

Sister Jones was living demonstration both of the nature and effect, of the principles of the Gospel. The prosperity of Zion was her joy—its declension her sorrow. She often rebuked worldly-minded Christians, who, of their earthly substance, eked out but small portions when the Lord's cause demanded liberal aid. As a parent she was affectionate, but faithful, and her manners endeared her much to her neighbours.

A few months previous to her death she was subject to dropsy, but complained so little, that she was not supposed to be dangerously ill. Two physicians, however, were called in, and every thing that kindness and skill could devise was done. But all failed; for her glass was run, and she suddenly, without a struggle, fell asleep in the arms of her Saviour, leaving an affectionate husband, six children, and a large number of grand and great grand children, and numerous connections and friends to deplore their loss. But it is with mournful pleasure we contemplate the departure of our friends, when we have reason to believe that with them to die is gain, to that better world, "Where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."

The writer of this brief notice offers it as a faint memorial of the virtues of one with whom he was intimately acquainted more than 21 years, and whom he very highly esteemed.

B. SCOTT.

Newcastle, Miramichi, Jan. 18, 1856.

DIED at Cornwallis, Jan. 22nd, PRUDENCE, the beloved wife of Mr. William Newcomb, in the 39th year of her age.

On the same day, WALLIS, eldest son of Mr. William Arnold, aged 5 years. Was snatched from the embraces of fond parents.

On the 23rd, MARY ANN, consort of Mr. William Davidson, aged 50 years, daughter of the late Elijah Eaton, all of Cornwallis.

On the 25th the three funerals met in the burying ground at Bill Town, and the deceased were committed to the safe keeping of the faithful tomb until the morning of the resurrection.

The scene was one of unusual occurrence, indeed, a similar one had never been witnessed in this vicinity before. A sermon was preached on the occasion by the writer, to a deeply solemn congregation.—*Com. by the Rev. James Parker.*

For the Christian Messenger.

What is Truth?

We are desirous of knowing the truth—of having it made plain, therefore we make the remarks and enquiries which follow on Professor Dawson's Lecture, published in the *Christian Messenger* of January 16th. We address ourselves to any who may feel disposed to answer; and if in answering there can be a union effected between Lecture, and—the law and testimony of Jehovah—we shall acknowledge our faults as publicly as they have been committed.

1. Was day and night divided in the first day of creation?
2. Did evening follow each day's work?
3. How does this agree with thousands of years intervening between one day and another?
4. Did Adam name the animal creation? and does this agree with some of the animals being long before dead?
5. Where does Scripture prove the death of lower animals before the creation of man?
6. Should Geology be called a handmaid to the Sacred Canon, as the rule of our faith and practice?
7. Can Christ's Spiritual Kingdom, and Philosophy or Geology be united? and is the attempt calculated to remove skepticism and infidelity?
8. Are the doctrines of the total depravity of man's nature, salvation by the grace of God, through Christ's most precious blood, by the renewing influence of the Eternal Spirit,—the basis of God's building?
9. Does Christian enlightenment give unbounded limit to enquiry? or has the revealed word of Jehovah placed any limit?

Signed in behalf of many enquirers,

Annapolis, January 20th, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

WESTPORT, January 18th, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER,

It is with feelings of gratitude to God and a desire to encourage the hearts of all who are labouring in my Master's cause, that I now write. In the month of May, 1854, I visited this part

