

Editorial Notes.

The Baptist ministers of St. John met in their usual conference on Monday morning last. A good degree of interest is reported in the churches. Three persons were received by baptism into the German St. church on Sunday. The special meetings at Main Street have been marked by increasing interest, and are being continued the present week. Union meetings at St. David's church are continued and a very encouraging interest prevails.

In some of the Nova Scotia towns vigorous efforts are being put forth for the enforcement of the Scott Act. An important movement in that direction in Amherst was noted in these columns a few weeks ago. It is gratifying to observe that the citizens are moving forward effectively with the work they have taken in hand. At a meeting of the Law and Order League of the town, held last Friday evening, Mr. N. A. Rhodes presiding, a communication was received from the proprietor of the Terrace hotel, stating that he had decided to rid his premises of all intoxicating liquors of every kind, and manage the hotel hereafter on strictly temperance principles. The league, it is stated, are determined to fight the traffic to the end, and every place where liquor is supposed to be on sale, is being searched, and the liquor seized when found. Lunenburg has also been taking steps for the enforcement of the law, and the hotel-keepers are endeavoring to check-mate this movement by closing their doors to the travelling public. It is to be hoped that the temperance sentiment of Lunenburg has enough vitality to survive a bluff game of that sort.

A prohibition bill prepared by B. H. Eaton, Q. C., with the assistance of the legislative committee of the Sons of Temperance, was introduced in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, on Saturday, by Mr. Firman McClure, member for Colchester. A despatch to the Sun says:

Described in general, the bill is composed of the prohibitory clauses of the Scott act and the machinery of the liquor license act unimpaired. The bill prohibits the retail sale entirely throughout the province. It permits the sale by wholesale for export out of the country of quantities not less than ten gallons. The bill provides for appointment by the town or city council in each town or city of two agents for every thousand people for the sale of intoxicants for chemical, medicinal or religious purposes. Any clergymen, justice or physician granting an order improperly on those agents will be subject upon summary conviction to a penalty of \$40 for each offence. The fines for keeping liquor for sale in the province will be \$40, \$80 and \$100 consecutively for the first, second and third offences, and \$100 for each subsequent offence. The penalties for selling are fixed at \$50 and \$100 for first and second offences, and \$100 with three months imprisonment for third and every subsequent offence. The bill does not touch the military canteens.

The name of Dr. J. N. Murdock, widely known because of his connection with the Baptist Missionary Union, is added to the list of the departed. He died February 15, at the Clifton Springs Sanitarium, New York State, where he had been staying for some months. Dr. Murdock was born in December, 1820, and was accordingly in his 77th year. He was a man of burly physique and strong, vigorous mind. He had studied law and been admitted to the bar, but when converted felt it his duty to enter the Christian ministry. He became a Baptist by study and conviction after he had begun to preach and was ordained as pastor at Waterville, New York, in 1842. It was in 1863 that Dr. Murdock became Secretary of the Missionary Union, and his services in that capacity covered 28 years. Dr. Murdock was not a man of brilliant qualities, but he was a man of great firmness of character and strength of mind, and he rendered faithful and invaluable service to the cause to which the greater portion of his working life was devoted. When he became secretary the total receipts were less than \$104,000, in 1891, when he resigned, they were more than \$472,000, and the missionaries on foreign fields had increased from 84 to 348.

In the character and ministry of Stephen there is an intimation of what was made still more clearly manifest in the case of the great apostle to the gentiles, that Christianity is emphatically a religion

of spiritual freedom and power. Those apostles who had been the immediate disciples of Jesus occupied an important place and had an important ministry to fulfil. But it was not according to the Divine purpose that those men, or any whom they might appoint to be their successors, should, in any exclusive and arbitrary fashion, exercise authority and lordship over the church. The Holy Spirit was and is the grand energizing, and, in the highest sense, organizing, power in the church, and the Spirit quickens whom He will, and bestows His gifts upon those who are able to receive them, whether they are or are not in the line of what men call apostolic succession. Neither Barnabas, nor Stephen nor Paul were of the twelve. But these were all men of apostolic spirit, full of the Holy Ghost, mighty in word and in doctrine, clothed with an authority that came to them direct from Heaven, and did not depend upon the intervention of any human power. Stephen was not chosen for a special work and then endowed with spiritual qualifications for it by the laying on of Apostolic hands, but he was chosen because he was "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost," and Paul distinctly affirmed that his apostleship came not through men.

For some years past both the American Baptist Missionary Union and the American Baptist Home Mission Society have closed the year's operations with a heavy balance on the wrong side of the account. The accumulated indebtedness has in the case of each society reached such proportions as to make it a very serious embarrassment. The Union's debt is stated to be about \$306,000, and that of the Home Mission Society \$180,000, making a total of \$486,000—nearly half a million. The situation has thus become a discouraging one for those entrusted with the management of the work, both at home and abroad. The calls were urgent, the opportunities great, but there was not that response to the appeals of the Boards necessary to enable them to enlarge the work according to the demands, or even to sustain it according to the standard of effectiveness, which had been reached. In this emergency Mr. John D. Rockefeller has come to the help of the missionary societies with an offer of \$250,000, provided the first of July next, the remaining \$236,000 necessary to pay off the whole indebtedness. Mr. Rockefeller's generous offer, which has made been in a characteristically modest way, has inspired hope and courage, and an united effort, which can hardly fail to be successful, will be made to secure the amount necessary to pay off the whole indebtedness, and thus deliver the societies from the perilous position in which they find themselves.

