

RESOLVED by the New Brunswick Baptist Western Association, at its Annual Session, at Kenwick, Sept. 24th 1861.

New Brunswick Baptist AND CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1862.

Personal and Denominational.

We have a few words to say to our Ministers and Churches regarding the decision of the present proprietor of the Baptist and Visitor as published last week.

He has for some time past felt that he was publishing the paper at a personal sacrifice, which he was unable long to bear, and has resolved to endeavour to go on with it only until the close of the present year; thus giving the denomination sufficient time to make all necessary arrangements for continuing the paper upon such terms as they may deem best.

As the Baptist and Visitor is the Organ of the Associated Baptist Churches, and it will probably continue to be such, our brethren surely will see the importance of taking it themselves, and of extending its circulation as far as possible. If you allow your denominational organ to die for want of sufficient support the denomination must suffer loss.

When the Visitor was the property of the religious editor, and wholly under his control, his object was to place it in the hands of every Baptist family in the Province, whether paid for or not, and he proceeded upon this principle as long as his private funds and the income of the paper would justify such a course.

This we believe to be the true design of a denominational paper. It is emphatically missionary in its aims and results. As ministers of the Gospel, we should feel it a very hard case to be compelled to limit our ministry to those who are able to pay for it.

The Baptist Fathers in England, Germany, the United States, and in this country thought their distinctive principles of sufficient value to be maintained at any and every cost.

The Nonconformists of England are signalling the year 1862 by a munificent celebration of the centennial of 2000 clergymen on Bartholomew's Day, 1662, because they would not subscribe to the act of uniformity, as established by the laws of the realm.

Many of these were regarded as the most intelligent, devoted and useful ministers of the kingdom. Some were Episcopalian, others Presbyterian, and a few of them Baptist.

The object of the present Bicentenary movement is two fold. 1st, to confer honor upon the memory of departed worth, and 2d, to benefit the church of the present age, by a faithful exposition of the principles which actuated those valiant servants of God who gloried only in the cross of Christ.

In this celebration, the Baptists of England are taking a most prominent part. As none have suffered more for conscience sake than they, it seems befitting that they should perform well their part in this matter.

We throw out these suggestions for the consideration of our ministry and churches, hoping that they may lead to the adoption of such arrangements as will make our denominational press just what it should be in spirit and in power.

In the meantime, we call upon the brethren interested in the present and future of the Visitor to do what they can to extend its circulation so as to lighten as far as possible the burden of its present proprietor.

Persons wishing the paper had better remit their money by mail at once. After this week no paper will be sent from the Office except to prepaid subscribers.

Ministers sending us the names of four subscribers with the advance payment will be entitled to the paper free.

Self Culture.

All must acknowledge the importance of mental culture to the minister of Christ. The nature of his work imperatively demands that he shall seek by every proper means at his command to improve the gifts that God has bestowed upon him.

The English language should be to every minister, whether educated or not, more than any other a life long study. It may seem strange to make such an assertion, but we make it advisedly. There are few things in which most ministers are more deficient—few things, we mean, among those which are of course expected of them—in the knowledge and use of their own language.

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The Bicentenary Movement.

We have commenced, as will be seen, on our first page, a series of deeply interesting articles on this subject, extracted from the London Freeman. These graphic sketches of English Baptist history cannot be otherwise than intensely interesting to our readers.

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Correspondence.

A letter from Bro. John M. Curry, dated the 4th inst., speaks of his having visited, recently, Springfield, Millstreet, Butterhit Ridge, and Second Moncton, in company with Rev. C. Spragg.

Bro. Bill, I am not in the habit of writing for the paper, neither would I attempt it now were it not that I feel impelled from a sense of duty to give an explanation, lest there be wrong impressions made from the reading of a recent communication in the Visitor headed "Prayer Meetings," and making some allusion to the Canning Chapel. Now, it has been my privilege to have attended those Thursday

evening Prayer Meetings, for the last quarter of a century nearly, referred to by our young correspondent, to which "he was led by a mother's hand" long ago. Some of those dear mothers have left the Church militant to join the Church triumphant in glory, and others are prevented by indisposition of health, from attending the evening meetings.

But it is very true for some time past there has been no prayer meetings of the Church through the week. I am pleased to know they were so highly appreciated by those outside of the pale of the Church. The "old school house," that sacred spot so dear to the non-professor, had become dilapidated and out of repair, and no school has been held in it this last winter.

