

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., October 25, 1882.

CHRISTIAN OBLIGATION.

CHURCH MEMBERS SHOULD SUPPORT THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

The experience of Christian churches confirms the teaching of Holy Scripture that the Christian Ministry, according to Divine appointment, is necessary for the extension of the Kingdom of Christ in the world. One of the first duties of a church is to preach the Word. This is done by sustaining the most efficient ministry that can be obtained. Any church that neglects or lightly regards this duty can hardly be considered as filling the place of a church of Christ in the world. Any member of a church who is indifferent to the privilege of contributing for this purpose may be regarded as forfeiting his claim to a place in the church.

We hear much in these days of Christian activity, about giving to the cause of Missions and other benevolent objects, and are in some danger of overlooking the necessary provision for the support of the Gospel in our midst.

It is supposed by many that what they earn and receive, whether it be in weekly or daily wages, or the returns for labor on the farm, or at sea, or in the public office, is their own, to appropriate as they may think fit, without regard to the opinion of others in any way. Happily we live in a free country, where every man may have the command of himself, and no other man has a right to dictate how we shall employ our time or our earnings, so long as we use them for the purpose of discharging all our legal liabilities and obligations. But whilst we enjoy this freedom we are neither isolated nor independent of our fellowmen. We are protected by "the powers that be" in the enjoyment of our freedom, and we must pay the price of such protection to the community in which we live, and to the State of which we form a part. As Christians, too, we owe a large debt of gratitude to Christ, and obedience to His laws no less than to the State. Negligence in contributing to the church may not bring upon us the same penalty, or the forfeiture of our liberty and protection, but it will assuredly bring upon us a far greater infliction. Niggardiness in the support of the Gospel ministry and the ordinances of His House will bring to us a diminution of enjoyment of fellowship with our brethren and with Christ himself. We have no other representative of Christ on earth but His Church, and the ministry he has appointed, and gratitude to Him for salvation, and all its consolations and blessings can be shown only by our personal presence with His people, and pecuniary contributions to His cause. The return made—or payment to the church funds—when made as it should be, is to Christ himself, and under the Master's eye and as much as if it were put into His hand, is accepted not for the largeness of the sum, but, if according to ability, and in the spirit he approves—"freely ye have received, freely give," his blessing must follow. Willingly and "according to that a man hath" is the rule. The widow's mites (not mite) were a contribution commended by our Lord, they were "all that she had even all her living." We may not be called upon to imitate her in giving so large a proportion, and yet our Lord gives the lesson,—and it is a perfect one, although so brief. We may use it like many of His other lessons to learn what the perfect rule of gratitude to Him would dictate. How much, then, owest thou unto thy Lord? Make no delay in the payment.

When all the tithes are brought into the store house then may we expect the blessing.

Subscribers in arrears will greatly oblige by an early remittance.

We have received a copy of the prize list of the International Fisheries Exhibition. This great Fisheries Exposition, in which the Government and all persons interested in the Fisheries of Canada are invited to take part, will open in London in May, 1883, and continue open during six months.

Medals in Gold, Silver and Bronze, and Diplomas of Honor will be awarded for excellence in Exhibits.

Money Prizes will also be given to the successful competitors:

One hundred pounds each for Essays on six different subjects connected with fish and the fisheries.

Fifty pounds for the best Essay on the Food of Fishes both in Fresh and Salt Water.

Twenty-five pounds for Second Class Prizes on 15 different subjects.

Seventy-seven different prizes, varying from £25 to £5 for several other things, models of boats, collections of fishing gear, clothing, &c., &c.

Six hundred pounds is offered for the best full-sized life boat.

All applications for admission must be made on printed forms which will be furnished on application to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries by letter at Ottawa, marked "Fisheries Exhibition," where all information will be given to persons desirous of Exhibiting on their own account, or through the medium of the Government.

The *Shelburne Gazette* is the title of a new venture, issued from the office of the *Halifax New Era* by the Shelburne Publishing Company. It bears quite a resemblance to the *Era* and professes to be above partyism in politics, and aims to promote commerce farming, fishing and mining industries.

REV. A. H. MUNRO, formerly of Halifax, after a pastorate of six years has resigned the charge of the First Baptist Church, Montreal.

