

sinfulness and condemnation of a man at birth,) is to be accounted for in the general law of propagation. Like begets like.—Adam became sinful, and hence all his posterity are born in a state of sin, or with a sinful nature. Although these views are not equally scriptural, nevertheless, they leave the doctrine intact, and do not work a rejection of the system of which it is an essential part.—*Dr. Hodge.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 26, 1868.

Dean Alford on Bible Revision.

This subject is often noticed by English writers, but by none more practically or effectually than by Dr. Alford, Dean of Canterbury. An excellent article of his in *Good Words* for January, entitled "The Christian Conscience," contains the following instructive paragraphs on this subject. These utterances of one of England's first scholars should silence the carping of small men we often hear, when the question of Bible revision is spoken of:

"There is another matter; one on which the Christian conscience of all the churches in our realm needs awakening. I mean the duty of bringing our Authorized Version of the Holy Scriptures into closer proximity to the text in which those Scriptures were written. This has become a matter of very serious import. It is now well known to most persons of any information and intelligence, that there are very many passages in which our version either represents a text which is not the genuine one, or misrepresents that genuine text in rendering it. We are reading and preaching on, as the word of God, sayings which are demonstrably no part of that word; we are giving to its texts meanings which any scholar can see they will not bear. We of the Church of England are using two different versions of the Book of Psalms, in one of which are some verses that yield no assignable sense in themselves, and some, the sense of which flatly contradicts the sense of the corresponding verses in the other version. And yet both these versions, the one asserting the other denying the same fact, are read and preached from indifferently.

I know it is the custom to depreciate and minimize the importance of these variations and errors. And this is one of the very things of which I complain. I never saw this method of argument followed without very great unfairness. Not to mention that in the esteem of those who set the highest possible value on Scripture, no assignable deviation from its actual meaning ought to be a trifle,—it is distinctly not the fact, that the variations and errors are of slight account. In very many parts of St. Paul's Epistles the inattention, on the part of our translators, to the force of words and the accuracy of constructions, has rendered the Apostle's argument unintelligible to English readers. And the first duty of a faithful expositor is to assure his hearers, on his own authority, that St. Paul does not say what they read in their Bibles, nor mean what those English words would appear to convey.

Nor can I regard as any more conscientious the miserable argument against touching the Authorized Version, which is often raised on the ground of expediency. There is danger, we are told, in unsettling the minds of those who simply rely on their English Bibles, as the word of God. I am amazed at hearing this plea from lips which frequently utter it. For what abuse, for what dereliction of unwelcome duty, may it not be made an apology? And even if we descend to its own cowardly level, and begin to weigh expediencies, which of the two, think you, is the greater danger—mantling to meet the present unsatisfactory state of things by an authorized revision, or to allow a text which we vaunt as the word of God to be continually either held back because it will not bear examination, or brought into doubt and content by being disavowed from our pulpits?

And the matter is one not presenting any insuperable difficulty. Let a Royal Commission (for I see no other way of gaining for the new version the same authority as the old possessors)—let a Royal Commission call together the most capable men out of all reformed denominations, and set them on this work, and (I speak from having been engaged in it with others of differing views and habits of mind) they will be astonished how soon practical terms of agreement will be arranged, and a basis of operations settled. There are few things that I hope and pray for so much, as that He who has men's hearts in his hand, would cause the conscience of His Churches to awaken to this their bounden duty. But alas, while I hope and pray, there are few things which I less expect. There seems to have settled down on our Churches a spirit of secularity and timidity, especially with regard to the treatment of Scripture, that I cannot see the faintest prospect of such a work being undertaken in our time.

*As an example of the former kind: can any acute's extract sense from Ps. lxxiii. 8 in the Prayer-book version? "Or ever your pots be made hot with thorns: so let indignation vex him, even as a thing that is raw." As an example of the latter, compare Ps. cv. 28 in the two versions.—*Prayer-book Version.* He sent darkness and it was dark: and they were not obedient unto his word. *Authorized version.* He sent darkness and made it dark: and they rebelled not against his word.

Dr. Crawley's Letter No. 5, and the reply thereto will be found on the fifth page of our present issue.

When Dr. Crawley applied to us for space for his letters, we suggested that "many of our readers would deeply regret their appearance, and indeed any further discussion of the subject;" yet the considerations which he urged were such, that we felt constrained to forego our own opinion on that point, and made no further hesitation in their publication. We did not exact from him any intimation as to the number of letters in the series he wished to appear, and supposed that they would not become unreasonable, either in their number or their length, but merely added that we should feel ourselves under obligation, also to insert whatever Replies these letters might call forth from Granville Street Church. We had some doubts then, and they have not at all diminished, as to whether it is right for a public journalist in our position, to permit an individual to attack and denounce a church for their acts.

