

The Association

at Sackville opens on Thursday at 2 P. M. Oh! for the Spirit's presence in the midst of his people! This only can give true oneness of feeling and thorough unity of action.

Preparation for the Ministry.

There is, perhaps, no desire in the heart of the young Christian stronger than this—viz: to preach the Gospel. This desire should be judiciously fostered, and should be the possessor of it show evidence of an aptitude to teach, he should be advised to prepare himself for the duties of his sacred calling.

But the assertion for which we seem to be called to an account, was not based wholly upon a mere inference of our own, either from statements made to us at the interview just specified, or from facts reported to us from other sources.

As the Holy Spirit has ceased to confer miraculously the gift of tongues and of "knowledge," it becomes the churches to come to the rescue and supply that which God has made attainable by ordinary diligence and application.

Baptists have not been behind their brethren of other connexions in meeting the demand made upon them in this particular. They have generally been wise in the adjusting of their efforts to meet the varied exigencies of the day.

In this Province we do well to recognize our true want, and shape our efforts accordingly. We require a class of men thoroughly trained to minister to those churches who are calling for such—men who are every way qualified to instruct those who are yearning for their lot in with us, and from asking for a ministry thoroughly furnished for their work—a ministry able "rightly to divide the word of truth" and meet the assaults that are being made against the truth as held by us in particular and by Christians in common.

The institutions to meet our need so far as education is concerned have already existing in this Province and Nova Scotia. As churches, we need to foster them with our prayers and pecuniary support.

As we have some knowledge of the English Baptists, and in our judgment the above paragraph is the very reverse of the truth, and in the highest degree unjust and injurious, we respectfully ask you either to prove or withdraw your statement.

Yours, &c., O. SPURDEN, St. John, July 26, 1868.

The above communication questions in terms somewhat indefinite and uncertain, the accuracy of a statement in one of our recent editorials, and calls for verification or retraction. We suspect that these brethren mean to call in question the branches of our assertion—both that of divisions and that of the origin of those divisions among the English Baptists.

even though they do not—if we are correctly informed—publicly advocate the views which generally prevail among the Baptists in America on the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

When, however, we made the assertion, against which the above protest is entered, we had not the remotest suspicion that we were giving utterance and currency to anything but what was generally understood and admitted without dispute by Baptists on this side, at least, of the Atlantic.

By the way, it occurs to us that one of the brethren whose signature is affixed to the above communication, not long after his arrival in this city, at a social gathering one evening, attempted to enumerate, for our information and entertainment, the various grades and shades of Baptist sects in the "Mother Country."

But the assertion for which we seem to be called to an account, was not based wholly upon a mere inference of our own, either from statements made to us at the interview just specified, or from facts reported to us from other sources.

As a denomination we are decidedly advancing in the matter of chapel building, &c. But our divisions are our weakness. Our Foreign Mission is languishing for want of funds. Three or four hundred men have fallen on the field lately, and their places have not been filled up, not for want of the men, but for want of the money.

Rev. Mr. Punshon's Lecture at the Centenary church on Friday evening last, was a masterly production. The spacious chapel was well filled with intelligent and deeply interested hearers.

In the town of Epworth, dwelling in an old-fashioned house, adjoining the churchyard, where the drooping willows grew by the side of a running stream, there lived a man, who with his wife were striving to rear their family in a comfortable manner, and to provide them with an education that should fit them to extend their usefulness when they should be taken from their estate.

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Mr. Punshon now proceeded to speak of the struggling efforts made by a few reformers from the first arising at Constance to the establishing of the Society called the Moravians in the 18th century.

And of Paul spoken by Beler, roused the singer, John Wesley, to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

A poor boy in a country public house; a poor student, dressed in serge at Oxford, rousing the fields of Christland, the butt of his companions and the jibe of the scoffers, these are the glimpses we catch of the young Wesley. At Witfield, in his early years, a man that since Peter the Fisherman saw the work of a Penitent, has not been equalled as an apostle of Christianity.

