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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1852.

SCHOOL TAX.

In Maine the law requires an assessment of taxes to the amount of 2s. to each inhabitant, to be raised for the support of common Schools. The town of Biddeford, a flourishing manufacturing town, west of Portland, formerly a part of Saco, and containing a population of 6,000, appropriated at its late meeting £1,625, equal to 5s. 3d. on each inhabitant, and takes the highest rank in the State in this respect.

We would call particular attention to this, because it appears:

1. That in every place where the advantages of common Schools are well known, people are not only willing to be taxed for their support, but to go beyond the requirements of the law and tax themselves double the amount which the law requires.

2. That the excellent common Schools of Maine, opening their doors to all the children of the State between 4 and 16 years of age are sustained in their present efficient state at an average cost of between 2s. and 5s. per inhabitant, managed as they are under the supervision of Committees chosen by the several towns where the money is raised, and accountable only to those who raise and pay it.

3. That poor as our Schools are in this Province, few and limited as are the facilities generally, not only in the country, but also in the larger towns, *these Schools cost more, and the people are taxed more to pay the annual appropriations of the Legislature for Schools and Teachers than in Maine;* and one consideration more, not unworthy of attention, the poor man here pays generally as much of this tax as the rich man, while the latter gets double the advantage, not only schooling his children but making his property secure and doubling its value.

4. What is wanted in this Province is not more expense but a better system. The late law not only does not amend but it does not touch this difficulty.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION.—The close of the financial year of this body is the end of March. Owing to the withholding of contributions by the greater part of the Churches, great solicitude has been felt that the contributions of the present year would fall seriously behind its expenses. It was ascertained at the end of February that to raise such an amount from this source as was raised the year preceding, it would be necessary that \$44,673.56, should be raised in March. Could this be done? Many who knew it might be done if there was a will, were distressed by an apprehension, that it would not be done, and that the debt of the Board would be increased.

The friends of Missions, however, are made to rejoice by the announcement that during March the legacies and contributions were \$47,709.90—or \$3,136.34 more than the preceding year, while of this amount the legacies have been less than last year by \$1,410.32, showing an increase of contributions from the living of \$4,646.04. The expenses of the Board for the year are about \$125,000, all of which it is now confidently expected will be covered by the income.

We are happy to learn from Zion's Advocate, from which we gather the above, that Maine contributed nearly \$800 more the past year than the preceding one, making up during the year the generous sum of \$5,500.

The Foreign Missionary Board of our own Convention met at Wolfville last week, we hope to publish its doings in our next paper. We lament that while Baptists abroad are doing so much, and are receiving such interesting reports of success from the heathen world we are doing so little. We hope it will be the decision of our Board, while at best we can raise so little, and while we have so much regard for the field occupied by the American Baptist Board, and so much respect for their Missionaries, and unanimity with them both in sentiment and action, to save all expense of a separate machinery, and cast in what we

can raise to aid the latter Board in its noble endeavors.

Let our readers inspect carefully the letters of Mr. Kincaid, and knowing what imputations at such a juncture will be cast upon the British Government by those who envy her her ever-increasing wealth and power, say how valuable is the testimony of this Missionary to the abominable impositions practised upon British subjects, and the great aggravations which have made it necessary that hostilities should be commenced against Burmah.

What conceivable thing is wanting to commend such a missionary to the confidence and esteem of our churches. Indeed who has ever known an act or seen a word on the part of any of the excellent Missionaries of the American Board in British India or Burmah or Siam disparaging to the authority under whose protection they have been enabled to prosecute their labours. British officers and residents in India have ever been their fast friends and liberal supporters, won by their zeal, their faithful labors and abundant success.

PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.—An interesting revival of religion is reported as in progress at Oglethorpe University, in Georgia, as the result of the day of prayer. Whilst engaged on the evening of that day in the exercises of a prayer-meeting, it is said an extraordinary influence descended upon all present, and professors and non-professors were melted into tears.

Since that time a daily prayer-meeting has been held, and some twenty students have experienced a hope of being brought from darkness to light. Others are under deep conviction, and almost daily some new convert is found rejoicing in hope.

The public religious exercises of the last Thursday in February, for which the ordinary studies of the students had been suspended, passed off with nothing remarkable in them beyond a respectful attention on the part of the students. But when the pious students who had called a special prayer-meeting at night in one of the recitation rooms, had collected a number with them, and were engaged in prayer—the work commenced.

