

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK commenced the work of the Academic year 1878-9, on Thursday last. An opening address was given by Prof. Foster, who was followed in encouraging remarks by Prof. Harrison, Rev. Mr. McCaul and Dr. Jack. The occasion was graced by the presence of quite a number of the graduates of previous years, who thus evinced their kindly feeling for their Alma Mater.

The Senior and Junior classes are back in full force; the Freshmen will number sixteen or more. Refreshed and invigorated by their holidays the students seem determined to undertake the labour of the year in a hearty and hopeful spirit. The University grounds are at their best, and the view from the terrace is one of the most graceful we have ever seen. The prospects of our Provincial Institution were never brighter.—*Agriculturalist.*

For the Christian Messenger.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Sept. 15, 1878.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

Being a native, and formerly a resident, of your Province, and a reader of your long established paper, on receiving a copy this week from a friend I noticed a recommendation to the churches to set apart a day for prayer, that the Holy Spirit might be poured out. Now we read that we ask and receive not, because we ask amiss. Was not the Comforter, or Holy Spirit, sent into the world shortly after the blessed Master's ascension into Heaven? Did He not make himself known on the memorable Day of Pentecost? and did not Christ say, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world?" So in view of these things is it not our duty to receive, to cherish, and be careful not to grieve him? For we are the Temple of God, if we are led by his Spirit; and if we have not the Spirit of Christ we are none of his. Let us therefore, examine ourselves to see whether we be in the faith. Jesus says, "My words, they are spirit, they are life," and "he that hath this hope purifieth himself even as He is pure." The summing up of the whole matter is to receive Jesus' words and cherish them in good and honest hearts. Then can we teach transgressors Thy ways and sinners shall be converted unto God, and now being made free from sin and become servants of God we have our fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life, for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Concerning the Collections."

MR. EDITOR,—

In your paper of the 29th of Aug. 1877, I described, at some length, a plan for collecting money for denominational purposes by the use of envelopes, distributed quarterly or half-yearly. I am glad to know that several churches have adopted this plan, in whole or in part, but am anxious for its more general adoption. We do not suppose it is the best that can be invented, but believe it to be far superior to the practice prevailing in too many of our churches—I mean that of sending a young person round to collect a few days before the Association.

A knowledge of how the half-yearly plan succeeds with us in the Hebron Church may encourage others to adopt it.

In the Associational year of 1876-77 we had but one collection, and raised \$74.05. In the last Associational year we circulated the envelopes twice, returnable the 1st Sunday in December and June, and realized \$156.77. The times have been as hard as the previous year, and the church has had heavier burdens to carry.

We believe that by this system faithfully worked the contributions for benevolent purposes, can be more than doubled in many of our churches, such at least has been my experience.

The chief objection urged against this combining all the objects on one envelope is that it prevents intelligent giving. Having worked it six years on different fields, I deny that it has any such effect. It simply places the several benevolent enterprises of the Denomination before the people with a scale, indicating the comparative needs of each, while it leaves every contributor free to give his donation as he pleases.

We will gladly send specimen copies of the Envelopes to any who wish them, or will furnish them all neatly printed for fifty cents per hundred.

The envelopes should be distributed among the families during the two

months preceding the time named for their return.

Brethren in the Pastorate, as we desire to have our churches abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in their love to us, should we not seek to have them abound in this grace also. See 2 Cor. viii. 7.

Two things are necessary for this—instruction and frequent regular appeals. We know of no simpler or more effective way of reaching all the families than the one proposed.

Yours in the work

A. COHOON.

Hebron, Sept. 27th, 1878.

For the Christian Messenger.

From Shubenacadie.

THE CROPS. A BEAR-FACED PROCEEDING.

Dear Editor,—

The political excitement, such as it was, has quite subsided here. Moderate men of the defeated party are not all troubled as to the result of the elections, the overturn has been so great as to awaken the suspicion that there may have been something wrong after all. The farmers here have cause for thankfulness, and seem well satisfied with the reward of their labors. Hay in abundance, many bushels of garnered wheat and good crops of oats and other grains. The potato crop perhaps will be a little short.

