

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 28, 1883.

UNWILLING TO OBEY.

One of the chief characteristics of the unregenerate heart is that it is not disposed to do the will of God. Sin has so far gained the ascendancy over the better influences brought to bear upon such a heart that it yields to no motives but those which are most in accordance with its own depraved desires. It submits to no dictates but its own, and recognizes no higher authority than proud self. Under the fatal delusion that it is entirely competent to direct its own energies and to secure its own present and future happiness, it accepts no guidance from above and turns a deaf ear to every earnest appeal and solemn warning. This is precisely the moral condition at the present moment of millions of our fellow men. With proud natures and corrupt desires, they are unwilling to submit to the claims of the gospel. They reject Christ because he requires of them implicit obedience, preferring to live in the enjoyment of their own sinful pleasures.

So long as they continue in this attitude of stubborn insubordination there is little prospect of spiritual improvement. He who is too proud to learn, or who thinks he already possesses all knowledge, will never in that state of mind rise from his present condition of pitiable ignorance. But, when he candidly acknowledges his intellectual barrenness and cheerfully places himself in the way of receiving instruction, there is no longer any obstacle to prevent his speedy advancement in the acquisition of knowledge. It is even thus with men in their moral and spiritual relations. Those who are unwilling to confess their inability to govern themselves, and who deny the necessity of the atoning blood of Christ to cleanse them from the pollution of sin, deliberately shut the door of salvation against themselves. When, however, they honestly admit that they are weak and sinful, and give respectful heed to the precious doctrines of grace as set forth in the inspired Word, they place themselves in a position to receive the priceless benefits of the great mediatorial work of a merciful Saviour.

But how can this willingness to seek the Lord be awakened in the soul? Over this question theological battles have been fought, the smoke of which still hovers about us. On the one side it is firmly maintained that this willingness is the gift of God; on the other side that it is solely of ourselves. Both views seem to us to have a foundation in truth. Our willingness to obey God is the product of two factors—the divine impulse and the human response. The former gives the power, the latter puts this power into action. The case of Saul of Tarsus strikingly illustrates this view. The flash of heavenly light and the burning words, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest," humbled the proud Pharisee's heart into deepest contrition and submissiveness. This was exclusively the divine factor. But there followed the earnest cry, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" indicating a full surrender of self to God, a willingness to obey the divine commands. This was the human factor—the former being the originating element of spiritual power and willingness, the latter being the responding and responsible agency in utilizing that power and exercising that willingness.

That men may culpably fail to utilize spiritual power and to exercise willingness to engage in the service of God seems evident from the fact that they constantly fail to utilize the temporal gifts of heaven. We have at hand the means of being good and of doing good, and, if we fail to profit by these means, it is because we deliberately abuse our privileges, resist God and stubbornly push on to eternal ruin.

THE PORTABLE ELECTRIC LIGHTER—Science has achieved a great triumph in producing this marvellous apparatus. We find an article in the *N. Y. Real Estate Chronicle* of Dec. 16, 1882 as follows:

At last we can have the electric light where it can do the most good. That is to say we can put it now on our

desks, on our tables, on our mantelpieces, any where in fact where a clear, bright, safe lighter is wanted. The portable electric lighter, patented in 1879 and again in 1882, is now before us, and we look at it with surprise and happiness. Surprise because it is evident how great a progress we have made in the science of electricity; happiness, because it gives us a clearer, better, more movable light than any we have ever enjoyed. Here is a lamp, so called, occupying only the space of five square inches, which can be carried anywhere, and is besides an ornament. By simply pressing upon the knob to the full extent of the spring (which connects with the battery) an electric current is produced by which the spiral of platinum is heated to incandescence and the light is instantaneous. The material lasts about two months and can then be renewed at a small cost through any chemist. It will not be long before everybody will have a portable electric lighter. The price, \$5, is so low that it cannot fail to become popular at once. The principal office is at 22 Water Street, Boston, where all applications for this most novel lamp should be sent.

WHEN DOES MEMBERSHIP BEGIN?

Our contemporary the *Canadian Baptist* says:

A friend writes: "When does a person become a member of a Baptist Church: at the time of election or upon receiving the hand of fellowship?" In reply to this inquiry our brother remarks: The hand of fellowship is merely a public recognition of the action taken by the church. Whether extended or not it in no way affects what the church previously by vote declared. Membership, therefore, begins as soon as the church favorably receives a candidate, and all church privileges and obligations are in order from that time.

