not make any extravagant promises about the excellency of the new paper. It must bear its own recommendation upon its pages when it appears. It is our intention however, by lessening the space for advertisements, and by enlarging its size, to give as much as four more columns of read- on this question involved in the proing matter than the present papers have posed union with the F. C. Baptist

We may be unable to get the larger have it soon.

We can only say further, that it is our strongest desire to make the Messenger and Visitor worthy of the noble body of Christians, and the precious principles it is to represent. We shall do our best to make it succeed.

The fact that the Messenger and Visitor will be controlled by a Company composed of over fifty of our leading pastors, and of over one hundred of the most loyal laymen in our denomination, should assure all that it will not deal in compromises, or endanger anything which is dear to us as people. The editor also may modestly claim that his record has not been am-

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We have striven in the face of much that has been perplexing, to deal justly and generously, and to sacrifice anything rather than permit the one paper to be launched in any other than a peaceful way. We are most thankful that this has been accomplished, and hope to have the warmest sympathy, and the most earnest co-operation of all, in our efforts to advance the cause of truth and righteousness by means of our denominational paper. From expressions of goodwill received already, we are en-

VERY IMPORTANT.

It is of the utmost importance that a vigorous canvass be at once instituted for new subscribers. We are sure there are very many who desire to take the Messenger and Visitor from its first issue. This is also the time of year when people subscribe for their papers for the coming year. Will not the pastors, and all interested in the work which our paper hopes to do, press the canvass for advance subscribers with all vigor, during the coming weeks.

On behalf of the Company, THE C. GOODSPEED

N. B.-The address of Rev. C. Goodspeed, the editor of the Messenger and Visitor, is St. John, N. B. All subscriptions and communications for the paper are to be sent to him.

Where it is more convenient, subscriptions may be handed in or sent to the Baptist Book Room, Halifax, and they will be forwarded.

THE SPURGEONS .- The latest Baptist papers from London state that Rev. C. H. Spurgeon was recovering from his late illness and was expecting to fill his place again at the Tabernacle on the following Sunday. It is further stated that his son, Mr. Thomas Spurgeon, and Messrs. Cooper and Diver two of the students of the college were to sail together in the Orient s, s "Liguria," to leave London on Wednesday the 10th. The Freeman adds: Doubtless many friends who have heard Mr. T. Spurgeon preach or lecture will wish to bid him a hearty and loving "farewell" ere he returns to that "Brighter Britian" in which he has been called to labour. Thousands will join in the regret that the state of his health will not permit him to remain in this country, and they will continue to been bought by the Maritime Baptist pray that he may be very greatly blessed in his work for the Lord in the new Tabernacle which will be ready for opening by the time he reaches New

BEFORE completing the sale of the Christian Messenger, we felt that we owed it to the subscribers and to ourselves, to ask the Rev. Mr. Goodspeed the editor of the new paper to be published in St. John, what ground be as we judge to a course of expediency. We have good reason to believe that The price of the Messenger and the editor of the Visitor is personally but he thinks the expedient course which he has marked out is the wise one to take. The Messenger on the other hand, has openly held to the old platform, defended by it for nearly a half century. As the two papers are about to be united, it seems to us of the greatest importance that the subscribers of the Messenger, before committing themselves to the new paper, should know what ground it will take been publishing up to the last few weeks. brethren. The policy adopted by the