THE Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, is at length settled with its new pastor, Rev. Dr. Thomas late of Philadelphia. A Welcome meeting was held on Monday, the 16th inst. There was quite an array of ministers present. After a sermon by Rev. J. W. A. Stewart of Hamilton, an Address of Welcome was given by Dr. Castle, and an Address to the Church by Rev. J. Donovan. Great harmony seems to exist and a joyful prospect of usefulness for pastor and people.

Curiously enough the *Toronto Globe* published a report of the "recognition meeting" a week or more before it took place, said report said: "The speeches were all in a pleasing strain, and expressive of the good feeling that had already ripened between pastor and people."

The enterprising reporter was of a mind not to be behind time and was probably misled.

Those of our friends who have not already sent on their subscription will do us a great favor by sending the amount due without delay.

The *Canadian Baptist* of the 19th gives further publicity to the progress of development of the proposed Baptist Union of Canada. An invitation is given to the Churches to send delegates to Hamilton, on Friday last, to consider the proposed Constitution about which some differences exist; and it says "there will be little difficulty when Friday comes, in saying decisively whether the Union shall survive or perish." We shall hear more of this matter in another week or so.

DR. CASTLE will please accept our thanks for a copy of Circular, showing what will be required of such persons as are desirous of receiving the Degrees of Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity from McMaster Hall. The course of examination is somewhat severe. All who pass through it with honor will be worthy of the distinction.

THE *National Baptist* has been purchased by Rev. Dr. Wayland who has for some time past been the editor of that paper on behalf of the Baptist Publication Society. It seems to be a prevailing opinion of the Baptists in the United States that a paper published by private responsible parties is better than by a publishing company.

A change has been made in the arrangements of the Foreign Missionary Board. Mr. Archibald was instructed by telegram to return to St. John, N. B., where a farewell meeting would be held; and he would embark for England in the steamer *Dominion* at Point Levi at the end of this week.

ENGLISH BAPTIST UNION.

We gave, in our last, a few words by way of notice, of the first meeting of the Baptist Union in St. Georges Hall, at which the Mayor received the Delegates. During the evening the great organ was brought into requisition and several musical selections played with great skill on that magnificent instrument. Tea and coffee was served at one end of the room, and free conversation was indulged in for about an hour.

At the welcome meeting of the union one of the secretaries read apologies from several prominent gentlemen and amongst them was the following from the Church of England Bishop of Liverpool:

"Pittlochy, Perthshire, Sept. 5, 1882.

"My dear Sir,—I am much obliged to you for your kind letter and the brotherly feeling which it exhibits, but a long-standing engagement makes acceptance impossible. The first week in October is the week of our annual Church Congress at Derby, and on the 2nd I am engaged to read a paper there on a very important subject, so that I cannot be at Liverpool. With much esteem for your name and work, believe me, yours faithfully,

J. C. LIVERPOOL.

"Rev. H. S. Brown."

Among the press references to the appearance of so large a number of strangers in the city of Liverpool, the *Liverpool Daily Post*, in a short article headed "Our Baptist Visitors," informs its readers that "this sect, indeed have no creed but the Bible," and says:

"It is not without interest to note that the largest seaport in the world is being visited this week by the representatives of that sect of Christians who still practise in its original simplicity the rite by which that faith was inaugurated, whose precepts not only form the base of English law and government of English social life and manners, but to whose teaching more than all beside we are indebted as a nation for our commercial prosperity. It is a dignity of the Church of England whom we will cite to prove the unchanging consistency of our Baptist friends." For the first thirteen centuries, says Dean Stanley, "the almost universal practice of baptism was that of which we read in the New Testament, and which is the very meaning of the word baptize—that those who were baptised were plunged, submerged, immersed into the water." In a leader of the same journal occurs the following very pertinent remark on the separation between the Independents and the Baptists:—"Certainly such rigorous divisions among Christians have one merit at least—that of exalting the merit of obedience. If two great free communions of Congregationalists are thus separated in zealous deference to the will of the Master, the scruple becomes more than respectable."

In another part of the Hall was exhibited a splendid collection of shells and a number of curiosities, some ancient volumes, and modern illustrated works were also on the tables for any to peruse.

