

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

TORONTO UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.—PRINCE OF WALES' CARRIED OFF BY A REPUBLICAN. CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST BODIES. VICTORIA COLLEGE ENDOWMENT. THE PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD AND THE GALT REVIVALISTS, &c.

The Season of Anniversaries, literary and religious, has again arrived. From one quarter and another of this broad land come up reports of those pleasant and profitable annual re-unions which are becoming more and more a prominent feature of our day.

Amongst those of a literary character we notice especially the Annual Convocation of Toronto University. The proceedings were commenced as usual by the conferring of degrees. The following list of degrees conferred may, perhaps, assist your readers in gaining some idea of the work being done by this splendidly endowed institution. Admitted to the degree of M. D., 7;—M. A., 14;—L. L. B., 1;—M. B., 20;—B. A., 20.

An event of some interest to Canadians in connection with the bestowment of prizes and honours this year, is the carrying off of the Prince of Wales' prize (for general proficiency) by an American, Mr. Cumming, a native of Georgia. Students from New York, and from Kentucky have on previous occasions stood high upon the honour list. These facts have a significance, pleasing rather than otherwise. They indicate to some degree the reputation sustained by the institution abroad, they show that the race for honours is on a fair field, with no favour, and they cannot but have some effect in fostering that acquaintance with Canadian character and institutions which is needed to soften prejudice and promote kindly feeling across the lakes. I must not forget to add that the interest of the Convocation was greatly enhanced by the presence of Prof. Goldwiff Smith, the English Historian, now occupying a chair in Cornell University. He expressed much pleasure at what he saw of the character and workings of the University, and especially at the many points of resemblance in the modes of working to the great English University, his *alma mater*, calling up, as they did, cherished memories and associations. Without the slightest disparagement to the college of the Maritime Provinces, or depreciation of the noble work they are doing I should be glad to hear occasionally of some young men, with time, disposition and means for a more extended drill than possible or even desirable at the smaller institutions coming to Toronto to compete for its literary honours.

The Wesleyan, Primitive and New Connection Methodist have all been in Session in their various Conferences during the past week. With regard to the first named it is interesting to learn from reports presented the rapid progress which is being made in the endowment of their College (Victoria) in Toronto. The very encouraging report presented, rather marred by an ungracious fling at the "faithlessness of our public men" which rendered the endowment necessary, shows that more than half of the one hundred thousand dollars needed, has already been subscribed. The voluntary principle will work wonders even when its adoption is not voluntary. In the sense of independence and the increase of personal interest in the College, the body will, doubtless soon learn to recognize the good which came to them in evil guise in the cutting off of state support from their cherished institution.

The Conference have re-elected Rev. Mr. Punshon as Moderator for the ensuing year, with many flattering expressions of gratitude and affection. The statistics of the body show increase and progress in every respect. More than 2000 have been added to the membership during the year. Forty-six young men have been accepted as candidates for the ministry.

The Synods of both the Canada Presbyterians and the Kirk have been recently assembled. One of the most interesting discussions in the former body, occupying almost five entire sittings, arose on an appeal from the decision of the Presbytery of Guelph, in reference to questions arising out of the Galt revival, to which, I think, I have previously referred. The point in dispute turned mainly upon the right of other than duly authorized and accredited ministers to preach in Presbyterian pulpits. The war was waged mainly between the *quondam* U. P.'s on the one hand, and the Free Church men on the other. The following resolution was, after a most animated debate, carried by a very large majority. I send it as a pleasing "sign of the times."

Resolved—"That the Synod dismises the dissent and complaint; and while ready to acknowledge with thankfulness to God indications of spiritual good in any of the congregations of the Church, through whatever instrumentality it may have been produced, think it not unreasonable, without casting the least reflection on the course which has been pursued by members of the Presbytery at Guelph, to call the attention of ministers and sessions to the great importance of exercising due caution in regard to the qualifications of any labourers not formally recognized by the Church, but of whose occasional co-operation in public religious services they may desire to avail themselves."

Some other points of interest in connection with these gatherings of the representative men of the great religious bodies I had intended to notice, but time forbids.—The Baptist Associations have commenced. That is to say, one or two have been already held, and the rest of the eight will assemble in the course of the next two or three weeks. I will endeavour to send some general notes after they have all been held.

The weather has been during the first two weeks of June remarkably cold for this climate. Several slight frosts, the last as late as the 12th, have done some injury to vegetation. J. E. W.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 23, 1869.

The religion of Christ does not teach men to separate themselves from the society of their fellow-men. Genuine Christianity produces desires for union and combination for mutual support and defence. The nearer we approach to New Testament church order, the greater is the development of this principle,—the stronger is the desire for combination to carry out the great objects of Christianity—the regeneration and salvation of the world.

