

TERMS OF THIS PAPER.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1852.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEMINARY AT FREDERICTON.

The Annual Report of the Seminary at Fredericton, affords gratifying intelligence in respect to the progress of that valued Institution. It was established in the year 1836, and for a time flourished under its original founder and first Principal, the Rev. F. W. Miles, of precious memory. Ill health compelled him to resign his charge, since which it has passed through several changes, and has had to labour under heavy embarrassments of a pecuniary character. So weighty have money engagements pressed upon the Committee, at different times, that nothing but the most determined perseverance on their part preserved the Institution from ruin. The Denomination is largely indebted to those valued Brethren, who so nobly bore the burden and heat of the day. We have had an opportunity of knowing the personal sacrifices which these tried friends of the cause made to meet urgent demands against an empty treasury. To their praise be it spoken, they fainted not in the season of adversity.

When the present worthy Principal entered upon the duties of his office, the prospects for success were by no means flattering; and for some time he had to contend with many discouragements; but it must be peculiarly cheering to him, as well as to all true friends of the cause, to observe the marked improvement which has taken place under his judicious administration. The ability with which the teaching department has been conducted, and the sound, practical judgment evinced in the guidance of its financial concerns, have inspired the Denomination with renewed confidence. This is demonstrated by the increase of pupils, and by the gradual diminution of the debt. If a small sum can be devoted annually to the liquidation of the debt, it will be a step in the right direction, and will ultimately wipe off the whole amount.

We believe the Committee is right in saying "that a disposition extensively prevails to make a united effort to clear off the debt." It is truly delightful to know that such a feeling exists, and the fact that our brethren in charge do not take advantage of it to remove this incumbrance, in consequence of the pressing necessities of Acadia College, elucidates most clearly the enlightened and generous principles, by which they are actuated. We are fully assured that the prosperity of the College will be in a ratio with the success of our Seminaries. If the latter are left to languish for the want of support, the former must wither as a matter of course. Primary and Grammar Schools, Academies, and Colleges, are all indispensable to a complete system of education; and all must be sustained. If we would educate the country, we must therefore keep in view the support of the Institution at Fredericton. But we perfectly agree with the Committee in the opinion, that no effort should be made at present, that would interfere with the ENDOWMENT OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

This matter is fairly before the Denomination in the three Provinces, and nothing short of the united action of the entire body can effect the object.

The Baptists have pledged themselves to the cause of Education. Whatever may have been said in former days detrimental to their character in this respect, no men will have the moral hardihood now to rise up and say, that the Baptists of these Provinces are not interested in the education of their country. Their Institutions of learning and the sacrifices which they have made to sustain them, constitute a safeguard against all such aspersions. But if we would complete what has been so nobly commenced, we must go forward with united and determined energy, and act wisely by attending first to the claims of that department, which may present the most urgent demands. Hence the first thing to be done, as our brethren in Fredericton intimate, is to ENDOW ACADIA COLLEGE, and as they forcibly remark, "place it on a footing of permanent security." Having done this, we

have no fears for the safety of our Academies. We shall feel more deeply than ever that they must be sustained, that the progress of education in the country, and the life of the College will alike demand it.

ORDINATION AT MAUGERVILLE.

In accordance with a previous appointment, a Council of Ministers met with the Baptist Church at Maugerville, on Wednesday last, to take into consideration the propriety of ordaining Brother R. H. EMMERSON to the Pastorate of that Church. The following Brethren were present:—

- Elder Charles Spurden, of Fredericton, Benjamin Scott, late of P. E. Island, Merritt Keith, of Canning, I. E. Bill, St. John, G. F. Miles, of St. George, and Brother J. H. Hughes.

The Meeting was called to order by appointing Brother Bill, Chairman, and Brother Miles, Scribe. The usual examination of the candidate took place, which was highly satisfactory, and after united prayer, and due deliberation, the Council unanimously resolved to recommend the ordination of our valued Brother.

A large and respectable congregation assembled at the Baptist Chapel to witness the services, which were conducted in the following order:—

After singing, Brother Hughes read the Scriptures.

Prayer by Brother Magee.

