

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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CIRCULAR LETTER

FROM THE N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION TO THE CHURCHES OF
WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

The Care of the Churches.

DEAR BRETHREN,—
We desire to record our gratitude to
our Heavenly Father that we have
been permitted to meet at our Associa-
tional gathering, and to listen to the
letters that you have addressed to this
body. They indicate, as a whole, that
we have been making fair progress. In
many churches gracious-revival influ-
ences have been enjoyed, and large
accessions made to the membership
from the ranks of the unconverted.
But while we are thankful for the mea-
sure of success that, during the past
year, has attended your labors, we
must all feel that there is still room for
greater advancement.

To say nothing of what needs to be
done, both at home and abroad, for the
extension of the Redeemer's kingdom,
the right guidance, culture, and em-
ployment of these young converts,
throws upon our churches an additional
responsibility.

The carrying forward of his work in
the world, has been committed by
Christ to human agents. Some may
occupy positions of greater trust and
influence than others, but the most
obscure and humble has an appropriate
task.

The progress of His Kingdom is
constantly hindered by false doctrine,
spiritual declension, and the want of in-
telligent effort. As well might the
fruit-grower, who leaves his young trees
without protection and culture, expect
a fruit-producing orchard, as for us to
expect our churches to flourish without
oversight and care.

Too often the weight of this responsi-
bility is allowed to fall almost entirely
upon the pastor, and perhaps a few of
the more active members. Too often
the want of consistency, sympathy, and
help, on the part of the many, makes
even the ordinary care develop into
wearing anxiety.

Even Paul who had learned, with
regard to his own wants, to be content,
could not always rid himself of solici-
tous care for the infant churches that
he had planted. So powerful was this
anxiety that he deems it worthy of the
last place in the long list of hardships
and sufferings which he enumerates in
the eleventh chapter of II. Corinthians.
The revised version better translates—
"That which passeth upon me daily,
anxiety for the churches." They were
in constant danger of being rent by in-
ternal feuds, led astray by false teach-
ers, and of declining in spiritual life,
activity and power. The mind is
capable of more acute and intense suf-
fering than the body. How severely
his sensitive and earnest spirit suffered
is easily seen, when he tells us that he
wrote his first letter to the Corinthians,
"Out of much affliction, and anguish of
heart, with many tears."

Our duty, it is true, is to be faithful
and leave results with God; but it is
scarcely within the power of human
nature to dismiss entirely corroding
care, when things are not going as they
should. Physicians tell us, in this age
of activity and competition, that worry
kills more than hard work. That the
man who can dismiss care when the
toils of the day are over, will be better
fitted by rest and recreation for meeting
and overcoming the difficulties of the
morrow. While the greater the respon-
sibility the greater the anxiety, yet
every member ought to feel himself
more or less responsible for the growth
and upbuilding of the church. The
truest way often to bear one another's
burdens is for each to bear his own.
If every one would do this, how many
a weary and discouraged pastor would
be wonderfully helped in his work.
His highest success means the highest
good and greatest prosperity of the
church.

Let us glance briefly at a few of the
ways in which each member may carry
their own weight of responsibility, and
thus lighten the causes for anxiety.

I.—By seeking to become intelligent
Christians. Nowhere is the maxim,
"Knowledge is power," more true than
in regard to religious truth. But know-
ledge should be sought, not as an accom-
plishment, but as a guide to the better
performance of Christian duty. There
is no substitute for consistent piety.
The best way to do good is to be good.
The more intensely we can make the
light burn the more brightly it will
shine. To be strong Christians, we
need to study prayerfully the Word of
God, and should avail ourselves of every
opportunity to become better acquaint-
ed with its teachings.

We owe it to the denomination to
which we belong, to be able to expose
the wrong views often attributed to us
by the ignorant or designing, and to give
a reason for our particular beliefs and
practices. To do this, we need to avail
ourselves of the help of our denomina-
tional press. This will not lessen our
study of the Bible, but help us to un-
derstand and appreciate its truths. Nor
can we pray and labor for the success
of our great denominational enterprises
with the same interest and zeal unless
we keep ourselves informed of these
benevolent operations.

Many of us have read lately the
statement made by a Baptist minister,
who had labored for over thirty years
in the United States. He testifies—
"that those church members who read
their denominational papers, and books
most, are the most devout students of
the Bible, and the most efficient work-
ers in our churches." Most pastors
could bear witness to a similar experi-
ence.

2. By seeking the peace and harmo-
ny of the church. Christ, again and
again, enjoins upon his followers the
duty of brotherly love. He states
that this was to be the evidence to the
world, that they were his disciples.

