

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 20, 1862.

The Presbyterian Educational Institutions and the "Presbyterian Witness."

In our late discussion of the Dalhousie College movements we sought to give our readers correct and reliable information concerning the College and Academy belonging to the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. We therefore copied from their own published statement, and merely added together the sums respectively under "Theological Seminary" and "Educational Board" marked distinctly "Expenditures over Receipts." But it now appears by an Editorial article in the *Presbyterian Witness* that these sums are not to be so understood, that they are not exactly separate expenditures, although plainly so made to appear in the *Home and Foreign Record*. If the published statements of a religious body fail to convey correct information, the parties concerned must abide by the consequences, but we should not be held responsible for their misstatements. Instead of our having "grossly deceived" ourselves, we think we and the public have been "grossly deceived" and we are entitled to the thanks of that body if we succeed in bringing out the correct state of their affairs in this matter, although it may be in the unofficial, unauthenticated form of a newspaper article.

As we are happy to give correct information to our readers, and as we gave what the *Witness* calls the "gross errors" of the publication referred to; we have much pleasure in copying the explanation of this matter as given by the *Witness*. The writer after quoting our extracts from the *H. & F. Record* and the addition of the two sums, says:—

"Now the fact is that the Ordinary Expenditure, instead of being some £1200 over the receipts, has not been three, and we do not believe it has amounted to two hundred pounds. Under the head of Theological Seminary we have the expenditure for salaries, which exceeded the ordinary contributions of the people by £381 18s. 10d. as shown above; but there is not even that deficiency for the year, as a large part of that balance which appears against the Institution is met by the interest of money invested and drawn from the Board of Education. It appears that this last Board, which has no direct charge of the Educational Institutions, and exists mainly to hold and disburse, as may be required, the finances, paid out during the past year £1485 11s. 11d., but it has not, in the ordinary sense of the word, expended that sum, or anything approaching to it. It furnished the £381 for salaries, met in part, however, as we have shown, by annual interest. It furnished £100 for apparatus, and another £100 for additions to Library and paid out at least £700, to be invested in good security for the benefit of our Educational Institutions. The *Messenger's* report of the matter, unintentionally, we grant, and misled to some extent by use of the word *expended*, charges the £381 twice, takes the £200 voted to add to the permanent equipment, and the £700 invested for the support of the Institution, and adding all together, represents the expenditure as exceeding £2000, being an excess over income of £1207 16s. 9d.

We are happy to correct his error, and to assure him that the United Body feels perfectly able to support her institutions and on that score cares little for the success of the Dalhousie College scheme. In fact, if the latter project should be carried out, it will involve a very small diminution of her financial responsibility. Were she to pay two Professors in Dalhousie College, as has been talked of, her pecuniary responsibility would be very slightly if at all diminished.

This we presume then is the correct statement, and yet, in reading it over, one cannot but ask himself how £700 can be "invested for the support of the Institution" if it had not been previously received. We should be glad to learn the sleight-of-hand by which such a feat could be accomplished. The writer says we charged the £381 twice. We beg to say that we did no such thing. If the report given in the *H. & F. Record* did so, let the parties who prepared it for publication have the credit of it, and abide by the consequences. This is a denominational matter with which we really have nothing to do, and if it had not been connected, in their own publications, with the attempt to "revive" Dalhousie, we should have taken no notice of it. Our contemporary in alluding to our remarks concerning the resuscitation of Dalhousie College says:—

"We are not surprised to find that he scarcely knows whether to approve or disapprove, to support or oppose, the movement contemplated, as so much must depend on the wisdom and justice of the plan which is to be pursued, and which, whatever it may be, is not fully and properly before the public."

Very true; when we are fully satisfied of "the

wisdom and justice of the plan" we shall no longer hesitate to "approve the movement contemplated." He complains that we do not give these "religious bodies credit for the reasons which they alledge for their action in this matter;" but we think he is mistaken in that particular, as we have only made quotations from their own published documents. As however he affirms that "both the Presbyterian Synods claim that their chief motive is to promote the higher education of the Province" we suppose it would be ungenerous and wrong to believe that they have any other reason for their action in this matter. We shall see.