An appropriate Sermon, by Brother Spurden, from the 2nd chapter of the Epistle to the Colossians and 3rd verse.

The candidate was then called upon to give a relation of his Christian experience and call to the Ministry.

Questions to the candidate, by Brother Miles.

Ordaining prayer, by Brother Keith.

Charge to the candidate, by Brother Bill.

Charge to the Church, by Brother Scott.

Address to the congregation, by Brother Bill.

Concluding prayer by the candidate.

The whole service was characterized by entire unanimity of sentiment and feeling; and by marked solemnity. It was a season of peculiar interest to ministers and people.

We congratulate the Church at Maugerville, in being able to secure the services of our beloved Brother Emmerson, and we are happy to learn that suitable arrangements are made for his support. Maugerville, and its vicinity, present a most inviting field for ministerial labour; and we trust our young brother will cultivate it diligently and faithfully. The people are strongly attached to him, and fully appreciate his labours. He is attached to them, and is earnestly engaged for their spiritual and eternal welfare. Such being the case we have reason to hope that mutual advantage will result from the union now established between the youthful pastor and his flock. May our brother be greatly encouraged by seeing willing converts around the gates of Zion, and the Church walking together in the fear of God, and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Doctor Maclay, of New York, whose name is endeared to the people of these Provinces, is now in this City, as the Agent of the "Bible Union." He preached on last Sabbath morning for the Church in Portland, and in the evening in Brussels street. His sermons afforded a rich feast to those who admire a lucid exhibition of Bible Christianity.

The Doctor has been exposed to imminent danger since he last visited us; but he has been mercifully preserved to address to us once more the message of God. It is a solemn thought, that we are probably hearing this message from his lips for the last time. May we hear to the saving of our souls; and when the day of final reckoning comes, may many stars from this land appear in his crown of glory.

THE REV. DR. ACHILI HAS BEEN HONORABLY ACQUITTED.—The London Christian Times says that the acquittal of Dr. Achili has called forth from his enemies some sore and bitter animadversions. We understand, however, that the Dr. met a few of his leading friends last week, when it was given as their unanimous opinion, that the best way of vindicating himself before the Church and the world, far better than any platform speeches or pamphlets in his favour, was for him to commence at once to preach the Word of God.

God to the Italians in London. The Dr. commenced his services on Sunday morning, July 4th, at No 91, Saville Row.

We hope and expect that this remarkable man will live down all the wicked attacks made upon him by his enemies, and that the recent attempt to crush him will "turn out rather for the furtherance of the Gospel," disposing many to hear him, who would not otherwise have done so; and qualifying him the better to preach it, from the painful and trying process through which he has passed. TRUTH IS GREAT AND MUST PREVAIL.

The Memoir of the late Rev. SAMUEL ELDER will appear in our next number.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—From D Crandall, with remittance; B. Churchill, do.; Samuel Hayden, do. Elisha Shaw, Sylvanus Miner.

Correspondence.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the Churches, comprising the Western New-Brunswick Baptist Association.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In selecting a subject for your consideration, and upon which to address you in this Annual Epistle, we have thought proper to lead your minds to the importance of daily and prayerfully searching the Scriptures. This is an express command of the Lord Jesus, and as such, is fraught with solemn importance, as it develops the true character of the only living and true God, so far as it hath been his pleasure to reveal it, and contains a vivid revelation of his mind and will concerning us; in both, of which it is very important that our minds should be well instructed, without which we shall not be likely to glorify God, nor prove that blessing to the world which we should; neither can we attain to that very desirable stage in the heavenly science without a cheerful response to the injunction, "Search the Scriptures."

