

if there was not some body of men to maintain them. He believed that the Church of God and the world at large needed the Baptists just now, and had always needed them. When did they begin as a denomination? When Christ went down to the Jordan, and John baptised Him in its waters. Protestants, Wesleyans, Independents, Catholics—all modern sects—had sprung up in their day, and the Baptists were glad to see them prosper; but they themselves were the old patriarchal church derived from the Apostles. (Applause.) He thought it must be a grand thing to be John Bright—to see his terrible doctrines and destructive opinions become recognized truths and actually carried out. One liked to live to see the world converted to his opinions; and so it was with those Anabaptists who had been hooted, and hunted, and scoffed. Because they held certain truths they were regarded as separatists from their brethren; yet those truths had become recognized in the Christian churches—as some other truths would be as the light grew and the Saviour came and hastened on. (Loud applause.) Let them take heed that they never grew respectable. (Laughter.) Any denomination that grew respectable was pretty near its funeral sermon. (Renewed laughter.) They must be willing to accept the poor as a great boon, and look upon them as their strength (hear, hear), and not estimate the worth of a church by its congregation, or the number of common council-men and aldermen who attended it in carriages. They must just be content to hammer away for Christ in their own sphere, to look after the poorest in the land, and if others came to be thankful for them; but still to remember that the poor must have the Gospel preached to them. (Applause.) There was a great deal of snubbing done by the larger men of the church which might well be left undone or left to the devil to do; and in illustration of this remark the rev. gentleman related an incident from an early stage in his own ministerial experience. If they had a rebuke conscientiously to administer let them temper their words with love that they might not distress the receiver. (Applause.) In conclusion the rev. gentleman eloquently urged greater earnestness in all departments of their holy work. They must not go prowling around the sheepfolds of fellow shepherds, and snatch away sheep or lambs, as if to devour them at leisure in their own dens, but all churches should go boldly into the world to win fresh ground for Christ with the potent weapon of the Gospel and with the kindred weapon of devout and holy living. (Applause.)

A collection was then made in aid of the association, after which the proceedings were brought to a close by the offering up of a prayer by the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel.—Freeman.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 30, 1869.

ENQUIRIES AND REPLIES.

"A church member" in a distant place sends us the following enquiries; and requests that answers be given in the Messenger.

1. Should a member be considered in good standing who is habitually absent from the ordinances of the Church? Is such an one eligible to office?

2. Is a member subject to discipline who has evident ability and yet refuses to assist in sustaining the ministry of the Gospel, and bearing the pecuniary liabilities of the Church?

1. In offering a reply to the first of the above enquiries, we would suggest that every case of this nature must be judged on its own merits. There are peculiarities in the circumstances of every individual, and in his relation to the church that might tend to modify any opinion one might form, and must consequently be taken into account in making a reply. The length of time that such absence has continued, and the reasons offered for it, would also greatly affect such judgment. Generally, therefore, we would remark that membership in the church of Christ implies and demands fellowship; and no church member should regard himself, as fulfilling his obligations to Christ, to his brethren, to the world, or to himself, who "habitually absents himself from the ordinances," whether it be from the ordinance of Public Worship, or that of the Lord's Supper.

The value and importance of a regular and punctual attendance on christian ordinances is, we believe, generally, but imperfectly appreciated, and needs the careful

and watchful attention of all the members of a church. The duty is plainly taught by the Apostle, when he says: "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching" and in other passages he shews how, he, wielding an inspired pen, regarded this privilege. The command of our Lord to his disciples in reference to the observance of the Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me," shews that he knew the frailty of mankind and their proneness to forget even the greatest of blessings received. Almost every other delinquency in the church begins in a depreciation of church fellowship. The devil's work is half done if he can introduce enough of disaffection into the church to keep the members of Christ's body apart from each other, or can throw in amongst them a bone of contention, or cause a root of bitterness to spring up and trouble them, or, do any thing that may prevent them combining in attacks on his possessions in the world.

Wherever declension exists efforts should be made and persevered in to restore the declining brother or sister anew to their obligations and privileges. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

As to the eligibility of any such member to office, we may remark, that we have heard that in some other communions, when a member becomes dissatisfied and contentious, the cure for him is to make him an elder. It is questionable if that policy would be desirable in a Baptist church. However as such matters are decided by a majority of votes we must leave the members to exercise their own judgment, guided by the New Testament, see 1 Tim. iii. 8, &c., as to who they would prefer to exercise honorable and responsible offices amongst them.

2. On the financial question, It is undoubtedly the duty and privilege of every church-member to contribute, according to his ability, to the benevolent operations of the body; and especially to that of sustaining the ministry of the gospel in their midst. A disinclination to do this is a pretty good indication of the absence of a christian heart. Labor should be judiciously expended on any member who is so defective in this respect as to refuse to assist. If after all the modes that love can devise for his benefit, he still persists in his determination "to muzzle the ox that treadeth out his corn," 1 Cor. ix. 9; 1 Tim. v. 18, he should have the united voice of his brethren to tell him that such conduct is inconsistent with the christian profession.

