

# Messenger & Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,  
VOLUME LV.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR  
VOLUME XLIV.

Vol. VIII., No. 7.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1892.

Printed by G. W. DAY, North Side King St.

## PASSING EVENTS.

—TWENTY-EIGHT have been added to the Warren Avenue church, Boston, since the beginning of the year. Rev. H. M. MacDonald is pastor.

—Mrs. J. B. Trevor has recently given a cheque for \$50,000 to Rochester University, raising the Trevor gift to that institution to a total of \$250,000.

—The longest-settled Baptist pastor in Massachusetts is Rev. Wm. S. Apsey, of North Cambridge, his settlement dating back to 1868. Next in seniority comes Dr. A. J. Gordon, who became pastor of the Clarendon street church one year later—in 1869.

—Our readers will be interested in an account given in another column of the services in connection with the funeral of the late Mr. Seiden. An extended obituary sketch has been prepared, for which we are unable to find room this week. It will appear in next issue.

—Rev. N. E. Wood, D. D., of Strong Place church, Brooklyn, N. Y., has accepted the call of the Baptist church, Brookline, Mass., to succeed Rev. O. P. Gifford, lately removed to Chicago. Dr. Wood, who begins at Brookline the 1st of March, is said to have achieved a high reputation as a preacher and scholar.

—On the second page of this issue will be found a very interesting article on Spurgeon and his work, contributed by Rev. H. F. Adams, of Halifax, who is able to write not only from personal knowledge of his subject, but also with the love and reverence which a disciple naturally feels for so great a master.

—It is reported that Rev. H. L. Wayland, D. D., is to write a life of Spurgeon, which will be published by the American Baptist Publication Society.

—Rev. A. C. Chute's monograph of William Carey is spoken of by the *Watchman* as "timely, brief, competent and comprehensive." It is on sale at the Halifax Baptist Book Room.

—HON. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE suffered a severe shock from a fall some ten days ago, and his condition for several days was reported as almost hopeless. Later reports, we are pleased to observe, are much more favorable. Mr. MacKenzie has not yet reached a very advanced age. His integrity, ability, and the value of his public services are freely acknowledged by all parties, and all who value the presence of honest and able men in the parliament of Canada would rejoice to see Mr. MacKenzie's political career prolonged. He has been, however, for some time past almost an invalid, and it is feared a return to anything like vigorous health is not to be anticipated.

—We learn that at a meeting of the Leinster street church on Wednesday last, a resolution was adopted requesting the pastor, Rev. H. G. Mellick, to continue in his present relations to the church for another year. We are informed, however, that Mr. Mellick has accepted a call to a position as general superintendent of Home Mission work in Manitoba and the North-west. Bro. Mellick is highly esteemed for his work's sake in this city, and enjoys the love, the esteem and fullest confidence of all his brethren in the ministry to whom he is personally known. A few years ago he spent some time in ministerial work in Manitoba, and is, therefore, acquainted with the needs and conditions with which he will have to deal. We regret very much to have Bro. Mellick leave us, but we hope and feel sure that his ability and faithfulness will insure a large blessing upon the work which he now feels himself called to undertake.

—TO OUR READERS.—For the many appreciative words, with the timely remittances received, the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is very grateful to its numerous and faithful patrons. For the improvements recently made in the paper the management has large drafts to meet. It is not too much to ask that all our subscribers now look carefully at the dates on the labels of their several papers and see to it that, to the utmost of their abilities, these be rightly marked '92, which always means that the MESSENGER AND VISITOR is paid for to January 1, 1892. Our pastors and agents will gladly forward all dues to this office free of charge to the subscribers. We hope that all our dear brothers and sisters who are interested in the good work we are doing for our own beloved Baptist denomination, and for the enlarged circulation of a wholesome religious literature in our provinces, will not fail to assist us, that this year may be one of great prosperity. In all our departments of religious endeavor. Will not all our pastors speak a kind word for us in their congregations, and if possible secure for us many new subscribers?

