

advanced standpoint of this righteous "Kansas bill" has not yet been reached. Would it not be worthy the efforts of energetic temperance men to put such a powerful weapon of defence into the hands of suffering wives? It would be a good addition to the Excise Law, while waiting for the perhaps never-to-be-realized "total prohibition."—N. Y. Ez.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Scripture Catechism.

Dear Brother Selden,—

It is obviously important to have the mind well stored with Scripture. The Psalmist says, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." (Ps. cxix. 11.) Our Lord repelled the various temptations of Satan by the application of appropriate portions of the Sacred Word. (Matt. iv. 3-10.) In his interesting prayer for his people he says, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth."

The committing of Scripture to memory in connection with a Sabbath School, or otherwise, whether in whole chapters, or select passages, is evidently adapted to subserve valuable purposes; but unless special care be exercised to retain what has been learned, it is very liable to be soon forgotten. One advantage therefore, which attends the use of a Scripture Catechism is, that the learner can readily refer to the passages that may be partially forgotten; and the parent, guardian, or teacher, by frequently proposing the questions answered by the several texts can assist greatly in fixing them permanently in the memory.—He or she may also, by framing other questions on the passages, easy or hard, in proportion to the pupils capacity, afford much assistance in the acquisition and retention of a knowledge of their exact and full import.

A Catechism expressing briefly in uninspired language the principal points of doctrine and duty taught in the Bible, with proof texts cited, may be used with much profit.—As, however, men who can not claim to speak or write as they are "moved by the Holy Ghost," are liable to err, the entire correctness of all that is contained in such a compendium may be questioned. But in a Scripture Catechism, if the texts in which the answers are given be correctly understood and properly applied, no reasonable doubt can be entertained with reference to the truth and accuracy of what is thus taught. It must in that case be unexceptionable.

Under these considerations the propriety of compiling such a Catechism, and the benefit derivable from the diligent use of it, are manifest. The "Scripture Catechism" recently prepared, evidently with much care and pains, now advertised in C. M., appears to me to be judiciously arranged and well adapted to aid in imparting Scriptural instruction to the rising generation. It is therefore, my earnest desire that it may be extensively used in families, Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes.

Yours in gospel bonds,

CHARLES TUPPER.

Aylesford, Oct. 28, 1868.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

The Cornell University has been recently opened. The event was the occasion of great joy and enthusiasm. A large concourse of people assembled to hear the addresses; see the Professors inaugurated; listen to the music of a fine chime of bells; and give a cordial welcome to the Students. The day has left a deep and lasting impression upon all who enjoyed the pleasure of being present at its scenes.

The Institution is located in Ithaca, New York, near the home of its founder. Its buildings are about a mile from the village, and are set like a city on a hill, around which is spread out a most beautiful landscape. But one of them is completed. Another is in the course of erection, and will be ready for use some time during next year. Eight or ten more are soon to grace the eminence, if the plans of the founder are all carried out. Provision is to be made for the accommodation of at least three thousand students. Mr. Cornell donated \$500,000 to found an University on the condition that the State would donate as much more. His offer was accepted after some little demur, and the Institution commences with an endowment of million of dollars, having a pre-eminence in wealth over the most of our Colleges. It is his design that in it all things shall be taught that any young man wishes to learn to qualify him for any useful department in life. And if he lives long enough, and his friends do not fail, his purpose will without doubt be accomplished.

A large farm is connected with the Institu-

tion, and workshops are soon to be erected for every description of mechanism, so that the students of science can apply their knowledge to the arts, perfect themselves in their various professions, and earn at the same time the means to meet their expenses. A young man of economy, with ordinary skill, and of industrious habits, may here secure for himself a liberal education, with a very little aid from other sources. At least, this is the theory that is given to the world, which time alone will confirm or explode. Between three and four hundred students have already entered, and many are dependent upon their personal energies for the realization of their aspirations and hopes.

A good common school education is all that is demanded for the admission of such as design to apply themselves to the practical sciences. These, after four years of diligent study, will be admitted to the full honors of a degree. It is designed to reform the old system of college education, and adapt, as far as is possible, the studies of the students to those particular branches which they will most need in their various pursuits. Each student will make his own election of studies, and no given course shall have any preference in the honors bestowed.

