

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., March 5, 1884.

THE SACRAMENTS AND THE CHILDREN.

We are glad to see that the Presbyterian Witness accepts Dr. Van Dyke as an authentic exponent of Presbyterianism, and gives its sanction to his article in the last number of the Presbyterian Review.

"Dr. Van Dyke," says our contemporary, "shows that the reformed doctrine concerning the Sacraments is that they are through faith when rightly received, efficient means of salvation."

In the Quebec Church Catechist, p. 80, the sacraments are declared to be the "channels or vehicles to convey to each of us that salvation which Christ died to procure for us, as pipes convey the water into our houses."

As used in regard to infants the difference between these statements is inappreciable.

"Children of professed Christians are members of the visible church. Baptism does not bring them within the church; it is a recognition of the fact that they are already within the church."

Let any Pedobaptist minister extend to the newly baptized infant the right hand of fellowship and welcome it to the privileges of church membership, and the true nature of the rite will at once appear.

The Witness considers it a "blessed provision of divine mercy that even babes can be saved." Wonderful that even babes can be saved! Why should they be lost? Are babes fit subjects for everlasting destruction?

"Christian parents should not admit for one day or for one moment that their babes are members of Satan's kingdom." Babes members of Satan's kingdom! Are there any Christian parents who admit that their babes are members of Satan's kingdom? Are there any who admit that anybody's babes are members of Satan's kingdom? If there are any, point them out.

"They are through grace members of Christ's Kingdom. Hence we Presbyterians baptize our babes. Hence, also, whenever a child is old enough to understand the meaning of the Lord's Supper, and able to make a credible profession of faith in Christ, he ought to partake of the Lord's Supper." The italics are ours, and in that clause he begs the whole question. By what authority is a profession of faith demanded from those who are declared to be regenerate, and who have been publicly recognized as members of the church? Why deny to the "little Christians" at their tenderest age the benefit of so effectual a means of grace as the Supper? Impracticable do you say? By no means. Infant communion is, we understand, the practice of the Greek Church, and in a unique and interesting volume called the Priest's Prayer Book, (London, Joseph Masters, Aldersgate St.) at pag. 156, will be found minute directions for administering the Eucharist to those who are unable to partake of it in the usual way.

"A very small particle of the species of bread may be placed in a spoon and tinged with a single drop of the species of wine from the chalice and administered." Like sprinkling for baptism, this method would meet the case of the tiniest babe.

Testimonial of 1st Horton Church to its late Pastor Rev. Dr. deBlois.

WOLFFVILLE, March 1st 1884. At the Conference Meeting of the Church this afternoon, the following resolutions were moved by Rev. Dr. Sawyer, seconded by Dr. Higgins and unanimously passed:

Whereas, this church has been called to mourn on account of the death of its pastor Rev. Stephen W. deBlois, D. D. Resolved, that while we deeply feel the loss that has now come upon us, we do nevertheless thankfully acknowledge the goodness of God in enabling his servant to continue through the long period of twenty eight years a faithful and successful pastor, honored and beloved by his church and the community in which he lived.

That, in view of our brother's devotion to the duties of his calling in public and in private, his ability as a preacher, his desire at all times to minister to the spiritual comfort of the sick and the sorrowing, his prudence in directing the affairs of the church in times of difficulty and trial, and his readiness to promote every good work, that the fruits of the Spirit might abound in this church and congregation, it is our duty as it is also a pleasure, to place on our records our high estimation of those gifts, by which our brother was made a good minister of Jesus Christ, so that his labors through a protracted pastorate were continuously blessed in strengthening Christians in the faith and in turning many unbelievers unto the Lord.

That, it becomes us to cherish the remembrance of our departed brother's patience, cheerfulness, hopefulness, and Christian trust so uniformly manifested by him during the long and painful illness which preceded his death, as well as the courtesy, kindness, forbearance and love of peace, which characterized him as a man and a Christian through the entire period of his connection with this church, and which so greatly endeared him to its members and to all with whom he was associated.

That, we hereby express our deepest sympathy with the family of the deceased in their sad bereavement, and the assurance of our prayers that the grace which was the support of our departed brother, may be their consolation in this time of sorrow.

Resolved, that the clerk be directed to communicate a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Shortly after the death of Dr. deBlois, Rev. T. A. Higgins was invited by the church to fill the pastoral office for a period of two months to which request Mr. H. acceded.

We had a brief notice of the Fyfe Missionary Society's operations a week or two since. The communication of Mr. C. W. Williams on another page will give further development of the work of our young brethren at Toronto. The Baptist cause near Toronto is being effectively aided by the McMaster Hall students, and now they are reaching out into the North West where we hope they will be largely blessed in their work.

