

For the Christian Messenger. Home Missions.

The December meeting of the H. M. Board of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces was held in the vestry of the 1st Baptist Church, Yarmouth, on Monday, the 12th inst. Reports were received from Brethren Haverstock, Howe, Woodland, Munro, Bishop and Sibley.

Grants in Aid:

- 1. To the New Ross and Waterville Churches, N. S., at the rate of \$100 per year till July 31st, 1882. Bro. Asaph Whitman, missionary. 2. To the Montague and Maury River field, P. E. I., at the rate of \$200 per year till July 31st, 1881. Pastor wanted. 3. To the Alma field, Albert Co., N. B., \$100 for the current year. Rev. I. J. Skinner, pastor. 4. To the Tobique field, Victoria Co., N. B., \$175 for the current year. Rev. C. Henderson, pastor. 5. A mission of six months to Rollingham and Adjacent Churches in Char. Co., N. B. Man to be selected by Cor. Secretary.

Funds wanted.

We need \$1000 at once to pay salaries now due to missionaries. Our hope is that the churches are working up the "Convention Scheme," and will soon be sending their half yearly contributions to the Finance Committee. But little has yet been received from that source.

I need not say that at this season of the year, men whose salaries are small need all that is due them. "Come over and help us."

A. COHOON, Cor. Sec'y. Hebron, Dec. 13, 1881.

Acadia College.

MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS. — "REV. CHARLES TUPPER" PROFESSORSHIP, FINANCIAL AGENT'S REPORT, &c.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—Your readers, I have no doubt, will be pleased to learn that the Governors of Acadia College, at their meeting this week, in view of the fact that several individuals had expressed a willingness to subscribe to a Professorship in the Theological Department to be named in honor of Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D., voted to accept these subscriptions subject to the condition mentioned, and directed their Treasurer to open an account with the REV. CHARLES TUPPER PROFESSORSHIP, to credit to it all moneys paid in for this object and keep the amount invested under its appropriate designation. The sum necessary to found the Professorship is \$20,000. I understand that the pledges already made, taken with some donations received last June, amount to one fifth of the sum. Here is a definite and worthy object set before the churches. The founding of such a Professorship would be a most fitting expression of our respect and affection for one who for half a century of active service was foremost in all departments of denominational work. Why should we not expect a spontaneous expression of feeling that will impel to the immediate completion of this Professorship?

The report of the Financial Agent was encouraging. He informs us that interest in the various denominational objects increases just in proportion as knowledge concerning them extends. The churches are accepting "the Convention plan" and there is reasonable prospect of a large increase in the annual contributions. But we are weak at one point. The old habit of making the collections for the objects of benevolence a short time before the meeting of the Associations causes the treasuries of the Boards to be overdrawn for eight or nine months of the year. We cannot have large success until the churches distribute their contributions more evenly through the year. The autumn and the early part of the winter are clearly a better time for gathering money for the various public objects than May and June. The Financial Agent is laboring to introduce a better method of collecting funds. If he succeeds in this, he will accomplish a great good.

The financial responsibilities of the Board were patiently considered. Vigorous efforts will be made during the remainder of the Convention year to increase the income of the College.

A committee appointed for the purpose presented an appropriate expression on the part the Board in view of the death of Rev. Dr. Cramp, which was inserted in the records.

As some of the Committee appointed to nominate a Professor for the Science department, were not present, the appointment was deferred till the meeting in June. The Executive Committee were directed to make provision for instruction in the department for the next term. In closing I may add that the prospect is hopeful for all the departments here for the session opening on the 5th of January.

Yours truly, A. W. SAWYER. Wolfville, Dec. 17, 1881.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 21, 1881.

Another happy Christmas-tide has come. Whilst we know that our Divine text-book does not encourage the observance of days and seasons as religious appointments, yet we find nothing in the joyous remembrance of the great gift of God's love to man that conflicts with the spirit of joy and love which Christianity breathes. We have none of the severe iconoclastic notions of the days of the Puritans, or the hard feelings of some of the religionists, within our own memory, who would prefer to display hatred of the superstitious observances of the time by refusing to regard it in any respect, even as a holiday. In this last half of the nineteenth century in this western continent, we can smile at the puerility to which superstition descends in prescribing fasts and feasts, and yet we may get all the real benefit from the kind greetings of the season. We can do, and wish, our heart, with our friends and readers, young and old.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS,

without any respect for the childish superstitions, or countenancing the sinful indulgences of the dark and corrupt ages of the past or the present. It is for us to try and get all the good we can, and give all the joy to the little ones that the remembrances of the season call forth, without attaching to them any idea of divine sanction.