DURING the past week bye-elections for the Dominion parliament have been held in eleven constituencies. Four of these were in Nova Scotia and seven in Ontario. The Nova Scotia elections have not altered the relative strength of the parties. Halifax has re-elected the Conservative candidate, Messrs. Kenny and Stairs, but by a majority reduced by some hundreds of votes. Queens has re-elected Mr. Forbes, Liberal, by a majority reduced by about one-half. In Digby, Mr. Bowen has been re-elected by a largely increased majority, and in Kings Dr. Borden is again successful, though this majority is smaller than before. In Ontario the Liberals have lost two seats—North Victoria and East Bruce—which they previously held. The result of the bye-elections so far has been disappointing to the opposition, as the effect has been to strengthen considerably the government party.

THE total destruction by fire of the Hotel Royal, of New York, on Sunday morning, the 7th inst., and its accompanying horrors, will not add to the sense of repose experienced by those whose lot is to sleep in the upper rooms of the many-storied city hotel. The burned hotel is described as "a ramshackle structure," and nobody ever examined the building, it is said, without perceiving at a glance that it was a mere pile of dried lumber, a veritable fire trap, its hallways narrow and tortuous—especially constructed, it would seem, to confuse a crowd of panic-stricken guests seeking to escape from the flames. Of course New York has a superintendent of buildings, and if he had done his duty no such death-trap as the Royal Hotel would have been permitted to exist. But it is somewhat more than hinted by a leading paper that the proprietor had a political pull, and therefore, under the present system of things, he was permitted to do as he liked. Accordingly some twenty or thirty lives were sacrificed, and the wonder is, under the circumstances, that the number of the victims was not larger.

THE fate of the New Orleans lottery is a matter to which no intelligent and well-disposed person in Canada can be indifferent. Its baneful effects are felt less directly and less powerfully here, it is true, than in many parts of the Dominion, still they are felt. If the outcome of the present struggle shall be the destruction of that monstrous iniquity which has so long held Louisiana in its toils—sapping the moral and industrial life of the State—it will be directly a moral and economic advantage to Canada. And further, such an outcome of the struggle must indirectly afford strong moral support to us in our endeavors to deal with similar iniquities which have found place on our own soil, and are sending their poisonous influences through the Dominion. The victory, however, is not yet secure to the anti-lottery party in Louisiana, the fight is not yet over, and, according to present appearances, it is not improbable that blood will be shed before the great question in dispute is settled. When the letter of John A. Morris, president of the lottery company, was published, declaring it to be the intention of himself and his associates, on account of the force of public opinion, and the decision of the Supreme Court, as to the validity of the anti-lottery postal law, to give over the effort to secure a charter, many of the opponents of the lottery, as soon as they recovered from their first shock of surprise, seemed disposed to regard the declaration as being made in good faith, and to believe that the lottery had really yielded with the best grace it could command to the force of law and public opinion. But a different conclusion, in many cases at least, has resulted from a more careful study of the situation. The *New Delta*, the only New Orleans newspaper which squarely antagonizes the lottery, has no faith in the declaration of Morris, and shows that, if by this pretence of giving up the fight, the lottery should get control of the State Legislature, which it aims to do, it could extend the present charter from Dec. 31, 1893, to Dec. 31, 1894, and then call a convention to frame a new Pro-lottery Constitution, without even submitting it to the people.

BUT if the end sought is not to be attained by guileful tactics of this sort, it is believed that the lottery will not hesitate to resort to more violent, if not more nefarious, means. Since the publication of the Morris letter, the lottery party has imported twenty-six boxes of Winchester rifles and twenty-six thousand rounds of ammunition, and the statement of the chairman of their committee justifying the proceeding has

been published in the great daily papers. It seems beyond doubt that these implements of warfare are intended for purposes of menace and intimidation in the election which takes place in April. The *New Delta*, commenting upon these supposed intentions of the lottery party and its committee to intimidate voters by use of Winchester rifles, advises that, if these tactics are resorted to, force shall be met with force. "If the hoodlums of New Orleans appear upon the streets of this city armed with weapons placed in their hands by this lottery committee, sweep them from the face of the earth. If the streets of New Orleans are to be redlined with blood, let it not be alone the blood of her good citizens." From all this it is evident that, considering the hot temper of the southern people, and the readiness with which fire arms are resorted to among them, it will not be a matter of great surprise if there should be bloody work before the elections are over.

