

For the Christian Messenger.

What is the matter with the Churches?

That's what I want to know, Mr. Editor. The delegates meet at the Associations and hear good speeches—and resolutions are passed—and pledges given—and promises made—but alas! in too many cases it is nothing but blossom; there is little or no fruit.

Take the subject of education. One would think, after all our struggles, and our successes, too, that the Baptists of Nova Scotia would meet any appeal on that subject with prompt and enlarged liberality. But what are the facts? When they were asked last spring to testify by their contributions their gratitude to God for the continuance of Acadia College during a quarter of a century, and to give only a *quarter dollar* each on the occasion, they sent a sum (I speak of Nova Scotia only) which amounted to about *four cents* for each member! And some of our largest and wealthiest churches sent nothing at all! Shame on them!

Had the modest request of the governors been favourably responded to, the College buildings would have been put into complete repair, the students' rooms would have been made comfortable, and quite a respectable sum would have been added to the endowment. But very little, of course, has been accomplished, and the property will suffer much for want of the needful outlay on it. A hundred and fifty pounds are required at this moment for that purpose. Neglected repairs lead to heavy bills, and what is sometimes called economy proves very expensive in the long run.

It is not yet too late. If the Churches remit to the Treasurer during this month, something may be done before the winter sets in.

Yours,

A GOVERNOR.

Sept. 2, 1864.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 7, 1864.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

Higher Education is daily becoming more important, and men of enlarged and cultivated minds are now more than ever in demand. Every year will increase this necessity. Those who are indifferent to the call for superior education may expect to fall back into the inferior ranks while mental superiority, wherever it is found, will come forward and fill the places continually opening for it. If first-class men are not to be found amongst our own people they must be imported. There will, however, be but little necessity for this to be done, for any length of time, if proper attention be now paid to it by the young men and their parents, into whose hands this fair province has been committed. Let not Nova Scotians despise the means—education—by which alone they can maintain the position to which they are entitled, or it will be too late afterwards when others have taken from them their birthright.

The following note from Rev. Dr. Cramp respecting the opening of the present Term affords encouraging indications.

ACADIA COLLEGE, Sept. 3, 1864.

Dear Brother,

The first Term of our collegiate year commenced on Thursday last. Thirty-five students answered to their names when the roll was called. Three more presented themselves yesterday. Add to them three students taking partial courses, and we have a total of *forty-one*. That number will probably be increased before the end of the month.

If the Churches had given that substantial proof of gratitude which was expected, in connection with the quarter-century celebration, the College buildings would have been rendered thoroughly weather-tight and comfortable, and the ordinary expenses fully met. The neglect and indifference manifested in some places are very disheartening.

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

We trust that by the Divine blessing on the Institution there may prove to be amongst these students a godly number of "Sons of the prophets".

We hope to hear that the list of respondents to the late appeal, to which reference is made by "A Governor," may yet receive additions. The list of amounts contributed was read at the late Convention, and will be published with the Governors' Report, in the Minutes of Convention.

Honesty is the best policy, and innocence the best wisdom.

ASYLUM FOR INEBRIATES.

We have received a copy of the Journal of Proceedings at the late Quarterly Session of the Sons of Temperance held at Parrsborough. Amongst various matters attended to on that occasion, there was one of a somewhat original character, which, if made practical, would have the effect of partially equalizing the burdens brought upon society by the use and sale of intoxicating drinks. The expense of government and the punishment of crime are to a large extent the product of drunkenness, and the sober part of the community are taxed in a similar ratio to the rapidity with which the liquor-sellers are making fortunes. Some of these gentlemen, at times, wish to be thought very honorable and benevolent. If they are disposed to do the right thing they will become warm advocates of the proposed movement. It is as follows:—

Resolved, 1st—That while we regard the liquor traffic with abhorrence, and while we cannot but feel indignant at the state of the law which permits the dealers in intoxicating drinks to destroy countless numbers of their fellow men, and entail misery and suffering on numerous families, we look with deep compassion on the poor drunkard who has become the slave of habits which his own unassisted efforts can seldom break.

2nd—That the experience of the friends of total abstinence has deeply impressed them with the conviction, that the reformation of the drunkard is well nigh hopeless so long as he is left wherever he goes by innumerable rum-shops; equally deep is their conviction that our young men must continue to be destroyed by intemperance so long as the law sanctions and encourages the sale of strong drink.

3rd—That while we never can consider our work accomplished till the trade in intoxicating liquors is abolished, we are prepared to ask for and to accept any measure, which shall tend to reclaim the intemperate. Believing therefore that a reformatory for confirmed drunkards would be the means of reclaiming many whose case must otherwise be hopeless, we feel it to be our duty to do all in our power for the establishment of such an institution.

4th—That petitions, to be signed by all who approve of the measure, be presented to the Legislature, praying them to take the necessary steps for the establishment of a provincial Reformatory for confirmed drunkards, vesting its management in a suitable Board and enacting such a law as may be necessary to place the property of confirmed drunkards beyond their own control, and empowering their relatives to place them in the Reformatory as is now done in the case of lunatics.

