

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Past and Present."

Messrs. Editors,

A communication under the above caption which appeared in the "Christian Messenger" of the 20th ult., from the pen of your worthy Correspondent, "Hint", contains some rather broad "hints," which, with all deference to his enlightened judgment and superior ability, we beg leave to notice. He seems to be somewhat seriously alarmed at the deleterious consequences arising from the introduction and increasing prevalence of modern innovations, formalities, &c., amongst our Churches; and dwells with unwonted emphasis upon the "alterations" that have, during the last "half century" taken place, in the mode of conducting our public services; and attributes much, if not all existing apathy, declension, &c. &c., to those causes. We concur in the sentiment, that "alterations" are not always "improvements"; but we deny it in reference to the point in question. For instance, the moral exigencies of the times, and the comparative ignorance of the people during the self-sacrificing toils of the early pioneers of this country, rendered the adoption of various measures beneficial to the cause of Christ, which at the present "improved" state of society, are not only unnecessary, but absolutely improper and injurious. And while we admit that the practice of calling upon members of the church to speak or pray after a sermon has been delivered, may in some places, under peculiar circumstances, be attended with profit; we are nevertheless of the opinion that as a general thing it is oftener productive of evil than of good. The following considerations seem to demonstrate the reasonableness and propriety of this conclusion, viz:—

1st. Protracted exercises are seldom profitable. For the interest in a subject declines in proportion as the mind becomes wearied. And it usually requires a larger amount of oratorical ability and experience than is common among laymen to interest an audience, after they have listened to a sermon of ordinary length, in connection with the usual preliminary services.

2nd. A number of unpremeditated addresses will in a majority of cases obliterate from the minds of the people the impressions produced by a well arranged discourse, to which, they may have paid the profoundest attention. And the efforts of the minister to instruct and improve his hearers, are thus rendered comparatively abortive.

3rd. It often happens that those who are the least qualified to make such addresses, are the first to avail themselves of the opportunity, to the annoyance rather than the edification of the people. The consequence is, many who would otherwise attend our places of worship, resort to other places where no such offensive customs are encouraged.

4th. Such practices often produce confusion and delay. When "liberty is given for the exercise of gifts," one will frequently wait for another, and a profound silence ensues for several minutes, till a part of the congregation, at least, becoming impatient, will retire from the scene before the services have been dismissed. Hence the peculiar applicability to the point in question, of the apostolic precept,—"Let all things be done decently and in order."

We conceive therefore that the inactivity, formality, &c. &c., complained of by your worthy correspondent, is not as he would have us suppose, the result of the discontinuance of certain old and unprofitable customs; but may be more correctly attributed to very different causes. These causes may at any time, if necessary, be easily pointed out.

Yours truly,
OMEGA.

For the Christian Messenger.

Rev. Mr. Wilson versus Baptism.

Mr. Editor;

I perceive in your last paper, a communication from "Granville," signed "Hearer," under date Jan. 26, '55.

If the Rev. gentleman, referred to, be the Mr. Wilson, who a few years since was stationed at Lunenburg—I think the Baptists need not be under much alarm as to any injury his discourses can do to them, or their distinctive

principles, and customs—unless, he has in the meantime improved very much as a logician, and reasoner. Your readers will no doubt remember his "Modern Crusade," against those "infidels," as he was pleased to style them, the "Sons of Temperance"; and no doubt the masterly manner in which his arguments and sophistry were torn to pieces, and scattered to the winds, by the Rev. Mr. Cochran—is still fresh in their recollection. I have not the least apprehension that his "Crusade" against the Baptists, and Bible truth, will prove any more injurious to them, than his former abortive attempt, did to the temperance reform. Don't waste pen, ink, and paper with him brethren; and for my part Mr. Editor, I should not have troubled you with any remarks on the subject, had I not been writing you on other matters, connected with your welcome journal.

Yours,
C. H. H.

For the Christian Messenger.

Berwick Female Seminary.

The friends of Education will be pleased to know that the efforts of the Committee of the above institution have been successful, as the following report will show, in affording to a respectable number of young ladies, the facilities of thorough education, in various branches of education, upon terms unusually low. The whole expense of board and tuition, (the expense of furniture, and rent of boarding-house and rent of hall, nearly fifty pounds, included) not exceeding fifteen pounds per year. The whole number in attendance, for the term just now closed, has been thirty-nine. Classes have been taught in Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, Analysis, Latin, and Drawing.

