

building and it is pleasing to learn that it is not to be taken down in six months. The change of air in going from the cool, bright outdoors of the Park into its warm steamy enclosure, is like stepping into the kitchen on Monday morning, or if we must be more dignified, let us say into the tepidarium of a Roman bath. I dare not call any names of the beautiful things to be seen in this hall, for I remember that I once ventured, on philological grounds, to identify the heliotrope and the sunflower, so that even my patient preceptor was discouraged. But there are many tropical and sub-tropical growths represented, and many gorgeous blossoms. The nurseries of different places, e. g., Flushing and Rochester, have garden-beds laid out on the park grounds near the Horticultural Building. It may be worth while to suggest to Bible readers and teachers, that in this Hall they have a good opportunity of observing the palm-trees and some other plants important in Scriptural botany.

The Circular Railway.—A good way to rest the eyes, and the muscles, and the mind, after much traveling up and down the long-drawn aisles of the buildings, is to get on one of the open cars of the narrow-gauge railway. It runs all around the enclosure of the Exhibition, and passes the chief edifices. This is a very popular thing, and some of the trips will number perhaps a thousand passengers. The ride is a pretty one, passing as we do over two or three slight ravines bubbling with water; the foliage and grass are most vivid, and there are several vistas which reveal much beauty of landscape. At one point, particularly, we get a glimpse down the Schuylkill that shows us something of the greatness and simple beauty of Fairmount Park. No wonder the Philadelphians think highly of it. No other municipal park in the world has such a stream flowing through it; and unless at Fontainebleau, I suppose, no other park presents such a union of far-spreading nature and laborious art.

The ride on the Circular Railway will also convince us, if we yet need to be convinced, of the gigantic proportions of our Centennial World's Fair. When you have noted the eight or ten large buildings, all plethoric with things you would like to examine; when you have rolled by the two hundred lesser structures, many of which are of exceeding interest, and have begun to think you will never get a grasping idea of the enormous group—then, if some patriotic man shall confidently affirm before you, that "this is the greatest Exhibition the world ever saw," you will not have the heart to contradict him.

For the Christian Messenger.

Concerning the University of Halifax.

Mr. Editor,—

Your correspondent "Aliquis" mentions a few of the reasons which have suggested themselves to him why Baptists should "stand aloof" from the University of Halifax. Let us consider them in the order in which he has placed them.

1st. "If the Baptists take that stand they can maintain it." This is certainly an extraordinary reason for condemning the new University. If Baptists can stand aloof from it (and it seems they can) that is a reason why they should do so! But then I suppose they could co-operate with it if they pleased and if they took this stand they could maintain it. Then it follows they ought to take this stand since the ability to maintain a position has been laid down as the reason for adopting it. But, let me ask, could the Baptists keep aloof from the new University? I think not. The Governors of the College might do so, the Convention might do so. But who could prevent students educated at Acadia from participating in the advantages of the University? Who could prevent them from going up to that institution for examination for degrees? Who could prevent the Alumni of Acadia from joining the convocation of the University, and accepting a seat in the Senate if appointed thereto? Who could have prevented Schurman from passing that examination at Halifax which gained him such renown and brought such honour to the College which trained him. If the University of Halifax be well established and efficiently managed and shall truly effectuate the intention of the Act incorporating it, I do not believe the Governing body of our College could if they would keep their students from measuring themselves at the University with students coming up annually from

Kings and Mount Allison and Dalhousie.

2. "To fall in with the examining University is for the Baptists to compromise principle." I cannot see it. Baptists accept the bounty of the Legislature and take the \$2400,00 without any scruples. Baptists asked the State for power to confer degrees and obtained and enjoy that power. So far they certainly have not kept themselves free from the State. Why in this particular instance should they do so? They may co-operate as heartily as possible with the examining University and still the training, the education of their own students remains in their own hands. That will always be the most important point. In this I agree with your correspondent. "Where did the student get his training?" Yes that will always be the chief consideration and the new University will not interfere with Acadia College in this respect. It will be an examining not a teaching University. But your correspondent says that "last winter the Government openly and positively affirmed that the examining University was but the first step towards a Provincial Teaching University." Now, I say at once if a Provincial Teaching University follows as a necessary step, the establishment of an examining University let us have nothing to do with the latter as we never can with the former. But the Government statement as I recollect it was not as your correspondent puts it. As I understood it the additional grants to the Colleges were given for five years at the end of which period if the people desired it the grants would no longer continue and if then public opinion should be generally in favor of the establishment of a Central Teaching University why it could then be established. In the meantime a Central Examining University was proposed as an institution in which all denominations could co-operate while working their several Colleges as heretofore. If the principle of denominational Colleges is the sound one, and I firmly believe it is, public opinion will likely grow in its favor and at the end of five years we shall be further from the adoption of a Central Teaching University than at present. I do not forecast that co-operation with the Examining University prepares the way for a Central Teaching University.

