

For the Christian Messenger.

MISSION ON EASTERN SHORE.

MR. EDITOR.

Allow me through the *Christian Messenger*, for the information of the Board and friends of Missions, to say that I have performed a tour of nine weeks in the South Eastern part of the province, as directed by the Home Mission Board. The gospel was heard with interest. Good will and kindness to the Missionary were largely developed. I saw evident tokens of good in several places and especially at Indian Harbour East. The Macedonian cry, from these places is, Come over and help us. I had intended to stop some time longer and visit Isaac's Harbour, but winter having set in I thought it my duty to return home, which I did, being deeply impressed to return and visit that section of the Province again which I hope to do as soon as circumstances will permit. I hope that the Board will be able to sustain a mission there for a few months; a few weeks is too short a time.

I had not the privilege of baptizing any, but have no doubt that a future visit by a missionary would report more favourably.

I visited Indian, Holland and Wine Harbours, St. Mary's, Musquodoboit, Lower and Upper Stewiacke. Sherbrook is a stirring little village with an Episcopal and Presbyterian house of worship, but no Baptist Meeting-house. Wine Harbour is rising fast in importance, there appears to be an abundance of gold imbedded deep beneath the surface, but it requires much time and a great deal of hard labour to obtain it. The people are well supplied with ministers of different denominations, a comfortable place of worship and well filled in general. Here I saw but little of intemperance. I was informed that a Division of the Sons of Temperance was to be organized. God speed them in this good undertaking.

I reached home on the 24th of Dec., 1863, having travelled 471 miles.

Received in aid of the Mission, \$38.45. Thanks to God for all his mercies.

Yours truly,

OBED PARKER.

For the Christian Messenger

DONATION VISIT.

On Feb. 19th, a goodly number of our friends from Chute's Cove, and St. Croix, paid us a very friendly visit, leaving with us at its close \$46, about \$30 being cash. On Feb. 24th, a number more say 70 who were disappointed in not being there the previous evening made their appearance at our dwelling, and after refreshing us with their presence and good cheer left us, with an additional sum of \$32.25, \$25 of which were cash, these acts of kindness will long be remembered by us amongst the pleasantest scenes of our life. Although the roads were very bad on both occasions, yet the ardour of our friends could not be checked. Brother Vidito and wife were with us on the last evening and added much to our profit by an excellent address. May the Lord plentifully reward those liberal souls is the prayer of the recipient.

P. F. MURRAY.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 16, 1864.

ABOUT PREACHING.

It is now nearly nineteen centuries since the command was given by our Lord and Saviour, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and yet how much land yet remains to be possessed. Each generation needs afresh the operation of Divine grace. Men being still born in sin and alienated from God, they require still to be born again before they can become the children of God and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven. However vehemently it may be insisted on that the children of believers are brought into the church at their natural birth, they soon exhibit the marks of unregeneracy, even as others. This may be some explanation of the slow progress of the gospel. It is not difficult, however, to assign as the great explanation, the fact that the advancement of the work of Christ is dependent on the sovereign will and pleasure of Almighty God. But if this is held by any as an apology for a want of activity and earnestness on the part of Christians or Christian ministers, we think they make a grand mistake. It is always appropriate to enquire into the causes which may be operating against the more general diffusion of Christian truth. The preaching of the gospel is the principal instrumentality for bringing men to God, and it may not be inappropriate to ask if the preaching of the present day, and its adjuncts, are as fully adapted as they might be to

awaken men to concern respecting eternal things, or whether there might not be some change made which would be of advantage to the cause generally.

There have been various changes in the modes of thought, the style, and delivery of the divine message, in different ages of the world, each of which were doubtless adapted to the dispensation and condition of the people. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. Enoch also prophesied. These in patriarchal times, and afterwards the prophets, doubtless engaged in the offices of public instruction, and with the human voice declared the will of God to their fellow-men. In later times we have specimens of the discourses of our Lord and also of the Apostles' ministrations. Since then there has been much of what has been called preaching, and that too commonly deemed evangelical, which has had but little resemblance to those solemn earnest announcements.

Error soon came in and obscured the brilliance of the light shed by the Christian church. Instead of the glorious gospel, men delighted in minor matters, and debased the pulpit by discussing the most frivolous and absurd questions. The following may be taken as specimens of what was, in the dark ages, offered to the people instead of the Bread of Life: Of what species of wood was the club made with which Cain killed his brother Abel? How many spirits could stand on the point of a needle? What became of the thirty pieces of silver Judas received for betraying his Master? Religion was thus brought into contempt, and the clergy became the greatest obstacles to the spread of truth and righteousness.

Since the Reformation and especially since the Ejection of 1662, Christ and him crucified have been more extensively the theme of preachers than ever before. And yet there has been and is still much preaching which cannot be called the gospel, but which is only descriptive of what surrounds that glorious theme, and the advantages, mental and moral, to be derived from a reception of its truths.

