

## MESSENGER and VISITOR.

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C. GODFREY, St. John, N. B.

## Messenger and Visitor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1889.

## A CRITICAL TIME.

The ideal church will be alert and active year in and year out; but even for this church, some seasons will be more favorable for effort than others, and may call forth some special exertion in the great work of soul saving. While the merely spasmodic is to be deprecated in church work, yet it is better to have a season of life than no life at all, and a season of special effort is very desirable in almost, if not all, churches, however earnest may be their steady work. The only question is, what is the best time to make the attempt? This time is not governed so much by the season of the year as by the spiritual condition of church and people. Other things being equal, however, for most churches and places the winter months are most favorable for special effort in soul saving. The evenings are long. In many places, especially in the country, there is comparative leisure. For these and for other reasons, very many churches begin to hold nightly services after the week of prayer. For many, if an effort is not made then or soon after, there will be none during the year.

This, then, is a most critical time for all our churches. Would they all could realize how momentous the present season is. If the Lord's people do not bestir themselves, with the unswerving around their hearts growing harder, their condition becoming more hopeless and their state liable at any time to be fixed by death, they are more recreant than words can tell to obligations as solemn as the judgment and eternity. If special effort be attempted, what issues are depending? What need that all be earnest helpers, and not stumbling stones! What room for confession, on the part of those who have been sluggish? What need of divine help? What pleading there should be in prayer! How faithful should be the personal dealing with the unsaved!

There are, we are sure, many churches and many members in all the churches, who need to humble themselves down very low, before they will be in a case to help on in this work. Whole churches have given small heed to the call from the cross of Christ and the needs of men. Worldliness has abounded; the difference between their life and the world's has not been marked. There has been almost a stupor of indifference to the condition and claims of the lost. No one can leap from this life and state to full influence with men and power with God at a bound. There must be confession, sincere and straightforward, there must be deep humility and contrition before men and God before God will clothe a man with His power, or men will open their hearts to His influence. Should we hear of deep self-shame in our churches, we should feel more confident than though word came of stirring sermons to sinners. The power must come from God, and He ordains that it go forth chiefly through souls upon which this same power is operating in full force. May there be great searching of heart, humility of spirit, and re-consecration to God.

But let not any one despair. God is as good as powerful, and powerful as good. He can restore a soul that has backslidden, and he will do it, when the lesson has been learned, by bitter experience, that this state is to be shunned, and when pardon and restoration are sought. There may be long waiting upon God needed; but if the blessing tarry, wait for it. There is more good for us in its tarrying than in its enjoyment, in the main, otherwise it would be given at once. This thought should make us patiently wait, while we should not the less earnestly plead.

May we not ask all our Christian readers to keep in mind the critical nature of the time which is just upon the churches? If all would but remember at family and secret, as well as in the more public worship, to pray for preparation of heart and its consequent blessing upon the churches which should hold or be holding special services, would not all hearts be made warmer, while God's arm would be moved? Perhaps the churches need our prayers most of all who are, apparently, most hopelessly cold and dead. Let us all think of the worth of souls and be more earnest to work, more faithful to pray.

—HELD OVER.—Several communications have been crowded out this week. Subscribers who send money must not feel nervous if the labels on their papers are not corrected for a week or two, as the subscriptions are coming in so fast that we cannot keep them corrected up to date of issue.

## THE WEEK.

There is little interest in British political events. Gladstone denies that he intended to recommend the question of the restoration of the Pope's temporal power to international arbitration, and refuses to discuss the question further. He is too old a politician to allow his opponents to trap him, by drawing him out too far on delicate and difficult questions. He probably meant that there were difficulties between the Pope and Italy which might be made a subject of arbitration. But even this recognizes the Pope's right to be considered a personage of political as well as ecclesiastical importance, which is dangerous to concede.

And now it appears from a statement of Cardinal Moran, that the Parnell letters were first offered to Archbishop Walsh before given to the *Times*, and were at once seen to be forgeries. The general impression is that the *Times* is now aware it has been imposed upon, and is determined to prolong the commission as much as possible to withdraw attention from the chief charge. This also will ruin Parnell, as the expense is enormous.

Not long since a deliverance was sent abroad in favor of fair trade, said to have been made by the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester, England. An explanation has just been published to the effect that this deliverance was made at a packed meeting of the Chamber, and that it misrepresents the Chamber as a whole, which adheres to free trade.

