

hour the party separated, all remarking that it was the best of all the Donations.

My dear wife and myself enjoyed this occasion very much. We were happy in seeing so many beloved and happy friends. One sad thought, however, intruded itself. We could not but remember some very dear friends who were present, at the last Donation, in full enjoyment of such scenes as were now before us, who are now in a spirit world. The place that knew them then will know them no more forever. May all our attachments to this life be regulated by such lessons of wisdom as these providences teach.

I trust the Union that has long existed between pastor and people will know no diminution, and that by our united efforts the cause of God will revive in our land. We would express to our many friends our heart-felt acknowledgement of their repeated acts of fraternal kindness.

Cornwallis.

A. S. HUNT.

To the Agents and Subscribers for the Christian Messenger.

DEAR FRIENDS,

A letter recently received from Brother Selden informs me, that the late calamitous fire in Halifax has placed him in circumstances of peculiar embarrassment. It is hence evident, that an extra effort to aid him is indispensable.

I trust some have already acted upon the judicious suggestion of Brother Barnes; and that arrears have been paid up, the advance for the current year remitted, and additional names of Subscribers forwarded, with the advance payment. There is, however, a manifest necessity that these means of relief should be much more widely extended. I would, therefore, urgently intreat every Agent for the Christian Messenger to make an immediate and strenuous effort to collect all dues, to obtain payment for 1857, and to increase the number of Subscribers paying in advance. Ministering Brethren are affectionately requested to employ their influence for the furtherance of this object, not only by public commendation, but also by diligent personal endeavours in private. Moreover, every subscriber is respectfully requested, besides having his own copy paid for to the close of this year, to strive sedulously to obtain at least one more, who will forward the advance at once. By such a simultaneous movement much good may be easily and speedily effected.

An esteemed sister in Christ, who has long evinced an ardent attachment to the Christian Messenger, lately suggested an efficient way to aid the Proprietor in this trying emergency, and at the same time to promote the welfare of others. She proposed that every one who can consistently do so, should order a copy of the paper for some family that is unable to bear the expense, and remit ten shillings in payment. One of her own brothers to whom she made the proposal, expressed a disposition to carry it into effect. I trust he will soon forward the address and the money.

Aware that example is usually more efficacious than precept, and that it is proper to have both combined, I herewith enclose 10s, in order that our valued brother may receive some needful assistance, and a family that will appreciate the Christian Messenger, and profit by the perusal of it, may enjoy the privilege. It will afford me sincere pleasure to learn, that this course is adopted by many. None will be impoverished by it, while a good cause will be aided, and many may be enriched.

Yours very respectfully,
C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, Feb. 18, 1857.

THE FIRE, AND SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS.

DEAR FRIENDS,

It was not my intention to say anything further in the Christian Messenger respecting my loss by the late fire, but as our friend and brother, the Rev. Mr. Tupper, has, unexpectedly to me, been pleased to send the above kind communication for insertion, it may be well for me to inform our friends of the peculiarities of the case, and make the whole matter public.

As any one of our fellow-citizens may be placed in a similar position by an extensive conflagration at some future time, some remedy should be provided so as to prevent a recurrence of such injury and wrong as that to which I am now subject.

As it is an entirely personal affair, and in no way connected with this journal, except from the kindness and sympathy which have been shown by the brethren of the Denomination and subscribers generally, I may be excused for dispensing with the editorial form of writing, and speak in my own proper name.

It is unnecessary here to repeat the details of the fire. Its commencement, its progress and its termination at my late residence, are all well known to every child in the City.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was early on the spot, at the time the fire was raging, and actively engaged in devising means for stopping its progress. It was thought by His Excellency that by pulling down my house, the fire would be prevented from extending further, southwardly, in Granville Street. His Excellency, therefore, obtained the concurrence of Alderman William Mackay, Alderman John L. Barry, and Mr. Daniel O'Brien, one of the Firewards of the City, who jointly engaged to sustain him in doing so. Immediately, thereupon, His Excellency gave orders for the house to be pulled down. The military forthwith proceeded to cut away the timbers and pull down the front of the house, so as to have full command of the interior, and allow the free application of water. When the soldiers commenced their operations much of my furniture and effects had not been removed from the house. The door was locked to fa-

cilitate the packing and removal of it. The military, however, forced an entrance, took possession of the house, and, without loss of time, went forward in the work of destruction to which they had been commanded. All this was done before the fire had reached the second house, northward from mine, the brick end of which presented a barrier that delayed its advance for some time. The front of my house was with some difficulty pulled down, and removed into the street.