of the Lord's vineyard for the purpose of spending a few days in preaching Christ to the people. I found the cause of God much depressed. Serious difficulties existed in the church. After having spent a short time, I received a call to become their pastor, in which, on account of my inexperience and inability for so arduous a work, I concurred with much diffidence. Under these circumstances I commenced the duties of the pastoral life, praying God to prepare and make me useful in his cause. My trials, while endeavouring to stand in defence of truth are only known to God, and partially to my brethren here; for notwithstanding, I have enjoyed much of the confidence and kindness of all, still my heart has often been sad in viewing the prostrate state of Zion. But why dwell on the painful past?—a brighter day already dawns; and we are encouraged to believe that the Sun of Righteousness will rise in noontide splendour. Our protracted meetings commenced on the 10th Jan'y., and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather which rendered travelling exceedingly difficult, our much loved brethren J. C. Morse and H. Achilles came to our assistance, and with them we believe came the Great Head of the Church. Their preaching was greatly blessed in melting hard hearts and removing formidable difficulties. The Lord has been present with us! God has done great things for us!—a great revolution has taken place. Brethren long since lost to each other as Christians, were enabled to meet again at the foot of the Cross; and the service was such as to display the power of Divine grace on prodigals here seen coming back to their long neglected homes, while the Father of mercies stood with arms extended to receive and clothe them with the best robe. I need not enlarge, but hope this imperfect account may serve to encourage those who are labouring for the welfare of Zion. Brethren, let us be faithful and victory will surely be ours.

Yours in the hope of everlasting life,

W. H. CALDWELL.

Provincial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Jan. 31st.

Mr. McDonald moved the Address, in reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. Ordered that the Address lie over, and the House adjourned after a brief debate on a motion for extending the Franchise Privilege.

FRIDAY, Feb. 1st.

The Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech was read.

Hon. J. W. Johnston said that he had no objection to the Address, as it was merely a response to the Speech of His Excellency.

The Address passed without division. A Committee was appointed on reporting the debates and proceedings of the House.

SATURDAY, Feb. 2nd.

The House met, by adjournment, at half-past eleven o'clock, and, at noon, proceeded to Government House, in order to present the "Address" to His Excellency in reply to his Speech.

Hon. Att. General proposed the nomination of a committee upon whom (in accordance with the system which had been found to work well) should devolve the nomination of the general Committees of the House. The United States system gave the nomination of committees to the Speaker of the House. To this plan he had grave, insuperable objection. He was also opposed to vesting nomination in the Government; and should therefore, move for the appointment of a Committee of Selection, to prepare lists of names of gentlemen to compose the several Committees. He moved that the following seven gentlemen compose the Committee, viz:

Mr. Annand, Chairman. Messrs. Archibald, M. I. Wilkins, McLearn, Chipman, Thorne, Davidson.

Hon. Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Marshall objected to the course; and Mr. Munro complained that none of the Cape Breton members were on the committee.

After some discussion, the hon. Att. General was substituted as Chairman in place of Mr. Annand, and the Committee appointed.

The House then adjourned until three o'clock, at which hour the Public Accounts were brought down.

Hon. Attorney General said—By command of the Lieut. Governor, I lay on the table of the House the most material portion of the public accounts. The first is the cash account of the Receiver General with the province—showing a balance in the treasury on the first of January, 1856, of £28,730. The colonial and light duties collected during the year amounted to £118,000—£90,000 of which was collected in Halifax and 28,000 in the outports—to which is to be added 7,000 realised from the distillery licenses, making in all £125,000.—The only reduction to which this sum is subject is £4,000 paid out for drawbacks—leaving £121,000, being the actual cash

receipts for 1855. This sum is between £8,000 and £9,000 less than was collected in 1854—the decrease being attributed to the withdrawal of duties consequent upon the passage of the reciprocity bill. The casual revenue yielded about £18,000, which, added to the £121,000, makes a grand total of £139,000. On the credit side of this account is also a sum of £21,500 received from the Savings Bank. There was an issue of provincial notes during the year which amounted to £34,000, making with other small sums the whole amount received into the treasury in 1855, independent of Railway funds £208,000.—There was a balance on hand on the 1st of January, 1855, of £11,000, making in all £219,000. Turning now to the payments it will be found that they amounted to £196,000 in all. Taking the most material of these, I may observe that the amounts connected with the Board of Works shew the expenditure in that department, including the Lunatic Asylum, Light House, Provincial Building, Government House, and the Penitentiary, to amount to £23,250; of our various educational institutions £17,700; Legislative expenses £7,000; Postal communication £5,600, the collection of the revenue £8,400; Official salaries, including the Lieut. Governor, all the Judges, Officers of Government, pensions, &c., £15,655; for interest £3,300; St. Peter's Canal £3,150; Road services £45,000;—making the entire payments for the year ending 31st December, 1855, as already stated, £196,000. I do not know that there is any other material item in this paper to which I need refer.

