

Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

If we knew.

If we knew the cares and crosses
Crowding round our neighbor's way;
If we knew the little losses,
Sorely grievous day by day,
Should we then so often chide him
For the lack of thrift and gain—
Leaving on his heart a shadow,
Leaving on our heart a stain?

If we knew the clouds above us,
Held by gentle blessings there,
Should we turn away all trembling
In our blind and weak despair?
Should we shrink from little shadows,
Lying on the dewy grass?
While 'tis only birds of Eden,
Just in mercy flying past?

If we knew the silent story
Quivering through the hearts of pain,
Would our womanhood dare doom them
Back to haunts of guilt again?
Life hath many a tangled crossing
Joy hath many a break of woe,
And the cheeks tear-washed are whitest—
This the blessed angels know.

Let us reach into our bosoms
For the love to other lives,
And with love toward erring nature,
Cherish good that still survives,
So that when our disrobed spirits Sirts
Soar to realms of light again,
We may say, dear Father, judge us
As we judge our fellow-men.

Nova Scotia Church History.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Baptists of Nova Scotia.

PERIOD V.

From A. D. 1821 to A. D. 1828.

LETTER XXXVIII.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE REVIVAL
IN 1827-8. YARMOUTH-CORNWALLIS. FORMATION
OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY.
—PROSPECTUS.—REMARKS.

My Young Friend,

In my last I referred to revivals of religion in different parts of the province, in the winter of 1827 and the following spring. A letter written by Harris Harding to friends in Falmouth, dated "26th Dec. 1827," has been placed in my hands, and I give it you nearly entire. You will observe the peculiar characteristics of his style.

"Mr. and Mrs. Young,

"My dear brother and sister,

"After I left you at Falmouth I had some blessed meetings, particularly at Frenchman's Bay and Sissiboo, where I saw some poor sinners crying for mercy, and saints rejoicing in the gospel. But how shall I tell you what great things God is doing for Yarmouth? Surely the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places; we also have a goodly heritage. Many here are walking in the law of their God with delight, and in his ordinances blameless, for their robes are washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Oh, to hear them make mention of his righteousness with such delight would make you and my dear Falmouth friends say, if they were here, 'I am sick of love.' Brother Ansley is in a particular manner owned of God in this blessed work, and has been instrumental in calling many out of the wilderness, 'leaning upon their Beloved'; yea, they come, 'bearing twins, like a flock of sheep from the washing.' My bowels have been greatly refreshed in the Lord since my return. The work goes on and increaseth through all parts of the township. With a few exceptions, all who have come out in the gospel had been converted in days past.

"Nearly forty have been baptized and joined the church, and many are crying after the Lord. Last Sabbath I baptized seven. It was a day long to be remembered. Many rejoiced at the seaside with a loud voice on high."

The following extract from Mr. Manning's journal gives a pleasing notice of the progress of the work in Cornwallis:

"May 10th 1828. Brother T. S. Harding came. Never saw so many before at conference.

Could not hear all the brethren and sisters speak as usual, for want of time. Several spake, and to good effect. Four told their experience and were received. Brother David Harris from Fredericton unexpectedly came. Attended to church business, and after brother Harris prayed, E. I. Eaton came and told me her little sister Ann, eight years of age, wanted to tell her experience. She had given good evidence before this that she was a renewed person. She came forward, and was placed on the communion table (she is very small of her age); the sight moved the people much. She told her experience, answered questions to satisfaction, and was received.—The host of people, were loth to leave the meeting. What is the God of heaven doing?

"Lord's day morning, May 11. O Lord, I beseech thee, be manifestly present all this day. It is a day of great events. Let all things be done in decency and good order, and a perfect lot be cast. Amen. . . . Attended at the water-side. Twenty-six candidates attended, and it is thought that more than two thousand hearers were present. All very solemn. Sang, and brother Harding prayed. I addressed the people, and then I led A. Harris into the liquid grave. Then brother Harding led one. So we kept on till twenty-six were baptized. There were two married men, two married women, and one widow, with her only son, and four pious daughters—all the household. The rest were young men and women, and one girl, eight years of age."

The establishment of the Academy at Horton was the first fruit of the accession of those brethren whose conversion, while members of the Church of England, was noticed in my last letter. The delegates from the Church in Granville Street to the Association were the pastor, and the brethren Dr. Lewis Johnston, E. A. Crawley, and J. W. Nutting. Other members of that church were probably present. On the first day of the Association Mr. Crawley (now the Rev. Dr. Crawley—he was then a lawyer, fast rising into eminence) introduced the subject of education, and read the prospectus of a "Literary and Theological Seminary," to be established at Horton, and supported by the Denomination. He spoke "in a masterly manner," as Mr. Manning observed, and was warmly seconded by Mr. J. W. Johnston. The proposal met with universal acceptance; a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangement; and the churches were "solicited to use their exertions in collecting subscriptions and donations towards the object."

