

thought out in design, and substantially executed in honest material, that will wear well, is a lasting proof of the powers of our dissenting system to clothe its principles decorously and in suitable garb; more still, it may even become, if intelligently planned, an invaluable embodiment of the special tenets wherein we differ from the other churches of Christendom.

For the Christian Messenger.

Halifax North Church.

DEAR EDITOR,—

You have noted from month to month, in the *Messengers*, the baptisms in connection with the North Baptist Church.

The good work in our midst still slowly but surely progresses. We have held no special or extra services. The usual meetings of the Church alone, have been kept up, yet the convicting and converting power and grace of God, have been abundantly manifested.

The great Head of the Church has favoured us with what might be termed a *continued revival*. He has evidently turned again the captivity of this people, and many hearts have been made to rejoice. Our congregations have increased until the place is quite too small for us. The demand is strongly urged upon us, to "arise and build." We feel it to be a necessity. A larger house we must have, if we would accommodate all who are anxious to hear the Word. There are many faithful ministers of other denominations, in Halifax. God has blessed their efforts. They have gathered large congregations about them. They have built large houses of worship. They have made room for the people, and invited them to occupy it. Their invitation has been responded to. They are doing well their work. We bid them God speed. But is this the *extent of our duty*? Shall we look on rejoicing in the *onward march* of others, and be satisfied to lag behind ourselves?

Heaven forbid! There is something for us to do. God has indicated of late His willingness to aid us, and His approval of our efforts. He bids us be of good cheer.

To build such an house as we need will lay upon us a heavy burden. But we will cast it upon the Lord. He will sustain us. We are not rich, but He is. Our people are united. "They have a mind to work."

Many outside are becoming interested. A member of a sister church in the city, without being solicited, offered us a hundred dollars. An anonymous letter directed to the Pastor, was found in the pulpit a few Sabbaths ago, enclosing money for the same purpose.

An eligible site has been purchased, Trustees and necessary Committees have been appointed, and the work with God's blessing must advance.

Yours, &c.,
JOHN E. GOUCHER.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 30, 1867.

THE PRAYER MEETING has been designated the pulse of the Church. It was formerly an institution of only some of the churches belonging to two or three denominations. Others held it somewhat in contempt as an intrusion on the peculiar functions of the ministry. But now a church without a prayer meeting would be pronounced as one almost without piety. It must be gratifying to the christian bodies referred to, to find other churches adopting their views and practices, and voluntarily taking prominent parts in meetings of this character. The prayer meeting should be the most profitable and attractive of all the meetings of a church, and with a little wisdom and tact in its management, it may be made so. An answer to the simple enquiry: Who instituted prayer meetings? is sufficient to show how they should be regarded by christians. Was it not our Saviour himself? Did he not invite his followers to meet together to pray? The early history of such gatherings is highly instructive. With the associations surrounding them they should be, from first to last, full of thrilling interest. Instead of this they are often allowed to become dull, lifeless, and—shall we say it?—yes, stupid. Much of what is said in prayer is no prayer at all, and the length is often in inverse ratio to the amount of real prayer they contain.

The prayer meeting should be the reservoir into which all the springs flow, after the hill of Zion has been watered with the dews of heavenly grace, and such a holy influence should pervade the assembly that those who have not experienced the full power of gospel blessedness, may be made partakers thereof,

and wish to go with the church, believing that God is with them of a truth.

The idea that religion to be of any value must be made offensive is not yet wholly discarded by christians. Humility to be genuine is, by some good people, supposed to require a certain amount of gloom. Even censoriousness comprises a large portion of some people's christianity. Some men make the prayer meeting the special occasion of mourning over the low state of piety in the church, or the wickedness of the world in general, or else of administering reproof to their brethren, whilst prayer and christian communion are only incidentally brought in. Any expression of dissatisfaction with such meetings is regarded by their sombre and melancholy admirers, as an indication of perverseness of spirit in those who prefer what is more cheerful and lively.