No one religious sect, according to the charter, can ever have a majority in the Board, nor can persons of any sect form a majority. It is to be always free from a sectarian and non-sectarian influence. The founder and the President are out and out against sects having the control of the Colleges. But a form of religion is to be maintained at daily worship, and a liberal christianity is to be inculcated that will make christian gentlemen without any dogmas. It is presumed that there is a great deal of religion outside of the sects, whose influence is of the most elevating tendency, and that is best adapted to meet the wants of the age, by giving an expansion to thought, a grandeur to worship, and to liberalize the sentiments and actions of mankind. And if it were not for the fact, that this religion has for the most part been as invisible as star-dust to the eye, and had about as much influence on the world, this presumption might be more readily accepted. In the days of Elijah some of its kind was in existence, among the 7000 that had not bowed their knees unto Baal, but the holy prophet had not learned where it was, and it took the omniscient Eye to discover it. A philosophical sentimentalism, and negative theories, are but a poor substitute for a crucified Redeemer, and the vital power of the doctrines of his cross, "Christ is the wisdom of God, and the power of God; and his gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Any substitution will be fatal to the world and ruinous to the soul.

It has been found in experience that most of the influences have existed among the sects that have civilized, christianized, and liberalized the world.

The study of Theology has no department in the University. It was no part of its design to make ministers. This work is given over to the sects, as is also done in very many of our Colleges. But no one will be rejected from any of its advantages on account of any of his tastes or preferences. It is in contemplation to open its doors to both sexes, should the future promise a beneficial result. This has already been done in some of our Colleges, and a favorable impression has been made in its favor. The benevolence of its founder would secure through it the greatest good of all. Its conception and foundation will be an honor to his memory, and will greatly promote the practical education our land.

J. M. H.

For the Christian Messenger.

Distinct Schools.

No. 1.

Dear Brother,—

The following is a copy of the Bill introduced in the late Session of our Legislature, and postponed till the next Session by a majority of two only:—

"A Bill, entitled 'An Act to alter and amend the Act for the better encouragement of Education.'

"Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

"It shall be lawful for a minority in one School Section, or a combination of minorities in adjoining Sections, with the consent of the Board of Commissioners for the District, and with the approval of the Council of Public Instruction, to establish a Distinct School, that shall hereafter in all other respects come under the general provision of the Act hereby amended."

This Bill, if passed, will inflict a heavy blow on our Provincial System of Education. The sting is carefully concealed, but it is there. I propose, with your permission, to

offer some remarks upon it in succeeding numbers, and am,

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Oct. 26, 1868.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 4, 1868.

A Proposal—Great Inducements.

We hereby offer to send the *Messenger* WITHOUT CHARGE for the remainder of this year, to New Subscribers for 1869 from the date of receiving their names, with the payment in advance.

We also make the following proposal. We will send a copy of Dr. Cramp's Baptist History to every person who sends us

FOUR NEW SUBSCRIBERS as above, before the end of this year.

Will our friends who are in arrears for the *Christian Messenger* have the kindness to forward the amounts due at their earliest convenience. Demands which must be met are pressing upon us. If we had the whole of what is owing, we should be relieved from a vast amount of care and anxiety. Delay causes us expense and trouble. What is owing by any one may seem a small sum, but when they are numerous they become in the aggregate a large amount.

We are sorry to afflict those of our Patrons who pay promptly in advance by inserting such a paragraph as the above. It all our Subscribers, who have not heretofore done so, would imitate their good example, we should be greatly obliged, and be under no necessity of referring to money matters,—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER brings Happiness wherever it comes. Education it supplies for all the

Children who can read, as well as for parents. Home is thus made more attractive; Reform of abuses is advocated, Intemperance and idleness are discouraged. Shipping Intelligence is given every week. Thoughtful persons write for it and read it. Independent in politics, it is

Approved by the three N. S. Baptist Associations. New Testament religion it inculcates, and Makes Christianity its foundation. Equal rights it demands for all. Sabbath Schools and Teachers receive Special attention and respect. Every Farmer should read the "Agriculture &c., No family should be without its weekly paper. Great advantages flow from its general circulation. Enterprise and progress are encouraged. Reader, try and get your neighbours to Take the *Christian Messenger*.

Thanksgiving Day.

We are unofficially informed that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will to-day issue a Proclamation recommending that Thursday, the 12th inst., be observed as a Day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessing of an abundant harvest, &c.

We would suggest that in future more time should be allowed for word to reach distant parts of the Province in time.

Gratitude is demanded from us at all times. Blessings innumerable are bestowed on all. We may not have all we desire, but certainly we have vastly more than we deserve, as a people or as individuals; and it becomes us to recognize the Divine Source of all temporal blessing. How many countries are deprived of the blessings we enjoy. Let us consider the blessings we have—our civil and religious liberty—our immunity from serious epidemics—from earthquake—and from general disaster; and, if we are Christians, we shall find our hearts drawn up to the Giver of every good and every perfect gift; and shall then be in a favorable position for the continuance and enlargement of these favors from the hand of our Heavenly Father.