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MR. EDITOR.

Allow me to second most cordially the suggestion made by J. S. Clark in your last, respecting a memorial to Dr. Sawyer. No man is more worthy. No name it seems to me would be better to conjure with, especially among the alumni of the college. In the governors meeting recently, I proposed the raising of an A. W. Sawyer professorship. Either this or a Sawyer memorial library building should be undertaken at once. Let us build his monument while he lives. Now let us hear from President Trotter and the denominational leaders. Which shall it be? To start the matter on a small scale, I am ready to put my name down for 25 dollars. But what say the brethren? D. H. SIMPSON,

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Ontario Letter.

BY R. K. DAYFOOT.

An "open winter" in every sense of the term. No snow till after the New Year, and then so little that the sleigh riding public have been constantly aggravated for want of more. The hockey players and curlers have had to indulge their love of these sports as they could find ice strong enough and hard enough. The small boy and his coasting have often failed to connect. Although the winter has been so mild, it has not been proportionately healthy. We have a proverb in this region, "a green Christmas makes a full churchyard," and that proverb has been abundantly illustrated this season. Canadians seem to need the bracing influence of steady cold weather. They sicken and die when the frosts and thaws are intermittent. Notably frequent have been the sudden attacks of apoplexy and consequent paralysis. Are we living too fast? Is the strain of keep up-to-date too much for us?

Is the wear upon nerves and delicate blood vessels of the brain so great that these organs are shattered and ruptured to the point of collapse? It would seem so, especially as the cases reported have been those of people not by any means old, but well on in middle life.

EDITOR.

Queen's University is located in Kingston, Ont. It is undenominational, yet Presbyterian influence predominates. To this institution, as professor of Latin, there has lately come a brilliant young scholar from England, Mr. R. T. Glover, M. A. He is a fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and is a son of Rev. Dr. Glover, pastor of one of the Baptist churches in Bristol. Baptists in Kingston are waking and stirring after a long period of slumber; and Prof. Glover, if he be a true Baptist, has before him abundant opportunity of usefulness in helping his brethren to greater activity.

The Union Street mission in Kingston was recognized on Tuesday, February 16, as an independent church, with 52 members. Rev. C. W. King and his worthy wife are seeing gratifying fruitage from their labors.

Rev. J. B. Kennedy, pastor at Tecumseth Street, Toronto, is a happy man. Mr. Davis, a wealthy business man of that city, has offered to erect a building for this "down town" church, at a cost of \$10,000. This is done as a memorial of his daughter, lately deceased, who was one of the faithful teachers in the mission school. To this gift, Mr. Davis adds \$1,000 for Home Missions.

Congratulations, Bro. Black, on your Magazine sheet. Port Hope, February 17.

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Shelburne County-Quarterly Meeting.

The fourteenth session of this organization convened with the church at Lockeport February 9. Seven clergymen were present. But the very bad condition of the roads made the attendance of laymen from a distance rather smaller than usual. From Lockeport and vicinity the turn-out was very large, the congregation on the second evening exceeding any gathering ever seen in this part of Shelburne county. All the meetings were controlled by deep spirituality and sustained enthusiasm. Tuesday morning, after devotional exercises conducted by the president, reports were received from the churches, which indicated that in every case there is a spirit of vigorous activity and true hopefulness. Baptisms were reported from Osborne and Port Clyde. After dinner the first hour was given to Missions. Pastor Dunn spoke earnestly and effectively in favor of the home work, and Pastor Quick presented an array of telling facts and figures to sustain the claims of the foreign field. In the B. Y. P. U. meeting, Pastor Fash gave a very entertaining and encouraging address on the special work which has been committed to our young people. Mr. Alton Dunlop read a paper very largely on the same subject, which proved to be an excellent presentation of important truths, almost every thought being clinched by an apt quotation from the Bible. The eight Unions in this county are all doing good work. In the evening Pastor Fash preached a powerful sermon from the words, "I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified," and the day concluded with a very successful evangelistic meeting, led by Pastor Dunn.

The whole of Wednesday forenoon was occupied by a social meeting directed by Father Carpenter. It was a season of wonderful sweetness and realization of the Divine presence. A great number took part, including many who have very recently found the peace of God that passeth all understanding. The afternoon began with a meeting of the County Board, at which it was decided to relieve the Home Mission Board of the fifty dollars granted to Port Clyde, thus making Shelburne County Baptists independent of outside financial aid. It was also voted to take up a collection at the next meeting for painting the Sanctuary at Port Clyde. The woman's meeting, as usual, was full of life and well directed vigor. There are now ten Aid Societies in the county, and they are all thoroughly wide awake. The old fashioned prayer meeting was conducted by Deacon Augustus Freeman, and during this happy hour we could almost imagine ourselves beyond the gates of glory and seeing the face of Jesus without a veil between. The organization of the Sunday School convention was completed with Deacon J. G. Locke as president. In the evening Pastor Sables in preaching the Quarterly sermon founded his very earnest and logical discourse on the words, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday today and forever." The farewell meeting was in charge of Pastor Quick, and revealed in a most conclusive manner that our people never get weary in the well doing of praising Providence for all His mercies. The May meetings will be held with the church in Shelburne. The collections for Christian work amounted to \$30.73. ADDISON P. BROWN, Sec'y.