

a representation such as might be transferred by the hand of the engraver for the purpose of giving impressions similar to that made on my own mind, and thus giving you a picture such as I witnessed a few days ago, I must content myself with substituting the pen for the pencil, and painting by words instead of colors, what struck me as a subject well suited to engage the attention of the artist.

About the centre of the village of Amherst is a neat substantial building, not of very recent date nor yet very ancient in the style of its architecture, in fact a very comfortable house. It is filled with about five or six hundred well-to-do intelligent people, principally men possessing countenances beaming with cheerfulness, and although the eye of each displays a degree of expectation, yet all seem prepared for something which will afford full satisfaction when received. This is none other than the Meeting-house of the Baptist church,—not so large as may be seen in many parts of Nova Scotia, yet a fair specimen of the places of worship which belong to that body now appearing throughout the length and breadth of the land.

On a portion of the floor in front of the pulpit raised about two feet, and apparently used as a platform from which to address the congregation, are seated a Trio facing the congregation, whether by accident or design I will not determine, but it occurred to me they might be taken as representatives of the Pulpit, the Press, and the College; three sources of power and influence, which are being used with so much effect by the people now assembled at one of their anniversaries. When these are brought to bear effectually on the whole population they will raise them to a high state of intellectual and moral greatness and make men but little inferior to angelic beings, (Psalm viii. 5.) which but for the ravages of sin, sorrow and death might well induce us to wish for an indefinite extension of mortal existence. But to proceed with my picture, I will begin with the person sitting on the right,—a man of some twenty-five or thirty years of age of fair complexion and slight erect form. Although comparatively indifferent about personal appearance and not rejoicing in a white cravat or any distinguishing clerical habiliments, he is, allow me to inform you no less a personage than the bishop (not mitred) of the church at Amherst. He is a person of no mean abilities, his large quick observant eye give evidence of a well cultivated mind—he has ransacked the collegiate institutions of this province as well as of the United States for the lore of three or four modern languages besides having a respectable acquaintance with those called classic (alias, dead.) A slight examination of his physiognomy indicates that no effort is required on his part to produce that which is amusing as well as what belongs to the more serious duties of his office. The cup of sorrow which he has had to drink has doubtless added to the solemnity of his mental constitution. So much for the representative of THE PULPIT.

The next object in the picture, is more advanced in life but still a young man of somewhat larger physical structure, of dark complexion who supported by two such important personages may be regarded as occupying a position between the two, and yet supplying both with the instruments necessary for their operations. I would proceed further Messrs Editors with the delineation of this part of the picture but as my daguerrotype may not be allowed to see the light if I take too great liberties here, I will content myself with this as the representative of THE PRESS; the great engine of light to the nations. If the pulpit is important for the purpose of conveying truth to the darkened mind, the press is no less necessary as the means of feeding with knowledge the awakened intelligence and multiplying copies of the word of life for the thousands of earth's inhabitants as well as for the purpose of conveying intelligence to every man's fireside.

The third person of this trio although more advanced in life, probably approaching three score years, yet were it not for the prevalence of gray hairs and a slight baldness on the fore part of the head might be supposed, as he appears at times to consider himself, quite a young man. His face not so broad as is commonly possessed by Englishmen, with a pair of respectable eyebrows, and whiskers in which white hairs are becoming numerous. His physical organization is somewhat slight, although be-

low the average height, yet being free from any inclination he cannot be considered short.

Were it not that I am giving merely a pictorial representation, I might shew that although he has so much of the activity of a young man, his literary acquirements together with the office he holds in one of the first institutions of the land gives him in the estimation of both old and young the character of one of the Fathers. This must suffice for the representative of COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

Allow me, Mr. Editor, to direct attention to one more person, which will complete the sketch. He has more of the weight of years upon him, and is now addressing the congregation from the pulpit immediately over the heads of the three already referred to. He has evidently endured much of both bodily and mental exertion, and may be taken as combining in himself to some extent the professions of the three sitting below, for he has accomplished as much in each department as many men would in a life time. The tones of his voice are somewhat tremulous with emotion as he proceeds to speak with all the tenderness of a father. Tears may be seen glistening in many eyes as he unfolds to them the momentous truths of Holy Writ. Although not aiming at the pathetic, yet out of the fullness of his heart he breathes forth the affection he has for these, the former people of his charge, many of whom he has watched over as they have risen up to take the place of their fathers, over whom he has performed the last offices of religion.

