

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., October 8, 1884.

AFTER the disappointment which the Foreign Missionary Board and the friends of our Mission in India have recently experienced, they will be glad to learn that at the recent meeting of the Board in St. John, N. B., action was taken respecting a young lady missionary to accompany Miss Wright forthwith to the land of the Telugus. We have received the following Postal Card from the Secretary of the Board and take it for granted that it is intended for publication:

ST. JOHN, Oct. 1, 1884.

S. SELDEN, Esq., Halifax.—
Miss Abbie C. Gray, of New Annan, was to-day received as a missionary of the Board, on the recommendation of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union after examination. She will be ready to go with Miss Wright, in about two weeks—date and port of sailing not yet fixed. Shall try to get company of missionary of the American Baptist Union. Miss Gray is a student at Acadia Seminary. Has taught eight years in Nova Scotia, is 30 years of age—intelligent, devoted, pious, energetic. Has had it on her heart for nearly four years to be a missionary. The Lord seems to have been directing her and those in charge of the home work. Now we look to the churches to fulfil their obligations to the Lord and His cause.

Truly yours,
J. MARCH, Sec'y. F. M. B.

Since the above was in type we have had the opportunity of an interview with Miss Gray. She came to Halifax on her way home from St. John, remaining in the city for a few hours. Having had this opportunity we would offer our congratulations to the sisters composing the Missionary Union, and to the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies generally, in having one apparently so well suited in every respect for the appointment. The examinations given by the Boards as to suitability and qualifications were we understand most thorough and searching and we would cherish the hope that the results will confirm the correctness of Miss Gray's long cherished belief that this was to be the work of her life. We only regret that the short time elapsing before her departure will prevent Miss G. visiting some of the Churches and Societies. We are not instructed to make any explanations, but are aware that it is necessary for these sisters to go without further delay, so that they may arrive in India before the hottest season in the year comes on when their future health and usefulness would be more likely to be interfered with than if they arrive in the cooler season.

The following very suggestive paragraph has been copied by most of our contemporaries:

"A New York Baptist paper—the *Watch-Tower*—has suspended after a brave, though not wise struggle to live. Its death was not caused by lack of ability. There were force and freshness in its editorial management. The weakness was in its business department—in the attempt to give a two dollar paper for one dollar. All its receipts and \$18,000 more were expended on it, and yet it had to stop. The moral is plain enough."

A neighbour very properly asks, "If such a paper cannot succeed in New York where can it be tried with safety?"

The history of our New Brunswick contemporary, in the dearly bought experience of a former proprietor, is also full of instruction in the matter of publishing a paper at less than cost.

A CORRESPONDENT, "Patriot," of the *Wolfville New Star* brings to light a fearful picture of doings at the recent gathering of the Military Camp at Kingston, Annapolis County. He affirms that the camp drill, "as carried on this summer is a disgrace, an unmitigated curse. I speak the universal opinion of the men of the Valley; at least I heard no other expression of opinion. And no wonder, for everything was reeking with rum and blasphemy, and as if by his profanity the commanding officer could not do enough to disgrace himself and others, a brother officer was imported to rival him in blasphemy. What will you think when I tell you of this man, an officer of our volunteers, swaggering around the camp at night

inviting his friends up to his "prayer meeting," and after making night hideous with their profanity and drunken revelry till long past midnight, closing their bacchanalian revel with the 'Doxology'!"

"This" he says, "is not the mere twaddle of puritanic fanatics. I have talked with privates and officers, who acknowledge the truth of the statements and the disgrace of the doings, and the half has not been told!

I ask as a lover of my country—is this to be tolerated? Is there no redress?"

The editor intimates that having had opportunities "of viewing the inside life of the camp we are led to fear there is too much truth in 'Patriot's' statements."

For the protection of the officers and men of correct life an enquiry should be made into the truth of such statements and the men who so disgrace themselves made to bear the censure and odium.

TRURO.—A correspondent of the *Colchester Sun* claims that the New Post Office Building promises to be "one of the most handsome in Truro, adding another flower to the bouquet of handsome buildings, both private and public, that goes to make Truro the Banner Town for beauty in Nova Scotia, indeed we may say and with truth in the Maritime Provinces." Perhaps it is, certainly it is a well favored town and its people are some of the best in the world. But if it had a few elevated places to give variety to its scenery we should say it would then be a little nearer perfection.

THE letter from our brother, Rev. L. C. Archibald, in another column, puts together in a very small compass a number of important and instructive facts which will bear much reflection. The dense population he describes is something appalling. Only think that within four miles of Bobbili there are thirty-seven towns and villages, having a population of more than thirty-four thousand—an average of about one thousand each.

At the late meeting of Grangers or more properly Patrons of Husbandry, under the auspices of the Divisions of Kings and Annapolis Counties Grangers held at Kentville, there were about a thousand persons present.

