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Contributors & Correspondents.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Halifax.—Its Population.—The Elections.
Party Cries.—The Marriage Affinity
Question.—S. S. Convention.

Last month I gave you a few facts with regard to the religious state of our Province, and now I will take a glance at the capital, before giving a short account of the things that are going on around us. Halifax is very pleasantly situated on what its inhabitants delight to call "the finest harbour in the world." We imagined that it contained a population of forty thousand, but the inexorable census takers cut it down to a little over thirty, in spite of the indignant protests of the inhabitants. About two fifths of the population are Roman Catholics. The Presbyterians have seven congregations, the Episcopalians have five, besides the Garrison chapel for the accommodation of the military; the Methodists have three congregations, the Baptists two and congregationalists have the shadow one. In addition to these there are two congregations of coloured people, a few Plymouth brethren and the true church in half a dozen other different forms. The people of Halifax are on the whole a religious, church-going people, ready to take part in any good work. When we take into account the fact that Halifax is a military and naval station we feel that the religious condition of the community is most encouraging. Presbyterianism is a healthy plant and is steadily and rapidly growing. The great question before us in the city, just now, is the condition of our schools. Through the steady efforts of the Romanists, aided by the weak truckling of our politicians, school matters have been so bungled that the city is far behind our country villages in educational matters. We have a few good buildings and a few good teachers, but the vast majority of our teachers, thanks to an incompetent School Board, are better fitted for herdsmen than for teachers. Whatever may be said for or against our present local government, it is shamefully weak on the subject of education, and although we have an admirable system of free schools, yet the law is continually evaded and many of our schools are crippled because Rome is for sale and our politicians wish to buy her. The storm is looming and those in authority may learn ere long, that there is another power in the land as well as that of Rome. We formed a Protestant alliance once, with good results, and we may require to do so again.

The elections for parliament have just come off. The Government is sustained in every county, or at least the members go pledged to support the Government in everything that is good, and oppose it in everything that is bad; which is as much as any reasonable Government could expect. We hope our Members will be true to their promises. Everything went off quietly at our elections, and beyond the amount of personal abuse which seems ever to accompany political contests in these provinces, there was very little but what was right. I am glad to see you calling attention to the abominable style of writing adopted by our papers. If ever a country was cursed with rabid newspapers, ours is. If we were to believe them, there is not a politician among us who has the smallest particle of truth, honor, or honesty left. Fortunately, however, no person believes them, and beyond the evil done to manners, and the bad effect it must have upon strangers, little harm is done. There is one thing very noticeable and very encouraging with regard to our elections, and that is, that the influence of Rum is almost gone. A few years ago an election could not be carried on in any section of the country without alcoholic aid, now there are scores of districts where the very sight of a rum keg would ruin the prospects of any candidate. The old parties and party cries are about dead here. Formerly a man was born a Liberal or Conservative (words utterly without meaning in our politics), and he generally died as he was born; but things are entirely changed now, and almost any Government that will do justice to all parties may count on the support of this province. Our people will watch the action of the Government with regard to education, and with regard to the Sabbath, quite as carefully as they watch the changes in the tariff. Heretofore our people, rail-roads and post-office employees as well as others, have enjoyed their day of rest, and some of the opponents of Union

predict that this will not always be so; and the conduct of some of our Railway Commissioners a few months ago seemed to give ground for these predictions. We hope, however, for their own sakes as well as for ours, that the authorities will be sound on this point. The question of marriage affinity dismissed in our Synod, is now being carried on in one of our country papers. The whole Church is studying the question, and whatever be the final decision, the discussion will have the good effect of making all, ministers and people, thoroughly investigate the matter. Our Sunday School Convention took place a few weeks ago at New Glasgow. There were about 100 delegates present, and a great many interesting and practical subjects were discussed. One of our Convention men described the meeting as "standing higher in the average of common sense than any Convention he had ever attended." Sabbath school work is receiving much more attention here than it did formerly. In our own Church during the past month there has been nothing of special interest. All are working away hopefully. The cry is still, "more laborers." We received two from Scotland last week—Rev. Messrs. Clarke and Sutherland. Both of them preach Gaelic, and enter upon a large field of usefulness in one of our Gaelic districts. One of our wealthiest congregations—Fort Massey—intend to make a raid on the West in a few days. We wish them all success.

