

Shall the Free Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have a Theological School?

No. IV.

I have rapidly run over the general question of theological training, particularizing our crippled condition in relation to it, whereby we suffer both when we lag behind, and also when we accept help on such distressing terms as are unavoidable in the nature of the case. We have seen also the positive need of a denominational supervision of our ministerial students to secure doctrinal conformity and loyalty.

If my suggestions are anywhere near the mark, we have here a vital matter, a question of life and death, demanding immediate and specific treatment. As the need has been variously indicated, I will devote this last paper to show (d) That a Theological School of our own is easily within our reach. At this stage you will not be satisfied or convinced by general considerations, but rather demand that a practical question, largely financial, should be treated on practical lines. Granting the rational character of that demand let us present some facts available from the Reports of a kindred institution.

Looking recently at the Canadian Congregationalist Year Book, I was struck with the completeness of their theological facilities as compared with the numerical strength of their denomination. Aided by the Missionary Society in England, they have maintained for years at Montreal the school known as the C. C. of B. N. A., the purpose of which is to educate ministers of the gospel. Their statistics show a membership of 8702 for Canada last year; 115 churches and 18 students. Owing to the educational disarrangement by the death of Dr. Wilkes, the principal, a former year was referred to for college affairs and showed 13 hours per week of classes, \$2575 for Lecturers and Examiners, \$1700 for House expenses. Five Lecturers were employed and a style kept up appropriate to the supposed denominational standing. During many years of growth under the able direction of Dr. Wilkes they have attained a position of honor and influence at so slight an expense as to be almost marvellous in these days of magnificent outlay. We must also take into account the fact that they have neither seminary nor college of their own for secular instruction.

What are their successful and imitable methods?

First, an affiliation with McGill College whereby its superior teaching faculty, its great endowments and greater renown are made tributary.

Secondly: Professors have been employed who were pastors of neighboring churches at partial salaries.

Thirdly: The denominational aid to students went indirectly through the school.

I have said imitable methods. Now as to the first, we have two Provincial Universities at Fredericton and Halifax, either of which can do for us the service needed. To speak of Dalhousie University, Halifax, of which I know more than of the other; the classes are open to all who pay the usual fee to the Professor. The closing examinations determine the qualification of the student and is at the same time an incentive to studiousness to those whose standing in another school depends upon it. For instance if we had a school in Halifax and utilized the college for instruction in English literature, Greek, Hebrew, Moral Philosophy, Logic or Mental Philosophy, a definite attainment could be demanded of each student in these as well as in the Systematic Theology, Homiletics or Church History of the Theol. School; and as complete a course could be put together as any institution affords.

As to the teachers, a mutually profitable bargain could be made between the local church and the school, by which the pastor of the church might be the principal of the school; this would diminish the salary over \$500 the first year. All our ministers who have labored in Halifax are agreed that with a healthy and well-supported central church, mission operations in that city could be carried on effectively towards further organization, which would provide evangelical work and increasing remuneration for a second professor and students. Two professors would be sufficient for the thirteen lectures a week and, for the first year while students were all in the same class, one regular teacher would need little help. We are supposing about thirty weeks yearly for the work. Three or four years of study combining the essentials of a college and theological course would give an equivalent to the training received by the average professional man, and qualify our young men to enter upon useful service, without however in any way restricting those who desire deeper draughts from the Pierian spring. That average qualification we are

certainly bound to, and demand of our ordained ministry.

Can we afford it? Can we afford not to have it? If we are content with the substance of education, without having it dressed in its common fashion, putting away the notion that massive buildings and corresponding equipment are necessary to hard thinking, we can afford it and must for the sake of our children and our cause.

My estimate, then, would not at this stage, include buildings, grounds and libraries; but only teachers with food and shelter for them and the boys. Rent of a suitable building for two or three class-rooms and a students' home, \$500.00; salaries for two professors \$2000.00; for a matron \$200.00 30 weeks' board and expenses, per student \$100.00; say, 1000.00; interest on outfit of furniture and books \$100. About \$4000 in all. To offset which we would receive from students \$50 each, say, \$500; and \$500 at the outset from the Halifax church on salary account leaving \$3000 per annum to be raised by the denomination.

When we consider our membership of over 13,000, from whom 25 cents apiece would yield an adequate support for this necessary work, surely we cannot regard the financial undertaking too great.

