

For the Christian Messenger.

The Western Baptist Association of New Brunswick.

This Association took place this year with the Brussel Street Church, St. John, on Saturday, Sept. 15. I did not arrive till seven o'clock in the evening, but I learned that the afternoon session had been spent in devotional services. Elder Thompson was appointed Moderator.

The evening was devoted to business arrangements and reading letters. The letters from the various churches indicated some improvement. Some of them gave full statistics, of monies raised by the churches for all objects, also of Sabbath Schools. Though the increase by baptism seemed to be small, yet more attention was given to benevolent objects and Sabbath Schools. They are evidently starting in the right direction, and it only remains to hold on in the course of Christian activity. Though at present we come far short of carrying out our principles, yet if we cling to those principles they will elevate us to the high ground of spiritual prosperity. The cause, on the whole, seems hopeful.

The programme of preaching for Sunday embraced the churches and stations in the city, in Carleton, in Portland, and at Gundalow Point, ten miles away on the bank of the Kennebecasis. The writer hereof met with the Sabbath Schools in Portland and Carleton. Both are flourishing. The former under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Cady, manifested great proficiency in singing; the latter, under Rev. Isaiah Wallace, listened attentively to a brief address. I returned to Brussel's Street in the evening in time to hear an animated discourse from our old friend Elder William Harris. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Probably a thousand persons were in attendance. The evening closed by a Sabbath School prayer-meeting.

On Monday the Associational Sermon was preached by the Rev. Charles Spurgeon. Principal of the Fredericton Academy, on 1 Cor. xii. 11, on the spiritual gifts of the Church. Their nature, their bestowment, their reception, and their use. As this admirable sermon is to be published, I forbear making any observations upon it. The day having been occupied in the necessary business, the evening of Monday was devoted to a very interesting public meeting, in behalf of Home Missions. The children of the Sunday School occupied the galleries and at intervals discoursed sweet music from the S. S. Bell, a little hymn-book for Sabbath Schools. As the little ones sang, "We love to sing together," "We love to pray together," &c., we involuntarily exclaimed, "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise!"

On Tuesday, the business of education was taken up, at the beginning and close of the day. At ten o'clock, A. M., the Agent of Acadia College, preached a sermon before the Association on the subject. This was followed by the reports of the Committee and of the Education Society. Also in the evening of Tuesday a public Educational Meeting was held. The speakers were Elders Thompson, Freeman, Miles, Rowe, Cady, and the Hon. W. B. Kinnear. I would suggest that in future the speeches of the principals be shorter, and an opportunity given for more to participate. Education is a subject on which the Baptists of New Brunswick are beginning to be awake.

Much attention was given to the scheme of the Union Society. About seven hundred pounds have been subscribed to it, including about £400 collected. Much gratification was expressed at the result of Brother Todd's Agency for the Union scheme. The brethren intend carrying out what they have so auspiciously begun.

The attendance, particularly at the public meetings, in the evenings, was especially gratifying. The people seemed interested in the subjects discussed, and no doubt much good will result.

Rev. E. B. Demill presented the Circular Letter on Baptist principles, which will bear perusal. Brother Goucher is to prepare the next Circular Letter, and Rev. J. C. Hurd is to preach the sermon.

At the close the thanks of the Association were presented to the good citizens of St. John, for their generous hospitality. Prayer was offered by Elder Smith, and the meeting adjourned to assemble next year with the church in Keswick.

Yours sincerely,

SPECTATOR.

Saint John, N. B., Sept. 19, 1860.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 26, 1860.

LEGISLATION FOR CHURCHES.—The Christian Church should be fully competent to manage its own affairs without appealing to the governments of this world, to sanction or enforce its action, with reference to its own members. "My kingdom is not of this world," said our Saviour, eighteen hundred years ago, and yet this still seems one of the most difficult lessons for enlightened Christendom to learn and practice.

Application to "the powers that be" for one minister to be allowed to institute proceedings against another seems, to us who are accustomed to look upon churches as independent bodies of believers, a most extraordinary request. Yet so it is, and although not a matter connected with the churches with which we are more particularly concerned nor even our province, yet we are interested in whatever is done in the name of Christianity and especially when done in these provinces. A draft of "A Bill to enforce Church Discipline" has been prepared by the Bishop of New Brunswick and forwarded to his clergy and laity for their consideration, preparatory to its being submitted to the Legislature. The *Church Witness* gives a copy of this Bill. Its object is to enable the Bishop to institute proceedings against clergymen and preserve the church from scandal and from the injurious effects which flow from any immoral conduct or evil practice of the clergy.

The list of offences with which it proposes to deal is given in the second clause. "1. Celebrating a marriage between two persons within the degrees of affinity or set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. 2. Quarrelling, chiding, or brawling in the church. 3. Drunkenness, nor indecent conduct, demeanor, or language. 4. Depraving of the Book of Common Prayer. 5. Alterations or non-observance of Church Offices. 6. Gross neglect of duty; or concerning whom there may exist scandal or evil report, &c."