AFTER THE PUBLIC MISSIONARY BREAKFAST

there were some exceedingly interesting speeches. One from Rev. George Grenfell of the Congo Mission, in which he described the new Missionary steamer *Peace* just launched for service on the Congo River. He said:

Affording, as the Central Congo does, such a magnificent route for communicating with the thickly-peopled interior, it is intended that our steamer shall furnish us with a ready means of visiting the many tribes accessible by means of this great river and its tributaries. In preparing for the navigation of this great river, and in the construction of our steamer, it has been needful to bear in mind the exceptional circumstances by which the project is surrounded. The first and most embarrassing circumstance of our work lies in the fact that there are series of falls and cataracts between the lower and upper river, which can only be outflanked by traversing the 200 miles of mountainous country, in passing through which the Congo falls 1,000 ft. And as this country can boast of no other roads than mere tracks, the transport of a steamboat through such wild regions is no simple matter. To meet this difficulty, and that of the lack of vehicles and beasts of burden, our steamer *Peace*, a boat 70 ft. long and 10 ft. 6 in. wide, with engines and boiler of 50-horse power, has been so constructed that no single piece either of hull or machinery weighs more than a man can carry. Another embarrassing circumstance of our enterprise is the shallowness of the upper river, which precludes the possibility of navigating it with any but a boat of the lightest draught. The lower Congo is

in many places of unfathomable depth, but then it is copped up between precipitous cliffs in a narrow channel, at many points not more than half-a-mile wide, while in its upper course, with only a fall five inches per mile, it flows sluggishly across the continent for a distance of 900 miles; amid countless islands, and spreads itself out over a channel ten miles wide, and of course proportionately shallow. To meet this difficulty our steamer is so built that with cargo and fuel on board she draws only twelve inches of water. No one that has read Stanley's account of his journey across Africa can lose sight of the unpleasant prospect of contact with hungry cannibals, who look upon strangers as lawful prey, and who make a point of persistently attacking the traveller. We have done our best to provide against such attacks by arranging for a speed of twelve miles an hour, which is greater than that at which any canoe can follow. On our land journeys, by a persistent course of kindness and tact, we are now able to go without any risk, and are welcomed with presents of food, and with signs of hospitality, where at first we were received with a display of all the force that could be commanded, and with the most evident tokens of distrustfulness and fear; and, we have found our way gradually open up before us on land, we are trusting that the waterway will also open for the proclamation of the Gospel of Peace to those who dwell along its banks. At any rate we are conscious that we go at the bidding of Him who is greater than weapons or armies, and we confidently trust to His guidance, and look to Him for His protection. Our boat has now been built and launched, and the work of taking her to pieces will be commenced as soon as the trial trips are completed, and it is hoped that the cases containing the various parts will leave this port in a few weeks' time. A five weeks' voyage will take them to the mouth of the Congo, some 300 miles from Stanley Pool. The first 100 miles of this distance is a matter of no difficulty, since it can be traversed by river. But having arrived at our first station, Wanga-Wanga, the packages will be opened and their contents made up into suitable loads of 64 lb. weight, ready for the overland transport to Bayneston, a distance of sixty miles, and a far more lengthy and costly task than the previous 6,000. Over this distance the 700 loads, comprising our steamer, its stores, and the needful barter goods to pay our way, will be carried on men's heads and shoulders along roads which sometimes involve during a day's journey 3,000 feet of climbing and a nearly corresponding descent.