The heat arising from the burning of the houses on fire being so great, and the object being accomplished so as to afford an opportunity of directing water to the back part of the building, the work of pulling down was suspended after the removal of the front had been effected; before the fire reached any part of the building, so far as I personally witnessed. Many others agree with me in this opinion. Some suppose that efforts continued to be made, to remove parts of the house, until the fire reached a portion of the wall in the rear of the building. There is, however, very great difficulty in determining the precise time when the soldiers ceased their work of demolition, and when the sparks and flames, from the other houses which were on fire, extended to the ruins of mine. This may appear to some an unimportant point, but it happens to be just the point which causes me all the difficulty, and the decision of which determines the liability of the Insurance Company or of the City, as will appear by the subsequent proceedings.

By advice I laid the circumstances of the case before the City Council, expecting to receive compensation for the injury done, so as to be enabled to rebuild my residence and office. The City Council referred my Memorial and Certificates to a Committee consisting of five Aldermen. This Committee have reported to the Council against my claim in the following language:

Extract from Minutes of Committee on Mr. Selden's Petition.

"On considering the petition of S. Selden, relative to the destruction of his house, the Committee are of opinion that, in addition to the informality of the order for pulling down the house referred to, from such order not having been given by persons legally authorised to do so, there is abundant evidence from the appearance of the ruins of the building at the present time and from the statements of firewards and others who witnessed the facts, that the building was actually on fire and badly burnt, during the conflagration on 1st January, and therefore that the value of such building cannot be legally claimed from the city."

My house was insured in the Halifax Fire Insurance Company's Office for £400.

I was legally advised to present my claim on the Insurance Company for that amount, as a measure of precaution to meet the contingencies that, owing to the uncertain nature of the facts, might arise—three independent master-builders having estimated that it would cost £644 to replace that which had been destroyed.

In reply to my application, the Directors of the Insurance Company say,—

"The Directors are aware that Mr. Selden's house was destroyed on the 1st instant, and that such loss may have resulted indirectly from the fire—but they are also aware that before the fire reached the premises the house had previously been destroyed under the orders given to pull it down, to which Mr. Selden has referred in his affidavit—and therefore the loss is not of that nature that will justify the Directors in entertaining the claim."

In consideration of the means by which I had been deprived of my house and property, I waited on His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor shortly after the occurrence, hoping to receive some aid in recovering by lawful means for the loss I had sustained. His Excellency referred me to the Honorable Attorney General. I therefore went immediately to the Honorable Mr. Young, who stated that the difficulty arising from the house being pulled down without the concurrence of three firewards, might probably be overcome, as the Provincial Legislature might, on having the circumstances of the case brought to their notice, be induced to remedy that informality by a special enactment, but that the other provisions of the law might work, and probably would work great injustice in this case.

It will be seen then that although I have been paying the premium for insurance, I am at present deprived of my house, without getting the loss repaired, and am thrown by the Insurance Company on the City for redress. In consequence of the parties who gave the order for pulling it down, not being those required by law, although two are Aldermen and one a Fireward, and His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, all concurring in the propriety of its being done, and because when it was removed as far as was considered necessary, the rear walls were allowed to remain, and take fire, I am told by both the Insurance Company and the Committee of the City Council that I have no claim upon them.

Supposing my claim can be successfully resisted by both the Insurance Company and the City Council, I know of no means of redress but by application to the parties by whose authority my residence was destroyed.

