

recapitulation of the terrestrial world, his present abode. He has always been called a microcosm (little world.) This is true of him in a physical sense, but still more in a spiritual. A life runs throughout the entire range of nature; in man it reaches the highest stage of perfection.

Man appears as the goal of all the foregoing stages, and hence also as the law which determines their character. He is the idea which lies at the bottom of all in the beginning, which, by an ascending series approaches man, and finally finds its realization in him. All the lower stages culminate in him.

According to the Scripture account the first half of God's creation—work concluded with the plant-world. In it the life of nature first comes to organic form and development. Man at the end of the second half corresponds to the plant at the end of the first; his body, this highest sensuous organism, is the higher antitype of the first vegetable organism of the plant. Even the body of man serves to indicate his higher destiny. This wonderful structure everywhere proves his destination to the highest earthly life, to a life of mind. And everywhere he bears the impress of mind. Proudly erect he walks forth as a ruler over the earth. His feet rest upon the ground, but his head is lifted high and his vision ranges far in the distance, over the wide expanses of earth and up to the flying clouds. Upon his face reposes invisibly the spirit that lends to it its changing expression: thought sits enthroned upon his arched brow and feeling plays around his flexible mouth, but the secret of a hidden life speaks from his eyes. The most isolated members of his body indicate this vivacity of spirit, and it has been truly said that even the hand of man shows him to be king of the earth. Of all the corporeal forms found on earth there is none which, for wonderfulness and significance of organization, can compare with the body of man. It is with the life which is active in him and conditions the manifold activity of bodily existence, the higher recapitulation of all vegetable bodily life.

For the Christian Messenger.
Convention Work.

Mr. Editor,—

One quarter of the Convention year has passed away, and all things continue very much as they were. After the resolutions and appeals of the meeting at Hillsboro, we expected an aggressive movement to be commenced at once. Is the situation understood? In 1879 the Convention adopted a plan for the guidance of the churches in their benevolent contributions, by which the amounts sent by the churches would be largely increased, and the appropriation of the same should be equitably determined. A Finance Committee was appointed "to take charge of the financial operations of the body, with power to employ such means for conducting the same upon the foregoing scale as they may deem advisable." It would seem that by this action the five then existing Boards, that is the Boards of Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Educational Institutions, Ministerial Education and the Infirm Ministers' Fund, were made disbursing agencies, and the duty of raising funds for these five Boards was laid upon a sixth Board, called the Finance Committee of the Convention. What has been the result? This sixth Board, which is to supply the Funds for all the other Boards, have caused some letters to appear in the papers setting forth the importance of "the Convention Scheme," and then they seem to have concluded that "the Scheme," with this amount of assistance, would take care of itself.

That it does not take care of itself is evident. There has been, perhaps, some increase in the amounts collected from certain churches, but considering the body as a whole, we must admit that there has been no such increase as was predicted. The sum proposed in "the Scheme" might be raised annually, if the churches understood their duties to the various objects of benevolence. But unless some more effective means can be used to educate the members of our churches to a clearer view of their responsibilities, the majority will continue to be satisfied while doing little or nothing for the objects of the Convention. The time has come when some decisive action must be taken. The plan of the Convention places the responsibility of raising the funds for our denominational work on three men. They must satisfy the various Boards that all is done that the possibilities of the case will

admit, or else be prepared to see these Boards adopt the necessary measures for raising the money required to meet the obligations which they have been compelled to assume.

The Scheme is failing in another respect. It supposes that the money will be sent in from the churches to be divided by the Committee according to the plan proposed. But the fact is that the larger part of the money is designated by the contributors, and consequently some objects receive more than their proportion and others less. This is not carrying out the Convention Scheme; indeed, it is in opposition to the intention of the Convention, and most inevitably lead to distrust, disaffection and division, unless vigorous measures are adopted to bring the churches to deal impartially with the various objects which they have pledged themselves to support.

It is to be hoped that the Finance Committee clearly discuss the situation and that they will inaugurate effective means for the more complete accomplishment of the purpose for which they were appointed.

Yours truly,
A MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION.

For the Christian Messenger.
The Convention Scheme.

