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A WORD TO OUR AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

You will confer a great favor, and prevent many provoking mistakes, and much unchristian grumbling, if you will but attend to the following common sense rules when you write on business, to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR:

- If you wish the address of a paper changed, be sure and give the present post-office address, as well as the post-office to which the paper is to be sent; give the name of the county and province in each address. Write plain, if you can.
- In remitting money, send by post-office order when it is convenient, as this is the safer way, and as cheap as to register.
- When you send the names of new subscribers, please say so, to distinguish them from others. Give their right names and post-office address in full.
- In making remittances for old subscribers, please give, if you can, their proper names correctly—that is give the name now on the label of their paper. For example, if the paper is now directed to Mrs. Dorothy Ann Jones, don't remit in the name of Mrs. Heskiah Jones, which may mean the same person to you, but be very perplexing to our book-keeper. Also give the post office to which the paper is now sent. Please don't guess at this, and, if you know, name the date to which your remittance pays. This will enable us to correct mistakes of the past, and prevent them in the future. Be sure and write the names of persons and places plainly if you can.

We will our Agents please cut this out and paste it in your account book, where you will see it every time you write to Messengers and Visitors.

THE WEEK.

The more thoughtful part of the press of the United States acknowledge that the contention of Mr. Blaine in reference to the seal fisheries of Behring Sea cannot be upheld, and prophesy, if the matter is pressed along present lines of policy, that there must be a humiliating backdown in the end. A writer in the New York Herald criticizes the position that the seals must be protected. The United States have not protected the buffalo, in their own territory, although buffaloes are of more economic value than the seals, these latter being valuable only for their pelts, and as an article of luxury. In the United States, in the face of these facts, to insist on the protection of seals in the open sea, would be inconsistent. Besides, the seals destroy the fish which are the chief support of many, and their extermination might be a positive gain. With the best part of the press of the United States against him, it is hard to see how Mr. Blaine or the President can maintain his present contention.

The cession of Heligoland to Germany has been made by Great Britain, with great reluctance. Earl Rosebery has set upon this as an argument in favor of imperial federation. If the British people have found it so difficult to give over that little barren rock, he reasons they would never consent to dismember the empire by casting off any of the great colonies. If the colonies are to be held, the federation for which he pleads must come some day.

There is trouble among the Central and South American States. Honduras has been pressing upon Gen. Salazar, and this plucky little state has defeated the troops of its larger neighbors in several small battles.

There has been a revolutionary uprising in the Argentine Republic. After severe fighting, it is said that the government has triumphed. The country is crushed with debt, and the people are becoming restless. There is great oppression in the government of the country, much of the revenue being diverted to dishonest purposes.

Chili is also said to be in a ferment. The loans to support her war in the conflict with Peru, have been negotiated in the security of the mines, railways and public works of the country. These are now in the hands of British capitalists, and the people are ready to rebel.

Central African affairs are settling down into more definite shape. The king of Belgium has made over the Congo Free State to his country on certain conditions, which have been accepted. The finest part of Africa is therefore in the hands of a State too insignificant to awaken jealousy. The people of Zanzibar are said to be pleased to exchange their subjection from Germany to Great Britain, and England has allowed the protectorate of France over Madagascar.

Obituaries.

REV. SAMUEL J. ARCHIBALD.

THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR of May 28 contained the intelligence that Rev. S. J. Archibald was nearing the end of his earthly course. The next issue of the paper announced his death. Our brother was, perhaps, not very widely known; but those who were favored with his acquaintance can give but one testimony, and that in accord with that given in the article referring to his decease—"We have no truer, or more straightforward man than was Bro. Archibald"; or with the words of Bro. Hannah, in announcing his extreme illness; "We feel that his work among us has been well and faithfully done."