A thorough, well directed canvass of our churches could secure pledges for \$3000 for a short term of years far more easily than we raised that amount a few years ago in N. Scotia for the Halifax church. To set agoing a divinity school, and save a church at so important a centre as Halifax by one well-timed, good-sized contribution, seems to me to be a prospectus worthy the serious thought of all Free Baptists.

Our public spirited men whose zeal is recorded in every conference report have not been forgotten in this plan; and from them we confidently expect a co-operation as generous as their estimate of the value of the scheme.

We have then at least one place furnishing the conditions of our entering hopefully upon a new denominational policy; which would be inexpensive, demand no investments, diffuse activity throughout our territory, strengthen our frontier, and gather again at one point our young men who have been so largely affected by the centrifugal forces of existing educational needs.

Though at the close of this paper I may need to write, errors and omissions excepted, as a shield against hostile criticism; yet let us hear from those who have our cause at heart, the words of favor or objection, that may guide into some definite action, and save us from premature decay or death.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Corea has only just been opened to Christianity, and already one church has been organized in Seoul, the capital.

The little kingdom of Wurtemberg is reported as having about 240 ordained missionaries at work among the heathen.

There are only three Protestant churches on the Island of Cuba—at Havana, Matanzas, and Cienfuegos—all recently organized.

Rev. Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage has been chosen Chaplain of the Thirteenth New York Regiment, to succeed the late Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

Twenty churches have been destroyed in the province of Fu-Kyen, China, and many Christians massacred, as the result of a fanatical outbreak.

The Salvation Army now includes 2,262 corps and 5,684 officers. The receipts have amounted to \$1,704,000. The Search officers have received an average weekly wage of \$2.37.

As many as 900,000 copies of the edition of the Bible known as the Oxford Bible for Teachers, have been sold, and the Oxford University Press has just issued two new editions of the same.

There are 122 Protestant churches and places of worship in Paris, with 92 ministers. Of these 18 churches, with 15 ministers, belong to the Reformed Church of France, and 16 churches with 19 ministers, to the Lutheran Church.

As one result of the Hebrew Christian work, commenced in the city of New York in 1882, five years ago, there are now nine young converted Jews studying for the ministry in various seminaries. Its headquarters are at No. 17 St. Mark's Place, New York city, pastor, Rev. Jacob Freshman.

The McAll Mission has opened several new halls in Paris, and in a few days halls will also be opened at St. Germain-en-Laye, Nantes (second hall), Antibes, Thiers, Sainte-Florence. The church at Reims has opened two popular halls for evangelistic and social work, the whole expense of erection being borne by the church.

Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, has decided to send squads of his soldiers to Zululand and South America. Some of his forces have already reached Jerusalem, and the streets of the Holy City resound with their "amenas" and the jingle of their tambourines.

Rev. Dr. Judson Smith reports cheering prospects for Christianity among the Mongols. The fact that the number of Converts in China has more than doubled within ten years and now exceeds 30,000, is at once a proof that Christian work is grandly successful here, and is a powerful stimulus to more abundant labors.

The American correspondent of the London Freeman writes: The largest Baptist church in this country is to be built in Philadelphia. It will seat 4,600 persons and cost \$100,000. A thousand scholars will be accommodated in the Sunday-school room, and five hundred more in the infant department. A dining-room, kitchen, parlors, and a large entertaining room will also be provided. All this is to give room and scope enough for the ministry of Rev. Russel H. Conwell, Yale College student, soldier, lawyer, emigration agent, special correspondent in Europe for American papers, traveller, lecturer, author, theological student, Baptist minister.

The Indian Witness says that the Madras Presidency contains by far the largest Christian population of all India, the actual number of native Christians, including Roman Catholics, amounting to 700,000. This shows that out of every 1,000 of the population 23 are native Christians. But it is in educational matters that the native Christians have shown most satisfactory progress. According to the latest census return, in the municipal towns, while the percentage of educated Hindu males is 36.30 and of Mohammedans 30, that among the male native Christians is 53.67. The proportion of educated females is equally striking, and largely in favor of the native Christians. Taking the total population, male and female, of the three creeds throughout the Presidency, we find the averages to be, Hindus, 9.90 per cent., Mohammedans 8.57 and Christians 16.53.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

CLARK'S HARBOR, N. S.—Rev. Dr. Sturgiss is assisting Rev. C. B. Atwood in a series of revival meetings at Clark's Harbor. There are afternoon and evening services daily, all of which are well attended.—Cape Sable Advertiser.