We think this reply of our good brother the Editor will bear a little more consideration. It can hardly be said that an unbaptized person is a member of a Baptist Church, and we should be inclined to answer the inquiry somewhat differently. The vote of the church on the reception of a candidate for church fellowship is, "for membership after baptism." Therefore we conclude that the person becomes a member immediately after baptism, but not before. Then and not till then is such person entitled to all the privileges and obligations of membership. The hand of fellowship is simply the public recognition of the bond formed on the first part by the members of the church, when they gave the vote for the reception of the candidate, and on the second part by the candidate in his or her baptism. How simple and beautiful are all the rites of Christ's church.

Our Methodist friends all over the Dominion of Canada are greatly agitated over the subject of Union. The Wesleyan and their other organs are loaded with communications on the subject *pro* and *con*. The editor has to put these into the smallest type to get them into print at all, and so makes it more difficult for his readers to take in the arguments used and the objections raised, and still he can only give a portion of what comes to hand. He tells us "some of our readers are getting weary of the discussion on Union." And well they may; the fact of its being necessary to effect the proposed Union, for the parties concerned to make compromises, renders it doubtful whether there might not still be chaffing and eventually new divisions, makes it at least a questionable good.

THE *Church Guardian* rejoices over indications of a desire for rites and ceremonials on the part of certain Presbyterians, and for the use of a Book of Common Prayer. We do not suppose the wish is at all general.

The Lenten season and the special duties it is supposed to bring are the great matter with our church friends at this time.

What a pity it is that any should be willing during the period of Lent, to forget the fact that Christ is risen, as much so as he will be after Easter. The Gospel calls upon us to "Rejoice in the Lord always," and the apostle adds, "and again I say rejoice." And in another place, "Now thanks be unto God which always causeth us to tri-

umph in Christ." Our readers know well that the religion of the New Testament is one of joy and peace not of melancholy and gloom. It knows nothing of Christians assuming a sadness of countenance for a certain number of days by way of preparation for a time of gladness to follow. It knows nothing of "a Christian year" with a certain number of days of austerity and self-inflicted chastisement. The natural sun shines as brightly on Good Friday as it does on Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, and so does the Sun of Righteousness. Amusements are as much in place for Christian people now as they are after Lent has passed. Lent is one of the rags of Babylon—a legacy of mediæval times which should be relegated to the shades of darkness with other observances of similar date.

IMPROVED CHURCH PLANS designed by W. H. Brearley, Detroit, Michigan: a series of seven designs from No. 1 to seat 225 persons, cost estimated \$1,500, to No. 7 to seat 1,100 persons estimated cost \$16,000. We have received plan No. 4 to seat 450 persons estimated cost \$3,500. The plan is good. All the different sizes are on the same general plan.

Either of these plans will be sent on application, as above, on receipt of \$1.00 to be followed by \$5.00 for right to use, if adopted. Each No. consists of seven plates with all necessary specifications, builders' estimates, &c., &c.

In commenting in last week's issue upon the Pastoral of Archbishop O'Brien, and extracts from the same, which had appeared in the *Presbyterian Witness*, we remarked that "Infant baptism belongs to the Church of Rome," and intimated that it should be left there. This suggestion appears to have given our contemporary great offence. He exclaims emphatically "No, No!" We beg respectfully to refer our brother to a work published some years ago by the late Rev. Dr. Guthrie, entitled "The Gospel in Ezekiel." We presume our brother will not object to regard this quite as good Presbyterian authority as the *Presbyterian Witness*. Upon pages 212 and 213, the following will be found:

"Three hundred years ago our church with an open Bible on her banner, and this motto, 'Search the Scriptures,' on its scroll, marched out from the gates of Rome. Did they come clear out of Babylon? Experience shows, that it is much easier to leave our mother country than drop our mother tongue. Across the seas which they sail, and to the lands which they settle on, the emigrants carry their prejudices, passions, and even superstitions. They people the glens and valleys of the new world with the fairies that dance on the green, and the spectres that walk by night among the haunted ruins of the old country. So I fear that, on departing from the church of Rome, we carried into our Protestantism—as was not unnatural—some of her ancient superstitions, just as our fathers carried into their practice some of her intolerant principles. We can not approve of their intolerance, yet it admits of an apology. They had been suckled by the wolf, and it was no great wonder that, with the milk of the wolf, they should have imbibed something of her nature.