This is another precious illustration worthy of record that Jehovah is a prayer hearing God.

REJECTION OF NEAL DOW, ESQUIRE, AS MAYOR OF PORTLAND, ME.—Many Editors affect to be surprised that Neal Dow, Esq., has been rejected by the voters in Portland, and that another man has been elected in his stead. Some attempt to infer and teach from this fact the unpopularity and want of success of the Liquor Law in Maine. Intelligent men know better than this. They know that in such places as Portland, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, where a great amount of capital is invested in the manufacture and sale of Spirits, money and commercial considerations ride over all questions of morality. The chief and about entire opposition to the Bill in Massachusetts, is from Boston with its 1500 groggeries. When the Vote was taken in the Senate of Massachusetts, out of the 9 votes against the Bill, 6 were Boston votes. In New York and Pennsylvania attempts have been made in both Legislatures to exempt their great cities New York and Philadelphia from the operation of the law if it should be adopted?

It is nothing more therefore than might have been expected that Mr. Dow is rejected. Indeed the wonder is that while the Rum party rallied so zealously, and brought 1990 votes to their Candidate, Mr. Dow's friends cast 1496 votes, being 165 more votes than were cast for him when he was elected.

Those who exult now over his rejection as Mayor of Portland had better wait a little, for, if we do not greatly mistake the character of the temperance hosts in Maine, NEAL DOW will be elected by the popular vote of Maine as the Governor of the State.

The seat of Government is in readiness for such a Governor, as will be seen by a note in another part of this paper, the Jail of Augusta, the Capital, under the operation of Mr. Dow's law is now for the first time since its erection EMPTY. Let the two go together. Neal Dow is putting a stop to crimes, and making Jails unnecessary, and relieving the community of their taxes, and the Rum Party of Portland have taken revenge.

We learn with pleasure that the favorable state of religious feeling at Canning, which we reported several weeks since, continues, and that Rev. M. Keith baptized three on Sabbath, 21st March.

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

Another outrage upon the moral sense of the community was perpetrated in New York city, a week ago, under this law. A man was stripped from his wife and children and hurried away into slavery, with the most criminal disregard even of the scanty forms of defence, which protect the rights of coloured men. The editor of the N. Y. Recorder thus alludes to it:

"While walking in the streets of New York the other day with a friend, we met a most respectable lawyer, who said to us, 'they've got another poor fellow in the Tombs as a fugitive. I've been there to see if he wanted friends, money, or counsel, but I can't get admittance to him.' We talk about Cuban cruelty, and Neapolitan cruelty, when counsel and fair legal proceedings are denied, and we wax mighty eloquent about the oppression of tyrants,—but what tyranny in Cuba or Naples, was ever more outrageous, or half so mean? The union saved by denying a poor coloured man 'friends, money, or counsel!' Out upon all such pretences. A good tree yields no such fruit as this. One such instance justifies the hostility to this law which has shaken the land, and which will once again shake it, as certainly as God's justice reigns. The poor fellow obtained friends and counsel afterwards, we suppose, for we have since seen the notice of a case where Mr. Jay and Mr. Culver were counsel."

A few minutes of the examination we gather from other sources:—

"Mr. Busted, the counsel for the claimant, was examined by Mr. Jay, counsel for the slave, as to the authority by which he acted as attorney."

[The telegraph to the Traveller states that while Mr. Busted was undergoing a cross-examination, he stepped from the stand towards Mr. Jay, and struck him a violent blow in the face; others interfered, and the parties were separated amidst the utmost confusion.]

In the hurry of mailing the parcels of Messengers, Child's Papers, and Youth's Gazette the past week, we find that we probably sent two parcels, in one or two cases, where but one should have been sent, or in some of the larger parcels more than the proper number were sent. Where this has been the case we hope such papers will be re-mailed to us immediately, as delay will put us to inconvenience.

Friends corresponding with bro. Peter Knight, the Missionary to the French, will please direct their letters to him at Dorchester, where he resides at present. Letters have been usually sent to Moncton, and for some months past they have been thereby greatly delayed.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Mr. James Ayer, with remittance; Mr. J. H. Hughes, do.; Rev. C. Spurden, do.; Mr. C. H. Corey, do.; Rev. A. Mutch, do.; Mr. C. Burnet do.; Rev. Wm. Harris, do.; Rev. J. Francis, do.; Rev. E. Keirstead, do.; Rev. D. Crandal, do.; Mr. John Guion, do.; G. A. Hammond, Esq., do. Mr. Robert Keith, Rev. W. D. Fitch, Rev. M. Keith, Rev. S. T. Rand, Mr. J. C. Everett.

