

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., November 5, 1884.

CHANGE OF PROPRIETORSHIP OF THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

Many of our readers will doubtless be greatly surprised when we inform them that we have come to the conclusion to retire from the editorial responsibilities of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

We have, by means of the paper, been privileged to visit the homes of thousands of those we believe to be the best and truest of our fellow Christians from week to week for the last twenty-eight years, and we trust have been indeed a Christian messenger to very many.

We are still conscious of many defects in our work and have always felt that we had not yet reached our ideal, but we have done what we could, to supply a good family newspaper and religious journal, such as would be a benefit and blessing to every family into which it should come.

Although we may not as yet be entirely separated from the publication of the paper, yet we hand over its responsibilities to our successor with the hope that it may not only continue to supply the wants of your families, but that it may greatly exceed what it has hitherto been, in the value of its contents, and in the extent of its usefulness.

Dr. Saunders has agreed to collect the amounts due us, and we shall be much obliged if those indebted will, as early as possible forward all arrearages, and enable us to clear off all liabilities, incurred in the publication of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

To our local agents we tender our best thanks and hope they will in the future continue to aid in the circulation of the MESSENGER as they have in the past. So that the good work it is doing may continue, and the great principles of truth it represents may be more generally prevail to bless the Church and the world.

S. SELDEN.

TO THE FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

I take this opportunity, on the occasion of assuming responsibilities and duties connected with the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, to address a few words to the numerous friends and subscribers of the paper.

In the nature of things, Mr. Selden's change of relation will disturb the sympathies which, for about thirty years have associated his name with this good, old journal.

After the death of Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Selden, in addition to the labor of teaching, conducted the paper for some months. On the 1st of January, 1856, he was induced to become both editor and proprietor. Since that time the number of subscribers has been nearly doubled, and the paper has been twice enlarged. Mr. Selden's name has therefore been for this period before the public, and has become a household word wherever the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER has been read.

Under these circumstances, it gives me great pleasure,—pleasure in which I am persuaded you will all largely share, to inform you that Mr. Selden will continue to give his hearty sympathy and active support as publisher, and will also render assistance editorially.

In order to make the paper no less interesting in the future than it has been in the past, I shall need the co-operation of all its friends and patrons.

It is well known to all readers of the MESSENGER that, for some years past, the consolidation of the Baptist newspapers in the Maritime Provinces has been under discussion. A Company has been formed and a board of directors appointed. At the late Convention it seemed to be resolved to locate the contemplated paper in St. John. So soon, therefore, as the Company has purchased the Visitor and made necessary arrangements for starting the one paper, I will sell the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER on equitable terms for the purpose of carrying out this project.

E. M. SAUNDERS.

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER FREE.

It is desirable to put hundreds of copies of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER into homes in which no Baptist paper is now found. This ought to be done before the beginning of the New Year. To aid in successfully doing this, the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER will be sent to any new subscriber, free of charge to the 1st of next January.

HELP NEEDED.

The prompt payment of all debts and advanced subscriptions are essential to the highest success of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. Favors in this direction will therefore be especially helpful. All monies, whether for subscriptions in advance, or to meet what is now owing the paper, should be sent to the address of Rev. E. M. Saunders, CHRISTIAN MESSENGER office, Halifax.

The agents who have already done so much to advance its interests, have been privately requested to continue their highly valued services. When convenient, monies can be remitted through them. Otherwise it can be done directly with the office.

HELP FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

In the past, the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER has been rich both in its home and foreign correspondence. It is very important that those who have given a helping hand in this way, will kindly continue their labors of love. A postal card or a bit of paper, paying its way through the post office by a cent stamp, can be the bearer of important items of news from any locality.

The Church in Amherst has unanimously invited the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces to meet with them next year. No better place could have been chosen. The ways, means and will are everything that could be desired.

It is said that twenty American girls are studying at the University of Zurich.

DEPARTURE OF MISSIONARIES FOR INDIA.

The steamer Hanoverian on Monday last conveyed from our shores two young ladies to engage in missionary labors amongst the Telugus in India.

