

The Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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WHOLE SERIES.
Vol. XLVII., No. 13

News from the Churches.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Good News from the West.

My Dear Bro. Selden,

It has done us good to learn, through the *Messenger*, from week to week, that the Lord has been blessing the churches by adding largely to their membership; and that this has been true of so many of the churches in all the Provinces. Nor have we been less joyful in reading the religious intelligence communicated, relative to the brethren of the United States of America. Glorious revivals! The Lord be praised for His wonderful goodness to the children of men!

A little more than one week ago we commenced extra services at Centerville, five miles from Freeport, in the centre of the island. The meetings were very interesting from the first. The church members have been greatly and generally quickened in spiritual life and interest, besides quite a number of others who have manifested considerable anxiety concerning their state of soul before God. Three of these joyfully followed their Lord in baptism yesterday.

The baptismal service was particularly impressive and solemn. A very large and attentive congregation witnessed an immersion performed in a baptistery dug out of the flat surface of a solid rock—and dug out, not by the power or skill of men, but by the mighty hand of God. To use the words of the late Rev. William Hall—a former pastor of this church. “It is a baptistery that God scooped out of the solid rock”—and an excellent one it is, too. High upon the rock, reached only by the “full flood,” but reached by every such tide, the water can never become stagnant; but is always as clear as crystal and always pure. Nor is it ever marred by any growing sea-weed or other slippery substances.

This baptistery is surrounded by a table rock sufficiently large and level for five hundred people to stand upon, and witness the baptisms performed there from time to time.

Here, some twenty years since, Mr. Hall immersed a number of Christ's professed followers. The late lamented Rev. William Jackson also immersed in the same place. May the Lord grant to all succeeding pastors of this church the privilege of leading many of His dear ones down into this baptismal font.

The impressiveness of yesterday's scene was increased by the fact that just a little below our feet, the waters of the old Bay of Fundy were madly dashing against the rock on which we stood, and down into the bosom of which God's dear children were going in joyful obedience to the Saviour's command.

The foaming, angry billows, beating against the immovable rock, reminded one of the fierce, but useless opposition of a godless world, and a raging devil, to the cause of the Redeemer; while the immersion of these believers in Christ beneath the waters in this solid rock was an impressive emblem of the overflowing love which those experience who, like the beloved disciple, lean upon the bosom of their Lord.

Very truly,

Yours in Christ,
J. F. KEMPTON.

Freeport, March 19th, 1883.

The Methodist churches of Halifax have for some time past had a continued revival, and protracted meetings have been held in several of them, more or less, since the Week of Prayer.

The Presbyterian churches have also recently adopted this mode of operation. Revival meetings were held last week at Poplar Grove, Fort Massey, and Dartmouth.

Mr. Editor,—

Nearly six months have passed since the writer assumed the pastorate of the Charlottetown Baptist Church, six months of busy toil in the Master's service, of anxious watching and waiting, hoping and fearing, which I am happy to say have not been unrequited. Our Sunday congregations, especially in the evening, completely fill our spacious audience room and have been steadily increasing. One hopeful feature is the number of young people who regularly attend our evening services. Our prayer meetings have long since outgrown the capacity of the small vestry, which was formerly large enough for the “twos and threes,” and now the largest vestry is filled with eager worshippers. The long winter of a chilling formality is rapidly giving place to a refreshing spring time, which invests our social services especially with new interest and power. Conversion is not unknown among us. Twenty have thus far received the right hand of fellowship, the majority of whom we baptized and quite a number more are asking for the privilege. The outlook is encouraging. As a means of binding our people together, of interesting them in general church work, and of increasing the public interest, we have decided on a monthly sociable held in the vestry. I wish Mr. Editor you could have been present at our last gathering, you would have met about two hundred ladies and gentlemen representing the beauty, intelligence, and enterprise of our city, and you would have thought, to look upon their radiant faces, that life for them was one unclouded summer day. It was just such an event of unity and good will, as brightened every face with a smile, and drew the entire company nearer to each other in the bonds of Christian fellowship. It was in short “a feast of reason and a flow of soul” interspersed with music of unrivalled excellence, and concluded with such refreshments as our ladies know how to provide. As one result a whole flood of sunshine has been poured into our church life. This may not suit that whining class of people who pride themselves in their gloominess, but we are well convinced that it is well pleasing to our Father, God, who is the author of light, beauty, love and joy.