We had no intention of saying anything on this subject this week; but finding our conclusions called in question by our neighbour, we have embraced the earliest opportunity of throwing all the light in our power; upon this somewhat complicated subject.

A New System of Nature.

The following extract from a work recently published entitled "A new system of Nature on the basis of Holy Scripture, being an enquiry into the origin of matter and the formation of the earth, by William Hamilton Stewart," will give quite a new idea to many of our readers respecting the heavenly bodies. We make no comment on the reliability of the theory. The late discoveries, and opinions formed by the analysis of light proceeding from various substances, will give rise to many new ideas concerning the materials of which the system of nature is composed. It is perhaps no more difficult to believe that the sun is composed of gold than of any other substance:—

"The *Fire of the Sun* (says the Author) is *Metallic*. I have affirmed that the matter of the sun is gold in a state of purity and minuteness of parts far exceeding that of any metal in its most refined state on earth: and one indirect argument in support of this opinion is the fact, that the basis of all matter that has yet been resolved into its first element is found to be metallic. By analysis the ingredients of all bodies have been reduced to a few principles, such as carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen; and some appearances indicate that they may be reduced to two, viz., oxygen and hydrogen. All these, with the exception of oxygen, are found to have a metallic base; and as oxygen enters largely into the most rapid combination with all the metals, particularly while in a state of fusion, becoming part of their solid contents, there can be no doubt of its being a metal also. In fact, it is now generally allowed that the basis of all matter is metallic. If therefore, we admit the sun to be the source whence all the matter of the bodies which surround it, is derived, it necessarily follows that the sun must be metallic also. The argument, indeed, resolves itself into a syllogism, in which, if the major proposition is allowed (and I do not see how it can be refused), it must amount to a perfect demonstration: thus,—

The sun is the source of all matter.
The base of all matter is metallic.
Therefore the sun is metallic.

"The proposition that the sun is the source of all the matter contained in the bodies which surround it, is in itself so reasonable that the mind willingly gives consent to it; indeed, it is impossible to conceive a body to have an origin distinct from that on which it depends for continual subsistence. The major, therefore, of our syllogism is, from its own internal evidence, necessarily allowed; and the minor, 'that the base of all matter is metallic,' has for the last twenty years been so brought home to our senses by the chemical experience of all Europe that no truth in even the most certain of all sciences has been more fully demonstrated; so that the conclusion that the sun must be metallic, rests upon the basis of reason and truth.

"If we change the form of our syllogism, and take the ground that the sun is a combustible body, the result is precisely the same: thus,—

The sun is a pure combustible body.
All pure combustibles are metallic.
Therefore the sun is metallic.

"The major here rests upon the same ground as in the former instances, viz., the general experience and common consent of mankind. And if we keep in mind the source whence the sun is derived, viz., from the heat and light of the spiritual Sun, our experience of the effects of heat and light, both spiritual and natural, will inevitably lead to the conclusion, that the great solar orb is fire. And though some philosophers have attempted to throw obstacles in the way of this belief, it is certain that all phenomena of heat and light, both celestial and terrestrial, can be better and much more satisfactorily explained on the principle that the sun is fire, than any other that has yet or ever can be proposed. The minor stands on the same ground as before—that is, the experimental results of chemical philosophy. Sir H. Davy, in his several 'Bakerian Lectures' before the Royal Society, and in his 'Elements of Chemical Philosophy,' was perhaps the first who advanced the doctrine that all pure combustible bases are metallic; and his views have in this respect been amply confirmed by subsequent experiments.

The conclusion is therefore indisputable, that the sun is a metallic body. The next inquiry is—

"Of what Metal does the Sun consist?—Seve-

ral reasons immediately present themselves, which help to induce the belief that this is gold. "In the first place, we have seen that the basis of all known matter is metallic. It has also been observed by our most eminent chemical philosophers, that there is such a general resemblance among the metals as plainly shows they were all derived from one. 'There is,' says Sir H. Davy, 'a chain of gradation of resemblance, which may be traced throughout the whole series of metallic bodies.' &c.