Bro. Archibald was born in Stewiacke, Sept. 8, 1850. He died at Jacksonville, N. B., May 29. Of his earlier years we have no record. The writer first knew him as a teacher, in which profession he obtained a well-earned reputation. He was an adherent of the Presbyterian church. A change of views led to his baptism at Lower Economy, March 27, 1881, by Rev. G. F. Miles. The writer became acquainted with him about this time, and learned to love him as an upright, conscientious man of God. Shortly after his baptism he became exercised with reference to the Christian ministry, and after prolonged and prayerful consideration he yielded to the divine promptings. He was licensed by the Lower Economy church in Sept., 1882. In 1884 the Missionary Board gave him an appointment to New Ross and adjacent settlements, and after a few months, the brethren were so well pleased with him that they called for his ordination, which took place in Oct., 1884. He was on the field more than three years, after which he removed to Newcastle, N. B. Here he remained one year and nine months, and then settled at Jacksonville, where he remained till the time of his death. Early last winter he had an attack of the gripe, from which he never fully recovered. He held special services every night during last two weeks of March, when so weak that he had to be helped to the place of meeting. In these efforts Bro. Irvine kindly assisted him, but the effort was doubtless too great for one in his state of health. He who had never missed a Sabbath appointment during the seven years of his ministry, could not easily be persuaded to take the needless rest. But the call came in a way that could not be resisted. At the Sabbath morning service, the 6th of April, he fainted away and had to be assisted to his home. He had, however, an afternoon appointment at Jacksonville. Most men, in his circumstances, would have yielded to the seeming necessity of the case, and the brethren would have cheerfully excused the failure. He however undertook the service and got through it comfortably, but that was the last. The resolute spirit must yield. He must now quit the field of strife, as the warrior who has won his laurels and lays his armor by. Medical skill was of no avail. His disease was pronounced decay of the blood. For the sake of his family he would have preferred life; he would like to have more time in which to say to the Master; but he saw that his work was done, and that it only remained to endure what was left to him of suffering.

His wife writes: "He was perfectly resigned and committed his family to the care of the great Father of all, and, although he suffered a good deal during the last few days, he bore it with the greatest patience, and passed away as if going to sleep."
The body was brought to Economy and interred on Monday, the 2nd day of June. The funeral services were conducted by Pastor C. H. Haverstock, who preached the sermon from 2 Tim. 4: 7. Revs. P. R. Foster and T. B. Layton, and the Rev. Mr. Sykes, Congregationalist, assisted in the service. A good man has fallen, in the prime of early manhood. But the life so soon ended has not been in vain. The world is the better for it, and heaven is now the richer. May we who survive learn to be the more diligent in improving what of opportunity yet remains.
M. P. F.

REV. WILLIAM M. EDWARDS.

departed this life at Blissfield, Northumberland County, N. B., July 9th, A. D., 1890. In the autumn of 1880 he took charge of the churches and mission stations in Blackville, Blissfield and Ludlow on the Miramichi River. For thirty years he labored most faithfully and efficiently in the interests of the people physically, morally, and religiously. In connection with his gospel ministry he labored zealously in the temperance cause, and to the sick of his flock he was not only pastor, but physician, giving

thoroughly matured counsel and dispensing medicine.

He was ordained to the gospel ministry at Hampton, N. B., in March, A. D., 1855. He was also pastor in Gagetown, and being assisted by Rev. A. B. Earle, a powerful revival was enjoyed by the church. His first wife died young, leaving one daughter, Mrs. H. Travers, of Blissfield.

His second wife, who survives him, was Miss Isabella Rigby, of Fortland, St. John, who lived and labored with him for some forty years.

At the Association in 1863, the committee on missions report that "Blissfield, Doaktown, etc., under the ministry of Rev. W. M. Edwards, are sharing in the tokens of revival mercy; some 30 candidates having been immersed... and are now numbered with the Lord's redeemed." A new church was organized at Blissfield. On June 1st, 1873, he reported to the H. M. Board: "During the year I travelled 1,689 miles, preached 99 sermons, conducted 45 conferences and prayer-meetings, made 243 religious visits, delivered one temperance lecture and administered the Lord's Supper 14 times."

He was moderator of the Western Association, at Newcastle, Sept. 20th, 1866.

At the last Association, at Gagetown, held 25th of June last, he reported the cause of Christ as prospering on his field of labor, and said, "We have now three new chapels, and we invite the Association to meet with us next year." The invitation was accepted. He also said, "Brethren, I feel as if my work is 'about done, and I may not be with you next year." He returned home, and, after a few hours' illness, retired to his eternal rest.
E. H.

REV. OBED PARKER.

By request of the young pastor and the family of our late Bro. Parker, we furnish the following: Rev. Obed Parker, who was duly ordained over the Baptist church in this place Feb. 22nd, 1844, was called to his reward, after a protracted illness, July 1st, 1890, aged nearly 87 years—truly "an ear of corn fully ripe." He leaves three daughters out of five. His companion—a true mother in Israel—carefully cared for our worthy brother during the former part of his sickness, yet preceded him to the "golden shore," in October, 1888, aged 88. As the deceased may be considered one of the connecting links between the "Fathers" and the present order ministers, it would seem proper that a somewhat extended notice of his life and labors should be recorded.