It is often the case that but few persons in a congregation attend the prayer-meeting, and they rather from a sense of duty than otherwise. They go as an act of christian self-denial for the sake of the church, and brace themselves up to it as if it required a little more courage than it would to pay a friendly visit. This we think is all wrong. We should go to the prayer meeting expecting there to realize the fulfilment of our Lord's promise: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them."

A different style of meeting from that referred to above was noticed by one of our New York exchanges a short time since. The writer says of it:—

"It is held weekly, and has been for twenty-years. The lecture room will hold a thousand people. It is always full, sometimes aisles and all. The pastor conducts the meeting. The people have music as well as the hymns. The meeting is opened. The people are all present, for they know the rules. A hymn is given out, which is not read. It is worth going a dozen miles to hear such singing, so spirited and prompt to the time. Some one leads in prayer, short, crisp, direct, for none others are tolerated. Another hymn is sung, followed by prayer. After the third hymn, the pastor reads a few verses, or takes a simple theme, from the Bible. This is followed by an address of ten, fifteen, never more than twenty minutes. The address is prepared, always short, instructive, and often startling. At its close, the meeting is thrown open. After such an example from the pastor, no one can be prosy, tedious, or rambling. If they are, they are cut short by a pithy remark from the pastor. At a quarter to nine the closing hymn is given out. Age and youth, strong men and maidens, attend this service. Little children love the place. Intense interest and real spiritual enjoyment sit on the countenances of the attendants. No one yawns, no one is tired, no one is weary. The time is only too short, and the hour for closing comes too soon."

It cannot be expected that in places where the people are few and widely scattered such meetings as this can be sustained; but we think that if the same spirit of animation and joyfulness were cultivated they would become more attractive and thus more numerous attended, and by that means a nearer approach would be made to what we believe constitutes a genuine Christian Prayer-meeting.

THE FRENCH MISSION.—Brother Normandy has resumed the work of visiting the churches of the Central Association under the direction of the Board. On Lord's Day last, he preached at the two churches in Halifax, in the morning at the North Church and in the evening at Granville street, and gave an account of the operations of the Board and the manifestations of Divine favor lately experienced. It is pleasing to find that there is an increasing readiness among the French people in the western part of the province to receive the Word, and that a number have been led to acknowledge Christ, as their Saviour, and the only Mediator between God and man.

It will be seen by the Notice in another column that Bro. M. proposes on his return to spend a short time with each of the churches on his way. We commend the work to the brethren. Our brethren in the western part of the province, especially in Yarmouth County who can appreciate the mission and the necessity for it, are themselves doing much on its behalf, and should be encouraged by the aid and sympathy of the churches.

Why do persons suffering bereavement, or their friends on their behalf, so frequently try to express their feelings in versification? is a question often asked but not an easy one to answer. Why, further, when they have done so, do they, although they may be unable to write even good prose, wish to see their productions in print? is another not quite so difficult to solve.

The only reply we can give is that we presume persons in those circumstances have their feelings stirred into great activity, and in their solitude occasioned by their grief

they find a certain kind of relief in the rhyming of certain favorite words and phrases. On such occasions sympathy is sought in their sorrow and they endeavour to place their productions before others, supposing they will by that means secure such sympathy.

If we were to insert one half of the verses written on such occasions and sent to us for publication we should soon have but little else in our pages. Such writing is perhaps less interesting than that of any other character, to persons not immediately concerned. Poetry of this character too must be of more than ordinary merit to give satisfaction to persons of cultivation and intelligence.

Obituary Notices too are sometimes written as a sort of ceremonial, like as men attend to the common rites of sepulture of their departed friends. This should not be. Unless there has been something more to record than that the deceased has lived a worthy christian life and died a happy death, other persons are not supposed to take an interest in reading of them.

We wish to oblige our friends but we must not do so at the sacrifice of the general good. A well written memoir of a useful public character is however quite a different thing and often full of instruction.

"A Looker-on," wishes to enquire of Bishop Medley:

1st. Whether he would rather that the Rev. Mr. McNutt had joined the Roman Catholic than the Baptist Church.