In the course of the speeches after dinner it is reported by the *Acadian*, that Mr. John N. Coleman, well known as the pioneer of small-fruit raising in the valley, spoke at some length on various subjects, in the course of which he stated that in the last season he had raised 10,000 quarts of strawberries which had netted him \$850.00 clear of all expenses.

THE recent establishment of Chairs of Education in DePauw University, and in the University of Wisconsin is a movement in the line of our general educational progress and of university progress as well. The highest places in the public school service must necessarily be filled by men and women that have had a college training, and such teachers should have an opportunity to study their art in its historical and philosophical aspects. A very significant fact in connection with this movement in Wisconsin is that its firmest advocates are the Presidents of the four State Normal Schools.—*Fortnightly Index*.

PERHAPS we scarcely did ourselves justice by the brief paragraph in our last respecting the visit of our Presbyterian contemporary to Wolfville. We had our space all appropriated before we had seen his fair report or should have been glad to have said more. We accept his congratulations and have pleasure now in placing before our readers what he says of their institutions at Wolfville.

These educational institutions are an important element in the glory and the beauty of this beautiful region. One cannot see Acadia College, flanked by the Academy and the Seminary without feeling that the country is under deep obligations to the Baptists for what they have done and are still doing. Education is certainly one of the "industries" of Wolfville, and it is an industry which never fails to pay

all that invest in it. I had the privilege of spending a few hours in the Institution I have named, and I saw nothing and heard nothing that did not serve to confirm my conviction of the eminent usefulness of the Academies and of the College. All are economically managed, the best being made of the resources at the disposal of the Governors. The College helps the subsidiary institutions, and they in turn strengthen the College.—I heard Miss Graves, the Principal of the Ladies Seminary, teaching a class of girls, and the clearness with which she taught, and the readiness with which her pupils afforded me great pleasure. It would not become me to speak of the work in the College. I had some curiosity to see Dr. Rand's work as "Professor of the Principles and Practice of Education." I confess that my anticipations are more than realized, and my own doubts as to the usefulness of such a chair, (I have hardly had any) quite dispelled. His class was not large, but it was evidently a very intelligent class, and the expositions of the Professor were such as I would gladly myself sit under,—such as could not fail to be profitable to any thoughtful students though they might never require to be teachers in the ordinary sense of the word. I hope other colleges will by and by be able to follow the example of Acadia in this respect. Dr. Rand has the honor of being a pioneer in the field; and I am perfectly satisfied that he is doing a work which will tell for good on the moral and intellectual life of this country.—You would be delighted with the cheerful, genial, heartsome way in which Professor Jones discusses Virgil with his class; the calm and masterful ways of Professor Higgins while unveiling the mysteries of spherical Trigonometry; the clearness, the vigor, the solemn earnestness of President Sawyer as he searched the foundations of ethics; the freshness and enthusiasm with which Professor Keirstead investigates the history of the English alphabet. Professor Caldwell instructs in the Natural Sciences, but I had not the pleasure of seeing him. Professor Tufts is principal of the Academy, and he is aided by Messrs. Sawyer, Kempton, and Haley. Miss Graves in the Seminary has the assistance of the Misses Gourley, Gilmor, Cornu, Dodge, Harding, Hitching, Harding and Wallace. The attendance on the institutions is large and increasing.

REV. C. R. B. DODGE,

the late pastor of the Milton, Queens County Baptist Church, writes us as follows:—

Dear Brother Selden,—

I feel it incumbent on me to write you a line at this time informing you and the readers of the MESSENGER, of my changed relations, although the malady that wrought the change makes it imperative that what I write be brief.

A little over a year ago, as you are aware, I accepted the call of the church at Milton and became their pastor. I felt in assuming the charge I did that the Unseen but ever present hand of the Most High was most surely directing my steps, and I entered upon my work with the enthusiasm such an assurance cannot fail to beget. The time was short before I became thoroughly in love with my duties and the people among whom my lot was cast. The latter seemed almost a necessity both to myself and family for we were received by the people as near relatives—as indeed we were in Christ Jesus—and made the recipients of such gracious acts and words as proceed only from truly loving hearts. Oh, how pleasantly the weeks and months sped by! How laden were they with the rich fruit of contentment and peace!

At the end of six months only a change came. Suddenly, without any previous warnings that I understood, my head gave way, as I endeavored to do my accustomed thinking, reading and writing, it would become so "full" and "tight," and give me such pain in consequence, as to necessitate my putting all away, even thinking, so far as possible, and take entire rest. I consulted a physician but to no purpose. I had been for nearly ten years steadily taxing my brain and it had become in consequence prostrated. Time must be given it to recuperate its energies. Need I tell you I felt sorrowful? The hardest thing I have yet done in my life was to tender my resignation to that church, every member of which I was attached to—*loved*.