"In admitting gold to the rank of being the first metal, and that from which all the rest are derived, I reason from its purity, its density, its extreme ductility, the consequent minuteness of its parts, and lastly, from the intensity of its heat, the splendor of its light, and the energy of its action when in a state of ignition. Gold possesses all these qualities and many more, in a degree so far superior to every other metal, that I can have no hesitation in assigning to it the first place among them." * * *

"Its universal diffusion is another argument in favor of gold being the origin of all the other metals, and consequently of matter in general. It is well known that in all metallic ores, of whatsoever kind, a portion of gold is constantly found; and 'there is no kind of stone on earth which may not be said occasionally to serve as a matrix for this precious metal.' By analysis, gold has been discovered in sea water. In almost every analysis of vegetables, gold in small quantities is found. The teeth of sheep which feed on mountainous districts, where the ground is not disturbed by cultivation, are frequently found crusted with an enamel of pure gold, and sometimes of silver, according to situation."

The Demands of the War.

The necessities of our republican neighbours are driving them to the use of the most desperate means for raising men to augment their army. None are allowed to stand aloof, but the more popular and influential a man becomes, the more are his services brought into requisition. The sacred office of the christian ministry is invaded and turned aside from its great work of saving souls, to be employed in SAVING THE UNION! Meetings have been held for some time past in the public places of Boston to arouse the enthusiasm of the people, and induce them to enlist into the army, and it is quite a common thing in Boston for the stores and offices to be closed at 2 o'clock in the afternoon that the employees may go out recruiting.

At a meeting of the Merchants' Clerks of Boston on the 7th Inst., Hon. J. M. S. Williams impressed on them the duty of going to fight the battles of their country, and said that all persons ought in future to be ashamed to give recommendations to clerks who had not been out in the army. He considered that great encouragements were given by the change of policy on the part of the Government, whereby the health of men would be protected by the employment of negroes to do work of which they were capable. He also spoke of the results of his questions to Insurance officers as to the loss of life in the army, and he had been told it was exceeding small!!

Rev. D. C. Eddy followed in a very eloquent speech, (we copy from the *Boston Journal* of the 8th Inst.) and considered first, the question whether the Union was worthy preserving.

He portrayed the answers to the question by Washington, Jackson, Clay and Webster, with great power. The speaker then read extracts from the *Richmond Enquirer*, published a few years ago, defining treason, and glorifying the Constitution as a work of inspiration; quoting also Henry A. Wise. English humanity was forcibly discussed. In closing, the speaker said: If it is necessary, let every man become a soldier; let the pulpit be without an occupant and let the priest take off the black and don the patriotic blue; let the physician leave the sick man to die; let the lawyer desert the courtroom; let grass grow in the market place; let the men come forward, every heart and every hand to save the Union; and then, if that is not enough, let the women, taking the rifle, hang upon the footsteps of the foe, declaring everywhere, "The Union shall be preserved."

Lieut. Slade, who served a short time on Gen. Sigel's staff, next spoke. Before he concluded, the Fourth Battalion entered the hall, and was received with tumultuous applause, especially when the chairman announced that the corps had signed the enlistment rolls to serve nine months.

Sergeant Adams, of a New Hampshire regiment, who still carries a rebel ball in his head, next made a very interesting speech!

He detailed his experience in the army and in battle, and his speech abounded in amusing descriptions and apt illustrations.

Describing the feeling when the ball struck his head he said, "it felt very much as if I was on the cars and had jammed my head against a bridge when the cars were going at great velocity. It made a sound—thug! and the blood spouted out just like a beer barrel when you tap it."

The meeting adjourned with much enthusiasm!

News Summary.