Our readers are familiar with the appointment of these—Miss Wright and Miss Gray—and we have now but to inform them of the meetings held in Halifax in connection with their departure.

On Saturday afternoon the members of the Granville Street Women's Missionary Aid Society held an

AT HOME, OR FIVE O'CLOCK TEA,

in the rooms of the Spring Garden Vestry, to which the members of the other Aid Societies and the friends generally were invited, for the purpose of meeting the departing missionaries. Miss Wright was known, being a member of the Granville Street Church for the last ten years, but Miss Gray, from New Annan, had only arrived an hour or two before the commencement of said meeting.

Farewell services were held in the Granville Street and North Baptist Sabbath Schools on Sunday afternoon. Miss Wright spoke feelingly of her ten years connection with the school and church, and of the pleasant associations and personal friendships she had formed—the memories of which would follow her to the foreign land to which she was going.

From the Spring Garden Vestry the Missionaries hastened to fill an appointment with the North Baptist S. School, where there had been prepared a beautiful ornamental design by Mr. Robert McDonald. It consisted of a hand with the representation of a beautiful bouquet, from which proceeded, "The God of peace go with thee. Farewell," surrounded by several missionary photographs.

UNITED MEETING IN THE GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH.

Rev. Dr. Saunders, being a member of the Foreign Missionary Board, was requested to preside. After singing a hymn, which was given out by Rev. A. W. Jordan, Dr. Saunders offered a few introductory remarks, stating the object of the meeting, and showing that the Telugus comprised some eighteen millions of the finest people of India, who had shown themselves the most intelligent and apt in acquiring the habits of civilized society and trade in their own and other countries, yet at present, and for centuries past, they have been sunk in the depths of heathen superstition and darkness.

Rev. J. F. Avery read an appropriate portion of the Sacred Scriptures, and the Rev. R. H. Bishop offered prayer.

Rev. George Churchill who after eleven years labor in India, is now at home to recuperate his health and strength, spoke of the many sources of encouragement to labor in the service of Christ for the evangelizing of the heathen. The difficulties they would have to encounter were also presented. The danger of mistakes being made and their far reaching consequences as well as of the vast and accumulating benefits of well directed labor were faithfully described. He bespoke the

prayers of the members of the Baptist Churches present, and of the Churches in all the provinces, on their behalf.

Miss Wright then in response to a request from the chairman gave a brief review of her experience, and told what had influenced her to offer herself for this work. Ten years ago she had united with this church, and some years later had felt impelled to listen to the command 'Go work in my vineyard.' She had felt much the parting with her many friends, but the privilege of laboring for Christ far exceeded this, and she rejoiced in the prospect of doing something for the Saviour, and on behalf of those who so much needed the gospel of Christ.

Miss Gray next spoke and told how much of sadness and joy she felt—sadness at parting from near and dear friends, and joy at going to speak of a loving Saviour to those who are sitting in darkness. Fourteen years ago she had experienced a change of heart and life under the preaching of Rev. G. O. Gates, now of Moncton, N. B. Being in the United States, the departure of Miss Upham for Burmah had so impressed her with the need of mission labor that she had determined to offer herself to go out to engage in the work.

Here an appropriate anthem was rendered whilst a collection was taken up in aid of the mission fund, which amounted to \$21.77.

Dr. Saunders here explained the constitution of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies who had undertaken the support of these missionaries. He also stated that the Union of the Societies in the three provinces formed at the late Annual Meeting had by their Board appointed

MRS. MARCH

the secretary of the Board to represent them here and on their behalf bid them farewell. We copy from the Herald report the following few lines which so well describe her address:

Mrs. March is a natural, graceful and most impressive speaker. She earnestly bid the young heroines God speed. Miss Wright and Miss Gray were the first missionaries to go out recommended by the Baptist Women's Mission Union of the provinces. They could rest assured that they left their native lands, borne up in the arms of the faith, love and earnest prayer of 2000 Baptist women—Christian women who were standing shoulder to shoulder, seeing eye to eye, whose hearts were beating in unison, and whose only object was the speedy Christianizing of the whole world.