Well, what did they do? I told you I think a part at least, shortly after. But only a part; the whole it is im-

possible for any one not present at the time to know. They unanimously said "we cannot accept your resignation, we will give you a vacation of six months and three month's salary. Remain our Pastor, perchance the Lord will return you to us able to discharge your duties." But this was as nothing compared to the sympathy expressed in their countenances and the many other tokens we received of their esteem and good-will. I took the vacation so generously given. O how I tried to rest. I let Associations, the Convention, and many other meetings of interest go by unattended so anxious was I to resume work the first of Sept. At length the time came for me to be at my post. I felt better, much better. I thought previous to my going that I was able at least for a part of the work. I went. But I soon found the old trouble asserting itself again, I was only partially recovered, I endured another trial and I believe the people endured one too. The end is that our connection was severed and I am lodged in my father's house until the happy time comes when I shall be permitted again to labor in the vineyard of the Lord. I hope the time may be short as I believe it will. Soon I believe you may expect to hear of my taking on the harness again and doing my mite toward the farther extension of Christ's kingdom.

I have said more than I intended yet I wish to add further my desire that the noble and generous people among whom I have been may soon have another pastor—a real man of God to direct their steps, guided by the Almighty into green pastures and beside waters of refreshment and repose. They are a good people and will cooperate with the man they trust in any Christian enterprise. May God bless them.

Very truly yours,
C. R. B. DODGE.
Milton, Oct. 2nd, 1884.

We are glad that our dear Brother has written the above as it will inform his many enquiring friends of his state. Our brother and his family connections may rest assured of the warm sympathy of all who knew him, and that they will not fail to do as the Apostle Paul repeatedly requested of his brethren, when he said "Brethren pray for us."

SOME days since we received the following letter from Rev. L. M. Weeks. As it referred to the action of the Home Mission Board, and brought serious charges against said Board, and knowing that much injury is often done by a lengthy discussion of such matters, we were desirous of bringing it into as small a space of time as possible. We therefore sent our brother's letter to the Secretary of the Board, who has given the following explanatory remarks there upon.

The H. M. Board Misrepresents.

MR. EDITOR,—

When public interests are involved, it may be well for the Denomination to understand more of the doings of this Board than it can gather from the Report submitted. For instance, the Annual Report this year disposed of this field in these words: "Shelburne declined to receive aid after the first quarter, because a large reduction was made in the grant. They are now sustaining their own work."

Now, if this report were true, surely the Denomination deserves something more in regard to the separation of its Board from an important mission field of long standing! But the main part of this exceedingly brief report—the cause of separation—is not true. Yet with the letter from this field in its possession, the Board assigns as the cause for the field declining aid a reason which we did not give!

The letter states, among others, these reasons:

1st. The sudden reduction of the grant.

It was "a large reduction" indeed—from \$150 to \$50. Nevertheless it was the suddenness of the action which was the cause of dissatisfaction and finally of separation.

Advised that a new missionary had just come on the field, had the Board made the usual grant for the remainder of its fiscal year—nine months—the action would have been accepted in good faith. The field thus notified would have had time to make necessary changes. But no, they would not vote

the usual aid on any condition for a year, or any part of a year.

The first reason which they gave for their unjust action was deficiency of funds, and attempt to keep expenditure within income.

At the time I believed them to be insincere, and their books prove my belief to have been well founded. They came up to Convention with a deficit of hundreds of dollars. Had the principle announced to this field acted them in their dealings with all others, would a deficit have existed? No. Were they afraid that an honorable transaction, involving an addition of \$75 to the deficit would cause the Denomination to fail them? No. Three times the amount had been quickly met. And this year they were sent back from the Convention without a cent of debt.

They could not for a moment have imagined that Maritime Baptists would censure them for rendering usual aid to an old field with a new missionary who understood but little of the financial ability of the field, with winter upon him, and having to gather about him means of travel.

Then, did the Board act on feeling? Ah! "Tell it not in Gath!" neither inquire into the nature of the feeling.

But the letter stated other reasons, all involving the idea of dissatisfaction at the suddenness of the change.

2nd. An important section of the field is this year burdened with the erection of a house of worship.

3rd. The field was not accustomed to annual formal application for aid. The grant had not been reduced one cent for years. On the new missionary taking charge, it was thought best to formally apply.

This was done: the result is known. 4th. The change in pulpit work advised by the Board was as sudden as the reduction of aid, and as great. One quarter of the year had been worked out on the plan of former years;—subscriptions to salary had been made in agreement therewith, by persons not belonging to us; and altogether the field thought that the Board was not actuated by any just principle of fraternal feeling in making such changes.

But notwithstanding these and other reasons, were plainly laid before the Board, as justifying the field in refusing longer to continue under its control, the Board manufactured a reason of its own and presented it to the Convention!

Why did they keep from those to whom they are responsible the facts in the case?