The Lord's Day is the only religious holiday we know. All other observances of days is of human invention. It so happens this year that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. The ordinary festivities will be observed on the following day. The observance of this season varies in different countries and by the different religious bodies, some making it a time for the exhibition of the various scenes of the nativity, providing all the surroundings of the event with whatever additions they are able to give it by the gorgeousness of wealth united with high ritualism. The place where our Lord first appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, is in the hands of the Roman Catholics, the Greek Church, and the Armenians untended, and the priesthood indulge in two observances of the same event, and vie with each other in giving grandeur to the occasion. The very place at which our Saviour was born is shown, and held as one of the most sacred. It being a night observance, there is no limit to the brilliancy borrowed from lamps, candles, and torches. "Tent work in Palestine" gives a full account of the Christmas Day proceedings at Bethlehem at the present time. A glance will interest our readers. After describing the preparations, the author, who was present, says:

The long-wearisome service, almost entirely choral, with occasional solos, went on for two hours. The Patriarch, in his hot and heavy vestments of cloth-of-gold, looked much exhausted. His mitre was changed at various times, one being of silver, a second of gold, a third jewelled. The whole service was directed by an extremely active priest, who appeared to be a sort of master of the ceremonies.

At midnight the climax was reached, the storm of song and music suddenly ceased, and, in the stillness, the clock struck, and the seventh candle on the high altar was lighted. A curtain was drawn back, and above the altar, was a little glass-fronted ebony box, from which the rosy face of a small wax image looked down, representing an infant swathed in cloth-of-gold. The great convent-bell swung with a deep sound, heralding the news of Christmas morn, and the little red-cassocked choristers burst forth, in memory of the angels, with the "Gloria gloria in excelsis!" The organ struggled and pealed in a mad and powerful symphony, and was accompanied by a pipe or reed, in memory of the music of the Shepherd's pipes. The mystic ceremonies of the early mass were commenced, and the weary congregation became interested.

There was something at once touching and ridiculous in this curious scene; ridiculous when one considered the rude and inadequate symbolism employed; and on the other hand impressive, when one reflected that for fifteen centuries

the Christmas morn had yearly been celebrated within these walls, and the riches of the Church, the genius of great composers, the intellect of a powerful priesthood, all combined to pay honour to the birthday of the little Jewish child, who had been born in the rude rock stable one wintry night, in a small village of a remote and despised province of the empire of Rome.

Two more hours of singing and music followed, and the great procession to the grotto was then formed. Huge wax torches were given to the consul and his secretary, and candles to the rest of the congregation. A second wax image, in a little wicker cradle, was placed on the altar beneath the former, and borne thence by the Patriarch, who came last. As he passed me, I saw that the figure was surrounded with long strips of paper, like swaddling clothes loosed from his limbs, one of its hands being raised in benediction.

Very striking was the scene in passing through the Greek chancel. The dark building was lighted only by the torches and tapers, which made the silver lamps above shine out against the dusky background. A dense crowd was kept in its ranks by two lines of Turkish soldiers with loaded Spitzer rifles. The variety of costumes and faces was wonderful, while the dark columns and grim figures in the glass mosaics, the forest of rafters in the ancient roof, and the rich screen before the apse, formed a dim and effective background to the glittering line of priests and acolytes in cloth of silver and gold.

The thought could not but suggest itself, how different was the scene thus enacted, amidst the awe-stricken veneration of the multitude, with all the pomp and magnificence which could be lavished on it by a rich and long-established Church, from that first Christmas scene in the dark, damp stable beneath, the events of which day were now symbolised by the dressing and undressing of a small wax doll.

The grotto was filled with priests, and blazed with crimson silk, silver and gold, lit up by rows of silver lamps above. The Gospel for the day was read in Latin, and at the words "Et peperit filium suum primogenitum," the image was laid by the Patriarch on the marble slab supposed to mark the spot where Christ was born.