Dear Editor,—

This scheme has been so frequently explained that lengthy references thereto may be unnecessary. We consider it important, however, to call attention to some of its features. The design of the plan was to raise from our churches annually a dollar per member, or its equivalent, for the Benevolent enterprises of the denomination. If this scheme were successfully carried out it would furnish yearly the grand total of \$37,000. According to the scale adopted by the Convention, forty per cent of the whole, or \$14,800 would be devoted to Home Missions; twenty-five per cent, or \$9,250 to Foreign Missions; the same amount would be for our Educational Institutions; four per cent or \$1,480 for expenses, if necessary; two and one half per cent, for Ministerial Education; the same for Ministerial Aid and Relief, and one per cent or \$370 for an Emergency Fund to be used as necessity might demand. What a glorious work the Home Mission Board could do in the way of helping feeble churches and carrying the Gospel to the destitute in our land, if this \$14,800 came yearly into their treasury. The same may be said of the Foreign Mission Board, and the Board of Governors of Acadia College. If this Convention plan were carried to a successful issue, it would give to the College an annual income equal to the proceeds of an Endowment of \$150,000. The amount with the present resources of the College, would bring our Educational Institutions into a most flourishing condition. Such a consummation is devoutly to be wished.

As each object embraced in the Convention plan is very important, an article will appear in the *Messenger* in the interest of each part of the Scheme. Subjoined is some valuable information in connection with the operations of the Home Mission Board by its Corresponding Secretary, Rev. A. Cohoon.

G. E. DAY.
Yarmouth, Dec. 3rd, 1880.

Our Home Missionary Work.

Dear Brethren,—

I desire to bring to your notice a few facts concerning our Home Mission work. There are in the three provinces now under the care of your H. M. Board not less than 60 dependent fields or circuits, i. e. groups of churches or stations, sufficiently numerous and extended to require the labors of a minister, that are unable to maintain the ministrations of the Gospel in their midst, unless aided by the denomination. Of these fields 25 are in Nova Scotia, 30 in New Brunswick, and 5 in P. E. Island.

Many of these fields give promise of rapid growth, and will doubtless be self-sustaining in the near future. Others are not likely to be self-sustaining for many years, if ever. But we cannot neglect even these last, without giving up at least our proof that we are Christ's followers, for, said He, in answer to the enquiries of John the Baptist, "the poor have the gospel preached unto them." And besides these weak churches give to our stronger churches many useful members, and to our pulpits many faithful preachers.

It may be thought that these weak churches will be more likely to become strong if left to depend on their own

resources. The experience of the past however, too fully proves that they will likely cease to exist.

Besides these fields to which we are as a Denomination pledged, there are several interesting and inviting sections where there are no Baptist Churches, that are looking to us for the Gospel. Especially is this the case in New Brunswick, P. E. Island, and the eastern sections of Nova Scotia. Your Board desires to respond to these appeals, and to send them the word of life. Some of our missionaries whose fields border on these uncared-for sections cannot forbear to go out into the "regions beyond" and tell the story of the Cross, but this only creates a demand that they are unable to supply.

The Board reported to the Convention that not less than \$7000.00 would be required for the H. M. work of the present year. This amount we will receive if our Convention Scheme only realizes half the amount proposed. Surely this is a very modest expectation, and yet one quarter of the year has passed and only about \$500.00 has been received by our Board, and now about \$900.00 are due your missionaries. I need not add that the missionaries greatly need the amounts due them.

It is not expected that \$7000.00 will be sufficient to do all the work referred to above, but this amount will be necessary to make any advance on the work of last year, or even to carry forward the work in hand at the close of the year. It is true that the expenditure of last year was only about \$4,500.00, but then much of the work in New Brunswick was not undertaken till the last quarter, whereas now it will be carried on throughout the entire year.

Brethren, Your Board desires to push forward this good work, and we ask for your contributions and your prayers. Pray the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest, for the fields are numerous and the harvest plentiful, but the labourers are few.

Yours in the work,
A. COHOON, Cor. Sec'y.
Hebron, Nov. 23rd, 1880.

For the Christian Messenger.
P. E. Island Matters.

Mr. Editor,

I have said nothing heretofore concerning our P. E. I. difficulties—because I had nothing to do with the ordination. My motion to "postpone and enquire"—was lost in Council by a vote of five to seven, and I withdrew. I only write now because appealed to by Bro. Calhoun. I will answer briefly.

