Messenger and Visitor.

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— REV. J. BROWN, of Wincanton, England, and G. F. Stone, Esq., of Digby, have our thanks for late English papers.

— A CORRESPONDENT of *Zion's Advocate* says of the church of East Winthrop: "Every family in the church reads the *Advocate* or some other denominational paper." Would it not be well if it could be said of every family in our churches in the Maritime Provinces that they read the MESSENGER AND VISITOR or some other denominational paper?

— WE are pleased to learn from different sources that Mr. and Mrs. Barss, who went out last summer as a reinforcement for our Telugu mission, have made a most favorable impression upon their fellow-workers in India, and are making excellent progress in the mastery of the language. Mr. Higgins has written that Mr. Barss is already able to render him important assistance.

— IT is announced that the young emperor of China has begun to study English, receiving instructions from two teachers connected with President Martin's Imperial College at Pekin. The *Independent* thinks that this implies the beginning of a new era in the Flowery Kingdom, and says: "We had not imagined that his advisers would do a thing which can mean nothing less than a desire that China should take her place among civilized nations and learn what the West has to teach it."

— CARDINAL GIBBONS, of Baltimore, has spoken out boldly and emphatically against the Louisiana lottery, characterizing it as "an enemy to the honesty and peace of any community, to the happiness and comfort of home and to individual thrift and enterprise." It is, he says, "the duty of every upright citizen and earnest Christian to aid in its dethronement or suppression." It would be refreshing to hear from the men who occupy high and influential positions in the Roman Catholic church in Canada such wholesome denunciation of similar iniquities which flourish in Canada.

— MR. CHARLES W. VINCENT, of Maple View, Victoria county, N. B., writes us in reference to the advantages which the Tobique Valley offers to settlers. There are, he says, thousands of acres of the best land there which can be found in the province, and farms may be had from nothing up to one thousand dollars. In the distance of 55 miles there are some five mills—one of them a steam mill—also fourteen school houses and six places of worship. The buildings which the farmers have erected indicate prosperity. Mr. Vincent advises farmers who wish to better their condition, and are not afraid of work, to come to the Tobique Valley. He would like to have fifteen or twenty Baptist families come and settle in his neighborhood. He speaks also of the Christian character and hospitality of the people and advises intending settlers to come and see for themselves. He will take pleasure in corresponding with anyone who desires further information.

— BETWEEN the severe and tempestuous weather of this inclement season and the inhospitable shores of the North Atlantic, many a bitter experience falls to the mariner's lot, and many a brave deed is done which finds little record or recognition. An instance is found in the story of the P. E. Island schooner Avenger, lately reported in the daily papers as wrecked on the Newfoundland coast. The vessel was driven on the rocks twenty miles from St. John's. The boat was launched and immediately swamped, and while the vessel was being pounded to pieces on the rocks, and death stared the crew in the face, a seaman, named Murdock Gillis, volunteered to swim ashore with a lifeline. His first attempt failed, and he was drawn back on board. An hour later he made another attempt, and this time with success. Clambering up by means of projecting points of rocks, he at length reached a place where he could make fast the line; then he drew ashore a larger line, by means of which the captain and the rest of the crew got all safe ashore. The party had five miles to walk to reach the nearest lighthouse, and Gillis, with nothing on him but his underclothes and a pair of slippers, made the journey with the rest. There he obtained more clothing, and the party proceeded to St. John's, having lost everything but their lives.

MANY of the Psalms begin mournfully and end triumphantly, to show us the prevailing power of devotion, and convince us of the certain return of prayer. —*Bishop Hooper.*

PASSING EVENTS.