And prone, as we of Scotland are, to boast that our fathers with Knox at their head, came forth from Rome with less of her old superstitions about them than most other churches, to what else than some lingering remains of popery can we ascribe the extreme anxiety which some parents shew to have baptism administered to a dying child? Does not this look very like a rag of the old faith? It smells of the sepulchre."

More than 300 years had passed since the Presbyterian Church came out of Rome. By what means was the superstition preserved so long? Dr. Guthrie was in Edinburgh, the centre of light, and he was a devoted and honored Presbyterian minister. But he had the candor not only to admit that Infant Baptism belongs to Rome, but also that it was one of the errors and superstitions which the Presbyterians in emigrating had brought out with them, when they escaped from the P-pacy.

We may here mention a case which recently occurred in this Province—not a solitary one—which shews plainly the darkness and danger which come from perverting this Divine ordinance

of Christ's Church. The infant child of good Presbyterian parents was taken suddenly ill—the child had not been baptized. At midnight, the minister was summoned to administer the rite. While he was engaged in prayer the child was seized with a convulsive fit which it was feared would terminate its young life—the prayer was suddenly stopped in order that the baptism—if such it can be called—could be quickly administered before the little spark of life should be extinguished. If this is not an illustration of the superstition and error which have followed this ordinance out from the church of Rome, we fail to understand its significance. We have heard of even worse cases than this. We can but repeat that Infant Baptism belongs to Rome, and we think, with Dr. Guthrie, it should be left there.

Far be it from us or any other Baptist to magnify the divine ordinance above what is written, or to claim that its administration in any form or under any circumstances brings with it salvation, without the prerequisites of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We must also be careful not to belittle the ordinance to which our Saviour and his apostles gave such great prominence. The order and conditions under which its administration is proper are plainly set forth in the Gospel. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

More on this subject next week.

Acadia Seminary at Wolfville.

Miss Graves, the Principal of the Ladies Seminary at Wolfville sends us the following which we have much pleasure in placing before our readers:

The Library and Museum of Acadia Seminary form an important feature in the advantages which the Institution possesses.

During the past term, the class in Geology devoted several weeks to the special study of minerals, using for this purpose the extensive collection of Acadia College together with that of the Seminary which already includes valuable specimens of fossils, ores and many varieties of the more common minerals adapted to class purposes.

Many rare specimens have been given by the young ladies in attendance and by their friends. A large number of miscellaneous minerals forming a part of the valuable cabinet of the late Dr. Harding, Windsor, was recently contributed by Mrs. Harding, and an important addition to the collection of zeolites has just been made by A. J. Pineo, A. B. Wolfville. The Museum is indebted to Miss Coffill, Hantsport, for several curiosities from South America, and to Miss Emma Johnson, Wolfville, for a number of foreign coins. Nor has the library been forgotten. At the opening of the present term the editor of the *Christian Messenger* remembered it with a handsomely bound copy of the *Girl's Own Annual*.

Within the past year the generous sum of ten dollars was contributed by Miss Augusta J. Dodge, and volumes have been received from Miss Bars, Wolfville, and from Miss Baker, and Miss Minnie Long of St. John.

Larger additions of books of reference, biography, history, art, travels, essays, and fiction are made at intervals by means of the funds accruing from the public meetings of the Pierian Society.

It is hoped that the numerous friends of the Institution will remember its needs, and that frequent donations of books, curiosities, and minerals will be made to a collection which is already becoming a source of great benefit to the students in attendance.

Extract from a letter written to T. J. Griffiths, editor of the *N. Y. Drych*, a weekly Welsh paper of Utica, N. Y.: "As an encouragement to you, since the advertisement of Kendall's Spavin Cure first appeared in your paper many injured miners have been using it, and in all cases in and around here it has achieved wonders. It is a perfect success among injured miners." Yours truly, RICHARD OWEN, "Ocean Mines, Pa., April 20, 1881."

