

The Messenger and Visitor

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The Twentieth Century Fund \$50,000.

PASTORS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—What is the matter? Where is the fault that this work is not moving on to victory? Are you not going to help in this one supreme effort of our day? Look at the triumph of our Canada Presbyterian brethren! One million and a half secured in 1901. And the Canadian Methodists one million two hundred thousand in the same year. And now are we going to fail to raise the small sum of fifty thousand this year? We certainly will fail if you do not take hold with me in this endeavour. Only a quarter of the pledges sent out to our 325 preachers and Licentiate have been returned. That is, only \$1500 have been pledged instead of \$5000. And only 32 superintendents of 544 Sunday-schools have returned pledges, or less than one sixteenth of our Superintendents have returned pledges. Is this the way you are going to treat this noble effort of the denomination? If so, failure is a foregone conclusion, and we may as well give up the task as hopeless.

I am trying to persuade myself that this is rather thoughtlessness, than indifference to this denominational endeavour to advance all our missionary work. May the awakening soon come. May all those pledge-slips be brought before all the Sunday-schools and returned to me. Some of these schools, I know, were not in session when their Superintendent received my circular. Will you kindly bring it before your scholars at the reorganizing of the same. But hundreds of other schools were in session, but no reply has come. Come, brethren, wake up and return.

My pledges to date are \$3297, but at this slow rate (ten weeks' work), we will not raise half a fifty thousand in a year.

Yours in the service,

H. F. ADAMS, Field-Secretary.

New Books.

ORIGEN AND THE GREEK PATRISTIC THEOLOGY. By Rev. William Fairweather, M. A.

This volume of 260 pages is one of a series of 28 volumes entitled "The World's Epoch Makers," edited by Mr. Oliphant Smeaton. Mr. Fairweather forewarns his readers in a prefatory note that this book is not written in the popular style adopted in some other volumes of the series for the reason that the subject scarcely admits of being popularized. The author has, however, more than accomplished his aim to make the book "readable." While it is not a book to attract those who are in search of amusement, or the mere graces of literature, it well deserves the attention of that large and increasing number of men and women who, being without leisure, and perhaps without taste, for exhaustive study of the history of philosophy and theology, are nevertheless eager to gain some intelligent idea of what the world's great master minds have thought and taught in reference to those great subjects upon which the human mind will ever question and theorize. Undoubtedly Origen was one of the world's greatest thinkers. He was the first systematic theologian among the Christian Fathers, and in the highest degree eminent as an apologist and as an exegete. His teaching did not meet with universal acceptance among the Christian theologians of his own day, and much of it was rejected in the later development of Latin Christianity, but the writings of the great Alexandrian have constituted a seed-plot of ideas for later writers, and much that appears in what is called the new theology of our own time is at least as old as Origen. A study of the Greek Patristic Theology will therefore be found exceed-

ingly helpful to the understanding of the theological developments of the present. In the first and second chapters of his book, Mr. Fairweather has given some account of the precursors of Origen—particularly Clement—and the life and character of Origen himself. The third chapter deals with Origen's View of Holy Scripture; the fourth with his philosophy, the fifth with his writings. The three following chapters discuss Origen's Theology in respect to the principal Christian doctrines. The ninth chapter has to do with the successors of Origen in Alexandria and Asia, the tenth discusses in a more general way the Greek Theology, and concluding chapters deal with the reaction against Origenism in the period succeeding that in which he lived; and its subsequent history. As an introduction to the study of Origen, Mr. Fairweather's volume seems highly satisfactory and valuable and those who may wish to pursue the study at greater length will find in connection with the preface a list of books which will be helpful in that direction.

—Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price \$1.25.

Home Missions in New Brunswick.

The Home Mission Board met in Foreign Mission Rooms on Tuesday, March 4th. Sessions were held in afternoon and evening. Reports were read from mission pastors and discussed. Applications for grants from Port Elgin, Coverdale, and Upper Kingsclear circuits were considered. The report of General Missionary Colwell was received and some communications read. A resolution favoring the appointment at an early date of a mission pastor for Kent County was unanimously passed. Also resolutions looking to vigorous effort to arouse the churches to a clearer appreciation of the needs and claims of our Home Mission work. B. N. NOBLES, Sec'y. Carleton, March 7.

ST. JOHN BOYS IN BOER HANDS.

William Blatchford, of 16 in the Canadian Mounted Rifles, in a letter to relatives in this city, relates some interesting happenings on the veldt. His letter is dated at Winkiehook, January 29, and tells, among other things, of an attack by khaki-clad Boers on Walter Cooper, Joe Monteith and himself, of this city; Creighton, of Silver Falls, and his brother, Frederick, also a fellow named Lyons and Sandy Hughes. The two Creightons, Hughes and Monteith were captured. Blatchford says the Boers were only fifteen yards away and one hallooed, "Hands up." Joe said "Nit," and fired at them, but his horse was no good, and they rushed at him, and three of them dragged him off his horse. The other fellows came up then to see what was up, and Hughes' horse got shot under him. Creighton, of Silver Falls, couldn't get his horse to go, and as about seventy more Boers came out of the farm-house, he and Sandy were nabbed. They took Sandy and Herb Creighton's hats and boots, but they left Creighton, of Fredericton, with a suit of underwear, and Joe Monteith with a pair of socks.—Globe.

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WHERE BRITAIN IS STRONG.

