

From Halifax.

Christmas of 1900 is now behind us. The first day of the new year of the new century is near at hand. Stewiacke has arranged to celebrate it by a review of one hundred years of its history—a look back, and a look ahead. Among those selected to read papers on this occasion is the Rev. A. C. Chute, M. A., D. D. Of course it is not known how much liberty Mr. Chute will take in a mixed assembly in exploiting the Baptists of Stewiacke. I say exploiting, because almost every person now-a-days uses the word. It is the first time I ever used it; and I may not have a full and distinct definition of it in my mind. Well, if the pastor of the first church of Halifax should take it into his head to exploit the Baptists at this celebration, he would throw Aylesford in the Annapolis Valley into the shade in the matter of producing Baptist ministers. So far, I believe, no place in the Maritime Provinces in this respect has attempted to dispute honors with Aylesford. From memory let me enumerate—Henry Saunders, James Tupper, Abraham Stronach, Ebenezer Stronach, John C. Morse, Edward Harris, Joshua Cogswell, Aaron Cogswell, James Parker, Willard Parker, Obed Parker, N. L. Parker, L. B. Gates, Silas Vidito, D. M. Welton, C. B. Welton, S. Welton, Johnston Neily, E. M. Saunders, J. H. Saunders, J. C. Goucher, W. C. Goucher, G. O. Gates, and another Gates whose initials I do not remember.

Any valley that would enter the list against this district in the matter of producing ministers, must make a good showing. Well, let us try Stewiacke Valley. Aylesford was thickly sown with Baptists. The farm was large. Not so Stewiacke. In 1800 Rev. Hugh Graham, a Presbyterian minister, left Cornwallis and took up his abode among the Presbyterians in Stewiacke. Four years later, Abram Newcomb, one of his elders and greatly in love with his pastor, removed from Cornwallis and became a neighbor of Mr. Graham's. He had not been long in the place until he began to entertain some doubts about his baptism. Stout-hearted, honest Presbyterian elder that he was, he went to his Bible to settle the matter. He settled it. He and his pastor had much discourse about the matter. Mr. Graham was so much in love with Mr. Newcomb, and Mr. Newcomb with Mr. Graham that they were convinced of each other's sincerity; and although Mr. Newcomb followed in practice the convictions of his judgment and conscience, as did Mr. Graham, who remained a Presbyterian, yet they remained firm friends so long as they lived. Mr. Newcomb was strong in the Lord. Had he decided the matter before he left Cornwallis, scores of people in that region of country would have sympathized with him. But there was not a Baptist in the Stewiacke Valley. He was baptized by the Rev. James Munro of Onslow. In 1819 the Rev. Charles Tupper preached in Mr. Newcomb's house. This was said to be the first sermon preached by a Baptist minister in that Valley. This Baptist vine was a fruitful one. Seven daughters and five sons graced the table of the parents, and made a lively home. All except one have passed away. Eliakim Newcomb still lives. He is one of the members of the church at Amherst. Another son, James, entered the ministry, was ordained at Hillsboro, N. B., and was twelve years pastor at Moncton. William A., his son, has been for a long time pastor in Maine. Four of the men who married daughters of Abram Newcomb, Noah Bently, Daniel C. Archibald, Charles Cox, and Jacob Layton, were strong supporters of the Baptist church in Upper Stewiacke. Ezra Layton, a deacon of the Baptist church at Great Village, married another daughter. Rev. S. N. Bently of sacred memory was a son of Noah. A son of S. N. is now a pastor at Bristol, Rhode Island. Daniel C. Archibald gave two sons to the ministry—E. N. and I. C. Archibald; and Eliakim N. has outdistanced his father, for he has given three sons to the ministry and a daughter to Foreign Missions. W. L. at Lawrence town; A. J. at Glace Bay; A. C. at Hutchinson, Kansas, and Mabel in the Teigu land. A grandson of Charles Cox, A. C. Chute, is over the old historic church at Halifax. Another daughter of Abram Newcomb married a Presbyterian deacon of Stewiacke, and united with the Presbyterians. They gave to the Presbyterian church the Rev. Mr. Dickie now of Windsor. A daughter of Daniel Tupper whose wife was a Baptist, married a Dr. Francis, a Presbyterian and became a Presbyterian. But it seems that the Newcomb Baptist blood had got into the veins of this family, for six of their sons are now Baptist ministers—Edward at Hill, N. H.; William, assistant pastor of the first Baptist church at Minneapolis; James, pastor of the Second Avenue church in New York; Matthew, an evangelist in Kansas; George, pastor at Westfield, New Jersey, and Eben, a student at Crozer, and a supply of the Baptist church at Wilmington, Md. Two of the great-grandsons of Abram Newcomb are physicians. Many accomplished teachers have gone from this church into the Maritime Provinces and some to the United States.

