

(Loud applause.) To the list of vice-presidents there had been added the present Bishop of Norwich, and the Bishops of Victoria and Prince Rupert's Land, and of Madras. The financial statement showed that the total receipts of the year had amounted to £91,634 12s. 7d.—not so large as last year, which included, however, upwards of £7,600 of a special fund, contributed towards the society's extraordinary operations on the continent, which fund this year had only been increased by £1,314 8s. 2d., so that the regular income of the year showed an increase of £2,023 14s. 7d. over the preceding year. The total sum applicable to the general purposes of the society was £44,135 2s. 11d. The free contributions from auxiliary societies had amounted to £31,413 1s. 7d., the donations to £5,566 3s. 4d., and the legacies to £4,348 1s. 1d.—The sales of the year had amounted to £46,185 1s. 6d., and the payments had been £97,246 2s., being £8,415 0s. 10d. more than the payments of the preceding year. The list contained some noble donations; amongst them were Miss Jane Cook, Cheltenham, £1,000; an "Anonymous Friend," £500; Mr. Durant, Copthallcourt, £500, &c. The issues of the year had amounted to 1,136,695 copies, being 29,177 more than on the previous year. The total issues from the commencement of the society amounted to 23,110,050 copies. The engagements of the society amounted to £63,555 18s. 2d. The number of new societies established during the last year was 132, making the total of societies now existing 3,182.

### CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1850.

#### PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We took occasion a day or two since, in company with one or two friends, to visit this excellent Institution, and though it is a melancholy spectacle to witness so many individuals needing such a provision, yet upon the whole our visit gave us great pleasure. Many may have complained of the expense of the building, and of the amount of its current expenses; many may be unwilling to think of sending their friends to become its inmates; but we doubt if any individual visiting it, and inspecting its conveniences and arrangements, and becoming acquainted, only so far as they may by a casual visit and by witnessing the appearance of the patients in the company of the Superintendent, with the disposition of the latter, and with his adaptedness so far to his office, we doubt if any such one can bring his objections away with him. The number of patients is very large; and we were surprised to see that considerable more room is already required in order to classify the patients as the Superintendent would wish, and as their most profitable and comfortable treatment requires. Insanity of course is to be seen there in all its different degrees and phases, so that certain classes must be kept entirely distinct from intercourse with or even from observing other classes. So crowded is the main building at present that the room which is intended for a chapel for religious worship is occupied by female inmates, and contains a dozen or more beds for their accommodation. But aside from this inconvenience of a want of room, which, however, will increase with the increase of patients, the conveniences and arrangements are admirably suited to their use. The superintending Physician, whose kind attentions captivate all his visitors, conducted us through every part of the building from the basement to the roof; and from end to end of the building it was a picture of neatness. The labor to accomplish this by so few, upon whom the duty devolves, must be excessive, and the vigilance of the Superintendent continual. Were all the inmates rational and contributing their labor to that end, the rooms, furniture, bedding, yard, and indeed all that pertains to the Institution could not have looked more cleanly. Our survey was so leisurely that the dinner hour came and passed while we were there, allowing us an opportunity of witnessing the degree and kind of their provision, and the condition and method of cooking. The arrangements for this department are very complete; and one kitchen with its beautiful range, and its capacious cooking stove and boilers additional, answer for all Superintendents, Keepers, and Patients. The food was both good and abundant. The rooms in their size, and in the character of their furniture, and style of finish, are varied to meet the wants and wishes of the various patients. The idea of many is that the Asy-

lum is a sort of Penitentiary or Jail, and that its inmates are subject to oppressive restraints; but a visit, if but short, would give quite a different idea. A large number of the patients walking at their leisure out doors or in, and indulging their wishes at reading or some trivial employment about their room or dress, smiled as pleasantly and appeared as contented as home and friends could possibly make them; nor did a single one seem to manifest aught else than confidence and pleasure in the company of the Superintendent. Such Institutions, sustained at the public expense, when new are always objected to by some; but when, under suitable management these objections soon die away, and their philanthropic character and their eminent usefulness command universal admiration. This is the secret of their multiplication and of the increased liberality with which they are sustained in every country, as they become better known. We know not where we could direct to anything in the Province of a public character more creditable than this Lunatic Asylum; and everything to be discovered by such a visit in the character and deportment of the Superintendent fully justifies the high commendations of those who signified their sense of his qualifications to the Board of Directors, so that the fondest hopes of its friends may be cherished in regard to the Institution.