5th—That as dealers in intoxicating liquors are the only class who derive pecuniary advantage by the drinking habits; and as it would be unfair that the province at large which derives no benefit but suffers unmitigated loss and injury from the prevalence of intemperance, should have to bear the cost of such an institution:

Resolved, therefore, That the Legislature be requested to lay a suitable annual tax on every licensed dealer in intoxicating liquors in the Province to be collected with the payments for license, and also on every wholesale dealer in such liquors in the Province, and that the fund so collected be devoted to the maintenance of the aforesaid institution.

These resolutions have been adopted by the city Divisions, and by their direction they were submitted to the Grand Division.

On motion, consideration of the said resolutions was deferred until the Annual meeting to be held in Halifax in October next.

THE CONFERENCE.

Politicians seem to enjoy Conferences. The old world Conferences have now nothing further to do, and so we—in these British Provinces—may indulge in the luxury, not exactly to settle a quarrel, but to form a joint stock company and so to do business on a larger scale than heretofore. The Delegates to our Intercolonial Conference met at Charlottetown on Thursday last. The following are the names of the gentlemen of whom the Conference is composed:—

For Canada—Honourables Messrs Brown, J. A. McDonald, Cartier and Galt.
New Brunswick—Honourables Messrs. S. L. Tilley, Johnston, Steves, E. B. Chandler and J. P. Gray.

Nova Scotia—Honourables Messrs C. Tupper, W. A. Henry, B. B. Dickey, Adams G. Archibald and J. McCully.

Prince Edward Island—Honourables Messrs J. H. Gray, E. Palmer, W. H. Pope, G. Colus, and Andrew A. McDonald.

The Hon. Col. Gray of P. E. I. was unanimously chosen President of the Conference. The deliberations are to be carried on with closed doors, and will probably last a week.

In addition to the above there are several gentlemen, of more or less notoriety, from the other provinces at Charlottetown, probably for the purpose of consultation—Honourables Messrs Campbell and Langevine from Canada; the Lieutenant Governor and Hon. Mr. Mitchell of New Brunswick; and the Hon. Mr. McFarlane of N. S.

We have very serious doubts if any combination of the provinces which would include Canada would just now be beneficial. We might be made a very important tributary to enlarge the commercial importance of that country, but nothing further than that could be expected at present. Any combination of the three lower provinces for the promotion of intercolonial commerce would doubtless be accompanied by advantage to all parties concerned. Intercourse between these may now be so easily secured, and by such combination we should be in a much better position to treat with Canada at some future time. As to the McGee project of a vice-regal nationality, we do not suppose it will meet with much consideration from sensible people.

The following statistical information will afford material for examination of the subject and interesting enquiry in relation to it.

EXTENT IN SQUARE MILES.

Canada,.....	380,000
Nova Scotia,.....	18,000
New Brunswick,.....	27,105
Prince Edward Island,.....	2,173

EXTENT OF BOUNDARIES IN MILES.

Canada,.....	2,200
Nova Scotia,.....	1,000
New Brunswick,.....	775
Prince Edward Island,.....	330

SHIPPING TONNAGE.

Canada, (1861).....	44,365
Nova Scotia, (1862).....	248,061
New Brunswick, (1861).....	227,718
Prince Edward Island.....	45,000

The Commerce of Canada is about three times that of the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Eventually there will, of course, be some more connection between it and the latter Colonies than has yet existed, but the union of the Lower Provinces will, we believe, be the first step towards such combination. The following is a list of the principal cities and their population respectively:—

Montreal, C. E.,.....	80,323
Quebec, C. E.,.....	61,109
Toronto, C. W.,.....	44,821
St. John, N. B.,.....	27,317
Halifax, N. S.,.....	25,026
Charlottetown, P. E. I.,.....	6,706

The populations of the several Countries by the Census of 1861 were as follows:—

Canada West,.....	1,395,222
Canada East,.....	1,111,556
Nova Scotia,.....	330,857
New Brunswick,.....	252,047
Prince Edward Island,.....	80,857

This question of Intercolonial Union is one which the people must ultimately decide, and no opportunity should be lost of obtaining information which would assist them in forming a correct opinion.

DANCING.

A great deal of nonsense is often talked by those who fancy that their sons or daughters may be improved by learning to dance. The fact is young people like it, for the excitement it affords, rather than for any benefit they receive by it in improving their carriage. Indulgent mamma sometimes imagine that dancing removes awkwardness, and that, without such an accomplishment, young persons are "behind the age." Abundance of answers might be given to such poor apologies for dissipation.

1st. It is well to be "behind the age" in some respects.

2nd. There is much greater danger of being "behind the age" in intelligence and piety than in dancing.

3rd. Those who do not learn to dance often walk better, more graceful, more circumspectly, and have more real dignity in their manners than is to be acquired from the best dancing masters.