It is not likely there will be a very general opinion expressed in favor of this Bill. The *Church Witness* takes exception to it because it gives the Bishop the sole power by "his own mere motion," of instituting proceedings against a clergyman, and further, "the Commission to make enquiry as to the grounds of complaint lodged against a clergyman prior to a more formal trial, is to be appointed by the Bishop." The able editor of the *Witness* also shews cases in which the Book of Common Prayer is continually altered or depraved, and which would render almost every clergyman in the Diocese liable to proceedings. He instances in particular the case of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and says "there was and may be again, an imperial or provincial enactment making it legal for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister, and then a clergyman would be placed between two fires, commanded on one side and forbidden on the other." The editor concludes his remarks by observing that, "The truth is, some change is required in these services, rather than a law to bind them more stringently upon the observance of the clergy."

For ourselves we rejoice that New Testament law requires no such powers placed in the hands of one man, be he called Bishop, President, or Pope, and we would recommend a more diligent examination of the great Text-book, instead of an Act of Parliament. We deem that a better guide of Faith and Practice than all the Bills ever framed by Bishops, Councils, Synods, or Parliaments.

"DISSENTERS."—We are not yet informed, by our neighbour, who, in this province, are entitled to this appellation. We have, however, the opinion of one of our subscribers—a member of the Legislative Council in New Brunswick. In a note, with his subscription for the coming year, he remarks:—

"I was much pleased to observe your remarks on the subject of Dissenters in these Provinces, as you placed the position of other Denominations than the Church of England where it should be, namely, where there is no Establishment of religion there can be no dissent, and that we have none here is perfectly clear. The Revised Statutes have, in our two Provinces, swept away all which heretofore gave a semblance to that idea."

The *Visitor*, also, in referring to an article on Ecclesiastical Precedence, in the *Canadian Baptist*, remarks:—

"We recommend our contemporary to ignore the term 'dissenter,'—as applied to our denomination, at all events. There can be no such thing in the Colonies where a State church does not exist. Baptists never having assented to the inequities of Church and Stateism and the 'ecclesiastical precedence' and other popish absurdities which cling to so many of our 'Protestant' churches, we have no reason for dissent."

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—We have received a copy of the Journal of the proceedings of the Grand Division of this body, at its late Sessions at Sydney C. B. It gives a full account of the attendance and procession at the Prince's Visit, the visit of the Delegates to the National Division at Portland, and the statistics of the body in this province. From these we learn that there are 93 Divisions in the province of Nova Scotia, of which 4 have been commenced during the past Quarter. These comprehend a membership of 3716. 290 have been received during the Quarter and 240 is the total of withdrawn, expelled and died, leaving a clear gain of 50 for the quarter. Only 9 deaths have occurred in a membership of 3716. 88 Temperance Meetings have been held. The cash on hand amounts to £1478 7s. 8d. The number of Female Visitors, 1297.

The *Abstainer* has completed its fourth volume. Great difficulties have been experienced, in sustaining this paper—the organ of the Grand Division.—The Publication committee at the recent session of the G. D., reported that its circulation had considerably decreased. The number of copies of each volume issued are given:—

Vol. 1st,	1860.
2nd,	1750.
3rd,	1500.
4th, commenced with	1100.
present issue	1040.

The Grand Scribe has issued an appeal to subordinate Divisions in which he says:—

You are aware, no doubt, that the *Abstainer* has never been patronized to the extent that is requisite to make it a regular visitor to the home of every member of our Order in this Province, which it certainly should be,—nor has it even proved remunerative to the publisher.

It was fully expected that by this time an improvement in its typographical department would have been made, thus rendering it more attractive, but unless an increase is made in the number of subscribers, the publisher is unwilling to undertake the responsibility. Let each officer and Member exert himself by canvassing his temperance friends. By so doing, the circulation of the paper could be easily increased to 4,000 or 5,000 copies.

It affords us pleasure to learn from George Harpell Esq. that the Baptist church at Jeddore have dealt so liberally with Mr. Samuel Bell who has been labouring with them for the past six months. He had engaged them for one year but as he found it difficult to pursue his studies so as to prepare for college next year, as he had hoped, and at the same time perform the duties devolving upon him there, requested leave, after six months, to return to Horton Academy. The church passed a resolution consenting to this and expressing their high esteem for him and thankfulness to Almighty God for the blessing which had attended his labours (44 having been added to the church during his engagement) and praying for a blessing to attend him. We learn that the church also paid Mr. B. the whole amount of salary they had engaged to pay for the year's services.

FIRE INSURANCE.—The *New York Observer* contains a high encomium on the Continental Fire Insurance Company of New York. The Company is formed on the 'Mutual Stock' plan, by which the accumulation on the capital is regularly divided amongst those who are insurers. The position of the Company may be learned by the following statement:—July 1, 1860, Gross assets, \$993,208 28; Liabilities, \$14,732 44. Every prudent house-keeper will endeavour to effect an insurance on his property, so that in case of accident by fire he and his family may not be left destitute and dependant on his friends.

Mr. James Whitman, Halifax, is Agent for the above office for Nova Scotia.

News Summary.

