

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Brother Selden,—

The enclosed was forwarded to me by the author, accompanied by a handsome donation towards the Micmac Mission. Please insert it in the *Messenger*.

There is an error in the extract from the Bible Society's Report. The Maliseet Indians are never called "Gallatin." They are called *Milicites*, which is simply a mispronunciation of their real appellation *Maliseet*; and they are also called *Echemins*, and sometimes *Sourigouis*. *Gallatin*, (Hon. Albert Gallatin,) is the name of a learned and interesting American writer on the Indian tribes, who seems, by some mistake, like some of his fellow-laborers, to have got confounded with the Indians themselves. This part of the story, however, is of very small moment.

Yours truly,

S. T. RAND.

## THE MALISEET TRIBE.

The following lines are based upon the interesting fact recorded in the accompanying extract from the Report of the "British and Foreign Bible Society" for 1870, that is merely ornamental, being suggested by the well-known habits of the aborigines.—"The Gospel has been recently translated into the dialect which is spoken by a tribe of Indians bordering upon the Micmacs, by the Rev. S. T. Rand, aided by a native who was confined to his couch during the whole time he was engaged in the important work, with a broken thigh. An edition has been printed in England. The Maliseet tribe (literally 'bad-speaking' people) is described by some writers under the name of 'Echemin' or 'Gallatin.' Most of their villages are in New Brunswick, but some are in Maine, U. S., near Eastport."

Drapping 'neath the wigwam's shadow,  
Lay the forest's crippled child,  
Seldom on a picture sadder  
Hath the rosy morning smiled.

By the margin of the river,  
Idly floats the bark canoe,  
Leaps the silver trout forever,  
He must all the sport forego!

Through the russet maple cover,  
Swift the grey moose dashes by,  
From his pendant rifle, "Brother,"  
Glances at his shattered thigh.

Who his little ones shall pity—  
Shield from hunger's cruel law?  
Toiling to the distant city  
See his basket-laden squaw!

Woman, when the trial's sorest,  
Nobly rising to the need,  
In the palace or the forest,  
Oft a heroine indeed!

Blending with the curling vapour,  
Sighing through the darkened grove,  
Novel sounds cannot escape her,  
Bringing back the spoils of love.

Through the thicket softly creeping,  
Peers she anxiously within—  
Not the bound his vigil keeping  
Hears her cautious moans within!

Vanished is her sense of danger—  
Happy is her chieftain's look—  
By his side reclines a stranger  
"Talking" slowly from a book.

Rapt she listens—words how tender,  
Through the wigwam steal along—  
Words, her husband speaks to render  
Sweeter in her mother-tongue!

'Tis the tale of one that perished,  
Pierced in his hands and feet,  
'Tis the love that Jesus cherished,  
Whispered in the Maliseet.

Hark! she hears—the Lord will never,  
Never "break the bruised reed;"  
Satan! vain thy worst endeavor,  
Did He not for sinners bleed?

Daily in the camp of sorrow,  
Weaves the consecrated scribe,  
Holy words to ring to-morrow  
Through the "feeble-speaking" tribe.

Let the hunter have his glory,  
Better maimed than in the chase,  
Who hath clothed salvation's story  
In the language of his race!

DAMON.

St. John, N. B., Jan. 1871.

For the Christian Messenger.

## ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

PROGRESS OF THE SCHOOL BILL. COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE TO BE ESTABLISHED. PROBABLE BLUNDERS IN THE SCHEMES. TORONTO UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE. THE NORMAL SCHOOL A RIVAL. INJUSTICE TO THE BAPTIST INSTITUTE. PROSPECTS OF THE LATTER, &c.

As Educational questions seem to be occupying a large share of public attention just now in Nova Scotia, as well as in

Ontario, and as there are few questions upon the correct solution of which the future well being of the provinces so largely depends, I presume no apology will be needed, for again touching upon the subject. The new Education Bill, to which I adverted in my last, has not yet passed its final ordeal, so that it is impossible to say at present, in what shape it will ultimately stand upon the statute book. Some of what were considered the most objectionable features of the measure have already either entirely disappeared, or undergone such changes as to be no longer recognizable. The provision that all Public Schools shall be absolutely free is retained. The compulsory clause has also survived thus far, though with some modifications. The new proposal for High Schools is likely to become law. But it will be more satisfactory to defer giving a fuller synopsis of the measure until it has passed the last fiery test and become the law of the land. I confess to a great interest in watching the measure, especially as the School system of Ontario, so highly lauded both at home and abroad has not, so far as I have been enabled to observe, either in its workings or its results, fully met my high expectations. There is manifestly room for improvement in modes of working and in qualifications of teachers. Especially is it the case that with uneducated school-rate payers as trustees with full powers in employment of teachers, there is too much temptation and tendency to make cheapness a prominent qualification.

