

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., April 25, 1883.

CHURCH CHOIRS.

The importance of good singing in the services of the sanctuary can scarcely be over estimated. In no circumstances does music exert a sweeter or more potent influence upon the minds and hearts of men than in connection with the worship of God. It not only prepares the mind for a profitable hearing of the gospel, but it deeply impresses the truth upon the heart and constrains the hearer to give earnest heed to the divine precepts. It may almost be regarded as an open question whether more persons have not been converted by the singing, than by the preaching of the gospel.

But singing as well as preaching requires training in order to be either pleasant or effective. Lack of culture in the choir is quite as inexcusable as lack of culture in the pulpit, and most congregations notice one defect about as quickly as they do the other. The effect of a good sermon may be greatly diminished by a badly sung hymn, or, on the other hand, a sermon considerably below mediocrity may be made comparatively interesting and even powerful by an appropriate hymn sung with sweetness and pathos before and after.

The question is occasionally raised whether choirs are of any real advantage to our churches, many persons claiming that "congregational singing," as it is usually designated, is much more adapted to spiritual growth and more in agreement with scriptural examples. Where the congregation takes no part in the service of song and imposes upon the choir the performance of this part of Christian worship, it may well be doubted whether the choir is a real benefit to the church. The original design of the choir was not to monopolize the singing connected with religious meetings, but merely to take the lead, select suitable tunes and furnish a guarantee that the preacher shall not be obliged to supply both music and sermon as he is frequently compelled to do in some places. Aided by such a choir the congregation finds it easy, pleasant and inspiring to join heartily in the service of song. Those who can sing at all are almost unconsciously drawn into the delightful exercise of praise, when the singing is adapted to the occasion. The Psalmist's ideal is thus realized: "Let all the people praise thee, O Lord; let all the people praise thee."

It is obvious, therefore, that the chief aim of every choir should be to promote and improve congregational singing. For this reason familiar tunes should generally be selected, and every effort should be made to render these tunes melodious and forceful so as to produce the most beneficial effect upon the congregation. Frequent practice, under the management of a judicious conductor, is necessary to success in accomplishing this desirable end.

Social meetings for worship owe much of their interest and usefulness to appropriate and agreeable singing. Short and frequent exercises of this kind will not fail to afford both pleasure and profit to such meetings. Here too the leaders of the choir should feel it to be their duty to lend assistance in rendering social meetings attractive, enjoyable and useful. It is thus seen how important a place the choir occupies in the services of the sanctuary and in the work of promoting the spiritual welfare of the church.

The series of letters from the Rev. W. B. Boggs, the third of which appears in our present issue, have been read with much pleasure by his friends. They give a pleasing view of his surroundings in his new field of labor. We shall hope to hear from him again and learn from time to time of the continued successes he may enjoy in seeing the reigning darkness pass away, and the true light appear to the minds of the thousands of living, dying men and women by whom he is surrounded.

The reading of such letters should stimulate interest in the work of Missions and the desire to render aid. Our Board are in great need of funds for the support of those who are laboring on our behalf in India.

THE Wesleyan gives a clear and correct statement of the Baptist position with respect to the approaching Convention on Bible work to be held at Saratoga next month. The probabilities are that it will decide to recommend that the Baptist Publication Society do the home work of Bible publishing and distribution and the Baptist Missionary Union have the supplying of foreign lands with the Word of Life.

The writer of "the Religious Weeklies" in the Mail has misinterpreted the action of the Baptists when he says the Baptist Conference at Saratoga is to decide "whether they will carry on a society of their own for the publishing and circulation of Bibles teaching Baptist views of immersion," &c. The Baptists need no other Bible than the one used by all denominations. That teaches "immersion" plainly enough for Baptists.

New names continue to appear as to who shall be the successor of our present Lieutenant Governor. The last name mentioned was that of the Hon. Dr. Parker. We do not know that there was any good foundation for mentioning his name, but we venture to express our opinion that there is no one that would do more credit to the office and no appointment that would be more heartily endorsed by the people of the province.

There has since been a suggestion in the Presbyterian Witness, and it afterwards appeared in an Ottawa telegram that Mr. Archibald be appointed for a third term. We see no more reason for this than that he be appointed for life. If there be any honor in the office it may as well be distributed a little as be all thrown into the lap of one.