The Apostles, also, exhorted those to
whom they wrote, to increase and con-
tinue in the exercise of this same
Christian virtue.

Nothing, perhaps, injures the cause
of Christ more than the cherishing of a
bitter and unkind spirit among those
who profess to bear his image, being
quick to give and take offence, and
think more of what they consider their
own dignity and rights, than the in-
terests of the Saviour's kingdom. The
exercise of this spirit may well fill
every pious heart with anxiety. Let us
seek then to be kind one to another,
tender-hearted, forgiving one another,
even as God for Christ's sake hath for-
given us.

3. By laboring perseveringly for the
growth and edification of the church.
In addition to our daily work, we need
to be punctual attendants upon all the
services of the sanctuary. Remissness

in this respect is most prevalent in re-
gard to meetings for Conference and
prayer. We cannot hope to keep the
young converts actively at work when
many, who perhaps, were earnest for a
few weeks in revival, soon absent
themselves, and seemingly take but
little interest in their spiritual welfare.

What a vast improvement it would
be if all the members should strive as
far as practicable to be present at every
meeting; to do their part in sustaining
the Conference and prayer meetings,
and bear their share of responsibility
in every business transaction.

We are now entering upon another
associational year. Let every brother
and sister, in our churches, resolve, that
by the study of the truth, they will seek
to become more intelligent and active;
to maintain what we believe to be the
teachings of God's word, and to sym-
pathise with, and help on every good
work.

Let us also cherish a Christ-like
spirit; bear with one another in love;
endeavoring to help the unity of the
spirit in the bond of peace. Let us not
forsake the assembling of ourselves to-
gether, but endeavoring to be present
at all the meetings of the church, be
ever ready to speak and work for the
upbuilding of God's cause.

Thus we will best discharge our own
Christian duty; help others in the di-
vine life, and lessen the causes for an-
xiety for the churches of Christ.

News from the Churches.

MISSIONARY NOTES FROM GUY-
BORO COUNTY.—Dear Editor,—Your
readers will be pleased to hear that the
good work in New Harbour is progres-
sing grandly. On Tuesday, the 17th
June, four more, all men, were baptized
and welcomed to the fellowship of the
church, and on the Sabbath evening
following it was my privilege to bap-
tize six more, one of these is the son
of Rev. D. McLeod. Much good has
been done and the prospects of the
New Harbour Church now assume a
decidedly hopeful aspect.

On Sabbath morning last I baptized
an interesting woman at Isaac's Har-
bour, and after preaching and the
Lord's Supper, I took my leave of that
kind people, announcing that Rev. G.
H. Goudy of Yarmouth, might be ex-
pected to preach to them next Sabbath.
This announcement gave apparent de-
light.

On Sabbath afternoon I baptized
four persons at Seal Harbour, and in
connexion with a very impressive ser-
vice said farewell to the little church
there. The Lord's Supper was ob-
served amid much weeping. Twenty-
one persons recently baptized received
for the first time the emblems of their
Saviour's death.

I am now about winding up my
labours for the present in Guysboro
Co., and expect (D. V.) to go to River
John in Pictou Co. next week.

It will be three months to-morrow
since I came down to Isaac's Harbour.
My labours during the quarter have
been given to Sonora, Port Hillford,
Port Beckerton, Fisherman's Harbour,
Isaac's Harbour, County Harbour, Seal
Harbour, New Harbour and Tor Bay.
Eighty-three persons have been bap-
tized and the work of the Lord much
strengthened. May the Lord keep by
His power the converts, and still carry
on His blessed work!

I will ever cherish pleasant remi-
niscences of my labours along this rugged
coast and among these kind hearted
people.

Yours fraternally,
ISA. WALLACE.
Tor Bay, Guysboro Co., June 26.

Things don't "turn up" in this
world until somebody turns them up.—
Garfield.

P. E. ISLAND.—Rev. A. H. Lavers
writes:—Dear Brother,—I had the
privilege of giving the right-hand of
fellowship to seven new members at
West River, Sabbath before the last,
five of whom were baptized the same
day.

Last Sabbath we had baptism at
North River, and expect to baptize
again next Lord's day.

At a recent Conference meeting a
note was read from Bro. William
Cummings, offering a fine lot of land
to the North River Church to be used
as a cemetery. The offer was thank-
fully accepted by the church, and a
board of Trustees appointed to take
charge of the ground and put the
same in order.

News of the World.

The new Cunard line steamer
Umbria was launched last week. Her
tonnage is 8,000, and her engines the
most powerful in the world, being
12,500 horse power.

