

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR

SAINT JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 7, 1859.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The connection between the undersigned as Proprietors and Editors of the "CHRISTIAN VISITOR" is this day dissolved by consent of all parties interested.

I, E. B. BELL, H. P. GUILFORD, THOS. McHENRY.

DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

This we regard as the great necessity of the Baptist Churches in these Provinces. We have good Churches, good pastors, good missionaries, good institutions, but we are absolutely destitute of anything like financial system to carry forward our denominational operations.

This matter was up for consideration at our late Convention, and Dr. Parker of Halifax moved a resolution recommending the churches to raise 1s. 3d. per member for the support of ministerial education.

Say for example we have Home Missions, Foreign Missions, General Education, Ministerial Education, and a fund for the support of infirm ministers, and the widows and orphans of deceased ministers: five denominational objects. How are these to be sustained?

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. For Home Missions, 2 6; For General and Ministerial Education, 1 3; For Foreign Missions and Infirm Ministers, 1 3; Total, 5 0.

Now suppose we have in New Brunswick say forty thousand Baptists, and one half of these able and willing to contribute 5s each per annum, for benevolent denominational purposes, and we have the enormous sum of five thousand pounds.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Home Missions, 2625 0; Foreign Missions, 156 5 0; General Education, 156 5 0; Ministerial Education, 156 5 0; Infirm Ministerial Fund, 156 5 0; Total, 12500 0.

It is asking over 110 churches, having a membership numbering nearly 7,000 and a denominational population of 35 or 40,000, too much when we ask them to contribute for the general objects of the denomination twelve hundred and fifty pounds?

Learning by Telegram from home that Dr. Pryor would kindly supply our pulpit on the Sabbath, we yielded to the earnest solicitations of friends to remain over the Sabbath, and accepted the kind invitations of the brethren in charge to occupy the Grand Parade at 3 P. M., and for the North Church in the evening.

We submit to our ministers and Churches if this object is not worthy of a united, determined effort? But you ask how is this system to be introduced and worked out? We answer; 1st. Let it be strongly recommended by our approaching association at Fredericton, and then placed in the hands of an efficient agent, who shall bring it in person before every Church, and as far as possible before every Baptist man, woman and child in the Province.

Happy were we to learn that the debt which had so long hung as an incubus upon Granville Street, had been wiped off by the generosity of its friends, and that the Church and congregation had felt themselves justified in expending £900 in remodelling and improving the interior of the Chapel.

Seeing as we do the necessities of our denomination, and feeling as we do, thoroughly identified with all its interests, permit us, dear brethren, to treat you one and all to ponder this subject prayerfully, examine it in all its relations and bearings, and then ask God and your own conscience if the call for immediate, united action be not imperative.

We have amongst us Ministers thoroughly gospel in spirit and in practice, we have our Churches numerous and some of them wealthy, and we have the word and blessing of God on our side: but we lack, sadly lack, denominational organization through financial arrangement.

A VISIT TO HALIFAX.

The Convention over, and having a day to spare we resolved to look in upon our friends at Halifax. For this purpose we took the 4 o'clock train at Windsor and arrived at Halifax at 7.

The Halifax and Windsor iron road seems very substantial; it ought to be, for we are told it cost from 10 to £12,000 per mile, but if Nova Scotia politics are as full of crooks and curves as the road the less Ministers of the Gospel have to do with them the better, lest they get crooked themselves.

Halifax being the seat of political power, the political tide runs very high there just now; but the leaders of both parties seem in excellent spirits. Our old friend, the hon. Attorney General Johnston, is looking as fresh and vigorous as ever.

But we are at the end of our journey and here is old Halifax, with its Citadel Hill, its Legislative Hall, its spired Churches, its shops of merchandise, and its magnificent harbour. Its foundation is a rock indicative of the stability of its Banking Institutions and its commercial relationships.

The city is gradually extending, and improving. Among these improvements we noticed particularly the new Court House in progress of erection in Spring Gardens, the new Presbyterian Church near completion, said to have cost, site and all, some £13,000, and the Lunatic Asylum erected on the Dartmouth side.

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Our afternoon service on the Parade was numerously attended, and solemn interest was manifested in the work spoken. All classes were there, but never did we see people conduct themselves with greater propriety.

Our esteemed Brother Sellen, of the Christian Messenger, has his office on Granville Street, and everything about it seems like himself, chaotic, systematic, comfortable and prosperous.

