

that he has experienced its effects. That is his proof that it is a reality and a power. In like manner here. The effect of the truth is proof of its reality. In order however to obtain this proof, we must submit to the truth. Outward facts can be outwardly proved, mathematical propositions can be mathematically proved, but moral truths can be only morally, that is, inwardly proved. They demonstrate themselves to the conscience. This is self-demonstration of the truth of revelation.

And this is a knowledge which every person can obtain without distinction of culture. And this becomes a self-certifying revelation. For truth must be suitable to the common people. The truth that is not thus suited, is not the highest truth. For all men without distinction are created for the truth and stand in need of it. The truth must thus also be at hand for all. The old philosophers, who wished to put their dogmas in the place of the insufficient religion, again and again explained, that their science was not for the multitude, but only for the aristocracy of intellect. And to a still greater extent is this true of modern philosophy. Christianity is for all. For God wills that all men should be helped and come to the knowledge of the truth. Christianity has made the highest truth a popular matter and a power in the daily life, and it has lifted the uneducated to an incomparably higher plane than that on which stood the most cultivated of the old world. He who has embraced the truth of christianity—and every person may do so—knows more than Plato and is wiser than Socrates.

6. But—objects one—How can Christianity, how can revelation be true, since it is so opposed to reason?

Revelation transcends reason, indeed, and must do so. For—as Lessing says—how can that be a revelation which reveals nothing? If there can be and must be a revelation, reason must rather regard it as evidence for the truth than as an objection against it, when it finds things therein that go beyond its comprehension. Whoever has refined away the incomprehensible from his religion, can hardly be said to have any; for what is a revelation that reveals nothing? A certain arrest of the reason under obedience to faith is essentially involved in the conception of revelation; or rather, the reason is voluntarily arrested, its surrender is nothing else than the confession of its limitations, so soon as it is assured of the reality of revelation."

This confession of its limitations is however somewhat unavoidable. The greatest minds have indeed hesitated the least in making it. Socrates, the most celebrated of the wise men of Greece, pointed out that the truth in which he excelled others, was in knowing that he knew nothing. And a Newton declared, as he lay dying, that the whole labour of his life was only a playing with the shells on the sea shore, while the ocean of truth lay unexplored before him. Of Goethe, however, this comprehensive spirit of our people, it is well known, that this consciousness of our limitations was characteristic of his entire thinking. Do we understand ourselves? Do we understand the nature that surrounds us? "Man—says Goethe—is a beclouded being, he knows not whence he comes nor whither he goes, he knows little of the world, and least of all of himself."

"We all live in the midst of mysteries and miracles," he says again:

"Mysterious in the light of day,
Nature refuses to throw off her veil,
And what she will not to thy mind disclose,

That wring'st thou from her not e'en
with levers and with screws."

"The world is full of enigmas."
"Nature ever contains something problematical, for the solution of which the human mind has not the ability." Who has discovered the secret of life? "The conception of origin of life, is entirely denied us. By what right do we make the narrow limits of our comprehension the measuring line of the real and the possible?"

"Of these things I perceive the learned say:
What ye cannot touch; stands from you
miles away;
What ye cannot comprehend, does not
exist at all;
What ye cannot reckon, that cannot be
true;
What ye cannot weigh, that has no
weight to you;
What coin ye cannot stamp, that has no
real worth."

"How do you define 'black as your hat'?" said a school master to one of his pupils. "Darkness that may be felt," replied the youthful wit.

For the Christian Messenger.
Commendation of Dr. Bill's History, by Rev. Dr. Cramp.

REV. I. E. BILL, D. D.

My dear Brother,—

Your readers are peculiarly favored: ordinary histories are compilations. Yours is a statement of facts, which took place, for the most part, under your own eye—an account of men whom you personally knew, and with whom you acted and co-operated, a view of transactions of public interest in which you largely shared. Whatever historian may follow you will find your name occurring continually and will quote you as a reliable authority in regard to what you have seen and heard. This I repeat will be a special privilege enjoyed by your readers, establishing their confidence, because they know your truthfulness.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. CRAMP.

Wolfville, Sept. 23rd, 1881.

Dr. Bill informs us that the church at St. Martin's, N. B., will take over sixty copies of his History.

For the Christian Messenger.