THIS is the style in which the Halifax Church of England paper announces "Baptisms" and births!

McKAY.—Born into the Kingdom of God, on Easter Even, 24th March, 1883, in St. Paul's Church Mansonsville, P. Q., Catherine Maud, daughter of Mr. F. McKay and Elizabeth Holly, his wife; and born into the world on 11th January, 1883.

We copy the following from the St. John, N. B. Christian Visitor of March 21st:—

"THE BANNER BAPTIST PROVINCE in the Dominion is New Brunswick. The last Census gives Baptists several thousands more than any other Protestant denomination in the Province. In no other Province do Baptists outnumber others."

Now what are the facts in this case? On examining the figures of the last Census, we find that they are as follows:—

	Population.	Baptists.	Per centage.
Nova Scotia....	440,572	78,149	16.6
New Brunswick..	321,233	49,489	15.4
P. E. Island.....	108,891	5,589	5.1
Ontario.....	1,923,228	88,984	4.6

Which now appears like "the Banner Baptist Province in the Dominion"?

A SUBSEQUENT article in our St. John contemporary, entitled, "Provoking one another to good works," makes other "provoking" comparisons of a financial character, by which it would appear that the N. B. churches have contributed 45½ cents per member, while the "average contribution from the whole Baptist membership in the three provinces taken collectively," was but 41 cents per member to our various denominational funds.

But Rev. A. Cohoon comes forward and gives an explanation that "bails down that banner" somewhat. He says: "When the report of the Finance Committee was presented to the Convention in August last, I at once saw that it had not been made out on a uniform plan. For while Brother March had included in his report for New Brunswick, all moneys paid to Acadia College Endowment and Building Funds, Dr. Day and Rev. D. G. McDonald, the members of the Committee for N. S. and P. E. I., had taken no notice of such payments in their reports.

By this process the contributions from New Brunswick for "Educational Institutions" is made to appear as being nearly \$400.00 in excess of those from Nova Scotia for the same object, and \$1365.36 more than came from N. B. in the previous year."

After making the deductions so as to place this matter fairly, Mr. C. says: "If you deduct this amount from both

your dividends, you will see that while the general average from the three provinces taken collectively is almost 37½ cents per member, the average from N. B. is only a little over 34 cents, or more than three cents less than the general average."

The N. B. editor appends a note to Bro. Cohoon's letter, and says:

"The comparisons made and published by us were on the basis of the figures reported in the Year Book. Our N. S. associate who made them supposed, doubtless, they were, as they ought to be—correct. If they are not, that is not his fault."

Mr. D. MacGREGOR gives in the Evening Mail free sketches of what appears in the "Religious Weeklies." On Friday last in speaking of what appeared in the MESSENGER. He says:

"A Baptist friend offers \$20 as a prize to any one 'who will produce a passage of Scripture teaching either by precept or example, the Baptism of Infants. The Wesleyan, Witness and Guardian should agree to divide this prize as doubtless they can each name a verse."

Come on gentlemen! We had one applicant a day or two since, as follows: That offer given in your last issue, I propose to accept, and herewith forward a passage to prove the validity of Infant baptism. Then this there is nothing better, in the word. It may be found in 1 Pet. ii. 13, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." Infant baptism has been enforced by the authority of kings and governors, as well as by that of popes, patriarchs, bishops, councils and synods. So please, brother, send on the Twenty Dollars.

M. P. F.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

The House of Assembly having sat till after one o'clock on TUESDAY morning over the Loan Bill were not expected to be ready for work again very early, but they met again at 10 o'clock, and passed the bill in its third reading and sent it to the Legislative Council. Some slight amendments were made, and it was adopted.

WEDNESDAY was occupied with unfinished business, and on THURSDAY afternoon the Legislature was prorogued with all the formalities of such occasion. The Guard of Honor was composed of the 19th P. W. O. Regiment and the 63rd H. V. B. Rifles.

The Assembly was summoned to the Council Chamber, when His Honor the Lieutenant Governor read the following CLOSING SPEECH.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislature Council:
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

1. I have pleasure in releasing you from further attendance on your Legislative duties.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

2. I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the public service. The sums placed at my disposal will be carefully expended for the various purposes to which they have been appropriated.