PROFESSOR OF NATURAL SCIENCE IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

We have read with much pleasure a letter received by T. H. Rand, Esq., from Mr. Wm. Elder, M. A., Professor elect of Natural Science in Acadia College; and, believing the friends of the Institution, and especially those who are seeking to establish this professorship, will be gratified with a perusal of portions of the same, Mr. R. has kindly permitted us to make the following extracts:—

"You will readily agree with me that it is necessary for one who wishes to teach any of the Natural Sciences to have greater advantages for study than are afforded at home. In many branches of knowledge this may not be necessary. They have been so long subjects of careful study, so many great men have devoted energy and erudition to them and carried the boundaries of knowledge so far beyond the range of common minds, that it is very rare for any new discovery of importance to be made in them. Here a minute acquaintance with books is the chief thing sought. But this is not true in all cases. Sciences have arisen and grown to importance within a few years that now wield a mighty influence in shaping the opinions of men. You have only to glance at the history of Paleontology and Embryology with their wonderful revelations to see the truth of this. Zealous students of nature are eagerly pushing forward investigations in the directions pointed out by master minds, and every day new facts are being discovered in workroom and laboratory, and new principles and theories advanced in the lecture room. Ask a naturalist what books he would advise you to use to get an acquaintance with Natural History, and he will tell you to avoid all books, that there is nothing written on these subjects that will not do you more harm than good, and if you want to understand nature you must study natural objects themselves. Since this is the case you will not wonder that I think it of so much importance that our knowledge on these topics should be drawn from a fountain head where we know it springs pure, and you will readily understand why I feel myself highly privileged in being able to attend lectures which are the work of the one great original mind of the world in this department of knowledge, and to work among the col-

lections of this Museum—which is, for its purposes, the best in the world.

I hope that the fact of my receiving a salary before entering actively upon my duties will not have a prejudicial effect. Of course I will return what I receive this year, as it would be unjust to those now at work, and to the College, for me to keep it.

I am more than ever convinced of the wisdom of adding to the educational Course some branches of study which will bring the student face to face with living nature, and give him an opportunity for original investigation. I think that this is often a want in the common course of study, and that while the tasks given to the student require deep thought and careful abstraction their general scope is to teach him to depend upon authorities, to take knowledge at second hand, not to use, (that is, educate,) his own judgment, and those powers of observation so necessary to the acquisition of knowledge. Give a student thus trained, an object which he has never seen before, and of which he knows nothing, and ask him to describe it for you. His first effort will be to find some one who can tell him its name. Then he will overhaul libraries to find what has been written on it. He will bring you at last a well written compilation of what A. B. and C. have thought on the subject, but not a word of his own—probably he will not venture to say what shape he thinks it, unless one of his authorities has given his ideas on that point. This is something, but is it all—is it the most of education?

There are many other considerations in favor of scientific study—familiar to you, no doubt.—One other, however, I must mention, that is the Christian duty. Earnest searchers for truth are pursuing these investigations with tireless energy, and even now Science stretches out her hand to find the solution of the problem of life, which seems just within her grasp. Every corner of the universe is being subjected to careful searching and all things questioned as to their origin and purpose. Infidel men are striving to shut God out of the universe as they have already shut him out of their thoughts, and if infidel men know most about nature they will be accepted as her oracles. It is useless to say that science is infidel, and it is best not to study it. Men will and should study it for it is the truth of God, and has a moralizing and reverence inspiring effect on the thoughtful mind. We know that no study, not even that of the Bible, will make a man a christian without the aid of the Spirit. If the perverse heart of man wrests skeptical arguments from the Word of God, is it wonderful that it does the same with his works?

It is as truly the duty of Christians to guard God's physical laws from misrepresentation as his moral. It is as necessary that science should be Christianized as that the gospel should be sent to the heathen. Can it be of so much importance to vindicate God's truth in what he has said and so little in what he has made?

It is necessary, too, to fortify the mind against the insidious arguments which meet us on every side. You can hardly take up a periodical which does not contain some article entirely setting aside Christian faith—in which theory is given as truth, and misstatements managed so as to give an impression of certainty, though careful investigation will show them to have but doubtful foundation. Is it not of vast importance that the education provided for such an age as this should fit a man to value rightly the claims of those who are constantly crying, "Lo, here, or lo, there!" that the truth be not lost through specious arguments.

Prof. Agassiz never dogmatizes on disputed points in his lectures, he gives us plain scientific facts, the results of his own investigations, and I have never heard anything from him calculated to dislodge Faith from her ancient foundations.

ORNITHOLOGICAL.

