

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

NEW SERIES.
Vol. XXVIII, No. 28

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Wednesday, July 11, 1883.

WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII, No. 28.

Joining the Church, or the Minister.

Some surprise was expressed by a worthy minister who was recently conversing with another, that a young brother who had been ordained and settled in a town not a thousand miles from Boston, within some months past had already resigned his charge, when the aforesaid quickly and rather sharply replied, "Oh, the devil is having it in his own way there; under the lead and labors of the last pastor a large number were added to the church, but many of them did not join the church, but joined the minister, and when he left, their interest in the church left also, and they were all ready to make trouble for his successor, and they have done so and virtually driven him away."

And this is not an isolated case! In very many churches there are those who join the pastor only, though their names are written down on the church record. The writer of this article received a letter informing him of a powerful revival in a distant city, more than one hundred and fifty professing conversion, and uniting with the church, and yet when the minister left, a large proportion of them lost all interest in the church, not more than a third of them standing at their post and working for Christ. Ah, as the letter said, "They had joined the pastor, and not the church."

This is an evil of great magnitude, and ought to be checked. But how is it to be done? How can we get at it? would it not be well for all candidates for church membership to be questioned on this point? Put it thus. Do you wish to join our church, or our minister? — Watchman.

New Notions in Theology.

It is said in favor of certain somewhat new notions in theology, or modified forms of expressing religious truths that they tend to renounce the faith of the church and modern philosophical and scientific opinions. Is that worth while? If once begun, where is such a movement to end? Besides what security is there that the opinions, to which the faith of the church is to be accommodated, will remain unchanged for the next five years? Do these conclusions in philosophy and science rest upon data not likely to be essentially modified—to say the least? Does the history of science and philosophy warrant an expectation that present theories will prove permanent? And moreover, what is the faith of the church to represent—the truths of revelation, or the inductions of science and the fruit of philosophy? If the creeds and the accepted theologies fairly and clearly present the truths of the Holy Scriptures, what more is to be asked of them? Are the ministers to be "ministers of the Word," or instructors in natural science and human speculation? Indeed, has there not been too much yielded, not in the creed, but in practice, already! — J. M. Ferris, D. D.

WOMEN IN CHINA.—The condition of women in China is not one of absolute degradation: it is midway between that of women in a Mohammedan and in a Christian country. High honor is paid to the mother of a family, and higher still to the grandmother. It is the mothers who perpetuate idolatry in China. They take the young children to the temples, and make them bow again and again before the great gilded images. When the mothers can be taught the love of the Saviour, China will be brought to Christ. They cannot be reached by the male missionaries; their own sex must go among them, and teach them. We should have missionaries to visit them in their homes. For this work a knowledge of medicine is an important qualification.

News from the Churches.

ARCADIA, YARMOUTH Co.—We desire to record our grateful thanks for tokens of Divine favor. On Sabbath, July 1st, it was my privilege to baptize a young sister, and extend to her the right hand of church fellowship. Others are walking about Zion, whom we hope will soon decide to follow the footsteps of our Saviour in His blessed ordinance.

Yours, &c.,

J. D. SKINNER.

July 2, 1883.

NEW ANNAN.—We are pleased to learn that the church here is being blessed with new life, and that some are enquiring for the way of salvation.

The following is a copy of the letter sent by the Lower Aylesford Church to the Central Association. The fact of so large an addition being made to the membership during the year may be a sufficient reason for its insertion. Rev. J. L. Read is its pastor.

To the Central Baptist Association:

"In addressing you in this, our annual epistle, we are reminded of God's goodness during the past year to many of the churches in the outpouring of His Spirit, and bringing so many souls to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. This church has shared largely in that Divine gift. It has been a year of the right hand of the Most High. The Rev. J. W. S. Young, from New Brunswick, came to assist the pastor in holding special services. He is a warm-hearted, zealous and successful worker in the Master's cause. The pastor and church labored heartily and unitedly with him. God blessed abundantly their labors, and many souls were converted. Christians were revived, encouraged, and built up in the faith. Eighty-six have been baptized. The Sabbath congregations are large. Social meetings are well attended, and full of interest. We are happy to say that there are no divisions amongst us. Divisions bring destruction and reproach. We pray that the time may soon come when peace shall reign in all our churches. We have two Sabbath Schools, both in a healthy state, and doing good work for the cause. The school in the valley has provided itself with a first class library from the Baptist Book Room in Halifax, costing \$88. It is giving better satisfaction than any library we have had before. Our Lesson Helps come from the same Society. We hope that ere long all our Sabbath Schools will be supplied with sound Baptist Books. Bro. D. Archibald visited this Church. His work was beneficial to the Baptist interest here in stirring up the people in the grace of benevolence, and in introducing Baptist Literature. His remarks are plain and bold, but modified by love and good will. No Baptist should be ashamed of his principles."