In the House of Commons on June
26th, Mr. Gladstone moved that the
Franchise Bill be ordered a third
reading. He denied that the bill
intended to make permanent the
Liberal Administration. "The Govern-
ment," he said, "had tried its best
to avoid a conflict with the House of
Lords, but should a conflict arise, while
he would greatly regret it, he had no
doubt of the issue." Sir Stafford
Northcote objected to Mr. Gladstone's
reference to the House of Lords. The
bill was then ordered to a third
reading by a unanimous vote. The
result was received with prolonged
cheering.

Only nine sovereigns of England have
lived longer than Queen Victoria, who
is now 65, and only three—Henry III,
Edward III and George III—have
reigned longer than she. Victoria's
reign has extended over forty-
seven years. Three European mon-
archs are older than she is—the
Emperor of Germany, who is 87; the
King of the Netherlands, who is 67,
and the King of Denmark, who is 66.

Two civilians died of cholera at
Toulon on the 25th of June. Twenty-
three persons suffering with that dis-
ease were taken to the Marine Hospital.
The Ministry of Commerce at Paris
has issued a notice to the effect that
the cholera at Toulon is sporadic and
not Asiatic; that it is due to local
infection and therefore confined to the
place of its origin.

Another armoured steamer has been
ordered to patrol the river between
Assouan and Mady Halfa. It is
rumored that rebels are advancing on
Korosko. Col. Kitchener has arrived
at Eliman wells, four days east of
Korosko where he sighted the rebels.
He says the Khidaghi rebels are
marching on Dongola. A harmless ex-
change of firing continued at Suakim.

There is a panic at Assouan on ac-
count of the rebel advance. It is re-
ported that the Porte will post a force
of 10,000 men as an army of observa-
tion on the Egyptian frontier near El
Arish.

Advices from Wadyhalfa state that a
former Bedouin lieutenant of Hicks
Pasha has arrived there and reports
that El Mahdi made an attack upon
Khartoum, but was repulsed with heavy
loss. Hostile tribes are massing in the
vicinity of Dongola.

The reports of the fall of Berber are
officially confirmed. Berber was sur-
prised by the rebels at daybreak on
May 26th. After much fighting, Hus-
sein Pasha Khalifa, Governor of Ber-
ber, surrendered. A massacre of the
inhabitants followed. The women and
children were spared, and a few men
escaped.

Capt. Gerdzey, a prominent officer has
been assassinated at Odessa, in Russia,
by the Nihilists. The body was found
with a bullet hole in the temple and a
dagger sticking in the heart, with a note
pinned to the coat. He had specially
devoted himself to grappling with the
Nihilists and had thus incurred the
bitterest hatred. The murder has
produced a sensation in Russia equal
to that of the assassination of Lieut.
Colonel Sudeikin.

Aim to be in all things acceptable to
God, and you need trouble yourself but
little about the opinions of man.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
The Divine Immanence in the
World.

One of the most distinguished sermons
ever preached by the Rev. Phillips
Brooks is that on the subject of "The
Gift and its Return." It is to be found
in the published volume of his "Ser-
mons Preached in English Churches." I
would recommend that book very
strongly indeed to all interested in the
vital concerns of moral and religious
Truth. I wish to make a short selection
from this sermon which bears on the
subject of the Divine Immanence. I
think the views of this broad thinker
will help us a little on the question of
the Natural Laws:

The New Testament is full of the idea
of a natural and necessary reciprocity
between man and the things by which
he is surrounded. "Whatever a man
soweth, that shall he also reap," writes
St. Paul to the Galatians. "He that
soweth sparingly shall reap also sparing-
ly, and he that soweth bountifully, shall
reap also bountifully." The world seems
to be a great field in which every man,
drops his seed, and which gives back to
every man not just the same thing which
he dropped there, any more than the
brown earth holds up to you in the
autumn the same black berry which
you hid under its bosom in the spring,
but something which has its true cor-
respondence and proportion to the seed
to which it is the legitimate and natural
reply. Every gift has its return, every
act has its consequence, every call has
its answer in this great live, alert world,
where man stands central, and all
things have their eyes on him and their
ears open to his voice.

