

Messenger and Visitor

Published in the interests of the Baptist denomination of the Maritime Provinces by

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Co., Ltd.

TERMS: \$1.50 per annum in advance.

S. MCC. BLACK

Editor.

Address all communications and make all payments to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.
For further information see page nine.

Printed by Paterson & Co., 107 Germain Street, St. John's, N. B.

The Passing Year.

The year now closing has brought with it much that must inspire Christian hearts with gratitude and thanksgiving. In respect to material interests, it has been a prosperous year for Canada. The husbandman has not toiled in vain, nor have workers in other departments of the country's industries spent their strength for naught. In none of the Provinces has there been any general failure of the crops, and throughout the Dominion the harvest, on the whole, has been well above the average. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories have had another magnificent grain harvest. This means much for the Northwest. Farmers who were struggling with adverse circumstances are getting on their feet, and those who had gotten fairly established are enjoying increased prosperity. The whole Dominion feels the effect of these generous harvests which not only enrich the people and stimulate trade and commerce, but also attract a constantly growing immigration which in its turn is contributing to the rapid development of the country's resources. As the vast agricultural resources of the Northwest are thus developed, new channels for the marketing of its products become a necessity. With one trans-continental railway, traffic is congested. To meet the demands of the increasing harvests larger facilities for traffic are demanded, and accordingly we have been hearing of late of one or more new trans-continental lines of railway to be constructed in the near future.

In respect to other industries also, as well as the agricultural interests, 1902 has been a good year for Canada. In mining, in lumbering, in the fisheries, there has been at least a fair measure of prosperity. The manufacturing industries of the country have never been so extensive and so prosperous, the volume of trade has gone on expanding, and there probably has never been a time in the history of the country when there was a more constant demand for labor at good wages than during the past year. For what we have received of material good from a bountiful Providence there is therefore great reason for gratitude. Probably no other people has greater cause for thanksgiving in this respect than have we of Canada.

And when we turn to consider the negative blessings, if we may so call them, we must surely discern large cause for gratitude because of our immunity from any great afflictions or calamities. There have been wars in the earth, but no sound of martial strife has been heard within our borders. Famine and Pestilence have gone forth on their deadly errands, we have heard the report of them, but they have not come near us. There have been destructive earthquakes in many places, and volcanoes have hurled forth desolation and death upon villages and cities, floods and cyclones have wrought devastation in the earth, but none of these things have visited us. Minor losses and calamities there have been, indeed, but as a people we have been caused to dwell in peace and safety and the sun of prosperity has shone upon us.

As Great Britain's oldest and most important colony, Canada is more or less vitally concerned in all that affects the Empire, and during the year some events have occurred in which the people of Canada have rejoiced in one spirit with those of the mother land. The Boer war which had so severely taxed the patience and the resources of the Empire came to an end in June, under conditions which

afford good ground for hope of continued peace and a united South Africa under British rule. Canada has been deeply interested in the war. Her volunteers had fought valiantly for the flag in South Africa, and had in some measure contributed to bring the war to a successful issue. The end of the war was, accordingly, to Canadians an occasion for very sincere rejoicing and gratitude. The severe illness of the King, the consequent postponement of the coronation ceremonies and the apprehension that the coronation might never take place, are matters in respect to which Canada very fully shared the feelings of those of the mother land, and the joy that every loyal Briton felt at the King's recovery and his eventual coronation was also fully shared by Canadians.

We have much reason for satisfaction in the fact that the Empire is now practically at peace with the world. We do not forget of course that there has been some trouble on the borders of the Empire in India, or that there are still some accounts to settle in Somali-land, or the unfortunate affair with Venezuela. But there is good reason to hope that the latter will soon be peaceably adjusted, and the others are hardly of serious consequence. The relations of Great Britain with the nations generally are of a friendly character. The Government of the United States under President Roosevelt, as under his predecessor, seems disposed to promote friendly feelings between the two great branches of the English speaking people. The relations between Great Britain and France, it is gratifying to know, are more cordial than for some time past. There is indeed some distrust of Germany, on the part of the people rather than of the Government of Great Britain, but apart from this, the relations of the Empire with the other nations of Europe seem to be undisturbed. If therefore we are disposed to count our national blessings at the close of this year of grace, we shall certainly find that as a people we have abundant reason for gratitude to the Giver of all Good.

Editorial Notes.

—An encouraging number of new subscribers have been entered on our list during the past few weeks. We are grateful to our friends who are co-operating with us in seeking to enlarge the circulation of the paper. And now if every subscriber will kindly see that the label on his paper indicates that his subscription is paid in advance, we shall go forward into the new year with very cheerful and hopeful spirits, prepared to do our very best for our readers. May the New Year upon which we are about to enter bring much real happiness to all the readers and friends of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

—The latest returns we have seen from the vote on the Ontario Liquor Act bring up the total affirmative vote to 194,700; against the Act 107,234, giving a majority for the Act of 93,436. The final returns will probably still further increase the affirmative vote and the majority. It rather looks now as though, if the temperance people of Ontario had spent in united effort to carry the Act the force that was expended in denouncing the Government for making the conditions, as was supposed, impossible, the number of votes necessary to give effect to the Act might have been secured.

