

SEPTEMBER 8, 1865.

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 8, 1865.

FREE BAPTIST CHURCHES IN LARGE TOWNS AND CITIES.

Several months since an article under the caption similar to the one at the head of this article, appeared in the *Morning Star*, and arrested our attention. Since then we have been intending to say something on the same subject, but have failed in opportunity. We give our readers this week the article referred to. Several things in it are adapted to the Free Baptists of New Brunswick. The writer says:

"It is a well known fact that the early fathers of the denomination confined their labors principally to the rural districts, shunning the large towns and cities. Whether they were led to do this from a feeling that these larger places were abundantly supplied with the means of grace, or from a distrust of their own abilities—most of the fathers being uneducated—or from both of these combined, we do not propose to discuss. The result of this course of procedure has been that we have had up to the present time strong churches in the country and some of the smaller cities, while most of our interests in the larger cities have been comparatively weak. We have long since learned that the policy of the fathers was a mistaken one, not only because it was unnatural and opposed to that adopted by the apostles, who preached the gospel in large towns and cities first, but because it was not adapted to insure the greatest permanency. We must have churches in the cities as well as in the country, else our denominational growth cannot be steady and reliable. The want of these has been one of the chief impediments to our upbuilding and strength. No sooner was the mistake of the fathers learned, than an effort was made to retrieve it; but after all that has been done to build up churches of our faith in those places which the fathers neglected to enter, but little comparatively has been accomplished. While this fact stands patent before us, we are led to ask, what are the causes of our failing to accomplish more? It would be well nigh impossible to enumerate them all, and it will suffice our present purpose to set forth two or three of the more prominent ones.

"1. The disadvantages arising from commencing the work at so late a period. This is the cause that is most commonly assigned. Other denominations had occupied the ground before us; and the wealth and influence of these places had been, to a great degree, turned to their support. A prestige once established in favor of the old denominations, it was with difficulty that any new one, having no antiquity or long and acknowledged reputation to commend it, could gain a foothold. The difficulty was a great one; but it could be overcome in time. There is perhaps no city in the country in which there is not a large number, usually more than half of the population, who are seldom, if at all, found in the house of worship, and who are waiting to be reached by some active, evangelical influence. As we view the subject, if we had, even at this late date, no churches in any of the more populous New England cities, it would not be too late to establish them there, provided we had the means requisite to do so. The character of our principles is such that if proper measures were adopted we could not fail to gain a hearing. Our want of success cannot therefore be attributed entirely to the disadvantages under which we have labored from having commenced at so late a period. Other denominations, the Methodist, for instance, scarcely older than our own, and laboring at first under the same disadvantages, have in these places strong and powerful churches. We must look, then, elsewhere to discover the real cause of our want of success.

"2. The character of the ministers who have labored in these fields. It requires a minister of no ordinary character for ability and influence to start a new interest. This is especially the case in a city. He must, on the one hand, be forgetful of all rank and distinction, sympathizing fully with the poor and laboring classes, and doing all in his power for their elevation. He must be a man of true consecration, who has dedicated his all to Christ, and will not stop to consider whether he is popular or unpopular in the community, and in regard of the world at large. He must make up his mind that his is not the path to fame and popularity, and he must be content to be as was his Master. On the other hand, he must be a man of such ability, manners, and especially of such unexceptionable life, as will command the respect of all.

"3. From a general mistaken policy. As we have already hinted, a denomination that would at this day gain a foothold in the cities need not expect to gain many adherents among the wealthier and higher classes. The same common people who heard Christ gladly will hear any of his servants to whom he came to them truly imbued with his spirit.—The fact that Christ did not spend his time and energies to conciliate the favor of the proud and wealthy of the nation is too often forgotten. The only true course to be pursued is to come down to the level of the masses, and make all our labors and efforts tend to their elevation. Are they ignorant? We should preach to them the gospel in all its simplicity. Have they prejudices? We should study the best possible manner in which to conciliate them. Are they poor? We should have our worship attended with as little expense as possible, so that none can be precluded from it. And is it in this particular that lies one of the chief causes of our ill success?

"But it may be asked, do you mean that our city congregations shall always be composed entirely of the poorer classes, and that they shall always worship in halls or in ordinary churches? By no means. The very course recommended is adapted, in time, to bring about the opposite of this. Many of this class will in time become wealthy, and the children of the poor will be qualified to occupy positions of standing and influence in society, and those who are now only clerks and apprentice boys will in a few years constitute the bone and sinew of the community.

