

For the Christian Messenger.

THE BIBLIOTHECA SACRA.

Dear Brother,

Will you permit me to say a few words in behalf of a certain publication entitled the *Bibliotheca Sacra*. It is designed chiefly for ministers of the gospel. This excellent quarterly review is probably the ablest work of the kind published in the world. Certainly no other Review, published in America, will bear comparison with it. I see by the prospectus of this work for 1864 that the *Christian Review*, our Baptist Quarterly, is henceforth to be merged in it, which will increase both its circulation and efficiency. Its terms are four dollars a year, with a discount of 25 per cent when paid in advance. The work can be ordered of W. F. Draper, of Andover, Mass., or from the agents in Boston, Gould & Lincoln. Its contributors are among the ablest writers in the world, and in my opinion no minister should be without a work of the kind. In an article that can be read in an hour, one frequently gets the substance of a book that would require several days to peruse, and which besides would cost several dollars to buy, thus saving both time and money, which are both valuable, especially in these times of hard work and small salaries. It is issued in four numbers a year, in January, April, July and October. The articles in the January number, now before me, are as follows:—I. Athanasius and the Arian controversy. II. The Caraites. III. The doctrinal attitude of Old School Presbyterians. IV. Charles Wesley and Methodist hymns. V. The Serpent of Eden from the point of view of advanced science. VI. Confidence the youngest daughter of caution. VII. Editorial correspondence. VIII. Notices of new publications. IX. Recent German theological literature.

This work is free from denominational bias, or rather it invites well written articles from all the evangelical denominations. For instance, No. III. of this number is an able statement of the doctrines of Old School Presbyterians. No. IV. is in the interest of the founders of Methodism. All the articles are well written and of the highest order of thought. I intended, when I commenced this paper, to give you an extract for the *Messenger* from No. VI., from the able pen of Dr. Withington, on natural and revealed religion, but I forbear, as this communication is long enough.

Yours, &c.,
D. FREEMAN.

Canning, Feb. 17th, 1864.

[We formerly exchanged with this excellent Review, and always found it filled with valuable matter—frequently noticing its contents in our columns. We are glad Brother Freeman has called our readers attention to it.—Ed. C. M.]

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 2, 1864.

THE NEW SCHOOL BILL.

SECOND ARTICLE.

Our Legislators have been very industriously attending to the New Education Bill during the past few days. We last week laid before our readers the principal features of the Bill, with the expectation, in our present issue, of noticing other particulars, which it proposes to introduce in our educational arrangements; but as these changes are mostly in the nature of details which are liable to considerable modification, as the bill passes through the various stages of becoming law, we need not now occupy our space in discussing them. Already in Committee—a slight alteration has been made in the appointment of Inspectors for the various districts. These appointments were to have been made by the Council of Public Instruction, but it was thought by some that this would be giving those officers a political aspect, it is therefore made necessary that such person should have the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education before he is appointed by the Council to the office of Inspector.

It is gratifying to see both sides of the House cordially uniting in the endeavour to make this bill suitable to meet the requirements of the country. Nothing like factious opposition has been offered to the measure, but the members of the opposition seem no less anxious than those sustaining the government to give the bill all proper guards and checks so as to make it supply what is required by the people generally.

The great leading features of the Bill seem to be—

1. A Council of Public Instruction, to carry out and apply the provisions of this bill and

to be a court of appeal for Commissioners, Trustees and Teachers; the Superintendent of Education to be its Secretary. This council—that it may have the confidence of the people as expressed through their representations—is composed of the Executive Council; This latter feature is of course objected to by members of the opposition.

2. Fair remuneration for efficient teachers. The provisions for examination and classification of Teachers and for alteration of School Sections, so as to prevent their becoming too small to sustain a good Teacher, are all means for accomplishing this important end.

3. A bonus of 25 per cent on Free Schools, whether sustained by voluntary subscription or assessment.

4. A vigorous inspection of all the Schools in each County. The Inspectors and Clerks of School Boards being appointed by the Council of Public Instruction will give more control over those officers in the performance of their duties than it their appointment rested alone, as heretofore, with the Commissioners.

5. School Libraries may be established in Central places in each County, provided a sum equal to the amount of grant for this purpose be raised by the people. The Boards of Commissioners of Schools to have the selection of the Books from those recommended by the Council of Public Instruction.

Twenty-nine sections of the bill, embracing all but the latter of these five points, have passed in committee. There have been divisions on two or three sections, but scarcely any of them, we believe, of a strictly party character. None in which names have been called for.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND THE "CITIZEN."