It may well excite surprise that the law makes no provision to reimburse for property thus destroyed in the presence of hundreds, or I might say thousands, of people, for the purpose of stopping an overwhelming conflagration in the centre of the city. It may well be asked Can such a manifest injustice be allowed in a civilized community? When the opinion of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was concurred in by two of those highest in authority—the Aldermen of the City, and many other respectable and judicious men, that the pulling down of a house will prevent the further extension of a fire, which had become unmanageable by other means, and the result proves the wisdom and prudence of that opinion, so that the fire is thus effectually stopped; the person who thus suffers because the flames reached a part of the ruins of his house, is shut out from all redress, his only alternative being recourse to an expensive and perplexing law-suit.

After the opinion given by the Honourable Mr. Young respecting the law in this case, I considered it my duty to place the facts of the case before the house of Assembly hoping they might be able to apply some remedy and protect me from injury. A select committee is appointed to ascertain the circumstances, and report to the House.

This then, brethren, is the position in which I am placed, and even with the most favourable termination of present uncertainties until my house is rebuilt, I am subject to all the inconvenience and expense of living in lodgings, paying rent of office, and the interest of £1000 besides. Whilst those whose property was saved by the destruction of mine, are enjoying their homes in quiet, exempt from injury and loss, and others who were insured, and whose houses were allowed to burn down, have received the sums assured to them, I am compelled to lose my property, notwithstanding the great and almost incalculable benefit that has resulted to the City from the course pursued by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and those who concurred with him. By these means the small savings of thirteen years, spent in giving instruction to several hundreds of the inhabitants of Halifax, have been taken from me and sacrificed in an hour. In addition to which, having expended nearly three hundred pounds, not a month before, in alterations and repairs to the house from which I was ejected, I have still claims upon me to a considerable amount.

However strongly my friends may feel for me, under the circumstances and I have many evidences of sincere sympathy, I can assure them that the experience of the injury, together with the misfortune, are productive of feelings anything but agreeable, and which I hope they may ever be spared.

I would not have troubled our readers with these personal matters, had not the above letter seemed to demand explanation.

Those enquiring friends who expected me to write them on the subject, will please receive this as addressed to them particularly. My time having been so much occupied, has prevented me replying individually to their kind enquiries.

Hoping I may not have occasion again to intrude these things on our pages, I remain
Yours in Christian affection,
S. SELDEN.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 4, 1857.

The Editor of the *Morning Chronicle* says "A Correspondent" has sent him a communication with some extracts of a letter published in the N. B. *Christian Visitor* from the Rev. Charles James Burnett, Wesleyan Minister, Charlotte town, P.E. Island, and asks us 'if we will republish Mr. Burnett's letter, or if we do not, whether we will venture to give our reasons.'

Before coming to the letter and the uses the editor of the *Morning Chronicle* thinks he can make of it, we would just remind him that he has made a slight mistake, which shews that he is not much acquainted with the columns of the *Christian Visitor*, the *Christian Messenger*, or the Baptist Ministers in these provinces, or he would not have called Mr. Burnett a Wesleyan Minister. The Rev. Charles Ives Burnett is the laborious, self-denying pastor of the Baptist Church in Charlotte town. It, however, suits the purpose of the editor of the *Chronicle* just now to endeavour to convey the impression that Baptists, and especially the editors of the *Christian Messenger* cannot speak out on the subject of protestantism, because the Hon. Mr. Johnston happens to be a baptist, and probably therefore concludes that Mr. B. must be a Wesleyan, as that body are just now in favour in certain quarters.

We therefore beg to inform him that the said Mr. Burnett, has long been our own Agent in Charlotte town, and if it would afford him or his 'correspondent' any pleasure we will further inform him, that on the same morning as the extracts which he supposed had too much protestantism in them for our columns appeared in the *Chronicle*, we received a letter from Mr. Burnett with a £5 note from some of our subscribers in Prince Edwards Island, enclosed. Instead of putting that part of the letter intended for publication under our Correspondence, we will give it here, that he may have no difficulty in referring to it in another column. Mr. Burnett, says:—

"I have not any thing to communicate, that would at the present time cheer the friends of Zion. Our Island is the scene of excitement, owing to the demands, which the Roman Catholic Bishop has made on the Board of Education in excluding the Bible and Prayer from our public Schools throughout the Island."