There appears to have been great apprehensions of scarcity in Great Britain in consequence of so much cold and wet weather during the summer and autumn. A form of prayer for fair weather was prepared and read in churches. The latest accounts, however were more favourable. Large purchases of flour have been made in the United States market for Europe. The great abundance of the supply in the West has alone prevented a considerable rise in the prices of provisions.

The Chinese war had been delayed by the French having lost all their harness at the wreck of the *Amboy*. Baron Gros protested against making any attack until he could take with him an equal number of troops with the English. Lord Elgin had, however, induced him, on the 26th of June, to withdraw his protest. Operations were just about commencing.

There appears some uncertainty as to the progress of Garibaldi. It was supposed that

he had entered Naples and the King had fled. Our next advices will doubtless furnish us with definite information on this point.

A great change must shortly take place in the whole aspect of Italian affairs. It is thought that Napoleon will make the acquisition of the Neapolitan Kingdom by Victor Emmanuel, a pretext for some augmentation of his dominions. This would in all probability meet with remonstrance from the other powers, and cause fresh disturbance in European politics.

It seems pretty certain that the *Great Eastern* will again cross the Atlantic. The 12th of October has been named for her to sail for New York.

Our civic elections are commanding increased attention. The names mentioned in the public prints for the office of Mayor, are,—His Worship Samuel R. Caldwell, Esq., Aldermen Evans, and Lownds and John Naylor, Esq. The three former have published cards to the Electors. Monday next will decide on the changes in our city government for the ensuing year.

General Intelligence.**DOMESTIC.**

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, Sep. 18th, 1860.

APPOINTMENTS.**To be Justices of the Peace:—**

Inverness—Henry Y. Taylor, of Margaree; Donald McLeod, of Broad Cove; William A. McKeen, of Wycocmagah; Malcolm Blue, do. Colchester—Wm. Grigor, of Onslow; Hugh Dickson, do.

To be a Commissioner for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors for Yarmouth,—William Rogers.

To be the Chief Inspector of Pickled Fish for Victoria,—Donald McDonald, in place of John McNiel.

The *Chronicle* says that it is rumoured among leading politicians in opposition, that a despatch has been received from the Duke of Newcastle, by Lord Mulgrave, in reply to Mr. Johnston's Memorial on the subject of the Dissolution sought by the late Government; and that Mr. Johnston has been invited to call and peruse the document.

The HALIFAX YACHT CLUB propose offering prizes next year for a sailing match of large vessels of 75 tons, to come off in May, before proceeding to the Labrador fisheries.

CITY COUNCIL.—We learn from the reports that at a meeting of the City Council on Tuesday last, Ald. Bell brought in a resolution which would disqualify persons selling liquor, of themselves, or by agents, from holding the offices of Mayor or Aldermen, and the various subordinate civic situations. At the same meeting Alderman Nash gave notice that he would move a resolution that the office of Mayor be without pay; that this officer be chosen from the Aldermen; that some of the Aldermen be paid for their services; and that a Stipendiary Magistrate be appointed to attend to the Police Court instead of the Mayor.—*Colonist*.

THE DARTMOUTH STEAMBOATS.—The Committee appointed by the Quarter Sessions to investigate the equipments and appliances of the above boats, in cases of accident, have published a report of the results of their enquiries. "The Company," it appears, "have already written for a dozen more life-buoys, and as soon as they arrive, six of them will be placed on board the South Ferry Boat; and that another boat hook will be put into each of the boats at once, and they intend to place a superior Lantern to show a brilliant light on the South Ferry Boat as soon as it can be obtained."

The Sessions, it seems, have no control over the Steamboat Company in the appliances and regulations of their boats, beyond the rate of fares, the time of starting, and the number of trips that are to be made.

The Committee state that they found the Company very willing, and even anxious to have anything done that is really requisite, or would be considered useful to ensure the safety of the public.

FATAL CASUALTY.—Three Lives Lost.

The following is an extract of a letter from Rev. Dr. Cramp:—"A sad accident occurred in this neighbourhood yesterday. Mr. Enoch Bishop of New Canaan, and his three sons, were hauling sedge. This is cut, tied up in bundles, fastened to a rope, which, when the tide rises, (the sedge grows on places which are covered by the spring tides) is dragged to the shore. One of the sons somehow became entangled, and slipped into the water; his father rushed in to save him; the second son sprang to the help of the father; and all three were drowned. The third son would have risked his life to save the others, but was prevented by some persons who ran to the spot."

Acadia College, Sep. 18.

YARMOUTH.—A serious accident occurred at Yarmouth from the careless use of fire arms. A loaded gun, it appears was foolishly entrusted to a lad on meeting with some other boys the gun was taken up by one about 14 years of age and presented to a son of Mr. James Murry Jun., a child about 6 years of age and fired. If the charge had entered his body it must have proved fatal, but it passed very near, and spread considerably for 30 large duck-shot were lodged in him and afterward extracted from his hands, arms, thigh, breast, &c. The boy who discharged the gun is not supposed to have done so with any malicious intention; but he cannot be acquitted of gross recklessness.