Mr. Hinson was asked privately, before the Association to let the denomination see his letters of recommendation. I asked him. In respect to the resolutions adopted by the brethren composing the Council at their subsequent meeting, I can only say that the second resolution was not passed in the same words as first published. It was more nearly like that given by Bro. Howitt in the last *Messenger*. I did not vote for it myself.

Yours &c.,
J. B. WOODLAND.
Cavendish, P. E. I., Nov. 24, 1880.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 8, 1880.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS for 1881, by sending on at once will have the
CHRISTIAN MESSENGER
for the remainder of the present year
FOR NOTHING.
Send on quickly.

THE WINTER PORT QUESTION.

Ever since the initiation of Confederation of the Provinces of British America it has been understood that Halifax would become the Winter port of the Dominion. The building of the Intercolonial Railway was one of the strongest arguments urged why Nova Scotia should be united with the Canadas. The completion of this great work was looked to as the time when the Dominion would no longer be dependent on a foreign country for its principal shipping port, as had been the case previously. Last winter it was shown that with a fair amount of energy employed the mails from England to Montreal via Halifax might be forwarded in a shorter time than by a United States port—Boston or Portland. It is now found that Halifax is being made only a port of call, the facilities are not such

as to induce the owners of shipping to make Halifax the terminus of the Atlantic Voyage, and freight is consequently taken via Boston in preference to via Halifax for Montreal and the Upper Provinces generally.

This has for some time past been regarded as a serious drawback to Halifax. A meeting was therefore called by His Worship the Mayor for Friday evening last in the Academy of Music for the consideration of this matter. The meeting was very largely attended by a highly respectable gathering of citizens. The platform was filled by the leading merchants and gentlemen of the city, and the speaking shewed that a deep-seated feeling existed that the object sought was to be accomplished only by all parties uniting and demanding of the government such a course of procedure, as would give to Nova Scotia the benefits to which she is fairly entitled by her position in the confederation.

The following are the resolutions presented and sustained by the several speakers on the occasion.
Moved by Hon. W. J. Stairs, seconded by Mr. W. C. Silver, and sustained by Mr. J. J. Bremner.

Whereas, The diverting of the Canadian trade, east and west, to the railways of a foreign country is injurious not only to the interests of the Intercolonial Railway, but also to those of Halifax, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Dominion of Canada.

Therefore be it resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the subsidy for our Ocean Service should be paid only to such company as will make its terminal port within the Dominion.

The second resolution was moved, in capital speech, by Mr. T. E. Kenny, and seconded by Mr. M. Dwyer, and spoken to by Mr. J. S. McLean, Hon. A. G. Jones, M. H. Richey, M. P., M. B. Daly, M. P. and Hon. W. B. Vail.

Whereas, the Intercolonial Railway has not yet fulfilled the promise made previous to Confederation; that Halifax would by it be made the Winter Shipping Port of the Dominion; and,

Whereas, The necessary facilities for making it so are still withheld;

Therefore be it resolved,—That this meeting requests out representatives in the Dominion Parliament to urge upon the Government the necessity of at once erecting a grain elevator and completing such other terminal facilities as may be required at this port, and also of making such freight arrangements as will secure for the Intercolonial Railway a fair share of the carrying trade of this Dominion both to and from the Atlantic seaboard.

The last resolution was moved by Mr. C. F. DeWolf, and seconded by Mr. J. S. Belcher.

Resolved, That whereas great advantages will undoubtedly result not only to the Intercolonial Railway, but to our citizens of all classes if Halifax be made the Winter Port of Canada,

Therefore be it resolved, That all means in our power should be used, publicly and privately, and our civic authorities requested to heartily co-operate with us towards attaining that object.

The meeting was a most satisfactory one, all the resolutions being unanimously adopted. We may mention that the Chamber of Commerce had given the subject much consideration at two meetings recently. At the last of these the following letter was received by telegraph from Sir Charles Tupper, in reply to one from Mr. John Doull, the President of the Chamber of Commerce:

OTTAWA, Nov. 29.