Our feelings of personal esteem for many of our Presbyterian friends renders it no easy task for us to speak freely, and act out our convictions, concerning their occupation of Dalhousie College. But we dare not allow these feelings to override our sense of duty, and prevent us making known what are our honest opinions on this question. It is unfair for our contemporaries to attribute other motives to ourselves or our correspondents for the stand we have taken on it ever since the bill came before parliament. If we supposed that the cause of education and truth would be permanently served by the Act which was so quietly put through the Legislature last session, we would most gladly commend it, and do what we could to aid in its operation. But we do not believe it will, and therefore we speak. Indeed we know that many Presbyterians already heartily wish themselves back again, and, eventually, we doubt not a very large proportion of them will feel that a most unfortunate step was taken when they removed from Truro to Halifax. It is evident to all that they have placed themselves in a very invidious position by their movements in reference to this institution. Somehow there has been a strange fatality attending the attempts to put it into operation. Deception and compromise have been brought into requisition in almost every attempt to make use of its revenues. Political manœuvring has taken the place of open fair dealing, and men who have heretofore been foremost to demand the compulsory use of the Bible in Schools, have, to suit their purpose, practically ignored its existence in Dalhousie College.

Most glad should we be to have in our Halifax churches the religious influence which a number of pious young men, such as the students of Acadia College might bring to them, but if Acadia had been located in Halifax we do not believe it would have effected one-tenth of what has already been accomplished by the Baptist body there. It might have made a few clever politicians, but not much besides. We believe the country is a far more wholesome atmosphere than the city for the formation of christian character.

The Press of Halifax, with but one solitary exception,—the *Witness*, an interested party,—has either denounced the late proceedings which have put the Presbyterian body in possession of Dalhousie, or has been significantly silent about it, till last week. At length a champion has been found in the most juvenile of our tri-weeklies. The editor of that paper has treated his readers with two articles on what he designates the "past history" of Dalhousie College. In the first of these he is, of course, obliged to state some things which occurred in connection with the institution that have been to it the root of bitterness ever since, but in noticing the provision made by the original Act for three professors, he strangely omits "Theology" from the professorships. This may have been accidental—an oversight—as we were informed the omission of prayer and

the reading of the Scriptures were at the late opening of Dalhousie College; but when one pretends to write history he should surely be more careful than to omit a branch of such moment as Theology. Men do sometimes try to make history teach as they wish it would, rather than learn the lessons which it does convey, but then they do it at the risk of their reputation and honor.

The Act plainly states that the third professorship shall be "of Theology and Moral Philosophy" whilst the *Citizen* says "By this Act the Institution was to have three professors, one for Greek and Latin Classics, another for Mathematics, Natural and Experimental Philosophy, and a third for Moral Philosophy."

In his second article, however, he seems to have been reminded of his omission, and makes a very feeble attempt to persuade himself that Theology there must have meant Natural Theology. We will copy a short passage, so that our readers may read for themselves and not depend on what we gather from his words. He says:

"They (the original Dalhousie funds) were intended for a general Provincial Institution, and not for a sectarian one. The only thing that bears any appearance to the contrary is that it was by Act specially provided that one of the Professors shall be of Moral Philosophy and Theology." He here reverses the order from that observed in the Act, and adds "If this was not intended to express Natural Theology which is commonly taught to some extent in connection with Moral Philosophy it must have been adopted from the constitution of the University of Edinburgh, which no doubt has Theological chairs connected with it."

This seems very much like an effort to get rid of the Bible, but of course that will be repudiated by the writer. Why not take it at once as revealed Theology? He strives to deter the Legislature from touching the Provincial funds invested in Dalhousie, by mixing them up with the original funds by which it was built, and then saying "they do not belong to the Province at all." If he looks over the Act by which the £5000 was loaned to the Governors on mortgage, and also examines the list of Provincial Assets brought before Parliament every year since, he will find quite another story, and will ascertain that the ground he takes is but a quagmire into which he will sink beneath the notice of sensible, reflecting men.

TRURO-NORMAL SCHOOL.

The winter session of the Normal School at Truro was brought to a close on Thursday last. Three days had been occupied in private and one in public examination, previously. His Excellency the Administrator of the Government and suite, together with a large company of visitors, were present to witness the proceedings; Hiram Hyde, Esq., Dr. Brown, M. P. P., and Rev. Mr. Bullock were among those present on the occasion.

Rev. Dr. Forester gave a brief outline of the course of professional lectures which had been given to the students and then asked General Doyle to name one of the branches in particular in which he would prefer to hear an examination of the students. His Excellency named Physical Education. One of the students therefore being named came forward and by a course of questions which he put to his fellow students shewed the results of the instruction imparted. The illustrations of physical training afforded much gratification to the company. Their distinguished visitor warned them, especially the young ladies, against such demonstrations in case of approaches being made to them.

