

For the Christian Messenger.

NOTES. No. 2.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

At our Associations and Convention Resolutions were introduced for approval and support respecting increased accommodation for Female Students and the Endowment Fund of the College.—Now those resolutions were approved of but it remains for those resolutions to be supported in a tangible manner. Now the question comes up *What is to be done?* Why every one that is a lover of the cause of God must do something to make the resolutions assume a palpable form—they must be embodied in our gifts—a very expressive commentary upon those resolutions must be seen in dollars and cents willingly yielded up by each lover of Baptist principles in the two provinces. Do we need an educated Ministry? We may just as well ask, Do we need a well cultivated farm? The age in which we live demands men of warm hearts and well trained intellects; men whose hearts are filled with undying sympathy; souls and minds so cultivated that they shall, with divine help, know how to employ their mental resources for the glory of God. What is the difference between the raw recruit and the well trained soldier? who would figure the best in a hard contested battle? So with the uncultured mind and the well trained mind in its contest with the vast engines of warfare employed by satanic forces. It is true that men without a liberal education, with God's blessing, have accomplished much, but who will say that they would not have accomplished so much good if they had been favoured with educational advantages. We need schools for the future prophets, pre-ided over by men of earnest piety and cultivated intellect—who will infuse their spirit into the students, and with God's blessing will go forth living men with living thoughts and living impulses, increasing the ranks of God's sacramental host in battling for the truth.

These schools must be supported. The tutors are made of flesh and blood and they need that which shall give health and vigour to the body so that the mind may have a proper dwelling in which to act. Do they not need the comforts of life?—Do they not contribute powerfully to the efficiency of a christian ministry? In a settled community comfort is one of the conditions of healthy, well toned, regular and sustained activity. Especially this is the case in connection with those whose labour is mainly mental. Who does not know this? Who has not felt how much outward inconveniences and discomforts lower the integrity, the coherence, the continuous powers of our mental operations? Bodily ailments mysteriously impair the health of our better and nobler part. Do not men work better when they are healthy—therefore whatever will contribute to the upbuilding of the physical frame let it be secured. Then there is the mind—the storehouse of thought—the granary of the man, in which is to be laid up the rich seed-corn of truth; from which in due time it is to be brought forth and cast into human souls to bring forth fruit after the genial showers of Divine grace and quickening rays of the Sun of Righteousness have visited the soul. Then we must supply our Schools of the Prophets with books. Many more things might be referred too on this point, but fearing to trespass too much on the space allowed for such contributions I must close with these remarks. "The College will be what we make it, with the blessing of God. If it is to be effective God looks to us to do our part and then he will do his."

R. J. L.

Sept. 1865.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 27, 1865.

OUR SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS.

SECOND ARTICLE.

The great principle which our School law aims at establishing is EDUCATION FOR ALL. We have long had Schools Common to all, in which all classes and denominations have stood on one common foundation. Now we are to have a further development of the same principle, and have them free to all.

A large portion of the law consists of the details, and the mode of applying them; so as to secure promptness and vigour in the people in providing a free school, and efficiency in the Teacher in imparting instruction to the rising generation.

The amount of remuneration for Teachers has heretofore been very meagre and uncertain, and consequently but few, comparatively, have engaged in the work of education, as a life-long profession. They have taken it up

merely as a matter of convenience, or from necessity, for a longer or shorter period, until something else should turn up more advantageous or desirable. In too many cases those employing them have done so rather because they would work cheaply, than because they were capable, efficient teachers. Whether the future shall be an improvement on the past will depend in a great measure on the steps taken, on Monday, the 16th of October, in providing the supplementary subscription in the Sections. The great difficulty will be in ascertaining what amount of money should be raised by subscription. There is so much diversity in the Sections that no rule can be laid down which would apply to all. It must be borne in mind that Teachers who are to participate in the moneys raised by Provincial Grant and County Assessment, are not allowed to receive fees from their pupils. As there will doubtless be a much larger number of schools in operation, seeing that the Boards of Commissioners may appoint Trustees, if the people fail to elect them, there will be a great demand for Teachers through the Province; consequently a fair amount of remuneration must be provided, or an inferior article only can be obtained. In case of Trustees being appointed by a Board of Commissioners they have all the powers of Trustees elected by the people, provided arrangements are made for sustaining a free school for at least five months, or, in case of poor sections, for three months.

THE CITY OF HALIFAX

has heretofore been one of the greatest barriers to a general system of education throughout the province. The difficulties in the way of reconciling the various interests and denominations, and bringing them to a certain amount of uniformity, has, we believe, deterred government after government from touching the subject, and the Commissioners for the City have therefore been allowed carte blanche in appropriating the amount placed in their hands for distribution amongst the schools of the city. They have, perhaps, done the best they could under the circumstances.

