

A Correction.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

In the *Christian Messenger* of the 18th inst., there appears a poetic article, entitled "Lines to Amelia," bearing the initials, C. H. C., Wolfville. There is but one person in this village to whom those initials apply. That person did not write the article, and knew nothing of it till it appeared in print. Consequently some one must have imposed a forgery on you, very probably for the purpose of annoying certain parties here. Whoever it was, it was a most unjustifiable procedure; although, had the rhyming been poetry, it would have been more bearable. Please insert this, and oblige.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Wolfville, Feb. 28, '57.

[We deem it unnecessary to apologize for the insertion of "Lines to Amelia." Had we known they had any other object than that which appears on the surface we certainly should have rejected them. As however we wish to encourage the cultivation of native talent, we have been less scrupulous in giving insertion to the poetic compositions of our correspondents than our judgment might otherwise dictate.—Ed.]

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 11, 1857.

In giving our readers an account of passing events, we should not be doing them or ourselves justice, to pass over what has been referred to by several of the morning and weekly papers, during the past week, and what is given in the *Presbyterian Witness* as "a highly important movement among the clergy."

That our readers may the better judge of the matter we give the article entire:—

"HIGHLY IMPORTANT MOVEMENT AMONG THE CLERGY.—A meeting of the Protestant ministers of all religious denominations in this city was held yesterday (Friday) morning, to take into consideration the best means of dealing with Popery in all its varying phases, and especially of counteracting the injurious influence of the Romish party, at present and for some time past exercised in this Province. The result of their deliberations was the formation of a Protestant Association in the city, to have affiliated branches throughout the Province. The utmost harmony prevailed, and very strong views were expressed of the dangers impending from Romish aggression. All present united in disclaiming any intention to interfere in secular or party politics, but were at the same time determined to use every exertion to secure such a unanimity among Protestants as would be an effectual barrier against the wily encroachments of Romanism. We understand that while the present threatening aspect of affairs has called this Association into existence, it is intended to serve as a check on all future party movements, and to prevent the interests of education and other vital matters from being sacrificed at the shrine of political ambition. We call particular attention to the fact that ministers of every evangelical denomination were present, with but one exception, and in this case a message was received expressing the most hearty concurrence with the objects of the meeting. A Committee was appointed to prepare a Constitution, to be submitted to a subsequent meeting, after which the Constitution will be published."

It will be perceived that names are carefully withheld; even the place where the meeting was held is not mentioned. The heading attracted our attention, and we really supposed there had been some startling revelations concerning the demands of Rome, and that some who would persuade us that they are more wide awake to "Catholic ascendancy" than ourselves, had determined to unite and crush the monster. The political papers had been referring to this meeting as likely to effect a great change in the action of the various bodies so represented, and we were anxious to obtain information. An address to the people of Nova Scotia appeared in two of the papers on the following morning. This address closes with the following paragraphs:—

"A large committee drawn from both branches of the Legislature, animated by no narrow or sectional feeling, the friends of religious liberty and abhorring the dominancy of any sect or creed, warmly attached to our common Protestantism and distrusting the insidious and rapid advance of the Catholic power, have prepared this appeal, and recommend it to the sympathy—to the inmost convictions—and to the thoughtful care of all denominations of Protestants."

"They have thought it indispensable at this crisis to go a step further and have formed the nucleus of a Protestant organization, which all parties participating in those opinions and forgetting the political differences of the past, are invited to join, and which extending from the Capital will penetrate to every nook and corner where the necessity of vindicating the independence of the Legislature and the rights of a free People is perceived and appreciated."

We were by this still more desirous of

learning if all this were really true, or whether a mere fable were being palmed off upon us.

We shall, therefore, gentle reader, give you the result of our enquiries.

This "highly important movement," then, consisted of a meeting of eight or ten ministers on Friday last, in the Poplar Grove Church, (Rev. P. G. McGregor's), called, not by any public announcement, but by the personal invitation of that gentleman himself. Some of those present, it appears, said they had "messages" from other ministers in the city, approving of the object, but who did not attend, as they were so fully occupied with their own ministerial labours. We forbear, at present, giving the names of those who did attend the said meeting, as we are informed they do not consent to the use which is being made of their presence. Indeed, it was distinctly stated at the meeting that no publicity should be given to the names, particular objects, or proceedings, whilst the present elections were pending. Some of those present even doubted the propriety of forming an association at all, until some overt act had called for such combination.