This principle is exemplified in an eminent degree by the annual gatherings of religious communities, and by none, perhaps, more than by the Baptist Associations. The Session of the one held last week at New Germany was an excellent illustration of this fact.

The distance of New Germany from the main roads running through the Province, and the knowledge that the cross-roads were but imperfectly formed, raised apprehensions that the appointment of the Central Association there was a mistake, and that it would secure but a meagre representation from the churches. Those who attended that gathering entertain a different opinion. It is possible that if it had been held at some more central place there would have been a larger attendance, but we believe that in no place would it have been a more harmonious session or more profitable one for all the purposes for which the organization exists.

As a large portion of our readers are interested in the proceedings, we have thought it better, and more satisfactory in many respects, to let them have the official Minutes in preference to any account we might give from our own observation. These will be found on our first page.

New Germany is a fine farming district, in the centre of the province, between Mahone Bay and Aylesford, probably 20 miles from either place. Portions of the roads are not yet in the highest state of perfection. The early settlers had no opportunity of making the roads around the hills, but went as nearly as they could straight over them. This has not yet been entirely rectified, consequently there are some pretty steep places to ascend and descend on the way. The variety of scenery, however, arising from this circumstance, partially repays one for the effort.

The delegates from Halifax took the stage to Mahone Bay. Here they found good accommodations at moderate charges at the Victoria Hotel. When there are greater facilities of travel between Halifax and this lovely locality, it will become a favorite resort of parties wishing for a few days or weeks of entire change from city life. From thence to New Germany almost the whole distance stretches a chain of fine lakes, some of them several miles in length. In these are islands of every variety of shape and size, covered with hard and soft wood, whose thick foliage, as at the boundaries of the lakes, comes down to, and bends over the margin into the water, adding great beauty to the landscape. Numerous grist-, shingle-, and saw-mills are erected on the streams flowing into those lakes, and lumbering gives employment to the inhabitants. At New Germany is a "run" (a channel for a rapid stream of water), owned by Mr. David Lantz, through which about 14000 large logs (trees) were sent down in the

past spring. Here too, is a fine rush of water, called Solomon's Brook, forming a cascade of 40 or 50 feet in height—one of the tributaries of the LaHave River.

THE PEOPLE OF NEW GERMANY

are well-to-do farmers, mostly of English origin, industrious and comfortable. Having a fine, fertile soil, and the elements of wealth all around, with capabilities in themselves of collecting these together, and putting them to the best of purposes.

A hearty and abundant welcome was given to the delegates. Provision had been made for accommodating a much larger number than was in attendance.

The Meeting house is a substantial structure of modern style capable of seating about 300 persons. Only a few of the people live within a mile—the larger portion being from two to five or six miles distant. This, however, did not prevent their attendance at the services, except the early morning prayer meetings.

The Minutes will show the business done. The speaking on the various subjects brought before the Association was good and effective. Several of the speeches were of a high order.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Rev. Wm. George referred to the remarkable preparation of the Karens for the reception of the gospel by the tradition that they were to receive a message from God by the hands of the white man. They were not idol worshippers, but had been hoping for a revelation from heaven, so that when it came they received it with all readiness of mind, and thousands were converted and saved. In answer to prayer the field had been opened, the men had been found, widowed mothers had given up their sons, and now a spirit of consecration was required in the churches. When he was rescued from a watery grave he believed that his work was not done. He had afresh consecrated himself to the work of Christ and was prepared to meet difficulty and danger, and if necessary, death in the service of Christ.

Rev. Jas. Parker noticed that the important question of making our Foreign missionary operations independent, would come before the Convention, and would require very serious consideration.

Rev. Dr. Cramp referred to the work as having strong claims on the churches, and such as would be met by them. The success of the Presbyterian body in sustaining their extensive missions in the South Sea Islands shewed what might be done by continuous effort, and a spirit of self-consecration. If all try and help we shall be able to act in this matter without continuing dependent on the government of another people.

Rev. David Freeman expressed the opinion that a deep and abiding interest in Foreign Missions often opened up a way for sustaining other benevolent objects far more efficiently. He had frequently found it to be so.

The Speeches on Education were characterized by a liberal spirit, and on enlarged view of the necessities of the present times. The experience related by several of the speakers of the manner in which they overcame their difficulties whilst at College, was highly instructive, and encouraging to those who desire to secure for themselves an extended course of education.