A PRAISEWORTHY OBJECT.—"None name it but to praise." This is true of that unsurpassed remedy, "Hagyard's Yellow Oil." It cures pain and inflammation, whether from sprain, burn, bruise, or frost bite, lame back, rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat, croup, deafness, and is for internal and external use.

Parliamentary.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

On Wednesday last the Sheriff's Bill was before the House. This bill gives the government the power of appointing Sheriffs. The debate was continued on Thursday and on division the second reading was carried by the following vote:

For—Hon. Premier, hon. Prov. Sec'y, hon. Atty. Gen., hon. Com. of Mines, hon. Messrs. Fielding, Johnson and LeBlanc, and Messrs. Mack, Buchanan, McCoy, Weeks, Longley, McCurdy, McNeil, Cook, Power, H. Munro, Dodge, Haley, Ross, Fraser, and Robichau.—22.

Against—Messrs. Bell, McLennan, Campbell, Corning, Townshend, Blair, Patterson, C. H. Munro, Hocken, McDonald, McPhail, Whidden, Spence, Harrington and Harris.—15.

The Bill was read and referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

On Friday, among the various petitions for roads &c., was one by Dr. Munro, from the patrons of husbandry asking for a change in the assessment law, it was signed by 942 people. Its prayer was based on the statement that the real estate and personal property of farmers were unduly taxed, being much more heavily taxed than those of other classes of the population. He believed that the Government could do nothing which would more endeavor them to the people of this country than to act upon the prayer of this petition.

The House in Committee on the City Assessment Act passed ten clauses. Its discussion drew forth lengthy speeches from several members. After passing ten clauses the House adjourned to Monday.

Home News.

Nova Scotia.

The Halifax County Agricultural Society held a meeting on Thursday last and resolved:

That it is desirable that an Exhibition be contemplated by the county in this city next Fall, and that a committee of five be appointed by this society to co-operate with the committee of the Dartmouth society, and that such joint committee invite the co-operation of other societies in perfecting arrangements for such Exhibition.

The Coxheath Mining Company, of Boston, which for some time past have been prosecuting searches for copper at East Bay, Cape Breton, on Friday last took out a license here to prospect for silver. The discoveries show large percentage of richer metals.

It appears that the Dalhousie College students have decided, by a large majority, that the regular sessions should be lengthened without addition to the curriculum.

At Dartmouth, on Monday of last week a little girl 2 years old named Martin, upset a pot of boiling soup and was so scalded that she died a few hours after.

The City Council on Friday last unanimously resolved that it is desirable, 1. That a graving dock be erected at once in the port of Halifax. 2. That such dock should be owned and operated by the city or commissioners appointed for that purpose. 3. That it be referred to a committee of this Council together with the committee of citizens previously appointed to settle upon the character of a dock and a scheme under which it may be completed and operated. 4. To meet at once and to report to the Council before the close of the present sessions of the Dominion and Local Legislatures.

Our long spell of frost was broken on Sunday night by heavy rains. Such an unbroken spell of near three months, frost is almost unprecedented. Notwithstanding that the thermometer has several times been below zero yet the harbor has been and is clear of ice. The sleighing will probably last several weeks yet.

Mrs. Wan Fry, a widow aged 72 years living at Mr. David Costley's, Blue Mountain, was attacked by a ram a fortnight ago; her leg was broken, her knee was dislocated, two or three ribs were fractured, and her body much bruised. Her life was despaired of. But she is better and it is thought she may recover.

SKINNEY MAN.—"Wells' Health Renewer" restores health and vigor, cures Dyspepsia, Impotence, Sexual Debility, &c.

Kendall's Spavin Cure is used from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine for every one in the spring. Emigrants and travelers will find in it an effectual cure for the eruptions, boils, pimples, eczema, etc., that break out on the skin—the effect of disorder in the blood caused by sea-diet and life on board ship.

John L. Boutilier, French Village, Halifax, Co., writes that Minard's Liniment cured his daughter of a very severe attack of Diphtheria, after she was pronounced incurable and recommended all to use it should they be afflicted with the same disease. Feb. 14.

THIS IS RELIABLE.—R. N. Wheeler, merchant of Everton, was cured of a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs by Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam. This great throat and lung healer cures weak lungs, coughs, hoarseness, bronchitis, and all Pectoral complaints.

