

On conversing with them separately, and in a friendly manner, but with caution, I became satisfied that neither of them intended any thing wrong. There appeared to have been a neglect with reference to passing receipts, and an error committed in getting the affairs of the Bible Society mixed up with their own private business, which still remained in an unsettled state. When I expressed to them my full persuasion of their innocence, they became much more calm, moderate, and disposed to facilitate my endeavors. I then prevailed on one of them to give me a written proposal, stating on what terms he would agree to an adjustment of the matter in debate. When this was shewn to the other, he rejected the terms proposed. By persuasion, however, he was induced to propose another arrangement. In fine the matter was settled, and the money paid over to me.

The restoration of this valuable institution to a state of harmony, mutual confidence, and prosperity, was a source of much gratification, not only to me, but also to many others. Instead of incurring, by my efforts in this case, displeasure and censure, as my fears had at first suggested, I evidently secured the friendship and esteem of a number of respectable persons, connected with different religious denominations.

At the beginning of the month of April I commenced teaching a school. Several considerations induced me to do this. The people were urgently desirous of it; I hoped to be thereby useful to the rising generation; and my own necessities required the compensation. It had been my earnest desire to avoid becoming involved in debt; but when I built a house it was evidently desirable to have one that would be respectable and comfortable. As my own means were quite limited, my salary moderate, and but little of it received in cash, or such payment as would meet the expenses attendant on building, it seemed requisite for me to have recourse to some lawful—in this case useful—means for the liquidation of debts unavoidably incurred. Under these circumstances perhaps I could not have done better. So very extensive, however, was the field of my labor, including Amherst, River Philip, Little Fork, and Minudie, with various other places occasionally visited, that it was quite beyond my power fully to discharge my ministerial duties and those of a school teacher. The proprietors of the school agreed to let me take such days as might be requisite in connection with the ministry, and to make up the time at the close of the term. The ministry, however, is a work of itself, quite sufficient, in its various departments, to occupy the whole time and attention of any man; more especially of one who has to travel over a large extent of country. From painful experience I would advise men devoted to this momentous work to leave school-teaching to another class of persons, excepting extraordinary cases, and special emergencies.

For the Christian Messenger.

Union of different Denominations.

MR. EDITOR,—

All real Christians belong to one family. (Eph. iii. 15.) It is evidently desirable that they should be intimately united. In order to an entire and complete union all must be agreed with reference to every point of doctrine, and every part of Christian duty. It can not be reasonably expected, however, that such a union as this will be attained immediately.

What course, then, it may be naturally inquired, ought to be adopted in the present state of things? The proper answer appears to me obvious. All unkind and censorious expressions should be cautiously avoided. How much so ever one denomination may regard another as erroneous on some points, the credit of sincerity should be mutually conceded. All the pious should unite as far as they can without any sacrifice of principle, or infringement on the rights or dictates of conscience. Orthodox and evangelical Christians can not consistently unite with such bodies as deny any fundamental point of doctrine, as the Divinity of Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit, justification by faith in Christ, regeneration through the Spirit's influence, &c. but those who are agreed in these important matters may properly, and in many instances advantageously, combine their efforts for the advancement of the general interests of piety and the salvation of souls, by uniting in singing, prayer, exhortation, and delivering and hearing discourses on ordinary topics. Such a course is adapted to obviate an objection frequently urged against Protestants, that they utterly disregard and continually wrangle among themselves, and also to remove a various stumbling-block out of the way of the unregenerate.

It is requisite, however, to be careful not to attempt the carrying of this union beyond due bonds. A suggestion that any denomination ought to relinquish some sentiment or practice conscientiously maintained, is calculated to destroy, or at least to diminish, the union professedly sought. All ministers have a right to preach, as also to write, at suitable times, and in a Christian spirit, in defence of what they believe, and in refutation of what they deem unscriptural; but where different denominations are combining, to require Episcopalians to relinquish *Episcopacy*, or Presbyterians, Congregationalists, or Methodists, to relinquish, or to modify, their respective forms of church government, or any of their peculiar sentiments, would be likely to cause the body thus unduly pressed to withdraw.

In like manner, any suggestion that those who conscientiously regard the immersion of a believer as the only scriptural baptism, and as requisite prior to admission to the Lord's table, ought to abandon this view, and to unite in partaking of the Lord's supper with those whom, how highly soever they may esteem them as God's dear children, they can not consider as really baptized, is adapted to produce discord rather than union.

Undoubtedly many pious people think it strange that we entertain our view of the subject. Certainly, however, they ought to give us the credit of acting conscientiously in this matter. Were I to sprinkle water in the face of an infant, and say, 'I baptize thee,' &c. my conscience would roar against me like a lion; but I do not doubt that many a sincere minister does it with an approving conscience.

