

are illegitimate. In regard to property, if the father died intestate, the mother and children would inherit nothing, not even the beds they lay on; the other nearest relatives of the father would divide all. If the property were willed to the mother and children, under her maiden name, to identify them legally, instead of the widow paying no legacy-duty, and the children but one per cent, the whole property would pay ten per cent to the Crown, as if it had been left to entire strangers!

"These are some of the most frightful results of the present law—results which it is the object of Lord Bury's Bill to set aside. We imagine few of our readers will contemplate the facts without a shudder. For no crime in the sight of God, for no offence against society, thousands of innocent children, and thousands of pure-minded females, are to be branded with an intolerable legal disgrace and subjected to legal hardships. The unions are holy in the sight of God, and yet our iniquitous and profane law, presumes to 'put asunder those whom God has joined together.' No man dares deny that, by the law of God, the parties referred to are man and wife; and what, we indignantly ask, are all the laws of England, that they should presume to ignore a bond which God ratifies? The individuals in question, indeed, for the more part, thought that by marriage where their marriage was lawful, it would be good in English law too. It is now decided otherwise. Their only offence is that they have refused to be bound by a canon of the Church of England, to which Church they owe no allegiance, a canon inherited from Popery, opposed to the word of God, and with so little weight even with Papists that it could be violated by dispensation."

"The whole of the innocent victims of the present law are martyrs to the connection of Church and State; to the presence of the Bishops in the House of Lords; to the existence of the Prayer-book and of canons, which, on this point, accepted by the State because they are those of the State Church. We have suffered and do suffer innumerable disadvantages from that bane of our civilisation a State Church, but it surely cannot be endured for a single year longer, that it should declare what we know to be holy matrimony concubinage or worse, and bastardise the offspring. Let our brethren look the plain facts in the face, and we are confident they will see that immediate action is essential. We have spoken with unwonted plainness, but it is because we fear that few would otherwise realize the revolting, the appalling truth."

Notice.—We hope to be present at the meetings of the Associations. Respected Reader, if you are in arrears for your paper and will be unable to attend, we shall be glad if you will oblige us by sending the amount due by the hands of one of the Delegates or brethren from your neighbourhood.

The demands on us are imperative, and can only be met by the prompt payment of our readers. On these conditions we are most happy to give you our best services.

OBSERVE.—We shall be glad to furnish the *Messenger* to NEW SUBSCRIBERS for the remainder of the present year on receiving ONE DOLLAR.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 9, 1858.

Special Meeting of the Convention.

Wolfville, June 4th, 1858.

In pursuance of a call from the Directors through the Rev. A. S. Hunt, a Special meeting of the Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island was held this day at the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville, at 10 o'clock A. M.

PRESENT:

Delegates as appointed for the last meeting: Acadia College, Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D. N. S. Baptist Education Society, Ward Eaton, Esq. Central Nova Scotia Association, J. W. Barss, D. Lyons, Esqrs.

Churches and Union Societies:—Liverpool Church, Rev. T. A. Higgins. Milton Union Society, Rev. A. Martell. First Horton Church, Rev. S. W. deBlois, A. M. Nietaux, Rev. W. G. Parker. Lower Aylesford, Rev. C. Tupper, D. D.; V. P. German Street, St. John, N. B., Rev. I. E. Bill, V. P.

Delegates appointed for the Special Meeting:—Hantsport, Rev. S. T. Rand, Rev. W. Burton. Amherst, Rev. J. E. Balcom. Newport, Rev. J. Bancroft, Bro. Levi Dimock. Falmouth, Bro. Lewis Payzant. First Cornwallis, Bro. Levi Woodworth, H. Lyons, J. E. Rand, Elisha Harris, Wm. Eaton.