The *Nationalist Star* declares that the situation in Ireland is more serious to-day than at any time since 1882. This is seen in the resistance to evictions resulting in bloodshed.

Advices have been received from the interior of Africa that in October last Mwanga, king of Uganda, plotted to destroy his entire body-guard, his intention being to abandon them on an island in Lake Nyanza, where they would starve to death. The guards, who had been forewarned of the king's intentions, refused to enter the canoes which were to convey them to the island, but returned to the capital and made an attack on Mwanga's palace. The king fled to escape the fury of the guards, and his brother Kiwewa was enthroned in his stead. Kiwewa appointed Christians to the principal offices. This enraged the Arabs, who murdered many of the Christian officials and replaced them with Mohammedans. The Arabs burned the English and French mission stations and killed many converts to Christianity. The mission boat Eleanor, in which some of the persons who had been converted by the French missionaries were fleeing, was struck by a hippopotamus and sunk; five converts were drowned. The missionaries have reached Usumbrie in safety.

The Arabs have written to Missionary McKay exulting in their triumph and prophesying the extinction of all Mission stations in Central Africa in revenge for England's anti-slavery policy. They have proclaimed Uganda a Mohammedan kingdom. It becomes more and more evident that the Arabs must be expelled from Central Africa, or it will become a great slave mart, and, in due time, be depopulated.

The Boulangerists are winning victories. In three elections last week a Boulangerist candidate was elected. Boulanger may be an adventurer and a fraud; but he is getting a stronger grip upon the French people every day. He himself is contesting a seat in Paris. The government are much agitated, as the probabilities seem to be that he will win. Ridicule has been tried against him; but still the people will not be sneered out of their regard for him. In his measures for the revision of the constitution there may be more wisdom than has been allowed. At least, the government have tried to forestall him, in a measure, in this; but still have failed to destroy his popularity.

DeLozops, however much he may have blundered in his Panama scheme, is to be pitied. He is said to have wrecked his own fortune in it and to be broken hearted.

Our American cousins have no reason to be pleased over the late presidential election. We doubt whether elections anywhere can be regarded with much pride in these days of bribery and machine politics. The writer of the famous, or infamous, Murchison letter, which lost Lord West his place at Washington, has been found to be a Geo. Osgoodby, of Pomona, Cal. The *Force* gives the proof this week, that their mailing lists, which had been stolen by one of the dishonest employees, was purchased by the National Republican Committee, and that campaign literature, fitted to confirm the suspicion that the *Force* had sold out to the Democrats, was sent to their subscribers. This is infamous, and helped to reduce the Third Party vote. The thieves whose stolen goods were thus received, paid for and used, were given employment by the Committee.

The Senate of the United States have passed a resolution which claims the right virtually to forbid Europeans from constructing or controlling a ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama. This is almost too serious for bluster and too

great assumption to be regarded as earnest. That body has also adopted a clause in their tariff bill imposing a tax of one half cent a pound on all fresh fish from without.

A terrific cyclone swept over the western part of Pennsylvania last week. At Reading, Williamsport, Pittsburgh and other places, many were buried in the ruins of fallen buildings and wounded or killed outright.

## Review of Work in 1888.

As the number of my acquaintances and friends among the readers of the *Messenger and Visitor* is very large, and as I have but little time for correspondence, it may be gratifying to them if I briefly record, to the glory of God's grace, the following facts in connection with my work during the year that has just closed: I have travelled in the interests of Home Missions 3,100 miles, visited and helped, for a longer or shorter period, 30 churches, preached 220 sermons, and attended 66 other meetings, baptized 134 persons, and received by restoration, letter or experience 49 others; organized 2 new churches with an aggregate membership of 61, administered the Lord's Supper 12 times, made 854 family visits, and collected for Home Missions \$311.75. Besides the labors thus indicated, I suspended my Home Mission work during July and August and spent those months in the interests of the Jubilee Fund for Acadia College. Bearing in mind that in the discharge of my duties there is much valuable work done that cannot be tabulated, I have much cause for thankfulness to God and for increased consecration to His service.