The Acadia Athenaeum for February gives the following respecting the new professorship at Acadia College: "To friends of the college who may be anxious to know the result of the new departure, we would say that the indications are hopeful. There is no evidence of friction in the Faculty, and the students appreciate very highly the instruction of the new professor. At present the work in the department of education includes physiology with the freshmen; psychology with the juniors; and the history and philosophy of education with the seniors."

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE

both Legislative Council and House of Assembly, have been occupied during past week with the Revision of the Statutes. The latter body has also had the finances of the Provinces to deal with. Whilst we need a revenue of about a million of dollars a year we have but little more than half of that sum to meet all the claims presented. There is great difficulty in making both ends meet.

On FRIDAY last the Hon. Mr. Pipes gave notice that he would move a resolution to the following effect: That a committee of this House, consisting of seven members, be appointed to prepare an address to his Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the claims of this province to a larger allowance of subsidy from the Dominion Government.

The Act to amend the Acts relating to the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway Company, was taken up. It proposes to extend the time for the completion of the road from June 1884 to June 1885. It was stated in reply to questions that the company had already spent \$115,000 but had not received one cent of subsidy.

The correspondence between the Dominion and Local Governments respecting the Eastern Extension and Pictou Branch Railways was laid before the Legislature on Monday. It makes a pamphlet of 47 pages.

News from the Churches.

Pastor wanted for Port Medway field.

Rev. Isa Wallace our General Missionary is now labouring at Port Medway. Though the cause was very low God is blessing his labours and the darkness is passing away. Four were baptized on Sunday the 24th inst., and two others received. The outlook is encouraging.

A pastor will be needed at once. The field will probably embrace four churches, viz., Port Medway, Mills Village, Greenfield and Middlefield. Salary about \$500 and a good Parsonage. I shall be glad to hear from any one willing to settle on this interesting field.

A. COHOON, Cor. Sec'y, H. M. Board. Hebron, Feb. 28th, 1884.

Notes from Freeport.

Dear Editor,—Nearly nine months have passed away since my arrival on this Island, and eleven since you have heard directly from me. I have but little occasion and no fondness for parading my name or work before your readers, but a longer silence on my part might be misinterpreted, hence I yield to the call of friends in various parts of Nova Scotia, and give the public a few facts in connection with "pastor and people" in this locality.

It has been my happy privilege, now, for nearly a year, to preach in a community where (of the English speaking population) about a hundred to one are professed Baptists. Long may this be said of Freeport.

Our congregations so far have averaged, in this place, about three hundred, before whose upturned faces and expectant gaze it has been both a trial and a pleasure to stand and speak twice nearly every Sabbath. "Hitherto the Lord hath helped me."

The interest has been gradually deepening ever since my arrival, although nothing very remarkable has yet occurred.

The "old year" closed well with us. Many professors, who had been at variance then sought reconciliation and several troubles of long standing were happily removed.

The "New Year" opened with a sad catastrophe. On the night of Jan. 4th the comfortable residence of a middle-aged brother in Christ was totally destroyed by fire, the inmates, three in number, barely escaping with their lives. All else was lost. The church and friends nobly came to the rescue, and "showing their faith by their works" soon placed the afflicted family in a neat little cottage free of rent, with furniture, food, and clothing with which to start again, and some hundreds of dollars in money. That brother had been for years a silent and inactive professor but he is now an earnest worker in the vineyard of the Lord. The loss of his goods was the gain of his soul. The pastor and his family slept in danger that night and knew it not. Had any of the adjoining houses caught fire the corner of the entire block would doubtless have been consumed and then the parsonage would have gone too. Several times fire was stamped out at our very door but we were not aroused. I was reminded next morning of the words of the Psalmist—"I laid me down and slept, I awaked, for the Lord sustained me."

Commencing with the "Week of Prayer," we held five weeks of special service in Freeport with some good results. More than twenty persons whose voices I had never heard in church, came forward again with confessions and commenced to work anew for the blessed Redeemer. One young married man was converted and added by baptism to our number. At our last conference 92 were present of whom about 70 spoke. This week we are holding meetings at "The Centre." Thence we plan to pass on up the Island to Tiverton. May God deign to look upon us with favor for Christ's sake.

I must tell you of progress in other directions. We have here in Freeport a large and earnest band of temperance workers, upwards of two hundred, and no rum. On the evening of the 31st ult., this "Division" called us out to the dedication of their "New Hall," a large and comfortable, square-roofed building two stories high, erected without help and already nearly free of debt. The evening was very pleasantly and profitably spent.

Mrs. Bishop has recently organized a "Mission Band," consisting of 24 young people who meet at the parsonage twice per month to talk about, and to work for, the perishing in the "dark portions of the earth."