2. Whether a minister of the Gospel has not a right to obey the dictates of his conscience without being charged with violating his Ordination Vows.

3. Whether it is better on matters of doubt to go to the Bishop or the Bible.

If the Bishop of Fredericton would like to answer the above, our pages are at his service.

Notices, &c.

French Mission.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE FRENCH MISSION:—The Brethren named below will have the kindness to give out appointments in accordance with the following list, and make arrangements according to their best judgment on behalf of the Mission:—

Rawdon, Rev. J. Stephens.....	February 1
Newport East, Rev. J. Bancroft.....	2
Windsor, Rev. D. M. Welton.....	3
Newport West, Rev. G. Wethers.....	4
Hantsport, Rev. W. Burton.....	5
Horton 1st, Rev. S. W. deBlois.....	8
Horton 2nd, Rev. E. O. Read.....	9
Horton 3rd, Rev. S. B. Kempton.....	11
Cornwallis 1st, Rev. A. S. Hunt.....	12
Cornwallis 5th, Rev. D. Freeman.....	14
Cornwallis 3rd, Rev. J. Parker.....	16
Upper Aylesford, Rev. J. L. Read.....	17
Lower Aylesford, Rev. Dr. Tupper.....	18
Pine Grove, Rev. W. H. Porter.....	22
Nictaux, Rev. W. G. Parker.....	25
Wilmot, Rev. N. Vidito.....	28
Bridgetown, Rev. Geo. Armstrong.....	March 3
Granville, Rev. Isaiah Wallace.....	5
Clements, Rev. G. D. Cox.....	8

M. NORMANDY.

Colchester Co. Baptist Sabbath School Convention

The Annual Meeting of the Colchester County Baptist Sabbath School Convention will be held (D.V.) at Truro, on the evening of Friday the 15th, Feb. at half-past 6 o'clock. As this meeting has been adjourned for some time—a full attendance is earnestly solicited.

T. B. LAYTON, Sec'y.

The next Cape Breton Quarterly Meeting will be held (D.V.) with the church at Mira Bay, commencing, (at the Holmes' neighborhood) on Saturday, February 16th, at 2 p. m. By order,
W. B. BOGGS.

The Baptist Ministerial Conference of Annapolis Co., will meet, (D.V.) at Bridgetown on Tuesday the 19th of Feb. at 9 o'clock. Preaching on Monday evening preceding. A full attendance is solicited.
W. H. PORTER, Sec.

Letters Received.

C. Jost, 1 sub. Rev. E. N. Archibald, 1 sub. J. D. Marsters, 1 sub. D. F. Curry, 12c. A. Whitman, \$4.17.—It was a mistake. Jas. Desbrisay, Esq. \$16. W. H. Marshall, \$2.50. Rev. H. Angell.—Rev. D. W. C. Dimock, \$1. H. E. Payson, Esq., \$20.—Credited the net amount received last time. N. R. Westcott.—It will come regularly now. N. Miller, \$20, 2 sub. Dr. Hamilton. Chas. Sutherland, 1 sub. Wm. Gremley, \$2. R. H. Phillips.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
11th January, 1867.

APPOINTMENTS:

Annapolis Co.—To be Registrar of Probate—Edwin G. Runciman.

ERRATA.—In the Gazette of 16th inst.—To be a Justice of the Peace for Annapolis County, for Welton Welton, read "Walter Welton."

For the County of Richmond, for Francis Marraud, senr., read "Francis Marraud, junr."

THE LEGISLATURE has been further prorogued until the 11th of February. It is supposed that it will be summoned to meet for the despatch of business early in March.

PROGRESS.—It is affirmed that the Halifax Volunteer Artillery held their Banquet last week on Temperance principles.—Coffee and lemonade being the drinks of the evening.

Highly commendable!

The Annual meeting of the FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION was held at Wolfville on the 16th inst., and was attended by representatives from Kings, Annapolis, and Halifax Counties. A communication was received from the Rev. Dr. Forrester, of Truro, who has given great attention to the orchard capabilities of Nova Scotia, with a view to publishing a work on the subject. It was decided to hold the general exhibition at Somerset in October next. The April quarterly meeting will be held in Berwick, Kings Co.