It is written "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," of all which we need to possess a competent knowledge, in order that we may shine as lights in the world. The sword of the spirit is quick and powerful, able to make wise unto salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

The law of the Lord, perfect; the testimony of the Lord, sure; the statutes of the Lord, right; the commandment of the Lord, pure; the fear of the Lord, clean; the judgments of the Lord, true; recommending itself by the most endearing epithets, and upon the most inviting terms to every human ear, saying counsel is mine, and sound wisdom, I am understanding; I have strength; riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. Now therefore hearken unto it, O children, for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise and refuse it not, for "Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gate, waiting at the posts of my doors." "For whom findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord." The Apostle Peter informs us that we have in the Scripture "a more sure word of prophesy whereunto we do well to take heed, as unto a light shining in a dark place, and that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation, for it came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." It is a light to our feet, a lamp to our path, a guide to our youth, a staff to our age. A modern writer upon the excellency of the Scriptures says that whether in a national, domestic, or personal point of view, Bible Rule is the most effective, the most enduring, the most beneficent, and the most economical,—it is effective, because it rules the heart, enduring, for it promotes love and charity; the best preventive of internal dissensions, and surest bond of union, against exterior aggression; beneficent, for it ensures the profit, both of this world; and of that which is to come, fitting men for the purest happiness in either, when accompanied by the powerful influence of the Spirit of God; for we are fully persuaded that no Christian can possess health of soul, but be growing in grace,

or in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, without being daily conversant with, and possessing a fervent love for the Scriptures; indeed every Christian mind ought to be deeply imbued with a competent conception of the word of life, in the possession of which he will arrive at that desirable stage of Christian experience, to be steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that his labour is not in vain in the Lord. Our glorious Head, by way of shewing the necessity of our taking the Scriptures for our infallible guide, while preaching the gospel, often said, "Thus it is written." Daniel referred to what was noted in the Scriptures of truth. The Apostle Paul, that bold assertor of Jehovah's honor, often said "What saith the Scripture?" Seeing therefore that we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, I would ask, is it not of equal importance that we do imitate those who now through faith and patience inherit the promises? The Holy Scriptures is the glorious medium through which God's people are sanctified. "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth," said the blessed Jesus to his heavenly Father just before he died. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." "If any man hear not my word, I judge him not, but the word that I speak shall judge him at the last day." If our religion, our doctrine, our practice, our objects, or our aims, falls short of compatibility with the Scriptures, we must reasonably expect to suffer loss at the last day.

When Jesus opens the understanding of his people to understand the Scriptures, we are led to exclaim in the language of the disciples, with excited spirits and captivated souls, "did not our hearts burn within us," while we gaze with astonishment and pleasing delight upon the finished work of our glorious and ascended Lord, shining in every page, his glorious precepts and counsels in every chapter, his examples in every paragraph, and his love in every line, and whispers in immortal strains, children follow on, because I live, you shall live also. I say then, "Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they that testify of me."

Dear Brethren,—In reflecting upon the soul-stirring and heart-thrilling appeals which have hitherto been made from pulpit, press, and platform, in our annual circulars, and otherwise, relative to the importance of entire devotedness to God; or of zeal and activity in the cause of God, yet it still appears needful to suffer the word of exhortation. Let us look around and we behold in every direction at home and abroad inviting fields of Christian enterprise presented before us; the fields all white and ready to harvest, and a voice whispering in the ears of the messengers of salvation, enter ye into the harvest, with the solemn weight of "woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel," and who for a moment can reflect upon the state of the perishing millions destined to the judgment-seat, in possession of immortal spirits, who in point of duration, must endure an eternity of inexpressible woe, co-eval with the existence of Deity, except they be converted and made new creatures, and not feel bowels of compassion roll for their salvation.

Dear Brethren,—Let us do, and do now, what we can, and not leave what can be done to-day to a later period, for we who compose the present generation will soon be gone, and there is no device nor work to be done in the grave. We are differently circumstanced, and our resources are more ample, than they were in the days of the Apostles, yet they laboured indefatigably, and did what they could, and we read with delight the success that attended their doings,—let us imitate their example and go and do likewise. The obedience of our glorious head was spotless,—ours ought to be as near it as possible.

"Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich." He drank the gall to give us wine to quench our parching thirst, even the salvation of our souls, is his gift, his sovereign claims upon us are reasonable, equitable, and just. The gold and silver are his, and the cattle upon a thousand hills; we are but stewards, and what we possess belongs to him, and it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful, and there is none who can with propriety say we can do nothing, and we pity such who feel disposed to say we will do nothing. We can all do something, and in order to carry out this great work even the feeblest members of the body are necessary, and the equitable it is