"This is not theory alone. It is capable of practical illustration. When the editor of this paper was an apprentice in Boston, the Methodists, to whom we have already had occasion to refer, were in that city hardly considered respectable; their houses of worship, with one exception, were anything but inviting, and their congregations were almost entirely made up of the poor and laboring classes; they had but few men of wealth and influence. But what is their condition to-day? Their elegant churches, crowded with intelligent hearers, will testify. A single generation has wrought this change. We might cite the feeble origin of many of the stronger churches of our own denomination in illustration of the point in question. We should learn wisdom by experience, and our want of success in the past may point out the way in which it may be obtained in the future."

NOVA SCOTIA GENERAL CONFERENCE.

We insert, in another column, this week, a notice for the Free Christian Baptist General Conference of Nova Scotia. We regret that we did not receive this notice at an earlier date. We would suggest to the brethren in N. S. to insert in the minutes of each conference the time when the next annual conference will be held, and also the place. It was a pleasure to us to attend two conferences in Nova Scotia, as a delegate from New Brunswick; and we partially anticipated the good fortune of making another visit to the Conference now approaching, but shall probably defer it until another time. The delegates appointed from our Conference will, of course, attend. The fraternal intercourse which has existed for so many years between the brethren in N. S. and the brethren in N. B., has been of the most pleasant and agreeable kind; and we think that mutual advantages have resulted therefrom. The Free Christian Baptist denomination in N. S. has passed through many and severe trials; but for the last two years there has been a gradual rising. Several extensive and healthy revivals have been enjoyed the last year, large additions have been made to some churches, and the brethren in the ministry have been encouraged. In our judgment, the Free C. B. of N. S. have made a mistake in not planting an interest in the town of Yarmouth, which, we learn, might have easily been done years ago, especially as some warm friends of the body and members of the churches resided there. It will probably never be so easy hereafter to establish an interest there, although no doubt exists but such will yet be. In Tusket, Barrington, Plymouth, and other public and important points, large, influential, and growing churches exist. The unfortunate and unwise dissensions resulting in the existence of another body holding precisely the same doctrines, and following the same practice, but bearing another name, have sadly weakened the brethren in N. S., both in numbers and influence. The removal of this division, and the union of the two sections of Free Baptists, is a most desirable object, and we hope the approaching Conference will not neglect any effort which may be necessary or desirable for them to make in order to bring about a not unwise union.

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LAST LETTER FROM THE SEA.

Ship Eleanore, Lat. 21deg. N.; Long. 88 deg. E.; June 16, 1865.

To the Editor of the Religious Intelligencer.

My last letter to your readers was written just as we were getting into our port at Ceylon. On the 17th ult., our anchors drove their hooks in the harbor of Galle. It had been five months since we stood on shore firm, so we hastened on shore the first P. M., and enjoyed a fine stroll, in quest of information, and other articles. The pilot had already given us the gist of the American news. While we greatly rejoiced over our conquering armies, and the prospects of a pure and speedy peace, our hearts were truly sad in view of Mr. Lincoln's death. I am now so happy that I was able to visit Washington and see him, a few months ago. The recollections of that pleasant visit, and my interview with the President, will be always fresh in my memory. The prayer was a spontaneous one from all our hearts for wisdom and grace to be given him upon whom, by this sudden death of our Chief Magistrate, the responsibilities of the office devolve. Mr. Lincoln has certainly fallen where he stood at the very summit of his glory. Like Moses, he had seen the promised land, but his feet could not enter it.

In this letter I wish to say a few things about what we saw in Ceylon. Galle is a very small village, chiefly important for its being a coaling station for English and French steamers. The natives are chiefly Singhalese, but there are many Mussulmans engaged in trade in different parts of the island. The Singhalese are all *Buddhists*, the characteristics of which religion are pretty generally known, and I'll not attempt an account. We found a large Reformed Dutch Church and a Wesleyan Chapel in the village, which are the only houses for Christian worship. The membership is composed of both Europeans and natives. Rev. Robert Hogg, A. M., is pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church. We all took great pleasure in his company. He is a thorough Englishman, and, as you say, a devoted fellow. Rev. George Baugh is preaching in the Wesleyan Mission. We had the pleasure of meeting at his house a veteran missionary, Rev. R. Spence Hardy, for many years a laborer on this island, and now about returning to England to spend his declining days. There is also an Episcopal service at Galle—in the R. D. Church. Rev. Mr. Schrauder is now rector, whom we much enjoyed hearing preach. O, it was so refreshing to enter the sanctuary again! and especially did I rejoice to attend the Sabbath School again. The boys and girls in Ceylon looked as bright and beautiful, for aught I see, as any I ever saw in America. Mr. Editor, you know that I love the S. S. children. How I should love to look once more into the faces of those dear boys and girls whom I saw at Frederick!

