

The Christian Visitor.

Saint John, N. B. December 3, 1879.

We wish to state that while we consider the remarks made in the *CHRISTIAN VISITOR* of August 13th, 1879, teaching the collection of the debts due the Paper, to May 1st, 1878, or some similar notice, was called for, in order to prevent subscribers from discontinuing the Paper, we neither in that issue, nor in any other, accused, or designed to accuse, Rev. Geo. Armstrong of "dishonesty, fraud, or getting money on false pretenses," as was publicly asserted and which we contradicted in the papers where made. We further regret that such an interpretation was put upon what we published.

This paragraph has been written with the approval of Rev. Geo. Armstrong, and is accepted as an amicable disposition of the unpleasantness growing out of the matter above referred to.

The Convention Scheme.

The resolutions adopted by our last Maritime Convention at Truro, in reference to raising funds for benevolence, are so important and vital to the best interests of the denomination, that they have now commonly been designated as *The Convention Scheme*. This name shows the importance we attach to the plan there wrought out. It now may be considered as fairly launched. The various Boards having in charge the matters now committed to it so far as raising money is concerned, have acquiesced in this scheme. The N. B. Board of Home Missions has discontinued its special agency work for raising funds and committed its work, under certain conditions, to the Convention Board, who will rely for its funds on the Convention scheme.

All that is done for Education, Foreign and Home Missions, Ministerial Education and relief for infirm Ministers is to be raised by this scheme. In fact the scheme is the old Union plan, which worked so well in these Provinces in other days. That plan has multitudes of friends, and they ought all to feel that in the Convention scheme they have it re-established.

The interests to be fostered by the scheme are in different stages of efficiency. As to Education we as a denomination stand in the front rank. We can point to finer buildings, more professors and students, and a higher course of study than any other educational centre in the Maritime Provinces. As to Foreign Missions our work will bear favorable comparison with that of others within our bounds.

Our Home Mission work has not been prosecuted with that earnestness and sacrifice that secures the best results. In many instances mission stations and feeble churches have been allowed to dwindle and die. The difficulty has largely arisen from want of a proper system of raising funds. Such a system as the Convention scheme gives us will doubtless supply the needed stimulus.

This scheme is not an experiment. It has been tried in this Province in the old Union plan, and for us it worked wonders. Never were our Home Mission interests especially, and our other denominational work so well cared for as under that plan. It makes one appeal for benevolence, and commends itself to all, for it includes provision for all our benevolent work. It is easily worked. Let the churches for instance, divide the year into quarters, and have the pastor or some competent brother present, in a sermon or address the claims, say of Home Missions, on the first Sabbath in January, and with subscription cards and collection gain, if possible, the average of a dollar per member. On the first Sabbath in April let our Educational work be presented, and further effort be made to swell the subscriptions and collections. On the first Sabbath in July let Foreign Missions be presented with facts and figures, and renewed effort be made to increase the amount of our benevolence. And then on the first Sunday in October let the needs of the harvest field be held up and the demand for more laborers urged, and the obligations to support the aged and infirm of God's heroes in the battles of the cross, be set forth, and the Convention Scheme as a whole presented and enforced, and persistently worked at till the full quota asked of the church be provided for. A quarterly collection of the subscriptions with special sermons on each department of work, will tend to ensure success. In the cases where there are rich and poor in the church, it would be well for the rich to indicate how many and who of the poor they

will pay for. In this way the names of all might be found upon the list, and the full dollar for each member be secured.

The success of the Convention Scheme will depend largely on the pastors and officers of our churches. If they take hold of it unitedly, and with a will, it will prosper. If any think it imperfect in some respects, let that not be urged as a reason for indifference. Rather let us work this scheme this year as it is the only one before us, and if it needs any alteration let us seek it at the Convention next year. We cannot afford to have anything but united and successful work in pushing forward this matter, for all our denominational work will otherwise languish.

"He who gives quickly gives twice," is true in relation to this matter. We desire to hear from the churches that we may publish what is being done for the encouragement of others. At no time have our churches been presented with a scheme so simple and yet so practical. If it is complied with it will realize \$36,000, and that divided in the proportion indicated will stimulate and strengthen the arms of our denominational work into the attempting of greater things for God than we ever have done in the past.

Religious Bummers.

