

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 13, 1884.

We publish to-day a "Circular" issued recently by the Finance or Agency Comm. of the Board of Governors of Acadia College in connection with their... The explanations there given come with authority and give some facts in respect to the new chair of "Education and History," in its financial aspect, that our readers will be glad to know.

REV. S. W. deBLOIS; D. D.

In our last we had a line or two noticing the death of Dr. deBlois on Monday evening, Feb. 4th. We have for some time past had an occasional notice of his illness, so that although we were not expecting to hear so soon of his departure, yet his friends were not greatly surprised at his sudden removal.

Dr. deBlois was known either personally or through the press as one of our most useful and successful ministers. His long residence at Wolfville and his connection with Acadia College as its Secretary, made him intimately acquainted with all the students at Acadia College for the past quarter of a century.

Mr. deBlois animated with a desire for usefulness in Christian work taught in the Sabbath School, and was for a time clerk of the church. He received a license to preach and returned to Wolfville, where he became one of the teachers in the Academy for two years. He then went to the Theological Seminary at Newton Centre, Mass., and graduated there in 1853.

After the death of the Rev. Theodore S. Harding in 1855, Mr. deBlois was invited to take charge of the Wolfville church. He responded to that call and began his important work in that village in Dec 1855. He continued pastor of the Wolfville church till his death, a period of over twenty-eight years.

hundred students, male and female, it will readily be seen that no ordinary man could have preached acceptably to such a congregation during this period of over a quarter of a century. Mr. deBlois was in many respects a model pastor. His sermons were fresh, lucid and always contained essential gospel truths.

Dr. deBlois has been intimately connected with our Baptist educational institutions. For 25 years he had been the secretary of the board of governors, and during all these years he had assisted in shaping and maturing the Baptist educational policy.

The funeral services of Dr. deBlois were held on Thursday afternoon last and were very largely attended. The exercises were most impressive. Prayer was offered at the house by the Rev. S. B. Kempton.

LUTHER'S THEOLOGY.

The pangs of praise raised over the fourth centenary of Luther have hardly died away before a more careful examination of his Theology calls forth a sort of protest and pronounces it a hindrance to the Reformation. It has long been held that the Reformation was but partial, and needed further reform before it could be fairly entitled to that appellation.

Upon the mode of baptism Luther's tergiversations are equally apparent. "Baptism," he says, "is a sign of both death and the resurrection. Being moved by this reason, I would have those that are to be baptized to be altogether dipped into the water, as the word doth express and the mystery doth signify."

When the first wild storm of the Reformation had passed, and it became necessary for the great German to construct a new system of theology the oracle of clear conviction seems to have become silent in his soul. He temporizes, compromises, becomes timid. Holding these two major tenets, as he did, it is passing strange that Luther should have stopped at Lutheranism.

The doctrine of justification by faith alone ought to have led Luther directly to the theory of a converted Church membership. He confesses as much. In the shorter catechism he says: "Is then this visible Church a fellowship of those only who have been born again of the Holy Spirit?"

His premises were correct. The wise and foolish virgins will mingle together, and unregenerate men will enter the Church; but on this account to sweep away a personal profession of the new life was unscriptural in the extreme, and made his conclusion most lame and impotent.

The truth is that, with the precedents of Rome still unconsciously influencing him, and with the constitution of a state Church before him, he could not insist upon a converted Church without tearing up his own system by the roots. The irresistible logic of the situation drove him to the end he reached.

force or constraint used toward it as when the parents bestow other benefits upon it without first consulting its own will. The will of the parents or guardians is itself the will of the infant child.

It is almost piteous to hear him who had so luminously exposed the sacramentarian and official salvation of Rome resorting to such shifts. The Catholics were consistent, at least. They put the efficacy of baptism in the priest who administered it, and exhibited some texts which seemed to support the doctrine.

Luther as a negative theologian was mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Luther as a positive theologian was something worse than a failure—he cumbered and still cumbered the ground.

We copy the following from the Presbyterian Witness: PROVED BY STATISTICS.—A correspondent informs us that a Book Agent is traversing the country in the interest of the Baptist Book and Tract Society.

Our reply is that we hope and pray that the Baptists may have tenfold more success in heathen lands. They have been highly honored; and their labours have been abundant. May they abound more and more! But no responsible or wise Baptist will indulge in silly boasting.

What the "Book Agent" "undertakes to shew" we presume he will shew but, if not, to his own Master he stands or falls.

The comparison our contemporary draws between the missionary work of Baptists and that of "the Francis Xavier" will not stand, seeing that the Jesuits counted the number of infants sprinkled with their converts, whereas Baptists demand conversion and a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus before baptism of their converts.

The Rev. J. D. Fulton, of New York, said in a late sermon: "To-day Romanism is more an enemy in America than in any other country. The Cardinal has supreme control of this city. The Pope can do more with the Romanist in New York than with those in Rome."

The religion of Rome is largely man made. You can hate Romanism, but love Romanism with all your might. The manner in which they claim the right to read the Bible is full of encouragement.

W. M. A. Societies.

THE NOVA SCOTIA CENTRAL BOARD W. M. A. SOCIETIES held its Quarterly meeting on Wednesday 6th inst., in the Vestry of the North Baptist Church.