DARKNESS AND DAWN; OR SCENES IN THE DAYS OF NERO. An historic tale by Frederic W. Farrar, D. D., F. R. S., Archdeacon and Canon of Westminster, author of "The Life of Christ," etc. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. For sale at the British-American Book and Tract Society, Grandville St., Halifax. Price, 82.

"Darkness," in the title of this work, is explained by the author as meaning the state of decay in which paganism was found in the first century of the Christian era. "Dawn" refers to the first appearance of the light of the Christian religion. Although it is called a continuous story, the outlines of the work, and even its details, are kept in harmony with the facts of pagan and Christian history. The fortunes of the characters are not the creations of fiction. The imagination of the author is dominated by historic facts. The professed end in writing is as high and serious as in any book he has written. "His aim was to set in a true light the religion of Christ, small and humble in its origin, but gaining at last a glorious victory over the combined, social, intellectual and political power of Judaism and the idolatries of the Roman Empire." The above, in substance, are the author's preface declarations. In this most interesting book in which art and fiction are subordinated to the events of history, a few Bible names, such as Onesimus, Pudens and Claudia, are found. Their lives are necessarily creations of the author's imagination, but fiction is not allowed to dictate the words and work of the apostolic preachers. They appear as Scripture and history present them. The author says he might have departed from this course, and had for his company such men as Dante, Milton and Browning.

Canon Farrar's imagination is both fertile and flaming. The book is therefore brilliantly graphic and fascinating from beginning to end. In the use of words and phrases for describing life, both objectively and subjectively, the author's talent is of the very highest order. But if he possesses in the smallest degree the gift of humor, he has scrupulously refrained from the slightest use of it. It is nowhere found.

We quote the following as a fair example of vivid description, in which scenes in the arena of the Roman theatre are witnessed by eighty thousand spectators, among whom is Onesimus, Philomona's runaway slave:

"The more splendid the agility of the net-man, the more brawny the muscles of the Samnite, the more dazzling the sweep of the mirmillo's steel, the more vivid was the excitement of watching the glazing eye and ebbing life. It was thrilling to see the supreme movements and most unthought mysteries of existence turned into the spectacle of a holiday; and even to help in deciding by the movement of a thumb whether some blue-eyed German from the Tuctobergian forests should live or die. What wonder was it that waves of emotion swept over the assembled multitude as the gusts of a summer tempest sweep over the waving corn? What wonder that the hearts of thousands, as though they were the heart of one man, throb together in fierce sympathy, and become like a wild sea, a sea of which the strings were beaten into murmurs or shrieks or sobe by some intermittent hurricane? In the concentrated passion of those hours, when every pulse leapt and tingled with excitement, the youth seemed to live through years in moments; his whole being palpitated with a delicious horror, which annihilated all the ordinary interests of life. Here, for the mere dissipation of time, the most consummate tragedies were enacted as part of a scenic display. The spasms of anguish and the heroism of endurance were but the passing incidents of a gymnastic show."

Here is a paragraph in the description of the fire at Rome, said to have been kindled by Nero:

"Rolling back to the Palatine with more victorious violence, it reduced to

a blackened ruin the venerable temple which Romulus had vowed to Jupiter Stator. Then, licking up everything which lay in its path, it raged with voluptuous fury in the more densely crowded regions of the city, raging and crackling among the old, tortuous purlieus and crazy habitations of the Subura. With its hot breath it purged the slums and rookeries, foul with a population of oriental immigrants, who were massed round the ill-famed shrines of Isis and Serapis. When it had acquired irresistible volume in these lower regions, it again rushed up the hills as with the rage of a demon, to sweep down once more in tumultuous billows over the helpless levels. For six days and seven nights it maintained its horrible and splendid triumph—now bounding from street to street with prodigious rapidity; now seeming to linger luxuriously in some crowded district, flinging up to heaven great sheets of flame, and turning the nightly sky into a vault of sulfurous crimson."

Another example of fictitious description must be given, although it makes large demands on space. The author fancies a meeting of Christians by night at Rome. Britannicus, a lad, and half-brother of Nero, was present. After some time had been spent by the assembly in prayer and praise, the gift of tongues came upon them. It might be safely said that the fancy of the author may be a successful approximation to the reality of the occasion. It is as follows:

"So far had a speaker proceeded when a mighty answering Amen burst from the deeply-moved assembly, and the air, and immediately afterwards Britannicus stood transfixed and thrilled to the very depths of his whole being."