This is the name given by Dr. Holland, editor of *Scribner's Monthly*, to that class of persons who go round from church to church, occupying seats paid for by others, and who give nothing to any church, save the cheap criticism; that they are so broad in their charity, that they cannot settle down into the narrow groove of any particular church. We would widen the application of the term, somewhat, to include another class, who assume to be religious teachers, and who are so cosmopolitan that they either belong to no religious denomination, or who carefully conceal the name of the one they have preferred. They go "bumming" over the country, and when interrogated as to what denomination they belong, to say: "O! I go in for salvation work. I know no denomination." Poor souls! Before they assume to teach others they should have brains enough to know what they believe, and courage enough to avow it. A man who has positive convictions, and who fearlessly asserts them, we always know where to find him. He does not excite suspicion that he is a trimmer, and in his work he evokes the help of men who think and labor for definite ends.

Again, this man of no denomination will usually be found to be very narrow. His professions are very loud. His rebuke of denominationalism is pronounced, and his charity is especially for those who are of the same ilk. The great majority of Christian men, who bear the burdens of society, build our churches and sustain our missionary work, are denominational men. The few croakers over their failings, are the men who help on religious "bummers." For ourselves, the loyal denominational man has our respect, but they who blatantly "bum" around outside, displaying their breadth in Pharisaic spirit, have never elicited our admiration. Whilst they proclaim their breadth, they are as narrow as the few professed Christians who work outside the Churches. Their influence in the religious community is disorganizing, and even where converts are made under their ministry, they are not impressed with that respect for the Church which should mark the followers of Christ.

The last Western Association requested us to warn our Churches against men who were going about preaching without any authority from the Churches of which they were members. And one of the most influential pastors in our Eastern Association informed us recently, that last year the cause of Christ in a certain locality had suffered much reproach from several men of erratic views and methods, who foisted themselves upon the Church without any credentials. It is time that our Churches demand of strangers their authority to occupy pulpits, and if they cannot produce regular ordination papers, license, or recommendation from some Church, signed by one or more ministers, endorsing their course, then the officers of the Church should deny them the use of their pulpit. This is not a harsh course, and will not bear heavily on any worthy man who desires to do good. Any Church will give a good man, with gifts for usefulness, such papers, and neighboring pastors will sign them when the facts are made known, and a man ought to work in his own Church and its surroundings, where he is known, till he establishes such confidence as will entitle him to such papers. The "Ministry of the Word" is so good a thing that it will

continue to be counterfeited, and all should be on the alert to detect the spurious, and give the mere religious "bummer" no field to ventilate his vagaries.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We direct attention to the letter of Rev. George Armstrong in another column respecting the amounts due him from subscribers prior to May 1878. He has lengthened the time for settlement six months, and we trust that all will endeavor to amicably adjust their old accounts within this period.

"They named him (Gideon) Jerubbaal," saying, "Let Baal contend against him, because he hath thrown down his altar." Dr. Cassel, in Lange, thus translates Jos. 6: 32. The incident and thought are significant. Those who gave Gideon his new name expressed therein their disbelief in Baal, whose altar Gideon had torn down. Baal would not and could not punish the sacrilege. And it is ever so. Every one upon whom Christ writes his new name, becomes a living witness to the impotence of Satan.

"The Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church have instructed pastor Talmage to initiate measures to separate the church from the Presbyterian denomination, on account of what they allege to be the wanton and persistent pursuit and persecution of the pastor by wicked, malignant and malicious men under the garb and pretext of ecclesiasticism." This is a grave charge against one of the most orthodox and consistent of the evangelical denominations. We have noted, however, of late that Mr. Talmage has been losing in esteem among other denominations of Christians as well as his own. Our English brethren especially were largely disappointed and disgusted with him. The probabilities now are that he and his church have become so broad that they will form a denomination of one.

We felt meanly. We ought to have felt so. We were younger then than now, and did not know how to act. We were approached by an aspiring politician with the remark, "You, ministers, are not generally flush; take this." We sank into our shoes, pauperized and took it. We soon wondered, we wonder yet if he would have cared, or dared to do that same thing to Dr—, our former classmate, then beside us. But the world generally does as he did. "20 per cent discount to clergymen;" "clergymen and delegates, half price." "Less to you, seeing you are a minister." Why all this? Because the minister is useful to the public. So is the doctor, and the lawyer. Because the public is in debt to them. Why not pay him then as it does others? Because he is poor? Whose fault is that? Should the one that makes him poor unjustly practically taunt him with poverty. Ministerial donations, discounts, and deadheadism should cease. They are degrading. They destroy public respect, and worse, self respect. An old authority has said, "the laborer is worthy of his hire." Let him have it and pay his way like other men.

The Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, show a steady decrease for the last three years, in the number of accessions to their church, and Dr. Cuyler and others draw a somewhat sombre picture of its spiritual condition. As to our own denomination within the bounds of our Maritime Convention there has been no falling off, but there is considerable spiritual drought. We do not report that numerical increase that was characteristic of our body in early days. We have as a denomination made substantial advance in our Educational and Foreign Mission work. Our church edifices and the men who fill our pulpits will bear favorable comparison with those of other denominations. But the thoughtful and prayerful among us long for such general awakenings as were characteristic of the days of our Fathers. The season is upon us when many of our churches are accustomed to gird themselves for special religious work. Would it not be well for all our churches throughout these Maritime Provinces to resolve, by God's gracious help, to spend a few weeks in special, earnest, prayerful waiting upon God for His blessing to descend upon them in the strengthening of the faith of God's elect and in the rescue of perishing souls from ruin. These special meetings would certainly be attended by an awakening more or less general and in a positive addition to the spiritual strength

of the churches. We do well to be on the watch tower and guard against the encroachments of Laodicean lukewarmness. All that we possess, loses much of its lustre when not vivified by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We shall certainly have to lament over sad fallings off unless with wise effort and unwavering faith in God we begin as individual Christians, and as separate churches to work over against our own house. Let such work be begun and let us provoke one another to good works by the communication of the glad tidings.

News from England. No. 7.

YORK TOWN, SURREY.
18th Nov. 1879.

BAPTIST PRINCIPLES.

When in Scotland I was told by a good Baptist brother that on one occasion he introduced the subject of believers' baptism to a minister of the Established Kirk, with whom he was intimate; "Oh," replied the minister, "there are thirteen reasons why I could not be a Baptist minister;" my friend looked enquiringly and perhaps anxiously, when the minister said, a wife and twelve children, and then presented thirteen reasons why he could not exchange the good living of the Kirk for the humble position of the Baptist pastor. Are there not many less outspoken, but who find in their position, circumstances, and associations, reasons for not entertaining views differing from, and less popular than those in which they have been trained. The subject has lately been broached, are Sabbath School teachers in connection with Baptist Churches sufficiently alive to the importance of teaching Baptist principles, and leading the minds of the young to study for themselves the word of God; and to start in the Christian life, resolved to form their own opinions, guided by its teachings, instead of being trammelled by the opinions of others.

We are Baptists, not from choice, but from conviction; and the way in which others meet our allusions to the subject, only tends to show that our convictions are well founded.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

In political circles, there is great uncertainty. Much was expected from the Prime Minister's speech, at the Lord Mayor's banquet, on the 18th of November, but, alas, all expectation from that quarter proved vain. The common place expressions with which he commenced his speech, were continued to the great disappointment of his hearers. "Trade, he said, was reviving, there was much activity in the iron market, and chemicals were in increased demand." Now and then he got on the verge of great topics, talked a little of Irish distress, praised Lord Lytton, spoke of the security of the colonies, and said that peace is the interest of all the great powers; then expressed the hope of an era of peace, and turned off to compliment his host. Thus ended a speech from which it was hoped some information might be gathered; specially after the series of Cabinet councils which have been held. We are still, however, left in the dark, and live in the midst of perpetual surprises. It is said, "Lord Beaconsfield is never more wide awake than when he seems to be asleep." The organs of the government are equally uncertain in their utterances and contradictory in their statements. Now, we are told that a dissolution of Parliament is imminent; then that the present House of Commons, will certainly hold another session. Time will prove all things, and the cure for all evils the Prime Minister thinks is in "the magic of patience."

SOCIAL MATTERS.

The election of Mayor seldom brings to the front such decided sentiments on local questions, as were uttered at Leeds, by Alderman Tathan, who, on being elected Mayor, said, "that he had felt some hesitation in accepting the post, and his misgivings arose regarding the social duties which he should have to perform. But if the people of Leeds wanted for their Mayor a Quaker, and a teetotaler of strong convictions, who would lead them for the next twelve months in the line of self-denial, sobriety, and economy with efficiency, he dared not, and could not refuse the office."