—Dr. Alexander MacLaren was sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to be able to preach on the first Sunday in December. Before entering upon his sermon Dr. MacLaren alluded very feelingly to the great loss which the Free churches of England had sustained, since he last stood before his congregation, in the death of Hugh Price Hughes and Dr. Parker. "Perhaps never," said Dr. MacLaren, "have two such stars set within so brief a space. A great stretch of sky looks empty lacking their light. . . . If I may be permitted a personal reference, I may say that the death of Dr. Parker has touched me very nearly, for we are co-evals in age and co-temporaries in our ministry in Manchester, and his departure has intensified the sense of loneliness which accompanies long life."

—The late Archbishop of Canterbury was credited with being one of the hardest workers of his time. Lord Salisbury, who was himself a great worker, is said once to have observed to a friend that he was ashamed to talk of hard work in the presence of the Archbishop. The Archbishop was an ardent advocate of temperance and, we believe, a total abstainer, and attributed his long life and good health to his abstinence. Nor was he ashamed of the fact that in his early life he had had the experience of poverty. Soon after he became Archbishop, in the course of an address before a working man's meeting,

Dr. Temple said: "My father was a workingman, a soldier, who, at the time of his death, was governor of a colony; but he died when I was thirteen, and I had to make my own living at seventeen. I have known what it was to go without a fire because I could not afford one, and I have often worn patched clothes and boots."

—While there are, according to the common reckoning, only fifty-two weeks in a year, we have demonstrated to our own satisfaction, and we hope also to the satisfaction of our readers, that by good management it is possible, at least sometimes, to crowd fifty-three weekly issues of a religious newspaper into a year. This we have succeeded in doing, and if any of our readers will take the trouble to count the issues of 1902 they will find that there are 53 of them. We hope that our subscribers will appreciate this as being good Scripture measure. We wish it to be fairly understood, however, that this is not to be taken as a precedent, so that no subscriber will find fault with us if we do not give him the 53 weekly issues in 1903. To be frank we do not think that what we have done this year could be repeated more frequently than about once in seven years without some reconstruction of the solar system, which would be a matter involving no considerable difficulty.

—The Anthracite Strike Commission which is charged with the duty of enquiring into the facts connected with the recent great Coal Strike has adjourned its sittings until January 6. The testimony so far taken before the Committee makes it clear that both on the part of the coal companies and on that of the miners there has been much conduct that is far from ideal. As was shown last week, there has been evidence to show that the treatment received by miners at the hands of the operators has been in some instances heartless in the extreme. For some days before the adjournment the Commission was engaged in taking the testimony of non-union miners and their friends concerning the intimidation and violence to which they had been subject during the strike. And this evidence brings to light conduct on the part of union miners toward non-union men and their families, which is of a character to excite the keenest indignation. The actions charged against the union miners in this evidence include not only persecution of non-union miners and their families by boycotting, etc., but assault, destruction of houses and other property by dynamite and fire and also manslaughter and murder. Probably it will not be contended by anyone that such conduct had the approval of the officers of the Miners' Union or of the great body of the miners, but these acts were concomitants of the strike, which the Union seems to have been unable to suppress.

—In two recent issues the *Independent* has given some highly interesting and important information in reference to a stele or tablet discovered by M. de Morgan in the excavation of the ruins of Susa, the ancient capital of Elam. During the last ten years M. de Morgan, who is a careful scholar and an experienced excavator, has been working upon the exploration of those ruins, under the direction of the French Government. Much that is of value for archaeological science has been brought to light, but the object of greatest interest is the code of Hammurabi which was found inscribed on the stele mentioned above. Hammurabi was King of Babylon about 2300 B. C., and is identified with the Amraphal King of Shinar of the fourteenth chapter of Genesis. He established a great Semitic Empire covering all the known East, from Elam or Persia to the Mediterranean Sea, with Babylon as its capital city. The Hammurabi Code for the Government of the Empire, inscribed on the stele, contains 280 separate laws. "This code," the *Independent* says, "is not simply the weightiest document yet found on Babylonian culture, but the oldest in the history of institutions and one of the most important in the history of early civilization. . . . The history of early law will have to be rewritten. Moses can no longer stand as the oldest known lawgiver. It will no longer be possible to charge that the Pentateuch contains legislation too minute and elaborate to belong to the period of the Exodus. . . . It will be the subject of innumerable discussions and will require not a little critical history to be rewritten. Of course its bearing on Old Testament history and institutions will be of chief interest, for the Code of Hammurabi is more than half a thousand years older than the oldest date ever assigned to the law of Moses."

To Our Subscribers.

This issue of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR completes the 64th volume of the Christian Messenger, the 53rd volume of the Christian Visitor and the 18th volume of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

Doubtless there are some among our subscribers, whose names have been continually on the list since the first issue of the Messenger or the Visitor. We shall be glad to have a list of their names, and also of those, now