THIRD TIER, C. Co.—I wish to inform you briefly that God is blessing the Third Tier Church and people with revival, under the united labors of Revs. C. F. Rideout, Henry Hart, and the pastor G. W. Foster. God has been wonderfully working among the people. The church has been revived and strengthened, backsliders reclaimed and sinners converted. Two have been baptized, and there are more to follow. The work still goes on. Pray for us.

GEORGE W. FOSTER.

Temperance Notes.

—It is reported that the rum party in Moncton have sent for King Dadds to come and help them.

—The new Temperance Society of Truro is working famously. 197 persons were elected members at last meeting. The total membership now is about 350—a pretty good showing for a society but three weeks old.

—The house of Israel Evans, license inspector in Chatham, Ontario, was shattered by dynamite Tuesday morning. No one was hurt but the house is badly damaged. The police have arrested a man who had a loaded revolver and fuse and caps for dynamite cartridges in his possession. Three others are also detained on suspicion.

—The people of Springhill, N. S., have drawn up a petition which is being extensively signed, praying the governor general to "proclaim an act entitled an 'act for the preservation of the peace at public works' in force in Springhill. The temperance people have taken hold of the matter and claim that if successful in their endeavors, rum will not be found nearer than five miles to the collieries.

—The cheap 'coffee stands' at the ferries and other points in Brooklyn, which last winter furnished 134,000 meals to news boys, car-drivers and others at little more than cost, will shortly be re-opened under the direction of a committee of women from various churches. These stands are a great aid to temperance work, offering as they do a counter attraction to the saloon.

ARREARS.—To those of our friends who have, for any reason, fallen behind in their payments, we have to address this word, asking them to just now make an effort to pay. We need all the money due. No one owes very much, but the aggregate of arrears is a sum the need of which we feel. A slight effort on the part of each one of these will help us greatly. Please attend to it now.

KING'S COUNTY NOTES.—A good work of grace began in the Belleisle Creek Methodist church, under the labors of the pastor, Rev. F. Frizzle, on 29th Dec., '87. A good interest was still manifested before the storm of Wednesday, 18th Jan., brought on an impediment to the work. The church and settlement were greatly revived, and a goodly number were made savingly acquainted with Christ. Mr. Frizzle was aided by Bro. Dennis, of Sackville, and Bro. Wetmore, Baptist.

Rev. A. Hayward, Baptist, has been holding special services in the Wetmore settlement, near Hatfield's Point, with good results. Seven were baptised on Sabbath, 14th, and six the Sunday previous. He will begin special work at Springfield Corner ere long.

The Methodist of Irish Settlement have erected a neat little church edifice, which will be dedicated on Thursday, 2nd Feb.

The Scott Act is not working as satisfactorily in this County as it ought.

Arrangements are about completed to begin the erection of a new hall at Norton Station.

Rev. W. J. Kirby, Methodist, has been holding special services at Berwick, of late, with good results. He has been made the recipient of many handsome donations by his many friends on the Apohaqui circuit.—C.

THE AFRICAN SLEEPING DISEASE.—A singular and invariably fatal malady, called lethargus, is reported to be peculiar to negroes in certain districts on the western coast of Africa. The patient, usually a male adult, is seized without any premonitory symptoms, with a sensation of drowsiness, which continues to increase in spite of all efforts to throw it off, until he sinks into a profound and seemingly natural sleep, and which continues for about twenty-one days, when death takes place. Throughout the course of the disease the patient preserves a quiet and peaceful countenance, may be easily aroused for a short time, will take nourishment, and generally answers a few questions in a perfectly rational manner; the pulse, respiration, and temperature remain normal throughout, the pupil is neither dilated nor contracted to any noticeable extent, and the voidings are comparatively regular; in fact, with the exception of the abnormal tendency to sleep, nothing exists to denote disease. Many careful post-mortem examinations have been made by competent men, but nothing of an abnormal character has been found, while every remedy that could possibly be of any avail has been used without any apparent beneficial effect.