Signed on behalf of the Church,
GEORGE EATON,
Church Clerk.

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING.

—Senator Kaulback some time ago said: "If you will build a fairly respectable church, and when you have it up, boarded in, and paid for, I will pay you \$100." This promise he fulfilled this week. The cause of completing the outside is progressing favorably. If outside friends will continue their support the individuals in charge will do their part fully. The work is really an important one, and should be further encouraged. The work was commenced with but \$20 in funds.

W. J. G.

Lunenburg, July 6th, 1883.

BRO. S. H. CORNWALL was ordained at the Baptist Church of North Stratford, N. H., June 27th. The ordination sermon was preached by Rev. Samuel A. Read, of Passumpsic, Vt., from Psalm lxxviii. 17, and 1 Cor. iii. 9. The ordaining prayer was by Rev. G. F. Pary, of North Conway, N. H.

Five thousand dead bodies are sent to the New York morgue every year, and 4,500 of them are the victims of intemperance.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.
Independence, Interdependence.

Dear Editor,—

It would seem possible, from reading the reply in your last, upon "Councils and the Independence of the Churches," that if there be misconception it may be mutual, or at least, this is the season for fog, hence a few words further.

Exception was taken to the principle involved in a former paper, namely, the, to some, undue prominence given to the Council, and especially as an arbitrary body over the church. Granted that some of our churches are, or may be plagued by dissension, yet they are churches of Christ, and are each under obligations and authority from Him who is alone the Head of the church, or they are not churches of Christ, and hence are beyond recovery. When the church of Christ transfers her authority to that which is not a church, surely her independence is gone, and when or how shall she regain it? Further, even a dissenting party in a church must compromise the very principle on which they stand, as a minority, by binding to accept the decision of the Council. They, as members, are obligated, in the most sacred manner, under the government and authority of the church: but we may assume that now, on principle, for conscience sake, they must dissent. Now if conscience is greater than the church, should it be less than the Council? Surely, no man should place himself where he must violate his own conscience.

To the honour of Baptists be it said that they act from conviction. This is the basis of all true reform; and the encouragement given by James' right apply to an assumedly erring church, as well as to the individuals, "Brethren if any of you do err from the truth, and you convert him: Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." This is to be done, not by arbitrary force, but by earnest counsel and tender entreaty, until the heart is turned into the better way. So we believe the advisory Council, by enlightening the judgement, if need be, and by urging the dignity and the responsibility of the church of Christ, will effect vastly more, in the best sense, than the arbitrary Council, who hears and sentences, and withdraws, whose chief hope is in this, that the church pledged herself beforehand to abide by their decision, and of course must. Christ's order is repentance and remission of sins.

My good bro. styles me his critic, but I stand wholly upon principle; however, I sincerely hope it will not be necessary for us, as brothers, to call in a Council, especially an arbitrary Council, to restore Christian feeling between us.

W. SPENCER.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Lord's Day at Ruggles Street, Boston.

Mrs. E. S. Rice, daughter of the late deacon Abel Strong of Cornwallis, N. S. gives us an interesting description of the services of the Ruggles Street Baptist Church, in Boston, of which she is a member. She says, I have attended the Sabbath School in the same church, which school I am informed by my teacher, Mr. Addison Brown, is the largest in Massachusetts, often numbering over 900 members on a Sabbath, on June 17th, Sabbath morning at 9 o'clock I left Brooklyn, and arrived in good time for the morning prayer meeting. One of the sisters whom I have always met there, Mrs. F. is 84 years of age, she led me from the same prayer meeting into the Bible class, from which she, Mrs. F. is seldom absent, and is always happy when speaking of religion.

At half-past 10 o'clock we assembled in the spacious church, which will seat about 1,500 persons. As strangers enter either door from the hall, an usher is always present to conduct them to seats, all of which are free to the whole congregation. Slips of paper, with two hymns printed, and

also the notes to be sung, on each, are scattered in every pew. The order of the services were as follows:

1. Singing by the quartette.
2. A very brief prayer by the Pastor.
3. Singing by the congregation the first hymn on the slip.
4. Reading the Scriptures by the preacher.
5. The baptism of 13 persons in the font, during which the congregation sang a verse as each candidate is immersed.
6. Prayer by the preacher.
7. The morning offerings—collection from the congregation.
8. The announcement of meetings through the week.
9. Singing the second hymn on the slip.
10. The sermon from Luke xix. 41.
11. The concluding prayer and benediction.

At 2 o'clock, p. m., we reassembled for our large Sabbath School, the junior classes are seated in the several vestry rooms. One class of them in the chapel building while the Bible classes are seated in the body of the church.