"Let me make the ballads of a people and I care not who make the laws," said a great man. And if it be true that the writer of popular verse wields a mighty influence, then Charles Wesley deserves more notice than is usually given to him.

Rapid in his movements and speech, practical in his preaching, earnest in his labour, his life was one of devotedness to the cause he had in hand. One week of his labours would tax the strength of many of his feeble successors for a year.

All his worldly possessions at his death were his horse and carriage, a well worn gown, a good library of books, and for plate two silver spoons, at Bristol and two in London. His wit was genial and sparkling but never barbed to injure, or rankle in the spirit of another.

The progress made by the advocates of Temperance in this moral enterprise in these settlements is worthy of consideration. From the early settlement of this place up to the time of the organization of Divisions of the Sons of Temperance—which was soon after the introduction of the Order into the Province.

The Charlotte County Quarterly Meeting will be held with the Maccaree church, on the second Friday in July, at 3 o'clock, p. m.

What Churches may do.

Under this caption the Christian Era says:—The more we look over the field spread out before us the more we feel that as disciples of Christ we are not doing what we should do to advance his precious cause.

There is a diversity of opinion on the meaning of the word miracle. Perhaps a more clear and just definition cannot be found than that furnished by Dr. Horey, in his admirable treatise on "The Miracles of Christ."

Hugh Farmer says, "A miracle is an effect produced in the system of nature, contrary to the general rule by which it is governed; it is a supernatural effect, evidence of a supernatural power, and a temporary suspension of the known laws of nature."

DEAR EDITOR:—In the providence of God I made a visit to Maccaree on the 14th instant, preached twice, and had the pleasure of immersing two believers, one of them a respectable old gentleman, 82 years of age, who had been greatly afflicted for many years.

The whole scene was impressive, and of the most thrilling interest; every countenance was solemn, and every eye was fixed to see the man of more than fourscore years how to his Father's will, and do honor to his dear Saviour in the holy and blessed ordinance of baptism.

Death is always a surprise. They who are snatched from the circle of families and friends, are generally those we least suspect to be the marked victims of death's unerring shafts.

Death recognizes no favoured classes as exempts from its universal and relentless conscriptions. There is no discharge in that war. The destroying missiles of the enemy are falling thick and fast into the long ranks of mortals, slaying thousands every day.

For the Christian Visitor. A Visit to Chipman. No. 2. The progress made by the advocates of Temperance in this moral enterprise in these settlements is worthy of consideration.

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to do up the work effectually. May their efforts be crowned with success. Yours as ever, J. M. CURRY.

For the Christian Visitor.

The New Birth.

DEAR VISITOR:—The second birth is much spoken of in the present day; but, perhaps, some who speak of it know little more of it, experimentally, than Nicodemus did, when he enquired of our Saviour, "How can these things be?"

NEW DISCOVERY.—A correspondent informs us that there are strong indications of oil, if not of coal, on the land owned by Rev. A. D. Thompson, of Bayside, a few miles from St. Andrews, Charlotte County.

The Dominion Fisheries.

Our American cousins are unusually excited just now in relation to the fishery laws enacted at Ottawa. They imagine that these laws encroach unmercifully upon their privileges, and, therefore, call loudly upon their Government at Washington to interfere for the protection of American rights.

The eastern coast of Canada and the adjacent islands is the great fishing ground for New England seamen. More than half the mackerel taken by us are found in these waters. In the earlier treaties our rights were carefully preserved, but in the convention of 1818, the Commissioners, on our part, were not sufficiently guarded, and their course has given rise to serious questions.

To carry out this policy, the Canadian Parliament has just passed an act which is most oppressive in its bearing. Our vessels are made liable to confiscation if in any manner they violate the letter of the law, as having relation to the sea or lakes, or if they enter any of the Provincial ports and remain more than twenty-four hours after notice to leave.