Now, taking into account the small beginning at Stewiacke, Aylesford must take second rank in the matter of producing ministers. What a grand history that little church has made. Always small, but great.

Bro. Obed Chute, father of A. C. Chute, was for many years its honored pastor. He closed his earthly labors in that church. His widow is spending the evening of her beautiful life in the same place. Now I have taken more liberty in exploiting the Baptists of Upper Stewiacke than Mr. Chute will feel at liberty to do on New Year's day. Abram Shaw of Stewiacke, as well as Abram of Palestine had faith. This intelligent, godly sincerity that digs down to the roots to find out the will of God, and when found, obeys without regard to earthly considerations, bears fruit.

On the 23rd instant, the Rev. A. Gaudier, after a pastorate of seven years over the Fort Massey Presbyterian church of Halifax, preached his farewell sermon. He goes to Toronto to become pastor of the St. James Square church. His resignation in Halifax has been a severe wrench to the sympathies of his congregation. Mr. Gaudier is yet a young man. His worth is sterling. Since he came from Ontario to this city his influence has been cumulative. The entire city has been conscious of it. His removal causes general regret. On the same day that Mr. Gaudier preached his farewell sermon, the Rev. J. S. Sutherland, late of Sussex Valley, preached the first sermon of his pastorate of St. John's church, Halifax, as the successor of the Rev. Mr. McPherson, who, after a long and successful pastorate returned to Toronto.

At the induction services of Mr. Sutherland, the Rev. Dr. Pollock, moderator of the Presbyterian assembly of Canada, among other things is reported to have said: "The church to the end of the first century was governed by Presbyteries, bishop and presbyter being interchangeable terms in the Scriptures and that form extended at least into the middle of the second century."

The early church was governed by apostles along with presbyters and when the apostles died they left the church to that government. Presbyterian church government was prescribed by God."

There are two objections to the last statement. In the first place, during the apostles' days and until a long time after, there was no general organized church to be governed. There were local churches. In the second place, the apostles and presbyters did not govern even the local churches. This was done by the apostles and elders and the whole individual church. Baptist church government was prescribed by God. That is the ipse dixit of Reporter. All things being equal one ipse dixit is as good as another.

Dr. Pollock further says: "The danger of the church to-day was not a tendency to prelacy, but a tendency to congregationalism—a tendency which is dangerous to the Christian religion." The tendency to local church rule is certainly manifest.

In Presbyterian churches more care is taken to get the will of the church and its adherents in the case of calling a pastor, than in Baptist churches. Each member and each adherent is given the chance to vote informally. Even Methodist churches are calling their pastors and advertising their calls months before the meeting of conference. The drift, the trend is enough here toward congregationalism. Power is slipping from prelacy presbyterianism, councils, and all church courts, into the hands of congregations. The Roman Catholic church alone has been successful in withstanding these attacks on clerical authority. In their attempts to execute the laws of Christ, the clergy in all the forms they have taken have been a sad failure. The Lord have mercy on the world, if the churches, who now are taking the ground that the supreme power belongs to them, do not do better than the clerics have done. If they seek to know the will of Christ, and to carry out his laws in the church, the congregations of the same will do well. If no, evil will follow, notwithstanding the maintenance of the sound principle of government. All should hope and pray that the danger to the Christian religion, seen by Dr. Pollock, is only imagination.

REPORTER.

Notes from Newton.

My notes of four weeks ago having failed to reach their destination I shall duplicate one or two of the items.

Thanksgiving day passed very pleasantly for the Acadia people here. They were very kindly invited to dinner by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Belias of Pleasant Street, in this city. Mrs. Belias was formerly from Billtown, N. S.

It is not safe to judge the sentiment of the United States toward Great Britain by what the newspapers contain on the subject. The men of thought who know how to appreciate the greatness and worth of British history and British institutions are not slow to express themselves most cordially. Dr. Lorimer often speaks thus. Dr. MacArthur, of New York, who recently lectured in Boston prefaced his address by words of the highest eulogy of the Queen and the British Empire. But the words of the warmest appreciation the writer ever listened to in this country were uttered by a D. D. of the Methodist Episcopal denomination in the course of a recent missionary address.

The Rev. Chas. M. Sheldon, of "In His Steps" fame,

has been heard by the students of Newton in the chapel on "some lines a young pastor should follow." Mr. Sheldon strongly advocates simply one sermon on Sunday.

"Grip" is very prevalent in this State just now. A number of the students have been suffering from its influence.