From memos left behind and other sources, the following facts are gleaned: Rev. Obed Parker was the son of Wm. and grandson of Major Nathaniel Parker, who served under General Wolfe at the siege of Quebec.

The ancestors of the Parkers in Nova Scotia, located in Nictaux, were Congregationalists, but travelled through the woods to Horton (now Wolfville) to be baptized by Rev. Mr. Parsons. They then returned home, opened their house for public worship, and Henry Allan was the first to preach in it. Then ensued a revival under Father Edward Manning, and the commencement of the Baptist cause in Nictaux and Annapolis Co.

In 1855, this "pioneer" family had over 1,000 descendants, including about twenty Baptist ministers.

Obed Parker, converted in youth, continued in the faith, became one of our most devoted and successful home missionaries, was honored as the means of the conversion and baptism of hundreds—probably a thousand, during his life. He organized a number of small churches, which still exist and have become strong, so "though dead he yet speaks." Bro. Parker was also pastor over a number of churches. In the fields where his earnest labors seemed the most successful may be named Barrington, Ragged Islands, Pubnico, Chelsea, Greenfield, Middlefield, Rawdon, Jeddore, Dartmouth, River John, Albany, Springfield, Hillsborough, and Melvern Square, where he spent the last years of his useful life.

His six years' pastorate at Hillsboro was marked with success. He was evidently a "man of God," suitable for the times in which he did most of his efficient work for his loved Master, Jesus.
Though but an ordinary preacher he was not easily excelled in the more important requirements of pastor and missionary.

Bro. Parker's visits to the sick and dying, his kind and comforting words to the bereaved, and his "prayer-pleadings" are still fresh in the memories of hundreds. The writer, though but a child, will never forget the tender words addressed to the mourners, at the funeral of his mother, Mrs. Oldham Gates, Aug. 31, 1849.

When bent under the weight of years, our aged brother might be seen—staff

in hand—hobbling his way to the house of prayer, near by, and on his last visit, over two years ago, sat in a chair and delivered his "farewell," and gave his parting blessing, especially to the young people he loved so much.

Probably but few of our older ministers have a more really interesting record of their life work than Obed Parker.

A large amount of "foundation work" was the result of his pastoral and mission labors. The "unwritten" record—yet to appear—will more fully reveal the facts.

The last rites were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Tingley, assisted by Rev. Mr. Bradshaw and Rev. Mr. Phalen (Methodist). As sinks the sun behind the distant west, So sank our dear old brother to his peaceful rest.

W. J. GATES,
DEA. LEASON BAKER, Com.

REV. J. OTIS REDDEN.

As announced last week, one of our faithful ministers, Rev. J. O. Redden, died at Chicago on 23rd ult. He was the eldest son of Deacon Henry Redden, of Windsor, N. S. He was graduated from Acadia College in the class of 1876, which had five other members, viz: Rev. M. W. Brown, Rev. F. D. Crawley, Rev. E. W. Kelly, Rev. W. H. Robinson, Rev. D. H. Simpson, Rev. C. H. Martell. In 1878, he took charge of the Rawdon church, Hants Co., where he remained until he entered upon theological studies at Crozier Seminary in 1882. He was ordained at Alexandria, P. E. I., Nov. 29, 1882, and for three years served faithfully and successfully as pastor of the Alexandria, Ugg and Belfast churches.

During these years he endeared himself to his people by his deep piety and his earnest, efficient discharge of the duties of a good minister of Jesus Christ. He had rare executive ability, and led his people successfully in Christian service. A commodious meeting-house was erected at Ugg and remains as one of his monuments. It was a hard struggle for him to decide to leave his native land to go to a strange country, but physicians strongly advised a Southern climate, and he accordingly went to California in December, 1885. His work there was principally in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. There were a few weak interests in those counties which he strove hard to foster, and God blessed the labor. They were situated within a radius of more than one hundred miles, so that he had much driving to do, which involved great self-sacrifice. He was devoted to the interests of the Santa Barbara Association, and had the joy of seeing it grow in numbers and strength. For the last year he was confined to the church in Lumpoon town. During his ministry the church increased in membership from four or five to about fifty. A snug church building was erected and dedicated free from debt. He engaged in full pastoral work until February of this year, when he had an attack of the gripe. From this he never rallied sufficiently to admit of his preaching again. He desired greatly to recover his wonted strength, but rejoiced in God's goodness through all. When talking of the future he exclaimed: "O, the exceeding richness of His grace. I cannot think of these things as when I was strong, but I know that underneath are the everlasting arms, and that is enough."

