

bringeth forth death,' and who knows how soon it may be finished? 'Two months!' Who dares to say that any man will live another day? And yet people go on carelessly, thoughtlessly, fearing no evil, forgetting that 'it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment.'

There is something more important, however, than preparing to die. Men should prepare to live! to live in this world as sons of God and heirs of glory; to live the life of souls redeemed by love divine; to live a life that is the beginning of a life that shall never end; and to live that life eternal in the world to come, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor sighing, for the former things have passed away. 'Death has passed upon all men.' How soon your turn may come no man can tell. The shadow of death may be falling across your path today. Oh! see to it that the light of life is beaming there, and that your hope is fixed in the living God, who is your life and light, your joy and your salvation.—'Christian.'

Religious News.

Dr. W. L. Watkinson, known as the 'most distinguished preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Church of England,' is to visit America this summer. As Dr. Watkinson is a white-haired old man of seventy this will probably be his farewell visit to America. This will be his first appearance at Northfield, where he will speak during the General Conference in August. Other noted Englishmen announced for Northfield are Rev. J. Stuart Holden, vicar of St. Paul's, Portman Square, London.

Fifty years' service in the Methodist Church has established Dr. Watkinson as leader of that denomination in England. He is also an editor on many of the leading religious publications in his land. In spite of his age, he is famous for his keen sense of humor and his cheery smile.

After speaking at Northfield Dr. Watkinson will visit the West, giving addresses at Denver, Omaha, and the Winona Conference.

At its recent ninety-second annual meeting the American Bible Society reported that its invested funds amounted to \$732,631, besides some \$225,000 not yet available, or upon which annuities are paid. It was announced that Mrs. Russell Sage had offered \$500,000 on condition that an equal amount in addition was secured from subscriptions during the year. The issues from the press reached 1,896,916 last year, and 82,317,298 since the organization in 1816.

The favorable attitude of the heathen king of Bamum, in Kamerun, West Africa, toward the work of the missionaries of the Basel Missionary Society, is becoming still more pronounced as he becomes better acquainted with the Christians. A short time ago it became necessary to open a second preaching station in his capital, Fumban. The king ordered the erection of a suitable building with 200 seats, and no help was expected from the missionaries in the work. The attitude of the king influences his subjects, and the new chapel is well filled at all services every Lord's day. On account of the rapid progress of the work in Bamum, the Basel Society has decided to erect a substantial building for missionary purposes in the capital, Fumban.

Work in Labrador.

SPRING ON THE COAST.

St. Anthony, May 11, 1908.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Still we are struggling with snow and ice out here. If anywhere in the world man is the sport of wind and waves, he certainly is so here. Warm weather is evidently prevailing somewhere on the earth's surface. We ourselves are already in shady cowboy hats and have long ago discarded skin clothing and even sweaters. But it still freezes at night, and as soon as ever the sun sinks low enough to throw shadows one walks on crusted snow under the lee of every rock and piece of ice. This is entirely due to a prevalence of easter-

ly winds, which has brought us with lavish generosity a recurring contribution of ice from the Arctic, and which does not seem to understand that we have had sufficient. The fact is the endless ice covering the sea, jamming the shores, and filling the bays and harbors, converts the land into a large temporary refrigerator.

We have just returned from launching our large motor launch. She had to be hauled from winter quarters on a cradle over half a mile of ice to the standing edge, and there be dropped into the water. She is a large yawl-rigged vessel, and it took all that every man and boy in the village could do to drag her along. But it was a source of intense excitement to all hands, and as I galloped back on my dog team I felt here again is an experience most enjoyable, especially as the success spells steaming into the bay next week where we hope to get many ducks, the first fresh meat, except seal, for the spring.

By rising before daybreak now you will find a stiff crust to the snow that will afford you ample need to have 'a good wind,' if you get off to run alongside your komatik, as you journey into the woods for the last loads of firing or the last logs for the fishery. Yet the atmosphere is warm and sunny and on every spot from which the snow is gone tiny green blades are peering out amongst the old herbage, proclaiming the promise of summer. Our sheep have lambed, our cattle have calved, new batches of carefully selected puppies are playing around our doors, the snipe is whirring overhead, the large American robin and the brown song sparrow are waking the countrysides with song as soon as ever the sun tops the hills. Meanwhile, all the glories of the spring sunset are not only painted in our sub-arctic skies, but are reflected from our still snow-covered hills. And what is more, the circumstances of our life are such as to insure that almost every man in the community should be out of bed to enjoy it. Moreover, there are advantages accruing even to the presence of the floe ice. Along its edge, as it lies off the shore, fly large flocks of northward bound ducks, which thus trim our shores and come in reach of our gunners. Numerous young seals beating north, play about in the open water spaces between the pans, which bring us fresh meat and good skins. Moreover, when the sun does shine down he shines up again from the endless white mirror so that we enjoy a double portion which not only kills the bacilli lurking in our blood, and tans our faces, but does not withal prevent us from wishing to move about in the brisk air by the feeling of lassitude so general in the sunny south.