Capt. Mylius of the Str. Newfoundland reported on Thursday last quantities of heavy ice extending from St. John's Nfld., to Whitehead and as far as the eye could see.

For man it has no equal; for beasts it is not excelled. What? Kendall's Spavin Cure.

It is a good rule to accept only such medicines as have, after long years of trial, proved worthy of confidence. This is a case where other people's experience may be of great service, and it has been the experience of thousands that Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is the best cough medicine ever used.

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

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.

New Brunswick.

The Legislature was opened at Fredericton on Thursday afternoon Mr. Lynott was elected speaker of the House of Assembly by 21 votes against 17. Hon. M. Hannington was elected president of the Legislative Council in place of the late Hon. Mr. Seely. The opening speech of the Lieutenant Governor congratulates on the crops, recommends an appropriation for the Centennial Exhibition in St. John, speaks of the success of the stock farm and railway subsidy act, expresses a hope that the Mission to Ottawa will be successful, recommends legislation to improve the condition of the gaols, states that the Dominion Government has been asked to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court as to the meaning of the B. N. A. Act as to two years prisoners, promises a bill for the abolition of the Legislative Council, riparian fishery rights, grammar schools, the building of school houses and the expenses of Government House.

The address in reply to the speech was to be taken up on Saturday.

On Monday in a division on the address the Government was not sustained. The Opposition's amendment received 22, and the Government 18 votes.

A SECRET FOR THE LADIES.—The great secret of beauty is pure blood. Eruptions and all blotches that disfigure the face, may be quickly cured by Burdock Blood Bitters. Annie Heath, of Portland, certifies that she was cured by this remedy, after suffering for two years.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Clears out rats, mice, roaches, flies, ants, bed-bugs, skunks, chipmunks, gophers. 15 cts. Druggists.

POPULARITY.—Why they are popular. The reason that National Pills are so universally popular is because they are certain in their action, mild and painless in their operation, and never leave the bowels constipated. They are sugar-coated, and contain no mineral poison.

Dominion of Canada.

The House of Commons on Friday was engaged with the affairs of the two extremities of the Dominion, P. E. Island and British Columbia.

Mr. Paint asked the Government when telegraphic communication will be established between Nova Scotia and Sable Island; and whether the Government will extend the coast telegraph along the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Cape Breton.

Sir Hector Langevin stated that the matter was under consideration.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, A. F. and A. M., has issued an edict, denouncing the holding of lotteries, gift enterprises, games of chance, &c., as clearly against the laws of the country and the principles of Free Masonry, and calculated to bring dishonor upon that ancient and honorable order.

The number of immigrants entering Canada during January was 5,937. Of these 3,634 settled in the Dominion.

A WONDERFUL CHANGE.—Rev. W. E. Gifford, while pastor of M. E. Church, Bothwell, suffered from chronic dyspepsia so badly as to render life almost a burden. Three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters cured him.

News of the World.

Public attention in England is divided between the Parliamentary discussions and the Dublin trials. The proceedings in the House of Commons have consisted principally of the debate on the Queen's Speech. It was understood that Mr. Parnell intended to move an amendment to the Address in reply thereto.

Mr. Gerst moved an amendment and, in doing which, he declared that in view of the confession of Irish assassins no further concessions should be made to lawless agitation. He said it was generally believed that the employing of persons engaged in outrages to suppress them was forced upon the Government by Mr. Chamberlain, President of the Board of Trade. He presented the fact that an outbreak of outrages, always accompanied by the accession of Liberals to power.

The Marquis of Hartington expressed surprise at Parnell's silence, which, he said, was an admission that a *prima facie* case had been established against the Irish leader. The Government he declared, had no intention of introducing any measures for extensive changes of its policy with regard to Ireland.

Despite Government formulated against the speech of Mr. O'Connell. Mr. O'Connell's speech was to the effect that the editor of the *Irish Times* had fended his speech to the ad of Mr. Forster's Secretary. Phœnix had been told that he would be able to do so. The suspicion was charged against the organization, agitation incited to had respectation. He connived O'Kelly times.

He was his suspension of 305 to Ireland and his from unmasked. There were he did not tempting was ruled.

In the lengthy speech make his people at dined to Gort's at Parnell's.

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