"And wrapped Him in swaddling clothes." The paper bands were wound round the limbs of the image.

"And laid Him in a manger." The priest descended to the recess with little rock columns, and laid the cradle on one of the two altars within. The Gospel was continued from the words "And there were shepherds abiding in the fields," until the Gloria in Excelsis had again been sung, and the Patriarch, after censuring the image where it lay, returned with equal state to the Latin chapel where the mass was resumed.

At five in the morning, after seven hours of heat and discomfort, we left the Patriarch still engaged in his arduous office.

The best observance of this season is in the kind consideration of the necessities of the poor. Our Lord said, "The poor you have always with you." We need not go far to find how true this statement still remains. Efforts of kindness, especially to the children of the poor, are now in order, so that whilst with the gifts and presents it may be a happy season at home there may be the added joy of knowing that others outside are also partakers of the same joys and blessings.

"EARLY CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION" is the title of the volume of 1880 of the "Bampton Lectures." We have not seen this volume, but our neighbor of the Presbyterian Witness gives a critique, with some extracts from it, and strives to show that whilst the author endeavours to prove that the results of this enquiry favor Episcopacy, yet he, the editor, regards those results as really favoring Presbyterianism. Our friend concludes his article by saying: "Episcopalians will also see the great strength of the Presbyterian claim to be a primitive and Apostolic Church."

In reading the extracts from this learned work we observe that the lecturer makes an admission which, we think, is fatal to the claims of both episcopoi and presbyteroi, and altogether in favor of Baptist principles—congregational government. He says:

"At the close of the first and the beginning of the second century a great change took place in Christian organization. The early Christian democracy gives place to monarchy. The bishop, first of Asia Minor, and then gradually throughout the Christian world becomes the chairman and president of the council of presbyters, then the depository of Catholic doctrine as he is already the supreme administrator of church funds, and lastly he is conceived as the representative of the Apostles, or even of the absent Lord Himself, ruling the Church committed to him with an absolute and divinely-conferred authority."

Is it not evident from this that the departure from the so-called "democracy" was the commencement of the

departure from true gospel "organization," and the beginning of the apostasy from Christ Himself? We do not, however, admit that the organization of the Christian Church is a democracy. It is rather a Christocracy. He alone having authority therein, His word being the only legislation allowed, the church being the depository and administrator of His laws made and provided. Any attempt to go beyond this is an invasion of Christ's prerogative and an infringement of his laws.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We beg respectfully to suggest to those of our Subscribers from whom we have not as yet heard this year, that we are very anxious to hear from them. Our necessities are great and pressing. It would be esteemed a special favor if they would send us without further delay, as we are desirous of meeting the obligations incurred to furnish them with their weekly supply of Christian literature.

THE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AT WOLFVILLE.

The usual closing exercises before the Christmas holidays took place on Thursday last. Written Examinations had been in progress for several days previous, for the purpose of determining the standing of the students in their several classes.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to a MUSICAL AND LITERARY ENTERTAINMENT in College Hall, conducted by the students of the Collegiate Academy and Acadia Seminary. These were all well received and highly appreciated by the large audience present.

On Thursday evening the RHETORICAL EXHIBITION of the Junior Class in Acadia College was held. After the opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Welton. Essays were delivered by the members of the Class as follows:

"Adam Smith's Influence on the Modern Industrial World," by T. Sherman Rogers, Amherst.

"Republicanism in France and in the United States," by D. Spurgeon Whitman, New Albany.

"The Influence of the Thinker on his Age," by I. Wallace Corey, Cole's Island, N. B.

"Nihilism in Russia," by Joseph S. Lockhart, Lockhartville.

"The Augustan Age," by Clarence W. Bradshaw, Centreville, P. E. I.

"Art in Relation to Strength," by Barclay E. L. Tremaine, Halifax.

"The Uses of Biography," by Charles W. Williams, Wolfville.

"Alexander at Arbela," by Herbert R. Welton, Wolfville.

"The Crusades," by A. Lewis Powell, Amherst.

"Gladstone and Beaconsfield," by C. Osborne Tupper, Amherst.

"Venice," by William C. Goucher, Truro.

"Tennyson's Ideals," by O. C. S. Wallace, New Cannan.