Perhaps we have done wrong in permitting Dr. Crawley to write as he has done on this subject. We do feel that Granville Street Church has more reason to complain than Dr. Crawley or his friends. We have not allowed their efforts, in another periodical, to misrepresent our words and acts, to prevent our affording them every consideration in our power. If such things had been written, by him or any other person under similar circumstances, concerning any other church in our Association, and we had published, even "Letter I," without letting their reply appear at the same time, we believe that we should have laid ourselves open to grave censure. We have lately learned from a number of esteemed brethren in different parts of the province, for whose opinion we entertain the greatest respect, that whilst they fully approve of the course we have pursued under the circumstances, and deeply sympathize with us; yet they feel that the discussion is exceedingly distasteful to themselves and their families; and that it should not be permitted to proceed further; which opinion entirely accords with our own. We consequently feel that the duty we owe to ourselves and our subscribers demands that we express our disinclination to continue the infliction of such matter upon them.

There may be matters of New Testament church polity, involved in the case that has called forth these letters, which may claim our consideration, and further examination at the hands of our brethren, we cannot therefore say that all further reference to it shall be absolutely rejected; but we would inform all parties concerned that we must see what is written for our pages before we can promise that it shall appear there. Of course we do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions written over a proper signature. Nevertheless we cannot entirely divert ourselves of responsibility in publishing them to the world. We have no wish to debar any person from writing merely because they differ from us, but we must ourselves be the judge of what is acceptable to our readers.

We take this opportunity of thanking our friends for their forbearance, and trust they will approve of this determination.

Our Provincial Legislature which met in the end of January, was prorogued yesterday having been almost wholly engaged during this period with the question of the Repeal of the Imperial Act of Union of the Province, so far as respects Nova Scotia. To this effect they have passed a series of Resolutions, with which our readers are acquainted, and have appointed delegates to carry them to be laid before the Queen. We have many readers on both sides of this stirring question; to them we would commend its most calm and dispassionate consideration. It is undoubtedly, in our view, one of the most important matters that has ever come before the Legislature of the Province, and one the ultimate results of which must most deeply concern the future interests of the whole community for weal or for woe. In such a case precipitancy might possibly be fatal to our well-being, and lead to consequences beyond the control of future action. In a case like the present, the danger on all sides, lies in undue excitement, and shutting our eyes to the probable results of whichever course we take. Under these circumstances the duties of professing christians are vastly enhanced. If calmness and moderation are the manifest duties of all, the christian has also the obligation imposed on him of earnest prayer that the course he adopts may be sanctioned by the blessing of God, and may tend to the advancement of his cause, and the truest interests of the community in which he dwells.

An unhappy state of excited feelings appears to prevail between the Executive Government of the neighbouring Union and the

Congress. The question of the Impeachment of President Johnson is again revived, in consequence of his dismissal of General Grant as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. A violent personal quarrel has arisen between those two high officials, involving charges of treachery and untruthfulness. The general state of business in all its branches, throughout the Union, seems greatly depressed, without much hope of a speedy revival. We believe the question is not yet decided, whether Congress will sanction Mr. Seward's purchase of Russian possessions on the Northwestern coast of America, or the Danish Island of St. Thomas in the West Indies. General McLellan is to succeed Mr. Adams as Ambassador to the court of London.

Acadia College Endowment.

Dear Brother,—

Our Brother, the Rev. Jos. H. Saunders is patiently working the Agency for the College. His last letter to me was written at Amherst. The brethren there, I hope, will give full proof of their attachment to the Institution.

The people have exerted themselves, most praiseworthy, in almost all places, for Common School education, and have expended large sums in the erection of buildings. This is a movement in the right direction. They will doubtless see that it is their duty to follow it up by sustaining the higher Institutions, the need and value of which will be now much more clearly perceived. A liberal outlay for education is sure to command a profitable return.

Commending our brother and his Agency to the favorable regard of the Public.

I am, yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Feb. 24th, 1868.

MONTREAL.—Religious affairs in this city are receiving more than ordinary attention. A extract or two from letters received from a friend on a visit there shows that our brethren are receiving accessions. He says:

Feb. 11th, 1868.—"I saw eight baptized last sabbath evening at our chapel. Very solemn meetings are being held every night. Placards are posted around the city—"Prepare to meet thy God." I think there are solemn times in all the Protestant churches of this city.

Feb. 14th.—"Attended Baptist Prayer-meeting, Wednesday, several stood up to express their desire to be prayed for. Rev. Mr. Alexander, formerly a Presbyterian minister, is now their pastor, and is very much esteemed."

It is with deep regret we have to report the decease of the Hon. WILLIAM B. KINNEAR of St. John, N. B., a Member of the Legislative Council of that Province. He has for many years been a Member of the Brussels Street Church, and was held in high esteem for his many excellent qualities, both in the church and community at large. His simple and unaffected piety and amiable disposition, as well as the active interest he ever evinced in whatever concerned the progress of truth or holiness, will long dwell in the remembrance of his numerous christian brethren and friends.