It was indescribably pleasant to renew acquaintance with our early friend, Bro. Richard McLearn. We were intimately associated in the morning of our ministry, and spent many joyous days together in endeavouring to win souls to Christ. Our first visit from home in the character of a preacher was made by his special request to his place in Rawdon, where he commenced his ministerial career.

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Many thanks for the numerous attentions shown by kind friends. May God bless them all!

REPEATED CALLS.

The Freeman of Saturday last spoke of having repeatedly called upon the Visitor for Mr. Maturin's "stale assumptions." Absence from home for nearly a fortnight prevented us from bearing the call, and therefore response was impossible; but now that the call has reached us we will treat its mandate with all due respect.

- 1. "Man has no right to exercise his private judgment upon the Holy Scriptures."
2. "The Church must decide for him."
3. "The Holy Scriptures are insufficient as a rule of faith and practice."
4. "The Church must be governed by tradition as well as revelation."
5. "The Church of Rome is the first, the holy mother Church."
6. "The Church of Rome is infallible in her instructions and decisions."
7. "Peter was the Bishop of Rome and therefore the first Pope."
8. "The official power of Peter has been transmitted to his successors from age to age."
9. "The wine and water used in the holy Eucharist are transubstantiated into the body, blood, soul and absolute DIVINITY of Jesus Christ."

That he attempted to prove some of these assumptions we acknowledge; but in this attempt he signally failed. We say they are assumptions because they have no truthful basis to rest upon; and we say they are stale because they have been repeated a thousand times twice told, and as often have they been shown to be utterly groundless.

If the Freeman had kept his thinking power in his own possession we should venture to ask him to examine these assumptions in the sunlight of the Christian faith book; but having surrendered it up to the 'holy mother Church,' she of course must think for him, and if she says they are not 'stale assumptions,' he will not dare to believe that they are.

Tell us honestly, Mr. Freeman, can Priests, Friars, Monks, Bishops, Cardinals, Popes answer for thee in the judgment of the great day? If so then thou hast done right in giving them possession of thy thinking soul; but if thou must like all other men account for thine own stewardship, then oughtest thou not to have held fast to that precious priceless jewel the right to think, decide, speak and act for thyself? Let reason and revelation answer.

We presume our good friends of the River Line of Steamers will give the usual accommodation, viz.: single fare to persons going to the Fredericton Association.

REMINISCENCES CALLED UP AT BILLETOWN.

Here is the very old house still standing, where on the 19th day of February, 1805, we first drew the vital air. Our father died when we were in our ninth year. He was a godly man; we can remember his blessing at the table, but he had received a paralytic shock which so affected his speech, that for some years before his death he was unable to pray in his family, even the blessing at the table was broken and almost unintelligible to those who listened.

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After the death of our Father, the care of the household devolved principally upon our widowed mother, and faithfully did she fulfil her trust. By day she watches over us with a mother's love. Night has come, the family have retired to rest, and it is supposed that all are sleeping but one sound breaks gently in upon the stillness of the midnight hour.

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When tidings reached us of mother's death, we were engaged with the Granville St. Church Halifax, in a blessed revival of religion; and there was much around us to fill us with joy and thanksgiving; but these sad tidings sunk like lead into the heart, and for long hours we wept in solitude. Never was the name mother so sweet, so precious before. It seemed to embody all tenderness, all sympathy, all forbearance, all patience, all love, and it seemed for the moment as if all had gone to the grave with our own loved mother.

MANSION HOUSE.

This Hotel is kept by George L. Johnson, on Barrington Street, Halifax, N. S. It was our good fortune to obtain accommodations there during our recent visit to the city, and from all that we saw of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, their courteous and kindly treatment to their boarders, their manner of supplying the table, the cleanly and orderly character of their establishment, we feel very great pleasure in commending it to the notice and confidence of the travelling public.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

We are always sorry to find fault with our officials when they are doing the best they can to conduct wisely the public service. Our Post Master General, we doubt not, is energetic in his department, and wishes to do right; but there is evidently some mistake in regard to the Eastern Mail. On enquiring in Halifax, we found the papers mailed in Saint John on Wednesday are not delivered in Halifax until the Monday morning following.

We are pleased to learn from reliable authority that new arrangements have been made for expediting the Eastern Mail, which will go into immediate effect, and that on completion of the railroad to Sussex, there will be no room for the shadow of a complaint.