The second paper is a return from the Financial Secretary's office—giving minute details of all these expenditures arranged under their various heads; showing in fact every item that goes to make up the sum of £195,760.

These are the extraordinary public accounts, but our railroad operations have introduced a new and very extensive branch. Up to the 31st December, 1854, there was expended on account of the railway £56,000; in that year Provincial notes to the value of £11,000 were issued, and from the Savings Bank and general Revenue were drawn respectively £21,000 and 24,000—nothing, however, was given in the shape of accounts other than a simple memorandum shewing the sum actually paid out on account of that branch. I now hold in my hand a minute and lucid statement of the railway accounts shewing the sources from whence the various sums expended have been derived, and which amounted in all to £186,000.

The whole of the papers which preceded the conclusion of the negotiation with Baring and Company, including the minutes of Council and our instructions to Mr. Howe—the correspondence thereon and the final arrangement—will be laid on the table in the course of a day or two.

The next paper comprises the account of the Provincial Railway with the Receiver General. The first item on the credit side of the account is the sum of £44,000 drawn from the Provincial Revenue or rather from the Provincial funds, which added to the £53,000 paid out of this fund in 1854—make a total of £100,000. Against this amount £70,000 (in round numbers) has been made up by monies borrowed from the Savings Bank and an issue of Paper Currency. So that £30,000 of our general funds after paying all appropriations has passed into the Railway and become the property of the Province. The next item is a credit of £16,000 received at the Treasury here from the Sale of Debentures of £500 and £100 sterling each—independent of the London operations. Before the negotiation with Messrs. Baring and Company a pledge had been given by the Executive Government to take from £20 to 30,000 in this Province at the same rate as the money could be got in London. The debentures for part of this sum were issued at par. For other sums to which the pledge did not extend the same premium has been demanded which our six per cent debentures payable in twenty years command in London £2100 credited accordingly at 5 per cent.

The next items are Cash from Messrs. Baring Brothers and Company—91,000 and a sum of 25,000 passed to the credit of the Railway Board and paid for iron and other materials shipped by that firm.—There are two smaller sums which I need not dwell on—making the whole credit of this account as already stated £185,000.

The Commissioners have received from the Treasury during the year £121,000; from Baring's £25,000 and the Treasurer has in hand £27,000. The two first of these items together with the amount in 1855 and other smaller sums show the annual amount expended up to the 31st December 1855 to be £216,000—for the disposal of which the Railway Board will account in the accounts that will be laid before the House in a few days. With this short statement—which I think must be satisfactory to this House, and the Country I lay these accounts on the Table. It will be gratifying to Members to perceive that the public accounts under the able superintendence of the Financial Secretary are exhibited in so prosperous and lucid a state that the expenditure of every shilling of the public money can be traced in a moment and classed under its proper head. The authority under which it is made is also apparent, and the constitutional control and supervision of this House are recognized and rendered effective.

House adjourned till three o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, Feb. 4.

Hon. Att. General—as Chairman of the Committee of Selection—reported the several com-

mittees in detail, making the following recommendations:

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

Agriculture.—Hon. Att. General. Messrs. M. I. Wilkins, M. McKinnon, Bill, F. R. Parker, McFarlane, Robicheau, Thorne, and Bailey.

Fisheries.—Marshall, Ryder, Martell, Tobin, John Campbell, Bourneuf, Annand, P. Smith, Bailey.

Trade and Manufactures.—Wier, M. I. Wilkins, Killam, McKenzie, McLellan, C. Campbell, McLearn.