At the beginning of the New Year I find myself visiting old and familiar scenes on the N. W. and L. S. West branches of the Miramichi River. Here, 30 years ago, and three years ago, it was my privilege to witness wonderful displays of God's redeeming power, and precious memories are thus revived.

Wishing the Editor and readers of the *Messenger and Visitor* a happy and prosperous New Year.

Jan. 3, 1889. ISA WALLACE.

## Notes from Nictaux.

Some three months ago we came among these people. Our stay has been made pleasant by them on Sunday and on Monday. Continual acts of kindness have evidenced their good will towards the minister, and their interest in the welfare of Zion. Indications go to show that we are among a united people.

Already we are happy to relate the Lord has visited us with revival showers. There is a general quickening of the spiritual forces in every section of the church. But at Torbrook we have been compelled, by the increasing interest, to hold special services during the holiday weeks, notwithstanding the inclement weather and the almost impassable roads. God's every-day people have been refreshed in their spiritual experiences, wanderers have returned to their first love, and several have experienced a change of heart. We have visited the water upon two occasions, and have baptized five hopeful believers. Many more have declared their hope, and we expect them to declare their allegiance to their Saviour in a short time, as he has appointed. Pray for us, brethren, that this work may be wide and deep in its course.

Our brethren and sisters here have four Sunday-schools in connection with the church. There is also a union school in one section. Of these one has retired to winter quarters; the remaining four are pursuing their way as circumstances permit. The teachers are much encouraged in their work. At Nictaux proper we have had a Christmas concert, which was excellent in every respect.

The minister and family were not forgotten on Christmas week, but received many tangible tokens of kindness and consideration. Two instances must be especially noted. The first at Torbrook was a valuable comfort and an extraordinarily beautiful quilt, presented to the pastor and his wife. The other was a magnificent fur coat for the pastor, the value of which cannot be counted in dollars. This treasure was presented at the close of the Christmas concert at Nictaux, by the senior deacon and worthy superintendent of the school, Col. B. H. Parker. It is further to be noted, that the ladies have been the principal agents in these works of kindness. The pastor was already speechless with gratitude, and the intensity of his feeling remains unabated.

W. B. BRADSHAW.

Nictaux, N. S., Jan. 5, 1889.

We have used the Ideal Washing Machine, advertised in another column, in old hours, and can recommend it very highly. It will put through a washing in a small part of the time required by the old hand-scrubbing way. It does its work thoroughly. Any one can work it, as it requires no skill in its use. The "men folks" or "the boys" can do the washing in old hours, and thus save the weaker sex from overwork. Now, you men, don't any of you hide this notice, if you see it first, lest your wives worry you into getting an Ideal; but let each of you make his wife a present of one at the first opportunity, and see how she will thank you, as you help her in this most heavy of all household work.

## The South Shores.

On the 18th of November we started for a trip along the South shore in prosecution of our work for the *Messenger and Visitor*. The Tusket and Argyle field was the first touched. A part of it had been canvassed by us before, but at Lower Argyle and Argyle Sound quite a number of families not heretofore receiving it, are to be blessed by its weekly visits. Bro. Brown has lately come to this field, though we did not have the pleasure of meeting him. When we got to Tusket, he had gone to Argyle. When we arrived at Argyle, he had passed on to Pulpico; and when we reached Pulpico he had returned to Argyle. But we heard of him all through the field, and it was a report of which no man need be ashamed. We next passed on to the field so long and faithfully worked by Bro. Richan. The man and his work are too well known to need any comment by me. By the way, I see by the last *Messenger and Visitor* he has resigned his charge of this field. If our vacant churches are wise he will soon be settled.

We visited Pulmer Head, Lower Pulmer, passing along the shore to Woods' Harbor and Barrington. Our paper will find a number of new families in each of these places.