The present law attempts to provide a partial remedy for this state of things, and makes arrangements for applying the free school principle to the city as well as to the country. The Commissioners for the City, just appointed, have the double office of Commissioners and Trustees—making the whole city one School Section, and the Commissioners—two from each Ward, and residents therein—the sole administrators of the law. All the schools receiving aid under the law must be public schools, and free to all, whilst parents may choose any one of the said schools they may prefer, for their children to attend.

The Commissioners are to "provide sufficient School accommodation before the first day of November next." How this is to be done, by that date, does not very clearly appear, seeing that they were not appointed till a few days since. But the Act provides, Sec. 49:

"(8) The Board of Commissioners are authorized to co-operate with the governing body of any city, school, on such terms as to the Board shall seem right and proper, so that the benefits of such school may be as general as circumstances will permit; and in such cases the Board may make allowance to such schools out of the funds under their control as shall be deemed just and equitable. But no public funds shall be granted in support of any school unless the same be a free school."

It would appear from this that the commissioners are to take the Schools at present in operation, the Royal Acadian, the National, the St. Mary's the St. Patricks, the St. Georges, &c. &c., or, such of them as are suitable, under their patronage, and supply funds sufficient to enable the "governing body" of each School to admit the Scholars free.

Ample provision is made for the purchase, leasing, or building of new School houses, "when the Board of Commissioners shall deem it necessary," by an assessment, to be levied upon the inhabitants of the whole city. In case they shall deem it necessary to borrow money for the purchase of sites or the building of school-houses, the Commissioners may issue debentures, payable by yearly installments, so that the whole charge for the same may not come upon the city in any one year.

It may be asked: What are the means now available for sustaining all these Schools, so as to admit pupils without the payment of fees? Well, in the first place, the Provincial Grant for Halifax City amounts to \$6307. Add to this two-thirds of the same sum \$4538, levied on the citizens, and now in course of collection, and the Board then have \$11,845 for this purpose. Supposing this to be insufficient, the following provision is made to meet the deficiency:—

"(5) The Board of Commissioners shall make an estimate of any sum that may be required for the yearly support of the schools un-

der their charge, to supplement the amount of the provincial grant and the amount levied as a general rate on the city, and they shall levy the sum required upon the ratepayers of the whole city, according to the city rate-roll for the year, to be furnished by the City Assessor, and shall make returns of such assessment to the City Council, to whom appeals therefrom shall be made; and the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners, either in person or by his agent, under a warrant signed by at least two Commissioners and the Chairman or acting Chairman of the Board, shall collect the sums thus assessed; and, in default of payment, they shall be collected by warrant from the City Treasurer, as other city rates, and the sum so collected shall be apportioned by the Board of Commissioners to the several wards, according to the requirements of each."

This then will supply all necessary funds, but we do not apprehend it will be necessary at present to take this step unless the number of teachers is greatly enlarged, and the salaries are very much beyond what they have been heretofore. By referring to the returns of the past year, 1864, we find, that in the Schools receiving aid from the Provincial Grant there were an average of 34 Teachers employed, and to them was paid,

"from the Province," \$2346.49
and "from the People," (fees, &c.) 2696.00

5042.49

or an average of \$148 per teacher.

It may, and probably will be asked: Is there not some mistake here? can it be possible that the Teachers in the City of Halifax, on an average, live upon \$148 per annum? We confess we were somewhat startled by the discovery; and thinking it possible some omission might have occurred by the changes made in the Commission and Inspectorship during the past year, we referred to the Returns of the previous year 1863, and here we find a state of things very similar to that of 1864. The amount received from all sources by 36 Teachers during that year was only \$6283.15, an average of about \$175 each, per annum. Surely a miserable pittance!

Now allowing that a superior class of Teachers must be engaged, the Board of Commissioners have the means of paying them salaries far in advance of what they have heretofore received from all sources, and still have a sufficient amount left to meet other contingencies. We make no apology to our country readers for this examination of our city school matters. They have been too long neglected, and if a remedy can be applied, it will more or less benefit the whole province. We shall return again to this subject.

The British Good Templars.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:

LOWER MACCAN, CO. CUMBERLAND,
Sept. 28, 1865.

SIR,—As a subscriber to the "Messenger" I beg through the medium of your paper to ask a question, knowing that you are favourable to the good cause of Temperance.—A Lodge of "British Templars" has been opened here. We received a Charter &c., but we find that the passwords which members from our Lodge take for admission to Lodges in the other provinces, are not the same as they have. It would appear that Nova Scotia and Canada contend for the right of Supremacy, from which arises the confusion.

Perhaps you would set us right by telling us where is the Supreme Lodge of good British Templars?

Very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Serv't
DANIEL B. LEMONT.