We have a special reason for cultivating the bright side of church life, for misguided hands have laid a monstrous debt upon our shoulders, a debt that gnaws into our very vitals, that taxes our financial strength to its utmost limit, and that robs us of the privilege of assisting in denominational work as we should like. But we are not hopeless. Our trust is in God and the fidelity of each other. The benevolence of our people is unbounded. Besides meeting their obligations, they have put their pastor on the sunny side by a new year's gift from the young men in the form of a purse of upwards of One hundred dollars, by a winter overcoat that would do justice to the Czar of Russia, by a surprise gathering at the parsonage that enriched us beyond measure, and in other ways too numerous to be mentioned, for all of which and every other blessing the Lord make us thankful.

Yours truly,

EDWARD WHITMAN.

MAHON BAY.—We have learned of quite a revival here under the labours of Rev. A. W. Bars. Somewhere near fifty persons are reported to have asked for baptism, and a number of them were expected to be baptized on Sunday last.

TANCOCK ISLAND, too has had an awakening under the labors of Brother A. Whitman during the past few weeks, and several are applying for baptism.

LOWER GRANVILLE.—Mr. Editor,—

The Lord is graciously reviving His work in Lower Granville. It was my privilege to baptize 15 persons last Lord's day, eleven of the converts are promising young men. Sixteen received the hand of fellowship at the close of the morning service a large and valuable accession, and about 100 partook of the Lord's Supper. We are greatly encouraged. Others are enquiring the way and we hope to rejoice over further triumphs of grace. It gladdens my heart to hear through your columns of blessed revivals in sister churches.

Yours very truly,

ISA. WALLACE.

TRON, P. E. I. March 21st.—The cause of God has been greatly revived here. I had the happy privilege of baptizing sixteen happy believers on Sabbath last and welcoming nineteen into the fellowship of the church.

A number more are received for baptism, and there are many anxious ones, the work of the Lord is moving grandly.

Yours truly,

E. B. COREY.

FREEPORT, DIGBY CO.—Your correspondent J. F. K., of Freeport has already advised you of my contemplated removal from this Island at an early date. Allow me to say that having received and accepted a call to the pastorate of the church at Ohio, Yarmouth Co., the church here will soon be without a pastor, and as they are desirous of obtaining the services of one at an early date, it may be well for brethren contemplating removing from their present fields of labour to apply without delay. The field is an important one, and to the right man a generous salary can be paid. The church owns a parsonage, which, with the meeting house is free from debt, and although there may not be much spiritual life in the church as one could wish, there are many things which tend to make the field a desirable one, and there is plenty of room to work for the Master and His reward is with Him to give to every man. I have recently returned from a visit to the church at Ohio, where I spent three weeks, and although the condition of the weather and some local circumstances prevented us from holding many special meetings, yet the result of our united labours were such as to lead me to expect—under God—a gracious season of refreshing for the church there. May our best hopes be fully realised.

Dear brethren, will you pray earnestly for a special blessing on my labours in that locality?

Yours in the Gospel of Christ,

A. E. INGRAM.

March 21st, 1883.

We are pleased to learn from Rev. W. H. Warren that his health is now quite restored and to know that many young persons are showing increased interest in divine things.

We regret to learn that Rev. Joseph H. Saunders has been obliged to resign the pastorate at Digby on account of ill health. We trust it may be but temporary.

WINDSOR.—The Rev. H. Fosha is expected to commence his pastoral labours under favorable circumstances here next Lord's Day. The congregations have continued good from December to the present time. The pulpit has been well supplied by Rev. Dr. Welton, and Rev. E. Clay, M. D. A mission band has been formed among the young people of which Mr. J. L. Bars is the President.

Baptist Annuity Association.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

Most heartily do I thank you for publishing in your last issue the Constitution of Our Baptist Annuity Association. I hope your ministerial readers will study it carefully, and if they do they will see that it explains itself. My heart's desire and prayer to God is that all my ministering brethren in the Maritime Provinces will share in the benefits of this Association. And this they will do just so soon as some worthy brother or brethren shall place beside the noble offering of Bro. Jacob Bradshaw, \$10,000. This would give us a permanent fund of \$20,000. It would be necessary to increase this amount at no very distant period to \$100,000.

Towards this fund our ministers are expected to contribute annually, according to a given scale, and by so doing they come to have a legal claim upon the provisions of the Association for themselves and those dependent upon them in the time of need. The beneficiary funds paid in will permit our ministers to draw largely compared with the amount which they personally contribute. In this respect this Association has the advantage of all the usual life or endowment companies.

I have faith in our people to believe that when they see their ministers combining to make provision against the time of need, that they will joyfully give the helping hand.