AN OBSERVER.

Sunbury, April 20th, 1862.

For the Baptist and Visitor.

Bro. Bill, I had the pleasure of passing the last Lord's day with the Inocent Baptist Church, preaching to them in the morning from "there is joy in the presence of the Angels of God, over the sinner that repenteth."

Yesterday at 2 o'clock, P. M., the church met for the transaction of business relating to that splendid Chapel which has cost so much, and it was as if from the dead to them, when the mortgage, (Oliver Jones, Esq.,) so liberally donated on his claim of about two thousand pounds, so as to FREE the Church the consideration of seven hundred & fifty pounds.

Mr. Alexander McLachlan, a teamster living on the corner of Britain and Sydney Street, fell down stairs about noon to-day and broke his neck.—16.

New Brunswick Provincial Securities were quoted in London on 10th April at 107 1/2 and 108 1/2 Nova Scotia (six per cent, sterling) securities at 109 & 110; sales at 110 1/2.

We learn that a soldier was shot at by Mr. Jones, toll-keeper at the suspension bridge, and had a narrow escape. The matter is undergoing police investigation.

A Difference of Opinion. The Digby Acadian says:—The weather for the past week has been very unsettled; we have had heavy rains—the air is still chilly—the ground is cold and wet—and nothing has yet been done in this locality towards raising the necessaries of life; altogether, the season is extremely backward.

ONE WHO WAS PRESENT. Salisbury, May 13th.

Secular Department.

Day of Publication.

We have made arrangements to secure the publication of the Visitor, hereafter, on Wednesday evenings, so as to have it delivered and mailed early on Thursday morning. It has been unavoidably delayed this week, as well as last, to Friday.

Portrait Gallery.—As will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, Mr. N. S. Durland has recently made valuable improvements in the style and finish of the different portraits pictured at his gallery. For perfection of resemblance to the original, and cheapness in price, they cannot well be surpassed.

Letters Received.

W. T. REED, Hopewell Hill.—The paper for Miss Moore has been directed to Hopewell Corner. You gave no other direction in your first letter. We now change it to Hopewell Hill.

JOHN HETHERINGTON, Cambridge.—Received \$1.50. We have paid \$1.00 to credit of A. P. Corey, \$0.50 to credit of J. H. Wilson. You can make the account right between them.

GEORGE D. GODSOE.—With remittance. To several persons who have renewed their subscriptions and for their kindly words of encouragement we tender our thanks.

CORNWALLIS BEEF.—The finest beef brought into the St. John market comes from Cornwallis. Some weeks ago, Mr. T. Corkery had an exhibition beef, purchased of Mr. James Eagon, which was quite equal to the best English beef. The four quarters averaged 800 lbs. each; in all 1200 lbs. He has now in his stall beef purchased in Cornwallis, of the very first quality.

The Cotton Factory is now in operation; and the city affords no more interesting sight to those who can endure a little noise and clutter, and who care nothing about a little dust or floating downy matter. Not in full operation indeed—the price of cotton forbids it—but then every part of the process of converting raw cotton into stout cotton cloth is going on.

The Poor Law Commissioners of Woodstock put an old pensioner named Moran on a meal day, in order to force him to assign his pension to them, and almost starved him to death. Mr. Edward D. Watt, one of three citizens who went to inquire into the matter, was fined a dollar for having used strong language to Solomon Guion, keeper of the Alms House, but the old man was removed from the Alms House and provided with a comfortable lodging elsewhere.—16.

During the high tide of yesterday morning, the LeVautier was floated and towed from the foul grounds to the Lower Cove basin, no doubt to the great satisfaction of Messrs. York and McCarthy, the interfering purchasers. She can now be easily repaired.—16.

The Circuit Court opens to-day. Sir James Carter, Chief Justice, will preside.—Freeman, 13th inst.

The steamer Lady Head arrived at Chatham on Friday afternoon. The Gleamer says, she reports the ice clear of our river, but a great deal in the Bay de Chaleur and at Gaspe, which detained her for a short time.

FRENCH CONSUL.—We are gratified to learn that our respected fellow citizen, George Carvill, Esq., has been appointed Consul Agent for France at this port. The duties, though at present merely honorary, will give some trouble, and bring little or no remuneration; only a desire to render some service to the Province could have induced Mr. Carvill to accept the office; his knowledge of business amply qualifies him for the performance of its duties.—16.