This part of the island is literally covered with cocoa nut trees. The natives make great use of them. The bread-fruit, mango, plantain or banana, jack fruit and lime abound. And here, of course, spices are found. The cinnamon and nutmeg are quite extensively cultivated. Coffee is raised to a large extent on the high lands in the interior. These plantations yield an immense revenue to the planters. There are several beautiful drives round about Galle. The land is quite undulating, and there are some fine hills. The paddy or rice fields are at their bases, and the cocoa nuts climb to their very summits. Although our vessel lay out far from the beach, still we were often ashore, rambling or riding about. Not only this but the delicious fruits, the plantains, pineapples, mangoes, pop ples, &c., contributed immensely to refresh and invigorate us, after our long sea voyage, and it was indeed a privilege to be able to forward letters to our American friends, not having met a single homeward-bound ship during the five months.

We spent three weeks at Galle, and are now near Saugor Island, at the mouth of the Hoogly. This morning the pilot came on board, but it is quite stormy, and we may be detained here for a day or two. This being the regular rainy season, we are likely to have frequent showers.

We shall undoubtedly reach Calcutta some day next week, and although this is more than I expected, still I am glad we were away from here two months ago, for I fear that a terrible plague, sweeping away its thousands, was then prevailing at Calcutta. *Surely, the Lord delivered us.* JAMES L. PHILLIPS.

THE REV. WILLIAM SHAW.

PRESIDENT OF THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

The Rev. William Shaw, who has been elected President of the Wesleyan Conference for the year on which the "Connection" has just expired, is a native of Glasgow, where he was born in December, 1798. He is consequently now in his sixty-seventh year. Notwithstanding the many years which he spent in Southern Africa, and the severe toil which he sustained during a considerable portion of his missionary life, he is a hale, upright man. His hair is scarcely touched with grey, except in the whiskers. His dark complexion, made darker by long residence in a semi-tropical climate, shows no trace of sickness or of exhaustion. To all human appearance he is not unlikely to wear the ex-presidential honours for many years to come. Mr. Shaw's family for at least 200 years have been settled on a farm near Helmsley, in Yorkshire. His father was an officer in the militia, which, during the war that was raging in the last years of the last century, served as a part of the regular army. It was during that time that his regiment was stationed at Glasgow that his son William was

born there. The boy's earlier years were passed chiefly in the south of England, but partly also in Ireland. His earliest impressions were thus formed amidst barracks and camps. His rudimentary education was obtained at a military school. It was whilst he was with his father in the service of the Duke of Devonshire, that he was converted to Christ, and when he was in his thirteenth year, that William Shaw was truly converted. It was at the time of religious revival among the militia, through the preaching of Mr. Joseph Parkin, himself at the time serving in the militia, and who afterwards became a Wesleyan missionary in the West Indies.

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2. God is Love—by Milford F. McLeod.

3. Let the Angel in—by Lavina McLeod.

4. An Angel from Heaven—by Bertie McLeod.

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30. Bible Questions Answered—by Lizzie Haney.

E. N. Sharp, Esq. A. M., being called for an address on the subject of "The Responsibility of Training the Youthful Mind and Heart properly, and concluding by exhorting all to strive to gain the 'Pearl of Great Price.'"

Dr. M. D. McLeod, Superintendent of the Middleland Sabbath School, responded to a call for an address on the subject of "The Responsibility of Training the Youthful Mind and Heart properly, and concluding by exhorting all to strive to gain the 'Pearl of Great Price.'"

The choir sang "Just as I am," and the large audience separated well pleased and profited by the exercises.

W. M. M.

POET MOORE, N. S., Aug. 24, 1865.

DEAR BRO. McLEOD—I am still alone, not being able as yet to secure the help of an ordained minister to baptize, on account of the distance and traveling. The revival, however, is still favorably progressing. It is the most remarkable work I have ever seen, and the converts seem to rejoice in the cross. Twenty backsliders have been reclaimed, and nineteen souls professed conversion to God.

Yours, &c. A. B. MARSH.