A EDITOR REMEMBERED.—We are glad to see that Bro. Goodspeed has been kindly remembered by the owners of the paper he so ably conducts. In the last issue he makes this acknowledgment:

The editor of the Messenger and Visitor does not often publish a personal notice. He is able to insert a very pleasant one. He has no reason to turn green with envy at the brethren whose donations he chronicles from week to week. The directors of the Maritime Baptist Publishing Co. have put him on the sunny side by the gift of one of the finest fur overcoats. This warms the cold editorial heart, not to mention the warning of the rest of the body.

THE UNION MEETING.—The Union Meetings held by the Baptist and Free Baptist churches last week were good. A good degree of spiritual quickening was received by Christians; there were several seekers, and some, we trust, were converted. On Sabbath two union services were held, in the Free Baptist church in the morning, and in the Baptist church in the evening. The meetings are being continued every afternoon and evening this week in the Free Baptist church.

Literary Notes.

In the February St. Nicholas a touching Russian Christmas Story entitled "Michael and Feodosia," begins the number, and is appropriately illustrated. Mrs. Burnett completes "Sara Crewe" by a very delightful "happy ending." Mr. Charles Henry Webb contributes a stirring account of the "Diamondbacks in Paradise," telling of the rattlesnakes encountered during a winter in Florida. In "The Story of an Old Bridge" will be found a historical sketch of London Bridge and the great events with which it has been connected, illustrated. The high tides in the Bay of Fundy are explained in an amusing story, "A Legend of Acadia."

Mr. John Preston True begins an interesting school serial, "Drill: A Story of School-boy Life;" Palmer Cox tells of the Brownies and their adventures with a whale. There are other interesting features.

A GREAT POPULAR CYCLOPEDIA.—The third volume of Alden's Manifold Cyclopædia, a marvel of condensed information covers the alphabet between the titles Artemisia and Baptisia. There seems to be little doubt that it will prove to be the great popular Cyclopædia for the next score of years at least. The embodiment of an Unabridged Dictionary of Language and a complete Cyclopædia of Universal

Knowledge in one work, in large type, with thousands of illustrations, and all for a price less than people have been used to paying for a Dictionary alone, is not only a novelty in plan but to the ordinary book-buyer the fact is hardly less than astounding. Its accomplishments will certainly be creditable to Alden's Literary Revolution.

As to the quality of the work, both literary and mechanical, any common-sense reader is capable of judging. The volumes received at this office (which any reader is welcome to call and examine) are certainly deserving of the unstinted praise which they seem to be receiving. The venerable Prof. Day, of Yale College speaks of the work in the following emphatic terms: "The book in all respects more than answers my expectations. It is a very neat volume, of a form convenient for use, firmly bound, of large, clear type, with contents of just that general character which the popular reader requires—comprehensive, accurate, and compact. Its marvellously low cost makes it a prize eagerly to be sought in every intelligence-loving household."

The publisher, John B. Alden, 393 Pearl St. New York, or Clark and Adams Sts., Chicago, will send specimen pages free to any applicant, or a specimen volume (which may be returned if not wanted) in cloth for 50c., or half Morocco, 65c.; postage 10c. extra. The set of thirty volumes is offered at considerably reduced price to early subscribers.

The Century for February is good. Mr. Kennan's series, which is important enough to be torn by the Russian censor from copies of the Century sent to that country, receives a notable addition in the study of "A Russian Political Prison," a terribly pathetic description written from personal investigation and inquiry. This series not only helps one understand the Russian situation, but it is likely to take a deep hold of the reader.

Theodore Roosevelt writes of "Ranch Life in the Far West," with intimate knowledge of his subject, which is largely the cowboy. He says, "The present form of stock-raising on the plains is doomed and can hardly outlast the present century."

The Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, editor of "The Christian Advocate," adds to his papers on the Mind-Cure and similar phenomena, a curious study of "Astrology, Divination, and Coincidences." Dr. Buckley may fairly be considered to have done a great public service by his exposition of current frauds and hallucinations in this field.

The variety of the number as above shown is in no way impaired by two important papers to which a large number of readers will turn first of all, viz. (1) General Sherman's study of "The Grand Strategy of the War" and (2) The Lincoln History, in which the narrative deals with the Confederate Commissioners, the Cabinet opinions on the reinforcement of Fort Pickens (given from unpublished MSS.), and Lincoln's tussle with Seward, in which it was decided whether the Secretary of State or the President should rule the country.

