

For the Christian Messenger. The Use of our Opportunities.

The pastor of a Church in Nova Scotia wrote a few days ago to the Principal of the Academy, that on the next day five students would leave that place for the Academy and Seminary at Wolfville. The first thought suggested by that announcement is, that there is a pastor who is a true friend of the young, and therefore he seeks to fit them for the higher duties of life. The second thought is, that there is a church which understands the nature of the time, and gives promise of being in the future, as it has been in the past, active in every good work. The next thought is, that there are scores of our churches in this Province, each one of which ought to be represented continuously in our institutions at Wolfville by several students. And yet there are churches which seldom or never have a representative here. Is no one justly chargeable with neglect of duty in this regard?

For some time complaint was made that the accommodations at Wolfville were not such as our young people ought to have. As a consequence of this, a large and commodious boarding-hall for young men was erected, where a hundred students may be boarded. And now we have a building for young ladies, which is by general consent the most convenient and suitable building of its class in the Maritime Provinces. We have a staff of teachers in each department deserving the confidence of the public. Nothing remains but to use the advantages that are provided. It will be readily seen that it requires about the same expense for teachers, if there are fifty in each department as if there were a hundred; and that an arrangement of the boarding-houses that would accommodate thirty or forty, would by a small increase in the outlay be found sufficient for sixty or eighty. The easiest method of relieving the financial responsibilities of the Convention, therefore, will be to increase the attendance at the Academy and Seminary.

But higher considerations ought to be borne in mind. At no time in the past have our people had such advantages for the education of their children open to them. Will they be so blind to their own interests as to neglect these opportunities? We will not believe it. Three hundred students can be better accommodated here now, than one hundred were twenty-five years ago. There ought to be a hundred in the Academy and a hundred in the Seminary year after year. This would be scarcely more than one, from each church in the Province, and would average about one from every two churches in the Convention. Surely it is not unreasonable to ask for this. It could be very soon reached, if the pastors would interest themselves in the object like the one to whom reference has been made. Let it be borne in mind that those who are now young will remember in future years, with special gratitude, the friends who help them to broader views and increased strength for the service of life.

Wolfville, Jan. 9, 1880.

For the Christian Messenger. Acadia College.

RESOLUTION OF CONVENTION.

Mr. Editor,—

The following preamble and resolutions were passed by the Convention at its recent meeting in Truro:

"Whereas there has been a falling off in the usual contributions to meet the current expenses of our Educational institutions at Wolfville, causing a deficiency which must be supplied by the Denomination, therefore

Resolved,—That this Convention earnestly request the Churches of which it is composed, to forward to the Treasurer of Acadia College, at their very earliest convenience, a sum equal to an average of ten cents per member to meet the present and pressing demands; and further,

Resolved,—That the Pastors of the various Counties of the three provinces take the matter in hand, and neither lose time nor spare effort to collect and forward the above amount, and also that a copy of this resolution be at once forwarded to every Pastor and Missionary laboring with our Churches.

It was not intended that the plan proposed by these resolutions should conflict with the larger scheme of raising an average of a Dollar per member for all the objects of the Convention, but rather that it should be a part of that scheme—the amount forwarded to the Treasurer of the College being counted as a first instalment of the larger sum.

As yet very few of the churches have responded to this Appeal. Meantime the wants of the College are constantly increasing. The deficiency is greater now than it was in August, and the Treasurer cannot possibly meet the demands upon him, if funds are not supplied by the churches. The next quarterly payments fall due at the end of this month, and it is desirable that remittances should, if possible, be sent in before that date. Will the brethren kindly attend to this matter, and act promptly. If other methods are not readily available, let all the churches take up a Generous Collection for the College on the last Sunday in the present month.

By order and on behalf of the executive committee.
D. F. HIGGINS, Sec'y.
Wolfville, Jan. 8, 1880.

For the Christian Messenger. "The Christian Messenger" and its Work.