THE recently published annual report of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of this city, gives evidence of considerable activity on the part of the officers of the society and others to save the dumb animals from ill-treatment. Quite a number of horses during the past year have been removed from the streets as being unfit for work by reason of lameness and other causes. In other cases, the owners have been cautioned in reference to improper treatment of their animals. Efforts have been continued to secure better treatment for animals in transit on the railroads, especially sheep, of which, during the year, upwards of 19,000 have passed through the city en route to the United States, and a vast change for their greater comfort has been effected. We are pleased to see that reference was made to that most inhuman device, the overdraw checkrein. It seems strange that a man of common sense, and with any human instinct in his nature, can permit himself to inflict such torture upon a noble animal, as the over-draw checkrein in many instances causes the horse. Mr. Wetmore, the secretary of the society, notes in his report that Mr. Angell, of the Boston S. P. C. A., who has travelled extensively throughout Europe in the interest of the society, says that the use of the overdraw checkrein is confined to America alone, being deservedly discarded everywhere in England and on the continent. The report shows that a greater interest than in past years is coming to be taken in the work of the society, and a more generally humane disposition toward the inferior animals is being cultivated. It is also shown that in addition to the work done in the city many cases in different parts of the province have been investigated, and much good done in this way. The aims of the society are certainly most praiseworthy, and it should receive the cordial support of all good citizens. To treat with kindness the dumb creatures which are our faithful servants is a religious duty.

INTEREST in the Baie des Chaleurs investigation has been renewed during the past week by the publication of the long delayed final report of the Royal Commission. It is probably not a matter of surprise to the public generally that the commissioners were not unanimous in their conclusions, and that the final result of their labors accordingly takes the form of a majority and a minority report. The reports are very voluminous, covering nearly twenty columns of the Montreal *Star*, in which they are given in full. The facts which were brought out in the course of the investigation are stated with much fulness of detail. As to the facts in the case, the two reports may be said substantially to agree, but as to the conclusions drawn from the facts those of Judge Jette, the chairman of the commission, are, generally speaking, much more favorable to Mr. Mercier and his colleagues than those reached by the other commissioners, Judges Davidson and Baby. While the chairman is unsparing in his denunciation of the transaction between Pacaud and Armstrong, he concludes that Mr. Mercier and his ministers were in ignorance of the nature of this transaction, until the facts were brought out before the commission. And in general it may be said, according to Judge Jette's view, little if any responsibility for Pacaud's $100,000 steal rests upon any member of Mr. Mercier's government. The conclusions of the other judges, as is well known from their interim report, are quite different. The Montreal *Witness*, in discussing the two reports, says:

"In one case the best construction is placed on all the explanations and evidence, the most charitable view taken of failures to explain contradictions in the explanations, while in the other these are brought fully into the light, and all their ugliness and their damaging features fully exposed. In one case it is clear that the agency of Mr. Pacaud in all Mr. Mercier's political and private financial matters was kept well in view as explaining much, while in the other. Mr. Pacaud's close connection with Mr. Mercier is almost ignored."

The *Witness* is probably correct in holding that the outcome of the commission is an illustration of the difficulty, if not impossibility, for men who have been political partizans so to divest themselves of prejudice as to be able to give a wholly unbiassed judgment in such a case, however honorable may be their intentions. This it thinks is seen in the fact that Judge Jette, the president of the Royal Commission, who was formerly a Liberal, has altogether exonerated Mr. Mercier and all but two of his colleagues, and has almost exonerated the two, while the other judges, both former Conservatives, have strongly condemned Mr. Mercier and Mr. Langelier and blame some of the others heavily. The *Witness* points out that, since the extraordinary display of partizanship by the Supreme Court judges of the United States, in the case of the commission of 1876, to settle the question between the two national parties as to the presidency, it has been determined that the Supreme Court judges shall in no way take cognizance of any matter that does not come before them in the regular discharge of their high judicial functions; and concludes that "our judges had better be left upon their benches; they should never be asked to descend from them to decide any political or other matter. They are liable to injure the reputation of the judiciary for impartiality, and their judgments are, as we see, no more conclusive than those of an ordinary parliamentary committee."

AS our readers were informed, the Hon. Sir John Thompson, Hon. G. E. Foster and Hon. McKenzie Bowell lately went to Washington on a diplomatic mission, generally understood to have some kind of reference to the trade relations of the two countries. If most of the despatches which have been sent forth from Washington in reference to the visit of these gentlemen, and much that has appeared in United States newspapers, is to be credited, they met with no success in their mission, and a very scant measure of courtesy at the hands of Mr. Secretary Blaine. It is needless to say, however, that these despatches and other reports are not to be *too implicitly* relied upon; and, seeing that the interviews between the Canadian ministers and the representatives of the Washington government were entirely private, it is as well to wait until the report of this rather extraordinary visit shall be laid before parliament, before presuming to comment upon its nature or its value.