The above statement being made in the P. Witness, it would seem is therefore a breach of faith in some one or more of those present, and has exposed to the others the design of its prime movers. They now consider they have been inadvertently drawn into the measure, and that the interests of protestantism have been sacrificed by this "movement."

It being asserted that all denominations have united in this Association, we therefore felt ourselves concerned in the matter, and that we should be allowing the body we represent to be compromised, if we permitted any use to be made of the statement which the facts of the case did not warrant. We enter our protest against, and deny that any movement has been made in the formation of a Protestant Association, combining all denominations.

Whilst there are nearly thirty Protestant Clergymen in Halifax, only eight or ten attended the meeting, and some of those were anything but cordial in the opinion that such an association would be desirable.

The position we have taken, and the course we have scrupulously pursued, of abstaining from advocating the interests of any political party, shall not prevent us from examining carefully any attempt to make religion the stalking-horse for any mere party purposes. We are not to be led away from our course by a name, but must deal with things as they are, and shall not hesitate in exposing any attempt to mislead the unwary.

Our silence in these matters has been misconstrued by both parties. It has at one time been called "passing over Mr. Howe's letters in contemptuous silence." At another time we were told we had "assumed a subdued tone of late." Then again, because we were not willing to join in the hue and cry, the barefaced slander was published that "we were dragging ourselves through the mire to Archbishop Walsh."

We repeat what we said last week, that when our readers learn the whole of the facts, they will understand the matter as well as we do. We give them credit for a larger share of intelligence and common sense, than to require any laboured vindication from us; and they will put the proper estimate on such attempts to drag us into the affray. Any sense of honor in those who make such statements, would demand that when charges have been proved false, an *amende honorable* should be made, but that would not answer the purpose, and it is enough for them to send forth accusations, without considering the amount of truth they contain.

We still assert our own right to abstain from party politics, and consider we ought not to use our church relationship or the confidence reposed in us by our brethren in religious matters, for the purpose of furthering the interests of one side or the other. We claim the same privilege for other religious journals, and are glad to see that some of our contemporaries show a disposition to adopt the same course.

Anything which concerns all denominations of Protestants is of no less importance to Baptists than to any other body of Christians. We claim a share in all movements having for their object the protection of our religious liberty, and shall look with suspicion on any project professing to aim at this without any adequate reason.

Whenever we find our action misconstrued, or our silence made use of by any party to further their own purposes, we consider it our duty to present our disclaimer,

and to make known our sentiments on the matter, without justly laying ourselves open to the charge of any departure from the strictest neutrality.

We take the liberty then from all we can gather of the union of the parties composing this Association, which was to be the nucleus of a grand national organization, to consider it at present as a measure as far as regards its professed object, perfectly harmless for evil and equally powerless for good. It has been begun by endeavouring to make use of all denominations, whereas some of those present attended merely that they might understand the matter; having learned the real intention of the proposed alliance, and finding from the published statements that it has another aspect than that presented to them, they now disclaim any connection with such body. We have it on good authority that a large number of the most respectable Presbyterians are highly indignant that they should be supposed to favour any such movement at the present time.

Let it be understood that we neither give, nor intend to give any opinion upon the political questions now at issue, we will only say that no mere hectoring of intemperate party zeal shall compel us to cry, Wolf! Wolf! when there is no wolf at the door.

Our report of Legislative proceedings was crowded out last week. There was however but little to report. The time has been occupied since the division on the want of confidence motion and the change of ministry, almost wholly in receiving petitions. These have been of every variety of character one could imagine, from that of the exclusive privilege of laying a telegraphic cable across the bed of the Atlantic, down to that of an increase of salary to some of our worthy friends, the country post-masters. Although the former is what would command much more attention than the latter, we should ourselves much sooner consent to granting the prayer of the post-masters. The faithful discharge of post-office duties is second in importance to none. No greater calamity can befall any community than that there should exist any want of confidence in, and attention to, this department of the public service.

Two or three important documents have made their appearance during the past week.

1. An address from the Honorable J. W. Johnston to the electors of Annapolis, in which he gives the reasons for the late division and asks their confirmation of his appointment to the office of Attorney General.

2. A letter from the Honorable Joseph Howe, to the people of Nova Scotia, in which he appeals to his fellow-countrymen to consider the subjects which have commanded so much interest of late—the railroad riots, and the trial of those concerned in them, the late division in the House of Assembly, and the parties by whom the late government were outvoted. Being apprehensive of Catholic ascendancy, he calls on all who think as he does to be prepared to act with him irrespective of old party names or of former differences of opinion.