Members in their own right:—Rev. Wm. Chipman, V. P. Revs. J. Chase, A. S. Hunt, A. W. Sawyer, Professor in Acadia College, J. Parker, D. Freeman, Agent for the College, A. W. Barss, A. D. Thomson, Agent for the College, E. O. Reid, Jas. A. Moore, R. S. Morton, D. M. Welton, A. M., Hon. Prov. Secy., of Nova Scotia, W. Johnson, M. Beckwith, C. R. Bill, J. W. Johnston, Esqrs., E. F. Harding, M. D., J. R. Fitch, M. D., Dea. S. Sweet.

Meeting called to order by the Rev. I. E. Bill, V. P. Rev. Dr. Cramp stated the object of the meeting. Further statements by the Rev. Jno. Chase.

It appeared that the critical condition of Acadia College was the object for which this Special Meeting was convened.

Voted, That we now ascertain what means we have for carrying on the College. Rev. A. D. Thomson gave a statement of his agency. Remarks made by various brethren.

Friday, June 4th, (afternoon.)

Prayer by the Rev. W. Chipman.

After remarks by Rev. W. Chipman, Rev. J. Chase gave an estimate of the probable amount required to carry on the College, and also information respecting the result of previous efforts. The following resolution, moved by J. W. Johnston Esq., and seconded by Rev. Jno. Chase. After remarks by brethren Hunt, Bill, Balcom, J. W. Barss, C. Tupper, W. Burton, A. W. Sawyer, and D. Freeman, passed unanimously:—

Whereas it is the opinion of this Convention that it would be most disastrous for the interests of the Baptist body in these provinces that Acadia College be suspended or its efficiency impaired.

And whereas the sum of at least £900 will be required to sustain the College during the ensuing year.

Therefore resolved, that Acadia College be continued in the same efficiency as heretofore, and that the present efforts being made to raise the annual income necessary to sustain the College be continued, and if requisite increased, until such income be realized—and that the Governors of the College be requested to take immediate steps to realize the amount due for principal and interest on the outstanding notes, and that efforts be made to raise the permanent endowment to a sum the annual interest of which shall meet the required expenditure of the College.

Voted, That the Editors of the *Christian Messenger* and *Christian Visitor* be requested to insert the Minutes of this Convention in their papers, with a view to printing them in the Minutes of the next meeting of the Convention.

S. W. deBlois, Sec. for Nova Scotia.

A. D. Thomson, Sec. for New Brunswick.

THE *Abstainer* of the 1st gives its readers the new Liquor Law recently passed in the State of Maine, which was to be submitted to the vote of the people on Monday last the 7th inst. It is a stringent Prohibitory Act for suppressing the traffic. It has accompanying it "An Act to ascertain the will of the people concerning the sale of intoxicating liquors," which provides for receiving the ballots of the people on the day of voting. Those who vote for prohibition are to give in their ballot with "PROHIBITORY LAW OF 1858" written or printed upon it, whilst those who oppose it and prefer that Licenses to sell shall be allowed, are to give in their ballot with "LICENSE LAW OF 1856" on it.

If there is a majority in favour of Prohibition, then this law agreed to by the Legislature will be in full force. If otherwise the License law will continue as heretofore. This is placing the matter fairly before the people, and we doubt not the result will show that the friends of sobriety and industry far outnumber those of intemperance. We could heartily wish some such appeal could be made to the people of Nova Scotia. We should then have no further trifling with this momentous subject and making it suffer by being made a question of party politics. Maine has had the honor of introducing the principle of Prohibition, and we doubt not she will be the leader in adopting an enactment which shall be really the voice of the people on the subject.

Our contemporary of the same date also publishes the new License law passed at the late session of our own legislature. We doubt if it will be much more effectual than its predecessors. Some of its clauses look well, and are doubtless framed with the intention of regulating the business. The following are clauses of the Act:—

"If any person holding a tavern license shall not maintain good order on the premises, or if he shall permit raffling or gambling thereon, or shall on Sunday permit persons other than lodgers or persons coming for necessary victualling only, to remain about the premises drinking or idly spending their time, or where not holding a general license also shall permit anything other than victuals or drink usually consumed in a tavern to be exposed for sale on the premises, or shall not have reasonable accommodation for travellers and their horses, cattle, and conveyances, he shall forfeit his license and a sum not exceeding ten pounds for every offence, in the discretion of the court which he shall be convicted."