The music both instrumental and vocal by a select choir of the students under the direction of Miss Harding of Windor, the teacher of Vocal Music, was ably rendered. In addition to the Students Mr. B. Witter rendered good service. "Rule Britannia" was given with fine effect, and the National Anthem at the close.

The Essays were of a superior order and shewed plainly that they were the genuine productions of the speakers, and were delivered with much freedom and clear distinct enunciation.

In compliance with the invitation of the President Rev. Dr. Sawyer, appropriate addresses were given at the close by Avar Longley, Esq. M. P. of Paradise, Rev. J. W. Manning and B. H. Eaton, Esq., of Halifax, E. M. Chesley, Esq., of Yarmouth, and Rev. W. H. Warren, the Financial Agent of the Convention.

The speeches were all excellent, Mr. Chesley's contained some words of counsel that should not be forgotten. He first advised those preparing for College to be thorough in their preparation. He had suffered from entering College too soon. Where he had been teaching in the Boston Latin School, six years were given to preparing for Harvard, and he should like to see some approach to that thoroughness here. He also gave the young men salutary advice about caring for their health. Especially warning them not to overtax their digestive organs.

The Governors were in session on Wednesday and Thursday. Dr. Sawyer's letter in another column will shew that an important step was taken in

advancing the "Rev. Charles Tupper" Professorship. The friends of Dr. T. and of the College will be glad to hear of this, and of additions being made to it from time to time with the hope that the sum named may be soon forth coming.

The following resolution passed by the Directors of the Foreign Mission Society of Ontario and Quebec, on Friday, Oct. 22nd, has an important relation to our Mission to the Telugus:

It was moved by Dr. Clarke and seconded by A. A. Ayer—That in case of more being expended upon specific items of mission work than is appropriated by the Board for the same, missionaries be expected to report to the treasurer the sum actually expended, and indicate the sum received by them from other sources for the purpose—Carried.

On motion, it was resolved that our Theological School be open to students for the ministry from the mission of our brethren of the Maritime Provinces, on condition that the Board of that Mission pay a fair share of the current expenses, in proportion to the number of students; the share being referred for determination to the missionaries on the field.

This would seem exactly to meet our necessities in respect to the training of native preachers.

The Board had before them their several mission stations, and the Estimates for the year were considered by the Board, and the following appropriations made:

Table with 2 columns: Station Name and Amount. Total: \$10,010.

We purpose making the Monthly Christian Messenger a paper that will be welcome everywhere, filled with news, religious intelligence, and every variety of profitable reading, in all respects equal to the weekly, and if possible the best number in the month, yet complete in itself.

We have just received a parcel of papers from the Visitor office.

The prices of these papers is very low as may be seen in the advertisement in another column. Rev. J. E. Hopper is successfully seeking to meet the wants of the young people by these publications. His enterprise in this line is deserving of warm commendation and encouragement.

A letter came to hand by the last English mail from Egypt. The postage stamps have on them the pyramids and sphinx—a curious combination of ancient monuments and modern invention. It proved to be from Rev. J. R. Hutchinson who reached Port Said on the 23rd of November. He says "we had a very rough time in the Mediterranean, and nearly went to the bottom, owing to some heavy iron castings in the hold breaking loose. We have much cause for gratitude to God for the preservation of our lives. All well."

We shall give Brother H's. letter in our next.

How continually are we seeing the proofs of the great truth, "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." This is perhaps seen in its most flagrant form in the asseverations of criminals as to their innocence of the crimes with which they are charged. This is doubtless the ground on which, in English courts, criminals are not allowed to testify in their own case. We had a dreadful instance of this in the case of Lefroy, recently executed for the murder of Mr. Gold in the railcar, on the way to Brighton. As he was going out of the court room he turned to the jury, and in a voice that had become perfectly firm and audible said, "Gentlemen of the jury, some day, too late, you will learn you have murdered me."

He then disappeared down the steps of the dock amidst the murmurs of the audience. And yet before his execution he made a full confession of the murder!

We are glad to find that the Masonic fraternity have decided against the Lottery plan of disposing of the old Masonic Hall property in Barrington Street. It certainly ought to be disposed of in some way. The building is now neither useful nor ornamental. Being in one of the most public thoroughfares of the city, it should command a price equal to the liabilities upon it.