On the Shelburne field we found our young Bro. L. J. Tingley earnestly engaged in pressing forward the Master's work. He has obtained a large place in the hearts and sympathies of the people. He is deeply anxious for the salvation of souls and I feel sure you will have glad tidings to communicate with your readers from this field before the winter passes. Shelburne, Sand Point, Jordan Bay, Jordan Falls and Lower Jordan are our Brother's preaching stations, each of which were duly touched in connection with our work. Our old field Lockport, was next reached. Here we found the genial pastor, Bro. Nobles, bravely holding the fort. He is greatly loved by the people and is doing a work which must tell for God and truth. It was our privilege to preach on Sabbath morning to the old congregation. Only an old pastor can understand the army of memories which came trooping through our mind, as we looked down upon the dear familiar faces before us. Many changes were marked in the short space of two years since we left them. Saddest of them being the absence of forms and faces loved and honored, who have left the earthly sanctuary so dearly loved and regularly visited, for the Heavenly Temple where praise is perfected and there is no more going out. Not much remained to be done here, for the *Messenger and Visitor* as the work had been pretty faithfully done before. We called in passing upon Bro. Potter, of Osborne, and found him getting well under way for successful work on that field. Not much was to be done here either for the paper, for in this respect, as in many others, doubtless they still feel the effect of the energetic work of their late pastor, Rev. P. R. Foster.

This finished our work in Shelburne County. At Milton, the point at which we made our attack on Queens County, we found our old friend, Rev. D. W. Crandall. Though he has been settled here but a few months, he has the work well on hand, and the church is feeling the inspiration of his energy. As the church had been sometime pastorless, everything was not so satisfactory as could be wished in church work. But we understand that the church is gathering itself up for renewed, and we trust successful work for Jesus. We found, as we could expect among so intelligent a people as that of Milton, a large number of families taking the *Messenger and Visitor*. Nevertheless, a thorough canvass with the assistance of the pastor, will nearly or quite double the list there. At Liverpool we found the pastor, Rev. S. H. Cain, ready to give any assistance in the work, and as a result quite a number of new names were added here. Liverpool, we think, is gradually gathering herself up after the paralysis of the financial blow received some years ago. Bro. Cain is popular, not only with his own people, but with others, and the outlook is hopeful.

The Baptist church is undergoing extensive repairs and being handsomely repainted. When it is finished it will be one of the most roomy and beautiful church buildings in the province. At Port Medway and Mill's Village we found Bro. A. W. Bars, now getting among our older ministers, bravely contending with many difficulties. The Baptist cause is small, business interests low, and removals to more prosperous sections frequent. These are among the things which make this a somewhat discouraging field. Not many positive subscriptions were taken on this field, but it was sent to the end of the year, on trial, to a number of families, and we are expecting it will remain in many, we fondly hope in all.

At Bridgewater the puff and scream of the steam engine are among the things which give the town life and attraction, and encourage the hope that at last the "Nictaux and the Atlantic" will become a fact. The Baptist church here enjoys and appreciates the labors of one of our best young men, Rev. C. R. B. Dodge. With the completion of

the Nictaux and Atlantic and the stimulus given to business by gold mining in the vicinity, the population of Bridgewater should be considerably increased. We hope, therefore, that what has been comparatively a weak interest may become one of our strongest Baptist churches. We were glad also to meet Brother March, and see him looking so well after his years of toil for the Master.

We next visited Chelsea, a part of Bro. March's field, and Greenfield, a part of Bro. James Blakney's field, and hope that the result of our work will bring a blessing to a number of families in these places for many years to come.

We next visited North Brookfield, Pleasant River, South Brookfield and Caledonia Corner, the field successfully worked by Bro. J. H. Jenner, one of our most promising young men. Through the pastor's help and influence, probably twenty new families on this field will be blessed by the weekly visits of the best religious paper in the Dominion.

There is quite a stir in Northern Queens. The discovery and successful operation of a number of gold mines, giving employment to a large number, makes a market for the produce of the farmer and increases the circulation of money among all.

On our way home we just touched the field of Rev. James Blakney. He was away attending to the demands upon him from his extensive field. Think of it, brethren, who complain of a six or eight miles drive to out stations—fifty miles, much of the way over the roughest roads, between the extremes of his field. We think we have not overstated it; if we have, Bro. Blakney can correct us. All honor to the men who uncompromisingly travel over a field like that for the Master's sake. It must be a comforting thing, however, sometimes to sing, "There's resting by and by."

We want to make mention, in closing, of the uniform kindness with which we have been received in doing denominational work. The universal testimony is, "It is a grand paper," and all going to say, "I wish you every success in your work."

We wish also to express our gratitude to the pastors from whom we have received such practical help. But in addition to their manifest desire to help in our work, they all feel that our work helps them. Every paper which goes into a home is a co-laborer with the pastor, and well our brethren appreciate that fact.