IT is announced that one hundred men are to be dismissed from the number of the I. C. R. employees in the railway shops at Moncton. It is also reported that the force employed on the whole system is to be reduced by five hundred, and the staff of clerks cut down twenty per cent. This will be hard for the men dismissed, especially those at Moncton, who being, as we understand, mostly machinists, cannot turn their hands readily to other remunerative employment. We have not seen any statement as to the time given the men to make ready for the change, but, from certain remarks in the daily press, we infer that the notice is a short one. Considering the economical difficulties which attach to the running of the I. C. R. and the large deficit annually shown in its accounts, no fault should be found with the management for an attempt to cut down expenses to the lowest point consistent with efficiency of service. But faithfulness of service should be taken into account in the case of the lowest employees as well as in the case of the highest, and when dismissals are made they should be effected in such a way as to cause no unnecessary hardship to the dismissed.

THE death of Admiral Sir W. Provo Wallis, which occurred on Saturday, the 13th inst., at his home in Huntingdon, England, is an event naturally to cause remark. Sir Provo had become a centenarian, having been born in the city of Halifax on the 12th of April, 1791. When in April last he celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, he was the recipient of congratulatory addresses from every part of the empire, including one from Halifax, which was accompanied by a testimonial of plate. Sir Provo's connection with the navy dates almost from his birth. His father, Provo Featherstone Wallis, was chief clerk in the office of the commissioner of his majesty's naval yard at Halifax, and having influential friends, young Provo, in 1795, when but four years of age, was made to figure as an able-bodied seaman on the books of the Oiseau. At the age of twelve his active life as a seaman began; and a year later he saw active service on board the Cleopatra in a fierce battle, in which the Cleopatra engaged the heavier armed French frigate Ville de Milan. The Cleopatra was finally captured by the French vessel, and an attempt was made to take her to France, but on their way both ships were taken by a British man-of-war. Young Wallis, then at the age of 22, was second officer on the Shannon, when, on the 1st of June, 1818, she engaged the American frigate Chesapeake, just outside Boston harbor. In this engagement, which lasted only 16 minutes, the Americans had 47 killed and 117 wounded; the British loss was 23 killed and 59 wounded. The American commander, Lawrence, was among the killed, and the British commander, Broke, was wounded. It devolved on Lieut. Wallis to take command of the two vessels, and he brought them safely to Halifax, where they arrived amid triumphant demonstrations on the part of the citizens on Sunday, the 6th of June. On arrival of his ship in England soon after Mr. Wallis was promoted to the rank of commander. In 1858 Sir Provo's career, so far as active service is concerned, came to an end. Since then he has not been afloat; but owing to the exceptional length and character of his services, it was decided to continue his name on the active list for the rest of his life; and at the head of that list it had stood for many years previous to his death.

FOR investigation into certain facts connected with the Behring Sea seal fishery, it will be remembered that commissioners were last year appointed by the British and the United States governments respectively. The joint commission is now in session at Washington, and when its work is concluded, it is to be supposed that a report of the same will be given to the public. The report of this commission, it is hoped, will afford ground for the settlement of certain questions as to the necessity and the mode of protecting the seals. As to other matters in dispute between the two governments in reference to the seal fisheries, a draft of a treaty of arbitration, understood to be mutually acceptable, has been drawn up. This treaty is said to be now in the hands of Lord Salisbury awaiting the action of his government. The committee of arbitration, it is understood, will consist of seven persons, two representing the United States, two others Great Britain, and the other three from three neutral countries—Italy, France and Sweden being named as the countries agreed upon. Meantime a modus vivendi similar to that of last year will, in all probability, be arranged.

THE letter of Secretary Blaine to the chairman of the Republican National Committee, in which he declared that he was not a candidate for the presidency, and that his name would not go before the Republican National Convention for nomination, would seem to be a reasonably definite and explicit statement of his personal relations to the approaching presidential contest. The Democratic and the Independent press in general appear to think that the honorable secretary's straight-forwardness is not always to be implicitly relied upon, and, accordingly, they have been discussing the question, whether Mr. Blaine will really refuse the nomination if it should be offered him. It is generally understood that Mr. Blaine's health is far from robust and that the labor and excitement of a presidential campaign could be undertaken by him only at the imminent risk of his life. Mr. Blaine's declaration is, therefore, probably to be taken in good faith, for, however much he would like to be president, he will scarcely sacrifice life for the sake of trying conclusion with the Democratic candidate, whoever he may prove to be. If Mr. Blaine is not to be a candidate for nomination it is generally thought to leave the way pretty clear for the renomination of President Harrison. Mr. Harrison has not a national reputation as as a great statesman, and his conduct of the late diplomatic incident with Chili has not been of a character to create the impression of greatness abroad; but, taken as a whole, his term has been so far, very respectable. He has developed unexpected ability along some lines. He has done nothing to bring him into collision with any considerable section of his own party. He is a respectable man even in the eyes of Democrats, and on the whole, his chances for re-election, so far as can be gathered from present conditions, are none of the worst.