Glorious Triumph of Temperance Principles.

One of the oldest railway men at the North Street Depot, who has been closely watching all the movements connected with our Exhibition, informed the writer that from the first opening of the Exhibition in Halifax, no less than one hundred and thirty-seven cars from the East, and sixty from the West came crowded to our city, the Eastern cars, containing at least seventy per cent, or a total of nine thousand five hundred and ninety from the east. While from the West, they must have had fully ninety per cent or five thousand four hundred in all, a total of 15,000 people. And yet out of that vast number, not one drunken man was seen, or one manifestation of ungentlemanly conduct towards those in charge at the station.

Let us go back fifty years and see what such a gathering would have produced then, in the way of intemperance. A large minority of the above would no doubt be found not belonging to any temperance organization, but the principles of temperance, the sentiments of Christian temperance workers—have gone outside the Division room of the Sons, the Lodge of Good Templars, or the workings of the Reform Club.

The platform and the pulpit have spoken, they have thrown the bombs of Divine truth into the enemy's camp, and the voice of God has been heard in the land, until the drunkard is either looked upon with feelings of pity or contempt, and many of those who still love strong drink are so disgusted with the drunkard and his doings, that they would not on any account be found in his company or following his example.

When they drink they do it alone in their homes, fearing to be seen, or are caught in the act.

Temperance men of every class and creed, what encouragement you have in the above! Farmers, mechanics and merchants, with their wives and daughters have crowded our city from almost every part of the Dominion. And ten thousand people could gather in our beautiful Public Gardens, or crowd the Exhibition grounds and yet no cry for "POLICE" was heard. The unprotected female passed around with as much respect shown her as if leaning on the arm of father, husband, or brother to protect her.

Thousands as they read this, will no doubt join with the writer, and say from their hearts God bless the temperance cause, and all those noble men and women who are pressing on the God-honouring and man-redeeming work.

By giving the above a place in the MESSENGER you will oblige,

Yours &c., &c.,

EDWIN CLAY.

SUNDAY SCHOOL READER, Nos. 1 and 2. Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

No. 1 has 31 lessons, giving an excellent outline of Bible History, from the Creation to the Ascension of Christ, in simple language, adapted to young minds, with illustrations nicely executed, and such as will illustrate.

No. 2 gives ten lessons on the Acts of the Apostles, and eighteen religious and moral lessons referring to Christian experience and work. These books are strongly bound in boards, and are calculated to be very useful with the younger classes in Sabbath Schools, and for parental teaching.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., October 5, 1881.

THE EXHIBITION.

The Dominion Exhibition of 1881 is now a thing of the past, and will be held in the treasures of memory by thousands and tens of thousands of our people, in city and country. The products of the earth, resulting from industry, skill, observation and experience have been looked upon and admired by young and old, rich and poor, learned and ignorant. The evidences that God adds his blessing to well directed effort on the part of mankind are clear and abundant. The benefits arising from a combination of the wisdom of those whose practical knowledge is freely imparted to their fellow-men and women, have been shown in a hundred different ways, and it may be exclaimed, after doing this, as it is when observing the wonders of Nature, without any combination with man's powers—"Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty."

It was formerly considered that the great art of government was to keep the people amused—hence the contests in feats of strength and fleetness of Greece and Rome, and the tournaments and fairs of England. Napoleon, who sought to cultivate a thirst for martial glory and so secure his power, kept up a continual desire for conquest. Instead of these views and objects, we now have a spirit of emulation in the application of knowledge, obtained by our own or others experience, encouraged; and facilities are afforded, by the powers that be, for a general diffusion of this knowledge at the lowest possible rates.

The Exhibition of the past week was remarkable in very many respects. In the first place the weather was most delightful, all that could be desired. We had some of the choice days of our fine Nova Scotia autumns, not to be surpassed we believe by any country in the world. Efforts were made by our citizens to supply comfortable accommodation to visitors, and largely succeeded. There were no doubt many who had made no arrangements beforehand and were unable to find places such as they might otherwise have had. The excellent order maintained has been a subject of remark by many. It is very rare to find such a gathering of people moving about and coming in contact with each other, without some jostling and quarrels, but we have yet to hear of the first disturbance of good manners among travellers or residents. Good feeling and a desire to please seemed to pervade the thousands who came to be pleased, and not one case of drunkenness did we observe. The excellent arrangements of the Exhibition buildings and grounds must have struck visitors generally. Everything was done for the proper care of the valuable horses, cattle, sheep, &c., &c., brought to the grounds. In the Main Exhibition Hall and Horticultural Building nothing was over crowded, and yet there was not much room to spare. It would have been more compact if the vegetables, fruit and flowers had been in a building on the proper grounds. Those persons who came from the country to the first opening the previous week and could not stay to see the full Exhibition on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week, doubtless had some cause of complaint.