To the above will be added if required next term, Physiology, Astronomy, History, Botany, French, and Painting.

The expenses of this establishment are reduced to this low rate, mainly by the saving of the expense of servants, the young ladies doing the domestic work, and that without inconvenience to themselves.

This system must recommend itself to all reflecting minds, as it places education within the reach of many, who otherwise would never possess the same advantages.

Your committee feel themselves called upon to record their entire approbation of the manner in which the Principal of the school and her Assistant, have discharged their onerous duties, and also confidently to say, that nothing on the part of the Teachers will be omitted that can in any-wise administer to the best interests of those under their care.

The examination of the classes was alike creditable to Teachers and Pupils."

On behalf of the Committee.

WM. CHIPMAN.

American and Foreign Bible Society.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Horace T. Love, Cor. Sec. Am. & For. Bible Society, dated New York, Jan. 31, '56.

"The Lord is pouring out his Spirit upon our work of Bible Colportage. The plan we have instituted is very similar to that of the Bible Readings in the North of Ireland, which has been accompanied with such great success. We find no difficulty, by the blessing of God, in reaching the ear of Foreigners by this plan. There have been fifty-three conversions reported for the month of January. We are in great need of funds. We have about fifty Colporteurs in the field; and though our receipts are in advance of those of any previous year at this date, yet they have not kept pace with our greatly increased expenditures. Can you do any thing for us in Nova Scotia?"

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

"The monthly meeting of the Board of Managers was held at the Bible House, New York, on Thursday, at 4 P. M., Rev. Dr. Lathrop, in the chair.

From the Treasurer's report it appears that cash appropriations, to the amount of \$6,000, had been paid during the month, of which a cash acceptance of \$2,500 had been sent to the Baptist Mission Rooms of Boston, to aid the Bible work of the society in Asia, under the direction of that body, and \$2,000 more had been remitted to Rev. J. G. Oncken, for the colportage of the Society in Germany, under his direction, leaving something less than \$1,000 of the \$10,000 appropriated to Brother Oncken, for the year, now due. The cash receipts of the society, though considerably in advance of those of any former year at this

period, have nevertheless not kept pace with the increased expenditures, and the treasury was reported as overdrawn about \$2,000.

An abstract of twenty-five colporteur reports, for the month of January, gives the following summary:—6,374 visits to families for preaching the Gospel from house to house; 8,22 families found destitute of the Scriptures.

An application was received from Rev. Dr. Maclay, President of the Bible Union, asking this society to grant him, of their Scriptures in the English language, three royal octavo Bibles, and twenty-six royal octavo New Testaments, with Psalms, all in the commonly received version, for the use of his children and grandchildren. The request was granted. The distribution for January of the society's Scriptures, when all the returns are received, will not fall short of 10,000 volumes."

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College Library.

WOLFVILLE, March 11, '56.

Mr. Editor,

Dear Sir—Allow me to accept your kind offer by giving publicity to the following note from a worthy brother of the Presbyterian denomination.

Yours truly,
JOHN CHASE.

Rev. Mr. Chase—

Sir—I do not belong to the Baptist communion, nor am I connected with it either by birth or education, still as a friend to the cause of Education and an advocate of the Temperance movement, I feel that I owe a debt of gratitude to the clergymen and many of the people of that denomination, for their long continued and zealous efforts in behalf of those important measures, both of which agitate the public mind to such an extent, as to warrant their being noticed as the great questions of the day—and I know of no better way that I can discharge a part of the obligation which I consider rests upon me as a member of this community, and to prevent being considered as invidious towards individuals than to say to you that I will be very happy to have my name enrolled as one of the number willing to contribute to the fund in aid of Acadia College Library, to the extent named by yourself, and I trust your praiseworthy example may be followed by others, so as to crown your labors with complete success. With sentiments of respect,

I am sir truly yours,

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Bridgetown.