The Missionary Review of the World for March has for its leading article The Story of the Salvation Army, by Frederick Perry Noble. He likens General William Booth to "Great-Heart" in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," and follows the progress of the great religious-military organization from its first beginning in 1861 to the present time. Other timely and interesting articles in the Department of Literature of Missions are: London and its Missions, by Arthur T. Pierson, who is serving Mr. Spurgeon's former congregation; Persecution of the Russian Stundists, by Jas. E. Mathieson; The Reflex Influence of Missions, a paper read by Mrs. Ethan Curtis before the New York State Branch of the Woman's Board of Missions last May; The Cuban Mission, by Rev. A. J. Diaz; Missionary Fellowship, by Rev. William H. Lisle; The Boy's Brigade and the Missionary Cause, by Rev. J. Q. Adams, president of the organization; Go Forward, by Rev. A. P. Hopper; The Enthusiasm of Jesus Christ, by Rev. A. C. Murray; Central American Missions, by Rev. Joshua H. Tobey. The other departments are not less timely. Published by the Funk & Wagnalls Company, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York. $2 per year; 25 cents for single numbers. In clubs of ten, $1.50.

Spurgeon.

Has our age, or any age, seen a man like Spurgeon? His character was unique in our time because of its pure unselfishness. In an eminent degree he was Christ-like. While now the nations are mourning beside his new-made grave, I recall with sad pleasure two days in my life which brought me specially within the radius of his influence.

When a student, rejoicing in my first taste of foreign travel, I saw and heard Spurgeon at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. One bright June day I visited his home, retired and beautiful in the suburbs of London. The memories of that day are sacred. As I walked between sunshine and shadow, down the cool tree-lined avenue leading away from the quiet home of the preacher, the perfume of wood-vine and roses filled the air. So now and always will the thought of the man whom I then saw, and the memory of that day's special brightness, be like a breath of sweetest fragrance in my life.

The years ran by and brought another day. My wife and I last Easter Sunday found ourselves in the midst of London. In the morning we visited Westminster Abbey, where the brilliant throngs, the surpliced choir, the enchanting music, the sculptured splendour and airy vastness of the cathedral church, combined with the presence of the illustrious dead to impress and awe the spirit. In the evening we sought the great bare Tabernacle, where the surroundings were unimportant, but the man of God was the centre of all interest. Never had I seen the great building so full as it was that night. There were expectant looks on the faces of the many strangers whom the festival season had brought to London. We little knew with what sadness our thoughts would return to that scene in future days.

From the pulpit a short aisle leads back between rows of seats to a door, which connects with the pastor's study. By and bye this door opened, and immediately the well-known presence greeted our vision. The first hymn was presently announced, and its title, "The Sands of Time are Sinking," was strangely prophetic. As he began the reading of Scriptures the voice of the speaker did not falter. The selection was from one of the letters of Paul, and Spurgeon expounded the passage as he proceeded, according to custom. When part way through the chapter, however, he paused and said simply: "Brethren, I can go no farther. Brother —— will continue the service." Then he sat down in the arm-chair beside his desk. At that moment his public life closed forever. At the post of duty, on the walls of Zion, in the pulpit where his face and figure were so familiar and so dear, his strength failed him. As he stopped speaking, a tall man who had been sitting a short distance behind, sprang forward, and carried on the service without further incident. Before the sermon commenced, however, Mr. Spurgeon arose and walked feebly out of church. As I saw him making his way toward the door by which he had entered, leaning upon the backs of the pews for support, I wondered to myself: "Will he ever come back again?" He did *not* come back again. Weary weeks of suffering stretched out beyond that Easter eventide, but his working life had closed. He had spoken his last word from the pulpit. There is pathos in its syllables. "He could go no farther." This was the message of the weary body, worn out in the service of humanity. Just thirty years before, a young man of unequalled promise and vigor, he had commenced his Tabernacle ministry. And what a record he made! Unceasingly he toiled, and the Pastor's College, the Orphanages, the Book Fund, the Colporteur work, the host of printed sermons and addresses, the choice "Treasury of David," the great Tabernacle church, with its five thousand members, and numerous charitable organizations, bear witness to his zeal. The praise of men is idle in presence of such a life. The hero rests; his labors live.