John Doull, President Chamber of Commerce:

In reply to your letter of November 19th, I have to say that I directed the Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway to secure two cargoes of grain this season to ascertain if it be possible to maintain such a business, and with the intention of submitting a proposition to Parliament to erect an elevator at Halifax if the experiment proved successful. Arrangements are now being made for that purpose. The Railway Department have provided for the prompt transmission of through freight via Halifax, which are admitted by Messrs. Allan Bros. to be quite satisfactory, and every possible effort is being made and will be made, by this Government to make Halifax the Winter Port for Canada, as you are aware a large expenditure has been incurred this season in providing additional wharf and other freight accommodation at Halifax.

CHARLES TUPPER.

It is supposed that Sir Hugh Allan is interested in the railways from Boston to Montreal, and that he would prefer taking goods over them than by the Intercolonial, that may account for the change in the course pursued by the Allan steamers this winter.

It is held that as the Dominion government is a railroad company, it should supply facilities for attracting traffic by providing an elevator and storage sufficient for the large increase that would

be demanded under a Winter Port arrangement, and that we should also give mail subsidies only to such steamship companies as will make the Dominion port their terminal port.

We shall be glad to receive names of New Subscribers from every church in Nova Scotia, and as many as possible from beyond. Will the ministering brethren please have the kindness to enquire and see if there are not some in their congregations who wish to have it, and help them send on. One Dollar will secure the *Messenger* to July 1st. Two Dollars to Dec. 31, 1881.

MISSIONARY WORK IN HALIFAX.

We have had the following handed us with a request for publication:

ALBERMARLE STREET MISSION.
Sunday School report, 1st Nov. 1879, to Nov. 30th, 1880. Under a Union Committee of Evangelical churches.
Morning Session Teachers..... 11
Afternoon do. do. 12
Total number of Scholars on the Roll during the year, i. e., present at least once..... 226

	Scholars.	Families.
At present on rolls, (4 col.)	111	72
Placed on monthly visitation list, (not being able to secure their attendance)	50	41
Removed from Halifax	12	9
Transferred to church Sunday Schools	12	9
Removed to their proper Sunday Schools	14	10
Gone to Poor House	2	1
Unknown and lost, i. e., not retained in any way	25	24
	226	166

Largest No. present on one Sabbath morning 41. Afternoon, 68. General average, morning, 31. Afternoon, 46.

Our rules for working are to receive only such scholars as attend no church or other Mission Sunday School, and the weekly visitation of absent scholars.

In connection with the Sunday School a Gospel Meeting is held on Friday and Sunday evenings by Mr. Carter and Mrs. Harrison, which is attended by a few adults. Mr. Carter also devotes 3 hours every Sunday afternoon to the work of Bible reading in the district. Altogether about 60 visits weekly are made by the workers of this mission.

Donations from friends in the way of old clothing, boots and shoes, are solicited, and may be sent to

D. McGEHEON, Supt.
130 Göttingen St.,
or Janitor Inglis School,
Albermarle St.

This is an excellent Christian work and well deserves encouragement and help. It is reaching down into the lower depths to find gems to be cleansed and polished for the Master, following His example, who came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Our Foreign Mission work has received a very unexpected blow in the resignation of Rev. W. F. Armstrong, and of course the withdrawal of Mrs. Armstrong, from connection with our Mission work; after spending the years they have in preparation for wider usefulness and more effectually presenting on our behalf the Word of everlasting life to those who are sitting in the darkness of heathenism, we very much regret that they, and especially Mrs. Armstrong, should not be still looking forward to the time when her health being sufficiently restored and established, they might return and reap the fruits of labor already bestowed.

We did ourselves great injustice last week in the brief paragraph in which we gave our readers information on this matter. We were expecting to receive from the Board some word in relation to Mr. A's resignation up to the time of our going to press, and had then only time to announce the fact as it had come indirectly to us. We are still unable to offer any satisfactory account of the cause of the separation, and of course, we shall not ourselves attempt to do so without further information.

The mission pretenses at Chicacole, purchased for and occupied by our Brother Armstrong, are now in the care of Miss Hammond, and the Board are seeking for a suitable person to go out and fill the place of Mr. Armstrong, as will be seen by "Brunswick's" letter on another page.

We have an interesting letter from Miss Hammond to the Foreign Mission Secretary, but were obliged to defer it on account of the important correspondence on our second page.

The letter of "Brunswick" on another page was intended for our last issue, but we regret that we did not receive it till Tuesday afternoon, after we had gone to press.