To enable us to pass the various streams which cross our path, we are taking a boat, something like Stanley's *Lady Alice* (but built of steel): it is in nine sections, each section being a man's load. These sections can be put together in an hour, and after serving the purpose of a ferry boat will come apart again and take their place in the caravan. Steel rope and tackle for crossing ravines, which occur here and there, are also among our impedimenta, and these after serving their purpose on land will form part of the steamer's gear when she gets afloat. The distance between Wanga Wanga and Bayneston having been mastered we come to an equal distance of available water way, extending as far as Manyanga. On this reach our sectional boat will again come into service, but the major part of the work will fall to the share of the larger steel boat, the gift of our Plymouth friend. Some twenty trips of this boat—each trip occupying about six days when the river is not very bad—will provide for the transport of our 700 loads to Manyanga, where the final stage of the overland journey will begin. After traversing this further distance of seventy or seventy-five miles the work of reconstructing the steamer will commence—the keel will be laid, frames set up, plates put on, rivets driven, machinery fixed, cabins fitted, and the whole work we trust by God's good favor carried to a successful completion. Those who know anything of African work and its risks, will, considering the resources of a missionary society, allow that we are embarked upon a bold enterprise; but it is undertaken in the fullest sense of dependence upon the Divine blessing, the which if God grants shall ensure its being duly carried through. We look upon this project as a part of the plan by which the light of God's truth shall be made known in the very recesses of poor benighted Africa. Similar work in Central Africa is being undertaken by the various sections of the Evangelical Church. The Congo offers scope for works on both sides through a navigable course of 900 miles along its main stream, and to light draught boats its affluents, it is expected, will afford as many more. It seems destined in the purposes of God's providence, that steam vessels shall play a very important part in the opening up of the country for the preaching of the Gospel, and in undertaking this special work we are but following the best recognised method for attaining the object we, as a missionary society, have in view. We must, therefore, be prepared to run the risks, to do the work,

and to pay the cost incident to placing the steamer so generously provided upon its proposed course. And what are these risks and expenses that we should count them great when we have God's command and see His finger pointing to the open door? We have the same Gospel to preach as that for which Paul endured stripes and imprisonment, persecutions from both Jews and heathen, perils by sea and perils by land—the same as that for which the martyrs died. It is the lamp of life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins that we hold in our hands, and "can we to men benighted," in the eternal gloom benighted, "the lamp of life deny?" With such inspirations and motives as these, one is forced to ask, Why have not Christians done more? With such wrongs to redress, and with such balm to dispense, how is it they have not crossed and recrossed Africa, and unfurled Christ's banner in the midst of its every tribe? Mr. Grenfell concluded, amidst loud cheers, by suggesting the singular appropriateness of raising the fund at that meeting, proposed by Mr. Baynes for the "Liverpool" Congo Station, inasmuch as the city in which they were now assembled had formerly employed more than 100 vessels in the slave trade with Africa. The news just received marked an era in the mission, and they might soon expect to join hands with other missions across the dark continent.

We commend to our readers a careful perusal of the address in another page of the President of the Baptist Union at Liverpool, G. B., on some "Practical aspects of Church Life." The views and sentiments there given are as well adapted to our churches in this part of the world as that. They are the result of taking a broad view of the position of our churches and their great work of making the principles we hold the heaven that is to be for the life of the dead formalism that prevails in the church and the world.

A spiritual church membership is the great matter for which we exist, and that should be more constantly insisted on. Many would rob us of this grand principle and give the impression that the difference between the churches of our denomination and others is a mere matter of the quantity of water in Baptism, that however is one of the lesser matters—the great thing with us is that the Church of Christ must consist of believers, and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We shall be glad to hear from our friends at an early date.

"A MILD DUNN."—We shall be glad to hear from our friends at an early date, is the most modest dunning paragraph we have ever come across, and the good editor of the *Christian Messenger* gets credit for it.

We copy the above from the *Windsor Mail* of last week. We should be sorry to say anything to our subscribers that was not "modest." We trust that those for whom it was intended, will appreciate the compliment paid them by our contemporary. It will then prove to us that they can fully understand the suggestion and regard our "modest" request as much as if words less respectful were written to them.

Review of Books.

HISTORY OF BRITISH AMERICA: for the use of schools by John B. Calkin, Principal of the Normal School, Truro, A. & W. Mackinlay, Halifax, N. S.

This is the latest of the Nova Scotia Series of School Books, got up in beautiful style and neat binding. Although prepared for Schools yet it should be read by the thousands of grown up children, who are but very imperfectly informed on the history of their native or adopted country. It is written in a concise and yet a pleasing and attractive style.

THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN AND ORIENTAL JOURNAL, October, 1882, published by Jameson & Morse, Chicago, \$3.00 a year.