"For now a voice such as he had never heard—a sound unearthly and unaccountable—seemed not only to strike his ear, but to grasp his very heart. It was awful in its range, its tone, its modulations, its startling, penetrating, appalling power; and although he was unable to understand its utterance, it seemed to convey the loftiest eloquence of religious transport, thrilling withapture and conviction. And, in a moment or two, other voices joined it, the words they spoke were exalted into an impassioned, full of mystic significance. They did not speak in their ordinary familiar tongue, but in what seemed to be, as it were, the essence and idea of all languages, though none could tell whether it was Hebrew, or Greek, or Latin, or Persian. It resembled now one and now the other, as some overpowering and unconscious impulse of the moment might direct. The burden of the thoughts of the speakers seemed to be the ejaculation of ecstasy, of amazement, of thanksgiving, of supplication, of passionate dirge or psalm. They spoke not to each other, or to the congregation, but seemed to be addressing their inspired soliloquy to God. And among these strange sounds of many voices, all raised in sweet accord of entranced devotion, there were some which no one could rightly interpret. The other voices seemed to interpret themselves. They were not translations into significant language, but spontaneously awoke in the hearts of the hearers the echo of the impulse from which they sprang. There were others which rang on the air more sharply, more simultaneously, like the clear or cymbal or the booming of hollow brass, and they conveyed no meaning to any but the speakers, who, in producing these barbarous tones, felt carried out of themselves. But there were no discordant tumult in the various voices. They were reverberations of one and the same supernatural ecstasy—echoes awakened in different consciousnesses by one and the same intense emotion. . . . As the voices began to grow fainter, as the whole assembly sat listening in the hush of awful expectation, the young prince himself felt as if a spirit passed before him, and the hair of his flesh stood up; he felt as if a power and a presence stronger than his own dominated over his being; annihilated his inmost self; dealt with him as a player does who sweeps the strings of an instrument into concord or discord at his will. He felt ashamed of the impulse; he felt terrified by it; but it crept all over and around and through him, like the mighty wind; it filled his soul as with ethereal fire; it seemed to inspire, to uplift, to dilate his very soul; and finally it swept him onward as with numerous rushings of congregated wings. The passion within him was burning into irresistible utterance, and in another moment, through that humble throng of Christians would have rung in impassioned music the young voice of the last of the Claudii, pouring forth things unutterable, had not the struggle ended by his uttering one cry and then sinking into a faint. Before that unwonted cry from the voice of a boy the assembly sank into silence, and after two or three moments the impulse left him. Panting, unconscious, not knowing where he was, or whether he had spoken or not, or how to explain or account for the heart-shaking inspiration which had seemed to carry him out of himself beyond all mountain barriers and over unfathomable seas, the boy sank back into the arms of Pudens, who, alarmed and amazed and half-ashamed, had sprung forward to catch him as he fell."

W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR.  
"Be not weary in well-doing."  
PRAYER TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY.  
"For Mission Bands and their Leaders."

Notes from N. B. Aid Societies.

It is with gratitude to God we record a growing interest in Aids of N. B. Since August about ten new societies have been organized; two or three that for a time have been dormant have again entered the ranks, and several Mission Bands have been formed. We are yet calling for more county secretaries, and until they are procured, much work must be neglected. Mrs. A. D. Hartley, of East Florenceville, Carleton Co., has kindly consented to do the work for Carleton and Victoria counties. Mrs. A. H. Gilmour has assumed her former position for Charlotte county. Miss M. F. Fillmore, missionary-elect, has consented to fill the vacancy made in Albert county by Mrs. Lewis' resignation.

In December Miss F. visited mostly all the societies in her county. Judging by the reports sent to us, her visits have been highly appreciated. Whilst in the providence of God our dear sister is not permitted to labor in India this winter, she is working for India, and this may be as acceptable to the dear Lord. Sister F. writes she is engaged in school teaching this term. Her health is good and she is happy—believing the Lord has the direction of her paths. Her address is Beaver Brook, Albert Co., N. B.