I think as time passes the difficulty will always be growing greater and that the most ardent friends of a Central Teaching University will soon become entirely convinced that the nearest approach to centralisation will be one Examining University for all the Colleges, leaving each College and each denomination working separately in the great business of giving Higher Education to young men. If the Examining University, on its own merits, should commend itself to our Convention, and if they should respond to the government invitation to nominate two Fellows, it would, I think, be wise at the same time to state to the government distinctly that such nomination must not be considered in any the slightest degree as favoring the ultimate establishment of a Central State Supported Teaching University.

3. "The Baptists can derive no possible advantage from a union." The reason given is, "It is not who examined the student, but who taught him, that is inquired after; not where he got the diploma, but where he received his training."

Why, your correspondent would be willing, I have no doubt, for Acadia to give up altogether the power of conferring degrees. The diploma is such a small matter, you see. And then he asks what possible good young men who study at Acadia could get by spending a few days writing answers to questions prepared by the Halifax College. Well, before I answer that, let me say that they could not get much harm, could they? If they had had six years of such training as I know they get at Acadia, a few days writing answers to questions prepared by the Halifax College would not spoil them. No one need be alarmed on this point. But I will answer your correspondent's question squarely. To place before a student at the commencement of his six years course, and always to keep before him the fact that at the end of that course he would, in order to obtain a diploma which would be a certificate to all the world of the good character of his training, have to pass an examination prescribed by a University composed and managed by the picked men of Nova Scotia, and in passing such examination would have to compete for relative standing with young men coming from all our Colleges, is to place before that student an

incentive to diligent and careful and thorough study all through those six years, which will be more powerful to ensure superior training than almost any other incentive you can mention. And such a diploma would have value not alone in what the anticipation of obtaining it had done for the student, but for the future it would be his passport to the avenues of the world's business. And what honour a brilliant examination before such a University would reflect upon the College which gave the student his training. And if we of Acadia can send up yearly to Halifax young men who shall outstrip all other competitors, and bear off the palm, how proud we shall be of Acadia, and how our affections shall increasingly gather around that good old fostering mother, and how our denominational pride shall be intensified. And can we not do it? "Acadia is not fossilized," says your correspondent. She is full of vigorous life. I believe we are fully equal to the occasion, and that if the new University do indeed "raise the standard of higher Education" as they are bound to do, we can work up to that standard quite as quickly as any other college in this Province.

But I must close this letter here.

HALLIBURTON.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 28th, 1876.

The Nova Scotia Central Baptist Association met on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

Rev. S. B. Kempton was elected Moderator. Brethren B. H. Eaton and Rev. A. J. Stevens, Clerks; Brother W. A. Porter, Treasurer; and H. Lovett, Assistant Treasurer.

Brethren S. Selden, Rev. Jas. Stevens and W. Spencer were appointed a committee to examine the Letters from the Churches, and Brethren Revds. D. M. Welton, J. W. Manning, and J. F. Avery, the committee to read the letters.

The reading of the Letters from the Churches occupied the remainder of the morning session and a large part of the afternoon also. Several of the churches had received large accessions to their membership. It was found that the aggregate of the baptisms in the churches reported, amounted to 750.

In view of this large increase it was deemed proper that special thanksgiving should be offered to Almighty God for the large gathering into the churches of this Association. Rev. Dr. Cramp was requested to offer prayer and thanksgiving.