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THE NEWS FROM THE STATES.

Although there appears to be great rejoicing, and much excitement in all the Northern Cities, arising out of the recent Federal successes as they are called, yet after all, there does not appear any great cause as yet for all this glorification.

CORINTH is not yet taken, and the Confederate army there has been reinforced by 30,000 fresh troops, who have been set at liberty to march against the enemy by the surrender of New Orleans.

The "capture" of Norfolk as the Northern papers style it, was merely the formal surrender of that City to the Federal authorities, without a shot being fired. On this point we find the following in the special despatches to the St. Croix Herald:—

NORFOLK, May 10th, 6 P. M.—The last Rebel troops left this morning, leaving the city in the care of the Mayor. On the approach of our troops, the Mayor went with a flag of truce to the city limits, and on made an arrangement with Gen. Wool. The city was to be given up, on the promise that private property should be respected. During the march on Norfolk, 3 regimental cavalry camps were found deserted, apparently only a day or two since. Gen. Webers 20th N. Y. regiment advanced, on landing, to reconnoitre, and six miles from the beach found a place prepared with considerable care for a battle field.

After the departure of Gen. Wool, several thousand people assembled near the City Hall, to hear a speech from the Mayor, who seemed to be very popular. He said that in his negotiations with Gen. Wool, he had secured a pledge for the protection of private property, and the safe continuance of all private business.

Gosport Navy Yard, and the public property, were burnt by the enemy to-day, with most of the steamboats, and other vessels, on Elizabeth river. The flames made a brilliant spectacle the entire evening. The people are in a state of great excitement.—With the strong police force to-night, it is hoped that no violence will be committed, and confidence and good will no doubt soon be established.

The Navy Yard was completely destroyed, with a large number of steamboats and other vessels. Numerous Union flags are flying in Portsmouth.

The "Monitor" and "Nanuetuck" have just arrived, and a number of other vessels of the fleet are coming up. The night passed very quietly. Order is perfectly restored.

NORFOLK, 12.—The rebels are fully confident that in 20 days, Norfolk will be re-possessed, and the Yankees driven out. See's Stanton remained here until a late hour in consultation with the military governors, Gen. Viele and Gen. Wool. True to the spirit of secession the fire which threw a broad red glare across the heavens on Saturday night proceeded from the destruction of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, which was done by order of the rebel commandant, scarcely anything being left but black tall chimneys.

The following is the account of the destruction of the famous iron-clad ship "Merrimac." PORTSMOUTH, 11th.—At 4 o'clock this morning, a bright light was observed in the direction of Craney Island. At precisely half past 4, an explosion took place that made the earth and water tremble for miles, in the midst of bright flames which shot up in the distance. The timbers and iron of the monster "Merrimac" could be seen flying through the air. No doubt is entertained that the veritable "Merrimac" had ceased to exist.

From New Orleans there are advices to the 7th, from which we learn that the Federal pickets had been extended as far as the crossing of Jefferson and Jackson railroads. Four gunboats and one transport started for Baton Rouge Saturday morning. Seven Federal regiments had been landed at New Orleans. All the newspapers were still published, though a Federal censor was placed over every office to examine all matters and exclude whatever may prove inimical to the Federal cause.

At Pittsburg landing, the Federal troops have met with a check, and been obliged to retire, as appears by the following official despatch:—

PITTSBURG LANDING, May 11.—The following has just been received:— NEAR FARMINGTON, 9 P. M. To Maj. Gen. Halleck:—The enemy, 20,000 strong, drove in our pickets beyond Farmington and advanced upon the brigade occupying the further side of the creek in front of my camp. The brigade held on for 3 hours until finding themselves heavily pressed in front and on the flank, and that I could not sustain them without passing the creek with my whole force which would have

been contrary to your order and would have brought on a general engagement. I withdrew to this side in good order. The conduct of the troops was excellent, and withdrawal was made by them very reluctantly. The enemy made a move to cross, but abandoned the movement. Our loss is considerable, though I can't yet tell how great. The enemy being much exposed, suffered severely,—one of his batteries being disabled, and his infantry line were driven back several times. My command are eager for the advance.

JOHN POPE, Maj. Gen. By Turner's American, and Hanford's Eastern Express, and from an obliging correspondent, we are in receipt of Boston papers to Monday morning.

