

TERMS OF THIS PAPER.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1852.

We feel unfeigned pleasure in commencing the publication of the Memoirs of our lamented Brother, the Rev. SAMUEL ELDER, whose praise is in all the Churches. The Biography is written by his particular friend and associate, the Rev. CHARLES SPURDEN, Principal of the Baptist Seminary, Fredericton. Mr. Spurden's personal acquaintance with our brother departed, and his intimate connexion with him in Christian and Ministerial duties, admirably qualify him to do ample justice to the truly Christian character, brilliant talents, and useful labours of this eminent servant of God, now in heaven.

Having experienced unmingled satisfaction in reading the portions of manuscript already sent us, we most heartily commend it to the careful perusal of our readers, feeling assured that it will afford them an intellectual and spiritual repast.

The Memoir will be continued in succeeding numbers until the whole is published.

The health of our venerable Brother, Dr. Maclay, enabled him without much fatigue, to preach three times on Sabbath last. In the morning for the Church in Portland, in the afternoon on board the brig Australia, and in the evening in Germain-street. These services were all deeply interesting, the one on ship-board peculiarly so. The weather was very favourable, and a large and highly respectable audience assembled. Seats were provided for as many as could get upon the deck of the vessel; but hundreds had to stand upon the wharf. The Minister read as his text, that interesting passage by the Apostle, "whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." After a short introduction, he proceeded to deduce from his text, the following propositions:—

- 1st. The theme of Apostolic preaching—CHRIST.
2d. Its manner, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom.
3d. Its object, That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

These propositions were illustrated in such a style of evangelical simplicity, as to deeply interest his hearers. He was listened to throughout with undivided attention.

The Sermon was followed by addresses from other Ministering brethren who were present, and who manifested a deep concern for those so soon to leave their native land. We trust the words of exhortation uttered on the occasion will not soon be forgotten.

The Doctor has left to spend a few days in visiting the Churches, between this and Fredericton. He will return, D. V., in time to preach in Brussels Street on Wednesday evening, and in Germain Street, on Thursday evening. After which he intends leaving for Nova-Scotia, intending to preach at Bridgetown, on the Sabbath following.

He has already obtained in this City, two life Directors for the "Bible Union," of \$100 each; and fourteen life members of \$30 each. This is as much as he could reasonably anticipate. May he long live, to advocate the claims of the Bible, and to glorify "THE GOD OF THE BIBLE."

In our notice of the Ordination Services of last week, by some mistake, the part taken by our esteemed Brother Magee, of Nashwaak, was omitted, and we did not observe it until it was too late for correction. Brother Magee rendered valuable aid in Council, and gave the right hand of fellowship, to the Candidate. He being the former Pastor of the Church, was very properly called upon to perform this duty, which he did in a manner exceedingly impressive and appropriate.

We were much pleased to meet Brother Mutch, at Maugerville; and to find him actively and successfully engaged in prosecuting the Colporteur enterprise. Our Brother is

doing a work which is noiselessly, but powerfully impressing the minds of the masses. The books which he circulates contain not the light, frothy, corrupt literature of the day, but the standard works of the Church of God, the production of wise and holy men. We trust our faithful brother will be encouraged in his arduous labours.

We call especial attention to the Rev. Dr. Cramp's letter.

MEMORABLE ACCIDENT.—A house was burned at Sackville last week, belonging to Mr. Charles Bulmer. His daughter and two grand children perished in the flames. I. W.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Asa Dow, Esq., with remittance. Bro. Wallace sends this week the names of 17 new subscribers, with £9 arrears; do. do. with £8 15s. and 17 new subscribers.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

THE DEPARTED.

DEAR BRETHREN,—It is probably expected that a Memoir of our lamented Brother, Professor CHIPMAN, will be presented to the public. Such an expectation is altogether reasonable. An account of his life and labours must be deeply interesting to every member of the Baptist Denomination in these Provinces.

Brother William Chipman has requested me to undertake this service, and has placed in my hands a large collection of documents, the accumulations of the last twelve years. The examination of these papers will occupy considerable time, and much delay will be unavoidably occasioned in consequence of my absence from home on Endowment business. I mention this, lest any of our friends should think that the publication is unnecessarily deferred. I take this opportunity also to request that those brethren who may have in their possession letters written by our departed brother will favour me with the loan of them, or copy them for me, that extracts may be taken, if deemed desirable.