Correspondence

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

The following is an extract from a letter which reached St. John, too late for insertion last week, as our paper was struck off earlier than usual, to give the office the benefit of Good Friday.

DEAR BROTHER,—I would have gone to Wolfville and attended the Endowment Meeting had it been practicable. But the navigation was not open, and the distance by land was nearly two hundred miles, I have no doubt but that similar inconvenience affected others, who would have been glad to have been present. I am glad that such obstacles will not exist to prevent a full representation of the Churches, &c., in Convention, to be held at Sackville this year, when it is hoped our Educational Institutions will be established on a firm basis for ever.

The people of Sackville have room and means enough to entertain a full representation of the Churches and Societies of the three Provinces in connexion, and as it is well known that their hearts are equal in dimensions to their means, it is expected the Convention will present the greatest demonstration of our denominational strength ever witnessed in British North America. Behold how good and how pleasant it will be to see

such a vast number of brethren meeting together in union and holy concord with hearts filled with love to God, and pockets well furnished to contribute to the furthering of his glorious cause. I pray God that every Church may have the blessedness of sharing in the labour and the honour of extending our glorious Redeemer's empire on earth—in saving souls from death—in bringing a revenue of praise and glory to God.

I hope that every Church will be prepared to take a scholarship or part of one at the Convention, if it will not have been done before. Our God who is the infallible patron of every good institution can accomplish his purposes without our aid of our instrumentality, but if we were to allow Him to do so, the only channel through which his blessings flows to us would be broken up, and leave us miserable and wretched indeed. "Take not thy holy spirit from me," the spirit of love to God and man—the graces of the holy spirit, self-denial, benevolence, &c. "But restore unto me the joys of thy salvation."

Yours, &c.,
April 5th, 1852. JOHN FRANCIS.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Amherst, April 10, 1852.

DEAR BROTHER,—I fully expected to have visited the City the first of last month, but have been unexpectedly detained here and at Sackville, at which latter place the word of God is producing powerful effects, twenty-three were received for baptism yesterday, and it is very probable that the number was increased at the weekly conference held this afternoon.

Our esteemed brother Rowe came to our help this day and kindly relieved me to attend to my duties here; brother Parker assisted at the baptism last Sabbath, and has engaged to assist again to-morrow, although an interesting series of meetings is now in progress at Point de Bute and Mount Whalley, where he resides. Brother McPhail is still with us, laboring with much acceptance; brother William A. Coleman has been invited to accept the pastoral care of the second Church, which I hope he will not decline, as I firmly believe it will be for the glory of God for him to comply with their request. The first Church is moving well, and will soon have a Pastor also; the union and concord that prevails between the Churches is of the most heart-cheering character. We hold two or three meetings each day, and yet we are unable to meet the pressing claims made upon us from different sections. The Amherst Church kindly allowed their Pastor to assist in the work of God there from week to week, (the Sabbath forenoon excepted,) and the travelling continuing good enabled him to supply his own pulpit on some Sabbaths in the forenoon and Sackville in the afternoon and evenings—thus the revival which commenced when brethren Miles and Seelye were there, through the assistance of the brethren already named, and the co-operation of the churches has continued, and the blessing of God realized. May the Lord continue to send out his light and his truth until this whole land and the whole earth be filled with His glory.—Amen and Amen. Ever yours in Christ.

JOHN FRANCIS.
Rev. E. D. Very.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Petitcodiac, April 7, 1852.

DEAR BROTHER VERY,—Having had occasion to visit my family at the Grand Lake, I did so, and was on my way back through the Valley. I came to brother Elder Titus Stone's last Thursday evening, where on Friday morning I had the pleasure of meeting brother Elder Newcombe, I am happy to say, busily engaged in his Great Master's work. He with the friends there pressed me to remain with them until Monday morning, and I am thankful I did so; it was pleasing to see the meetings so numerous and zealously attended. I believe our dear brother has been the means of making many hearts rejoice. Some had come forward as candidates for baptism, while others who had backslidden have returned with weeping and lamentation over their past rebellion and coldness, and seek reconciliation with God and their fellow Christians. It was indeed a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; meetings on Friday morning and evening, the same on Saturday; the Conference was well attended, and the Church came forward and renewed their covenant, and on Sabbath morning two members were received.