

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 24, 1884.

CHRISTMASTIDE.

It was the winter wild, While the heaven-born Child All mealy wrapt in the rude manger lies;

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 festive season has been the theme of many admirable outpourings of christian devotion, of oratory, hymnology, and art.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son to men, says the beloved disciple. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift, exclaims the zealous apostle to the Gentiles.

be prepared to consolidate our papers, I purchased the Messenger; but immediately after doing so, I wrote the Rev. Mr. Goodspeed, agent of the Company, that so soon as he was ready to purchase I would sell to him on fair terms.

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.

E. M. SAUNDERS.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

THE JUNIORS' RHETORICAL EXHIBITION.

The Rhetorical Exhibition of the Junior Class of Acadia College was held on Thursday evening, the 18th inst. Old students are wont to associate leafy trees in white blossoms with anniversary days.

PROGRAMME:

- Prayer by the President. ORATIONS.—Life of an Athenian Citizen in the Time of Pericles.—Harry A. Lovett, Kentville, N. S. The Ideal Historian.—Foster F. Eaton, Parrsboro, N. S.

from the artificial and weak, and was markedly characterized by simplicity and naturalness. I should say that the Junior Class, judged by their appearance on Thursday evening last, contains some men from whom we shall hear further by and by.

ONE PRESENT.

Wolfville, Dec. 20 1884.

THE 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 striking statements of facts presented by the writers of the articles referred to.

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 were a mere question of economic science or of physics. There is a lofty and self-sufficient ignoring of the christian religion as one of the great factors of civilization, or indeed as a factor at all.

But let us redeem our promise. Here are the words of the leaflet we referred to. We do not know who penned them, but they are redolent of the precious spikenard:—"Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them; the kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go.

ALABASTER BOXES.

A year ago a friend, whose happiness it is to break alabaster boxes of love and tenderness over sore hearts, placed a printed leaflet in our hands, saying as she did so, "I think those words are very true and sweet."

and exalted the worn and anxious spirit. How many a humble and earnest soul has been enriched and gladdened by it, and how many a one has pined and died because this sympathy has been withheld.

It is an axiom that a system which takes no account of the weak is no part of God's true world. Glory to the strong on the reverse side of the shield is oppression to the weak. But sympathy which moves the heart to loving words and deeds makes the weak strong.

Here are the words of the leaflet we referred to. We do not know who penned them, but they are redolent of the precious spikenard:—"Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead.

"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.

A GREAT AND IMPORTANT QUESTION.

There are in the Maritime Provinces more than twenty thousand (20,000) Baptist families. Not more than one fourth of them take a Baptist paper. No other denomination, however, has supplied so large a proportion of their families.

and a high intellectual efficiency in a united journal is one thing; but the 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.

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 a small sum; but to many others it is a large sum. During the last three years, we have visited hundreds of the homes of our fishermen, and of our small farmers in different parts of the country.

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 were much apathy and no little distrust.

The price of the Messenger and Visitor will be \$2.00 per year in advance. We are sorry this announcement could not have appeared earlier, but circumstances beyond our control have made this impossible.

We may be unable to get the larger paper for our first issue, but hope to 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.

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 a people.

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.

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.

On behalf of the Company, C. GOODSPEED. N. B.—The address of Rev. C. Goodspeed, the editor of the Messenger and Visitor, is St. John, N. B.

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.

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 he would take on the vital question of church order now before the denomination.

THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF THE "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER."

In another column may be found a communication from the Rev. Calvin Goodspeed, relative to the purchase and the future of the Christian Messenger. As stated by Mr. Goodspeed, this paper will, after the close of the present year, be transferred to St. John and united with the Christian Visitor.