In the past the Baptists of these Provinces have been far behind their brethren of other denominations in making provision for their ministers. Now we hope this reproach is to be wiped away. Let me say to my ministering brethren of the Provinces that I have had this matter deep down in my heart for many long years, and I greatly rejoice that I have been spared to take an active part in the formation of our present promising Association. God grant that its beneficial results may soon be enjoyed by my dear brethren in the ministry all over these Maritime Provinces.

I may here add that we have not issued our prospectus as a perfect document; but as subject to such improvements from time to time as experience may indicate.

We shall succeed in this heaven-appointed work just in proportion as we have faith in God, faith in our churches, and faith in each other.

I. E. BILL.

St. Martins, N. B., March 20, 1883.

YARMOUTH.—Rev. J. A. Gordon writes: “We have been baptising every other Sunday evening for some time past. Prospects good for some time to come. Thirty have been baptized in the Temple Church. One in the Central. More have offered. Quite a large number in Hebron. A good work is going on at Lockport, Bro. Goodspeed is helping Bro. Durkee.”

Parliamentary.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

The official report of the doings in our local parliament shows that the action in the Assembly in reference to the Legislative Council was, that Mr. Weeks' motion for a committee of this House be appointed to enquire into the best mode, if any, of amending the Constitution of the Legislature of this province as respects the Legislative Council and with a view if possible of securing a more inexpensive system, which was lost by 21, against 12.

Mr. Longley's amendment seconded by Hon. Mr. Fielding. That it is expedient to abolish the Legislative Council of this province as soon as it can be done consistent with the existing law and prerogatives of this Legislature; was then put, and carried by the following vote:

For.—Hon. Provincial Secretary, Mr. Bell, Hon. Comr. Mines and Works, Mr. Mack, hon. Mr. LeBlanc, hon. Mr. Fielding, Messrs. McCoy, Longley, McCurdy, Cook, Power, H. Munroe, Dodge, Haley, Rose, Harris, Harrington, Spence, Whidden, Patterson, Townsend, Corning, Campbell, Robichau, and McLennan, 25.

Against.—Messrs. Fraser, Weeks, McNeil, McRae, McDonald, 5.

The original resolution was then put and carried by 21 for, to 7 against.

Mr. Blair being absent subsequently requested his name to be recorded with the majority.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL.—Mr. Harrington's Bill to secure better attendance at school, after discussion was, on Wednesday last, passed by the following vote:

For.—Church, Bell, Buchanan, Gayton, LeBlanc, Fielding, MacCoy, Johnston, Longley, McCurdy, McNeil, Power, H. Munroe, Haley, Harris, Harrington, Spence, McDonald, Hockin, C. H. Munroe, Patterson, Blair, Corning, Campbell, Robichau, 25.

Against.—White, Fraser, Weeks, Cook, Dodge, Ross, McRae, McLennan, 8.

APPEAL FOR FAIR DEALING.—On Thursday last in the House of Assembly as reported in an evening paper:

Mr. Longley presented memorials from His Lordship the Bishop of Nova Scotia on behalf of King's College; His Grace the Archbishop on behalf of St. Mary's College; and Rev. Dr. Sawyer on behalf of Acadia College, setting forth that in 1864, when the legislation took place touching Dalhousie College, the sum of \$20,000 which that College borrowed from the Government had been given over as a free gift. The other Colleges thought this was an unfair preference, and preferred their complaints to the Legislature in 1865. The matter was referred to the Committee on Education, and they reported that the other Colleges should receive \$400 a year, forever as an equivalent. The memorialists claim that they are entitled to this sum, notwithstanding that the grants of the Colleges have been withdrawn. Mr. Longley explained the whole position of affairs clearly, and affirmed his belief that the contention of the memorialists was unwarrantable. He asked to have the memorials submitted to the Committee on Education, but on motion of Hon. Mr. Phips they were referred to the Government in the meanwhile.

The Bill for granting \$9,000 for a siding to the Cotton Factory was carried. The House adjourned till Tuesday (Yesterday) at 11 o'clock.

Literary.

BEHIND THE SCENES, is the title of a work lately published, that comes to us from the *Journal and Messenger*, Cincinnati, Ohio. The contents of the book appeared in a series of articles in the *Journal and Messenger*, and were so favorably received by the readers of that paper, that the writer was induced to publish them in a more permanent form, for more extensive circulation. We have read the book with interest. Its style is racy. Of the 219 pages of which it is composed, not one of them is dull. The writer in these sketches relates some of his experiences in his study of the baptismal question. The author is the Rev. F. M. Iams, and is the pastor of the Baptist Church at Mansfield, Ohio. How he became a Baptist, he tells us in this little book. When we closed the book after reading it we said, “It is capital, just the thing to put in the hands of colporteurs for sale—just the thing to lend to thoughtful pedobaptists who are troubled on the baptismal question,” (and these are by no means few in number). We wish the enterprising publishers may find a large sale for the work in these Provinces. It cannot help doing much good to the cause of truth. Price One Dollar. Send to Baptist Book Room, 104 Granville St., for a copy.

