

to consider the claims of the temperance movement. We do not blame Mr. Spurgeon because he expressed disapproval of injudicious advocacy of abstinence, a mistake that we deplore as much as any one can do, but we rejoice most heartily that one so well fitted by his position and talents to influence his fellow-men has, "for the sake of example," placed himself at the head of the temperance work carried on in connection with his gigantic place of worship. Mr. Spurgeon, we feel persuaded, has no idea of the extent to which his resolute determination to grapple with a terrible evil will prove a source of stimulation and encouragement to earnest workers in all parts of the kingdom, and in every section of the church, nor of the many ways in which his changed attitude towards the drinking customs will augment his usefulness as a trainer of youth and a minister of the Gospel of Christ.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Muller, the Plymouth Brethren, &c.

Dear Sir,—

Mr. Kendall's letter, in which he attempts to answer mine, scarcely requires notice. I will just observe that the only reply he offers to my remarks on Mr. Muller's plan is, that Dr. Wayland and some others thought it very good. I am not terrified at the sound of great names. The Apostle Paul has given me liberty to be "fully persuaded in my own mind."

I perceive that one of my remarks has been misunderstood. I said, that if men had adhered to the New Testament, the present state of things could not have existed. The apostolic churches, I may now add, were societies of baptized believers. The introduction of infant baptism was an early corruption. Other evils followed, till at length the churches had sadly deviated from the primitive pattern, and Christendom became a conglomeration of sects. This would not have been, I say, if the New Testament had continued to be observed. The fault is in those who have abandoned the Book: they are the schismatics.

How is all this to be cured? The Plymouth Brethren say, Christians must be one,—the lines must be rubbed out, and the sects blended. And what is their practice? Why, in order to accomplish their object, they form another society, and constitute a new sect! And the sect, or church, which they have formed, instead of being composed of baptized believers, as apostolic churches were, admits those who are regarded as believers, whether baptized or not, and then presumes to be emphatically "Christian," although ignoring one of Christ's ordinances!

In my opinion, Mr. Editor, it would be better for all professed believers to go back to the Book. Baptists will be happy to meet them on that ground.

April 6, 1866.

Yours,
MINABON.

For the Christian Messenger.

An Ecclesiastical Bill.

Dear Sir,

I observe that a Bill is before the Legislature, the object of which is to empower the Protestant Bishop of Nova Scotia to admit Episcopal Clergymen from the United States to officiate in this Colony.

What has the Legislature of Nova Scotia to do with the ecclesiastical arrangements of the Episcopal, any more than with those of any other religious denomination? There is no ecclesiastical Establishment here. Is this Bill intended to insert the thin end of the wedge, and to make the Episcopal Church a creature of the State?

Does it not appear a very humiliating thing for the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia to ask an assembly mainly composed of Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and Roman Catholics for power to admit certain clergymen to the pulpits of his Church? Should he not get that power from England?

All the denominations apply to the Legislature for corporate powers and privileges, affecting the possession of property. But those are civil matters. This Bill interferes with spiritual jurisdiction.

I think, Mr. Editor, that the friends of religious freedom and equality must be on the alert in these days.

April 7, 1866.

Yours,
VIGOR.

The Egyptian Government has just adopted the use of postage stamps; they came into use on the 1st of January.

The ex King of Naples, "Bomba," recently fell from a flight of stairs, at Rome, and broke one of his legs.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 11, 1866.

SHAMS.

In this age of inquiry and active thought there is a necessity for continual examination for the purpose of ascertaining what is real and what only bears a resemblance to it. There are shams in other things besides jewelry. Men are not always as transparent as they would fain appear. The region of fiction is not confined to the sensation story book, but we are continually liable to imposition by having the untrue presented to us instead of the genuine. Those who would be free from such imposition must be prepared to examine for themselves and not take for granted much of what at first sight appears agreeable and plausible. The Medical profession affords wide scope for quackery. Nostrums are taken as remedies for the ills to which flesh is heir, and a ready ear is given to marvellous stories of cures effected by them until one would suppose that sickness and pain might be banished from the earth. But when the bait is taken, and the charm has run its course, the patient often awakes to find himself not only a wiser but a sadder man. In Politics, too, "clap-trap" largely abounds. Those who would lead captive the unwary often pretend that government is a thing that may be provided almost without cost, and that corruption is part and parcel of all public offices and men. This idea being so prevalent has often prevented the introduction of vast improvements, and has induced some of the best of men to withdraw from public life, and leave these duties to others far less capable of serving the state, and of conferring honor on the offices entrusted to them.