But I wish to speak especially of some movements now in progress in regard to higher Institutions of learning. It cannot have escaped the notice of the readers of the *Messenger*, that the members of our Local Government have this session found themselves subjected to a very novel species of embarrassment. They have been in a great financial strait. The situation however has this peculiar phase, that it is not a question of too little, but of too much money. They find themselves the perplexed proprietors of a huge elephant in the shape of a surplus of between three and four millions of dollars. What to do with it has been the question? Into the merits of their main proposition, which is just now before the house, viz., to expend about one-half the amount in bonuses to railways running towards the free grant regions, and the great undeveloped north country, I need not enter. The atmosphere of that subject has become too strongly charged with the animus of local politics, to be quite safe for non-combatants. But two items in the estimates are of special interest in connection with the Education question. They are as follows: For a College of Technology \$50,000, For an Agricultural College and Farm \$100,000. With reference to the desirability and excellence of both these objects there can be, I presume, but one opinion. Even those who by no means fall in with the manifest tendency of a section of Educationalists in our day, towards practicality, pure and simple, and who look with confidence for the inevitable reaction in favour of the severer studies before science attains the undue preeminences in courses, of liberal culture, which is just now being so ardently sought for it, even those cannot fail to recognize the great necessity, in our Dominion at least, for more largely utilizing the facts and laws of science in their application to the useful arts. And especially is the necessity of more scientific knowledge for farmers abundantly manifest. To say nothing of the great increase of wealth arising from this great branch of industry, which would undoubtedly be the immediate result of the adoption of better and more scientific methods, the prevalence of scientific knowledge amongst agriculturists would do much towards raising that noble industry more nearly to the dignity which belongs to it. One of the threatening evils of the day in Ontario, and one which seems already to have been productive of incalculable harm and misery in the United States, is the disposition on the part of so many young men to look down upon the occupation of their fathers—the tilling of the soil—as something beneath their talents and ambition. Hence the crowding and overcrowding of every avenue to what are supposed, often singularly enough, to be the more genteel occupations. Stalwart young men, with muscles and often perhaps with brains strong enough to secure them an honorable independence and real usefulness in the time honoured pursuits of agriculture, may be found in all our large cities competing eagerly for the pittance of a dry-goods apprenticeship, or a commission for the sale of sewing machines and lighting rods, to say nothing of the crowds of quacks who

swarm in the lower flats of the "professions" and almost obstruct the passage of those who have patience and energy sufficient to carry them "up stairs" where alone there is "plenty of room." We can conceive of no happier change in public opinion than that which would make it as much an object of laudable ambition, with as high promise of social and political standing,—to become an intelligent farmer or mechanic, as to be permitted to measure tapes with lily fingers, or to write M. D. after one's surname.

The two projected institutions, if rightly managed, can scarcely fail to do something in this direction. Much patience will no doubt need to be exercised before the appreciation of this kind of culture can be worked up to the point which will secure the large attendance for which provision is to be made. As to the manner in which the organization of these colleges is to be effected a serious difference of opinion exists. The Government intention seems to be to erect the costly edifices for one, probably both, as wings to the Normal School, and to engraft them as off-shoots to this Institution. This is strenuously opposed by many, and will, if persisted in, doubtless, not only involve great and unnecessary yearly expenses, but seriously retard the object aimed at. The strangeness of the proposal will be manifest when it is remembered that Ontario already has, in its University College, one of the most splendidly endowed and thoroughly efficient Colleges on the Continent. In fact, I presume it may well be doubted whether there is any other institution in America in which the teaching of the higher branches of a Collegiate course—Classics, Mathematics, &c.—is carried to the same extent, and with the same thoroughness. The degrees of the University with which this is connected, are recognized in Great Britain and Europe, I believe, as those of no other in America. The insinuation of our Attorney General and others on the floor of the house, that the teaching of science in this College is a failure, is met, I perceive, in to-day's *Globe*, by a quotation from a letter from Dr. Rollaston, "the most distinguished among the scientific men of Oxford," in which he says, writing to Prof. Wilson, in reference to a Mr. Thompson, a goldmedallist in science of Toronto:

"The bearer of this is one of your own alumni, Mr. J. Barclay Thompson, who we have been fortunate enough to secure for Oxford as the Lees Reader in Anatomy at Christ Church. I am sure I need say nothing in recommendation of him, but I may say for the University that we shall be very glad to have as many more men from Canada of the same kind as you like to send us."