END OF A GAMBLER.—A correspondent of the *Portsmouth Journal* gives the following account of one of the many victims of the gaming table:—

"Of the many evil influences incident to fallen humanity, the passion for gaming may be ranked among the foremost. For the drunkard, even in the worst stages of his degradation, there is still hope; but there is none for the victim to the fascinations of the gaming table when once they have seized him in their iron grasp. One of the worst instances of this nature, in final results, that has ever come to my personal knowledge, occurred in this vicinity in a case of most worthy, diligent, and successful character. After the usual struggles that most of the profession experience, he succeeded in obtaining, through the aid of kind friends, a practice sufficiently remunerative, besides affording all the comforts of life, to enable him to live in the midst of his family, and to appear in the community with credit and continued success in his calling. Notwithstanding this evident prosperity, however, which had been greatly advanced by the generous acknowledgment on the part of some of the older and more experienced physicians of their confidence in his ability, there was a mystery about him that those who knew him most intimately were unable to fathom. While living in an economical manner, and pressing the payment of his bills on the plea that his necessities required it, he did not diminish the debts he had contracted, until he was enabled to acquire a knowledge of his profession; obligations, in some instances, that he was bound by every principle of honor and gratitude to redeem, shared a like fate. So far from reducing his liabilities, he was continually adding to them,—often securing pecuniary aid from friends on various pretexts of sudden and unexpected need, which were found to be the grossest fabrications. After living for several years in this way, he accepted the situation of surgeon on board a steamer bound to various distant ports, on a voyage of about a year's duration, giving a respectable discharge to his creditors, instead of returning home in the vessel on her return, to resume his practice, which he had left in the hands of another member of the profession, he left the steamer, and sent for his family to join him at San Francisco.

From that time little was heard of him; he was in a measure forgotten, until the details reached his former place of residence, through the journals of San Francisco, of one of the most awful tragedies, in which he was the chief actor, that ever transpired in a civilized community. He had occupied the upper portion of a dwelling, and nothing being seen of him or his family for an unusual length of time, his fellow tenants became alarmed, and failing to obtain admittance by other means, broke open the door, when a most frightful spectacle presented itself. He was found lying in bed, with one arm extended over a water-pail that was nearly filled with blood, and had apparently been dead many hours; by his side was his wife, and in an adjoining room their daughter and only child, about ten years of age, in both of whom life was extinct. From a couple of brief notes that had been left, it was learned that, being in bad circumstances, he had administered strychnine to his family, and then committed suicide by opening the veins in his arm. It seemed that in the case of his child, the poison had not produced death so soon as he wished, and he had then fractured her skull with an iron window-weight, that bore evidence of having been used for that purpose. Such a frightful tale of murder and suicide naturally excited, at first, the greatest astonishment among those who remembered him here only as a respectable physician, until the details of the tragedy were fully explained, and a matter of course, all that had previously been incomprehensible in his character. One of the most thrilling of the dramas of a former day is 'The Gambler's Fate,' but it presents nothing that equals the closing scene of this modern tragedy of real life.

A Dialogue, and the most difficult of the whole evening's exercise, was well spoken—Thos. Ennis, as the Orphan Boy, and Miss Grant, as the Lady, who came to his assistance, gave him good advice, and presented him with a Bible, and let him fall off hope in the future. The temple came, and presented him with the pleasures of life, of love, wealth and fame, to allure him from the path of virtue; but true to the first impressions of good, he refused them all, and concluded to embrace wisdom and holiness, and follow in his path. Waiting upon the Lord, recited by Miss Brown, and The Baptism, recited by Miss Patterson, were both done in an excellent manner. Miss Patterson, Miss Brown, Miss Miller, and Mr. L. Miller sang, "Shout the Tidings of Salvation," in splendid style.

All the persons who took part in the exercises performed their parts remarkably well, and did themselves and the school much credit. Brethren Hatfield, Gray, Vanwart, and Bartlett each expressed their satisfaction. The best of order prevailed, and the audience retired at the close much gratified.

C. SHELTON.

Southampton, August 28, 1865.

For the Religious Intelligencer.