The Rev. D. Fitzgerald M. A. (Episcopalian) a member of the Board, made known this unwarrantable step taken against our Protestant interests. A meeting of Protestant Clergymen was called in town and a Circular published and sent to all the Ministers of every name throughout the Island, requesting them to lay the matter before their respective Churches, and to send in Resolutions expressive of their views on the subject; this was done, but these Resolutions were passed by for a month. A Public Meeting was then called, and on the 13th inst, our Temperance

Hall was crowded to excess and hundreds went away that could not obtain admittance.

The Meeting was addressed by several Clergymen, and for four hours the deepest attention was given. Such a Protestant manifestation was never seen before in Town, nor on the Island. Yesterday the committee sat for future Action, the Press on the liberal side of the Government is violent, and Papacy is rife, but there are good men and true,—men who are living witnesses for the truth. At one time every press seemed closed against us, and the ministers of the Gospel were called upon to submit to all the scurrility and vile tampering of the "Advertiser" &c., and the sarcasm of an "Examiner" &c. But you will find by "Hazard's Gazette" that their columns have opened for the vindication of right between man and man. I must say Farewell.

Yours truly

CHARLES IVES BURNETT.

His "Correspondent" may now see that we do imitate the editor of the C. V., by giving an original letter from Mr. B., and that we do "act like men and Christians in the present crisis," yes and like Baptists too and are not obliged "to desert our principles to save Mr. Johnston." Although we have the most sincere respect for the Hon. Mr. Johnston yet if he or any one else were depending on the aid of this journal we fear he would be disappointed. Extracts like those in the *Chronicle* from a correspondent are far more likely "to save Mr. Johnston," and have a contrary effect from that intended.

The editor of the *Chronicle* need not suppose that cajolery, abuse or intimidation will induce us to change our course from that we have been pursuing. Many of the readers of the *Chronicle* and supporters of the late government are also readers of the C. Messenger, and it is strange the Editor of that paper had not more respect for his "correspondent" than to allow him to commit suicide by saying:

"The moment it was apparent a combination with the Catholics would take place, the Editors of the Baptist Organ shifted their ground, and now we find them on their knees to Bishop Walsh, dragging themselves through the mire and dirt, to further Catholic Ascendancy."

Our readers will be able to put the proper estimate upon such writing, and after reading the article on our first page in the present number, and the excellent articles on "Recollections of Rome" from the pastor of one of our country Baptist Churches, which have been appearing in our columns for some months past, they may themselves determine whether we are on our knees to Bishop Walsh, and dragging ourselves through the mire and dirt to further Catholic ascendancy.

As for the 'Protestant union of which the said correspondent says there was a prospect when Mr. Howe's first letter came out,' For what purpose was this union to be formed? Not surely to enter into any religious crusade, to suit political ends.

Let not the editor of the *Chronicle* suppose from what we have said that we are seeking to influence our readers in their political conduct. We have other work to do. Baptists as a body have universally been the uncompromising opponents of a union of Church and State, and can never consistently be otherwise. We hope ever to be found ready to join with our fellow subjects in opposing any attempt to favour one class or Church at the expense of another whether they be called Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian or by any other name.

We gave in our last, the appointments to the New Government, of which the Hon. Mr. Johnston, the Attorney General, is the recognized head. Messrs. Johnston, Marshall, Tupper and Martin Wilkins, necessarily vacated their seats in the Assembly on taking Office, and have severally gone back to their Constituents. We learn that their re-election will be opposed in each case. The nomination day is fixed for the 18th inst. As it will be a week later before the Elections can take place, and the returns made to the House, the sitting of the Legislature will be protracted, we doubt not, much beyond the limited period.

The R. M. Steamer *Niagara*, arrived from Liverpool on Saturday morning with the English Mails.

Parliament was opened by Commission on the 3rd. ult. Her Majesty not being able to attend in person, the Lord Chancellor presided on the occasion. H. M. Message contains as usual a brief summary of past public and political affairs, and references to the existing state of things. Allusion is made to the final and satisfactory completion of the Russian treaty, and to the war in Persia and China.

The Persian difficulties, as we before stated, would appear from the papers to be likely to be shortly adjusted. This is more likely to take place from a Persian Ambas-