A friend in Annapolis County has sent us the following enquiry concerning what appears to be a new arrival in that part of the province:

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE BIRD?—Mr. Editor, I have been much interested for the last fortnight, with the visits and songs of a bird, to me a stranger. It is about the size of a black bird, perhaps not quite so large. On the back the color is nearly as dark, and the breast is a dark lead color. It sings early in the morning, perched on the tops of the trees near the house, and so nearly resembles the robin, that I for several days thought it was one. Often during the day its notes are almost the same as the blackbird, and sometimes it makes a noise like a young cat.

The bird sings with great spirit, and lately sits upon low limbs, and allows me to come within ten or fifteen feet of it. I presume by its remaining so long with us that it has a mate and that shortly we may expect some junior members of the family who may join in these concerts.

I am a great admirer of birds and bird music, but I have met this bird and heard this new music for the first time.

Can any of your correspondents tell us the name of the bird? Is it the Mocking bird, or what is sometimes called the Cat bird, or is it a stranger in "these parts"?

June 14th, 1869.

We do not know certainly what bird it is that is so pleasantly described by our correspondent; but we are disposed to think it is the Cat Bird. We subjoin Tenney's description of that somewhat rare feathered songster:

It is found in the United States east of the Mission, is less than nine inches long, the wing over three and a half inches. The general color is dark plumbeous (lead color); the under tail coverts dark brownish-ochreous. In spring its song is exceedingly varied, mellow, and sweet. It also possesses a remarkable power of imitating the notes of other birds, and has been heard to imitate perfectly a strain of Yankee Doodle. Sometimes it mews or yaws like a cat, and in a most disagreeable manner. The nest is generally built in low bushes, and composed of dry twigs and grass without, fibrous roots within; eggs four to six, glossy greenish blue. Two broods are raised in a season."

It will be noticed that the size, general color, and the varied vocal powers of the bird answers to this description. If our correspondent should be so fortunate as to find the nest of the "mate," and the eggs or shells, the description we have given above may enable him to identify the bird.

THE ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY.

Rapid and easy communication, with all parts of the world is one of the elements of civilization and progress. At the present day for any place to be far distant from a railway connecting it with the great lines of travel, or from the regular visits of a steamer of a similar character, is an indication that it is behind the age in some important particulars. The iron road is marching on westward, and soon shall we be able to take a morning ride from the metropolis down through the beautiful Annapolis Valley to the ancient capital of the province. At the inception of the Annapolis Railway it was pronounced by many persons living in that county a sham, a myth, a mere electioneering kite, never intended to be carried into effect. When it was being surveyed and located even, it was given out that there was no probability of its being heard of after the election was over. We nevertheless believed it a very desirable extension of the lines already in operation, and one absolutely necessary to afford the means of connecting together the extremities of the province as they should be, and of giving them the opportunity of reciprocating the advantages they severally possessed. The railway has been progressing from month to month, and now we hear that the passenger cars reached Annapolis town on Friday last. They had come within two miles on Monday the 22nd, and actually conveyed His Honor the Chief Justice to Kentville on Saturday last. Of course there was considerable of excitement as the train arrived at the several stations along the line.

Mr. J. B. Young the Chief Engineer, afterwards we are informed came on over the line from Kentville to Wolfville, at a rapid rate—upwards of forty miles an hour. It is likely the road will be opened to the public from Horton to Annapolis early next month. The work on the Avon Bridge is making good progress, and is expected to be ready in the course of two or three months.

EDUCATIONAL.

The following article from the Toronto Globe shows how the action of our Legislature on educational affairs is looked upon by parties outside.—

SCHOOLS IN NOVA SCOTIA.—The Legislature of Nova Scotia did a wise thing in rejecting a measure for the establishment of Separate Schools in that Province. The effort to secure Separate Schools from the present Legislature has been most persistent, and now that it has failed, we are inclined to believe that the greatest danger is past. The school system of Nova Scotia is in its infancy. It is but three or four years since the present school law was passed, and excited so much hostility among those who objected to being taxed for the benefit of schools. The hostility has subsided with surprising rapidity; but even yet the school system of the Province has no such hold upon the affections of the people as that of Ontario has. Even yet there are flourishing villages in which the school law is not in operation—in which the people have neglected or refused to avail themselves of it.

(We have taken pains to enquire, and find that this sentence is incorrect. It was true about two years ago.)

If ever we might expect an effort for Separate Schools to have a chance of success, it would be now, before the people have fully learned the value of the Common School system. Besides, the present Legislature was elected upon the Union issue, and in the midst of great excitement. It has assumed to itself the task of breaking up the Union, and has shown a disposition to go to almost any extreme in order to accomplish that object. There was reason to fear that the Repeal leaders might be willing to sacrifice the schools in the hope of promoting Repeal or of strengthening the Repeal party. It has been charged more than once that promises to concede Separate Schools were made to the Roman Catholics of those counties which have held special elections in order to secure their votes for Repeal.