Religion discouraged in the Army.

The condition of the British soldier is much improved of late years, and yet there are some things still remaining in their discipline which are of a very objectionable character. Irreligion is in many respects patronized, while the exhibition of practical piety is discouraged. A christian man in the army is forbidden to preach or hold religious services, but when a number of Amateur Theatricals—officers or men—choose to get up a Dramatic and Musical Entertainment, a christian man who happens to be a musician in the Band is obliged to attend the theatre when ordered there, and to participate in the performance of the music. This we regard as a species of slavery and no better than compelling a man to enter a heathen temple and assist in the worship.

This is a hardship which ought to be exposed and redressed. We do not think the theatre calculated to make better men or better soldiers, and the conscientious objector ought to be allowed to decline what are not public duties, if he thinks proper.

In our last we noticed the reception from St. John of the Minutes of the Baptist Convention. We had been anxious to receive them on several accounts. One of these was to find what was the correct version of a resolution passed concerning the Dominion "Table of Precedence" then just promulgated.

Shortly after the session we found a version of the said resolution, going the rounds of the papers, which contained the objectionable term "dissenting ministers."

We were satisfied that this was wrong, and therefore waited for the published Minutes before copying it, or giving any sanction to a resolution containing that term. The following is the correct version of the resolution:—

"Whereas, There has been published in the Canada Gazette an "Order of Precedence," wherein certain honours are conceded to persons bearing ecclesiastical titles, and they are thereby placed by Royal proclamation in a superior position; be it therefore

Resolved, That since there is no State Church in these Colonies, the placing of ecclesiastics, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, in a position above their fellow-citizens, by the exercise of public authority, is offensive to other Christian ministers, and calculated to disturb the peace and harmony of society, and perpetuate invidious distinctions between different religious bodies.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing Resolution, signed by the President and Secretary of the Convention, be forwarded to the Secretary of State of the Dominion; and that copies be also forwarded to the *Christian Visitor* and *Christian Messenger*.

We did not receive a copy.

In the list of Members of Convention, the name of Rev. E. M. Saunders should have appeared, but is omitted.

The Treasurer of the Convention Z. G. Gabel, Esq., requests us to publish the following account of collections, which does not appear in the Minutes:—

Dr.

Z. G. Gabel, Treasurer of the Convention for N. B., 1868.

Aug. 23.

To collection in the Brussels street church,	\$20.28
To collections in the Portland church,	8.50
To collections in the German street church during session,	87.44
To collections in the Leinster St. church,	16.95
To collection at the Carleton Church,	8.00
To collection in the African School House,	2.31
To collection at Pitt street,	3.82

\$147.31

Cr.

1868.

Oct. By paid for printing 2,000 copies Minutes,

\$75.00

By paid G. M. Steeves, Esq.,

Treasurer of Missionary

Funds for N. B., to be by

him paid over to Treasurer

of Foreign Missionary

Funds of N. S. and N. B., 72.31

\$147.31

Z. G. GABEL, Treasurer.

We have a very interesting article, forwarded to us by Rev. Dr. Cramp, from an English paper, giving the history of that magnificent Institution, the Cornell University, the opening of which is noticed by our United States Correspondent, in another column, and of Mr. Cornell's great wealth and magnificent liberality. We shall insert the article in our next. The fact of Mr. O. Fred. Hartt, a graduate of Acadia College, being one of the professors in the Geological Department of the Institution, will give an additional amount of interest to it in the estimation of our readers.

We were proposing to go into the discussion of the "Distinct Schools" question, and expose what we regard as a proposal for a retrograde movement in our Educational affairs, but are glad to find that Dr. Cramp has taken up the matter, and proposes to examine it by a series of brief letters, the first of which appears in our present issue.

Hon. Mr. Howe's Letter.

OUR POLITICIANS have been somewhat excited during the past week by the publication of a letter from the Hon. Joseph Howe, addressed to the *Pictou Eastern Chronicle*, in reply to one in the same paper from a correspondent in Washington, signed "Acadia," recommending a resistance of law and authority, and an attempt at immediate annexation to the United States. Mr. Howe administers severe reproof for such treasonable and dangerous sentiments. He says:—

Your correspondent at Washington in times of peace, may plot treason against Great Britain in perfect safety; nay, he may gain personal or political capital or advantage by the venture.—If civil war breaks out he is far from the scene of danger—in either case he risks neither life, property nor reputation.

How is it with the Nova Scotian at home?—Unless he can overthrow the Government while it lasts, he must, if committing himself to trea-