

Messenger and Visitor

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Company Ltd
Publishers and Proprietors.

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85 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

Printed by PATTERSON & CO., 22 Germain St.

Editorial Notes

—The Canada Presbyterian, of Toronto, which had been for a long time one of our valued exchanges, has ceased to exist under that name, having become merged in the Westminster. The Westminster, which has just completed a successful year as a monthly magazine, is now issued weekly as a sixteen page paper, with a thicker issue monthly, the paging of weekly and monthly issues being uniform. It is edited by Rev. J. A. MacDonald. Both in appearance, editorial work and the character of its contributed articles, the Westminster takes front rank and promises to be an important factor in the religious journalism of Canada.

—Rev. A. J. Diaz, whose going to Mexico to engage in evangelistic work was alluded to in these columns a few weeks ago, is now at work in that country. He has received a cordial welcome from the brethren there and writes very encouragingly of the beginning of his work in Mexico. Alluding to one of the services held on the day when he began work in the city, Mr. Diaz writes: "At 7.30 I went to another Baptist preaching station and spoke three quarters of an hour. At the end I called the sinners to repentance and fifteen raised their hands at my invitation. Blessed be the Lord! The first day I put my feet on this soil I have the pleasure to see fifteen souls looking for Jesus. This was very encouraging indeed."

—We Baptists of the Maritime Provinces are by no means a perfect people. There is abundant room for our development in the Christian graces. But doubtless we have much reason to be humbly thankful that it is as well with us as it is. A number of our brethren from the United States have visited the Provinces this summer and some of them were present at our convention in St. John. These brethren seem to have been favorably impressed with what they saw and heard. They spoke words of cordial appreciation while they were with us, and no doubt they have carried a good report back to their own country. In evidence of this we find the editor of Zion's Advocate, of Portland, Me., reporting a call from Dr. Chivers, on his return from the St. John Convention. "He reported," says the Advocate, "meetings of great interest and spoke of our brethren across the line in words of the highest commendation."

—At a meeting held on Sept. 1st, the Corporation of Brown University, after extended consideration of the matter, voted to request President Andrews to withdraw his resignation. The following is given as a copy of a note addressed by the corporation to Dr. Andrews upon the subject. "Sir—The corporation of Brown University has today received, with great regret, your resignation as president. It most earnestly desires that you will withdraw it. It conceives that it was written without knowledge of the position of the corporation. With the earnest hope that a statement by it, bearing the formal sanction and approval of the governing body of the university, may bring us again into hearty accord. The corporation desires to inform you that it in no way sought the severance of our official relations, which, so far as it knows, have been most cordial from the time of your acceptance of the presidency of the university."

—An outcome of the subjugation of Madagascar by France and an evidence of French dislike and jealousy of all British influence is seen in the practical expulsion from Antananarivo, the capital city of the country, of the schools of the London Missionary Society "to whose work," says the Outlook

"whatever of Christianity or civilization there is in that country is largely due. Foreseeing that missionary work there must in future be in French hands, the directors of the London Missionary Society had come to an understanding with the Paris Missionary Society to hand the work over to them as soon as they were prepared to undertake it. But the French Governor, being in no mind to wait, forced the London Missionary Society to give up their College and Normal School at a price barely one-half their valuation. On the arrival of the first party of the French missionaries, he presented them with the school, on the condition that no Englishman should ever enter it, saying, 'their influence is so great it is necessary to crush it.' The dispossessed British teachers, looking unselfishly upon their French Protestant brethren as the hope of christianizing Madagascar, promptly yielded to ejectment and joined in removing, as required everything from the school that was in proscribed English tongue."

—The visit of President Faure, of France, to the Czar has been made an occasion of great jubilation in France, having resulted, as is believed, in a definite alliance between the two countries. In his farewell speech at the leave-taking of President Faure, the Czar said: "Your stay among us creates a fresh bond between our two friendly and allied nations which are equally resolved to contribute with all their power to the maintenance of the peace of the world." The President in reply used the words "united and allied nations" in reference to the two countries. These utterances are taken to indicate that a treaty of alliance was signed at St. Petersburg during President Faure's visit. Just what advantage will accrue to France from this alliance, if such it be, is not altogether apparent. The autocrat will doubtless graciously permit his republican ally to follow where he leads and support his policy. But France has been able to do that without any "alliance." It will not settle France's score against Germany, unless indeed we are to understand, as is surmised in some quarters, that France and Germany are to join with Russia a new *drei-bund* and that Germany is to restore Alsace-Lorraine in return for being permitted a free hand in Holland, or some other consideration by which German ambition may be served.