AUSTEN DE BLOIS.

St. Martins Seminary, Feb. 16.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR

"Be not weary in well-doing."

PRAYER TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY

"For Mission Bands and their Leaders."

Notes from Telugu Land.

Just at the close of the last Board meeting, which was a very pleasant one, it was suggested that Mr. Archibald make a digest of certain letters from the field for the paper. As he was pressed with work and hesitated, I volunteered to do so, hence this communication.

Mr. Churchill writes to the Board, about Nov. 17th, of the evident signs of approaching famine, owing to the failure of the monsoons; says that the ground is now as dry and baked as at the end of the hot season in June. That, unless there is a great change soon, both man and beast must suffer and die from thirst, as well as hunger. Price of grain has already risen to almost famine rates and will go higher. The scarcity extends over a large part of India and Burmah. Seldom has there been such a slight rain-fall, taking India altogether. The people appear more hardened than ever in this vicinity, but three have been baptized from Sanyase's village and some up in the Jeypore country. Thus far, this year, we are able to report eleven.

To Mr. Archibald Mr. Churchill says: "Get a lot of money for buildings at Kimedi and Palconda. Mr. Higgins is in a great hurry to get work started at both places. He may begin at Kimedi after conference; indeed, they are at work at a well there now." (For this well Mr. Randolph gave the money not long ago.)

Subraidu writes December 2: "A high caste woman is showing a very good mind. She is hearing the Gospel attentively. Cassie often visits her and she is asking baptism, but she is not allowed to come out. I don't know what God's plan is for her. One night she came to us and said if we could send her to Chicacole she would go and be baptized. She is about thirty years old. I have written to Mr. Higgins about her."

Mr. Higgins writes, December 16, about the same woman: "I arrived in Akulatampara on Saturday. Her relations heard of it and kept her in close confinement, and I watched her sharply. Ammana went there with fruit and got a chance to tell her to come to us. She replied, she wanted to come but said she could not get away, as some men relatives had arrived. Little Daniel went over and played around the yard until he got a chance to tell her to come over to the Naidu's after dark, where we would be having a conference meeting. We had our meeting, and four were received, but she did not come. As Subraidu and I returned we felt that our chances of getting her that time were small, and we went to bed as usual. About midnight Subraidu got up and walked around to see what he could see. He found a young Brahmin, a friend of his, who has long been showing a good mind toward us, and who is next-door neighbor to this woman and a friend of her son's. He undertook to communicate with the woman. Going to her house he found all asleep. Waking up her son, he sat with him in the yard before a fire and read and gossipped till the woman was awakened. When she came out he told her quietly that she could go over to the Christians, and he would look after her son. The brave little woman skipped off, and came to us about 4.15 a. m. We went over to the Naidu's and held a church meeting. Two Hindu men were present as witnesses that she had not been induced by force or other unfair means to be baptized. She broke her caste, and took out her jewels. By that time it was daylight. The Naidu sent out word that his son and others would be baptized at six, and invited all to come. We gathered on the bank of the river, a hundred or more, and we had a lovely baptism. The husband was very angry, and refused to receive the wife again, so we shall take her to Chicacole. She will make a good Bible woman. She is brave, intelligent and very happy. In many ways she seems like a bird set free after long confinement in a cage. Her joy is unbounded. This makes 21 baptized this year. Others are inquiring."

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men."

Readers, how are we going to praise Him this centennial year? Surely not with words only, and with offerings that cost us no self-denial? Would that be praise? Will our God measure back to us as we give to Him? Ought we not to show Him that we will, at least, try this year to do our best with the mission field He has given us?

C. H. ARCHIBALD.