I am informed that some of the friends of the dear young men who lost their lives on that fatal day, intend to prepare biographical records for publication. This is well. Had it not been for incessant occupation and almost constant travelling, I should have attempted something of the kind—but it has been impracticable. It may be proper, however, to ask you to insert in your columns the substance of a statement which formed part of the funeral sermon preached here on the 7th ult. It is as follows:—

BENJAMIN RAND was ever diligent in his studies, well-prepared, ready, and accurate in recitation. I do not recollect having had any occasion to find fault with him. His intellectual qualifications were rather solid than brilliant; his attainments were of a truly respectable order. Had his life been spared, he would have been distinguished by plodding perseverance and successful effort. He was the subject of religious impressions at the early age of nine years, but did not join the Church (the first Cornwallis Church) till the Spring of 1847. He had devoted himself to the christian ministry, but had not begun to preach. He "did well that it was in his heart." He was 24 years of age when he died.

ANTHONY E. PHALEN, aged 26 at his death, was a member of the Church at Rawdon. He was an excellent student—industrious, addicted to close inquiry, influenced by high aspirations. Those who knew him best indulged the confident hope, judging from his ardour and firmness of determination, that he would fill some important post in society. His christian profession was well sustained. During the last winter I frequently listened to him with great pleasure when taking part in the weekly prayer-meeting; I should have been still more interested, had I known that he was cherishing a desire for the ministry. That desire was intimated to one of his fellow-students a day or two before his death. Though the Lord did not permit it to be fulfilled, it was doubtless acceptable in his sight.

WILLIAM HENRY KING was the youngest of our number, not having completed his 17th year. His attention to study was uniformly praiseworthy, and his acquirements were in some respects beyond his years. In the legal profession for which he was intended, he would have occupied, in all likelihood, a prominent place.

He was baptized at the age of 12: The liveliness of his temperament; and his tendency to the sportive, exposed him, as is usual in such cases, to temptation, and perhaps led some to misconceive his character; but it is gratifying to learn that his conversation and correspondence during the last few months of his life indicated a renewal of spiritual strength, and habitual experience of the value and power of religion. His letters home, written in the confidence of affection, denoted pious simplicity and earnestness, and deep concern for others, which surviving relatives will not fail to reflect on with grateful satisfaction.

WILLIAM E. GRANT was "strong in the Lord"—a consistent, spiritually-minded christian. As a student, he was unexceptionable in all respects, and greatly improving. Fond hopes were entertained of his future usefulness in the Church; for his love to the word of God, his known devotional habits, and his readiness to every good work, together with his general acceptableness as a preacher of the gospel, were encouraging tokens, leading us to anticipate a career of no ordinary interest. It has pleased God to crush those hopes, and it is our duty to "be still."

Our young friend would not leave the house on that sad morning till he had read the customary portion from his New Testament. The precious volume was found on his person, and will be preserved as a memorial of the owner.

His last letter was addressed to one of his fellow-students, and was written two days before his death. Though a brief and hurried composition, it contained affectionate exhortations to a religious life, and proved the writer's dying testimony for Christ.

They have entered into rest. Who will come forward, and be "baptized for the dead?" May an abundant effusion of the spirit be granted to the Churches! And may many young men, obedient to the call of God, repair to our Institution, realise in their own experience the union of learning and piety, and become, by the divine blessing, the lights of the age. Yours, truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, July 31, 1852.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

BAPTIST SEMINARY, FREDERIC-TON.

MR. EDITOR,—I was pleased to learn from the Rev. C. Spurden, Principal of the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton, that that Institution has recently undergone considerable repair, tending to further the accommodation and comfort of the students placed under his care.

From the same source I have since learned that such arrangements have been made in connection with the Boarding Department as must give entire satisfaction to the parties concerned.

Feeling a deep interest in the prosperity of the above Seminary, I trust your readers will pardon me for urging upon our brethren and friends in this province, the importance of liberally sustaining it.

The Report of the Baptist Education Society, read at the Association, lately held at Sackville, is highly encouraging, as it shows an increase in the number of students, and a diminution of the debt. These facts should inspire its friends with renewed interest in its welfare.