A constant reminder of the financial strength of the British Government, in the face of the enormous outlay for the prosecution of the war in South Africa, is given in the announcement every few days of the launching and laying of keels of new warships. Without haste and without cessation the programme for maintaining the naval supremacy of the empire is carried on from day to day in a manner which plainly intimates that the nation is determined to be in a position to meet any eventuality that may arise. Only the other day the King and Queen presided at the launching of two battle-ships, and now comes the announcement that the government has contracted with various ship-building firms for the construction of five first class and two third class cruisers and two battleships. A noteworthy fact in relation to these additions to the effective strength of the navy is that there is never any difficulty in finding crews to man the ships as fast as they are ready for commission. This is where all other nations find their chief weakness in carrying out their plans for naval expansion, although all of them draw upon their fishing and maritime population by conscription. Even the United States, with its vast coast line on two oceans and a population approaching the hundred million mark, has serious difficulty in manning its fleet. But in the British Isles services in the navy is a tradition, and an every-day fact among all classes of the people. There are few families, even in Ireland, that do not take pride in a record of naval service. No other nation is saturated with the sea to the same extent as the British, and this perhaps is one of the great reasons why it has so long maintained its naval superiority.—Montreal Witness.

TREED ALL NIGHT BY WOLVES.

Niles, Mich., March 14.—Joe Youngs, a copper country trapper, who this winter has killed many wolves and wildcats, reports having had an exciting experience last Friday night. He was returning to camp after having made the rounds of his traps, and at nightfall was followed by a large pack of wolves. Youngs, although armed, climbed a tree, and was soon besieged. At times the trapper would fire into the pack, which he could but dimly see, and all night, with the temperature below zero, he clung to his perch. At day-break the wolves disappeared, leaving behind them two dead and a trail of blood in the snow, which indicated that others had been wounded. Youngs has made a small fortune this winter, receiving \$15 from the state and \$7 from the county for every wolf killed.

TO TUNNEL ST. LAWRENCE.

Messrs. White, O'Halloran and Buchanan, of Montreal, give notice that application will be made to parliament this year for the incorporation of the 'Montreal Subway Company' to construct a subway under the River St. Lawrence, from a point in or near Montreal to the south shore, with power to use it as a railway, driveway or footway for tram cars, trains carrying freight or passengers under the river and for the interchange of traffic of all kinds, with power to charge tolls, to construct approaches, and other necessary terminal facilities and surface or elevated or subway railways to connect with existing or future lines of railway on either side with power to carry telegraph, telephone, electric light and power wires and cables across the said river, with a station or stations in or near Montreal, together with power to lease to other parties or to amalgamate with any other company.

The London Mail says that at the cabinet council Monday, it was determined that steps should be taken to prevent the ruin of the West Indies. This means, the Mail thinks, that the British delegates will not be able to announce at the Brussels conference that unless sugar bounties are abolished Great Britain will be prepared to impose a countervailing duty on bounty product sugar.

H. J. Prettyprice has introduced in the Legislature of Ontario a bill providing for the appointment of a provincial board of assessors for the purpose of assessing the value of the property of railways, telegraph and telephone companies operating in the province. A tax based on the average rate will be levied on corporations and the proceeds divided, 15 per cent. to go to aid the equipment and maintenance of technical education and 85 per cent. to various municipalities pro rata, according to population by the last census.

Notices.

The Lunenburg county Quarterly Meeting will convene at New Canada, March 31st and April 1st. First meeting Monday 3 p. m. Let all the churches be represented. A special programme and a good time for all who come praying and expecting it. W. B. BRZANSON.

March 23rd will be temperance Sunday and the teachers in the Sunday Schools of our land will have another opportunity of presenting this most important subject to the young and old who attend this department of the services of the church. Any Schools wishing programmes for the 23rd can have them by writing to Mrs. Lara Wrigley, 293 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario. The subject for this quarter is Prohibition, and the price is ten cents per dozen. That Temperance Sunday be productive of the greatest good the Temperance department should be organized in every school. There can be no better opportunity than the 23rd of March to do this. Any information can be obtained by applying to MRS. LAURA J. POTTER, Prov. Supt. of Temperance in the Sunday School. Canning, Kings County, N. S.

The next meeting of the Hants County Baptist Convention will be held in the Baptist church at Windsor, N. S., on Monday and Tuesday, March 17th and 18th—first session at 2 o'clock p. m., on Monday. L. H. CRANDALL, Sec'y. Scotch Village, N. S., Feb. 28.

The P. E. I. Baptist Conference will meet at Alberton on March 17th and 18th, instead of 10th and 11th as previously announced. G. P. RAYMOND, Sec'y.

At the Home Mission Board meeting convened in Yarmouth Sept. 10, a provisional committee of the Board was appointed to take charge of the work hitherto carried on by Bro. Cohoon, until such time as his successor could be obtained or a permanent satisfactory disposition of his work be arranged. Correspondence upon all Home Mission questions should be addressed to me during this provisional arrangement. Any correspondence forwarded to me, will be immediately submitted to the members of the committee. P. G. MOORE, Sec'y. Prov. Com. Yarmouth, P. O. Box 322.

P. S.—I would like it to be understood that I have nothing whatever to do with the finances of Home Missions. Do not send any money to me, but to A. Cohoon, Wolfville, N. S. who is still Treasurer of Denominational Funds for Nova Scotia, and he will see that the Home Mission portion reaches our Treasurer in due time. This will save trouble and prevent mistakes. P. G. M.

The late James Dick, of London, left one million pounds to Glasgow charities.

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