We have not yet out here outlived the Orangism which worships at the shrine of William the Fourth and the Battle of the Boyne. Fortunately, however, the society does more for the people than serve to perpetuate animosity between the Catholic and Protestant. In such a district as this it serves to unite its scattered members for mutual improvement. It affords a stimulus to the attainment of communal property in the form of club houses, where the young men are free of surveillance and consequently learn to know one another (and incidentally also themselves) better. Men will come fairly long distances to prayers out here. They will come still further to hospital or the annual games, but they will spend incredible time and trouble to be present at the weekly 'Lodge.' These efforts are of no small value in promoting unity and good fellowship between village and village.

There could be no better check were one needed on these festive occasions to utterances which are sure to be repeated and that only tend to strife, even if they were true, than the presence of our really good friend the enemy, at the same social board. Was not Christ himself severely blamed by the 'unco guid' for mixing with publicans and sinners? We, however all left in the evening, feeling that if invited in return to a similar function of the wearers of the green we should be more than wise to go from whatever point of view. If Christians had faith enough in their own faith not to taboo any pleasures innocent in themselves simply because the devil also patronized them piety would soon lose its distasteful flavor of Phariseeism, and the devil would be robbed

of many monopolies in those things which, say what we like, are ever attractive to the young and ardent blood that God Almighty has himself placed in us. Christ's Christian is an affirmative person, not a negative. His standard by which we shall be graded will not be 'what have you avoided?' but 'what have you done?' The Master himself was an extraordinary attraction to the godless, the harlots and the publicans. The Pharisee, old or new, is far from that. The Christian of the Christ must ever be affirmative, attractive, and as naturally happy as the day is long.

W. T. GRENFELL.

FIFTY YEARS IN LABRADOR.

The Rev. C. C. Carpenter, pioneer missionary to Labrador, writing from Andover, Mass., on June 15, says:

'I have Labrador tenderly in mind this week, as it was fifty years ago yesterday since I landed from the Newburyport cod-fisherman on the wild old shore on my first missionary expedition. It seems to me now almost a presumptuous thing for me, a youth, just past 21, inexperienced, in feeble health to go there alone, without any nucleus of church or school or home, and try to establish a mission. But you dear Montreal people stood behind me grandly, and God guided and blessed the feeble effort made in His name, so that now after a half century it is a source of blessed cheer to find here and there the fruits of the humble seed-sowing on that rocky soil so long ago. My dear boat-boy of those early years came to this country thirty years ago, married here one of our early scholars and has raised up a fine Christian family, and they have been the means of starting a mission church on the Massachusetts coast—I see them often. They take the 'Witness,' and enjoy reading it as much as they did at the Eskimo River station in the old time.'

What a wonderful escape from horrible death Dr. Grenfell had—no other mortal man could have ever managed to conquer the four-fold dangers of starving, freezing, drowning, and being devoured by his dogs. It was the 91st Psalm verified in the Most High's care of His own!

I have just had a note from him in which he barely mentions it, saying, 'I faced death very close last month, and I say nothing on earth is any use but being able to work for Him in whom we believe.'

Yours very cordially,

C. C. CARPENTER.

Acknowledgments.

LABRADOR FUND.

Received for the launch:—J. A. B. and Family, Boston, \$1.00; Miss A. C. E. Alguire, Cornwall, \$2.00; A Friend, Ingersoll, Ont., \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindsay, Sr., Tatehurst, P. Que., \$1.00; Walter Scott, Winnipeg, \$5.00; Friends Missionary Auxiliary at Woodford, Ont., \$1.51; Edward Field, Quill Plain, Sask., \$1.00; Samuel B. Field, Quill Plain, Sask., 50 cents; G. M., Almonte, Ont., \$2.00; Total... \$ 15.01

Received for the cots:—Reginald McClelland, Owen Sound, Ont., \$2.50; Alfred W. Hone, Ouvry, Ont., \$3.00; Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Lindsay, Sr., Tatehurst, P. Que., \$1.00; W. R. T., Virgil, Ont., \$3.00; Total... \$ 9.50

Previously acknowledged for all purposes... \$ 1,766.19

Total received up to June 30... \$ 1,790.69
Forwarded for maintenance of the launch 'Northern Messenger' during the past season... \$ 300.00

Total on hand June 30... \$ 1,490.69

Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfell's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, stating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatik, or cots.