The opening ceremonies and official speeches were heard but by the favored few on the raised platform in the centre of the Hall. His Worship the Mayor was suffering from severe cold, and his opening speech was therefore read by Professor Lawson. There were also speeches by Lieutenant Governors Archibald, of Nova Scotia, and Haveland, of P. E. Island, Hon. William Wedderburn, Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick, and Hon. S. H. Holmes, Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia. After which M. H. Richey, Esq., M. P., introduced John Moreash who had recently been awarded the Medal of the Royal Humane Society in recognition of his having, at the risk of his own life, saved the lives of three persons from drowning. The medal was placed on Moreash's breast by His Worship the Mayor, the band playing "See the conquering hero comes." Governor Archibald then declared the Exhibition open, and the company dispersed to the different parts of the Hall and grounds.

The number of visitors to the Exhibition had been increasing each day since the informal opening of the previous week, until Wednesday and Thursday, when there were about nine or ten thousand admitted each day, and yet there was no crowding in either of the Halls or on the grounds.

The Horses were pronounced the finest that had ever been exhibited in Halifax. New Brunswick, and P. E. Island had sent some of the best, and of course took the first prizes. The stock belonging to the Island Government took about \$400 in prizes, which shows the advantage of liberal expenditure in this department.

In the Main Hall there was perhaps no finer sight than a view of the interior from either end. It was a moving scene continually changing, with the exception of the exhibits which were being examined in every part of the building. The platform was surrounded by a large and handsome assortment of ornamental marble, and marbled mantel pieces. Around and near were a number of trophies of cloth, soap, brushes, edge tools, some of which were finished in gold and bronze, pyramids of barrels of sugar and syrup from the N. S. Sugar refinery, and handsome empty barrels, representing Oland's brewery. Stoves of every variety, and other manufactures of iron and other metals filled the northern end of the building. In the south end were carriages, sleighs, rope and cordage, roofing material, &c., &c. We cannot begin to enumerate the articles or the names of the Exhibitors, and must content ourselves with a very general notice of the thousand things, showing the skill of our men and women who sent exhibits.

The Ladies work in the upper story of the tower was too much crowded, and could not be seen to advantage. It was very beautiful.

Many improvements will doubtless be made, arising from the experience gained by the Committee of Management, during the past two weeks, so that whenever such another opportunity is afforded, the Exhibition will excel this in many important respects. There was great want of sitting accommodation for visitors, and the pursuit of information and pleasure was attended with no small amount of toil. Very few persons saw all that was to be seen, and many will read of what was there and much regret that they had not another hour or two that they might be able to look at that which escaped them in the late visit. We are informed that there was a large amount of business done by many of the exhibitors, especially in improved agricultural implements and dairy furniture. Parties making these purchases will doubtless be well repaid for their visit, by the improved facilities in their operations given by these articles.

The arrangements for providing lodgings for visitors seem to have given great satisfaction. Alderman Fraser (now His Worship the Mayor) the Chairman of the Committee, was indelicate, and we are informed furnished accommodations to upwards of 3000 people during the week.

THE CLOSE OF THE EXHIBITION.

The sale of Tickets was stopped at noon on Friday, and the entrance was closed. It appears that about forty thousand people had visited the Exhibition from the first opening. It soon became known that the time for closing had come, although there were no formal closing ceremonies.

A pleasing incident of the close was the presentation by a large number of the exhibitors from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, and Nova Scotia, at the following address to Professor Lawson:

Testimonial to Prof. George Lawson, Ph. D., Manager Dominion Exhibition. HALIFAX, Sept. 30th, 1881.