Happily some of our Pedobaptist brethren do see the consistency of our course with the sentiment which we hold. I recollect reading an account of a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in which one of the speakers proposed that all who belonged to that Institution should mutually unite at the Lord's table. One of the Presbyterian Ministers observed, in reply, that doubtless this might be consistently done by some bodies of Pedobaptists not accustomed to do so; but that Baptists who could not do this in accordance with their views, ought not to be urged to do it, nor to be considered as at all violating the bond of general union. Another Minister of that denomination remarked to me, some years ago, that mixed communion was utterly inconsistent. His subsequent observations were to this effect:—'We all believe that baptism should precede admission to the Lord's supper. But you Baptists evidently do not regard our sprinkling of infants as baptism; for you immerse those whom we consider as thus baptized. With what show of consistency, then, can any of you invite to the Lord's supper, persons whom, by your action, you publicly declare to be in your estimation unbaptized. This would be building up with one hand, what you pull down with the other.' (Gal. ii. 18.)

These men took an enlightened and candid view of the subject. Would that many others, who through misapprehension regard us as uncharitable or obstinate, could contemplate it in the same light; and that all the sincere friends of Jesus would cordially unite so far as their sentiments agree, and separate quietly where they conscientiously differ in their views, ever retaining sentiments of mutual esteem and Christian affection!

Yours in gospel bonds,

CHARLES TUPPER.

Aylesford, Feb. 19, 1866.

For the Christian Messenger.

Colportage, Religious Literature, &c.

MR. EDITOR,—

A few weeks ago, we had from the pen of the Rev. Alex. McBean, an article on the subject of Colportage. This is the first with which we have been favored on that subject, since the commencement of that good work, in our province. The results of the labors of the American Tract Society among us, are already encouraging, and afford cheering promise of much more, at no very distant future. The Colporteur finds his way to many a retired nook. Where the missionary is rarely, and the book-seller, never seen. These retired localities are especially sought out and visited by the Colporteur. Those who have glanced at the results of this species of missionary labor, in other countries, well know how happy, how truly blessed have been the results of such visits, in numerous cases. Who has not read with delight the work entitled, 'The Biblical Colporteur'? Have not our hearts burned within us, as we have glanced from page to page, at the unpretending, but really great works, entitled 'Five years in

the Alleghanies,' and 'David Woodburn'? I hope that our interest will be greatly quickened and deepened in this good cause, and that the Colporteurs will receive, in our different counties, all that aid and encouragement, which such a work ever claims. Whilst I might notice many works of the American Tract Society, which it would be well for all to possess, I may notice one volume, which should be found in every family. It is entitled, 'Christian Home Life.' It is a small volume, of some 290 pages, which may be read in a few evenings.

Home is the nursery in which are to be cherished and cultivated those graces, which will bloom perennially in the paradise above, in the everlasting Home. These graces are here exotics, in an unpropitious chime, and whatever may aid in their development and invigoration, should be sedulously sought and assiduously improved. Home, home, is emphatically the place for such development and invigoration. Next to the word of God, such works as the 'Christian Home Life,' when perused and reperused with meditation and prayer, will have this happy result.

I have just glanced through the 'Catechism of Christian Baptism,' by Dr. Cramp. This is a gem, which will, I hope, soon be found in every family of our own denomination, and in very many other families. Be sure to obtain it, and then read it carefully, again and again. And when the bookseller presents it, let none be offended, and say, 'Why Sir, do you think I am a child, that I have need of a Catechism?' To such an one, he may well reply, 'out of your own mouth must I judge you, sir, and pronounce you but a child, though at a man's age, from the reception which you give to this book.' He may further say, 'you will allow me respectfully to inform you sir, that this work, though not great in size, is great in substance.' This pamphlet of only 90 pages, is the result of the reading, the application and study of more than half a century. It is the concentrated light of a long life, thrown upon a much misunderstood, but vastly important subject. Whilst it may benefit the youth, it will instruct the adult, nor will the aged have occasion to say, I find nothing there for me. Therefore to one and all we may say, 'Read, learn and inwardly digest,' 'Buy the truth and sell it not.'

Yours as ever,

OBED CHUTE.

Stewiacke, February, 1866.

For the Christian Messenger.

DONATION VISITS.

MR. EDITOR,—

At a donation visit paid us at our residence on the 31st January, the members of the church and congregation expressed their interest in the cause of Christ, and sympathy with his servants, by bestowing on one of the most unworthy, such marks of esteem, as I here wish to acknowledge. Cash and other useful articles to the amount of \$46.50, including books worth \$14.50, the last item in particular was kindness tempered by wisdom. I have already received much benefit from their perusal.

May the donors realize the truth of the promise, 'whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.'

WM. GEORGE.

River Philip, Jan. 15th, 1866.