Hillsboro Branch, Salem Branch and Surrey report interesting meetings. Miss Fillmore's visit has encouraged them much in their work. They are inviting others to come and help them and are ready to welcome all.

A note from a sister at Port Elgin, seeking information concerning the method of our work, etc., expresses a desire the sisters of that church have to aid in sowing the precious seed, and of bearing their share of the burdens in this grand missionary enterprise. To these sisters we offer our co-operation, and hope they shall soon have the satisfaction there is in showing their love for Christ.

Mrs. Emmerson, of Dorchester, says: "You will be glad of the record of a new society. December 9th, I met with the sisters at Bonnell Corner, Moncton Parish, and formed a society—president, Mrs. I. W. Carpenter; secretary, Miss Carrie Trites. Moncton is steadily working along. They are meeting with adjacent societies in holding union meetings. This is good; in due time results shall be seen."

The above is a vivid and thrilling description in the realm of spirit and will quicken the imagination of Bible students to profit when reading in the New Testament the references to the gifts of tongues.

The avowed purpose of the author in writing this book, was to clearly set forth

the miracle of the planting, the progress and the triumphs of the Christian religion. In this respect the work is a great success.

The reader sees Christianity in its infant state battling with Judaism and the mighty forces of the great Roman empire. In this unequal contest the few disciples of the Nazarene contend for the faith through carnage and flame to a victory the grandest the world has ever seen. But this book serves another purpose, incidental as it would seem, for it is not mentioned by the author. It reproduces with evident success, life at Rome in the first century. "Through it we see into the palace of Cesar, the libraries and lives of the scholars of the day; the homes and habits of princes and princesses; the assemblies and doings of the Conscript Fathers; the habits and habits of the people of all ranks in the country, the town and the cities; the amusements of comic shows and the tragedies of the arena; the ubiquitous Jew persisting in living in the great metropolis where he is despised, hated and persecuted; and, indeed, every phase of social and political life, from the shepherd watching his flocks and piping on the hillside, to the pastimes and intrigues of the royal palace."

After reading this work the many brief references in the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles of Paul, which failed to suggest anything beyond the compass of the literal allusions made to men and things in apostolic days, will not fail to suggest the state of real life, more or less correct, at the time of their occurrence. Such, for example, as the following: "Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome;" "Gallio cared for none of these things;" "Timothy is set at liberty;" "They of Italy salute you;" "They that are of Cesar's household."

Canon Farrar, to whom the Christian world is indebted for other valuable works, has made the public his debtor to a still greater extent by the publication of "Darkness and Dawn."

W. B. M. U.

NOTICE FOR THE YEAR.  
"Be not weary in well-doing."  
PRAYER TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY.  
"For Mission Bands and their Leaders."

Notes from N. B. Aid Societies.

It is with gratitude to God we record a growing interest in Aids of N. B. Since August about ten new societies have been organized; two or three that for a time have been dormant have again entered the ranks, and several Mission Bands have been formed. We are yet calling for more county secretaries, and until they are procured, much work must be neglected. Mrs. A. D. Hartley, of East Florenceville, Carleton Co., has kindly consented to do the work for Carleton and Victoria counties. Mrs. A. H. Gilmour has assumed her former position for Charlotte county. Miss M. F. Fillmore, missionary-elect, has consented to fill the vacancy made in Albert county by Mrs. Lewis' resignation.

In December Miss F. visited mostly all the societies in her county. Judging by the reports sent to us, her visits have been highly appreciated. Whilst in the providence of God our dear sister is not permitted to labor in India this winter, she is working for India, and this may be as acceptable to the dear Lord. Sister F. writes she is engaged in school teaching this term. Her health is good and she is happy—believing the Lord has the direction of her paths. Her address is Beaver Brook, Albert Co., N. B.

Hillsboro Branch, Salem Branch and Surrey report interesting meetings. Miss Fillmore's visit has encouraged them much in their work. They are inviting others to come and help them and are ready to welcome all.

A note from a sister at Port Elgin, seeking information concerning the method of our work, etc., expresses a desire the sisters of that church have to aid in sowing the precious seed, and of bearing their share of the burdens in this grand missionary enterprise. To these sisters we offer our co-operation, and hope they shall soon have the satisfaction there is in showing their love for Christ.