And I think what impresses a thought-
ful reader of the New Testament most
is the way in which this fact of the
reciprocity between man and his sur-
roundings is the very element in which
all life goes on. It is not something
artificially arranged; it is inherent in
the very natures of man and of the
world. They could not be what they
are and this fact not be true. True, it
is constantly spoken of as the issue and
result of the will of God. The New
Testament is personal always and it is
personal here. What the world gives
us in answer to what we give to it, is
constantly spoken of as given to us by
God. "Ask and you shall have;"
"Seek and you shall find," says Jesus,
"Forgive and you shall be forgiven";
"Judge not and you shall not be
judged"; "Give and it shall be given
unto you"; "He that confesseth Me
before men, him will I also confess." Here
it is the will of an observant God that
sends the answer to the thing we do.
But God, in the New Testament
idea of Him, is not merely the arranger
of certain correspondencies, the ad-
juster of rewards and punishments;
He is the spiritual element, in the em-
brace of which all our life and all our
relationships are born and work. As a
man grows in the sunshine, as two men
meet and look into each other's eyes
and catch one another's sympathy, and
share one another's life in the midst of
warm, soft, vital ether, which at once
supplies the vitality of both of them,
and also carries the trembling sound of
their voices and the living pictures of
their faces to each other's eyes and
ears; so we develop our own life and
relate our own life to other lives within
God, if we may say so. And why should
we not say so when it is just what Paul
said to the Athenians, as he declared
upon Mar's Hill, "In Him we live and
move and have our being"? Therefore
it is that what the world returns to any
man in answer to the force which he
lays out upon it, comes to him in God,
comes to him from God, and may truly
be taken as God's encouragement or
God's warning. God's will is not some-
thing separable from the essential and
necessary working of the fundamental
laws of the world. It is the element in
which those laws work, and which de-
crees their character. Let us under-
stand this fully, and then we shall not
be confused to-night as we speak of the
necessary replies which a man's sur-
roundings always make to what he is
and does. We shall be able freely to

hear in those replies at once the work-
ing of an essential law, and at the same
time the utterances of the will of God.

The necessary replies which a man's
surroundings make to what he is and
does—this is our subject for the even-
ing. "With what measure ye mete,
it shall be measured to you again." It
is a law of vast extent and wonderful
exactness. The world is far more order-
ly than we believe; a deeper and a
truer justice runs through it than we
imagine. We all go about calling our
selves victims, discoursing on the cruel
world, and wondering that it should
treat us so, when really we are only
meeting the rebound of our own lives.
What we have been to things about us
has made it necessary that they should
be this to us. As we have given our-
selves to them, so they have given
themselves to us. This is the law I
want to trace with you, only begging
you again to keep your minds, as I
speak, clear of any materialism which
would think that in mere earth itself
resides this power of just and discrim-
inating reply. It is as we and all
things exist together in the great em-
bracing and pervading element of God
that all things give themselves to us as
we give ourselves to them. So all the
phenomena of life are at the same time
Divine judgments if we are only wise
enough to read them.

Here I end the extract. Mr. Brooks
then goes on to develop and explain
the working of this vast and arcane law
of moral and spiritual action and re-
action in the most masterly and convinc-
ing manner. He removes difficulties and
objections and places the whole subject
in the clearest light. I have made these
selections, in this and a former paper,
not for the purpose of prolonging any
discussion. On the contrary it is my
strong desire to terminate any discus-
sion. They are exceedingly undesirable
in many ways. It is my conviction that
the very moderate and very rational
views of Mr. Brooks will furnish the
perfect reconciliation between myself
and my proposition.

Very respectfully,
E. M. CHEBLEY.

For the Christian Messenger.
Our Minutes.

Now that the time for the meetings of
our Associations has come, we wish to
say a few words concerning the Minutes.
THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CHURCH
CLERKS.

The omission of the Post Office
address of the church clerks from the
Tables of the Associations of last year,
caused no little inconvenience to some
of us, who have occasion to write to the
churches frequently. This omission
was due we suppose to an oversight of
the Committee whose duty it was to
prepare a suitable form of table, for the
new form of letter which came into
operation last year. It is hoped that
this omission will be supplied this
year, as without this address it will be
impossible to communicate with many
of the churches.

THE LIST OF MINISTERS.

In past years it has been the custom
of the Associations to appoint a com-
mittee to revise the List of Ministers.
This is no longer necessary, as the new
form of letter gives the names of the
ordained ministers connected with each
church, and from these letters an autho-
ritative list should be prepared by the
clerks. It is highly desirable that the
name of the church in which each
minister holds his membership should
be given in the list.

PRINTING MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATIONS.

The convenience and saving, arising
from the plan of having the Minutes of
Associations printed in the Year Book,
having been proved by the trial of last
year, should secure its continuance, in
the assurance that such an excellent
custom cannot fail to be adopted by all
the Associations in a short time.

A. CORNOY.

Hebron, N. S., June 20, 1884.
[We would take the liberty of sug-
gesting further, that at present the Year
Book does not show who are the pastors
of the churches, as was formerly shewn
in the Minutes of the Associations. This
is often very desirable.—Ed. C. M.]