N. S.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Presbyterianism in P. E. Island — Good
Feeling Between the Two Presbyteries
—United to Support an Organ.

I promised in my last that I would this time say something about the Presbyterian Church in Prince Edward's Island. What prompted me to turn my attention in that direction in this correspondence was the fact that one of the Synods held its sittings in the pretty little capital of the colony this year. I might add that the whole island has about eighty or ninety thousand inhabitants. To make laws for these there is the same varied machinery in existence as there is in any other great constitutional country in the world. There is a Legislature of two chambers, the Lords and the Commons. There are in these chambers the Cabinet representing the Government for the time being and an Opposition as wily and as watchful as if Disraeli himself watched it, and there is the Lieutenant-Governor who represents the throne. I cannot at this moment give the figures of the Presbyterian portion of the population, not having the statistics at hand, but the members of that Church are numerous comparatively and influential. Each of the Synods is represented by a Presbytery. In that belonging to the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces there are 23 congregations, which, according to last returns, numbered some 1,300 adherents. On the same authority I see that but four of these congregations were receiving aid from the Supplement Fund last year. The Gaelic language is still used in many parts of the Island, there being probably five or six congregations where the minister must know that tongue. On looking over the list of the pastors there are four at least who I am certain can preach in that language. The Kirk Presbytery has five congregations under its care. I mentioned in my last that the Synod of this Church published no statistics this year, hence I have to take my figures from the returns of the previous year. The five congregations muster 854 families, or an average of 170 to each, while the twenty-three of the other Presbytery embrace about 2,400 families, or an average of a little over 100. In Charlottetown, which is the seat of the Government there is one congregation belonging to each Synod. The one under the larger of the Synods has been consolidated two years ago, from two small and weak congregations that were there before. The Free Church and the U. P. had each its representative in days that are past. Both together do not make a charge that is by any means too large. The consolidation has been followed by good results, though all the old lines have not entirely disappeared yet. They will be rubbed out ere long, it is to be hoped. The Kirk congregation is stronger than the one I have referred to, and the two are in the utmost harmony. Indeed so far as I can observe the question of union is more advanced in the Island than anywhere else in these Provinces. The two Presbyteries meet in Conference almost if not quite as

often as they do separately. One of the chief objects of frequent consultation between them is the management of a weekly paper called the *Presbyterian* which they conduct and support in common. The carrying on of that paper constitutes a distinct scheme which the Presbyteries work in common, and as may be expected to support a paper in a community composed of 28 congregations is attended with some difficulty. Nevertheless the struggle is made. The Presbyteries also consult on the question of education, on that of uniting outlying stations and such other objects as have a common interest to Presbyterians. Perhaps their isolation from the other Provinces not only geographically, but also politically, tends to draw the two sections more closely together, but whatever be the cause, the result of such united action cannot but be good.

H.

St. John, 28th August, 1872.

INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN:

DEAR SIR.—As I have no doubt that many are now getting sick of elections and the incessant warfare of party papers, together with the deluge of misrepresentation and untruth on both sides with which the country has been flooded, perhaps some of your readers will not only find leisure, but may feel it refreshing to turn aside for a little to other subjects.