It has been supposed that the genius of the American mind being so much occupied with the present and future has been almost indifferent as to the past. That the new world so-called had no antiquities for which they cared, or that were worth caring for. The existence of this monthly magazine however is a correction of such an idea. One who reads it from month to month may know that this continent had an ancient civilization, and a people anterior to any of the existing historical records. The work of this periodical is to collect and preserve all that is known and can be learned of them and their remains. The number for the present month contains articles on the "Native races of Colombia, South America" 2nd article; "Paleolithic Man in America" and others of much interest.

THE HEBREW STUDENT MONTHLY, October, \$1.00 a year is largely occupied with the Book of the Prophecy of Nahum in the original Hebrew and several translations. The Targum on the same is also given.

News of the World.

The *Times* Cairo correspondent telegraphs that he has reason to believe the following will constitute the chief counts of the indictment against Arabi:—First, that in violation of the rights of nations he hoisted a white flag in Alexandria, and under cover thereof retitled with his troops and gave up the city to fire and pillage. Second, that he excited the Egyptians to arm against the Khedive. Third, that he continued the war despite news of peace. Fourth, with having incited civil war, devastation, massacre and pillage in Egyptian territory.

Messrs. Broadley and Napier visited Arabi Pasha on Saturday. Arabi expressed confidence in the decisions of the British Government. He stated that he had been ill treated and twice spat upon, but that since Oct. 10th he has been well treated owing to the intervention of Sir Edward Malet.

The *Daily News* Cairo despatch says: "In regard to the defence of Alexandria, Arabi avers that he acted under orders from the Khedive. He says he continued the war after the bombardment by order of the National Council at Cairo."

The *Times* says that unless proper arrangements be made by the Egyptian authorities to secure a fair trial for Arabi and his fellow leaders, it is possible the British Government will require that they be handed back into English custody.

A despatch from Cairo says several influential land owners, who have just returned from visiting their properties in the country, report that the state of the natives is most unsatisfactory. The superstratum of fear over-lies among them a deep hatred of Christians.

The Council of Ministers have adopted the preliminary scheme of Baker Pasha for the reorganization of the Egyptian army, as announced on the 10th inst. Baker recommends that the field officers of each regiment, battalion, battery, etc., be half British and half Egyptian, and other officers from the captain downward be selected from Egyptians, Albanians and others already in the service of the Khedive.

On Wednesday last the Porte sent a note to Lord Dufferin, the British Ambassador, announcing his readiness to negotiate a settlement of the Egyptian question.

On Wednesday last Marshall Serrano stated in an interview with the king of Spain that he was ready to accept office if the King summoned him to form a Ministry for the left. Many republicans, at present the followers of Sagasta would join him he said and he was convinced that the prosperity of Spain will be consolidated by a Progressist policy which alone was calculated to disarm republicanism.

On Saturday last, King Alfonso, laid the first stone of the foundation of a depot at Huesca, for the International Railway. Great enthusiasm was manifested.

A Paris despatch from Montceau les Mines reports that riotous miners made an unsuccessful attempt on Thursday to blow up a priest's house with dynamite.

The transport "Lydian Monarch," with household cavalry, on the return from Egypt, entered the West India dock, London, on Thursday. Large crowds assembled to welcome the troops.

The Horse Guards who returned from Egypt marched through London on Friday. The weather was fine, and their reception along the whole route, which was over six miles, was most enthusiastic. On their arrival at Albany Barracks in London they were received by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Life Guards met with a no less hearty greeting at Windsor.

The German ship "Constantia," Captain Kuehken, collided with the steamer "City of Antwerp," in the English Channel, fourteen miles off the Eddystone, and both vessels sunk. All the "Constantia's" crew and four belonging to the "City of Antwerp" have been landed at Cardiff.

Mr. Barry Sullivan the actor has consented to be nominated for parliament for an Irish constituency on Home Rule principles.

An important meeting was held in Dublin, on Wednesday last. Between seven and eight hundred delegates were present. A number of letters and telegrams from America approving of the movement were read; letters also were received from several Catholic Bishops, apologising for their absence and expressing confidence in the leaders of the movement. Parnell submitted a programme of conference, and reviewed its proposals; that until he attained for the people of Ireland the right to make their own laws, they would never be in accordance with their wishes. No