The Roman Catholics are holding a protracted meeting in this city. Bishop Connolly and a large number of Priests are in attendance. They commence at 5 o'clock in the morning, and hold services in the Cathedral until a late hour in the evening. Preaching two or three times every day and Mass nearly as often. We hope a revival of pure religion will follow.

The long separated will then meet no more to part.

But yonder in the field is the little spruce grove where the young man prayed so often to be delivered from those strange impressions about preaching the gospel. He has a wife and his firstborn son now to provide for, how can he leave them alone, and go out without purse or scrip to preach Jesus; but a necessity is laid upon him, and a terrible woe sounds in his ears if he refuses.

NEWCASTLE, Miramichi, 29th Aug., 1859.

On the 6th instant the brethren and sisters at Black River were organized into a Church. This infant Church is by no means strong, either in wealth or numbers; but a more pious, devoted, and united band of believers I have never met.

Yesterday was a day of great joy with us at Black River, as four interesting converts were then baptized and added to the Church there. One of these is a converted Papist, and a remarkable instance of the power of grace. A few months ago he was a bitter opposer of the children of God and of the truth as it is in Jesus. He is now happy in the love of Christ, and zealously devoted to His service.

The brethren have resolved to commence to build a house for God in the course of a few weeks. In this praise-worthy effort, I trust we may receive tangible evidence of sympathy from our wealthy friends of other churches in this Province.

I visited Tabusintac last week for the first time. It is about forty miles distant from this place, and is a pleasant and promising country. Fishing is carried on extensively there, and there are some fine farms. I met a most cordial reception, and had much pleasure in preaching Christ to solemn congregations. As a Denomination, we have been too neglectful of that place. Many years ago, a brother Bruce and a brother Preston preached the Gospel there with great success. There were Baptist brethren, and there are many now at Tabusintac who with tearful eyes refer to them as the means of their conversion—although for the want of Baptist preaching they have connected themselves with other communions.

I heard frequent reference made to a young brother Blake. He is a native of that place, but had been absent several years, and during his absence had been converted to Christ and baptized by the lamented Emerson. He returned last Winter to his native place, and began to speak in private houses to attentive audiences of the Saviour he had found. Some supposed that as he possessed considerable genius, he had learned to imitate the preacher, others more spiritually minded, concluded that he spoke from a full heart of that religion whose power he had experienced. He seems to have done good, and many would like to see him there again.

Should a devoted Baptist Missionary visit that region and extend his labors as far as Shipigan, the result, I doubt not, would be decidedly encouraging.

THE APPROACHING ASSOCIATION.

Be reminded the Association at Fredericton opens not on the 10th inst., as was stated some time ago through mistake, but on the 17th; and let us come together to preach, and pray, and expect, and deliberate and decide in prospect of the judgement to come. We hope to see just such a season of refreshing as we had at Gagetown last year. The Church at Fredericton that has invited our attendance, we hope are praying for it. Let us one and all join our prayers with theirs that we may have a Penitential season, and that many souls may be converted to Christ. We hope the Churches will be liberal in their contributions for Home Missions.

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At a meeting of the New Brunswick Auxiliary Religious Tract Society, held pursuant to adjournment, at the Rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association on Monday 5th September, 1859.

The meeting having been opened with prayer, Read the Minutes of the previous meeting. The Committee appointed to frame a Constitution for the Society submitted their report which was read as follows:—

"The Committee have prepared the following which they recommend to be adopted as the Rules and Regulations of the Society, viz:— 1st. This Society shall be in connection with the Religious Tract Society of London, and be called 'The New Brunswick Auxiliary Religious Tract Society.'"

2nd. Any person making a donation to the Society of Five Pounds shall be a life member.

3rd. Every annual Subscriber shall be considered a member; and the subscriptions obtained shall be applied to the purpose of enabling the Society to sell at a cheap rate and distribute gratuitously religious Tracts and publications.

4th. Members shall be entitled to purchase all publications on sale at a reduction of 25 per cent. on the selling price.

5th. The Society shall be under the direction of a President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary, who together with seven lay members and all Ministers being members, or who shall make an annual collection in their churches for the Society, shall form a Committee of Management—any five of whom shall constitute a quorum.

6th. The Committee shall meet quarterly and have power as soon as the funds will permit to employ a Colporteur to visit destitute parts of the Province with Tracts, and further to use all such means as they may deem advisable, by free grants of publications, or otherwise, for the promotion of the objects of the Society.