Dear Editor,—

You, in your editorial of Dec. 3rd, say, that if our Ministers and Deacons would study to circulate the *Messenger* among those who do not receive it, it would result in a benefit to the denomination at large. This calls to my mind a circumstance which will help to verify it. Forty-three years ago, when our *Messenger* began to make its weekly visits, I was traveling through the Island of Cape Breton. In one settlement I asked a Methodist brother to be a subscriber for the *Messenger*, he did so, a few weeks after he said that one article in its pages had fully satisfied him for his year's subscription. In another settlement I asked a good Presbyterian brother, at whose house, I frequently stopped, to take the paper, and he also did, and from some articles in its pages he was led to a more careful study of the Bible, in regard to our views of the ordinances, and he and his family became Baptists, and one of the pleasing results was that one of the sons gave his heart to Christ and to the Christian Ministry, and for nearly thirty years has been one of our active and successful preachers. Thus while the *Messenger* has been beneficial in the past, have we not reason to believe that at the present time, it is exerting an influence for the enlargement of Zion and spreading the truth of the gospel. Therefore, we are bound to encourage its circulation.

Windsor.

L.

For the Christian Messenger. New Baptist Church, Dartmouth.

It is now little over three months since the Committee of the Baptist Church, Dartmouth, decided to build, and Mr. Andrew Dewar, Architect, was called upon to furnish them with a design. Being limited to an expenditure of \$2000, a building in the early English style was projected and tendered for. Out of a number of tenders that of Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co. of Amherst, being the lowest, was accepted.

This firm have already brought themselves into notice. At the last Exhibition they carried off all the prizes in their department. The building now completed adds still more to their credit, for in rapidity of execution, and excellence of workmanship it has not been surpassed. The Church is unique in many ways, and deserves a visit from those who are interested in architecture and carpentry.

The exterior is plain, being a simple parallelogram roofed over with a high Gothic pitch; but massiveness is added to it by a square tower at the south west angle, having broad angle buttresses, which are sanded in imitation of stone.

The interior is, however, the most worthy of inspection. The timbers of the roof are dressed and exposed. The rafters are stained and oiled a dark walnut, and the lining between merely oiled, showing the grain of the white pine. At the plate there is an open panel work of ash, with moulded cornice all in ash. Quatrefoil openings in the panel work, are painted vermilion, and the cornice frieze, ultra marine. The tie-rods are blue, with ornaments in the centre.

The window casings, and wall linings are of ash. The seats are of ash and walnut. The panel mouldings in the pew ends, and the coping of seats being walnut. The doors are very handsome, of ash root.

The platform is finished in ash and walnut, and the Reading Desk, Chairs, and Choir Screen, all of the same material, and constructed by Messrs

Rhodes, Curry & Co., from designs by the Architect.

The Building Committee have worthily carried out their work, and all parties concerned have proceeded with such unanimity, that the result is a church edifice, of which the Baptists and the community generally of Dartmouth may well be proud.—*Com.*

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 14, 1880.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

The Inspection of Schools is an important part of our Common School System. There has long been a demand for improvement in this branch of the public educational arrangements, by doing away with the County Inspectors, and substituting a more professional arrangement. The object to be secured being in the way of making the profession of Teaching more distinct and complete in the Inspectors as well as in the Teachers. Instead of having a large number of Inspectors who give a portion of their time only to the work, and the rest to their own business, to have a smaller number of persons employed, the districts enlarged, and men engaged who should give their whole attention to the work of Teaching, and be devoted to the discovering of defects wherever they exist, applying the remedy, and assisting of Teachers in their labors. In this endeavour the Council of Public Instruction have made a new arrangement of the districts through the Province and new appointments of Inspectors as in the following official notice:

EDUCATION OFFICE,
January 6th, 1880.

Under authority of the Act relating to Public Instruction, the Council of Public Instruction has divided the Province into the following Districts for the purpose of School Inspection, and, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education, has made thereto the following appointments:

District No 1—The City and County of Halifax.—Hinkle Congdon.

District No 2—The Counties of Lunenburg and Queens.—Thomas R. Patillo, A. M.

District No 3—The Counties of Shelburne and Yarmouth.—A. C. A. Doane.

District No 4—The Counties of Digby and Annapolis.—Leander S. Morse, A. M.

District No 5—The Counties of Kings and Hants.—Colin W. Roscoe.

District No 6—The Counties of Antigonish and Guysborough.—Roderick McDonald.

District No 7—The Counties of Cape Breton and Richmond.—Alexander McKinnon.

District No 8—The Counties of Inverness and Victoria.—John Y. Gunn.