Nor is this all our people are attempting. The "old church" which now stands at the rear of the new one, and is used by us as a vestry, being too small, either for our prayer meetings or our prosperous Sabbath School, is soon to be attacked by the carpenters and to lose one end which it will find again in due time some 12 or 15 feet nearer to the polar star. Thus some \$200.00 will be cast into the treasury of the Lord. Here I will add, that a handful of earnest and plucky Brethren at "the centre" have just caused the finishing touches to be put upon this new church in which we are now holding meetings. They have erected and completed it without foreign solicitations or aid.

I should like, Mr. Editor, to tell your readers about some unbaptistic sermons to which I have lately listened but my letter is growing too long. "One thing more" as the preachers say and I am done.

On Sabbath last I heard, by chance, that something new and startling would likely occur on the night of the 26th inst. With this short and informal notice we made all the preparation possible and awaited our fate in silence. The hour came, our doors opened and in burst a small host of citizens, young and old, variously armed with bundles, packages and smiles, until 87 persons had been counted. We soon perceived that these armed folk were with us on an errand of love and not of blood. In due time Deacon M. stepped forward, and in a few appropriate words, to which the recipient attempted to respond, presented to the pastor, on behalf of the company, a box containing in cash \$30.16, (one of many substantial tokens of regard, given me by a generous people,) after which voices blended once more in appropriate Songs of Zion, accompanied with the piano, prayer was offered by the pastor, and then we began to bid each other good night, all happy in the thought of doing and receiving good.

After the departure of these peaceful intruders we found various small articles, edible, fancy, useful, literally strewn almost from cellar to garret in various nooks and corners of the house aggregating in value some dollars extra. So much for my first donation party. I have had for years a foolish prejudice against such parties, deeming it a humiliation to any minister to be afflicted with them; but now I say—If this be the humiliation I am not very unwilling to be humbled at any time, with or without notice.

Yours very respectfully, R. H. BISHOP.

P. S.—You will probably hear again soon from both these Islands especially from Westport where Bro. Black is doing good, earnest work for the Master. R. H. B.

HAVELOCK, N. B.—Dear Editor,—Many of your readers will be glad to know that the Lord is reviving his work in this place. Since the first of this month (February) we have been holding special meetings which have been well attended and full of interest. In almost every meeting God has given evidence of his presence and power, either in the conversion of sinners—the return of wanderers or the quickening of his people to more love to him and one another, and arousing them to greater efforts for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

Every Lord's day during the month we have been permitted to visit the waters of baptism, and twenty nine professed believers, have been buried in the likeness of Christ's death and raised in the likeness of his resurrection, among the number of whom was our own little daughter, ten years of age. Most of the converted ones are among the youthful portion of the community, rejoicing the hearts of parents in seeing their children early consecrated to the Lord, giving up their whole lives to his service.

The work still goes on. Quite a number are expected to present themselves for baptism at our next conference, and we hope and pray that the revival influence may increase and spread until the entire community shall be moved to seek the Lord more earnestly and a glorious harvest of souls gathered in. To God be all the praise.

Yours truly, I. J. SKINNER.

Feb. 29, 1884.

BEAVER RIVER, YARMOUTH CO.—Dear Editor,—I intended to send you an account of the religious interest in my field, and the dedicatory services in the Maitland section, when suddenly laid aside by the accident, which you have already noticed.

Special services were continued from the Week of Prayer, in both the Free Baptist and Baptist Churches, and marked by rich tokens of the Divine presence.

In addition to the eight already noticed, four more were received for baptism and others expected to follow, when I was laid aside from the work entirely for three weeks. With prompt and efficient medical aid, and good care I am again able to fill the pulpit, though not able to do the work I was doing previous to, and at the time of the accident. It seemed hard to be unable to work at such a time but

"God nothing does, or suffers to be done But thou would'st do thyself, could'st thou but see The end of all he does, as well as he."

Sunday Feb. 3rd the new church at Maitland was dedicated. It was a red-letter day for that section. They now have a neat, comfortable church, and best of all, we were enabled to dedicate, it free of debt.

Rev. C. Goodspeed preached the dedicatory sermon in his usual clear, terse and forcible style. Rev. A. Cohoon gave us a sermon full of the pith and marrow of the Gospel, in the afternoon. The services of the day were closed by an appropriate discourse by Rev. A. Cogswell, a former pastor.

The friends of the Beaver River section have been hindered and discouraged by the frost heaving the wall of their church. This will necessitate considerable extra expense and delay. However we hope by the end of the year to be able to dedicate that also. The ladies of the sewing circle have done nobly, and raised quite a large amount during the year.

While the friends made us a visit in November leaving substantial marks of good will, their tokens of hospitality and kindness are not confined to any one time, but scattered throughout the year. Specially have we appreciated their sympathy and kindness during my illness. May the Giver of every good gift abundantly reward them.