The Moderator called the attention of the Association to the serious illness of the Rev. James Parker, who it was supposed was now departing this life. By request Rev. E. M. Saunders offered prayer on behalf of the brother who had for so many years been actively engaged in the Association, and still on his deathbed, as it was stated did not forget its best interests.

Rev. W. B. Boggs called attention to the illness of Rev. G. Churchill in the Foreign Mission field, and was requested to offer prayer on his behalf. Rev. W. E. Hall also in accordance with the request of the Moderator offered fervent prayer for these suffering brethren. It was a most solemn occasion.

It was resolved, That the Brethren C. F. Eaton, W. A. Porter, S. Selden, C. J. Margeson, M. D., and H. Lovett be our delegates to the Baptist Convention at Sackville, N. B.

It was also resolved, That Rev. J. Meadows, S. Selden, and D. R. Eaton be our delegates to the N. S. Eastern Baptist Association.

Also resolved, That Revds. S. B. Kempton, I. J. Skinner, and E. M. Saunders be our delegates to the Western Baptist Association next year.

Also resolved, That Brethren S. Selden and Rev. J. C. Bleakney be our delegates to the Prince Edward Island Baptist Association.

The central situation of Hantsport on the line of Windsor and Annapolis Railway rendered it very convenient to send supplies for the Sabbath Day to a large number of churches; consequently ministers went as far as Halifax in one direction, and Kentville in the other, and a number of other places in the vicinity of Hantsport.

On Saturday evening a special Church Conference was held, when a very large number of the brethren testified of the grace of God experienced by them, and exhorted to a fuller consecration to the service of Christ. It supplied to a large extent the devotional element, so much needed on these occasions.

On Lord's Day, Rev. S. W. deBleis preached from Hebrews xiii, 20, "The

blood of the everlasting covenant," in which he presented the marvellous provision made for the recovery of man from his lost condition. In the afternoon Rev. S. B. Kempton preached from 2 Corinthians v. 18, 19, and in the evening Rev. E. M. Saunders preached from Matthew xii. 41, "A greater than Jonah is here." At all these services the House of Worship was crowded, and, in addition, a large number were in the new Sabbath School room at the back of the pulpit—the doors on each side of the pulpit being open they could participate in the service, although prevented from seeing into the church.

We should have said that the New Vestry and Sabbath School rooms were first occupied on the morning of this day, and afford fine accommodation for the large school of upwards of 200 scholars, under the able superintendency of Mr. W. A. Porter. It is an excellent light airy large room, with two smaller rooms suitable for an adult Bible Class, and a large Infant Class. The town being almost wholly composed of Baptists, there will probably require a still further enlargement of accommodation before many years. It was wished by many, before the building of the New Vestry, that instead of this a New Church edifice should be erected. The present one however is very commodious and comfortable. With an equal amount of success attending the ministry of the Rev. J. C. Bleakney the pastor, for a few years, an enlargement of some sort will be required.

Another interesting service was held on Saturday afternoon at Brookline, one of the branch stations of the Hantsport Church. It had been agreed that the congregation worshipping there should be set off as a separate church, but to remain for the present under the same pastor. Rev. Dr. Cramp was appointed to preach there on the occasion, which he did from "The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved." Acts ii. 47. After showing who were the proper subjects of church membership, and what was the character of a New Testament Church, he gave to the pastor the hand of recognition on behalf of the brethren and churches, welcoming the church into fellowship with the brotherhood.

On Monday morning at 9 o'clock the committees met and prepared matters of business.

At 10 o'clock the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Manning from Nehemiah viii. 22. Subject: God the helper of his people and their duties arising therefrom.

Rev. Dr. Cramp read the Circular Letter which was ordered to be printed in the Minutes, and requested to be inserted in the pages of the *Christian Messenger*.

In the afternoon the University question was the principal subject of discussion. A diversity of opinion was expressed. The speakers on the occasion were Rev. Dr. Cramp, B. H. Eaton, Judge McCully, Rev. Dr. Sawyer, Professor Welton, and Prof. Higgins. Some were opposed to an acceptance of the offer to receive examination at the hands of the Halifax University, on the other hand the opinion was expressed that we should not at present take any hostile position to the new University. The Report recommending further and watchful consideration of the University Bill was unanimously adopted. There was a Missionary Meeting in the evening; addresses were given by Revds. W. H. Warren, Dr. Cramp, W. B. Boggs, I. Wallace and Judge McCully. The death of the Revd. James Parker was announced, and a suitable resolution passed.