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Mr. Parnell, M. P., speaking at Leeds, on the distress in Ireland, said, "that the Poor Law could not deal with the poverty that would prevail during the winter and spring, but that other measures would have to be taken without delay." What ever may be said of the Irish, they are a

fine, brave, generous hearted people; and in their present suffering we feel the deepest sympathy, and hope the sympathy of England will assume the very practical and common sense form of sending food for the hungry. The generosity which has repeatedly interposed to mitigate the ravages of Indian famine, cannot withhold the helping hand from Irish sufferers. Every true hearted Englishman will be anxious to alleviate, by sound and legitimate action, the distress which already afflicts Ireland, and to prevent the still more grievous calamities which menace that country.

JOHN EDMUND CRACKNELL.

News from the Churches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

HAVELOCK.—A letter received from Rev. J. Gammon reports revival influences being enjoyed at Butternut Ridge. He has baptized 8 believers, and rejoices over the return of many who had grown cold. The religious interest is good, and prayer ascends that many may come into the fold of Jesus.

LEINSTER ST.—Bro. P. S. McGregor, student of Newton, supplied the pulpit last Sabbath.

PORTLAND.—Bro. D. L. Chubbuck, member of the Warren Avenue Baptist Church, Boston, is now holding a series of Union Meetings with the Baptist and Methodist Churches.

SUSSEX.—We regret to learn that Rev. W. A. Corey has been unable to preach for two weeks. Rev. E. C. Corey supplied his pulpit last Sabbath.

HOPEWELL.—On Monday evening, 24th st., the friends of Rev. David Lawson, at Hopewell Cape, A. C., met at the residence of Mr. Nehemiah Bennett, and presented him with the sum of \$32. A pleasant evening was spent in speech-making, singing, etc., Mr. S. G. Morse, being master of ceremonies for the occasion.—*Times*.

We are glad to see that our worthy Brother is kindly remembered. He used to blow the trumpet with a certain sound in days gone by, and though we have not heard him lately, we are persuaded he does so still, for he believes in that grand old doctrine, the final perseverance of the saints. May the sure mercies of David ever be his strength and support.

FREDERICTON.—The York and Sunbury Quarterly Meeting is indefinitely postponed.

M. S. HALL, Sec.

GOLDEN WEDDING.—Quite a large number of the friends of Deacon G. S. McKenzie and wife took the aged couple by surprise on last Tuesday evening, the 25th inst., it being the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. The ladies provided largely of the good things of life, which received special attention. Splendid vocal and instrumental music was furnished. Appropriate addresses were delivered by R. Watson, Esq., cashier of the St. Stephen Bank, Deacon DeWolf and John B. Robinson, Esq. The Rev. Thos. Todd read the twenty-third psalm, and in behalf of those assembled, in a few well chosen words presented the bride and groom with a purse of gold containing ninety-one dollars, (\$91.00), after which, prayer was offered, and that beautiful hymn was sung, "Shall we meet beyond the River." The bride and groom, with their most gracefully, their faces shown with delight, and they said that that was one of the happiest events of their lives.—*Courier*.

The *VISITOR* extends its congratulations to the Deacon and his estimable wife. The Editor remembers with pleasure the days, when as Pastor and true yokefellows, this aged couple and he were associated in the service of the Master. May the smile of the loving Lord cheer their evening days, and at last may they enter the golden gates of the eternal city.

BLACKVILLE.—Last Sabbath we visited the waters of the Miramichi again, and baptized two young persons, who were happy in their Saviour. We find ourselves among a warm hearted people, and have been the happy recipient of many valuable presents. May the Lord still favor this people with His presence.

EDGAR HATFIELD.

Notice.

The Carleton and Victoria Quarterly Meeting will meet with the Baptist Church, Florenceville, on Friday evening, 26th of December, at 7 o'clock. The Quarterly Meeting sermon will be preached on Sabbath morning by Rev. Joseph Cahill. A full attendance of ministers and delegates is earnestly requested.

A. H. HAYWARD, Sec.
Rockland, Nov. 24th, 1879.