MR. EDITOR.—The Millstream Sabbath School, under the Superintendence of Mr. Edward McLeod, had a public recitation on the 27th August, which was considered by many as the best one ever held in connection with this School. The exercises were to commence at 3 P. M., but some persons, particularly the young men, got up for the occasion by Mr. Samuel Fenwick, then sang "Sabbath Schools must have their Concerts." The recitations were:

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END OF A GAMBLER.—A correspondent of the *Portsmouth Journal* gives the following account of one of the many victims of the gaming table:—

"Of the many evil influences incident to fallen humanity, the passion for gaming may be ranked among the foremost. For the drunkard, even in the worst stages of his degradation, there is still hope; but there is none for the victim to the fascinations of the gaming table when once they have seized him in their iron grasp. One of the worst instances of this nature, in final results, that has ever come to my personal knowledge, occurred in this vicinity in a case of most worthy, diligent, and successful character. After the usual struggles that most of the profession experience, he succeeded in obtaining, through the aid of kind friends, a practice sufficiently remunerative, besides affording all the comforts of life, to enable him to live in the midst of his family, and to appear in the community with credit and continued success in his calling. Notwithstanding this evident prosperity, however, which had been greatly advanced by the generous acknowledgment on the part of some of the older and more experienced physicians of their confidence in his ability, there was a mystery about him that those who knew him most intimately were unable to fathom. While living in an economical manner, and pressing the payment of his bills on the plea that his necessities required it, he did not diminish the debts he had contracted, until he was enabled to acquire a knowledge of his profession; obligations, in some instances, that he was bound by every principle of honor and gratitude to redeem, shared a like fate. So far from reducing his liabilities, he was continually adding to them,—often securing pecuniary aid from friends on various pretexts of sudden and unexpected need, which were found to be the grossest fabrications. After living for several years in this way, he accepted the situation of surgeon on board a steamer bound to various distant ports, on a voyage of about a year's duration, giving a respectable discharge to his creditors, instead of returning home in the vessel on her return, to resume his practice, which he had left in the hands of another member of the profession, he left the steamer, and sent for his family to join him at San Francisco.

From that time little was heard of him; he was in a measure forgotten, until the details reached his former place of residence, through the journals of San Francisco, of one of the most awful tragedies, in which he was the chief actor, that ever transpired in a civilized community. He had occupied the upper portion of a dwelling, and nothing being seen of him or his family for an unusual length of time, his fellow tenants became alarmed, and failing to obtain admittance by other means, broke open the door, when a most frightful spectacle presented itself. He was found lying in bed, with one arm extended over a water-pail that was nearly filled with blood, and had apparently been dead many hours; by his side was his wife, and in an adjoining room their daughter and only child, about ten years of age, in both of whom life was extinct. From a couple of brief notes that had been left, it was learned that, being in bad circumstances, he had administered strychnine to his family, and then committed suicide by opening the veins in his arm. It seemed that in the case of his child, the poison had not produced death so soon as he wished, and he had then fractured her skull with an iron window-weight, that bore evidence of having been used for that purpose. Such a frightful tale of murder and suicide naturally excited, at first, the greatest astonishment among those who remembered him here only as a respectable physician, until the details of the tragedy were fully explained, and a matter of course, all that had previously been incomprehensible in his character. One of the most thrilling of the dramas of a former day is 'The Gambler's Fate,' but it presents nothing that equals the closing scene of this modern tragedy of real life.

It is expected that a Railway to Jerusalem will be open in course of a year or two. What would Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob say to such a phenomenon! In a few years a trip to the Holy Land will be but a matter of three months and a hundred or two pounds. It is good to see the "Land of Promise," thus being brought within the charmed circle of civilization.—*Pres. Witness.*

SWEARING GENERALLY.—Sheridan and Sherman are denounced by the religious press of New York as notorious profane swearers. The *Intelligencer* well remarks that the swearer "is so ignorant of the resources of the language, and so uneducated in the use of words, that he cannot express his emotions without using words which insult the great God of heaven and earth. Profanity is simply a certificate out of the swearer's own mouth of his own mental and moral poverty." It is remarked that profane swearing has become an appalling custom in the United States since the outbreak of the war.—*Id.*

We clip from one of our exchanges the following, which gives us another witness for temperance:

"Samuel Caswell, of Barnstead, N. H., now 106 years old, has never had a physician but three times, has never used intoxicating liquor nor tobacco, and his eyesight has been perfectly good all within a year."

Messrs. Flagg & Son have been in Frederick for the last fortnight with their team of four white mules and curious cuban dog, introducing their valuable medicine, called the "Good Samaritan," which has been extensively used by our citizens with great success in cases of rheumatism, head ache, tooth ache, and other such pains. They have now left for St. John, where no doubt, they will be well patronized.

A. T. Stewart, of New York, is building a residence to cost, at present estimate, \$1,200,000, and it is expected to run up to a higher figure. To secure a site for this structure, he