3. The address "To the People of Nova Scotia," to which we have referred, in another column. We are informed that this address was adopted by some members of the opposition, on Saturday as the basis of their pre-arranged union in the House of Assembly.

ONE of our New York exchanges says:

"A female member of one of the Churches in Connecticut sends the names of five new subscribers, with \$10," and then asks:—

"Will not the ladies of other churches see what they can do for the same object?"

To which we would add,

Are not Nova Scotia ladies equal to those of Connecticut?

Baptist Publication.

We have received by the last Steamer, the January Number of the English Baptist Magazine, which as before noticed, appears in a New Series, and is conducted by a new Editor. Its improved appearance augurs well for its fresh career. The respective articles which have been furnished by several ministers and others, well known in the denomination, bear the stamp of careful and able writing. The large portion of the number appropriated to Religious Intelligence affords some very pleasing notices of the progress of the Gospel in India, Germany and elsewhere. The state of religion both in its internal and its exterior aspects among English Baptists is upon the whole encouraging.

We have also received the first Number of the XXII. vol. of the *Christian Review*. This excellent Periodical, conducted with so much ability for many years past, first at Boston and afterwards at New York, has again changed its Editors and ownership, and is now published at Baltimore. The present Number is in no way inferior to any of its predecessors. With the elaborate articles on "The Future State," "The Translation of the Scriptures into Chinese," and "Allison's History of Europe," we have been especially pleased. The strictures contained in the one first mentioned as to the intermediate state of the dead, and the final doom of the wicked, in answer to some modern theories, are eminently sound and forcible.

THANKS are due to the press generally, for giving insertion to the substance of a letter in last week's C. M., concerning the fire. If the third estate take the same liberal view of it as the fourth, we shall not be entirely without redress.

J. D. NASH, Esq., has written a very sensible letter to one of the papers calling upon Protestants to put up a building on the cemetery, so as to shelter the attendants at funerals. It is certainly a great desideratum, and we hope it may be carried into effect forthwith.

Another proposal of Mr. Nash's is somewhat novel, but not less benevolent. He offers to give Monday the 30th of March to sell by auction, for the benefit of the Deaf and Dumb School, any thing that may be sent to his store.

Many people in the city, and perhaps in the country too, may have articles which they can well spare, and be disposed to send for this purpose. By this means a large sum of money for a highly deserving object may be raised. Send in your contributions, friends.

THE Fourth of the present month was the day appointed for the installation of the *Quadrennial Sovereign* of the United States. The term may seem to some, inappropriate but in fact it is not so, for the direct personal power of the President is much greater than what is usually enjoyed in limited Monarchies.

Mr. Buchanan will, of course, have entered on the duties of his important office, and much speculation is afloat as to the principles by which he will be governed in the exercise of his new authority. His success in the contest for office was based upon his Southern tendencies, but he has, strange to say, been put in by the casting votes of the northern *Free States*. It is much doubted, however, whether his future policy will keep pace with the expectations of the South, and the great probability is that he will steer his course with much caution between contending parties. He has chosen, it is said, Gen. Cass as his principal Secretary of State—a choice that would seem to betoken a southern policy, as well as an unfavourable feeling to British interests, as Mr. Cass has hitherto, we believe, been one of the most inimical American politicians to our own Government, whenever any cause of discord has arisen. We cannot, however, always judge what will be the actions of Statesmen, and especially of American Statesmen, from their public language, as a species of systematic bluster seems to have become, with too many of their leading men, part and parcel of their vocation. The newly formed Cabinet at Washington occupy a place which the world must look on with anything but indifference.

The New Brunswick Ministry, after warm debate, have been sustained in office by the casting vote of the Speaker. The circumstance is certainly not indicative of long permanence in office.

In our own Legislature considerable progress, we believe, has been made in the despatch of the ordinary business of the Sessions, while matters of more stirring interest must await the return of the members to the seats vacated by acceptance of office.

Telegraph Despatch.
The Omard Steamship *Persia* arrived at New York on Friday afternoon. Dates from Liverpool to 21st February.

Flour market dull—business limited.
Corn buoyant, with an advance upon previous quotations.

Consols 93½.
Congou Tea 12½d. Duty reduced from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7d.

Difficultly with China unsettled. Latest accounts—"Canton totally destroyed."

American Steamer *Atlantic* had also arrived from Liverpool.