The wonder then is that the simpler course of connecting the proposed colleges with this Institution by means of a few additional professorships, should not have been adopted. The explanation is I presume to be looked for in an old rivalry between the leading spirits of the Normal School and those of the University. How the people's representatives will decide the question remains to be seen.

My letter is long enough already, but I am unwilling to close it without some allusion to matters more immediately affecting our humbler educational work as Baptists. You need not, Mr. Editor, inflict the whole upon your readers in one issue, unless you prefer.

I have in a previous letter alluded to a controversy between our own Institute and the afore mentioned University. Having endeavoured to do full justice to the merits of the College in Toronto I need not hesitate to state our reasons for thinking that the University—of which it must be borne in mind the College is no part, or necessary adjunct—has not treated our more modest College at Woodstock, and others similarly situated, quite fairly. The Woodstock Institute is one of the institutions affiliated with the university, by Act of Parliament. It is only within the last two or three years that the Institute authorities have had students wishing to take university degrees, and have thus been led to test the value of the affiliation. It had been supposed that the certificate of the Principal to the fact of a certain student having passed creditable examinations in the subjects prescribed, say for matriculation, would admit him to standing without further examination. This is found not to be so in fact. The illogical result is that while students of institutions with University powers from any part of Ontario, whose courses of study may be very inferior to those prescribed by the University may be admitted *ad Eundem* at Toronto, students from those having no such powers, who have followed the course of the University itself cannot be so ad-

mitted. This is so manifestly opposed to the spirit of the law, and unjust in its workings, that an agitation is going on for a change—not with a view to securing the admission of the latter, but to have students of all Colleges placed on the same footing in respect to the University—i. e., all subject to competitive examination. If this end can be secured and another change effected, by which the examinations in the University shall be no longer in whole or in part conducted by the Professors of University College, but by parties wholly unconnected with any teaching institution, Baptists will probably be satisfied to send students up from their Institute, to compete for degrees at the National University. This is now the theory of our University system. When it is made the practice, the system will doubtless be a most excellent one. If this cannot be secured Baptists will probably be driven to seek University powers for their own institution.

I am happy to be able to give one or two facts indicative of progress in connection with this Institute. The steady increase of students has for some time over-crowded both dormitories and class rooms. At the same time the need of more encouragement to Theological Students is felt. Two liberal and tried friends, Hon. W. McMaster of Toronto, and I. J. Claxton, Esq., of Montreal have taken the initiative in a scheme for helping the cause in both respects. With characteristic liberality they have given first of all \$2000 unconditionally to Dr. Fyfe, the principal, for the purchase of a homestead, as a recognition of his faithful services in the past. At the solicitation of other friends anxious to have a share in the gift they have further agreed to transfer from their gift for this purpose, to the Institute funds, a portion of the \$2000; equal to that contributed by others for the testimonial.

In the second place they pledge \$4000 additional towards the erection of new buildings, purchase of apparatus &c., for the Institute, on condition of not less than \$10,000 additional being contributed by the Denomination for the same purpose. There is little doubt that this condition can be readily met. The liberality of the friends of the Institute in the past, is a pledge of success. On the strength of this faith the trustees have already purchased a large farm surrounding the present Institute grounds for the sum of \$4000. A portion of this is indispensable to the Institute. The rest is to be sold on account of building fund; I hope to have progress to report from time to time.

J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

## JAMAICA CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Brother Selden,—

And so Christmas and New-year have really passed, and yet the cattle graze upon the green hills, blossoms are appearing among the ripened oranges, and all day long we sit with doors and windows open all around us.

"Only beware of the fever, my friends, beware of the fever!"  
For it is not like that of our cold Acadian climate,  
Cured by wearing a spider hung round one's neck in a nutshell!"

I just begin to feel as though "I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord," again. Have been laid by for the last four Sabbaths. But then,

"Dh God exact day labor, & alth denied?"  
I fondly ask; but Patience, to prevent that unmar, soon replies: "God doth not need  
Either man's work, or his own gifts; who best  
Bears his mild yoke, they serve him best; His state  
Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
They also serve who only stand and wait."