Mrs. Emmerson, of Dorchester, says: "You will be glad of the record of a new society. December 9th, I met with the sisters at Bonnell Corner, Moncton Parish, and formed a society—president, Mrs. I. W. Carpenter; secretary, Miss Carrie Trites. Moncton is steadily working along. They are meeting with adjacent societies in holding union meetings. This is good; in due time results shall be seen."

The above is a vivid and thrilling description in the realm of spirit and will quicken the imagination of Bible students to profit when reading in the New Testament the references to the gifts of tongues.

The avowed purpose of the author in writing this book, was to clearly set forth

have recently organized a Mission Band with good prospects. They desire to support a Telugu child. We may here say at present all the little boarders in the schools are provided for. When the estimates of next year are sent to us there may then be an opportunity for any Mission Band who particularly desire to support a child to appropriate their funds for that object. But until that time we think it advisable for all Mission Bands to invest in the Palconda Building Fund. Send to Mrs. Botford Smith, Amherst, for share cards—to which reference has previously been made in this column.

In November the N. B. Provincial Secretary spent one week in Charlotte Co., working in interest of the W. B. M. U. The W. M. A. Society at St. George was reorganized and societies organized at the following places: Beaver Harbor—President, Mrs. Chas. Bates; Secretary, Mrs. Naylor Hawkins; Bailie—President, Mrs. Chas. E. McLaughlin; Secretary, Miss Hattie Robinson; Rolling Dam—President, Mrs. M. Reed; Secretary, Mrs. Robinson; Oak Bay—President, Mrs. F. S. Todd; Secretary, R. J. Doten. At all these places we had the co-operation of the pastors, which added greatly to the interest of our meetings. We found many warm-hearted, earnest Christian sisters ready to respond to the call from our mission fields. We trust others are seeing their way clearly to join them. There are yet three or four churches where Aid Societies could be sustained. We hope to visit each—and at the same time hold a county convention where all may meet for mutual help.

Oak Bay is the first of these children to report. The secretary writes: "The meetings are well attended, with an increased membership. The meeting of the sisters to pray, and work for the missionary cause is a great benefit to us all, as we leave each meeting feeling a deeper interest in the work. Will the sister societies pray for us, that the efforts we put forth and the means we raise may be blessed by Him who hath said, 'He that goeth forth weeping bearing precious seed shall doubtless come rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.'"

The secretary from Beaver Harbor writes their meetings have been regularly held since organization, except one, hindered by stormy weather. Their interest in missions is growing and the prospects are encouraging.

The St. Stephen W. M. A. S. is doing nobly. Our meeting there was most enjoyable, and we hope profitable. Fifteen new names were given to the untiring secretary. The Mission Band, under the leadership of three earnest young sisters, is vigorously working in aid of the Palconda buildings. It is a pleasing scene to witness so many of the little ones of the Sunday-school thus trained in the good work.

We welcome these new societies to our ranks. The work unites us in desire and purpose, and we are laborers together with Christ—excellent companions. Forming Aids and Mission Bands is good and comparatively easily done. But it is the steady, persistent work, growing in the interest of the cause, that develops the Christian character and accomplishes results. We call the attention of our sisters to the very excellent paper by "E. C." in Jan. 20.

Promptness in our business matters is an index to our action. If we have but one dollar to send to the treasurer, do it at the beginning of the quarter. By all remembering this it saves much anxiety at least. And remember too, sisters, we are on our third quarter. There is a large number of societies from whom no word has been heard by the treasurer. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof."

All communications to the Executive Board of the W. B. M. U., will be addressed to Mrs. G. O. Gates, corresponding secretary, St. John, N. B.

There will be a convention of the W. M. A. Societies of St. John County in Brassey St. Baptist church, on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 2 p. m., particulars of which appeared in this column last week.

In grave and absorbing interest no other topic of the times can be compared with the Russian famine. Under the title of "Help for the Russian Starvelings," the *Review of Reviews* for February tells of the *Northwestern Miller's* flour cargo, publishes a letter from its own Russian correspondent describing in the most interesting way the work Count Tolstoy and his family are doing in the famine-stricken districts, and publishes a letter from Madame Novikoff on the question of the famine and its relief.