The late conflict in Western Virginia, between the Federals under Gen. Pope, and the Confederates commanded by Gen. "Stonewall"

Jackson, appears to have been bloody and obstinately contested. Our only accounts of its results as yet, are from the Northern papers, which no doubt give the most favorable view for the Federal side. Gen. Pope admits of the loss of 1500 men, only 300 of whom were prisoners, and as he was obliged to fall back some short distance, it is pretty evident that the Confederates must have had the advantage. The army of the Potomac under McLellan are still hemmed in on James's River. The Confederates under Lee, are either too weak to force their entrenchments, or are gathering up their strength to render success more certain. The only line of retreat for the Northern Army appears to be by means of transports down the river, the banks of which for more than a hundred miles, are chiefly in the possession of the enemy and in many places said to be lined with strong batteries. Recruiting for the new levy of 300,000 men has not thus far been very successful, and the President has at length resorted to a compulsory draft or conscription, to raise the required complement.

Great numbers of persons are claiming exemption, as British subjects, not naturalized, and many American citizens are also said to be coming over to the British Provinces, to avoid an enforced service amid the swamps and under the pestilential influences of a Southern sun.

The French Government, as we supposed they would, are despatching a very considerable army to Mexico, under Gen. Forey, to retrieve their reverses. They have also placed some of the principal ports in a state of blockade.

THE YOUNG REAPER.—Another change in our Postal Arrangements.—An advertisement appeared in the *Gazette*, a week or two since, instructing Postmasters and Way Office keepers concerning a number of particulars respecting the postage of letters and newspapers.

We have since made enquiry and are informed that the YOUNG REAPER will be transmitted free of charge. We therefore send by this mail the number as heretofore.

Notices, &c.

P. E. Island Quarterly Meeting.

The next meeting is appointed at Cavendish. To commence on Friday the 19th prox., (September,) at seven o'clock, P. M.

J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, Aug. 20.

Acknowledgement.

DEAR BROTHER,

I beg leave to acknowledge, through the *Messenger*, the kindness of many brethren, in different parts of the Province, whose letters of sympathy and condolence, under my heavy affliction, have been very gratefully received, and have administered much to my comfort. During her last illness my late dear wife expressed her satisfaction in the thought that "so many prayed for her." The manifestations of christian sympathy are peculiarly soothing to the afflicted. But oh! how wonderful is the tenderness of our "merciful and faithful High Priest," who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," and "in his measure feels afresh

What every member bears!"

May we all love and trust him more!

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Aug. 15th, 1862.

Received for Foreign Missions.

From Baptist Church at Amherst, for 1861, \$27 40
" Mr. G. Christie, River Hebert, 2 00
C. TUPPER, Secy.

Tremont, Axlesford, Aug. 14, 1862.

Received "for sending Bibles to the Karens" a sacred deposit of about a dozen small silver coins, amounting in value to 3s. 10 d., saved for that purpose, by the late Arthur L. Crawley, son of Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, who died recently in Halifax, aged 5 years.

The Secretary, Rev. Dr. Tupper will please debit us that amount.

Bazaar at Wolfville.

The ladies of the Baptist Church and Congregation at Wolfville intend holding a Bazaar on Wednesday, September 3rd, for purposes connected with their house of worship. Contributions in aid are solicited and may be sent to the following:—Mrs. J. W. Darrs, Mrs. Jas. Morse, Mrs. Jas. P. Johnson, Mrs. de Mill, Mrs. J. O. Pines, Mrs. E. Chase, Mrs. Wm. Fitch, Mrs. deBlois, Mrs. G. V. Rand, Mrs. Geo. E. Forsyth, Mrs. J. P. Godfrey and Mrs. Joseph Fuller.

Bazaar at Falmouth.

The ladies connected with the Bazaar at Falmouth, beg leave to announce, that it will take place according to a previous notice on Thursday, 11th September, near Windsor Bridge.

In behalf of the Committee,

L. S. PAYZANT, Secretary.

The managers are authorized to advertise that Railway tickets to Windsor, will be issued for persons desirous of attending the Bazaar, on the 11th September, available for next day at one fare.

N. B.—If Thursday is unfavourable the next day.

Acadia College.

The next Term will commence on Monday, Sept. 1. The roll will be called at three o'clock, P. M., at which time all the Students are expected to be present.

Candidates for matriculation will present themselves for examination the same day at ten o'clock, A. M.

Persons desirous of entering for Partial Courses, in Theology or other branches of study, will apply to the undersigned.

J. M. CRAMP, President.

Aug. 1, 1862.