We understand that there has been some confusion amongst the Lodges of British Good Templars, arising from the difference referred to by our worthy friend; but, we regret to say that we are unable to decide the question submitted by him. As we are not personally connected with the Order, we are not even disposed to venture an opinion as to where the Supreme authority should rest.

In respect to this new Order of Good Templars, it appears that the Confederation is not yet fully consolidated; whether it will ever become so is an open question. There are good men and true friends of Temperance, we believe, belonging to the Order, amongst our readers, who may be able perhaps to supply the information asked for. Provided they follow the good example of the above writer in his brevity, we shall be glad to hear from them; but from the specimens of correspondence on this subject given in some of our papers, we feel it incumbent on us to put this restriction on writers who may feel prepared to give the required answer.

BIBLE UNION.—A note from Rev. C. A. Buckbee informs us that:—

The Anniversary of the American Bible Union will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 25th and 26th, in the Church, corner of Broome and Elizabeth Streets, New York, commencing at half past 9 o'clock A. M.

He adds:

"The mission among the colored people of the South is being greatly prospered. Every day we are despatching fresh copies of the Revised Testament to those who have already learned how to read; and they prize this as the best earthly treasure. O, what a field is opened here for the salvation of millions on this continent, and through them eventually for the renovation of long benighted Africa."

Truly &c.,

C. A. BUCKBEE.

An accompanying circular informs us that at the late Managers' meeting a number of letters from Missionaries were read, shewing their appreciation of the labors of the Union, and asking for grants of Scriptures:

"The Treasurer's statement shows a large increase of receipts over last year. The prospects are encouraging for an unusually interesting anniversary."

A large and varied correspondence was laid before the Managers, in reference to the distribution of the revised New Testament among the Freedmen. The letters received are full of incidents, showing the condition and wants of the freedmen, their aptitude for learning, and their earnest desire for copies of the revised New Testament. The openings for Scripture circulation are numerous, the opportunities for benefiting the souls of millions are very great. The Bible Union can now send forth the word of the Lord to an unlimited extent; and all that its friends can do, before the Anniversary, must be done at once.

Rev. J. H. Mills writes from Oxford, N. C.: "It is manifest that the scholars employed by the Bible Union, are far in advance of those of King James. In the New Testament of the Bible Union I see what I never saw before—the New Testament in plain English. I read it with delight. Several persons (mostly clergymen), desired to buy my copy. The field is open here before you. On Sunday last our colored church met, and resolved to open a Sunday school. THE SPIAN HALL was offered to them free of rent. They chose a professional teacher, a pious man, for their Superintendent. In the school there are not probably half a dozen Bibles."

Letters from Rev. Messrs. Ind, Norton, and others, in England, show a disposition on the part of the masses to extend a generous aid, and the Board anticipate that a friendly and generous reception will be extended to its Secretary for Great Britain, now laboring there for the freedmen in America.

The Board asks from all who love the pure word of God, that they will send their contributions, so that every plea for help may be responded to without delay."

We are gratified to hear that the friends at Liverpool are not disheartened by the loss of their meeting houses, and that both Methodists and Baptists are purposing to rebuild their churches without delay upon the sites of the former ones.

The people of Liverpool have also subscribed for the purchase of a new fire-engine.

THE Western Record is the title of a new paper started at Bridgetown, of which C. E. DeWolf, Esq., is the Editor and Proprietor, and J. L. McIntosh is publisher. The editor does not profess neutrality in politics, but starts as the representative of the Conservatives of the county and province. The paper is a well filled sheet, and does great credit to the enterprising gentlemen engaged in it. They have our best wishes.

MURDOCK'S HISTORY—No. 7, completes Volume one. Chapter 59 brings the history down to 1739.

Mr. Murdock informs us in his preface that he commenced the collection and arrangement of the materials for his narrative in 1860. He has been anxious to preserve every thing of genuine interest that he has found in his enquiries, and we believe he has not failed in his object. He very modestly says:

"The task of collecting and reducing into annals facts of interest, must naturally precede the more ambitious course of history, just as the labor of the pioneers of this continent, in clearing the forest, making roads and bridging streams, is an essential requisite to lead eventually to cities, villas, and high cultivation. If this work prove to be a useful preparation, as a scaffolding for the erection of more diversified and elegant structures, the labor I bestow on it will not have been useless."

EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN RAILWAY.—The following telegram was received in Halifax on Monday last:

BANGOR, Sept. 25th.—Information was received here on Saturday evening that the amount of stock required for the completion of the European & North American Railway through New Brunswick, was raised. The agreement with the Government was executed, and the approval of the contract with the American Company given, thus ensuring a gift of \$10,000 per mile from the Province of New Brunswick for the line from St. John to the boundary of Maine, where it is to connect with the line from the boundary to Bangor. The contract for the line east of St. John from Moncton to Truro, one hundred and nine miles, was also ratified by the Government, so that the unfinished sections of the entire route from Bangor to Hal-