

## The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N.S., December 20, 1882.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

The great subject of the present season is the humanity of our Lord and Saviour. Whilst contemplating Him in his birth, a child, we see his entire sympathy with human nature. When on one occasion, Robert Hall was walking with his friend John Foster they came to a busy ant hill and the latter proposed a question as to how he might be able to do some good to the ants, and communicate to them something that would promote their happiness. After some consideration the reply came that it would in the first place be necessary to become himself an ant so that he would meet them on ground common to both. By this means was the great preacher led to discard all the Aocinian views he had barely escaped, and restored to the full evangelical truth of Christ the divine man and the only and Almighty Saviour. He—our Lord and Master—it was who wished to do us good, and for this purpose he became a babe, he grew up to be a boy of "twelve years," continuing in comparative obscurity, laboring as other men, till "he began to be about thirty years of age."

The songs of the angels at his birth, eighteen centuries ago, are now being celebrated, and the "peace on earth" is declared and perhaps more fully understood than ever, whilst the "good-will to men" is remembered in words and deeds—in presents and acceptable gifts—at this season, making an increase of joy and happiness in families, and amongst friends. Greetings are indulged in without stint. Old and young enjoy the luxury of giving, and so of feeling the truth of its being "more blessed to give than to receive." "The compliments of the season" when accompanied by a kind gift, although ever so small, becomes the complement of happiness in the family circle. In the endeavor to secure the happiness of others there must be a certain amount of self-sacrifice, and in this way we may have the joy return to our own hearts in the act of blessing others, and thus secure true joy and blessedness for ourselves.

To our thousands of readers we offer in our present issue a rich collection of Christmas reading, which, will we doubt not, be relished by young and old. With this we covet a place in every hearth and home and would come wishing on this auspicious 25th day of December,

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

## THE WEEK OF PRAYER, 1883.

We published the programme of the Evangelical Alliance several weeks since. Arrangements have been made for holding meetings for Prayer in the several churches in Halifax, commencing on Sunday the 7th of January, in the Y. M. C. A. Hall in the afternoon. There will be Prayer meetings each morning in the Y. M. C. A. Hall at 8 past 9 o'clock, and in the evenings of each day as follows:—

**Monday,** Granville St. Baptist and North Baptist Churches.

**Tuesday,** Fort Massey and Brunswick St. Methodist Churches.

**Wednesday,** all the churches represented in the Alliance.

**Thursday,** Grafton St. St. John's (Presbyterian) and Charles Street Churches.

**Friday,** St. Andrew's Church and the Tabernacle.

**Saturday,** St. Matthew's Church.

The annual meeting of the Evangelical Alliance will be held after the meeting on Saturday in St. Matthew's Church.

The good work is being continued in the North Baptist Church. On Sunday evening the pastor Rev. J. W. Manning baptized six persons on a profession of faith in Christ. These with the twenty-one previously baptized make twenty-seven. Two others have been accepted by the church and are awaiting baptism. Others also have given intimations of their intention of offering themselves for baptism, and uniting with the church.

The closing Evangelistic meeting of Mr. Chubbuck's present visit to Halifax will be on Friday evening in the North Baptist Church.

MANITOBA is in the throes of a General Election of representatives to its Local Parliament. The great question with them is whether they shall be permitted to build railroads in the Province, or be wholly dependent on the Canada Pacific Railway Company to build them. That, at least, is the most apparent aspect of the two parties.

THE letter of "Harrington," from Chicago, on another page, will be read with interest. Our readers will be glad to learn that we are to have two more letters from the same pen, to follow in the two weeks' issues after the present.

REV. DR. LORIMER will please accept our thanks for a copy of his sermon delivered on Sunday before last in Immanuel Church, Chicago, on "The progress of Society." It is the first of a series Dr. L. is preaching on "Society."

RAPID CITY ITEMS.—The editor of the R. C. Standard says what we can well believe is true, "A few loads of good wood would be acceptable from country subscribers."

Rapid City can now boast of three literary organizations, viz.: the R. C. Mutual Improvement, the R. C. Academy, and the Prairie College Societies. Probably we should add a fourth, as the Anti-Slang Society has evidently a good literary aim.

The Anti-Slang Society, composed of pupils of the Public Schools held a very successful meeting and concert on Monday evening last. Judging from the name of the Society it deserves success.