"If any person holding any license shall sell any intoxicating liquors on Sundays, except in the case of tavern keepers, to lodgers on the premises, he shall incur the like forfeiture as mentioned in the last section."

"No person shall recover or be allowed to set off any charge for intoxicating liquors, in any quantity less than one gallon, delivered at one and the same time; and all specialties, bills, notes, or agreements, given in whole or in part to secure any such charge shall be void; but nothing herein contained shall extend to any charge made by a person holding a tavern license against any boarder or traveller."

"Any person holding a license who shall knowingly sell intoxicating liquor to a minor, upon proof thereof before a justice of the peace, shall forfeit his license, and shall not again be capable of holding a license."

"If the husband, wife, parent, child, brother, or sister, master, guardian, or creditor of any person addicted to the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors, or any justice of the peace or overseer of the poor residing within the poor district wherein such intemperate person resides, shall give notice in writing to any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors that such person is addicted to the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors, it shall not thereafter be lawful under any pretence whatever, for the person receiving such notice by himself his servants or agents, directly or indirectly, to sell or give any intoxicating liquors to such intemperate persons to be used on the premises, or in any quantity less than ten gallons to be delivered and removed from the premises at one time, and any person knowingly violating the provisions of this section, upon proof of the truth of the statement contained in such notice shall be liable to a fine of not more than five pounds for a first offence, and a fine of not less than five pounds, nor more than ten pounds, and imprisonment for a period of not more than thirty days, as the court or justices may direct, for a second or subsequent offence."

We fear there will be as great difficulty in securing a conviction under this as the former acts. There will be an opportunity of evasion, or rather there appears some uncertainty as to when the first licenses granted under this Act shall expire. We leave that, however, for the Sessions to determine for themselves.

We doubt the right or policy of any government to give license to any to sell intoxicating drinks.

WESLEYAN.—A correspondent (J. T.) of the *Provincial Wesleyan*, of the 3rd instant, gives an account of the religious progress which is being made by the Methodist body in the Cornwallis circuit. Writing from Canning he says:—

"Some to whom we have ministered the word of Life, have not received the grace of God in vain—they have thought of their way, turned their feet unto his testimonies, entreated his favour with their whole hearts, and have obtained mercy, according to his word."

"Shortly after the opening of our new Church at Berwick, the Lord came into his temple, gave testimony to the word of his grace, and displayed his saving power. A number of those who believed and turned to the Lord, were pew-holders in the church, and heads of families."

"On Sabbath, March 14, nine of the converts presented themselves before the congregation, and were baptized with water, and with more who had been previously baptized, were received into the Church—the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was then administered to about sixty communicants. It was a season of sweet and hallowed enjoyment from the presence of the Lord.—The hearts of our dear brethren who had taken so much interest in the erection of the house were filled with gratitude to God; their object was secured; their desire, to a considerable extent, gratified; and their prayers graciously answered in the salvation of their neighbors. They thanked God and took courage. On the 2nd of May three more adults were baptized in the old chapel at the West. The congregations at these services were large and attentive, and, as usual under such circumstances, the rite of baptism strikingly impressive, reminding one of the fact that every perfect and good gift cometh down from above."

This, to us, is quite a new idea in connexion with baptism. We do not remember hearing before that that ordinance was ever intended as an emblem of, or should have any influence in, "reminding one of the fact that every perfect and good gift cometh down from above." At the same time we would not for a moment question the propriety of such a thought arising in the mind, when witnessing the act of sprinkling "with water." Indeed, we think it exceedingly appropriate. The New Testament references to baptism, however, seem rather to make it an act of obedience on a profession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and intended to remind one of the fact that our Saviour died, was buried, and rose again, see Romans vi. 3, 4, and Colossians ii. 12. It also appears designed to teach us that by this act we profess to have become dead unto sin, and to have arisen to newness of life.