We have had no sleighing here yet. There has been the very slightest flurries of snow. There has been good skating, however, which has been enjoyed by very many.

There have been many Christmas attractions in the churches. The First Baptist church of Boston is giving fortnightly orations instead of the usual Sunday evening service. The best musical talent of the city is enlisted. On the evening of the 23rd "Messiah" was rendered to a packed house. People are admitted only by ticket. The pastor gives a short address during the evening.

The whole State has been in mourning for ex-Governor Walcott. He was suddenly struck down by typhoid fever in the midst of his best vigor. His was a public name of whom all shades of political affinities spoke well.

Prof. Norton, a leading lecturer at Harvard, in his annual Christmas address before a select body of students, spoke of the United States as growing to be one of the "worst of nations," as it is not at pace with the world and does not show good will toward men. He urgently called upon his hearers to bend their best energies toward ushering in a better day.

Allow me, Mr. Editor, to wish you much joy at this Christmas season and the very largest prosperity in the coming New Year of the new century.

Newton Centre, Mass.

A. F. NEWCOMB.

Rhetorical Exhibition at Acadia.

The Annual Rhetorical Exhibition of the Junior Class took place on Tuesday evening, 18th inst.

Prayer was offered by Rev. J. H. Marshley, of Moncton. Six orations were delivered, the subjects and speakers being:—"Emancipation of the Russian Serf," Wylie H. Smith, Elgin, N. B.; "The Mission of the Schqjar," by Miss Edith H. Rand, Wolfville; "The Significance of the Nov 1," Samuel J. Cann, Pleasant Valley, P. E. I.; "Nature in Poetry," Minnie Colpitts, Elgin, N. B.; "Spiritual and Material Forces," Denton J. Neily, Middleton, N. S.; "Tennyson's Holy Grail," P. Clinton Reed, Berwick, N. S. The papers were well received and the writers commended. Dr. B. H. Eaton, chairman of the Board of Governors, made a brief address full of wit and wisdom. The Junior Class presented the College with a handsome and valuable desk for the use of the Librarian. Prof. Sawyer, Librarian, made a suitable acknowledgment of the kindness of the class.

The full list of orations by members of the Class presented before the faculty was as follows: Orations by the Members of the Junior Class, The Plains of Abraham.

- Charles Melville Baird, Truro, N. S.
The Classics as a Basis for the Study of English
Ira Millard Baird, Clements vale, N. S.
Shakespeare's Henry VIII.
Aubrey Hilborn Baker, Tremont, N. S.
The Age of the Engineer.
Earle Gordon Bill, Wolfville, N. S.
Carlyle's Cromwell.
Theodore Harding Boggs, Wolfville, N. S.
The Significance of the Novel.
Samuel James Cann, Pleasant Valley, P. E. I.
The Civilization of Egypt.
Avari Knowles Cohoon, Wolfville, N. S.
The Shot Story as a Feature in Modern Literature.
Mabel Stevens Coldwell, Wolfville, N. S.
Nature in Poetry.
Minnie Colpitts, Elgin, N. B.
Christian Sentiment in Tennyson.
Egbert Le Roy Dakin, Centreville, N. S.
The Statesmanship of Cecil F. Rhodes.
Perclval St. Clair Elliot, Paradise, N. S.
The Literary Works of Goldsmith.
Frederick Garfield Goodspeed, Penniac, N. B.
Science in the time of Charles II.
William Kenneth Haley, St John, N. B.
Franklin's Contributions to Science.
Owen Brown Keddy, Milton, N. S.
Bismarck and the New German Empire.
John Smith McFadden, Johnson's Mills, N. B.
Modern Art.
Bessie Marguerite McMillan, Isaac's Harbor, N. S.
Spiritual and Material Forces.
Denton Judson Neily, Middleton, N. S.
The Relations of Great Britain and Germany.
William Leslie Patterson, Amherst, N. S.
David Copperfield.
Lida Pipes, Amherst, N. S.
The Mission of the Scholar.
Edith Hamilton Rand, Wolfville, N. S.
Tennyson's Holy Grail.
Peryl Clinton Reed, Berwick, N. S.
Greece in the time of Pericles.
Barry Wentworth Roscoe, Kentville, N. S.
Imagination,—its use and abuse.
Robert Percival Schurman, Freetown, P. E. I.
The Struggle for Life.
Stephen Walter Schurman, Truro, N. S.
The Assassination of King Humbert of Italy.
Leonard Leopold Slipp, Sussex, N. B.
Emancipation of the Russian Serfs.
Wylie Herbert Smith, Elgin, N. B.
Thought Transference.
Warren Merrill Steele, Amherst, N. S.
The Nineteenth Century.
Arthur Taylor, Wolfville, N. S.