At 4 o'clock, p. m., every Sabbath there is a gospel temperance meeting held quite near the church. Splendid singing by a quartette, and able addresses given, sometimes by ladies, as well as by gentlemen. And here I must remark that the Women's Christian Temperance Union which meets every Monday at 3 o'clock, p. m., in the city at 5.15 Tremont St., is doing a good work. Prohibition from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage is the aim of this society. I think in time the hopes of the ladies will be realized.

On Sabbath the 24th of June, the band of fellowship was given to the 13 who were baptized on the previous Sabbath, and also to five other persons who were received by letters from other Baptist Churches, among whom was the writer. "Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless his holy name."

Baptist Book and Tract Society.

104 GRANVILLE ST., HALIFAX.

Subscriptions to Capital Fund:—
Kentville, —H. S. Dodge, \$1.

Lower Aylesford, —Jessie Eaton, 10 cts.; Obadiah Hawkins, \$5; A. E. Roche, 1; Charles Pierce, 5; Mrs. E. W. Welton, 10; J. F. Burris, 75 cts.; H. L. Baker, 1; Mrs. Rhodes, 1; Inglis Neely, 50 cts.; Mrs. H. Munro, 1.

Deerfield, Yarmouth Co., —Mr. Jeremiah Porter, 50 cts.; May Porter, 50 cts.; Jeremiah Porter, \$1; Mrs. W. H. Porter, 50 cts.; Jacob Hubby, 2; Moses S. Porter, 250; Mahitable Alden, 50 cts.; Carry Crosby, 1; Moses Crosby, 150; Joseph H. Porter, 3; S. W. Roberts, 50 cts.; Mrs. George Nickerson, 1; Rufus Simonds, 1; Rufus Simonds, Sr., 1; Matilda Crosby, 1.

Pereaux, —Asahel Bentley, \$5.
Biltoown, —R. D. Bentley, \$5; Ezekiel Parish, 2; H. P. Sweet, 5; Alonzo Palmer, 2; Silas Rand, 1; L. M. Turner, 5; Mr. Parish, 50 cts.

Canard, —Mrs. Sarah Morton, \$2.

Halifax, —Wm. Foster, \$1.50.

Jeddore, —J. G. Maskell, \$1; Mrs. John Hopkins, 1.

New Germany, —Nicholas Rafuse, \$1; Wm. Jodrey, 1; Dimock Spidle, 1; Isaac Spidle, 25 cts.; Edward Banks, 1; Josiah Jodrey, 1; Obadiah Kaulback, 1; Wm. Banks, 25 cts.; Levi Faulkenham, 1; Edward Kaulback, 1.

GEO. A. McDONALD, Sec'y.
July 6th, 1883.

As to Bible work in foreign lands and the best methods of doing it, it is worth while to bear in mind that but a fraction of the people in most of the heathen lands can read. An esteemed missionary states that in a village of 500 people in India, perhaps three persons can read. And Brother Luther tells us that he has often found villages of several hundred inhabitants in which not a single person could read. Probably half a dollar each in Bibles would meet all the demands of these three readers. But there would be needed hundreds of dollars spent in missionary work. In other words, we must spend hundreds of dollars in general missionary work in order to be able to spend one dollar judiciously in Bible work. It is greatly desirable to contribute directly to the Missionary Society, and leave it to them to apportion the money as is demanded by the various branches of the work. —Ez.

News of the World.

A melancholy accident occurred on the River Clyde on Tuesday of last week at the launch of the steamer *Daphne*, a vessel of about 500 tons burthen. About two hundred workmen were on board at the time. As she rolled very much the men went from side to side for the purpose of steadying her, but she finally keeled over and almost disappeared under water. Those below about 50 were drowned immediately. Of those on deck a large number were rescued. There were quite a number of spectators also on board. It was estimated that 150 persons were drowned. Two attempts were made to raise the *Daphne* but both failed.

On the following day the Queen sent a despatch to the Mayor of Glasgow expressing sympathy with those who had lost friends by the accident. On Thursday last eight hundred iron workers in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire struck work, owing to a reduction of wages.

One hundred of the iron workers with banners marched to Dudley, Port Tipon and Moxley, entered the iron works at those places and quenched the fires in the furnaces, thus stopping the work. The force of policemen on hand was powerless to prevent the action of the strikers.

On Tuesday, at Huddersfield, a steam tram car capsized. Two people were killed and thirty injured.

In the House of Commons on Saturday last Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, Under Foreign Secretary, said the Government had not been informed that the French flag had been hoisted on the New Hebrides Islands. He stated that there was no cholera in either the Egyptian or English army in Egypt. On Friday night the motion in favor of female suffrage was rejected by a vote of 130 to 114.

Prof. Thomas Huxley has been elected President of the Royal Society. The Industrial Exhibition of Cork including British, Continental and American exhibits, was opened by Earl Baudar last week in the presence of a vast crowd. A large procession of trades, with bands playing national airs, marched to the building.