Rev. J. W. Manning offered the Dedicator Prayer, commending the missionaries to God and the work of His grace.

The chairman here explained that Rev. Dr. Burns, (Presbyterian) had expressed his deep regret that he would be unable to be present, because of a prior engagement at the opening of the Park Street Church. Rev. Ralph Brecken, (Methodist), also was unable to attend as he desired, being confined to his room by sickness.

MR. JOHN MARCH

The Secretary here read a letter from the Foreign Missionary Board as their charge to the missionaries on their departure. It pointed out the duties which would devolve upon them to themselves, to those to whom they were going, to the Board, and to the Churches at home. Their labor would be as teachers of the young, and the women of that far-off land who so much need the knowledge of a loving Heavenly Father and of a Divine Redeemer.

The training they had had in this country fitted them for the former, and their experience of the love of Christ as well as the womanly tenderness of their hearts would impel them to seek every opportunity of commending the Saviour to their own sex so soon as they had acquired the language of the country. On behalf of the Board he had come to bid them farewell and good-bye (God be with you) and concluded the highly appropriate letter by saying "The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord cause His face to shine upon thee; the Lord lift the light of His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Mr. W. H. Cline here expressed his warm interest in the work to which the two sisters were now dedicated and trusted that the prayers of the people

would be continued for them, and what always accompanies genuine prayer—the aid required would not be forgotten.

Mrs. Churchill also affectionately addressed Miss Wright and Miss Gray on the work upon which they were now entering.

Mr. Cline's sermon in Granville Street Church in the morning had a very important bearing on the Mission work, and the source of every true missionary's strength—"Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

A large number of friends were at the ship to take leave of our young friends on Monday morning, the Baptist ministers, brethren and sisters from the several churches. Prayer by request was offered by Rev. Dr. Saunders in the steamer for a safe and prosperous voyage, and for a blessing on their labors on arrival at India.

PARK STREET CHURCH.

Our Presbyterian friends had a high day on Sunday last. The Poplar Grove congregation after spending the previous Lord's Day in appropriate services, on leaving their old church edifice were prepared to open the new one erected on North Park Street. The building is described by the Witness as follows:—

"The Church presents a fine appearance when seen from the west side of the common. It stands out conspicuous among the buildings round about it. The main building is nearly square, being 84 feet by 76, and is covered by a slate roof which is cruciform in shape. The tower, surmounted by a spire which reaches to a height of 147 feet, is at the north west corner of the building, and, while connected with the building is nevertheless, an erection by itself. The architecture is of the Gothic order, and as a whole the building has quite an ecclesiastical appearance.

Entering from the front by the central door, we find ourselves in a neat vestibule, that communicates with the auditorium—by three openings. Within the Church proper, we are in one of the most convenient and tasteful audience rooms that we have seen in the country. The floor slopes on all sides towards the platform. The fall from the doors of entrance to the platform being two feet six inches which is just about the height of the platform. The speaker's voice therefore will go out and up rather than down. The seats are circular and rise as they recede from the front, bringing their occupants in full view of the speaker, and comparatively near to him. There is nothing in all the audience room to obstruct either voice or view. It has an open, light, cheerful appearance. The ceiling with its panel work and graceful arches painted and frescoed in artistic style is very beautiful. The windows are of stained glass, with delicate colors, that blend finely with the decorations of the interior. Indeed in the whole building there is nothing that is more marked than the admirable keeping of part with part—the fine taste displayed in the arranging and coloring of the whole. The effect is very pleasing, tasteful and satisfying to the eye.