The occasion which the above very imperfectly represents is one of the meetings of the Eastern Baptist Association at their annual assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. As that body asks for no state recognition or aid, they need no regal or episcopal permission. Acknowledging no authority but that of the Lord Jesus Christ as made known in his Word, they find no difficulty in defining the limits of power between lay and clerical but are as the primitive believers, emphatically, one body; having one Head, one faith, one baptism.

PROGRESS.

Where should the Baptist Female Seminary be placed?

We are highly gratified at the laudable exertions of the good people of Berwick in establishing a Female Seminary. We hope they will succeed in their enterprise and receive all that patronage and assistance which under the circumstances they justly claim. Still, whilst we hope that Seminary may prove a rich blessing to the people of Berwick, and the districts and townships adjacent, we wish that it should be understood that from its locality it is not and cannot be *The Institute of the Provinces*. And we now suggest that the zeal of the people of Berwick, with the success that has attended their efforts, should stimulate the Baptists of the Provinces and of the Islands to establish at the most eligible point a strong and effective Institution for this and the neighbouring colonies. We beg to suggest HANTSPOUR as the eligible position. It is supposed that the Western Railroad will terminate there; as shipping might approach there at all hours without the inconvenience of waiting for the tide, as at Windsor. It is on the Main Post Road leading east and west. It is a landing point for steamers from St. John and PARSBORO. And in communication by Telegraph with every town in the Province. Besides those facilities for travelling and conveying intelligence it has moral and religious advantages and influences equal to most places and far surpassing many.

Please enquire, Mr. Editor, the views of the Churches here and there and everywhere, on this question of high importance.

July 1856.

SENIOR.

NOTICE.

Those of our Subscribers who commence from the beginning of the year and have not yet forwarded their subscriptions, will bear in mind that the time for payments in advance expired with the past month. Some few have probably found the time pass more rapidly than they thought, and have unintentionally omitted to make their payments.

A proper regard to our present and future liabilities, and a desire to avoid the injurious consequences of having a large amount of arrearages on our books, has induced us to make the following offer before sending on accounts:—

Any such subscriber who can get a new subscriber to hand him ten shillings for one year from date, may send us a one pound note—ten shillings for himself, instead of twelve and six pence—and we will send to him and to every such new subscriber a copy of Caird's Sermon preached before the Queen, (48 pages) by return of post. This offer to continue till the end of July.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JULY 23, 1856.

THE ASSOCIATIONS.

AMHERST AND ITS PEOPLE.

In our report of the Eastern Association meetings last week we omitted any description of Amherst, thinking that as it is on the line of road uniting the two provinces it was well known to most of our readers; we may, however, give a word or two before passing on to New Brunswick. We should do injustice to our own feelings towards the place and people were we to refrain from acknowledging the Christian hospitality afforded to us, in common with all the Delegates.

Amherst is a pleasantly situated village overlooking the extensive district of interval known as the Great Tantar Marsh, which unites the two provinces. There is but little uniformity in its buildings, either in their style of architecture, or the position they occupy on the street. Each person seems to have had too much independence to copy from his neighbour, and his own means, taste and necessities alone seem to have dictated the situation, size and arrangements of his own residence.

The Court-house is decidedly the best public building in the village. The Episcopal Church is built of brick, with a square tower. If the castellated top had been left without the four wooden points from the corners, it would have been a very good looking structure. They, however, spoil its appearance not being in keeping with the massiveness of brick work. The bell which this contains is frequently heard inviting its people to the house of prayer. Within the sound of this, and not many yards distant is the Baptist Meeting-house, a good sized, plain, comfortable structure, well adapted to the large congregation worshipping in it.

In the upper part of the village is the Methodist meeting-house having a small hollow spire also with a bell.

The most prominent building of a more private character is Mrs. Ratchford's Female Seminary. This institution, we were informed, is in a thriving condition, and although other seminaries have been established in the neighbourhood it maintains the high character it has long enjoyed. An additional large room is being erected to secure further accommodations for the increasing number of pupils.

Although there are not a large number of houses in Amherst yet it appears a place of considerable business. When the Railway reaches there, and our neighbours meet us on their side, this will become one of the most important places on the line.

Baptist principles prevail in this community. A deep interest is taken by the people in all the institutions of the denomination and in supplying the surrounding districts with the Word of Life.