But when shams take the place of reality in Religion the injury is then of a far more serious nature. When the substantial realities of faith and hope and heaven, are brought into subjection to the shifting sands of human reason; and christian virtues are only allowed to occupy a place alongside the creations of fallen man, then it is time for the christian to awake and enquire whether he is not in danger of losing himself in the region of doubt, error and unbelief. When the law of God is made to conform to men's inclinations, and efforts are made to weaken moral obligation, it is time to enquire where men are drifting. The great abiter of our faith and practice must be the Divine Word. Any effort to set aside decisions fairly obtained from this source may be pronounced, by the most unlettered, as well as the learned, devices of the enemy of souls and shams.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE closed its Winter Term on Thursday last. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and a number of other gentlemen and ladies, besides the Governors of the College, were present to witness the ceremonies. The Principal commenced by prayer, then the names of the successful candidates for the prizes were announced, and these were presented by the professors. Two of the students received their first degree, but there was no delivery of essays by the students. The Principal, in a few well chosen and highly appropriate sentences, congratulated the graduates on having attained the position they occupied, and being the first on this list of graduates of this institution. His Excellency gave a brief address. The Rev. Mr. Grant then arose and entered into various particulars respecting the circumstances of Dalhousie, and contended that State Colleges were a necessity, illustrating his statements by referring to those of Europe, the United States and Toronto. Alluding to the "happy family" combination, as he styled the governors and professors of Dalhousie, he said there were six denominations in the latter and five in the former. Of these we believe three of the so-called denominations amongst the Governors, including six persons, and about the same proportion amongst the Professors, are Presbyterians. We do not object to this being the case, we merely wish to have things called by their right names. The institution is unquestionably Presbyterian in its objects and arrangements. If the same institution had six out of nine of its governors Roman Catholics, and the larger number of its Professors also Roman Catholics, and but one of any other denomination, we hardly think even the Rev. Mr. Grant, with all his liberality, would regard it as free from denominationalism. Mr. Grant's references on this point appear to have been taken by the audience as a good joke, but it seems they were not entirely agreeable to all present. The editor of the *Citizen* charges him with "sneering at the religion of Mr. Howe," one of the Governors; and a writer

in the *Reporter* is dissatisfied with the impression conveyed by Mr. Grant's remarks,— "that there was no College open to all classes and creeds until the recent organization of that of which he is a governor," and states that "before he was born, Kings College, Windsor, was open to students of every creed." We may say also in addition that Acadia College has always been equally free to all, both with regard to its students and its Professors. We were not present, but if the remark made by the last mentioned writer is correct, that Mr. G. seemed to intimate "that in establishing colleges Nova Scotia had done nothing until Dalhousie was inaugurated," it was certainly slightly inaccurate. The province is largely indebted to Kings and Acadia for her present position in an educational point of view.

The Chief Justice spoke of his own early educational experience in Scotland, and offered some suitable counsel to the students.

The Hon. Prov. Secretary on being called for, arose and made a few brief remarks on what he had witnessed. He also alluded to the service done to this country by the other Colleges in the Province. Hon. Mr. Holmes, Hon. Mr. Dickey, and Dr. Hamilton also spoke briefly. Several of the speakers noticed that the institution needed support in the city of Halifax. It was stated that fifty-seven students had attended lectures during the past session. About one half of these, we understand, were matriculated students.

CONFEDERATION.—The developments of the past week on the Confederation question have created quite a sensation in Halifax. We copy a report of the speeches in the Assembly on the subject, from the columns of the *Citizen* and *Express*. Various rumours are afloat as to what the policy of the government will be on this question. The *Chronicle* of Monday morning asserts that "a majority of the members of the Assembly it is said, has been secured, corrupted by influences frightful to contemplate, to vote our free Parliament out of existence." We are not informed what these "influences" are, and are content to wait until the question shall be fairly before the Legislature.

A despatch was received from Fredericton on Friday evening to the following effect:

"Address to the Queen in favor of Confederation, based on the Quebec scheme, passed the Legislative Council—13 to 5."

The Hon. Joseph Howe has published a letter addressed "to the people of Nova Scotia," defining his position on the Confederation question. He intimates that the Fenians are formidable and dangerous, but he is opposed to Union, and proposes to "let well enough alone."

INEBRIATE ASYLUM.—We are glad to see that our Legislators have before them the case of the poor unfortunate inebriate, and are petitioned to establish an Asylum for his restoration to sobriety and society, on equitable principles. Such an establishment, we believe, would be of far greater benefit than some of our benevolent institutions which cost the public far more. Many would be the blessings from those who are ready to perish, sought on one who would take this matter in charge and carry it through into practical operation.

We regret to learn that some of our Subscribers have been of late occasionally disappointed by not receiving their papers at the usual time. We can assure them that we have invariably mailed them on the evening before they should leave Halifax in the morning. Whatever irregularity there has been must have arisen from the papers not being sent on from the Post Office in Halifax. This ought not to be. We believe something may be said for the clerks in the Post office,—that there are insufficient hands to do the work that is demanded of them, and that the place in which the Post Office is kept is altogether unsuitable. We shall be very glad when the new building is finished, and a place is there provided something more like what it should be for this important service.