After the usual devotional exercises the Treasurer's account was presented which showed that \$331.35 had been received during the past quarter.

Four new societies were reported—at Mabone Bay, Chester, Chester Basin and Bridgewater.

Mrs. C. H. Martell was appointed Missionary agent for Colchester County. Letters from John March, Esq., were read, together with a copy of Estimates prepared by him.

The Secretary informed the Board that an application had been received from a young lady a member of Granville Street Church desirous of engaging in Foreign Missionary work.

Subsequently after mature deliberation, it was moved, by Mrs. J. W. Manning and seconded by Mrs. Allison Smith, That we recommend Miss Wright to the favorable notice of the Foreign Missionary Board, believing her to be a suitable person to fill the important position now made vacant by the marriage of Miss Hammond.

It is unnecessary for me to add a word to the same. Whatever may result from the above, we may feel encouraged that at least one Sister has responded to the call from India, and has had it in her heart to go to those who need the faithful service of a Missionary to tell the glad tidings.

Mission Bands, and those interested in them, will please take notice of the Constitution for Mission Bands below. This has been prepared with great care and revised from one which is working well in one of the largest Mission Bands in the Province.

12 Copies of the Constitution may be had postage free on receipt of six cents, in postage stamps.

M. R. SELDEN, Sec'y.

Constitution for Mission Bands.

The following Rules provided for Mission Bands have been prepared and published to aid the Managers, and to save the trouble of each one making its own rules.

Art. 1st. That this Society shall be known as the Mission Band, called _____

Art. 2nd. The object of this Society shall be to plant and foster a missionary spirit in the hearts of the young, and to aid in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom at home or abroad.

Art. 3rd. The meetings of this Society shall be held once every _____ Special meetings may be called at any time by order of the President and Secretary.

Art. 4th. Any one may become a member of this Society by paying the sum of _____ A collection shall be taken at each meeting.

Art. 5th. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Also a Committee of Management, consisting of six ladies. These officers to be elected once a year—any or all of whom may be re-elected.

Art. 6th. Any Article of this Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of the Society. Notice being given of the same, at least two weeks before action is taken.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

From India.

Mrs. Hutchinson writes from Chicacole to the Secretary of the Nova Scotia W. M. A. Societies, dated Dec. 24th. A few items from her letter will be of interest to the friends of missions.

"We have secured the London Mission Chapel subject to the approval of their Board of Directors in London We will hear their decision about Feb. after which we will write home on what terms we have secured it.

I think it will cost about four dollars (\$4) a year to clothe a little girl. This would include a sheet for the cold weather. I have one little girl on the compound whom I clothe. Her brother, who is a member of our church, provides her food.

It costs about forty dollars (\$40) a year to keep a boy* at the Theological Seminary. That is what we put it down at in our yearly estimates.

You are now paying one hundred dollars (\$100) a year for the Chicacole Schools. The teacher's salaries are

paid out of that. Bible women get about twenty-five dollars (\$25) a year. This is our cool season, and it is quite cold enough sometimes in these houses which are built to keep out the heat of the sun.

We are all well. My husband came in last Saturday after spending 16 days on the field, tired and a good deal sun burnt.

There is much work just now that requires my husband's attention both here and in Akattampara where they are making preparations to build a small chapel.

Yours very sincerely, LOTTIE HUTCHINSON.

[* "A boy" is the name used for the native young man, we believe, until he becomes the head of the family.—Ed. C. M.]

Literary.

The Historical Books of the Old Testament: Joshua, Ruth, 1st Samuel, 2nd Samuel, 1st Kings, 2nd Kings. The Common Version revised with an Introduction and occasional notes by Thomas J. Conant, Philadelphia, American Baptist Publication Society, pp. 358. Price \$2.00.

Every effort to give the clearest and most correct version of the Word of Life should be hailed with pleasure and welcomed as the rays of light are welcomed which come from the sun after the cloudy day or the darkness of night.

Dr. Conant's Revisions of Scripture give a peculiar freshness to the books which he revises. Years ago Dr. C's revision of Job was read by thousands with much pleasure, and now these historical books will also be read with new interest and satisfaction.

STORY OF THE MERV, by Edmond O'Donovan. Funk & Wagnall's Standard Library. Series No 1 1884.

A journey through Central Asia is not an easy task and the narrative of such journey is not likely to be a monotonous book. As a story of travel, this is one of the most thrilling of recent years. As a work of description, its importance and faithfulness have been promptly conceded.

FORD'S CHRISTIAN REPOSITORY AND HOME CIRCLE for February is received. Edited by Rev. S. H. Ford.

Paul's Testimony to the Athenians, S. H. F. Succession—Roman, Greek, and Baptist, S. H. F. Rare Fruit, Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. The Christian Rite of Immersion, Hon W. P. Boyd. Relation of Baptism to Remission, W. W. Gardner. Object of Baptism, S. H. F. Lydia's Household Baptized, S. H. F. The Conversion of the Jailer—The Old Theology, S. H. F. The first Baptism in Europe, S. H. F. & Co.

Seventy pages monthly. \$2.50 a year. Address Ford's Christian Repository, St. Louis, Mo.

Good.—The Convention Baptist Book Room Capital Fund has been increased by \$265 in Hillsboro and Hopewell churches of Albert Co., N. B.