

SHAPE OF AFRICA.—"Africa," says the learned Arnold Guyot, "is the most singular in its form, of all the continents. Its mass, nearly round or ellipsoidal, is concentrated upon itself. It projects into the ocean no important peninsula, nor any, where lets into its bosom the waters of the ocean. It seems to close itself against every influence without. Thus the extension of the line of its coasts is only fourteen thousand geographical miles, of sixty to the degree, for a surface of eight millions seven hundred and twenty thousand square miles; so that Africa has only one mile of coast for six hundred and twenty-three miles of surface!"

But when we glance at the map of Europe, we perceive the very reverse to be true. "Of all the continents, Europe is the one whose forms of contour are most varied. Its principal mass is deeply cut in all parts, by the ocean, and by inland seas; and seems almost on the point of resolving itself into peninsulas." "The inland seas and the portions of the ocean which its outer limits enclose, form nearly half its surface. The line of its shores is thus carried to the extent of seventeen thousand two hundred miles, an enormous proportion, compared with its small size: for it is three thousand two hundred miles more than Africa, which is nevertheless three times greater! Europe enjoys one mile of coast for every one hundred and fifty-six square miles of surface. It is thus the continent most open to the sea for foreign connections, at the same time that it is the most individualized in local and independent districts."

TERMS OF THIS PAPER.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1852.

THE DAY OF PRAYER.—The inclemency of the weather probably interfered in many places with the public services of the first of January. In common with many others we had reckoned much upon the religious services of the day, but very few were able to meet with us. We have no doubt that many were impelled by strong emotion to seek the Lord in their retirement, and thus, though not together, many were praying in concert. Many of the Churches enjoyed a year of the right hand of the Lord the past year, and we hope to record much of the goodness of the Lord during the year upon which we have now entered. This is one of the chief privileges of our position, and goes somewhat to compensate the peculiar trials to which an Editor must ever be subject.

We have been laid under great obligations by the kindness of our friends during the past year. Our list of subscribers has nearly doubled, and the many kind and indulgent expressions of approval and encouragement have been very grateful to our feelings. We have great pleasure in wishing our many readers a happy New Year. May its opening mercies be continued to the end of it.

Rev. S. Elder declines accepting the call of the Germain Street Baptist Church in this City. Although we should have considered the acquisition a very valuable one to our number in this vicinity, we sincerely congratulate the Church at Fredericton on that strong mutual attachment, and the evidences of prosperity which forbids the separation from those of their beloved and faithful Pastor.

We heard some time since that Rev. Wm. Burton was about leaving Yarmouth, but as we had nothing definite about it, we did not publish the report. We saw by a letter from him this week that he did at that time conclude to leave, and arranged with his people to do so, but that afterwards the connection was renewed with the Church at Yarmouth.

We should have exceedingly regretted to lose Bro. Burton from the Provinces. We wish a half dozen excellent men like him could be induced to come from the States here. We

believe that number would find more to do here, and be happier in doing it, than is often the case there; and we believe such a number of judicious, faithful men, would find a competent support.

We are happy to announce the subscriptions and donations to Acadia College, secured by the application of Bro. Wallace, in his hasty journey to this City. We believe there is the discernment to appreciate educational advantages amongst all our people; and more than this, we believe our Ministers, limited as their means generally are, will be the first to lead in liberal endeavours to aid and endow our Institutions.

Will Bro. Francis be kind enough to mail us two or three copies of the Convention Minutes? We have been waiting in daily expectation of seeing a copy since we heard of their being despatched from Halifax. We do not hear that any have ever reached this Province, or at least this part of it, yet.

Brother Isaiah Wallace left this city for Saint Martins on Tuesday last; from thence he proceeds through Studholm, the Washademoack, and Jemseg, thence to Canning and Fredericton, and thence, if time allows, across to Charlotte County or up river to Woodstock and Brighton, &c.

We hope our friends and Local Agents will aid him in such places as he visits, and that subscribers will endeavour to be in readiness to pay what is due. We are now approaching the end of the 4th volume, and very much need all areas.

TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The best system of taxation we consider to be that which requires a School or Schools of a number and grade proportioned to the population to be sustained by a property tax, in every parish, for a definite time, every year; so that, residing where a person may, in any part of the Province, he may find a School for his children a part at least of every year.