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislature Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

3. The labors of the session now closing have been more than usually arduous. The number of bills considered is larger than in any recent year, and many of them are of the most useful and important character.

4. I congratulate you on the passage of legislation to take over the Eastern Extension Railway, together with the Pictou Branch of the Intercolonial Railway. These properties will, it is confidently believed, prove of great value to the Province, and, it is hoped, will be the means of materially assisting in carrying out further railway extension, especially in the Island of Cape Breton.

5. The sum granted for the making of necessary repairs to the Western Counties Railway will ensure the continued operation of that enterprise, which it was feared would have to be closed.

6. The provision made for raising the funds required for the payment of the subsidy to the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway will enable the Government to fulfil its obligations to the company having that work in hand when they are in a position to prosecute the enterprise under the Act of the last session.

7. The legislation of the session, with respect to the railways, has been designed to meet the immediate requirements of the Province, to keep faith with those who have entered into contracts with the Government, and to move forward with due caution and prudence in the direction of that railway consolidation which is by all admitted to be desirable. My Government will be glad to avail themselves of any opportunity that may be afforded to negotiate with companies or persons who may be in a position to assist in the promotion of this object.

8. The very liberal appropriation for

the construction and repair of the larger bridges of the Province cannot fail to give satisfaction to the public. The moneys so provided, carefully expended under the provisions of the Act respecting bridges, will go far to repair the damage done by the recent freshets, and to provide in the various counties bridges of the most substantial and permanent character. The enactments on this subject may very properly be regarded as among the most important of the session.

9. Among the Acts passed are many others which, if less important than those to which I have referred, are well calculated to serve the most useful purposes.

In bringing the session to a close I have to thank you for your diligence in the work of legislation, and I trust that you will return to your homes with an increased determination to disseminate among the people the sound principles which are so conducive to the advancement of the moral and material interests of our country.

Address to the Lieut.-Governor.

The two Houses of Legislature, by a joint Committee, prepared, and on Wednesday morning last presented a highly complimentary address to the Hon. Adam George Archibald, Member of the Privy Council of Canada, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, &c., &c.

May it Please Your Honor:

In view of the fact that before the Legislature is again convened the term of your Honor's service as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia will have expired the Legislative Council and House of Assembly cannot permit the session to terminate without giving expression to their appreciation of the very valuable services you have rendered the Province during the prolonged period you have held the office. Since you were called upon to fill this important position you have been associated with several administrations, composed of men of different parties, with all of whom, while upholding the dignity and character of your office, you have most consistently and loyally co-operated, so that on the eve of your contemplated retirement, we are free to say that your services in that high position have won for you the respect and esteem, not only of your constitutional advisers, past and present, but of all those who have filled legislative positions since you assumed the duties of your office.

We could not close our address without referring to the kindness and courtesy which have always characterized your intercourse with those occupying legislative positions, amenities which we are well aware, you have also invariably extended to all classes, creeds and parties with whom you have been brought in contact. We need hardly add that we contemplate with very great regret the probable severance of the official tie that has connected us for the past ten years.

We beg to assure you that on your retirement from office you will carry with you the best wishes of the people of this Province for your future happiness.

To this His Honor gave the following courteous reply:—

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker and gentlemen:

It affords me great satisfaction, at the close of a long period of service in the office I now hold, to receive the kind and cordial address which you have just presented to me. When I first assumed the duties of the office I could hardly have hoped to outlive the exasperations arising from the political events of the period.

All the men who had preceded me in office, with the exception of Mr. Howe, who can scarcely be said to have more than entered on it, had been persons unconnected with the Province and its political divisions. I had on the contrary, taken an active, though, I trust, not an acrimonious part in the discussions of the day, and therefore began my ministrations under circumstances of some difficulty. If now, at the close of a second term of office, my conduct in the position of Lieut.-Governor deserves any portion of the kind observations you have been pleased to make upon it, I think I owe it to the determination formed before accepting the office to endeavor to act in a spirit of strict impartiality, and, while guarding with care the prerogatives of the Crown, to accord to those gentlemen who for the time enjoyed the confidence of the people a cordial constitutional support. It is gratifying to be assured by those who are best fitted to judge that this course has met with some success.