An important part of Christ's commission is "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." A direct application of the doctrines of Christ to the heart, or an enforcement of some of the teachings of our Lord, so as to make men better fitted for the kingdom of heaven, is more likely to command the attention of men and bring sinners to the Cross, than the most laborious production, shewing how much better religion is than unbelief. More Bible is required, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

The most difficult, and perhaps at the same time the most useful preaching is what is termed Expository. It is not every minister who is in circumstances to render an exposition profitable in the form of a pulpit exercise, but where it can be done, and the people are disposed to receive such instruction in preference to hortatory discourses it is, we believe, far more beneficial and in harmony with the Divine examples of preaching.

We have no desire to animadvert on the labors of those called of God to the sacred office of the Christian ministry, or to intrude our opinion upon them, or, least of all, to encourage a captious spirit in their hearers, but we venture to offer these suggestions for the further reflection and consideration of all whom they may concern, hoping they may be received in the same spirit in which they are given; with the simple desire of saving men's souls and benefitting the church and the world.

Good.—A worthy brother who occasionally assists in religious meetings, by way of exhortation, &c., writes: "I have done but little to circulate your paper. Some 12 or 15 have given up the use of tobacco here, and one of the persons has become a subscriber for the *C. Messenger*. I hope the day is not distant when every man, woman and child may learn to do better than to spend money for that which can afford no benefit. If parents would abstain from the use, no doubt their children would have to abandon the practice, and the money be put to a better use. The minister of the gospel might be sustained here the whole year, the shoeless children might be shod and clothed, and meeting-houses made comfortable, whereas at present they are not."

THE REGISTRATION BILL, as may be seen by our Parliamentary Report, is before the Legislature.

As a summary of its provisions is given there, we shall not repeat them here. We cannot say that the bill is all we hoped it would have been. It is very good, as far as it goes, but as there is to be no Registrar General, and the returns are to be made to the Provincial Secretary's office, we doubt if it will be found so efficient as if it were made a distinct and independent department, and

probably not more so than our present statute on the subject.

The machinery of the bill cannot be properly attended to, we believe, in connection with the other matters really belonging to the Provincial Secretaryship. The omission of this officer, is, we conceive, a prime defect which will prevent the measure from supplying what is required—correct statistical information. We suppose the intention of this omission is to avoid expense. If so, we think it but a poor piece of economy, and if it does accomplish anything, it will, we believe, be far worse to burden the Provincial Secretary's office and the Postmaster General with duties that do not belong to them, than have it imperfectly done for the sake of avoiding an expenditure of one or two hundred pounds. The extra clerks which will be needed in those offices will require salaries which would be ample for one efficient Registrar General, and we should then have the thing done that is so much needed.

The changes made in the mode of issuing Marriage Licenses will doubtless be a great convenience, and will save much trouble to the officiating ministers. The parties wishing to be married by license will have to procure the License from the Post or Way Office keeper, or other person appointed in their own neighborhood, as Issuers of the same.

We shall have occasion to refer again to this measure, and shall watch its progress as it passes through the various stages before it becomes law.

THE NEW SCHOOL BILL.—We have been unable to ascertain the exact nature of the amendments made in the New School Bill, as it proceeded through the House of Assembly. It is now before the Legislative Council. Some of the alterations make an essentially different bill of it from what it was when first introduced. In consequence of these changes the Council have ordered it to be reprinted. It being in the hands of the Queen's printer, we have been unable to obtain a perusal, but shall endeavour to do so and find out more particularly its character before our next issue.

THE Successor of Admiral Milne on this station is said to be Sir James Hope. He appears to be quite a contrast to his predecessor. Whereas Admiral Milne was a man eminently disposed for peace, Sir James Hope is "a fighting man." The *London Saturday Review* seems to anticipate somewhat of a change in the course heretofore pursued on this station.

On Saturday last the Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table of the House, returns asked for by Mr. Longley concerning Dalhousie College, but said that he had received a note from the Secretary of the College, stating that the President never questioned students respecting their creed, but if the House desired such information it would be supplied. No answer was given to the question as to what guarantee had been given for the payment of the additional professors' salaries.

The *Witness* professes to desire that "certain contemporaries of ours," would discuss the Dalhousie College question with the same fairness as he asserts the *Citizen* does. If Dalhousie were in the possession of the Methodist body, or any other denomination than that now occupying it, would he be as well satisfied as he now appears to be? He would then probably play another tune on his organ.

New Music.

THE RINK POLKA: for the Piano. Composed and arranged by C. F. Busfield, Lieutenant 16th Regt. Dedicated to His Excellency Major General Doyle. R. T. Muir, London Book Store, Halifax.

This piece of music will doubtless become highly popular here, not only on account of its having been produced in Halifax, but for its general liveliness, and the sweetness of its strains.

NEWS SUMMARY.

A few days later accounts from Europe bring no news of importance respecting the German and Danish war. After the sharp conflict between the Danish and Austrian armies, in which the latter, although successful, appear to have suffered pretty severely, and the retreat of the Danes from the entrenchments of the Dannenwerke to the fortifications of Duppel, both the contending parties seem to have come to a stand. As the Allied German forces now occupy, with the exception of Duppel, the whole of the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig, the territories in dispute, it is supposed they will not advance Dinto enmark proper, as in such case other powers would doubtless interfere. There is a report, which seems a very probable one,

that England and France have undertaken to negotiate between the contending parties.