7th. An annual meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday in December, at which the Secretary shall submit a report of the proceedings of the Society, and the election of officers, bearers and lay members of the Committee shall be made.

Respectfully submitted, A. McL. SEELY, JAS. PATERSON, H. W. FRITH, JAS. R. REEL, Committee.

On motion of the Hon. Wm. B. Kinnear, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Donald,—

Resolved, That the Report be accepted and adopted.

On motion of J. R. Reel, Esq.—

Resolved, That the Chairman, Dr. Paterson, and Mr. Frith be a provisional Committee to obtain subscriptions, with power to employ and pay an agent to collect the same, to give public notice of his appointment with the object thereof, and to call the next meeting of the Society; and that the same Committee request the Ministers of the various denominations to bring before their Congregations the nature and objects of the Society. Adjourned.

H. W. FRITH, Secretary. A. McL. SEELY, Chairman.

[Papers favourable to the cause will confer a favour by inserting the above.]

THE NEW YORK ALBION.—Mr. J. E. Lyman is now in this city soliciting subscribers and collecting dues for this paper; he is also presenting the subscribers with a splendid Engraving of the lamented Gen. HAVLOCK, the Hero of Lucknow, which is worth the price of the paper. To those of our readers who want a reliable, literary and comprehensive New York Newspaper, devoted to British and Colonial interests, we can confidently recommend "The Albion." Mr. W. L. Avery, Prince William Street, is the Agent for New Brunswick.

Domestic.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—Nine Lives Lost.

An accident occurred off the harbour on Saturday, of a most distressing nature, resulting in the loss of nine lives out of a party of eleven bound on a pleasure excursion. The company left Reed's Point about nine o'clock, or shortly after, in the morning, and between ten and eleven were about a mile and a quarter from the shore, the boat upset, and those on board except two, were drowned.

Those lost were the Misses McGeay, daughters of Widow McGeay, of this city; Capt. Petch's wife; James McLean Wilson, the brother; William, aged 13 years, and Charles, aged 9 years, sons of Captain Petch, residing at Reed's Point; and Mr. Charles E. M'Gee, (native of Dublin) a boarder in Captain Petch's house. Capt. Petch, we learn, is at present on a voyage to Liverpool.

The saved were Messrs. Hicks and M'Kain; they clung to the boat till discovered by some young men, who seeing their perilous situation procured a small boat and went (six or seven in number) to their rescue. They were almost exhausted, and it was with the greatest difficulty they were restored to consciousness. One of the men lies in a low condition in Captain Petch's house.

Mr. Wilson, father of the three persons mentioned above, resides in the country, and teaches school.

We deeply sympathize with the bereaved families in their sudden and agonizing distress. Two boats, with grappling apparatus, were at the place yesterday where the accident happened, and it was reported that one of the bodies had been recovered.—News.

The cause of this accident is said to have been that the boat, struck by a squall, jibbed, and the sheet being fastened, either recklessly or according to some account, or tangled in one of the women's shawls or dresses, the boat became unmanageable, careened over, and as there was a heavy swell, quickly filled and sank. One of the boys regained the boat twice and was again washed away. Two of the young women, it is said, made a desperate struggle for life and held on long to the boat, assisted by the men until all were exhausted. Several serious sail-boat accidents are recorded in the American papers of last week.—Froeman.

The death of the Rev. William Crosscombe, Wesleyan Minister, is announced in the Halifax papers. He expired at Windsor on Friday last. The Sun says:—The revered gentleman was in his 73rd year. A large portion of his life had been spent in the service of his Master. He is now gathered to the home of his fathers, but his memory will be fondly cherished by a large circle of friends in this and the adjoining province.

MELANCHOLY.—Mr. D. M. Patterson of Southampton, Y. C., aged 29 years who was employed in the "Government Works," blowing rocks at the Maduette Falls, St. John River, was unfortunately drowned on the 29th inst. Mr. Patterson with four other men was going out into the river in a small boat to drill a rock that was blasting out of the river when the boat came in contact with another rock, and by the collision together with the swiftness of the stream was immediately swamped. The other men who with him were launched into the fast gliding waters, clung to the oars and poles that were in the boat by which they were kept from sinking until they were rescued by another boat; but poor Patterson swam for the shore, which he had nearly reached, when and to say he sank to rise no more. His body was soon rescued from its watery grave but the vital spark had fled.—Intelligencer.