The County of Annapolis has received a thrill in connection with temperance work through the recent visit of Grand Worthy Patriarch Barrell and Mr. J. M. Lewis lecturers and agent of the Grand Division. Directly and indirectly some six or eight Divisions of the Order were either instituted or revived.

During his addresses Mr. L. frequently made favorable mention of the press as a powerful auxiliary in promoting the good work; and made special mention of the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, Wesleyan and Watchman, as being to the front in our own Province.

It is somewhat strange that the subject of Christian Baptism, as taught in the Sacred Scriptures, is so quietly passed over, almost or quite ignored, by Pedobaptists in their Sunday School teaching. Whenever it comes before them in the course of the International Series of Lessons, it is as lightly touched as possible, and no appeal is made to the Scriptures in support of their practice. The Notes and Explanations go into the most minute particulars in the examination of the buildings, the dress and the manners and customs of the people in Bible times, but when coming to the plain command given by our Lord respecting the first act of obedience in the Christian life, it is left for the child or the convert to find out, or not, as he may without any help from his teacher or his commentary, what is the act of baptism. Even Peloubet perhaps the best of them all, in giving his comments, merely says, on Acts ii. 38: "And be baptized. The additional outward requirement of baptism was designed as an expression of their faith in Jesus as Messiah and Saviour, and of their open consecration to His service. On God's part it is his seal of his acceptance and of his fulfillment of all the promises included in the covenant of grace. Every one of you. There are no exceptions. It is Christ's command that whosoever believes in him should publicly profess their faith by baptism. A faith that is not willing to confess the Lord is not strong enough or true enough to save the soul. Baptism is (1) a confession of Christ; (2) a symbol of the washing away of sin; (3) a symbol of the purified risen life; (4) a symbol of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

This, to one who knows what baptism is—a Baptist—may be very clear and good, but to those who see nothing but an infant sprinkled with a few drops of water and that called baptism. What can it all mean? If the sprinkling an adult believer or an unconscious infant be true baptism why is it not so stated. Surely the word of Christ is

worthy of some consideration, and the young should not be deprived of what the New Testament teaches on this subject as well as on all others affecting "a confession of Christ." If it were only said, Baptism requires an immersion in water, how much more forcible would the above notes become.

## Concerning John Johnson.

Let it be supposed that John Johnson, of Charlotte, North Carolina, is moved by the preaching of Rev. Billy Bell, becomes interested in religion; speaks in meeting, and unites with the Vale Street Baptist Church. While looking over the advertisements of a Sunday School paper, he observes that the seal and codfisheries—but more especially the cord wood trade, are good in the East. He therefore resolves to seek his fortune, nearer the rising sun, and takes the train for Hard Scrabble Station in the Province of N. S. He is of an ardent mind, and has not yet lost the fervour of his first love, nor does he lose any time in sending for his dismission, and becomes a member of the only Baptist Church in the growing town of Hard Scrabble. And he enters, at once, into the business of making money, and develops into a notorious smuggler. But he is earnest and loud in his appeals, in the interests of righteousness and honesty in particular. The Brethren need a deacon to serve in the ways of the Lord; they cast about for a man of influence; choose, and ordain John Johnson, of North Carolina. He fills the holy office; makes the sanctuary ring with exhortation; accumulates wealth by the ordinary ways of trade, and resorts to smuggling as opportunity allows.

Suppose again that all this, is not the kind of stuff of which dreams are made. But rather, let it be imagined that the smuggling is too apparent, and that strange tricks, false oaths, and the payment of heavy fines are inseparable from this imaginary case.

Once more, and once for all, let it be assumed that the thing done in the night has come to the light, and the public; the government, and the Baptist Church at the Station, know that John Johnson, of North Carolina the Baptist Deacon is not only a noted smuggler but very remiss in "DUTY."

Now then, first of all what does the Christian Messenger think of John's morality? Will it do for membership and for deaconship? Is it the stuff for Baptist Churches? But again, granting that the Hard Scrabble church was, and is now, well aware of John's predilections, and would sooner bury, or eject the twelve Apostles than exclude him (because he is richer than twenty-four Apostles). If this church—the imaginary church after all that has been imagined—applies for admission into the Central Association will she be received? If she comes with John Johnson in her arms, dandling him upon her knees, kissing him with her lips, and saying "John is the ground and pillar of the Church"—will she be admitted? Or if she is already in the Association, and if the foregoing statements are urged and established will she be excluded?—providing always that she regards him as chief among the Brethren—or does the Baptist Body think that John Johnson is a necessity, and must be found "everywhere?" This is a time when we are seeing much about our boasted "unity;" let us have a chapter or two on our views of MORALITY. Let the Pulpit and the Press preach MONALITY OF CHRISTIANITY; or justify John Johnson of North Carolina.