Post Office.—Hon. Solicitor General, Messrs. McFarlane, Annand, Munro, McLellan, Thorne, White.

Public Accounts.—Esson, Killam, Archibald, Locke, White.

Education.—Hon. Att. General, Hon. Mr. Johnston, Hon. Provincial Secretary, Brown, McDonald, Tupper, McKeagney, Webster, Hyde.

Mines and Minerals.—Archibald, Johnston, Attorney General, M. I. Wilkins, Marshall, Webster.

Navigation Securities.—Chipman, Whitman, Wade, McKenzie, Moslier, Fuller, Bent.

Penitentiary.—Bent, Robertson, Churchill, Morison, Hyde, Chambers.

Transient Paupers.—Tupper, Dimock, Smith, Bill, McLearn.

Sick Emigrants.—Brown, Geldert, McLeod, Tobin, John Campbell.

Indian Affairs.—Whitman, McKeagney, Webster, Davidson, Parker, McKinnon, Martell.

Printing.—Locke, McDonald, Hyde, Moses, Robertson.

Road Damages.—Annand, Munro, Marmaud, Dimock, Bent.

Private Bills.—Wade; Fuller, Killam.

Poor Asylum.—Munro, Morrison, Davidson, Churchill, Chambers, Robicheau, Geldert.

Expiring Laws.—Henry, Locke, McLeod.

In addition to the Committees heretofore usual, one on Public Works had been named, in accordance with a motion made by Mr. Esson on a previous day; and a long discussion took place in reference to its particular functions.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said that it was necessary to let the people see that the most strict supervision was exercised in reference to the operations; and in the course of his remarks made some allusion to the absence of the Chief Commissioner, of whose knowledge and experience they were this session deprived.

Dr. Tupper said that after the remark of the Hon. Provincial Secretary, it was due from him to say that no person more than himself could possibly regret that he did not bring to the House the enlarged intellect and business tact of the gentleman to whom the hon. Provincial Secretary had referred, and who had preceded him in the representation of Cumberland. He trusted that if the Railroad was now to proceed, as for our own credit it must proceed, the House would not be denuded of its power of regulating the route which should be chosen. He observed, I have no idea, sir, that the Committee now to be chosen shall interfere with the question of cutting down of a bill or going round it; but I do ask that their duties shall be of a substantial character. The Legislature has given to the Government the power to construct this Railway, and the Government have appointed the Commissioners—therefore as regards the question of accounts, I take it for granted this House will hold both responsible, and neither absolve the one, nor relieve the other. And I trust, Mr. Speaker, it will not be found, as has been asserted in the press, that Cumberland is to be excluded from the benefits of this new accompaniment of civilization—the Railroad. That we are to have it now is no longer a question. The policy of having Railroads, by Government, is now settled; but I trust, sir, that policy may be made subservient to the interests of the country at large. I hope, sir, that before any minor matter as to whether the track should go through Stewiacke or Gay's River be taken into consideration—the great question of connecting us with the whole continent should employ our earnest attention. I approve of the Committee, sir, and trust that the eastern part of the Province will be well represented on it.

Some further discussion took place, when Mr. Annand moved a resolution that a committee be appointed to examine into the construction and expenditure of the Railway, and report to this House.

Hon. J. W. Johnston introduced a bill to amend the act for the municipal government of counties, which empowers counties to adopt the system; remarking that he himself was in favor of making the law absolute; but he was obliged to submit what he deemed practicable.

Mr. Whitman presented the petition of Charles H. Harrington, against the return of T. H. Fuller for the county of Richmond. Petition laid upon the table, and Friday named as the day on which the House would take the petition into consideration.

M. McDonald presented petition from H. Marmaud, of Arichat, against the return of Henry Martell for the Township of Arichat. Laid on the table, and Saturday next, the 9th, Feb., named as the day when the House would take them into consideration.

TUESDAY, Feb. 5.

The Government laid upon the table of the House papers (including voluminous correspondence) in connection with Railway Negotiations. Also with respect to several Government Lands,