As it is the only Institution of the kind belonging to the Baptist Denomination in the whole Province, and as none can doubt its efficiency while under the supervision of its present worthy Principal, we might reasonably expect to see young men from every section of the Province availing themselves of its advantages. The writer looks back with emotions of pleasure and gratitude upon the year he spent under the instruction of Mr. Spurden, and feels called upon heartily to recommend the Seminary at Fredericton to all our young men, who feel desirous of extending their education.

We hope our friends may remember that they will have no need of Acadia College unless their Seminary is resorted to in order to prepare for Collegiate instruction, and as the importance of a liberal education, in these times, must be evident to all, we trust that the next Term, which will shortly commence, may be opened with an increased number of students.

The statements made at the commencement of these remarks are designed to remove

certain impressions some may have in reference to the state of the Building, &c.

We presume that the present arrangements will give every satisfaction.

Yours truly, I. W.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

MEN OF GENIUS—THEIR INDEPENDENCE OF CHARACTER.

He who has carefully read the Memoirs of men of genius, will not only admire the works of art which they have left as evidences of their superior skill, but he will also regard with admiration the ennobling characteristics which possessed by many of the sons of genius, tend to elevate them in the estimation of all who admire loftiness of character.

One peculiar and interesting trait of genius is independence of character. This is in fact the very quintessence of genius. It is this which leads the great artist to despise servile imitation and to stamp upon his works a living, distinct individuality.

This it was that induced Cimabue and his pupil Giotto, the world renowned Florentine painters,—emphatically the "fathers of modern painting," to throw aside the rules and stiff formalities of the previous schools of painters. They shaped out for themselves new rules, and sought to copy nature rather than to imitate the works of others. It was their fortune to establish in Italy that school of art, the works of whose masters are still studied as models.

This independence of character, which shows itself in a supreme contempt for anything that bears the semblance of servility, was frequently exhibited by such men as Galileo, Michael Angelo, and Milton.

GALILEO, in reply to the charges of heresy which the envious Jesuits were preferring against him at the Inquisition in Rome, boldly proclaimed in the very face of spiritual tyranny and priestly servility the then quite unacceptable doctrine of the right of private judgment. In speaking of the Pope's authority, and of his power to admit or condemn the truthfulness of his late brilliant discovery and the hypothesis based upon them, he said "it is not in the power of any creature to make them to be true or false, otherwise than of their own nature and in fact they are." This was using quite strong language in reference to him who claimed to be infallible. MICHAEL ANGELO, while at Rome, engaged in executing a Mausoleum for Pope Julius I., had occasion to make some communication to his holiness, and not being admitted to his presence, after two applications, feeling himself somewhat rudely treated by one of the officers in attendance, he resolved to leave Rome and to permit the Pope to obtain the services of some other less spirited and more obsequious artist. He immediately sold his goods and left for Florence; nor did he return until the Pope had sent messengers for him several times,—an exhibition of such conduct, said one of the most noble Florentines, as the king of France would not have dared to manifest towards the regal Pontiff. Nor did he, in old age, lose the manly independence of his youth; for when in the seventy-sixth year of his age, he was engaged in building Saint Peter's Church, at Rome, Julius II. was elected to fill the Pontifical chair, several of Angelo's enemies were anxious to embitter the new Pontiff against him, and accused him of mal-practices in the building of the Church. A commission was appointed to investigate the charges. With all that same haughty independence, which he had exhibited towards a former pope, he replied "I am not bound to tell your eminence or any one else what I purpose to do; it is your place to see that money is provided; to take care of the thieves, and to leave the building of Saint Peter's to me."

But, perhaps, there can be found in the history of men of genius no examples of manly independence so pre-eminent as those furnished by the immortal bard, Milton. Upon the accession of Charles II. to the throne of England, he was offered the lucrative situation of Latin Secretary. But even in the midst of his poverty and blindness, he was above sacrificing that noble independence of soul which he had ever maintained through his chequered career. He refused to accept office under that government whose hands were polluted with the blood of his compatriots and whose political principles were directly opposed to his own republican notions. To his wife, who urged him to accept the office, he replied in words that ought to be written in characters of gold:—

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