A little incident occurs now and then to break the quiet monotony of our country life. There are some rough characters living in our woods this season. One of them, a black fellow, was captured yesterday by two of our neighbors, Messrs. Preeper and Francis. We were all called to the door last evening to see him as he passed, that is to see his lifeless body, for the poor fellow was not only captured, but subsequently shot. The men stood him up on his feet in the cart as well as they could so that we might the better see him, and in the dusk of the evening it was not hard to imagine, especially for the children that he was still alive and ready to engage again in some bear-faced action. He was a strong looking chap with short stout limbs, large feet, and his twenty toes were furnished with nails of a peculiar kind. He is to be skinned to-day and his hams will probably be salted and smoked and put to some useful purpose.

Yours respectfully,

Shubenacadie, Sept. 28th, S. S.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., October 2, 1878.

We are sorry to learn that the Rev. Dr. Tupper is still sick and confined to his bed, and has been so since the middle of August.

Rev. Dr. Cramp made a visit to Halifax last week on his way to Montreal where he expects to spend three or four weeks on a visit to members of his family.

Rev. P. A. Shields has removed to West Medway, Mass., U.S., and wishes all correspondence for him so addressed.

Rev. J. B. McQuillin has removed to Milton, Yarmouth, and would be glad to have letters and papers for him sent there.

We hope our friends from whom we have not heard the present year will embrace the earliest opportunity of sending on their subscriptions. We have heavy liabilities to meet, and are greatly in need of all that is owing to us to enable us to meet them. Send either by Post Office order or Registered letter and we take the risk of its safe arrival.

In Annapolis County an application was made by the friends of Mr. Ray for a recount. It was granted; the result was that Mr. Longley was found to have seven more votes than Mr. Ray, making Mr. L's majority 9 instead of 2.

The question, Is Prohibition of the liquor traffic possible? was effectually answered on the day of the late election. We had prohibition for one day. There was no disturbance. Everything went on as quietly as if it were Sunday. Of course the absence of tumult and confusion must be attributed to the absence of intoxicating drink. If it is desirable to have a continuation of this freedom from disorder and crime, the plea cannot be urged, that it cannot be done. The above fact stands out a permanent witness to the contrary.

THE N. B. BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY.—Has issued a circular to the churches in which is urged the necessity of forming Home Mission Societies in each church. A brief Constitution is submitted, and an urgent request made for immediate action. There is, in our opinion, no religious and benevolent interest that, at this time, demands a more ready and generous response, than Home Missions. Many of our churches are dying out, and new fields are not being occupied, where we might soon secure a good church interest. Brethren help.—*Visitor.*

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA held its annual Convocation at Yarmouth last month. The returns showed in all 21 churches, 14 pastors, 1167 members, 3480 hearers; sum raised during the year, \$14,174; value of church property, \$116,075.

Five valuable papers, carefully prepared, were read and discussed freely. "Church Organization," by James Woodrow, Esq., of St. John; "Church Finance," by the Rev. Jos. Barker, of Sheffield; "Women and the work of Christ," by the Rev. D. McGregor; "Sabbath-School work," by the Rev. J. Hawes, and "Fellowship of the Churches," by the Rev. E. Barker.

A resolution was passed unanimously expressing the wish to separate from Ontario and Quebec in Home Mission work.

The next annual meeting was appointed to be held at Keswick Ridge, N. B.

The *Visitor* in noticing our reference to Article 1, of the Constitution of the Baptist Convention, says:—

"To us it seems a matter of very small consequence whether in the enumeration of the Provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or P. E. Island comes first middle, or last. Neither the unity, power or usefulness of the Convention itself, nor that of the churches in either of the Provinces over which the organization reaches, depends in the least upon the situation the names occupy, or in what order they are recited.

But the fact is, Dr. Rand's resolution proposed no change in the order of the names; our types are alone guilty of the change. For ourselves, we desire no change in the order of the names; that is to us a matter of complete indifference. We hope our Contemporary's vision is not becoming so minute and piercing as to see danger and evil where there is none."

All right brethren. A word of thanks for being put right, and enabling you to do justice to Dr. Rand, would have been very proper.

The Editor of the *London Baptist* says in reference to the Princess Alice disaster:—

"We may suitably mention here that several correspondents have sent us original verses on the sad event, though in no case do the lines possess sufficient merit to justify publication. In the words of the great poet, we may remind the writers that under the shadow of such a calamity 'words weaker than our grief make sorrow more.'"