#### TEMPERANCE.

On Tuesday evening we witnessed a charming sight in the Temperance Hall, in Portland. It was upon the occasion of the presentation of a Banner, by the Cold Water Army of that Parish, to their seniors, the Cadets. The Hall was closely packed in every part, and our young friends did themselves great credit, and the influence of the Meeting we cannot doubt was both great and good. The presentation address of the young Miss who acted for her associates was replied to by a Cadet for his associates, and were both well composed and prettily delivered. Several Cadets afterwards addressed the Meeting, who were followed by some of the older friends of the Sons of Temperance, when the large assembly was dismissed. The Banner we think on the whole, though less costly than many others, considering the appropriateness of the design and beauty of execution is, the neatest thing of the kind we have seen.

The progress of the cause of Temperance in the Province at the present time is most gratifying to those who have any proper conception of the enormity and variety of evils connected with Intemperance. We learned from the G. W. P. in the Division Room last evening that for the first Quarter of this year, there were admitted to the order of the Sons in the several Divisions of the Province 540 new members; that 12 new Divisions were instituted, and that since April 1st, there have been received to the different Divisions of this city and vicinity, 100 members. The zeal of our brethren was never warmer, and their labors of love and sacrifices of time and property to recover and restore those who have been addicted to intemperance is worthy of all praise, and commands the respect while it excites the astonishment of those who stand aloof from the enterprise. We do not envy the man his head or heart who can witness the result of these efforts and watch their progress and yet despise the actors or the means. The Institution is truly noble, its principles are eminently benevolent, and we are happy to add its success is most gratifying.

We are happy to inform our readers abroad that the Most Worthy Patriarch of the Order is now in Halifax, N. S., and intends visiting this city week after next, when a grand Demonstration will be made by the friends of Temperance in honour of his visit. This will be a grand gala day for our friends. It is now expected to come off on Wednesday or Thursday of that week. The procession will include the Sons of Temperance, the several Temperance organizations of its old and well tried friends, the several branches of the Cadets of Temperance, and the Cold Water Army, but we anticipate no bloody conflicts, no bruises, no wounds but what an open declaration of principle may inflict on the monster Intemperance.

General Cary, of Ohio, G. W. P. is an eminent philanthropist, and is devoting his great abilities to the advancement of this enterprise. He is a gentleman of some fortune, and labors out of pure good will, and without any other compensation than the satisfaction of doing good.

He is now publishing a series of Temperance Tracts under the direction of the Nation-

al Division, which we see are considered very able. We hope they may find their way hitherward.

We have given place this week to the address of brethren Bill and Francis, a copy of which was also sent by them for publication in the *Christian Messenger*. We were not expecting to allude to the case again as we find our brethren in the other Province are under a misapprehension which makes any remark dangerous, that is, that nothing can be controverted, nor any difference of opinion expressed without hostile feelings. We assure them they are exceedingly mistaken. We know of no interruption of the kindest feelings in any quarter from this controversy.—One expression was penned by us in the commencement before the author of the article to which we alluded was known, which would not have been used for any consideration if it had been once suspected who that author was; but this is a risk that any person must always run if he appears anonymously instead of over his own proper signature.

We have always acted upon the principle that plain, intelligible, outspoken words, that shall let all concerned in any matter have a perfect understanding of our purposes, wishes and works, are in the long run much the best.

We have never yet seen reason for altering this conviction. We know well from long experience that this is to be done at considerable risk while there are so many who act upon a different policy. Many good people seem to think that if there is no controversy, no questions asked, no explanations demanded or given, there must be peace. Perhaps it might be so, if a stop in the meantime could be put to men's thoughts; but as long as men will think, will converse privately, as long as they are liable to misunderstand, and often to surmise evil where no evil is, so long openness and plain outspoken English we consider decidedly the safest means to be employed. If the brethren of the Nova Scotia Education Society did not intend or wish such an action, on the part of the Convention as their Delegate participated in, they surely have the fullest and clearest right to dissent from that action and to decide the case in perfect accordance with their wishes; and if this is clearly and fairly their right then no one can have a right to dispute their decision when it shall be made; so that we see no room whatever for an abatement of the zeal or interest of any of the friends of the college let the question be decided as it may. There is no question of principle as yet involved in the controversy, it is simply a question of expediency, so that we cannot conceive of any conscientious objections to either side of the question, and as to all men who might chance to be associated in any great undertaking coming to see alike and think alike upon questions of expediency it is unreasonable to expect it, some therefore must yield to others, the minority to the majority as a matter of simple justice. The principles of our Church organization and discipline should certainly make this duty plain and easy of performance. The question of offering to return what subscriptions may have been given under a misapprehension in case the doings of the Delegates are not sanctioned is not yet an open question, but as this would involve a plain principle of honesty we do not imagine for a moment that there would be one to oppose the right.