I subjoin a copy of the prospectus:

"PROSPECTUS"

Of the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society, and of the Literary and Theological Institution to be connected therewith.

"It is universally admitted that Education has a powerful influence on the interests of Religion, and the well-being of individuals and society:—In this Province a wide field is open for exertion, with reference to this object; and the Baptists, as forming a very large portion of the population, are called on to engage in this good work, with energy proportioned to the advantages in prospect; and earnestly to seek the Divine blessing upon an undertaking bearing a close relation to the most important interests of men.

"Two leading objects are to be regarded; the primary one, in a religious point of view, is the providing suitable instruction, within the reach of young men, who feel themselves called to the ministry of the Gospel; such young men raised up from time to time among us, sigh for the means of mental improvement, and thus powerfully claim the attention of all friends of the Gospel in favour of this object, as one to which Providence seems to direct their labors.

"The second object, of vast importance in itself, and in the present state of the country, essential to the attainment of the first, is to establish a good Seminary for the general instruction of youth, so situated as to afford as much facility of communication with the various sections of the Province as possible; and wherein the course of instruction, and the expenses of board and tuition shall be adapted to the state of Society, and the condition of the people in general; that thus the advantages of Education may not, as has hitherto been too often the case, be confined to the wealthy, nor the time of the youth occupied with pursuits but little calculated to fit them for the stations of life which they have the prospect of filling.

"For the purpose of compassing these objects it is proposed,

"1. That a Society be formed, to be called The Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society.

"2. That all persons paying an annual subscription of twenty shillings and upwards, or making a donation of ten pounds or upwards, shall be Members of the Society.

"3. That the funds of the Society will be appropriated to two main objects: first, to establish a suitable Seminary of Learning; and secondly, to afford pecuniary assistance to indigent young men called to preach the Gospel, for the purpose of enabling them to obtain instruction.

"4. That a general meeting of the Society be held annually.

"5. That there be appointed a President, two Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, and a Treasurer, a Board of Directors, and a Committee of Management.

"6. That the Board of Directors be chosen at the annual meeting of the Society; and the officers and Committee of Management be chosen by the Board of Directors.

"7. That of the Board of Directors, ten, at least, shall be ordained Baptist Ministers, and two thirds of the whole number, at least, regular Members of Baptist Churches, in connection with the Nova Scotia Baptist Association.

"8. That the Committee of Management shall consist of, at least seven, and not more than twelve, Members; of whom more than half shall be regular Members of Baptist Churches, in connection with the Nova Scotia Baptist Association.

"9. That the Board of Directors shall hold, at least, one meeting every year, to consult on the affairs of the Society, ascertain and report its state and progress, review the proceedings and rules of the Committee, and make such general regulations as may be found proper for the advancement of the objects of the Society, and the government of the Committee.

"10. That as soon as means are obtained, the Society will establish and maintain a Seminary for Education, at Horton, under the direction and government of the Committee, subject to the supervision and control of the Board of Directors.

"11. That a principal object to be observed in the management of the Institution, being, to adapt the course of study to the state of Society, and the wants of the people, and to place means of instruction as much as possible within the reach of all persons, it is considered primarily necessary to attend to those branches of Education which are of more general use, at the same time that a wider range of literary acquirements shall be open to those who may have the ability to seek them, or to whose prospects in life they may be more suitably adapted. It is also considered desirable that as far as may be practicable, persons wishing to qualify themselves for the various callings of life, should have opportunity to receive instruction at their leisure seasons in the year, in the particular branches of study, more immediately requisite for their respective objects.

"With these principles in view, it is proposed that this Institution shall afford the means of instruction in the usual branches of English Literature, and of scientific, classical, and other studies, which usually comprise the course of Education at an Academy and College. It will, however, be the business of the Committee to exercise their discretion from time to time, in adopting or discontinuing such branches of the course of study as circumstances may require or render expedient, and progressively, as the funds of the Society shall permit, to adapt this Institution to answer all the ends above proposed. Provided however

"12. That of the Committee and Board of Directors, that part who shall be members of Baptist Churches, in connection with the Nova Scotia Baptist Association, shall have the sole regulation of the Theological Department in the Seminary.