District No 9—The County of Pictou and that part of the County of Colchester not included in No 10.—David H. Smith, A. M.

District No 10—The County of Cumberland and that part of the County of Colchester comprised by the District of Sterling and the Townships of Economy and Londonderry.—Wm. D. McKenzie.

By order,

DAVID ALLISON,
Superintendent of Education.

There were formerly eighteen Inspectors. The number it will be seen by the above has been reduced to ten, in some cases putting two counties together. A change is also to be made in the mode of payment of these gentlemen. Hitherto this has been by fees according to the number of visits made. It is now to be by a fixed salary, so that the Inspectors will not be tempted to make mere formal visits for the sake of the payment, but will be expected to regard the quality more than the quantity of the visiting and inspecting done.

Something like this—or perhaps even a smaller number of Inspectors—we believe, was contemplated as far back as when Mr. Rand (now Dr. Rand) held the office of Superintendent in this Province, but for some reason it was not then carried out. It is doubtless a step in advance, but will require great vigilance on the part of the Chief Superintendent to know that the men appointed actually do the work required of them.

RETURN OF PRINCESS LOUISE.

There are contradictory rumors respecting the Marquis of Lorne meeting the Princess Louise here on her return; one despatch of the past week said the Princess Louise, who sails for Canada on the 22nd inst., will be met at Quebec by the Governor General.

Another one from Ottawa says the Governor General will leave here towards the end of the present month to meet the Princess Louise on her arrival at Halifax.

Another one informs us that "a letter

from an officer on board H. M. S. *Bacchante*, on which vessel the Princes Albert Victor and George Frederick are now serving, states that they will, in all probability, be able to make Halifax, N. S., by the time the Princess Louise arrives there about the latter end of January, and in the event of this, the young Princes will be granted leave of absence to pay a visit to their Royal relatives at Rideau Hall and Ottawa."

"THE WESLEYAN" AND ITS STATISTICS.

The editor of the *Wesleyan* is unfortunate in his endeavours to satisfy a Prince Edward Island Correspondent respecting the proportion of persons baptized by immersion and by sprinkling in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. He "has not access at present to any statistical authority." He however adds the following:

"Formerly, in these Provinces, some Methodist ministers would immerse persons without any serious scruples of conscience about it. The recent discussions of the subject, however, have changed all that. We do not know of a single instance of immersion for baptism by a Methodist minister in these Provinces within the last fourteen years, although there may possibly have been a few such instances."

It may be that some of our readers are able to furnish information on this point. If so, will they please drop us a line.

He gives, from said correspondent, three statements, which he affirms, "are frequently made, publicly, by prominent members of Baptist Churches in his vicinity. The latter of these statements is, as follows:—

"3. The Baptist population of the Dominion of Canada is 11,000 more than the Presbyterian."

Our uncomplimentary brother then adds the following remark:

"The authorities quoted for the above astounding predictions and statements are a Rev. Mr. Brohoe, of the United States, and a Rev. Mr. Gordon of P. E. Island, and the Halifax *Christian Messenger*."

It is easy for our brother to publish such things, which have about as much truth in them as what he affirmed, but failed to prove, concerning the Lexicons. But we venture to call in question the statement that any one, who may properly be styled "a prominent member of a Baptist Church" has ever made such a statement, and we challenge him to give the name of such person.

Our brother seems to have had the characteristics, for which he has acquired such notoriety, awakened by this "P. E. I. correspondent," and appears not unwilling to do the work demanded of him towards Baptists.

Our brother appeals to the Census of the Dominion of Canada for 1871, to shew what was then the proportion of the population belonging to the different denominations, and then remarks—"These figures will indicate how absurdly erroneous those Baptist statements are."

But what are the facts? Mr. Currie knows, or ought to know, that the Census of 1871, with respect to Denominations, in this province, is worse than useless, being clearly inaccurate. When the Census was first published, we called attention to this matter, and shewed that, at least, in several parts of this province, there had by some unaccountable means been an entire transference of the numbers from one column to another, entirely destroying the value of the "figures."