We copy the following account from the Hants Journal of July 30:

The remains arrived last evening, accompanied by the bereaved widow and child, to whom the sympathy of all will be heartily extended. They were met at the station by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Redden and family, with other relatives, and a number of friends, the procession from the church after the service being a lengthy one. At the Baptist church a service was conducted by the Rev. Prof. Keirstead, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Langille and Mr. L. D. Morse. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Prof. Keirstead, from 1 Cor. 4: 2. "Moreover, it is required of a steward that he be found faithful." It was a most appropriate discourse, the preacher referring to the marked faithfulness which had characterized the deceased in all the positions he had occupied, and though possessing a weak constitution, had been wonderfully active in furthering the cause of religion wherever duty called him. Tributes of respect were also paid to the deceased by the Rev. Mr. Langille and Mr. Morse. An anthem was rendered by the quartette—"We cannot always trace the way," which closed a most solemn and impressive service. The remains were then taken to Maplewood cemetery for interment, the service at the grave being conducted by the Rev. Prof. Keirstead. We learn that the deceased left Lumpoon, Cal., July 17th, for Windsor, and began to fall rapidly soon after the journey commenced, and on nearing Chicago, six days on the journey, his wife saw that his end was near, and asked him if he had any word to send home. He replied, "Tell father and mother that I died in Christ." These

were the last words he uttered, but they were full of comfort. He was taken from the train at Chicago to the Mercy Hospital (a Catholic institution), where every kindness was extended to him, but he only lived one hour after entering the hospital. The widow was treated very kindly, and in response to her request a Baptist clergyman was sent for, who brought with him a young lady, a daughter of one of the professors at the Crozier Baptist Seminary, where the deceased received his theological training. They took charge of the remains, which were embalmed and prepared for transportation in accordance with the law of the State Board of Health, and it speaks volumes for the kindness of the Baptist friends of Chicago when we state that all was done without any expense to the sorrowing widow.

Bro. Redden was a man of good intellectual ability, clear and correct in his views of scriptural truth, and, according to the testimony of those who were in a position to know, his sermons were well constructed and rich in thought. He was an excellent man, an exemplary Christian, and a consecrated minister. He was earnest in endeavors for the progress of Christ's cause in the churches with which he was associated and in connection with our Associations and Convention. He was highly esteemed by his brethren in the ministry, to whom his name will always be sweet. O that God may raise up many more possessed of the same spirit of unselfish devotion to the Saviour of men. Our readers will join us in Christian sympathy for his sorrowing widow, who, as Miss Laura Goutley, was formerly an honored teacher in Acadia Seminary.

W. B. M. U.

Be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR AUGUST.

That a rich blessing may attend the annual meetings of the Union and of the Convention; that we may have faith to undertake the great things which the God of missions is manifestly in this day of advance beckoning us towards; and that the Spirit of love and of power may prevail.

Winter Bonnets.

BY DOROTHY PERCIVAL.

The night was damp, and so foggy that one could see but a very little distance ahead, when Mrs. Grey, weary with her work, and chilled and depressed by the weather, reached her home. Scarcely had she removed the outer garments, when Isabel said, "Mother, I told Miss Hanson, who collects for the 'missionary society, that she needn't come again, for we had nothing to give this year."

"O Isabel, did you really say that?" said Mrs. Grey, looking reproachfully at her daughter.

"Yes, mother, and isn't it the truth?" replied Isabel sharply, while a frown gathered on her forehead.

"Isabel, I have not said we would not give anything this year," said Mrs. Grey sadly.

"No, mother, but I know the state of affairs as well as you do. It's all well enough being willing, but there comes a time when one can give no longer and we have reached that time." With my being sick so long, and the doctor's bills to pay, and even now I am not able to help, so your salary has to take care of me too, we certainly have nothing to spare for the missionary society."

"But Isabel, let us see if we can't plan some way to do something for the cause," replied Mrs. Grey, her face lighting up as if she had already some idea of how to accomplish her purpose.