Much regret was expressed at the closing of the Grand Pré Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Cramp referred to the work of Acadia College during the past 18 years, and the blessing of God that had evidently rested on the Institution. He pointed out that from it had come the Moderator, and two clerks of the Association, two of the present Professors, a principal of Fredericton Seminary, one of the professors in the Ontario Educational Institute, the Superintendent of Education, and a large number of the pastors of the churches and persons occupying prominent positions in this and other countries.

Rev. W. Hall expressed much regret that Dr. Cramp had concluded to retire from the Presidency of the college. It would not be easy to find one so well adapted to the position he had filled.

Several of the ministers and others present who were formerly students, spoke in very touching terms of their affectionate remembrance of Dr. Cramp, his concern for their welfare, and his efforts on their behalf.

The action taken in reference to

THE INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND

we regard as highly important, and calculated to meet what has hitherto been a great desideratum in our denominational arrangements. Not that our brethren or the churches have been indifferent to their privilege of

rendering assistance to those ministers who have become enfeebled by affliction or age. This has doubtless been often done privately and through the existing Boards. Never before has so much been done for this fund as in the past year. This increase may be taken as some indication of what may yet be done. But what is wanting is a plan by which our ministers may co-operate in securing a reliable fund from which they may, under proper regulations, obtain help as their legal and just right. Many of our brethren and friends will, we believe, be glad to aid in the formation of such Fund, and when, preparing for departure from this world, by appropriating their property to benevolent purposes, will be glad to make such Fund a participator.

Our visit to New Germany enabled us to form a number of new acquaintances, as well as to renew those already formed, and learn to value them more highly. It was the general feeling, we believe, that the Association was one of the most pleasant and satisfactory ever held.

The Letters from the churches indicated additions by baptism in eighteen of the churches, amounting in the aggregate to 237. On a review of these facts and considerations we are led to thank God and take courage.

A correspondent writes us in reference to Titles to Meeting-houses, after expressing approval of our suggestions adds, Baptists should be very careful when they join with other denominations in building Union houses, to know that the Deed expresses clearly who may use such houses. He mentions an instance in which such a place of worship was built, there being but two persons of other denominations—one a Congregationalist and the other a Wesleyan. One of these so drew the deed,—that it came into the occupancy and then possession of the body to which he belonged. Having now built another place for themselves, they have sold the old building for \$100. The conclusion at which the writer comes is that it is "the best plan for Baptists to have nothing to do with Union Houses, but if able to build, to do so for themselves."

We would not go quite so far as that.—With proper precaution we do not see why Baptists should not, when absolutely necessary, unite with others, but they should be careful to have the papers properly drawn.

The following is from an English paper, and expresses our situation so clearly, that we are constrained to ask those of our subscribers to whom it applies to peruse it and act accordingly:—

"We are greatly in need of money just now in order to meet our paper bills and other liabilities, and as there are thousands of dollars due the office from subscribers, we would kindly, but earnestly, ask all who are in arrears to remit immediately, if possible, a part at least of their indebtedness."

Please do not forget.

The Amherst Gazette states that it is reported Rev. Mr. Goodspeed will succeed Rev. Mr. Hopper as principal of Fredericton Seminary.

Notices, &c.

P. E. Island Association.

The P. E. Island Association will be held at Cavendish, July 17th. We hope to have some of our brethren from N. S. met with us. Persons intending to come are requested to forward their names to Hon. Jeremiah Simpson, Cavendish, who will see that carriages are in waiting in Charlottetown to convey them to the place of meeting.

Ministers coming and returning by "Steamer," will be required to pay only half the usual fare. We trust that Bro. George, Foreign Missionary elect, will find it convenient to attend our Association.

The subscriber further ventures to suggest to the churches the desirability of giving carefully the usual statistical information in the Letters, with a full Report of their Sabbath Schools, Number and average attendance of Scholars, No. of Volumes in Library, No. of Teachers, &c.

M. P. FREEMAN.

FREE TICKETS to return on the Railway will be given to Delegates attending any of the Religious Anniversaries.

French Mission Property.

It is urgently requested that all persons who have subscribed towards liquidating the debt on the premises of the above Mission, will be ready to forward it to Rev. A. Cogswell, at an early date, or at the Western Association, at its Session on the 26th of September next, at Hebron, Yarmouth County.

Baptist Associations, 1869.

NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN, at Onslow, West Colchester County, on Saturday, the 3rd Day of July, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Associational Sermon by Rev. W. B. Boggs; alternate, Rev. J. F. Kempton. The Circular Letter by Rev. J. Murray.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, at Cavendish, on Saturday, July 17th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Associational Sermon by Rev. M. P. Freeman; alternate Rev. M. Ross. The Circular Letter by Rev. E. N. Archibald.