

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 31, 1864.

BEECHER, SPURGEON, AND HIGH-CHURCHISM.

The two most popular preachers on either side the Atlantic—Henry Ward Beecher, of New York, and Charles H. Spurgeon, of London,—have each recently preached and published a sermon in reference to Baptism, the former on "Infant Baptism," and the latter on "Baptismal Regeneration." Both of these powerful preachers are peculiar in their way, and often say out-of-the-way things, yet both are held to be Christian men and evangelical in their teaching. Whilst probably they would not differ on many points in Theology, yet on this subject—Baptism—they take ground wide as the poles asunder. Each of these sermons is making some sensation in ecclesiastical circles, by the boldness of its enunciations. We gave a brief extract or two from Beecher's Sermon a few weeks since, from which it appears he remorselessly casts away all the old supports on which Infant Baptism has been depending, and plainly declares that it has no precedent or precept in Scripture, but rests simply on a person's own conscience and choice. After administering the rite to sixteen infants, he pronounced that Christian liberty allows him to make use of Ordinances according to his judgment, without reference to Scripture. This is indeed a bold stroke, and such as may well startle many of his Pedobaptist brethren. Whilst he expresses his readiness even to immerse those who prefer that mode, he reduces the matter to one of so trifling a nature, that all who regard baptism as of divine appointment, will recoil without hesitation from his teaching, on this subject, as worthy of serious thought.

Spurgeon presents the subject in quite another aspect, and with similar boldness attacks the great error of Baptismal Regeneration, as taught by the Church of England. We had no intention of making more than a passing notice of this sermon, but as it has been made the subject of attack by the High Church *Clerical Journal*, and the article reproduced in the *Halifax Church Record*, we have concluded to publish the sermon entire,—the first part of which occupies the first page of our present issue,—so that churchmen and others may see and judge for themselves of its merits. The *Clerical Journal* takes the opportunity of denouncing the evangelical clergymen for the friendliness existing in Great Britain, between them and Dissenters, in the following terms:

"We must say that we do not pity those who have truckled to Mr. Spurgeon for this sharp chastisement, administered, too, in the presence of two or three thousand people on Sunday, June 6, and since more widely made known by the press. But some Churchmen will prefer to fraternize with schematics rather than with many of their own brethren."

The *Clerical* editor appears not to remember that schism is rather *division* in a body than the separation of one body from another, so that whatever sin arises from it rather belongs to those who form parties in the Church than to those unconnected therewith. We have no desire to apply the term "schematics" to either high or low churchmen, but beg to question the propriety of churchmen in England or Nova Scotia applying it to members of other denominations. We shall give the remainder of said sermon in our next.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION AT ST. JOHN, N. B.

In our last we addressed our readers from Fredericton, N. B.—Having but a few hours there, we could only pay a flying visit to "the lions," and therefore devote but a few lines to

WHAT WE SAW THERE.

Finding Professor Bailey on board the *Anna Augusta*, returning home from a geological excursion in some of the N. B. counties, we received from him a cordial invitation to the University. Without delay we wended our way towards that well-chosen spot for an educational institution. The taste displayed in the approaches to it, show that whilst Nature laid the foundation, Art has added to the fine park-like surroundings of the College buildings. The slope in front is covered with handsome deciduous trees. The porter's lodge at the entrance to the grounds, gives them quite an English appearance. A little below the College is a substantial building,—the gymnasium,—supplied with all necessary apparatus. We were met most cordially by Dr. Jack, the President, and conducted by him over the various departments. The University is built of stone.

The portico is of one story supported by two pillars, raised above the basement by several steps. The entrance hall is spacious, and shows that no expense is spared in keeping it in order. Corridors run from this to either end, into which the various class rooms open; also the Professor's laboratory, Library, Museum, and, in the upper story, the students' rooms. The shades of evening beginning to appear, obliged us to hasten on, and pass over much that would otherwise have been of the deepest interest, and would have furnished sufficient for several hours' careful examination. The geological and botanical specimens are very extensive, and arranged with the greatest care, so as to show the character of the soil and the productions of each county in the province. The apparatus for chemical investigation is very extensive, and there is no lack of the best furniture and appliances for illustration in each department. An observatory is built just outside the College. It being vacation time, however, workmen had been engaged in repairing and cleaning the interior of the building, so that we saw it under not the most favourable circumstances. Stepping out on the portico, we had a splendid view of the city and surrounding scenery. The dense foliage hid much of the former, but the course of the river, and hills beyond, could perhaps be seen from no other point to so good advantage. The city stands on a curve of land, formed by a bend in the river, sufficiently raised to prevent inconvenience. It has a level surface and fine alluvial soil, which is highly favourable for the elm and other deciduous trees, and gives a good chance of cultivation and gardening, which is not neglected by the inhabitants. The unbroken forest still comes to within a short distance of the river. The abundance of fine arable land still untouched, will eventually afford abundant returns to the rapidly increasing population.