N. S. WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Since our last we have some further reports of the proceedings of this body, at Yarmouth. As other letters were received from the churches, the amount of money contributed for benevolent objects increased until it had amounted to \$1425, and the additions to the churches became enlarged beyond the number in our last, until the increase had become 725. This fact caused great thankfulness, in the Association and was a source of much satisfaction.

The Report of the Committee on Education brought forth an animated discussion of the recent measure for the establishment of a University in Halifax.

There was some diversity of opinion on the subject of co-operating, but none towards uniting with a Central Teaching University. The circumstance of this having been mentioned in the Legislature, as the probable

sequence of the Examining and Degree Conferring University, led many to an unwillingness to favor the latter. We hope to receive the report of the Committee for publication before our next issue.

Monday evening was devoted to Missions. The audience was very large, and the addresses were of a very animated character. The illness of Rev. G. Churchill awakened much sorrow, and strong expressions of sympathy and earnest prayer for his recovery. The speakers on the occasion were Revds. Dr. Day, the Moderator, A. Cohoon, G. D. Cox, J. Rowe, E. Whitman, T. A. Higgins, Alex. McGregor, (of the Congregational church) and Mouning Edwin—a native Karen, who has been pursuing his studies for the past two years at Newton Theological Seminary. He has acquired a fair knowledge of English, and is desirous of remaining there another year or two, before he returns to Burmah, under the auspices of the American Baptist Missionary Union.

The session was brought to a close on Tuesday evening by a Mass Meeting called to consider the claims the cause of Christ in the world in general has on christian churches. It was occupied almost entirely by brief and animated speeches, there being only the reading and approving of the minutes left as a matter of business. The speakers on the occasion were Revds. J. Brown, M. Normandy, J. W. Bancroft, J. H. Robbins, J. A. Durkee, G. O. Gates, W. G. Parker, W. H. Warren, and Dr. Day.

The next Annual Session of the Association is to be with the Church at Liverpool. Rev. W. H. Warren was appointed to prepare the Circular Letter. The fraternal feeling and deep earnestness which characterized all the meetings rendered the session of this year the most memorable of any that has yet been held.

The friends of Rev. Dr. Tupper will be pleased to learn that he has so far recovered that he has been able to officiate in celebrating a marriage service.

The *Morning Chronicle* of Saturday last does not perceive the force of our remarks respecting the proposed University of Halifax, and asks:

"What force is there in the assertion that much depends on the character of the Senate of the Halifax University, yet to be appointed, whether it will find favor with the several colleges of the Province, when it is made plain that three of those Colleges have already declared in favor of the University?"

Our contemporary then affirms that "When the Baptist and Roman Catholic representatives' names have been published, the public will know what the character of the Senate will be, as there will be ten members out of the twenty-four named." We hardly think our readers will think that "ten out of twenty-four" is a fair indication of "what the character of the Senate will be."

Our remark respecting "The existing colleges being unwilling to relinquish their power of conferring of degrees" had reference only to that remote contingency. It would of course, eventually follow, that those colleges that may affiliate would not continue to exercise their power in that respect, as their students would not seek for the same degrees from their own teaching college and the examining University also.

King George the Third when receiving a visit from Lancaster, the founder of the Lancasterian System of teaching, afterwards adopted by the British and Foreign School Society in England, said to him: "It is my desire that every child in my kingdom shall be able to read the Holy Scriptures."

We have an expression of very much the same import given over the signature of the President of the United States. It is in the form of a letter to the Editor of the *Sunday School Times* of June 17th, as follows:

A CENTENNIAL MESSAGE,
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, June 6, 1876.
To the Editor of The Sunday School Times, Philadelphia:

Your favor of yesterday, asking a message from me to the children and youth of the United States, to accompany your Centennial number, is this moment received.

My advice to SUNDAY-SCHOOLS, no matter what their denomination, is: Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts, and PRACTISE THEM IN YOUR LIVES.

To the influence of this book are we