If we have not wearied your readers, we may occasionally drop a note regarding the progress of our work.

H. N. PARRY.

## Boston Letter.

WITH THE BAPTIST SOCIAL UNION.

The last meeting of this active body was held in Tremont Temple on New Year's eve, and was very largely attended. The Union is composed of laymen from over 60 Baptist churches in and around Boston, who by their money influence and prayers, are doing very aggressive missionary work in the needy section of this city, over \$6,000 was contributed by the members during the year for this work; also, a very considerable amount is given by private members, which does not appear in the report. The evening after the "sumptuous banquet had been enjoyed, was devoted to hearing reports from the various fields which have been helped more or less by the Union.

The first report was from the Tabernacle Church, Bowdoin Square—Pastor M. R. Deming. This church is open every day the year round, has baptized 114 during the year, and now numbers 249 members, though only a year old.

The pastor of the German Church reported advancement and growth in his difficult work, 18 by baptism.

The Baptist Bethel, Hanover street, was next heard from through its pastor, W. J. Swaffield. This is the sailor's church of Boston. Its doors are open from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, prayer meetings are held daily from 3 to 4, well attended and much blessed to the salvation of souls; during the year 50,000 have been ministered to at this church, of these about 20,000 have been sailors of every language and color, and the eagerness with which these noble men of the sea listen to the Gospel and believe it too, is refreshing. Over 700 of them during the year came forward for prayers and many scores of them were converted to God, some baptized, others received but called to "ships" before the Sabbath came. The reflection of this work cannot be over-estimated. A great effort is also being made to reach the toiling masses around, and very much is being accomplished in this way. Progress was reported in every department of its multifarious work.

Trinity Church, East Boston, reported through Pastor Jones, that though organized in 1878, it now has a membership of 550, and a Sabbath-school of 450. They are gaining a grand hold upon the community surrounding them and pushing the battle to the gates.

Dearborn Street Church, with pastor Francis Bellamy at its head, is rejoicing over glorious results of Christian effort; it contemplates moving into a more thickly peopled district in Roxbury. Thus the Master's work is being pushed on in these churches for the Christian people, by the noble body of Christian

laymen, and the poor are having the Gospel preached to them.

## RUGGLES STREET CHURCH.

The Rev. W. T. Chas. D. D., of Minneapolis, has been called to the pastorate of this now famous church. Dr. Chas. was formerly the successful pastor of the First Church in Cambridge, Dr. Seymour, through failing health, having resigned last spring. The Dr. is fast gaining strength for future work.

## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT.

At Clarendon Street Church a most interesting service was enjoyed on the last Sunday of the old year. Rev. Dr. Gordon, assisted by Dr. Constantine, of Athens, Greece, conducted the service. A hundred Chinamen were in the congregation, coming up from the vestry in procession, where they had been assembled in a meeting of their own. At the close of the sermon Dr. Gordon baptized four candidates, one of them a Chinaman from the Chinese S. S. held in the church.

## THE MINISTER FOR THE TIMES.

Prof. J. M. English addressed the ministers' meeting on the above topic, observing that,—"A good minister must be an efficient conductor of public worship aside from preaching. 2. He must be a good preacher, combining in himself the functions of teacher and evangelist. 3. He must conduct a prayer meeting well, so as to call out the talent of his members, not take all the time himself. 4. He must give time to pastoral visitation, not social calls, for the purpose of coming in contact with souls. 5. He must be an organizer and a philanthropist. The ideal is high, but by the help of God and common sense is attainable. WATCHMAN.

Boston, Jan. 11, 1889.

## Canadian Baptist Hymnal.

Testimonials are coming in, and a few will be helpful to friends who are thinking about adopting the book.

Extracts from a lengthy review in the *Canadian Baptist*:

As regards the variety, beauty, strength and spirituality of the selection, our friends by the sea have attained a large measure of success. An admirable feature of this book is the insertion of many modern hymns as yet but little known, which are, however destined to live in the anthology of the churches with those of the older writers.

It is a decided advance for the better upon any other American collection now in use that we have seen. With the Bristol Tune Book or Dr. Allan's Congregational Psalmist for the music and the Canadian Baptist Hymnal for the words, no Baptist congregation need lack good material appliances for the most healthy and spiritual worship.