The Baptist Church bell sounded a call to prayer at eight o'clock, which we readily accepted, and found there a number assembled, with Dr. Spurgeon officiating at the desk. The fervent petitions of the brethren will, we trust, be a precursor of blessings to this church and people.

The military band discoursed its enlivening strains opposite the officer's quarters, and attracted a number of the inhabitants and visitors to promenade the street till quite late in the evening.

Learning that the Cathedral would be open for a quarter of an hour in the morning, we were up and on hand before the verger made his appearance. The trim clerical-looking residences, the quiet which reigned around, and the lovely morning seemed all in keeping with a devotional spirit. The interior of the cathedral is very beautiful, said to be more in harmony with correct ecclesiastical taste than any other place in these provinces. The congregation consisted of between 12 and 20 persons. The service comprised the reading of the Litany and the morning prayers.

A visit to the garden belonging to Judge Wilnot is perhaps one of the greatest treats to be had in Fredericton. We gladly embraced an invitation to spend the short time left at our disposal among the gay parterres and blushing beauties which filled every corner of this lovely spot. The most exquisite taste is displayed in arranging the flowers, and the various English and Foreign plants which here abound. The Judge pleasantly remarked in reference to the great expense of keeping up such an extensive variety of rich and rare specimens,—that the cost did not amount to more than some gentlemen expend in wine or injurious luxuries, and it gave gratification to others besides himself, and consequently afforded him additional pleasure. The rustic seats and tables, and a few large sombre pine and other forest trees around afford pleasing contrast with the gay colors in close proximity to them. A specimen of the castor oil plant was quite a curiosity. Its handsome leaves were about 18 inches across. In looking at its peculiar formation, one forgot the unpleasant sensations associated with this production. But we must not linger, as we should feel inclined to do if time would permit, in the midst of so much natural beauty and careful cultivation.

The Exhibition Building is quite an ornamental structure, drawing near its completion. It will doubtless be the centre of attraction to thousands in October when it is to be opened.

Returning to St. John the scenery comes into view in different order from that on going up the river, so that there is no monotony, but a constant succession of interesting features, to admire in the landscape.

LEINSTER STREET CHURCH.

Before commencing our account of the business of the Convention, we must mention that the edifice in which it was held is a new one, finished but a few weeks since. In its interior, it is certainly one of the most

beautiful exhibitions of taste in the way of church architecture we have ever seen—a perfect gem. The front is enclosed by a substantial ornate iron fence, having a smooth free stone base, and steps. The basement comprises a spacious vestry and two fine class-rooms; provided with light hard-wood seats, having reversible backs to suit the Sabbath School classes. Three doors form the entrance; between these, are two circular flights of steps, to the body of the Church. At the other end is the pulpit on a low platform. At the back of this is an artificial recess, estimated variously by spectators as extending from one to six feet back—so perfectly is the light and shade given; but in reality it is not a recess at all. The ceiling consists of a series of groined arches, the heavy ribs of which are in white stucco, while the pannels between are a light blue. The pillars supporting the gothic arches which rise in front of the gallery are fine imitation of Sienna marble, with capitals of Italian brocatello, while the walls are of a light drab in rough plaster. The coloring presents a combination most pleasing to the eye. The pews, galleries, and pulpit are all neatly carved and are of polished butternut-wood. The windows are frosted, having a slight salmon colored tint, with an ornamental border. The large window in front is all of stained glass, and contains several scriptural emblems, the colors of which are in beautiful harmony. The whole, we are informed cost about \$12,000. The architect and general superintendent, Mr. E. M. Marshall, is, we believe, a Nova Scotian, and certainly has done himself great credit for the taste displayed.