The Denomination will look for their explanation.

By the Board's action, the field is forced to run its Convention Fund money into another channel. There will be a corresponding decrease in sympathy with our Benevolent Objects.

The Denomination should see that one Board is not allowed to act prejudicially to all the other Boards.

Boards may have their favorites in fields and men, but partiality should not be allowed to press Denominational interests too far into the cold, nor take to the Convention incorrect Reports.

Yours, &c.,
L. M. WEEKS.
Shelburne, Sept., 23, 1884.

REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

It was not the intention of the Home Mission Board to "misrepresent" or cover up any thing when they inserted the clause criticised in their report. We gave what we believed to be the reason for the Shelburne field declining to receive the grant. And we put it in so that any one who wished might have the opportunity to inquire into the cause.

The fact is the field never gave any reason for declining to receive the grant.

When informed of the action of the Board, and of the reasons for their action, they met in Council and condemned the action of the Board as "unchristian and unjust," declined to accept their advice in regard to division of Pastor's work and decided to use the Convention fund money to sustain the gospel on the field. The Board was never asked to reconsider its action.

Nearly two months afterwards we learned through the pastor himself that he had resigned his position as missionary under the Board.

Brother Weeks' letter gives the reader the impression that the field was not accustomed to annual formal applications for aid.

In reply to this I need only repeat in substance what I some time ago, said to Bro. Weeks and to the brethren of the Shelburne field viz. —That the applications of the three years previous to his going to the field are on file for the inspection of any one who cares to examine them.

Since the grants are made on regular yearly applications it will be seen that there is no ground to complain of the "suddenness of the change." By this means the Board reserves to itself the right to continue, decrease, or withdraw altogether, the aid granted after the expiration of the grant.

Bro. W. thinks that we were not sincere when we said that we were

attempting to keep our expenditure within our income, and that the fact that we were obliged to report a deficiency of a few hundred dollars shows that we were not sincere.

In reply to this I only need say that had our income been, as we expected it would be, equal to the income of the previous year we should have had no deficit.

To the insinuation that the Board acted "on feeling" in reducing the grant, we have to say, yes, it was the feeling of a constantly increasing desire to assist all our weak churches in securing the regular ministry of the Word, and the planting of churches where none now exist. Under the influence of this feeling some of us labor night and day. We are not conscious of being under the influence of either fear or favoritism.

A. COHOON,
Cov. Secy.
Hebron, Oct. 2nd, 1884.

ACADIA SEMINARY.

This Institution has entered upon another school year with very encouraging prospects. The present number in attendance is 62 of whom 32 are boarders and several others are expected shortly. This is a larger number than has been in attendance on any previous Fall term with one exception. The Young ladies represent all the Maritime Provinces, 6 being from N. B., 3 from Cape Breton, 1 from P. E. I., and the others from Nova Scotia. Miss Graves was granted leave of absence for the present term but on learning in August that Miss Marshall through ill health would be unable to enter upon her duties as first assistant in the Seminary, she generously gave up her intended rest and has entered upon the work of the year with her usual ardor and careful oversight of all the details of the school.

Miss Dodge is again at her post as Music teacher and Miss Harding as instructor in Drawing and Painting.

Madame Cornu having resigned her position as teacher of Modern languages, Madame Bauer has been engaged to fill this important position. This lady comes highly recommended and will without doubt prove a valuable acquisition to the teaching staff of Acadia Seminary.

The classes in Drawing and Painting in Vocal Music and in Elocution are this year unusually large. We are glad to notice that while other branches have not been neglected these latter studies have been steadily growing in favor with the pupils. Altogether the outlook is very promising, and the prospect is that an unusually large number will graduate next June there being at present ten in the Senior Class.

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AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

The newspapers are full of reports of Agricultural Exhibitions. If the object of these shows is to bring the profession of the farmer to the front, that has assuredly been accomplished. The words of Solomon are being fully illustrated, "The profit of the earth is for all, the king himself is served by the field." Not only are we continually dependent on the tiller of the soil for our bread, and what else we need for food, but these shows are useful for the purpose of enabling all to rejoice with the farmer in his successful labors, and in the skillful application of the materials that come to his hand to bring forth the best results. Perhaps there is in no profession a wider scope for the intelligent use of knowledge, than in that of the farmer. This bringing together of superior specimens for public exhibition is calculated to stimulate effort and supply information. Some fancy that there are now too many Exhibitions, so that they result in a waste of time and labor, but the plan of having District Exhibitions every other year, we think gives this knowledge to the people more generally than if there were only exhibitions in larger central places every year.

We must not give the details of any of these great shows or we should fill our columns.

The Exhibition at Dartmouth District No 1 was a great success and proved highly creditable to the township. The Opening speech of Admiral Commerall was such a one as might be expected from a gentleman who has had so lengthened an experience, high