We are all familiar with the wages of intemperance, and election time is not one to make us forget them. The legal opinion of a defeated candidate must have been a real godsend to all that class that lives only upon the misery and ruin of their fellowmen. The sights witnessed during the election may be pleaded as demonstrating the need of what has already been suggested as desirable in this country, an Asylum for Inebriates. It is to be hoped that, as matter of simple justice and gratitude, returned candidates, whether tory or reform, and especially, perhaps, the author of that legal opinion, will be willing to do something for their fellow-country-men, who, during an election, become fit only to be the inmates of such a place. Circumstances of a peculiar kind, have of late drawn the attention of the writer strongly to, not only the exceeding desirability, but to the necessity that a wise and humane government will acknowledge to exist for making provision for a most unhappy and unfortunate portion of society. It is admitted, in all lands, that intemperance in certain stages assumes the form of an absolute mania or disease, under the power of which the victim is totally helpless. Like other forms of monomania or madness, it requires peculiar treatment, and such as, in nearly every case, cannot be given in a private family, can only be given in such a place as an asylum. We acknowledge the necessity and duty of the state to make provision for men whom drunkenness or other causes has made hopelessly lunatic. Why should it not make provision for those who are not gone so far but that they may still be returned to a life of sobriety and usefulness? It certainly seems the more rational course of the two, to take means to correct an evil before it be hopeless, rather than allow it to go on till it is irremediable, and then make provision for it. It is certain that there are many inebriates who loathe their vice, who are groaning under it but are powerless, and who would welcome such a help to reformation and to a life of respectability. They shudder in their seasons of sobriety at the stigma and reproach they are bringing upon themselves and their families, and would a thousand times rather take refuge in an asylum than disgrace them by a drunkard's reputation. It cannot be questioned that many valuable lives are every year lost to the community, and souls lost, that can be saved in no way but by that we now contend for, and these are lost too in such a way as to leave to all friends behind them an evil heritage of shame. It seems all the more imperative that Government should provide an asylum, as it sanctions, upholds, and protects the infamous traffic by which this disease is produced. Other governments have acknowledged their duty in this respect, and have to a certain extent performed it. We certainly should not lag behind other intelligent, enlightened, and Christian Governments, in alleviating, and as far as possible healing altogether, the nuisances that arise out of the present state of society. To encourage something to be done of the kind sug-

gested, the thing is not an untried experiment. It has been tried and proved so successful to be well worth inaugurating in a country which boasts that it is superior to many older nations in all those charities which a spirit of humanity has provided for those who are the most fit subjects of public commiseration. The expense could not be very deadly to a country which has so large a surplus as Ontario has, which is enjoying extraordinary prosperity, and indeed it might easily be so managed as not to cost the country more than a mere trifle. Trusting that you will think this subject worthy of your advocacy.

Believe me,
Yours truly,

B.

OUR MISSION WORK—A FEW HINTS.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

SIR.—THE PRESBYTERIAN was greatly needed. May it contribute largely to enlighten the general public on the claims of our church. In a recent number you very appropriately draw your readers attention to this year being the tercentenary of the death of the greatest hero of the Reformation—John Knox.

Let ministers of the church throughout the land improve the occasion by showing their people the blessings of civil and religious liberty which we enjoy, and be inaugurated. As we are the true successors of the Apostles, our Catholicism should be clearly propounded to the world at this juncture. By press of circumstances, we have been classed as a sect, and the church has become less of that elastic thing that Knox and the Apostles intended. I have laboured in this region for 15 years to extend the church. The result has been the opening up of at least nine mission fields; three of which for want of assistance have become stony, thirsty, commons; and the other five or six in four weeks will be without a labourer. The territory comprises 8,000 square miles of very broken country and poor roads.

In writing about this I am speaking for other mission fields of the Church. As we are deficient both in means and men, our people should ask themselves, can we not give more for our Home Mission Fund? Many give also for the Mission Funds of other churches. This strengthens them and weakens us. Besides is it right?

Our church should ask itself, can we not utilise our missionaries to better advantage? It is prodigal of its labourers. The moment they are found not to be very acceptable they are dropped. In that is there not too much pandering to the prejudices, or the stinginess of stations and congregations? Let us learn some things from the Wesleyan Methodists. I have been since 1857 on the County Board for examining Teachers, and I may fairly say that I never came across a correctly written certificate by one of its ministers in that time. Yet the church by its system of changing prevents them being injurious to its extension.