At a Nationalist meeting held at Belfast on Thursday night to celebrate United States Independence, Rev. Mr. Ryllet, one of the speakers, denounced the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whose name, he said, was more detested by English people than was that of Carey.

Another great grandson of the Queen, Princess Victoria, wife of Prince Frederick William, eldest son of the Crown Prince Frederick William, was delivered of a son on Saturday last.

Two Belgian aeronauts, who ascended from Courtrai, Belgium, on Tuesday, were blown across the English Channel and landed safely at Bromley, Kent.

On Thursday last the King of Saxony was about to ascend in the elevator of a factory he was inspecting at Milan when the weight attached to the car fell, killing the Governor of the district accompanying His Majesty, and injuring the manager of the factory. The King, who had entered the elevator before the accident happened, was much overcome and abandoned his tour.

China rejects the proposals from France, and has referred the French ambassador to the Foreign Board at Peking.

The 4th of July was a very hot day on the European continent. It is feared that the harvest was injured by it. There were many sunstrokes in Germany.

The death record by cholera in the east shows that it is still prevailing. 122 deaths at Damietta on Wednesday, and 111 on Thursday, and 109 on Friday.

It is stated that Government regulations are about to be issued for the inspection of vessels from Egypt arriving at British and German ports.

The Russian Government has ordered the establishment of a rigid quarantine in the Black Sea to prevent the introduction of cholera by vessels coming from Egypt, and has forbidden the usual pilgrimage to Mecca.

A telegram from Calcutta on Friday last says: Five hundred members of a tribe of natives attacked a detachment of British troops, which, with a political agent, had been sent to chastise a refractory village in Assam. The natives were repulsed with a loss of fifty killed. The British sustained no loss. A committee has been formed at Ber-

lin to erect a monument to Martin Luther.

The great heat in New York is causing an increase in the death rate of that city. On the 4th the number of deaths was 150, on the 5th 139, and on Saturday a larger number, whilst the average is about 75. A large number last week were children under five years of age.

There were 26 cases of sunstroke in New York on Friday, three fatal, also a large number in Brooklyn. In Philadelphia there were six cases, five of which were fatal.

The convention between the United States and Mexico, providing that no troops of either country shall cross into the other in pursuit of Indians, has been prorogued for one year.

The convicts in the State Prison at Salem, Oregon, on the 4th, made a desperate attack on the officers and attempted to escape. Three of them were killed, two wounded, and eight are at large.

Four commissioners and the county clerk of Grand County were shot at at Hot Sulphur Springs, Col., on the 4th, by a mob of masked men. Two were instantly killed and two mortally wounded.

The damage to the machinery of the Cunard steamship *Aurania* by the late accident in bursting her condenser will reach \$100,000. The *Aurania* is a ship of 7,500 tons. She is 500 feet long and has about 600 feet beam. The breadth is unusual and is expected to greatly increase her steadiness. Her speed is supposed to be equal to that of the *Servia*. On her trial trip she steamed twenty-three miles and gave general satisfaction. The *Aurania* is built with an eye to great safety. The hold is divided into eleven water-tight compartments, the bulkheads of which have been carefully constructed. It is claimed that were there any of these flooded she would still be able to float. She has three cylinders, two of 94 inches and one of 68 inches diameter and the engines can develop 10,000 horse power. Six hundred Swan lights illuminate the ship. She has accommodations for several hundred cabin passengers, and there is in the between decks room for 1,000 emigrants.

Doctors A. C. Detweiler and Washington C. Detweiler, well known physicians of Reading, Pa., were drowned while bathing on Saturday in the Schuylkill River.

'DON'T CROSS A BRIDGE UNTIL YOU COME TO IT.'—There was once a man and woman who planned to go and spend a day at a friend's house, which was some miles distant from their own. So one pleasant morning they started out to make the visit; but they had not gone far before the woman remembered a bridge they had to cross which was very old and was said not to be safe, and she immediately began to worry about it. "What shall we do about that bridge?" she said to her husband. "I shall never dare to go over it, and we can't get across the river in any other way." "Oh," said the man, "I forgot that bridge! It is a bad place; suppose it should break through and we should fall into the water and be drowned?" "Or even," said the wife, "suppose you should step on a rotten plank and break your leg, what would become of me and the baby?" "I don't know," said the man, "what would become of any of us, for I couldn't work, and we should all starve to death." So they went on worrying and worrying till they got to the bridge; when lo, and behold, they saw that since they had been there last a new bridge had been built; and they crossed over it in safety, and found that they might have saved themselves all their anxiety. Now that is just what the proverb means; never waste your worrying on what you think may possibly be going to happen.

When you see an old man amiable, mild, equable, content and good-humored, be sure that in his youth he has been just, generous and forbearing. In his end he does not lament the past nor dread the future; he is like the evening of a fine day.