Facing the platform is the gallery which is reached by two stairways from the entrance porches. It is exceedingly comfortable looking and will be a choice place even in a church in which there will not be much choice of seats. The platform is in two parts, the outer for the preacher, and the inner for the choir. The railing dividing it, is a handsome piece of work, and is exactly the same as that on the front of the gallery. The desk is also of tasteful workmanship, and with the other needed and appropriate furniture, gives the platform a very attractive appearance. The seats are of ash, trimmed with walnut, and finely cushioned, and are about as comfortable as Church seats can or ought to be. A large and beautiful gasolier hangs from the centre of the groined arch and when its sixty burners are aflame the building is brilliantly lit up. Four furnaces supply ample heat for the audience rooms, and in feeding them, care is taken to draw cold air out of the Church before the outside vents are opened. The matter of ventilation has also been well attended to. Indeed everything has been done that skilled labor can do, to make the Church convenient and comfortable.

To the rear of the main building and connected with it by two passage ways is a fine school room, which will contain over 400 persons. In design and finish it is in keeping with the Church. Off from it and opening into it is an apartment for the infant class measuring 16 feet by 24. The pastor's room which is about 14 feet square is very conveniently situated, and well furnished. The entire cost will be about \$28,000, of which not less than \$12,000 will remain on mortgage. Mr. Dumaresq is the efficient ecclesiastical architect of this handsome edifice.

We are informed that Rev. David Freeman and family of Caning, left on last Saturday for Florida.

WHEN SHALL A YOUNG MAN BE ORDAINED?

We find some very sensible remarks on this subject in the Canadian Baptist of last week. The editor replies to the question after the following style:

We say most emphatically, when he has finished his studies; and we say this, among others, for the following reasons:

1. All Christian denominations are now demanding a thoroughly educated ministry, and they are putting their institutions and curricula in such shape as that this demand may be easily met. Among Presbyterians and Methodists and Churchmen, young men enter upon the ministry when their course of training has been completed, with the result that in these denominations the preachers have had the best training that their body has placed at their disposal. Baptists have also put their institutions in such a position that a first class training can be given. . . The character of our ministry can never reach and maintain the high standard which we by good right ought to expect of it, and which is much to the credit of some other denominations, until we insist upon education before ordination. . . .

2. There is no reason why a young man should not complete his studies. Lack of means is no longer a reason. Any accepted student for the ministry can now put himself honorably through the entire course, without break or hindrance. Employment is furnished during vacation sufficiently remunerative to meet the cost of the academic year, and he need not go to the literal harvest field or to school-teaching or to book-peddling, as some of his predecessors were wont to do, but he may keep right on at his preparation, study and preach, with sure pay, until the course is completed. Now, when all facilities for an education have been furnished by the denomination, and when the means of uninterruptedly enjoying these facilities are placed within the reach of every one, it should not be regarded as in any way singular if ordination were denied to the one who had failed personally to appreciate all this.

But premature ordination is often urged because of the necessity of the churches. Well, the churches are necessitous, every one knows, but whether they will be helped in the long run by giving them as their ministry, even in numbers sufficient to meet the present need, half-prepared men, is seriously open to question. For be it remembered that the rule is, ordination terminates the course, whether the man has completed or only begun it. He may think to return and complete his studies. He may to the ordaining-council even protest that such is his intention, but in the great majority of cases his ordination forever shuts the college door upon him—his church cannot spare him, or he marries, or he gets on so nicely as he is, that he becomes skeptical as to the benefits of a more extended course. . . .

In all seriousness, the denomination ought to regulate this matter in some way. If it deems its provisions for ministerial preparation essential, let it so declare; if not, then let ordination precede instead of follow the theological course, and have it so understood so that all would fare alike.

ANY subscriptions can be paid at the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER office in Halifax, whether the proprietor is present or not.

The editor of the New Star says: "A married man is, for the most part, a better citizen, he has stronger inducements to well doing, to honesty, sobriety and good conduct generally than when single." He ought to know, he advocates "imposing a tax of ten dollars a year on old bachelors." Only think!

DR. BILL writes in response to our suggestion a week or two since, regarding Union of the different branches of Baptists:

The Union of these two sections of the Baptists of this country in one strong denomination, has been the dream of my ministerial life, and if I can see it accomplished before my departure I shall feel like exclaiming in the language of Simon, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.' When the time comes for deal-