1. In this field it has at least ten ministers beside local preachers, and they are always at work. For many years I was all alone; and the help I still get is both limited and intermittent. Indeed this is putting the work into their hands.

2. At least \$1,500 are yearly lavished in this field by their Home Mission Fund, and ours can hardly be said to have yet given \$400. The liberality of the one contrasts unfavourably with the niggardliness of the other.

3. Local preachers more ignorant still and any itinerant quack nondescript preachers that may fall in their way are freely used to advance the interests of their church. Are we doing right to drop well-educated ministers, and to ignore intelligent Christian laymen, whose gifts and graces exercised might yield an abundant harvest? It is not thus the Free Church of Scotland acts with its overflowing ministry.

4. The Moravian Church sends its best men always to the most difficult and self-denying work; and they never think of refusing. In our church those who imagine themselves the best men, strive to get promoted to town and city congregations, where they have best pay and least strain on their mental and muscular powers. Is this labouring for Christ or self? This is not keeping the extremities warm, so essential to health and vigor. This is not fulfilling the Scripture maxim "the strong should

help the weak." We have now plenty of young men offering themselves for the foreign field, are there none to offer themselves for the home field? The enchantment and poetry of distance are awaiting; but more and cheaper work may thereby be performed for the church. I have built four churches. Had I the help I wanted fourteen might have been built by this time. Is there no man of considerable bodily and mental vigor willing to build churches and shape congregations in this region? The work is glorious, and abundant fruit will be after a few days.

MADOC.

ALL ABOUT PRINTING.

Moveable types for printing were not used until the 15th century.

Books were printed by the Chinese and other Eastern nations from engraved blocks long before the invention of type.

The first types were of wood. The same material is still much used for the larger varieties of letters.

Johannes Guttenburg is generally believed to have been the first to manufacture moveable types.

An edition of Donatus was the first book printed from moveable types.

The first letters were characters imitating handwriting.

Printing was introduced into Paris in 1470; into London four years later.

Roman type were first made in 1465. Italic about the year 1500.

Type founding was formerly a part of the business of a printer, and was declared a distinct art by a decree of the Star Chamber in 1687.

The largest size of type used for books is Great primer; the smaller sizes are English, Pica, Small Pica, Long Primer, Bourgeois, Brovier, Minion, Nonpareil, Agate, Pearl, Diamond and Brilliant.

Pearl is the smallest type found in ordinary printing offices.

Agate is the smallest type used for setting advertisements in any American newspaper. It is in favor with those papers, which, from their large editions and the great demand for their columns, are necessitated to economise space.

The type in most general use for advertisements is nonpareil. Those papers which use larger are generally a poorer class, for whose advertising columns there is little demand.

In America printers are paid by the 1,000 ems, (M) an em being equivalent to about three letters. In England the matter is measured by ems (n), 2,000 of which equal 1,000 ems.

A good compositor will set, correct and distribute about 6,000 ems in a day of ten hours. Several of the New York newspapers are printed from stereotype plates which are prepared with great rapidity and melted over for use again in printing the next edition. So rapidly is this work performed that in some instances forms have been got ready for the press in twenty minutes after the last page had been given to the stereotypist.

The hand-press was invented in 1450 and is still used without any important improvement in the majority of country newspaper offices.

ink rollers are made of a mixture of molasses and glue, and were first invented by one Gannal, a glue manufacturer in Paris.

The first newspaper ever printed by steam was the London *Times* of November 28, 1814.

Hand presses are still used in large offices where very fine and perfect work is required.

The Hoe press was patented in July, 1847, and is indispensable to all newspapers with large circulations.

The Bullock press, a recent invention, exceeds all others in speed, printing 20,000 copies per hour, upon both sides at the same time, from an endless sheet, clipping off each paper as fast as printed.

Phonography was invented by Isaac Pitman, an Englishman, in 1837.

We let our blessings grow mouldy and call them curses.—Beecher.

The purer the golden vessel the more readily is it bent: the higher worth of women is sooner lost than that of men.