Jas. I. DEWOLF. Feb. 29, 1884.

DARTMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH received another accession on Sunday morning last by the baptism of four persons who had given evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus. The morning was beautifully calm, clear and bright, the harbor being free from ice presented to the eye the appearance of a Sabbath in June. It was a solemn occasion.

WINDSOR BAPTIST CHURCH has lately had revival influences at work, and on Sunday last seven believers in the Lord Jesus were baptized by the pastor Rev. H. Foshay. The service was one of deep interest and well calculated to make lasting impressions on the assembly present, the converts being "baptized into Christ's death and raised up in the likeness of his resurrection."

We had another account besides that given last week of the work going on among the churches of Annapolis County but as the facts are similar to those given by Rev. R. D. Porter and Rev. J. Clark we did not insert it. The writer further says:

"There is a general stirring up of the people to seek salvation. The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad. The Methodist brethren are now also holding meetings. Pray for us dear brother that the work may take deep root and spread east and west, north and south, over our land to the praise and glory of God.

The pastor at Lawrencetown—Rev. R. D. Porter—is working. I am afraid, beyond his strength. However the Lord has sustained him thus far and we hope will sustain him to the end."

KENTVILLE.—We learn that Rev. Dr. Armstrong has resigned his pastorate of the Baptist Church here, his resignation to come into effect in May next. This we believe will complete Dr. A's fourth year with this church. Churches needing the services of an experienced, acceptable and useful minister would do well to communicate with Dr. A. We have not heard that he has as yet made any engagement.

PORT HAWKSBURY.—Feb. 26, 1884.—Dear Bro. Selden.—After closing my labors with the Carleton Church, St. John, I took a short vacation which improved my health very much. My friends will be pleased to know that I am again able to resume my work in the Master's cause. I have spent three Sabbaths here and expect to remain some time. I find the people kind, the congregations as good as could be expected and attentive to the word preached.

My correspondents will please take notice that my address is Port Hawkesbury C. B.

Yours fraternally, E. F. FOSHAY.

Rev. P. G. McGregor writes from Sonora, Feb. 17th; "I am helping Rev. H. Eagles in his work with the Port Hillford and 1st St. Mary's Baptist Churches. There is a quiet, deep, powerful work of grace going on here. At Bro. Eagles request I baptized five men and three women yesterday at Port Hillford. When Bro. Eagles was welcoming them into the church he said that he blessed the Lord that he was spared to see what he could only see dimly, for his sight is failing very fast. This work is making him very happy in his old age and he hopes to see soon with strong immortal eyes. The people are flocking to hear the gospel from the adjacent harbors, and numbers are pressing into the Kingdom of God.

OXFORD.—We have been informed that a unanimous invitation has been given by the Baptist Church in this place to Rev. J. B. Woodland, of Cavendish, P. E. I., to become its pastor. Changes are not desirable in themselves but sometimes they are made beneficial to both minister and people. Judging from the past, it will not be easy for Mr. Woodland to leave Cavendish. Our first acquaintance with Mr. W., was whilst he formerly resided at Oxford, engaged in literary work. It must be particularly gratifying to him now to receive this evidence of their confidence. We have not heard whether Mr. Woodland has accepted or will be likely to accept the invitation.

Home News

Nova Scotia.

APPOINTMENTS.—Kings Co.—To be a Deputy Surveyor of Crown Lands—Arch'd Foster, of Kingston Station.

Halifax Co.—To be a Deputy Surveyor of Crown Lands—James F. Anderson, of Musquodoboit Harbor.

Kings Co.—To be a Commissioner for giving relief to Insolvent Debtors, &c.—E. M. Beckwith, Esquire, of Canning. To be a Notary and Tallow Oil Public—E. M. Beckwith, Esquire, of Canning.

Hants Co.—To be Commissioner for conveying logs and lumber down the Avon River, &c.—Thomas Aylward, John S. Smith, John Taylor and David J. McCallum.

Colchester Co.—To be Commissioner of Sewers or the Township of Truro—Sterns Johnson, of Lower Village.

To POOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—We have a Price Books in stock, Baptist Book Room.

The Presbyterian Record instances a case of longevity in Elder Neil McIntosh, of Framboise, C. B., who completed his 100th year last fall and still walks three miles to church every alternate Sunday.

Have you inflammatory sore throat, stiff joints, or lameness from any cause whatever? Have you rheumatic or other pains in any part of the body? If so use Johnson's Anodyne Liniment. It is the most wonderful internal and external remedy known to medical science.

We are having large demand for the (Consolidated) 1, 2, 3 and 4, Sanky music, also word editions. The cheapest and best place to buy, Baptist Book Room.