THE CONVENTION

assembled at the appointed time. The President of last year, Rev. F. E. Bill, occupying the chair. After singing, and prayer by Rev. Dr. Tupper, the names of Delegates and members were taken as follows:—

NOVA SCOTIA CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES.—*Annapolis*—Rev. G. F. Miles. *Bridgewater*—Rev. S. March. *Cornwallis*, 1st.—Brethren Chas. Eaton, William Cogwell, and H. K. Eaton. *Cornwallis*, 2nd.—Brethren Jas. Bligh, and H. Porter. *Great Village*—Dea. H. Fountain. *Horton*, 1st.—Prof. R. Von. C. Jones. *Horton*, 2nd.—Rev. E. O. Road. *Horton*, 3rd.—Rev. S. B. Kempton. *Lower Granville*—Rev. I. Wallace. *Lower Aylesford* and *Upper Wilnot*—Brethren A. T. Baker, and J. E. Pearson. *Nictaux*—Rev. W. G. Parker, J. M. Parker (Lic.), and Dea. Daniels. *Port Medway*—Rev. J. E. Goucher. *Randon*—Brother H. C. Creed. *Yarmouth*—Rev. H. Angell. *South Yarmouth*—Rev. W. L. Parker. *Hebron*—Rev. R. D. Porter. *Halifax*—Granville Street—Dr. D. McN. Parker. *N.S. Baptist Education Society*—Rev. A. S. Hunt. *Ministerial Education Board*—Rev. A. H. Munro. *Acadia College*—Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D. *Members in their own right*—Revs. Dr. Pryor, J. E. Balcorn, D. W. C. Dimock, Jas. Parker, J. Davis, R. Morton, Dr. Tupper, C. Randall, Geo. Armstrong, James Spencer, T. H. Porter, D. McKee, J. Chase, Jas. Newcomb, L. B. Gates, S. W. DeBlois, N. Vidito, Wm. Hall, J. L. Read, R. R. Philp, A. Chipman, J. F. Kempton, D. McKee, J. A. Moore, and brethren D. Moser, J. W. Bays, S. W. Curry, T. A. Blackador (Lic.) *N.S. Western Association*—S. L. Chipman, Jos. Shaw, A. Longley. *N.S. Central Association*—Mayhew Beckwith, S. Selden, R. D. Eaton, N. S. Eastern Association—W. F. Cullen, W. Cummings.

NEW BRUNSWICK CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES.—*Leinster Street*—Dea. Kneeman, and Bro. J. March. *Leinster Street—Union Society*—R. Sears. *Portland*—J. M. Eaton, J. S. May, J. S. Gray. *Carleton*—Rev. Geo. Scaly, Dea. G. Christopher. *St. George*—Rev. B. N. Hughes. *Hopeville*—Brethren J. Calkin, W. A. Calhoun. *Baptist Education Society*—Rev. D. Sparden. *N.B. Eastern Association*—Rev. D. Crandall. *In their own right*—Revs. W. V. Garner, A. D. Thomson, W. F. Corey, W. A. Coleman, I. E. Bill, H. Vaughan, J. Lawrence, G. W. Springer, J. Herriott, J. M. Curry, W. A. Corey, E. C. Cady, J. Ring, A. B. McDonald, J. Rowe, and brethren N. S. DeMill, C. G. Berryman, Jas. E. Masters, F. A. Congrove, A. W. Masters, T. Brundage, J. F. Masters, J. H. Harding, Asa Coy, Hon. A. McL. Seely, P. M. McLeod (Lic.), P. O. Rees, A. Fowler, A. Estabrooks, D. V. Roberts, G. A. Garrison.

Resolved—That the following Brethren be invited to a seat:—Rev. Dr. Warren, Sec. A. B. M. Union; W. H. Wyckoff, J. L. D. Cor. Sec.; and Rev. C. A. Buckbee, Rev. Sec. A. Bible Union; Bro. N. P. Kamp, Treas. of the N. E. Branch A. Tract Society; Rev. A. W. Sawyer; Rev. Chas. Corey; W. McKenzie, and J. A. Smith.

The following are the officers of the Convention, elected for the present year:

President,—Rev. J. Davis.
Vice Presidents,—Hon. Judge Johnston, Revs. N. Vidito, D. W. C. Dimock, J. A. Smith, W. A. Coleman, and Hon. W. B. Kinneir.

Secretary for Nova Scotia,—Rev. S. B. Kempton. *Do. for New Brunswick*,—Rev. E. C. Cady. *Treasurer*,—F. A. Congrove.

The Board of Foreign Missions remains as last year, except that Ansel T. Baker is Treasurer.

THE LORD'S DAY SERVICES.

