

THE CANADIAN RECORD,

Rev. J. E. Hopper, D.D., Editor and Proprietor.

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THE CENTENNIAL.

The recent Loyalist Centennial celebration calls to mind the triumphs achieved for civil and religious liberty in these Provinces during the last century. One hundred years ago the majority in this country believed in the divine right of Kings and in the doctrines of "family compactism." These views have become wonderfully modified. We have a government now as free as that in the United States with more solidity, and all the offices of trust, honor and emolument are opened to all alike without distinction of creed or color.

As to religious liberty it was practically unknown in this Province one hundred years ago. There was then a union of church and state, and the established church was disposed to grant no favors to dissenters. In the battle fought for civil liberty, our fathers saw before the end was reached that religious liberty must come as a result. From reluctant hands equal rights were wrenched, and from an imperious clergy, men who bore the name of dissenters, took and held freedom to worship God as conscience dictated. Our fathers made it impossible for the Episcopalian ever to call their sons dissenters. In this land there is now no church more favored than another who, with haughty air, can look down and say "you dissenters." In early days our old ministers were fined for preaching without a state license, imprisoned for solemnizing marriage, and ejected from legislative halls when sent thither by the voice of the people.

As to-day we enjoy the wide liberties of this country civil and religious, than which no land can boast of greater, it becomes us to "consider the former days," and with thankful hearts praise God for his goodness. We stand upon an exalted plane, and should the divine presence go with us

in the new century he who would now simply forecast our history would be thought to be indulging in an extravagance of hyperbole. There were few if any Baptists in this country one hundred years ago. Certainly there was no church organization. What does the last Dominion census tell us? It says that there are more Baptists in this Province than any other religious denomination. We have come from nothing to a majority of the population so far as Protestant denominations are concerned. With God's blessing what may we hope for in this new century now that we start with a majority? May the Lord keep us humble and faithful in his service that He may work through us.

THE American Missionary Union closed the year with a debt of about \$10,000.

THE Baptist Sunday School in Rome is attended by three grandchildren of Garibaldi.

THE Baptists in the Upper Provinces have now a debt of some \$3000 upon their Foreign Mission Society.

THE English Baptist Missionary Society closed its year with a debt of some £3,000, but it has done a grand work especially in Africa.

By a letter from Miss Hammond we learn that Chinna David, the boy supported by the Brussels St. Band of Hope, goes in July to the Samalcotha Seminary.

WE regret to hear that complaints are made against the management of the American Baptist Missionary Union. We are satisfied that they have no good foundation in fact and they should never have been started.

IF you need a new Sunday School Library, Lessons, Cards, Class Books &c., you can be supplied at the Head Quarters for Sunday School supplies, viz., J. E. Hopper's Sunday School and Church Book Room, 99 Germain St., St. John.

WE regret to announce that the Treasury of our Foreign Mission Society is empty and needs replenishing in order to make the next payment to our Missionaries. Churches, Sunday Schools and Bands of Hope, please note this. Pastors, Superintendents and church members to you are anxious eyes now turned to arouse the spirit of benevolence in our people and give a new impetus to this work which bears the special impress of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE *Christian Index* says that when Rev. Timothy Harley was pastor in Savannah Georgia, he was what is there termed "a stack-twisted Baptist after the English order," and that it was there where he learned the wholesome Baptist practice to which he has recently been converted. Perhaps so; but our Southern brethren must remember that Bro. Harley took a few lessons in this city where Baptists claim to be as sound in the faith as our Georgia brethren.

WE are in receipt of another copy of the *Star in the East* through the kindness of Miss Norwood. Its editor is an English Baptist. In an article in which he mentions the attempt of the Southern Methodists to found a great central College in Shanghai for the education of the Chinese, he says very truthfully: "The great need of the Chinese Empire is not education but evangelization, &c., &c. Let those Chinese who desire to see their sons become acquainted with the English language provide them with suitable teachers, and let missionaries look to their marching orders and confine themselves mainly to preaching the Gospel. There is no doubt that this is the means specially ordained and peculiarly blessed of God to the conversion of the souls of men. That education does not necessarily improve our race is evident from the presence of accomplished villains in the most cultured lands, and that the education of Chinese even in Mission Schools does not ordinarily make christians of them must we fear be frankly admitted. Only a few weeks since we were conversing with an exceptionally intelligent Shroff occupying a responsible position on the staff of a large mercantile firm. When the name of Jesus was mentioned he remarked 'Oh yes, I know about Him. He is a very good man.' On being asked where he obtained this knowledge, he replied: 'At the Mission School where I learned English.' In answer to a further question he stated that he still worshipped his heathen gods on the first and fifteenth days of the moon."

WE quite endorse these sentiments and believe that the teaching of English to Chinese or East Indians is not the highest kind of missionary work nor in the closest harmony with the directions of the Master.

IT AVAILETH MUCH.

I never was deeply interested in any object, I never prayed sincerely for anything but it came. At some time, no matter at how distant a day, somehow, in some shape—probably the last I should have devised—it came.—*Dr. A. Judson.*