Let this requirement be moderate, with the permission to every parish or district to extend the term at their pleasure, saying by their own vote in their district meetings each year what amount, if any, they choose to raise above what the law requires. Let every district or parish raise and appropriate by their own popular vote the School money, that they may know where it comes from, where it goes, what it effects, and that every person may be excited to secure to his children his part of what he has to pay for.

Subscribers in the City and vicinity will confer a great favor and save us expense and trouble, if they will call and pay their arrears. They may be left with Dea. John Smith, near the Country Market, or with Dea. N. S. Demill, or at the office of Garrison & Marsters, or with the publisher, at the Observer office.

We have received numerous orders this week for the Messengers, Gazettes, and Child's Paper. These will now be necessarily detained a week or two, as we had ordered what we supposed would be needed, and are thus short.

Launched from the Ship Yard of L. W. Eaton, Esq., Pugwash, this autumn, the following vessels:—Eudevilla, 110 tons; Sarah & Ann, 280; Judiana, 683; Battacola, 609; Longatteboo, 534; Anamofia, 594; Hawk, 120.—Total, 2,850 tons.

On Saturday, from the Yard of S. F. Buigbe, Esq., the ship Joseph Howe, 720 tons. By others at Pugwash, this season, 970 tons.

Received for the French Mission, per Mr. Isaiah Wallace: 5s. from A. S.; also 5s. from Mr. Wm. Robinson, both of Salisbury.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Mr. Hiram Freeze, with remittance; Mr. Joseph Blakeney, do.; Mr. Gillies Hayes, do.; Rev. Charles Randal, do.; Mr. John Ford, do.; Mr. J. H. Hughes, do.; Rev. Wm. Sears, do.; Rev. J. Newcombe, do.; Rev. S. Elder, do.; Mr. K. D. Fillmore, do.; Hon. R. D. Wilmot, do.; G. A. Hammond, Esq., do.; M. Young, Esq., do.

Mr. James Davidson, Mr. George Sulis, Mr. R. H. Emerson; Hon. J. McCully; Rev. D. Crandal.

The poet Montgomery is not dead. We thought so, and expressed ourselves doubtfully in our notice of the supposed event.—C. W. and R.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.—No. VII.

A great degree of prosperity in connection with our Domestic Missions would not only confer an unspeakable amount of benefit upon the Churches and also upon society in general, located within the bounds of their operation, but it would also be productive of a vast amount of good to those situated far away in foreign lands, as it would greatly facilitate that glorious enterprise, upon which the eternal emancipation of their undying spirits instrumentally depends. Who that has ever seriously reflected upon the value of one immortal spirit, destined as it is to an endless existence, can contemplate the awful fact, that more than two-thirds of the whole population of our world are yet strangers even to the principles of pure religion, without feeling deeply interested in that cause which is destined to unfurl the banner of the gospel to the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills. And the whole history in connection with the cause of Missions from the dawn of its existence until the present period is fraught with interest in all its bearings—and plainly demonstrates by the manner in which the cause has contended with and overcome principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places, that its birth-place was heaven, and that the energies of Omnipotence have sustained it. At one period we behold the sun of prosperity by the labors of a Judson, Price and others, rising above the moral horizon of the dark land, but ere his glorious rays had far pierced the thick darkness, he was commanded to stand still by the antagonistic voice of war. Yea, not only to stand still, but like the dial of Hezekiah to turn back ten degrees. But those dark clouds of adversity were soon blown off, and the afflicted Missionaries permitted again to witness the increasing prosperity of that cause for which they proved themselves perfectly willing to suffer the loss of all things. In short, a torch has been lighted in those dark domains that will never be extinguished until the conflagration of the last great day.