It was resolved that the Challenge Silver Medal become the property of the person taking it three times not necessarily consecutive; three persons,—Dr. Hamilton, DeLancey Harris and Richard Starr,—having each taken it once, are to have the benefit thereof in the final competition.

POORS' ASYLUM.—It appears that during the past year this establishment supplied 1088 persons with food and shelter, 517 of those were men, 375 women, and 196 children; of this number 265 belonged to the city, and the remainder were transient paupers. There were 70 deaths during the year. There are 448 inmates at present in the establishment—being an increase of 30 over the corresponding period of the previous year. The average cost of each individual is fifteen cents per day. The total sum expended during 1866 was \$20,105, and the share for which the city is responsible is \$6,911.40 of the above amount, a less sum than the city was called upon to pay in 1865 by \$149.55.

The offer of the Commissioners of the Poor to supply the City Council with broken stone at three cents per bushel was considered by the latter body as too high a price.

Rev. G. M. Grant's Lecture on "the Reformers of the 19th century" was postponed last week until last evening.

ANNAPOLIS CO.—A barn belonging to Martin Gates, Esq., of Port George, Annapolis Co., was blown down by the storm of the 17th inst. Singularly enough some cattle which were in the barn at the time escaped without injury.

YARMOUTH.—The *Herald*, of the 17th inst., says: Two pieces of artillery for the defence of Yarmouth have arrived per schr. *Onward* from Halifax. They are 13 pounders, and are old veterans, having been cast in 1812. We have not as yet learned where they are to be placed.

A sapper, named Hugh Leslie, belonging to the Royal Engineers, deserted from this garrison on the 25th inst. The military authorities have offered a reward of \$10 for his apprehension.

On Saturday evening, as two military officers were driving a horse and sleigh across the Railway track in the vicinity of the Three Mile House, the "cow-catcher" attached to the down train came in contact with the team, killed the horse, and smashed the vehicle. The officers were not injured. The horse and sleigh belonged to Mr. Dennis Dunn, coachman, of this city. We are informed that the occurrence was purely accidental.—*Chronicle*.

THE ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY ROUTE.—The people of Kings County are inclined to believe that the extension of the Railway westward to Annapolis will shortly become a fixed fact, and are now anxious about the location of the line. Some are desirous of its crossing the Cornwallis river and having a station at Port Williams, instead of Kentville. It would be well for this matter to be properly ventilated. Whatever would be best for the accommodation of the public would of course be best for the company.

It will be seen by advertisement in another column that the time for receiving Tenders for sleepers, &c., is extended to the 14th day of February, and for delivery to the 1st of June.

THEFTING.—It is said that farmers often suffer from the pilfering propensities of those who are about taverns and stopping places. A man named James Mira was a few days since brought before the City Court charged by Jacob L. Webster with stealing about 40 yards of homespun from his wagon while on his way from the Richmond Depot. This is the right way to stop such practices—whenever there is good reason to suspect a thief a few words at the Police Office would probably put our detectives on the track of the guilty parties.

OUR REVENUE.—The published account of the Revenue received in Halifax the past two years, shew that in 1865 it was \$380,473.00 and in 1866 \$309,437.90 shewing an increase during the past year of \$108,964.89.

The Nova Scotia Marine Insurance have declared a dividend of \$12,000 out of the profits of the past year, equal to \$30 per share, or at the rate of 30 per cent per annum on the paid up capital.

It is expected that a branch of the Montreal Bank, the largest Banking establishment in British North America, will be established in this city early in the present year.

DOGS BEWARE!—The *Reporter* informs us that a fine dog belonging to one of our citizens met with a violent end yesterday in Bedford Row, in a curious manner. Another dog that should not be suffered to go at large, sprang at him and gripped him by the neck. He was pushed against the Fuel Yard fence with such force that his neck was broken. In a few seconds poor Tray was defunct.