We may quote from one county for the information of our brother and to refresh the memories of our readers:

In the County of Annapolis—for instance, where they are almost entirely Baptists, we have the following most absurd figures given:

	Population.	Baptists	Free-will Baptists	Wesleyan.
Wilnot.....	1893	12	1137	467
Middleton Cor.....	1542	11	1029	350
Charlottetown.....	1659	1	1334	164
Bellisle.....	1006	none.	238	288
New Caledonia.....	1455	none.	781	261
Clementsport.....	1302	none.	695	295
Hessian Line.....	1272	16	775	214
Annapolis Royal.....	2127	6	386	340
Charlton Corner.....	700	4	400	175
Nictaux.....	1386	15	923	303
Dalhousie.....	606	6	376	88
Mutland.....	567	5	361	66

So much for the "figures." Our brother proceeds with his comparisons in the following strain:

The census of the Dominion of Canada for 1871, gives as the total population of the Dominion 3,485,761. The Baptist population is given as 165,000. The Free Baptist as 60,507. The Methodist population is given as 567,098.

Our readers will be amused to learn how our artful brother has obtained these figures, over which he rejoices. The Census gives five columns under

the general heading "BAPTISTS." These columns have their separate headings, "African Association," "Baptists," "Free-will or Christian," "Union," and "Tunkers." The general heading "METHODISTS," embraces seven columns, having separate headings, "Methodists," "Wesleyan," "Episcopal," "Primitive," "New Connection," "British Episcopal," "Calvinistic," and "Bible Christian." While our contemporary has added together several of the "Methodist" columns to make up the number of Methodists he allows the one single column of Baptists to stand all alone; and so makes up his contrast, and his percentage from the number in one single Baptist column. We ask, is that fair? Is it honest? If we were disposed to treat our Methodist brethren so, or even to give them the one column marked "Methodists" and compare it with the one column marked "Baptists" we might say—what the Census does actually say—there are but 17,592 "Methodists" in the whole Dominion, whilst it says there are 165,238 Baptists. How does that look, good Brother? Well, there it is, more truly than what you affirm. But you know it is not the truth, nor are your figures the truth with regard to either body. It is sometimes said "Figures cannot lie," but it is very evident here that they can and do lie, most shockingly, on this matter.

DEEDS FOR UNION HOUSES OF WORSHIP.

Brother Robbins' words of Caution in respect to Deeds of Church property held jointly by different denominations are worthy of careful consideration. In this, as in many other matters, "eternal vigilance" must be exercised. In those places where it seems good to the people to erect houses of worship to be used by different denominations, the rights and intentions of all parties may be secured by a trust deed given by the party from whom the lot of land is purchased, or by whom it is presented, to Trustees selected from each denomination joining in the enterprise. Let the people who determine on erecting a Union building meet together and settle in writing the terms on which it shall be built and held and enjoyed. Let these terms be clearly stated. Select one Trustee from each denomination to be named in the Deed. At the same time fix the manner in which the place of any trustee becoming vacant shall be filled. Then proceed to the office of a responsible lawyer and have the paper drawn up in due form so as to carry out the intentions of all parties as expressed in writing at such meeting. These Trustees and their successors in office will always hold the building upon those trusts, and upon those only, which are set forth in the Deed—and under such an arrangement I do not see that any trouble or difficulty can ever arise for which there would not also be at hand a speedy remedy.

It is obvious that no set form of words of trust could be prescribed to suit every occasion. The exact terms of the compact in each case must depend on the understanding mutually arrived at by the parties interested. The great point is to settle that understanding in clear and distinct language.

As to cases already existing, I would say do not too quickly conclude that you have no rights. Examine the Deed carefully. One case came to my notice where it was asserted that the title was in the Methodist Conference, but examination of the Deed itself showed the title to be in trustees of several denominations.

There is another point in which it is, but ought not to be, necessary to use words of caution and that is in respect to the title to land on which our churches propose to build. I know one of our churches that was built at great cost on land to which the church had absolutely no title whatever. Fortunately they were able to obtain a proper title afterwards. There is but one correct course to adopt in all cases, whether the land be a gift or obtained by purchase, namely, to employ a responsible lawyer to search and certify the title. No wise builder would neglect such a step before building.

A PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING.

will be held in the Vestry of the NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH on Thursday evening, commencing at 7 o'clock. Reports from the Ladies Central Board and W. M. A. Societies will be read by the Lady Secretaries, and addresses will be given by several ministers and other gentlemen. The choir will supply some selections of music suitable to the occasion.