Very respectfully yours,

J. A. MCLEAN.

Parrsboro.

Our good brother's questions answer themselves, so far as we are concerned. So long as we hear the Master saying "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," we do not perceive how John Johnson's despising his words can be sanctioned by any Christian church or people.

Smuggling is neither more nor less than defrauding—stealing; except that whilst common stealing is from one person, smuggling is taking what belongs to the whole community. The sooner that particular "John Johnson" finds out that "the powers that be" "bear not the word in vain" the better for him and the public.

We cannot allow the suggestion to go forth that our Central Association would adopt the course intimated by our brother, without affirming that we are of a contrary opinion. Having appended his name to his communication we do not hesitate to give it publication. We do however regret that such an opinion should be held by any one, as we think it is without foundation. Effort should be put forth to rescue John Johnson, the churches, and the Association from such reproach. The charge should be made against J. J. before the church of which he is a member.

## OBSERVE!

We have sent off a large number of "Dr. Kendall's Treatise on the Horse and his diseases," to those who have sent their subscription for the Christian Messenger for 1883, but we have some of these yet to send, and are doing so as fast as we can get them entered on our books. We have still a good supply of the books, and have concluded to EXTEND OUR PROPOSAL, and to send the book to any other persons who forward all arrears, if any, and their advance payment for 1883, before the 25th of Dec., and who express a wish to have it.

THE SAME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS UP TO THAT DATE!

SOME of our contemporaries have on some desperate emergency, or for the purpose of securing some temporary advantage made, offers of a diminution of price in their subscriptions, even below the actual cost of their papers, but in several cases we have afterwards learned, much to their subsequently disadvantage and regret, and thus have had to return to the ordinary price, or give up altogether. We see no good in such a course of proceeding. Far better to be without such increased patronage and avoid the humiliation and loss which must follow. We might name two or three of those with whom we exchange, who in former years have had some such experience either by their present or former proprietors, but for us to do so might awaken unpleasant reminiscences. We may however copy a paragraph or two from the Canadian Presbyterian, published in Toronto of the experience they have had in reference to this matter. The editor says:

"In answer to numerous inquiries we have to say that the clubbing arrangements some time in force is not to be continued. We are sorry to have it to state that it answered no good purpose. The circulation was not extended, although the price of the paper was reduced one fourth to clubs of twenty; while the net result was a heavy falling off in the receipts from subscriptions."

"The clubbing plan was adopted in deference to a widely expressed wish that THE PRESBYTERIAN should be placed within the reach of our people at \$1.50, in the expectation that this circulation would thus be largely increased. A fair trial of three years has demonstrated that our constituency is satisfied—in common with the Methodist, Anglican, and other denominations—to pay \$2.00 for a Church paper."

REV. I. C. ARCHIBALD, A. postal card informs us that our brother reached Malta on the 29th of November, 93 days from Liverpool. They experienced a gale in the Bay of Biscay. "He says:—"

Rev. A. A. Newhall, Rev. O. H. D. Fisher and wife, missionaries of Am. Baptist Missionary Union to the Telegos, are fellow passengers. Bro. N. being a returned missionary, has a knowledge of the Telegos, and is giving us lessons. Will write more fully from Port Said.

We have more than once insisted that membership—or fellowship, in a Christian church demands contribution towards the general and benevolent funds of said church. Every member young or old, rich or poor, should feel it a high privilege to present offerings to the common funds of the body. Although the member may be removed to a distance, yet the obligation is not removed. So long as said member has a name in connection with such church, and participates in its privileges so long should he, or she as the case may be, feel the obligation of aiding in its work. A brief note in the Canadian Baptist has practical illustrations of this obligation being recognized in the case of two members of the Olivet Baptist Church at Montreal:

"A young laboring man, a Dane, converted at the meetings of the Young Men's Christian Association in that city—a short time a member of the church, who now resides at Portland, Maine;—requesting a letter of dismission to a Baptist church there, enclosed ten dollars for the funds of the church. Also another absent member, a young man, had sent the pastor a cheque for one hundred dollars—fifty for the funds of the church, and the balance to be divided between Home and Foreign Missions."