Messrs. Editors,

My church and congregation did me the honour of paying me a Donation Visit on Thursday the 17th of January. The day was very fine and the people made good use of it. They began to assemble about 2 o'clock, and continued to come till tea time. The tea of course was good—it always is here—the friends who manage that part, understand their business well. The company consisted of 140 as agreeable and apparently happy people, young and old, as you could well find any where. Their liberality did them honour—and what made it the more pleasing—it came freely and spontaneously. It was, I think in some respects, in advance of the donation of last year. It was highly gratifying to have our dear ministering brethren, N. Vidito, W. G. Parker and James Spencer with us; their presence, prayers, and very interesting speeches did us good. Deacon Benj. Fellows, in behalf of the meeting, and accompanied with an appropriate speech, presented the pastor with a purse containing within a few shillings of £20, and articles to the value of more than £20, were contributed besides. A watch worth £5 15s., obtained principally by the activity and contributions of the young ladies, assisted as they always are by their friends, was also presented. Additional donations to the amount of six dollars have since been received, making in all £47 5s. While I write the kind friends are hauling me donation wood, and to which more is to be added soon. I have no doubt they will bring me enough to keep us warm for one year. This is a great favour for which I tender them heart-felt thanks. Thus considerably over £50 will have been contributed to the support and comfort of the Pastor and his family, by the spontaneous and cheerful liberality of the people. This donation is more than half the stipulated salary.

The Pastor replied to Bro. Fellows' address

as best he could, but failed to express his appreciation of the kindness and good will of the friends present, some of whom came a very considerable distance. Nor was he unmindful of those who were not present. I must do myself the pleasure of returning thanks to some Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Methodist friends who were so kind as to favour us with their presence or to send a substantial substitute.

These donation visits do good to the people—and of course to the minister and his family. They give expression to a feeling that is welcome to a minister's heart, and helps to bind him and the people more closely in the bonds of holy fellowship and love. To the giver of all good be the glory.

Yours truly,
GEO. ARMSTRONG.

Bridgetown, Feb. 27th, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Cornwallis.

On the evening of the 22nd of January, I had the pleasure of receiving a very large number of the church and congregation at our quiet little residence. The design of this large gathering was to make a Donation Visit. The most of our Churches and Pastors I believe, know what delightful and profitable things these Visits are.—The evening was unusually fine, the sleighing good, and the hearts of the visitors warm and benevolent. The sisters, as usual, had been active and in earnest. The leading brethren had resolved that whatever was done should be well done. Thus all things contributed to make the occasion what it was designed to be—an evening for the exercise of christian affection and benevolence.

About five o'clock the company began to assemble and soon Salem Cottage was well filled with cheerful and happy faces. After the usual greetings, with which brethren and friends are accustomed to meet. An abundant repast was well served and we think as well enjoyed. A short time was then spent in conversation, singing, and other engagements suited to the occasion. During the time thus spent, a large number of Donations were handed in, and arranged for presenting. When all was in readiness, Deacon Thomas Rand called the meeting to order, and immediately had the fixed attention of the whole company. With a suitable address the deacon presented a purse containing nearly £22, and a list of articles, all useful and well selected, amounting to about £27, making the whole donation a close approximation to the handsome sum of £50.

To me this Donation had a value far beyond that indicated by the above figures. It was the expression of christian affection and brotherly union. It bespoke the existence of a large amount of that sympathy and friendship, which a Pastor above all other men knows how to value.

I attempted to reply to the remarks of Bro. Rand, words however are oftentimes poor representations of the emotions of the heart. May the sentiments expressed on that evening be long cherished by pastor and people.

Aside from the pecuniary advantages of such meetings, they have a beneficial tendency upon the church and congregation. They cultivate a feeling of union among the members, by drawing together in this social band, brethren and sisters who otherwise, would not often have the privilege of forming an intimate acquaintance. They also cultivate a purely christian sentiment—benevolence. "The Lord loveth the cheerful giver." May the Lord bless the people with an abundance of temporal and spiritual good.

A. S. HUNT.

Cornwallis, March 3rd, 1856.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit at Newport.

In agreement with the divine declaration that, "the labourer is worthy of his hire, and as a token of respect to the Rev. J. Bancroft, a Donation Party met at his residence at Woodville, on the 3rd of January last, and notwithstanding the general disinclination, that exists, to combat a North East snow storm, ninety-one persons assembled, making with the minister's family one hundred; an excellent tea had been provided by our good sisters for which they deserve much praise, and after partaking of a variety of good things, Francis Parker, Esq., of Walton; whom Providence