By a letter from brother Francis, for which we have not space this week, we learn that he has quite recovered his usual health again. Brother Francis was, previous to brother Burpe's arrival, confined to his bed by severe illness, which did not allow his completing the arrangements which he had commenced for brother Burpe, nor of contributing to his convenience while detained in Liverpool. In his own words, "It seems like a dream to me that we embraced each other while I lay on my sick bed—but it was a reality. I saw him only once, though we were near each other, and had not the pleasure of seeing his family at all."

This will account for the mistake alluded to in brother Burpe's letter in regard to the incompleteness of the arrangement by ship.—It is very gratifying that our brethren all receive such unfeigned and brotherly kindness from the friends in Liverpool, whose names have been repeated in their communications.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Rev. W. Sears, with remittance; Rev. D. Crandal, do. do.; Rev. P. Duffy, do. do.; James Ayer, do. do.; Rev. S. Elder; F. A. Wilson.

### Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

MR. EDITOR.—A short time since you noticed the ordination of a young brother, and more recently you have intimated the intention of two others to take upon themselves the solemn vows of the Ministry, at the solicitations of churches where their labors have been requested. Having had some acquaintance with each of these brethren, and earnestly desiring their success, and the prosperity of our beloved Zion in these Provinces, I feel disposed with your leave to offer a few suggestions for their consideration, through the Visitor. Though my hints may be such as our older Ministers have made familiar to their minds by frequent meditation, those of less experience in the ministry, and the greater number of our private members, may find something in them which, perchance, with the blessing of the great Head of the Church, whom we ought all to serve, may be turned to a profitable account. If my many duties will allow, I will offer a short article next week.

Intending to be absent from our usual post for two weeks to come, we regard the offer of "Levi" a very opportune one, and shall consider two or three of his Articles for successive papers a very great favor. Of course we cannot behorhand endorse all that he may feel inclined to write; still, we give a cheerful leave, and shall depend upon his kindness to supply a leader for our readers in our absence. From what Levi has already communicated, and from the interest excited by his previous communications, we are particularly pleased with the direction which, we presume from the occasion of his articles, his thoughts or "hints" will take. We doubt not they will be worthy of the careful perusal of all our readers, to whom we commend them.—ED.

Brother Casewell has kindly consented to take an oversight of the weekly news, and of the communications of our correspondents in our absence. The selections for the outside of our paper we shall be able to make notwithstanding our absence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

London, May 6th.

MR. EDITOR.—You will oblige us by giving the enclosed address a place in the columns of your valuable paper at your earliest convenience. We feel that it is alike due to ourselves and to our brethren in the Provinces, thus to state with all frankness the line of policy that we have pursued, and at the same time to present such motives for harmony of action as bear with much weight upon our own minds. May the Lord in mercy grant His blessing. Affectionately yours,

I. E. BILL.

JOHN FRANCIS.

London, May 6th, 1850.

To the Baptist Churches of Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

BELOVED BRETHREN,—Your Deputation to Great Britain having been placed in circumstances of peculiar trial in consequence of conflicting opinions being entertained by esteemed brethren in reference to the proceedings of the Convention at Bridgetown, beg to submit to your consideration the following statement respecting the course we have pursued, and the principles by which we have been governed, in the prosecution of the onerous duties of our mission.

We left the Provinces with the fullest conviction upon our minds that Acadia College was no longer under the controul of the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society, that it was consigned to the care of the Convention, and placed entirely under a new administration, that the honour of all concerned in effecting this change was pledged to its support, that in this new connexion it was relieved from all interference on the part of the Provincial Government in its management, and that consequently it would no longer look to that source for aid. These impressions were derived from the doings of the Convention as recorded in the Minutes. They read thus—

"The Committee on Education appointed by the Convention, respectfully report . . . that the support and government of Acadia College should be separated from the Academy at Horton, and that Acadia College should be adopted, supported, and governed as the Collegiate institution of the Baptist denomination in the three Provinces, and be placed under