

# THE STANDARD.

## THE STANDARD.

Published monthly as an auxiliary to the regular work of the Church.

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WITH this issue the STANDARD makes its first appearance. Doubtless questions may be asked concerning the reason for its existence in these times of so many newspapers, both religious and secular. To the question "Wherefore art thou come?" the STANDARD replies, "I have come as an additional voice for righteousness and truth."

A large proportion of the membership of every church do not regularly attend public worship. Some are hindered by age and infirmity; others are deprived of such privileges by sickness; many more are detained at home to care for children, and the sick; and others, indifferent folk, have no good reason for non-attendance. When we consider also the non-resident members it is evident that a very large proportion of the people are not directly influenced by the weekly services of the church. It is the purpose of the STANDARD to carry the atmosphere of church life and religious influence into the homes of all such people.

On appropriate occasions reports on the progress in different branches of work may be expected. These columns will contain a record of the more important events in religious work, as well as a record of marriages and deaths occurring in the community.

The many other purposes for which a church paper exists will become more evident as its columns are carefully perused during the coming months.

It is hoped that the STANDARD may be a welcome visitor in every home. The price of subscription has been made so low that all may receive its monthly visits. Let our readers be assured that as soon as it becomes evident that there will be a surplus in the treasury, that that amount shall be immediately used in the improvement and enlargement of the paper. The STANDARD depends on each individual for hearty support

### JOTTINGS.

The Baptist Year Book of the Maritime Provinces for 1899 is at hand. 410 churches report a membership of 50,846. There were 1,362 baptisms during the year. The amount expended for church support was \$162,834.66.

R. A. H. Morrow, Publisher, of St. John, N. B., has recently published a little volume entitled "The Bible Vindicated" or "Marvellous Discoveries in Bible Lauds." The price is 40 cents.

The death of Sir William Dawson, late Principal of McGill College, Montreal, is an equal loss to science and religion. He was one of the most successful educators of our time, and as a geologist stood in the very first rank. He was an outspoken christian man, and always brought his vast attainments and influence to bear upon belief in the Scriptures and the encouragement of the personal christian life.

The illness of Mr. D. L. Moody, which led him to close suddenly his evangelistic engagement and return to Northfield, fortunately does not seem to indicate that his life is in danger, but probably his work as a public speaker is drawing to a close. Mr. Moody, however, is a good deal more than a public speaker.

Men are not proud of their physical defects. They do not boast that they have lost an eye or an arm; but, strangely enough, they are often found to exult in their mental and moral defects. They call themselves agnostics with a tone that savors of anything but regret; they say that they lack the power of faith as if that were a reason for congratulation.

By his recent resignation, Dr. Richard S. Storrs closed one of the most distinguished pastorates in the history of the American pulpit. For fifty-three years he has been pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, of Brooklyn. It is not the mere length of his term of service which makes this pastorate so eminent, but rather moral and spiritual force, high and fine attainments of character, insight, and eloquence.

When we read that the two armies about Ladysmith suspend fighting to bury their dead and help each other in the task, exchanging ambulances and fraternizing as if they were comrades in arms, we get a fresh glimpse as to the meaning of civilized warfare. The men who are fighting each other do not hate each other. They are simply playing a game according to recognized rules. When we have got as far as that it seems as if we had reached a time to settle these international disputes by some other game than one that involves the killing of men and the manufacture of widows and orphans by wholesale.

Churches that give their members least opportunity to work, are most apt to wonder why more work is not being done.

The occasional christian, who has his spasms of religious fervour, is the type that keeps the church apologizing to the world, and keeps the world away from the church.

Sir Harry Smith was a general in a former South African war. The town of Harrismith in Orange Free State perpetuates his name, while Ladysmith, in Natal, so well known during the present Anglo-Boer war, is named from the wife of General Smith.

What we need to know is not the reason for our trials, but that God is our Father, that His power is almighty, that His wisdom is perfect, and that His love is infinite.

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