It was a terrible affair. Various conjectures have arisen as to the reason for so great a loss of life. Subsequent examination and enquiry show that it arose largely from the foulness of the water just where she went down. The sewerage of the metropolis is to a large extent emptied into the river at that place and the water would be most filthy, almost poisonous in its operation.

"BIBLE BAPTISMA."—The Minutes of the P. E. Island Baptist Association have come to hand. The following is one of the resolutions adopted by that body:—

Resolved, That while not wishing to cultivate a controversial spirit, we recognize the necessity of preserving the Divine purity of the Word of God; and remembering the Words of the Master, "Ye are my disciples if ye do whatsoever I command you," we would recommend to the attention and favor of the Baptist Churches on this Island, and also all seekers after truth, a work recently published, entitled, "Bible Baptisma," written by Rev. D. G. MacDonald, of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

"Seekers after truth," all Christians should be so designated. Brother MacDonald's book is written in an excellent spirit. We heartily recommend it to all.

Rev. John Brown wishes us to mention that his "LETTERS" advertised in another column will be fifteen cents a single copy; and that they will be ready in a few days.

We have an interesting letter from a subscriber in China, which will appear in our next.

Our election law, as a piece of machinery by which to get the voice of the people without any one being allowed to exercise compulsion, seems pretty nearly perfect. An effectual check is given to bribery and corruption. There may be bribery but there is no certainty of the vote being given for the bribing party.

The Death of the Rev. Wm. Somerville of Somerset, Kings County on Saturday last, removes another good man and able minister from our circle of friends. He has long held a prominent position as pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cornwallis. The views he held, he maintained with much firmness. He had great controversial powers, and when they were called forth he would let his opponents feel that he had adopted the sentiments after much careful thought. Our readers have had some acquaintance with him through our columns. Although differing from Mr. Somerville in many respects yet we could meet and talk pleasantly over our differences as well as write about them, and yet hold each other in respect and esteem. He was 78 years of age. His friends will please accept our warm and earnest sympathy in their sorrow at his removal.

The Halifax Board of School Commissioners have had before them a melancholy case of misconduct arising from drunkenness, on the part of Mr. Jack, the Principal of the Morris St. School. Whilst under the influence of intoxicating drink he is alleged to have made a most indecent assault on the principal one of the lady teachers. On this fact coming to the knowledge of the Commissioners he was suspended until an investigation was had. Although Mr. Jack had before been repeatedly warned of the consequences of his drinking, still he continued to do so, not only so, but he led the old gentleman having charge of the school-house, a respectable reformed inebriate, to return again to drinking, by supplying him with liquor and drinking with him.

The gentlemen on the Committee of Investigation were Messrs. J. Belcher, J. J. Bremner, M. J. Power, Hon. L. G. Power, W. D. Harrington and A. West.

The Committee reported the charge "not proven," but that Mr. Jack be reprimanded!

A minority report was brought in signed by Mr. Belcher, reciting the principal points of the evidence and recommending that Mr. Jack be dismissed. The report was adopted at the Board by the following vote:

"Messrs M. J. Power, L. G. Power, J. J. Bremner, A. West and D. Cronan. The Commissioners opposed, and voting for Mr. Jack's dismissal, were Messrs. J. Belcher, W. Ackhurst, Wm. Nesbit, and S. M. Brookfield.

This is a most painful affair. In any other case the assault would have been treated as a crime, and Mr. Jack subjected to trial in the courts.

We submit to the Commissioners who voted in the majority if they have regarded the moral interests of the schools in coming to the decision they have.

Surely our schools should not be under the charge of any man addicted to habits of intoxication. If Commissioners are unwilling to perform their duties in such case, as guardians of the morals of our children, let them retire from the office, and let others who will, step in to fill their places.

It is strange that while there is an understanding (which there ought not to be) that the Protestant members of the Board have the charge of the teachers of the Protestant Schools, the Roman Catholic Commissioners have under their care those who teach in the Roman Catholic Schools; and yet on this most vital question three Roman Catholics vote to reinstate Mr. Jack thus outvoting the Protestant Commissioners.—What does it mean?

WELCOME SONGS for Sunday Schools, a collection of hymns, new and old, by many authors. Price, words and music only \$5.00 per 100 copies, 75 cts. per dozen, single copy post free 10 cts. Chicago: F. H. Revell, Publisher.