The district lying between Amherst and Sackville is one extensive plain with the road in some parts in a direct line so that one can see along it for several miles. In consequence of the high wind, which is almost always felt there, but few trees are to be seen, and as no houses are built along the greater part of the way the drive is somewhat uninteresting. We were regaled, however, at intervals with the delicious scent of the full-blown clover blossoms which covered the surface for miles.

SACKVILLE.

In due time we arrived at Sackville, New Brunswick, for the purpose of attending the meetings of Eastern N. B. Baptist Association. Our first impressions of the neighbouring province were highly favourable, with a brilliant warm summer day and after passing over a comparatively uninhabited district, we all at once came upon a large number of handsome buildings having much taste and variety in their arrangement but all exhibiting an air of freshness and comfort. Surmounting the whole and perhaps superior to any buildings in Nova Scotia out of Halifax, with the exception of Acadia College, are the Academy and Seminary belonging to the Methodist body of the two Provinces, from both of which they receive an annual Legislative grant.

The Academy is really a highly respectable structure standing on a slight elevation about 100 yards from the road, with a portico supported by four massive columns.

On the opposite side of the road on ground much higher, is the Seminary for females, a building of not less dimensions than the former, each having three tiers of, we believe, twelve windows. These institutions are each capable of accommodating one hundred pupils and supply a superior course of instruction in the higher departments of learning. As they were not in session we had no opportunity of more than an exterior examination but were highly gratified with them as monuments of the enlightened liberality of that denomination.

Detached from the Seminary and within a few yards of it is a neat structure of exquisite proportions with four columns, supporting a pediment the whole breadth of one end. This we understood is Lindley Hall used for purposes of worship and for the delivery of Lectures on which occasions the pupils from both institutions attend together.

Notwithstanding these excellent establishments have so prominent a position in the village, the greater number of the people are connected with the Baptist denomination. They have three or four large well finished Meeting-houses each capable of seating five or six hundred persons. The labour devolving on the Rev. G. F. Miles the pastor, is certainly more than should fall to the lot of any one man, and if he were not possessed of great physical strength as well as of active, mental powers, and unusually strong vocal organization, would soon have the effect of exhausting his resources of both mind and body. Two laborious ministers might well be occupied in that locality.

EASTERN NEW BRUNSWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Association met at two o'clock on Saturday, the 12th inst. Previous to the commencement of business about two hours were spent in conference with the church. Short addresses of congratulation were made by the Rev. Mr. Miles, Father Crandall and several others of the more prominent ministers and delegates. Much warm hearted genuine christian feeling was manifested. The place was densely crowded. The practice of commencing the Association by a Conference meeting is peculiar to New Brunswick. We think, however, the plan has many advantages, if the business is rightly managed and not delayed so as to crowd too much into the latter part of the session. The Rev. W. A. Coleman was chosen Moderator, and business was commenced.

The letters from the churches were read by Rev. C. Tupper, Rev. I. E. Bill, and Rev. Dr. Cramp. They indicated an interesting state of activity and progress in the denomination. Eight new churches were received into the Association. Committees were appointed to take into consideration the various subjects of public interest. Invitations were sent to supply preaching at the Methodist meeting-house, which with the stations around were supplied with service—some once, others twice, and others three times, so that nearly twenty sermons were preached in the neighbourhood by Baptist Ministers besides several short addresses after some of them. The Rev. Samuel Bancroft preached on Saturday evening. We had the pleasure of hearing the Rev. D. Nutter on Lord's-day morning, and intended to give some notice of his sermon, but must defer doing so this week, in consequence of the crowded state of our columns.

On Monday morning Father Crandall preached the Introductory Sermon, and although now eighty-six years of age, he continued to bring forth the rich truths of the everlasting gospel for upwards of an hour, in a clear connected manner. His voice is still strong and forcible and he appears still capable of some years of ministerial labour. We are prevented by want of space from making use of our notes so as to give an outline of his discourse, but shall embrace the first opportunity of doing so.

The various subjects which usually occupy the attention of our Associational meetings were brought before the assembled Delegates in the reports from the several committees. They were discussed in an able manner by speeches from those present. Although much deference was shewn to those who may be called the more aged ministers and brethren, yet there was a sufficient number of the younger Elders to indicate that the Baptists of New Brunswick are exerting a powerful influence on society around them.

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