We had one chapter of its contents in the *Messenger* a few weeks since, and may possibly extract another shortly, but the book should be read to be fully appreciated.

THE HOME CIRCLE for April is full of good things, and presents a variety that is sure to supply the wants of a family. \$1.50 a year. Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM, by Thomas G. Bowles is the fifth volume of the new series of the Standard Library now being published fortnightly by Funk & Wagnalls. The large edition of these works show that the people were prepared for a superior class of reading matter. The first edition of this work is over 20,000.

The author while sailing from place to place in his yacht meets with varied experiences and notes down in graphic pen-pictures, facts, and the lessons he gathers from them. There is such fascination in its pages that, however, we may sometimes differ from his opinions and conclusions, we cannot lay the book down until it is all read, and even then intelligent readers will return to it and read it again.

EARLY DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY.—By F. W. Farrar, D. D.—Author's Edition. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., New York. McGregors & Knight, Halifax. Cloth 75 cents, paper 40 cents.

A valuable work well adapted to familiarize one with New Testament times. It gives a vast amount of information on the condition of society, of the times when our Lord walked this earth and his Apostles lived and preached and suffered. It comprises five books or divisions:

I. The world; its moral condition &c., down to the suicide of Nero.

II. St Peter and the Church Catholic.

III. Apollon Alexandrian Christianity and the Epistle to the Hebrews.

IV. Judaic Christianity.

V. The earlier life and works of St. John.

Canon Farrar deals largely with the book of Revelation, its prophecies and their fulfilment.

It is perhaps one of the cheapest books published as to quantity, and the quality is so well established that no commendation from us is needed.

THE HEBREW STUDENT.—A monthly journal in the interest of Old Testament Literature and Interpretation; by Professor Harper, of Morgan Park, Chicago.

This “extra number” has six articles, the first of which is an excellent one on, “the Study of Hebrew: its claims upon Theological Students and Christian Ministers,” by Rev. John Currie, Professor of Hebrew in the Presbyterian Theological College, Halifax, N. S. Prof. Currie is an enthusiastic Hebrew Scholar, and commends the study to more general attention as giving to students “nerve in their style, grandeur in their conceptions, breadth in their views and freshness and fulness in their Old Testament expositions.”

WILFORD'S MICROSCOPES, March 1883. A Wilford Hall Pa. D. Editor and Proprietor, Hall & Co., 23 Park Row, N. Y. As usual, full of reviews of scientific discussions, especially in its bearing on religious truth.

THE HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE OF POLITICS. By Frederick Pollock. Price 18 cents. J. Fitzgerald, New York. For sale by McGregors & Knight, Halifax.

The author of this pamphlet gives a spirited sketch of the development of political ideas from Socrates' day to our own time. It is a remarkably clear digest of the classic works of the ancient Greek philosophers upon the subject of Government. The general reader is enabled to trace distinctly the rise and progress of those principles of political science which, having been more or less fully apprehended by Plato, Aristotle, Dante, and others in the past, have had a fuller exposition in the institutions of modern states.

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS, IN 1883.—From the new edition of Messrs. Geo. P. Rowell & Co.'s American Newspaper Directory, which is now in press, it appears that the total number of newspapers and periodicals of all kinds issued in Canada is 596. There are no less than 74 daily papers, while the monthly papers number 57. The weekly papers number 423. The number of journals issued in Manitoba was nearly doubled during the year.

With the last Sabbath of 1882, Mr. Spurgeon completed the twenty-eighth volume of his sermons, the publication having continued uninterruptedly since the first week of 1855. For many years past however, the number issued has averaged sixty or more in each year, so that the total number to the end of December is 1,697. The sale continues undiminished, while the general circulation of the sermons in the colonies and in America, by means of newspapers and otherwise, is even larger than in England.

Rev. T. J. Haughton, of Middlesborough, thinks the two great factors of Modern English life are “Steam and Methodism.”

The Duke of Devonshire has the presentation of forty church livings. He may either sell those livings, or present persons to them, without consulting the parishioners or taking their advice.

God has his eye on your heart your tongue cannot deceive Him.