I thank you very cordially for your good wishes in connection with my retirement from the public service.

On looking back on the ten years in which I have filled my office, I am glad to observe that fortunately they have been ten years of quiet but steady progress in all the elements of national prosperity. But there is another feature quite as important as material progress to which we may refer with some pride—I allude to the reign of law and order which distinguishes this Province. In no colony of the Empire, in no part of the British Dominion, is there a community more exempt than ours from turbulence or disorder of any kind. Long may this continue to be a distinguishing feature of the Province to which we belong. Long may peace and good order prevail in the country to which we are attached by so many and such tender ties.

Again thanking you for your kind address, let me wish you one and all health and happiness and prosperity.

Literary.

THE BAPTIST QUARTERLY REVIEW, April, May, June, 1883, has seven articles all able and vigorous:

1. Some phases of Theology in the "Paradise Lost," by W. H. Stifter, D.D. The writer regards this as the greatest of religious poems, not only in its theme, but also in the method of its treatment and preparation, and thinks this may be accounted for by the fact that Milton says: it came to him first as the result of "devout prayer to that Eternal Spirit who can enrich with all knowledge and utterance."

2. Some Impressions of Swedenborg, by Rev. W. N. Clarke, D.D.

This founder of "the New Church" or "the Church of the New Jerusalem" which body is better known as Swedenborgians was a remarkable man who seemed to live in a sort of mystic element and formed his peculiar views into a system which might be held by members of all other churches without severing their connection. He seems to have lived more in fellowship with the unseen world than with the present life, and in his writings gives remarkable vividness to spiritual existences.

3. Liberty and Toleration, by Rev. P. S. Evans.

Under this title is discussed the great difference between the soul liberty which Baptists contend is the right of all Christians, and the permission given by some State churches to others to differ from them and still exist. Toleration suggests intolerance. True Religious Liberty can only exist where there is no State Church, and where the same right exists which was claimed by the Apostles Peter and John when they said to the rulers "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." In support of this principle Baptists have suffered, and thousands have died from the days of the apostles till now.

4. The correlation of Christian Doctrines, by H. F. Smith, D. D.

Is an short article on the leading truths of the New Testament which should be apprehended, and received, and held fast with all humility and submission by the believer and by the Christian church generally.

5. Prof. S. F. Greene, by R. A. Guild, L.L.D. A brief memoir.

6. A study in the Atonement, by Rev. S. F. Graves, D. D. This is a lengthy article on the great doctrine of substitution, and the government of God effected in the change of heart and character of the sinner, by means of Christ's suffering and death—a reconciling of justice and mercy on behalf of men by the work of Christ.

7. Modified Calvinism: or remainders of freedom in Man, by President A. H. Strong, D. D.

This is an able paper shewing that the power of man as regards sin is that of his will rather than of his ability to do right, shewing how far antagonism to God robs men of power to choose good and refuse evil.

These seven articles together with notices of books recently published, make up in this Quarterly a rich repast that will be enjoyed by all who are able to procure it.

THE BAPTIST HYMNAL, for use in the Church and Home. W. Howard Doane, Musical Editor, and E. H. Johnson, D. D., Associate Editor. American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia. Price \$1.25 or \$12 for a dozen copies.

This is a newly compiled Book of Praise and is a decided advance on the Baptist Hymn and Tune Book, or any book of the kind we have seen. It has 726 hymns and comprises the best and those most commonly used, in the Baptist Hymn and Tune Book, and Psalmist, and some other excellent ones added that are not in those collections. It also contains 731 tunes embracing nearly all those best adapted for church use. They are so arranged that, as a rule, a familiar tune is provided for every hymn, and also in most instances a new tune of acknowledged merit, thus affording a choice of music for nearly every hymn. In many cases there are four tunes on the two opposite pages to which four or more hymns may be sung. It also contains a number of beautiful chants with appropriate Scripture passages set to them.

The type of the hymns is large and clear, making it decidedly pleasant for old and young to read. Having said this much as to the merits of this new "Hymnal" we cannot but express our regret that there is not appearing simultaneously an edition of the Hymnal having the hymns without the music, and got up so as to sell at a low price, so that every man, woman and child might have a copy and use it in the sanctuary. It is true we believe that the Hymnal would soon find its way into almost all of our congregations and largely supersede both the Psalmist and the Baptist Hymn and Tune Book.