The Doctor tells me we must make arrangements to go back to Nova Scotia in the Spring. After the benefits of the voyage and the winter's change we would be better in our native climate again. Be it so. We are just waiting to see the finger, and to hear the voice Divine. How safe, yea sweet, when one can hear, "This is the way, walk ye in it," to follow.

It would be quite a trial for us to leave this large field of interest and promise, so soon destitute of a pastor again, but "the government is upon the shoulders" of Him who hath all power, and who is also "Counselor."

During my illness, we have experienced much kindness from all classes. The white people of Mandeville, though belonging to other denominations have really seemed to try to lay us under contributions of gratitude, while some of our black people have come over twenty miles to bring us some little testimony of their affection or contri-

butions from the brethren. The other day two black sisters walked twenty miles, bringing some eggs and fruits &c. "We couldn't hear how minister was" they said, "and we 'bliged to come."

Our Missionary meetings were successful. Father Phillippo was with us, and spoke with the fervor and energy of youth, and the experience and wisdom of age.

A colored Brother also came to our assistance who has spent some years in Africa till failing health compelled him to return to his native land.

Another (black) Brother was with us, who in the true Negro style, conveyed the most important and impressive truths, in a manner that, at the same time, convulsed us all with laughter.

We also had a black student from the Calabar Institution at Kingston. He was spending his vacation in the country, and attended all of our meetings.

I watched, and listened to him attentively, and with the comparison continually in mind, between him and our students of Acadia. After hearing him on those several occasions I was convinced that few of our Students, as regards the manner, correctness of expression, and arrangement and value of ideas, could have spoken better.

One thing peculiar to this people, and noticeable from the toddling child to the hoary headed, is the unstudied, but perfect ease and polish of their manners, and the seemingly inborn politeness of their address. The women are almost universally well-formed, and possessed of muscular strength that is astonishing.

The young people seem to have the speed and endurance of greyhounds. I scarcely ever pass them on the road, on horseback, or in the carriage, but they quicken their pace, and at whatever speed, or whatever distance I may be travelling, they keep up or along side, to the end of their journey, or of mine. If they want to catch a goat, a hen, a hog, or a horse, they take their rope or withe, and run them down. They possess but little ingenuity, or inventive genius, and hence as regards their farming operations and dwellings &c., "As it was in the beginning, is now, and" we fear "ever shall be" &c.

It is sadly interesting to notice, everywhere in Jamaica, the evidences and monuments of past industry and wealth, when lords alike of soil and souls, bathed their feet, as it were, in the sweat of slaves.

What marvelously striking commentaries meet the eye, upon almost every hill-top in the bush-grown lawns and slopes,—once glistening with the coffee-plant, or waving with the sugar cane,—and in the crumbling turrets of once lordly palaces, on the passages, "Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his;" "How long?" &c. and Is. v. 8-10, &c.

Pardon me. I am forgetting time and space again.

Mrs. Porter's health seemed never better. The children also are well, some of them exceedingly so.

Thank God I am getting strong again, for the work is growing for me.

Yours ever truly,

W. H. PORTER.

P. S.—Feb. 4.—Still disabled by the fever, but hope on the mend.

W. H. P.

For the Christian Messenger.

## OUR FOREIGN MISSION.

Dear Brother Selden,—

A letter just received from Rev. A. R. R. Crawley, dated Bassin, Dec. 7, 1870, contains some items of intelligence which may interest your readers. He says, "Your note of Sept. 14th, enclosed to me by Bro. Selden, together with the Draft for £96, was received by me here on the 4th inst. I have, according to your request, forwarded to Dr. Stevens and Wm. George the notes you enclosed to me."

Bro. C. informs me, that he had written to Bro. D. A. W. Smith, of the Sgau Karen department, at Henthada, appointing Zoo au Kyan to be supported by Dr. Spurden, and Shway aw, by the New Germany Church. He says, "Moung Pyoo, under Dr. Steven's care, at Rangoon, is sustained by the Friend in Charlottetown. I shall do my best to comply with the wishes of Churches and parties who support Native Preachers, and will endeavour to send forward from time to time such particulars as will be interesting."

"All the preachers are now again supported; or they will be as soon as Bro. Smith learns of the new donations for Karen preachers. I will let you have the