The arrangements for preaching on Lord's Day were as follows:—

BAPTIST CHAPELS.—*Leinster Street*, 11 a. m., Rev. Dr. Cramp, President of Acadia College; 3 p. m., Rev. C. A. Buckbee, of Am. Bible Union, New York; 6 p. m., Dr. Wyckoff, do. *Germain Street*, 11 a. m., Rev. Mr. McKenzie, A. M., of Providence, R. I.; 6 p. m., Rev. Dr. Cramp. *Brussels Street*, 11 a. m., Rev. A. W. Sawyer, of Saratoga; 6 p. m., Rev. Dr. Warren, Sec. of Am. Bap. Miss. Union, Boston. *Portland*, 11 a. m., Rev. H. Angell; 6 p. m., Rev. S. W. deBlois, A. M., *Carleton*, 11 a. m., Rev. J. Wallace, A. M.; 3 p. m., Rev. C. Randall; 6 p. m., Rev. Willard G. Parker. *Marsh Bridge*, 3 p. m., Rev. E. O. Road. *Bethel*, 3 p. m., Rev. J. Kempton.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHAPELS.—*Carleton*, 11 a. m., Rev. John Goucher; 3 p. m., Rev. N. Vidito. *Waterloo Street*, 11 a. m., Rev. D. W. C. Dimock.

WESLEYAN CHAPELS.—*Carleton*, 11 a. m., Rev. Geo. Armstrong, A. M.; 6 p. m., Rev. Jas. Spencer. *Centenary*, 6 p. m., Rev. Dr. Pryor. *Germain Street*, 11 a. m., Rev. Dr. Tupper. *Portland*, 6 p. m., Rev. A. H. Munro.

These services had many features of peculiar interest, but want of space forbids our noticing them. The presence of brethren from Boston, New York, and other parts of the U. States, with those of our two provinces, rendered it more than ordinarily a season of refreshing. The discourses will, we doubt not, be long remembered, and we trust a means of good to many.

Morning Prayer meetings at 8 past 6 o'clock were held during the session.

The following brethren were appointed a Committee on Credentials and Correspondence:—Rev. G. F. Miles, Dr. Tupper, Wm. Hall, C. Randall, H. Angell, W. A. Coleman, Dr. Cramp, Dr. Sparden, J. Parker, Geo. Armstrong, and Bro. S. Selden. This arrangement had the effect of saving the time and promoting the harmony of the session.

THE INTRODUCTORY SERMONS.

On Monday morning, in consequence of the absence of the Rev. D. Freeman, appointed last year, the Convention Sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Warren, of Boston. He took for his text, 2 Cor. ii, 14, and delivered a most comprehensive and instructive Foreign Missionary discourse. He enquired first: Have our Missions been successful? or Have they been attended by such a measure of success as to enable us to use the language of the text?

In answering this question, he referred to the origin, progress, and present condition of Foreign Missions under the American Baptist Missionary Union. To five races of mankind has the gospel been sent by that organization—the North American Indians, the Chinese, several tribes of Asia,—in Burmah and Siam, and to Europeans in France and Germany; and in Western Africa. In all these places have there been converts gathered into churches on the New Testament pattern, and held together by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The first church was organized of Burman converts by Judson about 45 years ago. There are now increased to about 200, but that is only a small part of the success which has followed the ministry of the gospel by the missionaries under this Board. The list of churches is now about 400, and of members about 35,000. These are formed into 18 Associations, which are fast becoming missionary bodies. The first convert became a preacher of the gospel, and was set apart to the work by Dr. Judson. About 600 are Teachers and Native Preachers. Fifty of these are ordained to the ministry, and 70 are being trained in the Theological School, under Dr. Binney. With these facts before us, we may answer the question proposed,—Have the Missions been successful? and may we not also take up the sentiment of the text: "Thanks be to God who always causeth us to triumph"? In addition to all these results thousands have been turned from darkness to light, who have gone home to glory. Then there are the translations of the Scriptures, books, and tracts. If such has been the result of the past fifty years' labor, what may we not suppose will follow the next half-century's work. [Here the preacher told some touching incidents, showing the influence of the gospel on the heathen; after which he went into a calculation of what had been expended in bringing about these glorious results.] In all it had not reached \$4,000,000, and not quite 400 men. What a contrast to the blood and treasure lavished on the present war. Not only had this vast amount of good been done, but every contribution made had also conferred a blessing on the donors, in enlarging their hearts, and making them the happier, because they were