Our body is not as wise in this respect as some other bodies who give a hymn book for about 25 cents. The possession of a hymn book has much

to do with people attending a place of worship. We are hoping to hear from the Publication Society that this matter is being carried into effect, and if so there will soon be a demand for a very large edition.

THE BAPTIST YEAR BOOK: for Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, 1883, price 10 cent.

We forwarded the price to Dr. Dykes, Toronto, and obtained a copy by return mail, and consider the book well worth the money. We mention this as it does not appear on the cover where it may be obtained but merely says "Published by direction of the Denominational Societies, price 10 cents."

It is well got up and is adorned by three pictorial illustrations: one of the Baptist Mission House, Cocanada, India. One of the Baptist Mission Boat "Canadian," and one of the Chapel and School House at Cocanada.

It commences with the organization entitled "The Baptist Union of Canada" which is to meet on the last Wednesday in May—where, does not appear.

A Table of the 15 Associations of Churches—their times of meeting &c.,—one of these Western meets in May and one in September. All the other 13 have their annual meetings in June. Then comes the Report of the Ontario Missionary Convention for the past year, annual meeting held in October. Then the Report of the Canada Baptist Missionary Convention, East. The Baptist Missionary Convention of Manitoba and the North-West then has five pages, and is to meet at Portage la Prairie in June.

Next we have the Report of the Regular Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of Ontario and Quebec. This body controls the Foreign Missionary operations of our Canadian brethren.

Then comes the Women's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of Ontario and the Women's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, East. The Grand Ligne Mission is the next. Then the Toronto Baptist College, and the Woodstock College and Prairie College. Next in order is the Superannuated Ministers', Widows' and Orphans' Society; then the Baptist Church Edifice Society for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Then comes the list of 337 Associated Churches in Ontario and Quebec, having an aggregate of 25,639 members, which report 1,179 baptisms during the past year.

There are—the Editors of the Year Book state—also some 25 or 30 un-associated churches with about 1,100 members. Then we have an Alphabetical List of about 260 Baptist ministers.

DARWIN AND HUMBOLDT: their lives and work. No. 43 of the Humboldt Library, for sale by McGregor and Knight, 125 Granville Street, Halifax. Price 18 cents.

Home News

Nova Scotia.

NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH, HALIFAX.—On Friday evening last at the close of the Prayer Meeting the pastor, Rev. J. W. Manning, was presented with a kind and complimentary address, and a purse containing \$113.25. The address was read by Mrs. H. Blackadar. The purse was presented by Deacon Thompson, who took the occasion to compliment the ladies upon the interest they always evinced in the advancement of the church. In reply the pastor made some very appropriate remarks, referring to his first becoming their pastor in 1875, and spoke of the many bright days spent since, in comparison with the few cloudy ones. He had become bound to his people by many tokens of esteem he had received from time to time. He thanked them for the kindness and love shown him, and then commended the church to the blessing and guidance of the Heavenly Father.

APPOINTMENTS.—Annapolis Co.—To be a Justice of the Peace, John Brown, of Torbrook.

Kings Co.—To be Justices of the Peace, John E. Beckwith, of Woodville; Amos Ewing, of Millville.

To be governors of Dalhousie College, —Honorable James McDonald, Chief Justice, and Wallace Graham, Esquire, Barrister, of Halifax.

Guyborough Co.—To be Justices of the Peace, Andrew Haley, of Whitehaven, and Neil McQuarrie, Senior, of Goldenville.

The enervation and lassitude of spring time are but indications of the sluggish action of the blood, overloaded with carbonates accumulated by the use of heating food in winter. This condition may be remedied by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the best blood purifier known.

Says one, "Kendall's Spavin Cure is the best liniment for human flesh I ever used." And thousands have extolled in similar terms.

A REMARKABLE FACT.—It is a remarkable fact W. A. Edgers, of Frankville, who was so far gone with liver and kidney complaint that his life was despaired of, was cured with four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters. At one day he lay a fortnight without an operation of the bowels.

"BUCHU-PAIBA."—Quick, complete cure, all annoying Kidney, Bladder and Urinary Diseases. \$1. Druggists.