But notwithstanding so much has been done, for which we have much reason to adore God, yet the above statement in relation to the present condition of our world, fully proves that much, very much, remains to be accomplished. Now from all past experience we must conclude that the prosperity of millions in foreign lands depends upon our prosperity at home. Why, for instance, was this whole enterprise ever carried into operation? Was it not because those who engaged in it had themselves experienced the unparalleled blessings that flow from the glorious gospel. And it is a fact so obvious as to require no illustration, that the amount of interest taken by any Church, or people, in sending the word of life to any destitute country is in proportion to the interest that those people take in their own salvation. And herein we behold the sublime and heavenly influence of the gospel as distinguished from all other influences. Now, in applying the above considerations to the present subject, we conclude that if the Baptists of New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia ever expect to occupy any thing like a prominent position in sending life to the dead and salvation to the lost of those distant regions, they must first give the gospel to the thousands by whom they are surrounded that enjoy not its blessings. We do not say that we should abandon the foreign field, but we do say, that if we could bring our own destitute portions of the Provinces under the uniform influence of gospel truth, we would find their prayers, property, and united action, to render us much assistance in sending the gospel to the heathen. We are confident that there is sufficient wealth among our Baptists to do much more both for Domestic and Foreign Missions than we are doing at present; and would to God we could bring this wealth into active operation, but as it is not the case, we should endeavour not to undertake to do so much, or to do in such a manner as to defeat our own designs, but rather to expend what we can obtain in such a way as will accomplish the greatest amount of benefit. We hope that our Churches will take this subject into serious consideration, and remember that if a cloud of mercy is ever wafted upon the winds of love from us to that thirsty land, our own hills must first be well watered by the showers of salvation, and unless we experience the rays of the sun of righteousness we will be but an opaque body to that dark world.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

THE HORTON INSTITUTIONS.

DEAR SIR,—The half-yearly Examinations at the Horton Institutions have taken place this week, and I hasten to furnish an account of the proceedings.

The examination of the Students of Acadia College came off on Thursday, the 18th inst. I was not present all the time, but I am happy in being able to state that the results were eminently satisfactory, showing that both Professors and Students had worked hard during the Term, and to good purpose. The Examination comprised Moral Philosophy, Greek and Latin, (two classes in each,) Geometry, Algebra, Trigonometry, Rhetoric, and Hebrew. It occupied upwards of five hours.

The Academy pupils were examined on Friday morning. I was glad to see a good company present on the occasion. All seemed much pleased and interested. It is not necessary to particularise the various subjects brought before the meeting; but I must not omit to mention the promptitude and accuracy with which the questions were answered, in Arithmetic, Geography, History, and Natural Philosophy. There was also evidence of good drilling in Grammar. The pupils who are studying the Greek, Latin, and French languages acquitted themselves very satisfactorily. At the close of the proceedings several dialogues were recited, I may say performed, with vigour and effect. Mr. Hart, and his Assistant, Mr. H. Johnston, were warmly and deservedly congratulated by their friends.

On Friday evening the Academy Hall was well filled, on occasion of the "Rhetorical Exhibition" by the Students of the College. The exercises commenced shortly after seven o'clock, and closed at ten. Original Essays were recited by six Students, in the following order:—

ANTHONY PHALEN—*The Excitatives and Power of Knowledge*;

THOMAS HIGGINS—*Harmonies of Nature*;

HENRY KING—*The Two Wizards of the Age*, (Steam and Electricity);

BENJAMIN RAND—*The Franklin Expedition*;

DAVID MCKEEN—*Nineveh*;

PATRICK SHIELLS—*The God of Providence the God of Missions*.

As compositions, the Essays were highly creditable to the writers. They were characterised by close thought, correct judgment, and appropriate feeling, and were well delivered.

There was excellent singing, by a Choir consisting partly of Students and partly of friends in the neighbourhood. "The Might with the Right," and "The Isles of the South," were sung in splendid style.

The President briefly addressed the audience, and spoke in terms of high commendation of the attention and industry of the Students during the Term. He then concluded with prayer.

Some of the friends of the College, I understand, are beginning to discuss the desirability of securing an endowment, and thereby obtaining an additional Professor or two. I think they are right. All Colleges should be endowed. More on this subject next week.

Yours truly,

AMICUS.

Wolfville, Dec. 23, 1851.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

ACADIA COLLEGE.

To the Members of the Churches and Congregations represented in the Baptist Convention of N. S., N. B., and P. E. I.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Appointed your Committee of Finance at your late meeting at Wolfville, and having received a report from your Financial Agent, it becomes our duty from this our first quarterly meeting to address you on the subject of the support of Acadia College.

There is no necessity that we should preface our remarks with any long detail of the rise and progress of that Institution. With its prosperity and adversity, its changes and present arrangements we presume you are sufficiently acquainted.

After the late honorable struggle to reduce the debt, we need not say that we should judge ourselves guilty, if we allowed, without advising you thereof, its current expenses to accumulate and thereby reburden its funds.—Nor do we deem it inconsistent with the trust confided to us, if we remind you of our expectations when we accepted the situation of