We find here the essence of fellowship although the bodily presence of those members was in other places.

## THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

is the old established Christian newspaper of these provinces—the father of them all. A good religious newspaper has much to do with the happiness of every family into which it comes. It becomes a centre of interest and intelligence which cannot be otherwise enjoyed. It is the medium of communication between the ministers and members of churches such as cannot be secured in the any other way. It awakens and sustains the sympathy and co-operation of the churches in their benevolent enterprises. No Christian man can despise the fraternal relationship of churches of like faith and practice without injuring himself in all his relations.

If the churches would have the full benefit of their religious weekly, the members who already take it should seek to induce all their brethren who are able to do so to become subscribers. We believe there are

## Thousands of Families

who would be benefitted in every respect, and that to a very large extent, by becoming subscribers to the MESSENGER, who are now depriving themselves and their families of what they should know as well as those who are already subscribers.

EVERY NEW SUBSCRIBER WHO SENDS ON HIS TWO DOLLARS WILL RECEIVE

## THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

FROM THE DATE OF OUR RECEIVING THE PAYMENT TILL DEC. 31, 1883.

MAKING THE REMAINDER OF

## THE PRESENT YEAR, FREE.

Will the Ministers kindly announce this to their congregations at some convenient time, and speak a word to encourage those who are not subscribers to become so at once. This is the best time to subscribe. Brethren, help!

## Review of Books.

MEYER'S CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. Thoroughly edited especially for this edition, by William Ormiston, D. D., L. L. B. Funk & Wagnalls, 10 & 12 Dey St., New York.

This is a most learned and suggestive commentary; a work that all preachers who lecture or preach on the Sunday school lessons, and all superintendents and all teachers who wish to get at the actual meanings of scripture, should have. Dr. T. W. Chambers, the well-known biblical scholar and member of the Bible Revision Committee, commends Meyer's works most highly, saying: "He has justly been called the Prince of exegesis, being at once acute and learned." It is a work of great authority among scholars throughout Europe and in the United States.

ARTHUR BROOKS, D. D. of N. Y. says: "Meyer's Acts is so useful for its large learning, wise judgment and lucidness of statement, that I am very glad to hear of its re-publication."

THOMAS ARMITAGE, D. D. of N. Y. says: "Is of immense value."

The January issue of the HOME CIRCLE, is just come to hand filled with good things. The project of a family monthly magazine by the Am. Baptist Publication Society seems now to be fairly established. All the promises of matter and style are fully met, it has Panegyric "Endless Chain," followed by a lively and interesting sketch by Mrs. George Dana Boardman, of the grand old Peterborough Cathedral. Some of those arches are called "Turkey in Europe," is the first of a series of glimpses at different peoples that will be a feature of the Magazine during 1883. The paper by the Rev. Dr. MacArthur, of New York, on "The Christian Life in its Relations," is in that gentleman's best vein; sound, sensible, practical. Mrs. Annie A. Preston gives a charming story for Christmas, whose memories will be very fresh when the number is in the hands of the reader. Professor La Roy Griffin, on Curious Crystals, Egypt, and its Pyramids form a source of intense interest to old and young. It well deserves liberal patronage. Price \$1.50 per year. Samples 15 cents. Published by the AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY, Philadelphia.

## Notices.

P. N. S. S. CONVENTION. The next Annual Meeting of the P. N. S. S. Convention will be held with the Sabbath School at Cavendish, commencing with a sermon by Rev. A. H. Lavers, Tuesday evening, Dec. 26th, at 7 o'clock. Delegates coming by railway from the East will be met at Hunter River Station, from the West at Brandon Station, if they notify Arthur Simpson of their intention.

W. B. BRADSHAW, Secy. Convention, Montague, Dec. 1, 1882.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS FUNDS.

Received from A. Nichols, Clerk Hill Grove, Digby, Baptist Ch., special collection taken Oct. 29, \$2 51 J. Marsh, Secy. For Miss. Board, St. John, N. B., Dec. 11, 1882.