On Nov. 29th, 1865, the members of the Baptist Church and congregation of Upper Aylesford, met at the Parsonage, and presented Rev. J. L. Read, the sum of \$91, which in a few days was increased to \$103. Also Jan. 23rd, his friends of the 4th Cornwallis Church gathered at their Meeting-house and gave him as an expression of their kind feeling, \$44. May Heaven's richest blessings both temporal and spiritual be the reward of those kind and thoughtful people, in the prayer of their Pastor, J. L. READ.

Our annual donation visit came off on 31st inst. A very pleasant time. Brethren Vidito, Armstrong and Parker, were present to refresh us with excellent addresses, some forty two dollars were left with us to assist in feeding and clothing our household. Many thanks to kind friends.

P. F. MURRAY.

DUTY.—She hath done what she could! What a record for the judgment of the last day! Happy they on whose life-work in their day and generation the tribunal of eternity will pronounce this glorious verdict. May the Divine lips which pronounced these words of eulogy, over the personal work of Mary Magdalene, and which made His own everlasting gospel trumpet to speak forth her piety and praise to the generations of all coming time, even to the whole world, may even these same lips pronounce over your life labors and mine, reader, the grateful, thrilling words, 'He, she, hath done what they could!'

Provincial Parliament.

Opening of the Legislature.

On Thursday last, at 2 o'clock, p. m., our Provincial Parliament was opened in due form. The Halifax Volunteer Rifle Corps lined the passages of the Provincial Building, and the Halifax Volunteer Artillery fired the usual salute on the Grand Parade. A detachment of the 16th Regiment formed the guard of honor in the eastern area of the Province building.

The circumstance of its being the first time that a Novascotian, and one so distinguished, had appeared in the capacity of a Lieutenant Governor, to open the Legislature, drew together a large company outside as well as in the Council Chamber.

At the hour announced Sir W. Fenwick Williams with his staff arrived and read from the throne the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. It affords me unfeigned satisfaction, in meeting, for the first time, the Legislature of this my native Province, to be able to congratulate you upon a condition of prosperity never before equalled in the history of the Colony.

2. While we have enjoyed the blessings and immunity from pestilence, the labours of the husbandman and the fisherman have been crowned with success; and the sale of Crown Lands, the development of our Coal and Gold Mines, the receipts from our Railways, and the Trade and Revenue of our Province, are greatly in excess of any preceding year.

3. A soldier myself, and intimately connected with the organization of the Volunteer movement both in Great Britain and in this Province, you can well understand the deep gratification it has afforded me to find the spirited manner in which my countrymen have responded, by the organization of a Militia Force so efficient, to the call to prepare for any emergency which may at any time demand stout hearts and trained arms for the defence of the inestimable privileges we enjoy as subjects of the Crown of Britain.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

4. The Public Accounts will shortly be placed before you. The Estimates for the year will be prepared with as much regard to economy as due consideration for the interests of the country will permit.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

5. You will learn with regret that, notwithstanding the united efforts of the British North American Colonies, the Government of the United States have adhered to their determination to abrogate the arrangements for Reciprocal Trade which have for the past eleven years contributed so largely to the harmony and commercial prosperity of both the neighboring Republic and these Colonies; but I am sanguine that by mutual aid and co-operation among the Provinces, and under the fostering care of the Mother Country, the trade of British North America may be so directed into new channels, and our valuable fisheries so protected, as to meet the emergency thus forced upon us and avoid any material commercial inconvenience. The correspondence upon this subject will be submitted to you.

6. You will be gratified to be informed that the efforts to represent the products of this Province at the Dublin Exhibition resulted very favorably—a large number of medals having been awarded to our exhibitors; and from the necessity which now exists to make known as widely as possible the great natural resources of these Provinces, you will, I doubt not, make suitable provision for the due representation of Nova Scotia at the great International Exhibition to take place in Paris in 1867.

7. Contracts, based upon the legislation of last Session, have been entered into during the recess of Parliament for the extension of the Railways from Truro to the border of New Brunswick, and from Windsor to Annapolis. These documents, and the papers connected therewith, will be laid before you at an early day.

8. In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Government, circulars were transmitted to the persons in charge of all the Prisons in the Province, making enquiries as to their condition. These documents, with the answers to the enquiries made, will be submitted for your consideration, and I will be glad if some means should be devised for the due inspection at all places of imprisonment, in order to promote an improvement in the system and uniformity of discipline.

9. Your attention will also be invited to the important question of Immigration, in the hope that a larger number of those seeking a new home may be made acquainted with the great advantages which are here offered to industry, capital, or skill, and that they may be induced to settle in this Province. I confidently hope that, deeply interested with the gratitude due to a beneficent Providence for the blessings so liberally bestowed during the past year, your united deliberations will result in promoting the continued prosperity of this highly favoured land.