In case of illegal seizures, the act provides that no defence shall be made, but that giving security by a bond and forty dollars for costs, that the seizure shall be presumed legal until the contrary is proved, and if the Provincial judge finds probable cause, no damages shall be recovered for illegal seizures.

The whole act is on the face of it most unjust, and is in direct violation of the law of nations. To be controlled in our fisheries by these laws, to have imaginary lines drawn from cape to headland that shall be a dead line for all our fishing vessels that may unwittingly drift across it, in taking a haul from a moving school of mackerel, to be put to the constant peril of illegal seizures, with every advantage against us, to be adjudged guilty on any complaint until the contrary is proved, and all in the hands of a Provincial judge, is too open and flagrant a violation of right and justice for us quietly to submit to and endure without remonstrance.

If the Americans had allowed the "Reciprocity Treaty" to remain in force, then they would not have been restricted to a distance of three miles from our coasts; but they must be willing to give as well as take. If they went increased facilities in the fishing department, let them unite with the Dominion in a healthful commercial treaty, established upon a just and generous basis, and then things will move smoothly and successfully.

Rev. Jas. Trimble's letter, asking aid for Widow Lawrence, was taken from the table. Voted to grant \$10 from the Infirmary's Fund.

Rev. I. E. Bill and Bro. Gabel were appointed Delegates to the Eastern Association.

Corresponding Secretary was authorized to forward blank letters to the missionaries for their annual report.

The ministers of the City and Portland were appointed a committee to make necessary arrangements for the collection of funds for Union Society.

On motion, adjourned to meet at the Eastern Association.

From our Halifax Correspondent.

DEAR VISITOR:—The anniversary of the Union day was kept in Halifax as a holiday. Though owing to the delay in issuing the proclamation, there was not sufficient time to admit of getting up anything like a public demonstration, yet many of the shops were closed in the morning, and more shut up in the afternoon; there was the usual display of bunting, a review, firing, &c.

The papers are publishing the speeches in the House of Commons on the Nova Scotia grievances. A new troupe of Theatrical performers has arrived, and are performing in Halifax.

A Temperance Society has been commenced on board the "Royal Charlie." Twenty of the crew have already enrolled themselves as members, and weekly meetings are held.

The "Royal Alfred" leaves here in August for Quebec, and will return in the autumn, on her way to Bermuda.

We have had the thermometer as high as 88 deg. in the shade.

Real estate in and around the city continues to realize good prices. A young man named Kennedy was drowned in the harbour, by a schooner running into and capsizing the boat in which he was rowing; as his companion in the boat escaped, it is presumed that the anchor must have struck Kennedy, especially as he was never seen to rise after going down.

At the recent *Encavos* of King's College, Windsor, J. W. Nutting, Esq., Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of this Province, had the degree of D. C. L. conferred upon him. Mr. Nutting graduated at the College in 1838, and is one of the oldest Alumni living, and every way worthy of the designation.

Business for the last six months compares favorably with the corresponding period of last year. The importation of many of the staple articles—such as sugars—have largely increased, and the export of dried fish has also increased, while the shipment of mackerel and herring has declined.

The following prices for stocks were realized at the last sale:—Three shares Bank B. N. America, \$261.75 with dividend; twenty shares Gas Company, \$61; five shares Halifax Fire Insurance Company, \$50; 2,500 shares Unionside Union Gold Mining Company, 124 cents per share.

Produce.—Oats, 45c. Potatoes 45c. 56c. Butter 17c. a lb., fair to choice. Pse 6.00 per cent.

Secular Department.

Foreign and Domestic News. LONDON, July 2.—Gen. Napier arrived in this city this morning. An immense crowd was assembled at the Railroad Depot to welcome him, and on his appearance he was received with cheers which did not cease until he had entered his carriage and driven to his hotel.

In the House of Lords this evening a vote of thanks to General Napier and the officers and men of the Abyssinian expedition was moved by the Earl of Malmesbury and seconded by Earl Russell, and was unanimously adopted. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred and many members of the Court were present on the occasion.

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