CORRECTION.—The letter sent to the last session of the Eastern Baptist Association, signed, by order of the church, by Bro. John King, clerk, was the approved letter of the church, having been submitted to both sections of the church, and passed by a majority of the whole.

The difficulties in the church did not arise from doing business in two sections, but from other causes; for the church had worked harmoniously in the two sections for nearly four years.

B. SCOTT.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Feb. 17th 1868.

The petition against the return of Mr. Blanchard was before the house. Mr. J. McDonald appeared at the bar of the house to enter a protest against the petition on the ground that both the bondsmen for the petition were members of the House. On his retiring the House sat with closed doors to consider this objection. Subsequently the following gentlemen were sworn as the Committee to try the case: Hon. Mr. Robertson, Messrs. Lawrence, Ross, Freeman, Ryerson, Johnson, and McDonald.

The debate on the Repeal Resolutions continued on Monday and Tuesday by the various speakers on the government side.

ON TUESDAY afternoon the speaker announced that it had been arranged that Mr. Blanchard and the Hon. Attorney General would close the debate.

ON WEDNESDAY the debate was resumed by Mr. Blanchard who spoke till the adjournment, and asked leave to resume the next morning.

On THURSDAY after Mr. Blanchard had closed his speech, Hon. Attorney General Wilkins spoke till the close of the House, and intimated that in case the appeal to the Imperial authorities failed, other means would be tested to ascertain if Canada had a right to authority in Nova Scotia. He also introduced some additional resolutions to be added to those before the House—one of these was to the effect that the Imperial Government had not the power of appointing Senators to the Dominion parliament; the other contradicting the story of Confederation having been put to the people at the former election. The resolutions being put no response was given. Mr. Blanchard objected to the vote being recorded as a unanimous one.

On FRIDAY a number of Petitions for various objects were presented. Some discussion arose on some of them.

Hon. Attorney General brought forward his additional resolutions which were put to the House and passed in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Troop moved that an address to her Majesty the Queen embodying the resolutions be prepared. The following members were appointed to draft the address, Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Prov. Sec, Messrs. White, McDonald, and Desbrisay.

ON SATURDAY the address to the Queen was reported and passed.

Mr. Blanchard enquired of the government whether the Hon. Mr. Howe was a delegate to England accredited by the government. The Hon. Prov. Secretary replied that he would consider the question submitted.

On MONDAY a resolution was introduced in the assembly providing that in case of the repeal of the Union with the other British American provinces being granted, we shall bear a just and fair proportion of the cost of the Intercolonial Railway. Five members voted in opposition, Messrs. Townshend, Brown, Blanchard, Pineo, and Doucette.

It was intimated that the adjournment would probably extend to the first week in August.

General Intelligence.

Province of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX ITEMS.

FIRE.—The past week has been prolific of these sad disasters in Halifax, as in other places: Three Cottages, and a carpenter's shop in Agricola street, were entirely consumed on Thursday last. Several families were by this calamity turned out of doors in a few minutes, and lost their furniture and effects. The day was intensely cold, and several of the hydrants in the neighbourhood were frozen.

Grafton Street Methodist Church.—This handsome structure was found to be on fire on Sunday afternoon. The fire was first discovered in the tower through which the chimney from the furnace passes. It appears to have arisen from some defect in the pipes coming from the furnace. The fire brigade were early on the spot with the steam fire engine. The fire made such rapid progress, that it was evident that nothing could save the church, and efforts were directed to save the dwelling houses in the neighbourhood. In about an hour from the first alarm the whole building was a mass of flame, and by eight o'clock the whole was levelled to the ground by the devouring element, and a heap of smouldering ruins.

The fine new Organ with nearly all the church furniture and books were destroyed.

We are glad to learn that the building was insured for \$9,000. This, however, will not more than half cover the loss. The fine brick school rooms in the rear were in danger, but were not injured, and will, we presume supply the congregation with a place for worship until they can rebuild. We sincerely sympathize with our Methodist friends in the loss of their beautiful edifice—altered, enlarged, and greatly improved only last summer.

THE TROTTER MATCHES on Bedford Basin last week, resulted in a large amount of drunkenness and fighting. One man was much injured by being run over by one of the horses.

THE POOR OF HALIFAX are we believe suffering greatly. Perhaps many who are not accustomed to receive charitable gifts, are in as much need as the known poor. "The Association for improving the condition of the poor," during January relieved 500 families, containing 1843 persons. They gave 1146 loaves of bread, 129 bushels of coal. In groceries \$351. 36; 186 lbs of beef, and 214 quarts of soup.

THE YOUNG MEN'S EARLY CLOSING ASSOCIATION held their first public meeting on Monday evening, in Temperance Hall. His Worship the Mayor presided, and P. C. Hill Esq., and others gave effective addresses.

VACANT.—The Debtors prison in this city is at present unoccupied.