The editorial articles are on "The Real Nature of Politics," "Honesty at Elections," and "No Successful Substitute for Justice."

The Missionary Review of the World contains eight distinct departments, viz.: I. The Literature of Missions. II. Organized Missionary Work: III. Correspondence and General Intelligence. IV. International Department V. Progress and Results of Missionary Work: Monthly Bulletin VI. Monthly Concert Service. VII. Statistics of the World's Missions. VIII. Editorial Notes on Current Topics. One can see at a glance that a Review, ably conducted on so broad and comprehensive a plan as is here outlined, with the co-operation of scores of the best informed and most devoted friends of missions, all over the world, is a desideratum, and commends itself to pastors and Christian workers, and all who work for the coming of Christ's kingdom. Nothing like it has ever before been undertaken. Besides the fullest view of the facts and doings of missions throughout the world, each number contains 6 or 8 Review missionary articles of highest interest—the January, a touching Memorial of the late Royal Gould Wilder, with a portrait; a stirring Biography of Robert and Mary Moffatt, the founders of the South African Church; "Missionary Problems in India," by Prof. Lawrence; "Christian and Non-Christian Religions," by an Oxford Professor, "The Living and the Dead," by Dr. Clark of Florence, Italy. And the February contains a mastery paper on Japan by Prof. Knox, of the College at Tokio; an intensely interesting Biography of Africa's Martyr Bishop—Hannington—by Dr. Pierson, and other valuable papers.

This Review is unsectarian, independent, and world-wide in its scope. It presents the facts and results and operations of missions all over the world. It has editorial correspondents at every great centre and gives the latest information from every field. It makes a specialty of statistics, and aims to give, classified and tabulated, the entire missionary statistics of the world from authentic sources, which will be invaluable to every pastor and friend of missions. "It is the grandest and most inspiring of all missionary publications," says The Christian at Work.

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Deaths.

SMITH—At Victoria Corner, C. Co., on the 19th of January, of consumption, Geo. Hartley Smith, aged 25 years, leaving two brothers and four sisters, with other relatives and friends, to mourn their loss. Bro. Smith was respected by all who knew him. He was baptized by Rev. John Perry, and united with the Third Tier Church, Jacksonville. He was quiet and unassuming in his manner, and his life was characterized by consistency and uprightness. His funeral was conducted by Rev. Geo. W. Foster, assisted by Rev. Thos. Connor.

Marriages.

HAYTER-MCFARLANE. On the 24th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. G. F. Currie, Mr. James H. Hayter, of St. John, to Miss Maria E. McFarlane, of the Parish of Lincoln, Sunbury Co.

WHITE-VANWART. At the residence of the bride's father, on the 25th inst., by Rev. C. I. Phillips, George A. White and Zora M., youngest daughter of Charles Vanwart, all of Woodstock.

BRIGGS-ALEXANDER. At the residence of Mr. T. Linday, on the 25th inst., by Rev. C. T. Phillips, Abner Briggs of Wakefield and Elida Alexander, of Woodstock.

SCOTT-FREE. On 5th inst. at the residence of the bride's mother, Penobscot Kin's County by the Rev. W. MacDonald Mr. Melbourne Scott of Sussex King's County and Miss Louise V. Freeze of Penobscot Kin's Co. youngest daughter of the late Chas. Freeze Esq.

FEDGON-McLEERY. On the 23rd inst by the Rev. Jacob Garter, Mr. Frederick Fedgson of New Maryland to Miss Mary S. McLeery of St. Stephen Charlotte Co.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Bellevue Village" will be received at this office until FRIDAY, the 10th day of February next, for the construction of a wharf at Bellevue Village, Westmorland County, N. B., in accordance with a plan and a specification to be seen on application to Mr. Ambrose D. Richards Barrister, Dorchester, N. B., and at the office of the Department of Public Works, Custom House Building, St. John, N. B. Tenders will not be considered unless made on form supplied and signed with actual signatures of tenderers.

An accepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works equal to five per cent. of amount of tender, must accompany each tender. This cheque will be forfeited if the party decline the contract, or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
A. GOBELL,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 20th Jan., 1888.