We are much gratified to learn from our latest New York papers, that the unhappy difficulties connected with the operations of the American Missionary Union are likely to be terminated, and that the differences which have for these three years past existed between the Board of Missions at Home and their Missionaries in Burmah, will, in all probability, shortly cease. This division of opinions and feelings, it is, we believe, very generally known, has existed

to such a degree as seriously to impede the missionary operations abroad, and has tended greatly to diminish the funds and cripple the action of the missions at home. The great difficulty resulted from the Board in America having to direct all the operations of the Foreign Missionary and appropriate all the resources, in the minutest particular, which lead many of the leading Missionaries to complain of being controlled and hampered in their ministrations and plans. In several cases they had withdrawn from their connection with the Board, and were dependant on other means for sustaining their Missions. The Union, which has just finished its annual Convention at Philadelphia, has come to a resolution to grant the monies contributed at home in gross amounts to each separate mission, and allow them to arrange their labours and appropriate the needful funds on the spot where the necessities of each case must be better understood. The measure appears to have met with general approbation, and was unanimously agreed to, and the hearts of numberless friends of missions have been thus relieved from a weight which has long weighed heavily upon them. We sincerely trust a large blessing will attend the adoption of the Resolution.

We have given in another column some extracts from our London contemporary, shewing one of the remaining iniquitous and abominable fruits of State-churchism, with regard to the law of marriage in England. Also, on another page the action of the House of Lords on the second reading of Lord Bury's BILL.

Let us be thankful that in this province we are free from such a yoke. No priestly dominion can here make restrictions in regard to this matter opposed to both natural and moral law. We shall recur again shortly to the subject of Marriage and Registration in this province.

Our last English Mail, which reached us this day week, brought London dates to the 22nd ult.

The chief item of English news is the failure to defeat the Derby Ministry on a Resolution of Mr. Cardwell's, in the Commons, censuring them for a Despatch to Lord Canning, the Governor General of India. The present administration, though far from a popular one, seems likely to last much longer than was at first anticipated, owing to the division among the Whig party and the difficulty of acting under any one leader. Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston are the only persons who would be likely to muster any larger number of followers, but they are personally opposed to each other, and although both men of undoubted talent, have pretty well worn out their popularity. The jealousies between England and France, arising out of the failure of the Conspiracy Bill, and of the trial of Bernard for being implicated in Orsini's plot, have pretty well subsided, but although the French Emperor is undoubtedly heartily desirous of maintaining the English Alliance, he is dependant upon the caprices of his army, and would no doubt have to yield to any casualty that might occur tending to a war with England or any other Power. France is a pure military despotism, and must follow the bent of its constitutional propensities as such.

The news from India is not very satisfactory, for although all the great bodies of the rebels are beaten and dispersed, they are still scattered over the country in small parties, and continue to harass the British forces as well as the peaceable inhabitants, from their isolated strongholds. The spirit of disaffection throughout the length and breadth of India seems to have been of much longer date and more deeply seated than was ever suspected.

Considerable uneasiness is felt on our own side of the Atlantic, owing to circumstances which have recently occurred on the Coast of Cuba from the boarding and search of some American vessels by our own cruisers, under suspicion of their being engaged in the Slave Trade. The American public have taken great umbrage on the occasion, and the public papers are filled with the most violent language. The Congress and Government at Washington have taken the matter up, and are sending out vessels of war to protect their trade. It is most probable that the most gross exaggerations exist in regard to the facts, still it may be that acts of rashness may have been committed, and the question of Slavery is at present so sore a one in the Union, and Mr. Buchanan's administration so deeply pledged to southern politics, that serious complications may arise, especially if any thing like a collision should take place be-