Our thanks are due to Professor E. C. Mitchell for a copy of a pamphlet entitled "The Third Annual Announcement of the Theological Department of Shurtleff College" at Upper Alton, Illinois. It is one of the best Baptist Institutions of the United States.

Our thanks are due to Dr. DeWolfe, for a copy of the eight annual report of the Provincial Hospital for the Insane. We gave a digest of the facts it contains in our Parliamentary reports.

The "Amherst Gazette," No. 1, makes a very creditable appearance. It will doubtless be a great convenience to the border counties. We wish it all success.

The Corresponding Secretary of the Nova Scotian Auxiliary Bible Society, requests us to inform Branch Societies who have made application for supplies of scriptures, that some kinds of Bibles and Testaments are not on hand at present, but they are expected by first steamer and will be forwarded as soon as they arrive.

NEWS SUMMARY.

It is now, we think, somewhat upwards of forty years, since more than half the vast Continent of South America, which as Colonies had from the first discovery enriched and given power and importance to the kingdom of Spain, successfully revolted from their mother country and formed themselves into a number of separate republics. Although continually involved in intestine troubles and adopting partial constitutional changes, or mutually warring with each other, they have maintained their independence, and until within a very short time past, remained at peace with the parent State, commercial difficulties have however of late occurred, and war has been declared by Spain against the Republic of Chili, the most Southern State on the Western shores of South America. The Peruvian Republic, lying to the North of Chili, has now joined the contest, and also declared war against Spain; and it is probable that others of the Southern Republics will make common cause against her. A Spanish fleet for some time past blockaded Valparaiso, the capital of Chili, but has, we believe, for the present relinquished the blockade to oppose the united squadrons of the enemy. Thus far wherever they have met at sea the advantage has been on the side of the South Americans, and it is not at all probable, that with any force the Spaniards can bring against them; they can do more than for a time to cripple the commerce of the United Republic. It is said that England and France have tendered their mediation, which it accepted will no doubt end a contest, which, while inflicting the most serious injuries, can be of no real benefit to either party.

The Fenian excitement has for some days past in a good measure subsided, although active measures are being kept up through the British frontier, to repel any sudden raid that the deluded adherents of what is truly denominated in the neighbouring Republic a gigantic swindle, may have the folly to attempt. Stephens, the late Head Centre in Ireland, is said to have got safely to Paris.

Notices, &c.

Donation Visit.

MR. EDITOR.—For 14 years in succession my people have made me a Donation Visit, the gathering has always been large and very pleasant and profitable to minister and people, and never more so than the present winter. Tea being over, Deacon S. Jackson was called to the chair, and Deacon Israel Longley, in a most interesting and telling speech presented the purse, this being feebly replied to, Brethren Daniel, (Wesleyan), Armstrong Murray and W. G. Parker, followed with thrilling instructive and highly gratifying speeches. Prayer over, the cheerful adieu is given, we are again impressed with a sense of renewed obligations to God, and a kind and benevolent people. Salary all provided for, and \$110 as an expression of regard and encouragement. May I ever be a humbler and more useful man.

N. VIDRO.

Paradise, March 21st, 1866.

ERRATA.—In C. M. Mar. 28th, Obituary of Mrs. E. Saunders, line 9, for "and evidently died in the Lord," read, and one, &c. In "List of Native Preachers," for "Canaan Church," read *Canso Church*.

Eastern Baptist Association.

A requisition having been received from a number of the Churches belonging to the Eastern Association, desiring that the next Annual Meeting should be further adjourned to the 21st of July—concurrent with the requisition being given by the Church at N. Sydney, Amherst, and others, as well as by many brethren.

Notice is hereby given, that the Eastern Baptist Association, will meet (D. V.) at N. Sydney on Saturday the 21st of July, at 2 o'clock.

D. W. C. DIMOCK, Moderator.

Truro, Nov. 21st, 1866.

Ministerial Conference.

The Ministerial Conference of Queens and Lunenburg Counties, will meet at Port Medway, on Monday evening the 16th of April. Ministering brethren not yet members are cordially invited to attend.

D. O. PARKER, Secretary.

Acadia College.

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, in the College Library, on Wednesday, 2nd of May next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Business of great importance will be considered, scholarship holders and other friends are invited to attend.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.

Letters Received.

W. H. Chipman, \$12. Rev. D. W. C. Dimock A. Marshall, Esq., \$9. D. Robertson, \$4. W. Charnell, \$10. J. S. Witter, \$4. M. Kinsman, \$4. Rev. L. B. Gates, Rev. N. Vidro, Rev. Dr. Crawley, J. Eaton, Rev. Dr. Tupper, \$9. W. R. Doty, \$6.30. Rev. H. Angell, J. W. Barrs, Esq., \$18.90. E. F. Freeman, \$4. H. A. Davidson, W. H. Kinsman, J. D. Masters, \$19.50. B. Wood. Rev. W. G. Goucher. H. J. Gesner.