"13. It shall be the care of the Committee to provide efficient Teachers for this Seminary, to whose moral and religious character special regard will be had; and it is considered an object in every department under the influence of the Society, never to be lost sight of, that the scholars and students, while acquiring information to fit them for their various stations in life, should be led to a knowledge of the true relation of man to his Creator, and of that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which alone can furnish a sure pledge of their good conduct in this world, and their happiness in eternity.

"14. That the Seminary be open to children, and persons of any religious denomination.

"15. That to the attainment of the objects of the Institution, it is essentially requisite that the whole system should be conducted upon a principle of the most strict and simple Economy, and no distinctions among the scholars and students, arising from wealth or external circumstances, permitted to appear; the scholars will, as soon as practicable, be boarded at the Institution; and it is thought advisable to connect with the establishment a farm, under the care of some respectable person, for the supply of articles of

provision for the use of the School, and for affording an opportunity of employing the Boys during a portion of their leisure time, in healthful labour; by which they may obtain exercise, acquire a habit of industry, and be less exposed to the irregularities which result from unemployed seasons of leisure. The diet and dress of the Scholars to be of the plainest kind, and to be regulated by the Committee, and made known as part of the terms of the school, to be conformable to without exception.

"16. The terms of Tuition and Board to be fixed at as low a rate as possible.

"17. The Funds for purchase of land, erection of buildings, and the various expenses incident to the commencement of the undertaking, as well as those which may attend its annual support, to be obtained by donations and annual contributions.

"18. The Subscription Lists to be divided into several columns, by which the annual contributions may be kept separate from the Donations; and persons making Donations may distinguish the particular object to which they wish the Donations to be exclusively applied; the Annual Contributions and Donations not expressly limited, to be appropriated by the Committee, as it shall see most fit for the general advancement of the objects of the Society.

Officers of the Society, for the present year, as chosen by the Association and by the Committee, under the sanction of the Association.

President—Rev. Edward Manning.

Vice Presidents—Rev. Chas. Tupper, and J. W. Nutting Esq.

Treasurer—Simon Fitch, Esq.

Secretaries—Edmund A. Crawley, and Wm. Chipman, Esqrs.

Board of Directors named by the Committee, and who it is hoped will accept the office.

Rev. Mr. Munroe,	Ed. Crawley, Esq.
" Manning,	S. Fitch, Esq.
" Tupper,	W. Chipman, Esq.
" Caswell,	Mr. Jno. Pryor,
" Jos. Dimock,	Mr. Ferguson,
" Elder,	D. W. Crandal, Esq.
" Ansley,	Dr. Johnston,
" Harding,	Dr. Harding,
" Burton,	Dr. D. Lynds,
" H. Chipman,	Major Cunningham,
" Jos. Crandal,	Mr. Major Chipman,
" M'Learn,	Mr. Holmes Chipman,
" Geo. Dimock,	Mr. Z. Chipman,
Deacon Pettingall,	Mr. James Lent,
W. B. Kinnear, Esq.	James D. Harris, Esq.
C. Twining, Esq.	S. Bishop, Esq.
J. R. Lovett, Esq.	W. A. Chipman, Esq.
J. W. Johnston, Esq.	Mr. Wm. Johnson.
J. W. Nutting, Esq.	

Managing Committee.

Dr. Lewis Johnston,	E. A. Crawley, Esq.
J. W. Nutting, Esq.	Simon Fitch, Esq.
J. W. Johnston, Esq.	Wm. Chipman, Esq.
Mr. Wm. Johnson.	

This was by far the most important movement in which the denomination had as yet engaged. The readiness with which the enterprise was undertaken—new to them as it was, and wholly untried—was highly creditable to the Baptists of Nova Scotia, and indicated an enlightened appreciation of knowledge. Our fathers did not foresee the extensive results that would follow their humble effort. They looked only to the establishment of a respectable Academy, where youth might obtain a liberal education at a cheap rate. In that respect their most sanguine hopes have been realised. But much more has been accomplished. The College has sprung out of the Academy, and from both have gone forth men whose influence on society, in a secular as well as in a religious point of view, has proved most beneficial. Every year adds to their number, and thus increases the value of the Institutions to the province. Nor is it to be overlooked that a desire for advanced education is spreading in every direction, a gratifying proof of which is seen in the numerous private Seminaries that now present their claims to the public, and are deservedly successful. In estimating the usefulness of Horton Academy its indirect effects must be brought into the account. The reputation of the children enhances the glory of the parent.

Of the obligation of the church to the educational movement it is unnecessary to speak. The reflective and candid members of our body have a deep sense of their indebtedness. It will be a dark day for the denomination if the churches should ever undervalue our Institutions of learning, or, through mistaken economy, allow them to be crippled or imperfectly furnished.

Yours truly,

MEMNO.

July 29, 1861.