4th. Dancing is not the most likely means of bringing young people into respectable society.

5th. The exercise obtained by dancing is usually at times, and in places, where rest would be far more appropriate and desirable.

6th. Dancing learned at the expense of modesty, intellectual improvement, health or religion, is an accomplishment rather to be feared and avoided than sought for or chosen.

The agitation respecting Dalhousie College, we doubt not, will be soon recommenced. We have reported the resolutions on that subject passed by the Wesleyan Conference. The Committee appointed by the Conference consists of the following gentlemen:—

Rev. T. H. Davies, Co-Del.	Hon. John H. Anderson,
John McMurray,	Matthew H. Richey, Esq.
John Richey, D. D.,	John Starr,
H. Pichey, D. D.,	Samuel H. Black,
C. DeWolfe, D. D.,	Bennett Smith,
John Lathen,	Nicholas Mosher, 1st,
James England,	A. McN. Pitterson,
F. Smallwood,	Miner Tupper,
A. B. Black,	M. Moses,
S. W. Sprague,	
W. McCarty,	

The Committee of last year was re-appointed by the Board of Governors of Acadia College at their June meeting, with some

additions. At the annual meeting of the Convention recently held at St. John, N. B., three names were added to the list, and instructions were given to the Committee by the Convention to co-operate with other ecclesiastical bodies.

The Committee is now composed of the following gentlemen:—Revs. Dr. Cramp, A. S. Hunt, A. M., T. A. Higgins, A. M., G. Armstrong, A. M., D. Freeman, A. M., and J. W. Baise, John King, Mayhew Beckwith, J. W. Nutting, T. R. Patillo, and S. L. Chipman, Esqrs.

We are informed that it is proposed to hold a united meeting of the two Committees in the course of next month, when arrangements for future action will be made.

PRINCIPAL BENEVOLENCE.—The recent Anniversary at Waterville College was one of peculiar interest.

Monday, August 6th, was devoted to prize declamations.

Tuesday morning was occupied in social intercourse. In the afternoon Dr. Granger delivered an oration on "Scholarship and Success," and in the evening an oration was delivered on "The Position and Influence of young men in History."

On Wednesday morning the Graduates delivered their orations and received their Degrees. At the dinner the President gave as a sentiment "The glory of the College is in her Alumni." To this a large number of gentlemen spoke, but one of them—G. Colby, Esq.,—gave a very practical expression, by proposing to give \$50,000 to the Endowment Fund of the college, on condition that a majority of the Faculty be always members of Baptist churches; \$25,000 of the amount to be paid when \$100,000 independent thereof shall have been subscribed, and the other \$25,000, when the \$100,000 shall have been paid. About \$47,000 of the amount has already been promised, and there is no doubt that the remainder will soon be secured. Thus closed the exercises of this very interesting anniversary.

Some of the expressions made use of by Mr. Spurgeon, in his Baptistical Regeneration Sermon, are more suited to England than to these provinces. There, the Church of England being established by law, the members of other denominations feel at liberty to examine, discuss, or denounce the doctrines of the Church and the character of its officers. Here, as all denominations are in the same position in relation to the State, the same freedom is not expected to be taken with matters belonging to their creed or profession.

As we stated in our last, we have copied the said sermon, not for the purpose of expressing approval of all its statements, but that our readers may know what is contained in a discourse which has attracted so much public attention. Soon after it appeared 100,000 copies of the sermon had been sold.

A HAND-BOOK OF INFORMATION, for Emigrants, by Joseph Outram, has just been published by direction of the Provincial Government, for the Immigration Department. It comprises a large amount of just the right kind of information for emigrants, in small compass. The author of the pamphlet acknowledges having derived much of its contents from the "Prize Essay" by J. F. Knight, and "Nova Scotia considered as a field for Emigration" by P. S. Hamilton. We presume it is intended for gratuitous circulation. It is from the office of A. Grant, Queen's Printer.

We copy the following from the St. John *CA. Visitor*:

"Dr. Wyckoff and Rev. Mr. Buckbee, Deputation of the 'American Bible Union,' left the City on Tuesday morning by railway en route for Halifax. They expect to preach next Sabbath in Amherst and the Sabbath following in Halifax. They will then return to the City via Annapolis, spending a Sabbath in Cornwallis and visiting the churches in the Annapolis valley. May prosperity attend their pathway."

NEWS SUMMARY.

Our English Mails which reached us on Friday, bring nothing of importance in the way of European news. Since the unfortunate termination of the Danco-German war affairs appear quiet throughout the Continent.

The most important news in this side the Atlantic, is the result of the great Democratic Meeting at Chicago, on the 1st inst., for the nomination of the next President of the United States. It appears there were but two Candidates—General McLellan, and a Mr. Seymour of Connecticut. The former was the successful party by an immense majority, and if the tide of popular feeling in favour of the nomination of Mr. Lincoln should continue to ebb at the rate it is now going on, it is highly probable the