There was great excitement in Boston on Sunday at "the glorious news from Norfolk," and the papers indulge in the belief that the "Rebellion" is done for and will soon be over.

The details of the news does not add materially to the telegraphic despatches published yesterday.

Public anxiety and expectation now centred upon Richmond.

McClellan's Advance. NEW KENT COURT HOUSE, Va., May 10, 3 P. M.—The pursuit of the retreating rebels by our troops, under command of Gen. Stoneman, has in every respect been successful.

His headquarters are now here, 27 miles from Richmond, while the advance, consisting of the 8th Illinois cavalry, is five miles ahead. The enemy is in sight, but gradually falling back.

The inhabitants have in nearly every instance left, but from the best information that has been obtained, the enemy will make a stand at Bottom Bridge, 13 miles from Richmond, at the head waters of the Chickahominy river. Gen. McClellan, with the main-body of the army, is rapidly following up within a few miles.

Chamberland, a small town on the Pamunkey river, and 2 1/2 miles from here, was deserted this morning by the enemy, and is now occupied by our forces.

There are no rebels to be seen, as reported by scouts, this side of the Chickahominy River, except on the direct road to Richmond. The 2d Rhode Island and 9th Pennsylvania Regiments of Infantry, Captain Robinson's Battery of Light Artillery, and the 6th Cavalry, under Major Williams, are in the rear guard of the army, which remained here last night, and which our men had to drive before them, was Gen. Longstreet's division, consisting of ten regiments of infantry, two batteries and a regiment of cavalry—the 1st Virginia.

Our advance was this morning strengthened upon ascertaining the force of the enemy—by the 8th Illinois Cavalry and two regiments of the 1st New Jersey Brigade.

The engagement yesterday between our advance and the enemy's rear at Slater's Mills, three miles from here, resulted in 14 of the enemy's cavalry being killed and several taken prisoners. They secured their wounded.

The Sixth Cavalry, which made a most brilliant charge, had 3 killed, 3 missing, and 1 wounded.

Howell Cobb remained here last night, and left with the rebels this morning. The enemy's retreat has been most admirably accomplished, carrying away everything with them in the shape of forage and provisions—the wagon trains in the day time and their troops at night.

The Richmond papers of the 6th make no mention of the movement of their army. The country between here and Bottom Bridge is thickly wooded, with few clearings, and many places low and swampy. The jail here was burnt yesterday.

The railroad from West Point to the bridge, where it crosses the Pamunkey River, has been torn up. The destruction of the bridge will probably follow.

ALBANY, N. Y., May 10.—A terrible fire is now raging at Troy. The bridge over the Hudson River took fire about 11:30 A. M., and has been consumed. At this hour (3.30 P. M.) the fire has been communicated to various parts of the city, and will destroy hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property.

The amount of property destroyed is about \$3,000,000. Seven dead bodies were found among the ruins, and ten persons are missing.

LORD LYONS GOING TO RICHMOND.—The Lord Lyons has announced that Lord Lyons, the British Ambassador at Washington, will make a visit in a few days to Richmond, in H. M. war steamer "Hecate," and says his visit is not considered important. Taken in connection with the similar visit of the French Ambassador, it has however some significance, and we are prepared to learn that the United States is now courting the intervention of France and England to terminate a contest which it has been proved the sword cannot settle.

Opening of Southern Ports. Secretary Seward has issued a Circular to the Foreign Ministers in which he announces that the President of the United States will shortly issue his proclamation respecting the commerce of the world the ports of New Orleans, La.; Fernandina, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.; Beaufort, S. C.; and Newbern, N. C. Proper precautions will be taken to prevent the rebel cause from deriving any advantage from this relaxation of the rules of war.

All commerce to be carried on at the ports in question, will be carried on under the United States flag; ships will clear with a United States clearance, and goods entered at such ports will be required to pay duties under the United States tariff. The internal commerce between the ports so opened, and the interior, especially where bands of rebels will lurk, will be subjected to proper regulations by officials acting under orders from the President. With the foreign world, the supports in question will probably be enabled to trade, on the same terms as any of the Northern ports of entry, with the exception of articles contraband of war.

There is reason to believe that the President has been mainly induced to adopt this course by the success which has accompanied Gen. Halleck's restoration of trade to the country watered by the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, whose planters are said to be bringing in their cotton, and other produce quite freely, and testifying great joy at their restoration to the privileges of citizens of the United States.