We have in this book just forty songs, mostly new from many of the leading hymn writers of the U. States and certainly at a very reasonable price, as the book is well printed and bound. Few schools use more than from twenty to twenty-five hymns from the book in use, and therefore pay for a large amount of waste material. The idea of "Welcome Songs," giving only such hymns from many authors, as are deemed gems, is fulfilled, most excellent.

THE FEAST OF ST. ANNE, and other Poems by P. S. Hamilton, printed by John Burgoyne, Reporter Office, Halifax, 1878. pp. 151.

Native poetry, where it is true and genuine, should be encouraged. Here is a beautiful story of the keeping of the Indian Feast of Anne in Cape Breton wrought into verse. It is highly descriptive of natural scenery, bringing up the Indian customs observed by the aborigines on that day. The getting up of the book is very creditable and shows that our capabilities are such as deserve more patronage in the literary line. We recommend it as well worth perusal and hope it may secure a large sale.

The *Sanitarian*, the organ of the Medico-Legal Society of New York, is a valuable monthly magazine devoted to the preservation of health, mental and physical culture. The first article in the October No., on "Sunlight and solarization in health and disease," is an interesting discussion of the value of exposure to the direct rays of the sun for the cure of disease and preservation of health.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

BURMAH.

Rev. W. George in a letter from Zeegong dated July 29, 1878 gives an account of the death of a devoted missionary Mrs. Bailey on the 27th at his residence. He writes to the missionary Rooms:

"You will be deeply pained to receive the sad news of the death of our dear sister, Mrs. Bailey, of cholera on the 27th inst. She had been working hard, and enduring more hardship generally than she was able to bear up under, yet always spoke of her delight in her new work. She could not wait till her house was completed, and moved into the bamboo schoolhouse, where she has lived for the past month.

On Monday, the 23rd, I visited her, and found that cholera had broken out close to the school. She did not wish to come home with me: she said she did not feel alarmed, that her house was to windward of the sickness, that she had not been near any of the patients, and that she preferred to remain and dispense medicines, and help cheer any of the afflicted. Tuesday morning I went to bring her down, whether she was willing or not; but as she had been up most of the night, and some new cases having broken out, the school had dispersed, she was willing to return with me. When we got home she was tired, but after a good night's rest pronounced herself well, ate a hearty breakfast, and was like herself, bright and cheery. As I had some business to do in Rangoon, it seemed wise to go while Mrs. Bailey could be with my wife: so I started on the nine a. m. train, and heard nothing till next morning about half-past ten, when a telegram came announcing her illness. As there was no other train that day, I was obliged to wait till Friday morning, and got home at four p. m.

She was taken on Wednesday about three p. m., with decided cholera symptoms. Mrs. George had medicines in the house, and used them with apparent success; but Mrs. Bailey thought she would like a taste of the soup at dinner, and that seemed to renew the virulence of the disease, and nothing would check it. Mrs. Ingalls was sent for, and came next day. The Baboo doctor, a trained government official in charge of the district, was called, and a European doctor from Promé. Both pronounced her case hopeless; nevertheless she had borne up so long, and endured so much, that it appeared to us that she would live, especially after I got home with some ice, which she enjoyed very much, and which seemed to revive her a little.

We are very sad: the mission has sustained a great loss. We are very glad she came and spent her last days with us, and we believe the seed she was permitted to sow will not be lost.

All our schools are scattered. Ten days ago we had 120 scholars, to-day not one. One week ago we were planning on what we hoped to do next year: to-day we are praying God to spare us from this dreadful scourge.

Notices.

THE ANNAPOLIS CO. MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

will meet at Bridgetown on Wednesday, Oct. 9th, at 10 o'clock. Papers to be read and discussed. Plans of sermons, &c. A full attendance hoped for.

T. A. Higgins, Sec.

P. E. ISLAND QUARTERLY MEETING.

The Quarterly Meeting of the P. E. Island Baptist Ministers will (D. V.) take place at Alberton on Tuesday, Oct. 8th, at 7 1/2 p. m. Pastor J. A. Gordon will preach the first sermon. This is an important field. Pastors and others, come together and let us expect "a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

D. G. McDONALD, Sec'y.

Charlottetown, Sept. 16, 1878.