Dear Sir:—We, the undersigned exhibitors, at the Dominion Exhibition feel that the success which this enterprise has attained, is in a great measure due to your untiring energy, and they wish to take this opportunity of expressing their high appreciation of your able management, and while we must admit that your task was a difficult one, we are also pleased to state that you have met each obstacle with a determination to overcome it. This you have succeeded in doing most admirably.

We tender you our most heartfelt thanks for your able assistance and courtesy, and sincerely hope that you may long be spared to preside over many exhibitions.

Mr. E. G. Lavers the reporter for the St. John Telegraph, and a gentleman representing the Halifax press, also spoke warmly in the same strain.

We copy the following from the Chronicle: "Prof. Lawson, who had been completely surprised, made a very tender and feeling reply, in which he thanked the exhibitors most heartily for their co-operation in securing the success of the Exhibition, and paid a warm tribute to the able assistance of the secretary and assistants, whom, he

said, the signers of the address should principally thank. Their labors had been the main instruments of the success, and most ably had they been performed. He also thanked the press for the assistance rendered by them towards a successful Exhibition, and the interest and enterprise they had manifested.

The chairman—Mr. W. P. O'Brien the representative of the C. W. Williams Manufacturing Company of Montreal—in a neat speech, gave expression to the warm and favorable opinion he had formed of the people of Halifax, lauded their efforts to entertain exhibitors and visitors, and referred to the obligations all were under to the secretary and committees of the exhibition, to one and all of whom he wished to express his warmest thanks.

Mr. W. H. Olive, of St. John, N. B. representative of the Waterous Engine, Works Co., of Brantford, Ont., seconded the chairman's sentiments in a few very happy remarks. The remainder present accorded their hearty approval of the expressions, and the meeting dispersed with the utmost good feeling.

In connection with the fine weather of Exhibition week, we can only just mention the outside attractions offered, each of which was carried out with much effectiveness.

The Grand Review and Sham Fight on the Common was a most brilliant display and exciting scene, only to be eclipsed by a real one. Happily there were no ambulances required for the wounded, or graves for the killed. Only the first stage of real warfare was experienced—the smell of powder. There were perhaps 10,000 people on the citadel glacis watching the stubborn contest and glorious victory.

The Firemen's display and procession of Thursday evening was a grand pageant. Burning houses formed part of the procession.

The Grand Illumination on the Halifax Harbor was a novel and pleasing display. The light on the shipping—especially the cable steamer, the *Minia*, the bonfires on the Dartmouth shore and the floating fireworks coming apparently up out of the water, all made it a sort of fairy scene, which will not soon be forgotten by the thousands of spectators.

Our city has now resumed its normal condition. We hope our people have benefited by acquaintance with so many from other parts, and that in future we shall show that we have partaken more fully of the progressive spirit of the age.

WOLFVILLE NOTES.

We were favored last week with a short visit from Rev. E. C. Spinney, D. D., now of Burlington, Iowa, and for the last eleven years a resident of the United States. Dr. Spinney has been a very successful pastor, and is but another example of a son of Acadia who has acquired distinction abroad. We have also had a visit from Hon. H. G. Curtis of Atlantic, Iowa, a prominent Baptist of that State, and a warm supporter of the Baptist College at Pella, Iowa.

Dr. Rand, Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick recently spent a week in Wolfville, and visited all the departments of our institutions. He spent several days in this work, and expressed himself highly pleased with what he witnessed. Miss Gourley the recent addition to the teaching staff of the Seminary is doing excellent work.

The Wolfville Church is about to take hold of the Convention Scheme in earnest. The Pastor is to preach a Sermon on behalf of the Convention Fund at the beginning of each financial year, and the members of the church and congregation are to be personally visited and solicited to pledge a quarterly sum to this object, to be gathered in by special collections. If all our churches would enter heartily into this project now, a great advance on last year would certainly result.—Com.

In the abstract of Rev. E. M. Saunders' Sermon on our first page, instead of the sentence: He had also raised more than \$20,000 for the endowment of Acadia College it should read: He had also raised more than \$20,000 for the endowment and other funds of Acadia College.

Our list of Deaths contains the name of Mr. Z. G. Gavel, who died on Saturday last, in St. John, N. B. Our aged brother was for several years Treasurer of our Foreign Mission Board, and was much esteemed. He had been in feeble health for some time past.