## CONVENTION FUNDS RECEIVED.

Oct. 2—Church at Lot 16, per Rev. J. B. Woodland, for Foreign Missions, \$11 50 " 8—Bedeque Church for F.M. 7 00 " Freetown Collection, " 2 15 " Summerside " 2 50 Cavendish, per Rev. J. B. Woodland, for Foreign Missions, 12 00 Tryon, per Rev. D. G. McDonald, 4 00

## Convention funds.

Fairview, per Rev. J. B. Woodland, Foreign Missions, 3 33

## A. H. LAYERS.

Pin. Com. for P. E. T. Summerside, P. E. T., Dec. 1882. P. S.—"Belmont" or Lot 16 was the first Church to respond to the appeal of the Fin. Com. in behalf of Foreign Missions. A. H. L.

## Moneys Received.

W. C. Bill, Esq., \$2; A. A. Pineo, \$12; Dimock Whitman, \$2; Rev. W. J. Swaffield, \$3; G. W. Wilson, \$5; L. Eaton, \$2; J. McNary, \$5; H. H. Chute, \$2; Isaac Shaw, \$3.60; J. F. Morrow, \$5; C. W. Sanders, \$3.60; J. Baker, \$2; W. Hunter, \$2; J. F. Langley, \$2; J. W. Churchill, \$2.50; C. B. Cunningham, \$2; T. Griffin, \$2.

## Home News.

## Nova Scotia.

The wreck of the sunken steamship Cedar Grove was much broken by the storm last week. A large portion of the cargo has been washed out, and is gone to sea. Another heavy gale will probably completely destroy what is left. The investigation is concluded, but very unsatisfactorily to some of the parties concerned.

The second officer Pearson was charged by Wm. H. Fairall, of St. John N. B., with being an opium-eater, and with being asleep and stupid as the cause of the loss of the ship.

Five carloads of cotton have been received by the Windsor Cotton Company from the Southern States. It came all the way by rail. It is stated that it can be brought by rail cheaper than by vessel, and the cost by rail is nearly \$500 per carload.

Don't die in the house.—"Rough on Rats." Clears out rats, mice, roaches, bed-bugs, fleas, ants, moles, chipmunks, gophers, &c.

Mrs. ROBERT OXLEY, of Vroomanville, Ont., suffered several years with dyspepsia, without permanent relief, until a friend recommended National Pills. After taking one box she recovered her health, and weighed twenty-five pounds more than before taking them.

The public schools at Pleasantville and Titicaca Cove, Lunenburg, also at Fishers Grant, Pictou Co., have been closed in consequence of the prevalence of diphtheria.

Daniel Ryan, of Sable River, shot four bears and one moose one day last week.

A Company at Spencer's Island is building a 2,000 ton ship.

Over 16,000,000 feet of deals and deal ends were shipped from Parrsboro this season.

Some 7,000 tons of plaster were shipped this season from Smoot & Co's quarries, Newport. About forty men and thirty horses were employed.

The Gloucester fishing schooner Conna H. Bishop, eighty-one tons, with twenty-five thousand fish, struck on Eastern Point, at the entrance of Shelburne harbor, at six o'clock on Saturday night and went to pieces Monday morning. Nothing was saved.

During the storm on Friday night last a coal laden lighter belonging to Captain English, filled and sunk at Irving's wharf, Pictou.

THAT HUSBAND OF MINE is three times the man he was before he began using "Wells' Health Renewer." \$1. Druggists.

FACTS AND FIGURES.—The first year's sales of that popular blood purifier, purifying tonic—Burdock Blood Bitters,—was upwards of 50,000 bottles; the second year it exceeded 100,000 with rapid and constant increase. It is a meritorious medicine.

On Monday last Capt. M. Wilson, of the brig, Albion, was accidentally shot in W. Robertson's hardware store, Water Street, where he was on some business. A young man named John Wells came in at the same time for some cartridges, and on the two going out together Wells playfully snapped the pistol at Capt. Wilson two or three times, and the third time the chamber of the pistol appears to have been loaded, and the ball struck Capt. W. in the neck, near the windpipe. Capt. Wilson fell into the arms of those near him. Efforts were made to find the ball, but without success, but it is hoped that the consequences may not be fatal. It is another lesson that firearms are not playthings. Wells gave himself up, but is out on bail.

CATARH OF THE BLADDER.—Stinging irritation, inflammation, all Kidney and Urinary Complaints, cured by "Buck's" \$1.

A FACT WORTH MENTIONING.—Mrs. Ira Mulholland, of Oakville, was cured of dyspepsia and all occurring bilious headache, by the use of Burdock Blood Bitters, the great blood purifying system regulating tonic, and matchless liver regulator.