It is exceedingly difficult, amid the conflicting telegrams and newspaper accounts, the confusion and uncertainty of names and localities, and the doubtful character of almost every item of intelligence on both sides, to give, from week to week, any distinct or reliable statement of the real posture of affairs in the Southern warfare. According to Northern accounts large and continual desertions from the Confederate armies, and the occupation of advanced positions in the several States which are the respective seats of warfare, betoken a speedy subjugation of the rebellious States, and the total annihilation of their armies, or their reduction to mere companies of guerillas. On the other hand the Southern accounts express the utmost confidence of the final attainment of their independence, and affirm wholesale reinforcements of their regiments, whose time of service had expired. It is pretty certain, however, that unless some more decisive successes are achieved by the Federals very shortly, there will not be a very speedy termination of the war. The most unfavorable prospect for the ultimate triumph of the Confederate arms, is the failure of sufficient supplies in the already exhausted States for the enormous armies they are compelled to keep on foot, to meet an enemy of at least double their force on land, and possessing a navy large and powerful enough to blockade their whole extent of coast. It is most probable from latest accounts, however, that actions of more or less importance will be heard of within a very short period. One thing is most certain that the unhappy contest must be exercising a most fearfully pernicious influence upon both the moral and physical character of the country.

Notices, &c.

Annapolis Co. Ministerial Conference.

The next meeting of the Annapolis County Conference of Baptist ministers will be held (D. V.) at Pine Grove, Wilmet, on Tuesday morning, the 22nd March, at 9 o'clock. Public service on the previous evening. A full attendance is requested. ISA WALLACE, Secretary. Lower Granville, March 8, 1864.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The next lecture of the course, before the above named Society, will be delivered in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville, on the evening of Friday, 25th inst., by the Rev. R. McG. Sommerville, A. M. Subject—"THERE'S NO SUCH WORD AS FAIL." L. S. MORSE, Cor. Sec'y.

Omission.

Dear Editor.—In the brief notice of our last Quarterly Meeting, when naming the ministers present upon that occasion, I unintentionally omitted the names of Rev. D. W. C. Dimock and A. Chipman, who preached and afforded us good aid. B. SCOTT.

Onslow, Feb. 22, 1864.

Monthly Meeting of Home Missionary Board.

IN THE VESTRY OF GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH.

Wednesday, March 2nd, 1864.

Present.—Rev. Dr. Pryor in the chair. Brethren S. Selden, Geo. Robins, Alex. Robinson, Dr. Parker and Secretary.

Letters received.—From the Mira Church and Rev. Obed Parker.

Received by the Treasurer since last report: From the Granville Street Church, in part, \$32.60 From the Upper Stewiacke Church, 7.50

Appointments.—Bro. Joseph F. Kempton, 3 mos. at Cow Bay and Glace Bay, Cape Breton.

R. N. BECKWITH, Sec'y. H. M. Board.

Acadia College.

The Quarterly Examination of the Classes will take place on Thursday, the 17th inst., commencing at nine o'clock, A. M. J. M. CHAMP, President.

March 5, 1864.

Colchester Co. Quarterly Meeting.

The Colchester Baptist Quarterly Meeting will be held (D. V.) with the Church at Lower Stewiacke, March 19th. Conference of the Church at half-past 2 o'clock, P. M. Ministerial Conference at 1 o'clock, at the Baptist Chapel.

D. W. C. DIMOCK.

Colchester Sabbath School Convention.

A Quarterly Session of this Convention will be held at the Baptist Meeting-house, Lower Stewiacke, on Friday, the 18th March. To begin at half-past 6, P. M. A full and punctual attendance of delegates and friends is solicited.

T. H. RAND, Secretary.

Truro, Feb. 15th, 1864.

Letters Received.

G. A. Elliott, 28th. Rev. I. J. Skinner, 5th. G. Lantz, W. H. Rogers, 6th and 8th,—the 20s. came correctly. Rev. Chas. Randall, 2nd, \$12. Asaph Marshall, Esq., 5th, \$5. S. Wheelock, 3rd, \$4. Rev. H. Angell, J. B. Worthylake, 4th, 1 sub. J. McLearn, Esq., 30th. Rev. T. DeLong, 20th, \$4. W. H. Chipman, 27th, \$10.50.—The C. M. was sent to the two new subscribers, although omitted in Letters received. Joseph D. Marsters, 1 sub, (omitted before). Rev. P. F. Murray, 5th, \$5. Joseph Dimock, 7th, \$4. Rev. Isa Wallace, 8th, 1 sub. J. T. Foster, Esq., 7th, \$11. Rev. J. C. Morse, 9th, \$5. Rev. M. Ross, 3rd. Nelson Miller, 7th, \$7.