Out of the 78 students in attendance during the term, certificates were awarded to about fifty. Thirteen were deemed by their own literary attainments, well deserving of 1st Class Certificates, but from want of acquaintance with their professional studies they were withheld.

The exercises afforded much satisfaction to all concerned. They were interspersed with excellent music ably conducted by Professor Williams.

His Excellency expressed to the Teachers and pupils his high gratification at all he had seen and heard on this interesting occasion.

After the literary and professional work of the Normal School had been completed. His Excellency and the company present adjourned for the purpose of inspecting the Truro Volunteer Rifle Corps. Our informant did not state what was the condition of that part of our domestic army, but as Truro and its people are in other matters A 1, we presume they were fully up to the mark in that department.

CITY CEMETERY.—We have received a copy of a Circular in reference to a building which it is proposed to erect in the City

Cemetery, for which to hold the religious services at funerals. The Committee—consisting of Aldermen Hill, Richardson, Boggs, Pallister, Roche, and Jennings,—appeal to their fellow-citizens and the public, to come forward and contribute to this worthy object. The circular states that

"It has long been considered a desideratum, that a house should be erected in the centre of the grounds of the Protestant Cemetery. The original plan of the Cemetery evidently points out the spot. The surface of the soil has been prepared to correspond with the plan."

The roads from the four cardinal sides converge to this plot, where space has been reserved for such a building as is now proposed to be erected.

It is not intended that this structure shall be of an expensive kind, or encumbered with ornamental work. The plan, as prepared by the City Architect, and approved by the Committee of Cemetery, is that of a house 30 feet in diameter, 18 feet in height, octagonal in form, and surmounted by a dome. In each of the sides will be either a gothic door or window. The materials to be stone, brick, &c. The roof covering of metal."

"The various uses to which this building may be appropriated, for the moral and religious improvement of many of the citizens, we leave for time and benevolent men to develop."

We hope to hear of a sum being contributed sufficient to erect a handsome structure.

REV. DR. CRAMP'S LECTURE.—The *Sun* gives a brief notice of the closing lecture of the season before the Y. M. Christian Association, on Tuesday, 23rd ult. We make an extract from it in preference to anything we might say on the subject:

"The subject of the lecture was Zuinglius, Calvin, and the Swiss Reformation, and it was treated, as might have been expected from the learned lecturer, in a masterly manner, and in a spirit entirely free from sectarianism. Much was necessarily said that had been brought forward by previous lecturers on the Reformation, but the sketch of Calvin's history, life, and labors was new to the audience, and was drawn in a concise and interesting style, and with exemplary candour—'Nothing extenuate nor ought set down in malice.' Laudation and censure were dealt out with even handed justice and nice discrimination, and from first to last we heard nothing that could reasonably offend the doctrinal partialities of Calvinists or Arminians or of any shade or hue of Protestantism. In fact it would have been difficult for any to decide from the language of the Doctor what are the leanings of his own mind in reference to the great German reformer, and perhaps this is the best commendation of his production, inasmuch as it shews that his sentiments were characterized by the broad spirit of christian truth. We will not do him the injustice of attempting even an outline of the lecture which deserves to be printed for the information of the public at large. The peroration was beautiful in style and breathed an excellent spirit."

New Publications.

FIRST LESSONS IN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE: for Schools and Private Instruction. By J. W. Dawson, L. L. D., F. R. S., Principal of McGill University. John Lovell, Montreal. 1864.

This work is an addition to Lovell's excellent series of School Books. We have received a copy from the publisher, and cordially recommend it to all who would become acquainted with Agricultural Chemistry. Vegetable Physiology, and the elements of soils and manures are explained and practically illustrated. Whilst the book contains much to satisfy the scientific student, it also supplies much of what must be very useful to every intelligent farmer.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN ALMANACK FOR 1864, is from the same publishing house as the above. It contains 368 closely-printed pages respecting the B. N. A. Colonies, their Government, Finances, Commerce, Education, Newspapers, with historical and descriptive notices of places, and almost all other subjects concerning the condition and resources of the several countries composing the great northern portion of this continent under the British Government. Price one dollar. This work places us under new obligations to the enterprising publisher.

CHEAP COMMENTARY.—The Religious Tract Society of London now offer Scott & Henry's Commentary. (formerly published at 32s. and then at 24s.) for 12s. sterling, to Ministers of small income, Sabbath School Teachers, &c. It may had at the "Bible, Religious Book and Tract Depository," opposite St. Paul's Church, at 16s. 3d. currency. As this price will only about cover the actual cost of landing them in Halifax, cash must be paid on delivery.

The Report of the N. S. Chief Gold Commissioner for 1863 is received. It gives a full account of the cost and productions of the auriferous regions of Nova Scotia.

Also the Annual Returns of Provincial Expenditure, &c., &c.