From the  *Zion's Advocate*:  
In the collection there are not many hymns that we would wish to omit in the service of song in the house of the Lord.

Tablets say:  
The new book presents a very pleasing appearance. It is well printed on good paper, in beautiful, clear type, and is well bound, and is a decided improvement upon the book we have been using. The price, too, ranging from 35 to 75 cents, brings the new book within reach of all.

Rev. John Clark:  
It has some good features—large type, good paper, handiness of form and lowness in price.

Dr. S. T. Rand:  
I like the appearance of the new Hymn book.

Orders for the 75c. editions, gilt edge, will be taken and sent forward as soon as next lot arrive.

Churches that have adopted the Book and received quantities as follows this week: Hantsport, Pughwash, Sonora, Guyaboro Co., North Sydney, C. B. Collins, N. B., Cornwallis St., Halifax.

Kindly remit cash with the order.  
Geo. A. McDONALD,  
Secretary-Treasurer.  
Baptist Book Room, Halifax.

## Grateful Mention.

Bro. W. C. Goucher, St. Stephen, of a gift of \$70.00, \$29.00 cash and the balance in beautiful pieces of household furniture.

Bro. B. H. Thomas, of kindness of friends in Margerville, N. B., for a purse of \$42.00 cash and \$10.00 in useful articles.

Bro. J. Cahill, of donation by people in Bedaque, Dec. 31st; also, of fine fur coat and cap from friends in Summerside and Freetown, whole amount \$70.00. Storm prevented many more from attending.

Bro. and Sister H. M. Weeks, of gift of fur coat and a purse and useful articles to Mrs. Weeks from his people in Germantown, aggregating over \$165.00. Bro. Weeks writes that this represents, on the part of some, much self-sacrifice.

Bro. and Sister Locke, of donations of various articles to minister to their comfort worth \$70.00, from his people of the Pine Grove field.

Sister P. R. Foster received a nice present from her Bible class, before leaving St. Mary's Bay.

LADIES.—New York Domestic Paper Patterns are more dainty, better fitting, and more easily put together than any others. Send 5 cents in stamps and I will mail to you a catalogue (16 pages) of fall and winter styles.—W. H. BELL, 25 King street, St. John, N. B.

## Religion

NEWS

PERASANT V. AND V. say that ten of them into the 23rd. The time was two or three baptisms work began.

Jan. 5.

KEMPT.—Modified. There last Sunday again.

Jan. 5.

SUMMERIDGE. Bro. Cahill rep in all preaching the close of came to me at this autumn, under the pre light. I hope new subscribers.

WOLFVILLE.

hard at work used by teaching reading examining preparing lecturing Principal Oakes preparations pupils. Comp acquainted with speak highly painstaking of general welfare and Mrs. Oakes themselves to pupils, and that their kind appreciated by The annual fine ville church has amount expense work was \$1,772.74; for re \$2,310.22, making \$4,082.96. It is said, of Dr. it is church, or aid the cause service, and amount expense church gave for their labor had a narrow by fire on the 1st in the setting the trouble, ending on the 5th was called, wh At this service fact of inter perience. Den the church has 50 most expen 1854. Among same here was C. F. Hart, and whom have Higgins became M. P. Freeman Prior in 1848 situation here, meeting the n in the vestry, for those pres pressed that the church are con casions of this ference and co

St. Stephen.

St. Stephen, b giving and ren ent condition of congregations Prayer-meeting pervaded with worship. Man a desire to n the Master's

Tusket.—Fo

anxious to sen tor a word. I ties has fully cention. I ha a little over to I have found th and helpful of a very sove pleasure to wo those who do de nce among th isfactory. He find the sam ceases the bal the eastern pr Baptist peopl obliged to co The field emb Four in Tuske appointments a season at weeks. As th about twenty a vast amount found that rime in the op in my work. I noon, while of an evergre splendid opp foundation of of the field th exception, lar quirements of degree of int points and g character. I Tusket, it w through the promising you and a good co in the presen acquaintances. be in a positio I have intim diality is of It began with by a donation to eat and use not have bee Since then so without some true Christian people enter These pleasur of the last vi Village presen for trimmed weather that before Spring this gift will

Jan. 7.

Pine Grove has been, for the past few overnight, by last spring