"I'm tired of planning to make both ends meet, without planning for benevolence," answered Isabel, in a petulant tone that showed her lack of sympathy with her mother's desire.

Mrs. Grey saw that the present was not a suitable time to interest her daughter in any bit of self-denial, so she said no more that evening, but hoped that possibly when the morrow came, if it should prove to be a bright, sunny day, Isabel would be inclined to take a more cheerful view of things.

Mrs. Grey, like many another woman, found when death removed her husband, that there was but little left, after the payment of all just debts, to support herself and daughter, a girl of seventeen. The mother and daughter were quite unlike in disposition. The mother looked the trouble fairly in the face, studied what was best to be done, and with a brave heart went out to battle with the world.

The daughter had not yet learned to adapt herself to the struggle that was before her. With her tastes and inclinations it was hard for her to change from a life where all necessities, and even many luxuries, could be obtained, to one of daily toil. To leave a pleasant, cozy house in a clean, wide street, for a cheap flat in an undesirable neighborhood, was

not agreeable. She had been more fortunate than many girls in the same position, though she had never thought so, for, till within the past six months, she had been able to provide for all her own needs. Then a long and painful illness had come, which seemed more than Isabel could endure. It was fast enough to have to work for a living, but to be laid on a sick bed for many weeks was even worse, and as there was no hope that for some months to come she could resume her work, the outlook to Isabel did not appear very encouraging.

The following day Mrs. Grey tried to think of some way to obtain the money she so much desired. It was a perplexing question, for no plan appeared feasible. It really did seem as if Isabel had decided rightly, and that the privilege of doing something for missions this year must be foregone. Mrs. Grey had nearly reached her home when there flashed through her mind, as so frequently happens when one has been bothered, a solution of her difficulty.

"Yes, we can do that. It's strange I never thought of it before," said she to herself as she hastened her steps, for she could scarcely wait to unfold her plan to Isabel.

She had been at home but a few minutes when she turned to her daughter and said: "Isabel, I've found a way to get the money for the missionary society."

"Well, mother, did you find a gold piece rolling up hill," said Isabel, carelessly, as if the missionary collection were of no particular interest to her.

"No, Isabel, and I'm grieved to think you care so little about the cause as to speak in that jesting manner."

"Mother, you know I've always done my share till now, but when there's nothing to give, that's the end of it, and I feel sorry enough that such is the case," said Isabel, her manner softening a little as she saw the pained look on her mother's face.

"Yes, you have. But because it seems hard to do it now, is no reason for not trying to find a way. I thought possibly while you were here alone all day you would plan something. As you have nothing to suggest I'll tell you what I've thought of. We need not have our winter bonnets made over this season, and the money thus saved can go to the missionary society."

"O, mother," replied Isabel impatiently, "we have worn them already two seasons, and we'll look like frights if we wear them again. There are plenty of rich women who never give a cent, and I don't see why we should. No one will expect us to do it this year."

"Of course, my dear, you can do as you please about yours, but I have already decided what is my duty. Because other people withhold what belongs to the Lord does not release us," said Mrs. Grey, after which remark the subject was dropped.

The next day she took out the old bonnets to look at them. "O dear," said she to herself, "they look even worse than I thought. The shape is all out of style, the trimming is faded, and the moths have left some traces. It's too bad of mother to be set so about this missionary money, for she ought to spend something on her bonnet. It would take such a little to make it look fresh. I certainly cannot have mine newly trimmed and let her go without, for that would seem too selfish."

That evening Isabel told her mother that after thinking the matter over she had concluded to forego the new trimming and devote the money to the missionary cause. Isabel had come to this conclusion, not from any desire to help the work, but because she did not wish her mother to feel that she was unwilling to make the sacrifice that her mother would.

The amount that was calculated would be absolutely necessary to remodel the old bonnets was sent to Miss Hanson just before the annual meeting of the society. She was very much surprised to receive the money, for she had not expected them to give anything this year, knowing that there had been so many expenses in connection with Isabel's illness that an economy more rigid than ever before was now demanded. How they could afford to spare so much, which was even more than their usual contribution, was inexplicable to Miss Hanson just at present.

(Conclusion next week.)

The Association sermon on "The Stunted Grace" and the Circular Letter on "The Duty of Church Members One to Another," of the Nova Scotia Western Association, printed neatly in pamphlet form, are for sale at the nominal price of 3c. for the two. Apply to I. E. Bill, Clerk of Association, Box 28, Yarmouth, N. S.