—We must express our regret, at what at present appears to be the fact, that St. John is to lose the services of Mr. G. U. Hay in connection with its public schools. These services have extended over a number of years and have been highly and deservedly appreciated. Mr. Hay has devoted himself to the work of his profession with an energy and ability which have assured success. As principal, for some eight years, of the Victoria School, he has not only won the approbation and high regard of those more immediately and personally interested in his work, but has also achieved a reputation which places him in the front rank of the men connected with the public school systems of these provinces. Our regret is all the more keen at the loss of Mr. Hay's services because it seems to us unnecessary. Certainly, it is by no means to be desired that the efficiency of the city's schools should be sacrificed to the personal interests or convenience of Mr. Hay or of any other man. But, very naturally, a good many people are finding it difficult to believe that the public interest demanded that the two offices of Principal of the High School, and Superintendent should be united in one person, with the result that a teacher of Mr. Hay's experience and acknowledged ability is crowded out by being offered a subordinate position and one which he has felt it impossible to accept.

—Mr. Moody is not among the people who are not in full sympathy with Missionary Boards and who do not regard them as affording the proper and best channel through which to make contributions to the work of world evangelization. At Northfield there was considered a proposition, originally made it is said by Dr. A. T. Pierson, to raise a fund to send out to the foreign field, independently of the boards, volunteers whom the boards were not able to send for lack of

funds. The proposition did not carry, and in connection with the vote on the matter Mr. Moody is reported as saying: "Some of the people have been sending me checks for this fund. I want you to call them back, or I shall send them on to the Missionary boards. I am in sympathy with the boards and have no sympathy with the croakers. I think it is a great mistake to send any money outside of the regular channels. I want to say a word also about plugging one's self to become a Missionary. God does not want everyone to go to China or India. There are several thousand people waiting to go, not a quarter of whom, I think, are fit to go. People come to a missionary meeting and get stirred up, and pledge themselves to go to a foreign field under the influence of flaming speeches. I have a son eighteen years old, and I do not want him to get all stirred up, and then say, 'I am going to India or Africa.' I want God to call him, and not a Convention. When he gets further along in his studies and sees what he can do, if the Lord calls him to India or China or Africa, or anywhere else, I will say with all my heart, 'Go, and God bless you.'"

—The attention of the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR has already been called more than once to Rev. E. O. Taylor and the course of temperance lectures which he has been engaged to deliver in a number of the towns and villages of the Maritime Provinces. We have not had the privilege of hearing Mr. Taylor, but all information that has reached us concerning him and his work as a lecturer are most favorable. We judge from what we have heard that Mr. Taylor is doing very effectively a work that greatly needs to be done, by showing, in a way that is interesting, convincing and educative, effects of the use of strong drink upon the individual and upon society. Rev. W. H. Warren, of Bedeque has met Mr. Taylor and heard one of his lectures, and our readers will be interested in knowing what his impressions are in reference to the lecturer and his work. Mr. Warren writes:

I may say that in my opinion he is far and away ahead of the ordinary temperance lecturer. He does not make orations. He does not rave or rant; nor does he indulge in scathing denunciations and merciless mimicry. His method is that of the scientist who aims at simplifying and illustrating his subject so that the least intelligent of his hearers may fully understand his meaning. By means of well executed diagrams and simple chemical experiments he makes clear to all who hear him the essential nature of alcohol and its effects upon the nerves and tissues of the human body.

The object lessons he presents are very striking and impressive, and are especially adapted to enlighten the young in relation to the physiological aspects of intemperance. Stomach, brain and heart are seen as if illustrated by X rays, and the precise character of the injury wrought upon them by strong drink is made distinctly visible.

Mr. Taylor's logic is incisive and convincing, and his presentation of the moral and political phases of the temperance question are such as to awaken all good citizens to a sense of their duty in relation to the suppression of the liquor traffic. It is hoped these excellent lectures will receive a wide hearing. The women of the C. T. U. deserve much praise for their efforts in securing the services of so competent a lecturer.

Christian Conduct.

The Bible lesson for the current week requires little exposition, but it will bear a great deal of practising. If all Sunday School scholars could be induced to commit these verses to memory it would mean for them the treasuring of precepts of priceless value for all the years to come. And if all Sunday School teachers would make an honest effort to reduce these precepts to practice, it would afford the world an object lesson vastly more valuable and effective than any other kind of teaching.

We are again reminded here that the true principle of Christian conduct—of all right conduct—is love. Love is to character what the heart, with its incessant throbbing life and warm flowing currents, is to the physical organism. Let your love be without hypocrisy, the apostle exhorts. Do not deceive

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